

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL

**DECISION OF COUNCILLOR COLIN HALL
THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE'S SERVICES with advice from the
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES**

**DECISION NO: P&C82****SUBJECT:**

The possible expansion of Winford C of E Primary School from a 140 to a 210-place primary school formally with effect from 1 September 2017.

DECISION:

That the Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services approves the commencement of the statutory process and the publication, if appropriate, of a Statutory Notice to expand the provision at Winford C of E Primary School from a 140 to a 210-place primary school formally with effect from 1 September 2017.

1. BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 There is a projected growth in demand for primary school places in and around the village of Winford. This was confirmed with the demand for places in September 2016 that exceeded supply across this part of the district.
- 1.2 The Council reviews its pupil projections on an annual basis. On the whole, local authorities are good at forecasting their pupil growth. Locally our accuracy for predicting primary school places in 2015 was 99.72%.

The latest projections for new reception-aged places in the Churchill East cluster are as below:

Projected Reception pupil numbers 2016-2020 excluding pupils from new housing.	2016 Admission Level	2016 projected demand	2016 diff to PAN	2017 provisional PAN	2017 projected demand	2017 diff to PAN	2018 provisional PAN	2018 projected demand	2018 diff to PAN	2019 provisional PAN	2019 projected demand	2019 diff to PAN	2020 provisional PAN	2020 projected demand	2020 diff to PAN
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Churchill East															
Dundry CEVC Primary School	15	14	1	15	14	1	15	11	4	15	12	3	15	12	3
Winford CE Primary School	30	30	0	20	28	-8	20	30	-10	20	28	-8	20	30	10
Group total	45	44	1	35	42	-7	35	41	-6	35	40	-5	35	42	-7

The projections from 2016 onwards support an increase in capacity to meet future demand.

- 1.3 To resolve the need for extra demand in 2016/17, Winford C of E Primary School (Winford School) agreed to accommodate additional pupils in a 'breach' reception year class. Whilst the school normally admits up to 20 pupils per cohort, up to 30 places will be available for reception aged pupils from September 2016. Schools and councils are permitted to do this in exceptional circumstances.
- 1.4 The Council also approached the senior staff and governors at the school to determine whether a permanent increase in provision should be made. The Council has an aspiration that local children should be able to access a school place, normally at the school closest to their home. This is supported by the school who are keen to serve their local community. As a result it is felt appropriate to seek permission to make the increase in admissions a permanent change from September 2017 onwards. Approval is requested to commence the statutory process necessary to formally expand the school. A separate planning consultation and application will run alongside this request.
- 1.5 An assessment of the site has been undertaken. It is hoped a planning request to expand the school by 2 class bases with supporting car parking will be submitted in May 2016. Winford School was previously expanded in 2010 and much of the existing accommodation is already suitable for a larger school. It is recognised however that it will also be necessary to reconfigure the school's staff room if the school is allowed to permanently accommodate additional pupils.
- It is felt it is possible to expand Winford School to a 210-place primary school.
- 1.6 Increasing the admission level of Winford School to 30 would increase the numbers of permanent available places per year group setting in the cluster to 45. It is hoped this change will provide a significant contribution towards the need for extra places in this rural community.
- 1.7 To align with the proposed planning request and supporting consultation to make physical changes to the site, it is hoped a parallel school numbers expansion consultation will commence on 25 April 2016. It will seek views on the proposal to expand the numbers of pupils able to attend Winford School. The closing date for the first stage in this statutory process will be 27 May 2016. Before any approvals can be given to grow a school, the Decision Maker must be certain that the changes can be physically accommodated. Any agreement to a planning application, if given, does not automatically mean that the school numbers expansion will also be approved. Similarly the agreement of a planning application does not necessarily

mean that the physical changes will take place. If there is general consensus to the change at the beginning of the consultation process, however, the Council may decide to progress any building changes 'at risk' of receiving (or not receiving) any final approvals to expand the school. This will ensure that any new accommodation is available to the school as soon as possible.

- 1.8 A joint public meeting is provisionally planned to take place on Tuesday 26 April 2016 at Winford School to explain the buildings and pupil numbers expansions. Details of this event and associated consultation material will be made available to local stakeholders and will also be posted on the Council's e.consult website if permission to commence a consultation is approved.
- 1.9 The CYPS School Organisation Group, a sub-group of the CYPS Policy and Scrutiny Panel, are due to meet on 20 April 2016 to consider the proposal to commence consultations to formally increase the capacity of Winford School. They were first advised of this possibility on 8 February 2016, and will now consider the change in more detail. It is hoped they will be supportive of the commencement of consultations to consider an increase in the capacity of this school to meet the extra demand for primary school places within this cluster. If there are any major objections to the proposal the Executive Member will be advised accordingly.

2. REASONS:

- 2.1 Local Authorities are under a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area, promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential.

3. OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

- 3.1 To make no changes and enable the status quo at Winford School to be retained. This runs the risk that some children living in the Churchill East cluster may need to be offered school places at schools some distance from their homes. Such allocations could lead to an increase in the Council's home-to school transport budget as there could be no local school available for these pupils.
- 3.2 Options for changes at other schools were also considered across the cluster. No other school meets the local criteria for expansion.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 Additional funding is available to schools that have a significant pupil growth during the financial year. Exceptional Pupil Growth Funding would be available in this case if the school were to satisfy the three following criteria:
- a) The increase has been made at the request of the LA
 - b) There will be an increase in pupil numbers of 2% or more between the October 2015 and October 2016 headcounts

- c) The school's notional class bases would need to increase by one or more between October 2015 and October 2016

The trigger will apply for a maximum of seven years or until the school reaches its capacity if earlier.

This proposal, due to increasing pupil numbers, could have an impact on the individual schools' revenue budgets (as detailed in above) and the overall schools budget, funded by the dedicated schools grant through the Strategic Schools Forum. There are no revenue implications for the Council.

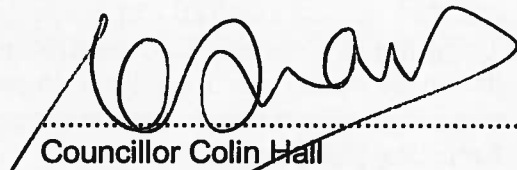
- 4.2 Any recommendations for an increase in the numbers of pupils to attend the school will be subject to appropriate funding being made available to support the physical changes needed at the school.

Approval was requested at the Executive meetings in March 2015 and February 2016 for capital allocations of £350,000 and £436,771 respectively to be approved for this project – £786,771 in total. Both allocations were subsequently agreed at the Council's budget meetings in February 2015 and February 2016. The changes described in 1.5 above should enable to school to accommodate up to 210 pupils on its current site.


Representatives of the Governing Body and officers will need to meet to further advance any building plans in time for implementation in the 2016/17 school year (subject to all approvals).

5. IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE YEARS:

As above.

Signed: 
 Councillor Colin Hall
 Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services

Dated: 22.4.16


 Reviewed:
 Sue Ivermee
 Assistant Director, Learning and Achievement

Dated: 5 April 2016

Confirmation of advice given:

Signed: Sheila Smith
Sheila Smith
Director, People and Communities

Dated: 8.4.16

