

Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services
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Report to:	Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell, Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services
Date:	20 March 2015
Subject:	Proposal to Expand the Capacity at Lincoln Bishop King Church of England Primary School (final decision)
Decision Reference:	I008333
Key decision?	Yes

Summary:

This report concerns the permanent expansion of the capacity at Lincoln Bishop King Church of England Primary School to ensure that there is the required number of primary school places in this part of Lincoln to accommodate the increasing pupil numbers in the area. The proposal would expand the school to a 2 form entry in every year group so removing the need for mixed classes and would have a proposed implementation date of 1 September 2016. If this expansion proposal is approved additional classrooms would be provided together with the additional accommodation required to provide the appropriate infrastructure and facilities for the number of pupils on roll.

It is the Local Authority's (LA) statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places to accommodate all pupils of statutory school age in Lincolnshire. The LA believes that this proposal is the best available option to address the increasing pressure on primary school places in this part of the city of Lincoln.

The LA is co-ordinating the process following statutory guidelines published in The Department for Education (DfE) guide "School Organisation Maintained Schools Guidance for proposers and decision-makers" January 2014 (with attached Annex A and B) in accordance with the terms of the Education and Inspections Act (EIA) 2006 as updated by the Education Act 2011.

On 13 October 2014 a five week period of consultation commenced which closed on 17 November 2014 and is further referred to later in this report in the Consultation section. A summary of written responses received is also attached in Appendix A.

Following the consultation period the decision was taken on 9 December 2014 to publish a Statutory Notice on 8 January 2015. This initiated a four week Representation Period up to 5 February 2015 when written objections and comments may be submitted. The process is now entering the final stage when the LA, as decision maker, must take the final decision regarding the proposal within 2 months from the end of the Representation period (by 5 April 2015).

This report seeks to advise the Executive Councillor on making the final decision regarding the proposed expansion of Lincoln Bishop King Church of England Primary School.

Recommendation(s):

The Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services approves the expansion of the physical capacity for primary age provision from 378 to 420 places and the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 45 to 60 at Lincoln Bishop King Church of England Primary School with effect from 1 September 2016.

Alternatives Considered:

1. The Council retains the school as it is at present with no expansion of the capacity at Lincoln Bishop King Church of England Primary School.

However, the above alternative would have the following disadvantages:

It is likely that there would be insufficient primary school places in Lincoln and the LA may be unable to comply with its statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places for children of a statutory school age in the locality in future years.

It would place increasing pressure on Lincoln Bishop King Church of England Primary School and other primary schools in the city, some of which are already offering places above their PAN at the request of the LA. Any further over-offers for future intakes would lead to concerns over the consequent impact of overcrowding on the quality of education provided if additional accommodation is not provided.

It would likely lead, in the future, to children being offered places at schools within the city of Lincoln other than their local school, or at schools outside of the city, with increasing transport costs and traffic from potential increased car usage, and also concerns over the impact of this additional travelling time on the young children concerned.

2. The Council retains the school as it is at present with no expansion of the capacity at Lincoln Bishop King Church of England Primary School but looks to increase capacity at other primary schools in the surrounding area.

Other options in Lincoln have been explored and all primary schools have been considered for potential expansion. However, 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 areas they serve. This is the most appropriate primary school in the area for expansion.

Reasons for Recommendation:

To enable the LA to meet its statutory obligation to ensure that there are sufficient school places in Lincoln for all children of statutory school age. The LA believes that this proposal is the best available option to address the increasing pressure on primary school places in the area and fulfil its statutory duty of ensuring that there are sufficient school places to accommodate all pupils of primary school age in Lincolnshire. 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.

To 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 reinforces the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) and will both enhance the quality of provision and sustain local provision. It is also an opportunity to address suitability and condition issues (such as the replacement of temporary accommodation with a permanent build) to benefit not just the additional pupils but also the ones that are already on roll.

The proposal will assist in meeting parental preference. The Government has made it clear that the wishes of parents should be taken into account in planning and managing school estates. DfE guidance states that places should be allocated where parents want them and that successful and popular schools be allowed to grow. The demand for Reception places in Lincoln is projected to increase. The school has been oversubscribed for the last four years on 1st and 2nd preferences, and it is also situated in an ideal location in relation to the demand for places. This proposal will ensure that parents will be able to send their children to a local school in their community.

The school was rated by Ofsted as 'Requiring Improvement' at an inspection in March 2014. However, since this report necessary steps have been taken to ensure that significant improvement is being made. A monitoring visit was made in June 2014 when Ofsted confirmed that senior leaders and governors at the school are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified in the March inspection. The school is also benefitting from LA support together with additional support from local leaders of 'outstanding' schools. The School Improvement Service (CfBT) is confident that by the time the expansion is implemented in 2016 the school will have made the progress required to successfully manage the increased capacity and provide the opportunity to improve the learning experience and outcomes for the children to enable them to reach their full potential. The proposal has the support of the Headteacher and the Governing Body as well as CfBT.

The LA considers the proposal to be the most appropriate available solution to the expected shortage of primary school places in this area of Lincoln to enable local children to attend their local school. There are also proposals to increase the capacity at other schools in other areas of Lincoln but this proposal is not directly related to any other proposal.

