



## Report to Children, Young People & Families Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2016

**Subject:** Call in of decision on “Primary School Places in Ecclesall”

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**Type of item:** The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	X
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	
Other	

### 1.0 Background

1.1 On the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016 Cabinet took the following decision, to:

- i. *Approve the proposal to increase the capacity and upper age range at Ecclesall Infant School as described in the statutory proposals. The lower age range would remain and would not change. This approval is conditional on the granting of planning permission before 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017.*
- ii. *Agree the commitments and actions outlined at 4.2 in the report (see below)*

*4.2 There were some very strong feelings aired during the consultation. The most common overall response was to raise issues and many of these were around how the proposals would be implemented. Many called for further opportunities to understand, comment on, and shape the proposals if they are to proceed. In order to address the specific issues raised during consultation and to allow for that further consultation, we would propose the following:*

- *Transition: that Cabinet makes a commitment that the Local Authority will support work led by the three governing bodies and the Diocese to come together during the Autumn Term, in partnership with families, to put together*

*clear transition plans to address the issues raised during this consultation, including consideration of a 2019 start for transition and the extent to which Ecclesall CE Junior classes could be taught in the new buildings, whilst taking into account the implications for the Junior school and the future children from Clifford who would transfer.*

- *Traffic & parking around Ecclesall Infant: in acknowledging the strength of feeling around existing issues relating to traffic and parking it is proposed that agreement to proceed is subject to the scheme being acceptable in planning terms, following further engagement and consultation, including work around traffic impact.*
- *Design: further work would be required working towards detailed design, with further opportunities for residents and parents to engage, contribute and see what is planned before designs are finalised as well as engagement around ensuring that construction is undertaken considerately*
- *Ecclesall Junior site: that Cabinet makes a commitment that the Local Authority will support Governors and the Diocese to ensure that work takes place on the Ecclesall Junior site to create a good environment for a smaller number of pupils, within the constraints of the current financial position facing the Local Authority, school, and the Diocese.*
- *Clifford I & Ecclesall J: that Cabinet makes a commitment that the Local Authority will support work led by the two governing bodies and the Diocese to come together during the Autumn Term in partnership with families to put together clear plans around future leadership and timing.*
- *Sustainability: the Council's commitment to supporting the long-term success and sustainability of these three local schools and their neighbours*
- *Early Years: there was little support for this development during the consultation, the need in terms of places is currently unclear, and we would not wish to destabilise existing local provision. Should the need develop in the future then this could be a possibility and would be subject to fresh consultation*

1.2 The original report is attached as Appendix A.

1.3 As per Part 4, section 16 of Sheffield City Council's Constitution, this decision has been called in, preventing implementation of the decision until it has been considered by this Scrutiny Committee.

1.4 The Call-In notice is attached at appendix B, stating that the reason for the call-in is *"to give further consideration to other options"*.

## **2.0 The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:**

As per the Scrutiny Procedure rules, scrutinise the decision and take one of the following courses of action:

- (a) refer the decision back to the decision making body or individual for reconsideration in the light of recommendations from the Committee;

- (b) request that the decision be deferred until the Scrutiny Committee has considered relevant issues and made recommendations to the Executive;
- (c) take no action in relation to the called-in decision but consider whether issues arising from the call-in need to be fed back to the decision maker or added to the work programme of an existing Scrutiny Committee;
- (d) if, but only if (having taken the advice of the Monitoring Officer and/or the Chief Finance Officer), the Committee determines that the decision is wholly or partly outside the Budget and Policy Framework, refer the matter, with any recommendations, to the Council after following the procedures in the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules

(If a Scrutiny Committee decides on (a), (b) or (d) as its course of action, there is a continuing bar on implementing the decision).

2.2 The Scrutiny Procedure rules state that if a decision is referred back, it is referred back to the individual or body that made the decision. In this case the decision maker is Cabinet.

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### **Background Papers**

- Appendix A - Cabinet Report: Primary School Places in Ecclesall
- Appendix B – call in notice

**Category of Report:** OPEN

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