

Cabinet – 3 February 2016

Proposed expansion of Beacon Primary School, Greenfield Primary School, King’s Hill Primary School and St Giles CE Primary School from 1 September 2017

Portfolio: Councillor Chris Towe

Service: Children’s Services

Wards: All

Key Decision: Yes

Forward Plan: Yes

1. Summary

1.1 Following initial discussions with the head teachers of Beacon Primary School, Greenfield Primary School, King’s Hill Primary School and St Giles CE Primary School a pre consultation document was published on Walsall Council’s Website on 7 December 2015 on the proposal to expand each of the schools from 1 September 2017, in order to meet increasing demand for primary places in each of the four primary planning areas in which the schools are located. Subsequently a statutory four week formal consultation (the Representation period) commenced on 4 January 2016 with the publication of the complete proposal and the statutory public notice. Details of how to access the complete proposal were sent to head teachers of all Walsall Schools, neighbouring local authorities and diocesan representatives as per our previous consultation practice. The consultation process closes at 17:00 on 29 January 2016. This report provides details of the outcome of the formal consultation on this proposal which ended on 29th January 2016.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Cabinet approve the proposal to ‘significantly’ enlarge Beacon Primary School, Greenfield Primary School, King’s Hill Primary School and St Giles CE Primary School from September 2017.

2.2 That Cabinet approves the schemes and budgets set out in this report for school alteration works to enlarge Beacon Primary School, Greenfield Primary School, King’s Hill Primary School, and St Giles CE Primary School.

2.3 That Cabinet approves the procurement of school alteration works to enlarge Beacon Primary School, Greenfield Primary School, King’s Hill Primary School, and St Giles CE Primary School (such procurement exercises to be made in

conjunction with Integrated Facilities Management).

- 2.4** That Cabinet delegates to the Executive Director for Children's Services in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder(s) authority to award contracts for the provision of school alteration works to enlarge Beacon Primary School, Greenfield Primary School, King's Hill Primary School, and St Giles CE Primary School and to enter into contracts, by using the most appropriate procedures and to subsequently authorise the sealing or signing of any deeds, contracts or other related documents.
- 2.5** That cabinet note the building works required at Meadow View School as detailed in 6.5 of this report.

3. Report Detail

- 3.1** The primary purpose of the school estate is to support the best possible educational outcomes for all children for all children and young people. An effective and efficient school estate is vital to ensure the Council and its partners can deliver on its vision 'better together for children' in Walsall, so that it is the very best place for children to live, learn and grow up and a place where children are safe, happy, healthy and with a bright future.

Central to our ambition is the desire that every child should go to a good or outstanding school, have access to the best teaching, and benefit from schools and other providers working in partnership, knowing and sharing best practice within and across Walsall more widely.

The world is changing fast and expectations are rising rapidly, matched by an increasingly diverse education system. Nationally and internationally we have to achieve a more educated and skilled workforce and cannot afford to lose the potential of any young person. Our role is to be ambitious, focussed, and strategic in championing the needs and priorities of children and young people living, learning and growing up in Walsall.

In managing the estate, we are intending to secure a surplus capacity of 3-5% of the total number of school places. There are risks and costs to the Council, schools and communities of managing a school estate with either too many or too few pupil places. Managing a level of surplus places enables a level of parental choice.

3.2 Principles and the approach

To support this ambition the Council has adopted a set of principles and an approach to endure the most effective and efficient school estate possible in Walsall. The Council's approach to the school estate will be informed by:

- A robust partnership approach to changes and developments within the estate to build greater capacity in the system

- The raising of educational standards as a key driver for any changes to the school estate
- Supporting greater choice for parents and families
- A commitment to supporting vulnerable and children and reducing inequality
- Ensuring the estate and any changes make the most effective and efficient use of resources
- Ensuring every child has fair access to schools
- The desire for a system that delivers a range of options and programme pathways for all children and young people
- Ensuring sustainability and environmental concerns are considered including by helping reducing the overall distances that children and young people and families have to travel to school
- An approach that puts children and young people and their communities at the heart of related decision-making including for change to individual school
- That supports and is supported by the Council's developing admissions policy.

3.3 School Enlargement Criteria

In considering which schools to propose for enlargement a number of factors are considered, including;

- Location relevant to need
- Parental preference and popularity of schools
- Site related issues
- Cost efficiency
- Ofsted rating
- Reducing mixed age teaching
- Boundary issues
- Chosen schools appetite for increasing numbers
- Other relevant/contextual information

These factors are not formerly weighted but judgement inform a final overall.

Decisions need to be considered within and meet the DfE set financial envelope (see finance implications section 6 below).

A 'significant' school enlargement is classified for the purpose of this report as an 'enlargement of premises' to support an increase in the Pupil Admission number (PAN).

Both the approach to school enlargement (as above in 3.2) and the 'School enlargement criteria' were presented to Cabinet in February 2014 within the School Estate cabinet report. This report was also circulated to primary school Heads following a related presentation in February 2014 to the Primary Head Forum.

3.4 Pupil Planning Areas

To support our approach to school organisation and ensuring we are meeting our statutory duty as a Council to provide sufficient school places we have established planning areas for both primary and secondary schools.

There are 11 primary planning areas and 4 secondary planning areas.

Appendix A to this report includes the map identifying the 11 primary planning areas and a list identifying the primary schools in each area.

Appendix B to this report includes the map which identifies the 4 secondary planning areas and a list of the secondary schools in each area.

The planning areas are used to understand the number of 'local' school places that are available, level of enrolment and to project future demand both. It is equally important to understand both the whole borough and local context for school places.

3.5 How we project demand for school places?

To understand the demand for school places we consider a combination of

- Data on actual births from the Office of National Statistics
- Information on pupil migration
- Anticipated pupil yield numbers from new housing developments
- The current number of school places and related uptake
- Demand on pupil places in Walsall as a whole and within individual planning areas and across particular planning areas

Two processes are key in supporting our projections:

- The school census
- The annual school capacity survey (SCAP) report

The school census is completed three times per year in January, May and October. The census confirms the number of schools in Walsall and the number of children that are on roll at these schools and available places.

The school capacity (SCAP) report is completed for the Department for Education and is required to be signed off by the responsible Director (for Walsall the Director of Children's Services).

The SCAP return builds on the January and May school census returns and identifies the level and nature of any pressures on the number of places and projects the numbers of reception admissions over 5 years to 2019/20.

The SCAP data and projections are then updated by the key October census return.

The SCAP return is submitted in the summer term.

3.6 School places available, Numbers as Roll and projections for 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19

Appendix C illustrates by primary planning area the:

- Total places available in reception for 2015/16 (now)
- Actual numbers on roll (NOR) (as of October 2015)
- Projected pupil numbers for 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19

This projection is informed most importantly by the July 2015 SCAP return and October 2015 census return.

The appendix illustrates the demand on and identifies the 4 planning areas where we are proposing school enlargements.

It also gives a sense of the complexity of projections and why we need to both interpret current, future and past data and trends.

For example the projection suggests the need for additional school places in planning Area 4 yet we know that previous projections for this planning area have not resulted in the same level of actual demand. Trends and needs have been reviewed in the area and suggest a set of local circumstances where by a number of families move out of the area with their children on or before reception age or apply for and attend schools outside of the Borough.

3.7 The process for identifying schools for proposed future expansion

Alongside and following the SCAP submission to the DfE, we identify the pupil planning areas that our projections suggest are the areas with greatest need planning areas 1, 2, 3 and 9.

Colleagues in the Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team work closely with Council colleagues in Integrated Facilities Management to establish what schools in the identified planning areas are feasible for expansions (will the site or existing building accommodate an expansion) and what schools (Heads and Governors) have the appetite for expansions.

Updates are reported regularly to the Children's Services Capital Asset Programme Board (September, October and November).

A short list of schools was then produced and considered against all the criteria as stated in section 3.3.

The final list of four schools proposed for expansion was agreed in December and considered against all the criteria but with cost, value for money and the fit with the overall financial envelope available being determining factors for consideration.

For example in Planning Area 1, King's Hill Primary School was proposed for expansion to secure the additional 15 pupil places for a cost of £240,000 as opposed to, for example, the cost of expanding Old Church CE (C) Primary for the same 15 pupil places which would be from between £1.5m-£2m.

'The final list' outcome was fed back to all schools considered and follow up meetings held where requested (for example with colleagues from Old Church and Pelsall Village Schools)

Further work is already underway informed by future consideration of the October 2015 census to identify planning areas (including 1, 2, 3 and 9) that may require future pupil places and school expansions for 2017/18 and 2018/19.

It is proposed to significantly expand four primary schools from 1 September 2017 in order to meet this projected increase in demand for places.

- 3.8** It is proposed to increase the number of places in the Reception year group at Beacon Primary School (Primary Planning Area 3) from 45 to 60 from 1 September 2017. Currently the school admits up to 45 pupils into Reception each year and has places for a total of 315 pupils (excluding the nursery class). In addition, there are 80 part-time places in the nursery class. The school is a Walsall community school. It is proposed that the admission number is increased from 1 September 2017 when up to 60 children would be admitted to Reception. The increased admission number and school intake would then move up through the school annually, until the admission number of 60 applies to all year groups. The school is currently 1.5 FE (forms of entry) and it would become 2FE. This would create 15 additional places in Primary Planning Area 3.

If the proposal to expand the school from 1 September 2017 is agreed the local authority is proposing to admit up to 15 children above the published admission number in September 2016 and would therefore offer places to 15 additional children in the 2016 primary admission round, taking the number expected to be admitted to Reception in September 2016 to 60.

Beacon Primary school's last Ofsted inspection judgement (25.2.2015) was 'Requires improvement'.

The school is increasingly popular with parents and now oversubscribed in reception.

- 3.9** It is proposed to increase the number of places in the Reception year group at Greenfield Primary School (Primary Planning Area 9) from 30 to 45 from 1 September 2017. Currently the school admits up to 30 pupils into Reception each year and has places for a total of 210 pupils (excluding the nursery class). In addition, there are 60 part-time places in the nursery class. The school is a Walsall community school. It is proposed that the admission number is increased from 1 September 2017 when up to 45 children would be admitted to Reception. The increased admission number and school intake would then move up through the school annually, until the admission number of 45 applies to all year groups. The school is currently 1FE and it would become 1.5FE. This would create 15 additional places in Primary Planning Area 9.

If the proposal to expand the school from 1 September 2017 is agreed the local authority is proposing to admit up to 15 children above the published admission number in September 2016 and would therefore offer places to 15 additional children in the 2016 primary admission round, taking the number expected to be admitted to reception in September 2016 to 45.

Greenfield's Primary school's last Ofsted inspection judgement (20.9.2012) was 'Good'.

- 3.10** It is proposed to increase the number of places in the Reception year group at King's Hill Primary School (Primary Planning Area 1) from 45 to 60 from 1 September 2017. Currently the school admits up to 45 pupils into Reception each year and has places for a total of 315 pupils (excluding the nursery class). In addition, there are 46 part-time places in the nursery class. The school is a Walsall community school. It is proposed that the admission number is increased from 1 September 2017 when up to 60 children would be admitted to Reception. The increased admission number and school intake would then move up through the school annually, until the admission number of 60 applies to all year groups. The school is currently 1.5FE and it would become 2.FE. This would create 15 additional places in Primary Planning Area 1.

If the proposal to expand the school from 1 September 2017 is agreed the local authority is proposing to admit up to 15 children above the published admission number in September 2016 and would therefore offer places to 15 additional children in the 2016 primary admission round, taking the number expected to be admitted to Reception in September 2016 to 60.

Kings Hill Primary School's last Ofsted inspection judgement (13.11.2013) was for the school to be put into special measures. The school is expecting a further Ofsted visits (this month January) and is fully anticipated to move out of special measures.

