

**Agenda Item No 7 (h)****DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****CABINET****3 November 2015****Report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services****ASHBOURNE PRIMARY REORGANISATION (CHILDREN'S SERVICES)****1. Purpose of Report**

To seek Cabinet approval to carry out a 'pre-publication' consultation on a proposal to reorganise primary education in Ashbourne. The existing organisation comprises two infant schools and one junior school, and it is proposed that each of these three schools becomes a primary school.

**2. Information and Analysis**

Ashbourne has two infant schools and one junior school. Their key details are set out below.

School	Admissions number	Capacity	Year group sizes								Total Roll
			EY	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Hilltop Infant and Nursery School	40	120 + 26 place nursery	49	29	40	38					107
St Oswald's CE Voluntary Controlled Infant School	45	135		42	30	41					113
Parkside Community Junior School	74	296					78	56	72	81	287

The governing bodies of the three schools have approached the Council to request a reorganisation to create three primary schools. The following advantages are identified for this reorganisation:

- A primary school is able to organise and coordinate the teaching across the primary years, and there is no need for a transition between infant and junior schools; the transition from infant to junior can be unsettling for some children and impact on educational progress.
- The infant and junior schools in Ashbourne are not located on the same sites, as other infant and junior schools across the County, but are on different sides of a very busy market town. As a consequence, parents may have children in two schools at separate locations within the town, presenting travel and time issues in getting children to school.
- The existing arrangement increases the amount of traffic around the town, and is inefficient in terms of transport, time and sustainability for the environment.

A change of this type is a statutory process as outlined in the legal considerations. The table below shows how the proposal would progress, subject to Cabinet decisions and the responses to the consultation:

Date	Action
3 November 2015	Cabinet approval to 'pre-publication' consultation on change
10 November 2015	Start of 'pre-publication' Consultation following call in period
8 December 2015	Close of 'pre-publication' Consultation
2 February 2016	Cabinet approval to publish legal notice for the statutory change and to commence formal consultation
22 February 2016	Publication of statutory notice following call in period and half term break Start of statutory representation (formal consultation) period
21 March 2016	Close of statutory representation (formal consultation) period

May 2016	Cabinet decision to approve the proposal
September 2016	New admissions arrangements in place for parents applying for places in September 2017
September 2017	Proposal implemented.

This proposal can be seen as part of a longer term expansion of primary education in Ashbourne in response to housing development that is taking place in the town. The table below shows both the proposed admissions numbers and the potential to expand in the future.

<b>School</b>	<b>Initial Admissions number as primary school</b>	<b>Initial capacity as a primary school</b>	<b>Potential admissions number as primary school</b>	<b>Potential Capacity as primary school</b>
Hilltop Infant and Nursery School	20	120	30	210
St Oswald's CE Voluntary Controlled Infant School	20	140	30	210
Parkside Community Junior School	45	315	45	315
Total capacity		575		735

Each school would require some initial investment to allow the age range to change. The costs of further expansions have been estimated separately and are included in the table below.

<b>School</b>	<b>Initial investment</b>	<b>Longer term expansion</b>	<b>Estimated Initial cost (Phase 1)</b>	<b>Longer term cost (Phase 2)</b>
Parkside	Extension for reception	Not required	£160,000	0
St Oswald's	Creation of playing field inc fencing etc	Additional two classrooms and ancillary spaces	£60,000	£925,000
Hilltop	Additional classroom and internal	Two further additional classrooms	£375,000	£400,000

	adaptations			
Total costs			£595,000	£1,325,000

It is proposed to fund both the initial projects and the longer term expansions from S106 agreements that have been secured with developers. At present there is not sufficient S106 funding available to fund the complete expansions up to a capacity 735 places. If the full expansion is required, the current funds could be augmented by future S106 contributions or basic need funding, subject to future decisions by Cabinet. These are set out in the financial considerations.

### 3. Financial Considerations

The table below summarises the S106 agreements that have been agreed with developers. The totals represent the amounts that are estimated to be available for primary education. The actual receipt of this funding is dependent on the progress of the individual housing developments. In the event that sufficient funding has not been received to carry out the initial projects totalling an estimated £595,000, then short term funding could be secured from the CAYA capital programme 2016/17. These allocations will be subject to a further report to Cabinet.

