

Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Education

Tuesday, 14 March 2017 at 9.00 am County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND

Items for Decision

Poter G. Clark.

The items for decision under individual Cabinet Members' delegated powers are listed overleaf, with indicative timings, and the related reports are attached. Decisions taken will become effective at the end of the working day on 22 March 2017 unless called in by that date for review by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.

Copies of the reports are circulated (by e-mail) to all members of the County Council.

These proceedings are open to the public

Peter G. Clark Chief Executive

March 2017

Committee Officer: Deborah Miller

Tel: (01865) 815384; E-Mail: deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Note: Date of next meeting: 25 April 2017

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, but please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.

Items for Decision

1. Declarations of Interest

2. Questions from County Councillors

Any county councillor may, by giving notice to the Proper Officer by 9 am two working days before the meeting, ask a question on any matter in respect of the Cabinet Member's delegated powers.

The number of questions which may be asked by any councillor at any one meeting is limited to two (or one question with notice and a supplementary question at the meeting) and the time for questions will be limited to 30 minutes in total. As with questions at Council, any questions which remain unanswered at the end of this item will receive a written response.

Questions submitted prior to the agenda being despatched are shown below and will be the subject of a response from the appropriate Cabinet Member or such other councillor or officer as is determined by the Cabinet Member, and shall not be the subject of further debate at this meeting. Questions received after the despatch of the agenda, but before the deadline, will be shown on the Schedule of Addenda circulated at the meeting, together with any written response which is available at that time.

3. Petitions and Public Address

4. Proposed Expansion of Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School (Pages 1 - 18)

Forward Plan Ref: 2016/115

Contact: Diane Cameron, School Organisation Officer Tel: 07795 301254

Report by Director for Children's Services (CMDCEF4).

This report follows a public consultation and Statutory Notice period relating to a proposal to expand Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School to 1 form entry. The proposal is supported by the school's Governing Body and the Diocese.

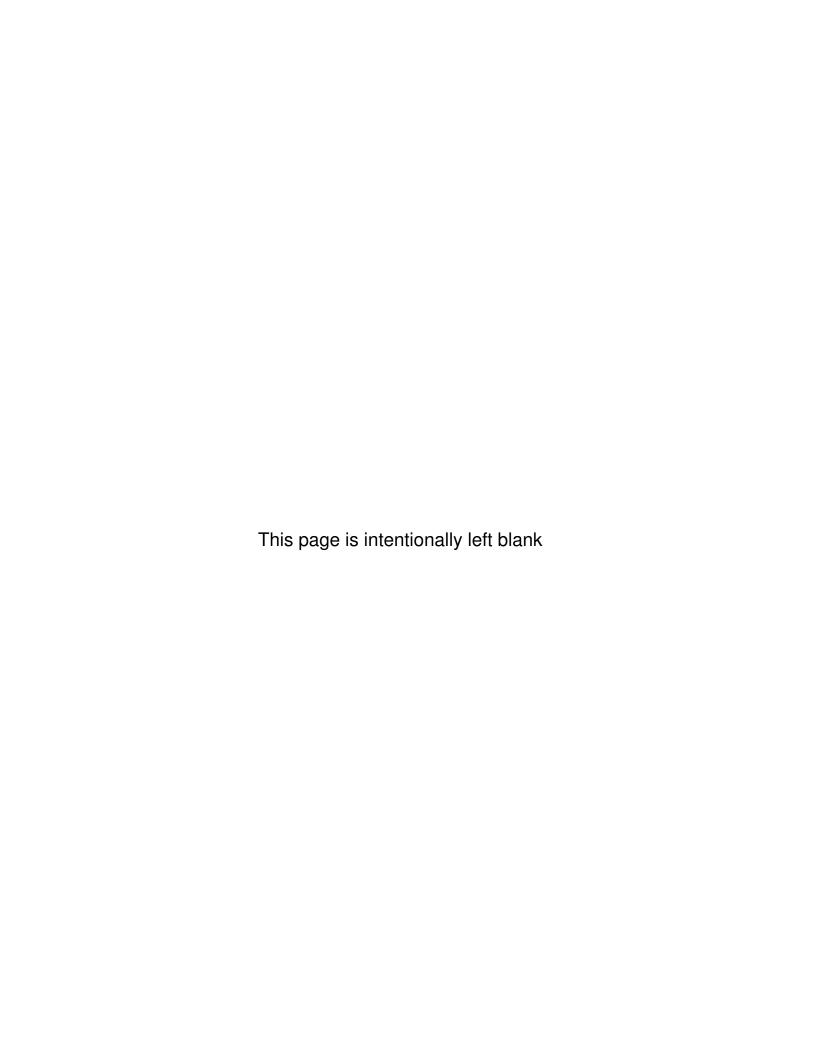
Chesterton village is part of the Bicester partnership of schools, where pupil numbers have risen and large strategic housing developments are planned. To ensure sufficient pupil places are available a number of new schools are planned, and some existing schools are being expanded. Within Chesterton village there has been construction and occupation of new housing development, and more is anticipated.

