

EXECUTIVE BOARD - 22 DECEMBER 2015

Subject:	Proposed expansion of Fernwood Primary School, Wollaton		
Corporate Director(s)/ Director(s):	Alison Michalska, Corporate Director for Children and Adults		
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Sam Webster, Portfolio Holder for Schools		
Report author and contact details:	Lucy Juby, Project Manager, School Organisation lucy.juby@nottinghamcity.gov.uk 0115 87 65041		
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Subject to call-in <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Reasons: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditure <input type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £1,000,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision			<input type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital
Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Total value of the decision: Nil			
Wards affected: Wollaton West		Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s): 17 November 2015	
Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:			
Strategic Regeneration and Development			<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Planning and Housing			<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Services			<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy, Sustainability and Customer			<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs, Growth and Transport			<input type="checkbox"/>
Adults, Health and Community Sector			<input type="checkbox"/>
Children, Early Intervention and Early Years			<input type="checkbox"/>
Leisure and Culture			<input type="checkbox"/>
Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration			<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):			
The Wollaton area is experiencing significant primary school place pressures, with a continued upward trend of pupil growth in the coming years.			
Between 21 September and 18 October 2015, a four week consultation with parents, carers, staff, governors and community members was undertaken on the proposal to expand Fernwood Primary School from 840 to 1050 places.			
This report updates Executive Board on the outcomes of the consultation and seeks approval to move to the next stage of the consultation process.			
Exempt information:			
None			
Recommendation(s):			
1 To consider the outcomes of the consultation detailed in the report and approve the move to the next stage of consultation, which is the issuing of Statutory Notices and a four week representation period.			

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Following the public consultation exercise, moving to the next stage of consultation, the issuing of Statutory Notices is recommended. There is a strong rationale for expanding Fernwood Primary. One of the 5 key objectives of the new Council Plan setting out the Council's ambitions for the next four years is to ensure that every child in Nottingham is taught in a school that is judged good or outstanding by Ofsted. The proposal to expand Fernwood Primary School also supports the Council priorities of access to a good school close to home for every

young person in Nottingham, and to guarantee a choice of places for every child at a local primary school.

- 1.2 Parents/carers quite rightly expect their children to be offered a local school place in their catchment area and the case for expanding a school which delivers a quality provision in an area where there are insufficient school places is a strong one. It is the duty and the desire of both the Council and the school to maximise opportunities to deliver a quality education to the communities we serve.
- 1.3 It is noted that in terms of consultation responses, the number of objections to the proposal exceeded the number in support. Further detail on the context of this is detailed below. However, the Council needs to balance these objections against the long term need for school places, both for current and future pupils. Whilst this is not a referendum, as a consultation exercise, the views expressed will be considered in terms of prioritising any mitigating actions that are required to make the proposal work for all pupils, if it is approved.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 The national shortage of primary school places has been reflected across the City and extra capacity has been added in many schools. In the Wollaton area there is a continued upward trend of pupil growth in the coming years due to an increased birth rate, the continuing popularity of the area, particularly with families moving into the area, and new housing development.
- 2.2 Fernwood Primary is an outstanding school, very popular and is always over-subscribed, with significant waiting lists across the year groups. More places are needed to meet the significant increase in the number of local children requiring a school place. The number of catchment children for Fernwood Primary has increased significantly since September 2014. To support this, the School have helpfully admitted an additional Reception class this year to accommodate the additional catchment children requiring a school place, but a longer term solution is needed.
- 2.3 In light of this, on 10 September 2015 (Delegated Decision reference 2164) the Portfolio Holder for Schools approved a move to public consultation on the proposal to expand Fernwood Primary School.
- 2.4 At this stage, it is estimated that the expansion of Fernwood Primary School would cost £2m (including fees and surveys), with more detailed costs available at a later stage in the development. The expansion would be funded from the Basic Need Grant, held by the Council for primary phase expansion projects. If approved, the anticipated date of completion is September 2016 for the Key Stage 1 build and September 2017 for the Key Stage 2 build.
- 2.5 The proposal is to expand Fernwood Primary from four to five forms of entry, an increase from 120 to 150 per year group from Reception to Year 6. The school would grow gradually by one extra class per academic year until the school is full. The total number of places would increase from 840 to 1050 places. There will also be a new 52 place Nursery opening in the new year.
- 2.6 Consultation on the proposed expansion ran from 21 September to 18 October 2015, with parents, carers, staff, governors and community members. An information and consultation meeting for staff and governors and for parents/carers were both held on 28 September. A further meeting for parents/carers was held on 8 October. Information about the proposal was shared and attendees were invited

to ask questions and comment on the proposal. Two 'school gate consultations' were also undertaken at the beginning and end of the school day.