- 3.11** It is proposed to increase the number of places in the Reception year group at St Giles CE Primary School (Primary Planning Area 2) from 45 to 60 from 1 September 2017. Currently the school admits up to 45 pupils into Reception each year and has places for a total of 315 pupils (excluding the nursery class). In addition, there are 52 part-time places in the nursery class. The school is a voluntary controlled Church of England school in Walsall and admits up to 11 of its 45 places as Church places to regular worshippers. It is proposed that the admission number is increased from 1 September 2017 when up to 60 children would be admitted the Reception and up to 15 of the 60 places could be offered as Church places to regular worshippers. The increased admission number and school intake would then move up through the school annually until the admission number of 60 applies to all year groups. The school is currently 1.5FE and it would become 2FE. This would create 15 additional places in Primary Planning Area 2.

If the proposal to expand the school from 1 September 2017 is agreed the local authority is proposing to admit up to 15 children above the published admission

number in September 2016 and would therefore offer places to up to 15 additional children in the 2016 primary admission round, taking the number expected to be admitted to Reception in September 2016 to 60.

St. Giles CE Primary School last Ofsted inspection judgement (5.3.2014) was 'Good'.

It has also been identified that there is a need for additional 2 year old places in the Willenhall area which may best be met by including 2 year old provision in the expansion at St Giles School. If this were to progress, following further consideration by the Early Years Capital and Revenue Sub Group, there would be an opportunity to join this development up with the proposed school enlargement in order to maximise the opportunity of securing the best value for money for both developments.

3.12 The table below shows the figures for the four Planning Areas where the schools being proposed for expansion sit in. These figures detail the total number of places available in Reception, the actual number on roll at the time of the October Census and the Projected Admission Number for the next three years.

Planning Area	Total places available in Reception	Actual Number on roll at the time of the October 2015 census	2016/17 Projected Reception admissions	2017/18 Projected Reception admissions	2018/19 Projected Reception admissions
Planning Area	435	439	489	470	473
Planning Area	450	438	433	452	459
Planning Area	360	362	368	369	361
Planning Area	270	272	278	261	274

The information above is considered alongside the overall demand for school places, across Walsall in adjacent planning areas and anticipated midyear admission pressures.

3.13 Initial discussions about the proposed expansions were held with the head teachers of all four primary schools during the Autumn Term 2015. A pre-consultation document was published on Walsall Council's Website on 7 December 2015 and letters were sent to the parents of children currently attending all four schools and to the student council members, staff and governors of all the schools informing them of the proposal and the arrangements for the formal consultation and dates of consultation meetings.

3.14 The complete proposal and statutory notice were published on 4 January 2016.

- 3.15** A period of formal consultation (the Representation Period) commenced on 4 January 2016 and the consultation closed at 17:00 on 29 January 2016. The complete proposal was published on the Walsall Council website and the Walsall Link website and copies of the statutory public notice were displayed at all entrances to each of the four schools throughout the consultation period. A copy of the public notice was published in the Express and Star on 4 January 2016. Letters were sent to the parents, the student council members, staff and governors of Beacon Primary School, Greenfield Primary School, King's Hill Primary School and St Giles CE Primary School on 4 January 2016 informing them of the consultation arrangements and the dates of the consultation meetings and providing information on how to access the complete proposal and the consultation response form. Details of how to access the complete proposal were also sent to head teachers of all Walsall schools via the schools post-box, neighbouring local authorities and diocesan representatives as per previous school enlargement consultation processes.
- 3.16** Consultation meetings were held with student council members, school staff, parents and governors at each of the four schools during the consultation period and copies of the minutes of each meeting were included in **Appendix D**. The meetings took the form of a presentation by Walsall Council, followed by a question and answer session.
- 3.17** The responses at the consultation meetings concerning the proposal to expand Beacon Primary School were all favourable.
- 3.18** The consultation meeting with the School Council at Beacon Primary School was attended by twelve members, the children who spoke at the meeting asked questions about how the expansion would affect the physical school building; there were no objections to the proposal. A total of 13 members of staff attended the consultation meeting at Beacon Primary School. The only questions raised by staff at the school were in relation to how the additional pupils would roll out at the school, staff were unsure whether 15 additional children would begin in each year group from September 2016. Attendance at the parents' consultation meeting was low with just two parents attending the meeting. Parents asked questions about the building work that was being planned at the school enquiring whether it would affect the surrounding streets and residents. Neither parent expressed an objection to the proposal. Four members of the governing body attended the governors' consultation meeting and their comments were all positive in regards to the expansion of the school. Full details of all questions and answers can be found in **Appendix D**.
- 3.19** The responses at the consultation meetings concerning the proposal to expand Greenfield Primary School were all in favour of the school expansion.
- 3.20** The consultation meeting with the School Council at Greenfield Primary School was attended by ten members, the children did not ask any questions but they

did say they thought the expansion was a good idea as it meant more children and therefore more friends. A total of three parents attended the consultation meeting and they did not ask any questions or having anything to comment on in regards to the school expansion. The staff meeting was attended by five members of staff and the head teacher, the staff wanted to know who made the decision on whether the expansion would go ahead and the criteria used to determine their school in the running. The school governors meeting was well attended with seven members of the school governing body in attendance. The meeting raised questions over how the classes would be structured and taught, what part of the building the expansion might affect and how the decision had been made to expand their school. Full details of all questions and answers can be found in **Appendix D**.

3.21 The responses at the consultation meetings concerning the proposal to expand King's Hill Primary School were overall favourable for the school expansion.

3.22 The consultation meeting with the School Council at King's Hill Primary School was attended by 13 members, the children who spoke at the meeting asked questions about how the expansion would affect the school and whether the school building was strong enough to have an expansion. The children did raise that there was significant issues at drop off and collection times at the school created by parking; the school council highlighted that there was a derelict patch of land owned by Walsall Council across the road from the school that could be utilised and also that they had a school field that they would be happy for it to be looked at to perhaps use. The School Council were all happy with expanding the school as they think more children will mean more friends and a larger opportunity to raise money for charity at school events. A total of 35 members of staff attended the consultation meeting at King's Hill Primary School there was no objection to the proposal from the staff with questions being asked in regards only to funding and space. Attendance at the parent's consultation meeting at King's Hill Primary School consisted of four parents. Parents raised concerns about the school currently being in special measures querying why Walsall Council did not feel it appropriate to wait until the school received a better Ofsted report before starting the school expansion. Only one parent from the four in attendance expressed a genuine concern regarding expanding King's Hill to 2FE. Four members of the governing body attended the governors' consultation meeting, with the chair questioning whether the report to cabinet was an evidence dossier or a recommendation from Walsall Council. The governing body all agreed that they felt the expansion was an exciting prospect that at their improving school would be welcomed warmly. Full details of all questions and answers can be found in **Appendix D**.

3.23 A formal consultation response was received from the Governing Body of Old Church CE (C) Primary that is critical of the decision making and consultation process and asking that the Council 'considerif.... the correct choices have been made'. There was also a response from the Darlaston Cluster Head

Teacher Group who reiterated the key points as detailed in the Old Church CE (C) Primary School response. (see appendix F).

3.24 The responses at the consultation meetings concerning the proposal to expand St Giles CE Primary school were all extremely favourable.

3.25 The consultation meeting with the School Council at St Giles CE Primary School was attended by 12 members, the children who spoke at the meeting spoke about things they would like at the school such as vending machines and more library space, and the children did not suggest that they would not like the school to expand. A total of nine members of staff attended the consultation meeting at school; there was no mention of objection to the plans to expand with staff only querying how the increase in pupil numbers would roll out at the school and requesting information as to where the physical expansion at the school would be completed. There were five parents that attended the parent's consultation meeting at St Giles CE with parents querying what other schools Walsall Council are proposing to expand, cost of the expansion at St Giles in particular and what questions the school council asked. The parents additionally queried where the funding for the expansion would come from, whether St Giles CE would have to pay the money back and whether staffing levels at the school would be capable to support a rise in school children, there was no objection to the plans to expand in fact the parents were all in support of the proposal. There were eight members of the governing body in attendance at the governors' consultation meeting. Questions from the governors were in regards to where the new build would be placed, what would happen if the proposal to expand was not successfully agreed at cabinet, what is the selection process for potential expansions and requesting details of what the general feedback from School Council, Staff and Parents had been. Full details of all questions and answers can be found in **Appendix D**.

3.26 The consultation response forms that were received in relation to the proposed expansion of Beacon Primary School, Greenfield Primary School, King's Hill Primary School, and St Giles CE Primary School can be found in **Appendix E**.

3.27 A statutory proposal and associated statutory notice were published on Monday 4 January 2016 and a statutory period of consultation (Representation Period) commenced on 4 January 2016 and ended on Friday 29 January 2016. A copy of the proposal is included in **Appendix G**.

4 Council Priorities

4.1 Walsall Council in its role as Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places available in the local area and additional places are required from 1 September 2017 at Beacon Primary School, Greenfield Primary School, King's Hill Primary School and St Giles CE (C) Primary School in order to meet an increasing demand for school places.

4.2 The proposal supports the Marmot principles and the Council's corporate priorities particularly:

- Creating Safe, Sustainable and Inclusive Communities
- Improving Safeguarding, Learning and the Life chances for Children and Young People raising aspirations

Ensuring sufficient school places across Walsall and in the appropriate places helps to support both positive educational outcomes and the health and well being of children.

5 Risk Management

The provision of additional places at Beacon Primary School, Greenfield Primary School, King's Hill Primary School and St Giles CE (C) Primary School will enable the Council to meet its statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places to meet the increasing demand and will create a greater opportunity for children in each of the four affected planning areas to attend a local school.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 The proposed expansions could involve extensions, alterations, remodelling or new buildings at all four school sites. Initial estimated costs outlined below for the four school enlargements are for capital works (and related fees) only and do not include revenue costs.

6.2 Beacon Primary School: the estimated value of works is £100,000 and the estimated value of fees and development costs is £20,000.

6.3 Greenfield Primary School: the estimated value of works is £400,000 and the estimated value of fees and development costs is £80,000.

6.4 King's Hill Primary School: the estimated value of works is £200,000 and the estimated value of fees and development costs is £40,000.

6.5 St Giles CE (C) Primary School: the estimated value of works is £750,000 and the estimated value of fees and development costs is £150,000.

6.6 The total estimate cost of £1.740m for all projects will be funded from the Basic Need Capital fund. This capital grant is allocated by the Department for Education to Local Authorities, based on pupil place number forecasts, to develop the additional places in schools to meet expected demand.

6.7 The ongoing increase in revenue funding for the four schools will be met from the Dedicated Schools Grant.

6.8 In terms of net capital funding available, there is £3.503m for 2016/17 and £4.101m for 2017/18 of Basic Need funding currently available and uncommitted. These balances are after deducting the following:

- £504k contingency for existing school enlargement projects, (detailed and agreed within the 28th October Cabinet report on school enlargements).
- The net capacity assessment for Meadow View JMI School produces an indicated admission number of 55, but the published admission number for the school has been set at 60 each year for more than ten years. The school has been significantly undersubscribed for some time, but recently there has been an increased demand for places in the planning area and numbers in the school have risen as a result. At the time of the October 2015 school census there were just 35 pupils on roll in Year 6 at the school and these children are currently taught in a single classroom, but from September 2016, when the current Year 5 cohort (59 pupils on roll at the time of the October 2015 census) transfers to year 6, an additional classroom will be required to enable the cohort to be accommodated in two classes each with up to 30 pupils. £400k estimated costs (including £50k contingency) relating to build work and temporary accommodation is associated with this project.

