



**PROPOSAL FOR THE ENLARGEMENT
OF
OAKEFIELD PRIMARY AND NURSERY
SCHOOL, CREWE**

PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

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OBJECTIVE OF THIS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

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

INTRODUCTION

The Crewe Local Area Partnership (LAP) has 21 primary schools and 5 secondary schools covering the areas of Crewe, Nantwich, Sandbach, and Shavington. The total primary school capacity across this area is 7002 pupil places. 14 of these primary schools are located within Crewe town providing 4925 pupil places for this area.

Pupil forecasts for Crewe indicate that there will be a shortfall of places with only 1% and 2% vacancies across all 14 schools by 2015 and 2016. This gives an average number of vacancies per school of less than one place per year group for 2016.

Crewe (town)

School	Status
Beechwood	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	Community
Pebblebrook Primary	Community
St Mary's Catholic Primary	Voluntary Aided
Underwood West Primary	Community
Vine Tree Primary	Community
Wistaston Green Primary	Community

Of the 14 primary schools serving this area, 13 schools are forecast to be over capacity or to have vacancies below the Council's LAP target of 5%. Of the forecast 83 spaces by 2016, it is important to bear in mind that these are across all year groups and 66% of these vacancies are in one school. If additional capacity is not created, this could mean children travelling across town to access the limited number of places available.

At both primary and secondary phase, pupils that are admitted to Crewe schools are predominantly resident within the school's 'catchment area' or live within the Crewe LAP.

Due to changes in demographics for this area the Local Authority received applications for admission in September 2011 in excess of the 708 reception class places available with a total (to date) of 750 admissions. Although the Local Authority has taken measures to alleviate the immediate shortfall in school places, long term measures are necessary to accommodate the anticipated increase in demand due to population growth within the Crewe area.

The Local Authority is therefore proposing the extension of Oakefield Primary & Nursery School to provide an additional 105 places with a proposed completion date of September 2012.

Oakefield Primary & Nursery School opened in September 2008 as a new school following the amalgamation of Church Coppenhall Junior and Broad Street Infant schools as a 11-class (315 place), one and a half-form entry school. The school is sited close to Crewe town centre.

ADMISSIONS

The number of children resident within the schools catchment area is nearly double the school's current capacity of 315. It is proposed that the school should be expanded to provide a 2 form of entry primary school with an admission number of 60 pupils per year.

The number of pupils resident within the school catchment area has been increasing since 2009 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 of classrooms to take the school up to 420 places with a PAN of 60 (2FE).

Oakefield Primary & Nursery School is currently in Special Measures following an Ofsted inspection in January 2011. The Local Authority has already implemented an Improvement Plan to address the areas of concern and is confident that by working closely with the school's Leadership Team and Governing Body it will deliver the required positive outcomes for Children, securing a positive evaluation at the next interim inspection.

SITE AND BUILDINGS

The site was originally developed to accommodate a one and a half form entry primary school with 315 pupil places. However the site is sufficient to expand to accommodate 420 pupil places retaining adequate playground and playing field provision.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

The Oakefield proposal was one of the approved schemes by the Council's Cabinet on the 5th September 2011.

The building work would be funded from the Council's 2011/2012 Capital Programme. The capital investment required is estimated at £741,000 and this represents the balance of the current Children and Families Department Capital programme for Basic Need.

TIMESCALES

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

22 November 2011 to 20 December 2011	Formal Public Consultations
22 December 2011	The Council's Portfolio Holders decision on Public Notices
3 January 2012 to 31 January 2012	Representation period
6 February 2012	Cabinet decision
13 February 2012	Implementation
September 2012	Date that the enlargement would be completed

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