

**Cabinet – 20 March 2019**

**School Place Planning and Expansions**

**Portfolio:** Councillor Towe: Education and Skills

**Related Portfolios:** Councillor Harris Personnel and Business Support

**Service:** Children's Services

**Wards:** All

**Key decision:** Yes

**Forward plan:** Yes

**1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report updates on the 2018 and 2019 programmes of school expansions approved by Cabinet and seeks approval to award contracts to complete works outstanding at The Shepwell School, Castle Business and Enterprise College, Old Hall, Old Church CE (C) Primary School, Rosedale Infant School, St Michael's CE Primary School, manor Primary Schools, Oakwood and Mary Elliot.
- 1.2 The outcome of the formal statutory consultation on options to meet new need for mainstream primary pupil places in Primary Planning areas 4 and 5 is summarised within the report and approval is sought to expand Christ Church CE (C) Primary School, Goldsmith Academy, Reedswood E-ACT Academy, Sunshine Nursery & Infant School and Blakenall Heath Junior School from 1 September 2021, to meet the need for additional pupil places in Primary Planning Areas 4 and 5.
- 1.3 The report updates on provider and strategic partner procurement for school expansions (see background papers previously submitted to Cabinet at the end of this report).
- 1.4 This is a key decision as the decisions to be taken in this report will be significant financially and will have a impact on two or more wards.
- 1.5 Proposals detailed in this report will have a positive and sustained impact on the objectives and priorities set out in the Council's Corporate Plan, the Council's Corporate Plan and the Council's longer term education capital strategy, it is proposed subject to Cabinet approval, a strategic partner is appointed which will allow for new service delivery.
- 1.6 The financial implications linked with the School Expansions, regarding the cost estimations for works are the subject of a report in the private section as it contains commercially sensitive information.
- 1.7 Cabinet will note the following appendices are attached to this report:

Appendices A and B  
Appendix C  
Appendix D

Primary Planning Areas;  
Consultation Meeting Notes;  
Summary of Consultation Responses;

## **2. Recommendations**

**Following consideration of the information in the private session of the agenda the Cabinet will be recommended as follows:**

### **2018 School Expansions**

- 2.1 That the interim contractual arrangements for enabling works up to the value of £150,000 being proposed and which may be procured using the Solihull Metropolitan Council Framework Agreement to mitigate the risks of further delays associated with changes to the provider be noted.
- 2.2 That authority to award contracts using the most appropriate procedures to complete works at The Shepwell School, Old Hall Special School and Castle Business and Enterprise College, be delegated to the Executive Director for Children's Services in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder.
- 2.3 That authority to subsequently authorise the sealing or signing of contracts, deeds or other related documents to complete works at The Shepwell School, Old Hall Special School and Castle Business and Enterprise College, be delegated to the Executive Director for Children's Services in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder.

### **2019 School Expansions**

- 2.4 That authority to award contracts using the most appropriate procedures to complete school expansions at Manor Primary School, Rosedale Infant School, St Michael's CE (C) and Old Church CE (C) Primary School, Oakwood, Mary Elliot, and for temporary works to facilitate newly identified need for pupil intake for September 2019 be delegated to the Executive Director for Children's Services in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder.
- 2.5 That authority to subsequently authorise the sealing or signing of contracts, deeds or other related documents to complete school expansions at Manor Primary School, St Michael's CE (C), Rosedale Infant School, Old Church CE (C) Primary School, Oakwood and Mary Elliot and for temporary works to facilitate new pupil intake for September 2019, be delegated to the Executive Director for Children's Services in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder.

### **New Need – School Expansions**

- 2.6 That the feedback from the formal statutory consultation process on options to meet new need for mainstream primary pupil places in Primary Planning Areas 4 and 5 referred to in paragraphs 3.16 and 3.17, and included in Appendices C and D to this report, be noted.

- 2.7 That the proposals to significantly enlarge Christ Church CE (C) Primary School, Goldsmith Academy, Reedswood E-ACT Academy, Sunshine Nursery & Infant School and Blakenall Heath Junior School as outlined in paragraphs 3.10 to 3.23 of this report from 1 September 2021 to meet new need identified following the review of pupil place planning data, be approved, to allow the undertaking of competitive procurement processes to determine the most suitable provider(s) for the provision of school alteration works.
- 2.8 That the procurement of school alteration works to significantly enlarge Christ Church CE (C) Primary School, Goldsmith Academy, Reedswood E-ACT Academy, Sunshine Nursery & Infant School and Blakenall Heath Junior School from 1 September 2021 be approved.
- 2.9 That authority to award contracts using the most appropriate procedures for the provision of school alteration works to significantly enlarge Christ Church CE (C) Primary School, Goldsmith Academy, Reedswood E-ACT Academy, Sunshine Nursery & Infant School and Blakenall Heath Junior School from 1 September 2021, be delegated to the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder.
- 2.10 That authority to subsequently authorise the sealing or signing of contracts, deeds or other related documents to complete school expansions at Christ Church CE (C) Primary School, Goldsmith Academy, Reedswood E-ACT Academy, Sunshine Nursery & Infant School and Blakenall Heath Junior School from 1 September 2021, be delegated to the Executive Director for Children's Services in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder.
- 2.11 That authority to award a contract using the most appropriate procedures for a strategic partner to develop and deliver proposals relating to 2019/2020 school expansions modifications and to develop and deliver proposals which relate to the longer term need for pupil places in 2021 and beyond, including a review of the Council's school estate as part of the Council's longer term education capital strategy, be delegated to the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder.

### **3. Report detail**

#### **2018 School Expansions**

- 3.1 In 2018 Cabinet approved the appointment of providers, via a compliant framework, for the delivery of a 3 year schools expansion programme taking the authority to September 2021.
- 3.2 Delays have been experienced, mining remediation works were required and there have been additional planning requirements and provider delays.
- 3.3 Returning prices from the provider were higher than expected for Shepwell School, Old Hall Special School and Castle Business and Enterprise College. Walsall's appointed project management consultants could not recommend the offer from the provider, therefore an impasse was reached.

- 3.4 The decision was taken, after advice from Legal Services, to terminate further engagement with the provider.
- 3.5 In an effort to seek value for money and ensure delivery of the programme without further delay Walsall's project management consultants looked to alternative providers under the SCAPE Group Limited Framework Agreement; it became apparent that any cost reduction from the building works would be nullified by the cost of due diligence to be carried out by the replacement provider.
- 3.6 Other routes were considered with support from procurement with regard to delivery of the 2018 schools expansions by August 2019 - generally frameworks had a long lead-in time which would have resulted in delays past August 2019. A compliant framework was found in the form of the 'Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council Framework Agreement' and the provider had capacity to carry out the works in the timeframe required. Procurement explored this framework and confirmed it to be compliant.
- 3.7 To ensure that delays are not exacerbated, it is proposed that a provider is appointed via the compliant framework allowing the necessary preparation works to continue but on the basis that costs are limited to £150,000.
- 3.8 Continuity of works are being monitored through weekly meetings with all parties and via the current interim contractual arrangements.
- 3.9 The proposed expansion of Jane Lane has been paused and is subject to review following extensive ground remediation works.

### **2019 School Expansions**

- 3.10 Manor Primary School, St Michael's CE (C) Primary School, Rosedale Infant School and Old Church CE (C) Primary School, and temporary works to facilitate newly identified need for pupil intake for September 2019 will be progressed, and the works will be carried out by the new provider appointed via a compliant framework.
- 3.11 Additional places are not required at Mary Elliot until 2022/23.
- 3.12 The creation of additional places through the expansion of Oakwood School remains the subject of continued discussions.

