

**FUTURE PATTERN OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION IN SAWTRY**

*To:* **Children and Young People Committee**

*Meeting Date:* **12<sup>TH</sup> November 2019**

*From:* **Executive Director, People & Communities: Wendi Ogle-Welbourn**

*Electoral division(s):* **Sawtry and Stilton**

*Forward Plan ref:* **2019/071** *Key decision:* **Yes**

*Purpose:* **To advise members of changes to the anticipated primary aged pupil numbers for Sawtry and how these impact on the current proposals to expand Sawtry Infant School and Sawtry Junior Academy.**

*Recommendation:* **The Committee is requested to:**

- a) Consider the options for providing additional primary school places in Sawtry.**
- b) Confirm support for the request to change the project at Sawtry from an expansion by one form of entry to the existing Infant and Junior schools on their current shared site, to a project to build a new, separate primary school on the site of the proposed new development on Glatton Road in Sawtry.**
- c) Approve the capital funding, if required depending on the final preferred option approved.**

<b><i>Officer contact:</i></b>		<b><i>Member contacts:</i></b>	
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## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Council has a statutory duty to provide a school place for every child living in its area who is of school age and whose parents want their child educated in the state-funded sector. To achieve this, the Council has to keep the number of school places under review and to take the appropriate steps to manage the position where necessary. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 also places additional duties on local authorities to adopt a strategic role, with a duty to promote choice, diversity and fair access to school provision.
- 1.2 Sawtry is a large village located to the north of Huntingdon. It is currently served by separate Infant Junior schools, in addition to the secondary school, Sawtry Village Academy (SVA). The Infant School is a Community school, maintained by the Local Authority with a published admission number (PAN) of 60. The Junior School has a PAN of 65 and is run by Cambridge Meridian Academy Trust (CMAT). Both schools operate from the same site. The two schools have combined capacity of 440 pupils.
- 1.3 Plans had been developed to expand the Infant and Junior schools from 2 forms of entry (FE) to 3FE, on their current site, to meet the needs of the growing community and new housing developments in the catchment area. The budget for this was confirmed in the Council's Business Plan for 2016/17. However, following submission of an application for 300 dwellings on Glatton Road, Sawtry to Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) in July 2018, these plans needed to be reviewed. If the development were to go ahead, this would generate a need an additional 120 primary places.
- 1.4 Limitations to the current school site mean that it would not be possible to expand the Infant and Junior schools beyond 3FE (90 places per year group). This means that whilst it can meet the needs of the existing community, it does not allow for any flexibility in providing further places should they be required as a result of this proposed development or any which may be submitted at a future date.
- 1.5 In response, alternative options to increase primary capacity within Sawtry, including consideration of the land offered for a new school on the Glatton Road development, as well as a wider site search within the village have been considered. This search concluded that there were no sites available which were both suitable and affordable, other than the site offered on the Glatton Road development.
- 1.6 HDC is seeking confirmation from the County Council that it is able to provide sufficient education places for the children resulting from the potential Glatton Road development prior to determining the planning application.
- 1.7 Since the planning application was received officers have been working with the local Member, Councillor Simon Bywater, as well as the schools and HDC to consider alternative options, presented below.

## **2 Demographic data**

- 2.1 Officers in the Council's Business Intelligence Service have used the most recent National Health Service (NHS) 0-4 Data, together with the Housing Trajectory

published by HDC, to forecast pupil yield over the coming years. This information, set out in Table 1, shows that the catchment population is forecast to peak at 107 in 2027.

Table 1: Pupil Forecast				
Year	Housing	Children		
	2019 Model House Building Trajectory for Sawtry	Existing number of in catchment children – reception year group	Numbers from 2019 housing trajectory – reception year group	Forecast for total reception year group size
2019	46	73	1	74
2020	40	66	3	69
2021	175	62	9	71
2022	125	73	15	88
2023	125	67	20	87
2024	120	67	25	92
2025	50	67	32	99
2026	50	67	36	103
2027	-	67	40	107
2028	-	<b>67</b>	38	105

### 3 Options

3.1 There are three options to consider as set out below. Challenges, strengths and costs of all options have been set out in Appendix 1. Full and detailed costs have been set out in Appendix 2 (exempt from publication).

#### 3.2 **Option 1: Proceed with current project to expand both the Infant and Junior Schools from 2FE to 3FE on their current site.**

3.2.1 This option was the original, planned and agreed solution to provide additional school places in Sawtry, prior to the new Glatton Road planning application being submitted. It would deliver an additional 1FE of places, providing Sawtry with 3FE/ 630 primary school places in total. However, should the new planning application be approved 3FE would be insufficient to meet the predicted demand for places. Therefore a new 1FE school, on an alternative site, would also be required.

3.2.2 Funding for the expansion of the Infant and Junior schools has already been approved, Should 4FE be required an additional £2.7m additional funding would need to be secured for a 1FE primary school.

#### 3.3 **Option 2: New primary school on Sawtry Village Academy site**

3.3.1 This option would see the delivery of a new 1FE/210 place primary school on Sawtry Village Academy (SVA) site. However, it would also be necessary to proceed with Option 1 if the Glatton Road site were approved by HDC and 2FE/420 primary places were required.

