

EXETER PRIMARY SCHOOL, CORBY – PROPOSED EXTENSIONS

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Background

A review of secondary and primary education in Corby was commenced in 2004, the main aims of which were to improve educational attainment, reduce surplus places and maintain the required number of pupil places in the right places i.e. their communities.

As part of this review discussions took place with the headteachers and Chairs of Governors of the Exeter Infant and Junior schools and following consultation with parents, staff etc. it was agreed that the two schools would amalgamate as a primary school. The amalgamation took effect in January 2007.

Prior to amalgamation both schools had an Admission Number of 75, producing a total pupil capacity of 525 places.

On amalgamation the Admission Number was reduced to 60, producing a total pupil capacity of 420 places.

The two schools, although sharing a site, were located at opposite ends of the site and capital funding was approved for the extension of one school to a 420 place primary school. Following option appraisals it was decided to extend the Infant school building and take the junior school building out of use. Major extension and refurbishment is proposed that will result in a primary school with modern, quality accommodation suitable for the 21st century

The school has a thriving nursery unit and this is to be developed into a Children's Centre. Children's Centres are key to the Government's "Every Child Matters" programme that seeks to reduce inequalities for children living in areas of disadvantage and increase young children's wellbeing. Children's Centres are key to providing families with all the services that they might need and are being developed as "one stop shops" where children aged 0-5 and their families can have access to integrated services and information. The Children's Centre will provide full day care with integrated early years education. It will also support families by giving access to family support and family health services and will offer employment related services to parents wishing to return to work. It will be linked to the main school via the main reception.

Consultation

Amalgamation - Public consultation took place between 5 June and 7 July 2006. Consultation leaflets were distributed to parents by the two schools and the Local Authority posted leaflets to other schools in Corby, Corby Borough Council, County Councillors and the local MP. Public meetings were also held.

Children's centre - Public consultation regarding the location of Children's Centres in Northamptonshire took place in 2005. In early 2007 parents in Corby were consulted about the services they wish to have delivered through the Exeter Children's Centre and this is an on-going process.

A pre-planning consultation meeting was held in the school hall with residents, parents and staff on 9 May. As a result changes were made to the parking and landscaping as noted in the design & access statement.

Staff Numbers

Staff numbers are currently 51 full time staff (based on full time equivalent) and a further 18 part time staff. This will reduce slightly to 41 full time staff (based on fte) and 18 part time staff (cleaners and lunch time supervisors).

Temporary Accommodation

It is proposed to decant the facilities in the Infant School building to mobile classrooms for the duration of the works. This will enable the work to be carried in a safe manner and will also keep the construction work to the shortest possible timescale.