This report summarises the response from the public consultation and the statutory notice, where the most common concern was around increase in traffic / parking issues at the start and end of the school day. A statement from the Governing Body of the school is also included, setting out its views on the benefit to the school of the proposal.

The decision-making power in terms of determining the proposal in this case lies

with the Cabinet Member for Education.

The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposed expansion of Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School.



Divisions: Ploughley

Also of interest to Bicester Divisions

CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION - 14 MARCH 2017

REPORT ON THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF CHESTERTON CE (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Report by Director for Children's Services

Introduction

- This report follows a public consultation and statutory Notice period relating to the county council's proposal to expand Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School. The proposal has been made with the support of the school's Governing Body and the Diocese.
- 2. An initial public consultation ran from 2 November 30 November 2016. The consultation leaflet is attached at Annex 1 and was circulated to all parents/carers of pupils at the school, staff and governors, appropriate county council teams, District, Council and Parish councillors, the local library and others. It was also available on the county council consultations webpages through its "current consultations" listing.
- 3. The consultation leaflet (Annex 1) sets out the reasoning behind the school's proposals, therefore this is not duplicated in this report. The key to this proposal is the planned housing development within Chesterton CE (VA) Primary school's designated (catchment) area, and the S106 developer contribution funding that has been agreed as a result. This funding is agreed specifically to accommodate the demand at this school for school places generated by the new housing growth.
- 4. Following completion of the consultation, a Public Notice was published. (Annex 2). The Public Notice was published in the Bicester Advertiser on 12 January 2017 and was also posted at the school's entrance and on the school website and county council website. The Notice period ran until the 9 February 2017. It was accompanied by a Full Proposal document (Annex 3), which was available to read online at the Oxfordshire County Council public website, or by request.
- 5. The decision-making power in terms of determining the proposal in this case lies with the Cabinet Member for Education.

The Proposal

6. The proposal is to expand the school from its current Planned Admission Number of 20 to 30 (i.e. to become a standard 1 form entry school) on a permanent basis from September 2018. This is to meet anticipated sustained

increase in demand for primary pupil places in the school's catchment and immediate area, as detailed in Annex 1.

- 7. Chesterton is one of three villages within Cherwell District Council's Local Plan intended to share 259 new homes, with 65 being permitted already within the village in the last three years. Significant additional interest is being shown by housing developers in applications for more housing within the school's catchment area.
- 8. The village of Wendlebury is planned to become part of Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School's catchment area in the near future. Many families living in Wendlebury already have children attending Chesterton and so this will not substantially alter patterns of attendance, however it will increase the likelihood of Wendlebury children being offered places at Chesterton as they will meet a higher admissions criterion.
- 9. The Governing Body of Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School wants to be able to meet the needs of the local community into the future, as it does now. It views very positively the benefits to school organisation of becoming a 1fe school, as it offers an opportunity to work towards eventual single age group classes: this is perceived as preferable by parents of their pupils.
- 10. Some parents wish their children to attend Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School through a preference for a Church of England school: this is reflected in the school's admissions criteria, and is not dependent on which catchment area the applicant resides in.
- 11. The Governing Body has written a formal statement of its support for the proposal to permanently expand, setting out how it believes it will have varied benefits to the school as a whole, and addressing concerns it is aware of about an increase in traffic. This statement is below:

