



***Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Children,
Education & Families***

***Monday, 9 February 2015 at 12.00 pm in Meeting Room 1
County Hall, Oxford***

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 17 February 2015 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

Handwritten signature of Peter G. Clark, underlined.

Peter G. Clark
County Solicitor

January 2015

Contact Officer: **Deborah Miller**
Tel: (01865) 815384; EMail: deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Note: Date of next meeting: 9 March 2015

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. **Closure of Communication & Interaction Resource Base at Queensway School, Banbury** (Pages 1 - 16)

Forward Plan Ref: 2014/173

Contact: Diane Cameron, School Organisation Planning Officer Tel: (01865) 816445/Sue Edwards, Service Manager – SENSS Tel: (01865) 323391

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

The proposal is to formally close the Communication & Interaction Resource Base at Queensway School in Banbury. There are no children attending this resource base.

This forms part of strategic changes to the services the Oxfordshire SENSS team are carrying out. The provision required has altered as technological and medical developments have progressed, and therefore the service provided will not remain the same.

Schools in the partnership have shown they can meet the needs of all but the most complex pupils with C&I needs in their local schools with the specialist advisory support from existing services including SENSS. There is NO reduction in budget. Services are being deployed to intervene earlier and empower schools to meet the needs of pupils now and those who will join the school in the future.

The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to approve the closure of the Communication & Interaction Resource Base at Queensway School.

5. Closure of Communication & Interaction Resource Base at Caldecott Primary School (Pages 17 - 30)

Forward Plan Ref: 2014/172

Contact: Diane Cameron, School Organisation Planning Officer Tel: (01865) 816445/Sue Edwards, Service Manager – SENSS Tel: (01865) 323391

Report by Director for Children's Services (**CMDCEF5**).

The proposal is to formally close the Communication & Interaction Resource Base at Caldecott Primary School in Abingdon. There are no children attending this resource base.

This forms part of strategic changes to the services the Oxfordshire SENSS team are carrying out. The provision required has altered as technological and medical developments have progressed, and therefore the service provided will not remain the same.

The lack of demand for places in the resource base over recent years and increasing demand for school places at Caldecott Primary School have prompted this recommendation. The existence of the specialist provision at St Andrew's CE Primary School in Chinnor is meeting local needs. The impact of earlier interventions, the breadth of specialist advisory support and the increasing expertise in schools and partnerships in the local area are also factors contributing to lack of demand for specialist places at Caldecott.

The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to approve the closure of the Communication & Interaction Resource Base at Caldecott Primary School.

6. Proposal to Expand Hook Norton CE Primary School (Pages 31 - 48)

Forward Plan Ref: 2014/182

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

Report by Director for Children's Services (**CMDCEF6**).

The proposal is to increase the formal published admission number for Hook Norton CE Primary School from 30 to 45, on a permanent basis starting from September 2015. This will eventually increase the school's total capacity from its current 210 places in year groups Reception – Year 6 to a maximum of 315.

The objective of the proposal is to provide sufficient primary school places for Hook Norton and its surrounding area, enabling the Local Authority to meet its statutory duty in this regard. Until now, in most years the school's current admission number has been sufficient to admit all catchment children. Births data indicates that this may not be the case in all future years, unless the school expands. In addition, there has been housing development permitted in the school's catchment area, and Cherwell District Council's Local Plan indicates that more housing may be approved for Hook Norton. The school's current admission number of 30 will not provide sufficient school places for Hook Norton's growing population

The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to approve the permanent expansion of Hook Norton CE Primary School with effect from 1 September 2015.

Division(s): Bloxham & Easington Also of interest across wider Banbury area
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**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES -
9 FEBRUARY 2015
CLOSURE OF THE COMMUNICATION & INTERACTION
RESOURCE BASE AT QUEENSWAY SCHOOL, BANBURY**

Report by Director for Children's Services

Introduction

1. This report follows a local consultation and a statutory notice period relating to the county council's proposal to close the Communication & Interaction Resource Base located within Queensway School, Banbury.
2. The consultation document (attached at Annex 1) was sent out locally from 19 September 2014 to 17 October 2014, with the help of Queensway School who distributed it to parents and other groups. The statutory notice (attached at Annex 2) was published by the Local Authority, in the Banbury Cake newspaper on 13 November 2014 and expired following 4 weeks of formal consultation on 11 December 2014. In accordance with legislation the notice was also posted at the school entrances 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, county council teams, local councillors and 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 Children, Education & Families. 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.

Background

4. The resource base hosted by Queensway School was originally established for children with speech and language needs.
5. Queensway was the first "Language Unit" to open in Oxfordshire in 1978, being then a 'cutting-edge' local provision for pupils with communication needs, who required intensive speech therapy, linked to specialised teaching but were not severe enough for a special school placement. These pupils previously would have had to go out of county for specific intervention.
6. During the 1980s and 90s there were 16 language places for primary age pupils. Staff started doing "outreach" advisory work in other mainstream schools.

7. One noticeable pattern is that there has been a **consistent** cohort of pupils transported from Bicester.
8. The language provision has functioned alongside the Northern Hearing Impairment Team which is totally advisory. In the 1990s, the focus switched from resource bases to advisory support for inclusion in mainstream schools, numbers steadily dropped from 16 and the base has been empty since September 2010.
9. The number of primary school pupils across the Banbury area has risen and this trend is forecast to continue. Queensway School has admitted an additional form of entry since 2012. There is steep growth in pupil numbers in the north of the county generally. New schools are planned and the specifications for these include Resource Bases.

The Proposal

10. The county council proposes to close the Resource Base run by the SENSS team which is located within Queensway School. The reasons for this are:
 - The impact of earlier interventions, the breadth of specialist advisory support and the increasing expertise in schools and partnerships in the local area are all factors contributing to lack of demand for specialist places at the Queensway School base.
 - Schools in the partnership have shown they can meet the needs of all but the most complex pupils with C&I needs in their local schools with the specialist advisory support from existing services including SENSS. There is NO reduction in budget. Services are being deployed to intervene earlier and empower schools to meet the needs of pupils now and those who will join the school in the future.
 - The current need for resource base places in a more central part of North Oxfordshire and in particular for pupils in the Bicester area (who currently need to be transported to Oxford and / or Chinnor).
 - The specifications for new primary schools in the North where there is significant population growth include a resource base. These would be smaller, more local provisions enabling the LA to respond flexibly to need.

