



**PROPOSAL FOR THE ENLARGEMENT  
OF  
MANOR PARK SCHOOL AND  
NURSERY**

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

**Tony Crane  
Director of Children Services  
Children and Families Services  
Cheshire East Council  
Westfields, Sandbach  
Cheshire  
CW11 1HZ**

**December 2013**

## **OBJECTIVE OF THIS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

To undertake formal consultations with parents and carers of pupils at Manor Park School and Nursery and other interested parties before a final decision is taken regarding a proposal to make an enlargement to Manor Park School and Nursery.

The Local Authority is proposing the expansion of Manor Park School and Nursery, which has a current capacity of 210 pupil places. The proposed increase to 315 places will deliver sufficient capacity for the school to become a one and half form of entry (45 places per year group) primary school with a proposed completion date of September 2015.

Statutory consultation is required for the proposed expansion as the changes, if approved, would increase the capacity of the school by more than 30 pupils and by more than 25%.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Manor Park School and Nursery is a successful school, achieving a “Good” category from Ofsted at the latest inspection in January 2013.

Originally operating as Norbury Booth Junior School the school was amalgamated with the neighbouring Cross Town Infant School in 2000. Due to falling numbers of children on roll in the area the infant building was closed and the children were accommodated in the junior building which was adapted and reopened as Manor Park Primary School with a reduced intake from 54 to 30 children per year group (1 form of entry). In 2008 a Children’s Centre opened on site and is located in a separate building from the school.

The Headteacher and Governors have confirmed their support for the proposed expansion of the school.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **Knutsford Local Area Partnership (LAP)**

The Knutsford Local Area Partnership (LAP) has 10 primary schools and 1 secondary school covering the areas of Knutsford, Chelford, High Legh, Little Bollington, Nether Alderley and Peover Superior. The total primary school capacity across the LAP is 1684.

## Knutsford LAP

| School Name  | Status               | PAN 2013   | Overall Net Capacity |
|--|----------------------|------------|----------------------|
| Bexton Primary School                                | Community            | 60         | 420                  |
| Chelford Church Of England Primary School            | Voluntary Controlled | 9          | 60                   |
| Egerton Primary School                               | Community            | 30         | 210                  |
| High Legh Primary School                             | Community            | 21         | 147                  |
| Little Bollington Church of England Primary School   | Voluntary Controlled | 15         | 105                  |
| Manor Park School and Nursery                        | Community            | 30         | 210                  |
| Mobberley Church of England Primary School           | Voluntary Controlled | 20         | 140                  |
| Nether Alderley Primary School                       | Community            | 15         | 105                  |
| Peover Superior Endowed (Controlled ) Primary School | Voluntary Controlled | 11         | 77                   |
| St Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary School           | Voluntary Aided      | 30         | 210                  |
| <b>Area Totals</b>                                   |                      | <b>241</b> | <b>1684</b>          |

For school place planning purposes LAP's are often broken down into smaller Planning Areas. These planning areas are based on a number of considerations including, school proximities, pattern of parental preferences, feeder schools to high schools and traditional links between the schools themselves.

### Knutsford Planning Area

Manor Park School and Nursery is part of the Knutsford Planning Area which consists of 7 primary schools offering a total of 1442 school places. 6 of the schools are feeder /partner primaries for Knutsford Academy with the addition of St Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary whose pupils traditionally transfer to St Nicholas Catholic High School located at Hartford, Northwich, and maintained by Cheshire West and Chester Council.

| School Name  | Status               | PAN 2013 | Overall Net Capacity |
|--|----------------------|----------|----------------------|
| Bexton Primary School                              | Community            | 60       | 420                  |
| Egerton Primary School                             | Community            | 30       | 210                  |
| High Legh Primary School                           | Community            | 21       | 147                  |
| Little Bollington Church of England Primary School | Voluntary Controlled | 15       | 105                  |

|  |                      |            |             |
|--|----------------------|------------|-------------|
| Manor Park School and Nursery              | Community            | 30         | 210         |
| Mobberley Church of England Primary School | Voluntary Controlled | 20         | 140         |
| St Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary School | Voluntary Aided      | 30         | 210         |
| <b>Area Totals</b>                         |                      | <b>206</b> | <b>1442</b> |

Chelford and Peover Superior form part of the Holmes Chapel planning area as they are feeder / partner schools for Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School and Nether Alderley is part of the Wilmslow North planning area and is a feeder/partner school to Wilmslow High School.

Based on the October 2012 School Census, pupil forecasts for the Knutsford Planning Area indicate that there will be a significant shortfall of places across the schools with an overall shortfall of 166 places by 2018. In order to ensure that there are sufficient places for families seeking places at local schools, additional places are needed in this area from 2014 when the number of unused places is forecast to fall to a shortfall of 12 places across all schools and year groups.

