

DECISION NOTICE

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

Decision maker: Cabinet Member for Children and Families

Date: 27 April 2016

Decision in the matter of: Proposed School Expansions Crewe

- Decision:**
1. That support be given to the proposal made by the Monks Coppenhall Community Primary School Governing Body to expand the school from 420 places (2FE) to 630 (3FE) places providing an additional 210 pupil places to commence during the academic year 2017-2018.
 2. That support be given to the proposal made by Hungerford Primary Academy to expand the school from 420 places (2FE) to 630 (3FE) places providing an additional 210 pupil places to commence during the academic year 2017-2018.
 3. That the Wistaston Academy Trust be informed that their proposal to expand the school from 420 places (2FE) to 630 (3FE) places cannot be supported on this occasion and they be informed of the reasons for this decision.

Background: As the Strategic Commissioner of School Places, Cheshire East Council has a statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places for children resident in its area. An analysis of the latest pupil forecasts identified the need to provide additional primary school places in Crewe in response to increasing pupil populations. The data produced indicates the need for an extra 420 school places (reception to year 6).

This recommendation is made on the basis of the outcomes of the consultation exercise which included Hungerford Primary Academy and Wistaston Academy pupil feedback, and Monks Coppenhall pupil feedback, together with a review of the latest data which included the October 2015 based interim pupil forecasts, the location of schools with forecast spare capacity and new housing development in the area. Consideration was given to particular concerns, namely the impact of expansion on the future viability of schools with vacancies and the proximity of Crewe schools to planned housing development.

Consideration was also given to the establishment of a new school.

This analysis informed this recommendation that the solution to the forecast need for Crewe must be met by expansion of the two schools located in the north of the town – Monks Coppenhall Community Primary School and Hungerford Primary Academy. This will ensure there is sufficient capacity to mitigate the impact of approved new housing development in this area of the town and allow schools with vacancies forecast over the planning period to meet the demand for school places in the south of the town.

Meetings were held between 29 and 31 March with the headteachers and representatives of governors of the three schools to provide an overview of the responses from the consultation and next steps. The data produced in relation to the latest new housing development pupil yields was shared. For two of the three schools, guidance issued by the Department for Education in relation to the expansion of an existing academy was also shared to facilitate discussion about the requirements for making changes to funding agreements.

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

Approved:

Signed
Councillor Liz Durham (Cabinet Member for Housing and Families)

Date: 27 April 2016

Advising Officer:

Signed.....
Jacky Forster (Director of Education and 14-19 Skills)