

DECISION NOTICE

Notice is given that the following decision has been taken under the Provisions set out in the Council's Constitution

Decision maker: Portfolio Holder for Children and Families

Decision in the matter of: Proposed Expansion of Wilmslow High School

Decision: That, having given due consideration to the response to the statutory public notice and representation period, the proposed expansion of Wilmslow High School from 300 pupil places per year group 7 to 11 to 360 pupil places per year group for implementation in September 2023 be approved.

Background: As the Strategic Commissioner of School Places, Cheshire East Council has a statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places for children resident in its area.

Wilmslow High School is a popular and successful school rated "Good" by Ofsted at the last inspection in May 2019. For a number of years the Local Authority has received applications in excess of the 300 year 7 places available. In addition the number of pupils resident in the schools catchment area remains consistently high although it is acknowledged that not all of these pupils require a place at a local authority maintained school as some will choose to attend local independent schools.

In response to this immediate shortfall, and to satisfy as many parental preferences for local children as possible the Local Authority, in agreement with the school, have for the last 3 years admitted above the school's published admission number (PAN) of 300 for entry into year 7. Although this has enabled more local children to be offered a place it has still resulted in a number of children resident within the school's catchment area without an offer of a place at the school, and for whom places at alternative schools had to be offered which can incur transport costs for the local authority and cause disruption and inconvenience for the families.

Interim arrangements for the admissions over PAN have been undertaken and various remodelling of the internal spaces have allowed the school to accommodate the additional pupils. However, given the growing pupil population and the level of new housing

developments in the area the demand for places from local pupils is expected to continue in future years. It is therefore recommended that an increase in the capacity of Wilmslow High School is necessary to meet the growing demand.

In accordance with the guidance issued by the Department for Education, the LA undertook issued a public notice in the Wilmslow and Knutsford Guardian and the Wilmslow edition of the Manchester Weekly News on 16 January 2020 and the subsequent statutory four-week representation period ran from 16 January 2020 to 14 February 2020.

Background Documents: Report to the Portfolio Holder entitled 'Proposed Expansion of Wilmslow High School'

The background documents to this decision can be viewed by contacting the report author.

Approved: Councillor Kathryn Flavell
Portfolio Holder for Children and Families

Date: 6 April 2020

Executive Director: Mark Palethorpe
Executive Director People