

Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services

Agenda

Date: Monday, 3rd December, 2012
Time: 9.30 am
Venue: Committee Suite 1 & 2, Westfields, Middlewich Road,
Sandbach CW11 1HZ

The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the foot of each report.

PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any item on the agenda.

3. **Public Speaking Time/Open Session**

In accordance with Procedure Rules Nos.11 and 35 a period of 10 minutes is allocated for members of the public to address the meeting on any matter relevant to the work of the meeting. Individual members of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes but the Chairman or person presiding will decide how the period of time allocated for public speaking will be apportioned where there are a number of speakers. Members of the public are not required to give notice to use this facility. However, as a matter of courtesy, a period of 24 hours' notice is encouraged.

Members of the public wishing to ask a question at the meeting should provide at least three clear working days' notice in writing and should include the question with that notice. This will enable an informed answer to be given.

Contact: Paul Mountford, Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 01270 686472
E-Mail: paul.mountford@cheshireeast.gov.uk

4. **Proposed Expansion of Pebble Brook Primary, Wheelock Primary and Mobberley CE Primary** (Pages 1 - 68)

To consider a report on the outcome of consultation on the proposed expansion of Pebble Brook, Wheelock and Mobberley CE Primary Schools.

THERE ARE NO PART 2 ITEMS

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services

Date of Meeting:	3 rd December 2012
Report of:	Lorraine Butcher, Strategic Director Children, Families and Adults
Subject/Title:	Proposed Expansion of Pebble Brook Primary, Wheelock Primary and Mobberley CE Primary
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Rachel Bailey

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 As the Strategic Commissioner of School Places, Cheshire East Council has a statutory duty to commission sufficient school places for children resident in its area.
- 1.2 Pupil forecasts indicate a shortfall in the number of primary school places due to changing populations and increasing demand in some areas of the Borough resulting in a forecast of only 8 spaces across all year groups and all primary schools by 2017. Proposals are therefore being made for the Sandbach, Crewe and Knutsford areas of the Borough to expand existing accommodation to meet the increasing demand in these areas and to ensure a level of operational surplus; which is a 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.

	Unused (Surplus) Places (January 2012 School Census Forecasts)									
	12/13		13/14		14/15		15/16		16/17	
Crewe	-18	0%	-172	-3%	-255	-5%	-316	-6%	-405	-8%
Knutsford	-5	0%	-57	-4%	-117	-8%	-164	-11%	-227	-16%
Sandbach	31	2%	-28	-1%	-68	-4%	-119	-6%	-151	-8%
All CE Primary Schools	1121	4%	752	3%	452	2%	208	1%	8	0%

- 1.3 In response to pupil forecasts a review of provision was undertaken. This has resulted in proposals to increase the capacity at Pebble Brook Primary School from 210 to 315 pupil places (from 1 form of entry to 1.5 forms of entry), Wheelock Primary from 210 to 315 pupil places (from 1 form of entry to 1.5 forms of entry) and Mobberley CE Primary from 140 to 210 pupil places (from an intake of 20 pupils to 30 pupils) creating a 1 form of entry primary school. Permission to consult on these proposals was granted at the Portfolio Holder meeting of 15 October 2012.
- 1.4 This paper reports on the outcomes of the consultation received to date. It is important to note that at the time of writing this report, there are three more

days for consultees to feedback their views by the 23 November deadline. Any further responses received will be reported verbally at the Portfolio Holder meeting on 3 December 2012 and a revised report will be submitted outlining any additional feedback received.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 That the Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services authorise the publication of statutory notices detailing the Local Authority's proposed expansions of:

- **Pebble Brook Primary**, from the 210 school places (1FE) to 315 school places (1.5 FE) thus providing an additional 105 school places with effect from September 2013:
- **Wheelock Primary**, from the 210 school places (1FE) to 315 school places (1.5FE) thus providing an additional 105 school places with effect from September 2013:
- **Mobberley CE Primary** from the current Published Admission Number (20) providing 140 school places to a PAN of 30 (1FE) thus providing an additional 70 school places with effect from September 2013.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 In making this recommendation, full consideration has been given to the responses received from key stakeholders during the consultation period. How statutory consultation is carried out is not prescribed in regulations and it is therefore for the Local Authority as the proposer to determine the nature of the consultation. The consultation period spanned 5 weeks. In order to facilitate feedback on the proposal, formal consultation documents were produced detailing the background and rationale for the proposed expansions and explaining the statutory consultation process. Information on how feedback could be provided was included, together with a feedback form, which was published online on the Council's website or available on request. **(Appendices 1-3)** Letters were emailed to all primary and secondary schools for distribution to parents and carers of children on roll at the schools. Emails were sent to all other consultees with links to the website where full details could be obtained. Contact details were provided to facilitate requests for more information or assistance with this process. Consultees include local parents and carers, representatives of nearby schools, Ward Members, MPs, the Diocese, Parish Councils and Trade Unions. In accordance with its statutory duty under Section 176 of the Education Act 2002, the Local Authority has invited feedback on the proposed changes from pupils at the schools, the outcome of which will be presented orally at the meeting of the Portfolio Holder on 3 December, together with an updated report and appendices as aforementioned. In respect of the Mobberley CE proposal, feedback was invited from the neighbouring local authorities of Manchester City and Trafford councils.

- 3.2 Lists of all consultees for each school proposed for expansion are attached as **Appendices 4-6** together with the method of communication used. The formal consultation document was published on the Council's website and was available in hard copy on request.
- 3.3 Additionally, the Local Authority has held meetings during the formal consultation period in the three localities attended by headteachers and governor representatives from the local schools. The purpose of these meetings was to provide information about the proposed expansions and to facilitate discussion and feedback. In addition the Local Authority provided information on the pupil place planning process together with specific information regarding pupil forecasts and future housing developments relevant to the individual areas. The Local Authority notes taken at these meetings, which include comments and feedback received from attendees, are attached as **Appendices 7a,b,c**
- 3.4 To date, 6 responses have been received in relation to the Pebble Brook Primary School proposal, 9 responses for the Wheelock Primary School proposal and 62 for Mobberley CE Primary School. As aforementioned, any further responses received will be reported verbally at the Portfolio Holder meeting on 3 December 2012 and a revised report will be submitted (and appendices as appropriate) outlining any additional feedback received.
- 3.5 **Proposed Expansion of Pebble Brook Primary School**
- 3.5.1 The Headteacher and Governors have confirmed their support for the proposal to expand the school to 1.5 form of entry to accommodate local children at a school within a reasonable distance, as far as possible.
- 3.5.2 Only 6 responses have been received to the proposed expansion of Pebble Brook Primary. Of these, 5 have indicated support for the expansion and 1 has indicated 'no objection'.

Respondent	Number received	Support	Do Not Support	No objection	Total
Governor	2	2	0	0	2
Headteacher	1	0	0	1	1
Parent	1	1	0	0	1
Local Resident	1	1	0	0	1
Unknown	1	1	0	0	1
Total	6	5	0	1	6

- 3.5.3 In addition, one comment has been received about the rationale for excluding Shavington primary schools from the proposal. It should be noted that this proposal for Pebble Brook has been formulated taking into account capacity in all schools within the Crewe Local Area Partnership and utilising the planning area as identified in the Draft School Organisation Framework and shown in the table below. Data for this group of schools indicates that 140 pupil places are needed by 2017 (based on 2012 School Census forecasts) to provide sufficient capacity and 4% operational surplus, which is needed to

accommodate reasonable journey times to school, some degree of parental choice, and flexibility to allow for mid-year entrants.

Area	LAP	School
Shavington	Crewe	Shavington Primary School
Shavington	Crewe	The Berkeley Primary School, Wistaston
Crewe	Crewe	Pebble Brook Primary School
Shavington	Crewe	Weston Village Primary School
Shavington	Crewe	Wistaston Church Lane Primary School
Nantwich	Crewe	Willaston Primary School

3.5.4 The other 5 respondents have commented about the need to review the current capacity at the Catholic primary school serving this area in response to changing demographics in the town and increasing demand for faith education. The Portfolio Holder is advised that further analysis is already underway to address the significant increase in demand for primary school places in the Crewe area and included in this analysis is the need to ensure that there are sufficient places for families seeking a faith education to ensure diversity of provision in response to local demand.

3.5.5 On 9 November, a meeting was held and attended by headteachers and governor representatives of the Crewe primary schools to provide information about the proposed expansion of Pebble Brook Primary and the rationale for change including forecast demand and the process for change. The meeting was not well attended; however, attendees welcomed the opportunity to discuss school place planning procedures and forecast demand for school places. Attendees acknowledged the pressures for the area and expressed no objection to the proposal. Increasing demand for faith education in the area was acknowledged.

3.5.6 Full details of the responses received during consultation are attached as **Appendix 8**

3.6 **Proposed Expansion of Wheelock Primary School**

3.6.1 The Headteacher and Governors have been consulted and fully support the proposed expansion of the school to a 1.5 FE primary school to accommodate the growing population and increasing demand for school places.

3.6.2 9 responses have been received to date to the proposed expansion of Wheelock Primary. It is important to note that the deadline has not yet been reached at the time of writing this report and therefore further feedback may be received, which will be presented orally at the meeting of 3 December together with an updated report and appendices.

Respondent	Number received	Support	Do Not Support	No objection/ No View	Total
Governor	3	2	1	0	3
Headteacher	1	1	0	0	1
Parent/Governor	2	1	1	0	2
School Staff	1	0	1	0	1
Grandparent	1	0	0	1	1
Unknown	1	0	0	1	1
Total	9	4	3	2	9

3.6.3 Of the 9 responses, 4 have indicated support for the expansion, 2 have expressed no view and 3 do not support the proposal.

3.6.4 Comments received from respondents expressing support for the proposal or expressing no view included:

- Agreement that more places should be provided to ensure local families could access provision at their local school within this growing community and to ensure school places are provided within a reasonable distance;
- Enquiring as to whether 105 extra places is sufficient and asking if this should be a proposal for expansion by an additional 210 places to meet forecast demand by 2017 or is there sufficient demand to warrant a new school in the Ettiley Heath area and questioning the reduction in capacity at Sandbach Primary under Cheshire County Council.

3.6.5 Comments received from respondents objecting to the proposal included:

- Concerns that this proposal will impact on nearby schools if more places are provided at Wheelock.
- Suggestions that this increasing demand should be addressed by expanding 3 to 4 schools in the area spreading additional places evenly;
- Rezoning of Ettiley Heath as a solution to the increased demand for places at Wheelock from within its catchment area;
- Comment that this proposal undermines the Local Authority proposed principal of schools being 1 or 2 forms of entry wherever possible – as detailed in the Draft School Organisation Framework;
- Questions about travel to school and current arrangements of transporting children from Ettiley Heath at a cost to the LA;
- Challenge that informal consultation should have been undertaken with schools in the area in the process of formulating options prior to formal statutory consultation;

3.6.6 Full details of the responses received during consultation are attached as **Appendix 9**

3.6.7 The rationale for the proposal is set out within the consultation document attached as Appendix 2 and this indicates that there will be a shortfall of

places across all 8 schools including the two primary schools located in Haslington. Forecasts using 2012 School census information indicate that this will be a problem from 2013 with a shortfall in capacity of 28 places at this time. However, the Local Authority has already experienced problems for admission to the reception in 2012 with demand for places exceeding the number of reception class places. Admission over the published admission numbers was therefore agreed in order to ensure all children had a school place for September. Without additional places in this area, this problem will continue and the Local Authority will risk breaching its statutory duty of ensuring sufficient school places for children resident in its area. In order to determine where additional capacity should be provided the Local Authority has analysed data on each school in the area and taking into account the following:

- Level of local demand using catchment or area generally served by the school;
- Community's ability to sustain the school;
- Physical condition of the school premises;
- Nature of the site, accessibility to it and scope for expansion;
- Ability to deliver a full range of curriculum and social experiences;
- Latest Ofsted inspections (successful schools);
- Pattern of parental preference (popular schools).

