



**PROPOSED SCHOOL EXPANSIONS
WILMSLOW AREA**

PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

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OBJECTIVE OF THIS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

This consultation document is designed to ensure that all interested parties are made aware of the options that have been considered during the early stages of this process and to provide you with information on how you can feedback your views to the Council as part of this agreed consultation process..

All feedback will be collated and presented in a report to the Cabinet Member for Children and Families Services with an analysis of the responses received and recommendations on the next steps.

We therefore urge you to consider the information presented in this document and to return your comments and views to this Council by completing the feedback form provided.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Wilmslow Local Area Partnership (LAP)

The Wilmslow Local Area Partnership (LAP) has 10 primary schools and 1 secondary school covering the areas of Wilmslow, Handforth and Alderley Edge. The total primary school capacity across this area is 2498 pupil places, and currently provides 360 reception class places.

School	Status
Alderley Edge Community Primary	Community
Ashdene Primary	Community
Dean Oaks Primary	Community
Gorseley Bank Primary	Community
Lacey Green Primary Academy	Academy
Lindow Community Primary	Community
St Anne's Fulshaw CE Primary	Voluntary Controlled
St Benedict's Catholic Primary	Voluntary Aided
Styal Primary	Community
Wilmslow Grange Community Primary and Nursery	Community

Pupil forecasts for the Wilmslow LAP indicate a shortfall in pupil places across all schools and year groups of 227 by 2018. These forecasts exclude the Local Authority's preferred target of 4% 'operational surplus', which is a level of spare capacity intended to accommodate reasonable journey times to school, some degree of parental choice and flexibility to allow for mid-year entrants. To meet this target, current forecasts (October 2012 School Census) indicate the need for 327 pupil places by 2018. The forecasts, which are derived from school census information, are shown in the following table:

Wilmslow Area	Number on Roll (NOR) Jan 13	Capacity - Number of Pupil Places	Academic Year					
			13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
Forecast NOR	2424	2498	2511	2562	2607	2661	2692	2725
Forecast Shortfall Places without the 4% operational surplus			-13	-64	-109	-163	-194	-227
Forecast Shortfall Places including the 4% operational surplus			-113	-164	-209	-263	-294	-327

There is an increasing demand in the Wilmslow area at the normal point of entry to school (i.e. into the reception class) which is impacting significantly on parental preference and the Authority's ability to comply with its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for its residents. It is expected that this increase will continue in the coming years with the potential admission pool, which is based on birth rate data for this area, remaining high for 2013 and increasing further for 2015 with a potential admission pool of 441 pupils. This is well beyond the current capacity of 360 reception class places.

Wilmslow LAP Reception (January 2012)				
Year	Reception Admissions	Live Births – Potential Admissions	Difference	% Difference
2008	336	<i>Data not available for these two years</i>		
2009	317			
2010	336	400	-64	-16.0%
2011	348	377	-29	-7.7%
2012	376	410	-34	-8.3%
2013		412		
2014		386		
2015		441		
2016				
2017				

Some long term measures have already been taken to increase capacity in Wilmslow (this additional capacity is included in the latest forecasts detailed above). This additional capacity has provided an additional 147 pupil places in two schools across all year groups and increasing the reception class places in the area to 360 for 2013 and subsequent years. This increasing demand at the normal point of entry to school, together with the forecast shortfall across all year groups of 227 pupil places by 2018, has necessitated further expansion proposals for this area of the Borough.

When considering which schools to expand the Authority has given consideration to a number of issues including the number of pupils in each

school's catchment area and the community's ability to sustain the school, the number of first preferences received for each school as an indication of popularity, the current size of the school and capacity to expand; the latter taking into account site suitability, and the latest Ofsted inspections. Suitable schools also needed to be central to the areas where the extra places are required.

To accommodate the growing need for additional places in the area the following expansions are proposed for completion in September 2014:

- **Wilmslow Grange Community Primary and Nursery School, Handforth** - from 210 to 315 pupil places;
- **Dean Oaks Primary, Wilmslow** - from 315 to 420 pupil places;
- **Lacey Green Primary Academy** - from 300 to 420 pupils places;

It should be noted that the Local Authority cannot propose the expansion of an Academy. This is the responsibility of the Academy Trust. The purpose of including the Lacey Green proposal in the Authority's consultation exercise is to work in collaboration with the Academy and to provide clarity for all consultees on the plans for growth in the Wilmslow area. Further information will be made available by the Academy on its website. Any feedback received on this proposal will be shared with the Academy Trust to inform their own decision-making process.

The proposed expansions, if approved, would provide an additional 330 places (all year groups) for the Wilmslow area. This additional capacity would be phased in at the normal point of entry to school allowing the current reception admission to increase from 360 pupil places to 405 pupil places (+45) and therefore more in line with current demand. Admissions into other year groups may be necessary to provide some operational surplus in other year groups from 2014.

