Report to the Leader of the County Council
Report submitted by: Executive Director for Children and Young People
Date: 6 February 2012

Part I - Item No. 2

Electoral Division affected:
All in Rossendale

Rawtenstall St Anne's Church of England Primary School, Edgeside
(Appendices 'A' - 'C' refer)

Contact for further information:
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Executive Summary

Rawtenstall St Anne's Church of England Primary School, Edgeside is a voluntary aided primary school in Waterfoot, Rossendale. On 20 January 2012, after a period of consultation, the Governing Body published a statutory notice proposing that following the successful raising of the published admission number to 30 that the permanent significant enlargement of the school buildings be approved for the spring term 2012. In accordance with statutory requirements, the notice advised that within four weeks from the publication date, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending representations to the authority. This report suggests a response to the Governing Body to acknowledge the published proposal and make arrangements for the authority to decide the proposal.

Recommendation

The Leader of the County Council is asked to consider the information set out in the report regarding the proposal and the statutory process and:

(i) to note the authority's reply of 18 November 2011 (Appendix 'A' refers) to the Governing Body's initial consultation, advising that the authority had no objections to the proposal at that stage and indicating that subject to no other relevant considerations emerging through the consultation process, the proposal was to be welcomed;

(ii) to note that the complete proposal information (at Appendix 'B', 'B1' and 'B2'), which the Governing Body provided as a statutory requirement, indicates that responses to the consultation were in the main supportive of the proposal; and

(iii) to approve the letter (at Appendix 'C') to the Chair of Governors, acknowledging the published proposal and advising that the authority has no further comments at this stage and will decide the proposal on 4 April 2012 (or thereabouts), in accordance with statutory regulations which require proposals to be determined by the authority within two months of the end of the statutory representations period (by 10 April 2012 in this case), otherwise they must be referred to the schools adjudicator for determination.

Background and Advice

Over the last five years, Rawtenstall St Anne's Church of England Primary School, Edgeside has been oversubscribed with an increasing number of children being admitted by appeals panels each year. In order to cater for this, new buildings have been built and extra staff employed so as not to be prejudicial to learning and teaching. After following a very detailed programme of expansion set out by the Governing Body, what was once a mixed age class school is now a school that only has one mixed age class, and this will be split into single age phases and an extra teacher employed prior to summer 2012.
In responding to such proposals, the considerations for the authority are the need, or otherwise, for the permanent significant enlargement of the school buildings following the successful raising of the published admission number to 30 and the suitability of the proposed arrangements. When the Governing Body consulted the authority, the proposal was considered in a report to the Cabinet Member for Children and Schools on 18 November 2011. Following this, the authority responded by letter on 18 November 2011 (Appendix 'A' refers), advising that the authority had no objections to the proposals at the consultation stage and indicating that subject to no other relevant considerations emerging through the consultation process, the proposal was to be welcomed.

After considering the consultation response, the Governing Body published a statutory notice on 20 January 2012, proposing that following the successful raising of the published admission number to 30, that the permanent significant enlargement of the school buildings be approved by 1 May 2012. It is not proposed that any new or additional site will be required for the enlargement or that the admission number be raised further. In accordance with statutory requirements, the notice advised that within four weeks from the publication date (i.e. from 20 January to 17 February 2012) any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending representations to the authority.

At the statutory representations stage there are two considerations: (a) whether the authority wishes to make any further comments about the proposal and (b) the authority's proposed arrangements for deciding the proposal.

In relation to the first consideration, the complete proposal details (Appendix 'B', 'B1' and 'B2' refer), which the Governing Body provided as a statutory requirement, indicate that consultation responses were in the main supportive of the proposal with 55 of the 61 responses to the consultation being supportive of the proposal, 3 of the 6 negative respondents raised concern regarding the raising of the admission number, which in fact took place some time ago following an earlier consultation (2008/09), with the other comments raising concern over schools in the area being damaged due to St Anne's growth. It is therefore suggested that the authority would have no further comments about the proposal at the statutory representations stage.

In relation to the second consideration, the report of 18 November 2011 advised that if the proposal proceeded, the authority would be likely to be responsible for determining the proposal. Statutory regulations provide for proposals to be determined by the authority within two months from the end of the representation period (by 10 April 2012 in this case). It is therefore suggested that the authority could agree to determine the proposal through a report to the Cabinet Member for Children and Schools on 4 April 2012 (or thereabouts). (Where the authority does not make a determination within two months from the end of the statutory representation period, proposals must be referred to the schools adjudicator for a decision).

Consultations

The Authority is a consultee and the report is concerned with providing a response to a consultation. Officer advice contributed to the suggested response.
Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Financial Implications:

The Governing Body is funding the provision of additional accommodation to enable the permanent expansion of the school and is not requesting any contribution from the Authority. In line with current legislation, the Individual Schools Budget will be based on the January School Census.

Risk management

There are no implications in sending the suggested response.

Any representations made to the Cabinet Member prior to the issue being considered in accordance with the Public Notice of Forward Plans

Name: Organisation: Comments:

N/A

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Contact/Directorate/Tel</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report to the Cabinet Member for Children and Schools: St Annes's Edgeside Church of England Primary School</td>
<td>18 November 2011</td>
<td>Joanne Mills, Office of the Chief Executive, (01772) 534284</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department for Children, Schools and Families (Guidance) ‘Expanding a Maintained Mainstream School by Enlargement or Adding a Sixth Form’</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td><a href="http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/schoolorganisation">www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/schoolorganisation</a></td>
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A