3.6.8 Elworth CE has 280 places and is full. A review of capacity at Elworth CE is also underway due to increased demand anticipated due to new housing in the area for which contributions have been agreed with developers through the Section 106 agreement. Rezoning of the Elworth CE catchment area to Elworth Hall was determined for 2013 to prepare for potential new housing in this area arising from developer enquiries and planning applications.

3.6.9 Elworth Hall has 210 places as a 1 form of entry primary school. Forecasts indicate that this school will have some unused capacity by 2017 with 33 spaces forecast across all year groups. This spare capacity has contributed to the analysis when arriving at the overall forecast shortfall of 151 places. The number of first preferences received as an indication of demand for places at this school has been below the published admission number of 30 places since 2009 and therefore parental choice for this school can be met by existing provision.

3.6.10 The Draft School Organisation Framework has proposed that, wherever possible, schools should be either a 1 or 2 form of entry, providing single aged classes. It is acknowledged that this will not always be possible due to variation in demand for places, the community's ability to sustain the school and site suitability and the government presumption in favour of the expansion of popular and successful schools.

3.6.11 The Government is committed to a diverse school system characterised by improving standards and increased choice for parents and pupils. The Education White Paper outlined the expectation on local authorities to encourage good schools to expand and for the focus to be on supplying a sufficient number of good places rather than removing unused (surplus)

capacity in undersubscribed schools. The Education Act 2011 introduced these requirements from February 2012.

- 3.6.12 Zoning arrangements are part of a school's admission arrangements and can be revised through statutory admissions consultation procedures. Whilst catchment areas are lawful practice, parents must not be required to apply for their catchment area school through the coordinated admissions process and places at the catchment area school cannot be guaranteed. Catchment areas therefore afford a level of priority within the admission arrangements for families resident in the area when applying for school places.
- 3.6.13 Assisted Travel to Wheelock Primary for families resident in Ettiley Heath is funded on the basis of the hazardous nature of the route at a cost of £20,900 with 80 resident children eligible. The schools located nearby are Elworth CE and Wheelock (the catchment area school) and on the other side of the A533 (Middlewich Road) is Elworth Hall.
- 3.6.14 The process of formulating options for consideration included consideration of the priorities listed above in paragraph 3.6.5. Due to the timescales involved, informal (non-statutory) consultation procedures were not implemented prior to formal statutory consultation. Feedback on the proposal has nevertheless been facilitated during the formal consultation period and meetings arranged with groups of schools provided in depth discussion with attendees.
- 3.6.15 On 30 October at the start of the consultation process, a meeting was held attended by headteachers and governor representatives of the Sandbach primary schools to provide information about the proposed expansion of Wheelock Primary and the rationale for change including forecast demand and the process for change. The meeting was well attended. Attendees acknowledged the pressures for the area but expressed objection to the Wheelock proposal. Concern was expressed that informal consultation procedures had not been implemented allowing schools in the area the opportunity to be part of the process of identifying options for change and that the proposal for 105 places had the potential to impact on other Sandbach schools if additional capacity is in place for September 2013 as proposed. Additional comments were made regarding alternative solutions that attendees at the meeting considered more appropriate for the area. It was agreed at the meeting that a further meeting would be arranged during consultation to facilitate feedback on alternative solutions for the town.
- 3.6.16 On 9 November a further meeting took place and this was well attended. Minutes of this meeting will be presented to the Portfolio Holder on 3 December to allow time for these to be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. The issues raised at the meeting include procedure, which was questioned in relation to the undertaking of equality impact assessments; data; timing of proposals and the potential impact on other schools; and consultation timescales, with recommendations that the 5 weeks is insufficient. The Portfolio Holder is advised that equality impact assessments (EIAs) have been completed for the three proposals for 2013 reorganisation (attached as appendices to this report). A review of the EIAs will be implemented to take into account any further submissions or views submitted during the

consultation period and if a revised version is needed, this will be presented at the meeting of 3 December. Regarding the data, schools have been assured that analysis of data is ongoing. It should also be noted that the consultation timescales are compliant with the Department for Education (DfE) recommendation of 4 weeks and that whilst the Local Authority will seek to consult informally in the future, as proposed in the Draft School Organisation Framework, there is no statutory duty to do so. Attendees were advised that the proposal for Wheelock Primary is one solution to the forecast shortfall for this area, which is based on 2012 School Census data, and therefore further reorganisation may be necessary. Attendees were reassured that any future reorganisation would involve informal consultation with representatives of schools in the area to ensure that the Local Authority promotes effective working relationships with schools when discharging its statutory responsibility to provide sufficient school places for its residents.

3.6.17 A range of alternative solutions were presented at the meeting for consideration and these are summarised here:

- A review of catchment areas for schools in the area
- Possible increase in the published admission numbers for St John's CE Primary from 25 to 30 (additional 35 places across all year groups)
- Possible increase in the intake of The Dingle from 50 to 60 per year group (additional 70 places across all year groups)
- Possible expansion of Elworth CE from 40 to 45 requiring additional accommodation (additional 35 places across all year groups)
- Possible expansion of Offley Primary from 45 to 60 requiring additional accommodation (additional 105 places across all year groups)
- Space to expand Sandbach Primary if necessary

3.6.18 Feedback from the Governing Body of Offley Primary School was received after the meeting of 9 November and this is enclosed as **Appendix 9a**.

3.6.19 Concerns have been raised in the response that the outcome of the consultation process has been pre-determined, that feasibility work has been undertaken resulting in proposed drawings and that these have been shared with parents at the school, that a majority of headteachers of other primary schools in the area have not had the opportunity to discuss the impact on their own schools or to suggest alternative solutions. In addition, it is stated that the Local Authority refused to minute meetings held on 30 October and 9 November. Further concerns include consideration of the impact on local schools, the capital costs and the need to ensure future demand justifies this proposal. Housing has been raised suggesting that this must also feed into any proposals for future provision beyond 2014. These concerns are addressed below.

3.6.20 The Portfolio Holder is advised that consultation has been undertaken for a 5 weeks period and that officers have provided reassurance that no final decision has been taken on the proposal. Feasibility work has nevertheless been undertaken at a cost to the Local Authority prior to consultation. It should be noted that this is necessary to ensure that a proposal is deliverable if it is then determined post consultation. The Local Authority accepts the risk of

abortive costs if expansion is not approved through this process. Meetings held with the schools in the area were arranged to ensure that nearby schools were involved in this process and that the purpose of the meetings was to raise awareness and provide information about the proposed expansion and facilitate discussion in order that feedback can be submitted during consultation. Any concerns raised were recorded for presentation to the Portfolio Holder at the meeting of 3 December and these are attached to this report as appendix 9. At the meeting of 9 November, minutes were recorded as requested by attendees and these will be presented at the meeting of 3 December, as stated in paragraph 3.5.15 above. Capital approval had been obtained for named schemes prior to statutory consultation. The Portfolio Holder is advised that internal procedures necessitate that funding is approved in principle in accordance with the Council's agreed procedures but that a final decision to make a significant enlargement is subject to formal statutory consultation and a further 4 weeks representation period. The Local Authority has provided reassurance that there is ongoing analysis of future demand due to planned and proposed housing developments in the area and that demand from new developments is in addition and involves liaison with developers over financial contributions where existing capacity is insufficient. It is important to bear in mind that the expansion of Wheelock Primary is proposed to meet basic need requirements arising from an increasing demand for places from existing residents.

- 3.6.21 There is a suggestion in the objection from the Governing Body of Offley Primary School that surplus places in existing schools should accommodate the September intake for 2013 as a short term solution. The Portfolio Holder is advised that for admission in September 2012, the Local Authority received 212 first preferences for the 185 reception class places provided in the 6 Sandbach town primary schools and 302 first preferences for the 275 places when including the 2 Haslington schools. To accommodate these additional children, 2 of the 6 schools agreed admissions above their Published Admission Numbers to ensure that children were accommodated in schools within a reasonable distance from their home address. For admission in September 2013 there are already 253 on the system resident in the catchment areas for the 275 places in the 8 primary schools and this includes 204 in the catchment areas of the 6 Sandbach schools for which there are 185 places. Historically, this figure increases by the end of the admission process as it is based only on parents and carers who are in receipt of nursery vouchers and therefore does not include those who make alternative arrangements for their child.
- 3.6.22 Attendees at the meetings were reassured that the alternative solutions presented will be reported to the Portfolio Holder at the meeting of 3 December and can also form the basis of discussion regarding further reorganisation in this area. However, it was discussed that the alternative solutions, which comprised in total of a least an additional 245 places would need to be fully considered as this far exceeded the forecast shortfall in capacity. Attendees acknowledged that not all proposed alternative solutions would be necessary to meet the shortfall but that these were considered as more affordable options and offering less short term impact on nearby schools. The Portfolio Holder is advised that a desktop feasibility exercise is currently

being undertaken on these alternative solutions and this information will be presented at the meeting on 3 December.

3.7 Proposed Expansion of Mobberley CE Primary School:

- 3.7.1 The Headteacher and Governors have confirmed their support for the proposed expansion of the school to a 1 Form of Entry 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.
- 3.7.2 Feedback on the proposed expansion of Mobberley CE has been very good with 62 responses received to date. Of those, 60 have returned comments supporting the proposal believing it to be the right decision, long awaited and good for the children, their learning environment and the development of the community as a whole. There has been 1 response opposing the proposed expansion based on a preference to retain the smaller classes that Mobberley currently offered compared with a local school in a neighbouring local authority. 1 respondent stated on behalf of a nearby school that they had no objection to the proposal but did express the importance of retaining robust infrastructure for all local schools and that any expansion of Mobberley must not be at the expense of these other schools.