"Chesterton has grown as a village in the last year with the development of the Alchester Park estate. There is to be another development on The Hale, which will lead to an increase of over 100 homes in the village since the start of work on the Alchester Park site. There are already children from Alchester Park in our school. In addition, it is surely likely that there will be further housing developments within our catchment area in the future and an expansion to the school at this point, when the funding is available, would ensure that the school is 'future proofed' for local residents.

Our current catchment area (Chesterton, Middleton Stoney and Weston-on-the-Green) accounts for 59% of the children in school. This number was correct at the end of December 2016 term. Very soon Wendlebury will become part of our catchment area, as it was removed from St. Edburg's catchment area when that school relocated and Wendlebury children have traditionally attended Chesterton. If we include the children from Wendlebury who currently attend school in Chesterton, then our proportion of catchment area children will rise to 70%.

We would like to increase our Planned Admission Number (PAN) to 30 to meet the increased demand from within our catchment area. Although there

may be children joining us in years other than Early Years/Foundation, we expect the increase to be gradual rather than all in one go.

The increase will allow us to work towards having one year group per class instead of mixed ages in the same room. Indeed, we would then be able to keep Key Stages apart instead of our current Year 1/2 and Year 2/3 class. This provides an opportunity to direct teaching to one year group, thereby making a more effective education for the children. This would also be preferable to the majority of parents who can be concerned about their children receiving the same education if they are working with younger children (Eg. as a Year 2 within a Year 1/2 class rather than in a Year 2/3 class).

In the ever-changing climate of education and the move towards academisation, small schools are increasingly under threat from being consumed/amalgamated into a larger entity. By increasing in size, Chesterton can retain its ethos and village character but ensure that it is sustainable in the future.

The increase in space (the new classroom block will contain one group room and one area designed as a flexible working space) will allow teachers and teaching assistants to work with pupils outside of the classroom as necessary. This can be extremely valuable for intervention work for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and in a number of scenarios when being separate from the main body of the class would be beneficial. As the school has expanded in recent years, we no longer have a room dedicated as a library and are limited to one 'shared space' between five classes. This regularly leads to activities needing to take place in inappropriate settings (ie. music lessons in the staff room, pupils talking to social workers in the bursar's office).

There is no doubt that some parents exercise 'parental choice' in sending their children to Chesterton from outside our catchment area, and the current government appear to be supportive of this principle. However, some of our out of catchment children attend Chesterton due to lack of places in other Bicester schools rather than choice. We have a number of children from the village of Bucknell (until Sept 17, also part of St. Edburg's traditional catchment area). This will now form part of Gagle Brook's (not yet open) and King's Meadow's (regularly full or over-subscribed) catchment area. These are not Bicester parents opting not to attend a town school. The reasons that parents choose to send their children to non-catchment schools are many and varied. This is the same for us as we imagine it is for many other successful and popular schools.

We are aware that an increase in pupil numbers (albeit gradual) will lead to extra pressure on parking in the local area. Please see the extract below from our draft Travel Plan (a requirement of the expansion proposal).

As with all schools, traffic congestion is at its maximum at the beginning and end of the school day. A large number of our parents opt to drive their children to school, either because they live outside the village (a large proportion of our

catchment area is beyond walking distance) or for convenience on the way to work. We regularly monitor parking outside the school and have taken steps to address inconsiderate/dangerous parking. In the past twelve months, we have requested input from our local Police Officer and PCSO, written to parents through newsletters with reminders about safe parking, involved the School Council in considering ways in which we could encourage safer driving/parking and liaised with the Parish Council to install additional 'no parking' lines on a junction near the school.

