



CREWE PRIMARY SCHOOL EXPANSION PROPOSALS

**Consultation
25 February - 25 March**

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Mark Bayley
Head of Service – Achievement and School Improvement
Cheshire East Borough Council
Westfields, Sandbach
Cheshire
CW11 1HZ

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Introduction

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for children resident in its area. An analysis of the latest pupil forecasts has identified the need to provide additional primary school places in Crewe in response to increasing pupil populations. The data produced indicates the need for an extra 420 school places (reception to year 6) which, if agreed, would provide 60 more reception class places from September 2017¹. The Local Authority has therefore considered the current capacity of schools in Crewe and their potential for expansion using each school's site information. This identified three schools that could potentially be expanded, as shown in the table below. Following discussions with the Local Authority, the governing bodies/academy trusts, as shown in Table 1 below, have considered the need for extra school places in the area and have resolved to publish expansion proposals for their schools.

Table 1 – Expansion proposals

School	Proposer	Extra Pupil Places	Extra Reception Class Places
Hungerford Primary Academy	Academy Trust	210	30
Monks Coppenhall Primary	Governing Body	210	30
Wistaston Academy	Academy Trust	210	30

Feedback your views....

Before any decisions can be taken on which expansion proposals should be progressed, the Local Authority, together in partnership with the academy trust and governing body proposers, would like to hear your views. All feedback received during the consultation period will be considered before decisions are taken on whether to proceed with a proposal.

It is important to note that the Local Authority has identified the need for an additional 420 places for September 2017 and will consider all feedback received before deciding which of the three proposals it will support. We therefore urge you to consider the information presented in this document and return your comments and views by 24 March. Further information about how you can do this is provided towards the end of this document.

Background Information

As the Strategic Commissioner of School Places, Cheshire East Council has a statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places for children resident in its area. October 2014 School Census based data indicates a shortage in the number of reception class

¹ Whilst it is intended that new places will be in place for September 2017, the implementation date cannot be guaranteed and therefore project completion may be delayed until later in the school term. This will depend on a number of factors, including planning permission and Section 77 playing field approval.

capacity in Crewe from September 2015. This is based on the current 780 reception class places. Whilst the pupil based data shows a small surplus in 2017, overall, forecasts indicate the need for a minimum of two extra reception classes (60 pupil places) to ensure there are sufficient places to meet demand and to provide some spare places (operational surplus) for accommodating reasonable journey times to school, some degree of parental choice and flexibility to allow for admissions in-year.

Table 2- Shows the forecast shortfall/surplus reception class places for the period 2015 - 2019.

Table 2 - Crewe Planning Area Pupil Forecasts

Reception Class Forecasts Shortfall (-) or Surplus Places (+)					Reception Class Forecasts Including 2% operational surplus.				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
-74	-65	+24	-40	-40	-91	-82	+9	-56	-56

Data source: October 2014 based pupil forecasts

Table 3 - Shows the forecast shortfall/surplus primary places (reception–year 6) for the period 2015-2019.

Table 3 - Crewe Planning Area Pupil Forecasts

Reception – Year 6 Class Forecasts Shortfall (-) or Surplus Places (+)					Reception – Year 6 Class Forecasts Including 2% operational surplus.				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
+24	-130	-214	-277	-313	-86	-243	-328	-393	-429

Data source: October 2014 based pupil forecasts

The data shown above in Tables 2 and 3 has taken into account the estimated number of pupils from new approved housing developments in the area as of 15.4.2015. This estimated number of school aged children is referred to in the table as the 'pupil yield'². Information about which housing developments have been included is set out in Table 4 below.

Table 4 – Housing Developments with Planning Permission at 15 April 2015

Approved Housing Development	Catchment School	Pupil Yield Included in the Forecasts	Additional Pupil Yield Beyond the Forecasts	Total Estimated Pupil Yield
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² Pupil yields are derived from the number of new houses with 2 or more bedrooms planned for the development and to this is applied a formula to produce a pupil yield. The formula is number of 2+bedroomed houses multiplied by 0.19 to give a primary school yield and the number of 2+bedroomed houses multiplied by 0.13 to give a secondary school yield.