Year	Amount available to expected to be available based on assumptions about housebuilding rates
Available November 2015	£91,192.00*
Available in 2016/17	£284,661.36*
Available 2017/18	£535,753.47*
Available 2018/19	£216,581.00*
Total	£1,128,187.83

\*Not paid to DCC as yet and dependent on the development reaching the agreed trigger for payment.

#### **4. Legal Considerations**

This proposal is subject to the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that came into force on 28 January 2014. Although there is no longer a prescribed 'pre-publication' consultation period for prescribed alterations, there is a strong expectation on schools and the Local Authority to consult interested parties in developing their proposal prior to publication as part of a duty under public law to act rationally and take into account all relevant considerations. The 'pre-publication' consultation will be held in term time and during this time any person or organisation can submit comments on the proposal. These comments must be taken into account by the decision maker. The 'pre-publication' consultation document will be sent to all parents and prospective parents of the school, all staff (teaching and non-teaching) of the school, and all governors of the school. In addition, a copy of the proposal will be sent to the Head Teacher and Governing Body of schools within a minimum of a two mile radius of the school, where any change might impact their admissions, to the Professional and Trade Associations representing staff, to the local Member of Parliament and County Councillor, to the District Council and Parish or Town Council, to the Diocesan Authorities (both Derby Diocese and Nottingham Diocese), and the Early Years' providers where they could be impacted by the proposal. It is proposed that the Local Authority consults all of the above interested parties from 10 November to 8 December 2015.

#### **5. Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered:- prevention of crime & disorder, equality of opportunity, environmental, health, human resources, property, economic regeneration and transport considerations.

#### **6. Is it necessary for the call-in period to be waived in respect of the decisions being proposed in the report? No**

#### **7. Background Papers**

These are held on file in the CAYA Development Section.

#### **8. Key Decision No**

#### **9. Officer Recommendation That Cabinet approves:-**

a public consultation by means of the consultation paper included at appendix a be carried out with all relevant parties as set out in the legal considerations and that the consultation responses be reported to Cabinet

**Ian Johnson, Strategic Director for Children's Services**

## Appendix A

### **Derbyshire County Council Primary School Provision in Ashbourne Public Consultation November 2015**

#### **Introduction**

Derbyshire County Council wishes to consult all interested parties on a proposal to change the current pattern of primary schooling in Ashbourne. The existing organisation comprises two infant schools and one junior school, and it is proposed that each of these three schools becomes a primary school.

#### **Background**

Ashbourne has two infant schools and one junior school. Their key details are set out below.

School	Admissions number	Capacity	Year group sizes								Total Roll
			EY	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Hilltop Infant and Nursery School	40	120 + 26 place nursery	49	29	40	38					107
St Oswald's CE Voluntary Controlled Infant School	45	135		42	30	41					113
Parkside Community Junior School	74	296					78	56	72	81	287

Table 1

Derbyshire County Council and the governing bodies of the three schools are of the opinion that a change to three primary schools offers a number of advantages to parents and children, and the community. These are as follows:

- A primary school is able to organise and coordinate the teaching across the primary years, and there is no need for a transition between infant and junior schools; the transition from infant to junior can be unsettling for some children and impact on educational progress.
- The infant and junior schools in Ashbourne are not located on the same sites, as many other infant and junior schools across the County, but are on different sides of a very busy market town. As a consequence, parents may have children in two schools at separate locations within the town, presenting travel and time issues in getting children to school.
- The existing arrangement increases the amount of traffic around the town, and is inefficient in terms of transport, time and sustainability for the environment.

#### *Consultation question*

*Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to change the existing system into one where the town is served by three primary schools instead of separate infant and junior schools?*

### **Reorganisation Proposal**

It is proposed that the three schools become primary schools. At present there are 85 reception places within the town. This would remain the same under the proposal as the schools would have the following admissions numbers and capacities. There would be the same number of places each year as are currently available – 85.

