

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 2 February 2023

Report of the Director of Strategy and Performance

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Caring for the vulnerable;

Update on the School Place Planning Delivery Programme 2023-25

(Appendix 'A' refers)

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Brief Summary

This report provides an update on the School Place Planning Delivery Programme for 2023-25 and seeks approval of projects identified to address the projected shortfall of primary and secondary school places.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the requirements of Standing Order C20 have been complied with.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Approve the proposal to temporarily expand Newton Bluecoat Church of England Primary School by 1 form of entry, by increasing the published admission number from 30 to 60 for 2023/24 only.
- (ii) Approve the capital allocation for the Newton Bluecoat Church of England Primary school project set out at Appendix 'A'.
- (iii) Approve statutory consultation on a proposed enlargement scheme in Brierfield primary planning area.

- (iv) Approve the proposal to permanently expand Lea Community Primary School by 1 form of entry, by increasing the published admission number from 30 to 60 with effect from 2023/24, gradually increasing the school's capacity from 210 to 420.
- (v) Approve the capital allocation for the Lea Community Primary School project set out at Appendix 'A'.
- (vi) Approve a statutory consultation on the proposal to permanently expand Cottam Primary School by 1 form of entry, by increasing the published admission number from 30 to 60 with effect from 2023/24, gradually increasing the school's capacity from 210 to 420 pupils.
- (vii) Approve the proposal to temporarily expand Garstang Academy by 1 form of entry, by increasing the published admission number from 174 to 204 for 2023/24 only.
- (viii) Approve the capital allocation set out at Appendix 'A' to permanently expand Lostock Hall Academy, enabling a 35 place increase to the published admission number, gradually increasing the academy's capacity from 600 to 775 from 2023/24.
- (ix) Approve the capital allocation set out at Appendix 'A' to permanently expand Academy@Worden, enabling a 62 place increase to the published admission number, gradually increasing the academy's capacity from 590 to 900 from 2023/24.
- (x) Approve the proposal to permanently increase the published admission number of Longridge High School by 15 places from 2023/24, and by a further 30 places from 2024/25, gradually increasing the school's capacity from 825 to 1,050.
- (xi) Approve the capital allocation for the Longridge High School project set out at Appendix 'A'.
- (xii) Approve the capital allocation set out at Appendix 'A' to permanently expand Bowland High, enabling a 30 place increase to the published admission number, gradually increasing the Academy's capacity from 550 to 700 from 2023/24.
- (xiii) Approve the capital allocation set out at Appendix 'A' to permanently expand Clitheroe Royal Grammar School, enabling a 30 place increase to the published admission number, gradually increasing the academy's capacity from 750 to 900 from 2023/24.
- (xiv) Note the ongoing consultations for a proposed new primary and secondary school in Preston.



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 progress of 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 Part II as they contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Provided below is an update for each of the areas identified within the School Place Planning Programme 2023-25.

Primary Provision

Kirkham (Fylde) planning area 1 year temporary 1 form entry expansion for 2023/24

Newton Bluecoat Church of England Primary School

Newton Bluecoat Church of England Primary School have agreed a 1 year temporary expansion of 30 places. As this is a temporary expansion, statutory consultation is not required.

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Approve the proposal to temporarily expand Newton Bluecoat Church of England Primary School by 1 form of entry, by increasing the published admission number from 30 to 60 for 2023/24 only.
- (ii) Approve the indicative capital allocation for the Newton Bluecoat Church of England Primary school set out at Appendix 'A'.

Brierfield (Pendle) planning area Half form entry (15 place) permanent expansion from 2023/24

There has been ongoing engagement with a Brierfield primary school, and an outline capital scheme is currently being considered. This proposal would be subject to statutory consultation.

Cabinet is asked to:

- (iii) Approve statutory consultation on a proposed enlargement scheme in Brierfield primary planning area.



Goosnargh & Grimsargh (Preston) and Longridge (Ribble Valley) planning areas

Additional permanent 1 form entry from 2023/24 and further permanent 1 form entry from 2025/26 (New School)

Regarding the additional 1 form of entry (30 places) from 2023/24, following engagement with all local schools in the area expressions of interest in expansion have been received and are under review.

Former Whittingham Hospital site, new primary school proposal

Regarding the additional form of entry from 2025/26, Lancashire County Council is proposing the establishment of a new 1 form entry primary school at Whittingham Hospital. Site investigations are currently underway, with a public consultation planned for early 2023.