1. Background

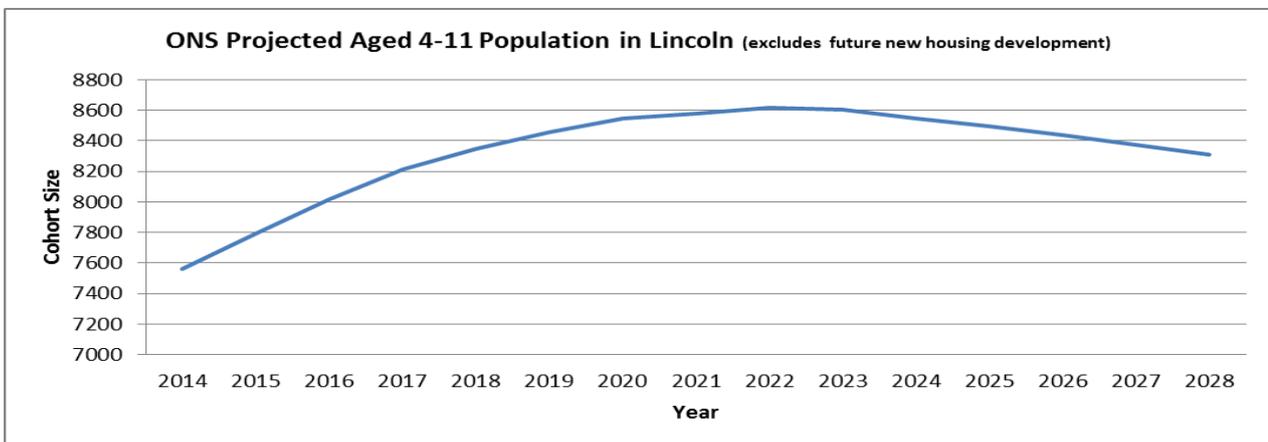
National birth rates, mostly concentrated in more urban areas, have been steadily rising in recent years. This increased birth rate, combined in some areas with inward migration and housing development, is resulting in increased demand for primary school places. There is expected to be a long term requirement for more school places. Lincoln will experience a shortage of available places if capacity at one or more of the local schools is not increased, or additional capacity added through alternative means. This is evidenced in the table below which shows the LA projections for the whole of Lincoln:

Forecast Years	Min Projected Numbers							Min Projected Surplus							Max Projected Numbers							Max Projected Surplus						
	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	1	2	3	4	5	6
2014	794	802	763	712	625	645	604	16	10	17	36	65	45	86	797	812	773	724	636	655	616	13	0	7	24	54	35	74
2015	880	794	802	722	712	628	645	-55	16	10	28	36	62	45	888	809	817	748	738	660	674	-63	1	-5	2	10	30	16
2016	879	880	794	759	722	712	625	-54	-55	16	23	28	36	65	891	900	820	789	752	752	670	-66	-75	-10	-7	-2	-4	20
2017	858	879	880	760	759	722	712	-33	-54	-55	20	23	28	36	872	898	909	808	797	760	758	-47	-73	-84	-28	-15	-10	-10

The table below indicates the LA projections for the Central Lincoln area which includes Bishop King:

Forecast Years	Min Projected Numbers							Min Projected Surplus							Max Projected Numbers							Max Projected Surplus						
	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	1	2	3	4	5	6
2014	229	235	236	205	179	183	158	11	5	4	5	16	12	37	229	236	237	208	182	186	161	11	4	3	2	13	9	34
2015	272	229	235	212	205	179	183	-17	11	5	-2	5	16	12	272	230	236	218	211	188	192	-17	10	4	-8	-1	7	3
2016	289	272	229	209	212	205	179	-34	-17	11	1	-2	5	16	289	274	231	215	218	214	191	-34	-19	9	-5	-8	-4	4
2017	290	289	272	202	209	212	205	-35	-34	-17	8	1	-2	5	290	289	272	214	218	221	217	-35	-34	-17	-4	-8	-11	-7

Population data [birth data supported by the Office of National Statistics (ONS)] confirms this expected medium to long term requirement for more places for children of a statutory primary school age in Lincoln. This is evidenced by the ONS projections data for the district of Lincoln shown here:



Therefore, a permanent sustainable solution is needed to accommodate these extra children to avoid overcrowding and/or transporting 4 year old children to

alternative schools outside of their local community that are not within walking distance. It is also necessary to ensure that too much capacity is not created. There are proposals in place for school expansions in other parts of Lincoln to ensure that there are sufficient places right across the city without creating excess surplus capacity. Please note that the ONS data above does not factor in the impact of significant new housing development that is expected in the Lincoln area.

The school currently has a PAN capacity of 315 places and a Net Capacity of 378 places based on available accommodation. At the request of the LA and in order to meet the demand for places and parental preference the school has admitted above the usual intake of 45 by offering up to 60 Reception places for the intakes in September 2011 to 2014 and will be asked to do so again for the intake in September 2015. This will not be possible beyond 2015 without additional accommodation being provided. The proposal is to permanently expand the school from the existing physical capacity of 378 places to 420 places (PAN 60), with a proposed implementation date of 1st September 2016.

The proposal would formally increase the PAN for the Reception intake in September 2016 to 60 (with the September 2011/12/13/14 and 2015 over-offered intakes of 60 already being on roll). The intake of up to 60 would then apply to all years at the school for future intakes and will enable the move from the current mixed year group structure in some year groups to one where children are taught in single year group classes of 30 or less across all year groups as is already in place in Key Stage 1(KS1). This opportunity will further support the school in raising standards and provide a platform for continued improvements. The reduced class sizes in Key Stage 2 (KS2) that have been introduced following the Ofsted report have already had an impact with rapid progress being made through Quality First Teaching and intervention. Data for Foundation and KS1, which are the year groups already implementing a 2 form entry, show results are either in line with or above national expectations.

