

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK RECEIVED

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF WILMSLOW HIGH SCHOOL

1. Background

The proposed expansion of Wilmslow High School from 300 to 360 places per year group for years 7-11 is classed as a significant expansion because the proposed enlargement is permanent and would increase the capacity by more than 30 pupils and more than 25%.

As a local authority maintained community school, a significant expansion of this size is subject to a statutory process which includes publication of a public notice followed by a 4 week representation period, and the LA decision on the proposal within 2 months of the representation period ending.

2. Timetable of events

Date	Stage	Action
16 January 2020	Publication	A public Notice was issued in the local press. Wilmslow and Knutsford guardian and the Wilmslow addition of the Manchester Weekly News.
16 January 2020	4 week Representation Period started	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All information made available on the County's web pages • Electronic Survey opened for easy response, or a paper feedback form or direct email available • Key stakeholders emailed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local schools • Parents/ carers • Diocese • Local MP • Ward Members • Parish and Town Councils • Neighbouring Local Authorities

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school also undertook an informal consultation with the pupils to gauge their response to the expansion
21 January 2020	Public drop in Session	A public drop in session was held in Wilmslow Library which ran from 9.00 am till 6.30 pm. Officers, Head teacher, and Architect for the project were available for the whole day to answer questions and record any feedback
14 February	4 week representation period closed.	This was a Friday, Web pages actually remained live until the following Monday morning
14 February 2020 – 26 March 2020	Feedback collated summarised and reports produced.	Feedback and Reports presented to Senior management teams as they progress forward to School Organisation sub Committee (SOCS) and cabinet
27 March 2020	Publication of reports on the Council web pages	
6 April 2020	School Organisation Sub Committee panel members (5 or 3 cabinet members) meet to consider the expansion proposal and make a decision.	This is an open public hearing, representatives on behalf of the proposal may speak, Objectors to the proposal invited to speak, opportunities to ask questions. SOCS panel members consider, in private, all evidence presented to them at the hearing and make a decision. Can approve, reject or approve with conditions. .

5 May 2020	Cabinet meet to consider the Authority to enter into a construction contract	As the project is over £1m cabinet members must consider delegation of authority to the Executive Director (People) to enter into a construction contract when required
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3. Summary of Feedback

This is a summary of the feedback received during the 4 week representation period and LA response and proposed mitigation measures in response to the comments made.

During the 4 week representation period a total of 70 responses were received.

- **49** did not support the proposal and left comments
- **2** did not support the proposal but left no comments

- **7** supported the proposal and left comments
- **7** supported the proposal but left no comments

- **2** other comments- relating to the timings of the public drop in session

- **3** no view, but left comment

Note : The current school population including Sixth Form is 2066. Whilst not all of the respondents will be parents directly at the school as a guide, the 70 respondents represent 3.4% of the school population.

It should be noted that a number of respondents may have raised more than one issue in their comments hence the figures quoted will not necessarily equate back to respondents figure.

There was also respondents that agreed with the proposal but also left a comment raising the same the issue around site and buildings, traffic and sustainability of the build.

3.1 The Site and Building

3.1.1 27 respondents commented in respect of the site and building

3.1.2 Comments included:-

- *School is a sprawling enough place as it is. Some children find this too much already*
- *..... the school cannot cope and provide a high standard of education for the existing pupils. The proposed expansion would put more pressure on its lack of facilities, lack of staff and large class sizes. WHS infrastructure cannot cope with anymore students.*
- *My son is in year ten and reports that the school is very cramped at lunch time, corridors feel claustrophobic and general atmosphere is increasingly stressy (his words) and more agro between children as all feel as if crowded and lost in the many!!!*
- *Mass population, compromisaton, education compromised, danger, quantity over quality. Overall too big. Build another school in the area to accommodate.*
- *We believe the current school is already large for its site and a more fundamental review is needed of long term secondary school needs in the wider area, rather than the current piecemeal approach, which seems to seek approval for a series of marginal expansions after they have happened.*
- *Expansion is clearly required but there seems no evaluation of separating the 6th form which would create the capacity required*
- *.... loss of recreation land to build extension*
- *In order to mitigate overcrowding- both current and future- the corridors in busy sections of the school MUST be widened. My daughter reports regular crush events when moving between classrooms. It is simply not a case of building additional classrooms; safer circulation around the school must also be addressed. Locker facilities for every student should also be added. Carrying heavy bags and PE kits etc. around the school can often lead to life-long back, neck and shoulder problems. Opportunities to store some of the heavier items securely is essential*
- *When my children attended Wilmslow High School the site was known to be too small.*
- *Excellent plans and guidance. Potential of a large grant to purchase better facilities, training equipment and sports facilities. 360 is only 15*

