



Derby City Council

CABINET REPORT
7 December 2016

ITEM 13

Report of the Cabinet Member for Education
and Skills

Proposals to increase pupil places at The Bemrose School

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council is legally required to ensure that there are sufficient school places available for those pupils residing in its administrative boundary. Pupil numbers and trends are closely monitored and, in order to accommodate growing primary pupil numbers, a Primary School Expansion Programme was implemented in September 2014 and September 2015. Following the primary school expansion programme, it is anticipated that there will be sufficient capacity across the City as a whole to deal with primary growth over future years. There are, however, specific areas of the City where pressure on places continues to increase.
- 1.2 In order to respond to increasing pupil numbers, proposals have been developed to provide additional pupil places at The Bemrose School to meet with demand as follows:

Primary Places: Proposal to permanently increase the size of the primary phase from a capacity of 315 places to 420 places, with an increase in admission number from 45 to 60 from September 2017.

Secondary Places: Proposal to increase the secondary phase admission number from 180 to 220 from September 2018. This means that there would eventually be an additional 200 secondary places available across the secondary phase of the school.
- 1.3 In terms of capital funding for the proposals to expand the premises of The Bemrose School, Council Cabinet, at a meeting on 16 March 2016, approved funding of £2 million to increase secondary phase accommodation at the school. In addition, on 7 September 2016, Derby City Council Cabinet approved £1.3 million of basic need funding to increase the number of classrooms in the primary phase of the school. The Headteacher and Governing Body are supportive of the expansion proposals.
- 1.4 Following Cabinet Member approval, statutory consultation on the proposals to expand The Bemrose School took place for a six-week period between 3 October 2016 and 14 November 2016. A copy of the Consultation Document is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.
- 1.5 A total of 27 responses were received during the consultation period, as summarised in the table below:

Summary Table: Consultation Responses

Expansion Proposal Phase	I support the proposal – Number of responses (%)	I don't support the proposal – Number of responses (%)	I am undecided about the proposal – Number of responses (%)	Total
Primary	20 (74%)	4 (15%)	3 (11%)	27
Secondary	19 (70%)	4 (15%)	4 (15%)	27

The majority of respondents supported the expansion proposals, with 74% of respondents supporting the primary expansion proposal and 70% supporting the secondary expansion proposal.

Of the 27 responses received, 15% were against both the primary and secondary expansions proposals. Some of the respondents were undecided about the proposals and this was the case for 11% of respondents on the primary expansion proposal and 15% on the secondary expansion proposal. Appendix 3 provides further information on the consultation responses.

- 1.6 In view of the Council's statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places, this report recommends approval of the proposals to expand The Bemrose School.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve the proposals to permanently expand the premises of The Bemrose School in order to provide additional primary and secondary school places, as set out in this report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Council has a legal duty to ensure sufficient school places for those pupils residing within its administrative boundary. Pupil numbers and projections are closely monitored and proposals developed as necessary to ensure sufficient school places.



Derby City Council

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Report of the Strategic Director for People Services

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Council is legally required to ensure that there are sufficient school places available for those pupils residing in its administrative boundary. Pupil numbers and trends are closely monitored and, in order to accommodate growing primary pupil numbers, a Primary School Expansion Programme was implemented in September 2014 and September 2015. Following the primary school expansion programme, it is anticipated that there will be sufficient capacity across the City as a whole to deal with primary growth over future years. There are, however, specific areas of the City where pressure on places continues to increase.
- 4.2 In order to respond to increasing pupil numbers, proposals have been developed to provide additional pupil places at The Bemrose School to meet with demand as follows:
- 4.3 The Bemrose School: Primary Places
- The school's primary phase currently has capacity for 315 primary pupils aged 5-11 and a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 45. The proposal is to permanently increase the size of the primary phase from a capacity of 315 places to 420 places, with an increase in PAN from 45 to 60 from September 2017.
- The higher PAN of 60 would move through the school year by year until reaching all primary year groups in 2023-24. This would eventually result in an addition 105 primary places across the school. The primary phase currently has some temporary increases in its admission numbers in certain year groups in order to deal with an increasing demand for school places.
- 4.4 The Bemrose School: Secondary Phase
- The proposal is to increase the school's secondary phase PAN from 180 to 220 from September 2018. The higher PAN of 220 would then move through the school gradually, year by year, until reaching all secondary year groups in 2022-2023. This means that there would eventually be an additional 200 secondary places available across the secondary phase of the school.
- 4.5 With regard to the proposal to increase secondary pupil places, following growth in primary pupil numbers in recent years, Derby City Council is working with a number of secondary schools to increase places. In doing so, the Council has considered school sizes and where growth in primary pupil numbers has taken place. As the secondary phase of The Bemrose School is relatively small compared with other City secondary schools, it is possible to consider expansion without the secondary phase of the school becoming overly large.

