

Cabinet – 14 September 2011

Outcome of consultation on proposal to significantly enlarge Caldmore Primary School

Portfolio: Councillor Rachel Andrew, Children's Services

Service: Walsall Children's Services - Serco

Wards: St Matthews and neighbouring wards

Key decision: Yes

Forward plan: Yes

1. Summary

At the meeting on 8 June 2011, Cabinet approved consultation on a proposal to significantly enlarge Caldmore Primary School in order to meet an increased demand for primary school places in the local area. This report provides details of the outcome of consultation on this proposal.

2. Recommendations

That Cabinet approve the publication of a statutory proposal to significantly enlarge Caldmore Primary School from 1 FE (Forms of Entry) to 2 FE by increasing the intake from 30 to 60 places from 1 September 2012.

3. Report detail

- 3.1 Caldmore Primary School is a community school with 30 places in each year group and places for a total of 210 pupils excluding the nursery class.
- 3.2 Additional primary school places are needed in order to meet an increasing demand for primary school places in the local area as a result of recent and planned residential developments and also because of an increase in the number of births. In order to meet this increased demand for places, it is proposed to significantly enlarge Caldmore Primary School and increase the intake from 30 to 60 with effect from 1 September 2012.
- 3.3 There are 52 part-time places in the nursery class; it is not proposed to change this provision as it is already in line with the usual number of nursery places in a primary school with two forms of entry.

- 3.4 Consultation on the proposal to significantly enlarge Caldmore Primary School from 1 FE (Form of Entry) to 2 FE by increasing the intake from 30 to 60 places from 1 September 2012 commenced on 20 June 2011 and ended on 31 July 2011.
- 3.5 A consultation document which included information regarding the proposed enlargement of Caldmore Primary School was issued to parents, staff, governors and members of the school council. It was also sent to all Walsall schools, other stakeholders and statutory consultees and was made available to the public through Chuckery and Paddock Children's Centre, Little London Doctor's Surgery, Caldmore Post Office, Walsall Family Dental Practice, Caldmore Housing Association, Walsall Library, South Walsall Library and Caldmore Primary School; it was also posted on the Walsall Children's Services – Serco and Walsall Council websites.
- 3.6 Consultation meetings were held in June and July 2011 and attendance is detailed in the table below.

Caldmore Primary School	School Council	Parents Drop in sessions	Staff	Governors
	Wednesday 29 June 2 45 pm	Friday 8 July 9 00 am and Monday 11 July 2 30 pm	Wednesday 29 June 3 45 pm	Wednesday 29 June 5 00 pm
Attendees	11 pupils, headteacher	No parents attended	16 staff, headteacher	5 governors, head teacher

- 3.7 The meetings took the form of a presentation by Walsall Children's Services – Serco, followed by a question and answer session. Matters raised by attendees included additional accommodation requirements, revenue funding, staffing, and the arrangements, including timescales, for the proposed scheme. Overall, comments were very positive and governors said that they welcomed the opportunity for the school to be enlarged.
- 3.8 A total of 34 consultation response forms have been received; 10 from parents, 1 from a governor, 11 from pupils, 9 from staff and 3 from 'other'. Of these, 33 supported the proposal and one was unsure. Comments were very positive and mentioned the benefits for the local community and that more parents would be able to get a place at Caldmore for their child. Other comments included the need for more staff as the number of children increased and mention was also made of traffic flow in the area.

4. Council priorities

The proposals set out in this report will assist the Council in the delivery of its Corporate Plan. They will improve facilities for communities and neighbourhoods, support future economic development through improved education facilities and will also contribute to improved health and well-being.

5. Risk management

If the proposed additional primary school places are not provided, there is a risk that parents will not be able to secure a place for their child at a local primary school.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 If the proposal goes ahead, there would be a requirement for significant capital investment at the school in order to provide additional teaching accommodation.
- 6.2 The cost of the works which would be required should the proposed enlargement be agreed would be met through a number of different funding streams. The majority would be funded through formulaic allocations currently available to Walsall through the Department for Education. Any Primary sector Section 106 contributions that fall within this area of the Borough will also be targeted at this development. In addition the Capital receipts for the disposal of playing fields at previously closed schools will be utilised. There are no plans to use mainstream council capital funding
- 6.3 Cabinet is informed that although the receipts from the sale of playing fields are likely to be received after the need for expenditure this cash flow issue can be managed through existing Council resources underwriting the required funding. It is confirmed that there are no capital costs to the Council associated with the disposal of the playing fields at previously closed schools.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 The significant enlargement of Caldmore Primary School is subject to statutory procedures. Consultation on the proposal has taken place and it is now for Cabinet to decide whether it wishes to proceed with the proposal. Details of the consultation process are provided in section 10 of this report. If Cabinet decides to proceed, it is intended to publish a statutory proposal in October 2011, following which there would be a representation period of four weeks during which objections could be made. A further report would be brought to Cabinet so that the final decision could be made in the light of any responses received during the representation period and the proposal be 'determined'. It is expected that the final decision would be taken in December 2011.

- 7.2 Subject to completion of the statutory processes detailed above, the admission number for the school would be increased from 30 to 60 from 1 September 2012.

8. Property implications

If, following the completion of statutory processes, Cabinet decides to significantly enlarge Caldmore Primary School, additional accommodation would need to be provided to ensure that the school had sufficient accommodation.

9. Staffing implications

There are no direct implications as a result of this report. If the school is enlarged as proposed, the school would require additional teachers and other staff on a phased basis and these would be funded through the school's revenue budget.

10. Equality implications

The efficient provision of school places enables greater resources to be targeted at teaching and learning thereby enhancing equality of opportunity

11. Consultation

The following were consulted: Legal Services, Finance Services, HRD and Councillor R Andrew.

Background papers

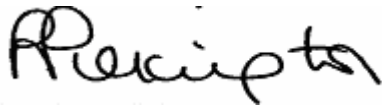
Cabinet report 8 June 2011: Provision of Primary School Places

Author

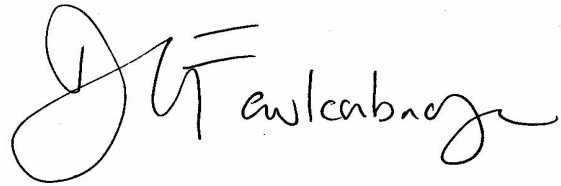
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Signed:
Executive Director: Pauline Pilkington
Date: 25 August 2011



Signed:
Managing Director, Walsall Children's
Services, Serco: Denise Faulconbridge
Date: 1 September 2011



Signed:
Portfolio Holder: Councillor R Andrew
Date: 1 September 2011