higher than existing 345 entry approx. 201 more spaces, less bottlenecks

3.1.3 Mitigation measures:-

The proposal has taken considerable steps to take a holistic look at the school site and address movement issues around the school. This includes bringing together departments and faculties to reduce travel time and improving circulation across the campus. The expanded school will look to ensure that there are sufficient facilities across the campus to deliver a full curriculum for all pupils at the school and will include the provision of a purposed designed "wellbeing hub" to support pupils academic, pastoral and inclusion needs. Central to our close working with the school on this project has been to support the quality of education provided by the school and develop buildings which best support the curriculum needs of learners.

3.2 Provision of a New School

3.2.1 29 respondents commented in respect of provision of a new school

3.2.2 Comments included:-

- *Should consideration not be for a totally new site to be identified for the whole school or even split the catchment and build a second high school in order to future proof.*
- *Wilmslow/Handforth need a second secondary school not a larger one.*
- *It does need to get bigger BUT the school is already huge and this increase isn't big enough, there would still be 32 in catchment students without a school place going by this years entry alone... by 2023 with all the new houses being built this short fall will be even bigger. what is needed is a second school in the town ASAP... WHS can't just keep on expanding every year.*
- *The school is far too big as it is. It is incredibly overwhelming for years 7's joining the school and access at drop off and pick up is a problem all ready. However more importantly as the only high school in the area it needs competition. Also the extra number of places provided won't be enough in the long term with the additional housing planned in the area. Build a second school in Handforth or another location instead and you will see standards rise and a happier school community.*

- *.....in view of the number of new family housing developments in the area and the limited size of the school, a new school should be considered, both to alleviate the pressure on Wilmslow High School, but also to provide for the children to the north of the town.*

3.2.3 Mitigation measures:-

There has been detailed consideration of separate secondary provision, either as a new school or sixth form/satellite provision in Handforth. It was the view that these options would have significant disadvantages in terms of maintaining the overall functioning of the school as an inclusive and integrated Years 7-13 school, and a danger of fragmentation of the school and division between communities as to the preferred/better site. Increased transport time and costs for staff, parents and potentially pupils to move between sites were also key areas of concern.

The Council is also aware of a bid submitted under Wave 14 of the Free Schools Programme for a new secondary Free School in the area. The Council is working proactively with the DfE on this bid and the associated processes which need to be followed.

3.3 Standards

3.3.1 7 respondents commented in respect of **the impact on Standards.**

3.3.2 Comments included:-

- *The school already has too many pupils, which means the class sizes are large. I feel this impacts on a child's learning as the teachers have that many children they do not have the time to help children or spend time with those that need that extra support.*
- *it has become an unmanageable size and is at risk of being impersonal*
- *The school is already too big and impersonal, further expansion would impact on quality*
- *The school intake is too large already. As a result behaviour is deteriorating and lessons are being covered by non-specialist supply teachers. This has a detrimental affect on those approaching GCSEs. Where will the extra teachers to teach the additional students come from? There are already unfilled positions in the school. Teachers are already under immense pressure and constantly scrutinised by senior leaders.*

- *Increased staff for monitoring pupil behaviour. Large curriculum variation through increased staff. Ofsted report details very good behaviour policy.*

3.3.3 Mitigation measures:-

As a large school, there is flexibility to design and resource a wide range of curriculum provision, including enhancement of staffing and resources. Improvements in the schools performance have been demonstrated in recent league tables and OFSTED inspection. The significant work to support the school in providing the best quality of education for all learners is reflected in the work to address curriculum changes in terms of developing learning bases and coordinated curriculum delivery.

