

1 October 2012

Proposal for a new mainstream primary school (age 4-11) in Bourne

The County Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for all Lincolnshire children. It has been well publicised in the national press that many local authorities across the country are having to find additional primary school places for unprecedented numbers of pupils in urban areas. Parts of Lincolnshire are experiencing similar pressures. This includes the town of Bourne where there is expected to be a significant shortfall of required places in the future if additional provision is not made available.

The main contributing factors for the increase in numbers are an increased birth rate and new housing developments, the largest being Elsea Park. This has resulted in sufficient demand to justify the need for a new local primary school to meet the needs of local families. The Local Authority (LA) is now in a position to seek planning permission and an operator for a new school.

The proposal is for a new 1FE (210 place) primary school/academy located within the Elsea Park development on a site designated for use as a primary school as proposed within the plans for this residential area which is still under construction. It is proposed to open with a Reception intake only, on a phased basis from September 2014.

The LA is finalising arrangements regarding the site and will manage the process and capital building projects up to completion, working closely with the new operator in the later stages of the project to determine final internal fixtures, fittings and décor. The LA will fund the project and the design will be based on a national template to achieve maximum cost efficiency and to minimise build time in line with the James Review. Under the Education Act 2011 there is a presumption that any new school will be an academy and not LA maintained so the new provision for Bourne will be an academy. Any interested potential operator or sponsor should request an application pack by emailing provisionplanning@lincolnshire.gov.uk or writing to 'Property and Technology Management' at the address above. All applications must be completed and returned by 16 November 2012. The LA will carry out an assessment of all applications received and has the option to select a preferred sponsor for recommendation to the Secretary of State who is the decision maker regarding the selection of the operator.

The LA would also like to take this opportunity to assure you that a new academy in this area should have minimal effect on the numbers on roll at other nearby schools. There is expected to be sufficient long term demand for places to sustain all existing schools and academies in addition to the proposed new academy. The LA would welcome discussion with any school, academy or interested party that would consider being part of this exciting opportunity in Bourne.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course. If you have any questions regarding the proposal or the process then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



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