6.9 The estimated costs given in this report for each proposed expansion are estimated budget figures for building works and exclude the costs of meeting any requirement from planning for additional parking or any other conditions. The estimated costs exclude any internal fit out of equipment and fixtures and fittings that may be required.

The ongoing increase in revenue funding for the four schools will be met from the Dedicated Schools Grant.

6.10 Historically there have been significant risks associated with increased costs for existing school enlargements. It is therefore prudent to ensure the full Basic need allocation available is not fully committed in order to ensure an appropriate level of contingency remains. If the estimated costs do not increase further, a level of Basic Need funding would remain uncommitted at the end of 2016/17. This funding is ring fenced to school enlargement projects and would therefore be carried forward into future years until such time as additional places in schools are required (including Special School places and Pupil Referral Unit places).

7 Legal Implications

The statutory process for expanding a maintained school is set out in the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, which came into force in 28 January 2014.

8 Property Implications

The proposed expansions may involve extensions, alterations, remodelling or new buildings on four school sites as follows

- Beacon Primary School: requires additional toilets and the dining room extending by knocking through a dividing wall.
- Greenfield Primary School: the children's centre to be reconfigured into classrooms and additional toilets.
- King's Hill Primary School: requires an extension to the dining room.
- St Giles CE Primary School: requires the IT room converting to a classroom, the dining room server converting to classroom/toilets, the existing church house converting to 2 classrooms and toilets and a modular building for the server dining room.

9 Staffing Implications

Additional teaching and support staff will be recruited to provide for the additional children at the school.

10 Equality Implications

It is of crucial importance to the achievement of the Council's strategic objectives that the young people of Walsall are able to access the right provision to meet their needs in order to achieve appropriate qualifications, progressing to employment, and/or training and make a positive contribution within the borough in the future.

11 Consultation

Initial discussions were held with the head teachers of all four schools before publication of a pre-consultation document on the Walsall Council website on 7 December 2015. A period of statutory formal consultation (Representation Period) was held from 4 January 2016 to 17:00 on 29 January 2016 in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations (2013).

Background papers

DfE: School Admissions Code 2014

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

DfE: School Organisation Maintained Schools, Guidance for proposers and decision makers, (January 2014)

Authors

Alan Michell
Head of Service
01922 650320
alan.michell@walsall.gov.uk

Lynda Poole
Assistant Director - Access and Achievement
Email: poolel@walsall.gov.uk
Tel: 01922 652895

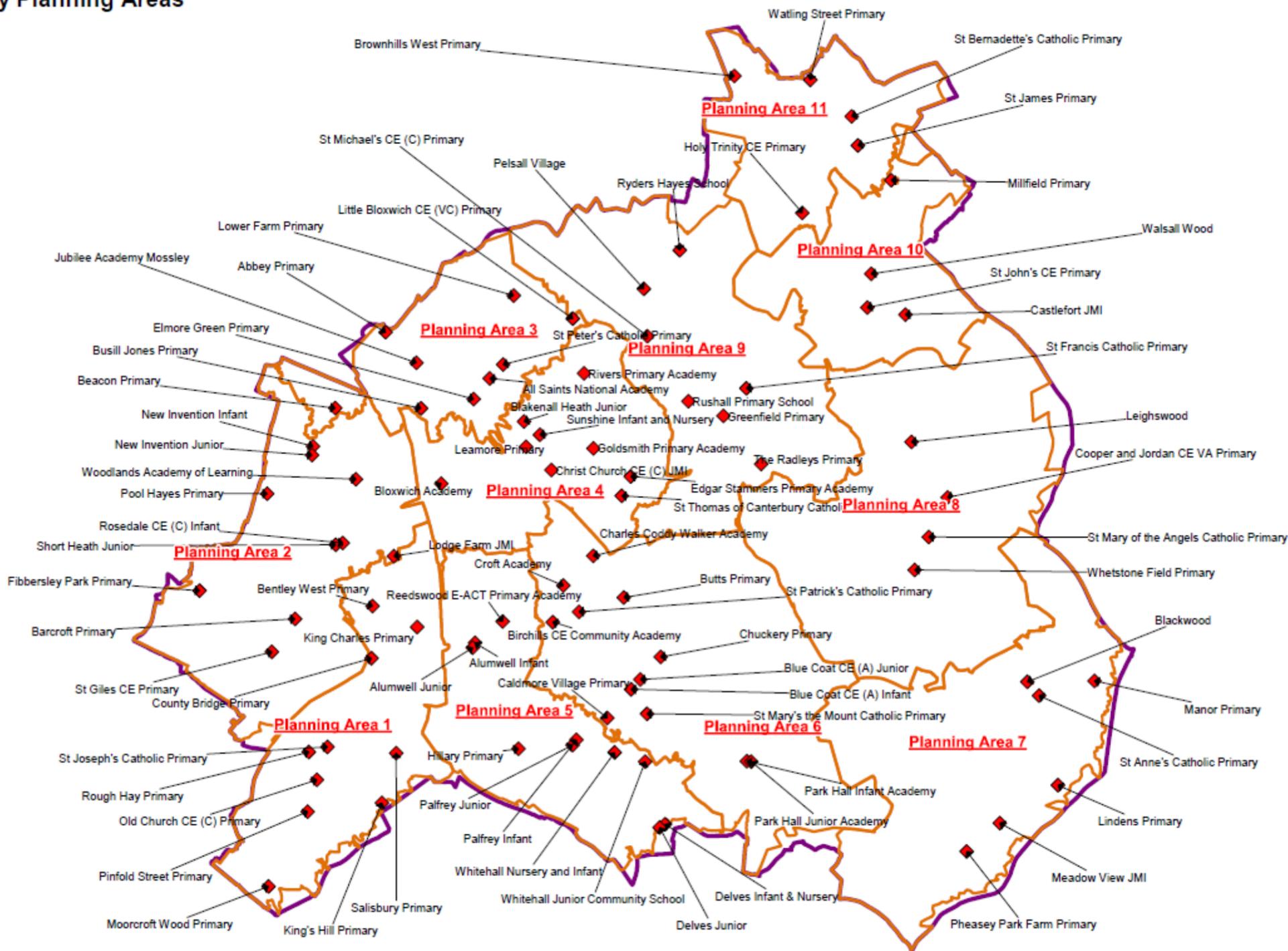


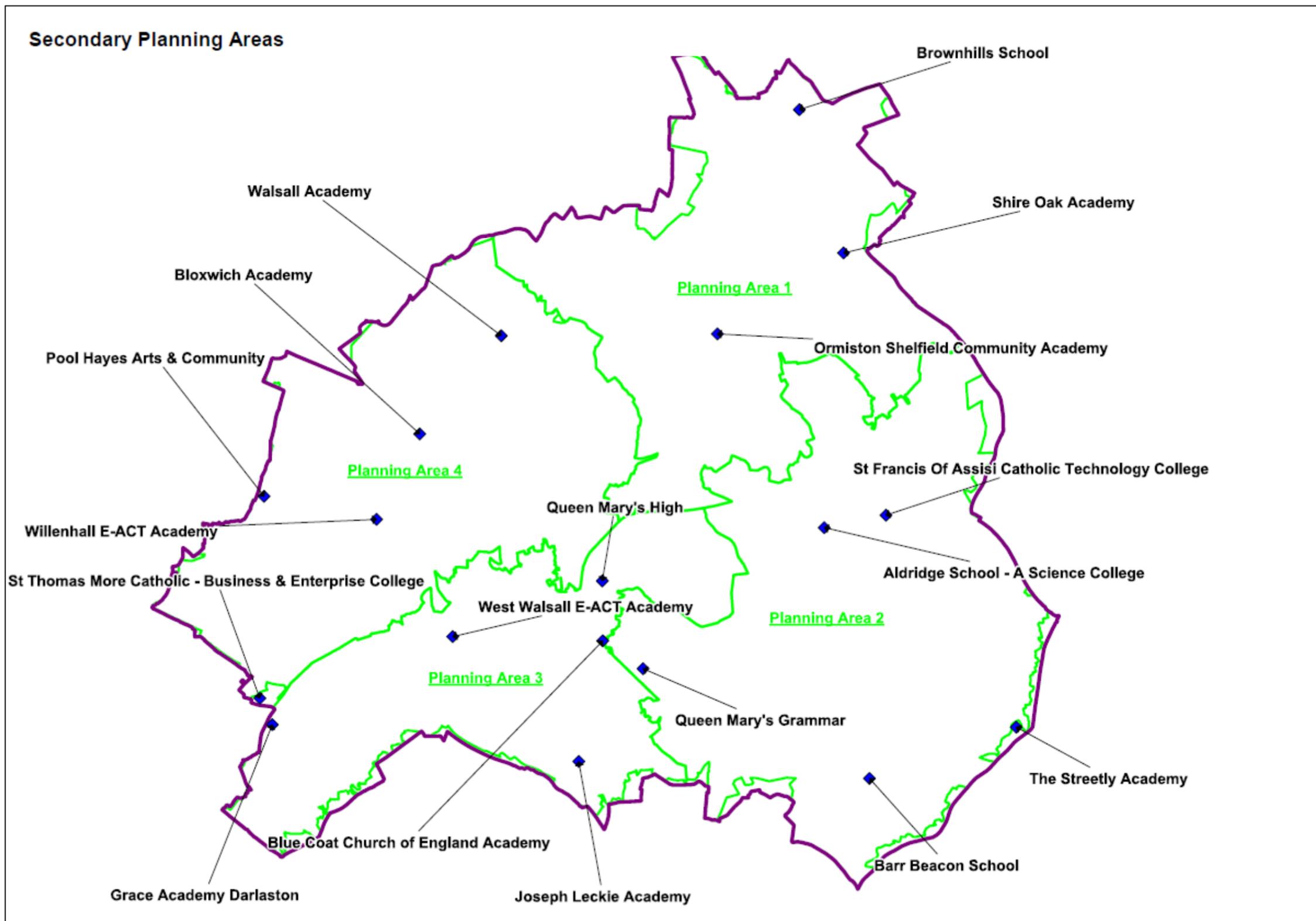
Signed:
Executive Director: David Haley
Date: 1 February 2016



Signed:
Portfolio Holder: Councillor C Towe
Date: 1 February 2016

Primary Planning Areas





Appendix C

Planning Area	Total places available in Reception	Actual NOR based on Oct15 Census	2016/17 Projected Reception Admissions	2017/18 Projected Reception Admissions	2018/19 Projected Reception Admissions
Primary Planning Area 1	450	439	469	470	473
Primary Planning Area 2	480	479	480	485	490
Primary Planning Area 3	360	362	358	359	361
Primary Planning Area 4*	330	385	349	350	351
Primary Planning Area 5	510	501	493	493	494
Primary Planning Area 6	510	499	502	507	509
Primary Planning Area 7**	360	356	383	368	370
Primary Planning Area 8**	195	196	210	216	214
Primary Planning Area 9	270	272	278	261	264
Primary Planning Area 10	135	136	112	95	90
Primary Planning Area 11	150	142	154	149	148

Planning Areas that are highlighted in red are the areas we are looking to expand

* Planning Area 4 - This planning area does show a projected increase in figures Edgar Stammers Academy had expressed an interest in expanding but have not consulted on any increase for 2017/18. St Thomas of Canterbury are consulting on an increase in PAN from 30 to 45 from September 2017 which would provide an additional 15 places in their area.

** Planning Area 7/8 - These planning areas annually produce projections that suggest a lack of spaces in the planning area however at the start of the September term the actual NOR does not reflect the statistical projection, suggesting that although the children are born in the planning area the children often cross the border to attend out of area schools and/or a number of families subsequently move out of the area.

