

**Cabinet      26 July 2017**

**Proposed expansion of Old Church Primary School, Salisbury Primary School, Short Heath Federation, Manor Primary School, Leighswood Primary School and St Michael's CE Primary School from 1 September 2019**

**Portfolio:**              Councillor A Nawaz

**Service:**                Children's Services

**Wards:**                 All

**Key decision:**        No

**Forward plan:**        No

**1.      Summary**

- 1.1 Initial discussions have been undertaken with the Head Teachers of Old Church Primary School, Salisbury Primary School, Short Heath Federation, Manor Primary School, Leighswood Primary School and St Michael's CE Primary School on the proposal to expand each of the schools from 1 September 2019 in order to meet increasing demand for primary places in the primary planning areas in which the schools are located.
- 1.2 It is proposed that a formal consultation (the Representation period) will commence on Monday 11 September 2017 with the publication of the complete proposal and the statutory public notice. The consultation will close at 17:00 on Monday 9 October 2017 and the outcome will be reported to Cabinet at its meeting on 25 October 2017.

**2.      Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Cabinet approve the commencement of formal consultation on the proposal to significantly enlarge Old Church Primary School, Salisbury Primary School, Short Heath Federation, Manor Primary School, Leighswood Primary School and St Michael's CE Primary School from 1 September 2019.

**3.      Report Details**

- 3.1 Walsall Council, acting in its capacity as Local Authority, has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places available in the local area. Each year the 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. 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. In order to meet an increasing demand for primary school places across the borough it is proposed to significantly expand six primary schools from 1
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September 2019 in order to meet this projected increase in demand for places.

### **Old Church Primary School**

- 3.2 It is proposed to increase the number of places in the Reception year group at Old Church Primary School (Primary Planning Area 1) from 45 to 60 from 1 September 2019. Old Church sits in the Darlaston South Ward and currently has an Ofsted grade of Good (May 2014). 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, 26 mornings and 26 afternoon. The school is a voluntary aided school. It is proposed that the admission number is increased from 1 September 2019 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 1.

If the proposal to expand the school from 1 September 2019 is agreed the local authority is proposing to admit up to 15 children above the published admission number in September 2018 and would therefore offer places to 15 additional children in the 2018 primary admission round, taking the number expected to be admitted to Reception in September 2018 to 60.

### **Salisbury Primary School**

- 3.3 It is proposed to increase the number of places in the Reception year group at Salisbury Primary School (Primary Planning Area 1) from 45 to 60 from 1 September 2019. Salisbury Primary School sits in the Bentley and Darlaston North Ward and currently has an Ofsted grade of Good (March 2015). 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 48 part-time places in the nursery class, 25 in the morning and 23 in the afternoon. The school is a Walsall community school. It is proposed that the admission number is increased from 1 September 2019 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 2FE. This would create 15 additional places in Primary Planning Area 1.

If the proposal to expand the school from 1 September 2019 is agreed the local authority is proposing to admit up to 15 children above the published admission number in September 2018 and would therefore offer places to 15 additional children in the 2018 primary admission round, taking the number expected to be admitted to reception in September 2018 to 60.

### **Short Heath Federation**

- 3.4 It is proposed to increase the number of places in the Reception year group at Short Heath Federation (Primary Planning Area 2) from 60 to 90 from 1 September 2019. The Short Heath Federation sits in Short Heath Ward, the
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federation is made up of three sites, and these sites have current Ofsted Ratings as follows:

Lane Head Nursery – Outstanding (Jan 16)  
Rosedale Infant School – Good (May 17)  
Short Junior School – Good (June 2017)

Currently the school admits up to 60 pupils into Reception each year and has places for a total of 420 pupils (excluding the nursery class). In addition, there are 117 part-time places in the nursery class, 65 in the morning and 52 in the afternoon. The school is Voluntary Controlled school. It is proposed that the admission number is increased from 1 September 2019 when up to 90 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 90 applies to all year groups. The school is currently 2FE and it would become 3FE. This would create 30 additional places in Primary Planning Area 2.

If the proposal to expand the school from 1 September 2019 is agreed the local authority is proposing to admit up to 30 children above the published admission number in September 2018 and would therefore offer places to 30 additional children in the 2018 primary admission round, taking the number expected to be admitted to Reception in September 2018 to 90.

### **Manor Primary School**

- 3.5 It is proposed to increase the number of places in the Reception year group at Manor Primary School (Primary Planning Area 7) from 45 to 60 from 1 September 2019. Manor Primary School sits in the Streetly Ward and currently has an Ofsted grade of Good (October 2012). 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 26 part-time places in the nursery class in the morning. The school is a voluntary controlled school. It is proposed that the admission number is increased from 1 September 2019 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 7.

If the proposal to expand the school from 1 September 2019 is agreed the local authority is proposing to admit up to 15 children above the published admission number in September 2018 and would therefore offer places to up to 15 additional children in the 2018 primary admission round, taking the number expected to be admitted to Reception in September 2018 to 60.

- 3.6 It is proposed to increase the number of places in the Reception year group at Leighswood Primary School (Primary Planning Area 8) from 75 to 90 from 1 September 2019. Leighswood Primary School sits in the Aldridge Central and South Ward and currently has an Ofsted grade of Requires Improvement
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(March 2017), however prior to this it was Good. Currently the school admits up to 75 pupils into Reception each year and has places for a total of 525 pupils (excluding the nursery class). In addition, there are 78 part-time places in the nursery class, 39 in the morning and 39 in the afternoon. The school is a Walsall community school. It is proposed that the admission number is increased from 1 September 2019 when up to 60 children would be admitted the 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 2FE. This would create 15 additional places in Primary Planning Area 8.

