



## ***Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Education***

***Monday, 11 March 2013 at 12.00 pm  
County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND***

### ***Items for Decision***

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 Tuesday 19 March 2013 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**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter G. Clark." with a horizontal line underneath.

Peter G. Clark  
County Solicitor

February 2013

Contact Officer: **Deborah Miller**  
Tel: (01865) 815384; E-Mail: [deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Note: Date of next meeting: 22 April 2013

**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. **Statutory Notice: Proposal to Expand Five Acres Primary School, Ambrosden (Pages 1 - 28)**

*Forward Plan Ref: 2012/175*

*Contact: Diane Cameron, School Organisation Officer Tel: (01865) 816445*

Report by Director for Children's Services (**CMDE4**).

The proposal is to increase the formal published admission number from 45 to 60 children at Five Acres Primary School, on a permanent basis from September 2013. This will eventually increase the school's total capacity from its current 315 places in Years F1- Y6 to a maximum of 420.

Additional classroom and supporting spaces will need to be created at the school to accommodate the increase in pupil numbers and a feasibility study is already underway to investigate how these can best be provided.

***The Cabinet Member for Education is RECOMMENDED to approve the permanent expansion of Five Acres Primary School with effect from 1 September 2013.***

Division(s): Bicester South

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION – 11 MARCH 2013**

### **FINAL REPORT ON RESPONSE TO STATUTORY NOTICE TO EXPAND FIVE ACRES PRIMARY SCHOOL, AMBROSDEN**

**Report by Director for Children's Services**

#### **Introduction**

1. At the meeting on 27 November 2012 the Cabinet agreed to the publication of formal proposals to expand Five Acres Primary School from 1.5 form entry to 2 form entry. The report outlining the basis for this decision is attached at Annex 1.
2. The statutory notice (attached at Annex 2) was published by the Authority in the Bicester Advertiser on 9 January 2013 and expired following 4 weeks of formal consultation on 6 February 2013. In accordance with legislation the notice was also posted at the school gate and sent to the local library. A copy of the full proposal (attached at Annex 3) and the notices were sent to the governing body and the Secretary of State and additionally made available on the Oxfordshire County Council website.
3. The decision-making power in terms of determining the notice lies with the Cabinet or can be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement (if there have been no objections). In meeting as 'decision-maker' the Cabinet or Cabinet Member must have regard to government guidance and statutory timescales otherwise a decision can be referred to the independent Schools' Adjudicator for reconsideration. The decision must be made within 2 months of the close of the notice period; as a consequence, it is necessary for the Chairman of the Council to determine that the decision cannot be subject to 'call-in' as this would, in most cases, prevent a decision being finalised within the required timescale and mean that the Cabinet's role would be negated by referral to the Schools' Adjudicator.
4. As no objections in relation to the proposal have been received the decision is referred to the Member for Education. The proposed implementation date for the proposal is 1 September 2013.

#### **The Proposal**

5. The proposal is to increase the formal published admission number from 45 to 60 children, on a permanent basis from September 2013. This will eventually increase the school's total capacity from its current 315 places in Years F1- Y6 to a maximum of 420.

6. Additional classroom and supporting spaces will need to be created at the school to accommodate the increase in pupil numbers and a feasibility study is already underway to investigate how these can best be provided.

## **Representations**

7. The formal representation (Statutory Notice) phase was from 9 January 2013 – 6 February 2013 and a Statutory Notice (Annex 2) was publicly displayed at Five Acres Primary School, was also available on the OCC website and was published in The Bicester Advertiser newspaper on 9 January 2013.
8. Two representations were received in favour of the proposal
9. As no objections in principle to the proposal have been raised, the decision on whether to implement the proposal is referred to the Member for Education rather than the Cabinet.

