

Executive Advisory Panel – Future Communities 7th September 2023

Report Title	Wilby CE VA Primary School Relocation to the Glenvale Park Development, Wellingborough
Report Author	Jo Hutchinson, Head of School Effectiveness
Lead Member	Cllr Scott Edwards – Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills

Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number/s for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972	

List of Appendices

- Appendix A** – Equality Screening Assessment
- Appendix B** – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Appendix C** – Copy of Formal Consultation
- Appendix D** – [Executive Report 8th June 2023](#)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To inform the Executive Advisory Panel of the outcome of the expression of interest, interview and selection process.
- 1.2. To inform the Executive Advisory Panel of the outcome of the formal public consultation following the interview panel's recommendation.

- 1.3. To request that the Executive that the approve the relocation of Wilby CE VA Primary School.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Glenvale Park site is in Wellingborough and once complete, there will be circa 3,000 homes. As part of the infrastructure and Section 106 (S106) proposals for the Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE), a 2-form entry, 60 places per year group primary school was proposed to meet increased demand and serve the local community.
- 2.2. As part of the annual strategic Pupil Place Planning exercise undertaken in January 2023, it became clear that due to demographic changes, there would be insufficient demand to support the school opening until September 2025 or beyond.
- 2.3. Based on this position, work was undertaken to assess the options for the new school to ensure that the local community has access to sufficient school places. Local primary schools were invited to express their interest in relocating to the brand-new school building at the Glenvale Park site.
- 2.4. As part of the expressions of interest application process there was a requirement for the applicants to clearly set out how any move would support the existing school community as well as those living in the new Glenvale Park development.
- 2.5. Two expressions of interest were received. A robust interview process took place lead by a panel of representatives.
- 2.5. A formal 30-day public consultation was undertaken in September 2023, following the panel's recommendation that Wilby CE VA Primary should be the school that relocates to the Glenvale Site.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. It is recommended that Executive Advisory Panel (EAP) is asked to note and provide any comments on the proposals to be submitted to Executive requesting the approval to relocate Wilby CE VA Primary School to the Glenvale Park site.
- 3.2. Reasons for Recommendations:
 - To support children and young people and their families to access high quality sustainable education facilities that enable the achievement of the best outcomes.

- To progress the relocation of the school in accordance with legislative requirements and Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance.
- To ensure the delivery of sufficient suitable school places that meet the needs of the community now and in the future.
- To make effective and efficient use of the education estate to meet the needs of all pupils.

3.3 Alternative Options Considered:

3.3.1 Alternative options were considered in section 5 of the 'Primary Education Provision at the Glenvale Park Development Wellingborough North' paper presented to Executive on Thursday 8th June 2023.

3.3.2 The options were shared along with accompanying risks and advantages. A summary of the options that were outlined in the previous paper to Executive were:

- Option 1: Mothball the school build until demand for places increases
- Option 2: Repurpose the school building to meet an existing educational need
- Option 3: Relocate a local school into the newly built school at the Glenvale Park Development

3.3.3 The preference was to progress Option 3.

3.3.4 This preference was approved by the Executive on 8th June 2023. Colleagues leading on the project then progressed to the initial stages of the relocation process.

4. Report Background

4.1 The reasons for the proposed relocation and subsequent expression of interest process was considered by the Executive on Thursday 8th June 2023.

4.2 The relocation proposal was presented to Executive following a place planning review of the existing demand for school places within Wellingborough, along with consideration of the progress of each housing development in terms of housing completions. The review determined that the view of the Council was that the new school will not be required in the town until September 2025 at the earliest.

4.3 The Executive approved the proposal to seek expressions of interest in relocating an existing local school to the Glenvale Park site and approved the commencement of preparation for the accompanying statutory process. The

Executive report presented on Thursday 8th June 2023 can be found in section 10 of this report.

5. Issues and Choice

5.1 Individual options were considered regarding the Glenvale Park school building prior to the request for an expression of interest proposal.

5.2. Outcome of Expression of Interest, Interview and Selection Process.

5.2.1. Two expressions of interest were received. These were from Little Harrowden Primary School and Wilby CE VA Primary School.

5.2.2. A selection panel was formed for the interview process. This panel was made up of three Council Officers, a Headteacher from a Local Authority (LA) Maintained School, the Executive Member for Childrens, Families, Education and Skills and three Ward Councilors representing the Ward in which the schools were situated.

5.2.3 Only three panel members were able to vote at the end of the process, selecting the preferred school. The voting panel members were the Assistant Director for Education (Council Officer), a Headteacher and the Executive Member for Childrens, Families, Education and Skills.

5.2.4 Following a rigorous interview process, a recommendation was put forward by the voting members of the panel that Wilby CEVA Primary School should be the school that relocates to the Glenvale Park development to coincide with the start of September 2024.

6. Next Steps

6.1. Executive is now invited to reflect on the outcome of the formal consultation when considering the request for approval of the relocation of Wilby CE VA Primary School to the Glenvale Park development.

6.2 The Executive decision must be made within a period of two months of the end of the formal consultation period. The reasons for the Executive decision must be published within one week of making a determination.

6.3 If the relocation of Wilby CE VA Primary School to the Glenvale Park development is approved, then the DfE guidance 'Making a Significant Change to an Academy or Maintained School' process will continue at pace. Simultaneously, the necessary preparations and planning for the relocation will begin immediately.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1. Resources, Financial and Transformation

7.1.1 Should the preferred option be approved by Executive from September 2024, the Council will incur revenue costs in the year of September 2024 opening and in each of the subsequent academic years thereafter for the additional growth, against the 'Pupil Growth Fund' element of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

7.1.2. The Council may also incur additional transport costs for a 2-year period to facilitate the relocation of existing pupils.

