

**Report to the Cabinet**

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 18 January 2024

**Report of the Director of Strategy and Performance**

**Part I**

Electoral Division affected:  
(All Divisions);

**Corporate Priorities:**  
Delivering better services;  
Caring for the vulnerable;

**Update on the School Place Planning Delivery Programme 2023-25**

(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

Contact for further information:

Paula Durrant, Tel: (01772) 554147, School Planning Manager,  
paula.durrant@lancashire.gov.uk

**Brief Summary**

In October 2022, Cabinet approved the School Place Planning Delivery Programme 2023-25. This programme set out a series of projects to provide additional primary and secondary school places, where projected shortfalls had been identified. The proposal sought to provide these places through expansion of existing schools and the establishment of new schools. Since the inception of the 2023-25 School Planning Delivery Plan there has been a decline in birth rates nationally which is now showing in the county council's primary school places forecasts.

This report provides an update on the current position of primary and secondary provision in Preston, and the new school at Whittingham Hospital.

**Recommendation**

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Approve the additional capital allocation for Lea Community Primary School, Preston, set out at Appendix 'A'.
- (ii) Approve the capital allocation for phase 2 of the Capital project to permanently expand Cottam Primary School, Preston by 1 form of entry for September 2024, set out at Appendix 'A'.

- (iii) Approve the capital allocation for phase 2 of the Capital project to permanently expand Broughton-In-Amounderness Church of England Primary School, by 25 places per year from September 2024, set out at Appendix 'A'.
- (iv) Approve that a consultation be undertaken on the permanent expansion of Archbishop Temple Church of England High School, Preston, to increase the Published Admission Number from 155 to 210 from September 2025.
- (v) Approve the capital allocation for the temporary expansion of Archbishop Temple Church of England High School, Preston by 55 places for September 2024, set out in Appendix 'A'.
- (vi) Approve the proposal to permanently expand Christ the King Catholic High School, Preston by 20 places per year from September 2025.
- (vii) Approve the Capital allocation for Christ the King Catholic High School, Preston to permanently expand the school by 20 places per year from September 2025, set out in Appendix 'A'.
- (viii) Approve that further consideration be given to the proposals set out in the 2023-25 School Planning Delivery Programme for the primary and secondary projects in Preston North, in response to the change in forecast data which has been impacted by the national downward trajectory of births impacting on reception numbers and the future trajectory of pupils, with revised proposals being brought to Cabinet as required.
- (ix) Acknowledge the outcome of the Whittingham Hospital consultation which provided a further option as set out in Appendix 'B', agree that the Whittingham Hospital site remains the preferred option for delivering a two-form entry (420 place) primary provision in Preston and approve the acquisition of a further 1.33 hectares(3.29 acres) of land for the delivery of the preferred option.

## Detail

In October 2022, Cabinet approved the School Place Planning Programme 2023-25, which sets out a series of projects to provide additional primary and secondary school places where projected shortfalls have been identified. The programme proposed that the additional places should be provided through the expansion of existing schools and the establishment of new schools.

This report provides an update on the School Place Planning Programme 2023-25 and requests approval of enlargement proposals and of the related capital schemes. Full details of the capital scheme projections are provided at Appendix 'A'. These are deemed to be exempt from publication as they contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).



## **Projects**

### **Preston West Planning Area**

#### **Primary**

##### **Lea Community Primary School, Preston**

At its meeting in February 2023, Cabinet approved the proposal to permanently increase the published admission number of Lea Community Primary School, by 1 form of entry, by increasing the published admission number from 30 to 60 with effect from September 2023/24, gradually increasing the school's capacity from 210 to 420.

A revision to the capital allocation for the project is set out at Appendix 'A'.

##### **Cottam Primary School, Preston**

Approval is sought for the capital allocation, set out at Appendix 'A', for Phase 2 of the Cottam Primary School expansion for the increase in the published admission number from 30 to 60 from September 2025. This will eventually provide an additional 210 permanent school places.

### **Preston North Planning Area**

On 6 October 2022, Cabinet was asked to approve the School Place Planning Delivery Programme 2023-2025, which included the establishment of three new schools, two primary schools and a secondary school. Since seeking this approval, a downward trajectory of births has meant that the forecast number of reception aged pupils has not materialised. In addition, the forecast and the pace of housing growth has slowed from the original forecast. The place planning requirements are subject to review and options to meet the lower than originally anticipated shortfall are in development to apply a broader range of solutions which promote flexibility, support existing schools and are timely and do not oversupply. The proposals below are not identified in the Delivery Programme 2023-25.

