



***Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Education
& Cultural Services***

***Wednesday, 18 December 2019 at 10.00 am
Meeting Room 2, County Hall, New Road, 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 30 December 2019 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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne Rees'.

Yvonne Rees
Chief Executive

December 2019

Committee Officer: **Lucy Tyrrell**
Tel: 07741 607834; E-Mail: lucy.tyrrell@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Note: Date of next meeting: 16 January 2020

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. **Petitions and Public Address**
3. **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.

4. **Expansion of Longworth Primary School** (Pages 1 - 22)

Forward Plan Ref: 2019/171

Contact: Joanne Booker, School Organisation Officer Tel: 07393 001258

Report by Corporate Director for Children's Services (**CMDECS4**).

This report follows the publication of a Statutory Notice relating to the county council's proposal to expand Longworth Primary School.

The proposal is to permanently expand Longworth Primary School to 0.5 form entry, increasing its admission number from 10 to 15 and its capacity from 70 to 105 places.

The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to approve the expansion of Longworth Primary School from a capacity of 70 to a capacity of 105, with effect from 1 September 2020, subject to the following condition:

That, prior to 1 April 2020, planning permission has been granted for the necessary additional accommodation for the school.

Division(s): Kingston & Cumnor

CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURAL SERVICES - 18 DECEMBER 2019

REPORT ON THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF LONGWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Report by Director for Children's Services

RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to approve the expansion of Longworth Primary School from a capacity of 70 to a capacity of 105, with effect from 1 September 2020, subject to the following condition:

That, prior to 1 April 2020, planning permission has been granted for the necessary additional accommodation for the school.

Executive Summary

1. Under Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, a local authority can propose the expansion of all categories of maintained school. It is proposed to expand Longworth Primary School to 0.5 form entry, which would involve an increase in Longworth's admission number in September 2020 from 10 to 15 on a permanent basis.
2. Such expansion requires a statutory consultation and decision-making process. The decision must be made in accordance with the *Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended)*, *The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013* and decision makers must have regard to the statutory guidance, "*Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools*", October 2018 ("the Guidance"). Further details of the relevant legislation and guidance are set out below.
3. A statutory notice has been published, and the required representation period has ended. All responses were in support of the proposed expansion.
4. Longworth Primary School has admitted over its Published Admission Number on a number of occasions in recent years to meet demand, and again agreed to admit over their admission number in September 2019. Longworth Primary School has consistently exceeded its current capacity of 70 places over the last 5 years. Current pupil forecasts (calculated summer 2019) indicate that numbers are expected to grow further in the future, with the school remaining consistently above its current capacity

Introduction

5. This report follows the publication of a Statutory Proposal/Notice (Stage 1) and a Representation (Stage 2 formal consultation) period relating to the county council's 'prescribed alteration' proposal to expand Longworth Primary School. The proposal is made with the support of the school's Governing Body. The Cabinet Member is now required to make a decision on the proposals in accordance with the statutory prescribed alteration procedures.
6. Although there is no longer a statutory 'pre-publication' consultation period for prescribed alteration changes, there is a strong expectation that schools and local authorities will consult interested parties in developing their proposal prior to publication, to take into account all relevant considerations. In accordance with this expectation, a letter was sent to parents of children on roll at the school in June 2019 regarding the proposed expansion, and a meeting was also held to discuss this. A school survey was issued to parents alongside the consultation, giving respondents the opportunity to request further information about the proposed expansion. The proposed expansion has also been a standing item at governing body meetings.
7. School capacity is being planned strategically across the Kingston Bagpuize, Southmoor and Longworth areas. Expansions of both primary schools in this area (Longworth Primary School and John Blandy Primary School) are planned to accommodate the expected increase in demand from housing growth. The expansion of John Blandy Primary School from 1 form entry to 1.5 form entry has already been approved, and the county council is now proposing to expand Longworth Primary School. Between them, these schools will jointly serve the needs of housing planned and permitted across the parishes of Longworth and Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor.

Publication of the proposal

8. The statutory notice (Annex 1) was published in the Oxford Mail on 4 November 2019 and was also posted on the county council website. The Representation period ran until the 2 December 2019, which is the statutory 4-week period required under the relevant legislation. The statutory notice was accompanied by a Full Proposal document (Annex 2), which was available to read online at the Oxfordshire County Council public website, or by request.

