

Children's Services
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To Staff, Parents/Carers and other interested parties

13 June 2012

Dear Consultee

Proposal to Expand Louth St Michael's Church of England Primary School

Lincolnshire County Council is commencing a consultation process on the proposal to expand Louth St Michael's Church of England Primary School, Monks' Dyke Road, Louth LN11 9AR.

It is the Local Authority's (LA) statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places to accommodate all pupils of statutory school age in Lincolnshire. The LA believes that this proposal is the best available option to address the expected shortage of Primary Reception school places in Louth. It is important that the LA gather and consider all views on this proposal prior to making a decision on how to proceed.

The additional information accompanying this letter outlines the reasons for the proposal and explains in more detail why there is a need to expand this school and how the expansion can benefit the children and the community.

Following statutory consultation, if the expansion proposal is approved, it is proposed that building work to add additional accommodation will begin during the academic year 2012/13 and will be completed in readiness for the start of term in September 2013. This would be managed to cause minimal disruption to the school during term time making the best use of school holidays.

If you wish to comment on this proposal then after reading the accompanying information please return the response form by 5.00pm on Wednesday 11 July 2012 using the contact details provided. If you would like to discuss this further before responding to the proposal then LA officers will be holding pre-booked consultation drop in sessions at the school on Thursday 21 June 2012. Please contact Lynda Taylor, School Administrator, on 01507 603867 to arrange an appointment.

If you have any queries regarding the proposal or the consultation process please do not hesitate to contact the Property and Technology Management team. (contact details are confirmed on the response form).

Yours sincerely



Matt Clayton
School Organisation Planning Manager
Property and Technology Management

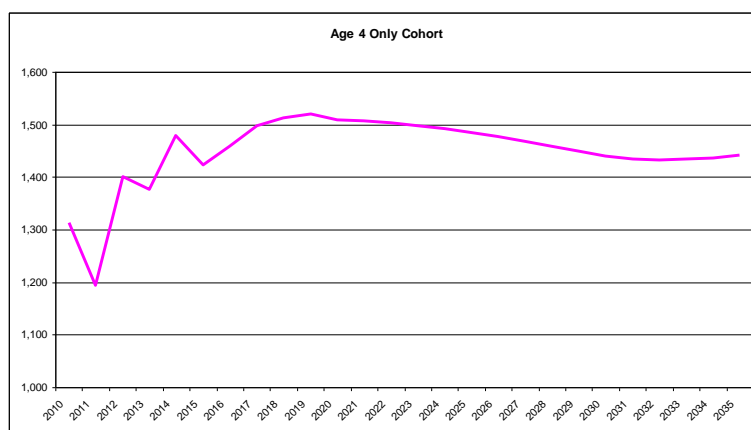
Reasons for the Proposal to Expand Louth St Michael's Church of England Primary School

National birth rates, mostly concentrated in towns and cities (urban areas), have been steadily rising in recent years. This increased birth rate, combined in some areas with migration and housing development, is now starting to have an impact at primary school age putting significant pressure on schools across the country where there is a shortage of Reception places. Louth is one of the urban pressure points in Lincolnshire where there will be a shortage of available places if capacity in the town is not increased.

The graph below shows the need for Reception places in East Lindsey based on data released by The Office of National Statistics (ONS) in March 2012 and confirms the rising birth rate.

East Lindsey (age 4 population)

- 2011 = 1193
- 2012 = 1400
- 2013 = 1376
- 2014 = 1480
- 2015 = 1423
- 2020-35 = 1500-1450



Based on this information from the ONS, combined with local knowledge and NHS birth data, there is expected to be a long term requirement of at least 15 additional places per year group in the town of Louth. A permanent sustainable solution is needed to accommodate these extra children. Other options will be considered in the future if further places are required

This proposal is to expand Louth St Michael's Church of England Primary School from its existing capacity of 210 to 315. This will increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 30 to 45 initially only for the Reception intake in 2013 with the PAN for all other years remaining at 30. The increased intake to 45 will then be phased in with each subsequent intake up to 2018 to maintain pupil numbers at other local schools and avoid unnecessary cross town commuting. It will also allow the school to effectively manage staffing and teaching structures. A PAN of 45 will enable the school to have two pure Reception classes of 22 and 23 instead of the one Reception class of 30 as at present.

The aim is to have the new facilities ready for the September 2013 intake and for an additional class to be set up within existing accommodation to take 15 additional pupils from September 2012.

If you would like further information or would like to comment on this proposal then please return the attached form, email provisionplanning@lincolnshire.gov.uk or write to Property & Technology Management, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Lincoln LN1 1YQ by 5.00pm on Wednesday 11 July 2012.

Copies of all consultation documents including an electronic version of the feedback form, can be found online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/provisionplanning under "Current Consultations". Any planning queries will be dealt with through a separate planning consultation process should the proposal proceed to a planning application.