

**SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE OF CABINET
– 24th MARCH 2020**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report: Proposed Enlargement of St Pauls CE VC Primary School

Author(s): Executive Director of Neighbourhoods

Purpose of Report: The purpose of this report is to request a decision on the proposal to enlarge St Paul's CE VC Primary School from a capacity of 210 places to a capacity of 315 places.

Description of Decision: School Organisation Committee of Cabinet is asked to:

Note the responses to the statutory and pre-publication consultations and consider the statutory proposal which is to:

Enlarge the premises which will increase the capacity of St Paul's CE VC Primary School, Waterworks Road, Ryhope, SR2 0LW from 210 places to 315 places with effect from 1st September 2022.

Under the provisions of the relevant Regulations, the Authority may approve published proposals with or without modification or may reject them.
The Committee is requested to approve the proposal as detailed above.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? Yes

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

Reason for the Decision

The Council has identified that additional primary school places will be needed to meet the infrastructure requirements of the South Sunderland Growth Area (SSGA). It has been proposed that these requirements are met through the expansion of two existing primary schools and the future development of a new 315 place primary school. St Paul's CE VC Primary School has been identified as one of the two existing schools to be expanded in order to increase the supply of primary school places in the area.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

- Retain existing capacity of St Paul's CE VC Primary School

Impacts analysed;

Equality **Privacy** **Sustainability** **Crime and Disorder**

Is the Decision consistent with the Council's co-operative values? Yes

Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution? Yes

Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions? Yes

PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF ST PAUL'S CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOODS****1. Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to request a decision on the proposal to enlarge St Paul's CE VC Primary School (St Paul's) from a capacity of 210 places to a capacity of 315 places.

2. Description of Decision**2.1 School Organisation Committee of Cabinet is asked to:**

Note the responses to the statutory and pre-publication consultations and consider the statutory proposal which is to:

Enlarge the premises which will increase the capacity of St Paul's CE VC Primary School, Waterworks Road, Ryhope, SR2 0LW from 210 places to 315 places with effect from 1st September 2022.

Under the provisions of the relevant Regulations, the Authority may approve published proposals with or without modification or may reject them. The Committee is requested to approve the proposal as detailed above.

3. Current Position

3.1 St Paul's CE VC Primary School in Ryhope is a 210 place voluntary controlled Church of England Primary School. As such it is maintained by Sunderland City Council as opposed to the Diocese of Durham. The school is recognised by Ofsted as an Outstanding School.

3.2 The school is consistently oversubscribed during the normal admissions round. For the September 2020 academic year there were 53 on time, first preference applications made by parents for 30 reception places.

3.3 The school serves the area that now includes the South Sunderland Growth Area (SSGA). The SSGA is projected to develop in excess of 3000 new homes in the area. A number of the new homes will be in the South Ryhope area at the former Cherry Knowle Hospital site. In total the SSGA is projected to result in an increase of between 630 and 720 new primary aged pupils in the South Sunderland area.

3.4 The proposal for the expansion of St Paul's CE VC Primary School is part of the wider education infrastructure proposals linked to the SSGA. These also include the 105 place expansion of Benedict Biscop CE Primary Academy in September 2021 and the proposed development of a new 315 place primary school when required.

3.5 The enlargement of St Paul's will provide 4 additional classrooms and associated toilets and storage.

4.0 Numbers on Roll and Impact of Planned Housing

4.1 As of October 2019 St Paul's CE VC Primary School was either at capacity or oversubscribed in every year group. There were 213 children on roll. The school has a net capacity of 210 children.

4.2 The number of 1st preferences for 2020's reception class, at 53 applications, is currently 23 places greater than the 30 places on offer.

4.3 The school is located within statutory walking distance of the SSGA developments at Cherry Knowle, South Ryhope and the neighbouring development at Rushford. These developments are anticipated to yield 1477 new homes with an anticipated primary pupil yield of between 339 and 350. At the October 2019 Census point the schools within statutory walking distance of the entirety of the above developments (St Paul's CE VC Primary School, St Patrick' RC Primary School and Ryhope Infant Academy and Junior School) had 104 surplus places across all age groups. However, 22% of all surplus places in the schools in the area were made up from two year groups, Reception and Year 1. New Silksworth Infants and Junior Academies and St Leonards RC Primary School are considered outside of Key Stage 1 Statutory Walking Distance from the developments based on current road infrastructure and therefore have not been included in this assessment.

4.4 Based on current numbers of pupils on roll, should the proposal to expand St Paul's proceed, in conjunction with the planned expansion of Benedict Biscop CE Academy in 2021/22, the remaining projected primary place deficit required to meet the requirements of the SSGA in the SHLAA period to 2032/33 will be 115 places. The total remaining requirement by completion of the SSGA is currently projected at 314 primary school places

4.5 It is proposed that the increased capacity at St Paul's CE VC Primary School is released by adopting a PAN of 45 for the 2022/23 Reception intake and for all subsequent reception cohorts. However, a PAN of 30 will be retained for all year groups already on roll i.e. year groups established in the period 2015/16 and 2021/22. This will support the utilisation of alternative surplus places in other settings in the area in advance of the new capacity at St Paul's.

