

<h1 style="margin: 0;">REPORT FOR DECISION</h1>
---

<b>Agenda Item</b>	
--------------------	--

<b>DECISION OF:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>26 JULY 2017</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>PARRENTHORN HIGH SCHOOL PROPOSAL TO ENLARGE THE SCHOOL PREMISES</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – COUNCILLOR SHARON BRIGGS</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>PAUL COOKE STRATEGIC LEAD (SCHOOLS, ACADEMIES AND COLLEGES)</b>
<b>TYPE OF DECISION:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE (KEY DECISION)</b>
<b>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>SUMMARY:</b>	<p>The Local Authority is under a statutory duty to ensure the sufficiency of school places in their area in order to meet the demand for places from within the resident population.</p> <p>In Bury, the demand for secondary school places has steadily increased in recent years. With demand forecast to continue, the numbers seeking a secondary school place are now close to available capacity. Demographic patterns mean that this demand pressure is more acute in the South of the Borough.</p> <p>Modelling of future demand suggests that the most appropriate school in which to create additional capacity is Parrenthorn High School.</p> <p>The Local Authority has therefore published and consulted upon a statutory proposal to enlarge the</p>

	<p>premises of Parrenthorn High School in order to support an increase in its Published Admission Number from 168 to 210 with effect from September 2018.</p> <p>In accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended by the Education Act 2011), and associated School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, the Local Authority has responsibility for determining the proposal.</p>
<b>OPTIONS &amp; RECOMMENDED OPTION</b>	Cabinet is requested to determine the proposal as published.
<b>IMPLICATIONS:</b>	
<b>Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:</b>	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework?            Yes                            No
<b>Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:</b>	<p>Cost of capital works will be fully funded through Basic Need Capital Grant</p> <p>Revenue costs will have to be funded within the school's budget allocation</p>
<b>Health and Safety Implications</b>	
<b>Statement by Executive Director of Resources</b>	There are no wider resource requirements
<b>Equality/Diversity implications:</b>	Yes                            No (see paragraph below)
<b>Considered by Monitoring Officer:</b>	The proposals are in line with the need to meet pupil demand and comply with the Council's statutory duty. The process followed for enlarging the school, including the consultation, is in accordance with the relevant legislation and the associated statutory guidance, which the Council must have regard to.
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	Holyrood
<b>Scrutiny Interest:</b>	

**TRACKING/PROCESS****DIRECTOR:**

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet/Committee	Council	

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Local Authority is under a statutory duty to ensure the sufficiency of school places in their area in order to meet the demand for places from within the resident population.
- 1.2 The LA receives Basic Need Grant Funding which is specifically allocated for the development of new pupil places.
- 1.3 In Bury, the demand for school places has steadily increased in recent years, initially placing demands on primary schools, and more recently on secondary schools. With demand forecast to continue, the numbers seeking a secondary school place are now close to available capacity. Demographic patterns mean that this demand pressure is more acute in the South of the Borough.
- 1.4 Modelling of future demand suggests that the most appropriate school in which to create additional capacity is Parrenthorn High School.
- 1.5 Parrenthorn High School, with a current Published Admission Number of 168, is one of the smallest secondary schools in Bury, but is one of the most heavily oversubscribed. For the September 2017 intake there were 287 1<sup>st</sup> preference applications.
- 1.6 The average secondary school in Bury has a capacity of approximately 1,000 compared with 840 at Parrenthorn.
- 1.7 It is therefore proposed to increase the capacity of the school to 1,050 through an increase in the PAN to 210 with effect from September 2018. In order to ensure that the necessary accommodation is available for use in 2018, construction of new facilities will need to begin in Summer 2017.
- 1.8 A review of the existing building has identified the shortfall in accommodation necessary to increase capacity from the current notional 6 form of entry (900 pupils) to 7 form of entry (1050 pupils).
- 1.9 In order to achieve the requirements, it is proposed that a new dedicated two storey science block will be constructed adjacent to the main school buildings, in order to relocate existing science laboratories, prep room and ICT rooms,

thereby enabling a number of general teaching spaces to be created. This new block will be accessed via new corridors from the existing main school corridors with additional external access/egress.

- 1.10 The work will be funded using the Basic Need Grant which is specifically allocated for the development of new pupil places, and for which provision is made within the Council's agreed capital programme.
- 1.11 The LA must balance the overall demand for school places with the level of oversubscription at individual schools to ensure that, whilst there is sufficient capacity to meet demand that this isn't provided at the expense of other schools. It is not anticipated that the proposed increase at Parrenthorn would have a negative impact upon the pupil numbers in any other Bury school.

## **2.0 Process**

- 2.1 The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, and associated statutory guidance, set out the process to be followed in relation to changes to school organisation, and the factors that must be considered by decision makers.
- 2.2 In respect of changes involving a Community school, such as enlargement of school premises, the LA it is both the proposer and the decision maker of the proposal.
- 2.3 Upon publication of a statutory notice setting out the proposal, representations can be made to the LA by any person within a four week period.
- 2.4 The statutory guidance states that the LA as decision-maker will need to be satisfied that the appropriate, fair and open consultation has been carried out, and that the proposer has given full consideration to all the responses received.
- 2.5 The decision-maker must consider the views of those affected by a proposal or who have an interest in it and should not simply take account of the numbers of people expressing a particular view. Instead, they should give the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school.
- 2.6 Thereafter, it is for the LA to consider the proposal and to determine if it should be approved. If it is unable to do so, the LA must refer the proposal to the Schools Adjudicator for decision.

## **3.0 Consultation**

- 3.1 The proposal was published on 8 June 2017, setting out arrangements for those affected by the proposal to make their views known. The closing date for receipt of comments was 7 July 2017.
- 3.2 The LA received four objections to the proposal from senior leaders at a neighbouring secondary school and a secondary academy. Respondents expressed concerns that an increase in capacity at Parrenthorn High School would be detrimental to pupil numbers at their respective establishments. Queries were also raised with regards to capital investment.

- 3.3 A summary of the representations received in response to the consultation, and responses to the issues raised is set out at Appendix 1.
- 3.4 Cabinet members will also have sight of all responses received.

#### **4.0 Implications**

- 4.1 The expansion of the premises will be funded using the Basic Need Grant which is specifically allocated for the development of new pupil places, and for which provision is made within the Council's agreed capital programme. Cabinet gave approval to the capital expenditure associated with the scheme at its meeting on 28 June 2017.
- 4.2 Planning approval has also been granted for the scheme.

#### **5.0 Conclusion**

- 5.1 The Local Authority is under a statutory duty to ensure the sufficiency of school places in their area in order to meet the demand for places from within the resident population.
- 5.2 In considering proposals, the Local Authority as decision maker must now decide to either reject the proposal; approve the proposal without modification; approve the proposal with modifications; or approve the proposal – with or without modification – subject to certain conditions being met.
- 5.3 The statutory process in making a prescribed alteration to a school has been followed.
- 5.4 In that respect there appears to be no reason for the Local Authority to reject the proposal.
- 5.5 Cabinet is therefore requested to approve the proposal as published.

---

#### **List of Background Papers:-**

Prescribed Alteration Statutory Proposal  
Making 'prescribed alterations' to maintained schools - Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers, DfE April 2016  
Guidance for Decision Makers, DfE April 2016

#### **Contact Details:-**

Paul Cooke – Strategic Lead (Schools, Academies and Colleges)  
0161 253 5674  
[p.cooke@bury.gov.uk](mailto:p.cooke@bury.gov.uk)