



**PROPOSAL FOR THE ENLARGEMENT
OF
MOBBERLEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL,**

PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

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

January 2014

OBJECTIVE OF THIS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

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

The Local Authority is proposing the expansion of Mobberley Church of England Primary School, which has a current capacity of 140 pupil places. The proposed increase to 210 places will deliver sufficient capacity for the school to become a one form of entry (30 places per year group) primary school with a proposed completion date of September 2014.

INTRODUCTION

Mobberley CE Primary is a popular and successful school resulting in the number of first preferences for the school exceeding the 20 places available in the reception class for 3 of the last 4 years.

In 2004, Ashley Primary school closed and children on roll at the time of closure were transferred to Mobberley CE (C) Primary and the catchment area for Mobberley was extended to include the area previously zoned to Ashley Primary School. Initially, the school had sufficient capacity to accommodate the additional demand in this area. However, subsequent changes, including increased primary aged pupils and new housing in the area have resulted in an increase in demand for places at the local village school.

The proposed expansion is therefore intended to provide sufficient school places for local children. The Headteacher and Governors have confirmed their support for the proposed expansion of the school to a 1 form of entry (1FE) primary school (30 places per year group) in order that accommodation is suitable for existing pupils on roll and to accommodate the growing population and demand for places from local families now and in the future.

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

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
Area Totals		241	1684

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. This forecast shortfall does not allow for any 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. The same pressures are not forecast for the secondary sector based on existing patterns of demands.

Knutsford Planning Area

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 Church Of England Primary School is part of the Knutsford Planning Area, which consists of 7 primary schools offering a total of 1442 primary school places, as listed below:

School Name	Status	PAN	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
Area Totals		206	1442

Six of the seven schools listed above are feeder/partner primaries for Knutsford Academy and pupils attending St Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary traditionally transfer to St Nicholas Catholic High School located at Hartford, Northwich, which is maintained by Cheshire West and Chester Council.

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%

Additionally, forecasts for Mobberley CE Primary indicate that there will be insufficient places at the school with more children on roll than places available. This trend is forecast to continue reaching a shortfall of 70 pupil places, based on current admission patterns, by 2018.

Mobberley CE Primary 140 Pupil Places	Number on Roll Oct'12	Forecasts					
		13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
	142	161	173	182	194	200	210
Forecast Spare Places		-21	-33	-42	-54	-60	-70
% Spare Places		-15%	-24%	-30%	-39%	-43%	-50%

In response to previous pupil forecasts, a review of provision was undertaken resulting in a proposal to increase the capacity at Mobberley CE Primary School from 140 to 210 pupil places for implementation from September 2013. This proposal was subject to the acquisition of land adjacent to the school to compensate for the loss of playground.

Consultation on the proposal to expand Mobberley CE was undertaken between 22 October 2012 to 23 November 2012 and in light of the responses received permission was given to progress to the next stage, which involved the publication of a statutory notice followed by a 4 week representation period from 10 January 2013 to 7 February 2013. During the representation period negotiations on the acquisition of the adjacent land were ended and the conditional proposal, which was to have been considered by the School Organisation Sub Committee on 21 March 2013, was withdrawn on 13 March 2013.

The expansion of Mobberley CE has nevertheless remained a priority for the Local Authority, Headteacher and Governing Body of the school and local families. Officers have therefore continued to work with the school and governors to investigate alternative solutions.

The proposed expansion of Mobberley CE Primary School from 140 to 210 pupil places would require additional classrooms together with associated storage, circulation and cloak areas. Due to the restricted nature of the school's existing site, additional land is required to facilitate this. The acquisition of the adjacent Mode Cottage has therefore been investigated for this purpose as this would provide a site of sufficient size to facilitate this expansion.

Consideration is to be given to a request for permission to proceed with the purchase of Mode Cottage at the meeting of the Portfolio Holder for Finance on 23 January 2014. The outcome of this meeting will be presented orally at the Portfolio Holder meeting of 27 January.

