

**PREScribed ALTERATION TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF ELY ST MARY'S  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND VOLUNTARY AIDED JUNIOR SCHOOL, ELY**

*To:* Cabinet

*Date:* 22 May 2012

*From:* Service Director: Strategy and Commissioning,  
Children and Young People's Services (CYPS)

*Electoral division(s):* Ely North and East; Ely South and West

*Forward Plan ref:* 2012/009 *Key decision:* Yes

*Purpose:* To seek Cabinet's approval to proceed with plans to increase the size of Ely St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Aided (VA) Junior School, Ely to provide a total of 480 places, by increasing its Published Admission Number (PAN) from 90 to 120 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013.

*Recommendation:* Cabinet is asked to:

- a) Note the fact that no written responses were received to the statutory notice published on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012; and
- b) Approve the prescribed alteration to increase the size of Ely St Mary's Church of England (VA) Junior School, Ely to provide a total of 480 places, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013.

<b><i>Officer contact:</i></b>	<b><i>Member contact:</i></b>
Name: Ian Trafford Post: Education Officer (Policy, Planning and Review) Email: <a href="mailto:Ian.Trafford@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">Ian.Trafford@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a> Tel: 01223 699803	Name: Councillor David Harty Portfolio: Learning Email: <a href="mailto:David.Harty@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">David.Harty@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a> Tel: 01223 699173

## **1. BACKGROUND**

### **1.1 General**

1.1.1 The Council has a statutory duty to provide a school place for every child living in its area of responsibility who is of school age and whose parents want their child educated in the state-funded sector. The Council's policy is to admit children into the Reception year in the September following their fourth birthday; children become of school age once they reach the age of 5.

1.1.2 The data which the Council receives from the National Health Service (NHS) on the number of children aged 0-4, who have been born and are registered with the NHS in Cambridgeshire, is updated twice a year. This data informs the pupil forecasts for specific areas of the County and for individual schools. These forecasts inform the planning of the future provision of school places.

1.1.3 Since 2006, the Council has faced significant demographic pressure on primary school places in Ely. A series of measures were put in place to meet this demand and included:

- The opening of the Lantern Primary School and its subsequent expansion to provide 420 places
- The provision of an additional Reception class at the Lantern Primary School in September 2010
- Over-admission at Spring Meadow Infant School followed by its permanent expansion to provide 360 places/4 forms of entry (FE) from September 2010
- The provision of an additional reception class at Ely St John's Primary School in both September 2012 and September 2013.

1.1.4 The NHS data continues to be monitored closely and significant additional forecast demand for school places has been identified in Ely. A table setting out the relevant information for Reception places is included in **Appendix 1**. In addition, the recent expansion of Spring Meadow Infant School provided additional places in Key Stage 1 (4-7 year olds) but not in Key Stage 2 (7-11 year olds). The first of the children from the expanded Spring Meadow Infant School will require Key Stage 2 places from September 2013. St Mary's Church of England (VA) Aided Junior school is the partner school to Spring Meadow Infant School.

### **1.2 Specific proposal**

1.2.1 It will be necessary to expand St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School to provide sufficient school places for pupils aged 7-11 in the City of Ely from September 2013. The proposal will increase the overall size of the school from 3FE (360 places) to 4FE (480 places) serving pupils from the age of 7 to 11. Therefore, the Published Admission Number (PAN) and the size of individual school year groups would increase from 90 to 120. This change would be effective from September 2013 with the new entrants to the school (Year 3) being the first year group to have provision for a maximum of 120 pupil places (4FE).

## **2. MAIN ISSUES**

### **2.1 Forecast demand for places**

- 2.1.1 Demographic forecasts for Ely indicate that there will be a continued requirement for Ely St Mary's Church of England (VA) Junior School to offer 480 places (4FE) for the next 5 years. There are also plans for large scale housing development in the north of Ely which will require further additional primary school places to be provided in the medium term. Expansion of St Mary's Church of England (VA) Junior School represents part of a sustainable response to these increased pupil numbers. The pupil forecasts for Ely St Mary's Junior School are set out in **Appendix 2**.
- 2.1.2 For September 2012, 96 applications for places have been made to Ely St Mary's Church of England (VA) Junior School. It is anticipated that further applications will be received between now and September. Its current Published Admission Number (PAN) is 90. The governors of the school are responsible for admissions to the school. It has been agreed with them that the extra children will be accommodated in the school by over-admission.
- 2.1.3 The NHS data indicates that pressure on Reception places will continue to increase year-on-year from September 2012, with a total of 10FE needed in Ely by September 2015. Notwithstanding the expansion of primary school provision in Ely since 2006, including this proposal to expand Ely St Mary's Church of England (VA) Junior School, across the primary sector in Ely there is currently permanent provision for only 8FE of primary age children.

### **2.2 Meeting future need**

- 2.2.1 The best means of providing the additional places required in 2014 and beyond is being explored at present and proposals will be brought forward to Cabinet for determination at the appropriate time. Options being considered include the further expansion of existing schools and bringing forward the development of those school sites identified to serve the new housing areas in Ely earlier than originally anticipated.

## **3. ALIGNMENT WITH PRIORITIES AND WAYS OF WORKING**

### **3.1 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people when they need it most**

- 3.1.1 There are no significant implications for this priority. The proposal is aimed at meeting a basic need for school places.

### **3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives in their communities**

- 3.2.1 Children who have access to a local school have an opportunity to develop friendship groups within their own community and access a range of other services before and after school. This becomes more difficult if young children are transported elsewhere for their education.

### **3.3 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all**

- 3.3.1 There are no significant implications for this priority.

