

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Date of Meeting:	6 January 2014
Report of:	Tony Crane, Director of Children's Services
Subject/Title:	Proposed Expansion of Manor Park School and Nursery, Knutsford
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Rachel Bailey

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 As the Strategic Commissioner of School Places, Cheshire East Council has a statutory duty to commission sufficient school places for children resident in its area in accordance with Section 14 of the Education Act 1996.
- 1.2 The latest pupil forecasts indicate a shortfall in capacity in the Knutsford area of 166 pupil places by 2018, which the Local Authority is seeking to address by expanding existing schools. Detail is provided later in this report and attached as **Appendix 1**.
- 1.3 This decision paper sets out an expansion proposal for Knutsford in response to this anticipated shortfall:
 - **Manor Park School and Nursery** from 210 to 315 pupil places providing an additional 105 pupil places for implementation from **September 2015**
- 1.4 Statutory consultation procedures would be required for the proposed expansion of Manor Park School and Nursery as the proposal, if approved, would fall within the category of a significant enlargement by increasing the school by more than 30 pupil places and by more than 25%.
- 1.5 Informal consultation meetings with headteachers of the primary schools in this planning area were held on 31 October 2012, 20 December 2012, 10 May 2013 and 8 October 2013.

2.0 Decision Requested

That approval is given to commence statutory consultation on the proposed expansion of Manor Park School and Nursery from 210 to 315 pupil places for implementation from September 2015.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The rationale for change is set out in the draft consultation document attached as **Appendix 2**.
- 3.2 The proposal has the full support of the headteacher and governing body of the school (**Appendix 3**).
- 3.3 There are 7 primary schools located in the Knutsford Planning Area, with 4 of these located in and around the town centre and 3 located in the nearby villages of Mobberley, High Legh and Little Bollington. The combined capacity across all 7 schools is 1442 school places with 1050 in the 4 Knutsford town primary schools.
- 3.4 Based on the October 2012 School Census, pupil forecasts for the Knutsford Planning Area indicates that there will be a significant shortfall of places across the 7 schools of 166 places by 2018. This indicated shortfall excludes any level of 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:

Knutsford Planning Area	Number on Roll Oct'12	October 2012 School Census Forecasts					
		13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
	1373	1422	1454	1498	1531	1572	1608
Unused places		20	-12	-56	-89	-130	-166
% Unused Places		1%	-1%	-4%	-6%	-9%	-11%

- 3.5 In order to ensure that there are sufficient places for families seeking places at local schools, additional places are needed in this area from 2014 when there is forecast to be 12 places short. The proposed expansion of Manor Park for September 2015 is therefore one of two possible solutions for the Knutsford area. Work is currently being undertaken on a solution for Mobberley village to determine the deliverability of an expansion of Mobberley CE Primary School to increase capacity from 140 to 210, which would also be subject to statutory consultation procedures due to the potential increase in capacity falling within the category of a significant enlargement.
- 3.6 The additional accommodation planned for Manor Park would increase the overall combined capacity for this planning area to 1547 pupil places which, when phased in at the normal point of entry to the school, would leave a shortfall of 61 places by 2021. The potential increase to Mobberley CE Primary, as aforementioned, would address the remaining shortfall by 2020 by providing an additional 70 places phased in at the normal point of entry.

Academic Year	Unused Places/ Shortfall in Places	Manor Park expansion cumulative impact	Additional places still required	<i>Mobberley CE possible solution</i>	<i>Impact (unused places)</i>
13/14	20				
14/15	12		12	10	-2
15/16	56	15	41	20	21
16/17	89	30	59	30	29
17/18	130	45	85	40	45
18/19	166	60	106	50	56
19/20	166	75	91	60	31
20/21	166	90	76	70	6
21/22	166	105	61	70	-9

Current forecasts project to 2018/19 - the forecast of -166 has been assumed for subsequent years.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 Manor Park School and Nursery is situated in Knutsford Ward. However, consultation would be undertaken with neighbouring wards.