Representations

11. One response was received to the initial consultation, in support of the proposal. This was from the Headteacher at Frank Wise School in Banbury.
12. Two responses were received to the statutory notice, one of which was supportive. The other was from a county council SEN worker who raised a concern about provision for children in the area with communication needs. This concern was responded to by the SENSS Service Manager and the response is attached at Annex 4.

Legal background

13. The removal of SEN provision is subject to statutory procedures, as set out in “School Organisation: Maintained Schools. Guidance for proposers and decision-makers” (The Guidance) published January 2014. When reaching a decision, Cabinet Member must have regard to The Guidance, in particular paragraphs 19 – 25.
14. 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. 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.
15. 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.
16. **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.
17. **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

18. There are no financial costs to the closure of the Resource Base at Queensway School as no pupils have been taught within it since 2010 and there is no capital implication.
19. There are no cuts to budgets associated with this proposal.

Equality and Inclusion Implications

20. There is no impact on equality and inclusion as a result of this proposal as no children attend the Resource Base at Queensway School. As such, there is no evidence of a strong parental preference for such provision to be made in a resource base at Queensway School.
21. Oxfordshire County Council aims to provide a broad range of ways and contexts in which children with Communication and Interaction needs are supported. This includes early intervention, specialist support for mainstream schools and a continuum of Communication and Interaction specialist provision. This in turn means many more children can attend their local school rather than specialist provision elsewhere.
22. Wherever possible children are supported in their local area and the strategy is for each area of Oxfordshire (North, Central and South) to have at least one primary and one secondary Communication and Interaction Resources Base. There is specialist advisory support provided by SEN Support Services (SENSS) for all schools.
23. Some partnerships of schools have also set up their own enhanced provision, ensuring specialist support when needed and developing high quality inclusive practice across the partnership. Schools in the Banbury partnership are committed to using specialist support to ensure they can meet the needs of pupils locally.
24. In light of the above, a flexible range of provision and support will continue to be provided in response to the needs of individual pupils and parental preferences in the area. The Local Authority as proposer can demonstrate that the alternative arrangements are likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of educational provision for children with special needs ("the SEN Improvement Test").

Decision

25. In considering the proposals for a school expansion, the Decision Maker can decide to:
 - Reject the proposals;
 - Approve the proposals;
 - Approve the proposals with a modification (e.g. the implementation date);
or
 - Approve the proposals subject to them meeting a specific condition (see the Guidance).

RECOMMENDATION

26. **The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to approve the closure of the Communication & Interaction Resource Base at Queensway School.**

JIM LEIVERS

Director for Children's Services

Annexes:

Annex 1: Consultation leaflet

Annex 2: Statutory proposal

Annex 3: Full proposal document

Annex 4: Response to concern raised

Contact Officer:

Diane Cameron – School Organisation Officer, School
Organisation & Planning, CEF. Tel: 01865 816445

February 2015

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Consultation on proposal to close the Communication and Interaction (C&I) Resource Base at Queensway School, Banbury

This paper sets out the proposal to close the Communication and Interaction Resource Base hosted by Queensway School in Banbury. It explains the reasons for proposing the closure and how Oxfordshire County Council is supporting children who have communication and interaction needs.

What is a Communication and Interaction Resource Base?

Resource Bases are facilities hosted by mainstream schools to provide specialist support and interventions to children with special educational needs.

Communication and Interaction is a term used for children and young people who have particular difficulties with understanding what is being said and social interaction, this includes children with speech, language or social communication difficulties and those with autism and Asperger's syndrome.

The Communication and Interaction Resource Base hosted by Queensway School

The resource base hosted by Queensway School was originally established for children with speech and language needs.

Queensway was the first "Language Unit" to open in Oxfordshire in 1978, being then a 'cutting-edge' local provision for pupils with communication needs, who required intensive speech therapy, linked to specialised teaching but were not severe enough for a special school placement. These pupils previously would have had to go out of county for specific intervention.

Initially there were limited places offered within an existing unit for hearing impaired pre-schoolers and the two cohorts separated at age five. During the 1980s and 90s there were 16 language places for primary age pupils. Staff started doing "outreach" advisory work in other mainstream schools.

One noticeable pattern is that there has been a **consistent** cohort of pupils transported from Bicester.

The language provision has functioned alongside the Northern Hearing Impairment Team which is totally advisory. In the 1990s, the focus switched from resource bases to advisory support for inclusion in mainstream schools, numbers steadily dropped from 16 and the base has been empty since September 2010.

The number of pupils across the Banbury area has risen and this trend is forecast to continue. Queensway School has admitted an additional form of entry since 2012. There is steep growth in pupil numbers in the north of the county generally. New schools are planned and the specifications for these include Resource Bases.

Support for Oxfordshire Children with Communication and Interaction Needs

Oxfordshire aims to provide a broad range of ways and contexts in which children with Communication and Interaction needs are supported. This includes early intervention, specialist support for mainstream schools and a continuum of Communication and Interaction specialist provision.

Wherever possible children are supported in their local area and the strategy is for each area of Oxfordshire (North, Central and South) to have at least one primary and one secondary Communication and Interaction Resources Base. There is specialist advisory support provided by SEN Support Services (SENSS) for all schools.

Some partnerships of schools have also set up their own enhanced provision, ensuring specialist support when needed and developing high quality inclusive practice across the partnership. Schools in the Banbury partnership are committed to using specialist support to ensure they can meet the needs of pupils locally.