**Consultation Meeting Notes
Beacon Primary School**

Location:	Beacon Primary School
Meeting With:	School Council
Date:	Tuesday 5 January 2016
Time:	2.15pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	Beacon Primary School
Kate Mann Service Manager – Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	Mrs Meredith Learning Mentor
Alex Haigh School Organisation Manager	12 members of the School Council

Kate Mann introduced herself as Service Manager for Admissions and Pupil Place Planning and Alex Haigh as School Organisation Manager from Walsall Council to the school council and outlined the Council's proposal to enlarge the school and explained the consultation process.

Questions, Comments and Responses:**Q. How will you make our school bigger?**

Kate advised that this was not something she could say in uncertain terms as another member of Walsall Council would come out to the school and meet with Mr Drew, the head, and between them, they would decide what needed to be done at the school to enable them to have more children there.

Kate Mann asked the school council if they were happy with everything they had heard and been shown, all the children said yes, she then asked if the children thought the increase would be a good idea the children again said yes.

Location:	Beacon Primary School
Meeting With:	Parents
Date:	Tuesday 5 January 2016
Time:	3.30pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	Beacon Primary School
Kate Mann Service Manager – Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	Mr Paul Drew Head Teacher
Alex Haigh School Organisation Manager	2 parents

Kate Mann introduced herself as Service Manager for Admissions and Pupil Place Planning and Alex Haigh as School Organisation Manager from Walsall Council to the school council and outlined the Council's proposal to enlarge the school and explained the consultation process.

Questions, Comments and Responses:

Q. Are people in the street going to be made aware of the expansion?

Explained that the proposal has been published in the Express and Star newspaper and besides that individual people were not notified by Admissions and Pupil Place Planning however should a build be required when discussed following approval from cabinet potentially this may be something that Planning at Walsall Council put into place.

Paul Drew added that from his conversations with Integrated Facilities at Walsall Council it is unlikely that any additional external changes are required at the school as they already have the capacity to accommodate the children at the school. Mr Drew added that currently although the school is 1.5FE he operates two classes for each year group so there is no real issue in regards to classroom size and space. He believes that there may be some small refurbishments required at the school to areas such as dining and toilet facilities. He also advised he would be looking at the issue of parking with local councillors and speaking with Walsall Council as well.

Q. Will this expansion be from September 2017 or 2016?

Kate advised that as schools admissions arrangements have to be determined a full year in advance and so they have already been set for 2016 and cannot be altered meaning the expansion would be detailed in their Admission Arrangements for 2017. However if the school was able to accommodate the additional children from September 2016, i.e. any build work completed that was required then the school with agreement from Admissions and Pupil Place Planning and the head teacher the school could admit over the published admission number of 45.

Location:	Beacon Primary School
Meeting With:	School Staff
Date:	Tuesday 5 January 2016
Time:	4.00pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	Beacon Primary School
Kate Mann Service Manager – Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	Mr Paul Drew Head Teacher
Alex Haigh School Organisation Manager	13 members of Staff

Kate Mann introduced herself as Service Manager for Admissions and Pupil Place Planning and Alex Haigh as School Organisation Manager from Walsall Council to the school council and outlined the Council's proposal to enlarge the school and explained the consultation process.

Questions, Comments and Responses:

Q. If the admission number increase in Reception from 2017 as a rolling increase at the school and a child applied for a place in a higher year group could we admit them being that eventually that year group will be for 60 places or would we have to wait until the increase PAN reached that particular year group?

Kate explained that at any point should the Admission and Pupil Place Planning Team need to admit an additional child to a year group it would be discussed with Mr Drew and should it be agreed that it was feasible and they could be accommodated another pupil it would be done as a permitted exception.

Location:	Beacon Primary School
Meeting With:	School Governors
Date:	Tuesday 5 January 2016
Time:	4.30pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	Beacon Primary School
Kate Mann Service Manager – Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	Mr Paul Drew Head Teacher
Alex Haigh School Organisation Manager	4 School Governors

Kate Mann introduced herself as Service Manager for Admissions and Pupil Place Planning and Alex Haigh as School Organisation Manager from Walsall Council to the school council and outlined the Council's proposal to enlarge the school and explained the consultation process.

Questions, Comments and Responses:

Q. How do we respond to the proposal?

Kate advised that the response form was available through Walsall Council Website, from Mr Drew or from Alex Haigh. Kate advised that there were four weeks for people to respond but any comments must be returned by 5pm Friday 29 January 2016.

Q. What affect will this increase have on the schools grouping?

Mr Drew interjected and advised that this is something he was working on with Jane Bonner and would advise the governors separately.

Q. When would the school know if they were going to be able to admit over PAN of 45 from?

Ideally, the Admissions and Pupil Place Planning team would like this to be in place so we could offer 60 places for Reception 2016 on the National Offer Date of 18 April 2016.

**Consultation Meeting Notes
Greenfield Primary School**

Location:	Greenfield Primary School
Meeting With:	School Council
Date:	Thursday 21 January 2016
Time:	2.30pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	Greenfield Primary School
Kate Mann Service Manager – Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	Miss Watkins
Alex Haigh School Organisation Manager	10 members of school council

Kate Mann introduced herself as Service Manager for Admissions and Pupil Place Planning and Alex Haigh as School Organisation Manager from Walsall Council to the school council and outlined the Council's proposal to enlarge the school and explained the consultation process.

Questions, Comments and Responses:

No questions from the children, however they did say they would like the school to be bigger as more children would mean more friends.

Location:	Greenfield Primary School
Meeting With:	Parents
Date:	Thursday 21 January 2016
Time:	3.30pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	Greenfield Primary School
Kate Mann Service Manager – Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	Mrs Lee – Head teacher
Alex Haigh School Organisation Manager	3 parents

Kate Mann introduced herself as Service Manager for Admissions and Pupil Place Planning and Alex Haigh as School Organisation Manager from Walsall Council to the school council and outlined the Council's proposal to enlarge the school and explained the consultation process.

Questions, Comments and Responses:

No questions

Location:	Greenfield Primary School
Meeting With:	School Staff
Date:	Thursday 21 January 2016
Time:	4.00pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	Greenfield Primary School
Kate Mann Service Manager – Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	Mrs Cath Lee – Head Teacher
Alex Haigh School Organisation Manager	5 members of staff

Kate Mann introduced herself as Service Manager for Admissions and Pupil Place Planning and Alex Haigh as School Organisation Manager from Walsall Council to the school council and outlined the Council's proposal to enlarge the school and explained the consultation process.

Questions, Comments and Responses:

Q. When will a decision be made and when will we know?

The cabinet meeting is on Wednesday 3 February 2016 where a decision will be made, we will then inform the school of the decision as soon as possible.

Q. Why has Greenfield Primary School been chosen for expansion?

The criteria used to shortlist the schools for potential expansion are as follows:

- Location relevant to need
- Parental preference and popularity of schools
- Site related issues
- Cost efficiency
- Ofsted rating
- Reducing mixed age teaching
- Boundary issues
- Chosen schools appetite for increasing numbers
- Other relevant/contextual information

Any decisions need to be considered within and meet the DfE set financial envelope

Location:	Greenfield Primary School
Meeting With:	School Governors
Date:	Thursday 21 January 2016
Time:	6.00pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	Greenfield Primary School
Kate Mann Service Manager – Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	Mrs Cath Lee – Head Teacher
Alex Haigh School Organisation Manager	7 members of school governors

Kate Mann introduced herself as Service Manager for Admissions and Pupil Place Planning and Alex Haigh as School Organisation Manager from Walsall Council to the school council and outlined the Council's proposal to enlarge the school and explained the consultation process.

Questions, Comments and Responses:

Q. Will the school become a two form entry (2FE) from September 2016?

No the school will be becoming a 1.5FE however the increase in children will not be all put into the school in one go, they will be introduced on an annual basis with an additional 15 children going into Reception each year until it has fully rolled out to each year group.

Q. If 1.5FE how will the classes operate?

Cath Lee, head teacher, interjected to explain this would be a school and staff decision following a decision being made by Cabinet. Cath explained that she definitely would not be operating streaming at the school however; the school would probably operate mixed age teaching. This mixed age teaching potentially could operate as:

Reception – 45 in class
Year One (pure) – 30, Year 1 & 2 (mixed) 30 & Year Two (pure) – 30
Year Three (pure) – 30, Year 3 & 4 (mixed) 30 & Year Four (pure) – 30
Year Five (pure) – 30, Year 5 & 6 (mixed) 30 & Year Six (pure) – 30

Q. What are the plans for the expansion?

This will be decided with the head teacher and Integrated Facilities Management if the decision to go ahead with the expansion is agreed by cabinet.

Q. Will it socially change year groups?

Cath Lee, head teacher answered to say she felt it would be beneficial as children that didn't work well together could be put with other children that they worked better with.

Q. Do we review the schools reports when looking to expand schools?

Ofsted reports are taken into account long with comments from the School Improvement Team to determine the schools suitability.

Q. What criteria was reviewed to select the school?

The criteria used to shortlist the schools for potential expansion are as follows:

- Location relevant to need
- Parental preference and popularity of schools
- Site related issues
- Cost efficiency
- Ofsted rating
- Reducing mixed age teaching
- Boundary issues
- Chosen schools appetite for increasing numbers
- Other relevant/contextual information

Any decisions need to be considered within and meet the DfE set financial envelope

Q. What if the school drops in Ofsted categories in upcoming Ofsted won't this be bad for the school?

Arguably all schools Ofsted can change with schools going from outstanding to Special Measures, there is nothing set in stone with any Ofsted Category to advise that a school would definitely remain as it currently is.

Q. Have there been any rejections to the proposal?

No, we have received no opposition to the school expansion.

Q. Is there any building work required at the school?

This would be discussed with Integrated Facilities Management should the decision to expand the school go ahead following the cabinet meeting.

**Consultation Meeting Notes
King's Hill Primary School**

Location:	King's Hill Primary School
Meeting With:	School Council
Date:	Wednesday 6 January 2016
Time:	2.00pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	King's Hill Primary School
Kate Mann Service Manager – Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	Mrs Nin Matharu Head Teacher
Alex Haigh School Organisation Manager	13 members of School Council

Kate Mann introduced herself as Service Manager for Admissions and Pupil Place Planning and Alex Haigh as School Organisation Manager from Walsall Council to the school council and outlined the Council's proposal to enlarge the school and explained the consultation process.

Questions, Comments and Responses:

Q. Is our building strong enough? What about the pipes?

Once a decision has been made about whether Walsall Council are going to go ahead with making King's Hill Primary School larger they will send out a person from a team called Integrated Facilities Management to look round the school with Mrs Matharu to decide how would be best to make the school able to have more children. This person will look at the walls and pipes and make sure that the building is safe and secure for more children to be placed in the school. This may mean more toilets or dining hall space but all those decisions will be made once Walsall Council know for definite whether the plans to expand will go ahead and they will be discussed with Mrs Matharu.

Q. Who will pay for the extra work?

The government provide money to Walsall Council each year called 'Basic Need Funding', if Walsall Council decides to go ahead with making King's Hill bigger some of this money will be spent at your school to develop it so it can accommodate more children.

Q. Our parents struggle to park by the school to drop us off and pick us up from school – will someone look at making more car parking spaces?

Although space cannot all of a sudden be made to appear for car parking, it is something that will be considered by Walsall Council after the decision to expand has been made.

Q. Can we make a suggestion for car parking?

Kate advised yes their opinions would be noted down.

King's Hill Primary School have a plot of derelict land across the road from the school that just overgrown with shrubs and trees which could be cleared and used as a small car park or drop off zone which could relieve some of the pressure on the busy road outside the school. Additionally the school have a sports field that they would be happy to provide for space for parking.

Kate advised this information would be passed to Cabinet along with the children's questions.