<b>School</b>	<b>Admissions number</b>	<b>Capacity as a primary school</b>
Hilltop Infant and Nursery School	20	120
St Oswald's CE Voluntary Controlled Infant School	20	140
Parkside Community Junior School	45	315
<b>Total capacity</b>		<b>575</b>

Table 2

Derbyshire County Council produces pupil number forecasts for all its schools. It uses information from health authorities on the number of children in each age group registered with GP surgeries in each post code. Parents do not always choose the 'normal area' primary school for their children as they have a right to apply to other schools for a place. The forecasts take into account the past patterns of choice and school attendance. The historic patterns of choice and the information on the actual number of children living in an area



are combined to create a forecast intake. For the current infant and junior schools, the combined forecast intake roll is as follows.

Ashbourne Primary number forecasts	Actual roll 2015/2016	Forecast 2016/17	Forecast 2017/18	Forecast 2018/19	Forecast 2019/20	Forecast 2020/21
Reception	71	85	72	84	83	80
Total roll	503	516	504	519	540	549

Table 3

This shows that there is sufficient capacity in the proposed three primary schools to meet the expected demand for places within the town over the next 5 years.

A number of housing developments are proposed for the Ashbourne area over the next 20 years which may increase the demand for primary places. All three of the proposed primary schools could expand to some extent to meet increased demand.

## Admissions

The proposal would be implemented in September 2017. All three schools would become primary schools. At that time, Parkside Community School would be able to admit children into reception and St Oswald's CE Voluntary Controlled School and Hilltop Infant and Nursery School would be able to admit children to Year 3.

Parents/carers of children entering reception in September 2017 could apply for a place at any of the three schools. The number of places in each would be limited to the Published Admission Number (PAN) indicated in the table above. If any of the schools were oversubscribed, the admissions criteria of the Local Authority would apply. The full description of the arrangements can be seen here:

[http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/images/How%20to%20apply%20for%20a%20place%20at%20Primary%20School%20-%20A%20guide%20for%20parents%202015-16\\_tcm44-213871.pdf](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/images/How%20to%20apply%20for%20a%20place%20at%20Primary%20School%20-%20A%20guide%20for%20parents%202015-16_tcm44-213871.pdf)

The arrangements set a number of priorities for admission at oversubscribed schools as follows:

1. Looked after children and children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).

2. Children living in the normal area\* served by the school at the time of application and admission who have brothers or sisters attending the school at the time of application and admission.

