



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

PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

**Tony Crane
Director of Children's Services
Children and Families Services
Cheshire East Council
Westfields, Sandbach
Cheshire
CW11 1HZ**

November 2013

OBJECTIVE OF THIS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

To undertake formal consultations with parents and carers of pupils at Offley Primary School and other interested parties before a final decision is taken regarding a proposal to expand Offley Primary School.

The Local Authority's proposal is to expand Offley Primary School, Sandbach from 315 to 420 pupil places for completion in September 2015.

INTRODUCTION

Offley Primary School is a popular and successful school with a published admission number (PAN) of 45 pupil places and overall accommodation for 315 pupils across the 7 year groups.

The Local Authority is proposing an increase in the school's current capacity of 315 pupils to provide 420 pupil places with a proposed implementation date of September 2015. This increase, if approved, will provide sufficient accommodation for an intake at the normal point of entry to the school (the reception class) of 60 pupils with the school operating in the longer term as a 2 form of entry primary school.

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

Congleton Local Area Partnership (LAP)

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 the total primary school capacity across the LAP is 7191

Sandbach Planning Area

Due to the large nature of the LAP's, for school place planning purposes LAP's are broken down into smaller areas called Planning Areas. Offley Primary is situated in the Sandbach Planning Area consisting of 8 primary schools, 6 located in and around Sandbach Town centre and 2 fall within the Crewe Local Area Partnership and serve the Haslington area (Haslington Primary and The Dingle Primary). The combined capacity for the 8 schools is 1915 school places and 1295 school places across the 6 Sandbach town primary schools.

| School Name | Status | PAN | Overall Net Capacity |
|--|----------------------|-----|----------------------|
| Elworth Church of England Primary School | Voluntary Controlled | 40 | 280 |
| Elworth Hall Primary School | Community | 30 | 210 |
| Haslington Primary School | Community | 40 | 270 |
| Offley Primary School | Community | 45 | 315 |
| Sandbach Community Primary School | Community | 15 | 105 |
| St John's C of E Primary School | Voluntary Aided | 25 | 175 |
| The Dingle Primary School | Community | 50 | 350 |
| Wheelock Primary School | Community | 30 | 210 |
| Area Totals | | 275 | 1915 |

The latest forecasts (October 2012) shown in the table below indicate a 258 shortfall in the number of primary school places in the Sandbach Planning Area by 2018 and for the 6 schools located in Sandbach itself, these forecasts indicate a shortfall of 227 places for the same period.

| Sandbach Planning Area (8 primary schools) | Capacity | Number on Roll in Oct'12 | Academic Years | | | | | |
|---|----------|--------------------------|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | 13/14 | 14/15 | 15/16 | 16/17 | 17/18 | 18/19 |
| Forecast unused places | 1915 | 1865 | 4 | -65 | -116 | -166 | -210 | -258 |
| Forecast % unused places | | | 0% | -3% | -6% | -9% | -11% | -13% |

| Sandbach Planning Area (6 primary Schools) | Capacity | Number on Roll in Oct'12 | Academic Years | | | | | |
|---|----------|--------------------------|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | 13/14 | 14/15 | 15/16 | 16/17 | 17/18 | 18/19 |
| Forecast unused places | 1295 | 1284 | -23 | -82 | -117 | -152 | -185 | -227 |
| Forecast % unused places | | | -2% | -6% | -9% | -12% | -14% | -18% |

In response to previous forecasts a review of provision was undertaken, resulting in a proposal to increase the capacity at Wheelock Primary from 210 to 315 pupil places with implementation from September 2014. This proposal received final approval at the meeting of the School Organisation Sub Committee held on 26 April 2013.

The permanent additional accommodation at Wheelock Primary school will increase the overall combined capacity for this planning area to 2020 pupil places, which includes 1400 pupil places for the 6 town schools. Taking into account the 6 primary schools, this additional accommodation when phased in at the normal point of entry to the school would leave a remaining shortfall of 122 pupil places by 2019, as set out in the table below.

| Academic Year | Shortfall in places | Wheelock expansion cumulative impact | Additional places still needed |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 13/14 | 23 | 15 | 8 |
| 14/15 | 82 | 30 | 52 |
| 15/16 | 117 | 45 | 72 |
| 16/17 | 152 | 60 | 92 |
| 17/18 | 185 | 75 | 110 |
| 18/19 | 227 | 90 | 137 |
| 19/20 | 227 | 105 | 122 |

In addition to the pupil forecasts, consideration has been given to the possibility of additional pupils in the area in future years due to new housing. For the purpose of this analysis, four developments have been considered which together could yield 124 primary aged pupils on completion. These developments include 3 which have already commenced and one development that has received planning approval and is expected to commence during 2013-2014.

