

Briefing Notes for Chorley 3 Tier Forum
Chorley Central & Euxton Councillor Engagement
28th May 2015

- Officers presented an overview of the strategic need for additional places, across Lancashire and specifically in relation to Chorley Central and Euxton.
- In terms of the possible solutions no blueprint was in place. Schools to be expanded would be selected by applying the agreed criteria to schools that had expressed an interest in expansion.
- Officers were aware that there was some concern that the authority was not acting quickly enough in terms of providing additional places. However, there was a risk to other local schools if action was taken too early, both in terms of financial risk and the sustainability of the schools.
- There is limited data available between birth and the pupil's registration for a school. The limitations to the housing build and occupation information was also discussed.
- The same presentation had been provided to Chorley Central and Euxton head teachers on 22nd May, in which schools were invited to come forward with expressions of interest for expansion in both areas. A number of schools had expressed an interest.
- It was explained that, due to a combination of increased births and the amount of housing development in both Chorley Central and Euxton, officers considered that an additional permanent one form of entry was needed in each of the areas with effect from September 2015.
- Following the presentation a number of points about the additional need were discussed. These included the opportunities for catholic provision; whether an academy was a suitable solution in terms of local need; and also the other options available for providing additional places. A discussion about the lack of housing contributions from developers in Chorley also took place.
- There were three ways of providing the additional provision: commission two new schools (for which there would be an Academy presumption); expand suitable local schools on existing sites if possible; or expand existing schools across two sites by using a nearby available site (the available Buckshaw Group 1 reserved school site was discussed). This last option would depend on whether the S106 in which the school site is provided would permit this – Officers would check with Legal).
- The Buckshaw Group 1 school site was discussed, including the timing of the slip road provision, which will open up access to the primary school site. The potential high turn-over of the population on Buckshaw Village was also discussed, due to the high proportion of short term rental property available.
- It was agreed that a follow up meeting would be arranged for August, once expansion options have been considered.
- Councillors were offered the opportunity to have a further meeting to discuss the housing situation; the contribution methodology and the future demand for school places.