Staff parking is limited, and staff do use surrounding street parking. However, as stated above, apart from the peak times, surrounding roads are not excessively congested. Staff are encouraged to walk, cycle, share lifts if practical. However, few staff currently live close enough to the school to make this a viable option.

Whilst we appreciate that additional pupil numbers will inevitably increase traffic at these points in the day, there is extensive street parking available in the local area and outside of these times, the surrounding roads (with no parking restrictions) are relatively clear and uncongested.

The following factors currently decrease traffic arriving at school at the beginning and end of the day:

- A number of children (average 15 per day) travel to school using a bus provided by OCC.
- A number of children (average 8-12 per day) use the school's breakfast club, which begins at 7.30am, and means that these families have arrived before the 'peak' time.
- We offer a wide range of after-school clubs, which finish at approximately 4.30pm, and mean that these families arrive to collect after the 'peak' time. This would be further mitigated by 'wrap-around' care that would be possible following the extension.
- There is a large bike storage shelter on site to enable children to safely store bicycles and scooters.
- In addition, the school does offer a cycling proficiency course for Year 6 pupils and this does encourage some children to cycle to school.

Officers now seek formal approval for this proposal from the Cabinet Member for Education.

Representations

12. The public consultation generated five responses. Two supported the proposal in principle, while all raised concerns. These concerns were overwhelmingly centred on the impact on traffic within Chesterton village. This was raised in particular by Chesterton Playgroup and Chesterton Parish Council, while also recognising the benefits to the school of expansion.

Fritwell CE Primary School and Fritwell Parish Council responded to the initial consultation raising concern about an impact on pupil numbers attending that

school, should Chesterton expand. Officers do not consider Fritwell to be an appropriate solution to school capacity for children generated by the planned housing within Chesterton village, as it is several miles away.

- 13. The statutory Notice generated four representations (formal responses). Two supported the proposal in principle, while two opposed it in principle. Again, the objections received were centred around fears for worsening of the traffic issue in the village, rather than the principle of expansion of the school. One respondent raised a concern over the impact on outdoor space at the school, should it expand, however Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School's site is large enough to support the school's growth to 1 form entry in terms of the county council's standards for playing field space, which go over and above national guidelines.
- 14. St Edburg's CE (VA) Primary School (in nearby Kingsmead estate, Bicester) supported the expansion, while Chesterton Playgroup repeated its concerns about traffic, but also recognised the benefit to the school and surrounding villages of expansion.

Legal background

- 13. The Education & Inspections Act 2006 and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2013 establish the procedures that must be followed when enlarging school premises.
- 15. Local authorities also have a duty to have regard to statutory guidance, in this particular case "Making Prescribed Alterations to Mainstream Schools" published April 2016.
- 16. The Guidance states that the statutory proposal must contain sufficient information for interested parties to make a decision on whether to support or challenge the proposed change. The proposal should be accessible to all interested parties and should therefore use 'plain English'. The full proposal must be published on a website (e.g. the school or LA's website) along with a statement setting out:
 - how copies of the proposal may be obtained;
 - that anybody can object to, or comment on, the proposal;
 - the date that the representation period ends;
 - and the address to which objections or comments should be submitted.

A brief notice (including details on how the full proposal can be accessed e.g. the website address) must be published in a local newspaper. Within one week of the date of publication on the website, the proposer must send a copy of the proposal and the information set out in the paragraph above to the governing body and any other body or person that the proposer thinks is appropriate.