Respondent	Number received	Support	Do Not Support	No objection	Total
Parish Council	2	2	0	0	2
Councillor	1	1	0	0	1
Governor	3	2	0	1	3
Headteacher	1	1	0	0	1
Parent	31	30	1	0	31
Pupil	17	17	0	0	17
School Staff	6	6	0	0	6
Unknown	1	1	0	0	1
Total	62	60	1	1	62

- 3.7.3 Full details of the responses received during consultation are attached as **Appendix 10**
- 3.7.4 The Portfolio is advised that any further reorganisation will be the subject of informal consultation with local schools and this will include taking into account the issues raised by respondents.
- 3.7.5 Knutsford primary headteachers had met with Local Authority officers on 31 October. There was an acceptance amongst those present that the proposed expansion of Mobberley CE Primary school was anticipated and necessary given the recent housing developments in the area but highlighted that further expansions more central to Knutsford town would be required in the near future.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 ***Pebble Brook Primary School*** is situated in Crewe South Ward. However, consultation was untaken with neighbouring wards:-

Crewe Central
Crewe East
Crewe West
Crewe North
Crewe South
Crewe St Barnabas

- 4.2 ***Wheelock Primary School*** is situated in Sandbach Ettiley Heath and Wheelock Ward. However consultation was undertaken with neighbouring wards:-

Brereton Rural
Sandbach Elworth
Sandbach Town
Sandbach Ettiley Heath and Wheelock
Sandbach Heath and East
Haslington

- 4.3 ***Mobberley CE Primary*** is situated in Mobberley Ward. However consultation was undertaken with neighbouring wards.

High Legh
Mobberley
Knutsford
Chelford
Wilmslow West & Chorley

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 ***Pebble Brook Primary***

Irene Fasey – Crewe Central
Peggy Martin - Crewe East
David Newton – Crewe East
Chris Thorley – Crewe East
Peter Nurse – Crewe West
Michelle Sherratt– Crewe West
Mo Grant – Crewe North
Dorothy Flude – Crewe South
Steven Hogben – Crewe South
Roy Cartlidge – Crewe St Barnabas

- 5.2 ***Wheelock Primary***

John Wray – Brereton Rural
Gill Merry – Sandbach Elworth

Barry Moran – Sandbach Town
Gail Wait – Sandbach Ettley Heath & East
Sam Corcoran – Sandbach Heath & East
David Marren – Haslington
John Hammond – Haslington.

5.3 Mobberley CE Primary

George Walton – Chelford
Steve Wilkinson – High Legh
Stewart Gardiner – Knutsford
Olivia Hunter – Knutsford
Peter Raynes - Knutsford
Jamie Macrae - Mobberley
Gary Barton – Wilmslow West and Chorley
Wesley Fitzgerald – Wilmslow West & Chorley

6.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Director of Finance and Business Services)

6.1 All the proposed expansions are part of an approved block budget (grant) set aside for Basic Need. The block budget was formally approved at Council on 23 February 2012.

6.2 The building work would be funded from the Council's 2012/2013 Capital Programme for Basic Needs. The capital investments required are estimated at:

• Pebble Brook Primary Perm Extension	£1,040,001
• Wheelock Primary Perm Extension	£1,608,758
• Mobberley CE Primary Perm Extension	£796,000

6.3 Although the Local Authority is proposing an expansion to Mobberley CE Primary this would be subject to the acquisition of land adjacent to the school and therefore agreed costs would be in addition to the estimated £796,000 quoted above, which would be funded from DfE Basic Need grant.

7.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

7.1 As the additional accommodation proposed for Pebble Brook Primary, Wheelock Primary and Mobberley CE Primary School would increase the capacity of each school by more than 30 pupils and by more than 25% the proposed enlargements are subject to statutory proposals.

7.2 In bringing forward proposals to expand a school, the Local Authority must comply with statutory requirements as set out in The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended by The School Organisation and Governance (Amendment)(England) Regulations 2007 which came into force on 21 January 2008 and The School

Organisation and Governance (Amendment)(England) Regulations 2009 which came into force on 1 September 2009).

7.3 The 5 statutory stages to a statutory proposal to expand a school are:-

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

Proposed timescales for the statutory process are:

15 October 2012	Portfolio Holder's Decision to formally consult on expansion
22 October 2012	5 day call in period
22 October 2012 to 23 November 2012	Consultation Period
3 December 2012	Portfolio Holder's Decision on publishing proposals in a statutory notice.
10 December 2012	5 day call in period
10 December 2012 to 4 January 2013	Representation Period (4 weeks statutory)
4 February 2013	Cabinet decision on the proposals
11 February	5 day call in period
11 February 2013	Implementation
September 2013	Proposed Implementation Date

7.4 In deciding whether or not to give permission to publish proposals it is a requirement both under guidance and case law that the decision maker should consider the views expressed during the consultation and take into account the Equality Impact Assessment. It is therefore imperative that full details of all views received during the consultation period are available at the meeting on 3 December 2012. In taking the decision the Portfolio Holder should also be satisfied that the Equality Impact Assessment has adequately taken account of any further submissions or views submitted during the consultation period.

7.5 If the decision is taken to publish proposals, a representation period will follow which must be of 4 weeks duration and cannot be altered. This allows comments on the proposals to be made by any person, which can be objections as well as expressions of support for the proposals. This period is the final opportunity for people and organisations to express their views about the proposals and ensure that they will be taken into account when the decision is finally being made.

7.6 Where capital funding is required for a proposal, guidance states that the decision maker must be satisfied that that funding is available before any proposals are published.

7.7 Following publication of the proposals and the subsequent statutory representation period, the final decision on whether the published proposals will be implemented will be taken by Cabinet. In making its decision, Cabinet will have to be satisfied that all statutory requirements including statutory consultation and statutory guidance have been complied with. The legislation provides further detailed statutory advice on what factors the decision maker must take into account in reaching a final decision, which information will be contained in the final report to Cabinet.

7.8 In the event that the Council receives any objections to any of the statutory proposals during the representation period, the final decision on those particular proposals will be determined by the School Organisation Sub Committee. If there are no objections to statutory proposals, those proposals will be determined by Cabinet.

8.0 Risk Management

8.1 Disruption to pupils, staff and the community must be kept a minimum during the consultation period and any subsequent building programme. This is to ensure that standards continue to improve.

8.2 The proposed expansions were identified to address a Basic Need in the individual areas. This is in order to ensure that the Authority meets its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places in this area. In order to complete these schemes by September 2013 the construction phase would need to commence by late February 2013. There is therefore a key risk resulting from the very tight timetable leading up to this.

8.3 The Local Authority cannot enter into a contract to provide the further accommodation at Mobberley CE Primary until additional land to be used for hard-standing area has been acquired and approval to the building scheme, including the proposed use of the additional land for hard-standing area, has been approved by the Planning Authority. If additional land cannot be acquired, then the Local Authority will have to investigate alternative provision in the Knutsford area.

8.4 If the land-owner is not willing to sell, the only other option on the Mobberley site would be to consider converting the existing playing field to form a synthetic pitch that could be used by pupils at break-times etc. in addition to meeting the school sporting requirements. This would increase the capital cost of the project and also cause the school some organisational difficulties of having to supervise pupils across a farm track which is used regularly. Sport England have been consulted on this and offered the following comments "*The Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) would need to meet the following exception to the playing field policy replicated in paragraph 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework*":

8.5 Implementation of these proposals will be subject to the necessary planning permissions.

9.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Barbara Dale
Designation: School Admissions and Organisation Manager
Tel No: 01270 686392
Email: Barbara.Dale@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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**PROPOSAL FOR THE ENLARGEMENT
OF
PEBBLE BROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL,
CREWE**

PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

**Lorraine Butcher
Strategic Director
Children, Families & Adults
Cheshire East Council
Westfields, Sandbach
Cheshire
CW11 1HZ**

September 2012

OBJECTIVE OF THIS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

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

The Local Authority is proposing the expansion of Pebble Brook Primary School to provide an additional 105 places increasing the school from 210 places (1 form of entry) to 315 places (1.5 form of entry) with a proposed completion date of September 2013.

INTRODUCTION

Pebble Brook Primary School is a popular and successful school with a published admission number (PAN) of 30 pupil places and overall accommodation for 210 pupils across the 7 year groups.

The Local Authority is proposing an increase in the school's net capacity, which indicates the number of pupils that can be accommodated in the school. The proposal, if agreed, will increase the school from 210 pupil places (1 form of entry) to 315 (1.5 forms of entry) with an intake each year of 45 pupils into the reception class.

For the past two years, the Local Authority and the school have agreed the admission of additional pupils above the published admission number to ensure that local children can access school places within a reasonable distance from their home address. If the Local Authority had not been able to admit additional pupils to Pebble Brook as their local school, the general shortage of places in the Crewe area would have resulted in parents of some children being offered places in schools at an unreasonable distance. Temporary accommodation has been agreed for the school as an interim measure pending the decision on the proposed expansion. Although the Local Authority has recently implemented these interim measures to alleviate the shortfall in school places for the Crewe area, this proposed long term measure is necessary to accommodate the anticipated increase in demand due to population growth within the Crewe area.

The school is popular and successful and the number of first preferences for the school has been steadily increasing. For the last 4 years applications have exceeded the 30 place available in the reception class. For 2011 the Local Authority in agreement with the school admitted 40 pupils to meet the demand from families resident in the school's catchment area; for 2012 45 pupils were admitted on the same basis.

The school's site is large enough to accommodate a 1.5 form of entry school.

The Headteacher and Governors have confirmed their support for the proposal to expand the school to 1.5 form of entry to accommodate local children at a school within a reasonable distance, as far as possible.

BACKGROUND

The Crewe Local Area Partnership (LAP) has 21 primary schools and 5 secondary schools covering the areas of Crewe, Nantwich, Sandbach, and Shavington. Currently the total primary school capacity across this area is 6992 pupil places.

Forecasts using January 2012 school census data indicated that across the area as a whole there will be a shortfall of 416 pupil places by 2017.

Crewe LAP	Capacity	Number on Roll in Jan'12	Academic Years					
			12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Forecast Number on roll	6992	6619	6809	6957	7125	7240	7308	7408
Forecast unused places			183	35	-133	-248	-316	-416
Forecast % unused places			3%	1%	-2%	-4%	-5%	-6%

During the academic year 2011-2012, the Local Authority agreed the expansion of Oakefield Primary and Nursery School from 315 to 420 pupil places with effect from September 2013 increasing the school from a 1.5 to a 2 form of entry primary school and an additional 105 pupil places for the Crewe area to address forecast shortfall. Other changes introduced for Crewe included increased intakes to Beechwood Primary from 280 places to 315 (additional 35 pupil places); Monks Coppenhall from 360 places to 420 (additional 60 pupil places) and Brierley Primary from 161 places to 210 (additional 49 pupil places) with a total additional capacity agreed for this area of 249 pupil places. Without these changes 13 of the 21 primary schools were forecast to be over capacity or to have a very low level of unused places by 2017.

Based on January 2012 forecasts, the remaining shortfall in the number of places needed for the Crewe area indicates that further changes are needed to ensure sufficient school places for children resident in the area with projections indicating only 1 spare place across all year groups and all schools in the Crewe Local Area Partnership (LAP) by 2015 and insufficient places to meet the current pattern of intake for subsequent years.

