

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**2 February 2016**

**Report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services**

**SITE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION IN WIRKSWORTH (CHILDREN'S SERVICES)**

**1. Purpose of Report**

To seek approval to the de-notification of an area of privately-owned land identified as a future site for a primary school for Wirksworth and to notify an alternative site as a future location for a primary school.

**2. Information and Analysis**

A site for the provision of a new primary school in Wirksworth has been notified in the Local Plan for Derbyshire Dales District since at least 2005. The location of this site is detailed at Appendix 1 and is at the centre of the town. It is owned privately and the owner has approached the Local Authority to discuss the future of the site on a number of occasions.

A plan to replace the two infant schools and the junior school with a primary school on this site was initiated under the Church of England's Private Finance Initiative in 2004/5, but did not come to fruition.

The town has a Neighbourhood Action Group and this group held a workshop in 2012 on future development and growth of the town, to which officers of the Local Authority were invited. Discussion with the owner, alongside members of the Neighbourhood Action Group, identified a number of constraints on this site as a future primary school site, including both access and topography concerns.

Officers of the Local Authority have been involved in discussion with the Head Teachers of the infant and junior schools of the town, who wish to work more collaboratively in the future. Part of this discussion has identified the need to consider a potential new location for a primary school and this has led to the proposal that the existing site should be de-notified and a more appropriate site be notified within the Local Planning Authority's Core Strategy and Development Proposals for Wirksworth. The current consultation by the Local Planning Authority on development

options in the town means this is an appropriate time to address this issue.

The site identified for notification as a new proposed site for a primary school is also detailed at Appendix 1. Currently owned by Tarmac/La Farge, this area has been identified and discussed by officers with the Local Planning Authority for their view on its potential as a school location. Officers of the Local Planning Authority agree that the current notified site has many issues of concern in developing a primary school, whilst the area identified for future notification could have a positive impact on the community and future housing development. Subject to Cabinet's decision to proceed with notification of this new site, officers will approach the current owner of the site formally for more detailed discussions in the future.

### **3. Financial Considerations**

The notification of land which is privately owned does not have immediate financial implications for the Local Authority. However, the purchase of the site – at the time when required – will be the subject of a further report to Cabinet in due course. There is no immediate prospect of securing funding to combine the schools on to one site. The purpose of identifying a site is to allow a proposal to re-organise on to one site to be considered at some point in the future.

### **4. Legal Considerations**

The Cabinet must be satisfied that the de-notification of the site is appropriate on educational grounds.

### **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**

No

### **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 notification of the existing site and on the proposal for notification of a new site in Wirksworth.

## **9. Strategic Director's Recommendation**

- 9.1 That Cabinet approves the de-notification of the site detailed at Appendix 1 as the proposed site for a new primary school in Wirksworth; and
- 9.2 That Cabinet approves the notification of the site detailed at Appendix 1 as the new proposed site for a new primary school in Wirksworth.

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

## Appendix 1 – Map of Currently Notified and proposed Sites

### Wirksworth Primary Sites