#### **Primary**

##### **Broughton-In-Amounderness Church of England Primary School**

Approval is sought to progress the expansion of the school. The Governing Body have agreed to exceed their published admission number by 25 places for the September 2023/24, providing a temporary solution. A permanent expansion project of some internal and external remodelling is proposed for September 2025. This will increase the school's current published admission number from 35 to 60. Permission is therefore required to progress this works and secure appropriate capacity to meet demand in the area.

In line with approval from Cabinet on 2 November 2023, and in adherence to Department for Education Guidance ['Making significant changes \(Prescribed Alternations\) to maintained Schools – 2023'](#) which prescribes that significant



enlargements to a maintained school requires the publication of a statutory proposal and consultation with stakeholders, a public consultation was undertaken between the period of 20 November to 17 December 2023. Details of the public consultation are provided below.

Approval is sought for the capital allocation, set out at Appendix 'A', for Phase 2 of the Broughton-in-Amounderness Church of England Primary School expansion, for the increase in the published admission number from 35 to 60 for September 2024.

## **Secondary**

### **Christ the King Catholic High School, Preston**

Approval is sought for a temporary expansion project to provide an additional 20 places per year group at Christ the King Roman Catholic High School, for the starting in September 2024, and thereafter to provide permanent places for September 2025/26. This will increase the published admission number from 80 to 100 and eventually provide an additional 100 places.

Approval is also sought for the capital allocation, set out at Appendix 'A', for the Christ the King Catholic Roman Catholic High School, Preston expansion for the increase of the published admission number from 80 to 100 for September 2024, initially as a temporary expansion, followed by a permanent expansion.

### **Archbishop Temple Church of England High School, Preston**

Approval is sought to undertake a consultation on the proposal to develop a two-form entry (55 place) permanent expansion of Archbishop Temple Church of England High School, Preston, for September 2025/26, following a temporary expansion for the year 2024/25. This will increase the published admission number from 155 to 210.

Approval is also sought for the capital allocation, set out at Appendix 'A', for the Archbishop Temple Church of England High School, Preston, Phase 1 temporary expansion for the increase in the published admission number from 155 to 210 for 2024/25.

In developing proposals for school places, officers from the School Place Planning team collaborate with colleagues in the Pupil Access Team, who manage the arrangements of transfer of pupils to secondary school, in adherence to the Department of Education Admissions Code (September 2021). Following closure of the secondary school applications on 31 October 2023, the demand for places has been considered to ensure that proposals reflect this need. Collaboration with local schools is ongoing with focussed negotiations which aim to provide further places to meet this and in-year requirements.



## New Schools

### Primary

#### Former Whittingham Hospital site

A public consultation to establish a new two form entry primary school on the former Whittingham Hospital site was undertaken on 12 June for a four-week period. An informal public engagement event was also held at Longridge Library on 15 June. The key themes emerging from these responses were concern about the impact on existing schools, whether a new school was required on the site and the impact of additional traffic. Further details of the consultation are set out at Appendix 'B'. These are deemed to be exempt from publication as they contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The next step of proposals will be subject to a further report to Cabinet.

### Appendices

Appendix 'A' and Appendix 'B' are attached to this report. For clarification, they are summarised below and referenced at relevant points within this report.

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	School Place Delivery Programme 2023-25 Capital Allocations
Appendix 'B'	Former Whittingham Hospital site

### Consultations

#### Preston North Primary Planning Area

##### **Additional permanent one form entry from 2025/26 at Broughton in Amounderness Church of England Primary School**

On 20 November 2023, the county council published a statutory notice in relation to the expansion proposal for Broughton-in-Amounderness Church of England Primary School. In accordance with the statutory process, the notice invited representations (objections or comments) within the statutory notice period, i.e. from 20 November 2023 to 17 December 2023.

In response to the published proposal, the county council received 23 responses, a summary of which is provided below.

9 respondents supported the proposal and 14 did not. The Department for Education guidance advises that decision makers should not simply take account of the numbers of people expressing a particular view. Instead, they should give the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school(s). 3 respondents in support of the proposal were identified as a parent/carer of a current pupil at Broughton-in-Amounderness Church of England Primary and 0 respondents in support were identified as parents of future pupils at Broughton-in-Amounderness



Church of England Primary School. In contrast, 13 of the respondents who did not support the proposal were identified as parent/carer of a current pupil of Broughton-in-Amounderness Church of England Primary School; none of the respondents were identified as parents of future pupils and 2 of the respondents were identified as an interested member of the local community. Furthermore:

- 7 respondents agreed that there were growing pupil numbers and 1 disagreed.
- 17 respondents agreed that the need for extra places was in Broughton-in-Amounderness Church of England and 2 disagreed.
- 8 respondents agreed that Broughton-in-Amounderness Church of England Primary was well located and 0 disagreed.
- 9 respondents agreed that Broughton-in-Amounderness Church of England Primary was an excellent/good school and 0 disagreed.