October 2012 School Census Forecasts	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
Wilmslow additional capacity phased in (45 reception places each year)	45	90	135	180	225
Forecast Shortfall Places without the 4% operational surplus	-64	-109	-163	-194	-227
Net effect	-19	-19	-28	-14	-2

Informal consultation with headteachers of the Wilmslow primary schools has been undertaken and the feedback received during this process has informed these proposals. These proposals have the full support of the headteachers and governing bodies of the schools proposed for expansion.

It is therefore recommended that the local demand for places justifies expansion of schools in this area to provide the additional school places required to meet current and future demand and to provide a level of operational surplus, where necessary, to accommodate reasonable journey times to school, allow some degree of parental choice and to provide flexibility to allow for mid-year entrants

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

For admission in September 2012, the Local Authority received applications in excess of the 345 reception class places available with a total of 376 admissions by the start of term in September (October 2012 School Census data). To accommodate these additional children a number of schools admitted over their Published Admission Number (PAN).

Changes were made to increase capacity in two primary schools which increased the number of available places for reception class from 345 places to 360 places from September 2013. At the time of producing this consultation document, 413 applications have been received for September 2013 admission.

Year	Total Reception Places Available	Total Number of First Preference Applications for Wilmslow Schools
2010	342	345
2011	342	354
2012	345	393
2013	360	413*

* On 3 April 2013

Additionally the number of children resident within the combined catchment areas of the schools has been steadily increasing and for the last 4 years has exceeded the reception class places available and indications are that this trend will continue.

Year	Total Reception Places Available	Number of Children Resident in the Wilmslow School Catchment Areas
2010	342	361
2011	342	434
2012	345	448
2013	360	431*

* On 3 April 2013

Wilmslow Grange Community Primary and Nursery

Situated in the village of Handforth, Wilmslow Grange Community Primary and Nursery was built in 1963 as a single form entry school. Between 2004 and 2007 the school was expanded from 210 pupil places (capacity) to 294 but due to falling numbers on roll their capacity was reduced in 2008 and further reduced in 2009 to 210 places.

Wilmslow Grange is a successful school achieving a “Good” category from Ofsted at the last inspection in June 2012. Demand for places from local residents and the number of children resident in the schools catchment area has been increasing in recent years. For 2012 and 2013, the number of children resident in the school’s catchment area has been double the 30 places available.

For the last 4 years the number of first preference applications has exceeded the 30 places available in the reception class and for admission in 2012 the Local Authority, in agreement with the school, admitted 44 pupils to ensure that local children could access a school place within a reasonable distance from their home address.

No extra accommodation was provided to the school at that time and to accommodate these additional children the school converted the IT Suite to provide an 8th classroom. For admission in 2013, the Local Authority is once again agreeing the admission of additional children to secure places for local families at a school within a reasonable distance and therefore further measures will be necessary.

Reception Admissions	PAN	Catchment Area Data – Reception Admissions	Number of First Preferences
2010	30	49	32
2011	30	48	31
2012	30	70	42
2013	30	66*	47*

* On 3 April 2013

It is therefore recommended that the local demand for places at this school justifies an extension to take the school up to 315 places with an admission number of 45 pupils per year group. The school site is large enough to accommodate a school of this size whilst retaining adequate playground and playing field provision.

If approved any expansion of the school would be subject to planning permission.

Dean Oaks Primary School

Dean Oaks Primary School was established in 2009 following the amalgamation of Oaklands Infant and Dean Row Junior schools, both of which had an intake at the normal point of entry of 60 pupils. Following a review of school places undertaken by the former Cheshire County Council, the infant and junior schools were amalgamated and replaced by Dean Oaks, which was established as a 315 place primary school with an intake of 45 pupils at the normal point of entry.

The school is successful achieving a “Good” category from Ofsted at the last inspection in March 2012. The number of children resident in the school’s designated catchment area has been increasing in recent years exceeding the 45

places available. Although the number of first preference applications received would appear to indicate that the school is not oversubscribed the school usually receives a number of late requests for places after the initial offer date and by the start of term in September has usually reached or exceeded the 45 places available.

Reception Admissions	PAN	Catchment Area Data – Reception Admissions	Number of First Preferences
2010	45	88	32
2011	45	106	33
2012	45	107	40
2013	45	111*	38*

*On 3 April 2013

For admission in 2012 the Local Authority, in agreement with the school, admitted 50 pupils to ensure that local Wilmslow children could access a school place within a reasonable distance from their home address. For September 2013 admissions the Local Authority has again agreed with the school to admit up to 60 pupils to ensure local children in the area could access a school place within a reasonable distance.

It is therefore recommended that the demand for places in the area justifies an extension to the school to increase the number of pupil places to 420 places, which can be phased in from September 2014 at the normal point of entry to the school. The school would have an admission number of 60 pupils operating as a two form of entry primary school.

The school's site is large enough to accommodate a 2 form of entry primary school whilst retaining adequate playground and playing field provision.

If approved any expansion of the school would be subject to planning permission.