Preston North, Preston West and Preston Rural planning areas

Additional permanent 1 form entry from 2023/24 and further permanent 1 form entry from 2025/26 (New School)

Lea Community Primary School

Lancashire County Council has proposed the permanent 1 form entry expansion at Lea Community Primary School from 2023/24, initially through temporary expansion for 2023/24 and becoming permanent from 2024/25.

An outline capital scheme to provide additional accommodation has been agreed with the school. It is intended that the additional 30 pupils for 2023/24 can be accommodated within existing school accommodation with additional provision on the existing school site required to address demand from 2024/25.

A public consultation was conducted between 14 November and 11 December 2022. Details of the public consultation are provided in the 'Consultations' section below. Having reviewed the findings of the public consultation, Cabinet is asked to:

- (iv) Approve the proposal to permanently expand Lea Community Primary School by 1 form of entry, by increasing the published admission number from 30 to 60 with effect from 2023/24, gradually increasing the school's capacity from 210 to 420.
- (v) Approve the indicative capital allocation for the Lea Community Primary School project set out at Appendix 'A'

Cottam Hall site, new primary school proposal

Regarding the additional form of entry from 2025/26, Lancashire County Council is proposing the establishment of a new 1 form entry primary school at Cottam Hall, Preston. An informal public consultation commenced on 12 December 2022 and concluded on 22 January 2023. This will be reported at a later Cabinet meeting.



Amendment to School Place Planning Programme 2023-25 additional permanent 1 form of entry at Cottam Primary School from 2023/24

Further to Cabinet's approval of the School Place Planning Programme 2023-25 in October 2022, a further update of the pupil projections identified that the proposed provision would not be sufficient to address the projected shortfall of places in the Preston North, West and Rural primary planning areas. The need for a further 1 additional form of entry was identified.

Cottam Primary School

During the expansion expression of interest process, Cottam Primary School expressed an interest in a 1 form entry school expansion, to gradually increase the number of pupils from 210 to 420. Lancashire County Council is currently working with Cottam Primary School to identify accommodation requirements and agree an outline capital scheme.

As this would be a significant enlargement of the school a statutory consultation would be required.

Cabinet is asked to:

- (vi) Approve a statutory consultation on the proposal to permanently expand Cottam Primary School by 1 form of entry, by increasing the published admission number from 30 to 60 with effect from 2023/24, gradually increasing the school's capacity from 210 to 420.

Secondary Provision

Wyre planning area

1 year temporary 1 form entry expansion for 2023/24

Garstang Academy

Garstang Academy have agreed a 1 year temporary expansion of 30 places. As this is a temporary expansion, statutory consultation is not required. The Academy has confirmed that the temporary expansion can be accommodated within existing accommodation, and therefore a capital scheme is not required for this project.

Cabinet is asked to:

- (vii) Approve the proposal to temporarily expand Garstang Academy by 1 form of entry, by increasing the published admission number from 174 to 204 for 2023/24 only

Burnley planning area

Permanent 30 place increase to the published admission number from 2023/24

Shuttleworth College

Following engagement with Burnley schools, Shuttleworth College has proposed an exceed to its admission number by 30 places from 200 to 230 for 2023/24. In addition, a 30 place increase to the published admission number in 2024/25 has also



been proposed. The additional pupils will be accommodated within existing school accommodation.

Burnley High School

A 10 place exceed to the published admission number for 2023/24 has also been agreed with Burnley High School.

Chorley and South Ribble planning areas

Permanent 97 place increase to the published admission number from 2023/24

Expressions of interest for permanent places were sought from all secondary schools in Chorley and South Ribble. Although no Chorley schools expressed an interest in expansion, some South Ribble schools expressed an interest.

Lostock Hall Academy

Lostock Hall Academy has proposed a 35 place increase to the published admission number, gradually increasing the academy's capacity from 600 to 775. A capital scheme, to provide additional accommodation, has been agreed with the school. It is intended that the additional 35 pupils for 2023/24 can be accommodated within existing school accommodation, with additional provision on the existing school site required to address demand from 2024/25. A public consultation was conducted by the Academy between 14 December 2022 and 10 January 2023 and the academy have confirmed that there was support for the proposal. A summary of the public consultation responses is provided in the 'Consultations' section.