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.

If the proposal is approved it is proposed that building/refurbishment work will begin during 2015 (subject to planning permission being granted) and planned to be completed in advance of the start of term in September 2016. This would be managed to cause minimal disruption to the school during term time making the best use of school holidays where possible. Any potential building project would look to be isolated on site from the existing provision, again to ensure minimal disruption. Suitable additional teaching and resource spaces both inside and outside will be required to ensure sufficient facilities are in place to accommodate up to 420 primary aged children in total. The recently completed building work now completed, provided a new hall and other areas to provide the infrastructure for a 420 place school in the future, with minimal additional buildings required. This will include additional classrooms as well as other areas such as toilets and suitable outdoor hard play area. 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. It will also be an opportunity to ensure that no temporary buildings are necessary on site for the delivery of mainstream primary education.

The planning application process will include the consideration of issues arising out of the physical expansion of the school such as the need for additional parking and the impact on traffic. This planning application process is dealt with and consulted on separately. There will be an opportunity for those that are interested to respond directly to the planning application at a later date.

Reaching the decision – Preliminary Considerations

The requirements for decision making relating to school organisation in LA Maintained schools are set out in Annex B of the guide “School Organisation Maintained Schools January 2014” published by the DfE.

The DfE does not prescribe the exact process which a decision maker should follow but the decision maker must have regard to this guidance. The decision maker should consider the views of those affected by the proposal and should not simply take account of the numbers of people expressing a view but give greatest weight to those stakeholders most likely to be affected and especially the parents of children at the school concerned.

Factors to be considered by Decision Makers

The Consultation and Representation Period

The Executive Councillor must be satisfied that the appropriate consultation and representation periods have been carried out and that all of the responses received have been given due consideration.

Although there is no longer a prescribed consultation period prior to the publication of the Statutory Notice and Complete Proposal the DfE's guidance states "*a strong expectation on schools and LAs to consult interested parties in developing their proposal prior to publication*". The LA conducted a five week period of pre-consultation to fulfil this expectation and also to operate a fair and open process and ensure all views were considered. A Statutory Notice (Appendix B) and Complete Proposal (Appendix C), initiating a four week Representation Period, were published in accordance with current statutory requirements.

Responses submitted during both the Consultation and Representation Period have been made available to the Executive Councillor for consideration when taking the final decision and further details of these responses are provided in section 5 of this report (**Consultation**).

Education standards and diversity of provision

The Executive Councillor should consider the quality and diversity of schools in the area and be satisfied that the proposal will meet the aspirations of parents, contribute to raising local standards of provision and lead to a closing of attainment

gaps. The Government's aim is to create a more diverse school system offering excellence and choice so that every child receives an excellent education whatever their background and wherever they live.

As detailed earlier in this report the school was rated by Ofsted as 'Requiring Improvement' at an inspection in March 2014. However, this was followed up by a monitoring visit in June 2014 when Ofsted confirmed that senior leaders and governors at the school are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified in the March inspection. CfBT is confident that by the time the expansion is implemented in 2016 the school will have made the progress required to successfully manage the increased capacity and provide the opportunity to improve the learning experience and outcomes for the children to enable them to reach their full potential.

The opportunity offered by this expansion proposal for the replacement of temporary accommodation with purpose built permanent accommodation will also provide a platform on which standards of attainment can improve with enhanced provision at the school.

The LA believes that this proposal provides the best option to maintain and improve standards of attainment with an enhanced quality of education for current and future children in the area whilst maintaining diversity.

Demand

The Executive Councillor must consider the evidence presented for any projected increase in pupil population (eg planned housing developments and increasing birth rates) and any anticipated new provision (eg a new free school). A decision must also take into account parental preference and evidence of parents' aspirations for places in the school proposed for expansion together with the quality and popularity of schools in the area that have surplus capacity. Surplus capacity in less popular schools should not in itself prevent the addition of new places. The DfE recognises that for parental preference to work effectively there may be some surplus capacity in the system overall but that competition for places to be taken up will lead to existing schools improving standards.

The proposed 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 city 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.

As stated earlier in this report, an increased birth rate in recent years is putting significant pressure on primary schools across the country with an expected shortage of school places if additional capacity is not created. Birth data for the Lincoln area confirms that this increase in births is resulting in larger projected intakes than there are currently places for in the area. There is expected to be a long term requirement for more primary school places.

The number on roll for statutory aged children at the time of the census taken in October 2014 was 323 which is broken down by year group in the table below. The PAN per year group is currently 45 with a permanent PAN capacity of 315 and a current physical capacity of 378:

	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Number on Roll	51	56	55	53	32	38	38	323

Data from October 2014 School Census

There is expected to be a shortage of available primary places if capacity in Lincoln 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 school is popular with parents and has been oversubscribed for the last four years on 1st and 2nd preferences.

This analysis of demand considers all expected admission applications not only those from the Council's area.

School size

Assumptions that schools should be of a certain size to be a good school should not be made although the viability and cost-effectiveness of a proposal is an important factor in the decision-making process eg the impact on a LA's budget to provide additional funding to a small school to compensate for its size.

