

Warrington School Organisation Committee, Town Hall
Warrington, WA1 1UH

School Organisation Unit,
Mowden Hall
Darlington
DL3 9BG

And participants of the Consultation exercise regarding the enlargement of
Stockton Heath Community Primary School

16 January 2007

SP/JB

Mrs S Parker
(01925) 442161

Dear Sir/Madam

Prescribed Alteration to Stockton Heath Community Primary School

Warrington School Organisation Committee (WSOC) at its meeting held on 9 January gave consideration to the proposal, put forward by Warrington Borough Council, to make a prescribed alteration to Stockton Heath Community Primary School, Egerton Street, Stockton Heath, Warrington, Cheshire, WA4 6DT by an enlargement of the premises of the school from 01 September 2008.

The unanimous decision of the Committee was to approve the proposal.

Prior to judging the respective factors and merits of the proposal, the Committee considered the 5 key issues as detailed in Section 6 of the DFES's "Decision Makers Guidance". That is, the Committee considered that:

1. There was no relevant information missing from that put before them;
2. The published notice complied with statutory requirements;
3. The statutory consultation had been carried out prior to publication of the notice;
4. Adequate capital resources are available to implement the proposal;
5. The proposal is not linked or related to other published proposals

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The Committee then went on to consider the merits of the proposal and decided, for the following reasons and taking into account all the information before it, to approve the proposal

1. There was a need for a 2 form entry (f/e) school.

WSOC accepted the evidence put forward by the Local Authority in its 'Response to representations made in regard to the prescribed alteration to Stockton Heath Community Primary School'. In particular it noted that the Review of Primary School Provision of Autumn 2004 determined the need for Stockton Heath to continue as a 2 f/e school and that it had 'consistently admitted 2 f/e, although it is short of building capacity for this number.' It considered in detail the objections that a 2 f/e was not justified but, having accepted the evidence of the Authority, rejected the assertion.

2. The enlargement would improve the education of the pupils at the school.

The evidence put forward by the Local Authority entitled 'The Case for the New Build at Stockton Heath Community Primary School' p7 Educational Performance was accepted by WSOC in reaching its decision.

3. Satisfactory Capital Resources.

It was noted by WSOC that a grant of £3,182,784 had been granted by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) with the remaining monies being met from the Council's capital resources in a cost effective manner.

4. Views of interested parties.

WSOC took into account the substantial local interest, the comments, letters, questionnaire responses, emails, petitions etc of all parties. At the meeting WSOC considered a request by an objector to attend the meeting. It was decided that all parties had received ample opportunity during the consultation period to forward their views on the proposal and it was decided that the Committee should decline the request from the appellant to attend the meeting.

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5. Provision of School Playing Field

WSOC considered the objection put forward that there was a requirement for the provision of playing fields on the site. The information provided by the LEA was noted, particularly, the restrictions on the site but it was concluded that there was no feasible alternative and the proposal did not make the situation worse.

Yours sincerely

S Parker

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