

**Complete Proposal**  
**to Expand**  
**Monks Abbey School, Lincoln**

MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 19 OF THE EDUCATION AND  
INSPECTIONS ACT 2006

PROPOSALS TO MAKE A PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO A SCHOOL

**08 February 2018**

## **Contact details**

This proposal has been published by Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ regarding the expansion of Monks Abbey Primary School, Monks Road, Lincoln, LN2 5PF.

## **Implementation**

The proposal is to expand Monks Abbey Primary School with effect from 1 September 2019 to enable the Local Authority (LA) to fulfil its statutory duty of providing school places for all children of statutory school age in Lincolnshire. This proposal is being made to ensure that there are sufficient primary school places in the Lincoln Central area to accommodate the increasing pupil numbers in the community.

## **Objections and Comments**

Any person or organisation may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to the School Organisation Planning Team, Children's Services, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ or by emailing [schoolorganisation@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation@lincolnshire.gov.uk) to be received by the deadline of 08 March 2018.

## **Alteration Description**

The proposal under consideration is to increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 60 to 75 therefore expanding the school permanently from the existing capacity of 420 to 525 places. This would initially increase the PAN for the Reception intake in September 2019 to 70 with the PAN for all other years remaining at 60. The increased intake of up to 70 would then be phased in with each subsequent Reception intake until the PAN of 75 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. Should demand across the area result in mid-year pressures requiring additional places in higher year groups this approach also allows the flexibility to add capacity at the appropriate time if needed. This will help to avoid placing and transporting children to schools outside of the local community if they move into the area. The proposal will expand the school to 2.5 forms of entry.

The proposal here is to permanently expand the school and to provide sufficient physical capacity to eventually provide enough space for up to 525 pupils in total to enable 70 places in all year groups when eventually full.

## **School Capacity and Site**

It will not be possible to meet the growing demand for school places in the area without additional accommodation. The school admitted the usual intake of 60 but had an additional 11 pupils on a reserve list for Reception places for the intake in September 2017. Further accommodation is required if the school continues to take larger intakes to meet local demand beyond 2019. Accommodation will be provided, subject to planning permission and final approval of this proposal. The necessary building/refurbishment work will begin during 2019 (subject to planning permission

being granted) and planned to be completed in advance of the start of term in September 2019. This would be managed to cause minimal disruption to the school during term time making best use of school holidays where possible. Suitable additional teaching and resource spaces both inside and outside will be required to ensure sufficient facilities are in place to accommodate up to 525 primary aged children in total. It is proposed to achieve this by some internal remodelling with a small amount of new build to include additional teaching (one new classroom), stores, play areas and cloak spaces as well as other areas such as toilets and a new staffroom. These new facilities will benefit the children already on roll at the school as well as provide additional accommodation for increased pupil numbers on roll in the future.

The planning application process required is dealt with and consulted on separately from this process. There will be an opportunity for those that are interested to respond directly to the planning application.

## **Objectives**

The proposal detailed in this document is to expand Monks Abbey Primary School with effect from 1 September 2019. The objectives are to; ensure there are sufficient primary school places in Lincoln Central to accommodate increasing pupil numbers in the community; and to enable the LA to fulfil its statutory duty of providing school places for all children of statutory school age in Lincolnshire within a reasonable distance from where they live.

The LA considers this to be the most appropriate solution to the expected shortage of primary school places in Lincoln Central. The expansion of Monks Abbey Primary School would enable local children to attend a local school and the LA 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. The LA believes the 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 Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS).

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 and at the same time it will assist in meeting parental preference. It is also an opportunity to address some related suitability and condition issues to benefit not just the additional pupils but those that are already on roll.

Other options in and around this area of Lincoln Central have been explored and all primary schools have been considered for potential expansion, but none have been found to be as suitable due to reasons such as; geographical location in relation to demographic pressures, undersized sites, distance that pupils would have to travel, parental preference, impact on standards, potential planning challenges and the fact that other schools are of suitable sizes for the local areas that they serve.