If the expansion proposal is not approved with the school remaining at its current size the demand for places would put increasing pressure on the school leading to concerns over the consequent impact of overcrowding on the quality of educational provision if additional accommodation is not provided. This expansion will provide additional classrooms together with the appropriate infrastructure and facilities for a school of this size.

Proposed admission arrangements

Before approving the proposals the LA must ensure that the admission arrangements of the school are compliant with the School Admissions Code. The proposed increase to the PAN at Lincoln Bishop King Church of England Primary School will be processed in accordance with the School Admissions Code to determine admission arrangements for the academic year commencing September 2016.

National Curriculum

All maintained schools must follow the National Curriculum unless they have secured an exemption. Lincoln Bishop King Church of England Primary School currently follows the National Curriculum and will continue to do so if the proposed expansion is approved.

Equal Opportunity

The LA must have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations and should consider whether there are any sex, race or disability discrimination issues that arise out of the proposed expansion. There should be a commitment to provide access to a range of opportunities which reflect the ethnic and cultural mix of the area while ensuring that such opportunities are open to all.

There are no sex, race or disability discrimination issues arising from this proposal. The LA will continue to be committed to provide access to a range of opportunities which reflect the ethnic and cultural mix of the area while ensuring that such opportunities are open to all. The school offers education to a growing population of ethnic minority groups with nearly 60% of pupils having English as an additional language (EAL).

Community cohesion

The impact on the community must be considered and schools have a key part to play in providing opportunities for young people from different backgrounds to learn from and respect each other and gain an understanding of other cultures, faiths and communities. The decision-maker must take account of the community served by the school and the views of different sections of the community.

This expansion will enable the school to admit local children without discrimination and therefore continue to meet the needs of children from all backgrounds represented in the local community. To support community cohesion it is important that local children attend school within the local community and the school continues to be the hub of the community.

Travel and accessibility

The Executive Councillor should be satisfied that accessibility planning has been properly taken into account and that proposed changes do not adversely impact on disadvantaged groups. Proposals should not unreasonably extend journey times or increase transport costs or result in too many children being prevented from travelling sustainably due to unsuitable walking or cycling routes. The proposal should be considered on the basis of how it will support and contribute to the Council's duty to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport to school.

If this proposal goes ahead it should reduce the likelihood of local children having to travel to schools outside of their local community and therefore assist the Council to meet this duty.

The LA understands that an increase in the number of pupils attending a school may have an impact on the local road network and access. However, the majority of additional primary aged pupils are likely to come from within a suitable walking or cycling distance from the school. The LA is committed to promoting the use of sustainable travel and transport to school and this would be reflected in the implementation of the school travel plan. Should the proposal go ahead, all traffic

issues will be considered in the planning application process. As part of this process any planning queries will be dealt with through a separate planning consultation and the LA would have to meet stringent requirements at the planning application stage.

To support the planning application the school have been asked to update and produce a robust travel plan that should include any other means of travel such as walking, cycling, park and stride etc. There is also the possibility of having phased start times for KS1 and KS2 to help ease traffic congestion as has been successfully adopted by other schools in the county.

The LA will continue to work with Highways, planners and the school to ensure that any potential issues are taken into consideration as part of the planning application process. The LA will continue to look for suitable solutions to help mitigate against all concerns.

The County Council home-to-school transport policy will continue to apply – this provides free home-to-school transport for pupils to their nearest designated school (if it is more than 2 miles away for primary aged pupils) but it is expected that most pupils will live within a two mile radius of the school.

Capital

The Executive Councillor should be satisfied that any land, premises or capital required to implement the proposals will be available and that all relevant parties have given their agreement. A proposal cannot be approved conditionally upon funding being made available. Where the expansion is reliant on the DfE for funding it cannot be assumed that approval of the proposal will trigger the release of capital funds unless previously confirmed in writing.

This proposed expansion will incur capital costs that the LA will manage through the Children's Services capital programme. All capital costs are being covered by DfE Basic Need funding. The 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 420 pupils to be accommodated.

School premises and playing fields

All schools are required to provide suitable outdoor space to both enable physical education for pupils in accordance with the curriculum and also for pupils to play outside safely. DfE guidelines suggest areas for pitches and games courts but these are non-statutory.

Appendix D1 shows the overall site plan for information. At this stage there are no detailed designs of how the school might be expanded, but initial feasibility studies have indicated that expansion will be achievable without negatively impacting on the existing school premises and playing fields. Sufficient suitable accommodation, playing field and hard team games area will be provided for the maximum number

of children that the school will be expected to accommodate. The areas for remodelling and new building are highlighted on the attached Appendix D2.

Special Educational Needs (SEN) Provision and SEN Improvement Test

If the proposal is approved there is likely to be no impact with regard to 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 enhanced facilities at the school. The LA will continue to ensure suitable provision for all children with special educational needs and consideration of their needs will take place with physical access being assured should a need be presented. The LA will continue to look to make improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the education provision for children with SEN and so meet the Special Educational Needs Test.

2. Conclusion

The final decision is required from the Executive Councillor to determine whether to approve the proposal to expand the capacity at Lincoln Bishop King Church of England Primary School as detailed in this report. The factors to consider in making this decision are within this report and all valid written responses received during consultation and the Representation Period (see section **5 Consultation**) must be considered.