3.4 Traffic/Access/Car parking

3.4.1 34 respondents commented in respect of Traffic /Access and car parking

3.4.2 Comments included:-

- *.....expansion will mean up to 300 more cars to and from the school in the morning rush hour, entrance to the school is badly designed for this expansion -queuing traffic can reach exit to Macclesfield road*
- *Traffic congestion on holly road, a34 and Parkway is already horrendous, especially on wet days.*
- *Traffic and parking is already a huge problem for residents particularly when students are being picked up and dropped off.*
- *The queuing traffic dropping off/collecting pupils is causing dangerous tail backs on the busy A34 roundabout. Either school buses should be used more or a redesigned road layout provided within the school grounds to reduce drop off/collection times.*
- *Unless you can stop all the cars parking on the A34 ,and stop making it a death trap in waiting ,its a nightmare driving along that part of the A34 with cars parked all around the roundabout blocking the view of the traffic,and its illegal under the highways to park on a no stopping carriage way.*
- *There are already problems with parking causing obstructions on bypass.*

- *There is already a serious problem with access to the school and increasing the pupil numbers even further is going to add to the already unacceptable level of noise, pollution, traffic generation.*
- *With an increase in pupil numbers, and subsequent level of traffic generated, and illegal parking, pupil safety is also an issue, having witnessed several incidents where the volume of pupils descending on the neighbouring pavements, creates a risk of a serious accident, with pupils walking in the roadside as they dodge between illegally parked cars.*
- *Access issues need to be addressed before any expansion.*
- *It also appears that very little consideration has been given to pedestrian and vehicular access to the school. This is already an issue which has to date not been addressed satisfactorily, and an increased number of pupils would undoubtedly result in more congestion and pollution, impacting upon the safety of pupils, staff and local residents*
- *I cannot support an increase in numbers unless, at the same time, proposals are made and implemented to address the appalling traffic and access issues that beset the school. At the beginning and end of the school day Broadway and other nearby roads resemble a car park. The levels of pollution are also very great.*

3.4.3 Mitigation measures:-

A transport assessment and support for development of a School Travel Plan in anticipation of this expansion has been commissioned and is ongoing. As part of this assessment a full review of the existing school will be undertaken, including vehicular and pedestrian access points, car parking, road safety, and a consideration of suitable drop off and pick up for cars, coaches and buses, and staff parking.

3.5 Construction Traffic

3.5.1 3 respondents commented in respect of construction traffic

3.5.2 Comments included:-

- Construction traffic for any new building at Wilmslow High school should not use Broadway.
- Should our objections be overlooked, there should be no construction traffic on Broadway.

- As and when any new building is approved, due consideration should be given to the neighbouring residents. This is not just in terms of construction traffic but also the effects of pile driving on neighbouring properties (eg development of cracks)

3.5.3 Mitigation measures:-

One of the criteria when selecting a construction contractor will be considering those whom have considerable experience of undertaking projects of this size and nature on occupied educational sites. All of the contractors who tender for the project will be experienced in delivering large capital schemes. The site access and compound arrangements will be discussed in detail with stakeholders including the selected contractor, the Construction Design and Management (CDM) Co-ordinator, whom will oversee the health and safety aspects of the project, the school and Construction Project Manager, to ensure that the safety of staff and pupils is paramount during the construction works. Also, the proposed phasing of the works has been given detailed consideration, to ensure that the school can continue to offer a full curriculum.

3.6 Sustainability of Build

3.6.1 1 respondents commented in respect of the Sustainability of Build

3.6.2 Comments included:-

- *With regard to proposed building and remodelling work, I would expect the council to set the highest environmental criteria such as Passivhaus design, carbon neutral operation and EnerPHit (for refurbishment) in light of the declared Climate Emergency.*

3.6.3 Mitigation measures:-

CEC and WHS are very aware of their environmental education and stewardship role and sustainability will be given due consideration in the design solutions, within the constraints of the available capital budget.

3.7 Additional Comments

- ### **3.7.1 2 respondents made comments regarding the timing of the Public drop in session at Wilmslow Library on the 21 January 2020. In response to this the hours were extended from 5pm to 6.30pm and the website was updated to reflect this change.**