- 2.7 The consultation meetings on 28 September were attended by approximately 50 staff and governors and exactly 15 parents. The parent/carer/community meeting on 8 October was attended by 27 people. A full report detailing the outcomes of the consultation can be found in Appendix 1 and 2.
- 2.8 A total of 206 people responded to the consultation, by either completing the online questionnaire or returning a paper copy of the consultation form. Of these, 84 (41%) were in favour of the proposal, 117 (57%) were against the proposal and 4 (2%) had no opinion.
- 2.9 To provide further context it is useful to quantify this against the total number of families and staff at Fernwood Primary. Based on the figure of 635 families of children who currently attend the school, 27% of the total number of families responded formally to the consultation. The number of families who objected is only 16% of the total number of families with children at the school. 8% of staff replied formally to the consultation (although many more attended the consultation meeting) and only 2% of the total number of school staff objected to the proposal. More detailed data is included in Appendix 1.
- 2.10 The following is a summary of the consultation responses, grouped into general themes, with the two most common concerns relating to the size of the school being too large and traffic volume. The figure in brackets relates to the number of respondents who raised the particular issue. A response to each theme of concern is also provided, under each point:

1	<p>Size of School – Concerns were raised about the overall physical size of the school if it increases. Worries that existing communal use spaces such as the hall would not be sufficient, e.g. for Christmas plays or assemblies. Concerns that the playground and other outside facilities would not be big enough. Concerns about loss of green space. Concerns about existing resources being stretched which could impact on staff on pupils. (92)</p>
	<p>If the proposal is approved, building work to provide 6 new classrooms will be undertaken. There is sufficient space on the site to accommodate this and the impact on outdoor space will be minimal. The building work will be fit for the future of the school community and ethos, without compromising the quality of education. There have already been some alterations to the Key Stage 1 hall to increase space and appropriate arrangements will be implemented to accommodate additional children as the school grows. Further outdoor space has also been opened up to Key Stage 1.</p>
2	<p>Traffic / Pedestrian Volume – Concerns regarding the existing high volume of traffic currently on Arleston Drive increasing, meaning a growing risk of accidents. Various suggestions were made as to how this could be managed, e.g. parking restrictions, one-way system. (71)</p>
	<p>The Council is aware of the traffic management concerns raised, such as the volume of traffic on Arleston Drive and which may be exacerbated by a minority of adults who drive or park irresponsibly. A full transport and traffic assessment is undertaken as part of the planning permission process. To inform this process, there will also be a review of the School's Travel Plan to establish the current concerns and endeavor to find solutions to address them. The Council and the School welcome ideas and suggestions from all affected parties and we will discuss the viability of potential solutions with our Road Safety and Traffic Management colleagues.</p>

