

Proposal to make a prescribed alteration to Comberbach Primary School Mather Drive, Comberbach, Northwich. CW9 6BG

School and Local Authority Details

The proposal to make a prescribed alteration to Comberbach Primary School Mather Drive, Comberbach, Northwich. CW9 6BG from September 2017 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

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The Proposal

It is proposed to permanently expand the age range of Comberbach Primary School from 4-11years of age to 2-11years of age, to take effect from September 2017.

Consultation

An informal pre-consultation was carried out by the Council during the 2017 Spring Term. Having considered the response 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 April 2017 to 17 May 2017

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 extend its age range by making maintained provision for an increased age range of children who have not yet reached compulsory school age. The Governing body of the school believe that this increase in the age range of the school is necessary:

- To ensure that all local children are able to access their entitlement to early years education in a setting of their preference.
- To enable continuity in children's early years education in order to support their readiness for school.

The Council's Early Years Commissioner believes that these places will be necessary to enable the Council to discharge its duty to ensure a sufficiency of early years provision in the area local to the school when the hours of entitlement are increased in response to national policy.

The school has been found by Ofsted to be a 'Good' school.

The effect on other pre-school provision within the area

The only other provider of Early Years Education in the village of Comberbach, Comberbach Community Preschool, has indicated an intention to cease provision on account of its inability (on account of it not having dedicated premises) to deliver the extended early years entitlement that a significant proportion of their clientele is expected to enjoy from September 2017. This decision was in part informed by the knowledge that the school intended to set up provision that would cater for this market and would be likely to compete for the provider's remaining clientele. If the pre-school had remained open in its current form it is probable that a significant proportion of present and potential future customers would have chosen to travel a significantly greater distance to access their full entitlement and that this would in itself have jeopardised the future of the provision.

Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved;

Operational costs will be met from the school's revenue budget, supported through the Council's mechanisms for funding early years education.

The school's initial market research suggests that financial risk is low on account of there being strong parental interest in taking up places in the school's nursery should the proposal be agreed.

The costs of necessary internal remodelling of the premises will be met from the school's devolved formula capital and accrued revenue funding. The Governing Body believe that this investment in growing the school's early years provision represents a more sustainable use of resources than the potential cost of staff restructuring if the age range of the school were to remain unchanged.

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 September 2017.

The procedure for responses: support; objections and comments

A public notice will be published on the Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council website on Thursday 20 April 2017

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/comberbachprimaryconsultation

A public notice announcing the start of a period of public representations is to be published in the Northwich Guardian on 20 April 2017.

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

The final date for receipt of representations is midnight 17 May 2017.