Reasoning for proposal

This proposal to close a specialist resource base has not been taken lightly. It is being made now because:

- The impact of earlier interventions, the breadth of specialist advisory support and the increasing expertise in schools and partnerships in the local area are all factors contributing to lack of demand for specialist places at the Queensway School base.
- Schools in the partnership have shown they can meet the needs of all but the most complex pupils with C&I needs in their local schools with the specialist advisory support from existing services including SENSS. There is NO reduction in budget. Services are being deployed to intervene earlier and empower schools to meet the needs of pupils now and those who will join the school in the future.
- The current need for resource base places in a more central part of North Oxfordshire and in particular for pupils in the Bicester area (who currently need to be transported to Oxford and / or Chinnor)
- The specifications for new primary schools in the North where there is significant population growth include a resource base. These would be smaller, more local provisions enabling the LA to respond flexibly to need.

This proposal is in line with the key principles of the SEND reforms, in particular early identification of needs and early intervention, high quality provision as local to the child's home and greater choice and control for young people and parents over support.

HOW TO RESPOND

Please respond by email to diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk putting **QUEENSWAY BASE** in the subject line. Or, write to Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, County Hall, FREEPOST Oxfordshire County Council.

Responses must be made by 17 October 2014.



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed Closure of Communication & Interaction Resource Base at Queensway School, Banbury

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 Queensway School, Queensway, Banbury OX16 9NF from 01 April 2015.

The Local Authority is proposing to close the Communication & Interaction Resource Base located at the school, which has been empty since September 2010. The impact of earlier interventions, the breadth of specialist advisory support and the increasing expertise in schools and partnerships in the local area are all contributing to a lack of demand for specialist places in this location.

There is no associated reduction in budget. Services are being deployed to intervene earlier and empower schools to meet the needs of pupils now and in the future.

This proposal will make available under-used accommodation for Queensway School to meet increasing demand for school places.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be viewed at <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultation>. Copies can also be obtained by contacting:

Diane Cameron
School Organisation & Planning
County Hall
FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.
Tel: 01865 816445

Email: diane.cameron@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 the local authority using the online feedback form at <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultation> or by email to the above email address.

Signed: Jim Leivers, Director of Childrens Services

Publication Date: 13 November 2014

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PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS

Proposal made under School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013:

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

Queensway School, Queensway, Banbury OX16 9NF. [Community school].

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented:

1 April 2015

Objections and comments

Any person may respond by 11 December 2014, 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

diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk putting QUEENSWAY in the subject line, or can be submitted online via a feedback form at

<http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Alteration description

The proposal is to close the Communication & Interaction Resource Base located at Queensway School in Banbury.

School capacity

Current capacity of the school is 338 but the school is in the process of expanding to a capacity of 420 and has increased its admission number from 30 to 60 due to demand for school places in Banbury. The expansion of the school is not dependent on this proposal.

Objectives and reasoning

To formally close an unused Resource Base in order to free accommodation up for the use of Queensway School as teaching accommodation.

In the 1990s, the focus switched from resource bases to advisory support for inclusion in mainstream schools, and at Queensway numbers steadily dropped from 16 and the base has been empty since September 2010.

The number of primary school pupils across the Banbury area has risen and this trend is forecast to continue. Queensway School has admitted an additional form of entry since 2012. There is steep growth in pupil numbers in the north of the county generally.

- The impact of earlier interventions, the breadth of specialist advisory support and the increasing expertise in schools and partnerships in the local area are all factors contributing to lack of demand for specialist places at the Queensway School base.
- Schools in the partnership have shown they can meet the needs of all but the most complex pupils with C&I needs in their local schools with the specialist advisory support from existing services including SENSS. There is NO reduction in budget. Services are being deployed to intervene earlier and empower schools to meet the needs of pupils now and those who will join the school in the future.
- The current need for resource base places in a more central part of North Oxfordshire and in particular for pupils in the Bicester area (who currently need to be transported to Oxford and / or Chinnor)
- The specifications for new primary schools in the North where there is significant population growth include a resource base. These would be smaller, more local provisions enabling the LA to respond flexibly to need.

This proposal is in line with the key principles of the SEND reforms, in

particular early identification of needs and early intervention, high quality provision as local to the child's home and greater choice and control for young people and parents over support.

Consultation

Persons consulted: the governing body and staff of Queensway School, Partnership primary schools, special schools, parents / guardians of Queensway School pupils, the local MP, relevant Parish, District and County Councillors, trade union representatives, Church of England and Catholic Dioceses, members of the School Organisation Stakeholder Group and county council teams involved in Special Education provision and support.

- 1 responses to the consultation was received. The respondent supported the proposal in principle.

The consultation document was widely distributed by both the school and the county council and is available to view on the county council website in the Current Consultations list at

<http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Project costs

There are no costs associated with the closure of the Resource Base.

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Dear Marion

Thank you for your response to the consultation on closing the Queensway Base.

It is true that there is no other Primary Specialist Communication and Interaction provision in the area. There are plans to include resource base provision in any new schools which include those planned for Banbury and Bicester. We have been in discussion with the property and facilities team about the design.

Schools in the Banbury partnership in particular are committed to using specialist support to ensure they can meet the needs of pupils locally. This is reflected in the number of applications to our admission panel. Referrals over recent years have reflected much lower numbers from the North (making up 17% of all applications averaged over the last 3 years). This compares to the total North population of 0-19 years olds (taken from 2012 figures) of 38%.

Best Wishes

Sue



Sue Edwards
SEN Support Services Manager

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Oxfordshire County Council
OX1 1ND

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www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

The SENSS Service is using a new system for the secure exchange of information. The system is called Egress Switch and will require external recipients to register and participate with an encryption service in order to receive or send sensitive information between us. There is no cost involved and we

would appreciate your cooperation and feedback. For non-sensitive information we shall continue to use standard email. Thank you.