Q. How would 15 more children fit in the playground with us?

At the minute, all the children have their lunch and playtimes together, Mrs Matharu may look at changing this if there is not enough space for everyone to play together and split play times. She and the staff at the school will decide this once a decision on the expansion has been made.

Kate explained again that not every year group would gain 15 more children from September and that it would be a rolling annual process where children are admitted over a number of years until the school is full with every year group having 60 pupils in a class; this would not be until at least 2023.

Q. Will the dining hall be big enough?

This is something that will be looked at when the person from Walsall Council comes out to the school following the decision from Cabinet on whether to make King's Hill Primary School bigger.

Q. What is in it for us? Can you make our playground a bit better?

Again, this is something that Mrs Matharu will look at with the person that comes out to look at the school and a decision would be made based on their recommendations.

Kate asked the children whether they thought an expansion would be a good idea at the school.

The children think it would be a good idea as they could raise more money for charity if there are more children at the school also they would be able to make more friends.

Location:	King's Hill Primary School
Meeting With:	Parents
Date:	Wednesday 6 January 2016
Time:	2.30pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	King's Hill Primary School
Kate Mann Service Manager – Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	Mrs Nin Matharu Head Teacher
Alex Haigh School Organisation Manager	4 parents

Kate Mann introduced herself as Service Manager for Admissions and Pupil Place Planning and Alex Haigh as School Organisation Manager from Walsall Council to the school council and outlined the Council's proposal to enlarge the school and explained the consultation process.

Questions, Comments and Responses:

Q. What are the four schools that you are looking to expand?

The schools that are being consulted on for expansion are Beacon Primary School, Greenfield Primary School, King's Hill Primary School, and St Giles CE Primary School.

Q. Are there any more schools in our planning area that are being reviewed for possible expansion?

Currently King's Hill is the only school in the planning area that is being consulted upon for expansion.

Q. When will Cabinet make their decision?

Cabinet are meeting on Wednesday 3 February 2016 and will make a decision at that meeting.

Q. Are you aware King's Hill is currently in Special Measures?

Yes, it is something we are aware of and have taken into account however it is felt by the School Improvement Team at Walsall Council that there has been significant developments at the school leading the council to have confidence that Kings Hill is improving rapidly and fully expected to move out of special measures at its next Ofsted inspection which is anticipated in the near future.

Q Why not wait until the school is out of Special Measures?

As previously mentioned we are confident that the school have improved rapidly recently and should move out of special measures at the next Ofsted inspection. The shortage of school places in the planning area is something that is currently an issue and needs to be address as soon as possible.

Q. Just because you're expanding the school does not mean that people will apply to go here – aren't you bothered that potentially the school could just be full of children that did not get the school they had actually applied for?

The school is becoming more popular as is the area and so we are confident that places will be utilised at the school.

Q. Will this expansion go ahead regardless of people's views? Has the decision already been made?

No the decision has not been made yet, all the information from the consultation along with people's opinions made on response forms will be collated and presented to the Cabinet on Wednesday 3 February 2016 where the final decision will be made based on all the evidence provided.

Q. Are you just increasing this school as it is the cheapest option?

Not at all various factors as well as budget are taken into account before a decision is made on which school to begin consultations on and King's Hill Primary School matched a variety of this criteria hence why it has been put forward for expansion.

Kate explained again how parents could respond to consultation and advised that any information sent into Walsall Council by 5pm on Friday 29 January 2016 would be presented to Cabinet.

Location:	King's Hill Primary School
Meeting With:	Staff
Date:	Wednesday 6 January 2016
Time:	3.30pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	King's Hill Primary School	Other
Kate Mann Service Manager – Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	Mrs Nin Matharu Head Teacher	
Alex Haigh School Organisation Manager	35 members of staff	

Kate Mann introduced herself as Service Manager for Admissions and Pupil Place Planning and Alex Haigh as School Organisation Manager from Walsall Council to the school council and outlined the Council's proposal to enlarge the school and explained the consultation process.

Questions, Comments and Responses:

- Q. We all saw the article printed in the Express and Star in regards to our school and felt disheartened that this would mean we could not expand, is this the case?**

Not at all, the information from the consultation meetings and responses that people sent in to Alex, by 5pm 29 January 2016 will collated and presented to Cabinet for them to make a decision on Wednesday 3 January 2016.

- Q. Are Walsall Council currently looking at any other schools in the planning area that King's Hill Primary School is in?**

King's Hill Primary School is currently the only school in Planning Area 1 that is being consulted on but indications from projected pupil numbers have suggested that another school may be required to be reviewed in the near future.

- Q. Birmingham Local Authority have a shortage of school places and they actually rotate what schools have places, hence bulge years at different schools – is this something Walsall Council has looked at?**

Birmingham Local Authority have a much larger area than Walsall and their shortages of places potentially could be on a much larger scale, a rotation such as they have implemented has not been felt necessary at Walsall.

- Q. Will the nursery provision alter to 60 too?**

As nursery places are not statutory it is not something that the Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team are working on this would be something Mrs Matharu would need to discuss with our Walsall Council colleagues who provide support for two year old provision.

- Q. Will the school fund the expansion or will Walsall Council?**

The funding for expansion would come from the Basic Need Fund Budget, which is allocated to Walsall Council on an annual basis from the Department of Education.

Location:	King's Hill Primary School
Meeting With:	School Governors
Date:	Wednesday 6 January 2016
Time:	4.30pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	King's Hill Primary School
Kate Mann Service Manager – Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	Mrs Nin Matharu Head Teacher
Alex Haigh School Organisation Manager	4 member

Kate Mann introduced herself as Service Manager for Admissions and Pupil Place Planning and Alex Haigh as School Organisation Manager from Walsall Council to the school council and outlined the Council's proposal to enlarge the school and explained the consultation process.

Questions, Comments and Responses

Q. When the evidence from the consultation process is presented to Cabinet will it just be an evidence dossier or will there be a recommendation made?

There will be a recommendation for whether the school is a viable option at this point, as well as providing the Cabinet with all the evidence that has been submitted to Walsall Council.

Q. What percentage of response would you like from parents/staff/governors?

Walsall Council would encourage anyone and everyone to respond and put their option forward for whether they felt the expansion would be beneficial at the school.

The Chair advised that as a governing body they felt very positive about the expansion at King's Hill Primary School and excited at the prospect of growing and increasing the ethos at the school and would therefore write a response to be presented to the Cabinet in line with this.

Old Church School petition

Although not presented as part of the formal consultation process a petition was submitted by Councillor D James in support of the enlargement of Old Church School.

The petition stated *'We the parents and carers, of pupils attending Old Church CE (C) Primary School, fully support the petition for our 'GOOD' school (OFSTED April 2014) to become a 2-form entry school. This is in the best interest of the children and will solve the problem of mixed age classes and increase the number of Reception places which are over-subscribed every year. There are not enough spaces for the children in DARLASTON in a 'GOOD' school and was signed by 247 parents and carers of pupils. `* Section

3.7, 6.9 & 6.10 in the main body of the report in particular response to the petition statement above.

**Consultation Meeting Notes
St Giles CE Primary School**

Location:	St Giles CE Primary School
Meeting With:	School Council
Date:	Thursday 7 January 2016
Time:	2.15pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	St Giles CE Primary School
Kate Mann Service Manager – Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	Miss Marvey Deputy Head Teacher
Alex Haigh School Organisation Manager	12 members of School Council

Kate Mann introduced herself as Service Manager for Admissions and Pupil Place Planning and Alex Haigh as School Organisation Manager from Walsall Council to the school council and outlined the Council's proposal to enlarge the school and explained the consultation process.

Questions, Comments and Responses:

Q. Can we have a food machine at school so we can have fruit as well as toast for breakfast?

Kate advised this was something that perhaps they could suggest to Mr Dakin if new dining facilities are created at the school.

Q. Can we have a classroom where the dining hall is and a new bigger dining hall?

Kate explained that should the application be passed by Cabinet on 3 February 2016 then someone would come out to the school and have a look with Mr Dakin at where the dining hall was and if it needed making bigger they would sort this then.

Q. Can we have computers and more books in the school library – with a bigger quiet area and maybe a readers chair?

Again Kate advised this would be something that the children could suggest to Mr Dakin to see if it would be possible once the expansion has been done.

Q. How long would the building construction take?

This would depend on what is decided needs doing at the school but hopefully any work that needed to be completed would be done during the school summer holidays so that more children could start in the September.

Q. Can we have a room which we can use for Dolphin Club?

Dolphin Club sounds like a wonderful idea and that works well in school, perhaps the members could speak with Mr Dakin about having a permanent space for the club to meet.

Location:	St Giles CE Primary School
Meeting With:	Parents
Date:	Thursday 7 January 2016
Time:	3.45pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	St Giles CE Primary School
Kate Mann Service Manager – Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	Mr Mark Dakin Head Teacher
Alex Haigh School Organisation Manager	5 Parents

Kate Mann introduced herself as Service Manager for Admissions and Pupil Place Planning and Alex Haigh as School Organisation Manager from Walsall Council to the school council and outlined the Council's proposal to enlarge the school and explained the consultation process.

Questions, Comments and Responses:

Q. What are the four schools that you are looking to expand?

The schools that are being consulted on for expansion are Beacon Primary School, Greenfield Primary School, King's Hill Primary School, and St Giles CE Primary School.

Q. Are all the schools the same Ofsted rating?

No the Ofsted ratings at the schools are all different and are as follows:

- Beacon Primary School: Requires Improvement – 25.02.2015
- Greenfield Primary School: Good – 20.09.2012
- King's Hill Primary School: Special Measures – 13.11.2013
- St Giles CE Primary School: Good – 05.03.2014

Q. If the proposal is agreed at cabinet is there a budget available for the work or will the school have to find the funds themselves?

There is a fund pot called Basic Need Funding that is monies applicable for such projects.

Q. Can the funds be requested back at any point?

Not if spent, if we just sat on the pot of money and did not use it then yes potentially but not if we use it with the correct guidance as we intend to at St Giles CE Primary School.

Q. Can St Giles CE cope with an increase?

The head teacher believes that should the school building be up to standard to take on more children then yes they will be fine accepting the additional 15 pupils each year. The school already operates two form entry so they should not noticeably be a vast alteration. The process of starting the additional children at the school will not be done in a bulk it is an annual increase whereby 15 children will be admitted every September into the reception cohort until the school is full this will be approximately 2023/24.

Q. Who decided whether building need extending or new buildings are completely required?

Should the decision to increase go ahead someone from Walsall Council will come out to meet with Mr Dakin and they will decide the best course of action for ensure the school can cope with additional children.

Q. What did the School Council raise?

Mainly ideas about what they would like at the school such as food machines and more library space.

Q. How can we involve more parents?

We have published the statutory notice online and in the local papers and letters have been sent home to all parents. If parents feel that another meeting would be beneficial before the end of the consultation period which is Friday 29 January 2016 at 5pm, then Kate and Alex can arrange with Mr Dakin to return.

Q. Can you guarantee that staff will be increased and having more students in the class won't dilute the staffing levels that are already in place at the school?

For KS1 Infant Class Size Legislation dictates that children are not able to be taught in classes above 30 and therefore the school would have to operate a two form entry and have two staff teaching each year group of 60.

Location:	St Giles CE Primary School
Meeting With:	Staff
Date:	Thursday 7 January 2016
Time:	4.30 pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	St Giles CE Primary School
Kate Mann	Mr Mark Dakin

Service Manager – Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	Head Teacher
Alex Haigh School Organisation Manager	9 members of staff

Kate Mann introduced herself as Service Manager for Admissions and Pupil Place Planning and Alex Haigh as School Organisation Manager from Walsall Council to the school council and outlined the Council's proposal to enlarge the school and explained the consultation process.

