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**SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS: BASIC NEED FUNDING FOR  
HEATHFIELD PRIMARY**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Cyndi Hughes,  
Children and Young People Portfolio**

**Responsible Director – Murray Rose, Director of People**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To make Members aware that at three primary schools additional pupils will be admitted over their Planned Admission Numbers (PAN) for the academic year 2012/13.
2. To seek release of funds for internal remodelling works to enable Heathfield Primary School to accommodate an additional 30 pupils for September 2012.

**Summary**

3. Demographic data identifies a clear need for additional primary school places overall in Darlington but a more pressing requirement is the immediate demand at Reception for September 2012. The increases in available pupil places are proposed for one academic year (2012/13) only. Longer term expansions will be reviewed as part of the development of the School Organisation Plan 2012-2017.
4. The head teachers and Governors at the following schools have agreed to take additional pupils:  
  
Heathfield Primary: 30 additional pupils over the school's PAN (60) for academic year 2012/13  
Corporation Road: 10 additional pupils over the school's PAN (45) for academic year 2012/13  
St Teresa's RC VA: 5 additional pupils over the school's PAN (40) for academic year 2012/13
5. Heathfield Primary School requires some minor remodelling to accommodate the extra pupils which has been estimated at £175,000. Neither Corporation Road nor St Teresa's require any building works to accommodate the extra pupils.

## **Recommendation**

6. It is recommended that :-
  - (a) Cabinet notes that at three primary schools additional pupils will be admitted over their Planned Admission Numbers (PAN) for the academic year 2012/13.
  - (b) Cabinet approves the release of £175k of Basic Need Capital 2012/13 to fund alterations at Heathfield Primary as proposed in paragraphs 19-21 below.

## **Reasons**

7. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-
  - (a) To meet the Local Authority's statutory responsibility to provide a school place for every school age child in the borough
  - (b) That the schools identified are the best placed schools to provide these additional places.

**Murray Rose, Director of People**

Rachel Jones: Extension 2026

S17 Crime and Disorder	Capital investment to improve facilities and provide better building maintenance will contribute to the reduction of crime and disorder.
Health and Well Being	The proposed project will continue the Council's drive to provide buildings that enhance children's life chances and opportunities to thrive.
Carbon Impact	All work undertaken will be designed and constructed with the highest regard to sustainability and aim to reduce the carbon footprint, and re-use energy and environmental resources.
Diversity	All capital projects add to the diversity of buildings and technology available in Darlington.
Wards Affected	Lingfield.
Groups Affected	Children and young people (from birth to 19 years) in childcare or full time education.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	Yes
Urgent Decision	No
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The Capital Programme is consistent with Aspiring Darlington: providing high quality facilities that support modern approaches to education in schools and for lifelong learning.
Efficiency	The proposed internal remodelling project is better value for money than temporary accommodation.

## MAIN REPORT

### Background

8. Demographic data identifies a clear need for additional primary school places across Darlington however during the Primary admission round this year it became clear that there was an immediate demand at Reception for September 2012.
9. The latest data provided by Tees Valley Unlimited (Spring 2011) forecast there would be 1207 pupils in Reception in September 2012 with 1233 places available. However there were 1289 applications for reception places. Following the processing of the applications hotspots of immediate need were identified in early March.
10. For the reasons outlined below Head Teachers were approached who could provide the extra pupil places and in doing so would offer a suitable alternative for children who did not achieve a place at their first choice school.
11. The increases in available pupil places are proposed for one academic year (2012/13) only.
12. The Primary Capital Programme has created 273 new pupil places since 2008, but there continues to be a demand due to continuing increasing birth rate and net inward migration.
13. Future expansions will be reviewed as part of the development of the School Organisation Plan 2012-2017. Officers propose to create some additional places above birth rate to take account of parental preference and net inward migration. Consultation on the School Organisation Plan starts in July at the Annual Head Teacher's Conference and is expected to be presented to Cabinet this September.
14. The Authority has been allocated £4,862,793 of Basic Need Capital over the years 2011/12 and 2012/13. 2011/12 funding has been earmarked for a major expansion at Mowden Schools with a report being brought to July Cabinet seeking release of funds following a detailed feasibility study.
15. It is proposed that the works required at Heathfield will be funded from the 2012/13 allocation (£2,445,419) with the balance to be allocated in line with the School Organisation Plan currently being developed and to be presented to Cabinet in September.

### Information and Analysis

#### Heathfield Primary

#### *Proposal: To take 30 additional pupils over the school's PAN (60) for academic year 2012/13*

16. Demand for a school place at Heathfield has always been high and expansion of the school was previously agreed by Cabinet under the Primary Capital Programme. However the expansion project was put on hold due to the delay to the developments at Central Park and Lingfield Point which are expected to generate the new pupils.

17. In 2011 the Local Authority's 2011/12 admission arrangements were challenged by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator. The challenge centred on the unsuccessful applications from parents in rural locations. To deal with the challenge, Heathfield was named by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator as the school to take any children that do not gain a place at their nearest local school in the rural area of Middleton St George.
18. In future years there will still be a need for further expansion of a school in the urban east area of Darlington when the developments at Central Park and Lingfield Point start, when expected, later this year. The work detailed below will not preclude a permanent expansion of Heathfield in the future neither will it undermine Cabinet's discretion regarding at which school future expansion should most appropriately take place.

### **Required capital works**

19. Heathfield have some limited underutilised space in the school which they can reorganise to accommodate the additional reception class. There will be some remodelling and minor extension works required to ensure these areas provide the required standard of accommodation.
20. A brief feasibility study has estimated the cost of this work at £175k. This compares favourably against the cost of temporary accommodation i.e. the site set up costs and monthly rental costs (for 7 years) of an off-the-shelf temporary classroom solution are of a similar level to the proposed bespoke remodelling costs.
21. Subject to Cabinet approval this work can be carried out in time for the new pupils starting in September.

### **Corporation Road**

***Proposal: To take 10 additional pupils over the school's PAN (45) for academic year 2012/13***

22. The Head teacher and Governors at Corporation Rd have agreed to take these extra pupils and existing accommodation can meet this demand without the need for additional works.

### **St Teresa's RC VA**

***Proposal: To take 5 additional pupils over the school's PAN (40) for academic year 2012/13***

23. The Head teacher and Governors at St Teresa's have agreed to take these extra pupils and existing accommodation can meet this demand without the need for additional works.

### **Outcome of consultation**

24. Head Teachers of schools which would offer a suitable alternative for children who did not achieve their first choice school were consulted with. Discussion with the local authority centred on whether they could accommodate the required number of additional pupils from September cost effectively within existing accommodation.

25. The Head Teachers of the three schools and their governing bodies welcomed the temporary expansions as outlined above.