3. Children living in the normal area served by the school at the time of application and admission.

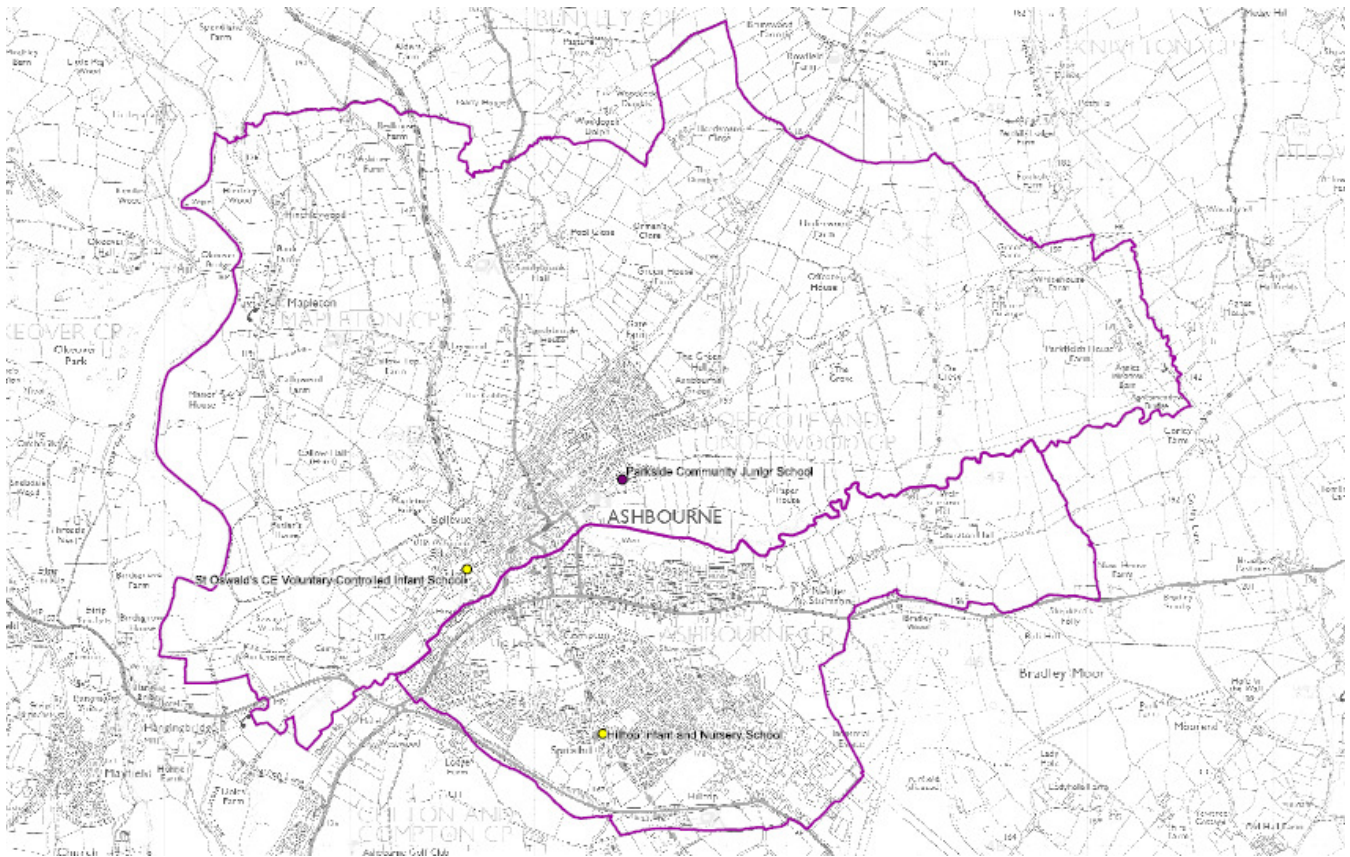
4. Children not living in the normal area served by the school but who have brothers or sisters\*\* attending the school at the time of application and admission.

5. In the case of voluntary controlled church schools, children whose parents request a place on religious grounds.\*\*\*

6. Other children whose parents have requested a place.

When in the case of 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 above, choices have to be made between children satisfying the same criteria, those children living nearest to the school (measured by the nearest available route) will be given preference.\*\*\*\*

The existing 'normal areas' of the three schools is shown in the plan below. Parkside serves the whole area, but the town is split into two areas for infant admissions.