### **New Need – School Expansions**

- 3.13 Cabinet authorised the development and consultation on options to meet an identified need for additional places by September 2019 in Primary Planning areas 4 and 5 at its meeting 21 November 2018 (see Appendices A and B of this report).
- 3.14 For areas assessed as requiring additional places, school selection criteria includes school academic achievements (Ofsted ratings), high levels of parental 1<sup>st</sup> preferences, current size of school, location of school relative to the population, practicalities of expansion, associated costs of expansion and governing body wishes. The Council will seek to expand schools where leadership is strong, good practice is embedded and standards are high. The Council will not normally seek

to expand schools beyond 3 form entry (90 pupils into reception year forming 3 classes) or those schools eligible for intervention by the local Regional Schools Commissioner, unless there is no realistic alternative.

- 3.15 The schools identified in Primary Planning Area 4 were Christ Church CE (C) Primary School, Goldsmith Academy, Sunshine Nursery & Infant School and Blakenall Heath Junior School. The school identified in Primary Planning area 5 was Reedswood E-ACT Academy.
- 3.16 In recognition of the significant pressure for places across Primary Planning areas 4 and 5, officers will work with respective school leadership teams to ensure the proposed expansions do not destabilise the school academic achievements.
- 3.17 A period of formal statutory consultation (the 'Representation Period') commenced on Friday 18 January 2019 and closed at 17:00 on Friday 15 February 2019. Proposals were published on the Council's website and the Walsall Link website; copies of the statutory notice were displayed at entrances to the five schools throughout the consultation period and a copy of the public notice was published in the 'Express and Star'. Letters were sent to the parents of children currently attending all five schools, members of the student councils and staff and governors, informing them of the consultation arrangements, 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, neighbouring local authorities and diocese representatives.
- 3.18 Consultation meetings were held with parents, student council members, school staff and governors at each of the five schools during the consultation period. Copies of the minutes of each meeting are included in Appendix C of this report with a summary of Consultation Responses received attached at Appendix D.
- 3.19 The responses that were received from staff and children at Christ Church CE (c) Primary School were all supportive of the expansion for the school and they felt it would be beneficial to the school and its development. There were two responses received from Reedswood E-ACT Academy – one from the leadership team and one from the Parent Ambassador; both supported the expansion.
- 3.20 There were no comments received for Goldsmith Academy, Sunshine Nursery & Infant School and Blakenall Heath Junior School.

Following the closure of the formal statutory consultation period - and subject to approval – the following 'prescribed alterations' are proposed for the five schools:

3.21 Christ Church CE (C) Primary School

It is proposed to significantly expand Christ Church CE (C) Primary School from 1 September 2021, increasing the number of places in the Reception year group from 45 to 60. The school is currently 1.5 FE (forms of entry) but, subject to Cabinet approval, would change to 2FE. This would create 15 additional places in Primary Planning Area 4.

Currently the school admits up to 45 pupils into Reception each year and has places for 315 pupils. 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.

If the proposal to expand the school from 1 September 2021 is agreed, the Council is proposing to admit up to 15 children above the published admission number in September 2019, taking the number expected to be admitted to Reception in September 2019 to 60.

### 3.22 Goldsmith Academy

It is proposed to significantly increase Goldsmith Academy from 1 September 2021, increasing the number of place in the Reception year group from 60 to 90. The school is currently 2FE (forms of entry) but, subject to Cabinet approval, to 3FE. This would create 30 additional places in Primary Planning Area 4. Currently the school admits up to 60 pupils into Reception each year and has places for 420 pupils. 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.

If the proposal to expand the school from 1 September 2021 is agreed the Council is proposing to admit up to 30 children above the published admission number in September 2019, taking the number expected to be admitted to Reception in September 2019 to 90.

### 3.23 Reedswood E-ACT Academy

It is proposed to significantly increase Reedswood EACT Academy from 1 September 2021, increasing the number of place in the Reception year group from 60 to 90. The school is currently 2FE (forms of entry) but, subject to Cabinet approval, to 3FE. This would create 30 additional places in Primary Planning Area 5.

Currently the school admits up to 60 pupils into Reception each year and has places for 420 pupils. 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.

If the proposal to expand the school from 1 September 2021 is agreed the Local Authority is proposing to admit up to 30 children above the published admission number in September 2019, taking the number expected to be admitted to Reception in September 2019 to 90.

### 3.24 Sunshine Nursery & Infant and Blakenall Heath Junior School

It is proposed to significantly increase Sunshine Nursery & Infant School from 1 September 2021, increasing the number of place in the Reception year group from 60 to 90. The school is currently 2FE (forms of entry) but, subject to Cabinet approval, to 3FE. This would create 30 additional places in Primary Planning Area 4.

Currently the school admits up to 60 pupils into Reception each year and has places for 420 pupils. 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.

If the proposal to expand the school from 1 September 2021 is agreed the Local Authority is proposing to admit up to 30 children above the published admission number in September 2019, taking the number expected to be admitted to Reception in September 2019 to 90.

### **Strategic Partner Update**

- 3.25 As agreed by Cabinet at its meeting 21 November 2018 work had commenced to appoint a strategic partner to advise on the further proposals for school expansion and the management of the Council's school estate. Cabinet will recall that the appointment of external expertise was required in response to recent scrutiny by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). Their request for a detailed action plan and its future oversight of the use of Basic Need grant funding action plan has included a review of the Council's approach to the delivery of its education capital programme. Arcadis LLP were engaged in July 2018 to act as a critical friend in order to identify and present the delivery models available for Walsall's various schemes.
- 3.26 The Council had identified the need to appoint a strategic partner who would work with the Council to develop and deliver proposals relating to the 2019 school expansion modifications set out in the November Cabinet report; the partner would also develop and deliver proposals relating to any new and emerging need for pupil places in 2019 responding to the changing trends in demand for pupil places. However as set out elsewhere in this report the change of approach to identifying the new needs for 2019 has resulted in the proposed procurement of an advisor for 2019 and 2020 expansions not progressing to enable the approach to the expansions as set out to be achieved.
- 3.27 That said, the need to obtain expert advice and create greater capacity within the Council to review and take action to expand, improve and where necessary rationalise the 'School Estate' remains, and it is deemed that this expertise is only available via the appointment of an external multi-disciplinary consultant. It is the case that the Council has no resources to prepare and implement a 'School Asset Management Plan or Estates Strategy' and despite the work being commenced to consider a new way of working under the 'Walsall Proud Programme' through the 'Optimising Assets' theme, the scope for a corporate estates strategy excludes the 'School Estate' which has historically being managed at arm's length from the rest of the Council's property portfolio. It is therefore necessary to expand this resource to be able to respond not just to new need in the Council's primary estate but to also look ahead at future needs in the Council's Special Educational Needs and Disability and Secondary estates, and consider alongside this the impacts of proposed 'Free Schools'.
- 3.28 A new brief is therefore being prepared to appoint an advisor to work alongside the 'Regeneration and Development Service' and 'Asset Management' team in the Economy and Environment Directorate, Children's Services and 'Integrated

Facilities Management' to review the estate to identify need in 2021 and beyond including as necessary:

- To undertake stock condition surveys;
- To review current and future needs across all age grounds and typologies of schools;
- To review land and planning policy documents to inform expansion and new build proposals; and
- To provide feasibility and options appraisals, and in a call-off arrangement provide a range of procurement, planning, technical, construction, project management services to aid the implementation of any recommendations put forward by the strategic partner which are then agreed by the Council through its decision making approach.

3.29 An area of priority for this work will be the 'Special Educational Needs and Disability School Estate'.

#### **4. Council Corporate Plan priorities**

The proposals to create pupil places to meet identified need and improved educational outcomes contained within this report primarily support the Council's corporate plan priority, that children have the best start in and are safe from harm, happy, healthy and learning well.

#### **5. Risk management**

5.1 The provision of additional places will enable the Council to meet its statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient primary school and specialist school places to meet increasing local demand. A shortage in specialist school places means that school children may not be able to access a place at their nearest appropriate school, with placements being made in outer borough schools, including independent non-maintained schools.

