



Cheshire West
and Chester

Consultation on the proposals
to relocate and expand the size
of
Huntington Community Primary School,
Chester

Monday 19 January 2015 – Sunday 8 February 2015

Cheshire West and Chester Council
Huntington Community Primary School Public Consultation
Education Team
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Have your say on proposed changes to the relocation and size of Huntington Community Primary School, Chester

About this document

This document has been produced by Cheshire West and Chester Council to support the consultation process with parents, staff, governors, the local community, including neighbouring schools, and other key stakeholders. It seeks the views of all these interested groups on the proposals. The key decision dates are outlined on page seven of this document.

The proposed changes are:

- to enlarge the physical capacity of Huntington Community Primary School to provide the accommodation necessary to enable a cumulative increase in the number of primary-aged pupils from 210 to 420 places - through the construction of a new school build
- to relocate Huntington Community Primary School (after a new school building of greater physical capacity is constructed - anticipated September 2016) to a new site in the local area.

The Local Authority's legal duties

The Local Authority (LA) has a general duty under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to secure that there are sufficient schools for providing primary school education in its borough.

To comply with the requirements of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) and related legal duties, the LA must follow a streamlined statutory process as set out in the prescribed alterations regulations prior to making any significant change to the way a school is organised. The current guidance for the legislation is "School Organisation (maintained schools) Guidance for Proposers and Decision Makers", January 2014.

Although there is no prescribed pre-publication consultation period for prescribed alterations, the LA recognises the benefits of consulting interested parties at this stage in order to allow opportunity to develop proposals prior to publication. This document therefore serves as the pre-publication consultation period and we would encourage you to submit your views on the proposals outlined above.

The Regulations do not require a consultation on the proposed relocation of the school if the new site is less than two miles from the existing site. In this case the proposed site is approximately half a mile from the existing site. However, the relocation is an integral part of the proposal and therefore will be consulted on at the same time as the expansion proposal.

The consultation will follow the Department for Education guidance for proposers and decision-makers around changes to maintained schools.

About the school

Huntington Community Primary School is a community primary school serving a suburban area to the south of the city. Originally built in 1958, it has been extended and adapted over the years and currently provides 210 permanent accommodation places. The school has a published admission number (PAN) of 30 places per year group. There is also a 26 place maintained nursery onsite, within the main building.

The school's teaching accommodation comprises 11 class bases (nine furnished for teaching and learning) plus one which accommodates the maintained nursery.

Five of the teaching spaces are mobile classrooms, four of which were placed on site in 2014 to accommodate anticipated increased pupil demand in the area, including the expansion of the reception class in 2014-2015 to 45 pupils (using two class bases). This is not a formal increase in the published admission number from 30 to 45. It is deemed as an over PAN occurrence as it does not relate to all the school's year groups. In this case, just the reception year group. The mobile classrooms are currently used for year six, year four and year one, with two currently vacant (and one designated for the additional year one class of 2015-2016).

Ancillary spaces to support the teaching and learning include a computer suite and three small group rooms, staffroom, school office and head teacher's office. There is also a school hall, which is in intensive daily use for PE, drama and music, as well as for school assemblies and dining purposes.

The school has an onsite out-of-school club providing childcare, 7.30-8.50am, and 3.05-6pm (private provider). There is a maintained nursery with 26 places (morning only).

Ofsted inspection

The most recent Ofsted inspection was carried out on 7 November 2012, and found Huntington Community Primary school to be a 'Good' school.

Why is the Council proposing to make these changes?

The proposal to expand the size of the school has arisen from analysis of the present and future need for primary school places in the southern outskirts of Chester. This has considered the local birth-rate, planned housing developments, parental preference as expressed through the admissions process and the potential demand for places created by the in migration into the local area.

It considered the link between where local primary age children live and where they receive their education in the mainstream maintained sector, and the need to promote sustainable patterns of travel between home and school.

