

**PROPOSAL FOR THE ENLARGEMENT
OF
PEBBLE BROOK PRIMARY 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 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 19 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	4 Weeks 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.