3	Impact on the quality of education and standards – Concerns that the increasing pupil numbers will have a negative impact on standards. (30)
	The Council has complete confidence in the leadership team, staff and governors who are 100% committed to making the expansion work, while continuing to aspire to providing an outstanding education to every child in the school. Class sizes and staffing ratios will be maintained, by recruiting additional staff to manage the increase in numbers. Expanding from Reception upwards, on a phased basis, will enable forward planning to ensure effective management of the growth in numbers.
4	Impact on Pupils (Pastoral care) – Concerns that children feel lost in big school, the existing friendly environment doesn't want to be lost, won't know all teachers or pupils in cohort, could impact on the child's development. (28)
	The class sizes and staff ratios will continue as they are, therefore, a larger school will not impact on the outstanding education which is currently provided. School's funding is based on the number of pupils so resources will be increased accordingly..
5	Catchment area – The school should serve the local community and ensure there are enough places for catchment children, check fraudulent admissions, restrict places to catchment only, alter/reduce catchment areas. (18)
	For September 2015 admissions, there was a significant increase in the number of catchment children for Fernwood Primary – 18 catchment applications in excess of the places that were available. To address this situation, with the school's full support, the Council were able to offer 30 additional places to accommodate all pupils living in the catchment area (who provided proof of residency by the required date). This enabled the school to meet the needs of the catchment area and the immediate community, which otherwise would not have been possible, and all of those children would have been left without a local school place in the Wollaton area. In addition to the 18 catchment children, there were 9 children who were offered under the sibling criteria. All places were offered under the published Admissions Criteria for Community Schools. There is no current proposal to change the catchment area of the school. The rationale for expansion is to provide sufficient places for children in the catchment area as the need continues to grow. The proposal also seeks to future proof the anticipated increase in catchment children generated by the Radford Bridge Allotments housing development , which when complete will add an additional 120 family houses in the catchment. At a later stage, the Council may be undertaking a city-wide review of catchment areas, which would be subject to full consultation.
6	Impact on Secondary provision – Concerns that there are more pupils in feeder schools than there are in The Fernwood School (secondary catchment school for the area). There is a need to add secondary places too. (17)
	The Council agrees that further capacity will be required at secondary level and have commenced dialogue with secondary schools to plan for the growth in numbers. This has included discussion with the senior leadership team at The Fernwood School. A comprehensive review of all the options for increasing secondary provision will be explored, to meet the growing demand in the coming decade.
7	Agree that more places are needed. (16)
	Noted and agreed
8	Good idea - support proposal. (11)
	Noted and agreed.
9	Build another school in the area – Find a site to build another school in

	Wollaton. (10)
	It is not currently a viable option for the Local Authority to do this. The Education Act 2011, changed the arrangements for establishing new schools and introduced “the free school presumption” to the Education and Inspections Act 2006, which means that the automatic power to set up new schools has been removed from councils, even though it has a statutory responsibility to provide sufficient school places. In addition, no suitable site for a new school has been identified in the Wollaton area.
10	Expand another school in the Wollaton area. (8)
	Middleton Primary also admitted an additional 10 children in September 2015 as otherwise there would have been insufficient places for the Middleton catchment children. Because it has had to admit additional pupils in 2015/16, discussions have been held with Middleton Primary but are not advanced to the point of bringing a proposal forward. However, projections data and house sales intelligence indicates that an additional two forms of entry are needed across Wollaton. So regardless of whether Fernwood Primary expands or not, the Council still require another viable solution to increase school places in the area by one additional form of entry.
11	Extended School Provision needs increasing – existing After School and Breakfast Club provision are insufficient. This could ease the traffic problem (staggered drop/pick up off times). (7)
	The school would like to increase the number of Breakfast and After School Club places they provide. Additional space would be required to provide this and the options will be considered during the feasibility and design stages.
12	Agree with the proposal in principle – think it’s inevitable as more places are needed, but have some concerns (mainly traffic and size of school). (7)
	Noted, see points 1 and 2 above regarding the size of school and traffic.
13	Uncertainty regarding possible solutions to concerns - delay proposal – The Council should wait until concerns regarding the size and how things will run have been resolved. A lot of unanswered questions. Concern that the timeline is tight. (6)
	There is no rationale for delaying the proposal as more places are already needed in the school’s catchment area. Any challenges and possible solutions are carefully considered to ensure appropriate arrangements are put in place. The school have already been accommodating the bulge year of Reception children from September 2015, while ensuring the quality of education is maintained.
14	Raise standards at other schools – Invest funds and support into other local schools, raising standards and popularity. (4)
	See point 10. It is a key priority of the Council to raise standards in all City schools, to provide the best possible education for every child in Nottingham. The Council still needs additional school places in the Wollaton area and expanding Fernwood Primary is the preferred option.
15	Sensible to expand good and successful schools. (1)
	Noted and agreed.
16	School has strong leadership – and will be able to manage the increase effectively. (1)
	Noted and agreed.
17	Will create jobs. (1)
	Noted and agreed.
18	Need to provide places for the older year groups - not just phased from Reception. (1)
	If the school expands, it will grow by one extra class per academic year until the school is full from Reception upwards. Opening up additional places to all year groups at the outset would be hugely challenging for the school to

	manage. It could also de-stabilise other schools in the area.
19	Add places but reduce class sizes. (1)
	This is not a viable option as the School Admissions Code dictates that schools must admit up to the Published Admission Number (PAN) in the intake year. Admission Authorities cannot refuse until this number has been reached. The Council also needs to ensure that revenue is maximised and the optimum class size for achieving this is 30. The classroom sizes are designed and built accordingly.

