

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	2164
Author:	Lucy Juby
Department:	Children and Families
Contact:	Lucy Juby (Job Title: Project Manager School Organisation, Email: lucy.juby@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158765041)
Subject:	Proposed expansion of Fernwood Primary School, Wollaton
Total Value:	Nil - the proposal is to undertake consultation only (Type: Nil)
Decision Being Taken:	1) To undertake consultation on expanding Fernwood Primary School from 840 places to 1050 places. The initial estimated date of completion for the expansion is September 17, but this is subject to design plans. The expansion will be funded from Central Government's Basic Need allocation for further primary expansion.
Reasons for the Decision(s)	<p>Nottingham, like many UK cities, has experienced a pressure on primary school places across the City. Although the picture across the City is much improved, in the Wollaton area there is still a continued upward trend of pupil growth in the coming years, due to an increased birth rate, inward migration and increased house sales and development. Fernwood is an outstanding school, very popular and always massively oversubscribed, with waiting lists across the year groups. The significant new housing development currently being constructed will result in further demand for school places.</p> <p>The number of catchment children for Fernwood Primary School has increased significantly since September '14. To support this, the school are admitting an additional form of Reception children in September '15, but a longer term solution is needed.</p> <p>It is proposed to expand Fernwood Primary from four forms of entry to five forms of entry, so there will be 150 places in each year group instead of 120. The school would grow by one extra class per academic year until the school is full.</p> <p>It is proposed to run a four week consultation period, commencing on 21st September 15, to collate the views of parents, carers, staff, governors and community member in the area.</p>

Other Options Considered: 1. Set up a new Free School in Wollaton. This is not considered viable as no suitable site is identifiable.
2. Add a single bulge year in Fernwood Primary school. Not a favourable option as it would not address the longer term issue of pupil growth in the area.
2. Do nothing. Not a favourable option as would not address the longer term issue of pupil growth in the area and would not meet the needs of the community by providing a local good/outstanding school place, as per the Council's ambition.

Background Papers: None

Published Works: None

Affected Wards: Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey, Wollaton West

Colleague / Councillor Interests: None

Consultations: Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications: None

Equality: EIA not required. Reasons: The proposal is to consult only at this stage. An EIA will be included in a further report following consultation.

Decision Type: Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In: Yes

Call In Expiry date: 18/09/2015

Advice Sought: Legal, Finance, Human Resources

Legal Advice: Please see the attached. Advice provided by Jonathan Ludford-Thomas (Senior Solicitor) on 17/07/2015.
Advice documents: 2015-09-02 legal obs.pdf

Finance Advice:

If the proposal to expand Fernwood Primary were approved then the local authority would need to apply to the Secretary of State for Education to request to vary the pupil numbers used in the calculation of the schools formula funding from 2017/18 to 2023/24 to ensure that additional intake of pupils are funded. Local authorities are expected to do this where they are anticipating a significant change in the number of pupils in a school.

In addition to the formula funding the schools would be eligible, based on the current Pupil Growth criteria, to funding for fixtures and fittings for each new classrooms at £0.008m per classroom.

The Reception bulge class being admitted in September 2015 is to be funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant Pupil Growth Contingency £0.047m.

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.

Advice provided by Julia Elizabeth Holmes (Finance Analyst) on 07/09/2015. Advice provided by Julia Elizabeth Holmes (Finance Analyst) on 07/09/2015.

HR Advice:

In terms of any other workforce implications, the governing bodies of the school 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 bodies.

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.

Advice provided by Leanne Sharp (Service Redesign Consultant) on 08/07/2015.

Signatures

Sam Webster (Portfolio Holder for Schools)
SIGNED and Dated: 10/09/2015
Alison Michalska (Corporate Director for Children and Adults)
SIGNED and Dated: 09/09/2015