

STATUTORY PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO MAINTAINED SCHOOL

(School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013)

Local Authority Proposal

1. School and local authority details

Offley Primary School
Offley Road
Sandbach
Cheshire
CW11 1GY

Offley Primary School is a Community School maintained by Cheshire East Borough Council,
Westfields,
Middlewich Road,
Sandbach,
Cheshire, CW11 1HZ

2. Implementation

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

September 2015

3. Proposed Alteration

A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

The current capacity of the school is 315 school places. The proposal is to expand the school to

provide 420 places by increasing the existing capacity by 105 places for implementation by September 2015.

No new site will be required but the proposal requires that the school increases from 12 to 14 class bases. The site is sufficient to expand to accommodate 420 pupil places retaining adequate playground and playing field provision.

Subject to approval the local authority, as the admission authority for the school, will determine an increase in the Published Admission Number from 45 to 60 in April 2014 for September 2015.

4. Need or demand for additional places

A statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

The latest forecasts (October 2012) 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 town itself, these same 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 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 in the area 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. However, 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.

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 also been given to the possibility of additional pupils in the area 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.

5. Objectives of the Proposal and Educational Standards

Offley is a successful school achieving a “Good” category from Ofsted at the last inspection in March 2011. Demand for places from local residents and the number of children resident in the schools catchment area has been increasing in recent years.

Over recent years the number of first preference applications has exceeded the 45 places available in the reception class and for admission in 2012 the Local Authority, in agreement with the school, admitted 60 pupils to ensure that local children could access a school place within a reasonable distance from their home address. No extra accommodation was provided to the school at that time, as a result the school reorganised into single age classes in Key Stage 1.

Reception Admissions	PAN	Catchment Area Data – Reception Admissions	Number of First Preferences
2011	45	39	48
2012	45	52	49
2013	45	50	47
2014	45	40	52

It is therefore recommended that the local demand for places at this school and due to new housing justifies an extension to take the school up to 420 places with an admission number of 60 pupils per year group.

6. Effect on other Educational Establishments in the Area

The Local Authority has worked with the schools and held meetings with headteacher’s of the primary schools in this planning area on 30 October 2012, 9 November 2012, 14 January 2013 and 25 September 2013. When identifying the schools for expansion consideration was given to a number of issues including the nature of the site and whether it could accommodate an expansion, the extent to which the school serves the community, the schools ability to deliver a full range of the curriculum and social experiences and the latest Ofsted inspection. Cheshire East Council then undertook an informal consultation which was implemented between 10 December 2013 to 21 January 2014. Feedback from the consultation was presented to the Cabinet Member for Children and family Services and Rural Affairs at a meeting on 31 March 2014 where a decision was taken to issue public notices. All documentation, reports and minutes of the Council meetings can be accessed via the Council’s website. <http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/school/schoolorganisation.aspx>

7. Project costs and Value for Money

A statement of the estimated project costs and indication of how these will be met, including long term value for money will be achieved.

The Authority believes that to provide long term value for money it is right to expand schools with permanent accommodation where possible. Permanent expansion provides new facilities giving reassurance to parents and children with good quality learning environment and providing reassurance to parents that their children’s needs will be met and providing children with the most favourable good quality learning environment.

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 from the Government's Targeted Basic Need Programme. A feasibility study has been undertaken and the project costs are anticipated as £529,000. Monies secured against Targeted Basic Need Programme are ring-fenced against a proposed project and any unspent monies will be returned to the education Funding Agency. Should the expansion not be approved all funding will have to be returned to the Funding Agency.

Confirmation of a successful Targeted Basic Need bid for the expansion of Offley Primary School and Nursery was received from Education Funding Agency on 1 August 2013.

8. Objections and comments

Within 4 weeks from the date of publication of this proposal i.e by Wednesday **14 May 2014** any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to:-

Children's Services
Organisation and Capital Strategy,
Floor 7 c/o Municipal Buildings
Earle Street
Crewe
CW1 2BJ

or via email to SOCS@cheshireeast.gov.uk