21 Primary Schools in the Crewe LAP	Revised Capacity (6992 + 249)	Number on Roll in Jan'12	Academic Years					
			12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Forecast Number on roll	7241	6619	6809	6957	7125	7240	7308	7408
Forecast unused places			432	284	116	1	-67	-167
Forecast % unused places			6%	4%	2%	0%	-1%	-2%

Crewe (Town)

School	Status
Beechwood School	Community
Brierley Primary	Community
Edleston Primary	Community
Gainsborough Primary	Community
Hungerford Primary	Community
Leighton Primary	Community
Mablins Lane Community Primary	Community
Monks Coppenhall Primary	Community
Oakefield Primary & Nursery	Community
Pebblebrook Primary	Foundation
St Mary's Catholic Primary	Voluntary Aided
Underwood West Primary	Community
Vine Tree Primary	Community
Wistaston Green Primary	Community

The 14 primary schools located in the Crewe town area of this Local Area Partnership currently provide 4936 pupil places increasing to 5185 from September 2013.

It is in this area where demand for places has increased significantly and changes have been made to increase the number of pupil places in the four schools stated above. For many schools, these changes will address this growth in the number of primary aged pupils, however, high demand for places requires further measures; not only to ensure that there are sufficient places for local children to attend local schools within a reasonable distance, but also to ensure the Local Authority can build in operational surplus, which is a 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 remaining shortfall across these 14 primary schools based on current intake

patterns has informed the decision to propose the expansion of Pebble Brook Primary to provide further accommodation in this area of the Crewe Local Area Partnership to meet this increasing demand due to population changes.

14 Crewe Town Schools	Number on Roll Jan 12	Revised Capacity- Number of Pupil Places	Academic Year					
			12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Forecast Number on roll	4667	5185	N/A	4954	5108	5191	5252	5341
Forecast unused places			N/A	231	77	-6	-67	-156
Forecast % unused places				4%	1%	0%	-1%	-3%

Pebble Brook Primary is a popular and successful school and forecasts informed by January 2012 school census data indicate that based on current intake patterns this school will have insufficient capacity to meet demand.

Pebble Brook Primary	Number on Roll Jan 12	Capacity - Number of Pupil Places	Academic Year					
			12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Forecast Number on Roll	205	210	221	233	243	258	268	280
Forecast Unused Places			-11	-23	-33	-48	-58	-70
Forecast % Unused Places			-5%	-11%	-16%	-23%	-28%	-33%

ADMISSIONS

Due to changes in demographics for this area the Local Authority received applications for admission in September 2012 in excess of the 708 reception class places available with a total (to date) of 773 admissions.

The number of children resident within the schools catchment area has been steadily increasing in recent years and for September 2012 the number of applications received was nearly four times the school's current intake of 30 places. In order to accommodate children resident in the school's catchment area for whom there was no other schools with vacancies within a reasonable

distance, the Local Authority agreed additional places over the school's published admission number for September 2011 and 2012 and has arranged for temporary accommodation on the school's site as an interim measure.

The number of children resident within the schools catchment area is expected to continue to rise in future years. It is therefore recommended that the local demand for places at this school justifies an extension of classrooms to take the school from 210 school places (1FE) to 315 places (1.5FE) with a PAN of 45 per year group.

SITE AND BUILDINGS

The school was established in 1988 following the amalgamation of Bedford Street Infants and Pebble Brook Junior School. Originally developed to accommodate a one and a half form of entry primary school with 315 pupil places, following a decline in the need for places in the area the school was reduced to a one form entry school with 210 school places and a Children's Centre was established on site. However, the site remains sufficient to expand to accommodate 315 pupil places retaining adequate playground and playing field provision.

Expansion of the school will be subject to planning permission.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

The Pebble Brook proposal is part of an approved block budget (grant) set aside for Basic Need. The block budget was formally approved at Council on 23 February 2012.

The building work would be funded from the Council's 2012/2013 Capital Programme for Basic Needs. The capital investment required is estimated at £1,105,000 which includes the provision of the temporary mobile already agreed.

TIMESCALES

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

22 October 2012 to 23 November 2012	Formal Public Consultations
3 December 2013	Meeting of the Council's Portfolio Holders for permission to publish notices
10 December 2012 to 7 January 2013	Representation period
4 February 2013	Cabinet decision
11 February 2013	Implementation
September 2013	Date that the expansion would be

	completed
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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. 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, Delamere House, Delamere Street, Crewe CW1 2LL, e-mail: SOCS@cheshireeast.gov.uk Tel: 0300 123 5012.

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Consultation Feedback Form

Appendix 1a

Proposed Expansion of Pebble Brook Primary School, Crewe.

You are invited to comment on Cheshire East Council's proposal to expand Pebble Brook Primary School from a 210 place, 1 form of entry primary school to a 315 place, 1.5 form of entry primary school for completion in 2013.

Before completing this form, please refer to the consultation document, which provides the rationale for this proposal.

Please tick the relevant boxes to indicate your views and any comments you may wish to make.

Do you agree with the proposal to expand Pebble Brook Primary School?	Please tick (✓)		
	Yes	No	No View

Comments (if any)

(Please continue overleaf, if required.)

Please tick the following box(s) to indicate any of the following that apply to you:

	Please Tick (✓)
Parent/Carer of Present Pupil(s)	
Governor	
Member of School Staff	
Pupil	
Other (please specify)	

Name:	Date:
Address:	Signed:

Please return this form to:

Cheshire East Council, School Organisation and Capital Strategy, Delamere House (EC), Delamere Street, Crewe CW1 2LL **by the closing date of 23 November 2012.**

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**PROPOSAL FOR THE ENLARGEMENT
OF
WHEELOCK PRIMARY SCHOOL,**

PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

**Lorraine Butcher
Strategic Director
Children, Families & Adults
Cheshire East Council
Westfields, Sandbach
Cheshire
CW11 1HZ**

September 2012

OBJECTIVE OF THIS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

To undertake formal consultations with parents and carers of pupils at Wheelock Primary School and other interested parties before a final decision is taken regarding a proposal to expand Wheelock Primary School.

The Local Authority's proposal is to expand Wheelock Primary School, Sandbach from 210 to 315 pupil places for completion in September 2013.

INTRODUCTION

Wheelock Primary School is a popular and successful school with a published admission number (PAN) of 30 pupil places and overall accommodation for 210 pupils across the 7 year groups.

The Local Authority is proposing an increase in the school's current capacity of 210 pupils to provide 315 pupil places with a proposed implementation date of September 2013. This increase, if approved, will provide sufficient accommodation for an intake at the normal point of entry to the school (the reception class) of 45 pupils with the school operating in the longer term as a 1.5 form of entry primary school.

For 2012 admissions, the Local Authority and the school agreed the admission of 45 children to accommodate local children due to an increase in demand for school places in the Sandbach area. The general shortage of places in the Sandbach area for 2012 would have resulted in parents of some children being offered schools over 4 miles away, as the next nearest schools with places available.

The number of children in the school's catchment area has increased steadily over recent years and for 2012 admissions there were 61 children resident in the area.

Reception Year of Intake	Number of Children Resident in the School's Catchment Area
2010	44
2011	50
2012	61

As a popular school, the number of first preferences has consistently exceeded the 30 places available. For admission in 2012 the school received 44 first preferences.

Reception Year of Intake	Number of First Preferences
2010	38
2011	39
2012	44

The Headteacher and Governors have been consulted and fully support the proposed expansion of the school to accommodate the growing population and increasing demand for school places.

BACKGROUND

The Congleton Local Area Partnership (LAP) is the largest LAP in Cheshire East covering the areas of Alsager, Congleton, Holmes Chapel, Middlewich and Sandbach. Overall the LAP consists of 32 primary schools and 7 secondary schools and the total primary school capacity across the LAP is 7191

Wheelock Primary is situated in the Sandbach area of this Local Area Partnership which has 8 primary schools and 2 secondary schools. Two of these primary schools fall within the Crewe Local Area Partnership and serve the Haslington area (Haslington Primary and The Dingle Primary schools). The total capacity across the 8 primary schools is currently 1915 pupil places. Forecasts indicate that there will be a shortfall of 151 pupil places by 2017, taking into account all 8 primary schools.

Sandbach Area	Number on Roll (NOR) Jan 12	Capacity -Number of Pupil Places	Academic Year					
			12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Forecast NOR	1778	1915	1826	1884	1943	1983	2034	2066
Forecast Spare Places			89	31	-28	-68	-119	-151
Forecast % Spare places			5%	2%	-1%	-4%	-6%	-8%

SANDBACH TOWN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The 6 primary schools (listed below) located in Sandbach town, and excluding the two Haslington primary schools, have a combined capacity of 1295 school places.

School	Status
Elworth CE Primary	Voluntary Controlled
Elworth Hall Primary	Community School
Offley Primary	Community School
Sandbach Community Primary	Community School
St John's C of E Primary	Voluntary Aided
Wheelock Primary	Community School

At primary phase, pupils that are admitted to these 6 Sandbach schools are predominantly resident within the school's 'catchment area' or live within the Congleton Local Area Partnership (LAP) with only 3.9% living outside the LAP and 0.3% living outside Cheshire East Borough.

Pupil forecasts for Sandbach town area indicate that overall there will be a significant shortfall of places across the 6 schools by 2017 with an overall shortfall by 11% (144 pupil places). The number of spare pupil places is forecast to fall to 0% in September 2013. This absence of any operational surplus from this time; which is a 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, will impact on local residents if additional accommodation is not provided for this area.

ADMISSIONS

For admission in September 2012, the Local Authority received 212 (applications for the 6 Sandbach town primary schools. This exceeded the 185 reception class places available in the area. To accommodate these additional children, 2 of the 6 schools agreed admissions above their Published Admission Numbers to ensure that children were accommodated in schools within a reasonable distance from their home address. For Wheelock Primary School this was necessary to offer places for children resident in the area served by the school as 'catchment area' applicants. Temporary accommodation has been agreed for this school as an interim measure pending a decision on this proposal for a long term solution.

Since 2009 the number of pupils resident within the school catchment area and the demand for places from local residents has been steadily rising and the current demand for places exceeds the number of available places. This steady rise is expected to continue in future years and it is therefore recommended that the local demand for places at this school justifies a permanent expansion to take the school up to 315 places with a PAN of 45 (1.5FE).

SITE AND BUILDINGS

Situated in the village of Wheelock on the outskirts of Sandbach Town the school was originally developed to accommodate 5 classrooms and later extended to a

one form entry primary school with 210 pupil places. However the site is sufficient to allow for expansion to accommodate a 4 class extension to provide a total of 315 pupil places and retaining adequate playground and playing field provision.

Expansion of the school will be subject to planning permission.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

The Wheelock proposal is part of an approved block budget (grant) set aside for Basic Need. The block budget was formally approved at Council on 23 February 2012.

The building work would be funded from the Council's 2012/2013 Capital Programme for Basic Needs. The capital investment required is estimated at £1,765,758 which also includes the initial provision of the temporary mobile on site.

TIMESCALES

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

22 October 2012 to 23 November 2012	Formal Public Consultations
3 December 2013	Meeting of the Council's Portfolio Holder for Permission to Publish Notices.
10 December 2012 to 7 January 2013	4 Weeks Representation Period
4 February 2013	Cabinet Decision
11 February 2013	Implementation
September 2013	Date for Completion

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. 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, Delamere House, Delamere Street, Crewe CW1 2LL, e-mail: SOCS@cheshireeast.gov.uk Tel: 0300 123 5012.