Representations

9. 5 responses were received during the 4-week statutory Representation period. Of these responses, all were in support of the proposal.

Legal background

10. Local authorities have a statutory duty under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to ensure there are sufficient schools for their area. This duty will be met with the expansion of Longworth Primary School, in order to address the

expected increase in demand for places across the parishes of Longworth, Southmoor and Kingston Bagpuize from housing growth in these areas.

11. Expansion of schools is covered by *The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013* ('the Prescribed Alterations Regulations') which should be read in conjunction with Parts 2 and 3 and Schedule 3 of the *Education and Inspections Act (EIA) 2006* (as amended by the *Education Act (EA) 2011*) and *the Prescribed Alterations Regulations*.
12. The expansion of a maintained school is subject to the "Guidance", as set out in "*Making Significant Changes ('Prescribed Alterations') to maintained schools*" published October 2018. This Guidance is for proposers and decision-makers. The Guidance states that the statutory proposal must contain sufficient information for interested parties to make a decision on whether to support or challenge the proposed change. The proposal should be accessible to all interested parties and should therefore use 'plain English'. The full proposal must be published on a website (e.g. the school or LA's website) along with a statement setting out:
 - (a) how copies of the proposal may be obtained;
 - (b) that anybody can object to, or comment on, the proposal;
 - (c) the date that the representation period ends;
 - (d) and the address to which objections or comments should be submitted.A brief notice (including details on how the full proposal can be accessed e.g. the website address) must be published in a local newspaper. Within one week of the date of publication on the website, the proposer must send a copy of the proposal and the information set out in the paragraph above to the governing body and any other body or person that the proposer thinks are appropriate.
13. The representation period must last for four weeks from the date of the publication. During this period, any person or organisation can submit comments on the proposal to the LA to be taken into account by the decision-maker. It is also good practice for representations to be forwarded to the proposer to ensure that they are aware of local opinion.
14. The county council confirms that it has adhered to the above Guidance.

Decision-making

15. The decision-making power in terms of determining the proposal in this case lies with the Cabinet Member for Education & Cultural Services. In considering the proposals for a school expansion, the Cabinet Member can decide to:
 - reject the proposals;
 - approve the proposals without modifications;
 - approve the proposals with such modifications as the local authority thinks desirable, having consulted the governing body;
 - approve the proposal – with or without modification – subject to certain conditions (such as the granting of planning permission) being met.
16. Where a LA is the decision maker, it must make a decision within a period of two months of the end of the representation period. Where a decision is not

made within this time frame, the LA must refer the proposal to the Schools Adjudicator for a decision.

17. The *Guidance* states that “decision-makers will need to be satisfied that the appropriate fair and open local consultation and/or representation period has been carried out and that the proposer has given full consideration to all the responses received. Decision-makers should not simply take account of the numbers of people expressing a particular view. Instead, they should give the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school(s)”.
18. The *Guidance* sets out the following factors which should be considered in deciding this proposal.
19. **Education standards and diversity of provision:** Decision-makers should consider the quality and diversity of schools in the relevant area and whether the proposal will meet or affect the needs of parents; raise local standards and narrow attainment gaps.
20. Longworth Primary School has an Ofsted rating of “Outstanding”. The guidance states that it is expected that additional places will only be provided at schools that have an overall Ofsted rating of “Good” or “Outstanding”. The expansion will be supportive of high educational standards and parental choice and would increase the number of places available at good schools.
21. **Equal opportunities issues:** The decision-maker must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which requires them to have “due regard” to the need to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it. The characteristics that are protected in relation to the Public Sector Equality Duty are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.
22. Expansion of this school would increase equality of opportunity in terms of access to school places. It would ensure that children in the parishes of Longworth and Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor can obtain access to a school place close to home. If sufficient places are not available within the heart of the community this can affect access to out of school activities, social contact with peers, and travel distances.
23. **Community cohesion:** When considering a proposal, the decision-maker should consider its impact on community cohesion.
24. Expansion of this school would help to enable children in the parishes of Longworth and Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor to attend a school in their local community, which is a key element in creating community cohesion.
25. **Travel and accessibility:** Decision-makers should satisfy themselves that accessibility planning has been properly considered and the proposed changes should not adversely impact on disadvantaged groups. The decision-maker should bear in mind that a proposal should not unreasonably extend journey times or increase transport costs, or result in too many children being prevented

from travelling sustainably due to unsuitable walking or cycling routes. A proposal should also be considered on the basis on how it will support and contribute to the LA's duty to promote the use of sustainable travel.