Former Victoria School Site	Beechwood	10	0	10
Linden Court	Brierley	3	0	3
Land North of Parkers Road	Leighton and Mablins Lane	56	16	72
Coppenhall East	Monks Coppenhall	84	29	113
Maw Green	Monks Coppenhall	28	2	30
Former Royal Scot Pub,	Monks Coppenhall	2	0	2
Bradfield Road	St Michael's Academy	2	0	2
Bombardier	Underwood West	21	0	21
West View	Underwood West	6	0	6
Rear of 44 Church Lane, Wistaston	Wistaston Church Lane	2	0	2
Total Pupil Yields		214	47	261

Table 4 shows that an estimated 47 additional pupil places could be needed beyond the forecasting period based on the approved housing developments and pupil yield methodology as at 15 April 2015.

In addition, there have been a further 6 new housing developments approved for this area since these forecasts were produced. These are shown below in table 5. This additional demand will be included in the 2015 based forecasts, which will be published later in the year. It is therefore useful to take into account the additional demand that these new houses could generate when considering the school organisation proposals set out in this consultation document.

Table 5 - Housing developments with planning approval since 15 April 2015

Approved Housing Development	Catchment School	Total Pupil Yield
138 Sydney Road	Hungerford	43
35-41 Mablins Lane	Mablins Lane	3
Broughton Road, Crewe	Monks Coppenhall	22
Land to the north of Wistaston Green Road, Wistaston	Wistaston Green	27
Land West Of, Broughton Road,	Monks Coppenhall	10
Site of 2 and 4 Heathfield Ave/29, 29a and 31 Hightown	Beechwood	2
Total		107

The additional 47 primary pupil yield estimated for beyond the forecasting period together with the 107 primary pupil yield for developments approved since 15 April 2015, could generate an additional demand for 154 pupil places, which; when taken together, indicates a potential shortfall of 467 (313+154) pupil places based on current pupil

numbers. This would, of course, depend on all approved housing as listed being completed by the end of the forecasting period.

The Local Authority's School Organisation Strategy Group; which has membership representing the views of the Diocesan authorities, Local Authority, primary and secondary schools and school governance, consider pupil forecasts and makes recommendations on school organisation matters. At a meeting held on 21 May 2015, the membership recommended that in seeking to expand provision, the following should be considered as first priority in any review:

- 1) When reviewing playing field area, to retain 80% or over of the Building Bulletin (BB)³ recommended site area after expansion;
- 2) To expand popular and successful schools, where viable, by taking into account parental preference and demand for school places, together with Ofsted outcomes;
- 3) To achieve an end result that allows for single form of entry class organisation arrangements.

In accordance with these recommendations, the 14 primary schools in the Crewe planning area were ranked according to these criteria, with the site area assessment having the overriding priority to ensure the deliverability of any proposal .

Table 6 – Crewe Schools Ranking

School	Ranking	BB103 Site Area Assessment	BB103 Site Rating
Wistaston Academy	13	95%	green
Monks Coppenhall	6	91%	green
Hungerford	5	80%	green
Wistaston Church Lane	4	79%	amber
Vine Tree	8	71%	amber
St Michael's	13	69%	red
St Mary's	10	62%	red
Leighton Academy	1	49%	Grey
Gainsborough	2	48%	Grey
Underwood	11	46%	Grey
Beechwood	3	45%	Grey
Mablins Lane	9	44%	Grey
Edleston	7	30%	Grey
Brierley	11	14%	Grey

³ 'Building Bulletin 103, Area guidelines for mainstream school' provides non-statutory area guidelines for mainstream school buildings and sites for all age ranges from 3 to 19. The guidance is used to estimate the area needed for new schools, as well as the extra building area that may be needed for schools increasing in size.

The ranking of schools shown in table 6 has been produced from OFSTED results and a weighting of 1st preferences to published admission numbers (PAN) ratios of 30% for 2012, 30% for 2013 and 40% for 2014.

School sites are rated against BB103 recommendation as: Green, over 80%; Amber, between 70% and 79%; Red between 60% and 69%; and Grey as below 60%.

This analysis concluded that in using the playing field threshold of 80% or over as the overarching priority, and subject to proposals being made by the governing bodies of these schools, consultation should be undertaken on the expansion of Hungerford Primary Academy, Wistaston Academy and Monks Coppenhall Primary.