## **Legal background**

10. School expansions are subject to statutory procedures, as established by The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended). Local authorities also have a duty to have regard to statutory guidance, in this particular case 'Expanding a Maintained Mainstream School by Enlargement or Adding a Sixth Form', ("the Guidance"). When reaching a decision, Cabinet Member must have regard to The Guidance. Cabinet Member is referred in particular to pages 19 to 40 of The Guidance.
11. In terms of reaching a decision all proposals should be considered on their merits but the following factors should be borne in mind but are not considered to be exhaustive. The Decision Maker should consider the views of all those affected by the proposals. The Member for Education, as Decision Maker, must be satisfied that the statutory consultation has been carried out prior to the publication of the notice. Details of the consultation should be included in the proposals. The Decision Maker must be satisfied that the consultation meets statutory requirements. If the requirements have not been met, the Decision Maker may judge the proposals to be invalid and should consider whether they can make a decision on the proposals. Alternatively the Decision Maker may take into account the sufficiency and quality of the consultation as part of their overall judgement of the proposals as a whole.
12. **The effect on standards, school improvement and diversity.** The government aims to create a dynamic system shaped by parents that delivers excellence and equality, closing weak schools, encouraging new providers and popular schools to expand. Decision Makers should be satisfied that the proposals will contribute to raising local standards of provision and improved attainment and consider the impact on choice and diversity. They should pay particular attention to the effect on groups that tend to under-perform including

children from certain ethnic minorities and deprived backgrounds. The decision-maker should consider how the proposals will help deliver the 'Every Child Matters' principles.

13. **School characteristics.** The Decision Maker should consider whether there are any sex, race or disability discrimination issues that arise and whether there is supporting evidence to support the extension and take into account the existence of capacity elsewhere. The Decision Maker needs to consider the accessibility of the provision for disadvantaged groups as the provision should not unduly extend journey times or cost.
14. **Need for places.** The Decision Maker should consider whether there is a need for the expansion and should consider the evidence presented for the expansion. There is a strong presumption that proposals to expand popular and successful schools should be approved. If surplus capacity exists in neighbouring schools the Decision Maker should ask how it is planned to tackle any consequences for other schools.
15. **Funding and land.** The Decision Maker should be satisfied that any land, premises and capital required to implement the proposals will be available.

### **Financial and Staff Implications**

16. The financial implications of this report are linked to the capital works that will be carried out should the proposal be approved. The formal Cabinet, sitting as the Capital Investment Board (CIB), approved funding for the initial feasibility work to establish the preferred option for meeting the additional accommodation needs. Resources for the capital works required for this expansion have been identified within the Capital programme 2011/12–2015/16 (existing demographic pupil provision – basic needs programme). 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
17. Developer contributions towards this expansion will be sought from any relevant future developments in the area.
18. There will also 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.



Division(s): Bicester South
-----------------------------

COPY

**CABINET – 27 NOVEMBER 2012****PROPOSAL TO EXPAND FIVE ACRES PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
AMBROSDEN****Report by Director for Children's Services****Introduction**

1. Five Acres Primary School is located in Ambrosden village near Bicester. Approximately half the children on roll are from Service families posted to the Army base nearby, and who form a significant section of the local community.
2. The school's published admission number was until recently 30. However the school has admitted over this number for the last few years in agreement with the Local Authority, to meet growth in demand for pupil places and fluctuations as a result of troop movement. For September 2012 the Admission Number rose to 45, which more accurately reflects the actual intake of pupils into the Reception (F1) class each year. However demand for pupil places increased still further due to small-scale housing development in the area and troop movements, and Five Acres agreed at the request of the Authority to admit up to 60 pupils in September 2012.
3. Cherwell District Council has included Ambrosden in its list of villages in which it expects to approve housing under their Local Plan. This would further increase demand for places at the school. Significant additional housing is already being built in Bicester and more is planned, and schools in this partnership are expected to operate at or near capacity because of this. There has been some small scale housing development in the Ambrosden area and a planning application by the MoD to develop land at Graven Hill, near Ambrosden, means that additional class space might also be required to meet demand from the first phases of this housing development, which would be built ahead of a new primary school.
4. Five Acres Primary School is a school for 4-11 year olds. The Five Acres Nursery School is already federated with the school and is run by the same governing body and Headteacher. A public consultation will commence in December 2012 relating to a proposal for the school to alter its lower age limit to effectively "take over" the nursery provision as part of the school. 55 out of the 60 available places in F1 (Reception) were initially allocated for September 2012. Due to the nature of the local community being partly composed of Service families, the numbers on roll at this school fluctuate, sometimes with little notice.

