

## Corby Old Village proposed extension: Statement of Need

### Background

This planning application is for a proposed expansion at Corby Old Village Primary School to increase capacity by 70 primary places. This will allow the school to increase its admission number from 20 children per year group to 30, and to operate as a full form of entry. A Cabinet Member Decision was taken on 20 August 2013 to commence consultation as the first part of the statutory process for enlargement; following Public Notices, Cabinet granted approval for the expansion in February 2014. The funding of the capital scheme is being supported by a Targetted Basic Need grant from the Department for Education, who wish to see capacity extended at good quality schools.

The need for expansion is related to a general rise in the population of primary aged children within Corby due to a higher birth rate and inward migration to the town. Recent data demonstrates a 25.4% increase between 2009 and 2013 in the number of Reception children starting school in Corby and the County Council has a statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places for all pupils living in the area. We do not envisage that the proposed expansion would have an impact on any neighbouring schools in terms of their viability or admissions intake.

An extra 70 primary places at Corby Old Village has been identified as a preferred option because:

- It would make the school a full form of entry (30 pupils per year group) which has the advantage of removing mixed-age classes;
- It makes a small school more robust in financial and curriculum terms;
- It creates high quality places at a school that is rated 'Good' by OfSTED with some 'Outstanding' features;
- It is an oversubscribed school that had 32 first preferences for 20 Reception places in the 2012-13 academic year;
- The site has capacity for expansion;
- The Headteacher and Governing Body are supportive of the proposals.

### Pupil Numbers

The school has been gradually increasing its intake over the last four years from an initial published admission number (PAN) of 20. In September 2011 and 2012, there was an admission number of 25 in Reception, and from September 2013 their intake has been 30. The school is now at, or over, its PAN of 20 in all seven year groups and there is a clear demand for places at the school. At the same time, there has been considerable growth in numbers across Corby and other primary schools have expanded as well. The pupil numbers as of November 2014 are as follows:

Year group	Published Admission Number (PAN)	Numbers on roll
Reception	30	31
Year 1	30	30
Year 2	25	25
Year 3	25	25
Year 4	20	22
Year 5	20	20
Year 6	20	20
Totals	170	173

There is now a need to ensure that the capacity of the building can accommodate these pupil numbers and provide the appropriate curriculum facilities for a primary school that will eventually have 210 pupils on roll when full.