Chelford
High Legh
Knutsford
Mobberley

5.0 Local Ward Members

George Walton – Chelford
Steve Wilkinson – High Legh
Stewart Gardiner – Knutsford
Olivia Hunter – Knutsford
Peter Raynes - Knutsford
Jamie Macrae – Mobberley

6.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Director of Finance and Business Services)

- 6.1 The proposed expansion of **Manor Park School and Nursery** to increase the school's capacity to 315 pupil places and 1.5 forms of entry (FE) is being funded under the Government's Targeted Basic Need Programme.
- 6.2 A feasibility study has been commissioned to identify more accurately the costs of implementation and this should be received during November. This detail will be included within the outline business case, which will be submitted for consideration and approval through the Council's internal financial approval process.

- 6.3 All Capital projects greater than £250,000 are subject to Cheshire East Council's Capital Programme approval. This scheme will be presented for Gateway 1 Approval at TEG, on the 6 January 2014.
- 6.4 In accordance with the Cheshire East Council's Constitution - Finance and Contract Procedure Rules, financial approval of this scheme will be sought at Cabinet, as part of the 2013-14 Three Quarter Year Review reporting cycle, as a fully funded supplementary capital estimate
- 6.5 It should be noted that there will be revenue implications for the local authority if more pupils are admitted to the school from outside Cheshire East. However, this will be offset by the receipt of additional Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) income.
- 6.6 The delegated funding schools receive in any financial year, is based on the pupils in the school in October of the previous financial year. For schools admitting additional pupils from a September intake, this will impact in the April of the following financial year. Where there are a significant number of additional pupils at a September intake, the school would require additional financial support in the financial year the pupils are admitted.
- 6.7 DSG is based on the 2013-14 formula and a change from current full capacity to proposed full capacity. There will be changes to this formula in 2014-15 (figures not yet available) and the Schools Finance team have been advised that the DfE are planning the introduction of a National Funding Formula from April 2015.

7.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 7.1 Statutory consultation would be required for the proposed expansion of Manor Park School and Nursery as the change, if approved, would increase the capacity of the school by more than 30 pupils and by more than 25%.
- 7.2 The regulations that apply are The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended by The School Organisation and Governance (Amendment)(England) Regulations 2007 which came into force on 21 January 2008 and The School Organisation and Governance (Amendment)(England) Regulations 2009, which came into force on 1 September 2009).
- 7.3 The 5 statutory stages to expanding a school are:
1. Consultation
 2. Publication
 3. Representation
 4. Decision
 5. Implementation.

Proposed timescales for the statutory process are:

6 January 2014	Portfolio Holder's Decision to formally consult on expansion
14 January 2014 to 11 February 2014	Consultation Period
18 March 2014	Portfolio Holder's Decision on Public Notices
3 April 2014 to 30 April 2014	Representation Period (4 weeks statutory)
June 2014	Cabinet decision (or School Organisation Sub Committee if objections are received.)
September 2015	Proposed Implementation

8.0 Risk Management

- 8.1 Disruption to pupils, staff and the community must be kept to a minimum during the consultation period, and any subsequent building programme, to ensure that standards continue to improve
- 8.2 The proposed expansions were identified to address a Basic Need in the area. This is in order to ensure that the Authority meets its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places in this area.
- 8.3 The proposed expansion of Manor Park School and Nursery is to be funded from Targeted Basic Need Grant. To complete the build by September 2015 the design and developments works through to the planning stage will be undertaken "at risk". If the expansion proposal is not subsequently approved and the scheme cannot proceed, the grant will need to be returned to the Education Funding Agency and the abortive costs found from revenue.
- 8.4 Implementation of the proposal will be subject to the necessary planning permissions. In addition, the proposed expansion will almost certainly require approval under Section 77 of School Standards and Framework Act as the building solution will encroach onto areas deemed as "playing field" under the DFE definition.
- 8.5 The Equality Impact Assessment is attached as **Appendix 4**.

9.0 Access to Information

Name: Barbara Dale
 Designation: School Admissions and Organisation Manager
 Tel No: 01270 686392
 Email: Barbara.Dale@cheshireeast.gov.uk