

EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR DECISION

21 JUNE 2017

REPORT: PROPOSAL TO EXPAND CAPACITY AT MARKET DEEPING COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL (FINAL DECISION)

SCRUTINY OPINION FROM THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 9 JUNE 2017

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee met on 9 June 2017 and considered a report concerning the proposal to expand capacity at Market Deeping Community Primary School (final decision).

The Committee unanimously supported the recommendations contained in the report.

In addition, the following comments were made:

- Concerns were raised about the impact of additional traffic and parking on the local area and how this would be mitigated. It was also queried whether any objections raised during the consultation period had been in relation to traffic. It was confirmed that only one response to the consultation and one response to the statutory notice raised concerns about traffic. The former and current county councillor for the area had been consulted and both were in support of the proposals. It was highlighted that access to the school had been improved and Tesco already provided some car parking for parents to use. For the planning application, there would be a full consultation around traffic and parking and a school travel plan would also be produced.
- Concerns were raised about future proofing and whether there would be enough capacity in the local primary sector in future with the new housing development plans for the area. It was noted that there was some future proofing as there would be the possibility to expand the school further from 315 places to 420 places in the future, subject to additional capital and building works. It was highlighted that there was a need to avoid over future proofing, as surplus school places could lead to parents questioning their preference which could result in a negative impact on other schools in the area. In addition, Section 106 money from housing developers would only be available if there would be insufficient capacity; hence the need to match capacity rather than provide surplus capacity, otherwise the Council would lose the Section 106 money from the housing developments.
- It was queried what the current financial position of the school was and if the money was already available for the expansion. It was confirmed that the school was not set to go into financial deficit and that the school would receive additional funding due to an increase in the number of pupils on roll. It was also highlighted that the capital from Section 106 funding for this expansion was already available and additional Section 106 funding would become available once the housing developments had been completed.

- It was queried whether the increase in PAN from 30 to 45 would lead to mixed age or ability classes. It was confirmed that there would be some classes with mixed classes which could either be by age, ability or friendship groups. It would be for the school to decide how best to do this and there were several examples of popular and successful schools in the county that organised their year groups in this way.
- It was queried whether there would be any impact on the playing fields. It was confirmed that the building work would not impact on the playing fields and that they would remain at their current size.