When assessing the potential impact of new housing development, phasing is applied to determine an estimate of the number of additional pupils to the area each year based on an anticipated 40 new dwellings per year per developer. The anticipated impact of the two additional developments (Hind Heath Road and Foden's Test Track) on current forecasts is set out in the table below:

| Academic Year | Forecast Shortfall in Places | Cumulative Pupil Yield from New Housing | Additional Places Needed | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | | Before Wheelock Expansion | After Wheelock Expansion |
| 13/14 | 23 | | 23 | 8 |
| 14/15 | 82 | 14 | 96 | 66 |
| 15/16 | 117 | 28 | 145 | 100 |
| 16/17 | 152 | 40 | 192 | 132 |
| 17/18 | 185 | 48 | 233 | 158 |
| 18/19 | 227 | 56 | 283 | 193 |
| 19/20 | 227 | 63 | 290 | 185 |

In order to ensure that the Council meets its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for children resident in its area, it is proposed that a further 140 pupil places should be provided in Sandbach, mainly phased in from September 2015 through admission to the reception class at the normal point of entry to the school.

In addition to the proposed Offley Primary expansion, which would provide a further 105 school places, the authority is also proposing the expansion of Elworth Church of England Primary school from 280 places to 315 thus providing a further 35 places. The proposal for Elworth CE Primary being less than 25% growth does not require statutory consultation.

The overall increase including Wheelock Primary School would be 245 additional pupil places by 2021. Further analysis will be necessary to consider the remaining 45 shortfall in capacity forecast for 2021 taking into account revised annual forecasts, increased school capacity where relevant and the actual impact of potential new housing in the 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 September 2013 the Local Authority have admitted a total of 192 children in to the reception classes and although this figure is reduced in comparison to the September 2012 intake the local authority was expecting this slight reduction for with demand expected to increase again from 2015 onwards

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 420 places with a PAN of 60 (2FE).

Birth Rate Data

| Sandbach | | | | |
|----------|----------------------|--|------|--------|
| Year | Reception Admissions | Live Births (4 years prior to admission round) | Diff | % Diff |
| 2008 | 253 | | | |
| 2009 | 254 | | | |
| 2010 | 261 | 238 | 23 | 9.7% |

| | | | | |
|------|-----|-----|----|-------|
| 2011 | 255 | 221 | 34 | 15.4% |
| 2012 | 307 | 247 | 60 | 24.3% |
| 2013 | 269 | 225 | 44 | 19.6% |
| 2014 | | 223 | | |
| 2015 | | 236 | | |

Offley Primary Admissions

As previously mentioned in September 2012 the authority admitted additional children into the Reception class to accommodate local demand. Offley Primary was one of the schools that admitted over their PAN, taking in 60 children against the PAN of 45. At the time no extra accommodation was provided to the school and the school accommodated these additional children in existing classrooms.

The number of children in the school's catchment area has consistently exceeded the number of places available for Reception and for 2013 admissions there were 50 children resident in the area.

| Reception Year of Intake | Number of Children Resident in the School's Catchment Area |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 2010 | 39 |
| 2011 | 36 |
| 2012 | 53 |
| 2013 | 50 |

As a popular school, the number of first preferences has exceeded the 45 places available.

| Reception Year of Intake | Number of First Preferences |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2010 | 48 |
| 2011 | 49 |
| 2012 | 47 |
| 2013 | 52 |

SITE AND BUILDINGS

Situated in a residential area on the edge of Sandbach Town the school was originally built as separate Infant and Junior buildings on the same site. The intake for both schools was 60 per year group and when the schools were amalgamated into a primary school in 2007 the initially the intake for the new primary school remained at 60.

Since the amalgamation building work has been completed to provide a covered walk way linking the 2 separate buildings which resulted in a creating a larger staffroom, new main entrance with administration offices and an open play courtyard. However, the building work also resulted in the loss of 2 classrooms and consequently the intake was reduced to 45 per year group from September 2010.

The school currently consists of 12 classrooms, 8 of which are closed and 4 are semi open. The school retains 2 halls, both of which are used for assemblies, PE and drama. The hall in the Infant section of the school is used for dining with hot meals being served for the whole schools. In addition the school has an IT Suite, areas for small group teaching, library/research area and food technology area both of which are located in the covered walkway area.

A private pre-school is also located on site but the site remains sufficient to allow for expansion to accommodate a 2 class extension to provide a total of 420 pupil places whilst retaining adequate playground and playing field provision.

Expansion of the school will be subject to planning permission.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

The proposed expansion of Offley Primary School to increase the school's capacity to 420 pupil places and 2 forms of entry (FE) is being funded under the Government's Targeted Basic Need Programme. A successful bid has secured £922,179 which is ring fenced against the proposed expansion of Offley Primary School. Should the expansion not be approved the funding will have to be returned to the Education Funding Agency.

During formal consultation period a feasibility study will be commissioned to identify more accurately the costs of implementation.

The Capital project will be subject to Cheshire East Councils Capital Programme approval and monitoring process

Further details of the Targeted Basic Need programme are available on the DFE website.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/schoolscapital/a00222248/targeted-basic-need-programme>

TIMESCALES

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

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 10 December 2013 to 21 January 2014 | Formal Public Consultations |
| 17 March 2014 | Meeting of the Council's Portfolio Holder for Permission to Publish Notices. |
| 3 April 2014 to 30 April 2014 | 4 Weeks Representation Period |
| June (date to be confirmed) | Cabinet Decision (School Organisation Sub – Committee if objections are received) |
| June 2014 | Implementation |
| September 2015 | Date for Completion |

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, Floor 7. C/O Municipal Building, Earle Street, Crewe CW1 2BJ, e-mail: SOCS@cheshireeast.gov.uk Tel: 0300 123 5012.