26. Expansion of this school would prevent the need for children to be transported to schools further afield, and help to minimise journey times and vehicular transport.
27. **Funding:** The decision-maker should be satisfied that any necessary funding required to implement the proposal will be available and that all relevant local parties (e.g. trustees or religious authority) have given their agreement.
28. The proposed expansion will involve the construction of a new classroom and associated facilities including new pupil toilets on the school site.
29. The cost of expanding the school will be met from money the county council has secured from housing developers and capital funding provided by the council. These costs are still to be finalised.

Financial and Staff Implications

30. The financial implications of this report are linked to the capital works that will be carried out should the proposal be approved. These capital works will be subject to formal approval in accordance with OCC Capital Governance requirements.
31. The school will need to meet any additional costs for staffing, curriculum resources and maintenance costs from its delegated budget share. The funding formula on which the school's budget share is calculated will allocate additional financial resources based on increased pupil numbers. It is anticipated that moving to 0.5 form entry will also, over time, enable the school to achieve increased efficiency by amending its internal organisation.

Equalities Implications

32. As outlined above, expansion of this school would increase equality of opportunity in terms of access to school places and help maintain the viability of a small rural school. It would therefore have a positive impact on children living in the villages of Longworth and Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor, and on these rural communities more generally.
33. A Service and Community Impact Assessment (SCIA) has been completed for this proposal (Annex 3).

Environmental Impacts – Reducing our Climate Impact

34. Expansion of this school would prevent the need for children to be transported to schools further afield, and help to minimise vehicular transport. If insufficient school places are available in the local area, there would be a greater climate

impact resulting from the increased population attracted by housing developments.

35. This report relates to the principle of expanding the school, rather than the specific building solution. The construction works are being procured by the county council and will be designed in accordance with the council's specification for new buildings. This will be subject to planning permission and formal approval in accordance with OCC Capital Governance requirements.

LUCY BUTLER

Director for Children's Services

Annexes: Annex 1: Public Notice
 Annex 2: Full Statutory Proposal Document
 Annex 3: Service and Community Impact Assessment (SCIA)

Contact Officer: Barbara Chillman, Pupil Place Planning Manager, 07554 103418

December 2019



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed Expansion of Longworth 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 Longworth Primary School, School Close, Longworth, Abingdon OX13 5EU from 01 September 2020.

The Local Authority, working with the Governing Body of the school, proposes to expand Longworth Primary School to 0.5 form entry, rising from the current Planned Admission Number (PAN) of 10 to one of 15 from September 2020 onward.

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

**Joanne Booker (School Organisation Officer), Oxfordshire County Council,
Access to Learning, 4th Floor, County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND
Tel: 07393 001258 or Email: school.planning@oxfordshire.gov.uk**

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

Signed: Lucy Butler, Director of Children's Services

Publication Date: 04 November 2019

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FULL STATUTORY PROPOSAL

The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England)
Regulations 2013

Expansion of Longworth Primary School

1. School and LA details

School: Longworth Primary School

Address: School Close, Longworth, Abingdon, OX13 5EU

Local Authority: Oxfordshire County Council

2. Description of alteration

Oxfordshire County Council, working with the Governing Body of the school, proposes to expand Longworth Primary School to 0.5 form entry. This would involve an increase in Longworth's admission number in September 2020 from 10 to 15 on a permanent basis.

The proposed expansion of the school means that each year group that starts at the school from September 2020 onward would consist of up to 15 places, making a maximum total of 105 pupils in Reception to Year 6 across the whole school eventually.

From September 2020, total numbers would grow gradually each year as up to 15 children are admitted into the Reception classes, allowing the school to adjust to the larger size. Should there be a demand for places in older year groups as a result of children moving into the village and needing school places, the school will review whether it is able to speed up the expansion of the older year groups.

The proposed expansion will involve the construction of a new classroom and associated facilities including new pupil toilets on the school site.