5. There are five statutory stages for a proposal to expand a school:

- i. Consultation;
- ii. publication of a statutory notice;
- iii. representation;
- iv. decision;
- v. implementation.

This proposal has completed the first consultation stage, and a decision is now sought as to whether to proceed to publication of a statutory notice and representation.

### **The Proposal**

6. The proposal is to increase the formal published admission number from 45 to 60 children, on a permanent basis from September 2014 (the admission number for 2013 is already published at 45 but if this proposal is approved the school will admit 60). This would bring the number of children on roll at the school up to a maximum of 420 children in F1 to Year 6.
7. To accommodate this growth in pupil numbers, there will be some extension of the school's buildings, and a feasibility study is underway as to how this can best be provided.

### **Representations**

8. During the Stage 1 consultation phase (10<sup>th</sup> September 2012 – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012) an informal drop-in session was held at the school for parents to raise any queries about the proposal with a county council officer. A consultation leaflet (Annex 1) was sent to parents of children at Five Acres Primary School, as well as to local councillors, Bicester Town Council, partnership schools and early years providers in the area, libraries and other stakeholders; it was also available on the OCC public website, together with full details of the various ways of responding. A link was also set up on the school's website to the consultation.
9. Nine responses to the consultation were received. Seven respondents supported the proposal in principle. One opposed the proposal in principle, while one expressed no opinion in principle but raised a concern.
10. The reasons given for supporting the proposal were:
  - Need for additional pupil places in Ambrosden area, to prevent local children having to travel elsewhere.
  - This is a good school, and more children should have the opportunity to be taught there.



11. The concerns raised by respondents were:
- That troop movements mean fluctuating numbers of pupils and so the expansion may not be needed.
  - That there may be an increase in traffic around the school, or parking issues.
  - That being a larger school will affect the ethos of the school.

*Officer comment: As detailed above, the Authority and school are aware of the fluctuating nature of pupil numbers at Five Acres Primary. However, the view is that other factors such as housing in the area and the increased popularity of the school with parents due to an Ofsted rating of "Good" outweigh this consideration. Additionally, it is council policy to retain a level of surplus places in primary schools in order to cope with just such fluctuations.*

*Any building scheme approved at the school would be subject to the usual Planning regulations, which includes scrutiny by Transportation & Highways for traffic issues. The county council's policy is to encourage walking and cycling to school and this is supported strongly by Five Acres' Headteacher, who has stated that an already firm policy of pedestrian and traffic management will be continually monitored and if necessary, adapted, to ensure any increase in traffic does not adversely affect the school. As the vast majority of pupils attending the school live close by in Ambrosden the expectation from both school and county council is that they will not require a car to get to school. No additional parking facilities will be provided for parents' use.*

*The proposal is for the admission number at Five Acres to increase to 60 permanently, making Five Acres a 2 form entry school. There are good examples of 2fe schools in Oxfordshire reporting an excellent "community feel" and the Headteacher at Five Acres has been supportive of the proposal to grow, expressing no concern over ethos or educational standards. The proposal for growth of the school is linked to it serving the growing community it is situated in: the majority of children attending live in Ambrosden.*

12. At the drop-in session held at the school for parents, the following additional points were discussed and responded to by the officer present and the Headteacher:
- Query as to the location and design of the new accommodation, should the proposal be approved.
  - Query with regard to school assemblies and lunch organisation when additional pupils were on roll.
  - Opinion expressed that more pupils attending the school is a positive thing, and that the teaching at the school is of high quality.
  - Query about whether additional parental car parking facilities would be planned.

