

Minutes:

Cabinet had before it a report from the Executive Director – People, which provided analysis on the formal consultation held between 8 October and 16 November 2018 by the County Council, to allow members to decide whether or not to bring forward a statutory proposal to expand Thursby Primary School.

The report explained the background to the proposed expansion and asked Members to decide which option to pursue.

Members noted that any decision to publish a statutory notice triggered the beginning of a formal 'representation period' during which interested parties could submit their views on the proposal.

The recent housing development at Matty Lonning for 69 houses laid within the catchment area of Thursby Primary School. This number and mix of housing types would yield 17 primary aged children using the dwelling led model detailed in the county council's Planning Obligations Policy.

Thursby Primary School had capacity for 105 children and had 104 children on roll at the January 2018 pupil census. Projections showed that the school was likely to remain full, or nearly full, for the foreseeable future before any additional housing was considered.

A section 106 agreement with the developer provided £224k in funds and along with the £156k from council funding (Delegated Schools Grant and brought forward maintenance funds) sufficient monies to provide a single new classroom at the school were available. Class size organisation meant that it was more practical to build a classroom for 30 rather than a space to accommodate only the 17 pupil yield from the development.

Cabinet noted that the extra classroom space would ensure that there were sufficient places for the anticipated additional children from the new estate as well as providing a small operational surplus of places, and that the building works would also establish a new main entrance, additional withdrawal space appropriate to the size of the school and would relocate the office to improve access and safeguarding.

RESOLVED that, Cabinet agreed to publish the statutory notice proposing the expansion of Thursby Primary School.