



Publication of a Statutory Notice to permanently increase Twyning Primary schools Planned Admission Number from 15 to 20 from September 2024.

Dates between which decision will be taken	Earliest date: 30 November 2022 Latest date: 7 December 2022
Cabinet Member	Cllr Philip Robinson, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Bus Transport
Key Decision	Yes
Purpose of Report	Approval to publish a Statutory Notice to permanently increase Twyning Primary schools Planned Admission Number from 15 to 20 from September 2024.
Recommendations	That the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Bus Transport approves the publication of the Statutory Notice proposing to permanently increase Twyning Primary School's Planned Admission Number (PAN) from 15 to 20 from September 2024.
Reasons for recommendations	This proposal is to expand the school in order to meet rising local demand for places at the school. The school has sufficient site area to accommodate additional teaching spaces and the Headteacher and Governors support the proposed expansion with the assistance of Gloucestershire County Council (GCC).
Resource Implications	<p>The capital cost of providing the required accommodation to facilitate the expansion will be met from Basic Need capital grant funding received from central government to support school accommodation needs arising from population growth.</p> <p>The scheme to expand Twyning Primary School is included as part of the Council's approved capital programme. There are no revenue resource implications to GCC arising from this proposal; ongoing revenue costs associated with the expansion will be funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant</p>

Background Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIA Statement • Cabinet Decision (22/06/2022): Children & Families Capital Programme Update • Gloucestershire School Places Strategy • Pupil forecasts – contact: paul.kear@gloucestershire.gov.uk • Consultation document • Consultation report • Director of Children’s Services Decision report
Statutory Authority	Gloucestershire County Council’s statutory duty under the Education Act 2011
Divisional Councillor(s)	Cllr Cate Cody
Officer	<p>Any representations should be sent to:</p> <p>Name: Paul Kear, Education Planning Manager Tel: 01452 328680 Email: paul.kear@gloucestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>By 5pm on 29 November 2022</p>
Timeline	If recommendations are accepted: Publish Statutory Notice – December 2022 Final decision on expansion – March 2023

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Twyning Primary School is a community school located in Twyning, Tewkesbury. The school is a co-educational provision for children aged 4-11. The school currently offer 15 places in Reception each year and has a total capacity of 105 places.
- 1.2 This report summarises the response to the consultation and makes a recommendation to proceed with publishing a Statutory Notice formally proposing the expansion.

2. Background

- 2.1 In September 2022, the Director of Children's Services took the decision to consult on the proposal to permanently increase the capacity of Twyning Primary School from 105 places to 140 places to enable the school to provide 20 places in Reception from September 2024.
- 2.2 The council has a statutory obligation to ensure there are sufficient primary places to meet demand. The current rise in population of under five year olds and housing developments has resulted in the need for additional primary places at Reception.
- 2.3 The school have gone over their PAN in reception for local children in previous academic years. The need identified is local to Twyning Primary School.
- 2.4 The increase in numbers will enable the council to meet its statutory duty to provide sufficient primary school places in the county to meet demand.

3. Options

- 3.1 There are 2 options open for the Cabinet Member for Economy, Education and Skills to consider:
 - 1) To publish a Statutory Notice to permanently increase Twyning Primary schools Planned Admission Number from 15 to 20 from September 2024.
 - 2) Not to publish a Statutory Notice to expand Twyning Primary School.

4. Risks

Risk 1

- 4.1 The Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places where they are needed. Failure to provide sufficient school places to meet local demand would result in children being allocated places some distance from their homes. This may result in Gloucestershire County Council being liable for the cost of transport and result in children having to travel by vehicle.

Mitigation

- 4.2 The need identified is local to Twyning Primary School who have been identified as the school most suitable to meet the need for local children. Officers have worked closely with the school to ensure that this proposal will provide sufficient capacity for children.

Risk 2

- 4.3 Increased traffic and congestion at drop off and pick up times.

Mitigation

- 4.4 The Council will work with Gloucestershire Highways, the Governing Body and the contractor at an early stage to minimise any parking or road safety concerns which will form part of any planning application. The increase in places available at the school is to meet local need and is relatively small, therefore we do not anticipate a great impact to current access arrangements.

Risk 3

- 4.5 Adverse impact on current pupils

Mitigation

- 4.6 Additional accommodation will be provided to meet the increase in additional places, minimising the impact on existing pupils.

5. Financial implications

- 5.1 The capital cost of the expansion will be met from Basic Need grant funding received from central government to support school accommodation needs arising from population growth.
- 5.2 On-going revenue costs associated with the expansion will be funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant

6. Climate change implications

- 6.1 Reduced environmental impact as children will be able to access local primary places.
- 6.2 Any new building will be designed to at least meet current building regulations and where possible better this to meet Gloucestershire County Councils climate pledge.