13. With respect to accommodation, the feasibility study now in progress will identify how accommodation can be provided to meet the statutory requirements for a 2 form entry school. The Headteacher at the drop-in session assured the parents that the school would be capable of managing the necessary changes relating to assemblies and lunchtimes were the school to expand. As previously stated, there is no plan to increase car parking facilities at the school as a result of this proposal, and the view of the school is that parents should only drive to school when there is no other suitable option.
14. As objections in relation to the proposal have been raised, the decision on whether to proceed to publish a formal statutory proposal is referred to the Cabinet.

### **Making a Decision**

15. Sections 18 to 24 of the Education & Inspections Act 2006 and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) ["the Prescribed Alterations Regulations"] establish the procedures that must be followed when enlarging school premises. Local authorities also have a duty to have regard to statutory guidance, in this particular case 'Expanding a Maintained Mainstream School by Enlargement or Adding a Sixth Form: A Guide for Local Authorities and Governing Bodies ("the Guidance")'.
16. The Prescribed Alterations Regulations require proposers to consult interested parties and the Guidance lists these at paragraph 1.3. The Cabinet must be satisfied that the statutory consultation has been properly carried out prior to the publication of the notice. Annex 2 provides details of the County Council's consultation with interested parties that are required to be consulted with under the Prescribed Alterations Regulations. The period of consultation is not prescribed by legislation, although the Guidance recommends a minimum of 4 weeks. The consultation period was in line with the Guidance having run from 10<sup>th</sup> September 2012 – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012, thereby exceeding the four week minimum requirement. The consultation was therefore carried out in accordance with the Prescribed Alterations Regulations.
17. A decision is now required as to whether to publish formal proposals for this expansion. If approved, a statutory notice would be published, followed by a formal representation period of four weeks. The decision-making power in terms of determining the notice will lie with the Cabinet or the Cabinet Member for School Improvement, and a report will be put to Cabinet if representations are received, for a final decision in due course.

### **Equality and Inclusion Implications**

18. Equality Impact Assessment of Oxfordshire's Pupil Place Plan (June 2011) 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.

## **Financial and Staff Implications**

19. The direct financial implication of this report is the cost of the statutory process recommended, which is planned for and met within the normal CE&F budget provision. There are no significant financial implications or risks at this stage. If the proposal proceeds, following statutory consultation there would be another report to Cabinet in due course seeking a final decision on whether to expand the school.
20. The financial implications of this report are linked to the capital works that will be carried out should the proposal be approved. Publication of a statutory proposal to expand the school requires confirmation from the county council that funds will be made available for the necessary capital costs. The Capital Investment Board (CIB) has approved funding for the initial feasibility work to establish the preferred option for meeting the additional accommodation needs. Resources for the capital works required for this expansion have been identified within the Capital programme 2011/12–2015/16 (existing demographic pupil provision – basic needs programme). 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
21. There will also be on-costs to the school for additional staff and for increased maintenance requirements. The day to day revenue costs for repair and maintenance and staffing costs must be met through the schools delegated budget as part of the Council's Fair Funding arrangements, which will be updated to meet revised government requirements from April 2013.
22. 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. Additional pupils will be reflected in an adjustment in the school's funding formula which applies numbers of pupils on roll and their characteristics.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to approve the publication of a statutory notice for the expansion of Five Acres Primary School, Ambrosden.**

Jim Leivers  
Director for Children's Services

Contact Officer: Diane Cameron, School Organisation Officer,  
01865 816445

**November 2012**

Annex 1 Consultation leaflet  
Annex 2 List of interested parties consulted

This page is intentionally left blank



# STATUTORY NOTICE

## Proposal to expand Five Acres Primary School, Ambrosden

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Oxfordshire County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Five Acres Primary School (Community) Blackthorn Road Ambrosden Oxon OX25 2LN from 01 September 2013.