- The county council confirms that it has adhered to the relevant legislation and statutory Guidance.
- 17. Local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of school places, which this expansion would support.
- 18. Education standards and diversity of provision: Decision-makers should consider the quality and diversity of schools in the relevant area and whether the proposal will meet or affect the needs of parents; raise local standards and narrow attainment gaps. In considering whether to formally approve the proposal, the Cabinet Member should be satisfied that the proposals will contribute to the accessing of excellent education provision and consider the impact on safeguarding and wellbeing. He should pay particular attention to the effect on groups that tend to under-perform including children from certain ethnic minorities and deprived backgrounds.
- 19. Chesterton CE Primary School is an Ofsted-rated "Good" school (last inspection 2013). Expansion would therefore increase the number of places available at good schools, although most other nearby schools are also rated "Good".
- 20. **Demand v. need**: In assessing the demand for new school places the decision-maker should consider the evidence presented for any projected increase in pupil population (such as planned housing developments) and any new provision opening in the area. The decision-maker should take into account the quality and popularity of the schools in which spare capacity exists and evidence of parents' aspirations for places in the school proposed for expansion.
- 21. As set out in the school's statement, the school meets demand from parents over a wide area, within which there has been recent housing development. The Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 policy Villages 2 indicates that a total of 750 homes will be delivered at category A villages, which include Chesterton and Weston-on-the-Green, with specific sites to be identified through Local Plan Part 2 or Neighbourhood Plans. The school's catchment area can therefore expect to see further housing growth. The current forecast demand for places at the school is set out below:

| Year | R | Yr1 | Yr2 | Yr3 | Yr4 | Yr5 | Yr6 | Total |
|------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 2017 | 20 | 23 | 23 | 14 | 21 | 18 | 21 | 140 |
| 2018 | 24 | 20 | 23 | 23 | 14 | 21 | 18 | 143 |
| 2019 | 26 | 24 | 20 | 23 | 23 | 14 | 21 | 151 |
| 2020 | 27 | 26 | 24 | 20 | 23 | 23 | 14 | 157 |
| 2021 | 28 | 27 | 26 | 24 | 20 | 23 | 23 | 171 |
| 2022 | 30 | 28 | 27 | 26 | 24 | 20 | 23 | 178 |
| 2023 | 27 | 30 | 28 | 27 | 26 | 24 | 20 | 182 |

- 22. Within Bicester itself there are planned to be nearly 10,000 new homes between 2014 and 2031. While most of the provision for this will be through new schools, it also provides opportunities for expansion of existing schools, where this can be achieved in a cost-effective manner and to the benefit of educational standards.
- 23. **School size:** Decision-makers should not make blanket assumptions that schools should be of a certain size to be good schools, although the viability and cost-effectiveness of a proposal is an important factor for consideration.
- 24. Permanent expansion of the school would be expected to increase the revenue cost-effectiveness of its operation. Expansion would also enable it to teach in single age classes, rather than the current mixed age classes; while there is no clear evidence that this would improve education standards, it would be preferred by the school.
- 25. Travel and accessibility: Decision-makers should satisfy themselves that accessibility planning has been properly taken into account and the proposed changes should not adversely impact on disadvantaged groups. The decision-maker should bear in mind that a proposal should not unreasonably extend journey times or increase transport costs, or result in too many children being prevented from travelling sustainably due to unsuitable walking or cycling routes.
- 26. Expansion of this school would not be expected to have an adverse impact on accessibility.
- 27. **Funding and land:** The decision-maker should be satisfied that any land, premises or necessary funding required to implement the proposal will be available and that all relevant local parties (e.g. trustees or religious authority) have given their agreement.
- 28. This expansion would be largely funded from developer contributions resulting from local housing growth. The school and Diocese are fully involved in the expansion planning.

Financial and Staff Implications

- 29. The physical expansion of Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School would be funded using money the council has secured and expects to secure from housing developers, to mitigate the impact of new housing in the local area (known as Section 106 contributions). Oxfordshire County Council's contractors are working on a detailed feasibility study to identify how the physical expansion of the school can be achieved on site.
- 30. The accommodation requirements will be delivered by the county council. In accordance with OCC Capital Governance requirements this will be the subject to a separate Stage 2 Full Business Case/ Project Approval in due course.

- 31. Where possible, subject to the constraints of Regulation 123 of the Community Infrastructure Regulations 2010 (as amended), retrospective S106 developer contributions will also be sought from planned and future housing development in the area.
- 32. There will be on-costs to the school for additional staff and for increased maintenance requirements. These will need to be funded from the school's delegated School Budget Share, which will increase in proportion to increases in pupil numbers. Resources for School Budget Shares are provided by government through the Dedicated Schools Grant, which will increase proportionately to increases in overall pupil numbers in Oxfordshire.