Key concerns raised by respondents related to:

### **Limited Parking (14 responses)**

Of the 14 responses, 12 respondents who expressed concerns about parking were identified as a parent/carer of a pupil of Broughton-in-Amounderness Church of England Primary or a future pupil.

Parking arrangements will be reviewed as part of the planning application and implementation of the proposal. Parking and school access have been discussed with the school.

### **Volume of Traffic and Road Safety (18 responses)**

Of the 18 responses, 11 respondents who expressed concerns about volume of traffic and road safety were identified as a parent/carer of a pupil of Broughton-in-Amounderness Church of England Primary or a future pupil.

Traffic management has been discussed with the school as part of the development of the proposal, although it must be recognised that this increase in pupil numbers is likely to lead to increased traffic.

### **Concerns expansion could affect educational standards (12 responses)**

Broughton-in-Amounderness Church of England Primary School currently has an 'Outstanding' Ofsted rating. The school are committed to continuing to deliver a high standard of education.

### **Concern that proposed expansion is too much for one school (11 responses)**

There are a significant number of 2 form entry (420 pupil) primary schools in Lancashire. Expanding a school by a full form of entry is likely to be more easily managed than a smaller scale expansion due to class size legislation requirements. The school is committed to maintaining the school's current ethos and standard of performance.



## **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

### **Risk management**

If additional school places are not created, there is a risk that the authority would fail in its statutory responsibility to make sure that a school place is available to all Lancashire children of the appropriate age range that want one. Providing additional school places increases the overall capacity in the area and, if demand falls, there may be surplus places.

### **Legal**

The Department for Education '[Making significant changes \(Prescribed Alternations\) to maintained Schools – 2023](#)' guidance specifies any significant enlargement to a maintained school requires the publication of a statutory proposal and consultation with stakeholders. The statutory process should be followed if:

- the proposed enlargement is permanent (longer than three years) and would increase the capacity of the school by more than 30 pupils; and 25% or 200 pupils (whichever is the lesser)

The proposals set out in this report follow this. The county council's proposal to expand Broughton-in-Amounderness Church of England Primary School meets the criteria for the statutory process.

### **Procurement**

The selection of contractors to undertake the capital works will be carried out in full compliance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015, either through the use of established frameworks or through undertaking a compliant procurement exercise following the county council's Procurement Rules, where appropriate.

### **Financial Capital Funding**

Appendix 'A' provides details of the capital funding requirements and anticipated costs in relation to the capital schemes identified within the report, and funds have been set aside for these from the Basic Need allocation, based on current estimates. The schemes will be partially funded from housing developer contributions, agreed as part of the Section 106 agreement, although specific details are yet to be finalised. This is due to the Section 106 legal agreements detailing requirements around recalculations of the position, once accurate bedroom information becomes available, trigger points for payments not yet being reached and indexation calculation requirements. Some of these monies have already been received and the remainder will be payable in stages, as the various phases of the housing development are occupied. Cost estimates are immature, still require detailed design, procurement and a firm agreed price with suppliers. Future levels of Basic Need grant are as yet unconfirmed and may rise with increased housing in the area. Future reports will update on the consultation processes as well as detailed delivery



plans and funding sources for any further schemes to be committed. Updates on future funding levels will also be provided.

## **Revenue Funding**

In year expansions will be funded via the Dedicated Schools Grant through the county council's expansion policy for the first 2 terms. This policy will ensure the schools have the appropriate level of funding. October Census data will then drive the Dedicated Schools Grant budget for the following financial year and incorporate all revised pupil numbers each year. This will provide Lancashire with the full year funding for these pupils through the Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Block, which is increased in line with the rising pupil numbers.

## **Equality and Cohesion**

As part of the statutory decision-making process, the county council must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty, which requires 'due regard' to the need to: eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010; advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it. The proposals included in this report will not disadvantage any group and should benefit current and additional future pupils of Lancashire who will be within the age (younger people) protected characteristics group.

## **List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

Appendix 'A' and Appendix 'B' - Exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. Appendix 'A' and Appendix 'B' contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). It is considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