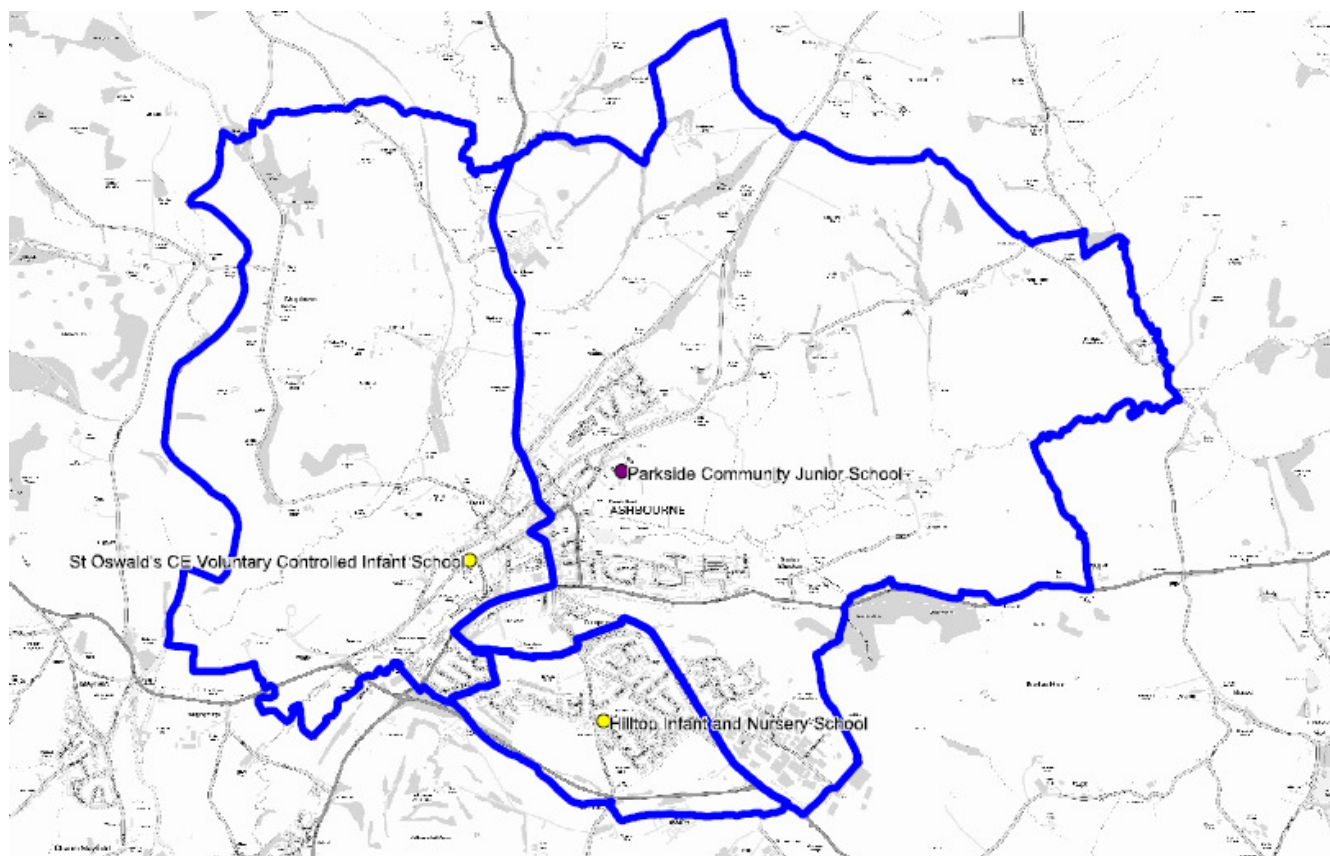


Map 1: existing normal areas of the Ashbourne infants and junior schools

If this reorganisation takes place, there are two options for normal areas for admissions purposes.

1. Each school has its own normal area;
2. The three schools share a normal area.

Under option 1, the town would be split into three areas to match as closely as possible the number of children in each area with the size of the schools. Parents would continue to be able to choose any of the three schools but priority would go to those living within the normal area. One way in which this could be done is shown in the plan below.



Map 2: A possible organisation of normal areas for three primary schools in Ashbourne.

Under option 2 the town would be a single normal area (this would be the whole area identified in Map 1 which is the same as the current normal area of Parkside Community Junior School). If a school were oversubscribed, the children living nearest would get priority for places. There would be sufficient places across the three schools for the children in the town.

The three schools and the Local Authority have agreed to propose option 2 – a shared area. This avoids breaking the town into distinct communities with free choice between the three schools.

### *Consultation question*

*Do you agree with the proposal that there is a single normal area for the town comprising the three primary schools?*

*If your child will enter Reception in September 2017 or will enter Year 3 in September 2017, it would be helpful to the planning of numbers and location of places if you could indicate which school you might prefer. This is an*

*indication ONLY and is not binding on you or the Local Authority, and in no way should be seen as pre-empting the usual Admissions process.*

## **Changes to educational facilities**

The figures in tables 2 and 3 show that the three schools currently have sufficient capacity for the projected numbers of children in the town. Plans have been made to add to the facilities at the schools. These plans address two distinct requirements. The first is to give each of the schools what they need to operate as a primary school. The second is to add to their capacity as rising demand requires. When and where additional capacity is required depends on the choices made by parents and the rate of housebuilding and occupation. These proposals would allow the number of primary places in the town to expand to 105 in each year from the present 85, taking the overall capacity to 735 places.