Equality and Inclusion Implications

- 33. The decision-maker must have regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) of LAs/governing bodies, which requires them to have 'due regard' to the need to:
 - eliminate discrimination;
 - · advance equality of opportunity; and
 - foster good relations.
- 34. The Equality Impact Assessment of Oxfordshire's Pupil Place Plan (November 2016) identified that increasing school places at the heart of their communities has a positive impact on equalities through promoting social inclusion and minimising barriers to accessing education. There are not any sex, race or disability discrimination issues that arise from the changes being proposed.

Decision

- 35. Decision makers have to have regard to 'Guidance for decision makers' April 2016.
- 36. Decisions must be made within a period of two months of the end of the representation period or they must be referred to the Schools Adjudicator.
- 37. In considering the proposals for a school expansion, the Cabinet Member can decide to:
 - reject the proposals;
 - approve the proposals without modifications; or
 - approve the proposals with such modifications as the local authority think desirable, having consulted the governing body.

RECOMMENDATION

38. The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposed expansion of Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School.

LUCY BUTLER

Director for Children's Services

Annexes: Annex 1: Consultation leaflet

Annex 2: Public Notice

Annex 3: Full Proposal document

Contact Officer: Diane Cameron – School Organisation Officer, Education

Sufficiency & Access, CEF. Tel: 07795301254

February 2017

This page is intentionally left blank



Consultation on a proposal to expand Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School

2 November 2016 - 30 November 2016

Chesterton Church of England (VA) Primary School is located in the village of Chesterton, near Bicester in Cherwell District. The school is part of the Bicester area partnership of schools and currently has a Published Admission Number of 20 (i.e. the school admits up to 20 children each year in to the Reception class). The school was last inspected by Ofsted on 20 February 2013 and was graded Good.

The total number of children on roll at the start of September 2016 academic year was 130 as shown below:

| Year Group: | Reception | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Y4 | Y5 | Y6 |
|-------------------|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Number of Pupils: | 20 | 21 | 14 | 20 | 20 | 18 | 17 |

What is being proposed?

Expansion

The Governing Body of the school, working with Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford Diocese, propose to increase the school's Published Admission Number (PAN) in September 2018 from 20 to 30 on a permanent basis.

This means that each year group that starts at the school from September 2018 onward would consist of up to 30 places, making a maximum total of 210 pupils in Reception to Year 6 across the whole school eventually.

The school's total numbers would grow gradually each year as 30 children are admitted into the Reception class, allowing the school to adjust to the larger size. However, should housing development lead to large numbers of older primary children moving into the village and needing school places, the school will review whether it is able to expand the older year groups as well.

Class organisation

Where possible, county council policy is to organise and expand primary schools in multiples of 15 or 30 per year group (i.e. half or a full form of entry) at a time. This helps schools organise more easily their classes across the year groups. An advantage of this proposal to

Page 11

increase the Admission Number from 20 to 30 is that the children would be admitted in a full form of 30 and would stay in that single age class as they progressed up through the school.

There are many schools across the county that operate with an admission number of 30 as standard. The exact organisation of the classes would be managed by the school.

Reasons for proposal

Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School wants to be able to meet the needs of the local community. There are housing developments permitted within the school's designated (catchment) area and this will further increase the demand for primary school places over the next few years at this school.

To meet the needs of the growing population in Chesterton and the surrounding area, an expansion in primary school capacity is now sought.

If Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School expands to 1 form entry (PAN 30) it will have sufficient places to meet the scale of population growth expected within its designated area.

Buildings

To accommodate the extra children, the county council is planning to provide new classroom accommodation and associated areas.

It is expected that the cost of extending the school will be met from money the county council has secured from developers building houses in the local area. It may also require contributions from any future developments not yet applied for.