The LA believes this proposal to be in the best interests of local children and local parents as well as educational provision in the area and it supports the council's aim of ensuring that as many children as possible can reach their full potential. It also enables the LA to fulfil its statutory duty of ensuring that there are sufficient places to accommodate all pupils of statutory school age in Lincolnshire.

It is recommended that the proposal is implemented to ensure the best educational opportunities for the children of Lincoln. The advantages of implementing this proposal are detailed earlier in this report in the "Reasons for Recommendations" section.

3. Legal Comments:

The Council is the decision-maker for school alteration proposals of this type under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2013. The decision-maker may reject the proposal, approve the proposal without modification or approve the proposal with such modifications as the Council considers desirable but only after consultation on those modifications with the governing body.

The Council as decision-maker may make the approval of the proposal conditional but only on specified matters contained in the Regulations.

The proposal is consistent with the Policy Framework and within the remit of the Executive Councillor.

4. Resource Comments:

If the final decision is taken to expand the school the refurbishment and building costs would be met from DfE capital grant funding, with on-going revenue costs being funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant. The proposal to expand the capacity would help the Local Authority to meet its statutory duty to ensure sufficient places are available for all pupils; provide the school with better value for money through the adoption of a PAN of 60, and mitigate a potential increase in Home to School Transport costs.

5. 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 EIA 2006, the Education Act 2011 and the guidance of the DfE regarding expansion

Under these guidelines the LA must ensure that sufficient time and information are provided for people to understand and form a view on the proposal and make a response. Under the DfE guidelines which came into effect in January 2014 there is no longer a prescribed consultation period for significant changes to schools (including physical expansions). However there is a "*strong expectation on schools and LAs to consult interested parties in developing their proposal prior to publication*". To comply with this the LA has conducted a five week period of pre-consultation. Any documentation issued must set out the problem that is being addressed and invite comment on one or more solutions. The LA must explain the decision making process and take all reasonable steps to draw the proposal to the attention of all those who might be interested and take into account their views.

Guidance requires current pupils to be consulted and the Headteacher of Lincoln Bishop King Church of England Primary School has consulted with the children currently attending the school via the school council. The children were able to discuss both the opportunities and issues that might arise out of their school increasing in size and consider what this would mean in practice for them. The consultation produced a positive response ("*more people will mean more friends*") and the children are supportive of the expansion of the school although did raise some minor concerns that will be addressed if the expansion proposal goes ahead. A summary of the issues discussed by the school council is attached in Appendix A.

The EIA 2006 specifically includes as interested parties the registered parents of registered pupils at the school and also the appropriate District and Parish Councils for the area. The guidance issued by the DfE in January only prescribes the minimum of who must be consulted and "*any other body or person that the local authority think appropriate and it is unlikely that that there will be any cases where it was not felt appropriate to notify the parents at the school of the proposals*". The list of interested parties was therefore compiled according to these

principles comprising as wide a range of consultees as practicable to ensure that all interested parties were included and incorporated parents of current pupils and the Chief Executive of the District Council as well as individual councillors as appropriate.

A letter incorporating relevant information and reasons for the proposal was sent out to interested parties on 13 October 2014 to commence a five week period of consultation. Individual meetings were offered to anyone interested to meet with representatives of the LA at the school to ask questions and raise any concerns but no appointments were taken up. There was the opportunity to provide a response to the consultation by letter, email or by returning the response form attached to the consultation document by 17 November 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/schoolorganisation

All written responses received during consultation have been provided to the Executive Councillor for consideration and further details are confirmed in this report in Appendix A. All comments made will be taken into consideration by the Executive Councillor in the decision making process. To briefly summarise, however, there were 12 valid responses in total with only one against the proposal. The response against the proposal raised three issues; the first being the recent Ofsted grading which is considered earlier in this report. The second concern was whether additional resources would be provided should a significant proportion of the additional children require SEND support. The final concern raised was that of child safety arising out of increased car parking and traffic. All of these issues will be taken into consideration in the future planning of the school and the design of the buildings if the expansion proposal goes ahead.

Following the completion of the consultation period all feedback was considered with a full report (which is referred to in the Background Papers section below and will be re-considered along with this report by the Executive Councillor) and a decision was taken on 9 December to proceed to Statutory Notice. A statutory 4 week Representation Period was entered into on 8 January 2015 commencing with the publication of the Statutory Notice (Appendix B) in the local press, on the Lincolnshire County Council's website and at the school gates. The Complete Proposal, available in paper and electronic format (Appendix C) to which the Statutory Notice refers, was sent to interested parties as detailed in the statutory guidance and was also published on the website under the webpage 'Current Consultations' at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schoolorganisation. The Representation Period provides a further opportunity for people and organisations to express their views and ensure that they are taken into account when the final decision is taken. No responses were received during the Representation Period.

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 March. The LA, as decision maker, must be able to show that all relevant issues raised are taken into consideration in the decision making process. Points raised can be considered unpersuasive but must not be ignored altogether.

The last stage of the statutory process would be the implementation of the proposal with the expansion of the PAN capacity from 315 to 420 for primary age

provision at Lincoln Bishop King Church of England Primary School with effect from 1 September 2016 if it is decided to proceed.

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

Yes, the local member has been made aware of the proposal to expand Lincoln Bishop King Church of England Primary School.

