

STRATEGY FOR THE PROVISION OF SCHOOL PLACES

PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACE REQUIREMENTS Chorley Central , Euxton and Buckshaw 2015 – 2017

Lynn Mappin
Lynn MacDonald

Challenges

- School Capital Programme is very tight and Lancashire's share can be affected by significant demand in some areas of the country
- Small window to take action and conduct statutory processes
- Timing of any expansions – impacts on access to school places v impacts on pupil numbers at other schools
- Fluctuating birth rates / demand
- Gap in knowledge between birth and presentation for reception

Background

- National rise in the birth rate
- Greater calls on available capital resources
- Lancashire rise in birth rate – approx 10% in last 10 years but difference between low and high years is 17%
- Lancashire has commissioned 2391 new primary places since 2010, with at least 630 more to provide in next 2 years
- Planning areas have been revised to reflect home / school 'communities'
- Place requirements identified are based upon live births but the effects of planned new housing are also taken into consideration.

Challenges continued...

- Housing information provided by Districts varies in quality / Information on occupations currently non-existent
- Multiple 'hotspots' arising across County at once
- Expansion of schools which meet all or most of the expansion criteria is becoming increasingly difficult

LCC's Position

- Statutory obligation to provide a Lancashire school place for every Lancashire child that wants one
- All types of school are of equal value
- Additional permanent places will normally only be provided where there is evidence of sustained need (ideally 3 years' births)
- It may be necessary to provide temporary accommodation to:
 - Meet immediate need whilst waiting for permanent build to be completed
 - Meet need as a result of a 'bulge year'

LCC Policy for providing places

Lancashire's Strategy for the Provision of School Places and School's Capital Investment states:

'The authority will aim to provide additional places at existing schools, wherever possible and appropriate, rather than commission new provision. The rationale for this approach is to maintain stability in the existing school system; to provide places in the shortest timescale possible; and to achieve best value for money.'

However, this will not always be possible.

Criteria for expansion

- Pupil attainment levels
- Parental preferences
- Current size of the school
- Location of the school relative to the population
- Practicalities of expansion on existing or nearby site
- Costs of expansion

Next steps (all areas)

- Current stage-Data gathering: location of births; travel to school patterns; site feasibility and discussions with individual Dioceses; elected members and groups of schools
- Visits to schools interested in expansion
- Report to Cabinet Member for decision on temporary places and permission to consult for permanent
- Begin consultation exercises where statutory enlargements
- Commission new school(s) where appropriate

2014/15 to 2016/17 approach to provision of places

- Provision of standardised design wherever possible
- Existing suitability issues at schools unlikely to be addressed
- LA is prepared to utilise its school place commissioning powers against wishes where no other solutions exist (not jeopardising the religious character of the school)
- Class bases that have been taken out of use may need to be re-instated

Need for additional places in Chorley Central

Planning Area forecast	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
intake	425	472	457	433
shortfall	0	27	12	0

- Actual Reception NOR January 2014 was 432
- Current PAN for all 13 schools: 445
- Forecasts based on 3 yr average intake as 86.56 % of Chorley Central births
- Planned housing could yield an additional 169 primary pupils (all ages) in 5 years (potential for 5 additional reception pupils per year but this is an assumption to be treated with caution)

Means of addressing need

- Transport or over-allocate
- Bulge year in existing accommodation
- 'Regularise' admission numbers by increasing to nearest 1/2 fe
- Provision of temp or permanent accommodation at existing schools
- New schools- site secured on Buckshaw Village for 1FE school

Births

- Births in the area have been higher in last 4 years than in any time in the last 20 years.

Births	2014 intake	2015 intake	2016 intake	2017 intake
	492	545	528	501

Need for additional places in Euxton

Planning Area forecast	2014	2015	2016	2017
intake	158	214	198	191
shortfall	0	24	8	1

- Current PAN for all 5 schools: **190**
- Forecasts based on 2 yr average intake as 126.5% of Euxton births (includes proportion of St. Ambrose ward births)
- Planned housing could yield an additional **189** primary pupils (all ages) in 5 years-potential for 5 additional reception pupils per year (but this is an assumption to be treated with caution)

What now?

- Confirm data for schools is accurate
- Consult your Governors
- Expressions of Interest by **13th June 2014**
- Visits by end of term

Need for additional places in Euxton

Births	2014 intake	2015 intake	2016 intake	2017 intake
	125	170	157	151

Questions

- Do we feel that the need for additional places is permanent?
- If 'yes', how many places do we provide?
- If 'no', which school can provide temporary places?
- Where should the places be provided if they are permanent?
- Is there yet a need for a new school on Buckshaw Village?