5.2 The appointment of an alternative provider allows Walsall to discharge its statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient primary school and specialist school places to meet increasing local demand.

5.3 The expansion programme has already experienced significant delays to date and the risk of further delays remains should the Council fail to appoint a new provider or should the appointed provider fail to complete the necessary works to ensure the sufficiency of places needed for September 2019. This risk is partially mitigated because the modular builds required for the 2018 expansions are already built, being stored off site and provisional dates for the delivery of the builds are scheduled. Quotes for required ground works have been issued and weekly meetings with the interim provider and designers are in place.

5.4 There remains a risk, following the termination of the previously appointed provider's appointment, of legal action but as payments for all works undertaken to date have been made and all avenues to resolve matters with both the provider and Scape, prior to termination, were exhausted, this risk is considered minimal.

5.5 It is currently envisaged that the management of the strategic partner will be undertaken by the 'Regeneration and Development Service' and the 'Asset



Management' team in the Economy and Environment Directorate however it should be noted that the team has limited direct experience of managing a consultant who will prepare this specialist 'School's Asset Management Plan/ Estates Strategy'. At the time of writing this report the 'Asset Management' team has limited capacity to support the procurement and appointment process of the strategic partner and options to appoint a procurement advisor are being taken forward as a short term measure to build capacity in the team. Beyond this short term capacity a further review is needed to identify what additional resource will be required to manage the strategic partner and project manage their work programme after their appointment. Any arrangements will have financial consequences and as such an allowance within the 'Basic Needs Budget' has been made to support future recruitment.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 Due to the commercially sensitive nature of the financial implications regarding school expansions, some information has been excluded from this report and will be provided in the private session for full consideration.
- 6.2 On 21 November 2018, Cabinet noted the alterations to the delivery plan of 12 school expansion schemes previously reported to Cabinet on 25 April 2018 following a review of pupil place planning. The recommendations to Cabinet included to continue with 5 schemes as planned, albeit with a delay to the original delivery date for 3 of these, to revoke 2 of the schemes and to modify the completion date for the remaining schemes from September 2019 to September 2020.
- 6.3 All budget estimates include additional costs for allowances for fixed furniture and equipment (£4,500 per additional classroom), ICT equipment (£300 per pupil), internal fees and a contingency amount calculated at 20% of the total build costs for each expansion.
- 6.4 Previous expansion schemes have incurred additional costs above projected budgets as a result of unforeseen circumstances including ground works. We have also seen this with some of the recent expansion schemes for 2018. 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 costs do not exceed the current estimate, some Basic Need funding would remain uncommitted at the end of the project. This will then be carried forward into future years for further projects.

### 2018 School Expansions

- 6.5 As detailed in the report, it is expected that expansions at Castle Business and Enterprise College, Old Hall Special School and The Shepwell School will be completed by end of August 2019. They are expected to be completed as previously detailed to Cabinet, however, due to changes in specifications and unforeseen ground conditions not previously known of at the time of original estimates, the cost for these schemes has now risen.

- 6.6 As detailed previously in this report, the provider appointed to complete these works has been altered part way through construction. Therefore, Walsall's appointed project management consultants were asked to compile a budget estimate for completion of the build for the three expansions.
- 6.7 Regarding the Jane Lane Special School expansion, it should be noted that costs of circa £0.650m are currently committed for works that have been completed to date. At 21 November 2018 Cabinet, a decision was made to modify this expansion to September 2020. Due to various ground conditions including a number of identified mine shafts and the location of a gas main running through the site, it has not been possible to continue with this expansion as yet.
- 6.8 Should for any reason the scheme not proceed and an alternative use for the modular is not identified within the education expansion programme, there is a risk these costs will need to be deemed abortive and therefore will not be capitalised or funded via Basic Need grant. Alternative revenue funding would need to be identified in this event. Options to mitigate this risk, should it be needed, are currently being identified with Finance and Children's services.

#### 2019 School Expansions

- 6.9 There are 5 expansion schemes that were previously expected to be completed for September 2019. Following Cabinet on 21 November 2018, it was agreed that 4 of these schemes were to be modified to September 2020 (Manor Primary School, St Michael's CE (C) School, Mary Elliot and Oakwood) and a further scheme would proceed as planned (Old Church CE (C) Primary School).
- 6.10 Rosedale Infant School expansion was expected to be completed as part of the 2018 school expansion schemes. This has now been moved to 2019 following pupil place planning reviews with a modification to delay to September 2020.
- 6.11 Final costs for these schemes are currently unknown due to the delay in appointment of a provider for 2019.
- 6.12 Where a modification has been identified, there may be a need for interim arrangements such as temporary modular units and / or refurbishments / remodelling of existing school spaces. This may be at additional cost and would be funded through the Basic Need allocation.

#### New Need

- 6.13 Children's Services have identified 2 planning areas where additional primary school places will be required from September 2021 and it is proposed to significantly expand five primary schools to meet this identified need.

#### Funding

- 6.14 The expansion projects will be funded from the Basic Need Capital Fund. The capital grant is allocated by the Education and Skills Funding Agency to local authorities, based on pupil place number forecasts, to deliver the additional places in schools to meet expected demands.

- 6.15 The on-going increase in revenue funding for the schools will be met from the Dedicated Schools Grant, whereby funding allocated to the Council to support mainstream schools increases or decreases in line with overall pupil numbers. Therefore, if there is growth in overall pupil numbers, this will attract more Dedicated Schools Grant funding which will then fund the additional places being created. This process will apply in a similar way to academies however increased funding will be paid to them direct from the Department for Education rather than the Council.

#### Education and Skills Funding Agency

- 6.16 The Council have not previously met national benchmarks for school expansions. The Council completed 5 large expansion schemes in 2016 and for each scheme, costs exceeded average benchmark costs which lead to the Council being placed in the top decile in terms of cost per place for new school places.
- 6.17 Castle Business and Enterprise College was previously reported to be within the national benchmarks for cost per pupil place. Based on current budgeted costs, Castle Business and Enterprise College, along with Old Hall Special School and The Shepwell School, are now outside the benchmark.
- 6.18 The Council are working with the Education and Skills Funding Agency and external partners to identify where improvements can be made so that greater efficiencies and improved value for money can be achieved.
- 6.19 As part of these improvements, the Council are currently in the process of identifying a strategic business partner. It is the aim of Children's Services that specialist advice will enable the Council to become more proactive and therefore reduce overall costs and improve efficiency around pupil place planning and school expansions. The costs of this resource are to be funded from Basic Needs Funding in line with Department for Education advice to cap delivery costs at 10% of the total cost of the capital programme.

### **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 Background papers to this report provide that full consideration has been given to the Department for Education guidance entitled, Making 'prescribed alterations' to maintained schools (October 2018). This is statutory guidance from the Department for Education which decision makers must have regard to when carrying out functions relating to making 'prescribed alterations' to maintained schools.
- 7.2 The purpose of the October 2018 guidance is to ensure that additional good quality school places can be provided quickly where they are needed; that local authorities and governing bodies do not take decisions that will have a negative impact on other schools in the area, and that changes can be implemented quickly and effectively where there is a strong case for doing so. In line with these aims it is expected that, where possible, additional new places will only be provided at schools that have an overall Ofsted rating of 'good' or 'outstanding'.
- 7.3 It is the responsibility of the local authority to ensure that it acts in accordance with the relevant legislation, in this case The School Organisation (Prescribed

Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, when making changes to a maintained school.