Other issues influencing the decision to proceed with the proposal include:

Parental preference:

- Families have experienced difficulty in accessing places in some year groups at already fully subscribed local schools during the 2013-2014 academic years. A number of appeal hearings for the case against refusing a place have been heard.

New housing:

- Saughton Camp is a former armed forces base located within the Huntington catchment area. The former base has had many applications for development for new housing, with two successful ones since 2010. New families have moved into the new housing and have applied for places at local schools. The demand for places has therefore increased in this area.

The case for increasing the number of places will result in a greater number of places in the local area to meet the local demand, and enable the school to satisfy a higher degree of parental preference as a result.

Informal consultation:

In autumn 2013, the Council carried out an informal, public exercise to determine how local residents would prefer primary education to be delivered in the local area. The two options presented were either:

- two separate, one form entry (210 places each) primary schools at Huntington and Saughton Camp, or
- a single two form entry (420 places) primary school on a central site.

A summary of the response findings are noted in appendix four.

How is the Council proposing that the expansion of the school would be implemented?

The Council considered the following issues in formulating proposals for how the expansion of the school's capacity should be implemented:

- how and when building works can take place so as to cause minimum disruption to the life of the school
- how admissions to the school can be managed to ensure that the objective of meeting local parental preference is best achieved
- how the admission of additional children can be managed so as to minimise any short term adverse impact upon neighbouring schools
- how the school could manage financially the issue of increasing the number of teaching staff, to teach the increasing number of pupils.

Building works

A detailed site review study is underway with a subsequent feasibility study to be carried out in spring 2015. It is anticipated that funding would be available for construction to start in autumn 2015 which should enable completion of a new school building for September 2016.

School admissions

The school has historically admitted pupils up to its published admission number (PAN) of 30. Overall, the capacity within the school has permitted this to be efficiently managed within the organisation of teaching and learning at the school.

To allow a transitional period of controlled and financially viable expansion, a transitional provision of up to 120 accommodation places has been added in the form of temporary mobile accommodation, from September 2014. The temporary accommodation will remain until a new 420 place new school building is in place and the school can move to a published admission number of 60 places per year group. From September 2014, the school intake for reception year has been over PAN of 45 places compared to the usual 30 places, due to the steady increase in local demand. Please refer to appendices one to four. The intake for the reception class was 45 pupils for the 45 places, indicating the demand for places is higher than the usual 30 places.

The school would be permitted to admit up to 60 children into each year group from September 2016, in advance of a formal increase in PAN in September 2016.

Impact on neighbouring schools

The next nearest primary schools to Huntington Community Primary School are fully subscribed in several year groups and are expected to continue to admit to their current capacity in future years. Appendix two, trend in pupils on roll, 2011-2014 provides information relating to the reduction in available places in the local area.

How the school would be organised if the proposed expansions take place

The school is currently organised, with a PAN of 30, into eight single aged group classes from reception to year six. The reception class has an over-PAN of 45, so is currently taught in two classes of 22 and 23 pupils per teacher.

With an enlarged capacity of 420 places, the school would be organised as 14 single aged group classes from reception to year six. Each year group will have two classes of 30 places (60 places per year group), with each class being taught by one school teacher.

It is anticipated that as numbers on roll gradually rise, there may be a future need for these cohorts to be educated across separate mixed age group classes in order to avoid breaching the national legislation known as the infant class size regulations, 2012. Ultimately it is envisaged that numbers will justify the appointment of additional members of staff enabling children to be organised around single aged group classes.

Next steps

Following the consultation, and considering the feedback received, the Executive Member for Children and Families will be asked to make a decision as to whether the proposals should be progressed, or progressed in an amended form.

Please refer to the following web link to locate the decision register for the Executive Member decision.

<http://cmttpublic.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/mgDelegatedDecisions.aspx?bcr=1>

If it is agreed to progress, a public notice (in relation to the proposal to expand the size of the school) will be published. This provides a further opportunity for consultees

and the general public to make comment on the proposal to expand the school, before a final decision is made.