More details, support and training materials can be found on the Egress website:
www.egress.com

Division(s): Abingdon South Also of interest across wider Abingdon area
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**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES
- 9 FEBRUARY 2015
FINAL REPORT ON THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF THE
COMMUNICATION & INTERACTION RESOURCE BASE AT
CALDECOTT PRIMARY SCHOOL, ABINGDON**

Report by Director for Children's Services

Introduction

1. This report follows a local consultation and a statutory notice period relating to the county council's proposal to close the Communication & Interaction Resource Base located within Caldecott Primary School, Abingdon.
2. The consultation document (attached at Annex 1) was sent out locally from 19 September 2014 to 17 October 2014, with the help of Caldecott Primary School who distributed it to parents and other groups. The statutory notice (attached at Annex 2) was published by the Local Authority, in the Abingdon Herald newspaper on 12 November 2014 and expired following 4 weeks of formal consultation on 10 December 2014. In accordance with legislation the notice was also posted at the school entrances 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, county council teams, local councillors and 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 Children, Education & Families. 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.

Background

14. Resource Bases are facilities hosted by mainstream schools to provide specialist support and interventions to children with special educational needs. Communication and Interaction is a term used for children and young people who have particular difficulties with understanding what is being said and social interaction. This includes children with speech, language or social communication difficulties and those with autism and Asperger's syndrome.

15. The resource base hosted by Caldecott School was originally established for children with speech and language needs, and from 2010 it broadened to include children with autism.
16. The number of pupils in the base has reduced over time and in 2012-13 there were only 3 pupils, all in year 6. Since September 2013 the base has been empty. There is another Communication and Interaction Resource Base in the South of the county at St Andrew's CE School in Chinnor and pupil numbers there have remained in double figures.
17. The number of all primary pupils across the Abingdon area has risen and this trend is forecast to continue. This means that Caldecott Primary School has increased its pupil intake from September 2014. While the resource base is empty, the school is using the classroom space to meet the increasing demand for places at the school.

The Proposal

18. The County Council proposes to close the Resource Base run by the SENSS team which is located within Caldecott Primary School. The reasons for this are:
 - The lack of demand for places in the resource base over recent years and increasing demand for school places at Caldecott Primary School have prompted this recommendation.
 - The existence of the specialist provision at St Andrew's CE Primary School in Chinnor is meeting local needs.
 - The impact of earlier interventions, the breadth of specialist advisory support and the increasing expertise in schools and partnerships in the local area are also factors contributing to lack of demand for specialist places at Caldecott.
 - There is NO reduction in budget. Services are being deployed to intervene earlier and empower schools to meet the needs of pupils now and those who will join the school in the future.

Representations

19. One response was received to the initial consultation, in support of the proposal in principle because of the need for mainstream teaching space and the underuse of the accommodation.
20. No responses were received to the statutory notice.

Legal background

14. The removal of SEN provision is subject to statutory procedures, as set out in "School Organisation: Maintained Schools. Guidance for proposers and decision-makers" (The Guidance) published January 2014. When reaching a

decision, Cabinet Member must have regard to The Guidance, in particular paragraphs 19 – 25.

15. 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. 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.
16. **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.
17. **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.
18. **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

19. There are no financial costs to the closure of the Resource Base at Caldecott Primary School as no pupils have been taught within it since 2013 and there is no capital implication.
20. There are no cuts to budgets associated with this proposal.

Equality and Inclusion Implications

21. There is no impact on equality and inclusion as a result of this proposal as no children attend the Resource Base at Caldecott Primary School and there continues to be a resource base at Chinnor. As such, there is no evidence of a strong parental preference for such provision to be made in a resource base at Caldecott.

22. Oxfordshire County Council aims to provide a broad range of ways and contexts in which children with Communication and Interaction needs are supported. This includes early intervention, specialist support for mainstream schools and a continuum of Communication and Interaction specialist provision. This in turn means many more children can attend their local school rather than specialist provision elsewhere.
23. Wherever possible children are supported in their local area and the strategy is for each area of Oxfordshire (North, Central and South) to have at least one primary and one secondary Communication and Interaction Resources Base. There is specialist advisory support provided by SEN Support Services (SENS) for all schools.
24. Some partnerships of schools have also set up their own enhanced provision, ensuring specialist support when needed and developing high quality inclusive practice across the partnership.
25. In light of the above, a flexible range of provision and support will continue to be provided in response to the needs of individual pupils and parental preferences in the area. The Local Authority as proposer can demonstrate that the alternative arrangements are likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of educational provision for children with special needs ("the SEN Improvement Test").

Decision

25. In considering the proposals for a school expansion, the Decision Maker can decide to:
 - Reject the proposals;
 - Approve the proposals;
 - Approve the proposals with a modification (e.g. the implementation date);
or
 - Approve the proposals subject to them meeting a specific condition (see the Guidance).

RECOMMENDATION

26. **The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to approve the closure of the Communication & Interaction Resource Base at Caldecott Primary School.**

JIM LEIVERS

Director for Children's Services

Annexes: Annex 1: Consultation leaflet
 Annex 2: Statutory proposal
 Annex 3: Full proposal document

Contact Officer: Diane Cameron – School Organisation Officer, School Organisation & Planning, CEF. Tel: 01865 816445

February 2015

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Public Consultation to close the Communication and Interaction (C&I) Resource Base (C&I) at Caldecott School

Proposal

This paper sets out the proposal to close the Communication and Interaction Resource Base hosted by Caldecott Primary school in Abingdon. It explains the reasons for proposing the closure and how Oxfordshire County Council is supporting children who have communication and interaction needs.

What is a Communication and Interaction Resource Base?

Resource Bases are facilities hosted by mainstream schools to provide specialist support and interventions to children with special educational needs. Communication and Interaction is a term used for children and young people who have particular difficulties with understanding what is being said and social interaction, this includes children with speech, language or social communication difficulties and those with autism and Asperger's syndrome.

The Communication and Interaction Resource Base hosted by Caldecott school

The resource base hosted by Caldecott School was originally established for children with speech and language needs, and from 2010 it broadened to include children with autism.

The number of pupils in the base has reduced over time and in 2012-13 there were only 3 pupils, all in year 6. Since September 2013 the base has been empty. There is another Communication and Interaction Resource Base in the South of the county at St Andrew's School in Chinnor and numbers have remained in double figures.

