



**Complete proposal**  
**to Expand**  
**Louth St Michael's Church of England Primary**  
**School**

MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 19 OF THE EDUCATION AND  
INSPECTIONS ACT 2006 PROPOSALS TO MAKE PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS  
TO A SCHOOL

**15 August 2012**

## **Contact details**

This proposal has been published by Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ regarding the expansion of Louth St Michael's Church of England Primary School, Monks' Dyke Road, Louth LN11 9AR.

## **Implementation**

The proposal is to expand Louth St Michael's Church of England Primary School with effect from 1 September 2013. The proposal is being made to ensure that there are sufficient primary school places in Louth to accommodate the increasing pupil numbers in the town and to enable the Local Authority (LA) to fulfil its statutory duty of providing school places for all children of statutory school age in Lincolnshire.

## **Objections and Comments**

Any person or organisation may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Provision Planning, Children's Services, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ or by emailing [provisionplanning@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:provisionplanning@lincolnshire.gov.uk) to be received by the deadline of 12 September 2012

## **Alteration description**

The proposal under consideration is to expand Louth St Michael's Church of England Primary School from its existing capacity of 210 to 315 with an increase in the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 30 to 45. The PAN will increase initially only for the Reception intake in 2013 with all other year groups remaining at 30. The increased intake to 45 will then be phased in with each subsequent annual intake until the PAN of 45 applies to all year groups.

## **School Capacity and Site**

As a temporary measure reorganisation is taking place within existing accommodation to enable the school to offer an additional 15 places in September 2012. If the expansion proposal is approved it is proposed that building work to add the additional accommodation will begin during 2012 and the aim is to have the new facilities ready for the September 2013 intake. This would be managed to cause minimal disruption to the school during term time making best use of the school holidays. The expansion will not require the use of any new or additional site. The number on roll at the time of the school census in May 2012 was 209.

## **Objectives**

The proposal detailed in this document is to expand Louth St Michael's Church of England Primary School with effect from 1 September 2013 and the objective is to ensure that there are sufficient primary school places in Louth to accommodate the increasing pupil numbers in the town and to enable the LA to fulfil its statutory duty of providing school places for all children of statutory school age in Lincolnshire.

The LA considers this to be the best available solution to the expected shortage of primary school places in Louth and would not be actively participating in this process if it did not see significant advantages for children and young people, their parents/carers and the local community. Other options in Louth and the surrounding area have been considered for potential expansion but none have been found to be as suitable due to reasons such as undersized sites, distance that pupils would have to travel, parental preference, impact on standards and the fact that other schools are of suitable size.

The LA believes this proposal to be in the best interests of local children and local parents as well as educational provision in the area and it reinforces the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). The proposal will ensure that the provision of school places is planned so as to promote high educational standards, enable fair access to educational opportunity for every child and promote the fulfilment of each child's potential. This proposal will both enhance the quality of provision and sustain local provision.

The publication of the Statutory Notice will enable the statutory and legal processes to proceed. This continuation to the next stage of the process will allow a further opportunity for people and organisations to express their views about the proposal and ensure that they will be taken into account by the Executive Councillor.

## **Consultation**

In order for the school to expand the LA must follow the necessary statutory legal processes as required by the Secretary of State in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act (EIA) 2006 and updated by the Education Act 2011 together with the guidance of the Department for Education (DfE) regarding expansion. Under current legislation the LA is the decision maker for the proposal.

Consultation originally began on 13 June 2012 with a letter, incorporating relevant information and reasons for the proposal, being sent to all parents of pupils attending the school informing them of the proposal. Interested parties were also informed as required by guidelines issued by the DfE. In addition, on 21 June 2012, individual drop in sessions were offered to parents to discuss the proposal further with LA officers. These meetings were arranged to allow those having an interest in this proposal to be able to gather information, ask questions and get involved in the debate. No appointments were actually taken up by parents of current pupils although two Town Councillors did meet with an officer from the LA to discuss the proposal and subsequently a written response to the consultation was submitted confirming the support of the Town Council.

All parents/carers and other interested parties were given the opportunity to respond as part of the consultation process by 11 July 2012. Copies of the letter commencing consultation and the response form were also published on the County Council website under the webpage Current Consultations on [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/provisionplanning](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/provisionplanning)

An analysis of the written responses to the consultation is detailed in Appendix B but to briefly summarise there were 12 valid responses in total with 7 supporting the

proposal, 4 against and 1 expressing a view neither in favour nor against the proposal. Of these 5 were from parents of current pupils with 2 in favour and 3 (representing 2 households) against. 3 responses, all in favour of the proposal, were submitted by members of the Governing Body of Louth St Michael's Church of England Primary School with 1 response against the proposal received from the Governing Body of a neighbouring primary school. There was only 1 response from a staff member of the school which was in favour of the expansion proposal.

