

PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS: Information to be included in a complete proposal

The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013:

In respect of an LA Proposal: School and local authority details

1. The name, address and category of the school and a contact address for the local authority who are publishing the proposals.

The proposal to expand the number of places at Cottam Primary School (Community) Haydocks Lane, Cottam, Preston, Lancashire, PR4 0NY from 210 to 420 pupils' is published by Lancashire County Council, the relevant local authority. The authority can be contacted at the following address: Asset Management, School Planning Team, PO box 78, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8XJ, Lancashire.

2. Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

- (a) The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.
- (b) Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body

The implementation date for this proposal is 1st September 2024.

3. Support, objections and comments

A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including:

- (a) the date prescribed by which objections or comments should be sent to the local authority; and
- (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

These proposals have been prepared following discussions with a range of partners and other stakeholders. Within six weeks from the date of publication of these proposals any person may object to, or comment on the proposals by

completion of the online questionnaire ([Have your say \(lancashire.gov.uk\)](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk)). The representation period will run from 27th March 2023 to 7th May 2023
Responses must be received no later than 5pm on 7th May 2023

4. Alteration description

A description of the proposed alteration showing evidence of demand. In the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

In response to increases in pupil numbers as a result of increased birth rates in the local area, coupled with the effect of significant housing development and inward migration, the number of school places currently available will not be enough to meet the increased demand as the children reach school age over the next few years.

On the 2nd February 2023 the Cabinet approved the consultation on a proposal to permanently expand Cottam Primary School, to admit 30 additional pupils to each reception year with effect from September 2024. This followed the school exceeding its Published Admission Number by 30 places in 2023/24 via a temporary expansion within existing accommodation.

Should the permanent expansion be approved, then permanent accommodation will be provided on the existing school site and the capacity of the primary school will be increased from 210 to 420, by increasing the admission number from 30 to 60.

The expansion of Cottam Primary School will help to provide additional pupil places to meet the permanent demand from September 2024.

The permanent expansion of Cottam Primary School would lead to the capacity of the school being permanently expanded by 30 additional reception places each year with effect from September 2024. This would increase the admission number to 60, leading to the school's overall capacity gradually increasing from 210 places to 420 places.

5. School capacity

- (a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration.

The current capacity of the school is 210 and the proposed capacity will be 420.

- (b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented.

The current published admission number for the school is 30 and the proposed admission number for the enlarged school will be 60.

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented.

N/A

- (d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

N/A

- (e) A statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

In October 2022 the number of pupils on roll was 211.

6. Additional site

- a) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

No new or additional site would be required. The area of the existing site is sufficient to allow for the proposed expansion of the building while still maintaining adequate play and sports spaces.

- b) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

N/A

7. Objectives

The objectives of the proposals (including how the proposal would increase education standards and parental choice).

In response to increases in pupil numbers as a result of increased birth rates, coupled with the effect of significant housing development and inward migration in the local area, the objective of the proposal is to permanently expand the school to admit 30 additional pupils to each reception year with effect from September 2024, through the provision of permanent accommodation on the existing school site. The expansion would increase the school's admission number to 60, leading to Cottam Primary School's capacity gradually increasing from 210 to 420.

8. Need or demand for additional places

If the proposals involve adding places:

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area.

As a result of the recent growth in the number of births in the local area, coupled with the effect of significant housing development and inward migration the number of school places currently available will not be enough to meet the increased demand as the children reach school age. There is a significant housing development, Northwest Preston Masterplan that is expected to deliver over 5,000 new dwellings over the coming years. The Northwest Preston Masterplan development site straddled the 3 primary planning areas of Preston West, Preston North and Preston Rural and therefore the local authority is considered the impact in these areas collectively. There is projected to be a shortfall of places across this area and there is significant housing development in the specific area surrounding Cottam Primary School.

Therefore, additional permanent places are needed in this area. The approval of the proposal to permanently expand Cottam Primary School will help to address this demand and ensure so far as is reasonably possible that every child is provided with a school place in close proximity to their home.

9. Expansion of successful and popular schools

- (a) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should

apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies evidence to support this. The effect of the proposal on the schools, academies and educational institutions within the area.

Cottam Primary School is a successful and popular community primary school. In response to increasing demand for places and a projected shortfall of places in Preston West, Preston North and Preston Rural primary planning areas, a Basic Need expansion scoping exercise was carried out in the area in early 2022. Following this scoping exercise consultation was conducted with all the primary schools in the Preston West, Preston North and Preston Rural primary planning areas (10th June 2022), where expressions of interest were sought for temporary expansion for 2023/24 and permanent expansion from 2024/25.

An appraisal process was carried out to consider the proposals from schools interested in expansion and it was concluded that Cottam Primary School offered the most appropriate location for school expansion to meet the shortfall in the area and has a school site large enough to accommodate a 1 form entry school expansion. This is a popular school and has achieved a 'Good' rating in its last Ofsted inspection (February 2018). There is a forecasted increasing demand for reception places in the area with further demand expected in higher years groups in later years due to the impact of new housing.

Lancashire County Council does consider that the presumption for the expansion of this school should apply. Due to the increased demand for school places in the area it is considered that the proposed expansion will have no adverse effect on other schools, academies, and educational institutions within the area.

10. Consultation

Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—

(a) A list of persons who were consulted:

1. Elected Members
2. Head teachers and Chair of Governors from all Preston West, Preston North and Preston Rural schools
3. Preston City Council
4. Lea & Cottam Parish Council
5. Broughton Parish Council
6. Diocese representatives

(b) Minutes of all public consultation meetings.

N/A

- (c) The views of the persons consulted.
- (d) A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
- (e) Copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

Although there is no longer a statutory informal consultation period, Department for Education Guidance: ' Making Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools' advises a strong expectation that the local authority will consult interested parties in developing their proposal prior to publication, as part of their duty under public law to act rationally and take into account all relevant considerations.

A presentation was provided to headteachers and chair of governors of all schools in the Preston West, Preston North and Preston Rural primary planning areas on 10th June 2022. The information was also shared with local elected members and diocese representatives.

Following the headteacher event evidence of additional need and the delivery of additional primary places was discussed with local elected members and parish councils.

Cottam Primary School subsequently expressed an interest in expansion and have been working with Lancashire County Council to develop their expansion proposal.

The website has been updated and allows access to the Public Notice and Complete Proposal documentation for this proposal and additional explanatory notes are available via the heading 'School Place Provision Planning' at:

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools>

All relevant statutory requirements regarding this proposal were complied with.

As part of the statutory representation period. 27th March 2023 to 5pm on 7th May 2023, views on the expansion proposal will be sought from the following key stakeholders:

- Department for Education
- Diocese
- Lancashire Parent Carer Forum
- LCC County Elected Members
- Local libraries
- Local MP
- Nearby schools
- Nurseries
- Preston City Council
- Town Councils
- Preston Elected Members
- OFSTED

Local planning authorities
Parish Councils
Preston Council Planning Department
LCC Special Education Needs

11. Project costs

A statement of the estimated project costs of the proposals and an indication of how these will be met, including how long-term value for money will be achieved.

The estimated capital costs have not yet been drawn up as the project has not been committed to the design stage. The Governing Body are not being asked to contribute to the scheme.

12. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Education Funding Agency (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

The authority can confirm that funds are available and have been identified to be used for the purposes of this project, subject to final determination of the proposal at the end of the representation period 5pm on 7th May 2023