

## An expansion to Broomfield Primary School, Chelmsford

**Forward Plan reference number:** FP/09702/18

<b>Report title:</b> An expansion to Broomfield Primary School, Chelmsford,	
<b>Report to:</b> Councillor Ray Gooding - Cabinet Member for Education	
<b>Report author:</b> Clare Kershaw – Director, Education	
<b>Date:</b> 19 January 2019	<b>For:</b> Decision
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<b>County Divisions affected:</b> Broomfield and Writtle	

### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To report on the growing demand for primary school places within the north Chelmsford planning group (Broomfield, Great Leighs, Great Waltham, Little Waltham and Ford End) and seek approval to increase Broomfield Primary School's physical capacity from 1.5 forms of entry (315 pupils) to 2 forms of entry (420 pupils), with effect from September 2020.
- 1.2. Further, to seek approval to begin the phased growth of Broomfield Primary School (the School) from September 2019, by raising its Published Admission Number (PAN) to 60.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Agree that the School should increase its Published Admission Number (PAN) from 45 to 60, to enable it to address the demand for primary school places within its local area from September 2019.
- 2.2. Agree to the procurement of the associated building works through a two-stage design and build mini competition using the Essex Construction Framework, to deliver, by September 2020, the additional accommodation needed to support 15 additional pupils per yearly intake going forward.
- 2.3. To delegate authority to the Head of Infrastructure Delivery to award the contract to the successful bidder, once satisfied that the following conditions have been met:
  - a. A satisfactory planning permission has been granted;
  - b. The construction costs are within the agreed budget and represent value for money.
- 2.4. Approve the capital budget for construction and associated project fees, as per the profile stated in the confidential financial appendix.

### 3. Summary of Issue

- 3.1. The impact of several significant housing developments in Chelmsford continues to cause a growing demand for primary school places in specific parts of north Chelmsford. A deficit is forecast within the planning group, with a shortfall of Reception places close to half a form of entry predicted by 2020/21 (should mitigating measures not be put in place).
- 3.2. To meet demand appropriately going forward, a permanent increase to the School's PAN – from 45 places to 60 places – is proposed from September 2019. Due to the way the School is organised, creating this extra capacity can begin in advance of the additional building work being completed to fully support its eventual growth to 2fe.
- 3.3. The following table (as published in the original consultation document, and also evidenced within Essex County Council's *10-Year Plan for Meeting the Demand for School Places in Essex 2017-2026*) shows the potential deficit of places over the next 4 years, should the School not expand, once the impact of the new housing is factored in:

Year to be admitted to reception	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Total number of reception places	137	137	137	137
Predicted requirement for reception places	126	126	133	128
Predicted requirement for reception places including potential pupils from new housing	134	139	153	157
Predicted surplus or deficit including potential pupils from new housing	3	-2	-16	-20

- 3.4. This data shows a sustained need more primary school places across north Chelmsford from September 2019 onwards to cope with immediate growth. Longer-term forecasts indicate further need and the number of children registered with a GP will continue to be monitored, as will the actual numbers of pupils in schools, with further solutions developed as necessary.
- 3.5. ECC's proposal to increase the number of pupils able to attend the School will ensure that local children have the opportunity to access a local school place.
- 3.6. It is anticipated that the School will grow on a phased basis of 15 additional pupils per year from September 2019 (through the raising of its PAN), as it admits a second full Reception Year cohort year-on-year, hitting full capacity once the 2025 intake is admitted.

- 3.7. In considering the proposal to expand the School, the impact on other local schools has been considered. It is not expected to have any detrimental impact upon other local schools, as it responds to increased demand within the area. Phased growth should ensure no disproportionate impact upon any other school in the area.

#### Consultation

- 3.8. Formal consultation was undertaken by ECC between the 6<sup>th</sup> March and 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018, within which two community engagement sessions were held (both on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018).
- 3.9. A consultation document explaining the proposal was distributed electronically to parents/ carers, other interested parties (including elected representatives) and all schools within the Chelmsford Planning Group 1a (Leighs/ Waltham/ Ford End). Responses could be made through an electronic survey form, via letter or email, by telephone or in person at the community engagement session.
- 3.10. A total of 4 responses were received during the consultation period, all of whom were in favour of the proposal.
- 3.11. A Statutory Notice was published on 7<sup>th</sup> June, and ran until 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Two representations were received during that final window for comment; both were broadly supportive of the proposal, although the second (from Broomfield Parish Council) opted to reserve substantive comment on the expansion until plans for the building work at the School are seen.

#### Proposed Building Works and procurement:

- 3.12. The proposed works at the School include for the provision of a standalone teaching block containing four classbases, a new hall and kitchen facilities. This would give it 14 classbases in total, supporting two forms of entry. Two temporary classrooms currently in place will be replaced with permanent teaching accommodation.
- 3.13. The Essex Construction Framework (ECF) has been available for use by ECC for large constructions projects since March 2016. ECC has procured a contractor through a two-stage design and build approach via the ECF, as this has proven to give ECC good value for money.
- 3.14. A mini competition will be held to obtain a favourable bid from a contractor within the budget set out in the confidential appendix, and then the contractor will be appointed to undertake the works as summarised in paragraph 3.13 to enlarge the school.
- 3.15. Delivery Timescales are as follows:

