

## **Proposal to make a prescribed alteration to Blacon High School, Melbourne Road, Chester, Cheshire, CH1 5JH.**

### School and Local Authority Details

The proposal to make a prescribed alteration to Blacon High School, Melbourne Road, Chester, Cheshire, CH1 5JH from 1 September 2020 is being published by Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council, HQ Building, 58 Nicholas St, Chester, CH1 2NP. Contact Name and Address: Carolyn Davis, Senior Manager, Education Infrastructure. (Nicholas House 3), 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE

### **Publication Date: Thursday 20 June 2019**

### The Proposal

It is proposed to permanently enlarge by expansion the capacity of Blacon High School from 120 to 150 places for each year group from years 7 to 11, providing 150 additional places in total, to take effect from 1 September 2020.

### Consultation

An informal pre-consultation was carried out by the Council during the 2019 Spring Term. Having considered the responses to the consultation, the Director of Education has determined the proposal should now proceed to the formal stage of Notice and Representation. This period of formal consultation will run from 20 June 2019 to midnight on 17 July 2019.

Any person or organisation may submit comments to the Council on the proposal and these must be taken into account by the decision-maker who will be the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People. The decision must be made in accordance with statutory guidance.

### Description of alteration and evidence of demand

It is proposed that the school permanently expand in order to provide more school places for local children. This expansion is required to enable a greater proportion of local children with an entitlement to secondary education to access that entitlement at a local school of their preference.

The Council's analysis of the supply and demand for secondary school places indicates these places will be necessary to enable the Council to continue to discharge its duty to ensure a sufficiency of places for secondary school children in the area local to the school.

Ofsted has found the school's provision to be 'Good' in their report published in [January 2016](#).

### The effect on other secondary school provision

There is no other secondary school provision within Blacon, it is anticipated that a proportion of parents will continue to exercise a preference for a faith based secondary education outside of the local area. The ability for parents to successfully exercise a preference for a secondary education outside the area is already constrained by those neighbouring schools operating at, close to or in some instances in excess of their current capacity in some or all year groups.

### How the school will make provision for additional pupils

The school propose to use the existing building to take a maximum of 30 additional pupils into Year 7 in September 2019 (ie 150 pupils admitted rather than the current published admission number of 120). Following completion of a planned new accommodation block in Summer 2020 the school will then admit up to 150 pupils into all Year 7 groups from September 2020 onwards. If there is sufficient 'in-year' demand to allow the school to employ additional teachers then the governing body will consider admitting additional pupils into other year groups (up to a maximum of 150 pupils on roll in any year groups). Growth will be incremental until the planned maximum number of 750 pupils is reached.

### Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

If approved by the decision-maker (and subject to there being no appeal by Chester or Shrewsbury Dioceses to the Schools Adjudicator) the Governing Body wish to implement the proposal from 1 September 2020.

### The procedure for responses: support; objections and comments

A public notice will be published on the Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council website from 20 June 2019 to 17 July 2019:

[www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/BHSconsultation](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/BHSconsultation)

A public notice announcing the start of a period of public representations is to be published in the Chester Standard on 20 June 2019.

Within four weeks from the date of publication, any person may send in a response supporting, objecting or commenting on the proposal;

- By sending a response to the Senior Manager, Education Infrastructure, Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council, (Nicholas House Floor 3), 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE
- By email to [schoolplanningandpolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:schoolplanningandpolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

**The final date for receipt of representations is midnight 17 July 2019.**