

**PROPOSAL FOR THE ENLARGEMENT  
OF  
MOBBERLEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
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 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**

<b>School</b>	<b>Status</b>
Bexton Primary School	Community
Chelford Church of England Primary School	Community
Egerton Primary School	Community
High Legh Primary School	Community
Little Bollington Church of England Primary School	Community
Manor Park School and Nursery	Community
Mobberley Church of England Primary School	Community
Nether Alderley Primary School	Community
Peover Superior Endowed ( Controlled ) Primary School	Community
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.

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

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.

<b>Straight Line Distances between:-</b>	<b>Mobberley</b>	<b>Manor Park</b>	<b>St Vincent's</b>	<b>Egerton</b>	<b>Bexton</b>
Mobberley CE Primary	x	2.086	2.165	2.762	3.095

<b>Straight Line Distances between:-</b>	<b>High Legh</b>	<b>Little Bollington</b>	<b>Chelford</b>	<b>Peover</b>	<b>Nether Alderley</b>
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.

<b>Reception Class Year of Intake</b>	<b>Number of Children Resident in the School's Catchment Area</b>
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:

<b>22 October 2012 to 19 November 2012</b>	Formal Public Consultations
<b>3 December 2013</b>	Meeting of the Council's Portfolio Holder for permission to issue Public Notices
<b>10 December 2012 to 7 January 2013</b>	4 weeks Representation Period
<b>4 February 2013</b>	Cabinet decision
<b>11 February 2013</b>	Implementation
<b>September 2013</b>	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](http://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](mailto:SOCS@cheshireeast.gov.uk) Tel: 0300 123 5012.