Milestone Description	Target Date
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Final Business Case to Investment Board Endorsement	05/03/2019
Formal Contract Sign Off	10/05/2019
Enabling Work (vegetation clearance)	02/03/2019
Start on site – New build	20/07/2019
Completion of New Build classrooms, hall and kitchen	10/11/2019
Remodelling of existing Hall and RL demolition	10/12/2019
Completion of building works	01/03/2020
Build Completion For Handover	01/04/2020

### Policy

- 3.19. A stated priority of “Essex Organisation Strategy 2017-2021” is to “offer children good economic prospects, by providing an outstanding education in Essex”. ECC proactively works with schools, academies and sponsors to increase provision through the development of good school organisation solutions in accordance with its place planning strategy, which improve the quality of the schools system, increase diversity and deliver good and outstanding outcomes for the children of Essex.
- 3.20. ECC has a statutory duty to secure sufficient school and Early Years childcare places within its area. This is encapsulated in the Commissioning School Places in Essex 2017-2022 document and the council’s Corporate Outcome 1: *Children in Essex get the best start in life*. The key role of the planning function is to maintain a balance between the supply and demand of good school places, with regard to future projections of pupil numbers, demographic trends and policy priorities.

## **4. Options**

- 4.1. **Option 1 – Agree to approve the statutory proposals without modification and expand the School**
- 4.2. This proposal is part of a wider strategic response to the need for additional school places (as detailed within ECC’s 10-Year Plan). The expansion of the School will create additional capacity at an appropriate location within the north Chelmsford planning group, and will provide the opportunity to meet a higher number of parental preferences.
- 4.3. The School delivers high quality education (as evidenced by its current Ofsted rating of ‘Good’) and, by delivering this permanent expansion, any future need to organise into mixed-age classes is removed.
- 4.4. As the only primary school in Broomfield, other expansion options could only occur outside of the area of demand, and would require local children to travel to a neighbouring village to attend school, with potential implications for ECC’s school transport budget.
- 4.5. The outcome of the strategic analysis indicated that expanding the School is a viable option that represented good value for money to the Essex taxpayer. It is therefore the recommended option.

#### **4.6. Option 2 – Do nothing**

- 4.7. The option to do nothing is not reasonable. There is a need for more primary places, and the proposed expansion of the School is a good and appropriate solution to meet the continued increase in demand with high quality provision, and for ECC to meet its statutory duty to provide a school place for every child.
- 4.8. Should these additional places not be delivered there is a significant risk that children will be without school places in their local area, that longer journeys will need to be made between home and school in order to find alternative schools with spaces and that in an increased number of cases parental preference will not be satisfied. Accordingly, this is not the recommended option.

### **5. Issues for consideration**

#### **5.1. Financial Implications**

##### Capital

- 5.1.1. Please see the confidential financial appendix for capital financial information.

##### Revenue

- 5.1.2. School revenue budgets are funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and are based on pupil numbers in the October prior to the start of the financial year. For new academies, in the first year of operation the LA confirms a funding allocation based on estimated numbers across the year groups that will open in the first year of operation. The DfE allows basic need growth to be funded by the Essex Formula for Funding Schools and the difference between estimated pupils and the October Census is added to the Number on Roll which will generate additional funding in an academic year to ensure the school has sufficient resources to provide the required number of classes. At the end of the approved growth period the school will be funded on actual pupil numbers. Indicative funding for the 15 places from September 2019 is £26,167.
- 5.1.3. Furniture and equipment will be funded from within the existing furniture and equipment revenue budget funded via the DSG.
- 5.1.4. It is not considered that this scheme will increase Home to School transport costs as it fulfils the demand needs in its local area.

#### **5.2. Legal Implications**

- 5.2.1. Local authorities must continue to plan for and secure sufficient schools and places for their area in line with their duties under section 14 of the Education Act 1996.
- 5.2.2. The premises to be provided will need to meet the statutory requirements of the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 and the feasibility studies and the final programme will ensure that this happens.
- 5.2.3 The procurement of goods and service will be carried out in accordance with domestic and European Public Contracts legislation and in accordance with the Council's procurement rules.

### **5.3 Staffing and other resource implications**

- 5.3.1. Staffing for the expansion will be decided by the School, and will be funded from its revenue budget, received through the DSG. As a Foundation School, there will be no staffing implications for ECC staff.
- 5.3.2. The local authority is required to make provision in its Growth Fund, which is part of DSG, to support increases in pupil numbers relating to basic need.

## **6. Equality and Diversity implications**

- 6.1. Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 creates the public sector equality duty which requires that when ECC makes decisions it must have regard to the need to:
  - (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act
  - (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
- 6.2. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation.
- 6.3. The equality impact assessment indicates that the proposals in this report will not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic.

## **7. List of Appendices**

- 7.1. Appendix 1 – Confidential Appendix
- 7.2. Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Analysis

(available at [www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk) if not circulated with this report)

## **8. List Background Papers**

8.1. Consultation document

## **9. Endorsements**

<b>I approve the above recommendations set out above for the reasons set out in the report.</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Councillor Ray Gooding, Cabinet Member for Education</b>	<b>04.02.19</b>

**In consultation with:**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Executive Director for Corporate and Customer Services (S151 Officer)</b>	<b>18.01.19</b>
<b>Nicole Wood</b>	
<b>Director, Legal and Assurance (Monitoring Officer)</b>	<b>21.08.18</b>
<b>Kim Cole on behalf of</b>	
<b>Paul Turner</b>	