- 7.4 A local authority has a statutory duty, under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996, to secure that there are available in its area sufficient schools “in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education”. Local authorities can propose an enlargement of the premises of community, foundation and voluntary schools ;when doing so, they must follow the statutory process as set out in the ‘Prescribed Alterations Regulations’.
- 7.5 Sections 27 (1) and (2) of the Children and Families Act 2014 and The Special Education and Disability Regulations 2014 (which supplement Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014) requires local authorities to keep the provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and disabilities under review (including its sufficiency), working with parents, young people and providers (SEND Code of Practice, January 2015 Chapter 4).
- 7.6 Action has been taken to minimise risks of legal challenge associated with the award of the interim contractual arrangements. In order to minimise such risks Procurement have advised that these interim contractual arrangements should only be used for the shortest possible practical period and must run concurrently with re-tender exercises detailed in this report.
- 7.7 Children’s and Economy and Environment Services’ will continue to seek the advice of Procurement and Legal Services who will assist with using the most appropriate procedures and documents for the appointments required; all new services will be evidenced by written contracts in a form approved on behalf of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and shall be made and executed in accordance with the Council’s Contract Rules.

## **8. Procurement Implications/Social Value**

- 8.1 The appointment of the strategic partner will be undertaken via a fully compliant framework which is yet to be identified however the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (UK) and the Educations and Skills Funding Agency Frameworks may provide access to the calibre and expertise of multi-disciplinary consultants that the Council envisages it will need to deliver the Schools Asset Management Plan/ Estate Strategy.
- 8.2 Both the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Councils Contract Rules allow the use of a compliant framework in order to complete works of this nature however there needs to be a thorough review of all options available and the rationale for use recorded for audit purposes.
- 8.3 Due to the cancellation of the agreement with the former provider which was established to undertake the works required for additional permanent pupil places for the September 2019 pupil intake, an alternative route to market has had to be secured.
- 8.4 The cancellation of the original contract which was procured using the SCAPE Group Limited Framework Agreement has meant that the options available for finding a compliant route to market have been significantly reduced if the works

are to be completed and the required places are to be available by the start of September 2019. The use of the Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council Framework Agreement was considered to be the most appropriate route to market primarily due to the speed that the provider could be engaged.

- 8.5 Although the use of a compliant framework is permissible within both the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Rules, this decision has been heavily influenced by the lack of time available to go out to the open market and run an open tender process.
- 8.6 Alternative provider provision has been identified via the 'Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council Framework Agreement'. The service commissioners held tentative discussions with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and the provider following which the provider has confirmed that they have the capacity to complete the 2018/19 programme by the end of August 2019.
- 8.7 The 'Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council Framework Agreement' is fully compliant having been through a full Official Journal of the European Union tendering process where a competitive tender process was undertaken in order to award the opportunity to the successful provider.
- 8.8 Subject to Cabinet approval, it is proposed that the 'Solihull Metropolitan Borough Framework Agreement', be accessed by the Council through signing their 'Access Agreement' with John Graham Holdings Limited and then the works orders can be directly placed with John Graham Holdings Limited.

## **9. Property implications**

- 9.1 The proposed expansions will involve extensions, alterations, remodelling and consequential refurbishment.

## **10. Health and wellbeing implications**

- 10.1 The proposed expansions will provide buildings that are 'fit for purpose' and more in line with current recommendations for building design. Schemes also include site modifications, where appropriate, to improve facilities for outdoor play and sport, as well as improving access to school sites for those children and young people with Special Educational Needs and disabilities, and to support sustainable travel. In relation to the Marmot principles the most relevant principles in line with pupil place planning with school expansions is that enabling all children and young people to maximise their capabilities and to have control over their lives.

## **11. Staffing implications**

- 11.1 Additional teaching and support staff will be recruited to provide for the additional children to be admitted to each school.

## **12. Reducing inequalities**

- 12.1 It is of crucial importance to 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 the appropriate qualifications, progressing to employment and / or training and to make a positive contribution within the Borough in the future.

12.2 The proposals ensure access to suitable, high quality school places that are attractive to parents and young people, which meet their needs and improve educational outcomes.

13.3 A full equality impact assessment is attached at Appendix E.

## 14. Consultation

14.1 Initial discussions were held with the head teachers of all the schools proposed for enlargement before the publication of the complete proposal and the statutory notice on the Walsall Council website on Friday 18 January 2019. A period of statutory formal consultation (Representation Period) was held from Friday 19 January 2019 to 17:00 on Friday 15 February 2019 in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations (2013).

### Background papers

DfE	Making 'prescribed alterations' to maintained schools (2018)
Cabinet:	October 2017
Cabinet:	December 2017
Cabinet:	April 2018
Cabinet:	October 2018
Special Cabinet:	November 2018

### Author

Edward Kennedy  
Programme and Commissioning Manager

☎ 01922 650486

✉ [edward.kennedy@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:edward.kennedy@walsall.gov.uk)

Alex Groom  
School Organisation Manager

☎ 01922 652583

✉ [alex.groom@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:alex.groom@walsall.gov.uk)

Andrea Potts  
Assistant Director Children's Services

☎ 01922 654599

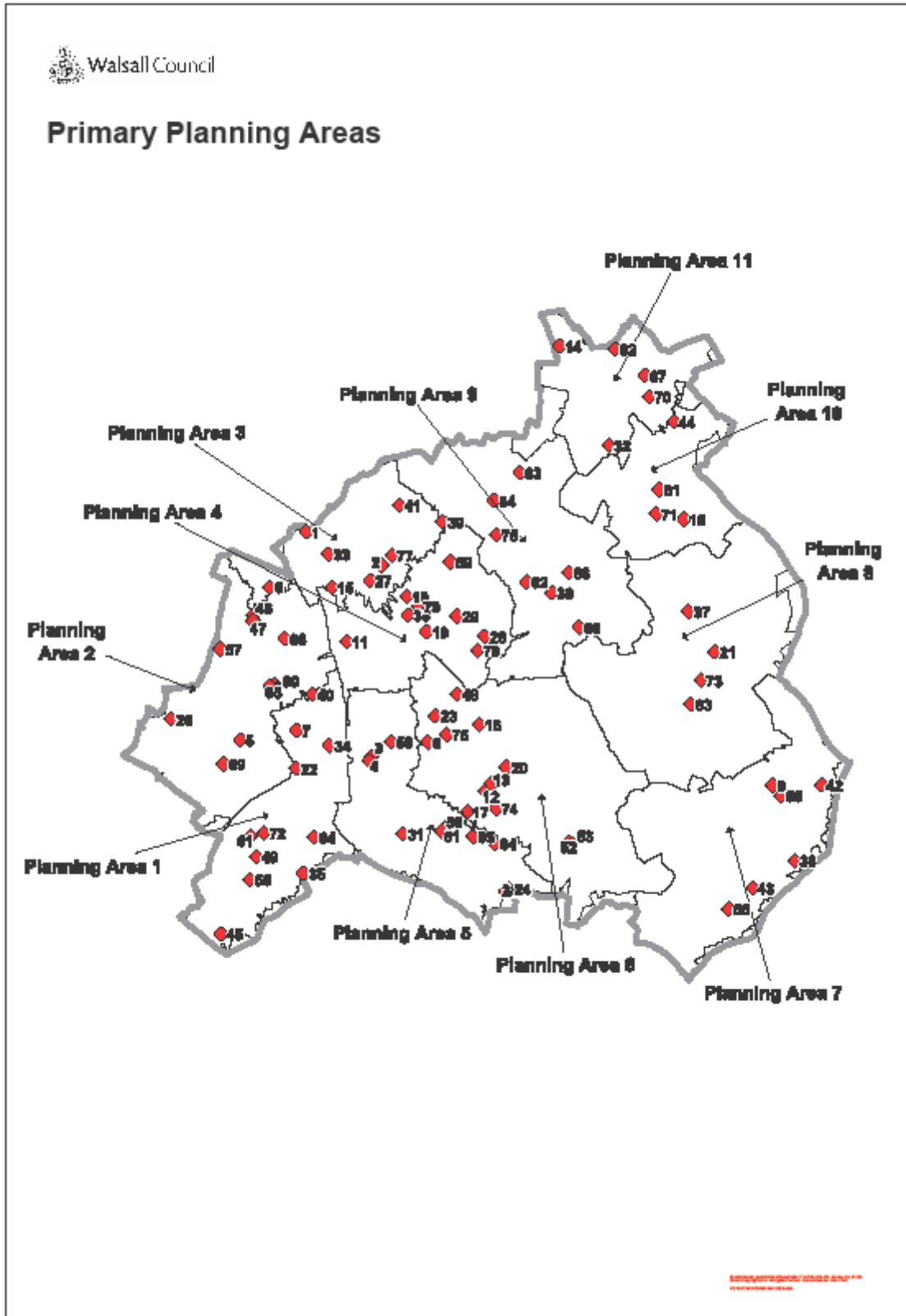
✉ [andrea.potts@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:andrea.potts@walsall.gov.uk)