Consultation Feedback Form

Appendix 2a

Proposed Expansion of Wheelock Primary School, Crewe Road, Sandbach

You are invited to comment on Cheshire East Council's proposal to expand Wheelock Primary School from a 210 place, 1 form of entry primary school to a 315 place, 1.5 form of entry primary school for completion in 2013.

Before completing this form, please refer to the consultation document, which provides the rationale for this proposal.

Please tick the relevant boxes to indicate your views and any comments you may wish to make.

Do you support the proposal to expand Wheelock Primary School?	Please tick (✓)		
	Yes	No	No View

Comments (if any)

(Please continue overleaf, if required.)

Please tick the following box(s) to indicate any of the following that apply to you:

	Please Tick (✓)
Parent/Carer of Present Pupil(s)	
Governor	
Member of School Staff	
Pupil	
Other (please specify)	

Name:	Date:
Address:	Signed:

Please return this form to:

Cheshire East Council, School Organisation and Capital Strategy, Delamere House, Delamere Street, Crewe CW1 2LL **by the closing date of 23 November 2012.**

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

PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

**Lorraine Butcher
Strategic Director
Children, Families & Adults
Cheshire East Council
Westfields, Sandbach
Cheshire
CW11 1HZ**

September 2012

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 extension 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 2013.

INTRODUCTION

Mobberley CE Primary is a popular and successful school resulting in the number of preferences for the school exceeding the 20 places available in the reception class for 3 of the last 4 years. For 2012 the school received 33 first preferences against a published admission number (PAN) of 20.

In 2004, Ashley Primary school closed and children on roll at the time of closure were transferred to Mobberley CE (C) Primary. The catchment area for Mobberley was extended to include the area previously zoned to Ashley Primary School. At January 2011 67% of children living in the catchment area were on roll at the school. This represented 76% of the school's pupil population. This percentage increased to 69% at January 2012 due to the increase in the number of children resident within the area seeking places in the reception class and at that time representing 78% of the school's pupil population.

The distance to other nearby schools will seem unreasonable to local families. Many will qualify for transport assistance being over the statutory walking distance of 2 miles if unable to secure a place at their local school.

Initially, the school had sufficient capacity to accommodate the additional demand in this area. However, subsequent changes, including new housing and the number of primary aged pupils in the area, have resulted in an increase in the number of children living within the school's catchment area, with 44 children resident in the catchment area for admission in September 2012 into the reception class.

For 2012 admissions although the school supported the Local Authority by agreeing the admission of 30 catchment area children (10 over the school's published admission number) this resulted in 3 catchment area children without a place at their local school for whom alternative schools had to be offered. These additional 10 pupils have been accommodated in the school in September 2012.

Live birth data gathered for 1 September 2011 up until 31 July 2012 indicates 48 children have been born in this 11 month period in the Mobberley Ward. These children will be due to commence school in 2016.

The Headteacher and Governors have confirmed their support for the proposed expansion of the school to a 1 Form of Entry 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, 4 of these primary schools are located within the village of Knutsford providing 1050 pupil places for this area.

Knutsford LAP

School	Status
Bexton Primary School	Community
Chelford Church of England Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Egerton Primary School	Community
High Legh Primary School	Community
Little Bollington Church of England Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Manor Park School and Nursery	Community
Mobberley Church of England Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Nether Alderley Primary School	Community
Peover Superior Endowed (Controlled) Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
St Vincent De Paul Catholic Primary School	Voluntary Aided

At the primary phase, pupils who are admitted to schools in the Knutsford LAP are predominantly resident within the school's 'catchment area' or live within the Knutsford LAP with only 6.7% of pupils on roll at Knutsford primary schools resident in other Local Area Partnerships within Cheshire East and with only 8.4% living outside Cheshire East in January 2012.

Pupil forecasts for the Knutsford LAP indicate that there will be a significant shortfall of places across a number of the schools reaching a forecast shortfall of

9% (215 places) by 2017. In order to ensure that there are sufficient places for families seeking places at their local schools, additional places are needed in this area from 2013 when the number of unused places is forecast to fall to only 6 places across all schools and all year groups. This 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, is insufficient and must be addressed.

Forecasts for Mobberley CE Primary indicate that from 2012 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 60 pupil places, based on current admission patterns, by 2017.

Mobberley CE Primary 140 Pupil Places	Number on Roll Jan'12	Forecasts					
		12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
	133	147	164	176	184	194	200
Forecast Spare Places		-7	-24	-36	-44	-54	-60
% Spare Places		-5%	-17%	-26%	-31%	-39%	-43%

Distances to nearby schools from Mobberley CE shown below are 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

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 demand. Although the Local Authority has taken measures to alleviate the immediate shortfall in certain areas of Knutsford including Mobberley long term measures are necessary to accommodate the anticipated increase in demand due to population growth in this area

ADMISSIONS

For admission in September 2012, the Local Authority received applications for Knutsford LAP schools in excess of the 241 reception class places available with a total, to date, of 273 admissions.

For September 2012 admissions the number of children resident within the Mobberley CE Primary School catchment area was 41, which was more than double the school's current capacity of 20 pupils per reception intake. 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 3 years and indications are that this trend will continue.

Reception Class Year of Intake	Number of Children Resident in the School's Catchment Area
2010	34
2011	23
2012	41

Demand for places from local residents has been exceeding the number of available places and this rise is expected to continue in future years. It is therefore recommended that the local demand for places at this school justifies an extension to take the school up to 210 places with an admission number of 30 pupils per year (1 Form of Entry).

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 includes a two classroom extension plus additional toilets and enlargement of existing kitchen facilities. This proposal is conditional on the acquisition of additional land, which will be required to supplement the loss of hard-standing playground space needed to support the proposed extension.

Expansion of the school will be subject to planning permission.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

The Mobberley proposal is part of an approved block budget (grant) set aside for Basic Need. The block budget was formally approved at Council on 23 February 2012.

The building work would be funded from the Council's 2012/2013 Capital Programme for Basic Need. The capital investment required is estimated at

£796,000. As this proposal is conditional on the acquisition of land adjacent to the school, additional costs would be incurred above the estimated £796,000.

A final decision on this proposal will be subject to Council approval to fund the proposed expansion from its Capital Programme.

TIMESCALES

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

22 October 2012 to 23 November 2012	Formal Public Consultations
3 December 2012	Meeting of the Council's Portfolio Holder for permission to issue Public Notices
10 December 2012 to 7 January 2013	Representation period
4 February 2013	Cabinet decision
11 February 2013	Implementation
September 2013	Proposed completion date.

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. 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, Delamere House, Delamere Street, Crewe CW1 2LL, e-mail: SOCS@cheshireeast.gov.uk Tel: 0300 123 5012.

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Consultation Feedback Form

Appendix 3a

Proposed Expansion of Mobberley CE Primary School, Knutsford

You are invited to comment on Cheshire East Council's proposal to expand Mobberley CE Primary from a 140 intake to a 210 place, 1 form of entry primary school with a proposed completion date of September 2013.

Before completing this form, please refer to the consultation document, which provides the rationale for this proposal.

Please tick the relevant boxes to indicate your views and any comments you may wish to make.

Do you agree with the proposal to enlarge Mobberley CE Primary School?	Please tick (✓)		
	Yes	No	No View

Comments (if any)

(Please continue overleaf, if required.)

Please tick the following box(s) to indicate any of the following that apply to you:

	Please Tick (✓)
Parent/Carer of Present Pupil(s)	
Governor	
Member of School Staff	
Pupil	
Other (please specify)	

Name:	Date:
Address:	Signed:

Please return this form to:

Cheshire East Council, School Organisation and Capital Strategy, Delamere House (EC), Delamere Street, Crewe CW1 2LL **by the closing date of 23 November 2012.**

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		CONSULTATION PERIOD	
Consultee	Organisation / School	Method of Communication	Date
Council's Web Pages		Live Web Pages	22.10.2012
Parents/ Carers of Pupils	Pebble Brook Primary	E mail to school with letter attached for parents	23.10.2012
Pupils of Pebble Brook Primary	Pebble Brook Primary		
Governing body - school which is the subject of proposal	Pebble Brook Primary	E mail to school with letter attached	23.10.2012
Headteacher & Staff - school which is the subject of proposal	Pebble Brook Primary	E mail	23.10.2012
Governing bodies, Head teachers , staff and parents at neighbouring schools within Crewe LAP.	The Berkeley	e mail with letter	23.10.2012
	Vine Tree Primary		
	Edleston Primary		
	Gainsborough Primary		
	Brierley Primary		
	Wistaston Church Lane		
	Shavington Primary		
Governing bodies, Head teachers and staff at remaining primary schools within Crewe LAP.	Oakefield Primary	E Mail with letter	23.10.2012
	St Mary's Catholic Primary		
	Beechwood		
	Haslington		
	Shavington Primary		
	Hungerford		
	Leighton		
	Mablins Lane		
	Monks Coppenhall		
	Underwood West		
	Wistaston Green		
	The Dingle		
	Willaston Primary		
Governing Bodies, Headteacher and staff at Crewe High Schools	Kings Grove	e mail with letter	23.10.2012
	Ruskin (Feeder School)		
	Sir William Stanier		
	St Thomas More		
	Shavington High		
Diocesan Authorities	Catholic Diocese of Shrewsbury	e mail	22.10.2012
	Anglican Diocese of Chester	e mail	22.10.2012
MP(s) of the constituencies affected	Mr Edward Timpson	e mail	22.10.2012
Councillors - Ward Members	Irene Fasey – Crewe Central	e mail	22.10.2012
	Margaret Martin - Crewe East		
	David Newton – Crewe East		
	Chris Thorley – Crewe East		
	Peter Nurse – Crewe West		
	Michelle Sherratt– Crewe West		
	Mo Grant – Crewe North		
	Dorothy Flude – Crewe South		
	Steven Hogben – Crewe South		
Local District / Parish where the subject school is located	Roy Cartlidge – Crewe St Barnabas		
	Crewe Green Council	e mail	22.10.2012
	Rope Parish Council	e mail	22.10.2012
	Weston & Basford	e mail	22.10.2012
	Haslington Parish Council	e mail	22.10.2012
UNIONS	NAHT Branch Secretary	e mail	30.10.2012
	GMB	e mail	30.10.2012
	UNISON	email	2.11.2012
	NUT	e mail	5.11.2012