Academy@Worden

Academy@Worden has proposed a 62 place increase to the published admission number, gradually increasing the academy's capacity from 590 to 900. A capital scheme, to provide additional accommodation, has been agreed with the school. It is intended that the additional 62 pupils for 2023/24 can be accommodated within existing school accommodation, with additional provision required to address demand from 2024/25. A public consultation was conducted by the Academy between 5 December 2022 and 8 January 2023, and the Academy have confirmed that there was support for the proposal. A summary of the public consultation responses is provided in the 'Consultations' section.

Although the provision of the additional places at Lostock Hall Academy and Academy@Worden have been identified as part of Lancashire County Council's School Place Planning Programme, the significant enlargement of an Academy requires the approval of the Department for Education Regional Director. To secure this approval, evidence of a public consultation and confirmation of a capital project are required. The financial implications are set out at Appendix 'A'. These are deemed to be Part II as they contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Parklands High School

A 10 place increase to the published admission number from 220 to 230 for 2023/24 has also been agreed with Parklands High School.



Albany Academy

A 15 place increase to the published admission number from 135 to 150 for 2023/24 has also been agreed with Albany Academy.

Cabinet is asked to:

(viii) Approve the capital allocation set out at Appendix 'A' to permanently expand Lostock Hall Academy, enabling a 35 place increase to the published admission number, gradually increasing the academy's capacity from 600 to 775 from 2023/24.

(ix) Approve the capital allocation set out at Appendix 'A' to permanently expand Academy@Worden, enabling a 62 place increase to the published admission number, gradually increasing the academy's capacity from 590 to 900 from 2023/24.

Preston planning area

Permanent 40 place increase to the published admission number from 2023/24 and further permanent 4 forms of entry from 2025/26(New School)

Regarding the additional 40 places from 2023/24, Lancashire County Council is engaging with Preston schools to identify expansion opportunities.

Former Tulketh High School site, new school proposal

Regarding the additional 4 forms of entry from 2025/26, Lancashire County Council is proposing the establishment of a new secondary school at the former Tulketh High School, Preston. An informal public consultation commenced on 12 December 2022 and concluded on 22 January 2023. This will be reported at a later Cabinet meeting.

Ribble Valley West planning area

Permanent 38 place increase in the published admission number from 2023/24 and further permanent 30 place increase in the published admission number from 2024/25

The expansion of the schools in the planning area are currently being considered by Lancashire County Council.

St Cecilia's Roman Catholic High School

An expansion proposal to increase the published admission number of St Cecilia's Roman Catholic High School by 23 places from 2023/24 is currently under review by the county council and Salford Diocese.

Longridge High School

An expression of interest in expansion has also been submitted by Longridge High School to permanently increase the published admission number by 15 places from 2023/24 and by a further 30 places from 2024/25. A capital scheme, to provide additional accommodation, has been agreed with the school. It is intended that the additional 15 pupils for 2023/24 can be accommodated within existing school accommodation, with additional provision on the existing school site required to address demand from 2024/25.



A public consultation was conducted between 14 November and 11 December 2022. Details of the public consultation are provided in the 'Consultations' section below.

Having reviewed the findings of the public consultation, Cabinet is asked to:

- (x) Approve the proposal to permanently increase the published admission number of Longridge High School by 15 places from 2023/24, and by a further 30 places from 2024/25, gradually increasing the school's capacity from 825 to 1,050.
- (xi) Approve the capital allocation for the Longridge High School project set out at Appendix 'A'.

Ribble Valley East planning area

Permanent 60 place increase to the published admission number from 2023/24

Expressions of interest in expansion were sought from all secondary schools in Ribble Valley East, and expressions of interest were received from Bowland High and Clitheroe Royal Grammar School.

Bowland High

Bowland High has proposed a 30 place increase to the published admission number from 2023/24, gradually increasing the academy's capacity from 550 to 700. Lancashire County Council has agreed a capital scheme required to accommodate the additional pupils. A public consultation was conducted by the Academy between 5 December 2022 and 15th January 2023. A summary of the public consultation responses is provided in the 'Consultations' section.

Clitheroe Royal Grammar School

Clitheroe Royal Grammar has proposed a 30 place increase to the published admission number from 2023/24, gradually increasing the academy's capacity from 750 to 900. Lancashire County Council has agreed a capital scheme required to accommodate the additional pupils. It is intended that the additional 30 pupils for 2023/24 can be accommodated within existing school accommodation, with additional provision on the existing school site required to address demand from 2024/25. A public consultation was conducted by the Academy between 5 December 2022 and 15 January 2023, and the Academy have confirmed that there was support for the proposal. A summary of the public consultation responses is provided in the 'Consultations' section.

