

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

21 January 2014

**Report of the Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults and the
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and the Environment**

**Provision of a New Primary School to Serve Hilton – (Children and Young
People)**

1. Purpose of Report

To seek Cabinet approval to commence a process leading to the establishment of a new primary school in Hilton.

2. Information and Analysis

- 2.1.** South Derbyshire District Council, Derby City Council and Amber Valley Borough Council are working in partnership to prepare aligned Local Plans. Together, the three Councils' Local Plans will deliver 35,354 new dwellings across the Derby Housing Market Area by 2028. South Derbyshire District Council began preparing its Local Plan in 2009 and, following a number of rounds of consultation, published its Draft Local Plan – Part 1 in August 2013. The Draft Local Plan identifies strategic housing sites in South Derbyshire to provide a total of around 6,500 dwellings from 2008 to 2028 on the edge of Derby. The implications of this wider growth will be the subject of a separate report to Cabinet.
- 2.2.** One of the sites identified by South Derbyshire is for 425 houses on a site on the edge of Hilton. This number of houses would be expected to generate, over time, around 90 primary aged pupils.
- 2.3.** Hilton has grown significantly over recent years. The village is served by Hilton Primary School. This school has grown from 456 pupils in 2002 to 775 in October 2013. This school is by far the largest primary school in Derbyshire (the next largest has only around 450 pupils). There is no scope for further expansion of this school.
- 2.4.** The developer has discussed the educational requirements of this proposal with County Council officers who have identified the need for a new school. The developer has proposed to build a new 2-form entry primary school as part of the development. This will be

built in two phases with the first form of entry being available when the first houses start to be occupied, with the second phase being brought in later.

- 2.5.** Forecasts for Hilton Primary school predict its number of pupils to rise to 804 by 2018. In addition, approximately one hundred children resident in Hilton currently attend primary schools outside of the village. As pupil numbers in primary schools rise across the area, there will be less scope for this. The total potential demand for places is therefore around 1,000 (including the children from the new housing). A new school with two forms of entry (i.e. the number of classes in each year group giving a total 420 places over the seven primary years) would allow Hilton Primary School to consolidate at around three forms of entry (630 places).
- 2.6.** On 20 November 2013, the developer held a public consultation about this proposal. This was the first time the proposal was made public. The developer is planning to submit a full planning application in January 2014 with a view to the first houses being occupied from September 2015.
- 2.7.** There is broad guidance from the DfE on the process to be followed to establish a new school (The Academy/Free School Presumption, July 2013 DfE). This leaves some flexibility to the Authority in deciding the details. In this case, there is a clear interest in selecting a provider as soon as possible in advance of opening. Nevertheless, the timescale means it will not be possible to have a provider in place before many key decisions are taken regarding design of the new school. Whilst there is an imperative to complete the process in good time, it is equally important to allow time to consult with existing schools such as Hilton Primary School and to allow an appropriate amount of time for analysis and decision making. The following timescale is suggested, and would give the sponsor over a year lead-in to the earliest possible opening of the school. The timescale can be relaxed if progress with the housing development is less rapid than anticipated currently.

Consultation	February , March 2014
Cabinet approval on whether to launch the formal process	April 2014
Advertise for expression of interest from potential sponsors	May June 2014
Authority evaluation of proposals,	July 2014

including presentations	
Authority recommendation to the DfE	September 2014
DfE in principal notification of successful promoter	December 2014
Conclusion of funding agreement by DfE	March 2015

2.8. The Authority will need to decide when it requires the new school to open. The DfE stipulates that the Local Authority provides revenue support to any new school during the phase when its numbers are building. There is a balance to be struck between funding a school with very low initial numbers and the desire to avoid additional pressure on Hilton Primary school. This issue will be one for consultation with the school.

2.9. There will be a need to establish a normal area for the new school in anticipation of the admissions arrangements to be determined by the sponsor. Local consultation will need to take place with Hilton Primary School and other stakeholders on what this normal area should be. A copy of the proposed consultation document is attached at Appendix 1.