Questions, Comments and Responses:

Q. How will the 15 additional pupils roll out at the school?

The school will have an additional 15 children every year until each school year cohort is 60, this will be approximately 2023.

Q. Where will you physically expand?

This has not been decided yet, if the application is passed by Cabinet on Wednesday 3 February 2016, members of Walsall Council will visit the school and discuss this with Mr Dakin.

Location:	St Giles CE Primary School
Meeting With:	School Governors
Date:	Thursday 7 January 2016
Time:	6.00pm

PRESENT:

Walsall Council	St Giles CE Primary School
Kate Mann Service Manager – Admissions and Pupil Place Planning	Mr Mark Dakin Head Teacher
Alex Haigh School Organisation Manager	8 School Governors

Kate Mann introduced herself as Service Manager for Admissions and Pupil Place Planning and Alex Haigh as School Organisation Manager from Walsall Council to the school council and outlined the Council's proposal to enlarge the school and explained the consultation process.

Questions, Comments and Responses:

Q. Will we use existing buildings or provide a new build at the school?

Until Cabinet has made the decision as to whether the proposal will go ahead this has not been decided. If the application is passed by Cabinet in February then someone from Walsall Council will visit the school and meet with Mr Dakin to decide the best place.

The Chair of the School Governors advised that a church building has been allocated for the school to use and would be happy for this to be utilised where possible as the school will require three classrooms and increased dining hall provision.

Q. What will happen if Cabinet decide to refuse the proposal to expand St Giles CE Primary?

If this happens the school will not expand to admit 60 children into each year group, however Walsall Council would need to look into other options as it is clear that the planning area needs additional places.

Q. What is the government designated area that children are 'allowed' to travel?

The statutory walking distance for primary school aged children is that they can travel by foot up to two miles for an infant aged child – aged 8, from age 8 this distance changes to 3 miles.

Q. What assurance can Walsall Council give that if the proposal to expand goes ahead and we offer places to 15 additional children on National Offer Date in April the building work would be completed?

Unless the work could be guaranteed to be completed by September 2016 no offers would be made, the proposal does detail that St Giles CE cannot accommodate any additional children unless any work required on the building is completed.

Q. Who has the authority to make the school go over number?

Walsall Council is the school's admission authority and therefore they have the final decision as to whether a school should go over number however this would never ordinarily be forced at a school without discussion with the head teacher. In addition St Giles CE Primary School would not normally be a school where this is encouraged due to the size and lack of space at the school.

Q. What was the criteria used when looking for prospective schools to expand?

The criteria used to shortlist the schools for potential expansion are as follows:

- Location relevant to need
- Parental preference and popularity of schools
- Site related issues
- Cost efficiency
- Ofsted rating
- Reducing mixed age teaching
- Boundary issues
- Chosen schools appetite for increasing numbers
- Other relevant/contextual information

Any decisions need to be considered within and meet the DfE set financial envelope

Q. What costs are we working on for expanding St Giles CE Primary School?

At the moment there is not a definitive amount however desktop estimates are showing costs of approximately £950,000, this may change when Quantity Surveyors review the site.

Q. Has feedback being positive from earlier meetings with School Council, Staff and Parents?

Yes all feedback has been that people are excited and positive about the changes that this would bring to the school.

The Chair of Governors added that he felt the expansion would be a great idea at St Giles CE Primary School and that they would welcome it with 'open arms.' All members of the school council agreed with the Chair that they were happy and excited for the expansion and that they would put their feelings in a letter of response formally.

Summary of Consultation Responses

Beacon Primary School

A total of two consultation response forms were received in relation to the proposed expansion of Beacon Primary School. There were 0 responses from pupils, 0 parents/carers, 1 from governors, staff and 1 from other. Responders were asked to indicate whether they supported the proposal, details of their responses are provided in the table below and full responses are detailed in Appendix F.

	Do you support the proposal?			
	Yes	Unsure	No	Nil Return
Pupils				√
Parents				√
Staff				√
Governors	√			
Parent/pupil combined Response				√
Other		√		
Total	1	1	0	

Greenfield Primary School

A total of 0 consultation response forms were received in relation to the proposed expansion of Greenfield Primary School. There were 0 responses from pupils, parents/carers, governors, staff or other. Responders were asked to indicate whether they supported the proposal, details of their responses are provided in the table below, and full responses are detailed in Appendix F.

	Do you support the proposal?			
	Yes	Unsure	No	Nil Return
Pupils				√
Parents				√
Staff				√
Governors				√
Parent/pupil combined Response				√
Total	0	0	0	√

King's Hill Primary School

A total of 2 consultation response forms were received in relation to the proposed expansion of King's Hill Primary School. There were 0 responses from pupils, parents/carers, governors, staff however there were 2 responses from others. Responders were asked to indicate whether they supported the proposal, details of their responses are provided in the table below, and full responses are detailed in Appendix F.

	Do you support the proposal?			
	Yes	Unsure	No	Nil Return
Pupils				√
Parents				√
Staff				√
Governors				√
Parent/pupil combined Response				√
Other			2	
Total	0	0	2	n/a

St Giles CE Primary School

A total of 44 consultation response forms were received in relation to the proposed expansion of St Giles CE Primary School. There were 6 responses from pupils, 21 responses from parents/carers, 3 responses from governors, 11 responses from staff and 3 responses from other. Responders were asked to indicate whether they supported the proposal, details of their responses are provided in the table below, and full responses are detailed in Appendix F.

	Do you support the proposal?			
	Yes	Unsure	No	Nil Return
Pupils	6			
Parents	13	8		
Staff	11			
Governors	3			
Other	3			
Total	36	8	0	n/a

Detailed Consultation Responses

This appendix provides a verbatim account of all written feedback received as part of the consultation and has been considered as part of the decision making process

Beacon Primary School:

Pupil	Indicate your interest in the proposal:					Do you support the proposal?			Comments
	Parent/Carer of a Pupil	Governor	Member of Staff	Other	Please State your interest:	Yes	No	Unsure	
		✓				✓			<p>"Following our attendance yesterday evening of the Consultation Meeting for Governors concerning the Proposed Enlargement of Beacon Primary School I agreed as Chair of Governors to write to you concerning our views on the proposal.</p> <p>The meeting was well presented by Kate who explained very clearly the proposed enlargement and the timescale for it. We as the Governing Body of Beacon Primary had already discussed the issue at our most recent meeting where the governors expressed a unanimously positive view in favour of the proposal. Details given at last night's meeting merely served to endorse and enhance that positivity.</p> <p>As a governing body we are working hard to support our new head teacher in his determination to make Beacon a very successful school of which its whole community can be proud. Our most recent high position in the Borough League Tables is testament to the ongoing success of our endeavours.</p> <p>We take our selection as a school to be enlarged as an endorsement of all that we are trying to achieve for our pupils, placing their school at the heart of its community.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact me if I or my Governor colleagues can assist you further.</p> <p>I would appreciate it if you could make this email available to Cabinet Members when they make their decision on enlargement so that they will be aware that the Governing Body of Beacon Primary School are in total support of the proposal"</p>
				✓				✓	<p>"I am a resident living in one of surrounding streets next to the school, and currently we have huge problems with people blocking off drives, double parking so the bus can't get through etc.. If there are more pupils at the school, thus more cars for the school run, will there be provision</p>

									made for parking on the school site itself (some of the area for the field perhaps) so that the residents of the estate do not suffer. This is my only concern regards the expansion."

Greenfield Primary School:

Indicate your interest in the proposal:						Do you support the proposal?			Comments
Pupil	Parent/Carer of a Pupil	Governor	Member of Staff	Other	Please State your interest:	Yes	No	Unsure	

King's Hill Primary School:

Indicate your interest in the proposal:						Do you support the proposal?			Comments																											
Pupil	Parent/Carer of a Pupil	Governor	Member of Staff	Other	Please State your interest:	Yes	No	Unsure																												
					Governing Body of Old CofE Primary School				<p>Old Church is a school which has requested becoming a two form entry school for 3 years. Members from the local authority visited and were very favourable when looking around the school. However, the Head took a telephone call saying we weren't being considered or put forward to increase numbers without any explanation as to why the decision had been made. The Governing body have 2 major concerns with this: The way the process has happened The choice of schools put forward for consideration The school currently has the following make up:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Nur</th> <th>Rec</th> <th>Y1</th> <th>Y2</th> <th>Y3</th> <th>Y4</th> <th>Y5</th> <th>Y6</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>No on roll</td> <td>52</td> <td>45</td> <td>45</td> <td>45</td> <td>45</td> <td>44*</td> <td>45</td> <td>45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Waiting list</td> <td>4</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Nur	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	No on roll	52	45	45	45	45	44*	45	45	Waiting list	4	7	8	2	2	3	4	2
	Nur	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6																												
No on roll	52	45	45	45	45	44*	45	45																												
Waiting list	4	7	8	2	2	3	4	2																												

									<p>*Place offered.</p> <p>During the first week of term in September school turned away 30 families who requested a place at Old Church. We turn away on average 3 families a week who are additional to those on our waiting list. We currently have brothers and sisters in different schools awaiting a place at Old Church and families who live next door to school who cannot get a place at Old Church</p> <p>The Process</p> <p>At the PNS meeting on January 14th 100% of Head teachers in the room (approximately 50) had no idea that a consultation process was under way or that the LA were looking at increasing numbers in schools. Only 1 Head teacher knew that since the process had started that there were a set of criteria used to determine the choice of school. This does not represent a true consultation.</p> <p>The consultation paperwork was sent to 'post bag', which is the schools general email, during the Christmas holidays and only at the request of Councillor James at a meeting on December 18th 2015. It also was in a PDF format, which could not be written on. The consultation document was not sent directly to the Head teachers/ governing bodies of schools and could be easily missed over the holidays. We have approximately 1,000 e-mails over the holidays.</p> <p>No criteria or requests for an increase in size were made public. The Governing Body still have not had a copy of the criteria for expansion, as requested at the meeting on 18th December with Alan Mitchell. Again all but 1 Head teacher at the PNS meeting on January 14th had any knowledge of the criteria used to base the decision to increase the number of places in schools.</p> <p>Mr Mitchell told the meeting, we requested, on 18th December that there was no weighting on the criteria. In discussion if this was the case, Old Church came out a clear winner for an expansion. If cost was heavily weighted as a criteria, this should have been made clear. Although, the cost on expanding other areas have no logical reason- spend £480,000 to increase a school with declining numbers.</p> <p>The choice appears to have already been made and not a consultation. The Headship at King's Hill was advertised in the Times Educational Supplement on a 2 form entry salary scale. It has been argued that this was because they had no previous applicants and wanted to make the job more attractive.</p> <p>However, the link to the website clearly stated that King's Hill was a 2 form entry school. This was confirmed by a telephone call to the TES and the copy of the advert sent to Cllr Doug James. The staff at Kings Hill have also been told the school is going to be a 2 form entry school and that building work will</p>
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

