

**REPORT OF THE LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S AND
YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES**

TO CABINET

ON

23rd MARCH 2021

**TITLE: PROPOSED PERMANENT EXPANSION OF SPRINGWOOD PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The purpose of this report is to present to the City Mayor, in consultation with Cabinet, as the decision maker for school organisation, the implementation for the, publication, of the Statutory Notice for the proposed permanent expansion of Springwood Primary School, as of 1 September 2021.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Springwood Primary School serves the whole of the City of Salford and provides specialist education for children with complex needs including profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), severe learning difficulties (SLD), communication and interaction needs (C&I), autism (ASD) hearing impairment (HI), Other Difficulty/Disability (OTH), Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD) and Visual Impairment (VI) for children aged from 2 to 11 years.

Salford has experienced increased demand for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities support (SEND) provision in recent years. In particular, increased demand has been felt for the type of specialist education Springwood Primary provides.

The proposed expansion would see a permanent increase of the number of pupils on roll at Springwood Primary School. This would increase the capacity of the school by 60 pupils by enlarging onto a second site at Craig Hall, Preston Avenue, Irlam, M44 5XB from September 2021.

Under the proposal, the overall capacity of the school will increase to 300 pupils (Nursery to Year 6). The admission of pupils across both sites, will be managed by the special educational needs statutory assessment process.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Making significant changes ("prescribed alterations") to maintained schools" statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers" (October 2018)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/756572/Maintained_schools_prescribed_alterations_guidance.pdf

KEY DECISION: YES

DETAILS:

1. Background

- 1.1. Salford has experienced increased demand for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities support (SEND) provision in recent years. With demand for SEND provision continuing to grow, additional specialist places will be required.
- 1.2. Springwood Primary School serves the whole of the City of Salford and provides specialist education for children with complex needs including profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), severe learning difficulties (SLD), communication and interaction needs (C&I), autism (ASD) hearing impairment (HI), Other Difficulty/Disability (OTH), Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD) and Visual Impairment (VI) for children aged from 2 to 11 years. All children admitted to the Springwood Primary School have an Education Health Care Plan.
- 1.3. With an increase in children with Education and Health Care Plans, this has resulted in increased demand for places at Springwood Primary School. In order to manage this, it has been necessary for the Local Authority to create additional capacity (September 2017, 2019 and 2020 academic years). Due to restrictions on the Springwood Primary School site, this has been achieved with the use of the Craig Hall site.
- 1.4. In order to accommodate the additional pupils, it has been necessary to undertake both internal adaptations and expansion works to the existing Craig Hall site. The project capital costs for these works have been met from the local authorities SEND and Basic Need capital funding streams.
- 1.5. In addition to supporting the immediate demand, the works undertaken at the Craig Hall site have provided the school with the required level of accommodation to allow for a permanent expansion of Springwood Primary School.

2. Proposal Objective

- 2.1. The proposed permanent expansion of Springwood Primary School would increase the capacity of the school by 60 pupils by enlarging onto a second site

at Craig Hall, Preston Avenue, Irlam, M44 5XB from 1 September 2021. Under the proposal, the overall capacity of the school will increase to 300 pupils (Nursery to Year 6).

- 2.2. The admission of pupils across both sites, will be managed by the special educational needs statutory assessment process and ensure a successful outcome for the school, children and young people.
- 2.3. The proposal to increase capacity at Springwood Primary School with the use of the Craig Hall site will ensure the continued delivery of high quality and cost effective provision for the children and Young People of Salford and provide local specialist provision.

3. Statutory Process and timeframe for the consultation process

- 3.1. The publication of the Statutory Notice would initiate the statutory consultation process during which representation would be invited. A programme for the decision making timescale is outlined below:

<u>Process</u>	<u>Timescale</u>
1. Report to Cabinet for authorisation for publication of the statutory notice.	23 March 2021
3. Publication of statutory notice for permanent expansion	19 April 2021
4. 4 week representation period ends	17 May 2021
5. Cabinet (as Decision Maker in a matter of school organisation) must consider objections and representations received and determine the proposal within 2 months of the publication of the statutory notice.	8 June 2021

- 3.2. The recent change in school organisation guidance means there is no longer a prescribed 'pre-publication' consultation period for prescribed alterations.
- 3.3. The formal 4 weeks consultation period commences following the publication of the statutory proposal/notice and letters outlining the proposal will be issued to parents/carers of pupils attending the school and neighbouring schools. A copy of the notice will also appear in Manchester Evening News (local edition)
- 3.4. In accordance with the statutory procedures the notice invites comments /objections to the proposal within four weeks from the date of publication of the notice to be submitted

3.5. The four week representation period will expire on 17 May 2021. Any comments/views received during this period will be compiled and included as part of the report to be presented to the City Council's Cabinet for decision on the proposal

4. Conclusion

It is intended that the report will be issued to City Mayor, in consultation with Cabinet for decision at the 8 June 2021 Cabinet meeting.

KEY COUNCIL POLICIES: N/A

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND IMPLICATIONS: The process followed, as set out in the report, is in accordance with the relevant legislation and statutory process.

ASSESSMENT OF RISK: With demand for SEND provision continuing to grow, additional specialist places will be required. The proposal to increase capacity at Springwood Primary School with the use of the Craig Hall site will ensure the continued delivery of high quality and cost effective provision for the children and Young People of Salford and provide local specialist provision.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS Supplied by: Nicky Smith, Senior Solicitor

The proposals comply with the requirements of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 and the associated Government Guidance, and will ensure that the Council complies with its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places and meet the increased demand for places for children with complex needs.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS Supplied by: Chris Mee – Strategic Finance Manager
Ext 0434

The project capital costs have been met from the local authorities SEND and Basic Need capital funding streams.

All specialist places at Springwood Primary School will continue to be funded from the High Needs Block part of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The revenue funding required for the additional places is included in the DSG allocation and the additional commissioned places have been agreed by Schools Forum.

PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS Supplied by: Deborah Derbyshire EXT: 6244

The procurement of the additional works already undertaken were in line with the procurement rules.

HR IMPLICATIONS Supplied by: N/A

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS Supplied by: N/A

OTHER DIRECTORATES CONSULTED: N/A

CONTACT OFFICER: Paula Newall

TEL NO: EXT 0447

WARDS TO WHICH REPORT RELATES: ALL