This is a proposal to expand Five Acres Primary School to become 2 form entry with an admission number of 60.

The current capacity of the school is 315 and the proposed capacity will be 420. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 302. The current admission number for the school is 45 and the proposed admission number will be 60.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, Oxfordshire County Council, FREEPOST or by emailing: **5AcresStat2013-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk**

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, Oxfordshire County Council, FREEPOST or by using the online response questionnaire at **<http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>** or by email to **[5AcresStat2013-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:5AcresStat2013-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk)**

Signed: Jim Leivers, Director for Children's Services

Publication Date: 9 January 2013

This page is intentionally left blank

**PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS: Information to be included in a complete proposal**

**Extract of Part 1 of Schedule 3 and Part 1 of Schedule 5 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):**

**In respect of a Governing Body Proposal: School and governing body's details**

1. The name, address and category of the school for which the governing body are publishing the proposals.

--

**In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority details**

1. The name, address and category of the school .

Five Acres Primary School, Blackthorn Road, Ambrosden, Oxon OX25 2LN (Community School)
--

**Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation**

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

1 September 2013
------------------

**Objections and comments**

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including

- (a) the date prescribed in accordance with paragraph 29 of Schedule 3 (GB proposals)/Schedule 5 (LA proposals) of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations

2007 (as amended), by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and

- (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

Any person may respond by 6 February 2013, sending their comments or registering an objection or support in writing to Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, Oxfordshire County Council, FREEPOST. Responses may also be emailed to [5AcresStat2013-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:5AcresStat2013-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk) or submitted online via a questionnaire at <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

### **Alteration description**

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

The proposal is to expand Five Acres Primary School to 2 form entry with an Admission Number of 60. These changes would have effect from September 2013.

### **School capacity**

5.—(1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 8, 9 and 12-14 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), the proposals must also include —

- (a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

Current capacity is 315 and the proposed capacity is 420

- (b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;



Up to 45 pupils are currently admitted into Reception (F1) year group each year

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

n/a

- (d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

n/a

(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals) /paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 and 19 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

Number on roll at October 2012 pupil census point: 302

**Implementation**

6. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

n/a

**Additional Site**

7.—(1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

n/a

(2) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

n/a

**Changes in boarding arrangements**

8.—(1) Where the proposals are for the introduction or removal of boarding provision, or the alteration of existing boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

(a) the number of pupils for whom it is intended that boarding provision will be made if the proposals are approved;

n/a

(b) the arrangements for safeguarding the welfare of children at the school;

n/a

(c) the current number of pupils for whom boarding provision can be made and a description of the boarding provision; and

n/a

- (d) except where the proposals are to introduce boarding provision, a description of the existing boarding provision.

n/a

(2) Where the proposals are for the removal of boarding provisions or an alteration to reduce boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

- (a) the number of pupils for whom boarding provision will be removed if the proposals are approved; and

n/a

- (b) a statement as to the use to which the former boarding accommodation will be put if the proposals are approved.

n/a

**Transfer to new site**

9. Where the proposals are to transfer a school to a new site the following information—

- (a) the location of the proposed site (including details of whether the school is to occupy a single or split site), and including where appropriate the postal address;

n/a

- (b) the distance between the proposed and current site;

n/a

(c) the reason for the choice of proposed site;

n/a

(d) the accessibility of the proposed site or sites;

n/a

(e) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the school on its new site; and

n/a

(f) a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how car use in the school area will be discouraged.

n/a

**Objectives**

**10.** The objectives of the proposals.

To provide sufficient pupil places to enable the County Council to meet its statutory duty to commission sufficient pupil places for all children of statutory school age, and specifically to meet the basic need demand for places in the local community of Ambrosden.

