

PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS TO A SCHOOL

Referenced from Schedule 2 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 and Statutory Guidance: Making 'prescribed alterations' to maintained schools October 2018.

1. School and Local Authority Contact Details

Proposer: Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, Town Hall, Stockport, SK1 3XE

School: Lisburne School, Half Moon Lane, Offerton, Stockport SK2 5LB

2. Description of alteration and evidence for demand

The Council is proposing to expand and re-locate Lisburne School in order to improve learning opportunities and the quality of the School's facilities as well as provide additional places for the growing number of children who need them. The specific proposal is to:

- Increase the number of places available at the School to 208 for children aged 4-11, following the re-location;
- Re-locate the School from Half Moon Lane to a larger, new building on the former Offerton School site from September 2021.

The current school building at Half Moon Lane was originally intended for approximately 60 pupils, however the numbers across the School have grown significantly in recent years and across the main school site and the satellite provision at Hollywood Park Nursery there are currently 108 pupils:

Year Group	6	5	4	3	2	1	R
Number of Pupils	12	14	12	23	16	14	17

Source: October 2018 School Census

Given this level of growth and projected future increases, it is proposed that the new building will accommodate 208 pupils. This will mean 4 classes in each of the 7 year groups.

Local Authorities are required to ensure sufficient school places are available, including specialist provision for those who need it. The Council are committed to providing the highest quality of education for Stockport's children in meeting this duty. We want to ensure that every child has the educational opportunity to reach their full potential in the best possible learning environments.

We also need to make sure we provide value for money by making best use of the funding available to us. To do this we need to assess demand and the long-term suitability of our school buildings and the way we spend money to meet more complex educational needs.

There are increasing numbers of children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) who require specialist places and Stockport has six special schools which cater for these needs. Increasing numbers of children with an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) mean the majority of these schools are overfull and some places, including at Lisburne School, are provided in temporary buildings. The table below shows the growth in numbers across Stockport's special school from 2014 to 2018.

School type		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Special Schools	Primary	143	152	165	182	190
	Secondary	315	365	375	385	385
	TOTAL	458	517	540	567	575

Trend in SEND planned places in Stockport [local data]

Due to the shortfall of places we currently spend a significant amount each year on placements outside the Council's own provision for pupils with higher levels of need. This is because we only have a certain number of school places which can cater for more complex needs. The number of pupils with these higher levels of need is also increasing.

In 2014 and 2015 additional modular classrooms were added to Lisburne School's site and in 2017 and 2018, additional places have been provided at sites some distance from the main school. This means that a number of children are unable to access the main facilities of the school they attend.

The current Lisburne School building in Offerton is too restricted for expansion and has a number of suitability issues for children with special needs. The Council has therefore considered options for the future of the school which will help more pupils benefit from the excellent education opportunities already available at Lisburne School.

If the proposal to re-locate the School is not approved, further expansion of the provision could not happen as there is not the physical space at the existing school site to accommodate additional numbers.

3. Objectives

The overall objective of the proposal is to extend the existing Outstanding education offered by Lisburne School to the growing numbers of children with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) in a sustainable setting.

Improved Education Opportunities

Local Authorities are encouraged to offer support that can respond to the special educational needs of individual pupils and parental preferences.

Lisburne School is an Outstanding community special school that provides successful education for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Multi-Sensory Impairment, Severe Learning Difficulty and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty. Demand for this type of school place has increased significantly therefore various arrangements have been needed to accommodate additional children in recent years. Expanding Lisburne School will give the opportunity for this Outstanding provision to a larger number of children in future.

There is no proposal to change the categories of registered provision at Lisburne School. The new facilities will be purpose-designed for the School.

Additional places at the school will mean that more pupils are able to benefit from these excellent educational opportunities. It is proposed to increase places at the school to 208, offering more opportunities to an increasing number of vulnerable pupils who need the specialist support which can be offered by the School. In addition, more places at the School will reduce the Council's reliance on placements out of Borough for pupils with special educational needs.

Improved Accessibility

The School would be designed specifically to accommodate children with SEND rather than the existing building which has been adapted over time and is now stretched beyond its capacity with separate units across the site as well as additional units in other locations.

The proposed new building facilities would also be fully accessible for people with disabilities with spaces which are designed to allow mobility for pupils with physical difficulties.

Improved Buildings

The Lisburne building requires additional condition work. Investment for such work would not make the building fit for purpose and would therefore not represent value for money.

Under the proposals, Lisburne pupils would attend an enhanced provision. Pupils and staff will benefit from significantly improved buildings and better facilities that are fit for purpose to deliver the best education possible.

The School would have a modernised building with lower running costs, meaning funding can be more appropriately directed towards teaching and learning.

4. The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

The proposal for Lisburne School is in response to demand for the specific type of provision offered by the School. As the only maintained Special School in the locality catering to the range of needs identified in Section 3, there is considered to be minimal impact upon other settings. Private and independent provision catering to the same types of need are also full due to the increasing demand outlined.

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

The anticipated cost of the project will be subject to a competitive tendering process and is expected to be between £10million and £14million.

The Local Authority currently spends significant amounts of money placing and transporting pupils with complex needs to settings which are not maintained by the Local Authority. These placements are much more expensive than Local Authority provision as well as being further afield for the children who live in Stockport but may have to travel significant distances to available placements outside the Borough.

For some children the Local Authority simply cannot meet their needs and more complex settings are required, however there is a large number of children coming forward who need places of the type provided by our existing schools.

In carrying out the proposed improvement works, significant savings can be made against external placements and the associated travel costs. These savings can be used to pay for the new building.

It is proposed to use Prudential Borrowing, which is a loan, and Special Provision Capital Funding to pay for the works. Repayments for the loan will then be made over a number of years, which will be met by, amongst other methods, using the funding saved by not placing pupils in expensive external placements and also from reduced transport costs.

6. Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

The proposal for the Prescribed Alteration to increase the number of places at Lisburne School to 208 would be implemented from 1 September 2021, subject to the timely delivery of the new building.

7. Procedure for responses: support; objections and comments

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, i.e. by Tuesday 23rd July 2019, any person wishing to submit their support, objections or comments may do so by sending them in writing to **schools.organisation@stockport.gov.uk**

Or by posting them to:
Schools Organisation
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
Children & Young People's Directorate
Upper Ground Floor, Stopford House
Stockport SK1 3XE