Sally Rowe  
Executive Director  
March 2019



Councillor Towe  
Portfolio Holder  
March 2019



## Primary Planning Areas

◆ School Location	
1 Abbey Primary	63 Ryders Hayes school
2 All Saints National Academy	64 Salisbury Primary
3 Alumwell Infant	65 Short Heath Junior
4 Alumwell Junior	66 St Annes's Catholic Primary
5 Barcroft Primary	67 St Bernadette's Catholic Primary
6 Beacon Primary	68 St Francis Catholic Primary
7 Bentley West Primary	69 St Giles CE Primary
8 Birchills CE Community Academy	70 St James Primary
9 Blackwood	71 St John's CE Primary
10 Blakenall Heath Junior	72 St Joseph's Catholic Primary
11 Bloxwich Academy	73 St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary
12 Blue Coat CE (A) Infant	74 St Mary's the Mount Catholic Primary
13 Blue Coat CE (A) Junior	75 St Michael's CE (C) Primary
14 Brownhills West Primary	76 St Patrick's Catholic Primary
15 Busill Jones Primary	77 St Peter's Catholic Primary
16 Butts Primary	78 St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary
17 Caldmore Village Primary	79 Sunshine Infant and Nursery
18 Castlefort JMI	80 The Radleys Primary
19 Christ Church CE (C) JMI	81 Walsall Wood
20 Chuckery Primary	82 Watling Street Primary
21 Cooper and Jordan CE VA Primary	83 Whetstone Field Primary
22 County Bridge Primary	84 Whitehall Junior Community School
23 Croft Academy	85 Whitehall Nursery and Infant
24 Delves Infant & Nursery	86 Woodlands Academy of Learning
25 Delves Junior	
26 Edgar Stammers Primary Academy	
27 Elmore Green Primary	
28 Fibbersley Park Primary	
29 Goldsmith Primary Academy	
30 Greenfield Primary	
31 Hillary Primary	
32 Holy Trinity CE Primary	
33 Jubilee Academy Mossley	
34 King Charles Primary	
35 King's Hill Primary	
36 Leamore Primary	
37 Leighswood	
38 Lindens Primary	
39 Little Bloxwich CE (VC) Primary	
40 Lodge Farm Primary Academy	
41 Lower Farm Primary	
42 Manor Primary	
43 Meadow View JMI	
44 Millfield Primary	
45 Moorcroft Wood Primary	
46 New Invention Infant	
47 New Invention Junior	
48 North Walsall Academy	
49 Old Church CE (C) Primary	
50 Palfrey Infant	
51 Palfrey Junior	
52 Park Hall Infant Academy	
53 Park Hall Junior Academy	
54 Pelsall Village	
55 Pheasey Park Farm Primary	
56 Pinfold Street Primary	
57 Pool Hayes Primary	
58 Reedswood E-ACT Primary Academy	
59 Rivers Primary Academy	
60 Rosedale CE (C) Infant	
61 Rough Hay Primary	
62 Rushall Primary School	



**Consultation Meeting Notes**

<b>Location:</b>	Sunshine Nursery & Infant School
<b>Meeting with:</b>	School Council from Sunshine Nursery & Infant and Blakenall Heath Junior School
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 29 January 2019
<b>Time:</b>	2.00pm

**PRESENT:**

<b>Walsall Council:</b>	<b>Sunshine Nursery &amp; Infant School Blakenall Heath Junior School</b>
Alex Groom – School Organisation Manger	Blakenall Heath: 17 Student Council x2 staff Sunshine Nursery and Infants: x8 Student Council x2 staff
Javairia Parwez – Admissions Panels Coordinator	

**Questions, Comments & Responses:****What would happen to the Hall/Canteen?**

The head teacher may have to look at staggered lunchtimes, or whether the dining facilities could be extended.

**What would happen to the playground, there would be a lot more children?**

There would be 90 more children at the school once the expansion is completed in Sunshine and 120 more children at Blakenall Heath Junior once completed it may be that the head teacher would stagger the play times and lunchtimes. This would be a staff decision.

**Would we need a new building?**

Infant school 9 class rooms, Blakenhall – 12 classrooms.

In some schools we have had to restructure, in other schools we have to build this would be decided following this consultation in line with the review of the grounds and a school feasibility.

**Are there any plans to build?**

No plans to build as of yet, physical plans have not been developed yet. IFM Team at Walsall Council would have feasibility studies completed at schools to see what would be the best way to accommodate these increases. Some schools needs additional space whilst other would be able to utilise space already at the school or on the site.

**Would there be more teachers?**

More teachers may be required, this would depend on staffing levels in the school, and the head teacher would have to see if any teachers would be suitable to teach or look at getting more teachers.

**The children had no more questions so Alex asked if there was anything they thoughts would be good or bad from the expansion. Things the children mentioned that would be need o the expansion would bring where:**

More friends and more people to play with.  
More pencils and rulers needed  
Tables and Chairs and Tablets.

**Lunchtimes: more food/more dinner ladies?**

This is a formal consultation and it is important to find out what people's ideas on the expansion are, to do so people can write to her/email her. Alex suggested maybe the school council could meet and discuss this topic and submit a formal response from the school. Once the consultation closes, all these opinions will be put forward to Walsall Councils Cabinet meeting and they will look at these opinions and make the final decision.

**Will the extra 30 children start in September?**

Although the published admission number (PAN) would not change until September 2021 the Local Authority would be asking the school to exceed their PAN for September 2019 and admit above number.

**Explained if anyone remembers an additional questions they would like answers to they could write a letter or email her.**

<b>Location:</b>	Sunshine Nursery & Infant School
<b>Meeting with:</b>	Parents from Sunshine Nursery & Infant and Blakenall Heath Junior School
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 29 January 2019
<b>Time:</b>	2.30pm

**PRESENT:**

<b>Walsall Council:</b>	<b>Sunshine Nursery &amp; Infant School Blakenall Heath Junior School</b>
Alex Groom – School Organisation Manger	1 parent – 2 children at Sunshine & 1 at Blakenall
Javairia Parwez – Admissions Panels Coordinator	

**Questions, Comments & Responses:****Will the admissions policy still be the same?**

There would be no alteration in the admission criteria for the schools and for Blakenall Junior the feeder link still stay in place.

**Would building works be needed? And when would they be done?**

Infant school 9 class rooms, Blakenhall – 12 classrooms.

In some schools we have had to restructure, in other schools we have to build this would be decided following this consultation in line with the review of the grounds and a school feasibility.

The work would be done to minimise disruption to the children at the school as much as possible, however until plans are in place of what needed doing at the school we cannot give exact information.