3. Evidence of demand

School capacity is being planned strategically across the Kingston Bagpuize, Southmoor and Longworth areas. Expansions of both primary schools in this area (Longworth Primary School and John Blandy Primary School) are planned to accommodate the expected increase in demand from housing growth. The expansion of John Blandy Primary School from 1 form entry to 1.5 form entry has already been approved, and the county council is now proposing to expand Longworth Primary School. Between them, these schools will jointly serve the needs of housing planned and permitted across the parishes of Longworth and Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor.

Longworth Primary School has admitted over its Published Admission Number on a number of occasions in recent years to meet demand, and again agreed to admit over their admission number in September 2019. The school's Governing Body wants to be able to meet the needs of the local community and a decision now needs to be taken as to whether to permanently expand the school from an annual intake of 10 to one of 15.

Current pupil numbers (as of May 2019) show that Longworth Primary School has already exceeded its current capacity of 70 places. Current pupil forecasts (calculated summer 2019) indicate that numbers are expected to grow further in the future, with the school consistently above its current capacity.

Expansion of school capacity is needed to meet the current and future demand for places at the school, including the forecast demands of the growing population in the area, and to allow for population fluctuations and movement into the area by new families, including into new homes planned to be built across the parishes of Longworth and Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor. To enable the county council to meet its statutory duty to ensure sufficient pupil places for the growing population in the area, a permanent expansion of Longworth Primary School is now sought.

Expansion of the school would also enable the school to move from a 3-class structure to a 4-class structure, resulting in a narrower range of year groups in each class and better alignment of classes to Key Stages. As such, the proposed expansion is expected to improve the effectiveness of teaching at the school. It will also help improve the school's financial viability in future, due to increased pupil funding and economies of scale.

If Longworth Primary School expands to 0.5 form entry (15 children per year group) on a permanent basis, the county council considers there will be sufficient places to meet the scale of currently forecast population growth.

To inform this expansion, the school has actively engaged with parents and the governing body, including:

- A letter was sent to parents in June 2019 regarding the proposed expansion, and a meeting was also held to discuss this.
- The proposed expansion is a standing item at governing body meetings.
- A school survey has been issued to parents, which gives respondents the opportunity to request further information about the proposed expansion.

4. Objectives

The proposed expansion would:

- Ensure the county council meets its statutory duty to secure sufficient school places in an area of rapid housing development.
- Be supportive of high educational standards and parental choice. Longworth Primary School is rated Outstanding by Ofsted (last inspected December 2010). As

part of the proposed expansion, the resulting change of class structure would improve alignment with the Key Stages.

- Improve the school's financial viability.
- Maintain parental choice for existing families and those moving into the village and the surrounding area.
- Prevent unnecessary increases in travel time and costs for families in the area, who might otherwise have to accept places at schools further away from where they live.

5. The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

The school is expanding in line with expected population growth in the area. It is not, therefore, expected to have a negative impact on other schools.

6. Project costs and funding

The cost of expanding the school will be met from money the county council has secured from housing developers and capital funding provided by the council.

7. Related proposals

Longworth Pre-school and Longworth Primary School are consulting separately on a change of management which, if confirmed, would see the school extend their age range down to 2-year olds and the pre-school close. Continuity of the early years offer would be maintained, including transferring pre-school staff where appropriate. The age range extension does not require a statutory process and will be determined by the Governing Body. This would secure the future of early years provision in the village, which may otherwise be lost if the pre-school decided they could no longer operate. The outcome of the consultation on age range extension will not affect the proposal we are consulting on here.

If both expansion and age range proposals are approved, the school may make some changes to how classes are grouped, for example offering a mixed nursery/reception class rather than the current reception/Yr1 class.

8. Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

From 1st September 2020, the school will increase its intake into the Reception class from 10 to 15. It may choose to also admit into older year groups, if local population growth requires this.

9. Objections and comments

Comments or objections must be received by the local authority by **2 December 2019**.

Respond by:

- using the online questionnaire at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/longworthexpansion

- emailing school.planning@oxfordshire.gov.uk (please quote 'Longworth Expansion' in the subject line)
- handing in a written response to the reception office at Longworth Primary School
- posting a written response to **Joanne Booker, Access to Learning, Oxfordshire County Council, 4th Floor, County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND**, marking your envelope LONGWORTH EXPANSION

10. Decision-making

The decision-maker for this proposed expansion is Oxfordshire County Council. The decision will be made by the Cabinet Member for Education and Cultural Services at a meeting which is open to the public, and publicised on the county council's website. The decision must be made within a period of two months of the end of this representation period, and is currently expected on 18 December 2019.