The number of all pupils across the Abingdon area has risen and this trend is forecast to continue. This means that Caldecott School has increased its pupil intake from September 2014. While the resource base is empty the school is using the classroom space to meet the increasing demand for places at the school.

Support for Children with Communication and Interaction Needs in Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire aims to provide a broad range of ways and contexts in which children with Communication and Interaction needs are supported. This includes early intervention, specialist support for mainstream schools and a continuum of Communication and Interaction specialist provision. Wherever possible children are supported in their local area and the strategy is for each area of Oxfordshire (North, Central and South) to have one Communication and Interaction Resources Base. There is specialist advisory support provided by SEN Support Services (SENS) for all schools. Some partnerships of schools have also set up their own enhanced



provision, ensuring specialist support when needed and developing high quality inclusive practice across the partnership.

Proposal

This proposal to close a specialist resource base has not been taken lightly. The lack of demand for places in the resource base over recent years and increasing demand for school places at Caldecott have prompted this recommendation. The existence of the specialist provision at St Andrew's is meeting local needs. The impact of earlier interventions, the breadth of specialist advisory support and the increasing expertise in schools and partnerships in the local area are also factors contributing to lack of demand for specialist places at Caldecott.

Oxfordshire County Council is formally proposing to close the Communication and Interaction Resource Base hosted by Caldecott School and are seeking your views on this proposal.

How to respond

Please email your views to diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk putting **Caldecott Base** in the subject line.

Alternatively, write to Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, County Hall, FREEPOST Oxfordshire County Council.



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed Closure of Communication & Interaction Resource Base at Caldecott Primary School, Abingdon

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 Caldecott Primary School, Caldecott Road, Abingdon OX14 5HB from 01 April 2015.

The Local Authority is proposing to close the Communication & Interaction Resource Base located at the school, which has been empty since September 2013. The impact of earlier interventions, the breadth of specialist advisory support and the increasing expertise in schools and partnerships in the local area are all contributing to a lack of demand for specialist places. There is another Communication and Interaction Resource Base at St Andrew's CE Primary School in Chinnor, serving the area.

This proposal aims to release unused accommodation for the use of Caldecott Primary School to meet increasing demand for school places.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be viewed at <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultation>. Copies can also be obtained by contacting:

Diane Cameron
School Organisation & Planning
County Hall
FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.
Tel: 01865 816445

Email: diane.cameron@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 the local authority using the online feedback form at <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultation> or by email to the above email address.

Signed: Jim Leivers, Director of Childrens Services

Publication Date: 12 November 2014

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PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS

Proposal made under School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013:

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

The name, address and category of the school.

Caldecott Primary School, Caldecott Road, Abingdon, OX14 5HB.
[Community school].

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented:

1 April 2015

Objections and comments

Any person may respond by 10 December 2014, 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

diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk putting CALDECOTT in the subject line, or can be submitted online via a feedback form at

<http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Alteration description

The proposal is to close the Communication & Interaction Resource Base located at Caldecott Primary School in Abingdon.

School capacity

Current capacity of the school is 352 but the school is expanding to a capacity of 420 and increased its admission number from September 2014 due to demand for school places in Abingdon. The expansion of the school is not dependent on this proposal.

Objectives and reasoning

To formally close an unused Resource Base in order to free accommodation up for the use of Caldecott Primary School.

The resource base hosted by Caldecott Primary School was originally established for children with speech and language needs, and from 2010 it broadened to include children with autism.

The number of pupils in the base has reduced over time and in 2012-13 there were only 3 pupils, all in year 6. Since September 2013 the base has been empty. There is another Communication and Interaction Resource Base in the South of the county at St Andrew's CE School in Chinnor and numbers there have remained in double figures.

The number of all primary school pupils across the Abingdon area has risen and this trend is forecast to continue. This means that Caldecott Primary School has increased its pupil intake from September 2014. While the resource base is empty the school is using the classroom space to meet the increasing demand for places at the school.

The county council aims to provide a broad range of ways and contexts in which children with Communication and Interaction needs are supported. This includes early intervention, specialist support for mainstream schools and a continuum of Communication and Interaction specialist provision. Wherever possible children are supported in their local area and the strategy is for each area of Oxfordshire (North, Central and South) to have one Communication and Interaction Resources Base. There is specialist advisory support provided by SEN Support Services (SENS) for all schools. Some partnerships of schools have also set up their own enhanced provision, ensuring specialist support when needed and developing high quality inclusive practice across the partnership.

This proposal to close a specialist resource base has not been taken lightly. The lack of demand for places in the resource base over recent years and increasing demand for school places at Caldecott Primary School have prompted this recommendation.

The existence of the specialist provision at St Andrew's CE Primary School is meeting local needs. The impact of earlier interventions, the breadth of specialist advisory support and the increasing expertise in schools and partnerships in the local area are also factors contributing to lack of demand for specialist places at Caldecott.

Consultation

Persons consulted: the governing body and staff of Caldecott Primary School, Partnership primary schools, special schools, parents / guardians of Caldecott Primary School pupils, the local MP, relevant Parish, District and County Councillors, trade union representatives, Church of England and Catholic Dioceses, members of the School Organisation Stakeholder Group and county council teams involved in Special Education provision and support.

1 response to the consultation was received which supported the proposal in principle. The reason given for supporting the proposal was:

- Putting the unused accommodation to good use for the increased numbers of pupils being admitted to the school.

The consultation document was widely distributed by both the school and the county council and is available to view on the county council website in the Current Consultations list at

<http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Project costs

There are no costs associated with the closure of the Resource Base.