Lacey Green Primary Academy

Situated in a built up residential area on the outskirts of Wilmslow town centre, Lacey Green Primary Academy was built in 1952 as a 1.5 form entry primary school with an intake at the normal point of entry of 45 pupils. Following a review of school places undertaken by the former Cheshire County Council, the school was reduced in 2008 to a 1 form of entry primary with an intake of 30 pupils at the normal point of entry to the school (i.e. reception class) reducing the school's overall capacity to 210 places. To accommodate the reduction in net capacity classrooms were converted for alternative use by the school.

Lacey Green Primary converted to Academy status in September 2012. To meet growing demand for places at the school the capacity was increased from 210

places to 300 places. This facilitated an increase in the published admission number (PAN) from 30 to 45 with effect from 2013.

Lacey Green Primary Academy is successful school achieving an “Outstanding” category from Ofsted at the last inspection in March 2009.

Demand for places from local residents has been increasing in recent years and for the last 4 years first preference applications have exceeded the places available (PAN) in the reception class.

Reception Admissions	PAN	Catchment Area Data – Reception Admissions	Number of First Preferences
2010	30	38	44
2011	30	46	48
2012	30	42	60
2013	45	54*	67*

* On 3 April 2013

For admission in 2012 the Local Authority, in agreement with the Academy, admitted 60 pupils to ensure that children living in Wilmslow could access a school place within a reasonable distance from their home address. For admission in 2013 the Local Authority, in agreement with the school, are again looking to accommodate additional children above the current 45 intake to ensure local children can access a school place within a reasonable distance to their home address.

It is therefore recommended that the demand for places in the area justifies an extension to the school to increase the number of pupil places to 420 places, which can be phased in from September 2014 at the normal point of entry to the school. The school would have an admission number of 60 pupils operating as a two form of entry primary school.

The school’s site is large enough to accommodate a 2 form of entry primary school whilst retaining adequate playground and playing field provision.

If approved any expansion of the school would be subject to planning permission.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

A block budget (grant) has been approved to fund schemes identified as Basic Need. This block budget was formally approved at Council on 28 February 2013.

The building works necessary for the Wilmslow proposals would be funded from the Council’s 2013/2014 Capital Programme and investments required for each school are estimated at:

- Wilmslow Grange Community Primary £887,000
- Dean Oaks Primary £900,000
- Lacey Green Primary Academy £1,237,000

It should be noted that the funding approved by the Council includes £887,000 for the proposed expansion of Wilmslow Grange and £1,237,000 set aside as a block allocation to fund one of two options - Dean Oaks Primary or Lacey Green Primary Academy. The implementation of all three proposals is therefore subject to Council approval to fund the additional investment required, as set out above, utilising funding streams as follows:

Option 1 - Unallocated funds from the Children, Families and Adults 2013-2014 Capital Programme.

Option 2 – Department for Education Funding - ‘Targeted Basic Need’- The Local Authority is in the process of submitting a bid for Capital investment in Lacey Green Primary Academy from the Targeted Basic Need programme implemented by the Department for Education. This programme is to provide additional support to local authorities experiencing the greatest pressure on places to expand good and outstanding schools with high levels of demand. The target date for decisions on bids is June 2013.

TIMESCALES

It is proposed that the programme for the implementation of any change would be:

30 April 2013 to 4 June 2013	Formal Public Consultations
10 June 2013	Meeting of the Council’s Portfolio Holder for permission to issue Public Notices
17 June 2013 to 15 July 2013	Representation period
22 July 2013	Cabinet decision
29 July 2013	Implementation
September 2014	Proposed completion date.

HOW DO I COMMENT ON THE PROPOSALS

You can complete our electronic feedback form which can be accessed on the Council’s website at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk. All views expressed during consultation will be presented to the Council’s Portfolio Holder before a decision will be made on whether to progress to the next stage.

Feedback received regarding the Lacey Green Primary Academy proposal will be forwarded to the Academy Trust to inform their own decision-making process. Further information about the rationale for this proposal will be made available on the Academy's website at www.laceygreen.cheshire.sch.uk

WHAT IS THE NEXT STAGE?

All responses to this consultation will be collated and presented to the Council's Cabinet Member at the end of the consultation period for a decision on how to proceed, which may be to issue public notices. If public notices are to be published, a representation period will follow for a fixed period of 4 weeks, in line with statutory requirements. This will normally be the final opportunity for interested parties to have their say about a proposal. Responses to the Lacey Green Academy proposal will be forwarded to the Academy Trust.

At the end of the representation period, a further report will be prepared and presented to the Council's Cabinet or, if objections are received, to the Council's School Organisation Sub Committee for a final decision on the proposal.

PLEASE NOTE:

Where individual queries are received, we will not answer you directly, but we will compile a detailed response to the consultation that will be published on our website, with hard copies available on request.

For further information, contact:

Cheshire East Council, School Organisation and Capital Strategy Team, Floor 7,
C/O Municipal Building, Earle Street, Crewe CW1 2BJ,
e-mail: SOCS@cheshireeast.gov.uk Tel: 0300 123 5012.