<b>Location:</b>	Sunshine Nursery & Infant School
<b>Meeting with:</b>	Staff from Sunshine Nursery & Infant School and Blakenall Heath Junior School
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 29 January 2019
<b>Time:</b>	3.30pm

**PRESENT:**

<b>Walsall Council:</b>	<b>Sunshine Nursery &amp; Infant School and Blakenall Heath Junior School:</b>
Alex Groom – School Organisation Manger	16 staff – Blakenall Heath Junior School 22 staff – Sunshine Nursery & Infant School
Javairia Parwez – Admissions Panels Coordinator	

**Questions, Comments & Responses:****Are the projections just for Reception?**

The projections are based largely on birth data, inward and outward migration to the area is reviewed and this is taking into account for all year group. Projections are submitted to the DFE in form of a School capacity Survey (SCAP) every July these projections are suggested for Reception – Y11.

<b>Location:</b>	Sunshine Nursery & Infant School
<b>Meeting with:</b>	Governors from Sunshine Nursery & Infant School and Blakenall Heath Junior School
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 29 January 2019
<b>Time:</b>	4.00pm

**PRESENT:**

<b>Walsall Council:</b>	<b>Sunshine Nursery &amp; Infant School and Blakenall Heath Junior School:</b>
Alex Groom – School Organisation Manager	
Javairia Parwez – Admissions Panels Coordinator	

**Questions, Comments & Responses:****Logistically, what are the details for any /changes to structure any plans in place.**

The idea is to expand the school from 2fe to 3fe however there are no specific plans in place at present on how the increase in children would be incorporated within the school.

**So the cabinet decision is to move to the next step? Not to take additional children.**

The decision on whether to expand the school and admit the children will be decided by Cabinet on 20 March 2019. Dependant on plans and any build required etc... planning permissions would have to be granted.

**Will the minutes of this meeting be shared with schools/governors?**

All notes from the meeting will be submitted with the cabinet paper and made available online, the Cabinet meeting is a public meeting and should people wish to attend that is fine.

**Who will fund it?**

The Local Authority is awarded Basic Need funding through from the Department of Education based on projections in the borough, this money can only be spent on pupil place.

**Is there a fixed funding on this, is it per child?**

There is no fixed budget for how much will be spent on a school expansion, obviously some will cost more than others as it may be appropriate to remodel/renovate the internals of a building whereas other schools may need addition builds.

**From September the budget has already been set?**

Schools will be given funding appropriate to the numbers of children that are on roll at a school. The LA would identify the total number of additional places required and hold funding centrally to be allocated to individual schools (for the period September to March) once places are filled, based on the actual number of places at each school that are then occupied – this therefore reduces the risk of the authority over allocating funding and needing to seek clawback, however the risk to individual schools is that they have no certainty over actual funding that will be received.

For the 2019/20 financial year the LA will keep funding centrally and as schools are identified via the census to take the additional places the money will be allocated.

**When would work start for September?**

All work would be completed as quickly as possible to minimise disruption to the children wherever possible, ideally works would be completed over the holiday period although some things may need to be done in term time. This would be dependent on plans.

**What is the timeline for the decision to be made?**

Cabinet are meeting on 20 March 2019 to make a decision on the proposal.

**If there are issues with ground work – minshafts etc. would this delay the opening in September.**

Potentially there could be issues that arise however the specifics of this cannot be pre-empted.

**Can we use Green Space? Can we have some more?**

There are strict rules about what land and area we can build or expand on and Sport England will not just allow buildings to be placed anywhere.

**Are the school expected to contribute from DFC if they have the money?**

DFC is not expected from schools

## Consultation Meeting Notes – Goldsmith Academy

<b>Location:</b>	Goldsmith Academy
<b>Meeting with:</b>	School Council
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 30 January 2019
<b>Time:</b>	2.00pm

### PRESENT:

<b>Walsall Council:</b>	<b>Goldsmith Academy</b>
Alex Groom– School Organisation Manager	
Fiaza Kauser – Parent Support Advisor – Education Links Worker	

### Questions, Comments & Responses:

#### **If you build some more classrooms, do you think that there would be enough room on the playground for more people to come to the school?**

Luckily your school has a very large site with a lot of space so you are lucky however your head teacher may think about how you have your playtimes.

#### **We have not got a lot of room on the KS1 playground compared to KS2, we have a basketball court, field, area for natural play?**

The last thing we want to do would be to take away your play areas.

#### **If you end up doing the expansion, when will it be?**

All work would be completed as quickly as possible to minimise disruption to the children wherever possible, ideally works would be completed over the holiday period although some things may need to be done in term time. This would be dependent on plans.

#### **If you expand the classrooms would you not have to expand the dinner hall and classrooms?**

No but your head teacher might need to look into to decide how best to arrange lunch times.

#### **Will you expand the stage?**

No we won't be expanding your stage not within this project.

#### **Can we have two floor school?**

There are no plans at present as to how the expansion will be accommodated within the school.

#### **What is our budget?**

Whilst we are mindful of how much is spent on building work and expansion there is no specific amount of money we are going to spend. We have to ensure there is a suitable value for money for the scheme.

#### **If we wanted to fundraise for funds, could we?**

We will cover the costs of the new build but yes you could look at a fundraiser for decorative items.

#### **Will you expand the teacher's staff room?**

The money and funding is for pupil places so we could not necessarily create a new staff room with the money unfortunately.

<b>Location:</b>	Goldsmith Academy
<b>Meeting with:</b>	Parents
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 30 January 2019
<b>Time:</b>	2.30pm

**PRESENT:**

<b>Walsall Council:</b>	<b>Goldsmith Academy</b>
Alex Groom – School Organisation Manager	NO ATTENDEES
Fiaza Kauser – Parent Support Advisor – Education Links Worker	

**Questions, Comments & Responses:**

N/A

<b>Location:</b>	Goldsmith Academy
<b>Meeting with:</b>	Staff
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 30 January 2019
<b>Time:</b>	3.30pm

**PRESENT:**

<b>Walsall Council:</b>	<b>Goldsmith Academy</b>
Alex Groom – School Organisation Manager	15 members of staff Head Teacher
Fiaza Kauser – Parent Support Advisor – Education Links Worker	

**Questions, Comments & Responses:**

No comments, questions or responses

<b>Location:</b>	Goldsmith Academy
<b>Meeting with:</b>	Governors
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 30 January 2019
<b>Time:</b>	4.00pm

**PRESENT:**

<b>Walsall Council:</b>	<b>Goldsmith Academy</b>
Alex Groom – School Organisation Manager	2 x Governors
Fiaza Kauser – Parent Support Advisor – Education Links Worker	

**Questions, Comments & Responses:**

**What sort of schools are you consulting on?**

The schools that the Local Authority are consulting on are at present are: Christ Church CE (C) Primary School, Goldsmith Academy, Reedswood E-ACT and Sunshine Nursery and Infant/Blakenall Heath Junior School. Various criteria is used to select schools that would be appropriate for expansions, birth rates, inward and outward migration and place requirement across the borough are all factors that are reviewed.

**What about projection in this area, for example house building?**

Every September there's a housing development planning meeting so this data will be factored into our projections. Walsall utilise a pupil yield factor which determines how many children will live in a house, dependant on the size of it.

**So the PAN will effect initially reception?**

Yes, we would admit 90 children into Reception September 2019, year 1-6 would remain at 60 until the next September when the Reception children would move into Y1, and this would progress annually until the entire school had increased to 90 children in each year group.

**How will the building look?**

There are no specific plans yet in place, this is just a proposal at this time. Cabinet will make the decision on whether we move forward with the expansion on Wednesday 20 March 2019.

## Consultation Meeting Notes – Reedswood E-ACT Academy

<b>Location:</b>	Reedswood E-ACT Academy
<b>Meeting with:</b>	School Council
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 31 January 2019
<b>Time:</b>	2.00pm

### PRESENT:

<b>Walsall Council:</b>	<b>Reedswood E-ACT Academy</b>
Alex Groom – School Organisation Manager	15 Students
Javairia Parwez – Admissions Panels Coordinator	

### Questions, Comments & Responses:

Requested a music room so that music classes are not in their classrooms where they have to take out their equipment.

