

PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS: Information to be included in a complete proposal

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

In respect of an LA Proposal: School and local authority details

1. The name, address and category of the school and a contact address for the local authority who are publishing the proposals.

The proposal to expand the number of places at Balshaw Lane Primary School (Community), Bredon Avenue, Chorley, PR7 6NS from 315 to 420 pupils is published by Lancashire County Council, the relevant local authority. The authority can be contacted at the following address: Asset Management, School Planning Team, 2nd Floor, Christ Church Precinct, PO BOX 100, County Hall, Preston, PR1 0LD, Lancashire.

2. Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

- (a) The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.
- (b) Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body

The implementation date for this proposal 1st September 2018.

Support, objections and comments

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including:
 - (a) the date prescribed by which objections or comments should be sent to the local authority; and
 - (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

These proposals have been prepared following discussions with a wide range of partners and other stakeholders. Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals any person may object to, or comment on the proposals by sending their representations to Asset Management, School

Planning Team, 2nd Floor, Christ Church Precinct, PO BOX 100, County Hall, Preston PR1 0LD. Responses can also be emailed to schoolplanning@lancashire.gov.uk. To be considered as part of the decision making process to determine the proposals, responses must be received no later than Monday 19th December 2016.

Alteration description

4. A description of the proposed alteration showing evidence of demand. In the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

On 5th November 2015, the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools approved an increase of the published admission number for Balshaw Lane Primary School from 40 places to 45 places at Reception age, with effect from September 2017, as part of a capital improvement programme that provided additional places to regularise admission numbers in areas of growth.

As a result of the rising birth rate in the local area, coupled with the effect of significant housing development, the number of school places currently available will not be enough to meet the increased demand as the children reach school age over the next few years.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools approved the commencement of an informal consultation on the proposed expansion, to take place between 6th June 2016 and 1st July 2016. On 14th September 2016, the Cabinet Member considered the responses to the informal consultation and approved the publication of the Public Notice.

Should the permanent expansion be approved, it will be enabled by additional permanent accommodation on the existing school building.

If the permanent expansion is approved the capacity of the primary school will be increased from 315 to 420, by increasing the admission number from 45 to 60.

Balshaw Lane Primary School is an 'Outstanding' School which is currently experiencing a significant increase in demand for places, with 50 first preference applications in 2016. The current planned admission number is 45 and, therefore, by further increasing this to 60 the school's admission number will be regularised to 2 Form Entry at the same time as assisting with meeting growing demand for places within the Euxton area.

5. School capacity

- (a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

The current capacity of the school is 280 which will raise to 315 in September 2017 and the proposed capacity will be 420 in September 2018.

- (b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

The current published admission number for the school is 45. The proposed admission number for the enlarged school will be 60.

- (c) A statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

In May 2016, the number of pupils on roll was 276.

6. Additional site

A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

No new or additional site would be required. The area of the existing site is sufficient to allow for the proposed expansion of the building while still maintaining adequate play and sports spaces. If the proposal goes ahead, the Council would replace 'hard' playground space which would be used for building on and also install a Multi-Use Games Area which will have an artificial surface therefore could be used all year round.

Objectives

7. The objectives of the proposals (including how the proposal would increase education standards and parental choice).

Increases in pupil numbers as a result of the rising birth rate in the local area, coupled with the effect of significant housing development will result in the number of school places currently available not being sufficient to meet the increased demand as the children reach school age over the next few years.

The objective of the proposal is to permanently expand the school to admit 15 additional pupils to each reception year with effect from September 2018, through a permanent expansion of the existing school building. The expansion would increase the school's admission number to 60, leading to Balshaw Lane Primary School's capacity gradually increasing from 315 to 420.

Balshaw Lane Primary School, Chorley, is an 'Outstanding' School which is currently experiencing a significant increase in demand for places, with 50 first place applications in 2016 against 40 places. Increased capacity at Balshaw Lane Primary school would increase 'Outstanding' places for local pupils from the area.

Need or demand for additional places

8. If the proposals involve adding places:

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

Increases in pupil numbers as a result of the rising birth rate in the local area, coupled with the effect of significant housing development will result in the number of school places currently available not being sufficient to meet the increased demand as the children reach school age over the next few years in the Euxton area. Therefore, additional permanent places are needed in this area. The approval of the proposal to permanently expand Balshaw Lane Primary School will help to address this demand and ensure so far as is reasonably possible that every child is provided with a school place in close proximity to their home.

9. Expansion of successful and popular schools

Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies evidence to support this. The effect of the proposal on the schools, academies and educational institutions within the area.

Balshaw Lane Primary School, Chorley, is an 'Outstanding' School which is currently experiencing a significant increase in demand for places, with 50 first place applications in 2016 against 40 places. There is also a forecasted increasing demand for reception places in the Chorley area. Consultations have confirmed the support for the expansion of this school. No school expressed any concern about the expansion throughout the consultation process. In fact a local school Headteacher supported the proposal. Lancashire County Council does consider that the presumption for the expansion of this school should apply. Due to the increased demand for school places in the area it is considered that the proposed expansion will

have no adverse effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area.

In line with DfE Guidance, this proposal is to provide additional primary school places at a school which is 'Outstanding'.

Informal Consultation

- 10.** Evidence of the informal consultation before the proposals were published including—
- (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
 - (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
 - (c) the views of the persons consulted;
 - (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
 - (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

Although there is no longer a statutory informal consultation period, Department for Education Guidance: ' Making Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools' advises a strong expectation that the LA will consult interested parties in developing their proposal prior to publication, as part of their duty under public law to act rationally and take into account all relevant considerations. Therefore, Lancashire County Council has under taken an informal consultation.

The informal consultation document was widely circulated to staff, governors, parents/guardians and pupils of the school subject to the proposals. Headteachers and governors of other local schools in Lancashire were all consulted as were local elected members. A full list of consultees is detailed on page 8 of the consultation document which forms an integral element to these complete proposals.

An appointment led event, rather than a public meeting, was held between 3pm and 8pm on Thursday 16th June 2016 at Balshaw Lane Primary School. This format of meeting is preferred as it allows the authority to manage the process effectively, minimise waiting times and ensure that appropriate officers are available to offer any interested parties, either individually or in small groups, advice and guidance to enable them to gain a better understanding on all of the aspects of the proposals.

LCC officers met with the Headteacher in the run up to consulting on these proposals. The Headteacher and Chair of Governors then discussed this at

subsequent Governing Body meetings and the governors were reported to be in support of the proposals.

A children's consultation was undertaken by the school, in which pupils of the school were asked to express their opinion on the proposal.

The views from the meetings, the written responses to the informal consultations, and the children's consultation are detailed and analysed in the report to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools that was considered on 14th September 2016. This forms an integral element to these complete proposals.

Informal consultation documents were widely circulated in hard copy and were made available on the following website via the heading: 'School Organisation Reviews' at: <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools>.

This website has been updated and now allows access to the public notice and complete proposal documentation for these proposals.

Copies of the consultation booklet were put on deposit at the school, local libraries and town halls. Additional hard copies were available from County Hall.

Project costs

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

It is proposed to fund the school expansion to 2 form entry by funding from school reserves, because the school wish to provide an intervention room within the development, and additional funds will be made available from the three years Basic Need allocation as set out in the Capital Investment Strategy for Schools 2015/16 to 17/18.

12. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Education Funding Agency (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

The authority can confirm that funds are available and have been identified to be used for the purposes of this project, subject to final determination of the proposal at the end of the representation period.