**Consultation**

**11.** Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—

- (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
- (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;

- (c) the views of the persons consulted;
- (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
- (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

- Persons consulted: the governing body and staff of Five Acres Primary School, all Partnership primary schools, parents / guardians of Five Acres Primary School pupils, the local MP, relevant District and County Councillors, trade union representatives, Church of England and Catholic Dioceses, members of the School Organisation Stakeholder Group and all local registered childcare providers plus the wider community via libraries and Early Intervention Hub.
- A drop-in session was held at the school on 20 September 2012 to answer questions from parents with a member of County Council staff present with the Headteacher. The following points were discussed and responded to:
  - Query as to the location and design of the new accommodation, should the proposal be approved.
  - Query with regard to school assemblies and lunch organisation when additional pupils were on roll.
  - Opinion expressed that more pupils attending the school is a positive thing, and that the teaching at the school is of high quality.
  - Query about whether additional parental car parking facilities would be provided.
- Nine responses to the consultation were received. Seven respondents supported the proposal in principle. One opposed the proposal in principle, while one expressed no opinion in principle but raised a concern. The reasons given for supporting the proposal were:
  - Need for additional pupil places in Ambrosden area, to prevent local children having to travel elsewhere.
  - This is a good school, and more children should have the opportunity to be taught there.

The concerns raised by respondents were:

  - That troop movements mean fluctuating numbers of pupils and so the expansion may not be needed in the longer term.
  - That there may be an increase in traffic around the school, or parking issues.
  - That being a larger school will affect the ethos of the school.

- All applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with.
- All consultation documents were made available through the OCC website and are still available to view at <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk> under the original public consultation section for Five Acres Primary School which ran from 10 September 2012 to 22 October 2012. The original consultation leaflet was delivered to the school, which circulated it to all parents, staff and governors. It was posted at the local library and central Oxford library, linked to on the school's website, and sent to all local childcare providers, Early Intervention Hub and given to relevant councillors and the local MP.

### Project costs

**12.** A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

The County Council are currently working with the Headteacher and Governors to identify the most effective way to provide 2 additional classrooms at the school to support the move to 2FE. Although the detailed proposal and cost has not yet been confirmed it is estimated that the building cost will be approximately £200,000. The cost will be met by the County Council using resources within the Capital Programme.

**13.** A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

Once the detailed costs are confirmed the funding will be made available from within the County Council's Basic Need programme 2012/13 onwards.

### Age range

**14.** Where the proposals relate to a change in age range, the current age range for the school.

n/a

**Early years provision**

**15.** Where the proposals are to alter the lower age limit of a mainstream school so that it provides for pupils aged between 2 and 5—

- (a) details of the early years provision, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;

n/a

- (b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services and how the proposals are consistent with the integration of early years provision for childcare;

n/a

- (c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;

n/a

- (d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools and in establishments other than schools who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school; and

n/a

- (e) reasons why such schools and establishments who have spare capacity cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the number of such provision.

n/a

**Changes to sixth form provision**

**16.** (a) Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school provides sixth form education or additional sixth form education, a statement of how the proposals will—

- (i) improve the educational or training achievements;
- (ii) increase participation in education or training; and
- (iii) expand the range of educational or training opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the area;

n/a

(b) A statement as to how the new places will fit within the 16-19 organisation in an area;

n/a

(c) Evidence —

- (i) of the local collaboration in drawing up the proposals; and
- (ii) that the proposals are likely to lead to higher standards and better progression at the school;

n/a

(d) The proposed number of sixth form places to be provided.

n/a

**17.** Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school ceases to provide sixth form education, a statement of the effect on the supply of 16-19 places in the area.