### **3.4 Ways of working**

- 3.4.1 The Council has worked in partnership with the headteacher and governing body of Ely St Mary's Church of England (VA) Junior School to put forward this proposal. The proposal reflects the developing role of the Council as the commissioner of high quality schools and school places.

## **4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

### **4.1 Resource and Performance Implications**

- 4.1.1 The Diocese of Ely, working with the headteacher and Governing Body of Ely St Mary's Church of England (VA) Junior School, have prepared a design brief for the expansion of the school's accommodation. The capital project will complete by the Summer of 2013 ahead of the formal expansion of the school from September 2013. As the proposal meets a basic need for additional pupil places, the capital cost of this work will be met from the Children and Young People's capital programme. The sum allocated to the project is £1.2m

### **4.2 Statutory, risk and legal implications**

- 4.2.1 A statutory notice to make the prescribed alteration to Ely St Mary's Church of England (VA) Junior School, described above, was published in the appropriate local newspaper, the Ely Standard, on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012, and the statutory notice period expired on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012 (**Appendix 3**).
- 4.2.2 No responses to the published proposal were received.

### **4.3 Equality and diversity implications**

- 4.3.1 A duty of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 is that local authorities should take account of the needs of all communities when planning educational provision.

### **4.4 Engagement and consultation**

- 4.4.1 In recognition of the need to secure additional primary school places in Ely, the Authority has been working closely with the three other Ely schools providing places for children age 4-11; Spring Meadow Community Infant School, The Lantern Community Primary School and St John's Community Primary School. All of these schools support the proposal to expand Ely St Mary's Church of England (VA) Junior School.
- 4.4.2 The Council has complied with all requirements, informal and statutory, relating to consultation on this proposal. For the informal consultation, information under a covering letter setting out the background to the proposal was circulated to all parents and staff at Ely schools, the local County Councillors and to other local stakeholders in January 2012. No comments were received in response to that letter.
- 4.4.3 For the statutory consultation, the Council arranged for the publication of the notice in the Ely Weekly News, the local newspaper, and for the notice to be

placed on public display at the school and in at least one other venue in the local area. Copies of the notice were sent to the following consultees:

- Member of Parliament
- Local County Councillors and Cambridge City Council
- Trades Unions
- Local primary and secondary schools
- Diocese of Ely
- Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia
- Department for Education: School Collaboration, Organisation and Fair Access Division.

No comments have been received in response to the publication of the Notice.

Source Documents	Location
Prescribed Alteration documents	Children And Young People's Services Strategy and Commissioning: Infrastructure Box No: CC1209 2nd Floor B Wing Castle Court Castle Hill Cambridge CB3 0AP

**Ely – Demand for Reception Places 2011 – 2015**

School	PAN	Age on 31st Aug 2011					
		4		3	2	1	0
		Forecast Data Aug 11	Actual Admissions Oct 11	2012	2013	2014	2015
Spring Meadow	120	100	110	102	131	123	144
Lantern	60	67	60	77	58	65	69
Ely St John's	60	102	60	94	99	94	90
Totals	240	269	230	273(254)*	288(268)*	282(263)*	303(281)*

\*expressed at 93% - three year average of actual admissions against numbers in forecast data

**NHS 0-4 DATA BY District and Primary Catchment (based on district of school location) - 31.08.11**

Age as at 31.08.11

Source: NHS Cambridgeshire & CCC Research Group, OCS; Sept Download plus 0 year old refresher from December download

## **Appendix 2**

### **DRAFT Pupil Forecasts - Cambridgeshire Primary Schools (East Cambs) - January 2012 base**

*Research Group, Office of Corporate Services, Cambridgeshire County Council,  
21.03.12*

School	School Year		Pri 7	Pri 8	Pri 9	Pri 10	Total	PAN
St Mary's Junior School	2011/12		89	82	86	72	329	<b>90</b>
St Mary's Junior School	2012/13		101	89	82	86	358	<b>90</b>
St Mary's Junior School	2013/14		106	101	89	82	378	<b>120</b>
St Mary's Junior School	2014/15		111	106	101	89	407	<b>120</b>
St Mary's Junior School	2015/16		111	111	106	101	429	<b>120</b>
St Mary's Junior School	2016/17		120	111	111	106	448	<b>120</b>



High Barns, Ely, Cambs, CB7 4RB  
Telephone: 01353 662163  
Fax: 01353 666177  
e-mail: [office@elvstmarys.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@elvstmarys.cambs.sch.uk)

### **Statutory Notice for the Expansion of Ely St Mary's Voluntary Aided (VA) Church of England Junior School**

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that the Governing Body of Ely St Mary's Voluntary Aided Church of England (VA) Junior School intends to make a prescribed alteration to the school in High Barns, Ely, CB7 4RB from 1 September 2012.

The expansion will add four new classrooms to the existing school buildings. The current capacity of the school is 360 and the proposed capacity will be 480. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 323. The current admission number for the school is 90 and the proposed admission number will be 120.

Cambridgeshire County Council will implement this proposal, details of which can be found on the Council's website at:  
<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/education/schools/planning/>

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Ian Trafford, Education Officer, Policy, Planning and Review, Cambridgeshire County Council, Box CC1209, Castle Court, Castle Hill, Cambridge, CB3 0AP.  
E-mail: [ian.trafford@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:ian.trafford@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01223 699803

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to: (name) Clerk to the Governing Body at Ely St Mary's Voluntary Aided Church of England Junior School, High Barns, Ely, CB7 4RB

Signed:

(John Shiers)

Chair of the Governing Body of Ely St Mary's  
Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School  
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