The needs of each school are discussed below.

### **Parkside Community Junior School**

As a primary school, the existing facilities at Parkside would have a capacity of 315 which is sufficient for the proposed admissions number of 45. However, the school does require a classroom that meets the specific requirements of reception classes. It is proposed to extend a classroom to provide an adequate sized reception space for 45 children and to provide a covered outside play area. The budget cost for these works is £160,000.

### **St Oswald's CE (VC) Infant School**

St Oswald's does not have any playing fields currently, as this is not a requirement of Infant schools. Land has been identified that could be made available to the school by the Church which owns the land. Some fencing would be required. An allowance of £60,000 has been made for fencing and other works required to bring some of this land into use as playing fields for St Oswald's.

It is proposed to open St Oswald's with 20 places each year or 140 places overall. Plans have been drawn up to allow St Oswald's over time to become a 30 place school. This would require two additional classrooms along with office and admin spaces. This project would be required only as pupil numbers rise and is budgeted to cost £925,000.

## Hilltop Infant & Nursery School

Hilltop has very limited spare space. When it becomes a primary school, its numbers are likely to rise from the present 120 to 140, in line with its new admissions number of 20. Therefore, the Local Authority proposes to add a single classroom at Hilltop by September 2017 ready for the transition to primary status. In addition, some internal adaptations are proposed to create a library and a group room. A budget cost for these works is £375,000.

In the longer term, Hilltop could expand to have 30 places each year, a capacity of 210. This would require a further two classrooms to be added at a budget cost of £400,000.

The investments are summarised below.

School	Initial investment	Longer term expansion	Estimated Initial cost	Longer term cost
Parkside	Extension for reception	Not required	£160,000	0
St Oswald's	Creation of playing field inc fencing etc	Additional two classrooms and ancillary spaces	£60,000	£925,000
Hilltop	Additional classroom and internal adaptations	Two further additional classrooms	£375,000	£400,000
Total costs			£595,000	£1,325,000

## Funding

Derbyshire County Council has secured some funds from housing developers to expand primary places in Ashbourne as set out in the table below. This primary reorganisation enables additional places to be created to meet the rising demand caused by housing development.

Year	Amount available to expected to be available based on assumptions about housebuilding rates
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Available November 2015	£91,192.00*
Available in 2016/17	£284,661.36*
Available 2017/18	£535,753.47*
Available 2018/19	£216,581.00*
Total	£1,128,187.83

\*Not paid to DCC as yet and dependent on the development reaching the agreed trigger for payment.

The initial investments will be made from the funds that we expect to be available by 2016 /17. If there is a delay in these funds being received, the initial projects will be implemented by Derbyshire County Council, with funds recovered from S106 when available.

The longer term expansion projects will be considered as demand rises depend on the availability of the S106 funds identified above.

## Conclusion

Derbyshire County Council and the governing bodies of Hilltop Infant and Nursery School, St Oswald's CE (VC) Infant Schools and Parkside Community Junior School are convinced that a reorganisation to create three primary schools out of the existing schools is in the best interests of the education of the children in the town. It will have other benefits for the town in terms of traffic congestion and travel. This reorganisation will provide a good basis for expanding primary education in the town as numbers rise due to housing development.

We would welcome your views on these proposals. There are two questions set out in this document.

- 1. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to change the existing system into one where the town is served by three primary schools instead of separate infant and junior schools?*
- 2. Do you agree with the proposal that there is a single normal area for the town comprising the three primary schools?*

If you have any views on these questions, or any other views you wish to express, please send your responses by 7 December 2015 to the address or e-mail below.



## **Contact Details**

Any comments in response to this consultation should be sent to –

Ian Johnson, Strategic Director for Children's Services, Ref. DEV/DAH  
CS Development Team  
Chatsworth Hall  
Chesterfield Road  
MATLOCK  
Derbyshire  
DE4 3FW

Telephone Dee Hill on 01629 536248 (Direct line)

E-mail [dee.hill@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:dee.hill@derbyshire.gov.uk)