Service and Community Impact Assessment (SCIA)

Front Sheet:

Directorate and Service Area:

**People
Sufficiency & Access**

What is being assessed (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change):

Expansion of Longworth Primary School

Responsible owner / senior officer:

Barbara Chillman

Date of assessment:

November 2019

Summary of judgement:

Oxfordshire County Council, working with the governing body of the school, proposes to expand Longworth Primary School to 0.5 form entry, which would involve increasing its admission number from 10 to 15 from September 2020 onward. Expansion of Longworth Primary School is necessary to ensure the provision of sufficient school places across the Longworth, Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor areas, to accommodate increased demand for school places as a result of planned and permitted housing growth.

The proposed expansion would improve access to education for the local community, and would therefore have a positive impact for the local community.

Detail of Assessment:

Purpose of assessment:

Due to population growth and an increase in demand for school places across the Longworth and Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor areas, expansion of Longworth Primary School to 0.5 form entry is proposed. This SCIA is intended to provide an assessment to guide the process of expanding the school.

You should also include the following statement to clearly set out the reasons and context for undertaking the assessment:

Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 (“the 2010 Act”) imposes a duty on the Council to give due regard to three needs in exercising its functions. This proposal is such a function. The three needs are:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic, and those who do not.

Complying with section 149 may involve treating some people more favourably than others, but only to the extent that that does not amount to conduct which is otherwise unlawful under the new Act.

The need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard to the need to:

- remove or minimise disadvantages which are connected to a relevant protected characteristic and which are suffered by persons who share that characteristic,
- take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and which are different from the needs other people, and
- encourage those who share a relevant characteristic to take part in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such people is disproportionately low.
- take steps to meet the needs of disabled people which are different from the needs of people who are not disabled and include steps to take account of a person’s disabilities.

The need to foster good relations between different groups involves having due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

These protected characteristics are:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment

- pregnancy and maternity
- race – this includes ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality
- religion or belief – this includes lack of belief
- sex
- sexual orientation
- marriage and civil partnership

Social Value

Under the Public Services (Social Value Act) 2012 the Council also has an obligation to consider how the procurement of services contracts with a life value of more than £173,934¹ might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the area affected by the proposed contract, and how it might act to secure this improvement. However, it is best practice to consider social value for all types of contracts, service delivery decisions and new/updated policies. In this context, 'policy' is a general term that could include a strategy, project or contract.

Context / Background:

School capacity is being planned strategically across the Kingston Bagpuize, Southmoor and Longworth area, which contains two schools, Longworth Primary School and John Blandy Primary School. Approximately 400 new homes have been built in this area in the last 5 years, and a further 300 are permitted. As a result, with Longworth Primary School already at full capacity, pupil numbers at John Blandy Primary School have risen rapidly, and that school has now also exceeded its previous capacity.

Expansions of both the primary schools in this area are therefore planned so that, between them, these schools will jointly serve the needs of housing planned and permitted across these parishes and the schools' designated areas. The expansion of John Blandy Primary School from 1 form entry to 1.5 form entry has already been approved and is underway. John Blandy's site area would not support further expansion.

Proposals:

The expansion of Longworth Primary School is proposed to meet the current and future demand for places at the school, including the forecast demands of the growing population in the area, and to allow for population fluctuations and movement into the area by new families, including into new homes planned and permitted to be built across the parishes of Longworth and Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor.

¹¹ [EC Procurement Threshold for Services](#)

Longworth Primary School has consistently exceeded its current capacity of 70 places over the last 5 years. Current pupil forecasts (calculated summer 2019) indicate that numbers are expected to grow further in the future, with the school remaining consistently above its current capacity.

Expansion of the school would also enable the school to move from a 3-class structure to a 4-class structure, resulting in a narrower range of year groups in each class and better alignment of classes to Key Stages. As such, the proposed expansion is expected to improve the effectiveness of teaching at the school. It will also help improve the school's financial viability in future, due to increased pupil funding and economies of scale, and thus support one of the county's smaller rural primary schools.

If Longworth Primary School expands to 0.5 form entry (15 children per year group) on a permanent basis, the county council considers there will be sufficient places to meet the scale of currently forecast population growth in the area.

