

Meeting	Cabinet
Meeting date:	14 April 2016
Title of report:	Additional temporary classrooms at Marlbrook school
Report by:	Head of education development

Classification

Open

Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

Wards Affected

Redhill

Purpose

To approve capital expenditure for additional temporary classrooms at Marlbrook School

Recommendation

THAT:

- (a) **subject to securing planning consent, approval be given to provide an additional temporary classroom at Marlbrook school for a period of two years from September 2016 at a cost of up to £140k.**

Alternative options

- 1 No capital investment is made. Additional places for 30 children in a reception could not be accommodated at Marlbrook in September 2016 and September 2017. The children would have to be accommodated at another school in South Wye. For a number of years there are more children whose parents have requested a place at Marlbrook than there are places available at the school, including parents who wish all their children to attend the school. While there are other schools in the area that

might accommodate these children parental choice over a number of years has been for places at Marlbrook school. There are also indications of a longer term need for places.

- 2 There is permanent build to make Marlbrook a full three form entry school accommodating 630 children. While this may be the long term solution agreed under the school capital investment strategy there is insufficient time to implement this for September 2016. Approval of a full business case for the permanent solution along with design and build time would be such that this could only be completed by September 2017.

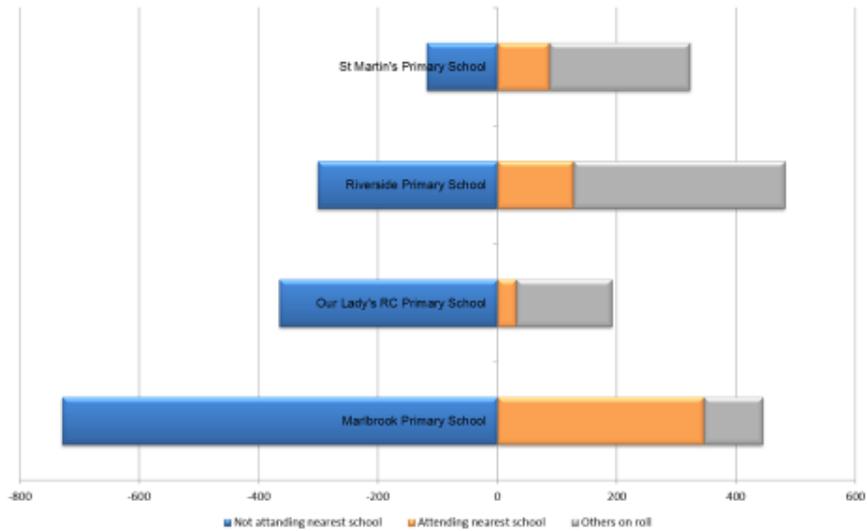
Reasons for recommendations

- 3 To enable parental demand to be met in accordance with the principles set out in Herefordshire schools capital investment strategy.

Key considerations

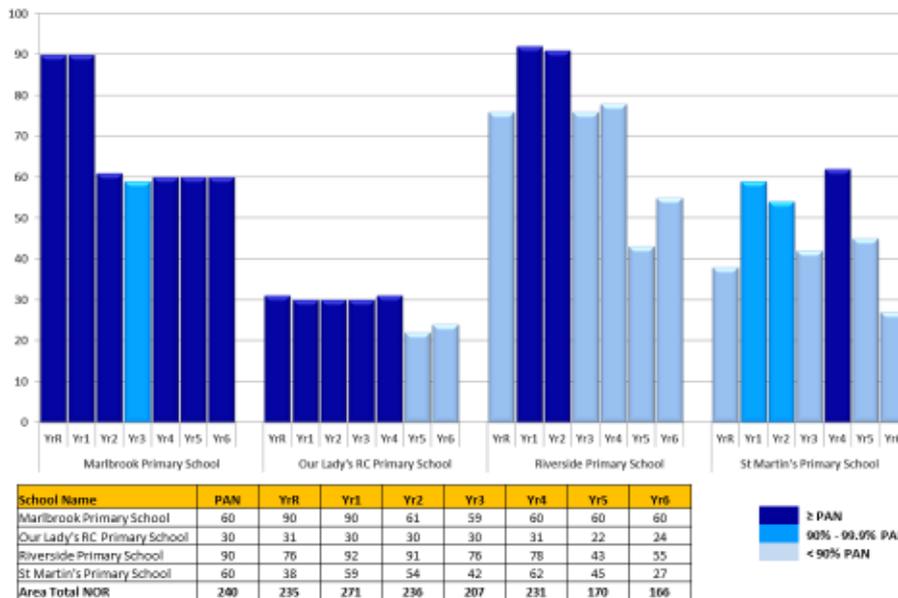
- 4 Herefordshire's school capital investment strategy establishes the principles for capital investment. These include supporting high quality popular schools to expand. The issue of using temporary classrooms has been considered as part of the application of the principles, detailed in point 2 above.
- 5 Marlbrook is a high performing popular community school and the demand for places is very high. Ofsted last reaffirmed it was an outstanding school in March 2009. Since then there have been an increase in demand for places and in the last six years the number of parents expressing as their first preference for a place in reception year (YR) has been in excess of 90. In September 2014 the school took an additional class of 30 into YR, to meet long term parental preference trends. This was supported by the council. The demand for places has continued and in 2015 the school and council jointly funded a permanent building which allowed another additional "bulge" reception class to be admitted in 2016.
- 6 A full feasibility study will be undertaken to establish whether it is viable for Marlbrook school to become a 3 form entry school from September 2018.
- 7 During the development of the school capital investment strategy there has been discussion about school places in the south of the Hereford City. The analysis suggests Marlbrook should become a full three form entry school and be accommodated in permanent buildings; currently there are four temporary buildings on site which provide classrooms and a staff room. In moving towards Marlbrook being a full three form entry school and meet the demand for places a further temporary classroom needs to be installed.
- 8 Nationally and locally, parents are encouraged to choose the school they consider best for their child. Across the county as a whole approximately 50% of parents choose not to send their child to their local school. While Marlbrook is a very popular school it is not large enough to accommodate all the children in the immediate area. There are a significant number parents of children for whom Marlbrook is considered the local school who choose to send their children to schools north of the river wye. The additional classrooms will allow local children to attend the school. The pattern of attendance at the different school in the south wye area is shown in the table below.

