

APPENDIX D



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

21 January 2013

Dear Consultee

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

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) is commencing a consultation process on the proposal to permanently expand the capacity at St Michael's Church of England Primary School, School Lane, Coningsby, Lincoln LN4 4SJ with an implementation date of September 2014.

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 Coningsby and the surrounding area to ensure that local children are able to go to their local school. It is important that the LA gather and consider all views on this proposal prior to making a decision on how to proceed.

The proposal being consulted on is to permanently expand the school from the existing capacity of 280 places based on a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 40 to 420 places (PAN 60), with a proposed implementation date of September 2014. This would increase the PAN initially for the Reception intake in September 2014 with the PAN for all other years remaining at 40. The increased intake to 60 would then be phased in with each subsequent Reception intake commencing in September 2015 until the PAN of 60 applies to all year groups. This phased approach will allow the school to effectively manage staffing and teaching structures and help to ensure that pupil numbers at other local schools will be maintained.

The following information outlines the reasons for the proposal and explains why there is a need to expand this school and how the expansion can benefit the children and the community.

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

National birth rates, mostly concentrated in more urban areas, have been steadily rising in recent years. This increased birth rate, combined in some areas with inward migration and housing development, is now starting to have an impact at primary school age putting significant pressure on primary schools across the country where there is a shortage of Reception places. Coningsby and the surrounding area will experience a shortage of available places if capacity at one of the local schools is not increased.

There is expected to be a long term requirement for more places. A permanent sustainable solution is needed to accommodate these extra children to avoid overcrowding and/or transporting 4 year old children to alternative schools outside of their local community.

Having additional classes and more children on roll at the school will also have financial benefits for the school. This may potentially provide the opportunity to enhance teaching provision and career opportunities for staff which in turn will benefit the learning experience of the children.

Following statutory consultation, if the expansion proposal is approved, it is proposed that building work to add necessary additional accommodation will begin during the academic year 2012/13 (subject to planning permission being granted) and planned to be completed in readiness for the start of term in September 2014. This would be managed to cause minimal disruption to the school during term time making the best use of school holidays where possible.

Please note that the planning application process is dealt with and consulted on separately and there will be opportunity for those that are interested to be involved throughout the planning process.

Have your say

If you wish to comment on this proposal then please return the response form by 5.00pm on Monday 18th February 2013 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 appointments at the school on Friday 1st February between 8.30am and 5.00pm. Please contact Mrs Elaine Barber, School Business Manager, on 01526 342312 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).

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 18th February 2013.

Copies of all documents related to this proposal, including an electronic version of the feedback form, can be found online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/provisionplanning under "Current Consultations". Hard copies are also available on request.

Yours sincerely



Matt Clayton
School Organisation Planning Manager
Property and Technology Management