

**PROPOSED NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL AT HAMPTON GARDENS,
PETERBOROUGH – SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

To: Children and Young People (CYP) Committee

Meeting Date: 29 July 2014

From: Executive Director: Children, Families and Adults

Electoral division(s): Norman Cross, Sawtry & Ellington

Forward Plan ref: 2014/024 *Key decision:* Yes

Purpose: To advise the Committee of the responses received to the proposal following the community consultation event held on Wednesday 16th July 2014.

Recommendation: The Committee is asked to note the consultation responses and request officers to pursue through the planning process provision of sufficient, safe and secure access routes between the villages of Yaxley and Farcet and the proposed new secondary school in Hampton Gardens.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 A full report on the proposal to commission places at the new Hampton Gardens secondary school for children living in the villages of Yaxley and Farcet was previously circulated with the agenda for the CYP Committee meeting on 29th July 2014. Paragraph 4.4.4 of that report made reference to a consultation event taking place on 16th July 2014 to give the local communities directly affected by the proposal an opportunity to express their views.
- 1.2 A briefing paper on the proposal was published on the Council's website and circulated widely to local families via local schools, pre-school settings and the children's centre. Local Councillors were also informed of the consultation event. Around 80 people attended the consultation event, which is in line with other similar consultations on individual school proposals undertaken by this Council.
- 1.3 17 formal written responses have been received. The issues raised are summarised in paragraph 2 below. It is clear that many people who attended the event and discussed the proposals with officers chose not to make a formal response. However, officers can confirm that the written responses are representative of the issues raised by local people in these discussions.

2. CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND ISSUES RAISED

- 2.1 The overwhelming number of responses (12 of the 17 written responses received) were on the subject of securing safe transport and access routes between Yaxley and Farcet villages to the proposed new secondary school, which will be located within the major new housing development at Hampton Gardens. The specific concerns of the community and parents were:
 - The current footpath/cycleway alongside the A15 was not considered to be a safe route to the school by parents given the busy nature of the road and the narrowness of the route in some sections. This route was also not the most direct route for many residents living in Yaxley.
 - Alternative and more direct walking and cycle routes are available between the villages and the new school at Hampton Gardens. However, they would require significant improvement and upgrading before they would be considered safe by parents. The routes currently run through the former brick works site and are used by dog walkers and quad bikers. There are also open water filled pits close to the footpath/cycleway routes. The routes are also unlit.
 - The need for safe crossing routes on The Broadway, Yaxley to enable pupils from the south of the village to access the school and connecting footways and cycleways to the north.
 - The length of the journey from the far end of Yaxley village to the new secondary school may encourage some parents to drive their children to school.
- 2.2 Council officers acknowledged that these were significant issues that would need to be addressed prior to the submission of the planning application for the new secondary school. An application that did not make adequate provision for children to walk and cycle to school is unlikely to be approved as it would encourage parents/staff to drive and add to traffic volumes and

congestion. The Council will also work with Peterborough City Council, as the local planning authority, to ensure that the new Hampton Gardens housing development provides proper connectivity for cyclists and pedestrians between Yaxley, the new housing and the secondary school.

- 2.3 A smaller number of respondents (3) were concerned about whether a sufficient number of places were being provided to meet the needs of Yaxley and Farcet villages. In particular, there were concerns that if the new Hampton Gardens development produced higher numbers of children than forecast, children from Yaxley and Farcet would not be able to secure a place at the new secondary school. There was, therefore, strong support for the Council's position of entering into a legal agreement with Peterborough to secure the number of places it requires.
- 2.4 There were a couple of responses concerning the size of the site and the impact this might have on the PE and sport curriculum and the playground areas. Whilst it is acknowledged that the site is constrained, the feasibility work undertaken by the consultants working for Peterborough City Council demonstrates that the sport and external facilities required by a 1,200 (8FE) place secondary school (with a 6th form) can be accommodated on the site.
- 2.5 Separate responses (1) were received on each of the following issues:
- Could the catchment area of the new Hampton Gardens secondary school be extended to include the villages of Yaxley and Folksworth?
 - Separate but individual concerns that opening the school for Year 7 children only and growing it from the bottom up would mean:
 - (i) That the first children to enter the school would always be the oldest.
 - (ii) That parents with older siblings could have children in different secondary schools, unless they successfully applied for a place in the secondary school attended by their older child. However, they would be outside the school's catchment area and, therefore, the application might not be successful.

3 ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

- 3.1.1 If pupils have access to local schools and associated services, they are more likely to attend them by either cycling or walking rather than by bus or car. It is likely to be easier for them to access out-of-school activities such as sport and homework clubs and to develop friendship groups within their own community. This will contribute to the development of both healthier and more independent lifestyles. The response of the Council to the issues raised regarding the provision of alternative safe access routes to the new school in Hampton Gardens will support this particular priority.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

- 4.1.1 The Council, in partnership with Peterborough City Council, will need to respond to the issues raised around securing appropriate safe access to the new secondary school for pupils walking and cycling from the villages of Yaxley and Farcet. These issues will be addressed through the continued and

detailed development of the school design. The planning process will also require effective solutions to be in place for both the new secondary school and the Hampton Gardens housing development if consent is to be granted.

- 4.1.2 There will be a need to invest capital funding in the transport solutions which emerge from both the design and planning process. However, the approach taken will be to absorb these costs within the overall capital allocation made for the delivery of this project.

4.2 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

- 4.2.1 The current project budget will only make a general provision for external works (including footpaths, highways etc) as detailed design and discussion with planning officers about specific transport and access measures are yet to take place. While every effort will be made to negotiate an agreed solution and accommodate the costs arising from the required works within the existing project budget, the work required to secure planning consent can ultimately be required by a legally enforceable planning condition. The decision on the works required will be one for the local planning authority (in this case Peterborough City Council).

4.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 4.3.1 The implications are addressed in the main report previously circulated.

4.4 Engagement and Consultation

- 4.4.1 The local consultation event is part of a wider engagement with local Councillors and schools. The full details are set out in the main report previously circulated with the agenda.

4.5 Localism and Local Member Involvement

- 4.5.1 Local County Council members were invited to attend the consultation event on 16th July. Councillor McGuire was present.

4.6 Public Health

- 4.6.1 There is a need to respond to the issues raised to ensure the school will be accessible to pupils as either pedestrians or cyclists to ensure that any potential health benefits are realised.

Source Documents	Location
Written consultation responses 16th-18 th July 2014	Castle Court B202