5.0 Consultation

5.1 In September 2019 Cabinet approved a proposal to commence the School Organisation processes required for the enlargement of St Paul's CE VC Primary School.

5.2 A pre-publication consultation was live between 2nd October and 18th November 2019. The pre-publication consultation contained the Council's proposal to expand the existing capacity of the school.

5.3 Consultation was carried out with the following groups

- Parents of pupils attending St Paul's CE VC Primary School
- Current staff
- Trade Union Representatives
- The wider local community
- Both the local RC and CE diocese

There were 37 responses to the Council's proposal to enlarging St Paul's CE VC Primary School. Of those 54% supported the Council's proposal and 45% did not. Responses are collated as Appendix 1 of this report.

5.4 The Council published notification of the statutory proposal for the enlargement of St Paul's CE VC Primary on 18th January 2020. The statutory notice period ended 17th February 2020. The statutory notice was published in the following places:

- Sunderland City Council's website
- St Paul's CE VC Primary School's website
- The Sunderland Echo

The notice was also displayed at the entrances of the school buildings.

5.5 In addition to the publication of notices the following groups were consulted with as part of this process:

- Parents of pupils attending the school
- Current staff
- The local Church of England diocese
- The local Roman Catholic diocese and
- The Secretary of State for Education.

5.6 The Council has received four responses to the notice opposing the Council's proposal. The statutory notice and the full proposal document and responses to the proposal are attached at Appendix 2, Appendix 3 and Appendix 4.

6.0 Next Steps

6.1 The Council has already submitted plans for the works required to extend the school. Planning approval for these works was given on 4th September 2018.

6.2 Subject to Committee approval it is proposed that a contractor is sought to deliver the required capital works in June/ July 2021, with external site works to support the enlargement of the premises commencing in Summer 2021 and alterations to the school building concluding in 2022.

6.3 The additional capacity within the school will be available in September 2022 with the increased capacity of 105 released in 15 place increments over the

period 2022/23 – 2028/29 unless pupil numbers dictate an earlier release of the additional capacity.

7. Reasons for the Decision

- 7.1 The Council has identified that additional primary school places will be needed to meet the infrastructure requirements of the South Sunderland Growth Area. It has been proposed that these requirements are met through the expansion of two existing primary schools and the future development of a new primary school. St Paul's CE VC Primary School has been identified as one of the two existing schools to be expanded in order to increase the supply of primary school places in the area.

8. Alternative Options

Retain existing capacity at the school.

- 8.1 St Paul's CE VC Primary School has been identified as the most appropriate setting, both geographically, in light of quality of provision (the school currently rated as Outstanding by Ofsted) and regarding the adaptability of the existing building, to support the increased infrastructure requirements at the SSGA. It is considered that retaining the existing capacity at St Paul's would lead to a shortfall in primary school places in future years and is therefore not recommended. Alternatively, given the school buildings at St Paul's were designed to be expanded at a future date, expansion of an alternative education setting would not result in the same capital economies and would result in new school places being located at a greater walking distance from the new properties within the SSGA.

9. Impact Analysis

Sustainability – The above proposal will ensure the provision of primary school places in South Sunderland is sustainable for future years. It will provide infrastructure support for new housing in the area, contributing towards the Council's identified priorities.

Equalities Analysis – The proposal is not projected to disadvantage any individual, social group or organisation. The Equalities Assessment is included at Appendix 5.

10. Other Relevant Considerations / Consultations

- 10.1 **Co-operative values** – At Annual Council in May 2015, it was resolved that the following statement be included in the Constitution to reflect the values of the "Co-operative Council".

"Sunderland City Council is a co-operative council and in being so will act ethically in all its actions while adhering to and actively promoting its co-operative values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. These values will underpin its decision making and actions."

10.2 Financial implications

The budget for the estimated capital cost (£1m) was approved as part of the Council's Capital Programme in March 2018.

The extension at St Paul's CE VC Primary School is included within the Council's Housing Infrastructure Fund bid, submitted to the Department of Homes and Communities in 2019. In order to secure funding via this route the Council is required to deliver the expansion of St Paul's by September 2022.

The city operates a 'Growth Fund' mechanism to support the provision of additional school places when delivered as part of the Council's wider school place sufficiency requirements. This funding is available to schools rated as Good and Outstanding by Ofsted. St Paul's will be eligible to receive this funding, subject to Schools Forum approval, from September 2022.

10.3 Legal Implications

Throughout the process, from informal consultation to the publication of the statutory proposals, the Council has complied with the requirements of the applicable legislation (the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013)) and has also adhered to the Department for Education's 2018 Statutory Guidance 'Making Significant Changes ('Prescribed Alterations') to Maintained Schools'.

11. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Pre-Publication Consultation Outcomes

Appendix 2 – Statutory Notice to Enlarge St Paul's CE VC Primary School Primary School

Appendix 3 – Full Proposal Document

Appendix 4 – Responses to Statutory Notices and Full Proposal

Appendix 5 – Equalities Assessment

12. Background Papers

September 2019 Cabinet report - Publication of Statutory Notices related to School Organisation