Longworth Primary School is rated Outstanding by Ofsted (last inspected December 2010), so the proposed expansion would be supportive of high educational standards and parental choice. It would also maintain parental choice for existing families and those moving into the village and the surrounding area, and prevent unnecessary increases in travel time and costs for families in the area, who might otherwise have to accept places at schools further away from where they live.

Evidence / Intelligence:

Approximately 400 new homes have been built in the Southmoor area in the last 5 years, and a further 300 are permitted. The total expected pupil generation from these developments is approximately 195 pupils. As a result, with Longworth Primary School already at full capacity, pupil numbers at John Blandy Primary School have risen rapidly, and that school has now also exceeded its previous capacity and is in the process of expansion. John Blandy previously had over 40 spare places, which have now been filled, and its expansion will add 105 places. It will therefore accommodate around 140-150 of the expected pupil generation from planned housing development.

Given the scale of local housing growth, further additional capacity is necessary to ensure parents have a satisfactory choice of local school places, and Longworth's expansion will offer an additional 35 places, increasing the total number of additional places provided to around 180. John Blandy's site area would not support further expansion. The additional 15 pupils expected to be generated by these new housing developments could be accommodated at the new primary school offered as part of a further development proposed in Kingston Bagpuize.

Annual pupil forecasts are calculated, based on demographic forecasts and planned housing growth, to identify where additional school places will be needed. These show that pupil numbers in the Faringdon planning area (in which Longworth is located) are expected to continue to increase.

School admissions data provide evidence of parental preference for schools, and show increasing numbers of first preference applications received for Longworth Primary School and John Blandy Primary School in recent years.

The Ofsted report on the most recent inspection of Longworth Primary School assesses the educational standards and effectiveness of provision at the school, which has been rated Outstanding since December 2010.

The school has carried out informal consultation into the proposed expansion, including sending a letter to parents in June 2019 regarding the proposed expansion, and holding a meeting to discuss this, ensuring the proposal is a standing item at governing body meetings and issuing a school survey to parents, which gives respondents the opportunity to request further information about the proposed expansion. Feedback received has been used to inform the proposal and judgements about impact.

Alternatives considered / rejected:

The county council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places. Given the current and expected growth in the school age population in this area, doing nothing would have led to failure to meet this statutory duty.

The only other school within walking distance of the planned housing development is John Blandy Primary School in Southmoor. This is already expanding to 1.5 form entry, and its site area does not support further growth. Pupil generation estimates indicate this will not be sufficient to meet the needs of all the housing growth.

The number of additional places confirmed as being required in the area would not necessitate provision of a new school. (The strategic site allocated in the VOWH Local Plan includes a site for a new school, but there is no planning permission for this site and therefore no timescale for delivery.) To meet the needs of housing already underway, therefore, an expansion of Longworth Primary School is the most appropriate option.

Impact Assessment:

Impact on Individuals and Communities:

Age

The proposed expansion will help to enable pupils living in the areas of Kingston Bagpuize, Southmoor and Longworth to attend a school close to where they live, and will therefore have a positive impact. If school places are not available within the heart of the community for children living on new housing developments this can affect access to out of school activities, social contact with peers, travel patterns and community cohesion.

Disability

Longworth Primary School is a mainstream school. The expansion is not expected to have an impact on provision for children with disability and Special Educational Needs attending this school, or who may attend the school in the future.

Religion/belief

Oxfordshire’s education providers include a balance of Church of England, Roman Catholic and non-faith schools. The only specific religions provided for, therefore, are CE and RC. Children of other faiths may choose a secular education or Christian education, or be educated outside the state sector. Longworth Primary School provides faith-based education, however John Blandy Primary School in Southmoor offers secular education. Expanding Longworth as well as John Blandy School will maintain the balance of parental choice.

Sex

Longworth Primary School offers coeducational provision, as do other nearby primary schools (the only single sex schools in the county are two secondary schools in Didcot), so the expansion is not expected to have an impact in this respect.

Rural communities

Rural communities, as a result of the more dispersed population, typically experience a smaller choice of schools within a reasonable distance than schools in urban areas. If rural parents are unable to secure a place at their local school, they are likely to face a longer journey to an alternative school than is the case in urban areas, and as a result may have to choose vehicular travel to school rather than walking or cycling. As a rural school, the expansion of Longworth Primary School would help improve the chances of parents living in the villages of Longworth, Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor of securing a place at a nearby school, reducing travel distances and improving community cohesion. Rural schools, such as Longworth, are often small, and face more challenging financial circumstances. Expansion of small schools, where supported by local population growth, helps to maintain their viability and ensure continued village education provision.