7.1.3. There may be some capital investment needed to undertake some refurbishment of the school being vacated to facilitate the repurposing of the Wilby CE VA Primary School building.

7.2. Legal and Governance

7.2.1. Legal implications relate solely to ensuring that the period of consultation on this matter is conducted in full compliance with relevant legislation and guidance that governs relocating to a new site. The relevant legislation is: [Making significant changes \('prescribed alterations'\) to maintained schools](#)

7.2.2. The statutory process that will be followed by the Council in relation to this proposal complies with all relevant DfE guidance on the subject and legislation that prescribes how school organisational changes of this nature must be enacted.

7.2.4. If the relocation is approved, the Wilby CEVA Primary School building would be transferred to the Council and Wilby CEVA Primary School would be issued a new 125-year peppercorn lease on the Glenvale Park Development.

7.2.5 Wilby CEVA Primary School is owned by the Diocese, they would need to sign the deeds over to the Council.

7.3. Relevant Policies and Plans

7.3.1. The specific DfE guidance which underpins the process is as follows: Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers (January 2023) [Section: 'Transfer to a new site' page 17; and section: Statutory process: prescribed alterations page 35 for the process needed]

7.3.2. Consideration will need to be given to the support of existing pupils and their access to the new school at Glenvale Park.

7.4. Risk

7.4.1. The risks for the school relocation process have been explored fully in section 5 of the 'Primary Education Provision at the Glenvale Park Development Wellingborough North' paper presented to Executive on Thursday 8th June 2023.

7.5 Consultation

7.5.1 Although the DfE guidance does not prescribe that a 'pre-consultation' stage is statutory, it does state that there is a 'strong expectation' that any LA would conduct this stage prior to any formal statutory process when making a significant change to a maintained school or academy.

7.5.2. As part of the expression of interest phase of the process, both schools were asked to conduct an informal consultation with their community. The schools were required to summarise the outcome of their informal consultation in a designated section within their expression of interest.

7.5.3 Following the recommendation that Wilby CEVA Primary School should be the school that relocates to the Glenvale Park development, a formal 30-day public consultation will be held in line with the DfE guidance.

7.5.4. The formal consultation will run from 4th September to 3rd October 2023.

7.5.5. The consultation will be hosted on the Council's [Consultation & Engagement Hub](#). The consultation was supported by information including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and a briefing paper containing a clear outline of the proposal.

7.5.6. Notification of the consultation will also be published on the local BBC News website, sent to Councilors, Teaching and Support Staff Union Representatives, local Members of Parliament, town and parish Councils, partner organisations, members of the Council's Consultation Register, and members of the North Northamptonshire Residents' Panel who reside within the local area.

7.5.7 Consultees are able to have their say by:

- Visiting the dedicated consultation webpage and completing the questionnaire or requesting a paper questionnaire
- Emailing schoolconsultation.nnc@northnorthants.gov.uk
- Writing to North Northamptonshire Council, Consultation: Wilby relocation to Glenvale Park, Bowling Green Road, Kettering NN15 7QX
- Accessing the questionnaire free of charge at any North Northamptonshire Council library. Alternative formats of the questionnaire are offered upon request

7.5.8 Formal Consultation Response

To be included once the consultation has ended.

7.6 Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel

7.6.1 Any comments from the Executive Advisory Panel (EAP) meeting scheduled for Thursday 7th September will be provided to the Executive for its consideration.

7.7 Consideration by Scrutiny

7.7.1 This report has not been considered by the Council's scrutiny function.

7.8 Equality Implications

7.8.1 An 'Equalities Screening Assessment' ESA has been completed in respect of this proposal and is attached as **Appendix A**.

7.8.2. The equality implications relating to this report are therefore limited. No detrimental impact on any protected characteristic has been identified as arising from this proposal.

7.8.3. The school is being built to DfE standards to ensure the widest access to the curriculum and full accessibility for all of the community.

7.9 Climate and Environment Impact

7.9.1. New building regulations ensure that everything is directed at reducing carbon as a standard requirement.

7.9.2. All new builds, including Glenvale, incorporate the following as standard:

- Efficient electrical heating
- Overheating calculations which are now a requirement
- Insulation levels which have been increased
- The Simplified Building Energy Model (SBEM) will require solar photovoltaic (PV) system, mounted on the roof. This is an electrical installation that converts solar energy into electricity

7.10 Community Impact




7.10.1 This report seeks approval to begin the relocation of Wilby CE VA Primary School to the Glenvale Park Development, an initial consultation was undertaken by the applicants. A full formal consultation has run for 4 weeks, commencing from 4th September to 3rd October 2023.

7.10.2 A summary of the consultation is noted in section 7.5 in this report.

7.11 Crime and Disorder Impact

7.11.1. This proposal will have negligible, if any, crime and disorder impact.

8. Background Papers

DfE statutory process that must be followed by the local authority if they wish to progress the relocation is laid out in the DfE guidance	Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools (publishing.service.gov.uk)
Executive Report 8 th June 2023	Link to Report
Expressions of Interest Application Form	 Expressions of Interest Application Form
Guidance for Applicants	 Guidance for Applicants.pdf
Guide to Relocating an Existing School	 APPENDIX C - Model Criteria.pdf