A decision to increase the PAN of the school is dependent upon a positive decision to expand the size of the school and will be formalised as part of approving the Local Authority's coordinated admission arrangements.

Key dates

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Start of pre-publication consultation period | 19 January 2015 |
| Public consultation event at Huntington Community Primary School | 29 January 2015 3-6pm |
| End of pre-publication consultation period | 8 February 2015 |
| Executive Member to consider the formal consultation feedback and take a decision on whether to progress to 'Public Notice' | w/c 9 February 2015 |
| Publication of notices | 26 February 2015 |
| Start of four week representation / formal consultation period | 26 February 2015 |
| End of four week representation / formal consultation period | 26 March 2015 |
| Final decision by Executive Member | 10 April 2015 |
| Completion of new school building | Anticipated September 2016 |

How do I tell you my views?

The public consultation will take place through spring 2015. There are two separate periods where consultees are invited to submit their views. These are:-

1. The initial pre-publication consultation period which runs from 19 January to 8 February 2015.
2. Then subject to Member approval, the statutory public notice would then involve a further four week representation / formal consultation period from 26 February to 26 March 2015. During this time we really would like to hear your views on the options we have put to you in this paper.

You can take part by:

- completing the online feedback form at:
<http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/huntingtonconsultation>
- or emailing:
schoolplanningandpolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
- or providing feedback using a hard copy form posted to the address on the front page of this document
- attending the consultation event at the school on 29 January 2015 from 3-6pm. Local Authority officers and school representatives will be available to answer questions and to note any comments that you would like to feedback.

Paper copies of all of the associated documentation are available upon request by emailing schoolplanningandpolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk.

If you require clarification on any of the points raised in this document please contact us by emailing schoolplanningandpolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Please make sure you have submitted your response to this document by Sunday 8 February 2015.

What further information is available to help you understand the proposals?

The following appendices of information, that have informed the Local Authority's proposals, are attached:

Appendix 1: Trend in number of resident primary age pupils within the Huntington Community Primary catchment area, 2009-2014

Appendix 2: Trend in pupils on roll, 2011-2014.

Appendix 3: Additional new housing within the Huntington catchment area

Appendix 4: Informal public consultation, autumn 2013.

Appendix 5: A location map of the proposed new school site, the former playing fields near Saughton Camp, – opposite Walker's Plant Nursery (west of B5130).

What happens to your responses?

All of the responses received during the consultation period are summarised in a report with an analysis of the outcomes of the consultation and recommendations on the next steps. The report is then taken to the Cheshire West and Chester Executive Member who has the following options:

- to decide not to take the proposals any further
- to recommend amendments or changes to the proposals
- to proceed with the original proposals.

All of the information you provide in your response will be treated in the strictest of confidence and will only be used for the purpose it was collected.

Please refer to following web link to locate the decision register for the Executive Member decision.

<http://cmttpublic.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/mgDelegatedDecisions.aspx?bcr=1>

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this consultation.
Your views are important to us.

Huntington Community Primary School – public consultation feedback

We would like your comments on the Council's proposals for Huntington Community Primary School outlined in the accompanying consultation document. Please read this document before completing this survey.

Q1. Please tell us whether you agree or disagree with the proposal to increase the number of places available at Huntington Community Primary School from 210 to 420 school places?

Agree Disagree Not sure/don't know

Q2. If the number of places at Huntington Community Primary School is increased, the school will need to relocate to a larger site in order to expand to allow 420 pupil places. Our preferred option is to relocate the school to the former playing fields near Saighton Camp, opposite Walker's Plant Nursery (west of B5130). To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal for a new school on this site?

Strongly agree Agree Neither agree or disagree
 Disagree Strongly disagree Not sure/don't know

Q3. Do you have any comments in relation to a possible relocation of the school to the former playing fields near Saighton Camp site?

Q4. Do you wish to make any additional comments with regards to the two proposed changes which are: to enlarge the physical capacity of Huntington Community Primary School to provide the accommodation necessary to enable a cumulative increase in the number of primary-aged pupils from 210 to 420 places - through the construction of a new school build and also to relocate Huntington Community Primary School (after a new school building of greater physical capacity is constructed - anticipated September 2016) to a new site in the local area.