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes, the Executive Councillor has been involved in the discussions regarding the proposal to expand Lincoln Bishop King Church of England Primary School.

c) Scrutiny Comments

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee met on 6 March 2015 and considered this report concerning the proposal to expand the capacity at Lincoln Bishop King Church of England Primary School (Final Decision).

The comments of the Committee to be inserted here.

d) Policy Proofing Actions Required

An Impact Analysis has been completed. In summary the analysis undertaken indicates that there is some potential for minor negative impact but that this is far outweighed by the benefits of the proposal. The LA would look to mitigate negative impact on the existing site, local road network and access and address any other concerns that potentially might arise out of this expansion proposal. The stringent requirements at the planning application stage would include the active involvement of the Highways Department as well as a detailed travel plan.

6. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Summary of written consultation responses
Appendix B	Statutory Notice
Appendix C	Complete Proposal
Appendices D1 and D2	Current School Site Plans

7. Background Papers

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Report on the proposal to expand the capacity at Lincoln Bishop King Church of England Primary School (decision to go to Statutory Notice)	Lincolnshire County Council Committee Records Reference I008087 9 December 2014
The DfE guide "School Organisation Maintained Schools Guidance for proposers and decision-makers" January 2014; letter to commence the operator selection process; list of interested parties; blank response form and the responses received from all interested parties.	All available on request from the School Organisation Planning Team, Children's Services
Impact Analysis	Available on request from the School Organisation Planning Team, Children's Services
Individual consultation responses	Individual responses available to be viewed by the decision maker. Content of responses anonymised and summarised in Appendix A

This report was written by John O'Connor, who can be contacted on 01522 553213 or john.o'connor@lincolnshire.gov.uk

APPENDIX A Summary of written responses and pupil consultation

Point of View	Supports Proposal (8)	Against Proposal (1)	Not For or Against (3)	Other comments/Notes
WRITTEN RESPONSES				
District Councillor	y			Change in demographics of area can lead to tension and recent surveys show few people believe that people from different backgrounds get on well together here and so this area needs its community to be schooled in the locality. This proposal will support the schools attempt to be a hub for this community which is even more important bearing in mind the lack of public space in the area.
Governor and staff member at Bishop King	y			I would like the new build to be as eco-friendly as possible
Lincoln City Councillor and governor at Bishop King	y			Bishop King has been admitting above intake to help meet parental preference but cannot continue to do so without increase to physical accommodation. The school is popular with parents, has a skilled staff with imaginative and industrious Head and Management team. Also works through partnership mechanisms to deal with community issues.
Parent	y			
Parent	y			
Parent	y			
Parent and governor	y			this would be beneficial for the school
Teacher	y			
City Kids Club			y	After school club provider registered for max of 20 children although this capacity restricted to 20 as only 2 toilets available
Government department			y	
Local employer			y	
Parent		y		Insufficient parking and restricted access and visibility and dangers of children running into the road will increase with more pupils. Will increase pressure on SEND support. Are there sufficient skills, resources and infrastructure to improve following recent Ofsted whilst focussing on expansion?
PUPIL CONSULTATION				
Pupils at Bishop King	y			More people will mean more friends. Discussed whether more classrooms would mean less space at playtime and for football; builders being in school and how the buildings might change with ebveryone wanting to be in a new room. Concerned that dinner times would be noisy and there might not be enough food!

APPENDIX B

Proposal to expand Bishop King Church of England Primary School, Lincoln

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 as updated by the Education Act 2011 that Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ intends to make a prescribed alteration to Bishop King Church of England Primary School, Kingsway, Lincoln LN5 8EU with effect from 1 September 2016.

The proposal 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 from 45 to 60 with effect from 1 September 2016.

The prescribed alteration being consulted on is not related to any other statutory proposal. All statutory consultation requirements in respect of this proposal have been complied with.

The current net capacity of Bishop King Church of England Primary School based on physical classroom spaces is 378 and the proposed net capacity will be 420. At the start of term in January 2015 the number of primary aged pupils on roll is 325.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained by writing to: School Organisation Planning, Children's Services, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, 51 Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ or by calling 01522 553329 or by emailing schoolorganisation@lincolnshire.gov.uk or under "Current Consultations" via <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schoolorganisation>

A copy of the County Council's Home to School Transport policy can be obtained on-line at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parents/schools/school-transport

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to School Organisation Planning, Children's Services, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, 51 Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ or by emailing schoolorganisation@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Further details on the consultation which have led to this proposal can be accessed on-line under "Current Consultations" via <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schoolorganisation>

Signed: Debbie Barnes
Director of Children's Services
Lincolnshire County Council

Publication Date: 8 January 2015

APPENDIX C



Complete Proposal

to Expand

Bishop King Church of England 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

8 January 2015

Contact details

This proposal has been published by Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ regarding the expansion of Bishop King Church of England Primary School, Kingsway, Lincoln LN5 8EU.

Implementation

The proposal is to expand Bishop King Church of England Primary School with effect from 1 September 2016. This proposal is being made to ensure that there are sufficient primary school places in this part of Lincoln to accommodate the increasing pupil numbers in the city 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 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 to be received by the deadline of 5 February 2015.

Alteration description

The proposal being consulted on would formally increase the PAN for the Reception intake in September 2016 to 60 (with the September 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 over-offered intakes of up to 60 already being on roll). The intake of up to 60 would then apply to all years at the school following the September intake in 2017 and will enable the move from the current mixed year group structure in some year groups to 2 form of entry school ie one where children are taught in single year group classes of 30 or less across all year groups as is already in place in Key Stage 1. This opportunity will further support the school in raising standards and provide a platform for continued improvements.