Name	Telephone (Work)	Mobile	Email Address	Branch Post	Action		
UNISON					How	When	When
Olga Kokkinis	01244 346894	0777 6162815	olgakokkinis@cheshireunison.co.uk olga.kokkinis@cheshireeast.gov.uk	Branch Secretary: CE (ex Cheshire)	Letter by email	18.11.10	10.01.11
Dawn Clark	01270 686663	07970 533636	dawn.clark@cheshireeast.gov.uk	Branch Secretary, Chair + Treasurer: CE (ex C&NBC)			
Phil Mason	01625 504332	077761 62815	phil.mason2@cheshireeast.gov.uk	Branch Chairperson			
Bob Blundell	0845 355 0845	07904 342374	b.blundell@unison.co.uk	Regional Officer			
Sheela Dutton	01270 685814		sheela.dutton@cheshireeast.gov.uk	Branch Chairperson: CE (ex CBC)			
Lesley Hall		0777 6166184	lesley.hall@cheshireeast.gov.uk (customer Centre)	Seconded Branch Officer			
Michael Kurek	01260 375496	07730 927103	michael.kurek@cheshireeast.gov.uk	Branch Treasurer: CE (ex CCC) & Steward			
John Charlesworth	01270 686451		john.charlesworth@cheshireeast.gov.uk	Assistant Branch Treasurer: CE (ex CBC)			
Sharon Stanley	01625 374079		sharon.stanley@cheshireeast.gov.uk	Communication Officer + Publicity Officer: CE (ex CCC)			
Robert Warhurst	01625 422408	07795 697655	robert.warhurst@cheshireeast.gov.uk	Publicity Officer: CE (ex MBC)			
Julia Haig	01606 271604		julia.haig@cheshireeast.gov.uk	Membership Records: CE (ex CBC)			
Kevin Yoxall	01270 537699	07967 629711	kevin.yoxall@cheshireeast.gov.uk	Seconded Branch Officer			
Craig Nicholson	01270 537699		craig.nicholson@cheshireeast.gov.uk	Unison Lead for Harmonisation			
TGWU							
GMB							
Colin Priest	01925 630095		colin.priest@gmb.org.uk	GMB Full time Organiser	Letter by email	18.11.10	10.01.11
Kevin Bradbury	N/A	07795 697703	kevin.bradbury@cheshireeast.gov.uk	GMB Branch Secretary			
Graham McDermott			graham.mcdermott@gmb.org.uk				
TEACHERS UNION							
UNITE							
Julie Burgess	0845 6047306		julie.burgess@uniteunion.com	Regional Industrial Organiser	Letter by email	18.11.10	10.01.11
UCATT							
Rev Davies	0151 228 8455	07894 414621	rdavies@ucatt.org.uk	Regional Organiser	Letter by email	18.11.10	10.01.11
SOULBURY							
Anton Woolford	01625 374794		anton.woolford@cheshireeast.gov.uk	CE local rep for Association of Educational Psychologists (currently Soulbury Officers lead)	Letter by email	18.11.10	10.01.11
ASPECT SOULBURY							
Pauline Carter	01270 686505	07824 301395	pauline.carter@cheshireeast.gov.uk	ASPECT Soulbury Representative	Letter by email	18.11.10	10.01.11
Ernie Charlton	01270 685971	07770 856903	ernie.charlton@cheshireeast.gov.uk	ASPECT Soulbury Representative	Letter by email	18.11.10	10.01.11
NUT SOULBURY							
Babak Bassirian	01625 374 794	7766726724	babak.bassirian@cheshireeast.gov.uk	LA representative	Letter by email	18.11.10	10.01.11
NUT							
Andy Rowe	01270 611009	07976 025122	andy@rowe99.freemove.co.uk	NUT Representative/ Division Secretary	Letter by email	18.11.10	10.01.11
ATL							
Stuart Hart	0161 612 3847	07947 567501	shart@cheshire.atl.org.uk	Branch Secretary	Letter by email	18.11.10	10.01.11
NASUWT							
Kim Jamson		07843 367901	kim_@hotmail.com	Trade Union Official	Letter by email	18.11.10	10.01.11
			rc-northwest@mail.nasuw.org.uk				
VOICE							
David Whitewright	01625 871811	01260 289227 (H)	davidwhitewright@hotmail.co.uk	Federation Secretary/Field Officer for Cheshire w Honorary Secretary (Executive Ofdicer) for Voice	Letter by email	18.11.10	10.01.11
AEP							
Anton Woolford	01625 374794		Anton.Woolford@cheshire.gov.uk	CE local rep for Association of Educational Psychologists (currently Soulbury Officers lead)	Letter by email	18.11.10	10.01.11
ACL							
Rachel Bertenshaw	01270 685326		rachel.bertenshaw@btinternet.com	Branch Secretary for ASCL	Letter by email	18.11.10	10.01.11
NAHT							
Kevin Boyle	01606 551048	07713 321971	head@oaklands.cheshire.sch.uk	Branch Secretary	Letter by email	18.11.10	10.01.11

Consultee	Organisation / School	CONSULTATION PERIOD	
		Method of Communication	Date
Council's Web Pages		Live Web Pages	22.10.2012
Parents/ Carers of Pupils	Wheelock Primary	E mail to school with letter attached for parents	23.10.2012
Pupils of Wheelock Primary School	Wheelock Primary	School Council	
Governing body - school which is the subject of proposal	Wheelock Primary	E mail to school with letter attached	23.10.2012
Headteacher & Staff - school which is the subject of proposal	Wheelock Primary	E mail	23.10.2012
Governing bodies, Head teachers , staff and parents at Neighbouring Primary Schools	Sandbach Community Primary	e mail	23.10.2012
	St John's CE Primary, Sandbach Heath		
	Offley Primary		
	Elworth CE Primary		
	Elworth Hall		
	Smallwood Primary		
	Brereton CE Primary		
	Warmingham		
	The Dingle Primary		
	Haslington Primary		
Governing Bodies, Headteacher and staff at Neighbouring High Schools	Sandbach School	e mail	23.10.2012
	Sandbach High School & Sixth Form College		
Diocesan Authorities	Catholic Diocese of Shrewsbury	e mail	22.10.2012
	Anglican Diocese of Chester	e mail	22.10.2012
MP(s) of the constituencies affected	Fiona Bruce (Congleton)	e mail	22.10.2012
Councillors - Ward Members	John Wray (Brereton Rural)	e mail	22.10.2012
	John Hammond (Haslington)		
	David Marren (Haslington)		
	Gill Merry (Sandbach Elworth)		
	Gail Wait (Sandbach Ettley Heath & Wheelock)		
	Sam Corcoran (Sandbach Heath & East)		
Local District / Parish where the subject school is located	Barry Moran (Sandbach Town)	e mail	22.10.2012
	Brereton Parish Council		
	Sandbach Town Council		
	Warmingham Parish Council		
UNIONS	Haslington Parish Council	e mail	22.10.2012
	NAHT Branch Secretary		
	GMB		
	UNISON		
	NUT	e mail	5.11.2012

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Consultee	Organisation / School	CONSULTATION PERIOD	
		Method of Communication	Date
Council's Web Pages		Live Web Pages	22.10.2012
Parents/ Carers of Pupils	Mobberley Primary	E mail to school with letter attached for parents	23.10.2012
Pupils of Mobberley Primary school	Mobberley Primary	School Council	
Governing body - school which is the subject of proposal	Mobberley Primary	E mail to school with letter attached	23.10.2012
Headteacher & Staff - school which is the subject of proposal	Mobberley Primary	E mail	23.10.2012
Governing bodies, Head teachers , staff and parents at neighbouring schools within Knutsford LAP.	Bexton Primary	E mail	23.10.2012
	Egerton Primary		
	Manor Park		
	St Vincents de Paul		
Governing bodies, Head teachers and staff at remaining primary schools within Knutsford LAP.	High Legh Primary	E mail	23.10.2012
	Little Bollington		
	Nether Alderley		
	Peover Superior		
	Chelford		
Governing bodies, Head teachers and staff at neighbouring primary schools within Wilmslow LAP.	Gorse Bank	E mail	23.10.2012
	St Anne's Fulshaw		
	Ashdene		
	Lindow		
	Styal		
Governing Bodies, Headteacher and staff at High Schools	Knutsford High School	E mail	23.10.2012
	Wilmslow High School		
Neighbouring LA's	Trafford LA	e mail	22.10.2012
	Manchester LA		
Diocesan Authorities	Catholic Diocese of Shrewsbury	e mail	22.10.2012
	Anglican Diocese of Chester		
MP(s) of the constituencies affected	Mr George Osborne	e mail	22.10.2012
Councillors - Knutsford Ward Members	Cllr George Walton - Chelford	e mail	22.10.2012
	Cllr Steve Wilkinson - High Legh		
	Cllr Stewart Gardiner - Knutsford		
	Cllr Olivia Hunter - Knutsford		
	Cllr Peter Raynes - Knutsford		
	Cllr Jamie Macrae - Mobberley		
Councillors - Wilmslow Ward Member	Cllr Gary Barton - Wilmslow West & Chorley		
	Cllr Wesley Fitzgerald - Wilmslow West & Chorley		
Local District / Parish Councils where the subject school is located	Knutsford Town Council	e mail	22.10.2012
	Mobberley Parish Council		
	High Legh Parish Council		
	Chelford Parish Council		
	Nether Alderley Parish Council		
	Peover Superior Parish Council		
	Plumley with Toft and Bexton Parish Council		
	Rostherne Parish Council		
	Tabley Parish Council		
	Styal Parish Council		
UNIONS	NAHT Branch Secretary	e mail	30.10.2012
	GMB	e mail	30.10.2012
	UNISON	e mail	2.11.2012
	NUT	e mail	5.11.2012

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Notes / Feedback

Schools Partnership Meeting – Crewe

Date: 9 November 2012.

Appendix 7a

Present:

Schools Darren Locke – Vine Tree Primary
 Rhian Futchter – Hungerford Primary
 Lisa Lee – St Mary's
 Sue Fau- Goodwin – St Mary's

LA Officers Rob Hyde
 Barbara Dale
 Ken White
 Val Simons

Introductions

VS explained that Invitations had been sent out to all Crewe schools and low attendance was explored. DL responded stating that a School Direct meeting was also being held on the same day.

Presentation:

Statutory process considered including timescales for proposed expansion of Pebble Brook.

Information re: forecasts for Crewe shared and discussion about the need to continue to review provision and ensure future demand and respond to parental preferences.

DfE presumption in favour of expansion of popular and successful schools and risks in relation to potential increase in the number of 'independent' schools (Academies/Free Schools)

Discussed operational surplus – local level 4%, CE level 10%

BD presented data and illustrated immediate shortfalls for Crewe. Not only for Reception intakes but in year casual admissions and lack of school places in key stage 1 in particular.

Temporary measures already taken to get local children into local schools.

Process for considering options was explained.

Notes / Feedback

Need to have further meetings with the schools in the future to discuss further reorganisation once draft town plans finalised.

Statutory process involved

Timetable for proposal

Forecasting methodology currently being reviewed Pre school (NEG) data needed earlier in the process, GP data may be option.

Financial implications.

Draft Town strategy and future housing developments. Confirmed any pupil yield is additional to the forecast shortfall that is already indicated.

Section 106 process

Feedback:

Attendees fully aware of the problems and issues around Crewe and acknowledged that further reorganisation would be needed in addition to the proposal for Pebble Brook.