This indicated shortfall excludes any level of operational surplus, which is the 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 include a desired 4% level of operational surplus (58 additional places) the indicated shortfall of places increases from 166 to 223 by 2018.

| Knutsford Planning Area | Number on Roll Oct'12 | Forecasts |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                         |                       | 13/14     | 14/15 | 15/16 | 16/17 | 17/18 | 18/19 |
|                         | 1373                  | 1422      | 1454  | 1498  | 1531  | 1572  | 1608  |
| Forecast Shortfall      |                       | 20        | -12   | -56   | -89   | -130  | -166  |
| % Spare Places          |                       | 1%        | -1%   | -4%   | -6%   | -9%   | -11%  |

| Knutsford Planning Area                                  | Number on Roll Oct'12 | Forecasts |       |       |       |       |       |
|--|-----------------------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|  |                       | 13/14     | 14/15 | 15/16 | 16/17 | 17/18 | 18/19 |
|  | 1373                  | 1422      | 1454  | 1498  | 1531  | 1572  | 1608  |
| Forecast Shortfall including the 4% Operational Surplus. |                       | -38       | -70   | -113  | -146  | -187  | -223  |
| % Spare Places   |                       | -3%       | -5%   | -8%   | -10%  | -13%  | -15%  |

Previous forecasts had indicated a shortfall in the Knutsford area and although the Local Authority has taken measures to alleviate the immediate shortfall, including admission over the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Manor Park further long term measures are necessary to accommodate the anticipated increase in demand due to population growth in this area

## ADMISSIONS

In September 2012, the Local Authority received applications for Knutsford planning area schools in excess of the 206 reception class places available. In response to this immediate shortfall the Local Authority, in agreement with the schools, admitted additional children into a number of schools including Manor Park and by the start of term in September a total of 231 children had been admitted.

The headteacher and Governors of Manor Park supported the Local Authority by agreeing the admission of additional children but no additional accommodation was provided at the time and the school used existing accommodation to accommodate the additional pupils.

For the Reception 2013 intake the Local Authority received a total of 245 first preference applications for the Knutsford planning area schools, which exceeded the 206 places available. To date 211 children have been admitted into the reception classes and although this figure is reduced in comparison to the September 2012 intake the local authority was expecting this slight reduction with demand expected to increase again from 2014 onwards

## Birth Rate Data

Data shows that the intake into reception over the last 3 years is broadly in line with the birth rate admission pool for this planning area. On this basis, it is expected that demand for places will continue to exceed the current 206 reception places available.

| Knutsford |                      |  |      |        |
|-----------|----------------------|--|------|--------|
| Year      | Reception Admissions | Live Births (4 years prior to admission round) | Diff | % Diff |
| 2008      | 184                  |  |      |        |
| 2009      | 199                  |  |      |        |
| 2010      | 182                  | 212  | -30  | -14.2% |
| 2011      | 193                  | 217  | -24  | -11.1% |
| 2012      | 231                  | 240  | -9   | -3.8%  |
| 2013      | 211                  | 216  | -5   | -2.3%  |
| 2014      |                      | 264  |      |        |
| 2015      |                      | 250  |      |        |

The changing demographics of Knutsford and the demand for places at the local primary schools indicate that the area has insufficient capacity to accommodate local demand. Although the Local Authority took measures to alleviate the immediate shortfall in Knutsford further long term measures are necessary to accommodate the anticipated increase in demand due to population growth in this area

## **SITE AND BUILDINGS**

Situated in a residential area on the edge of Knutsford town centre. Manor Park School and Nursery was opened approximately 12 years ago following the amalgamation of Norbury Booths Junior and Cross Town Infants. Located on the site of the junior school the new school opened with a reduced capacity taking it from a 54 PAN to a single form of entry primary school with an intake of 30 into each year group.

A Children's Centre was opened on site in 2008. However the site remains large to allow for the expansion and provision of additional classrooms required whilst retaining adequate playground and playing field provision.

The implementation of the proposal would be subject to planning approval under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

## **FINANCIAL ISSUES**

The proposed expansion of Manor Park School and Nursery to increase the school's capacity to 315 pupil places and 1.5 forms of entry (FE) is being funded under the Government's Targeted Basic Need Programme. A successful bid has already been secured which will be ring fenced against the proposed expansion of Manor Park School and Nursery. Should the expansion not be approved the funding will have to be returned to the Education Funding Agency.

A feasibility study has been completed to identify the proposed project. This detail will be included within the outline business case, which will be submitted for consideration and approval through the Council's internal financial approval process.

The Capital project will be subject to Cheshire East Councils Capital Programme approval and monitoring process

Further details of Targeted Basic Need programme are available on the DFE website:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/schoolscapital/a00222248/targeted-basic-need-programme>

## **TIMESCALES**

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

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 14 January 2014 to<br>11 February 2014 | Formal Public Consultations  |
| 18 March 2014                          | Meeting of the Council's Portfolio Holder for permission to issue Public Notices |
| 3 April 2014 to<br>30 April 2014       | Representation period  |
| June 2014 (date to be confirmed)       | Cabinet decision   |
| September 2015                         | Implementation   |

## **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](http://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.

## **WHAT IS THE NEXT STAGE?**

All responses to this consultation will be collated and presented to the Council's Portfolio Holder at the end of the consultation period requesting permission to proceed to public notices. If permission is given, this will mean that a further representation period will commence for a fixed period of 4 weeks, in line with statutory requirements.

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