

Report to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools
Report submitted by: Interim Executive Director for Children and Young People
Date 12 January 2015

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
Chorley North; Chorley Rural West; Heysham; Leyland Central; Morecambe North; Morecambe South; Morecambe West;

The Provision of Additional Primary School Places in Lancashire

Contact for further information:
Lynn MacDonald, 01772 532402, Directorate for Children and Young People,
Lynn.macdonald@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

Lancashire County Council has a statutory duty to ensure that a primary or secondary school place is available for every child of statutory school age living in Lancashire who requires one. As a result of high birth rates and/or additional housing impact, a number of areas across Lancashire have been identified as requiring additional reception places for 2015 and beyond.

As reported to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools on 11 September 2014, in addition to the sustained increase in births in the Morecambe and Heysham area which requires an additional permanent 30 reception places from September 2016 (these permanent places are the subject of a separate report to the Cabinet Member), a particularly high birth rate in the area in 2011/12 (Reception intake in September 2016) means that a further 2 Forms of Entry (60 places) are required in the area for one year only.

In addition, as reported to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools on 4 December 2014, a sustained increase in the number of births in the Euxton area (which covers the Buckshaw Village development) means that, as local children reach statutory school age, there may not be sufficient places in this area to meet the demand for September 2015 and beyond. Approval of the report on 4 December, secured an additional 60 temporary places in Euxton for 2015, providing an additional 1 FE at both Euxton Primrose Hill Primary School and Trinity CE/Methodist Primary School for 2015/16 academic year only.

This report outlines action taken in the area to secure temporary places in Morecambe and Heysham for September 2016 and permanent places in Euxton for September 2016 and beyond. It recommends consultation on the permanent expansion of both Trinity CE/Methodist Primary and Euxton Primrose Hill Primary School, to enable each of them to admit an additional 30 reception pupils per year, with effect from September 2016.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and Standing Order 25 has been complied with.

Recommendation:

In order to allow an increase in the reception intake for September 2016 (and beyond, in the case of Euxton), the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools is recommended to:

- (i) approve a temporary increase, for one year only, in the admission number of
 - St. Mary's Catholic Primary, Morecambe, from 30 to 60 places for September 2016; and
 - Trumacar Community Primary School, from 45 to 75 places for September 2016;
- (ii) agree that a period of consultation be undertaken on the permanent expansion of Euxton Primrose Hill Primary School to allow a permanent increase in Reception intakes from 30 to 60 places for September 2016 and beyond. This will be enabled by expansion of the existing building; and
- (iii) agree that a period of consultation be undertaken on the permanent expansion of Trinity CE/Methodist Primary School to allow a permanent increase in Reception intake from 60 to 90 places for September 2016 and beyond. This will be enabled by expanding the school onto a second site (currently referred to locally as 'Group One' site) which is secured for the provision of primary school places on Buckshaw Village.

Background and Advice

As detailed in the 'Strategy for the Provision of School Places and Schools' Capital Investment 2014/15 to 2016/17' (link below) after a steady decrease between 1989 and 2001, birth rates across the county have subsequently been rising.

http://www3.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/atoz/a_to_z/service.asp?u_id=3617&tab=1

As a result of the rising birth rate, coupled with the effect of significant housing development in some areas, intake into primary schools in some areas is expected to increase over the foreseeable future. The changing dynamics of Lancashire's population, influenced by increased births, immigration, housing developments and economic migration, means that Lancashire County Council's provision of school places must also change in order to meet the changing needs of residents, whether through provision of additional places or through the redistribution of existing places within the county.

As reported to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools on 11 September 2014, there is a sustained need in Morecambe and Heysham for an

additional 30 permanent places and an additional need for 60 temporary places for September 2016.

As reported to the Cabinet Member on 4 December 2014, a permanent need for at least 47 additional primary places has been identified for Euxton.

Morecambe and Heysham

The following table gives the position in the Morecambe and Heysham Primary Schools:

	Projected intake		
Reception Places	2015	2016	2017
675	681	764	693

The table above shows a sustained need for additional places in the Morecambe and Heysham area. The need is for an additional 6 places in 2015, rising to 89 places for 2016 and 18 places in 2017, based upon live births in the area. However, planned housing in the area has the potential to generate an approximate yield of an additional 11 pupils per year group over the next five years. Therefore, in September 2014, the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools agreed to begin a period of consultation on the permanent expansion of Lancaster Road Primary School, in Morecambe, to provide an additional 30 reception places from 2016. The outcome of consultation on this proposal is the subject of a separate report to the Cabinet Member, to be considered in January 2015.

In order to provide the additional temporary places required for 2016, all schools within the area of growth were contacted in order to seek expressions of interest in expansion before visits to schools then took place. In an initial assessment of the potential to expand existing schools, the following factors were considered:

- the current strength of the school in terms of attainment levels and leadership;
- parental preferences;
- the existing size of the school;
- the existing site and the area available to expand the buildings and maintain;
- adequate play and sports space;
- access to the site and proximity to the area of growth; and
- any potential joint investment benefits which are immediately obvious.