Although the provision of the additional places at Bowland High and Clitheroe Royal Grammar School have been identified as part of the county council's School Place Planning Programme, the significant enlargement of an Academy requires the approval of the Department for Education Regional Director. To secure this approval, evidence of a public consultation and confirmation of a capital project are required. The financial implications are set out at Appendix 'A'. These are deemed to be Part II as they contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).



Cabinet is asked to:

- (xii) Approve the capital project to permanently expand Bowland High, enabling a 30 place increase to the published admission number, gradually increasing the Academy's capacity from 550 to 700 from 2023/24.
- (xiii) Approve the capital project to permanently expand Clitheroe Royal Grammar School, enabling a 30 place increase to the published admission number, gradually increasing the academy's capacity from 750 to 900 from 2023/24.

Consultations – Lancashire County Council

Department for Education Guidance ['Making significant changes \(Prescribed Alterations\) to maintained Schools – 2018'](#) prescribes that significant enlargements to a maintained school requires the publication of a statutory proposal and consultation with stakeholders.

The guidance advises:

The statutory process should be followed to enlarge premises as set out in the Prescribed Alterations Regulations 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 county council's proposals to expand Lea Community Primary School and Longridge High School meet the criteria for the statutory process.

On 14 November 2022, the county council published a statutory notice in relation to the expansion proposals for Lea Community Primary School and Longridge High School. In accordance with the statutory process, the notice invited representations (objections or comments) within the statutory four-week notice period, i.e., from 14 November 2022 to 11 December 2022.

Lea Community Primary School

In response to the published proposal, the county council received 16 responses, a summary of which is provided below. 11 respondents agreed with the expansion proposal and 5 disagreed.

- 11 respondents agreed that there are growing pupil number and 2 disagreed.
- 10 respondents agreed that the need for extra places is in Lea and 4 disagreed.
- 10 respondents agreed that Lea was well located and 0 disagreed.
- 10 respondents agreed that Lea Community Primary is an excellent/good school and 1 disagreed.

Several concerns were raised by respondents:

Need for Special Educational Needs Places (1 response)

Lea Community Primary School has engaged with the County Council's Special Educational Needs Team as part of the development of the expansion proposal.



Need for additional places in Cottam (2 responses)

The county council has identified a need for further additional places in the Preston North, West and Rural primary planning areas, and are working with Cottam Primary School, as detailed above.

Volume of Traffic (1 response)

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.

Limited Parking (2 responses)

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

Concern catchment area will be expanded (1 response)

There are currently no plans to amend the admission catchment area for this school. Any amendment would be through engagement with the school and the county council.

Analysis of the consultation representations indicates positive support in favour of the proposal to expand Lea Community Primary, and that the school is well located to accommodate the increasing pupil demand. Furthermore, there are a limited number of respondents opposed to the proposal, with plans in place to mitigate the concerns raised.

Longridge High School

In response to the published proposal, the county council received 8 responses, a summary of which is provided below.

- 6 respondents agreed with the expansion proposal and 2 disagreed.
- 6 respondents agreed that there is a need for additional secondary places and 1 respondent disagreed.
- 6 respondents agreed that the need for extra places is in Longridge and 1 respondent disagreed.
- 6 respondents agreed that Longridge High was well located and 0 disagreed.
- 6 respondents agreed that Longridge High is an excellent/good school and 0 disagreed.

Several concerns were raised by respondents:

Concerns expansion could affect educational standards (2 responses)

Longridge High currently has a 'Requires Improvement' Ofsted rating. Department for Education guidance for significantly enlarging a school advises that additional places should be provided at 'Outstanding' or 'Good' schools wherever possible, but where there is a case, additional places can be provided at a school that is not 'Outstanding' or 'Good'. In the Ribble Valley West planning area, there are only two schools and, to meet the projected demand, additional places are being sought at both schools. The Department for Education's regional pupil places planning advisor has been notified of the proposal.



Longridge High are confident that the school expansion can be delivered in conjunction with the implementation of their Improvement Plan, making specific reference to the opportunity provided by new teaching rooms and particularly the additional specialist teaching rooms.

