

CABINET MEETING – 18 JUNE 2014 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I									
Title of Report: Proposed Capital Works at Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School to respond to demand for Primary School Places in The Coalfields and Washington.									
Author(s): Executive Director People Directorate									
Purpose of Report: To seek approval for capital development to increase school places at Our Lady Queen of Peace Roman Catholic (RC) Primary School from 210 to 315 to respond to projected over subscription in the Coalfields and Washington areas from faith based families in both areas									
Description of Decision: Cabinet is asked to agree the recommendation to approve the capital project at Our Lady Queen of Peace in order that the planning and procurement processes can commence to start on site from September 2014.									
Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? *Yes/									
If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework									
Suggested reason(s) for Decision: The proposed work exceeds £250,000 and Cabinet approval of works is therefore required in order to proceed with planning and build process.									
Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected: Given the requirements described above there are no alternative recommendations to consider.									
Impacts analysed: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">Equality</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">Privacy</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">Sustainability</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 20px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">X</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">Crime and Disorder</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></td> </tr> </table>		Equality		Privacy		Sustainability	X	Crime and Disorder	
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Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution? Yes	Scrutiny Committee:								
Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions? Yes									

**CAPITAL DEVELOPMENTS AT OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE RC
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE DIRECTORATE

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To seek approval for capital development to increase the number of school places from 210 to 315 at Our Lady Queen of Peace Roman Catholic (RC) Primary School.

2. Description of the Decision

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to agree the recommendation to approve the capital project at Our Lady Queen of Peace in order that the planning and procurement processes can commence to start on site from September 2014.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient local school places to meet the needs of the local school aged population. In order to ensure the sufficiency of places the local authority uses a variety of data sources, including live birth rate data, GP registration data and housing development information to identify any shortfall in places within the local area.
- 3.2 In recent years there has been an increase in the birth rates in key areas across Sunderland. These areas include Washington and the Coalfields. Both areas have also been subject to recent housing developments which have placed additional pressure on the sufficiency of primary school places.
- 3.3 Further to this there has been specific over subscription against places in the Primary Catholic sector with demand for places exceeding supply in the Catholic Schools servicing the Washington/ Coalfields area. Discussions with the RC Diocese indicate that there has also been an increase in local baptism rates across the City
- 3.3 In 2012/13 the Council made temporary increases in the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) of a number of schools in Washington in order to ensure that there were sufficient places across the planning area to accommodate all pupils. On account of pupil projections indicating a drop in pupil numbers in 2013/14 all PANs returned to their previous levels for the 2013/14 academic year (with the exception of Biddick Primary School). However, with pupil numbers projected to increase again in 2014/15 and beyond it will be necessary to create additional accommodation across Washington to meet the demand for

school places. For this reason the PAN at Biddick Primary School was maintained at 45 pupils in reception as a permanent increase (from the previous fixed PAN of 30) with capital expenditure associated with the increase approved by Cabinet in September 2013.

- 3.4 In addition to this there is projected future growth in the Coalfields area of the city. Existing work at Easington Lane Primary School is anticipated to mitigate the projected demand from an increased birth rate and the impact of new housing development in the south of the Coalfields but further pressure for places is anticipated in the Houghton / Shiney Row area in future years with planned housing developments expected.
- 3.5 Demand from catholic families for catholic places has increased in recent years with significant over demand experienced across the sector. In the area covering Washington and the Coalfields in 2013/14 there was a shortfall of 61 places across the four catholic schools in the area. The greatest demand for places was at Our Lady Queen of Peace with 26 children on the waiting list. In July 2013 the RC Diocese, with the support of the Local Authority, chose to make a temporary increase in the PAN at Our Lady Queen of Peace from 30 to 45 in order to accommodate a proportion of the over demand with temporary accommodation funded from the Council's Department for Education (DfE) Basic Need Allocation available to schools across all sectors for the supply of places.
- 3.6 Oversubscription in the RC primary sector has continued in 2014/15 with all RC schools in the Coalfields/ Washington areas of the city oversubscribed for the 2014/15 academic year.

4. Current Position

4.1 Our Lady Queen of Peace RC Primary School

- 4.2 Primary aged pupil numbers in the Houghton/ Shiney Row and Washington areas are projected to continue to increase in future years, and with demand for faith places in the primary sector continuing to exceed supply, it is projected that there will be ongoing pressure on primary places in the local area. Across all children the shortage of reception places in Shiney Row from 2014/15 onwards is projected at 12 places rising to 18 places in 17/18
- 4.3 Demand is expected to increase further with work ongoing in developments at the former Lambton Cokeworks site and with the proposed development of the Philadelphia area.
- 4.4 The governors at Our Lady Queen of Peace RC Primary School, supported by the RC Diocese and the Council increased the PAN of the school from 30 to 45 for the 2013/14 academic year. In order to create accommodation for the increased pupil numbers, a temporary classroom was provided.

- 4.5 To facilitate a permanent increase in the proposed pupil capacity, from 210 to 315, it will be necessary to increase the number of existing general teaching spaces in the school by three fixed class spaces.
- 4.6 To meet the required accommodation standards for a 315 place school it will also be necessary to provide a separate studio space to enhance the curriculum in areas such as music and drama. The new accommodation will also include increased toilet and storage provision as well as an increase in outdoor play area and amendments to existing safeguarding elements of the building.
- 4.7 Following dialogue with planning officers a further requirement to increase onsite parking has been identified. This requirement has been incorporated within the project budget.
- 4.8 The estimated cost for this development is £918,000. Funding will be provided from the Local Authority's Basic Need budget (provided by the DfE to develop school facilities for all maintained schools, academies, voluntary aided schools and free schools in areas of rising demand). The local authority will procure and manage the project.
- 4.9 Expansion designs have been developed by the School and RC Diocese and those designs will be the basis of the procurement process. The project will be managed and delivered using the Council's procurement framework.
- 4.10 If approved the work will be phased with the first phase of work commencing from September 2014. Further works will take place up until September 2015. Existing temporary accommodation will be retained onsite until work is completed.
- 4.11 In addition to responding to increased demand from catholic families and families in the Shiney Row area it is anticipated that the increase in catholic places at Our Lady Queen of Peace will further reduce the pressure on all primary places in the Washington area, with catholic families increasingly likely to secure a first, second or third preference RC primary place and therefore will not require a place in a maintained primary school.

5. Reason for the Decision

- 5.1 The proposed work exceeds £250,000 and Cabinet approval of works is therefore required in order to proceed with planning and build process

6. Alternative Options

- 6.1 Given the need for additional primary places in the identified planning areas no alternative options are suggested.

7. Sustainability

- 7.1 The recommendations outlined above will contribute to the local authority strategy to ensure that there is sufficient educational provision across all areas and school sectors of the city where excess demand is projected.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 The capital costs of the proposed scheme is £918,000 which will be funded from the Council's DfE Basic Need Allocation available for all schools where new school places need to be provided. There are no revenue implications of this proposal.

9. Relevant Consultation

- 9.1 Consultation has taken place with RC Diocese and Governing Body of Our Lady Queen of Peace RC Primary School regarding the required works, timetable and procurement process.
- 9.2 The scale of works addresses issues raised by local authority planning officers re: parking. Other issues identified by local residents have been addressed in the earlier stages of the planning process.

10. Background Papers

- 10.1 Cabinet report: School Admissions Arrangements from September 2015