

# Outcome of statutory notice on a proposal to permanently increase learning places at St Edward's Catholic Primary School from September 2022

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

## **What is this report about?**

### **Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions**

- In July 2019, the Children and Families Scrutiny Board agreed an approach involving the role of scrutiny in the school organisation proposals and objections procedure.
- In accordance with the agreed approach, the Chair of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board was advised of formal objections received in relation to the proposal to expand St Edward's Catholic Primary School to permanently increase the number of places offered at the school in Reception from 20 to 30 places from September 2022.
- After consulting the views of other Board Members, it was agreed that the Children and Families Scrutiny Board would hold an additional meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to consider the proposal, including the formal objections, in more detail.
- The Executive Board is expected to make a final decision on the proposal during its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021. The timeliness of today's meeting therefore provides an opportunity for the Scrutiny Board to consider the proposal and identify any specific comments and/or recommendations for consideration by Executive Board prior to a final decision being made.

## **Recommendations**

That the Scrutiny Board considers the information presented within this report and identifies any specific comments and/or recommendations for consideration by Executive Board during its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 in relation to the proposal to increase learning places at St Edward's Catholic Primary School from September 2022.

## Why is the proposal being put forward?

1. Following the dissolution of the School Organisation Advisory Board (SOAB) in 2019, the Children and Families Scrutiny Board considered what role the Scrutiny Board could play as part of the school organisation proposals and objections procedure, which relates to maintained schools, in terms of still allowing an appropriate level of rigour and challenge to continue to exist where formal objections are received following the publication of a Statutory Notice to close a school; open a new school; or make prescribed alterations to a school. An approach was formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board in July 2019. This is summarised in Appendix 1.

### *St Edward's Catholic Primary School proposal*

2. A consultation on a proposal to expand St Edward's Catholic Primary School to permanently increase the number of places offered at the school in Reception from 20 to 30 places from September 2022, took place between 15 January and 11 February 2021.
3. The outcome of this consultation was detailed in a report presented to Executive Board at its meeting on 23rd June 2021 ([Link to Executive Board report](#)) and approval was granted to publish a statutory notice in respect of the proposal.
4. The Statutory Notice consultation period ended on 6th August 2021 and it was brought to the attention of Councillor Lamb, in his capacity as Chair of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board, that the proposal had received 26 representations during the Statutory Notice period, 17 of which had raised an objection.
5. In accordance with the agreed approach set out in Appendix 1, the Chair met with the Executive Member for Learning, Skills and Employment to discuss the objections relating to the proposal.
6. While acknowledging that the majority of the formal objections related to planning or highways issues that would be addressed separately through the planning process if the proposals were to progress, it was the view of the Chair that a meeting of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board was warranted given the volume of objections that had been received. After consulting the views of other Board Members, it was agreed that the Children and Families Scrutiny Board would hold an additional meeting on 8th September 2021 to consider the proposal, including the formal objections, in more detail.
7. A report has therefore been provided by the Director of Children and Families which summarises the representations received during the statutory notice period as well as setting out responses to the issues raised (see Appendix 2).

## What impact will this proposal have?

**Wards affected: Wetherby**

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

8. Details surrounding the specific impact of the proposal is set out in the appended report from the Director of Children and Families.

9. The Executive Board is expected to make a final decision on the proposal during its meeting on 22nd September 2021. The timeliness of today's meeting provides an opportunity for the Scrutiny Board to consider the proposal and identify any specific comments and/or recommendations for consideration by Executive Board prior to a final decision being made.

### **What consultation and engagement has taken place?**

10. Details of the consultation surrounding the proposal is set out in the appended report from the Director of Children and Families.
11. Representatives from the Children and Families Directorate will be attending today's meeting to address Members' questions.

### **What are the resource implications?**

12. Details of the resource implications surrounding the proposal is set out in the appended report from the Director of Children and Families.

### **What are the legal implications?**

13. Details of the legal implications surrounding the proposal is set out in the appended report from the Director of Children and Families.

### **What are the key risks and how are they being managed?**

14. Details of the key risks surrounding the proposal is set out in the appended report from the Director of Children and Families.

### **Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?**

Inclusive Growth       Health and Wellbeing       Climate Emergency

15. Linked to this proposal, the Scrutiny Board is specifically reminded of the Child Friendly City aim of 'improving educational attainment and closing achievement gaps for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes'.

### **Appendices**

16. Appendix 1 – Agreed approach on the role of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board as part of the school organisation proposals and objections procedure.
17. Appendix 2 – A report from the Director of Children and Families which summarises the representations received during the statutory notice period and sets out responses to the issues raised.

### **Background papers**

18. None.