

APPENDIX B



Complete Proposal
to Expand
Scampton Pollyplatt 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

17 April 2014

Contact details

This proposal has been published by Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ regarding the expansion of Scampton Pollyplatt Primary School, School Lane, Scampton LN1 2TP.

Implementation

The proposal is to expand Scampton Pollyplatt Primary School with effect from 1 September 2015. This proposal is being made to ensure that there are sufficient primary school places in Scampton 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 15 May 2014.

Alteration description

The proposal under consideration is to increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 20 to 30 and to permanently expand the school from the existing PAN capacity of 140 to 210 places. This would increase the PAN for all year groups from 20 to 30 with effect from 1 September 2015.

School Capacity and Site

As a temporary measure reorganisation has taken place within the existing accommodation which has enabled the school to provide above the PAN to offer up to 30 places in the Reception intakes in 2012 and 2013 and for the incoming Reception intake for 2014. Beyond the intake in September 2014 it will not be possible to make further over offers to meet the growing demand for school places without additional accommodation. If this expansion proposal is approved an additional purpose built classroom will be provided to ensure that the appropriate infrastructure and facilities are in place for the number of pupils on roll.

If the proposal proceeds it is proposed that (subject to planning permission being granted) the necessary building work would take place during the academic year 2014/2015 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 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 151 which is expected to rise to 157 from 22 April 2014 due to local mid-year admissions.

The current and projected position is broken down by year group in the table below. It 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 20 with a permanent PAN capacity of 140, although the use of available internal accommodation allows for a PAN of 25 and a PAN capacity of 175. There could potentially be 190 on roll by 2016 if the 6 extra children join on 22 April and the current Y4 to Y6 cohorts are replaced by the projected 2014 to 2016 intakes:

	2016	2015	2014	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Number on Roll	27	23	30	26	27	29	22	16	16	15	151

Data from January 2014 Census, NHS GP Registration and trend analysis

Objectives

The proposal detailed in this document is to expand Scampton Pollyplatt 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 local 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 Scampton 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 the surrounding area have been explored and all primary schools have been considered. There are schools with surplus capacity in Welton (2.4 miles) and Sturton by Stow (6.1 miles) where children could be offered a place, but neither are considered to be options more preferable than expanding Pollyplatt due to reasons such as distances and routes that young children would have to travel, and it would be against parental preference. The demographic pressures are from the local Scampton community in the RAF and civilian housing within safe walking distance from the Pollyplatt School. There are also primary schools in Hackthorn (3.1 miles), Ingham (4.8 miles), Nettleham (4.9 miles) and Scampton CE Primary School (2.6 miles) which are full and could not accommodate the extra Scampton children without expansion or potentially impacting on standards through overcrowding. They are also considered to be less suitable alternatives due to reasons

such as undersized sites, distance, parental preference and the fact that they are of suitable sizes for the immediate local areas they serve.

The proposal to expand Scampton Pollyplatt 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 30 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 24 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. However, no appointments were taken up.

All parents/carers and other interested parties were given the opportunity to respond as part of the consultation process by 6 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" via <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schoolorganisation>

There were 61 valid responses in total with 24 supporting the proposal, 35 against and 2 which were neither for nor against the proposal but raised points to be considered. Out of the total of 61 there were 12 responses from parents of current pupils with only 1 against. A number of responses were received from governors and members of staff at the school all of which were in favour of the expansion proposal. The majority of the responses against the proposed expansion have been received from governors, staff and parents representing other schools in the area. Those schools being Welton St Mary's Church of England Academy and Sturton by Stow Primary School. Welton St Mary's wrote to all parents asking that they object to the proposal. 20 responses were received from parents of pupils at other schools or

academies with 18 of these being against the proposal. 12 responses were received from staff at other schools with all being against the proposal. These responses in the main have questioned whether there is a need for the expansion of a school to provide additional school places when there are places available at other schools in the area around Scampton. The objectors are against the proposal as they believe that it will have a negative impact on the number on roll at other schools, possibly leading to the introduction of mixed year groups and staff redundancies at their respective schools. The Diocese of Lincoln supports the view of Welton St Mary's. The relevant LA head of service with responsibility for this area of work and a member of their service met with representatives of both schools and discussed the rationale of the expansion and responded to the concerns raised during the consultation period. Both schools agreed to consider the 'Complete Proposal' and respond as appropriate if the process continued to the next stage through the publication of a Statutory Notice. Other primary schools in the area, including Scampton Church of England Primary School, have not objected to the proposed expansion. All comments submitted during consultation 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 Scampton Pollyplatt Primary School has consulted with the children currently attending the school through the school council and class discussions. The key areas raised were to ensure there was space made available to accommodate the new children without having a negative impact on the children who currently attend the school. It was explained that this would be addressed separately through the planning process and the discussion resulted in a positive response with the children being happy to increase the size of the school.

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

Project Costs

This proposed expansion will incur capital costs which will be funded by the LA from the DfE Basic Need Capital Grant funding and delivered as part of the Children's Services capital programme with on-going revenue costs being funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant. The Basic Need funding available is to be used to add capacity to schools in the county to ensure sufficient places are available to meet local need. This funding is not intended to be used for any other purpose than to address basic need. The proposed capital project at Pollyplatt Primary School aims to create the required facilities to allow for up to 210 pupils to be accommodated providing long term value for money. Due to the limitations in the current accommodation the additional space would support Key Stage 2 curriculum delivery should numbers fall in the future, as all accommodation would still be fully utilised and not result in unnecessary surplus accommodation.

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 to 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 Scampton 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 Scampton community also has the additional pressure of demand for places caused by the placement of RAF personnel. The future of RAF Scampton has been secured until at least 2020 following a ministerial decision that extended the originally proposed 2014 date. It is not expected to be known until the next strategic review in 2015 or 2016 whether the base continues beyond 2020. Even if it were to close there is a shortage of RAF housing across Lincolnshire to serve Waddington and other areas. There are already over 40 Waddington families that live in Scampton accommodation and this is likely to rise. Families tend to access primary school provision closest to where they live rather than where they work. This type of housing, whether for service families or sold off to civilians, attracts young families with primary aged children.

The majority of the pressure for Pollyplatt Primary School is from the immediate housing adjacent to the RAF base, which consists of a mix of both services and civilian homes. The school is located on the housing estate and is within safe walking distance of the children and families that live there. It predominantly serves the immediate area. Scampton will experience a shortage of available places if capacity is not increased.

The expansion is required to meet the projected demand for places in Scampton 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 and over the A15. The expansion is proposed to meet the need for additional capacity 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.

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 2011 and evaluated the school overall as "Good".

The school is popular with parents and in recent years has been consistently oversubscribed. The school has received first preference applications of 31 for 2014, 26 for 2013 and 27 for 2012.

Related Proposals

The proposal to expand Scampton Pollyplatt 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 Property and Technology Management, 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 15 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.