7. Equality implications

- 7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been produced. The proposal does not discriminate against any of the protected groups and actively seeks to improve outcomes for children.
- 7.2 Cabinet Members should read and consider the Equalities Impact Assessment in order to satisfy themselves as decision makers that due regard has been given.

8. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) implications

- 8.1 There are no Data Protection considerations to note.

9. Social value implications

- 9.1 Supporting children and families to find school places in the immediate locality.
- 9.2 Reducing the need for pupils to be transported long distances to a school that can provide a primary place. Improving family life.
- 9.3 Further employment opportunities if the school expands.

10. Consultation feedback

- 10.1 The Council received a total of 61 responses to the consultation.
- 10.2 Respondents were asked to identify themselves as belonging to one or more groups. 42 (53.2%) identified themselves as a parent/carer with a child currently at Twyning Primary School, 7 (8.9%) as a parent/carer with child currently at another local school, 10 (12.6%) identified as a parent/carer of a pre-school child, 3 (3.8%) as Governors, 14 (17.7%) as local residents, 1 (1.3%) as elected representative and 2 (2.5%) as 'other'.
- 10.3 A full copy of the consultation report is attached as an annex to this report.
- 10.4 Responses to the questions were as follows:
 - Q1.** From the information provided, do you understand the reasons why Gloucestershire County Council is consulting on the proposal to expand Twyning Primary School from September 2022?
- 10.5 The question received 61 responses, 1 (1.6%) stating no and 60 (98.4%) stating yes.
 - Q2.** To what extent do you agree or disagree that these places should be provided at Twyning Primary School? This would mean that from September 2024 there will be 20 children in Reception rather than 15.
- 10.6 This question received 61 responses. Of these, 45 agreed or strongly agreed with 10 disagreeing or strongly disagreeing and 6 neither agreeing nor disagreeing.

Response to the consultation

10.7 Respondents were asked for any further comments they may have about the proposal. 29 respondents chose to make such comments in the free text response box. The responses have been analysed and the common themes identified are shown below. Respondents may have made more comments on more than one theme.

Theme 1 – Impact on current pupils

10.8 Respondents commented that they had concerns on how the new places will impact current pupils and the school structure, noting having more than 30 children in a classroom as an issue.

Response

10.9 GCC is confident that the impact on current pupils will be minimal, and the school leadership team will manage this. The school will be provided with additional accommodation to ensure the school has the appropriate teaching spaces for the additional places.

Theme 2 – Need for additional places

10.10 Respondents noted the school had gone over their PAN in previous years and that additional local provision is needed to reduce travel out of the village and provide additional places for local children.

Response

10.11 To meet the local need in the area, Twynning Primary School has been identified as the most appropriate school to meet the need for additional places.

Theme 3 – Impact on current facilities

10.12 Respondents raised concerns over the impact on current facilities and of overdeveloping the site, losing outdoor space. Comments were also made relating to the overall provision i.e. that the current facilities were not sufficient.

Response

10.13 GCC Officers will work with the school and Governors to identify an appropriate location for the new classrooms which will have minimal impact on the current facilities. Although the site is restricted, additional space can be provided with minimal impact to the outdoor areas. It is unlikely the site could accommodate any further expansion.

Theme 4 – Funding

10.14 Respondents highlighted that there needs to be appropriate funding provided to support the school with staffing and accommodation.

Response

- 10.15 The capital cost of the expansion will be met from Basic Need grant funding received from central government to support school accommodation needs arising from population growth. The school will also receive revenue funding to appoint the appropriate staff to support the expansion of the school.

Theme 5 – Going over PAN in the future

- 10.16 Some respondents had concerns that the school will go over number with a PAN of 20 in the future.

Response

- 10.17 Following the proposed expansion, it is unlikely the school will be able to take over PAN in future years. GCC Officers will continue to monitor pupil forecasts and housing growth in the local area.

11. Officer recommendations

- 11.1 Officers recommend that Option 1 is adopted: To publish a Statutory Notice to permanently increase Twyning Primary schools Planned Admission Number from 15 to 20 from September 2024.
- 11.2 There is a requirement for additional primary places within the immediate locality of Twyning primary school.
- 11.3 Failure to provide sufficient school places to meet local demand would result in children being allocated places some distance from their homes. This may result in Gloucestershire County Council being liable for the cost of transport and result in children having to travel by vehicle.

12. Performance management/follow-up

- 12.1 This project will be kept under review by the Head of Commissioning for Learning.