About you

The information you give in this section is strictly confidential and will be used to analyse the responses. All questions are voluntary; please leave blank any you wish not to answer. No information will be released that would allow identification of you as an individual or of your household.

Q5. To which of the following categories do you belong?

Parent/carer Pupil* Governor Member of staff
Local resident Other** ** Please specify.....

* Please ensure an adult knows you are completing this survey

Q6. Which school (if any) are you linked with...?

Q7. Please tell us your postcode (not full address).....

Please send any responses back to the Education Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council
Postal address: Floor 3, HQ Building, Nicholas Street, Chester, CH1 2NP
Email: schoolplanningandpolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Thank you for completing this survey.

Appendix 1: Trend in number of resident primary age pupils within the Huntington Community Primary catchment area, 2009-2014

| | January 2009 | January 2010 | January 2011 | January 2012 | January 2013 | January 2014 | January 2015 | January 2016 |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Number of primary age pupils | 165 | 172 | 165 | 156 | 181 | 212 | to be confirmed | to be confirmed |
| | | | | | | | | |

Note:

The current school capacity is 210 places, with a published admission number of 30 per year group. As of January 2014, the number of primary age resident pupils of 212 exceeded the current number of places at the current capacity and admission number for the school.

Appendix 2: Trend in pupils on roll, 2011-2014

Schools within two miles, safe walking route, of Huntington Community Primary

| Primary school | School capacity | Total pupils on roll as at January of each year except where stated | | | | October 2014 |
|---|------------------------|---|-------|------|------|--------------|
| | | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | |
| | | | | | | |
| Huntington Community Primary School | 210 | 195 | 190 | 198 | 209 | 226 |
| Boughton Heath Primary School | 210 | 204 | 210 | 210 | 210 | 210 |
| Cherry Grove Primary School | 315 | 228 | 249 | 257 | 269 | 265 |
| St Werburgh's and St Columba's Catholic Primary | 350 | 320 | 325 | 343 | 331 | 322 |
| Total number of pupils on roll | Total capacity: (1085) | 947 | 974 | 1008 | 1019 | 1023 |
| Number of spare places | n/a | 138 | 111 | 77 | 66 | 62 |
| Spare places for local area, % | | 12.7% | 10.2% | 7.1% | 6.1% | 5.7% |

Appendix 3: Additional new housing within the Huntington catchment area

The Saighton Camp housing site has had a number of planning applications since 2007. The successful applications have resulted in new housing being built since 2010, and hence new families are moving into the area and require new school places.

The table below illustrates the number of primary age pupils from the new housing within the Saighton Camp development who are attending a maintained sector state primary school.

| As at January for each year except where stated | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | October 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Number of primary age pupils | 0 | 3 | 8 | 19 | 39 | 44 | 59 | to be confirmed | to be confirmed |

Appendix 4: Informal public consultation, autumn 2013

The Local Authority sent out approximately 5,000 questionnaires to Huntington households in autumn 2013. The core questions related to whether the community would like to see additional school places within the community from either:

- A) An additional 210 place school
- B) Additional 210 places added to the existing school, Huntington Community Primary which would result in a 420 place school in total.

We received back 130 responses, with a summary of the findings noted below.

Summary of community response to questionnaire

| Option | Option description | Agree | Disagree | Not sure |
|--------|--|-------|----------|----------|
| A | An additional 210 place primary school in the local area | 44% | 51% | 5% |
| B | Additional 210 places added to the existing school, Huntington Community Primary | 63% | 33% | 4% |

Appendix 5: A location map of the proposed new school site, the former playing fields near Saughton Camp, – opposite Walker’s Plant Nursery (west of B5130).

If the proposal to increase the size of Huntington Primary was approved, the school would be anticipated to relocate in order to increase to a capacity of 420 places. The map below shows the location of one option for a proposed new site.

