

## STATUTORY PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO MAINTAINED SCHOOL

(School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013)

### **Local Authority Proposal**

#### **1. School and local authority details**

Mobberley Church of England Primary School  
Church Lane  
Mobberley  
Knutsford  
WA16 7RA

Mobberley Church of England Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled school maintained by  
Cheshire East Borough Council,  
Westfields,  
Middlewich Road,  
Sandbach,  
Cheshire, CW11 1HZ

#### **2. Implementation**

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

January 2015

### 3. Proposed Alteration

A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

The Current capacity of the school is 140 school places. The proposal is to expand the school to provide 210 pupil places by increasing the existing capacity by 70 places for implementation by January 2015.

The school is remaining on the existing site but this proposal was conditional on the acquisition of the adjacent land and cottage required to supplement the loss of hard-standing playground space needed to support the proposed extension. The purchase of the adjacent cottage was completed on 14 March 2014.

It is proposed that a double module building, including toilets, cloakroom and storage space, will be situated on site. However, this is subject to the usual planning consent and the planning committee are due to meet on 16<sup>th</sup> April to consider the application.

### 4. Need or demand for additional places

A statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

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 and the current number of reception class places available each year based on the published admission number (PAN) is 241.

Based on the latest data (October 2012 School Census), pupil forecasts for the Knutsford Local Area Partnership (LAP) indicate a shortfall of 174 places across all 10 primary schools by 2018. For school place planning purposes LAPs are broken down into smaller Planning Areas. These planning areas are based on a number of considerations including schools proximity, pattern of parental preferences, feeder schools to high schools and traditional links between the schools themselves. For example, Chelford and Peover Superior primary schools form part of the Holmes Chapel planning area as they are feeder/partner schools for Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School. Nether Alderley is part of the Wilmslow North planning area and is a feeder/partner school to Wilmslow High School.

Mobberley CE is part of the Knutsford Planning Area which consists of 7 primary schools offering a total of 1442 school places.

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 7 schools of 166 places by 2018, as set out in the table below:

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%

The above indicated shortfall excludes any level of operational surplus (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). As an indication, a 4% level of

operational surplus for this planning area would require an additional 58 pupil places for the same period in 2014.

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 4% Operational Surplus.		-38	-70	-113	-146	-187	-223
% Spare Places		-3%	-5%	-8%	-10%	-13%	-15%

This proposal is one of two possible expansions proposed for the Knutsford area which, if approved, would provide a total of 175 additional pupil places. The additional accommodation planned for Mobberley CE would be mainly phased in at the normal point of entry to the school, which is the reception class. On this basis, the school would be operating as a 1 form of entry primary school (210 places) with 70 pupil places per year group by 2021. This would increase capacity for this planning area to 1512 pupil places which; when phased in at the normal point of entry into the reception class, would still require an additional 96 places by the same period based on current forecasts. Consultation on a separate proposal to provide an additional 105 pupil places in Manor Park school and Nursery to meet this shortfall is also been undertaken.

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 and long term measures are necessary to accommodate this anticipated increase.

## 5. Objectives of the Proposal and Educational Standards

The overall objective of the proposal is to create additional school places to accommodate the growing demand for places for local children from within the village of Mobberley.

Mobberley CE Primary is a popular and successful school rated "Outstanding" by OFSTED in June 2012. The changing demographics of Mobberley Village and the demand for places at the local primary school indicate that the school has insufficient capacity to accommodate local children. Following the completion of a large housing development in the area the number of catchment children has exceeded the reception places available for the last 5 years. For September 2014 admissions there are currently 48 pupils resident in the catchment area which is more than double the school's capacity of 20 pupils per reception intake.

Reception Class Year of Intake	Number of Children Resident in the School's Catchment Area
2010	34
2011	23
2012	41
2013	40
2014	48 (at 8 Jan 2014)

In line with the growing number of pupils resident in the schools catchment area the number of first preferences for the school has also been increasing. For 2013 the school received 33 first preferences against a published admission number (PAN) of 20. The demand for places from local residents is expected to continue in future years.

Reception Class Year of Intake	Number of First Preferences
2010	33
2011	19
2012	33
2013	33
2014	30 (at 8 Jan 2014)

If parents are unable to obtain a place at the local village school the distances that parents could be expected to travel to the next nearest school may be considered unreasonable.

It is therefore recommended that an increase in the capacity of Mobberley CE Primary is necessary to meet the growing demand in the village. It is proposed that the local demand in itself justifies an extension to take the school up to 210 pupil places (1 Form of Entry) with an admission number of 30 pupils per year .

## 6. Effect on other Educational Establishments in the Area

The local authority has held meetings with headteachers of the primary schools in this planning area on 31 October 2012, 20 December 2012, 10 May 2013 and 8 October 2013. When identifying the schools for expansion consideration was given to a number of issues including, the nature of the site and whether it can accommodate an expansion, the extent to which the school serves its community, the schools ability to deliver a full range of curriculum and social experiences and the latest Ofsted inspection.

Cheshire East Council then undertook an informal consultation which was implemented between 14 January 2014 and 11 February 2014. Feedback from the consultation was presented to the Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services and Rural Affairs at a meeting on 31 March 2014 where a decision was taken to issue public notices. All documentation, reports and minutes of the Council meetings can be accessed the Council's website.

[http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school\\_organisation.aspx](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school_organisation.aspx)

## 7. Project Costs and Value for Money

A statement of the estimated project costs and indication of how these will be met, including long term value for money will be achieved.

The authority believes that wherever possible school expansions should be undertaken by providing permanent accommodation. Due to the limitations of the Mobberley CE site it is not possible to provide a permanent build in this instance but the double module building that is being proposed will provide a good quality learning environment.

The proposed expansion of Mobberley CE Primary School to increase the school's capacity to 210 pupil places and 1 form entry (FE) is being funded from the Department

for Education (DfE) Basic Need grant. The project costs, inclusive of land acquisition and associated legal fees, are anticipated as being in the region of £967,000.

## 8. Objections and Comments

Within 4 weeks from the date of publication of this proposal i.e by **Wednesday 14 May 2014** any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to:-

Children's Services  
Organisation and Capital Strategy,  
Floor 7 c/o Municipal Buildings  
Earle Street  
Crewe  
CW1 2BJ

or via email to [SOCS@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:SOCS@cheshireeast.gov.uk)