- 4.6 Following Cabinet Member approval, statutory consultation on the proposals to expand The Bemrose School took place for a six-week period between 3 October 2016 and 14 November 2016. A copy of the Consultation Document is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.
- 4.7 A total of 27 responses were received during the consultation period, as summarised in the table below:

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- 4.8 In view of the Council's statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places, this report recommends approval of the proposals to expand The Bemrose School.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Very careful consideration has been given to options for accommodating pupil growth. The proposals in this report seek to target pupil places to an area of increasing demand.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	Emily Feenan, Principal Lawyer, Legal Services
Financial officer	Alison Parkin, Head of Finance (CYP)
Human Resources officer	None
Estates/Property officer	None
Service Director(s)	Gurmail Nizzer, Acting Director for Commissioning
Other(s)	None

For more information contact:	Gurmail Nizzer, Acting Director for Commissioning 01332 642720. E-mail: gurmail.nizzer@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Draft Consultation Document Appendix 3 – Summary of Consultation Responses

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 In terms of capital funding for the proposals to expand the premises of The Bemrose School, Council Cabinet, at a meeting on 16 March 2016, approved funding of £2 million to increase secondary phase accommodation at the school. In addition, on 7 September 2016, Council Cabinet approved £1.3 million of basic need funding to increase the number of classrooms in the primary phase of the school.
- 1.2 Additional revenue funding as a result of the increase in pupil numbers will be derived from the Schools Funding Formula. A Growth Fund exists to support schools with increased pupil numbers, subject to meeting approved criteria.

Legal

- 2.1 Each local authority with responsibility for education has to secure sufficient primary and secondary education to meet the needs of the population of their area, under s.13 Education Act 1996.
- 2.2 Under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, local authorities must carry out a statutory process on proposals to enlarge the premises of a school by 25% or 200 places (whichever is the lesser). The process involves publication of a notice, consultation and consideration of the responses received.

Personnel

- 3.1 None for consideration.

IT

- 4.1 None for consideration.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 None for consideration.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 None for consideration.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 All school capital programme schemes are carried out in line with the latest Building Regulations on environmental performance.

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 None for consideration. The proposal is to extend a school on its existing site.

Risk Management

- 9.1 In providing the additional capacity the Council is reducing any potential risks associated with its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places. Schemes will be development in line with the Council's project and risk management strategies.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 This report supports the Council priority outcome of 'Enabling individuals and communities, and Raising achievement and skills'.



Derby City Council

Consultation Period: Monday, 3 October 2016 to Monday, 14 November 2016

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

**Please give us your views and comments on our proposals
to increase pupil places at The Bemrose School**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Derby City Council is consulting on proposals to permanently increase the size and admission numbers of The Bemrose School, Uttoxeter New Road, Derby, DE22 3HU.
- 1.2 This proposal document tells you the reasons for our proposals and how the decision making process works. Please take time to read through the document and let us know your views and comments on the attached Response Form. The closing date for responses is Monday, 14 November 2016. We hope you find the document helpful and informative.

2.0 Proposals

- 2.1 There is an increasing demand for places at The Bemrose School both in the primary and secondary phase. The community that the school serves is growing and additional places are required in order to respond to this growth. The proposals for increasing pupil places at The Bemrose School are as follows:

The Bemrose School: Primary Places

- 2.2 The school's primary phase currently has capacity for 315 primary pupils aged 5-11 and a published admission number of 45.
- 2.3 The proposal is to permanently increase the size of the primary phase from a capacity of 315 places to 420 places, with an increase in admission number from 45 to 60 from September 2017. The higher admission number of 60 would move through the school year by year until reaching all primary year groups in 2023-24. This would eventually result in an additional 105 primary places across the school.

- 2.4 The primary phase currently has some temporary increases in its admission numbers in certain year groups in order to deal with an increasing demand for school places.

The Bemrose School: Secondary Phase

- 2.5 The Bemrose School secondary phase currently has an admission number of 180, giving a capacity of 900 places across Year Groups 7-11. The proposal is to increase the school's secondary phase admission number from 180 to 220 from September 2018. The higher admission number of 220 would then move through the school gradually, year by year, until reaching all secondary year groups in 2022-2023. This means that there would eventually be an additional 200 places available across the secondary phase of the school.
- 2.6 The primary and secondary proposals are not interlinked and, therefore, it is possible for an expansion to take place in one phase without the other.

3.0 Reason for the Proposals

- 3.1 The Council has a legal responsibility to make sure that there are enough school places available to meet local needs. The Council also has a duty to increase the scope for parental choice in planning for and securing school places. The Government's aim is that parents should be able to gain a place for their child at their preferred school, although this cannot be guaranteed.
- 3.2 The reason for the proposals to increase the size and admission numbers of The Bemrose School is to respond to growing primary and secondary pupil numbers in the area served by the school.
- 3.3 With regard to the proposal to increase secondary pupil places, following growth in primary pupil numbers in recent years, Derby City Council is working with a number of secondary schools to increase places from September 2017 and September 2018. In doing so, the Council has considered school sizes and where growth in primary pupil numbers has taken place. As the secondary phase of The Bemrose School is relatively small compared with other City secondary schools, it is possible to consider expansion without the secondary phase of the school becoming overly large.

4.0 Capital Funding: School Places

- 4.1 In response to increasing pupil numbers, the Council has been allocated 'basic need' funding by the Government to create additional school places.
- 4.2 At a meeting on 16 March 2016, Derby City Council approved funding of £2 million to increase secondary phase accommodation at The Bemrose School. On 7 September 2016, Derby City Council Cabinet approved £1.3 million of basic need funding to increase the number of classrooms in the primary phase of The Bemrose School. The proposals can be implemented on the current school site.

- 4.5 If the proposals go ahead, we will work closely with the schools to provide extra accommodation and to minimise any disruption that could be caused by the building work. There are no proposals to make any changes to any school catchment areas as a result of the proposals.

5.0 When will the proposed school expansions take place?

- 5.1 The proposed new admission numbers, if approved, will take effect as follows:

Phase	Current Admission Number	Proposed Admission Number	Implementation Date
Primary	45	60	September 2017
Secondary	180	220	September 2018

The proposal is for the increased admission numbers to gradually feed through the school until reaching all year groups. The primary phase currently has temporary increases in its admission numbers in certain year groups in order to deal with an increasing demand for school places. Derby City Council is now consulting on proposals to make the above admission numbers permanent.

6.0 What are the views of Headteachers and Governors?

- 6.1 The Bemrose School has given its support to the proposals to increase pupil places.

7.0 What are the implications for teaching staff?

- 7.1 School budgets are largely based on pupil numbers. So, if there is an increase in numbers at the schools, the extra pupils will result in increased funding for the schools to employ the extra staff they need.

8.0 Will there be an impact on other schools?

- 8.1 School expansion requires careful consideration and needs to be seen in the context of school places in the wider area. Our proposals to increase the number of pupil places at The Bemrose School relate to a significant increase in demand for places in the area served by the school. We don't intend to reduce the size of schools elsewhere as a result of this proposal and we are not proposing to change school catchment areas.

9.0 How can I give the Council my views and comments on the proposal?

- 9.1 We are very interested in your views and comments on our proposals. Please respond to us, in writing, by using the Consultation Response Form attached to this paper or by using the email address below. There is a six-week period for people to respond to this consultation. The closing date for responses is **Monday 14 November 2016**. If you would like to discuss any specific aspects of the proposal or need more information, please contact:

Hayley Millward
School Organisation and Provision Team,
Derby City Council,
Telephone: 01332 642722
Email: hayley.millward@derby.gov.uk

10.0 What are the next steps?

- 10.1 Local Authorities need to consult and publish a public notice on proposals to expand the premises of a school by 25% or 200 places (whichever is less). Please use this consultation as an opportunity to give us your views and comments on our proposals to increase pupil places at the schools tabled above.
- 10.2 After the closing date, we will gather all the responses that we have received and report them to the Council Cabinet. Consideration will be given to the responses and a decision will be taken on the proposals. We anticipate that a final decision will be taken by end of December 2016.

Proposals to increase pupil places at The Bemrose School

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

We are very interested in your views and comments on this proposal. Please use this form to let us have your views. (Please use extra sheets if you wish).

Do you support the Council’s proposal to increase pupil places at The Bemrose School as shown in the consultation document?

I support the proposal. ☐

I don’t support the proposal. ☐

I’m undecided about the proposal. ☐

Please give us any comments here

Date.....

Relationship to the school.....
(For example, a parent, governor, school, agency, other)

Please return your completed form to: Hayley Millward, Project Development Officer, School Organisation and Provision Team, Derby City Council, Council House, Corporation Street, DE1 2FS.
Email: hayley.millward@derby.gov.uk

All responses will be treated confidentially.
The closing date for getting your views and comments in is **Monday, 14 November 2016.**

Appendix 3

Summary of Consultation Responses

Proposals to increase pupil places at The Bemrose School

The table below sets out a summary of consultation responses:

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The majority of respondents supported the expansion proposals, with 74% of respondents supporting the primary expansion proposal and 70% supporting the secondary expansion proposal.

Of the 27 responses received, 15% were against both the primary and secondary expansions proposals. Some of the respondents were undecided about the proposals and this was the case for 11% of respondents on the primary expansion proposal and 15% on the secondary expansion proposal.

The key comments made in relation to the proposed school expansions are summarised below:

- I fully agree with the need to increase capacity at The Bemrose School.
- The school site is large enough to accommodate more pupils, over the set period of time.
- I support the proposal because it is a good school.
- It is a great idea.
- The school should consider offering a nursery as well.
- My family and I actively support the excellent work at Bemrose School.
- The priority for the school is to ensure that all students receive the best educational experience possible, in a safe and caring environment.

The following issues were raised in relation to the proposals:

Consultation Comment	Local Authority Response
The additional places at secondary level will only be advantageous to students if the necessary staffing structures and funding are in place to support all students who attend the school, including those with special educational needs and pupils for whom	With regard to staffing structures, additional revenue funding will be provided to the school through the Schools Funding Formula as a result of the increase in pupil numbers. This will enable the school to appoint additional staff.

<p>English is an additional language.</p> <p>There may need to be an option for the school to not accommodate pupils if the school cannot adequately support them.</p>	<p>In terms of pupil placements, the School Admissions Code will need to be applied for all mainstream applications as required by law. With regard to placements for pupils with Special Educational Needs, the Council will continue to work with the school and will seek to ensure that pupils are placed in the most appropriate setting for their individual needs.</p>
<p>Car parking outside of the school gates is an issue because of child safety.</p>	<p>Careful consideration will be given to the issue of car parking as part of the design and planning stage of the expansion project, should it receive approval to move forward.</p>
<p>I feel that small classes are beneficial to children as they are a lot more peaceful and the teachers have more time for the children. However, I do understand that pupil numbers are increasing.</p>	<p>The proposals will not necessarily increase the number of pupils being taught in each class. Essentially, the school will be provided with sufficient accommodation and revenue funding to provide places for the increased pupil numbers if the expansion proposals are approved.</p>