3.3.2 As with Option 1, additional funding of £2.7m would be required to provide 1FE on the SVA site.

### **3.4 Option 3: Accept the land offered by Glatton Road developers in order to build a new primary school**

3.4.1 The developer of the proposed development at Glatton Road has offered sufficient land on the development site for a 2FE/420 place primary school. This option would provide a new 2FE primary school to open in September 2021, built in 2 phases as numbers in Sawtry grow, therefore providing 420 additional primary school places, sufficient to meet the need for the existing community and the new housing developments.

3.4.2 If the funding already agreed by CYP for the expansion of the Infant and Junior schools was transferred to this project and S106 agreements are as expected then additional funding of £113,517 would be required to provide a new 2FE primary school with early years, delivered in two phases.

## **4 Other considerations**

4.1 Whilst contributions have been secured through S106, they will not be invoiced until the development commences. This means that the capital project would need to be forward funded to ensure that sufficient places are available for the earliest occupants of the development.

4.2 As S106 funding is based on the number of dwellings which are built, the final amount secured is subject to change. This means that if the amount of S106 funding is reduced, it could increase the amount of Prudential borrowing which is required.

## **5 Recommendation**

5.1 It is recommended that, having considered the options, the Committee approve option 3. This would enable the Council to meet its duty to provide sufficient school places with only a small amount of additional funding required. It is also the only option to provide all the places required in a single project and avoid disruption to the existing schools. This is therefore considered the best solution for Sawtry.

## **6. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

### **6.1 A good quality of life for everyone**

6.1.1 The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by Officers:

- If pupils have access to local schools and associated services, they are more likely to attend them by either cycling or walking rather than through local authority provided transport or car. They will also be able to more readily access out of school activities such as sport and homework clubs and develop friendship groups within their own community. This will contribute to the development of both healthier and more independent lifestyles.

- The school will also be aware of specific needs within the community, and can provide resources for early intervention which enable individuals to support one another and themselves.

## **6.2 Thriving places for people to live**

6.2.1 The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by Officers:

- Providing access to local and high quality mainstream education will enhance the skills of the local workforce, and enable them to thrive within the community.

## **6.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's Children**

6.3.1 The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by Officers:

- Creating inspirational places to learn will ensure the best outcomes for children from an early age.
- Schools are best placed to ensure that children and their families develop positive attitude to learning.

## **7. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 Resource Implications**

7.1.1 The cost of delivering a new 1FE primary school is estimated to be £9.7m. To date, funds agreed by CYP, confirmed S106 and grants secured in addition to the S106 contribution are likely to exceed this estimate. Therefore, it is unlikely that additional funds will be required until the point at which it proved necessary to expand the school to 2FE if Option 3 is agreed.

7.1.2 An exact cost for S106 contributions cannot be provided. Such contributions may be dependent upon the number of dwellings built. Officers are therefore only able to provide an indicative cost based on the housing mix provided by the applicant.

7.1.3 To date £1,438,000 has been spend on changes to the Infant School to accommodate additional reception children and £910,000 on early years provision totalling £2,348,517.

7.1.4 The Council is requested continue its approval of the previously agreed Prudential borrowing in addition to the basic need funding to meet the cost of the new school and the works to date.

### **7.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications**

7.2.1 There are no significant implications.

### **7.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications**

7.3.1 Providing additional primary provision in Sawtry is necessary to ensure that the Council can meet its statutory duty to provide a school place in the state-funded sector for every child whose parents want one. If the Council were to continue with

its plans to expand the both the existing Infant and Junior schools and the new development was approved, there would be a shortage of primary school places for children in Sawtry. This would require the Council to provide transport to schools further afield and would have a cost implication with a commitment of providing this for the seven year period that the children attend the primary school.

#### 7.4 **Equality and Diversity Implications**

7.4.1 The Council is committed to ensuring that children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are able to attend their local mainstream school where possible, with only those children with the most complex and challenging needs requiring places at specialist provision.

7.4.2 The accommodation provided will fully comply with the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty and current Council standards

#### 7.5 **Engagement and Communications Implications**

7.5.1 There has been regular communications and engagement with the Headteachers of Sawtry Infant and Sawtry Junior schools and the CEO of CMAT have been in regular contact with the Place Planning Team and have attended meetings held with the Local Member, the developer and HDC.

#### 7.6 **Localism and Local Member Involvement**

7.6.1 Councillor Bywater has been involved throughout the process, and has been provided with copies of the information sent to Huntingdonshire District Council.

#### 7.7 **Public Health Implications**

7.7.1 The school will be accessible to pupils as either pedestrians or cyclists. If children had to attend primary schools some distance away (more than 2 miles) they would be provided with free transport by the Council in accordance with its statutory duty.

<b>Implications</b>	<b>Officer Clearance</b>
<b>Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?</b>	Yes Name of Financial Officer: Martin Wade
<b>Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement?</b>	Yes Name of Officer: Paul White
<b>Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?</b>	Yes Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillian

<b>Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?</b>	Yes Name of Officer: Jonathan Lewis
<b>Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?</b>	Yes Name of Officer: Matthew Hall
<b>Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?</b>	Yes Name of Officer: Jonathan Lewis
<b>Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health</b>	Yes Name of Officer: Tess Campbell

<b>Source Documents</b>	<b>Location</b>
n/a	.