Different subjects in different rooms – similar to secondary schools.

Requested adding drawers within the tables for their rubbers and rulers.

Requested a deeper swimming pool or two separate pools.

There were no questions from the children just conversations around their above requests.

<b>Location:</b>	Reedswood E-ACT Academy
<b>Meeting with:</b>	Parents
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 31 January 2019
<b>Time:</b>	2.30pm

### PRESENT:

<b>Walsall Council:</b>	<b>Reedswood E-ACT Academy</b>
Alex Groom – School Organisation Manager	3 parents & 1 school ambassador
Javairia Parwez – Admissions Panels Coordinator	

### Questions, Comments & Responses:

#### Extra 30 a year group where would they go?

The school would admit 90 children into Reception in September, it may be necessary that we need to install some temporary structures to accommodate this increase in numbers.

#### Is there any intention to build a new building?

At present there are no specific plans in place for the school in terms of how the additional classes that are required will be created, this is something that we determined if the proposal is agreed at Cabinet.

#### Where will the new building go?

There are no set plans, it would be decided between the Council, the Trust and the Head if the proposal is agreed.

#### With the influx of children how will this impact lunchtimes and classes?

This is something that the head teacher would need to review, it may be necessary to stagger lunchtimes.



**Will there be extra place in September/more teachers?**

After the cabinet meeting, from March plans will be made for September adjustments. As a short term, measure cabins will be placed on the grounds, which will be very equipped.

**Where will you get your funding?**

On an annual basis the Local Authority has to submit a School Capacity (SCAP) return to the DFE advising of places within the borough and places required. The DFE then provide the LA with funding as appropriate, this funding is Basic Need funding and can only be spent on pupil places.

**Additional places may affect the rating of the school for e.g. additional children who have a history of absence.**

All places should be offered in the school’s admissions criteria.

**Will we be able to apply to highways to put a request in place for the road to be made one-way?**

This is not something that I would do as part of the school expansion however if there is something of concern that you felt was necessary to comment on then by all means include it on a formal consultation form.

**What happens if the birth rate drops/there are new builds within which will always affect the school.**

The projections that we are working with are showing information up to September 2023.

**Keep the core values of the schools in place whilst working in partnership with the school and head teacher, there will be no issues.**

Two weeks tomorrow, 15<sup>th</sup> February is the deadline anything received after 5pm on the 15<sup>th</sup> will not be counted in the cabinet meeting.

**Who is the portfolio holder?**

Councillor Christopher Towe

**When will the project start?**

The PAN will not change until 2021 but additional children will be admitted from this September 2019. Whilst not every building will be ready by then, this means temporary accommodation will be required in the meantime through either renovation of internal space or temporary buildings.

<b>Location:</b>	Reedwood E-ACT Academy
<b>Meeting with:</b>	Staff
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 31 January 2019
<b>Time:</b>	3.30pm

**PRESENT:**

<b>Walsall Council:</b>	<b>Reedwood E-ACT Academy</b>
Alex Groom – School Organisation Manager	
Javairia Parwez – Admissions Panels Coordinator	

**Questions, Comments & Responses:**

**The school is excited for the projects but hope the LA will be mindful of the space they are using to ensure space is not removed that is required such as intervention rooms etc...**

There are no plans in place at present but all plans will be worked through by the LA, the Trust and the head teacher.

## Consultation Meeting Notes – Christ Church CE (C) Primary School

<b>Location:</b>	Christ Church CE (C) Primary School
<b>Meeting with:</b>	School Council
<b>Date:</b>	Friday 1 February 2019
<b>Time:</b>	2.00pm

### PRESENT:

<b>Walsall Council:</b>	<b>Christ Church CE (C) Primary School</b>
Alex Groom – School Organisation Manager	10 members of school council
Javairia Parwez – Admissions Panels Coordinator	

### Questions, Comments & Responses:

#### Would we still be with the same people in our class?

Yes, it would firstly only affect Reception. No more children would be added from Years 1-6.

#### Wouldn't the playground be too small?

Mr Davies (head teacher) would have to think about how to arrange lunchtimes so that there was adequate space for everyone.

#### Would we still have red/orange/yellow?

Mr Davies would discuss what is best for the school, AG explained she would look at building aspect. Everything within the school and how it is managed would be up to Mr Davies.

#### I don't like how orange/red/yellow classes split when they move into year 1 they have to change classes. I feel like this would affect their confidence and lose their friends.

The expansion would mean the classes remain together from Reception to Year 6 once it had moved through the school here would be no mixed age teaching at all.

#### When would the expansion start?

Cabinet will make a decision on whether the proposal is agreed at a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019 if they agree we would look to admit 60 children into the school from September 2019 in reception.

#### When the building work starts will it happen during lesson time as it may disturb us?

To add the additional children September 2019 would require no work doing as currently 45 children in Reception are split into two classes, 23 and 22. In taking the additional 15 children it would mean their classes became 30 and 30 which the school have space for. No work would therefore be required for this September 2019 but when works did need completing where possible we would do the work outside of term-time so people at the school were not disturbed.

#### If work starts parents might have to look after their children at home and won't be able to go to work?

AG explained pupils would not miss school for the building works.

#### What company would you use to build the school?

AG explained the Council would source this.

#### Do you know how long it will take?

Not sure yet as we have not decided what's going to happen and where.

### **Where would the classes go?**

We have not decided yet as this is just a proposal at present, if the proposal is agree we will work with Mr Davies to decide.

### **Where will you get the money?**

The Council has a fund called 'Basic Need' which can only be spent on pupil place creation so we would use this.

### **In your opinion, do you think this extension is a good idea?**

AG said yes, do you? I am in the middle.

### **Some pupils explained it is a good idea as there will be more children – more friends.**

Good reason – more money will be given to the school for supplies, bad reason – some of the friends would get split up and they won't get to see each other and pupils might lose confidence in themselves.

Bad idea as you will change all the children's playground and lose people's land

### **I am worried that my baby sister might not start in Reception.**

If someone has a brother and sister who already comes here they would have a link into the school

AG explained this is a consultation no decision has been made yet, formal consultation response needs to come back before the deadline before 5pm on 15<sup>th</sup> February. This can be done anytime between now and Friday.

### **What if the expansion gets rejected?**

AG explained the reason we are doing this is because there are not enough spaces for the children being born in this planning area, there would have to be a very good reason for it to be rejected.

<b>Location:</b>	Christ Church CE (C) Primary School
<b>Meeting with:</b>	Parents
<b>Date:</b>	Friday 1 February 2019
<b>Time:</b>	2.30pm

### **PRESENT:**

<b>Walsall Council:</b>	<b>Christ Church CE (C) Primary School</b>
Alex Groom– School Organisation Manger	20 parents
Javairia Parwez – Admissions Panels Coordinator	

### **Questions, Comments & Responses:**

#### **This is just a proposal and there are no plans? If this is accepted where would the extra children go?**

The reception classes are big enough for extra children to function in currently. We would make plans for additional building work for September 2020.

#### **Ratio of staff to pupils?**

Reception would be the only class effected from September and there would be 30 pupils to a teacher. Years 1-6 would remain the same, there would be no increase. The more pupils in a school, the more funding the school would receive.

**How long would the building work take?**

No estimated time period at present as we are unsure what we are going to be doing in terms of building, however we would look to complete the work as soon as possible so that everything is done in one go.

**Would it affect the Forest as other schools use this?**

There are no plans in place yet so we cannot say specifically what space will be utilised however there are rules and regulations in terms of what space can be used.

