

# **The Permanent Expansion of Abbey Meads, Catherine Wayte and Haydonleigh Primary Schools**

**CABINET PANEL**

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> June 2008

**Author:** Group Director, Children

**Ward Affected:**

Abbey Meads and Haydon Wick

## **Purpose**

- To permanently expand Abbey Meads, Catherine Wayte and Haydonleigh Primary Schools.

## **Recommendations**

Cabinet is requested to:

- approve the proposals as set out in the statutory notice attached as **Appendix 3** to permanently expand Abbey Meads Primary Schools.
- approve the proposals as set out in the statutory notice attached as **Appendix 4** to permanently expand Catherine Wayte Primary Schools.
- approve the proposals as set out in the statutory notice attached as **Appendix 5** to permanently expand Haydonleigh Primary Schools.
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## **1 Reasons**

- 1.1 The aim of the permanent expansion is to provide sufficient classroom space at Abbey Meads and Catherine Wayte to sustain a long-term increase in admission numbers.
- 1.2 From September 2011, an additional two class spaces at Abbey Meads and Catherine Wayte primary schools will therefore be needed in order to enable there to be a long-term admission number of 60. The overall capacity of the schools would increase to 420 in each case.
- 1.3 Similarly, there is only sufficient classroom space at Haydonleigh to sustain a long-term increase in the admission number of 60 until the end of the 2007/2008 academic year. From September 2008, two extra classrooms will be needed in order to enable there to be a long-term admission number of 60 at the school. The overall capacity at the school would then increase to 420.
- 1.4 In each case the school provided a temporary solution to increasing pupil numbers for September 2007. It is therefore considered in each case the school is expanded to become a two-form of entry in line with the Council's Policy for primary schools.

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## 2 Detail

### Background

- 2.1 From September 2008, there will be 12 forms of entry in the Northern Sector, an increase of 4 forms of entry from the September 2006 intake. However, based on the existing school population and projections of growth in the Northern Sector, it is currently estimated that there is likely to be a need for up to 15 forms of entry by 2011 when the current programme of house building is expected to be complete. It should be stressed that these are of course forecasted not actual pupil numbers, although there is substantial evidence about expected future levels of demand for school places as shown below.

Reception Year	Sept 2008	Sept 2009	Sept 2010	Sept 2011
Children in area as at 31/08/07	341	350	387	427
Forms of Entry (FE)	12	12	13	15

- 2.2 Cabinet have also given the commitment to establish a new two-form entry primary school on the PS7 site in Oakhurst from September 2010 and requested further investigation into the possibility of temporary places being made available from September 2009.

### Consultation Process/Outcome

- 2.3 Following the decision by Cabinet on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2007 to initiate a pre-statutory consultation on the proposals to permanently expand Abbey Meads, Catherine Wayte and Haydonleigh Primary Schools a consultation document was sent to staff, parents and governors on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2007. A copy of the pre-statutory consultation document and responses are attached at **Appendix 1 and 2**.
- 2.4 Cabinet considered the responses to the pre-statutory consultation on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2008 and authorised the Group Director, Children publish statutory proposals to permanently expand the three schools. Copies of the public notice for each school are attached as **Appendix 3, 4 and 5**. A copy of the proposals document for each school, which is required by statute, sets out detailed prescribed information about the proposals is attached as **Appendix 6, 7 and 8**.
- 2.5 No objections or comments were received following publication of the statutory proposals.

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## Key factors in support of the proposal

- 2.6 Effect on Standards and School Improvement – The proposals will match school place supply as closely as possible to pupils' and parents' need and wishes and achieve the Government's and Council's aim to ensure that every child receives an excellent education. Abbey Meads, Catherine Wayte and Haydonleigh Primary Schools contribute to raising standards in English and Mathematics; for the Local Authority these are, currently above the national average.
- 2.7 Expansion of Successful and Popular Schools – Abbey Meads, Catherine Wayte and Haydonleigh Primary Schools has a history of oversubscription for admissions, which highlights the popularity with parents. The schools are judged by OfSTED to be Good to Outstanding during recent inspections.
- 2.8 Travel and Accessibility for All – The proposals will not have the effect of unreasonably extending journey times or increasing transport costs
- 2.9 Capital Funding – Detail on the Capital funding is available in the Financial Implications section below.
- 2.10 Special Educational Needs Provision – Abbey Meads, Catherine Wayte and Haydonleigh Primary Schools will continue to offer a range of provision to respond to the needs of individual children.
- 2.11 Views of Interested Parties –The Local Authority carried out a pre-statutory consultation to gather the views of all those affected by the proposal. The results are attached as **Appendix 2**.