Appreciative of the meeting and the time taken to have discussion with the schools

SFG raised concern about demand for places at St Mary's and increasing demand for faith education in Crewe . Additional children were admitted in 2012 putting pressure on existing accommodation. It was explained that there is a need for additional classrooms as they move through the school. Commented that this is the only faith school serving Crewe,

Although notes taken from this meeting those present were urged to visit the web site read the information and complete the consultation feedback form

Notes / Feedback

Schools Partnership Meeting – Sandbach

Appendix 7b

Date: 30 October 2012

Present:

Schools Diana Morrison - Sandbach Community
 Lynn Treadway – Sandbach Community
 Eddie Lea – Elworth CE
 Danielle Doubleday – Offley
 Jenny Davies – Offley
 Margaret Blease- Bourne – Elworth Hall
 Rob Whittle - St John's
 Gavin Mendham – ECAPH Chair
 Ben Cox – The Dingle

LA Officers Rob Hyde
 Barbara Dale
 Ken White
 Val Simons

Introductions

Presentation and Questions:

Statutory process considered including timescales for proposed expansion of Pebble Brook.

Information re: forecasts for Sandbach shared and discussion about the need to continue to review provision and ensure future demand and respond to parental preferences.

DfE presumption in favour of expansion of popular and successful schools and risks in relation to potential increase in the number of 'independent' schools (Academies/Free Schools)

Discussed operational surplus – local level 4%, CE level 10%

BD presented data and illustrated immediate shortfalls for Sandbach

Temporary measures already taken to get local children into local schools.

Processes for considering options was explained,

Notes / Feedback

Rationale for the proposed expansion of Wheelock.- stressed that this was consultation and no decision made. Planning application process would also have to be undertaken.

Statutory process involved

Timetable for proposal

Forecasting methodology currently being reviewed Pre school (NEG) data needed earlier in the process, GP data may be option

Financial implications.

Draft Town strategy and future housing developments.

Confirmed any pupil yield is additional to the forecast shortfall that is already indicated.

Section 106 process

Feedback:

TLC took out lots of accommodation, schools argued at the time live births increasing and accommodation would be needed in the future.

Accuracy of forecasting data

Additional accommodation at one school could destabilise all the surrounding schools. Have to acknowledge that 4 additional classrooms at one school could provide means for families to move schools.

School Organisation framework mentions 1FE or 2 FE schools the optimum size for a school, yet this expansion goes against that from a class organisational point not ideal.

Pupils need to be “shared out”. Alternative solutions discussed

Around the table discussion about alternative solutions from each school.

Questioned that the combined increase in PANs proposed across all schools was more than the proposed expansion of Wheelock and would create more places than required into the area as a whole.

Review catchment areas

Notes / Feedback

Further meeting needed within the consultation period, to facilitate opportunity for schools to discuss with Governors, come back together and present alternative solutions for presentation to the Portfolio Holder at 3 December meeting .

Follow up meeting arranged for 9 November 2012 a.m. at Offley Primary

Although notes taken from this meeting those present were urged to visit the web site read the information and complete the consultation feedback form

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Notes

Schools Partnership Meeting – Knutsford

Appendix 7c

Date: 31st October 2012

Present:

Schools	Caroline Johnstone – Little Bollington CE
	Julie Eadie- Mobberley CE
	Gavin Mendham – ECAPH Chairperson
	Sarah Greensides – Manor Park
	Roisin Moores – St Vincent De Paul
	Alison Hooper – Egerton
	Paul Dolan - Bexton
LA Officers	Rob Hyde
	Barbara Dale
	Ken White
	Val Simons

Introductions

Presentation:

Statutory process considered including timescales for proposed expansion
Mobberley CE

Information re: forecasts for Knutsford shared and discussion about the need to continue to review provision and ensure future demand and respond to parental preferences.

DfE presumption in favour of expansion of popular and successful schools and risks in relation to potential increase in the number of 'independent' schools (Academies/Free Schools)

Discussed operational surplus – local level 4%, CE level 10%

BD presented data and illustrated shortfalls for Knutsford by 2017.

Temporary measures already taken to get local children into local schools.

Processes for considering options was explained. RH explained that Mobberley CE expansion requires land acquisition.

Proposed expansion of Mobberley.

Statutory process involved

Notes

Timetable for Mobberley CE proposal

Forecasting methodology currently being reviewed Pre school (NEG) data needed earlier in the process, GP data may be option.

Financial implications.

Draft Town strategy and future housing developments. Confirmed any pupil yield is additional to the forecast shortfall that is already indicated.

Section 106 process

Feedback:

Seems sensible to expand Mobberley would have been right a couple of years ago. But next issue is the town area itself.

Is planned expansion taking into account extra re: hall and kitchen?

If additional housing on the existing Ilford Site can Mobberley cope, seems no scope for further expansion.

Is it correct that Mobberley can't grow anymore but that Ilford site would not be enough to warrant a new school in itself.

Concerns for nearby school.

Could be that catchment areas need reviewing.

Is the intention that the additional places would be gradual increase

Concerns that could be detrimental to nearby schools for next couple of years.

Potential impact on other schools for the interim years if Mobberley CE is extended and has the additional accommodation in place - will families move schools resulting in other local schools losing children

Increasing by 10 per year groups in Mobberley is not going to solve Knutsford town issues.

Although notes taken from this meeting those present were urged to visit the web site read the information and complete the consultation feedback form

Connection	Agree with Proposal?	Comments
Governor St Mary's.	Yes	As a parent and governor at the neighbouring school of St Mary's in Dane Bank Avenue, which already has 90 in its current reception and can demonstrate the growth in our school figures from KS1 upwards. I question as to what support St Mary's will be provided to sustain three classes per year as it does not currently have the teaching space. I request that the needs of our catholic families are taken into account and that the only faith school in the town is also invested in and considered equitably in line with the others. We are the only school in 14 others across the town with a faith identity. Please note that parents of St Mary's have already lost the transport subsidy to support their choice of school and continue to be committed to a faith education despite the cost and logistical difficulties. I ask for fairness and action, in return for the investment in two classrooms, help the LA to ease the burden of admissions. We are a good school and one which parents continue to want their children to attend. I welcome your response
Headteacher Local School	No objections	I am confused? You refer to 5 high schools in Crewe, presumably, Ruskin, Kings Grove, Sir William Stanier, St Thomas More and Shavington. If Shavington is included in this number, I wonder why none of its crewe primary schools are included in the list of crewe primary schools. namely the Berkeley and Wistaston Church Lane. I am not clear about the reasons why The Berkeley and Wistaston Church Lane have not been considered in the proposal especially when I am aware that one of the schools wanted to increase the PAN, and they quite clearly are in Crewe. Whilst I have no objections to Pebble Brook increasing their PAN, I feel that the information presented is incomplete.
Governor St Mary's	yes	I would urge that in addition the needs of Catholic/Christian families are considered. St Mary's is the only faith school in Crewe. Demand for places is set to rise. St Mary's should be treated fairly and also be invested in. We are a good school, and in demand. An extra 2 classrooms at St Mary's would help us to help the admissions burden for the LA.
local resident with pupil in a Crewe school	Yes	When considering the expansion of school places and investing in the infrastructure of the town, I feel it is important that the needs of all pupils and families are considered. There are 14 schools in this area - only one of which provides a good education for families wishing to have their child educated as a Christian or in an environment with a clear denominational faith. I have no issue with the expansion of Pebble Brook as long as the needs at the faith school are addressed too. There is an assumption that faith is of no relevance when it comes to school places, but a large number of families across the town make sometimes long and expensive journeys to ensure that their child receives a faith education. They no longer expect to be supported in doing so, but they do continue to want that provision for their child/ren and are prepared to make whatever sacrifice is necessary to attend that school. Please also consider some investment in the faith school. It is popular, it is an important part of the town and OFSTED judged it to be good with outstanding features in June 2011.
Parent	Yes	Due to the increasing population of Crewe and the proposals to build new houses to accommodate this, I believe it is crucial that the local schools can cater for the extra children. I am in favour of expanding Pebble Brook Primary School but am concerned that St Mary's Primary School will not be able to accommodate additional Catholic children coming to the area. Investment to help expand St Mary's is desperately needed and has my full support
unknown	Yes	I have no objections to the expansion of Pebble Brook to meet the increasing demand for school places in the locality. However, I do feel that there is also a need to ensure that in terms of equity and balance of parental choice/preference, that faith schools are also invested in and are also considered for investment. The growth in numbers and the potential house builds will in all probability also include people with Christian faith. As parents no longer have their right to attend a faith school supported by transport subsidy, I feel it is only fair to ensure that there are sufficient places and teaching spaces in the faith schools to accommodate parents who, despite distance and the cost of transport to themselves, are still committed to a school with a strong faith identity. We are still tax payers and council tax payers who contribute to the local community. This must be considered in tandem and not assumed that just because additional places will be created in one school to ease the overall crisis, that parents would wish their child to attend.

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Connection	Agree with Proposal?	Comments
Governing Body	No	See attached Letter (Appendix 8a)
Governor	Yes	None
Governor	Yes	I support the proposed expansion as it is important that children within the Wheelock Primary School catchment area have the opportunity to attend their local school.
Grandparent	No objections	I wish to comment on the consultation for the extension and enlargement of Wheelock Primary school where our grand daughter is currently in year 1. We are happy with her school life at Wheelock where we think she has a a great environment for her early years and where she is happy. Her mum ,also concurs with our comments. Our input into the consultation would be as follows:- 1. The whole ethos of the school is the small thriving community which is almost like a large
Neighbouring School	No	I understand the need for additional places at Wheelock Primary and within Sandbach and Haslington EIP locality as currently there are an abundance of children within Wheelock's catchment. However my concerns are as follows: The Process leading to the decision. I do not understand why it was allowed that such a decision would be made without first consulting with local EIP headteachers who have been encouraged to work together by the Authority who built really strong relationships, and have first hand knowledge of what is happening in their schools. The Cheshire East Consultation on School Places suggests the Authority wants 1 FE or 2FE schools. Wheelock is currently the only school in Sandbach and Haslington where this is the case. The
Parent & Governor	No	I am concerned that the shortfall in school places is not being spread more evenly across the whole Sandbach area. It seems to me to be more sensible to look at increasing the size of three or four primary schools by a smaller amount rather than increasing a single school by a large amount. If the current plans fo building in the Haslington and Winterley areas
Parent & Governor	Yes	A Community School must be capable of serving the community in which it is sited. For a number of years children who live in catchment, or who have siblings in the school, have been unable to join the school community due to a lack of capacity. Indeed, when we
Parent/Carer	Yes	No comments given
Parent/Carer unknown	No view	The forecast NOR in the consultation document show a shortfall of 119 places in 2016/17 and 151 in 2017/18. Therefore increasing Wheelock by 105 places will not solve the problem of underprovision in Sandbach. Furthermore the

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The Governing Body of Offley Primary School (“GBOPS”) sets out below its comments in regard to your proposal for the expansion of Wheelock Primary School (“the proposal”).

GBOPS is of the opinion that:

- i) the consultation process is fundamentally flawed;
- ii) the proposal is unnecessary in the short term, and
- iii) the proposal utilises a level of spend that is unjustifiable at this point in time.

Consultation process

The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (“TSOR”)

Paragraph 27 of Part 2 of Schedule 5 of TSOR requires that the local education authority must, before they publish any proposals, consult the governing body, teachers and other staff of any other school that may be affected by the proposals together with any other interested party and any other persons whom the authority thinks are appropriate. GBOPS believes that Cheshire East Council (“CEC”) has paid lip service to the consultation process with views of other stakeholders not being sought until the process for the expansion is, to all extent and purposes, a ‘done deal’.