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 of 70 pupil places 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 30 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 Primary and Nursery to meet this shortfall will be undertaken between 14 January and 11 February 2014. The positive impact of these proposals is set out in the following table:

Academic Year	Unused Places/ Shortfall in Places	Expansion of Mobberley CE - cumulative impact	Additional places still required	Expansion of Manor Park - cumulative impact	Unused Places/ Shortfall in Places
13/14	20				
14/15	12	10	2		
15/16	56	20	36	15	21
16/17	89	30	59	30	29
17/18	130	40	90	45	45
18/19	166	50	116	60	56
19/20	166	60	106	75	31
20/21	166	70	96	90	6
21/22	166	70	96	105	9

October 2012 School Census data provide forecasts up to 2018/19 therefore the forecast figure of - 166 has been assumed for subsequent years.

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 Mobberley CE Primary. Although the headteacher and Governors of Mobberley CE supported the Local Authority by agreeing the admission of 30 catchment area children (10 over the school's published admission number) this still resulted in 3 children resident in the school's catchment area without a place at their local school for whom alternative schools had to be offered. The admission of 30 pupils in 2012 created pressure on existing accommodation and class organisation, which the school and the Local Authority are keen to address.

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. 211 children have since been admitted into the reception classes with some parents securing alternative school places after the initial allocation, for example in the independent sector or on appeal at schools that are full.

Birth Rate Data

As an indication, the intake into reception over the last 3 years is compared with the birth rate admission pool. For this planning area, it is expected that demand for places will continue to exceed the current 206 reception places available. The data below provides an indication of the anticipated increase in future years on this basis, with in the region of 264 potential admission requests for 2014 and 250 for 2015.

Knutsford				
Year	Reception Admissions	Births Rate (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		

Mobberley CE Admissions

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.

The tables below show the distances to nearby schools from Mobberley CE measured using a straight line distance measurement in miles from the address point of each school.

Straight Line Distances between:-	Mobberley	Manor Park	St Vincent's	Egerton	Bexton
Mobberley CE Primary	x	2.086	2.165	2.762	3.095

Straight Line Distances between:-	High Legh	Little Bollington	Chelford	Peover	Nether Alderley
Mobberley CE Primary	6.062	5.603	3.432	4.096	3.977

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

SITE AND BUILDINGS

Situated in the rural village of Mobberley the school was originally built in 1858 and consisted of 2 classrooms. Extensions and refurbishments have taken place over a number of years and following the closure of Ashley CE Primary School in 2004 the school was further developed and the accommodation now consists of 5 classrooms, 2 practical areas, hall, staffroom and office accommodation.

The proposed expansion of Mobberley CE Primary is conditional on the acquisition of additional land and the necessary planning permissions.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

The total approved Capital budget for the Mobberley CE Primary School Scheme was originally allocated to the project from the 2012-13 Children and Families Capital Programme. If approved, the purchase cost of Mode Cottage will be met from this existing approved budget. Further budget required to complete the capital scheme over and above this budget will be funded by Basic Need Grant funding, approval for which will be sought through the Council's Financial Approval Process in due course.

All Capital projects greater than £250,000 are subject to Cheshire East Council's Capital Programme approval and monitoring process

TIMESCALES

There are 5 statutory stages to expanding a school as follows:

1. Consultation
2. Publication
3. Representation
4. Decision
5. Implementation.

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

27 January 2014	Portfolio Holder's Decision to formally consult on expansions
4 February 2014 till 11 March 2014	Consultation Period
14 April 2014	Portfolio Holder's Decision on Public Notices
30 April 2014 till 28 May 2014	Representation Period (4 weeks statutory)
8 July 2014 TBC	Cabinet decision (School Organisation Sub Committee if objections are received.)
September 2014	Proposed implementation

HOW DO I COMMENT ON THE PROPOSALS?

The best way to respond is to complete our electronic feedback form, which can be accessed on the Council's website at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk.

Alternatively, if you do not have access to the internet, you can submit your comments in writing or by telephone to 0300 123 5012.

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 Tel: 0300 123 5012.