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Division(s): Wroxton & Hook Norton
Also affecting: Bloxham & Easington

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES – 9 FEBRUARY 2015

FINAL REPORT ON PROPOSAL TO EXPAND HOOK NORTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Report by Director for Children's Services

Introduction

1. Oxfordshire County Council proposes to expand Hook Norton CE Primary School. A local consultation was carried out between 6 October 2014 and 3 November 2014: the consultation leaflet is attached at Annex 1. This leaflet was distributed to all parents of children at the school, staff, governors, local councillors, childcare settings, Dioceses, School Organisation Stakeholders Group, local library, and was available to view and respond to on the Oxfordshire County Council website.
2. Following this, Oxfordshire County Council published a statutory notice (attached at Annex 2) in the Banbury Cake newspaper on 20 November 2014, relating to this proposal.
3. The notice period expired following 4 weeks of formal consultation on 18 December 2014. In accordance with legislation the notice was also posted at the school entrance 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 made available on the Oxfordshire County Council website for public viewing.
4. The decision-making power in terms of determining the notice lies with the Cabinet or can be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families. 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 Decision-Maker's role would be negated by referral to the Schools' Adjudicator.

The Proposal

5. The proposal is to increase the formal published admission number for Hook Norton CE Primary School from 30 to 45, on a permanent basis starting from September 2015. This will eventually increase the school's total capacity from

its current 210 places in year groups Reception – Year 6 to a maximum of 315. In addition to this, the school has a Nursery class which offers 30 full-time equivalent places. It is not proposed that this provision would change.

6. Additional classrooms and supporting space will be provided at the school to accommodate the increase in pupil numbers and work to deliver the accommodation needs is well advanced.
7. The objective of the proposal is to provide sufficient primary school places for Hook Norton and its surrounding area, enabling the Local Authority to meet its statutory duty in this regard. Until now, in most years the school's current admission number has been sufficient to admit all catchment children. Births data indicates that this may not be the case in all future years, unless the school expands. In addition, there has been housing development permitted in the school's catchment area, and Cherwell District Council's Local Plan indicates that more housing may be approved for Hook Norton. The school's current admission number of 30 will not provide sufficient school places for Hook Norton's growing population.
8. The pupil forecasts for Hook Norton CE Primary School were last calculated in Spring 2014:

	School Year	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Hook Norton Church of England Primary School	2014/15	30	28	30	30	30	32	30	210
	2015/16	38	31	30	31	31	30	34	225
	2016/17	35	39	31	32	32	31	32	232
	2017/18	35	35	40	32	32	32	33	239
	2018/19	34	35	36	40	32	31	33	241
	2019/20	34	34	36	36	40	31	32	243

The above forecasts do not include much of the housing planned or proposed for the area, and are therefore considered to be an underestimate of future demand for places.

9. The County Council's policy is, where possible, to expand primary schools by multiples of 15 or 30 (i.e. half or a full form of entry) at a time. This is to help schools organise more easily their classes across the year groups. There are many schools across the county that operate with an admission number of 45 as standard. This does not mean that there are 45 pupils in a class; class sizes remain the same, but more classes are run and some are mixed year group classes (e.g. a class of 30 might be run with 15 pupils in Year 1, and 15 pupils in Year 2). The exact organisation of the classes would be managed by the school.
10. Work has been carried out to identify how Hook Norton CE Primary School could grow in a manner which is cost-effective without compromising the high quality of education provided by this school. An expansion plan has been produced, in agreement with the school and preparations for readying the

Reception year group spaces for an increase in pupil numbers in 2015 are advanced.

Representations

11. Three responses to the initial local consultation were received. The respondents raised concerns about the proposal as follows:
- A concern about the effect on educational standards of mixed year group teaching.
 - Concern about increased traffic and car parking.
 - Concern about sufficient accommodation being provided and its funding.

The Governing Body of the school supports the proposal, and the Headteacher made the following response to the concern about the impact on educational standards:

We teach to the needs of individual children not their age, regardless of class make-up. We already have a lot of joint planning between classes which has increased since the new curriculum was introduced in September - Key stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2. We also already teach mixed age classes - our Foundation Stage Unit has three year groups, we teach across KS1 for phonics which has been hugely successful. Looking at Outstanding schools with 1.5FE, pupil progress is unaffected, indeed, in some instances pupil progress is enhanced because there is more differentiation by ability and need than with 1 FE. Expectation can also be higher because of the mixed year groups. There is also more flexibility in terms of class make-up to ensure a balance of pupils in each class and more expertise to draw upon with joint planning.

12. County Council officers responded to the concern about long-term sufficiency of the planned accommodation and increase in traffic as follows:

“At this time, expansion to 1.5 form entry more than meets the needs of the level of housing growth currently being proposed. If the school were to be 2 form entry, it would either have many unfilled places, which would destabilise their revenue budget, or attract pupils from other catchments adding to traffic at the school, and potentially destabilising surrounding schools. Expanding the school by more than is currently necessary to meet local population growth would therefore not be a good use of public funds, and would create significant financial risks to other local schools.

Toilet provision for any expansion of a school is to the same ratio that has been used across English schools for many years: 1:20 pupils across Year 1 – 6 and 1:10 for Reception / Early Years.

The school has an existing Study Centre which is a facility most 1fe primary schools do not have. In this case, it fulfils the role of a Studio, which is what would normally be incorporated into the build of an expansion of a school, when going from 1fe to 1.5fe. The Studio gives flexibility to the school for

many different activities, including those often carried out in the Hall, at the same time. How the spaces are used and organised is the choice of the governors and staff at the school.

Oxfordshire County Council, as a rule, no longer includes construction of IT rooms in its builds as this type of static facility is becoming somewhat obsolete. Many schools have now moved away from this to use laptops or tablet devices, integrating their use into the curriculum.

Oxfordshire County Council's policy is to encourage local, and where possible other, journeys to be sustainable. In order to minimise traffic congestion we, supported by the governors of the school, would advise that pupils, the majority of whom do live within the village, walk, cycle or scoot to school. While we recognise that this is not always possible for all pupils, the county council does not construct car park provision for parents at its schools. Therefore families travelling by car need to be aware of this, and ultimately take responsibility for parking considerately, perhaps a short distance away, and walking the final few metres."

13. Two representations were received in response to the publication of the statutory notice. One was supportive of the proposal. The other was received from South Newington Parish Council and raised concerns about uncertainty for families in that village over which primary school their children may be offered a place in as pupil numbers rise across the area. The Parish Council had no objection to this proposal to expand Hook Norton CE Primary School itself.