									<p>start soon.</p> <p>The selection of which year groups to increase is also strange. Whilst Reception is an issue every year there are other year groups across the authority, which have a huge demand on places. We have been told that there is to be an increase of 15 children in Reception. This questions how data was accessed and analysed. Why is there not provision to increase the places in other years? The numbers on the waiting list in Old Church show the demand is particularly in the current Reception and Year 1.</p> <p>Clarification is needed as to how the costing for both schools was carried out? Old Church put forward several alternatives. The option for this September at Old Church is to put a play area in the middle courtyard with a canopy. Were all alternatives considered? We strongly believe that it will not cost 1.5 million to make changes to Old Church and want the proposal reassessed.</p> <p><i>To conclude, the Governors of Old Church Primary do not believe that the process in selecting which schools to increase in size has been fair, open, thoroughly thought through and transparent.</i></p> <p>Choice of School</p> <p>Old Church has averaged over 100 applicants for 45 Reception places in the last 3 years. Kings Hill cannot fill their current Reception places and is the only school in Darlaston that has spaces across the school. Old Church is full with a huge waiting list.</p> <p>Parental choice is a huge issue and parents do not want to send their children to Kings Hill. Darlaston is a very traditional community and King's Hill is not their school of choice. I request that the panel check the number of places available in other schools in each year group. This is a clear indicator of parental choice.</p> <p>Why has a school in Special Measures been chosen over 2 schools who applied who are 'Good'? We are told that Kings Hill is a school with 'the wrong label.' we do wish that we have the same faith that all OFSTED inspectors are that predictable. Nobody can guarantee that a school will come out of a category, especially as on last year's performance data Kings Hill was one of the worst performing schools in the LA languishing in 73rd position out of 77 schools in Walsall. We realise that Kings Hill has OFSTED this week and for the children of Darlaston we genuinely hope they have a good rating. However, this does not rectify the fact that when the decision was made that Kings Hill were in Special Measures.</p> <p>The new OFSTED criteria for local authorities, relates to how</p>
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

								<p>many children attend at least good school and not how many schools are in a 'good' category. Surely it makes sense to increase the number of children in a 'good' school as the best way for the local authority to achieve its target for OFSTED. The condition of the building is also an issue. Although, it has been stated that Kings Hill will need less money spent on it in the instance, the long term costs have to be considered. Kings Hill is an ageing school, who had a wall collapse during the OFSTED inspection when the previous head was in post. Old Church is a much more modern school who has new heating, wiring, doors, windows and a new kitchen and offers a more attractive and modern building.</p> <p>The figures presented in the consultation document cause concern. Planning area 1, which Darlaston is in shows an increase with 23 new places needed by 2018/19. Whilst, planning area 3 only has an increase in 1 child and planning area 9, which is having £480,000 spent on it has a decline in demand for places. Is this the best use of tax payer's money? This is a very strange decision and questions how the decision to increase certain schools has been made.</p> <p>The Local Authority has identified Old Church as a future school for focused learning for children with Autism. This is a desperately needed resource. There have been several visits and a detailed proposal put forward to the SEND team. However, the Head teacher has always stated that this provision could not go ahead without an increase in numbers to the pan as classes are already full. By refusing the increase in numbers at Old Church would mean putting this resource in jeopardy.</p> <p>Kings Hill had £300,000 spent on a new Nursery provision in September and yet they are struggling to fill the provision for 2 year olds. Would increasing the Reception at Kings Hill be the right move or will it follow the same pattern as the Nursery? We clearly request that you look at the number of empty places at Kings Hill and compare these with Old Church.</p> <p>Project costs and funding- referring to the above table. There is no logical reasoning behind why an area with a decrease in numbers is having £480,000 spent on increasing the size of school. Area is clearly the area where there needs to be a significant expansion, on figures quoted but a significant amount of tax payers money is being spent where an increase is not needed based on your projections. Please explain the logic behind this?</p> <p><u>To conclude</u> <i>This response is not a personal attack on Kings Hill or and of the other schools in the process. We are sure that Kings Hill will come out of Special Measures this week with the great staff</i></p>
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

									<p><i>they have and we will be delighted for them. We realise that the schools who have been put forward for expansion all want this in the best interest of their children. However, this whole process has been carried out by the local authority in a way that lacks clarity and discussion with the people who know Darlaston the best – the Heads in the Darlaston cluster. They too have sent in a consultation feedback.</i></p> <p><i>There is clearly a need for more than one school in Darlaston to increase in size due to the figures produced. The Parents, staff and Governors fully support the expansion at Old Church. Parents have presented a petition to Cllr James.</i></p> <p><i>To conclude, at Old Church we are extremely disappointed in the decisions made and urge you to look at changing the future processes and procedures for major decision making when a huge amount of money is being spent.</i></p> <p><i>Secondly, please consider have the correct choices been made, particularly when a school is having a huge amount of money spent on expansion and yet has a decline in the number of children by 2018. This in our opinion is not the best use of tax payer's money or in the best interest of the children who need schooling in the area they live.</i></p>
				√	Darlaston Cluster Head Teacher Group				<p><u>Response to Consultation on school places and the enlargement of 4 schools.</u></p> <p><u>Discussed at Head Teacher's Meeting on 18th January 2016</u></p> <p>We are not supportive to the measures outlined in the proposal documents for the following reasons:</p> <p>Within the proposal document there is no indication of the processes involved in coming to the conclusions put forward. There is no indication of what criteria have been used to select schools within each planning area or, indeed, what the needs are in the other planning areas.</p> <p>It is not clear what discussions have been had with schools forums, schools clusters, other head teachers or governors regarding these arrangements.</p> <p>If one criteria for selection was school effectiveness, why are there schools less than good on the list to be extended. If Walsall Children's Services are serious about every child in a good or better school then why is an inadequate school being extended. Is it acceptable for pupils in Darlaston, therefore, to be educated in less than good schools?</p> <p>One of the schools is currently rated 'inadequate'. If it continues to be rated inadequate it may well become an academy. What guarantees are there that this school will not be an academy by September 2017 with Walsall effectively paying for a larger school for an academy sponsor?</p>

									<p>Are all the proposed schools full to capacity at the present time? Was there any provision data for years other than Reception and, if yes, what were the outcomes?</p> <p>Looking at the figures presented is a cause for concern. From these figures the increase in these 4 areas is a total of 28 children.</p> <p>The total costs outlined are £1,740,000 this equates to £62,143 per child. Is this regarded as a value for money approach?</p> <p>Planning Area 9 shows a drop in projected admissions. By the figures proposed in the document £480,000 is to be spent in an area where Reception places are dropping in the next two years. This does not make sense without any additional information.</p> <p>If these proposals are carried out, what financial provision will be needed to move the increased numbers of children through the schools? This is a long term commitment not just a few changes in the reception classes.</p> <p>It is stated that the arrangements 'will not jeopardise the viability of any other mainstream school' What is the basis for this statement in terms of data and evidence?</p> <p>This proposal does not carry a sufficient evidence base to justify its conclusions. There is no information about process or data. But more concerning there is no evidence to justify the decision to increase capacity of schools which are less than good which leaves the impression that Walsall Children's Services are happy to allow children in their care to be educated at schools which are recognized as not being good.</p>

St Giles CE Primary School:

Indicate your interest in the proposal:						Do you support the proposal?			Comments
Pupil	Parent/Carer of a Pupil	Governor	Member of Staff	Other	Please State your interest:	Yes	No	Unsure	
		✓				✓			<p>"A discussion was held and all Governors unanimously agreed that the proposed expansion of the School was fully supported and welcomed whole heartedly by the Governing Board. The Governing Board would look to support the School and the Local Authority with the expansion project should the proposal be formally approved by cabinet on Wednesday 3 February 2016. It was agreed that the Chair of the Governing Board would</p>

									submit a formal response to the Local Authority outlining the Governing Board's formal approval of the expansion proposal. Ms Mann thanked the Governing Board for their support."
			✓ Head Teacher				✓		<p>"The proposed enlargement of St Giles CE Primary School will provide much needed school places for children & families who reside within the Willenhall Town Centre residential location. The school is already full in all year groups and is heavily over-subscribed, with waiting lists in many year groups. The proposed enlargement will ensure that all children will be taught in pure year groups, enabling the school to deliver the National Curriculum in the way the Dept of Education prescribes. Proposed improvements to the school infrastructure, including the provision of a purpose built dining hall capable of providing facilities for the whole school is much needed and is essential to meet the increased demand of pupil numbers. Ideally, the dining hall would also incorporate storage and toilet facilities for children and staff.</p> <p>The current dining hall although too small to cater for the current numbers is ideal in size to be used as a year 6 classroom, which would then ensure both year 6&5 children would be taught within the same teaching block and not split. The new classroom would have to have a cloakroom area incorporated. This building could also be portioned further to provide meeting/small group tuition space as the school has limited teaching spaces/zones.</p> <p>If the current dining hall is converted to a classroom and a new block is built then the school would only require two further classrooms. The church hall could be used by being converted into two teaching spaces or indeed could be demolished to make way for a purpose built teaching block incorporating two classrooms, cloak and toilet facilities for children and staff to use.</p> <p>The school currently has a class being taught in a temporary building, if funding allowed a further classroom could be sited on designated/identified land creating further/much needed meeting space to hold parental workshops and to support vulnerable pupils.</p> <p>It is essential that any increase in pupil numbers does not reduce the facilities already relied upon to meet the needs of the current pupils. It is essential that Library and ICT facilities are retained."</p>
			✓				✓		No Comments
		✓					✓		"The proposal is long overdue and will benefit the school and Willenhall and the families of the area. With the finding to be given for extra teachers and pupils it gives myself as a

									parent/governor peace of mind. Hopefully if the proposal goes ahead you will take on board the ideas and proposals of the Head, Staff, Governors Pupils and Parents of St Giles School making it a continued great school."
✓								✓	<p>"Thanks you for coming to talk to us. We are writing to you about the expansion of St Giles CE Primary. We strongly think that the expansion is an excellent idea. It would make classes less crowded and would make them into better learning spaces. This would mean each child is taught in their own year group. As a School Council we came up with lots of ideas e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locker rooms for team sports during school time. • Upgraded quiet area. • More modern and high-tech library. • Better and bigger dining room. • Use the old dining room as a classroom. • Rooms for pupils to calm down (nurturing). • Common room for year 6 pupils <p>If you go ahead with this expansion, the school will be bigger, better and benefit more children in the community. Children will have enhanced education and Willenhall will become a superior and more popular place."</p>
✓								✓	<p>Dear Walsall Council,</p> <p>We are writing this letter to try and convince you to expand and improve our fantastic school. St Giles is a very old and popular school so therefore needs to have more improvements to transform it into a more modern school.</p> <p>School Council met together to discuss why the expansion of our school will benefit us all. Your decision to increase the number of children in every year group from reception to year 6, creating two classes for each year will enable pupils to be taught in their own age group. This will be more beneficial for our school.</p> <p>We also made more suggestions to improve our school To build more classrooms. Develop the dining room; Put more facilities (like a salad bar) into the dining hall. It would be even better if the food was cooked in the dining hall so it could include a wider variety of food.</p> <p>We are very passionate about reading therefore redesigning the whole library with additional features such as computers for individual research projects.</p>

									<p>Due to more children coming in to learn, it would only be sensible to install more toilets, sinks and hand dryers. In addition, in the playground there needs to be more equipment to play with so pupils will be more happy & healthy at our school.</p> <p>We would also like a common room for Year 6 to relax and chat with colourful sofas to sit on. With this facility they could engage more with each other and play fun games together.</p> <p>We would really like it if you could consider these ideas and try to make them happen. It would really benefit the school and the community for years to come.</p>
✓							✓		<p>We are writing to you about the expansion of St. Giles C.E Primary. We strongly think that the expansion is a great idea. It would make more learning space and classrooms less crowded. As School council we came up with a lot of ideas e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Make the current dining room a classroom. ● Locker rooms for children who play football [in school]. ● Just year 6 in one class room and year 5 in another. ● Better dining room. ● Upgraded play area. ● A calming room for children with anger problems to calm down. ● Upgrade the library for new books and high-tech computers. <p>We will be pleased if you go ahead with the expansion and our ideas. Please help to make our school a new, even more popular place for children here and new ones to arrive.</p>