## **Alternative Options**

- If additional places are not provided in North Swindon there will be a shortfall and this will have an impact on parental preference and there would be an expected rise in the number of appeals.

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## Risk Management

### *Financial and Procurement Implications*

- The costs of publishing statutory proposals are contained within the current Local Provision cash limit.
- There may be a cost to the Individual Schools Budget for provision of resources to support additional pupils. Funding would be through the Formula for expanding schools (trigger funding) and the schools would meet all associated revenue costs.
- It was agreed by Cabinet at the 17th October 2007 meeting to provide additional accommodation (a double mobile classroom in each case) at Haydonleigh Primary School, from September 2008, and Abbey Meads and Catherine Wayte Primary Schools, from September 2011, in order to enable all three schools to become all-through two-form entry Primary Schools.
- The new capital funding to support the costs of purchasing the mobile classrooms totaling £600k has been earmarked through the Council's annual Capital Programme "refresh".

### *Legal/Human Rights Implications*

- The proposals relating to Abbey Meads, Catherine Wayte and Haydonleigh Primary Schools are subject to the relevant provisions in the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The statutory procedure set out in the Education Inspection Act for altering a school is as follows:
  - a) Pre-statutory consultation on the proposals with families, Governing Body, staff and teachers of the school, which is the subject of the proposals and any other, affected school and certain other bodies. Consultation for minimum of 4 weeks.
  - b) Cabinet Decision to publish notice of proposals.
  - c) Statutory consultation period of 4 weeks.
  - d) Cabinet Decision to proceed with proposals.
  - e) Right of appeal against decision to the Adjudicator but only by the Governing Body of the school which is the subject of the proposal and the Diocesan Boards of Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church.
- Cabinet must follow DCSF guidance entitled 'Decision Makers Guidance for Expanding Maintained Mainstream Schools' when considering whether to approve the proposals. A copy of the guidance is attached as **Appendix 9**. The guidance states that the Cabinet should consider before judging the respective factors and merits of the proposals:

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- a) Is any information missing?
- b) Does the published notice comply with Statutory requirements
- c) Has the statutory consultation been carried out prior to the publication of the notice?
- d) Are the proposals linked or related to other published proposals?

The guidance then sets out in paragraphs 4.16 to 4.64 factors, which must be considered by Cabinet in reaching its decision.

- The guidance states that all decision makers must give reasons for their decisions irrespective of whether the proposals were rejected or approved, indicating the main factors/criteria for the decision.

*Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010 Promises)*

- The recommendations are in line with Swindon 2010 Promise 20.

## Consultees

- The Director of Finance and the Director of Law and Democratic Services are consulted on all reports. Ward councillors for Western Ward have been consulted on the contents of this report, as have both schools.
- A consultation with staff, parents and governors has been undertaken on these proposals as described in the report and **Appendix 1**.
- Appendices
- Appendix 1 – 'Proposal to Permanently Expand Abbey Meads, Catherine Wayte and Haydonleigh Primary Schools – Pre-Statutory Consultation.'
- Appendix 2 – Table showing Response Forms received.
- Appendix 3 – Public Notice for Abbey Meads
- Appendix 4 – Public Notice for Catherine Wayte
- Appendix 5 – Public Notice for Haydonleigh
- Appendix 6 – Prescribed information for Abbey Meads
- Appendix 7 – Prescribed information for Catherine Wayte
- Appendix 8 – Prescribed information for Haydonleigh
- Appendix 9 – Decision Maker's Guidance for Expanding a Maintained Mainstream School

## Background Papers

- Local Authority Support Plan

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- School Organisation Proposals (Cabinet 6<sup>th</sup> June 2007)
- School Reorganisations – Cabinet Session 27<sup>th</sup> September 2008