

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Skills
Meeting date:	20 th October 2016
Subject/Report Title:	PROPOSAL TO EXPAND TIDBURY GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL
Report from:	Director of Children's Services and Skills
Report Author/Lead Contact Officer:	Ann Pearson
Wards affected:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blythe
Public/Private report:	Public
Exempt by virtue of Paragraph:	N/A

1. Purpose of Report
1.1 To update Cabinet Member on the proposal to expand Tidbury Green Primary School.
2. Decision(s) Recommended
2.1 To approve consultation with parents, schools and the wider education community on the proposal to expand Tidbury Green Primary School.
3. Background
3.1 In May 2016, Cabinet Member approved the updated School Organisation Plan which outlined the detailed demography for Solihull and the expected growth in school places required as a result.
3.2 The Plan highlighted the need to expand primary school places in the Rural South Planning area where approval have been given for circa 600 houses in Tidbury Green Village.
3.3 Tidbury Green Primary School was originally built as a 2FE school catering for 420 pupils in response to the Council's Unitary Development Plan which identified significant housing in the Village. These housing sites were later removed from the Council's plan and did not come forward for development. As a result Tidbury Green School has been operating as a 1FE school (210 pupils) within a larger building. Some redesignation of space has occurred as the school has sought to make best use of the space available. The School is currently operating at a capacity of 315 pupils with 211 pupils on roll.

3.4	DfE guidance published in April 2016, requires the Council to follow a statutory process to expand a school where the proposed enlargement to the premises of the school is permanent and would increase the capacity of the school by more than 30 pupils and 25% or 200 pupils (whichever is the lesser). An expansion without a physical enlargement to the premises of the school does not require a statutory proposal.
3.5	The expansion of Tidbury Green Primary School will increase the capacity of the school from 315 places to 420. As the increase is larger than both 30 pupils and 25% a statutory process is required.
3.6	If approved, Officers will undertake a period of pre statutory consultation with stakeholders. The outcome of this consultation period will reported back to Cabinet Member before a decision is taken on whether to proceed with the statutory process to expand the school.
3.7	The statutory process consists of a further four week period of consultation where all interested parties can comment or object to the proposal. Again the outcome of this formal consultation period will be considered by Cabinet Member before a final decision is taken on whether to approve the expansion of the school.
4. Evaluation of Alternative Option(s)	
4.1	<p>The options available to the Council are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make no change • Expand an existing school • Seek the provision of a new school
4.2	Through the School Organisation Plan the Council has put in place plans to add over 900 primary school places to meet the rising need from increasing births, migration into the Borough and increased housing.
4.3	The popularity of Solihull schools means that even with this significant increase in primary school places there continues to be pressure on places available with little or no empty space once the annual admissions cycle is complete.
4.4	The lack of empty places means that for families moving into an area the choice of school places available is limited and where families have more than one child, placing the children in the same school is a real challenge. If the Council makes no change to the level of primary places available, families moving into the new developments in Tidbury Green Village may not be able to secure a place at their local primary school and pressure will increase for places at neighbouring schools.
4.5	Tidbury Green Primary School was originally built as a 2FE primary school and with minimal expansion can be reinstated to meet the demand for school places from families moving into the new housing developments. All of the new housing developments are located within the school's catchment area where parents will have a reasonable expectation of securing a school place.
4.6	The approved housing for this area totals around 600 houses. It is officer's view that this level of development is insufficient to warrant the provision of a new primary school.
5. Reasons for Recommending Preferred Option	
5.1	The four approved housing developments totalling around 600 dwellings all sit within the catchment area for Tidbury Green Primary School. Although the Council does not give a guarantee of a school place at the catchment area school for an address it

	is the school where a parent has the highest priority for a place and a reasonable expectation of being able to secure a place local to their home.
5.2	Section 106 contributions have been sought from the developers of the housing sites to support the expansion of school places and meet the increase in demand generated as a direct result of the additional dwellings within the catchment area. These contributions are incorporated into the wider Children's Services Capital Programme.
5.3	Feasibility work has been undertaken in partnership with the School to assess the additional accommodation required to reinstate the school to a full 2 FE (420 pupils) and on the 18 July 2016 the Cabinet Member approved the commencement of the second stage of design development, planning and procurement for the works based upon the feasibility scheme subject to a final approval by the Cabinet.
6.	Scrutiny
6.1	No report has been considered by Scrutiny
7.	Implications
7.1	<p>Delivery of the Council's Priorities</p> <p>The options/proposals in this report will contribute to the delivery of the following Council Priority(ies):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve Health and Wellbeing - the provision of sufficient school places in good and outstanding schools is a key school planning consideration. • Managed Growth - the supply of sufficient school places in response to housing development and economic growth is a vital economic contributor to the economic future of the Borough. Section 106 contributions are used to support the funding of pupil place growth. • Build Stronger Communities - the supply of school places is intended to enable pupils to attend good and outstanding schools within their local community. • Deliver Value - where additional school places are required they will be commissioned in a way that delivers best value using appropriate funding streams.
7.2	Policy/Strategy Implications - The School Organisation Plan is consistent with the Council's policy to promote high standards in its area.
7.3	Meeting the duty to involve - This report seeks permission to consult with parents/carers and the wider community of the proposal to expand Tidbury Green School.
7.4	Financial Implications
7.5	Revenue – Additional pupils generate additional Dedicated Schools Grant, which funds the extra pupils. In addition, School Forum has approved growth criteria to identify additional revenue funding for those schools experiencing growth in pupil numbers.
7.6	On the 18 July 2016 the Cabinet Member approved the Children's Services Capital Programme for 2016/17 including the necessary budgetary provision, based upon the feasibility scheme for this proposal.
7.7	Legal implications - The Local Authority has a legal duty to ensure there are sufficient school places to meet the needs of Solihull children and is required to

	follow the statutory process when considering a school expansion.
7.8	Risk Implications - The key risk is that the additional school places cannot be provided in time to meet the growth in demand from Solihull children.
7.9	Statutory Equality Duty - None as a result of this report
7.10	Carbon Management/Environmental - The distances children travel will be considered in determining the location of additional school places. As far as possible school places should be within walking distance of where children live.
7.11	Partner Organisations - The views of all key stakeholders will be requested on the draft school organisation plan.
7.12	Safeguarding/Corporate Parenting Implications - No implications as a direct consequence of this report.
7.13	Customer Impact – None as a consequence of this report.
7.14	Other implications - None
8.	List of Appendices Referred to
8.1	None
9.	Background Papers Used to Compile this Report
9.1	School Organisation Plan 2016
10.	List of Other Relevant Documents
10.1	None