The Headteacher and staff have consulted with the children currently attending the school to explain the proposal.

### **Evidence of the consultation before the proposal was published -**

(a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted can be found in Appendix A

(b) the views of the persons consulted are summarised in Appendix B

(c) a copy of the letter confirming the commencement of the consultation process and incorporating relevant information and reasons for the proposal is in Appendix C

(e) a copy of the form to send in responses is in Appendix D.

Following the initial letter all documentation relating to the consultation was published online through the County Council website under Current Consultations at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/provisionplanning](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/provisionplanning)

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposal were complied with.

### **Project Costs**

This proposed expansion will incur a certain amount of capital costs and the LA will fund the necessary costs to implement the project making use of basic need funding.

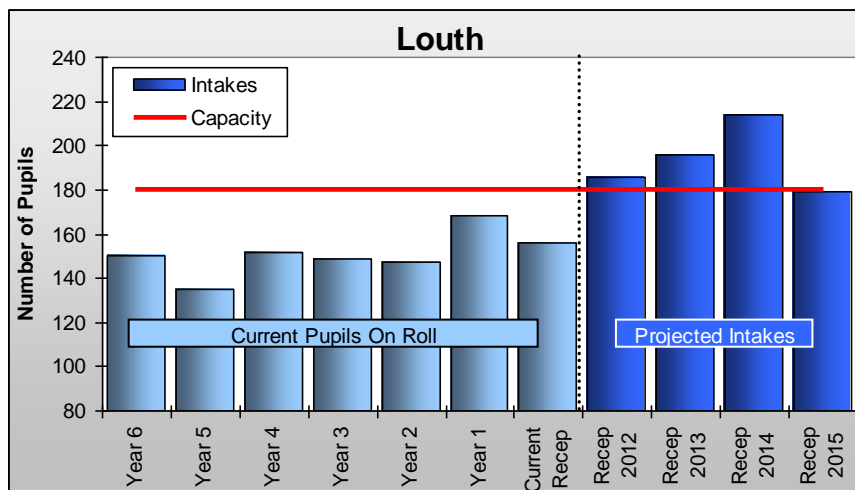
### **Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision**

Education is continuing on the existing school site and there is therefore likely to be no impact on SEN provision. Consideration of pupils with SEN will take place should there be any relocation of pupils to an alternative part of the existing site and physical access will be assured should a need be presented. The LA will continue to look to make improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the education provision for children with SEN.

### **Need for places**

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 known pupil numbers across all Louth primary schools of children aged 0-3 that will be needing primary places in the 2012 intake and years ahead (dark blue columns), compared to existing pupil numbers aged 4+ already in Louth schools (light blue columns).



Data updated at January 2012 School Census

Based on information from the Office of National Statistics (ONS), combined with local NHS birth data, there is expected to be a long term requirement of at least 15 additional places per year group in the area. The latest ONS data showing the number of pupils in Louth that will be entering primary education in the years following 2015 indicates sustained high numbers. A permanent sustainable solution is needed to accommodate these extra children and the proposed solution in Louth 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) for the Reception intake and each year group from 30 to 45.

### Expansion of successful and popular schools

The Government is committed to ensuring that every parent can choose an excellent school for their child with the wishes of parents being taken into account. There is a strong presumption that proposals to expand popular and successful schools should be approved. DfE guidance states that places should be allocated where parents want them and that successful and popular schools be allowed to grow.

The latest Ofsted report, following an inspection in October 2011, rated the school’s overall effectiveness as “good” with none of the grades for each section of the report falling below “good”. Most of the parents who completed a questionnaire or spoke with inspectors during the inspection have a positive view of the school and are happy with their child’s experience at the school.

The school is consistently oversubscribed as indicated by the numbers of first preference applications received (66 in 2010, 44 in 2011 and 45 in 2012) for the 30 places in the Reception class and the school is evidently popular with parents.

### **Related Proposals**

The proposal to expand Louth St Michael's Church of England Primary School is not related to any other statutory proposal.

### **What will happen now?**

Any person may object to or make comments on this proposal by sending them to Provision Planning, Children's Services, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN1 1YQ or by emailing [provisionplanning@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:provisionplanning@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

At the close of the 4 week representation period (statutory formal consultation) on 12 September 2012 responses will be collated and analysed and a final report will be presented to the Executive Councillor in October this year for a decision on the expansion of the school. The representation period is the final opportunity for people and organisations to express their views about the proposal and ensure that they will be taken into account by the decision maker.