

COMPLETE PROPOSAL

Green Park School

**CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL**

FULL PROPOSAL

Proposed Increase in Capacity at Green Park School

Community School and Local Authority Details

School Details:

Green Park School, Green Park Avenue, Stowlawn, Bilston, West Midlands, WV14 6EH.

Local Authority Details:

City of Wolverhampton Council (Contact: Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RL).

Description of Alteration

It is proposed that the designated capacity of Green Park School is increased from 108 places to 144 places with effect from 1 September 2019.

Evidence of Demand

Green Park School is currently designated as a community special school with a capacity of 108. The school caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD).

In recent years, levels of demand for Green Park School have increased significantly; consequently, numbers on roll at the school have increased from 107 in 2013/2014 to 132 in 2018/2019 (a 23% increase).

Figure 1: Historic Numbers on Roll

Academic Year	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Number on Roll	107	115	123	127	127	132

Source: Spring School Census

In recent years, numbers on roll at the school have exceeded the registered capacity of the school.

To cater for anticipated demand, the Council has commissioned 144 places at Green Park School for the 2019-20 academic year.

To support this temporary uplift in capacity, the Council is currently working closely with the school and partners to develop and deliver an appropriate capital scheme to meet pupils' needs in September 2019. It should be noted that the current capital investment needs to be recognised as providing capacity to cater for a temporary uplift in capacity in 2019/2020 until, and dependent upon, a final decision on the proposed permanent expansion being made.

Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)

The prescribed alteration is proposed to enable Green Park School to permanently cater for a greater number of pupils.

The creation of additional capacity within this popular and successful school would provide extra places to meet an increasing level of demand in the City.

In December 2015, Green Park School was judged by Ofsted to be a Good school. Ofsted recognised that, "Leaders and Governors know the school well. They have high expectations of staff and pupils and demonstrate the capacity to improve the school further." (Ofsted 2016).

By increasing the capacity of Green Park School there would be greater opportunity for parental choice to be reflected in placement decisions.

The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

The proposed prescribed alteration would introduce additional capacity into the City's local offer and maximise the opportunity for pupils to access appropriate local provision. A detrimental impact on other schools, academies and educational institutions is not anticipated.

Further information regarding the potential impact of the proposal is available within the accompanying SEN Improvement Test at Appendix 1.

Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved

Central Government has committed capital funding (through the Special Provision Capital Fund) to help local authorities to create new school places and improve existing facilities for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. In March 2019, the City of Wolverhampton Council considered the outcome of consultation on the investment priorities for the future use of this funding, endorsed the identified investment priorities for the use of this grant funding and approved the allocation of resources to a new capital project at Green Park School.

The proposed prescribed alteration is expected to support long-term value for money by reducing the potential need for expensive out of city placements.

Implementation Plan

The proposed date for implementation is 1 September 2019.

Consultation Responses: support; objections and comments

Representation (Formal Consultation) commenced on 13 May 2019 and ends on 9 June 2019.

Any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by writing to:

Tom Knott
SEND Commissioning Officer
Education Department, City of Wolverhampton Council
1st Floor, Civic Centre
St Peter's Square
Wolverhampton
WV1 1RL

Or emailing: SENDETeam@wolverhampton.gov.uk

The closing date for responses 9 June 2019.

Appendix 1:

SEN IMPROVEMENT TEST

Current Provision

Green Park School is a community special school located within the Bilston North Ward, Wolverhampton. The school caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD).

Proposal

It is proposed that the designated capacity of Green Park School is increased from 108 places to 144 places with effect from 1 September 2019. The creation of additional capacity within this popular and successful school would provide extra places to meet an increasing level of demand in the City.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS AND THE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL

OBJECTIVE	ACTION
Proposals should take account of parental preferences for particular styles of provision or education settings	<p>Pre-publication Consultation commenced on 4 March 2019 and ran until 31 March 2019.</p> <p>A number of supportive comments regarding the proposed prescribed alteration were received from parents during Pre-publication Consultation including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Making the school bigger to accommodate more children is a fantastic idea”• “Yes, would be brilliant as more children with disabilities will get a chance to get opportunities to get the right level of care they need.” <p>The school’s latest Ofsted report states that, “Parents are very positive about the school. They value the close working relationship with staff and feel that their children are well taught, make good progress and that they are safe.” (Ofsted 2016).</p>

