

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

PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

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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 19 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	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.