2.10. Further work is required to establish the implications of this proposal for early years.

3. Financial Considerations

3.1. The developer is proposing to establish a two-form entry school, in two phases, at its own cost. 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 & disorder, equality of opportunity, environmental, health, legal & human rights, human resources, property 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** Yes

9. **Officer Recommendation**

9.1. That the Authority agree to commence a process to establish a new school in Hilton; and

9.2. That the Authority undertakes a consultation on this proposal for a new school, including the issues raised in paragraphs 2.8-2.10.

9.3. That a further report on the future financial contribution required by the County Council be brought to Cabinet for consideration.

Ian Thomas, Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults
Mike Ashworth, Strategic Director - Economy, Transport and Environment

Derbyshire County Council

Children and Younger Adults - Development

Consultation on the Provision of a New Primary School in Hilton

Context

Hilton village in South Derbyshire has seen a great deal of housing development since 2002 and Hilton Primary School has grown from 456 pupils in 2002 to its present size of 775 pupils on roll. The school has grown year on year as new housing development has been released, requiring extensions to the new building and subsequently temporary buildings being sited to accommodate this increased pressure for places. This school is the largest primary school in Derbyshire and one of the largest primary schools in the country.

Housing Development off The Mease, Hilton

St Modwen's is a development company with land holdings in Hilton and in the wider South Derbyshire area, and they own an area of land to the south west of the village just off The Mease which they have proposed for more housing. This proposal would require additional pupil places to be created, but the developers are aware of the pressure at Hilton Primary School.

As a result of discussion with Planning Officers at South Derbyshire, St Modwen's put forward a proposal to deliver up 425 dwellings on the site in Hilton and to provide a new two form entry primary school for the community. This new school could make provision of school places for the new housing but also could take pressure from the existing primary school. St Modwen's has offered to provide both the land and the building for the new school as part of the overall submission to the Planning Authority.

The current pupil capacity and pupil numbers for Hilton Primary School are provided here and projections indicate a continued growth in numbers. These statistics do not include any impact from housing within the catchment. The proposal for 425 dwellings would yield an additional 85 primary aged pupils at least; the numbers at the school could reach 900 within five years of the housing being started.

	School Capacity	NOR October 2013 Census	Projected No. 2014	Projected No. 2015	Projected No. 2016	Projected No. 2017	Projected No. 2018
Hilton Primary School	770	775	780	780	779	798	804

It is important to consider that 88% of primary aged children living in the normal area attend Hilton Primary School. This means that 12% of primary aged children attend a school outside of the normal area. This is important as other villages and towns across South Derbyshire will see housing growth,

and the option to attend another school may become less and less possible. This would increase the pressure on Hilton Primary School if nothing is done to address the situation now.

The offer of a two form entry primary school on the site off The Mease in Hilton could provide an opportunity to alleviate this growing pressure.

Design

The design of the new school would be to Building Bulletin 99, the official guidance from the Department for Education on the facilities to be built for primary schools. The Local Authority would ensure that the design meets all requirements and is fit for purpose.

Process and Timescale

The process to deliver a new primary school is a complex one with a variety of deadlines to meet for information, consultation and action. The Education Act 2011 requires that any new school will be an Academy or Free School and that a sponsor for the new school must be sought through a process of competition. The Local Authority manages the process and works with the sponsor and the developer to establish the new provision.

The timescale for this process would follow this draft calendar -

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There is a need to discuss the issues arising from the proposed housing development and its impact on the local community and existing school.

Issues for Consultation

i) Should there be a second primary school within Hilton?

There has been discussion previously with the local community about the idea of a second primary school in Hilton, and at that time the proposal was rejected. However, the speed of growth and the extent of growth in Hilton have been greater than anticipated.

ii) If there is a second primary school, should it be two forms of entry and what size should the current Hilton Primary School be?

If the new school is agreed, it will be important to decide what size is appropriate for the existing Hilton Primary School, and therefore what size the new school should be. There is an opportunity to look at the existing pressure for places and utilise the additional spaces in the new school to support Hilton Primary School.

Contact Details

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

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There will be further consultation on the proposal to address the normal area (catchment area), the stages of opening a new school, how the new school would work alongside the existing school amongst other issues.