n/a



**Special educational needs**

**18.** Where the proposals are to establish or change provision for special educational needs—

- (a) a description of the proposed types of learning difficulties in respect of which education will be provided and, where provision for special educational needs already exists, the current type of provision;

n/a

- (b) any additional specialist features will be provided;

n/a

- (c) the proposed numbers of pupils for which the provision is to be made;

n/a

- (d) details of how the provision will be funded;

n/a

- (e) a statement as to whether the education will be provided for children with special educational needs who are not registered pupils at the school to which the proposals relate;

n/a

- (f) a statement as to whether the expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated budget;

n/a

- (g) the location of the provision if it is not to be established on the existing site of the school;

n/a

- (h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local education authority believes that the new provision is likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children; and

n/a

- (i) the number of places reserved for children with special educational needs, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of such places.

n/a

**19. Where the proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs—**

- (a) details of alternative provision for pupils for whom the provision is currently made;

n/a

- (b) details of the number of pupils for whom provision is made that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs during each of the 4 school years preceding the current school year;

n/a

- (c) details of provision made outside the area of the local education authority for pupils whose needs will not be able to be met in the area of the authority as a result of the discontinuance of the provision; and

n/a

- (d) a statement as to how the proposer believes that the proposals are likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children.

n/a

**20.** Where the proposals will lead to alternative provision for children with special educational needs, as a result of the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of existing provision, the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of—

- (a) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local education authority’s Accessibility Strategy;
- (b) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;
- (c) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
- (d) improved supply of suitable places.

n/a

**Sex of pupils**

**21.** Where the proposals are to make an alteration to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of one sex only becomes an establishment which admits pupils of both sexes—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single sex-education in the area;

n/a

(b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education; and

n/a

(c) details of any transitional period which the body making the proposals wishes specified in a transitional exemption order (within the meaning of section 27 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975).

n/a

**22.** Where the proposals are to make an alteration to a school to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of both sexes becomes an establishment which admits pupils of one sex only—

(a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area; and

n/a

(b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education.

n/a

**Extended services**

**23.** If the proposed alterations affect the provision of the school’s extended services, details of the current extended services the school is offering and details of any proposed change as a result of the alterations.

n/a

**Need or demand for additional places**

**24.** If the proposals involve adding places—

(a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

The school’s published admission number was until recently 30. However the school has admitted over this number for the last few years in agreement with the Local Authority, to meet growth in demand for pupil places and fluctuations as a result of troop movement. For September 2012 the Admission Number rose to 45, which more accurately reflects the actual intake of pupils into the Reception (F1) class each year. However demand for pupil places has increased still further due to small-scale housing development in the area and troop movements, the governors agreed at the request of the Authority to admit up to 60 pupils in September 2012.

Cherwell District Council has identified Ambrosden in its Local Plan as an area that can accommodate additional housing growth. This would further increase demand for places at the school. Significant additional housing is already being built in Bicester and more is planned, as a result schools in this partnership are forecast to be operating at or near capacity. There has been some small scale housing development in the Ambrosden area and a planning application by the MoD to develop land at Graven Hill, near Ambrosden, means that additional class space might also be required to meet demand from the first phases of this housing development, in advance of a new primary school being built.

- (b) where the school has a religious character, a statement and supporting evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion or religious denomination;

n/a

- (c) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

n/a

**25. If the proposals involve removing places—**

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the reasons for the removal, including an assessment of the impact on parental choice; and

n/a

(b) a statement on the local capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

n/a

### **Expansion of successful and popular schools**

**25A.** (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to expansion proposals in respect of primary and secondary schools, (except for grammar schools), i.e. falling within:

(a) (for proposals published by the governing body) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 2 or paragraph 12 of Part 2 to Schedule 2;

(b) (for proposals published by the LA) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 4 or 18 of Part 4 to Schedule 4

of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

At its last inspection in December 2011, Ofsted graded Five Acres Primary School as Good. The school received 54 first preference applications for a Reception (F1) year place for September 2012 with a published Admission Number of 45. The county council therefore considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply.