

Report of the Corporate Director of Children, Education and Communities

**Provision of additional temporary classrooms at Acomb
Primary School due to increased pupil numbers**

Summary

1. This report seeks approval to provide additional temporary classroom accommodation at Acomb Primary School. The additional classrooms are required from the beginning of the 2017/18 school year. This accommodation will meet existing demand at the school following a decision to admit additional pupils in the school's Reception cohort in 2016, which relieved wider pupil place pressures in the west of the city. Approval is sought for the required capital expenditure.

Recommendations

2. The Executive Member is recommended to approve:
 - a £300,000 budget for the provision of a temporary double classroom unit

Reason: to provide enough classroom accommodation at Acomb Primary for the increased intake admitted in September 2016.

Background

3. Acomb Primary School, which was rated 'Good' at its last Ofsted, usually admits 45 pupils per year. In 2016, significant additional demand resulted in the school admitting a 'bulge year' of 15 additional pupils in September 2016. The reason this decision was taken was in order to accommodate some siblings and other children who would have been refused a place if only 45 places had been available.
4. Acomb Primary School is situated in Primary Planning Area 4, in the west of the city. PPA4, alongside neighbouring areas PPA3, PPA5 and PPA6, are currently experiencing an increase in pupil

numbers of primary age, which by 2015, had utilised all available surplus places in Reception. The result of this lack of capacity across the west of the city was that some pupils were allocated places some distance from their home address, with resulting increased pressure on the LA's Home to School Transport Budget.

5. In 2016, to plan for another large cohort, and when the level of demand for Reception was known, officers after consultation with several local schools made the decision to increase the number of pupils to be allocated a place at Acomb Primary School as a 'bulge year' – that is a one off increase in the number of pupils to be admitted.
6. The headteacher and governors of Acomb Primary School agreed to see this one larger 'bulge year' through the school and indicated that they would not require any additional buildings or resources for the 2016/17 school year.
7. In the 2016/17 school year the school has only one spare classroom which is being used by the school's out of school club. The out of school club is run solely by the school and plays an integral part in the vital wrap around care provision at Acomb Primary School, and as pupil numbers have grown, demand for places has increased.
8. Although the school admitted an increased number of pupils in 2016, these were accommodated in the existing two Reception classes with no additional classrooms required and within the school's existing planned class organisation.
9. Due to an already rising number of pupil's on the school roll from a previous expansion from 30 to 45 places the 'spare' classroom as noted above will have to be used to host a class from September 2017. In addition, this 'bulge year' will require one additional classroom. This will mean the school has a net requirement of two additional classrooms if it is to continue to host an out of school club in a classroom from September 2017.
10. Having met further with the headteacher and instructed for a feasibility study of potential temporary classroom units on the school site, officers recommend that a double temporary classroom unit be provided for the start of the 2017/18 school year.

11. A double unit will allow for the school to accommodate one bulge year from September 2017 and continue to provide for out of school club provision. Alternatively, two such bulge years should be accommodated should the need arise.
12. Officers are currently reassessing the short and medium term need for additional school places across the city, and from this work, further conversations and consultations regarding any additional school places that may be required will be undertaken.
13. If a permanent increase in the number of places is required, the views of both the wider community and those schools across planning areas 3, 4 and 5 will be sought as any potential solutions will require an analysis of the data across several planning areas.

Consultation

14. The following stakeholders have been consulted:
 - headteacher and governors at Acomb Primary School
 - headteachers from the 'West' cluster of schools – across planning areas 3, 4 and 5. The cluster group were consulted in March 2016 about the need for additional pupil places in the area. At this meeting Acomb Primary School was identified as the school that could admit additional pupils within its existing class organisation, as well as the school with the greatest demand, and the physical space in which to house temporary accommodation

Council Plan

15. **Prosperous City for all** – the providing for sufficient local school places forms an integral part of the LA's effective planning as well as providing enough high quality school places within city helping lay the foundations for the local economy.
16. **A council that listens to residents** – the comments and input sought in any future consultation will involve residents, governing bodies and other consultees.
17. **A focus on frontline services** – providing sufficient school places gives residents clarity in regard to school admissions.

Implications

Financial

18. The budget for the provision and installation of a temporary double unit comprising two classrooms, toilets and cloakroom is £300,000. A feasibility has been commissioned to look at the options of providing the temporary double unit and will be available in early 2017. Funding for this scheme is available within the Basic Need programme budget, where there is still an amount of approximately £2m unallocated within the confirmed grant for the programme up to the end of 2018/19.

Other Implications

19. There are no Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information, Property or other implications arising from this report.

Risk Management

20. No direct implications.

Contact Details

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	Report approved	√	Date 13 January 2017
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Wards Affected: Acomb, Holgate, Westfield, Dringhouses & Woodthorpe			
For further information please contact the author of the report			

Background Papers - None

Annexes - None