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CABINET
27/02/2017 at 6.00 pm



Present: Councillor Stretton (Chair)
Councillors Akhtar, Brownridge, Chadderton, Harrison,
F Hussain, Jabbar and Moores

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on the 23rd January 2017 and 20th February 2017 be approved.

6 **PROPOSAL TO EXPAND GREENFIELD C P SCHOOL -
PUBLIC NOTICE AND STATUTORY CONSULTATION
RESPONSES**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Education and Early Years, which provided Members with the outcome of a statutory consultation to expand Greenfield Community Primary school.

It was reported that the Council had a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places within its area. There was a current and a forecasted shortfall of places in the Saddleworth/Lees planning area, therefore additional schools places were needed in the area.

A programme of expansion targeted specifically at Saddleworth/Lees planning area (to provide between 0.6 and 1.5 form Entry of expansion in either one or two schools) was agreed by Cabinet in March 2014 and £5.7m of the 2014-2017 basic needs funding was allocated to implement this expansion. The total budget for the scheme was increased to £6.168m at the December 2015 Cabinet meeting.

A pre-publication consultation process took place from 05 September 2016 to 30 September 2016. The majority of responses (69%) during this stage were in support of an expansion/increased PAN at Greenfield C P School. In total, Oldham Council received 84 written responses to the pre-publication consultation. 58 of the responses were in favour of an expansion/newly built school at Greenfield C P School. 26 representations were against any expansion/rebuild at Greenfield C P School.



A decision by Cabinet was made on 21st November 2016 to issue a Public Notice and commence statutory consultation for the proposal.

The proposal was to expand the school by one form entry taking it from a Planned Admission Number (PAN) for 30 per year group to a PAN of 60 per year group. As the proposal was significant, there was a statutory timeline that needed to be adhered to regarding consultation and decision making as per the Making Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools April 2016.

The statutory consultation started on 30 November 2016 and ended on 30 December 2016. Responses received week commencing 2nd January 2017 had also been taken in to account due to the Christmas period postal services.

Consultation

In total the LA received 115 representations during this formal stage of the statutory consultation. This accounted for 1.1% of the population* in Saddleworth South ward (where the school is located). The representations came from 84 households, which is 1.8% of the total number of households* in this ward).

*Source, Census 2011.

Please see below an analysis of the 16 representations in support of the proposal;

- Significant housing developments in the area
- School too small, there is not adequate teaching space
- Condition issues
- Village residents having to travel to schools further away
- Improve educational standards
- Proposed site is fit for purpose

Representations stated that the current building was in a very poor state in terms of condition issues and the amount of repairs it needs. The building was much too small for the existing pupils; it is overcrowded and currently some of the pupils were educated in temporary porta cabins on the playground. Parents felt that an expanded school/newly built school would ensure better facilities in terms of learning, Special Educational Needs provision and outdoor space. Consultees felt that the school needed to be expanded due to the new housing developments in the area and many new families coming to live in Greenfield. They also felt that the school was easily accessible to the whole of the Saddleworth area.

Please see below an analysis of the 99 representations objecting to the proposal during this stage of the consultation (full details were in appendix A);

(70 out of 99 objection representations were an identical photocopied letter that has been circulated and signed by residents in the areas nearest to the school. A copy of this letter can be found at appendix F.)

- Site not big enough
- Roads and access
- Traffic
- Car parking
- Risk of flooding

- Would only want local village children admitted to the school
- Feel other schools in Saddleworth/Lees should be expanded instead
- Impact on residents
- Environmental
- Educational impact
- Health and Safety

Analysis showed that the main concerns around this proposal were increased traffic, difficulties with parking and access to the proposed site. Residents felt that the current site already generated high volumes of traffic, residents were sometimes unable to park outside their houses and that surrounding roads are unsuitable for heavy volumes of traffic. Consultees did not feel that a two- storey new build would be in keeping with the area and the community. Some representatives felt that the additional pupils would be coming from outside the area and were opposed to this happening and they do not feel a bigger school was necessary. Other representations include concern over the impact on education if the school was to increase in size, possible detriment to other schools in the area and the schools outdoor space being compromised.

As part of the pre-construction activities a formal planning application would be made including all design, survey and site constraints information required by Oldham Council's planning department, this would include such matters as ecology, ground conditions, traffic and transport, flood risk assessment and local architectural considerations. This information would be examined and considered in light of both local and national planning guidelines.

The specific design of any new school was based upon the nationally issued Baseline Design Standards from the Education Funding Agency and where the design departs from these guidelines e.g. the size of sports fields available any measures taken to address the departure from the standards will be explained within the site design documents.

The additional children that would be allocated to the expanded school would all live within the statutory reasonable walking distance to the school. There would be additional school expansions in other planning areas to meet demand needs across the Borough.

This formal statutory consultation was regarding the proposal to increase the planned admission number at Greenfield Community Primary school from 30 to 60 per year group. There were no decisions at this stage as to how that would happen in terms of planning, expansion or building work.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 – Do nothing. There are very few surplus places in the Saddleworth/Lees planning area. There is a projected shortfall of 223 places in this planning area by 2020 (a one form of entry school). The impact of not expanding a school in the Saddleworth/Lees planning area will be that the LA is not meeting its statutory duty in ensuring there are sufficient school places.

Option 2 - To increase the PAN at Greenfield C P School (priority number 1 on the expansion matrix) from 30 to 60 per year group. This would meet the increased demand for places from Saddleworth and Lees families living within the statutory walking distance. This would also ensure the LA is meeting its statutory duty in providing sufficient school places.

Option 3 – Reject this expansion proposal and return to the expansion priority matrix to consider the alternatives. This would delay the provision of school places by six months and require further statutory consultation.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The support, objections and comments from all interested parties be noted.
2. The decision to expand Greenfield Community Primary School from a Planned Admission Number of 30 per year group to a PAN of 60 per year group be approved.
3. The project to be passed over to the Capital Works Team to commence the planning process/building work/expansion.
4. Authority be delegated to the Director of Education and Early Years to develop, consult, procure and arrange for the execution by the Director of Legal Services of any relevant contracts and incidental and ancillary documentation, in accordance with the agreed school expansions programme.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 6.03pm