

Impact Analysis to Enable Informed Decisions

Background Information

| Directorate | Assistant Director area | Service area | Lead officer | Person / people completing analysis | Date of workshop / meeting | Version |
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| Adults & Children's | Children's Services | Property & Technology Management | Paul Holmes | Linda Duffield | | 1 |
| Title of the policy / project / service being considered | The expansion of Boston Park Primary School | | | | | |
| General overview and description of the The expansion of Boston Park Primary School | The proposal under consideration is to expand the school from its existing capacity of 210 to 315 | | | | | |
| The status of the The expansion of Boston Park Primary School | New | | | LCC Directly Delivered | | |
| Timescales for implementation | The process commenced on 10 January 2012 with a letter sent out to all parents of current pupils and other interested parties initiating a 4 week period of consultation. 32 responses were received with only 1 against the proposal. Following this the Executive Councillor took the decision to publish a Statutory Notice commencing the 4 week Representation Period during which only 1 response was submitted which was in favour of the proposal. A final decision is anticipated on 15 May 2012 with an implementation date of 1 September 2013 | | | | | |
| Analysis | | | | | | |
| 1. What is the current situation? | Boston Park Primary School has a capacity of 210. Due to the pressure on primary school places in the Boston area the school has, with the agreement of the LA, admitted pupils over this figure (Number on roll at the start of the January term was 259). This has required the use of temporary accommodation and the school is overcrowded with key facilities being insufficient for the number on roll. | | | | | |

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| <p>2. What are the drivers for change?</p> | <p>(a) Political -To ensure the LA meets its statutory duty of providing sufficient school places for children of statutory school age in Lincolnshire (b) Economic, social and political -To ensure the provision of school places is planned so as to promote high standards and sustainability therefore enabling children to fulfil their potential. (c) Political & Social - To avoid overcrowding and placing increasing pressure on all primary schools as this would likely lead to a negative impact on the quality of education provided. (d) Economic and social - To avoid increased transport costs and the negative impact of extra travelling time and potential increased car usage if it were necessary for children to travel to villages outside Boston.</p> | |
| <p>3. What difference will we make?</p> | <p>The LA will fulfil its statutory duty by providing sufficient school places in the area for all children of a statutory school age. A sustainable long term solution is needed to meet the demand for school places arising out of the increasing birth rate. Overcrowding in primary schools, increased transport costs for home to school transport, extra car usage, negative impact of extra travelling time on children will all be minimised by this proposed expansion.</p> | |
| <p>4. What are the assumptions about the benefits?</p> | <p>The additional school places provided will contribute to meeting the demand for school places both now and in the future. It will enable parents to obtain school places for their children at a local school and will enable a higher proportion of parents to obtain their first preference. A sustainable long term solution within the local area will provide enhanced educational provision.</p> | |
| <p>5. How are you testing your assumptions about the benefits?</p> | <p>Boston Park School is a popular school and it has been consistently oversubscribed in recent years.The allocation of school places by means of the co-ordinated scheme implemented by the School Admissions team at subsequent intakes will confirm whether there are sufficient places for children in the area and provide data as to the percentage of parents receiving their first or other preference. Inspections and the work undertaken by Ofsted will monitor the quality of education provided.</p> | |
| <p>6. What are the assumptions about any adverse impacts? Could it have a negative effect on anyone?</p> | <p>Yes</p> | |
| <p>6.1 Which groups/individuals could it have a negative impact on?</p> | <p>The expansion proposal could have a negative impact on local residents within the area around the school eg increased traffic, pressure on car parking etc There may also be the potential for a short term negative impact on the children on roll at the school when the building work takes place eg difficulty of movement around the school and children having to take classes in alternative classrooms. However, this minor potential negative impact is vastly outweighed by the resulting positive solution.</p> | |

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| 6.2 How could it have a negative impact on these groups/individuals? Please refer to the list of protected characteristics to assist your answer | For residents - There may be increased pressure on the road infrastructure in the locality of the school and also car parking availability together with some potential impact of increased noise. For children - There may be an impact from increased noise and disturbance of building work impacting on children moving around the school and on the quality of their education. Under the Equality Act 2010 the LA must take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a protected characteristic as being different to the needs of persons who do not share it. Currently the school meets this requirement by careful management of all their pupils and their individual needs and will continue to do so during the period that building work is undertaken. |
| 7. How are you testing your assumptions about adverse impacts? | Response forms were submitted during the consultation phase by both residents and school staff. Out of a total of 32 responses 27 were in favour, 1 against and 4 neither for nor against. Staff meetings were held to discuss the proposal and local residents were given the opportunity to discuss their concerns at 1 to 1 appointments with LA officers but no parent actually took up the offer of a meeting. The Headteacher and staff thoroughly discussed the proposal with current pupils via whole school assemblies and also group work. |
| 7.1 What further evidence do you need to gather? | A further opportunity for any interested party to submit comments and concerns was made available in the Representation Period ie the 4 weeks commencing with the publication of the Statutory Notice. There was only 1 response submitted which was in favour of the expansion proposal. The statutory guidelines with regard to who and how to consult and the appropriate length of consultation have all been met to enable the decision maker to make the final decision. |
| 8. Who are the stakeholders and how will they be affected? | <p style="text-align: center;">Primary (those directly affected, either positively or negatively by the organisation's actions)</p> <p>(1) Parents/carers and their children - will be assured that their educational needs are being met. (2) School Staff - less overcrowding at the school relieving pressure on school staff and therefore enhancing the quality of education provided. (3) The Council - this will ensure that the Council is meeting its statutory obligations; will ensure value for money reducing home to school transport and also that the needs of the Community are being met in that local children will be able to attend their local school.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Secondary (intermediaries, people or organisations who are indirectly affected by the organisation's actions)</p> <p>Local residents - the LA understands the potential negative impact on the local road network and access and will work with Highways and Planning to mitigate this impact where possible.</p> |
| 9. How are you assessing the risks and minimising adverse impacts? | An appropriate risk assessment will be undertaken and any recommendations will be taken into consideration by the Project Manager. |
| 10. What changes will the Council need to make as a result of introducing the policy / project / service etc? | There will be no changes to any LCC policy or procedures. Building work will be undertaken at the school to enable the expansion of the capacity of the school to meet local demand. |
| 11. How will you undertake evaluation once the changes have been implemented? | The number on roll will be reviewed together with the available capacity and projected demand for places in the future at this and all primary schools in Boston and the surrounding area which will enable evaluation of both the need for places and also data on how the offer of places has met parental preference. |

| Further Details | | | |
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| Are you handling personal data? | Yes | If yes, please give details | consultation responses incorporated name and address of respondent but these details will remain confidential. |
| How was this analysis undertaken? Facilitated workshop? Who attended? | Details of the proposal and response forms were sent to a wide range of interested parties in line with statutory guidance, and details were also made available on the Council's website. All responses were recorded and analysed to be taken into consideration by the decision maker. Personal appointments were also offered to parents for further discussion although none were taken up. | | |
| Are you confident that everyone who should have been involved in producing this version of the Impact Analysis has been? | Yes | If No, who needs to be involved? | |
| If this is new, or requires a decision by Councillors to revise, has this impact analysis been included with the committee report? | Yes | If No, why? | |
| Actions required Including any actions that have been identified in this analysis for monitoring in the service area workplan? | No | Action | Lead Officer |
| | | N/A | N/A |
| Signed off by | Paul Holmes | | Date |
| | | | 30-Apr-12 |