Proposals to be considered:

Hungerford Primary Academy

Situated close to the town centre, Hungerford Primary Academy was built in 1971. An infant block was later added in 1996, which allowed the school to increase to 2 forms of entry (420 places).

Hungerford Primary Academy is a successful school, achieving a “Good” category from Ofsted at the last inspection in April 2012. The school converted to an Academy in February 2015.

The school has a reception class admission limit of 60 pupils. The number of preferences received each year for places in the reception class is shown in the table below:

Table 7 – Hungerford Academy Parent Preference Data

Year of Entry	2013	2014	2015
First Preferences	69	62	55
Total Preferences	97	102	93

Hungerford currently has 16,520m² of playing field against BB103 recommendation of 14,350m², equating to 94% of the recommended areas. If the school was to be considered for expansion by 1 form of entry (FE) then the building bulletin recommendation would be for 20,650m² of playing field, meaning that the schools provision would fall to 80% when the building has been taken into account.

Wistaston Academy

Situated to the south west of Crewe town centre, Wistaston Academy was built in 1954. Originally operating as separate infant and junior schools the 2 schools were amalgamated in September 2005 to form Wistaston Green Nursery and Infant School. The school converted to Wistaston Academy in March 2014.

Wistaston Academy is a successful school, achieving an “Outstanding” category from Ofsted at the last inspection in September 2013.

The school has a reception class admission limit of 60 pupils. The number of preferences received each year for places in the reception class is shown in the table below:

Table 8 – Wistaston Academy Parent Preference Data

Year of Entry	2013	2014	2015
First Preferences	44	50	55
Total Preferences	62	91	101

Wistaston Academy currently has 19,637m² of playing field against BB103 recommendation of 14,350m², equating to 132% of the recommended area. If the school was to be considered for expansion by 1FE then the building bulletin recommendation would be for 20,650m² of playing field, meaning that the school's provision would fall to 92% when the building has been taken into account.

Monks Coppenhall Primary

Situated on the outskirts of Crewe town centre Monks Coppenhall Primary opened in 1953. Due to increased housing in the local area the school was extended in 1994 to a 2 form entry primary school (2FE).

Monks Coppenhall is a successful school, achieving an "Outstanding" category from Ofsted at the last inspection in February 2011. The school is in the process of converting to an Academy with implementation planned for 1 April 2016.

The school has a reception class admission limit of 60 pupils. The number of preferences received each year for places in the reception class is shown in the table below:

Table 9 – Monks Coppenhall Parent Preference Data

Year of Entry	2013	2014	2015
First Preferences	77	70	51
Total Preferences	116	124	81

Monks Coppenhall currently has 17,105m² of playing field against BB103 recommendation of 14,350m², equating to 119% of the recommended areas. If the school was to be considered for expansion by 1FE then the building bulletin recommendation would be for 20,650m² of playing field, meaning that the school's provision would fall to 91% when the building had been taken into account.

Other Options considered

At the School Organisation Strategy Group meeting of 21 May consideration was given to the potential for obtaining additional land in close proximity to existing schools, thus allowing for a school expansion that would otherwise fall below the recommended 80% playing field tolerance. Consideration was also given to the potential for a suitable site to facilitate the establishment of a new school.

The availability of land; both existing and linked to new housing development, was fully investigated. The outcome of this demonstrated that the only options that could potentially be progressed on this basis could be the expansion of Leighton Academy, to increase the school by 210 school places and a new school, for example a new faith Academy providing 210 places. These were supported by the group as viable options, subject to the Local Authority being able to secure additional land necessary, which was essential to the viability of both options.

Leighton Academy

Situated to the north of the town centre, Leighton Academy was built in 1953 and was completely remodelled in 1994. Further refurbishment has taken place since and the school now operates as a 2 form of entry (FE) primary school with a separate building housing the nursery unit.

Leighton Primary Academy is a successful school having an “Outstanding” Ofsted classification in May 2011.

The school has a reception class admission limit of 60 pupils. The number of preferences received each year for places in the reception class is shown in the table below:

Table 10 – Leighton Academy Parent Preference Data

Year of Entry	2013	2014	2015
First Preferences	94	117	114
Total Preferences	166	223	188

Due to a shortfall in capacity in Crewe in recent years, Leighton Academy has accommodated two bulge years facilitated by temporary ‘mobile’ classrooms. This was an interim solution provided by the Local Authority pending further investigation into the deliverability of a permanent expansion at the school. This has provided an additional 30 pupil places for 2014 and 2015 entry.