2.11 Following the statutory notice period, a follow up report will be submitted to Executive Board for consideration in March 2016.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The following other options were considered, but are not considered viable:
- add a single bulge year in Fernwood Primary. This is not a favourable option as it would not address the longer term issue of pupil growth in the area;
 - expand Middleton Primary School. The Council has identified that two additional forms of entry are required to meet the additional school place need in Wollaton. Therefore, it needs to assess the viability with Middleton Primary about the possibility of expansion. Regardless of whether this progresses, the additional places are still required at Fernwood Primary;
 - set up a new free school in Wollaton. This is not considered viable as no suitable site is identifiable;
 - do nothing. This is not a favourable option as it would not address the place pressure in the area, and it would not meet the needs of the local community by providing a good/outstanding school place and a choice of local school places (as per the Council's priorities).

4 FINANCE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 4.1 If the proposal to expand Fernwood Primary were approved then the Local Authority would fund the school for an additional class each year from the Pupil Growth Contingency Fund for seven years. This funding would cover the period September to March of each year. Once the additional pupils were accounted for on the October Autumn Census after the September they were admitted, they would then be funded in the following financial year through the local funding formula.
- 4.2 The School Organisation Team will allocate funding to the school based on the eligibility criteria approved by Schools Forum. Table 1 outlines the funding criteria values based on the admission of an additional 30 pupils.

Funding Streams	£
Teacher M3 (7/12ths)	17,824
Teaching Assistant Pt 22 (7/12ths)	12,242
Midday Supervisor Pt 8 (7/12ths)	2,150
Classroom set up costs	Up to £8,000
Utilities (7/12ths) based on £150 per pupil per year	£2,625

The staffing and ancillary costs will be for the seven months (7/12ths) to cover the months between when additional pupils join the school in September and when the increased numbers are recognised in the budget the following year.

- 4.3 The Reception bulge class admitted in September 2015 was funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant Pupil Growth Contingency Fund £0.047m.
- 4.4 The funding to meet the cost of the expansion of Fernwood Primary has been set aside within the Basic Needs Grant. However, the ongoing maintenance costs of building would have to be met from the schools budget.

5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND INCLUDING LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

Legal implications

- 5.1 The school organisation regime is set out in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (“EIA”), regulations made under the EIA and guidance made by the Secretary of State, both statutory (using powers in the EIA) and non-statutory.
- 5.2 Under section 19 of the EIA, a local authority is required to publish a proposal to make a prescribed alteration to a maintained school. In essence, a prescribed alteration is one designated as such by regulations. Currently, the relevant regulations are the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 (“the Prescribed Alterations Regulations 2013”).
- 5.3 The proposal referred to in this report: to expand Fernwood Primary School (“Fernwood”) by increasing the number of pupils to be accommodated from an 840 place primary school to a 1,050 place primary school, with an anticipated date of completion for the Key Stage 1 build of September 2016 and an anticipated date of completion for the Key Stage 2 build of September 2017, would be a prescribed alteration because it entails an enlargement of the premises of Fernwood, which would increase the capacity of Fernwood by more than 30 pupils and by 25 per cent or more or by 200 pupils or more.
- 5.4 Whilst the school organisation regime no longer has a ‘pre-publication’ consultation period, in public law terms such consultation is advisable. Indeed, this is reflected in the current statutory guidance entitled *School Organisation Maintained Schools Guidance for proposers and decision-makers* (January 2014) which states at paragraph 10: “Although there is no longer a prescribed ‘pre-publication’ consultation period for prescribed alterations, there is a strong expectation on schools and LAs to consult interested parties in developing their proposal prior to publication as part of their duty under public law to act rationally and take into account all relevant considerations...” Therefore, it was advisable that the proposal to expand Fernwood was consulted upon before being published. Having been consulted on, the proposal to expand Fernwood will now need to be published to be taken forwards.
- 5.5 It is noted that, on the face of it, the results of the consultation demonstrated that the majority of those responding were not in favour of the proposal to expand Fernwood. Whilst this majority in fact comprises only a small proportion of families with children at Fernwood and a very small proportion of Fernwood staff, it is advisable that Nottingham City Council (“NCC”) considers carefully views expressed in opposition to the proposal, as this report itself demonstrates, in

considering whether to publish the proposal and in any subsequent consideration of the proposal following publication.