Legal background

14. School expansions are subject to statutory procedures as established in The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2013. Local Authorities also have a duty to have regard to statutory guidance, in this particular case 'School Organisation: Maintained Schools: Guidance for Proposers and Decision-Makers, ("the Guidance"). When reaching a decision, Cabinet Member must have regard to The Guidance. Cabinet Member is referred in particular to pages 5 to 8 of Annex B.
15. 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.

16. **Education standards, and diversity of provision.** 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.
17. **Equal opportunity issues, Community Cohesion, Travel & Accessibility.** 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.
18. **Demand.** 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. At its last inspection in 2013, Ofsted graded Hook Norton CE Primary School as Good.
19. **Capital.** The Decision Maker should be satisfied that any land, premises and capital funding required to implement the proposals will be available.

Financial and Staff Implications

20. The physical expansion of Hook Norton CE Primary School will be funded using money the council has secured from housing developers, to mitigate the impact of new housing in the local area (these are known as Section 106 contributions). The construction of the required new accommodation is currently estimated to cost £1.65m.
21. The accommodation requirements will be delivered by the County Council.
22. 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
23. Where possible, retrospective S106 developer contributions will also be sought from planned and future housing development in the area.
24. 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.

Equality and Inclusion Implications

25. The Equality Impact Assessment of Oxfordshire's Pupil Place Plan (July 2014) 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.

Decision

26. In considering the proposals for a school expansion, the Decision Maker can decide to:
- Reject the proposals;
 - Approve the proposals;
 - Approve the proposals with a modification (e.g. the implementation date); or
 - Approve the proposals subject to them meeting a specific condition (see the Guidance).

RECOMMENDATION

27. **The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to approve the permanent expansion of Hook Norton CE Primary School with effect from 1 September 2015.**

JIM LEIVERS

Director for Children's Services

Annexes: Annex 1: Consultation leaflet
 Annex 2: Statutory proposal
 Annex 3: Full proposal document

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

February 2015



Consultation on the proposal to expand Hook Norton CE Primary School

6 October 2014 – 3 November 2014

**Informal drop-in sessions with county council and school staff on
Wednesday 15 October 2.30-4.30pm and 6.30-7.30pm
at the school**

Hook Norton CE Primary School is a community school in Hook Norton village in Cherwell District, and is a member of the Chipping Norton partnership of schools. The school has an admission number of 30 and operates as a 1 form entry primary school.

The total number of children on roll at the time of writing is 217 (including the Nursery children) as shown below:

Year Group	Nursery	Reception	1	2	3	4	5	6
Pupil Number	15	25	30	29	30	29	28	31

The school was inspected by Ofsted on 16 April 2013 and was graded Good.

What is being proposed?

The county council proposes to expand Hook Norton CE Primary School to enable it to admit 45 pupils each academic year, rather than the current 30 pupils. The expansion would begin in September 2015, and is supported by the school's Governing Body.

Until now, in most years the school's current admission number has been enough to admit all catchment children. Births data indicates that this may not be the case in all future years, unless the school expands. In addition, there has been housing development permitted in the school's catchment area, and the district council's Local Plan indicates that more housing may be approved for Hook Norton. The school's current admission number of 30 will not provide sufficient places for Hook Norton's growing population.

The county council's policy is, where possible, to expand primary schools by multiples of 15 or 30 (i.e. half or a full form of entry) at a time. This is to help schools organise more easily their classes across the year groups. There are many schools across the county that operate

CMDCEF6

with an admission number of 45 as standard. This does not mean that there are 45 pupils in a class; class sizes remain the same, but more classes are run and some are mixed year group classes (e.g. a class of 30 might be run with 15 pupils in Year 1, and 15 pupils in Year 2). The exact organisation of the classes would be managed by the school.

A feasibility study is in progress to identify how Hook Norton CE Primary School could grow in a manner which is cost-effective without compromising the high quality of education provided by this school. A draft expansion plan has been produced, in agreement with the school. While this is not the final scheme, it may be useful to give an idea of how the expansion might be achieved on site:



We think that this is a good school which can and should expand to meet demand for places from a growing population. We want to know your views about the proposal to expand.

Important points

- The Governing Body of the school have made the following statement:

“The governors of the school support the expansion as we believe that children who live locally should be able to go to their local school; it is important for the village infrastructure to maintain Hook Norton as an inclusive, vibrant village that is a perfect place for families. Developing the school is an exciting project which will allow us to meet the needs of our children, giving us more flexibility in terms of pupil groupings and the opportunity to offer our high standard of education to more children.”

- This consultation is about **the principle of expanding Hook Norton CE Primary School**. It is **not** about any decisions to allocate housing development to the area made by Cherwell District Council. Comments on housing development proposals need to be made to Cherwell District Council.
- This consultation is taking place until **3 November 2014**. You have until midnight on that date to respond to us. All responses received will then be considered.
- The next step, if the process continues, would be the publication of a statutory notice in the local paper, on the county council website and at the school. There would then be a statutory notice period of 4 weeks, giving a last opportunity for people to respond formally. The final decision would be made by the county council Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families.

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>. There are several ways to respond:

- respond using the online form for this consultation, on the Oxfordshire County Council current consultations webpage at <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>;
- email your response to: diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk putting HOOK NORTON EXPANSION in the subject line;
- write to Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, County Hall, FREEPOST Oxfordshire County Council, or send in the Response Form at the back of this leaflet.

CMDCEF6
**Consultation on the proposal for the expansion of
Hook Norton CE Primary School**

I/we wish to make the following comments:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Name

Address or email address (optional)

.....

- Parent of a child at Hook Norton CE Primary School
- Parent of a child at another school (please specify).....
- Parent of a child not yet at school
- Governor/staff at Hook Norton CE Primary School
- Local resident
- Other (specify)

Tick all that apply

Please return by 3 November 2014 to:

Diane Cameron

School Organisation and Planning

Ground Floor

FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

(No stamp required)

.



