

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

2 February 2016

Report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services

**OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL FOR A NEW
PRIMARY SCHOOL AT THE AVENUE, WINGERWORTH (CHILDREN'S
SERVICES)**

1. Purpose of Report

To report to Cabinet the outcome of the consultation on the proposal to open a new school at the development known as The Avenue, Wingerworth

2. Information and Analysis

On 13 October 2015, Cabinet agreed to a consultation on the provision of a new school to serve a housing development of around 1,000 houses, known as 'The Avenue' Wingerworth. There were two key issues for consultation

- Whether a new school should be provided for the Avenue development
- Whether the opening of that school should be delayed until at least 2019, as before that date there are unlikely to be sufficient children living on the new development to justify a new school.

As part of this process, the consultation was presented to the head teachers of the three primary schools closest to the Avenue development. There was no opposition to delay opening a new school until at least 2019.

During the four week consultation period, two responses were received. The issues raised in those responses were concern as to whether the proposal was to replace the existing Tupton Primary School or build an additional school and whether the existing Tupton Hall School could accommodate the additional numbers at secondary education level.

New Primary School or Replacement of Tupton Primary School

Comment as made that the current Tupton Primary School is in an ageing building with issues relating to its existing accommodation and clarification was sought whether the Local Authority would replace this school building or build a new and additional school for the area.

Local Authority Response

The Local Authority is proposing the construction of a new primary school to serve the community on the new housing development known as The Avenue. Discussion with the Homes and Community Agency (HCA) together with North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC) identified the wish to provide a new primary school which would help form a community identity as this new housing development grows. The proposed new school is not intended to replace the existing Tupton Primary School. This would require additional funding and would move that school away from the community it serves.

Tupton Hall School

The respondent raising concerns about Tupton Hall School stated that the number of pupils at this school is very high already and that this is a big concern to parents. It was suggested that the high number of pupils in the school has an impact on both learning and behaviour. Concern was expressed that finding an alternative school place is not easy and this is causing concern amongst those whose children will be moving into secondary education soon.

Local Authority Response

The current number on roll at Tupton Hall School is 1,651 and the school accommodation has a net capacity of 1,849. This is one of Derbyshire's larger secondary schools, but not the largest. It is a purpose-built school which is just over ten years old, designed to deliver the current curriculum requirements and to ensure that pupils learn in a positive environment.

The Admissions legislation enables parents to express a preference for the school to which they would wish to send their child and in the event of more applications than places available, there are criteria for the allocation of places at a school. Derbyshire County Council has a success in allocating parents' first preference for school places at secondary schools that is higher than the national average.

3. Financial Considerations

The developer is proposing to establish a one-form entry school, in two phases, through allocation of land and funds. The Authority will be required to provide start-up revenue funding from the Dedicated Schools Grant for the Academy to support it as its numbers increase. A further report will be presented to determine the amount of funding that will be required.

4. Legal Considerations

The Education Act 2011 requires Local Authorities to seek proposals to establish an academy / a free school where it thinks there is a need for a new school in its area. The Authority has no choice in following this route for a new school.

5. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered – prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, health, human rights, human resources, environmental, transport, and property considerations.

6. Key Decision

Yes

7. Call-in

Is it required that the Call-in period be waived in respect of the decisions being proposed within this report? No.

8. Background Papers

A file is held in the Children's Services Development Team office, which holds information on the responses to the consultation.

9. Strategic Director's Recommendation

- 9.1. That the responses to the consultation on a proposed new primary school at The Avenue, Wingerworth be noted;
- 9.2. That Cabinet approves the principal of a new school to serve the Avenue; and
- 9.3. That the progress of the development be kept under review and that a further report be received when sufficient information is available to set an opening date for the school, which will be 2019 at the earliest.

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