- 5.6 Moreover, whilst it is understood that the proposed date of completion for the proposal can only currently be stated as an anticipated date of completion for the Key Stage 1 build of September 2016 and an anticipated date of completion for the Key Stage 2 build of September 2017, it is advisable if this proposal is to be taken forwards to the publication stage that, if possible, more precise implementation dates are then proposed. This is because the publication stage of the school organisation regime requires a proposer to state when the proposal would be implemented. Legal advice on this, including whether the proposal should be presented with a proposed implementation date in stages or as conditional on specified event(s), should be sought at an early stage.
- 5.7 Lastly, it is advisable that Human Resources (“HR”) and legal advice is taken in relation to the HR, employment law and commercial law ramifications of the proposals here.

HR Advice

- 5.8 In terms of any other workforce implications, the governing body will need to give careful consideration to the appropriate staffing establishment and the potential need to make suitable appointments to ensure the school is adequately resourced in line with School Teacher's Pay & Conditions, Staffing Guidance under the Education Act 2002, and the Restructuring, Recruitment, and Pay Policies adopted by the governing body.
- 5.9 Human Resources (HR) and legal advice should be considered in the implementation of any new or extended staffing structures, to ensure appropriate consideration is given to employment law, policy and practice.

6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COMMENTS (FOR DECISIONS RELATING TO ALL PROPERTY ASSETS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE)

- 6.1 The City Council are the freehold owners of this school and support the proposals to expand the school as outlined within the report subject to the necessary statutory consents being obtained, including if necessary Sport England, if the proposal results in the loss of any playing field provision. Any proposals should have regards to the third party interest of the Scout group if their site is included in the redevelopment proposals.

7 SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 None

8 REGARD TO THE NHS CONSTITUTION

- 8.1 None

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

- 9.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No

Yes



Attached as Appendix 3 and due regard will be given to any implications identified in it.

10 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN WRITING THIS REPORT (NOT INCLUDING PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS OR CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION)

10.1 None

11 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT

11.1 Portfolio Holder decision to commence consultation:

[http://resmodw2k121/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=3409&\\$LO\\$=1](http://resmodw2k121/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=3409&LO=1)

12 OTHER COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE PROVIDED INPUT

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Consultation analysis

Consultation on the proposal to expand Fernwood Primary School ran from 21 September to 18 October 2015, with parents, carers, staff, governors and community members. The tables below show the number of respondents in each category and the percentage analysis. This includes those who responded online and those who completed a paper copy of the consultation response form. A full account of the comments received is included in Appendix 2.

Do you agree with the proposal to expand Fernwood Primary....	Parent / carer	Staff	Governor	Other	Total
Yes	69	9	4	7	85
No	108	3	0	7	117
No opinion	3	0	0	1	4
Total	180	12	4	15	206

Analysis %		Do you agree with the proposal to expand Fernwood Primary...		
		Total	Yes	No
Respondents				
Base	206	41.3%	56.8%	1.9%
I am a parent/carers of a pupil	180	38.3%	60.0%	1.7%
I am a member of staff	12	75.0%	25.0%	-
I am a governor	4	100.0%	-	-
Other	15	46.7%	46.7%	6.7%

As explained in the main body of the report, to provide further context it is useful to quantify this against the total number of 1) families and 2) staff at Fernwood Primary: 1) based on the figure of 635 families of children who currently attend the school, 27% of the total number of families responded formally to the consultation. The number of families who objected is only 16% of the total number of families with children at the school. 2) 8% of staff replied formally to the consultation (although many more attended the consultation meeting) and only 2% of the total number of Fernwood Primary school staff submitted an objection to the proposal. The data is shown here:

Total number of families	% (and number) of families who responded	% (and number) of families who objected to the proposal
635	27% (170)	16% (99)

Total number of Fernwood Primary staff	% of staff who responded	% of staff who objected to the proposal
145	8% (12)	2% (3)

Consultation activities

The table below shows the consultation timetable and the activities which were undertaken:

Date and time	Event	Location
Thursday 17 and Friday 18 September	Letters sent to all parties to inform them of the proposal (staff, governors, parents/carers, all City schools, local nurseries, local doctors surgeries, community centres)	
Thursday 10 September	Wollaton Ward Cllr briefing	Loxley House
Tuesday 15 September	Wollaton Ward Cllr briefing	Loxley House
Monday 21 September	Start of consultation (4 weeks)	
Monday 28 September 4pm	Meeting for staff and governors	School hall (KS1)
Monday 28 September 4.30pm	Meeting for parents and carers	School hall (KS1)
Wednesday 30 September 3 – 4pm	School gates consultation	School gates
Tuesday 6 October 5.30pm	Wollaton West Local Area Group (LAG) – this meeting was cancelled therefore we were unable to attend within the consultation period.	Wollaton Library
Wednesday 7 October 8.15 – 9.15am	School gates consultation	School gates
Thursday 8 October 6pm	Meeting for parents and carers	School Hall (KS2)
Sunday 18 October	Close of consultation (half term break up)	

An information and consultation meeting for staff and governors and for parents/carers were both held on 28 September. A further meeting for parents/carers was held on 8 October. Information about the proposal was shared and attendees were invited to ask questions and comment on the proposal. Two 'school gate consultations' were also undertaken at the beginning and end of the school day, on the dates listed above.

The following comments and questions were raised at these various events and responses were provided to all of them:

General

- What is the point of the consultation process as it seems like the decision has already been made?
- Why were we not consulted about the additional 30 children taken this September 2015?
- Why can't the Council open a new school in Wollaton instead of expanding existing schools?
- Are there any other schools of this size in the City or will Fernwood Primary be the largest?

- Resources should be directed towards improving the quality of existing schools before expanding an already large school.
- Concerns regarding fraudulent applications to the school – applicants providing false addresses.
- Housing development on the nearby Church site – approximately 14 houses. Concerns that it will exacerbate the traffic problems.
- Will the catchment areas be changed? Suggestion that the Radford Bridge housing development should be excluded from the catchment.
- Why was the Radford Bridge Housing development allowed to go ahead?
- Will The Fernwood School Academy also expand as more secondary places will be needed? This year there were insufficient places for catchment children. Concerns that their children will not get into their chosen secondary school.
- Why are we not expanding primary schools which are currently much smaller than Fernwood?
- If the pupil numbers continue to grow will Fernwood Primary be expanded again?
- Will Middleton and/or Firbeck also be expanded?
- What other alternatives are there to accommodate the increased demand for places, other than the proposal to expand Fernwood Primary?
- Who pays for the expansion of the school?
- Will the school receive additional money?
- Will the staffing ratios be maintained?
- Are staff in favour of the proposal?
- Understand the rationale that more school places are needed but keen to know what measures will be implemented to manage the increase in numbers without it being detrimental for the children.
- Fully support the proposal. Positive to increase the size of an excellent school to meet the school place needs of children in Wollaton. Otherwise, there will be insufficient places for children living in the catchment.

Buildings

- Will parents/carers have the opportunity to be consulted/comment on the design of the build, to share ideas regarding creative use of space?
- Where will the new classrooms be located?
- Will they be porta cabins or proper buildings?
- Will the new classrooms be physically linked to the main building?
- Will this reduce the outdoor space available for the children to access?
- Concerns that the building work will be disruptive for the staff and children.

Traffic management

- The existing high volume of traffic will only increase.
- Insufficient parking available.
- What traffic management solutions will be implemented to address this? E.g. restricted access and parking, part pedestrianised, make Arleston Drive one-way.
- Minority of adults driving and parking inconsiderately or dangerously.
- Alternatives to driving are difficult for working parents.
- Concerns that children walk on the road as the pavements are so crowded.
- The path which was built at the back to link the two schools has helped to ease congestion on Arleston Drive.

School day

- Concerns that the personal experience, quality of education and access to resources will be diluted.
- Can class sizes be reduced if the school expands?
- Classrooms are cramped and the school feels too big.
- The hall is cramped. How will all the additional children fit in there together?
- Will lunchtimes be staggered further? Children saying that have insufficient time to eat and insufficient food.
- Too many children in the school playground – excessive number of accidents and difficult for children to find their friends.
- The outdoor area for Key Stage 1 is too small for 150 children.
- Will it impact on opportunities for children, e.g. school football team? Will it be even harder to get a place?
- Will there still be break out spaces for children and staff to utilise?
- Will the IT/broadband be upgraded to support the increased demand?
- Will there be additional Extended School provision to support working families?
This could also ease the traffic issue with staggered drop offs and pick-ups.