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed expansion of Hook Norton CE 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 Hook Norton CE Primary School, Sibford Road, Hook Norton, OX15 5JS from 1 September 2015.

Oxfordshire County Council is proposing to expand the school from 1 form entry (with an admission number of 30) to 1.5 form entry (with an admission number of 45). This proposal is supported by the school's Governing Body.

Births data and anticipated housing development in the area means the school's current admission number of 30 will not be sufficient for Hook Norton's growing population. An expansion plan has been produced, in agreement with the school.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be viewed at <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultation>. Copies can also be obtained by contacting:

Diane Cameron
School Organisation & Planning
County Hall
FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.
Tel: 01865 816445
Email: diane.cameron@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 the local authority using the online feedback form at <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultation> or by using the above contact details.

Signed: Jim Leivers, Director of Childrens Services

Publication Date: 20 November 2014

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PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS

Proposal made under School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013:

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

Hook Norton Church of England Primary School [Voluntary Controlled school]. The Local Authority is Oxfordshire County Council.

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented:

1 September 2015

Objections and comments

Any person may respond by 18 December 2014, 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

diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk putting HOOK NORTON in the subject line, or can be submitted online via a feedback form at

<http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Alteration description

The proposal is to expand Hook Norton CE Primary School from a 1 form entry school to a 1.5 form entry school.

School capacity

The current capacity of the school is 210 in Years Reception - 6. The proposed capacity would be 315.

The current number of pupils admitted to each year is 30. The proposed number of pupils to be admitted to each year is 45.

The number of pupils at the school at the time of publication of these proposals is:

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
25	30	29	30	29	28	31	202

There is also a nursery class providing 30 full-time equivalent places for 3-year-olds. It is not proposed that the number of 3-year-olds places would change.

Implementation

The proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority.

No new or additional site will be required if these proposals are implemented.

Objectives and reasoning

The objective of the proposal is to provide sufficient primary school places for Hook Norton and its surrounding area.

Until now, in most years the school's current admission number has been sufficient to admit all catchment children. Births data indicates that this may not be the case in all future years, unless the school expands. In addition, there has been housing development permitted in the school's catchment area, and the district council's Local Plan indicates that more housing may Be approved for Hook Norton. The school's current admission number of 30

will not provide sufficient school places for Hook Norton’s growing population.

The pupil forecasts for Hook Norton Primary School were last calculated in Spring 2014:

	School								
	Year	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Hook Norton Church of England Primary School	2014/15	30	28	30	30	30	32	30	210
	2015/16	38	31	30	31	31	30	34	225
	2016/17	35	39	31	32	32	31	32	232
	2017/18	35	35	40	32	32	32	33	239
	2018/19	34	35	36	40	32	31	33	241
	2019/20	34	34	36	36	40	31	32	243

These forecasts do not include much of the housing planned or proposed for the area, and are therefore considered to be an underestimate of future demand for places.

The county council’s policy is, where possible, to expand primary schools by multiples of 15 or 30 (i.e. half or a full form of entry) at a time. This is to help schools organise more easily their classes across the year groups. There are many schools across the county that operate with an admission number of 45 as standard. This does not mean that there are 45 pupils in a class; class sizes remain the same, but more classes are run and some are mixed year group classes (e.g. a class of 30 might be run with 15 pupils in Year 1, and 15 pupils in Year 2). The exact organisation of the classes would be managed by the school.

Work has been carried out to identify how Hook Norton CE Primary School could grow in a manner which is cost-effective without compromising the high quality of education provided by this school. An expansion plan has been produced, in agreement with the school.

Consultation

Persons consulted: the governing body and staff of Hook Norton CE Primary School, partnership primary schools, parents / guardians of Hook Norton CE Primary School pupils, the local MP, relevant Parish, District and County Councillors, trade union representatives, Church of England and Catholic Dioceses, members of the School Organisation Stakeholder Group and county council teams. The consultation leaflet was available to view on the county council website.

3 responses to the consultation were received. The respondents raised concerns about the proposal as follows:

- A concern about the effect on educational standards of mixed year group teaching.
- Concern about increased traffic and car parking.
- Concern about sufficient accommodation being provided and its funding.

The Governing Body of the school support the proposal, and the Headteacher made the following response to the concern about the impact on educational standards:

We teach to the needs of individual children not their age, regardless of class make-up. We already have a lot of joint planning between classes which has increased since the new curriculum was introduced in September - Key stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2.

We also already teach mixed age classes - our Foundation Stage Unit has three year groups, we teach across KS1 for phonics which has been hugely successful.

Looking at Outstanding schools with 1.5FE, pupil progress is unaffected, indeed, in some instances pupil progress is enhanced because there is more differentiation by ability and need than with 1 FE. Expectation can also be higher because of the mixed year groups.

There is also more flexibility in terms of class make-up to ensure a balance of pupils in each class and more expertise to draw upon with joint planning.

Local Authority officers responded to the concern about accommodation and traffic by confirming that the design would meet the county council's standards for sufficiency for a 1.5 form entry primary school. The following statement was made relating to traffic and parking:

Oxfordshire County Council's policy is to encourage local, and where possible other, journeys to be sustainable. In order to minimise traffic congestion we, supported by the governors of the school, would advise that pupils, the majority of whom do live within the village, walk, cycle or scoot to school. While we recognise that this is not always possible for all pupils, the county council does not construct car park provision for parents at its schools. Therefore families travelling by car need to be aware of this, and ultimately take responsibility for parking considerately, perhaps a short distance away, and walking the final few metres.

Project costs

The physical expansion of Hook Norton CE Primary School will be funded using money the council has secured from housing developers, to mitigate the impact of new housing in the local area (these are known as Section 106 contributions). The construction of the required new accommodation is currently estimated to cost £1.65m.

The accommodation improvement will be delivered by the county council.

Expansion of successful and popular schools

Hook Norton Primary School was last inspected by Ofsted in 2013, when it was rated Good with Outstanding features. The school's performance data is consistently above the average national level, and is in the highest quintile when compared to other schools for many measures

The county council therefore considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply.

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