Whilst the expansion of Leighton Academy meets the criteria set by the Local Authority of being a popular and successful school, an assessment of the school has shown that permanent expansion cannot be achieved in the short term due to school site restrictions. Additional land is required to mitigate the impact on playing field space caused by a physical enlargement of the building and therefore this school does not provide a viable option for 2017. Further assessment will continue to assess its suitability for expansion in the future to mitigate the impact of new housing development in the area.

New Faith School

The Diocese of Shrewsbury and the Diocese of Chester have expressed an interest through the Local Authority’s School Organisation Strategy Group in a new faith school in Crewe. However, the lack of availability of suitable land holdings in the area means that this option is not viable at this stage, but can inform discussions on any future need in Crewe.

Crewe Reception Class Admissions

In response to a shortfall in pupil places in Crewe in recent years (2012-2015) 5 schools have already been expanded. This has provided an extra 42 reception class places and 294 places overall (reception to year 6). The 780 reception class places now available in the 14 Crewe primary schools is still low compared with the number of children resident in the combined catchment areas of the schools, as shown in the table below:

Table 11 – Reception Data

Year	Total Reception Places	Total Reception Aged Children
2012	738	836
2013	770	794
2014	770	896
2015	780	871

Local Authority Funding for School Expansions

The proposed expansions, if approved, will be funded through basic need capital grant and section 106 contributions. Basic need funding is provided to local authorities to support their capital requirement for providing new pupil places by expanding existing maintained schools, free schools or academies, and by establishing new schools. Section 106 education funding contributions are those agreed with new housing developers specifically to fund the additional pupil places needed due to the new development.

Desktop analysis has been carried out to identify budget figures for the proposals. Full feasibility studies will be commissioned to identify more accurately the costs of implementation once a decision has been reached on which proposals to support post consultation. This detail will be included in the outline business case, which will be submitted for consideration and approval through the Council's internal financial approval process.

All Capital projects greater than £250,000 are subject to Cheshire East Council's Project Gateway process, which seek endorsement by way of review and challenge. This project has already started to proceed through this process.

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 a fully funded supplementary capital estimate.

Timescales

Consultation will run from 25 February 2016 to 25 March 2016. All feedback must be received between these dates.

How to Comment on the Proposals

In partnership with the governing bodies/academy trusts of Hungerford Primary Academy, Wistaston Academy and Monks Coppenhall Primary School consultation is being co-ordinated by the Local Authority.

To submit your views on the proposals made by the governing bodies/academy trusts of these schools you can complete the Local Authority's electronic feedback form, which can be accessed on the Council's website at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk. Hard copies are available on request. Alternatively you can submit your feedback direct to the appropriate school:

Hungerford Primary Academy
School Crescent
Hungerford Road
Crewe
CW1 5HA
www.hungerford.cheshire.sch.uk

Wistaston Academy
Moreton Road
Crewe
CW2 8QS
www.wistastonacademytrust.co.uk

Monks Coppenhall Primary School
Remer Street
Crewe
CW1 4LY
www.monkscoppenhall.cheshire.sch.uk

The Next Steps.....

Responses to this consultation will be collated for consideration by the governing bodies/academy trusts in partnership with the Local Authority. The Local Authority will consider all feedback received in order that a decision can be taken on whether to approve the funding of the proposed expansions. In the event that funding is approved; taking into account the feedback received and any additional information relevant to the proposal, the governing bodies will then consider the consultation feedback and the decision of the Local Authority to reach agreement about whether to progress their expansion proposal.

The implementation of an agreed expansion proposal would be subject to the necessary planning and Section 77 (School Standards and Framework Act 1998) approvals, as appropriate.

Please Note:

Individual queries received during the consultation period will not receive a direct response, but will be addressed in the consultation summary produced at the end of the process and published online for all interested parties.

For further information, contact:

Cheshire East Borough Council, School Organisation and Capital Strategy Team,
Floor 7, C/O Municipal Building, Earle Street, Crewe CW1 2BJ,
e-mail: SOCS@cheshireeast.gov.uk Tel: 0300 123 5012