School Capacity and Site

The school currently has a PAN (Published Admission Number) capacity of 315 places and a Net Capacity of 378 places based on available accommodation. At the request of the LA and in order to meet the demand for places and parental preference the school has admitted above the usual intake of 45 by offering up to 60 Reception places for the intakes in September 2011 to 2014 and will be asked to do so again for the intake in September 2015. This will not be possible beyond 2015 without additional accommodation being provided. The proposal being consulted on is to permanently expand the school from the existing physical capacity of 378 places to 420 places (to allow a PAN of 60), with a proposed implementation date of 1st September 2016.

Following statutory consultation, if the proposal is approved, it is proposed that building/refurbishment work will begin during 2015 (subject to planning permission being granted) and planned to be completed in advance of the start of term in September 2016. This would be managed to cause minimal disruption to the school

during term time making the best use of school holidays where possible. Any potential building project would look to be isolated on site from the existing provision, again to ensure minimal disruption. Suitable additional teaching and resource spaces both inside and outside will be considered to ensure sufficient facilities are in place to accommodate up to 420 primary aged children in total. This will include additional classrooms as well as other areas such as toilets and suitable outdoor hard play area. 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. It will also be an opportunity to ensure that no temporary classrooms are necessary on site for the delivery of mainstream primary education.

The planning application process required is dealt with and consulted on separately from this process. This process will include the consideration of issues arising out of the physical expansion of the school such as parking, access and the impact on traffic. There will be an opportunity for those that are interested to respond directly to the planning application at a later date.

The number on roll at the time of the census taken in October 2014 was 323 which is broken down by year group in the table below:-

	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Number on Roll	51	56	55	53	32	38	38	323

Data from October 2014 Census

Objectives

The proposal detailed in this document is to expand Lincoln Bishop King Church of England Primary School with effect from 1 September 2016. The objective is both to ensure that there are sufficient primary school places in this area of Lincoln to accommodate the increasing pupil numbers in the city 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 most appropriate available solution to the expected shortage of primary school places in this area of Lincoln to enable local children to attend their local school 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. It is also an opportunity to address suitability and condition issues (such as the replacement of temporary accommodation with a permanent build) to benefit not just the additional pupils but those that are already on roll.

Other options in and around this part of the city of Lincoln 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 areas they serve or are being expanded in addition to this proposal.

The proposal to expand Lincoln Bishop King Church of England Primary School has the support of the Headteacher and the Governing Body, and also the School Improvement Service (CfBT). The LA is confident that the school has the leadership, management and governance required to 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. An increase in the potential number on roll at the school to 420 will also enable the option of moving from the current mixed year group structure to one where all children could be taught in single year group classes of 30 or less if the governors of the school choose to do so.

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 13 October 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 10th and 11th November 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 in this instance.

All parents/carers and other interested parties were given the opportunity to respond as part of the consultation process by 17 November 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 <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parents/schools/for-schools/school-organisation-planning-team/current-consultations/>

There were 12 valid responses in total with only one against the proposal and all comments made will be made available to the Executive Councillor in the decision making process. 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 420 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

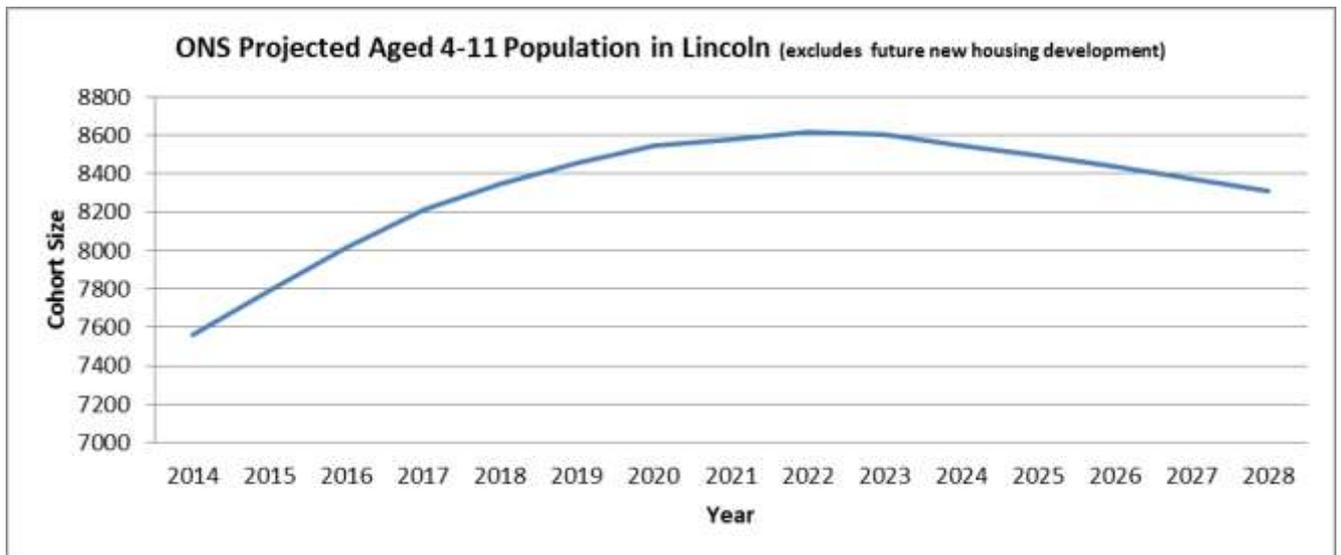
National birth rates, mostly concentrated in more urban areas, have been steadily rising in recent years. This increased birth rate, combined in some areas with inward migration (higher housing occupancy rates) and housing development, is resulting in increased demand for primary school places. There is expected to be a long term requirement for more school places. Lincoln will experience a shortage of available places if capacity at one or more of the local schools is not increased, or additional capacity added through alternative means. This is evidenced in in the table below which shows the LA projections for the whole of Lincoln:

