

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 5 September 2024

Report of the Director of Finance and Commerce

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
Preston Rural; Longridge and
Bowland

Corporate Priorities:
Caring for the vulnerable;

**Provision of Additional Primary School Places - Proposal to Expand
Goosnargh Oliverson's Church of England Primary School**

Contacts for further information:

Paula Durrant, Tel: (01772) 53414, School Planning Manager,
paula.durrant@lancashire.gov.uk

Ben Terry, Tel: (01772) 531774, School Planning Manager,
ben.terry@lancashire.gov.uk

Brief Summary

Pupil projections indicate there will be a shortfall of primary school places in the Goosnargh and Grimsargh planning area in Preston, and the adjoining planning area of Longridge in Ribble Valley from 2025/26.

To address the increased demand in these two areas, approval is being sought to commence a public consultation in relation to a proposal to expand Goosnargh Oliverson's Church of England Primary School, increasing the school's published admission number from 30 to 60. This would gradually increase the capacity of the school from 210 to 420 places.

It is intended to provide the expansion initially through a one-year temporary increase to the published admission number from 30 to 60 from September 2025 facilitated by the provision of temporary accommodation. The expansion would then become permanent from September 2026, following the completion of the capital build project.



Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to agree that a public consultation be undertaken on the proposal to permanently expand Goosnargh Oliverson's Church of England Primary School, to increase the Published Admission Number from 30 to 60 from September 2026 with an initial temporary expansion proposed from September 2025.

Detail

Lancashire County Council has a statutory duty to ensure that a 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 additional housing impact, there is a projected shortfall of primary school places in the Preston planning area of Goosnargh and Grimsargh and the adjoining planning area of Longridge, within the borough of Ribble Valley.

The approach of assessing future demand collectively for the two planning areas was established in the 2022 School Provision Delivery Plan, due to housing development's collective impact on the two areas and the limited scope to expand any of the existing primary schools in Longridge.

The table below provides a summary of the combined Spring 2024 pupil projections for the Longridge and Goosnargh and Grimsargh planning areas, showing the projected pupil numbers on roll in each year group over the next three years.

Pupil Projections - Combined Longridge and Goosnargh & Grimsargh Planning Areas									
			Key Stage 1			Key Stage 2			
Intake Year	Combined PAN		Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
2025/26	210	Projection	245	195	200	221	229	214	226
		Surplus/ Shortfall	-35	15	10	-11	-19	-4	-16
2026/27	210	Projection	236	256	201	208	233	239	225
		Surplus/ Shortfall	-26	-46	9	2	-23	-29	-15
2027/28	210	Projection	224	246	262	208	219	243	250
		Surplus/ Shortfall	-14	-36	-52	2	-9	-33	-40

*PAN = Published Admission Number

The pupil projections indicate that there is a need for permanent additional places to be provided to meet future demand for school places across the two planning areas.



The projection table below demonstrates the increased demand as each Reception cohort moves through higher year groups in future years. The increased demand in higher year groups is an indication that significant demand is coming from new housing development and migration, whilst at the same time both areas have high birth rates in relation to the capacity of the schools in these areas.

Pupil Projections - Combined Longridge and Goosnargh & Grimsargh Planning Areas									
			Key Stage 1			Key Stage 2			
Intake Year	Combined PAN		Reception	+1 Year	+2 Years	+3 Years	+4 Years	+5 Years	+6 Years
2025/26	210	Projection	245	256	262	270	281	289	300
		Surplus/Shortfall	-35	-46	-52	-60	-71	-79	-90
2026/27	210	Projection	236	246	253	258	269	276	286
		Surplus/Shortfall	-26	-36	-43	-48	-59	-66	-76
2027/28	210	Projection	224	234	238	243	253	261	270
		Surplus/Shortfall	-14	-24	-28	-33	-43	-51	-60

*PAN = Published Admission Number

Further plans are being developed to address the significant shortfalls projected in the higher year groups in future years.

Proposal to expand Goosnargh Oliverson's Church of England Primary School

In June 2022, expressions of interest for expansion were sought from schools in the two planning areas of Longridge and Goosnargh and Grimsargh, to address a projected shortfall of places from 2025/26. The 2023 School Provision Delivery Plan proposed the establishment of a new primary school at Whittingham Hospital; however, it had been determined that the new school could not be delivered until September 2026.

Several schools expressed an interest in expansion including Goosnargh Oliverson's Church of England Primary School. Site feasibility assessments were conducted for each of the schools that had expressed an interest and the appraisal determined that the expansion of Goosnargh Oliverson's Church of England Primary School should be progressed.

As Goosnargh Oliverson's Church of England Primary School is a Voluntary Aided school, engagement has been conducted with Blackburn Diocese Board of Education and with the school to determine the additional accommodation requirements.

The Expansion Proposal

It is proposed to increase the published admission number of Goosnargh Oliverson's Church of England Primary School by one form of entry, increasing the reception intake from 30 to 60 places. The expansion would be delivered initially with a one-



year temporary expansion in September 2025, facilitated by the provision of temporary accommodation, with the expansion becoming permanent from September 2026, following completion of the capital project. The increased admission number will gradually increase the school's capacity from 210 to 420.

Consultation

In line with Department for Education guidance '[making significant changes \(prescribed alterations\) to maintained schools—Jan 2023](#)', the one form entry permanent expansion of Goosnargh Oliverson's Church of England Primary School would represent a significant enlargement of the school and a statutory procedure must be followed, including a period of public consultation.

A 4-week period of statutory consultation is required, which includes the publication of the Public Statutory Notice and Complete Proposal.

Timetable

Action	Timescale
Report to Cabinet seeking permission to consult on the proposal to permanently expand Goosnargh Oliverson's from September 2026, including the publication of the Public Statutory Notice.	5 September 2024
Statutory Consultation.	September/October (4 weeks)
Feedback on Statutory Consultation representations. Cabinet Decision on the permanent expansion. (The decision must be made within 2 months of the end of the consultation period).	14 November 2024
1-year temporary expansion.	September 2025
Implementation of permanent expansion. Completion of capital project	September 2026

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 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.

Department for Education guidance specifies that a decision on significant expansion proposals must be made within 2 months of the end of the representation period, i.e. December 2024.

Legal

Statutory notices for the proposals were published in accordance with Department for Education guidance 'Making significant (prescribed alternations) to maintained schools – January 2023'.

Financial

Capital Funding

Details of the capital costs for the provision of permanent accommodation from September 2026 will be available at a future Cabinet meeting.

Revenue Funding

To support this growth in pupil numbers, additional revenue funding allocations will be required to assist with the lag that accompanies the funding generated by taking extra pupils. The School's Forum has agreed that from April 2023, the Minimum Pupil Funding rates will be utilised for the growth fund payments, as follows - Primary £4,405 per pupil.

The Growth Funding Policy prescribes that in year one of the expansion revenue funding will be provided for the total published admission number. In future years funding will be determined based on the number of pupils on roll identified in the October pupil census.

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.

Should the proposal be approved, fuller consideration of the equality implications of this proposal will be given following the outcome of the consultation to assist with the taking of any further decisions.

List of Background Papers

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

None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

