

APPENDIX C



Complete Proposal

to Expand

**Sir Francis Hill Community Primary 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

29 May 2014

Contact details

This proposal has been published by Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ regarding the expansion of Sir Francis Hill Community Primary School, Bristol Drive, Lincoln LN6 7UE.

Implementation

The proposal is to expand Sir Francis Hill Community Primary School with effect from 1 September 2015. This proposal is being made to ensure that there are sufficient primary school places in this area of Lincoln 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 26 June 2014.

Alteration description

The proposal under consideration is to increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 60 to 90 and to permanently expand the school from the existing PAN capacity of 420 to 630 places. This would initially increase the PAN for the Reception intake in September 2015 to 90 with the PAN for all other years remaining at 60. The increased intake of up to 90 would then be phased in with each subsequent Reception intake commencing in September 2016 until the PAN of 90 applies to all year groups.

School Capacity and Site

It will not be possible to meet the growing demand for school places in the area 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 393 which is broken down by year group in the table below. The published admissions number per year group is currently 60 with a permanent PAN capacity of 420:

	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Number on Roll	60	60	60	57	55	42	59	393

Data from January 2014 Census

Objectives

The proposal detailed in this document is to expand Sir Francis Hill Community 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 one of the best available solutions to the expected shortage of primary school places in Lincoln 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. There are also proposals to add capacity in other schools across Lincoln, although this proposal is not directly related to any others. 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 Sir Francis Hill 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. 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 04 March 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 14 March 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 01 April 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 3 valid responses in total with 2 in favour and 1 against the proposal. The response against the proposal indicated a preference for increasing capacity elsewhere, along with the possibility of a new purpose built school. Alternative expansion and new school options have been looked at, but this proposal is considered to be the best solution to address the need for places in this area, as referred to earlier in this report. There was also a concern raised about outdoor space and the quality of space and safe provision. The site size is suitable for a 3FE primary in accordance with current guidance, and additional hard play will be provided if required. The subjects of class sizes and facilities such as the hall were also raised. The proposal will not increase class sizes and will ensure that all class sizes remain within the regulatory 30 limit for Key Stage 1. Accommodation such as hall space, group rooms and kitchen facilities will all be considered within the scope of the project, not just the number of classrooms.

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

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 the 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 630 pupils to be accommodated.

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 Lincoln area shows an increase in births resulting in larger projected intakes than there are currently places for in planning areas across the city. There is expected to be a long term requirement for more primary school places.

Lincoln will therefore experience a shortage of available primary places if capacity in the area 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 communities.

The expansion is required to meet the projected demand for places in Lincoln 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 Lincoln 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 to help ensure that pupils do not have to be placed outside of the area against any of their preferences.

The most recent Ofsted report following an inspection at the school was published in July 2012 and evaluated the school as "Good" with "Outstanding" features.

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

Related Proposals

The proposal to expand Sir Francis Hill Community 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, Corporate Property, 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 26 June 2014 responses will be collated and analysed and a further report will be presented to the Executive Councillor for a final decision in August 2014 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.