Concern that school catchment area will be expanded (2 responses)

There are currently no plans to amend the admission catchment area for this school. Any amendment would be through engagement with the school and the county council.

Limited Parking (1 responses)

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

Analysis of the consultation representations indicates positive support in favour of the proposal to expand Longridge High, and that the school is well located to accommodate the increasing pupil demand. Furthermore, there are a limited number of respondents opposed to the proposal, with plans in place to mitigate the concerns raised.

Consultations – Academy Led Proposals

The Department for Education guidance ['Making significant changes to an open academy – 2022'](#) advises that academy trusts are required to undertake a local consultation of a minimum of 4 weeks. The guidance advises that the following stakeholders must be consulted:

- parents of children who attend the school
- parents in the area
- primary, secondary, AP and special schools and sixth form and FE colleges in the area
- the Admissions Forum for the academy's area, where one exists (if admissions are to be affected)
- affected admission authorities, including those in neighbouring LA areas (if admissions are to be affected)
- where a school is designated as having a religious character, the trustees of the school and appropriate religious authority (in the case of church schools the diocese or relevant diocesan board)

Provided below are summaries of the public consultations undertaken by the Academy trusts of:

- Lostock Hall Academy
- Academy@Worden
- Clitheroe Royal Grammar School
- Bowland High School



Lostock Hall Academy

The Lostock Hall Academy Trust undertook a 4 week public consultation between 14 December 2022 and 10 January 2023. 8 representations were received 5 of which supported the expansion proposal, and 3 disagreed with the proposal.

Having reviewed the consultation responses, the Academy trust has informed the county council that they have identified no significant opposition to the proposal and based on the support received, they intend to proceed with the significant enlargement, subject to the approval of the capital scheme.

Academy@Worden

The Academy@Worden academy trust undertook a 5 week public consultation between 5 December 2022 and 8 January 2023. 11 representations were received, 4 of which supported the expansion proposal, and 7 disagreed with the proposal.

Having reviewed the consultation responses, the Academy trust has put in place measures to mitigate any issues raised and has taken the decision to progress with the proposal, based on the level of demand in the area and overall low number of consultation responses. The Academy trust has informed the county council that they have identified no significant opposition to the proposal, and that they intend to proceed with the significant enlargement, subject to the approval of the capital scheme.

Bowland High School

The Achievement Through Collaboration Trust undertook a 6 week public consultation between 5 December 2022 and 15 January 2023. 8 representations were received, 3 of which supported the expansion proposal, and 5 disagreed with the proposal.

Having reviewed the consultation responses, the Academy trust has informed the county council that they have identified no significant opposition to the proposal and based on the support received, they intend to proceed with the significant enlargement, subject to the approval of the capital scheme.

Clitheroe Royal Grammar School

The Clitheroe Royal Grammar School Trust undertook a 6 week public consultation between 5 December 2022 and 15 January 2023. 21 representations were received, 12 of which supported the expansion proposal, and 9 disagreed with the proposal.

Having reviewed the consultation responses, the Academy trust has informed the county council that they have identified no significant opposition to the proposal and based on the support received, they intend to proceed with the significant enlargement, subject to the approval of the capital scheme.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:



Risk management

If additional primary and secondary 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 places increases the overall capacity in the area and, if demand falls, there may be surplus places. However, the scale of projected new housing across the Preston primary planning areas strongly indicates that action is needed.

Providing any additional accommodation for an increased number of pupils will always need to be carefully managed, to improve traffic congestion and community facilities at the same time as delivering modern teaching and learning facilities.

With regards to the expansions at Lea Community Primary School and Longridge High School, Department for Education guidance specifies that a decision of the proposals must be made within 2 months of the end of the representation period, i.e., 10 February 2023.

Legal

Statutory notices for the proposals were published in accordance with Department for Education guidance 'Making significant (prescribed alternations) to maintained schools – 2018'.

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 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, 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. Developer contributions may rise with the increased housing in the areas which is partly driving the need for the new school places.

Future reports will update on the consultation processes as well as detailed delivery plans and funding sources for any further schemes to be committed.



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

Procurement

All contractors carrying out the works will be selected in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015, either through the use of an established framework or via a new tender exercise.

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 will benefit current and additional future pupils of Lancashire.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

Appendix 'A' - Exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. Appendix 'A' contains 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.