Number Roll & Parent Preference



9 The pupil population overall is not set to grow significantly but there are pressures for places at key stage 1 in the south wye area as can be seen from the table below.

Current NOR by School Year



10 There are a number alternatives for acquiring the temporary classrooms. The classes could be hired, acquired second hand or new. The best value option through procurement would be sought but professional advice is estimating the cost to be £120k. An additional £20k would be set aside as a contingency. The aim is to have them in place for September 2016.

11 Feasibility work will be undertaken with a view to establishing the best option for a more permanent solution and will be the subject of a further report and any necessary bid to the future capital programme. This will also consider any potential increase in

demand for places from future housing developments in the surrounding area. It will also examine any contributions to funding from developers.

- 12 The further increase in the numbers of children attending Marlbrook school has the potential to add to traffic congestion in the area at the beginning and end of the school day. The school, local community and traffic and transport officers will take steps to manage this. The feasibility study into a permanent long term solution to Marlbrook being a full three form will further explore more sympathetic traffic management schemes and ways of encouraging safe walking and cycling routes to schools.
- 13 The admission of extra children will bring Marlbrook additional revenue funding. The school, in recognition of this, will fund a third of the cost.

Community impact

- 14 Marlbrook school serves a number of the most disadvantaged areas of the county where the range of difficulties experienced by a number of children and families are wide and varied, including wordlessness, low income and health inequalities. High quality education is an important part of providing support for these children and their families and having high quality school places that parents want will bring benefits. This supports Herefordshire's health and wellbeing strategy, the children and young people's plan 2015-18 and the council's own corporate plan objectives.

Equality duty

- 15 Marlbrook serves a community where there are high percentage of children with special needs. The additional of temporary classrooms will support these children. These classroom will provide opportunity for local children to attend their community school. The building will be fully compliant with disability legislation and no group with protected characteristics will be affected by this scheme.

Financial implications

- 16 The purchase cost of the assets of £140k will be funded two thirds by the local authority and one third by Marlbrook school.
- 17 Provision has been made within the council's school capital basic need and maintenance budget and Marlbrook are able to fund their share using their school capital and revenue budgets

Legal implications

- 18 Planning consent will need to be secured together with building regulations consent for the proposed works before they can commence.
- 19 It will be necessary to procure a contractor to carry out the works in accordance with the council's contract procedure rules. The estimated cost of the works set out in this report is below European commission threshold for the purpose of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- 20 Section 14(1) of the Education Act 1996 sets out the council's duty to secure that sufficient primary and secondary education is available in its area. Section 14(3A) imposes further duties on the council in that it must exercise these functions with a

view to securing diversity in the provision of school and increase opportunities for parental choice. The proposals set out in this report would be in line with the Council's duties under these sections.

Risk management

- 21 In order to reduce the possibility of the planning application being refused for the temporary buildings to be situated on the site then early consultation with the planning team will be undertaken.

Consultees

- 22 The local member Cllr Paul Rone, head teacher and governors of Marlbrook School support the proposal. In addition the headteacher and governors of the neighbouring schools have all been consulted and are supportive of the scheme. However, concerns have been raised in respect of parking and traffic congestion as set out in paragraph 12 above.

Appendices

None

Background papers

None identified.