✓						✓		<p>We are writing to you to about the expansion of St Giles Primary School and contributing a few more ideas about the expansion. Here are some of our suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More class rooms may need more teachers • Rebuild dining hall with brand new furniture and our own kitchen (we love fresh food!) • Better and more facilities for playground e.g. skipping ropes (summer), tennis court. • Rebuild the adventure trail. <p>We think two year group classes for every year is a great idea so we could have round about 60 children in each class or 120 pupils in each keystage phase.</p> <p>Although the school is very old, it is a fantastic and a popular school. We are looking forward to the improvement of our lovely school.</p> <p>We also discussed redecorating the library so we could have computers. If we can't find a book we can research it online.</p> <p>Thank you for reading our suggestions.</p>
	✓					✓		<p>"I would like to send my children in this school because they do really good education. All teachers are really good too they really helpful."</p>
	✓					✓		No Comments
	✓					✓		No Comments
✓						✓		No Comments
				✓	Auntie of Pupil	✓		<p>"Would benefit the local community as the school is in high demand and has limited places therefore has to turn potential pupils away"</p>
	✓					✓		<p>"The bigger the school the more resources, hopefully impacts on improved learning on our children."</p>

	✓					✓			"The enlargement of the school I feel will be beneficial to children, staff and all who attend."
	✓							✓	No Comments
	✓							✓	No Comments
	✓					✓			No Comments
	✓					✓			
	✓					✓			"I am quite happy with the proposal of enlarging the school, St Giles is a very good school & my boys seem to be thriving in the environment. I hope that in making the school larger it does not hinder them in anyway, but I am sure that they will thrive and grow with the school."
	✓							✓	"My main concern would be that more children might mean an even further stretch on resources. I sometimes feel that communication is lacking and that parents only hear about important meetings and events through word of mouth. I wonder whether more pupils at the school will put an even greater burden on staff and that this will result in this aspect of school life suffering."
	✓							✓	
	✓					✓			"Yes I want school is more site for pupils because I like all our school's arrangements and behavior of staff – Thanks."
	✓							✓	No Comments
	✓							✓	No Comments
	✓							✓	No Comments
	✓	✓				✓			"Fully support the proposal to enable the children to be taught within their specific year group and not

									mixed year group and not mixed year groups. The Willenhall area needs these extra spaces so children do not have to travel excessive distances.”
	√					√			“It will be a good idea, my children are in mixed years, it will be better for my children to be taught in their age group. I feel they should be taught in the appropriate age group. A shared eating area for all children should be a must, at the moment the current dining room cannot do that, children should have the opportunity to eat with their friends. Expanding the school will give other parents a chance to have their children in school who live in the area. I know some that have to travel because they didn’t get a place.”
√	√					√			No Comments
√	√								No Comments
	√					√			“Yes I want school mine sites for pupil because I like all school.”
						√			No comments
			√			√			No Comments
			√			√			“It would benefit the children by having pure classes, an extra toilet facility would be needed to accommodate extra staff, a kitchen area (child friendly) would be a good addition as at present we have nowhere for the children to cook in DT.”
			√			√			“It would be beneficial if any new or refurbished building to have staff toilets. Also it is vital that we retain ICT suite and library, it would be very pleasing if any new building could fit each classroom with more storage, wash area with hot water and computers. Intervention groups make a significant

									contribution to our children's development, it would be ideal if we can have more space/rooms to continue with this."
			√			√			"The proposal to enlarge St Giles will be of huge benefit to all the pupils as they will be taught in pure year groups in line with the new National Curriculum expectations. It would also create more space for staff who need additional support to achieve age related expectations. More staff and pupil toilets will help all."
			√			√			"St Giles would greatly benefit from this. Having extra space for intervention groups etc... Extra toilets would have to be provided."
			√			√			"This would benefit the children as they can be taught in the same age groups. More toilets need to be added and more space for intervention and small group work to be fulfilled effectively."
			√			√			"The children would benefit from same age/year classes not mixed, more room for interventions, children would be able to eat lunches together not separate more toilets for staff and children."
			√			√			"It would be beneficial if children were taught in single year groups (instead of mixed classes). This would enable intervention groups to be more effective as it would free up create more space. More toilets needed."
			√			√			"I do support the proposal as long as we didn't lose the library and ICT suite as there are essential to our curriculum. It would benefit the children by having two classes per year group instead of mixed classes at the moment."

			√			√			“An expansion to the school is much needed. The school works hard to bring the building up to date, but facilities could be improved further with extra space. Making the school a 2FE will benefit the children and also allow an even greater quality of teaching. By allowing the ICT suite and library to be used for their intended use, we will be able to implement them more in the regular timetable for the benefit of all pupils. Extra toilet and kitchen facilities are also much needed.”
	√					√			No Comments
	√					√			“Without enlargement local people will be unable to get their children into this school which is very unsatisfactory. The school is outstanding in my opinion and should be made available to as many pupils as possible.”
			√			√			“A large number of pupils need additional support on a 1-1 basis it is essential to have a quick and uninterrupted environment to carry this out. At present it is almost impossible to do this – extra learning space for quality pupil time is absolutely necessary.”

Proposal to significantly enlarge Beacon Primary School, Greenfield Primary School, King’s Hill Primary School and St Giles CE Primary School from 1 September 2017

This proposal provides relevant information in accordance with the *School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013*.

School Details:

Beacon Primary School	Greenfield Primary School	King’s Hill Primary School
Davis Road	Coal Heath Lane	Old Park Road
Willenhall	Sheffield	Wednesbury
WV12 5HA	WS4 1PL	WS10 9JG

St Giles CE Primary School
Walsall Street
Willenhall
WV13 2ER

Local Authority Details:

Walsall Council - Civic Centre
Darwall Street
Walsall
WS1 1TP

Description of the proposal:

Walsall Council, acting as Local Authority, has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places available in the local area. Each year Walsall Council uses birth data, information about planned housing developments, and information about cross border migration to project the number of school places that will be needed in the future. In order to ensure that additional places are made available in the areas where they will be needed the Council organises its primary schools into 11 Primary Planning Areas. Additional places are needed from 1 September 2017 in Primary Planning Area 1, Primary Planning Area 2, Primary Planning Area 3, and Primary Planning Area 9 in order to meet an increasing demand for primary school places in the local area. Walsall Council is proposing to expand King’s Hill Primary School (Primary Planning Area 1), St Giles CE Primary School (Primary Planning Area 2), Beacon Primary School (Primary Planning Area 3), and Greenfield Primary School (Primary Planning Area 9) from 1 September 2017 in order to meet the increased demand for primary places in each area.

The table below shows the number of places, which are currently available in Reception across all the schools in the four planning areas affected by the proposal, the actual number of pupils who were admitted to schools in the planning areas in September 2015, and the number of children who are projected to be admitted in the next three years:

Planning Area	Total places available in	Actual number on roll at the time of the October 2015	2016/17 Projected Reception admissions	2017/18 Projected Reception admissions	2018/19 Projected Reception admissions
---------------	---------------------------	---	--	--	--

	Reception	Census			
Planning Area 1	450	439	469	470	473
Planning Area 2	480	479	480	485	490
Planning Area 3	360	362	358	359	361
Planning Area 9	270	272	278	261	264

King's Hill Primary School (Planning Area 1)

King's Hill Primary School Provides primary education for pupils between the ages of 3 and 11 years. Currently the school admits 45 pupils to each year group. The school currently has places for a total of 315 pupils (excluding the nursery class). In addition, there are 46 part-time places in the nursery class. The school is a community school in Walsall. The local authority is proposing to admit up to 15 children above the published admission number in September 2016 and will therefore offer places to 15 additional children, taking the number expected to be admitting to reception in September 2016 to 60.

It is proposed to increase the number of places in the Reception year group, from 45 to 60 from 1 September 2017. The increased admission number and school intake would then move up through the school annually, until the 60 intake applied to all year groups. The school would become a 2 FE (Forms of Entry) school; currently it is 1.5 FE.

St Giles CE Primary School (Primary Planning Area 2)

St Giles CE Primary School provides primary education for pupils between the ages of 3 and 11 years. Currently the school admits up to 45 pupils into Reception each year. The school currently has places for a total of 315 pupils (excluding the nursery class). In addition, there are 52 part-time places in the nursery class. The school is a voluntary controlled school in Walsall; it is a popular school, which is often oversubscribed with large waiting lists for school places. The local authority is proposing to admit up to 15 children above the published admission number in September 2016 and will therefore offer places to 15 additional children, taking the number expected to be admitting to reception in September 2016 to 60, subject to completion of the onsite building work.

It is proposed to increase the number of places in the Reception year group from 45 to 60 from 1 September 2017. The increased admission number and school intake would then move up through the school annually, until the 60 intake applied to all year groups. The school would become a 2 FE (forms of entry) school; currently it is 1.5FE.

Beacon Primary School (Primary Planning Area 3)

Beacon Primary School provides primary education for pupils between the ages of 3 and 11 years. Currently the school admits up to 45 pupils into Reception class each year. The school currently has places for a total of 315 pupils (excluding the nursery class). In addition, there are 80 part-time places in the nursery class. The school is a community school in Walsall. The local authority is proposing to admit up to 15 children above the published admission number in September 2016 and will therefore offer places to 15 additional children, taking the number expected to be admitting to reception in September 2016 to 60.

It is proposed to increase the number of places in the Reception year group from 45 to 60 from 1 September 2017. The increased admission number and school intake would then move up through the school annually, until the 60 intake applied to all year groups. The school would become a 2FE (forms of entry) school; currently it is 1.5 FE.

Greenfield Primary School (Primary Planning Area 9)

Greenfield Primary School provides primary education for pupils between the ages of 3 and 11 years. Currently, the school admits up to 30 pupils into Reception class each year. The school currently has places for a total of 210 pupils (excluding the nursery class). In addition, there are 60 part-time places in the nursery class. The school is a community school in Walsall. The local authority is proposing to admit up to 15 children above the published admission number in September 2016 and therefore offer places to 15 additional children, taking the number expected to be admitted to reception in September 2016 to 45. It is proposed to increase the number of places in the Reception year group from 30 to 45 from 1 September 2017. The increased admission number and school intake would then move up through the school annually until the 45 intake applied to all year groups. The school would become a 1.5FR (forms of entry) school; currently it is 1FE.

Effect on other schools in the area:

Additional places are needed at Beacon Primary School, King's Hill Primary School, Greenfield Primary School, and St Giles CE Primary School in order to meet an increasing demand for primary school places in Primary Planning Areas 1, 2, 3 & 9. The proposed expansion of these four schools will enable the local authority to meet its statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places available in each of the three planning areas and will not jeopardise the viability of any other mainstream school.

Site Arrangements:

No new or additional sites will be required, as necessary building work will be undertaken on the existing sites of all four schools.

Projects Costs and Funding:

The proposed expansions will involve extensions, alternations, remodelling or new buildings on all four school sites. The estimated cost of each of the proposed expansions is as follows:

- Beacon Primary School: the estimated value of works is £100k and estimated value of fees and development costs is £20k
- Greenfield Primary School: the estimated value of works is £400k and estimated value of fees and development costs is £80k
- King's Hill Primary School: the estimated value of works is £200k and estimated value of fees and development costs is £40k
- St Giles CE Primary School: the estimated value of works is £750k and estimated value of fees and development costs is £150k

All funding will be from Basic Need Capital.

NB These are only budget figures for building works and exclude any requirement from planning for additional parking or any other conditions. They exclude any internal fit out of equipment and fixtures and fittings that may be required.

Implementation:

The proposal would be implemented from 1 September 2017.

Details of how to respond to the proposal:

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal (by Friday 29 January 2016), any person wishing to submit any comments either in support of, or objecting to, the proposal may do so by sending them to:

Alex Haigh – School Organisation Manager, Admissions and Pupil Place Planning
Zone 2E Civic Centre
Darwall Street
Walsall
WS1 1TP

Alternatively, by email to: alex.haigh@walsall.gov.uk