<p>Proposals should take account of any relevant local offer for children and young people with SEN and disabilities and the views expressed on it</p>	<p>Wolverhampton’s Local Offer of support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs or who are Disabled can be found at: http://win.wolverhampton.gov.uk/kb5/wolverhampton/directory/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=0</p> <p>An analysis of feedback received via Wolverhampton’s Local Offer since 2016 suggests that no comments or concerns relating to provision at Green Park School have been raised in recent years.</p>
<p>Proposals should offer a range of provision to respond to the needs of individual children and young people</p>	<p>The proposed prescribed alteration seeks to increase the capacity of Wolverhampton’s special school estate. The proposed change would promote opportunity for parental choice to be reflected in placement decisions.</p>
<p>Proposals should take full account of educational considerations, in particular the need to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum, within a learning environment where children can be healthy and stay safe</p>	<p>Green Park School has consistently been judged to be ‘Good’ by Ofsted in recent years and maintained its ‘Good’ judgement during the school’s short inspection in December 2015.</p> <p>The school’s latest Ofsted report states that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Teaching arrangements and the range of subjects on offer have been regularly checked since the last inspection, and they have been adapted to meet the needs of the pupils.” • “The best teaching in the school is characterised by careful planning, which provides challenge for pupils of all abilities. Teachers and teaching assistants work well together and teachers have a clear overview of what all pupils are learning.” • “The range of subjects is designed to deepen pupils’ knowledge, understanding and skills.” • “Children in the early years enjoy very high-quality teaching, which is responsive to their needs in a stimulating and safe environment. The broad range of subjects provide rich, varied and imaginative experiences leading to high rates of progress.” • “Pupils behave well in class and around the school. They are considerate and use equipment in a sensible manner. Pupils who communicated with inspectors were polite and told us they feel safe in school.” (Ofsted 2016) <p>The Council is currently working closely with the school and partners to develop and deliver an appropriate capital scheme to meet pupils’ needs in September 2019.</p>

<p>Proposals should support the LA's strategy for making schools and settings more accessible to disabled children and young people and their scheme for promoting equality of opportunity for disabled people</p>	<p>The proposal aligns to the City of Wolverhampton Council's strategic aspirations to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure Wolverhampton's school estate is fit for purpose and meets the full range of more complex needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities now being placed. • Develop local provision in order to reduce the number of children needing residential and out of area education, health and care services. <p>The City of Wolverhampton Council's Schools Accessibility Strategy aims to maximise the benefits to children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities, by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the extent to which pupils with special educational needs and/or disability can participate in the school curriculum; • Ensuring that pupils with special educational needs and/or disability are able to gain maximum benefit from their time in education through improving facilities and services provided or offered by schools. • Improving the delivery of information to disabled pupils. <p>The proposed change to Green Park School supports these aspirations by maximising the opportunity for pupils to attend high quality local provision.</p>
<p>Proposals should provide access to appropriately trained staff and access to specialist support and advice, so that individual pupils can have the fullest possible opportunities to make progress in their learning and participate in their school and community</p>	<p>Green Park School's latest Ofsted report states that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Good teaching over time has led to improved outcomes since the last inspection." • "As pupils are encouraged to develop valuable life skills, activities are usually personalised and often have a relevance beyond the classroom ... opportunities are taken at break and lunchtimes to teach pupils skills that they will need at home and in later life." • "Pupils currently in the school are making increasingly good or better progress across all year groups." (Ofsted 2016)
<p>Ensure appropriate provision for 14-19 year olds</p>	<p>The proposed permanent uplift in capacity would enable the school to cater for a greater number of students moving forwards.</p>
<p>Proposals should ensure that appropriate full-time education will be available to all displaced pupils</p>	<p>This proposal does not displace any pupils currently on roll at the school.</p>