Having considered these factors, it is proposed that an additional 30 Reception places be provided in each of the following schools, for September 2016 only:

- St. Mary's Catholic Primary, Morecambe (taking the admission number from 30 to 60); and
- Trumacar Community Primary School, (taking the admission number from 45 to 75).

Euxton

The following table gives the position in the Euxton primary schools:

Reception Places	Projected intake		
	2015	2016	2017
220	267	267	254

The table above shows a sustained need for additional places in the Euxton area, which includes the Buckshaw Village development. The need is for an additional 47 places in 2015 and 2016 and for 34 places in 2017, based upon live births in the area. However, planned housing in the area has the potential to generate an approximate yield of an additional 6 pupils per year group over the next 5 years.

The need for places for September 2015 has been resolved by the provision of 30 temporary places at both Euxton Primrose Hill Primary School (taking the school's Reception intake from 30 to 60) and at Trinity CE/Methodist Primary School (taking the school's Reception intake from 60 to 90).

However, in order that additional permanent places could be provided at either of the sites, it was necessary to secure additional land to increase the overall site size of each school. Only by doing so would it be possible to proceed with permanent expansion and maintain the recommended area of playing fields as outlined by the Department for Education.

Additional site area, directly adjacent to the existing Euxton Primrose Hill Primary School site has now been purchased by Lancashire County Council and, therefore, supplements the existing site area to satisfy DfE Guidance.

A site (locally referred to as 'Group One' on Buckshaw Village) is secured via a Section 106 Agreement for the provision of additional primary school places. Officers are currently in the process of transferring the land from the developer. It is proposed that the existing school in the village, Trinity CE/Methodist Primary School, is expanded onto this additional site, to enable the school to increase its intake to 3 Forms of Entry.

Therefore, it is proposed that:

- A period of formal consultation is undertaken on the permanent expansion of Primrose Hill Primary School, Euxton from September 2016 to allow a permanent increase in Reception intakes from 30 to 60 places for September 2016 and beyond. This will be enabled by expanding the school building on the existing site; and
- A period of formal consultation is undertaken on the permanent expansion of Trinity CE/Methodist Primary School, Euxton from September 2016 to allow a permanent increase in Reception intakes from 60 to 90 places for September 2016 and beyond. This will be enabled by expanding the school onto a second site secured for the provision of primary school places on Buckshaw Village (currently referred to locally as 'Group One' site).

Process for permanent expansion

Should the authority wish to propose the provision of additional permanent places for 2016 and beyond, relevant statutory procedures must be followed. Details of the planned timescale to include these statutory procedures are as follows:

Action	Timescale
Consultation on the proposals to enlarge the Primary Schools referred to above (non- statutory stage)	January-February 2015 (4 weeks)
Report to Cabinet Member on the responses to the consultation and seeking permission to publish notices	April 2015
Publish Statutory Notices	April 2015
Representation Period	4 weeks
Decision by the Cabinet Member	July 2015 (The decision must be made within 2 months of the end of the representation period)
Implementation	September 2016

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

If additional primary school places are not created there is a risk that the Authority would fail in its statutory responsibility to make sure that a maintained school place is available to all Lancashire children of the appropriate age range who want one.

Providing additional places increases the overall capacity in the areas and, if birth rates fail to yield the expected number of pupils for 2015 intake or there is an increased level of outward migration of families from this area, there may be surplus places.

Whilst the additional land required to complement the site area of Primrose Hill Community Primary School has now been secured by the county council, the site required for the expansion of Trinity CE/Methodist Primary School is secured within a Section 106 agreement of the Town and Country Planning Act of 1990, which Chorley and South Ribble Borough Councils are party to.

Land and Property

Lancashire County Council is currently in discussion with the developer and Chorley Borough Council planning officers about the transfer of the site, subject to resolution of Highways matters and rewording of the Section 106 agreement.

Any final decision on the Trinity CE/Methodist proposal is subject to this site transfer.

The approval of any physical school expansion will be subject to obtaining relevant planning permission and Section 77(3) consent for the change of use in the land (or meeting the terms of The School Playing Fields General Disposal and Change of Use Consent (No 5) 2014.)

Legal and Financial Implications

Where required to enable the provision of additional permanent or temporary places, the provision of a temporary classroom or adjustment or expansion of existing premises may

require schools' capital funding. The proposals set out in this report can be funded from allocations set out for this purpose within the current schools' capital allocation.

The basic provision of places is the highest priority in terms of allocating capital funding to local authorities and previous capital allocations and processes indicate that funding would be available for this type of project. The cost of delivering these places would be approximately £7.5million, as contained within the 2014/15 to 2016/2017 Capital Programme, reported to the Cabinet Member in June 2014.

Should the temporary expansion of the schools be approved the schools in question would receive revenue funding assistance for one year to reflect the fact that pupils would begin two terms before the increased numbers are reflected in the school budget. This funding will be provided through the Dedicated Schools Grant in accordance with the rules agreed by the Lancashire Schools Forum. This will ensure that the school is not financially disadvantaged by the expansion.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
-------	------	-------------------------

N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A