GBOPS understands that proposed drawings for the extension of Wheelock have been provided to parents of pupils at the school and parents have been led to believe that there is certainty that the proposal will go ahead. The Chair of Governors has confirmed that the plans are ready to be submitted. GBOPS considers that this is inappropriate at this stage of the consultation process. Other inconsistencies have been identified in information provided to the Wheelock School Chair of Governors and Headteachers of other Sandbach primary schools.

Essentially, GBOPS and the overwhelming majority of Headteachers of Sandbach primary schools believe they have not had the opportunity to present the impact of the proposals on themselves or to suggest alternative solutions, for example, their capacity to increase PAN, changes to school catchment areas etc.

Paragraph 11 of Part 1 of Schedule 5 of TSOR states that a list of persons who were consulted, minutes of all public consultation meetings and the views of the persons consulted are included in or provided in relation to proposals. Specifically, the requirement for meetings to be minuted has not been fulfilled. GBOPS requested that minutes were taken of meetings held on 30 October 2012 and 9 November 2012 but, in both instances, this was refused.

Equality Impact Assessment (“EIA”)

GBOPS believes that the EIA has not been properly considered for the following reasons:

- a) Headteachers in schools in Sandbach are identified as the main stakeholders in relation to the proposal but they haven’t been sufficiently consulted as noted above;
- b) Inadequate consideration has been given to the potential impact of the proposal on the sustainability of other schools in Sandbach. The proposed significant extension to Wheelock offers four empty teaching bases, increasing the scope for/providing “...flexibility to allow for mid-year entrants”. This allows for inter-school movement leading to possible re-organisations within affected schools resulting in fewer but larger classes, redundancies and a reduction in services, for example SEN;
- c) The EIA states that the proposal will not have any effect on good relations between the Council and the Community and that it will engender a positive reaction from the local community. GBOPS believes that the proposal will have a negative effect on the community because of the sustainability issues set out in (b) above;
- d) Sandbach primary schools currently have a strong working relationship. The proposal will inevitably increase competition between the schools affecting community cohesion, and
- e) The EIA does not expect that any further analysis or intelligence will be required to support decision making. GBOPS and the governing bodies of the other primary schools in Sandbach, with the exception of Wheelock, are of the opinion that the EIA does not reflect the risks to other schools which have been identified through the consultation process. They request that an impact assessment on other schools in Sandbach is carried out.

Draft School Organisation Framework (“Framework”)

The Framework maintains that “The Local Authority recognises that an effective working relationship with schools is an essential prerequisite for discharging its statutory responsibilities in terms of ensuring the provision of school places...” GBOPS is of the opinion that the working relationship between CEC and the overriding majority of the schools in Sandbach has been diminished by the failings of the consultation process.

Short term vs longer term requirements

CEC has indicated that there is a requirement for additional places in Sandbach primary schools for September 2013 however no reliable data has been provided to support this. Should this assumption bear out, other schools in the locality are able to accommodate additional pupils either by utilising surplus places (Elworth Hall, Haslington Primary) or by increasing PANs at schools which wouldn’t need to expand their accommodation immediately (St John’s, Offley Primary). In the latter instance, St John’s could move to a 1FE school and Offley Primary to a 2FE form of entry.

One of the key priorities of CEC set out in the Framework is to provide primary schools with single aged classes wherever possible. Increasing Wheelock from a 1FE school to a 1.5FE school explicitly disregards this policy and GBOPS believes this significantly undermines the CEC's commitment to the Framework.

It has been widely publicised that a number of developers have applied for planning permission to build a significant number of houses in several locations throughout Sandbach. The planning applications are at various stages and the outcomes of them will not all be known within the incredibly short proposal timeframe. It is likely that the proportion of pupils in each catchment will change over the next twelve months and the requirement for places at each of the Sandbach primary schools will need to be reconsidered.

Justification of capital spend

The capital cost of the proposal is not insignificant at £1.8 million. Given the current uncertainty over the extent of the increase in the number of houses in Sandbach over the short to medium term, GBOPS challenges CEC to provide evidence that the proposal caters for the longer term population changes in the area and hence is justifiable.

Summary and recommendation

GBOPS, and the governing bodies of other Sandbach primary schools, firmly believes that the current proposal is premature, short-sighted and ill-considered and that a desk-top, tick-box approach has been taken with regard to the consultation process.

The Sandbach primary schools have met to discuss alternative options. The preferred option is that, in the short term, the September 2013 intake is accommodated within existing classroom space. The consensus of opinion is that the current proposal is put on hold whilst a transparent and open exercise is carried out over the next twelve months, engaging Sandbach primary Headteachers and other education professionals, with regard to 2014 and beyond. Within this timeline there will be greater clarity on the quantum and location of new houses in the area which will allow for a sustainable plan based on full knowledge of relevant facts and information, including up to date census data.

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Connection	Agree with Proposal?	Comments
Clerk to High Legh Parish Council	Yes	No additional comments recorded.
Councillor/ Govenor	Yes	All the reasons for the expansion of the school, are well presented in the documentation so I will not repeat them. As a governor of th school and previsou Govenor of the former Ashley School I woulc whole heartedly support his proposal.
Governor	yes	All the reasons for the expansion of the school are well presented in the documentation so I will not repeat them. As a Governor of the school and a previous Governor of the former Ashley School I woulc whole heartedly support this proposal.
Groverner & Staff member	No objection	Appendix 10
headteacher	Yes	The school has been oversubscribed for many years. An in house waiting list of 34 pupils (in catchment) is available for Sept 2013. Once again we will have children living locally who cannot get into their local school.
Nether Alderley Parish Council	Yes	Thank you for sending information about the proposed expansion of Mobberley CE Primary School to Nether Alderley Parish Council.The parish council has considered the details of the proposed expansion and has no objections to the proposed plans.
Parent	Yes	The school is thriving and the children would benefit from individual year classes
parent	Yes	
parent	Yes	more classrooms and more space should lead to better learning for the children
parent	Yes	as a parent of a pupil who was in the 2012 intake, we found it very stressful not knowing if our child would be able to be placed in our only catchment school, our village school. A number of housing developments in Mobberley maens that the infrastructure must adapt due to these changes. An excellent school which will expand and excel.
parent	Yes	I'm very much in favour of the expansion. Mobberley Primary is an outstanding school amd more local children should be given the opportunity to attend.
parent	Yes	This cannot happen soon enough and I am hopeful that a full 7 classes would be implemented straight away as the schools current pupils would benefit massively From being able to continue their education in the company of their year groups. I would also like to suggest that you approach Tatton Estate and secure the purchase of their small two bed property and outbuildings that are next door to the school site, this would provide much needed extra playground classroom or car parking space.
parent	No	We moved to the area from Trafford due to overcrowding in school classes and Mobberley had smaller classes
parent	Yes	
parent	yes	
Parent	yes	It can only be a good thing for the community for this excellent school to be able to increase it's intake.
parent	yes	1.Would like the flow of pupils reviewed as this can be disruptive to classes at the moment. 2. Woul d not like the playground to be reduced in size asa result of the build. 3. Think the Gym/ Dining Room is too small already, would like this to grow also. 4. Need changing rooms for sports, terrible to change in toilets.
Parent	Yes	
Parent	Yes	Excellent, this is really needed to deal with the level of new children in the village. Intake of 30 this year can't be accommodated easily further up the school without more classes. This will also give this great school some much needed space and also save anxiety about split classes- children staying back in some classes etc ,separated from friends etc.
Parent	Yes	
Parent	Yes	
Parent	Yes	
Parent	Yes	I think that increasing the school capacity to cater for the local community is definitely needed. The addition of 2 extra classrooms, enabling each of the 7 years to have it's own classroom is invaluable and a step in the right direction in terms of the children's social development, enabling them to grow and progress throughout the school as a class unit. And from a teaching point of view, better that children in different years are not mixed, so teaching staff can fully concentrate on the relevant curriculum.
Parent	Yes	Though the demographic reasons for expansion of the school are made clear in the consultation document the views of the school staff are not. Parents are being asked to make a decision on this issue without any contribution from the staff. It would have been helpful if there is some reassurance that this expansion will not affect the education we currently enjoy at this wonderful school. the school currently does not enjoy free play on grassed area. I would love to see a "real" playground included in the new build planning. the existing school field is hardly used and this seems to contradict the recommendation of outdoor play for school children.
parent	Yes	
Parent	Yes	
Parent	Yes	
Parent	Yes	Mobberley primary is a good school but should it enlarge in order to maintain standards, class sizes should not increase. Consideration must be given to the lack of play space and sports facilities which is currently the case. Physical activity and team participation is an essential element of a child's education and must not be overlooked.
parent	Yes	
Parent	Yes	
Parent	Yes	Excellent in my opinion. More pupils and more bigger/better facilities can only add to the already good school that is Mobberley Primary.
Parent	Yes	
Parent	yes	This expansion simply has to happen. The current system of mixing classes is completely ludicrous! Streaming children at such a young age, however they brand it is just NOT right. I have spoken to several friends who are teachers, one of whom has worked in a school with the same system; they all agree that this sytem is far from ideal. My child's education is suffering simply because there is not enough room in the correct peer group class.
parent	Yes	We are desperate to stop the mixing of classes at Mobberley and would therefore like to see 7 classes in 7 classrooms as soon as possible (with no gentle phasing in starting with only 6 classes) Our child has been kept down a year and this seems to have totally affected progress, both socially and educationally.
Parent	Yes	Fabulous idea, much needed
Parent	Yes	This is urgently required to keep our school to the outstanding creditation it has already received. We are bursting at the seams

parent	yes	It is necessary to enlarge the school due to a higher number of children within the catchmnet area due to new housing and growing families. I agree that it would be better for parents, children and teacher to have one year group within each class as it causes difficulties when children are "held back" with the lower year in one clas. However, problems which need to be addressed/considered are pick up times are alreday extremely congested so a better system needs to be in place and car parking is a big issue. the school car park is small and fortunately the local pub next door allows parents to use its car park however, re-instating the school bus which was withdrawn last year would alleviate this problem as there would be fewer cars needing to park.
Parent	Yes	It is necessary to enlarge the school due to higher numbers of children within the catchement area due to new housing and growing families. I agree that it would be better for paretns, children and teacher: to have one year group within each class as it causes difficulties when children are "held back" with the lower year in one class. However, problems which need to be addressed/ considered are pick up times are already extremely congested so a better system needs to be in place and car parking is a big issues. The school car psark is small and the school bus which was withdrawn last year would alleviate this problem as there would be fewer cars needing to park.
Pupil	yes	I want to be with my friends
Pupil	Yes	I would like to have more members of our school as long as they made the playground bigger too, so we could all run around and not get injured.
Pupil	Yes	I think it would be good for the new children to get to come to school with their friends from playgroup like I did It is hard to make new friends. I would feel irratated if I was you!
Pupil	Yes	I would feel sad if I couldn't come to this school because this is a happy friendly school.
Pupil	Yes	Because we learn lots and do good trips so I think that if more classrooms are built more children can enjoy Mobberley School.
Pupil	Yes	Because there are lots of friends and could be more friends.