No specific impact has been identified on the following groups:

- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Areas of deprivation

Impact on Staff:

Staff

Where schools have to turn away children due to a shortage of capacity, Admissions staff may experience stress, and negative behaviour from angry and upset parents.

Risks	Mitigations
Insufficient school places are created at the expanded school, resulting in staff experiencing negative responses from parents.	Annual pupil forecasting and close cooperation with district councils to forecast as accurately as possible future demand. The size of the proposed school expansion has been determined based on analysis of current and future demand for school places in the area.

Impact on other Council services:

Other council services

Transport – if school places are not available close to where children live, more parents will drive their children to school, exacerbating traffic problems. If children have to be allocated schools beyond walking distance, the county council will need to fund transport.

Strategic planning – if sufficient school places cannot be agreed to meet the needs of housing growth, there will be a detrimental impact on strategic planning links with local planning authorities.

Risks	Mitigations
There is a mismatch between where school places are available and where parents live, resulting in increased traffic and transport costs.	Expansion of school capacity serving the Longworth, Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor areas will enable children living in these villages to attend schools closer to their home. The need for additional school capacity has been considered in line with housing growth across these areas.
Expansion of school capacity does not meet the needs of housing growth in the area.	Close working relationships between School Organisation & Planning, the county council strategic planning team, and district council planning teams to identify the scale and timing of the new school provision required and secure sufficient developer contributions.

Impact on providers:

Providers: schools

Where other school in the area have to turn away children due to a shortage of capacity, school staff may experience stress, and negative behaviour from angry and upset parents.

Insufficient school places in the area could require schools to take additional intakes at short notice, with negative organisational and financial impacts.

If surplus places are created, existing schools may see a reduction in pupil numbers, and hence budgets. Even where the creation of new places is in line with the scale of population growth, the initial impact of school expansions may have a destabilising effect on pupil numbers at other nearby schools.

Risks	Mitigations
Insufficient school places are created at the expanded school, resulting in staff experiencing negative responses from parents.	Annual pupil forecasting and close cooperation with district councils to forecast as accurately as possible future demand. The size of the proposed school expansion has been determined based on analysis of current and future demand for school places in the area.
The school expansion may lead to a reduction in pupil numbers at other nearby schools, especially in the short-term	The demand and supply for school places in the area are monitored, considering planned and permitted housing growth. Admission data on preferences for schools in the area has been analysed. The scale of expansion in this case is small, and unlikely to have a significant impact on other schools given the scale of local housing growth.

Social Value

If the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 applies to this proposal, please summarise here how you have considered how the contract might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the relevant area.

How might the proposal improve the economic well-being of the relevant area?

The proposed expansion may require additional staff at the school, thus creating jobs in the area.

How might the proposal improve the environmental well-being of the relevant area?

Provision of additional school places within walking distance of families living in Longworth will reduce the need for pupils to travel to school by car or bus. For families living in Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor, who may choose to attend the expanded school instead of one further away, travel distances will be reduced.

Action plan:

Summarise the actions that will be taken as a result of the assessment, including when they will be completed and who will be responsible. It is important that the officer leading on the assessment follows up to make sure the actions are completed, and updates the assessment as appropriate. Any significant risks identified should also be added to the appropriate service or directorate risk register, to ensure they are appropriately managed and reviewed.

Action	By When	Person responsible
Statutory notice on expansion consultation	4 November 2019 - 2 December 2019	Barbara Chillman
Decision on expansion consultation	18 December 2019	Cabinet Member for Education & Cultural Services
Increase in the school's admission (if approved by Cabinet Member for Education & Cultural Service)	1 September 2020	Barbara Chillman

Monitoring and review:

Try to be as specific as possible about when the assessment will be reviewed and updated, linking to key dates (for example when consultation outcomes will be available, before a Cabinet decision, at a key milestone in implementation)

Person responsible for assessment:

Version	Date	Notes (e.g. Initial draft, amended following consultation)
2019.1	November 2019	Initial draft
2019.2	December 2019	Review following statutory representation period

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