

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	2860
Author:	Lucy Juby
Department:	Children and Adults
Contact:	Lucy Juby (Job Title: Project Manager School Organisation, Email: lucy.juby@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158765041)
Subject:	Approval to publish formal Statutory Notice - proposal to expand Middleton Primary from 420 to 630 places
Total Value:	Nil (Type: Nil)
Decision Being Taken:	Approval is sought to publish the formal Statutory Notice for the proposal to expand Middleton Primary School, in accordance with the 'Prescribed Alteration' Regulations of the statutory guidance for maintained schools. This will trigger a four week representation period (formal consultation), running from 28th June - 26th July 2017.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

Pupil growth forecasts, analysis and admissions data identify that there is a need to provide further primary place capacity in the Wollaton area of the city, to meet the increased number of children requiring a school place in the local community.

Middleton Primary School is rated "Good" by Ofsted, with significant waiting lists across the year groups. Expanding the school will support the key priority to provide good schools, close to home for every young person in Nottingham and to increase choice of places for every child. We encourage parents to use local schools, which also contributes to improved attendance and family wellbeing, in helping to keep siblings together in the same school.

Increasingly, there are more applications from within Middleton Primary's immediate catchment area, than there are places available. A longer term solution is needed to address the sustained growth in pupil numbers. From September 2018, additional teaching, learning and hall space will be required. The proposal will be subject to successful feasibility and design works, to be developed in conjunction with the school. If Middleton Primary does not expand, there will be insufficient capacity to accommodate the growth in the number of applications from families in the immediate catchment area. Initial feasibility investigations have confirmed that there is space on the site to expand, without compromising the quality of education and facilities. Any new buildings would be designed to complement the existing build and be fit for the future of the school community.

A pre-publication public consultation period has already been undertaken (as agreed with the Portfolio Holder on 7th March 2017), which ran for a four week period from 24th April - 19th May. The outcome of this consultation was that the number of respondents in support of the proposal to expand the school exceeded the number of those against (breakdown below).

During the four week consultation process, we wrote to all stakeholders who may have an interest in the proposal: staff, governors, parents/carers, local residents, local Councillors, Trade Unions, all City Primary Head Teachers and the local secondary schools. We invited all parents/carers to attend one of two consultation meetings. We also conducted a consultation meeting for staff and governors, a drop in consultation session for local residents and two separate 'school gates' consultation exercises, at the beginning and end of the school day.

The outcome of the consultation was as follows:

500 letters sent to parents/carers of all children at the primary and nursery:

68 responded to the consultation (14% response rate)

63% (43 respondents) in support.

34% (23 respondents) against.

3% (2 respondents) are of no opinion.

Staff and governors

92% (11 respondents) in support.

8% (1 respondent) against.

We also wrote to 84 local residents:

Other\residents

22 responded to the consultation (26% response rate)

**18% (4 respondents) in support.
77% (17 respondents) against.
5% (1 respondent) is of no opinion.**

Following the four week representation period, a full report will be produced and submitted to Executive Board in September 2017, for a final decision to be made as to whether the proposal will go ahead and whether the capital funding is to be allocated accordingly. The Executive Board report will contain a full analysis of the outcomes of the consultation, including a summary of responses, key themes and actions required.

Other Options Considered:

The only other options would be: 1) Do nothing. This is not recommended, as additional school places are required in the area. Sustained growth in pupil numbers requires a long term solution to meet the needs of the community. 2) During the consultation, no new alternative options were proposed to meet the need for school places in the area.
Other potential school build / expansion options were also considered (Bluecoat and Southwold), but Middleton is the preferred option.

Background Papers:

Published Works:

Delegated decision, Ref: 2453.

Affected Wards:

Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

Consultations:

Date: 06/03/2017

Ward Councillors: Steve Battlemuch

Briefing on the proposal undertaken by Cllr Webster and Lucy Juby, with Cllr Battlemuch and Cllr Longford on 6th March 2017, then with Cllr Culley on 29th March 2017, who was unable to attend two previously arranged sessions.

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

N/A

Equality:

Please login to the system to view the EIA document: Equality Impact Assessment_Middleton.doc

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

23/06/2017

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Human Resources, Equality and Diversity

<p>Legal Advice:</p>	<p>Please see the attached. Advice provided by Jonathan Ludford-Thomas (Senior Solicitor) on 07/06/2017.</p> <p>Advice documents: 2017-06-07 legal obs.pdf</p>
<p>Finance Advice:</p>	<p>Please see the attached Advice provided by Julia Elizabeth Holmes (Finance Analyst) on 09/06/2017.</p> <p>Advice documents: Middleton Primary Statutory Notice - Finance Comment 070617.docx</p>
<p>HR Advice:</p>	<p>In terms of general workforce implications, the governing body will need to give careful consideration to the appropriate staffing establishment and the potential need to make suitable appointments to ensure the school is adequately resourced in line with School Teacher's Pay & Conditions, Staffing Guidance under the Education Act 2002, and the Restructuring, Recruitment, and Pay Policies adopted by the governing body.</p> <p>Human Resources (HR) and legal advice should be considered in the implementation of any new or extended staffing structures, to ensure appropriate consideration is given to employment law, policy and practice.</p> <p>The governing body has recently served notice on a number of TAs; affected individuals' contracts of employment are due to terminate due to redundancy at the end of August 2017. The governing body will therefore need to consider the implications of this reduction when determining the appropriate staffing structure for expansion. Advice provided by Joanne Zylinski (project coordinator) on 08/06/2017.</p>
<p>Equality and Diversity Advice:</p>	<p>There are no significant equality issues with this proposal. Advice provided by Adisa Djan (Equalities and Diversity Consultant) on 12/06/2017.</p>
<p>Signatures</p>	<p>Sam Webster (PH for Business, Education and Skills)</p> <p>SIGNED and Dated: 15/06/2017</p> <p>Alison Michalska (Corporate Director for Children and Adults)</p> <p>SIGNED and Dated: 13/06/2017</p>