

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 11 April 2024

Report of the Director of Strategy and Performance

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
Preston Central East; Preston
Central West; Preston City;
Preston East; Preston North;
Preston Rural; Preston South
East; Preston South West;
Preston West;

Corporate Priorities:
Delivering better services;

School Place Planning Basic Need Update

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Paula Durrant, Tel: (01772) 534147 School Place Planning Manager,
paula.durrant@lancashire.gov.uk.

Brief Summary

In January 2024, Cabinet approved the commencement of a statutory consultation regarding a proposal to permanently expand Archbishop Temple Church of England High School, Preston, from September 2025, by increasing the school's Published Admission Number from 155 to 210. The enlargement proposal forms part of Lancashire County Council's School Place Planning Delivery Programme 2023 to 2025, approved by Cabinet in October 2022. The permanent expansion from 2025/26 would follow a one-year temporary expansion in place for 2024/25.

This report provides details of the outcome of the statutory consultation.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the requirements of Standing Order C18 have been complied with.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Consider the findings of the Archbishop Temple Church of England High



School statutory consultation.

- (ii) Approve the proposal to permanently expand Archbishop Temple Church of England High School, Preston by 55 places, to increase the Published Admission Number from 155 to 210 from September 2025.
- (iii) Approve the capital allocation for the permanent expansion of Archbishop Temple Church of England High School, as set out at Appendix 'A'. This capital allocation relates to Phase 2 (permanent enlargement); the Phase 1 (temporary enlargement) having been approved by Cabinet on 18 January 2024.

Detail

In October 2022, Cabinet approved the School Place Planning Delivery 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 School Place Planning Delivery Programme identifies the need for additional secondary places to be provided in Preston and that these additional places should be provided through the expansion of existing schools and the establishment of a new school. Following an expression of interest in expansion from Archbishop Temple High School in Preston, in January 2024, Cabinet approved a one-year temporary expansion of the school from September 2024, and the commencement of a statutory consultation on the proposal to permanently expand Archbishop Temple Church of England High School from September 2025.

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 29 January to 3 March 2024. Details of the public consultation are provided below.

The expansion would permanently increase the school's Published Admission Number from 155 to 210, admitting an additional 55 pupils to each Year 7 intake from September 2025. The expansion would gradually increase the school's capacity from 775 to 1,050. The increased capacity would be delivered via internal remodelling of the school and provision of additional accommodation on the school site.

In developing proposals for school places, officers from the School Place Planning Team collaborated with colleagues in the Pupil Access Team, who manage the arrangements of transfer of pupils to secondary school, in adherence to the Department for Education Admissions Code (September 2021). Following closure of the secondary school applications on 31 October 2023 and subsequent secondary school offers on 1 March 2024, 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 increased demand and further in-year requirements.



The expansion proposal has been developed with support from the school's governing body and leadership.

Archbishop Temple Church of England High School is a voluntary aided school and is part of the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education. The Diocese is in support of the expansion proposal.

This proposal is part of a wider programme of delivery of secondary school places in Preston to meet a projected shortfall of places, which includes the permanent expansion of Christ the King Roman Catholic High School and the proposal to establish a new secondary school.

Permission is sought to permanently expand Archbishop Temple Church of England High School, to secure appropriate capacity to meet demand in the Preston area.

Approval is also sought for the capital allocation, as set out at Appendix 'A'.

Appendices

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

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Capital Allocation – Archbishop Temple Church of England High School

Consultations

On 29 January 2024, the county council published a statutory notice in relation to the expansion proposal for Archbishop Temple Church of England High School. In accordance with the statutory process, the notice invited representations (objections or comments) within the statutory notice period, i.e., from 29 January 2024 to 3 March 2024.

In response to the published proposal, the county council received 12 responses, a summary of which is provided below.

8 respondents were in support of the proposal and 4 were 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). 2 respondents in support of the proposal were identified as parents/carers of current pupils at Archbishop Temple Church of England High School and no respondents in support were identified as parents of future pupils at the school. In contrast, 1 of the respondents who did not support the proposal was identified as parent/carer of a current pupil of the school and no respondents were identified as parents of future pupils at the school. Furthermore:



- 8 respondents agreed that there were growing pupil numbers in the area and 1 disagreed.
- 10 respondents agreed that there was a need for extra secondary school places in the Preston area and 2 disagreed.
- 9 respondents agreed that providing additional places at Archbishop Temple Church of England High School would give more choice to parents and 3 disagreed.
- 8 respondents agreed that the expansion of Archbishop Temple Church of England High School would address the need for school places, arising from the increasing housing developments in the area.

Key concerns raised by respondents related to:

Suitability to Expand (9 responses)

7 respondents commented on the suitability of Archbishop Temple Church of England High School for expansion, saying it would provide additional school places to local pupils as it was a popular and oversubscribed school. 2 respondents were concerned that additional pupils would increase current pressures and create additional stress and issues within school, which would undermine the school's current standard of performance.

Lancashire County Council comment – The school's governing body and leadership together with Blackburn Diocese are committed to maintaining the school's ethos and standards of performance.

Faith (6 responses)

Of the responses received, 3 respondents supported the expansion as it would deliver additional Church of England faith places. However, 3 respondents were concerned that additional places at the school would only benefit pupils of Church of England faith to the detriment of non-faith pupils.

Lancashire County Council comment – The expansion of Archbishop Temple is part of a wider programme of delivery in Preston including expansion of existing schools and a proposal to establish a new secondary school. Discussions are ongoing with all existing secondary providers.

Volume of Traffic and Road Safety (3 responses)

Of the 3 respondents who expressed concerns about volume of traffic and road safety, 2 were identified as either parents/carers of pupils currently attending Archbishop Temple Church of England High School or parents/carers of future pupils.

Lancashire County Council Comment - Traffic management has been discussed with the school as part of the development of the proposal, although it must be recognised that the increase in pupil numbers is likely to lead to increased traffic. Traffic impact would be assessed as part of the implementation of the expansion project.



Location of Proposed Expansion (2 responses)

2 respondents expressed concerns that other locations in the Preston area had not been considered or explored to address the needs of the significant housing development in the North Preston area.

Lancashire County Council comment – Discussions regarding the provision of additional secondary places has been undertaken with all secondary providers in Preston and discussions are ongoing.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

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 county council's proposal to expand Archbishop Temple Church of England High School meets the criteria for the statutory process.

In line with the statutory process, a decision on a significant enlargement proposal must be taken within 2 months of the public consultation period.

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 Grant 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. There is no borrowing requirement for this scheme and therefore no revenue capital financing implications. Any increase in costs will be met from the Basic Needs Grant and will reduce the amount available for future projects.

Revenue Funding

The expansion will be supported via the county council's Growth Funding Policy. This includes providing guaranteed pupil funding for the Published Admission Number in year 1 of the expansion. For the second and subsequent years of



expansion, schools receive the relevant Minimum Pupil Funding rate contained in the National Funding Formula for 7/12ths of the difference between the previous admission number and the actual numbers of Year 7 pupils on roll as at the previous January (provided that more pupils are on roll than the previous admission number). This sum is to compensate for the lag between when the school accepts the pupils and allied staffing and other costs, in the September of the academic year, and the following March at which point funding driven by the October census is in place, i.e. it compensates for the lag in funding.

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.

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.

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 and will also include pupils from other protected characteristics groups such as religion or belief – which also includes those with no religion or belief.



List of Background Papers

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

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.