If the proposal to expand the school from 1 September 2019 is agreed the local authority is proposing to admit up to 15 children above the published admission number in September 2018 and would therefore offer places to up to 15 additional children in the 2018 primary admission round, taking the number expected to be admitted to Reception in September 2018 to 60.

### **St. Michael's CE Primary School**

- 3.7 It is proposed to increase the number of places in the Reception year group at St Michael's CE Primary School (Primary Planning Area 9) from 45 to 60 from 1 September 2019. St Michael's CE Primary sits in the Pelsall Ward and currently holds an Ofsted grade of Outstanding (July 2016). 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, 26 in the morning and 26 in the afternoon. The school is a voluntary controlled school. It is proposed that the admission number is increased from 1 September 2019 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 9.

If the proposal to expand the school from 1 September 2019 is agreed the local authority is proposing to admit up to 15 children above the published admission number in September 2018 and would therefore offer places to up to 15 additional children in the 2018 primary admission round, taking the number expected to be admitted to Reception in September 2018 to 60.

## **4. Council Priorities**

- 4.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty to assess the local need for primary and secondary school places and to ensure that sufficient places are available for children and young people in the area. Despite an increasingly diverse range of school governance arrangements this remains a Local Authority responsibility and Local Authorities are tasked with having transparent and robust processes in place to forecast pupil numbers and ensure that there will be sufficient school places in the right areas to meet these forecasts.
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- 4.2 The proposal supports the Council's corporate priorities, which are:
- Pursue inclusive economic growth.
  - Make a positive difference to the lives of Walsall people.
  - Children are safe from harm, happy and learning well with self-belief, aspiration and support to be their best.
  - Safe, resilient and prospering communities.

## 5. Risk Management

- 5.1 The provision of additional places at the six schools will enable the Council to meet its statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places to meet the increasing demand for primary places in the area and will create a greater opportunity for children in each of the four affected primary planning areas to attend a local school.

## 6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The proposed expansions could involve extensions, alterations, remodelling or new buildings at the school sites and initial estimated costs outlined in the table below are for capital works (and related fees).

Proposed expansion	Number of additional places created	Estimated Costs	20% Contingency	Total Costs
		£	£	£
Old Church Primary School	15	702,340	175,585	877,925
Salisbury Primary School	15	1,571,976	392,994	1,964,970
Short Heath Foundation	30	1,505,144	376,286	1,881,430
Manor Primary School	15	690,516	172,629	863,145
Leighswood Primary School	15	468,216	117,054	585,270
St Michaels CE Primary School	15	304,060	76,015	380,075
	<b>105</b>	<b>5,242,252</b>	<b>1,310,563</b>	<b>6,552,815</b>

- 6.2 The total estimated build cost of £5.242m 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. In terms of net capital funding available, there is currently circa £6m of Basic Need funding currently available and uncommitted and a further £21.6m to be allocated in 2018/19. As part of the feasibility works being undertaken, a profile of the build costs

over 2017/18 and 2018/19 has been requested to ensure each stage of the build can be appropriately funded.

- 6.3 Historically there have been significant risks associated with increased costs for existing school enlargement. 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. The contingency levels is currently set at 20% using the estimated costs as a basis and will be monitored as each scheme progresses. There is therefore £1.311m set aside for these proposed expansions. If the estimated costs do not increase further, a level of Basic Need funding would remain uncommitted at the end of each project. 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).
- 6.4 The ongoing increase in revenue funding for the schools will be met from the Dedicated Schools Grant (whereby funding allocated to the Authority to support mainstream schools increases or decreases in line with overall pupil numbers, therefore if there is a growth in overall pupil numbers this will attract more DSG funding which will then fund the additional places that are being created).
- 6.5 Each of the six primary schools will be asked to contribute towards the scheme with funding from their Devolved Formula Capital (DFC). This funding is allocated by the Department for Education to Local Authorities and is passported directly to schools on an annual basis to contribute towards school capital schemes.

## **7. Legal Implications**

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

## **8. Property Implications**

The proposed expansions will involve extensions, alterations, remodelling or new buildings on six school sites.

## **9. Staffing Implications**

Additional teaching and support staff will be recruited to provide for the additional children to be admitted to each 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,

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progressing to employment and/or training and make a positive contribution within the borough in the future.

## 11. Consultation

- 11.1 Initial discussions were held with the head teachers of all six schools during Spring Term. A period of formal consultation (Representation Period) will commence on Monday 11 September 2017 and close at 17:00 on Monday 9 October 2017 in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations (2013).
- 11.2 There will be engagement with elected members in relation to the proposed schemes within their wards before the formal consultation begins in September 2017.
- 11.3 The complete proposal will be published on the Walsall Council website and the Walsall Link website and copies of the statutory public notice will be displayed at all entrances to each of the six schools throughout the consultation period. A copy of the public notice will be published in the Express and Star. Letters will be sent to the parents of children currently attending all six schools and to the student council members, staff and governors of all the schools on 11 September 2017 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 will also be sent to head teachers of all Walsall schools, neighbouring local authorities and diocesan representatives.
- 11.4 Consultation meetings will be held with parents, student council members, school staff and governors at each of the six schools during the consultation period.

### Background papers

DfE: School Admissions Code 2014

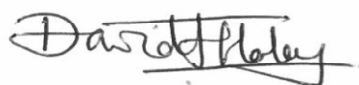
DfE: School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013

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

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Executive Director  
Date: 6 July 2017



Portfolio Holder:  
Date: 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017