

APPENDIX B



Complete Proposal
to Expand
Cranwell Primary School

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

PROPOSALS TO MAKE A PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO A SCHOOL

9 April 2014

Contact details

This proposal has been published by Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ regarding the expansion of Cranwell Primary School, Cranwell NG34 8HH.

Implementation

The proposal is to expand Cranwell Primary School with effect from 1 September 2015. This proposal is being made to ensure that there are sufficient primary school places in Cranwell and the surrounding area to accommodate the increasing pupil numbers in the community 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 Property & Technology Management, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ or by emailing schoolorganisation@lincolnshire.gov.uk to be received by the deadline of 7 May 2014.

Alteration description

The proposal under consideration is to increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 45 to 60 and to permanently expand the school from the existing PAN capacity of 315 to 420 places. This would increase the PAN for all year groups from 45 to 60 with effect from 1 September 2015.

School Capacity and Site

As a temporary measure reorganisation has taken place within the existing accommodation along with the addition of 2 new classrooms. This has enabled the school to provide above the PAN to offer up to 60 places in the Reception intakes in 2012 and 2013 and increased the net capacity from 315 to 351 places. Due to mid-year application pressures the schools is now over the PAN of 45 in 4 of the 7 year groups. Beyond the intake in September 2014 it will not be possible to meet the growing demand for school places without additional accommodation. Accommodation will be provided, subject to planning permission and final approval of this proposal, for September 2015. The necessary building work would take place during the academic year 2014/2015. This would be managed to cause minimal disruption to the school during term time making best use of school holidays where possible.

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.

The number on roll at the time of the census taken in January 2014 was 326 which is broken down by year group in the table below. It also shows the potential intakes for September 2014 to 2016 which is based on NHS GP registration data and

historical trends. The published admissions number per year group is currently 45 with a permanent PAN capacity of 315:

	2016	2015	2014	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Number on Roll	71	57	43	49	51	40	40	50	42	54	326

Data from January 2014 Census, NHS GP Registration, RAF Cranwell Medical Centre and trend analysis

Objectives

The proposal detailed in this document is to expand Cranwell Primary School with effect from 1 September 2015 and the objective is both to ensure that there are sufficient primary school places in the area to accommodate the increasing pupil numbers in the community and also 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 best available solution to the expected shortage of primary school places in Cranwell and the surrounding area 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. 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 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 and at the same time it will assist in meeting parental preference.

Other options in this area have been explored and all primary schools have been considered for potential expansion but none have been found to be as suitable to expand on this scale due to reasons such as undersized sites, distance that pupils would have to travel, parental preference, potential impact on standards and the fact that other schools are of suitable sizes for the areas that they serve. The proposal to expand Cranwell Primary School has the support of the Headteacher and Governing Body and the LA believes it to be the most appropriate option for expansion in the area but it is important that the LA considers all views submitted during consultation.

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. The relevant DfE guidance was updated in January 2014. 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 the following consultation. This is also to enable the LA to operate a fair and open process and ensure all views are considered.

Consultation originally began on 28 January 2014 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 12 February 2014, individual drop in sessions were offered to parents to discuss the proposal further with an LA officer. These meetings were offered to allow those having an interest in this proposal to be able to gather information, ask questions and get involved in the debate. Several appointments were taken up, by parents, staff, children, governors and members of local community groups and organisations. Concerns about expanding the school were addressed and all consultees were encouraged to submit a formal response to the consultation.

All parents/carers and other interested parties were given the opportunity to respond as part of the consultation process by 04 March 2014. 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/

There were 7 valid responses in total with all 7 supporting the proposal. Out of the 7 responses there were 4 responses from parents (including parent governors and also staff) of current pupils. Responses were also received from governors, church and parish council representatives. Comments in these responses included *"it being imperative that mobiles be replaced...will provide much needed space for the expanding school"* and *"a logical and necessary step, strongly supported"* and *"career opportunities"* and *"Important to have sufficient space to accommodate civilian and air force children. If the proposal does not go ahead this might result in service children getting priority and children living in the village not being able to go to the school"*. Comments also included reference to the need for suitable outdoor space, hall space, hot school meal facilities, and the impact on traffic. All of which will be taken into consideration in the design and future planning of the school buildings and site if the proposal goes ahead.

The Headteacher of Cranwell Primary School has consulted with the children currently attending the school through the school council. The school council also met with an LA officer on 12 February. The consultation produced a very positive response and the children are generally looking forward to the expansion of their school.

Under current legislation the LA is the decision maker for the proposal.

Project Costs

This proposed expansion will incur capital costs in the region of £600,000 and the LA will fund the necessary capital costs from the Children's Services capital programme. All capital costs are being covered by the Targeted Basic Need funding

which was successfully bid for directly to the DfE. This funding can only be used for this specific project to add capacity to Cranwell Primary School and if not used is not available for alternative uses elsewhere. The capital project aims to create the required facilities to allow for up to 420 pupils to be accommodated. This will include the removal of temporary accommodation to be replaced with permanent buildings therefore maximising long term value for money.

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

Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision

The expansion of the school is not likely to have any impact on SEN provision other than an opportunity to improve the provision with better access to resources and consistently good quality teaching, learning and leadership 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

National birth rates have been steadily rising in recent years. This increased birth rate, combined in some areas with changes in migrational trends and the effect of new housing development, is now starting put significant pressure on primary schools across the country. There is expected to be a shortage of school places if additional capacity is not created. Birth data for the Cranwell area shows an increase in births resulting in larger projected intakes than there are currently places for. There is expected to be a long term requirement for more primary school places. The Cranwell community also has the additional pressure of demand for places caused by the increased placement of RAF personnel anticipated by the Ministry of Defence in the next few years.

Cranwell will therefore experience a shortage of available primary places if capacity at the local school is not increased. A permanent sustainable solution is needed to accommodate these extra children to avoid overcrowding and/or transporting young children to alternative schools outside of their local community.

The expansion is required to meet the projected demand for places in Cranwell and to ensure that the LA meets its duty of providing sufficient places for children of statutory school age in the immediate area, without the need to transport young children more than 2 miles away. The expansion is proposed to meet the need for additional capacity in Cranwell and not to replace existing capacity in the primary sector, therefore not having a significant negative impact on neighbouring primary schools.

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 2014/15 (subject to planning permission being granted) and planned to be completed in readiness for the start of term in September 2015. 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 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.

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. This proposal will assist in meeting parental preference.

The most recent Ofsted report following an inspection at the school was published in December 2011 and evaluated the school as “Outstanding”.

The school is popular with parents and in recent years has been oversubscribed.

Related Proposals

The proposal to expand Cranwell 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 schoolorganisation@lincolnshire.gov.uk

At the close of the 4 week representation period (statutory formal consultation) on 7 May 2014 responses will be collated and analysed and a final report will be presented to the Executive Councillor in June 2014 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.