

CABINET MEMBER DECISION RECORD

This form should be used to record Executive decisions taken by Cabinet Members

<p>Decision Ref. No:</p>
<p>Responsible Officer:</p> <p>Felicity Draper, Service Manager: Access and School Commissioning</p>
<p>Subject:</p> <p>Additional places for Reception entry September 2015</p>
<p>Decision taken:</p> <p>To increase the number of Reception places for September 2015 at St Michael's Primary from 90 places to 120 places</p> <p>To express support for the decision of the Academy Trust of Avonwood Primary to increase the number of its Reception places for September 2015 from 60 places to 90 places</p>
<p>Reasons for the decision:</p> <p>There is a national shortage of school places. This Council has had a programme over the last five years of providing additional school places to meet the steeply rising demand in Bournemouth.</p> <p>The number of applications received so far by schools and the Council for the Reception entry for September 2015 is greater than expected. Pressure on places is particularly severe in the south east and central Town Centre parts of the borough.</p> <p>To reduce the number of families impacted by the high demand for school places this year additional capacity is required. An extra two forms of entry - 60 places will reduce the number of families not able to be offered their catchment school and reduce the distance travelled should they have to be redirected to another school.</p> <p>The Council is the admission authority for St Michael's VC Primary School and so is the legal body with responsibility for deciding the number of places to offer at the school. The admission authority for Avonwood is the Academy Trust.</p>
<p>Call-in and Urgency:</p> <p>The decision is an urgent decision, in view of the Statutory deadline for the issue of offers, made under Procedure Rule 24 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedures Rules (at Part 4.7 of the Constitution) and Call-in does not apply.</p>
<p>Background:</p> <p>There is a national shortage of school places. This Council has had a programme over the</p>

last five years of providing additional school places to meet the steeply rising demand in Bournemouth. Decisions on how many places to provide are required to be taken and published 18 months before children first enter school.

The number of applications received so far by schools and the Council for the Reception entry for September 2015 is greater than expected. Once places had been allocated to all those children whose family had applied either on time or by the deadline for the first late allocation, the remaining number of places fell below the recommended level needed to support a system of parental preference and allow for families moving late into or around the area.

Pressure on places is considerable in the south east and central parts of the borough. Once the initial draft allocation was completed it became clear that at four schools not all families who had either expressed a preference for their catchment school or needed to be redirected to their catchment school as none of their preferences could be agreed, were able to be offered a place at their catchment school.

Applicants were then provisionally redirected to schools which still had room. For some children at the far east of the borough the distance from home to the provisional redirected school would be over 6 miles.

The Council is required by law to offer places to all parents for their children on the statutory date of 16 April 2015. In order to reduce the number of families impacted by the high demand for school places this year and thus having to be offered a school place at a school they have not applied for and which is a number of miles from their home, additional capacity is required. An extra two forms of entry - 60 places will reduce the number of families not able to be offered their catchment school and reduce the distance travelled should they still only be able to be redirected to another school.

The Governors of St Michael's VC Primary and Avonwood schools have agreed to take an additional class (30 places) each to help meet their local need and ease the position across the borough. The Directors of the academy trust have formally confirmed already their decision to offer more places for September 2015. The Council is the responsible body for deciding the number of places to offer at St Michael's VC Primary School. Given the statutory deadline of 16 April 2015 for release of offers an urgent decision is required.

Options - and reasons for rejection:

Do nothing - the Council is at risk of not meeting its statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places. The number of admission appeals and appeals for help with Home to School Transport are likely to rise substantially and the pressure on the Home to School Transport Budget will increase.

Delay until later in the summer term - if additional accommodation is to be made ready and extra staff recruited in time for the children to start school in September 2015 a decision has to be taken early enough to enable the appropriate arrangements to be put into place.

Consultations undertaken:

The schools affected have been consulted and support the way forward.

The proposal to put in additional places was recommended for approval by the Council's School Place Planning Programme Board.

Finance/Resource Implications:

The admissions function is entirely funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Therefore there are no revenue budget implications to the Council. The recommendations set out above are intended to be accommodated within the existing budget allocated from the DSG.

Whilst at present it is anticipated that there will be no capital costs for the additional Reception Year places at Avonwood for 2015/16 there will be additional costs at St Michael's to convert an existing room and medical room into classroom facilities and make alternative provision. These can be met within the existing Basic Need Funding received from the Government to fund school places.

However, the capital costs of delivering proposals already agreed to expand the overall provision which require completion of additional accommodation to meet increased pupil numbers are putting increasing pressure on capital funds currently identified for the provision of school places. This would only increase further if the actual pupil numbers continue to exceed those which have been forecast.

The revenue requirements of additional pupils will be met through the DSG in line with the existing schools revenue funding. Schools will receive one off funding for in year expansion. This will be used to provide the additional resources needed.

Name: IAN MILNER

Signature: (of Chief Finance Officer)

Date: 15.4.15

Legal implications:

The council has a legal duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places. It is also required to offer parents the opportunity to express a preference as to where their child should attend school.

Once offered a school for their child, the Council may be required to assist parents with transport costs if the school is over the qualifying distance of 2 miles from their home and their application meets certain conditions.

All parents have a right of appeal against a decision not to offer a place at a school(s) for which they have expressed a preference.

Name: SIAN BALLINGALL

Signature: (of Monitoring Officer)

Date: 15.4.15

Risk assessment:

The main strategic risks include breaching the statutory duty to provide sufficient school places, and being unable to provide places close to demographic demand, resulting in high levels of appeals, parental complaints and negative publicity.

The level of capital funding received by the Council to provide additional school places may

limit future options available to the Council to expand the school estate and increase the likelihood of additional places being unable to be located near to areas of high demand.

Name: Felicity Draper
Date: 10 April 2015

Signature: ~~(of Officer completing assessment)~~

Impact Assessments:

The School Place Planning Programme has an overarching Equality Impact Needs Assessment which examines the equalities issues for the programme as a whole and also equality issues for individual projects within the programme. This indicates that ensuring there is a wide range of provision, located close to residential areas and with good access will minimise or remove any potential inequality issues.

The Environmental Impact Checklist has been completed regarding the need for additional places. No additional external school accommodation will need to be built for the provision of extra school places as use can be made of existing accommodation.

Information for ~~not~~ for publication:

Background papers:

Any conflict of interest declared by a Cabinet Member who is consulted by the Member taking the decision	Name of Cabinet Member	Nature of interest	Details of any dispensation granted by the Monitoring Officer
Yes/No* (*Delete as appropriate)			

Decision taken by:

Councillor N. GREENE (Print

name) Cabinet Portfolio

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

²
Date of decision: 15th April '15

Date of publication of record of decision: (to be inserted by Democratic Services)

15 April 2015

Date decision effective - that is 5 working days after the date of publication of the record of

decision unless the decision is called-in for consideration by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

-insert
date- 15 APRIL 2015

Note - See separate guidance on recording decisions at Appendix 1.