

**Report to the Cabinet**

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 2 November 2023

**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**

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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**Brief Summary**

In October 2022, Cabinet approved the School Place Planning Delivery Programme 2023-25, which sets out a series of projects to address school place sufficiency.

This report proposes to progress projects which will provide additional places at Broughton in Amounderness Church of England Primary School, Preston; Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Primary School, Pendle; and Longridge High School, Ribble Valley.

**Recommendation**

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Approve the temporary expansion of Broughton in Amounderness Church of England Primary School, Preston, by 1 form of entry, by increasing the admission number from 35 to 60 with effect from 2024/25.
- (ii) Approve the commencement of a public consultation on the proposal to permanently expand Broughton in Amounderness Church of England Primary school, Preston, by 1 form of entry, by increasing the published admission number from 35 to 60 with effect from 2025/26.
- (iii) Approve the temporary expansion of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Primary

School, Pendle, by 0.5 form of entry, by increasing the published admission number from 15 to 30 for 2024/25.

- (iv) Approve the capital allocation for the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Primary School, Pendle, project set out at Appendix 'A'.
- (v) Approve the additional capital allocation for the Longridge High School project set out at Appendix 'A'.

## **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 North Primary Planning Area**

Lancashire County Council has proposed a 1 form entry expansion at Broughton in Amounderness Church of England Primary School from 2025/26, initially through temporary expansion for 2024/25 and becoming permanent from 2025/26.

It is intended that the additional 25 places for 2024/25 can be provided within existing school accommodation with additional provision on the existing school site required to address demand from 2025/26. The capital funding requirement for this will form part of a future Cabinet report.

If the proposed temporary expansion is approved by Cabinet, a public consultation will be undertaken on the proposed permanent expansion, the details of which will form part of a future Cabinet report.

### **Brierfield Primary Planning Area**

Lancashire County Council has proposed a temporary 0.5 form entry expansion at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Primary School for 2024/25.

It is intended that the additional 15 places for 2024/25 can be provided within additional provision on the existing school site required to address demand.



In February 2023, a formal consultation process was approved by Cabinet for the permanent expansion of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Primary School. However, in line with current forecasts, there is no longer a requirement for a permanent expansion and therefore no requirement to consult on the temporary arrangements.

The capital funding requirement for this is set out at Appendix 'A'.

### **Ribble Valley West Secondary Planning Area**

At its meeting in February 2023, Cabinet approved 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. A revision to the capital allocation for the project is set out at Appendix 'A'.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 'A', which is exempt from publication, is attached to this report. For clarification it is summarised below and referenced at relevant points within this report.

<b>Appendix</b>	<b>Title</b>
Appendix 'A'	School Place Delivery Programme 2023-25 Capital Allocations

### **Consultations**

N/A

### **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**

With regards to statutory consultation on an expansion project, Department for Education guidance specifies that a decision on the proposal must be made within two months of the end of the representation period.

### **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.

### **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 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.