**Would the children already here remain as mixed class?**

The expansion would be annual introduced into the school from reception, in terms of how the internal workings of classes are structured that would be a decision for Mr Davies.

**High level of education currently within the school we do not want this reducing or effected.**

We would never look to reduce the educational value of a schools and would always do things to support a school maintaining and increasing school standards wherever possible. We do not want the school standards to reduce in anyway, we are confident the school would be able to deal with this and uphold standards.

**Would it take away from faith places?**

No it would increase, faith places are 25% of each year group.

**Is there any way of reducing catchment areas therefore reducing amount of cars?**

Walsall does not work with catchment areas specifically and so anyone can apply from anywhere in the borough for a place, all places will however be offered in admission criteria order, the furthest distance offered last year was 0.199 miles and the previous year it was 0.4 miles. It is not necessarily the distance away from the school the family live resulting in them driving it is due to cars being used for convenience – i.e. dropping on way to work etc...

**Is this the only school looked at being expanded in this area?**

No, this proposal is for the expansion of Christ Church Ce (C) Primary School, Goldsmith Academy, Reedswood E-ACT Academy and Sunshine Nursery & Infant School/Blakenall Heath Junior School.

**Why not build a new school?**

Would have to be a free school or an academy. Whilst free school proposals have been put forward but not approved.

**Can we build up rather than out?**

Depending on structure of current school, architects would look at possibilities.

**The hall is a squeeze in the mornings. What would be added?**

The plans have not been determined yet.

**If you build up would the disabled children be accommodated?**

We would always take this into consideration we need to ensure we accommodate for everybody.

**Would the nursery places be changing?**

Nursery is not a statutory requirement and so I cannot talk specifically around nursery provision the school may approach Early Years if they would like to look into this.

### What if we would like to revert back to a 1 and half form entry?

If places are not being filled, we may consider it but this is very unlikely for this school, places fill within 0.2 miles it is unlikely that it would not meet 2fe requirements.

<b>Location:</b>	Christ Church CE (C) Primary School
<b>Meeting with:</b>	Staff
<b>Date:</b>	Friday 1 February 2019
<b>Time:</b>	3.30pm

#### PRESENT:

<b>Walsall Council:</b>	<b>Christ Church CE (C) Primary School</b>
Alex Groom – School Organisation Manager	X22 staff x1 Head teacher
Javairia Parwez – Admissions Panels Coordinator	

#### Questions, Comments & Responses:

**If this goes through will the gate of the school be moved forward to make it more difficult to park at the entrance?**

This is an un-adopted road and would need to be investigated

**Will you be looking at staff parking?**

No specific plans at present however head has mentioned how tight parking is at the site,.

**School budgets are tight, what financial responsibility would the Council take?**

The build will be funded by basic need funding from the local authority which is money that can only be spent on pupil places. Within school, we would provide money for furniture/fixtures/standard classrooms. The more children that arrive in a school, the more money is provided for the school, filling the school would not be an issue.

**Would nursery increase from this September too?**

Nursery is not a statutory requirement and so I cannot talk specifically around nursery provision the school may approach Early Years if they would like to look into this.

**If we take the additional 15 for September, and the expansion does not go ahead what happens?**

The PAN will only be changed once the decision for the proposal has been made.

<b>Location:</b>	Christ Church CE (C) Primary School
<b>Meeting with:</b>	Governors
<b>Date:</b>	Friday 1 February 2019
<b>Time:</b>	4.00 pm

#### PRESENT:

<b>Walsall Council:</b>	<b>Christ Church CE (C) Primary School</b>
Alex Groom – School Organisation Manager	
Javairia Parwez – Admissions Panels Coordinator	

## **Questions, Comments & Responses:**

### **Parking is a massive issue, if the build goes ahead will there be parking facilities included in the proposal?**

The road is un-adopted and would need to be investigated, there are no plans in place at present however the head has mentioned (as have the staff) concerns with the road.

### **What criteria did you use to choose this school?**

Looking at the demand in the area, how well the head teacher receives the idea of an expansion, site suitability, OFSTED rating, desirability of the school. We look at schools where the school is strong enough to accommodate an increase in pupils

### **If we take 15 extra in Reception, would this open us up to taking additional children in other year groups?**

Years 1-6 PAN would remain the same, the LA may approach the head teacher to see if the school would be able to accommodate but we would not be offering any additional places in years 1-6. In terms of building space we would want to do this work as soon as possible. It would be case dependent if the head teacher would want to admit additional in years 1-6.

### **Do you envisage completing building work all at once?**

Yes in one go and also outside of term time where possible.

### **If it went ahead after March, who will manage the build?**

Alex would be contactable at any point however so Julian Gibbons from IFM would be available also.

### **Where the funding coming from?**

Every year the local authority has to submit a school capacity survey (SCAP) which determines the allocation of funding for pupil place planning purposes, this money can only be spent on pupil places and so this is what would be used.

### **If we take on an additional 15, and we agree to take some additional in Years 1-6 would be over the 30 allowed Published Admission Number (PAN)?**

The PAN would remain as 45 for Years 1-5 and 30 for Year 6.

Should it be possible, i.e. the space was available for children to be admitted over PAN and was not an issue for the school the head and the LA may feel it appropriate to admit however this would be a discuss on individual basis.

### **What happens if the proposal is declined?**

Cabinet are aware of the need for the places. There does not seem to be any indication of why it would not move forward. The LA has a statutory duty to provide children with enough school places.

### **If it all goes ahead, have you got enough time for March to notify parents by offer day?**

We would ensure all the additional places are offered in time for offer day.

### **Would the nursery places be changing?**

Nursery is not a statutory requirement and so I cannot talk specifically around nursery provision the school may approach Early Years if they would like to look into this.

**Summary of Consultation Responses:****Sunshine Nursery & Infant School/ Blakenall Heath Junior School**

A total of **0** consultation response forms were received in relation to the proposed expansion of Sunshine Nursery & Infant/Blakenall Heath Junior School.

	Do you support the proposal?			
	Yes	Unsure	No	Nil Return
<b>Pupils</b>				
<b>Parents</b>				
<b>Staff</b>				
<b>Governors</b>				
<b>Parent/Pupil Combined Response</b>				
<b>Other</b>				
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	

**Goldsmith Academy**

A total of **0** consultation response forms were received in relation to the proposed expansion of Goldsmith Academy.

	Do you support the proposal?			
	Yes	Unsure	No	Nil Return
<b>Pupils</b>				
<b>Parents</b>				
<b>Staff</b>				
<b>Governors</b>				
<b>Parent/Pupil Combined Response</b>				
<b>Other</b>				
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	

### **Reedswood E-ACT Academy**

A total of **2** consultation response forms were received in relation to the proposed expansion of Reedswood E-ACT Academy.

There was **1** response from pupils, **0** responses from parents/carers, **0** responses from staff and **1** responses from school parent ambassadors.

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 as Appendix E

	<b>Do you support the proposal?</b>			
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Nil Return</b>
<b>Pupils</b>	1			
<b>Parents</b>				
<b>Staff</b>				
<b>Governors</b>	1			
<b>Parent/Pupil Combined Response</b>				
<b>Other</b>				
<b>Total</b>	2			

### **Christ Church CE (C) Primary School**

A total of **26** consultation response forms were received in relation to the proposed expansion of Christ Church CE (C) Primary School.

There were **10** responses from pupils, **1** response from parents/carers, **13** responses from staff and **0** responses from school governors.

There was 1 joint response from a parent/student and also 1 letter from the Diocesan representative.

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 as Appendix E

	<b>Do you support the proposal?</b>			
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Nil Return</b>
<b>Pupils</b>	10			
<b>Parents</b>	1			
<b>Staff</b>	12	1		
<b>Governors</b>				
<b>Parent/Pupil Combined Response</b>	1			
<b>Other</b>	1			
<b>Total</b>	25	1		