A feasibility study, managed by Oxfordshire County Council, will identify how the school could grow in a manner which is cost-effective without compromising the high quality of education provided.

Important points to remember

- This consultation is about the principle of expanding Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School. It is <u>not</u> about any decisions to allocate housing development to the area made by Cherwell District Council. Comments on housing development proposals need to be made direct to Cherwell District Council.
- This consultation is taking place until **30 November 2016**. You have until midnight on that date to give us your views. All responses received will then be considered.
- The next step, after consideration of consultation responses, would be for the
 publication of a Statutory Notice, which offers another opportunity for interested parties
 to respond to the proposal. The Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet Member for
 Children, Education & Families would then formally decide whether to approve the
 proposal.

How you can respond to this consultation

This information is available online at the county council's website in the consultations section: http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk. We would like to hear from you if you support this proposal as well as if you have any concerns. There are several ways you can submit your views:

- respond online at the above web address using the online form for this consultation, on the Oxfordshire County Council current consultations webpage
- email your response to: <u>diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk</u> putting CHESTERTON EXPANSION in the subject line;
- hand in your response at Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School's office, to be passed on to the county council.

You must respond by 30 November 2016

This page is intentionally left blank



PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed Expansion of Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School

Notice is given in accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that Oxfordshire County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School, Alchester Road, Chesterton, OX26 1UN from 01 September 2018.

The Local Authority, working with the Governing Body of the school and the Diocese, is proposing to expand Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School to a standard 1 form entry size, rising from the current Planned Admission Number (PAN) of 20 to one of 30 from September 2018 onward.

This Notice is an extract from the full proposal, which can be viewed under the Current Consultations listings on the Oxfordshire County Council public website at http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultation. Copies can also be requested by contacting:

Diane Cameron (School Organisation Officer)

Tel: 07795301254 or Email: diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Oxfordshire County Council, Education Sufficiency & Access, 3rd Floor, County
Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this Notice, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to the Local Authority using the online feedback form located on the Oxfordshire County Council website as detailed above, or by email or post to the above addresses.

Signed: Lucy Butler, Director of Children's Services

Publication Date: 12 January 2017

This page is intentionally left blank



FULL PROPOSAL

Expansion of Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School

Notice is given in accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that Oxfordshire County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School, Alchester Road, Chesterton, OX26 1UN from 01 September 2018.

The Local Authority proposes to expand Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School to a standard 1 form entry size, rising from the current Planned Admission Number (PAN) of 20 to one of 30 from September 2018 onward. This means that each year group that starts at the school from September 2018 onward would consist of up to 30 places, making a maximum total of 210 pupils in Reception to Year 6 across the whole school eventually.

Children would be admitted into the Reception class in a full form of 30 and would stay in that single age class as they progressed up through the school.

Expansion will enable the school to meet increased demand for places: it is currently full or very close to being so in most year groups. There have been recent housing developments permitted within the villages served by this school and an appropriate response is to expand the capacity of the school. The nearest other schools are outside the village in Bicester town.

Chesterton CE (VA) Primary School is popular and rated Good by Ofsted: expansion will ensure the school can continue to offer places to children living within the school's catchment area as its population grows.

The school will benefit from investment in the expansion of the buildings, and the increase in pupil funding resulting from a rise in pupil numbers means the school can remain financially viable without compromising its standard of education.

The estimated cost of expansion is £850K, and this will primarily be funded from S106 developer contributions negotiated from nearby housing developments. Future housing developments may also be required to contribute.

This full proposal can be viewed under the Current Consultations listings on the Oxfordshire County Council public website at

http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultation. Copies can also be requested by contacting:

Diane Cameron (School Organisation Officer)

Oxfordshire County Council, Education Sufficiency & Access, 3rd Floor, County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND

Tel: 07795301254 or Email: diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Any person may object to or make comments (representations) on the proposed expansion by sending them to the Local Authority using the online feedback form located on the Oxfordshire County Council website as detailed above, or by email or post to the above address.

All representations must be received by midnight on 9 February 2017.