The proposal to expand Monks Abbey Primary School has the support of the Governing Body. The LA is confident that the school can drive forward a successful expansion which will provide the opportunity to improve the learning experience and outcomes for the children to enable them to reach their full potential. The LA believes it to be the most appropriate option for expansion in the area.

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.

## **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. The relevant DfE guidance was updated in April 2016. Under this guidance there is no longer a requirement for a prescribed consultation period prior to the publication of the Statutory Notice and Complete Proposal. However, the DfE still has a strong expectation that LAs will consult interested parties in developing their proposal. To fulfil this expectation the LA undertook a fair and open consultation to ensure all views were considered.

Consultation originally began on 03 November 2017 with a letter, incorporating relevant information and reasons for the proposal, 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. Individual meetings were offered to anyone interested to meet with representatives of the Local Authority at the school to ask questions and raise any concerns; no people took up this offer.

All parents/carers and other interested parties were given the opportunity to respond as part of the consultation process by 08 December 2017. 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/parents/schools/for-schools/school-organisation-planning-team/current-consultations/](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parents/schools/for-schools/school-organisation-planning-team/current-consultations/)

All written responses received during consultation have been provided to the Executive Councillor for consideration in the decision making process. To briefly summarise there were 17 valid responses in total with 0 against the proposal, 15 for the proposal and 2 neither for nor against.

Under current legislation the LA is the decision maker for the proposal and is co-ordinating the statutory process before making a final decision in May 2018. The LA, as decision maker, must be able to show that all relevant issues raised are taken into consideration in the decision making process.

## **Project Costs**

This proposed expansion will incur capital costs that the LA will fund from the Children's Services capital programme. All capital costs are being covered by basic need funding allocated by the DfE. This funding is provided to add capacity to primary provision where it is needed, and is not intended for alternative uses elsewhere. The capital project aims to create the required facilities to allow for up to 525 pupils to be accommodated.

Revenue costs associated with the proposed expansion would be funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant (Growth Fund).

## **Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision**

The expansion of the school is not likely to have any impact on SEND provision other than an opportunity to improve the provision with better access to resources and consistently good quality teaching and learning at the school. Consideration of pupils with SEN will take place and 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**

Birth data supplied by Lincolnshire Community Health Service (for January 2017) confirms the expected long term requirement for more places for children of a statutory school age in Lincoln Central.

Birth data shows a consistent cohort size above the capacity in the immediate area going forward. There will also be additional pupils from ambitious new housing development plans in the area that is not factored into the Health Service data. Therefore, a permanent sustainable solution is needed to accommodate these extra children to avoid overcrowding and to allow for a reasonable level of surplus capacity to accommodate pupils moving into the area.

The expansion is required to meet the projected demand for places in Lincoln Central and to ensure that the LA meets its duty of providing sufficient places for children of statutory school age in the immediate area. The expansion is proposed to meet the need for additional capacity in Lincoln Central and not to replace existing capacity in the primary sector, therefore not having a significant negative impact on neighbouring primary schools.

## **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 if possible places should be allocated where parents want them and that successful and popular schools be allowed to grow. This proposal will assist in meeting parental preference to help ensure that pupils do not have to be placed outside of the area against preference.

Monks Abbey Primary School was rated overall by Ofsted as a 'Good' school at its last inspection in January 2015. The school is popular with parents and has been over-subscribed for the last three years on 1<sup>st</sup> preferences, and in addition continues to be very popular with 2<sup>nd</sup> preferences. It is also situated geographically in an ideal location in relation to the demand for places.

## **Related Proposals**

The proposal to expand Monks Abbey 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 the School Organisation Planning Team, Children's Services, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, 51 Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ or by emailing [schoolorganisation@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisation@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

At the close of the 4 week representation period (statutory formal consultation) on 08 March 2018 responses will be collated and analysed and a further report will be presented to the Executive Councillor for a final decision in May 2018 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.