Forecast Years	Min Projected Numbers							Min Projected Surplus							Max Projected Numbers							Max Projected Surplus						
	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	1	2	3	4	5	6
2014	794	802	763	712	625	645	604	16	10	17	36	65	45	86	797	812	773	724	636	655	616	13	0	7	24	54	35	74
2015	880	794	802	722	712	628	645	-55	16	10	28	36	62	45	888	809	817	748	738	660	674	-63	1	-5	2	10	30	16
2016	879	880	794	759	722	712	625	-54	-55	16	23	28	36	65	891	900	820	789	752	752	670	-66	-75	-10	-7	-2	-4	20
2017	858	879	880	760	759	722	712	-33	-54	-55	20	23	28	36	872	898	909	808	797	760	758	-47	-73	-84	-28	-15	-10	-10
2018	858	858	879	794	760	759	722	-33	-33	-54	1	20	23	28	872	872	900	838	809	801	764	-47	-47	-75	-43	-29	-19	-14

And the table below indicates the LA projections for the Central Lincoln area which includes Bishop King:

Forecast Years	Min Projected Numbers							Min Projected Surplus							Max Projected Numbers							Max Projected Surplus						
	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	1	2	3	4	5	6
2014	229	235	236	205	179	183	158	11	5	4	5	16	12	37	229	236	237	208	182	186	161	11	4	3	2	13	9	34
2015	272	229	235	212	205	179	183	-17	11	5	-2	5	16	12	272	230	236	218	211	188	192	-17	10	4	-8	-1	7	3
2016	289	272	229	209	212	205	179	-34	-17	11	1	-2	5	16	289	274	231	215	218	214	191	-34	-19	9	-5	-8	-4	4
2017	290	289	272	202	209	212	205	-35	-34	-17	8	1	-2	5	290	289	272	214	218	221	217	-35	-34	-17	-4	-8	-11	-7
2018	290	290	289	240	202	209	212	-35	-35	-34	-15	8	1	-2	290	290	290	252	214	218	221	-35	-35	-35	-27	-4	-8	-11

Population data (birth data supported by the Office of National Statistics) confirms this expected medium to long term requirement for more places for children of a statutory primary school age in Lincoln. This is evidenced by the ONS projections data for the district of Lincoln shown here:



Therefore, a permanent sustainable solution is needed to accommodate these extra children to avoid overcrowding and/or transporting 4 year old children to alternative schools outside of their local community that are not within walking distance. Please note that the ONS data above does not factor in the impact of significant new housing development that is expected in the Lincoln area.

It is also necessary to ensure that too much capacity is not created. There are proposals in place for school expansions in other parts of Lincoln to ensure that there are sufficient places right across the city without creating excess surplus capacity. The proposed expansion at Bishop King Church of England Primary School is required to meet the projected demand for places in this part of 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 and not to replace existing capacity in the primary sector, therefore not having a significant negative impact on other local 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 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 school is popular with parents and has been over-subscribed for the last four years on 1st and 2nd preferences, and it is also situated geographically in an ideal location in relation to the demand for places.

The school was rated by Ofsted as 'Requiring Improvement' at an inspection in March 2014. However, since this report necessary steps have been taken to ensure that significant improvement is being made. A monitoring visit was made in June 2014 when Ofsted confirmed that senior leaders and governors at the school are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified in the March inspection. The school is also benefitting from LA support together with additional support from local leaders of 'outstanding' schools. The School Improvement Service (CfBT) is confident that by the time the expansion is implemented in 2016 the school will have made the progress required to successfully manage the increased capacity.

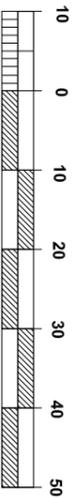
Related Proposals

The proposal to expand Lincoln Bishop King Church of England 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

At the close of the 4 week representation period (statutory formal consultation) on 5 February 2015 responses will be collated and analysed and a further report will be presented to the Executive Councillor for a final decision in March 2015 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.



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	TEAM GAME	5,903m ²		ACCESS & PATHS	1,737m ²
	PLAYING FIELD	10,817m ²		CAR-PARKING	215m ²
	TEAM GAME	1,318m ²		G.I.A.	2,073m ²
	HARD SURFACE	500m ²		SITE AREA	19,021m ²
	SOFT LANDSCAPE	2,669m ²			

Rev.	Date	Description	By	Checked By



Client: MOUCHEL PROPERTY RECORDS

Project: Lincoln Bishop King CE Primary School
L0025

Drawing Title: AMP Plan
925/3505

Drawn By: JDH
Checked By:

Scale: N.T.S.
Date: March 2014

Project No.: Drawing No.: Revision:

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