

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Officer Decision Record

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| Decision Maker: | Peter Colenutt |
| Title: | Head of Strategic Development |
| Reference: | Enlargement of Premises at Calthorpe Park School |

Contact name: Mark Saunders, Strategic Development Officer

Tel: 01962 846293 **Email:** mark.saunders@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

1.1. That unconditional approval be given to the following proposal; the publication of a public notice under Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006:

To make a prescribed alteration to CALTHORPE PARK SCHOOL, Upper Hitches Lane, Fleet, Hampshire, GU51 5JA (category of schools – community) by enlarging the premises of the schools, with effect from 1 September 2021.

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

2.1. Following local consultation, the County Council received 27 written comments regarding the proposal to enlarge the school. In considering the responses received the County Council felt that the provision of additional school places was necessary and that comments received did not represent sufficient concern to prevent proceeding with the enlargement. The proposal to enlarge Calthorpe Park School from 1420 to 1725 places with effect from 1 September 2021, should proceed to the next stage of the process.

2.2. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed in relation to the Calthorpe Park School expansion. Positive impact has been identified for disability and gender reassignment. All other statutory considerations have a neutral impact on the remaining characteristics. The full Equality Impact Assessment can be accessed via this link: <http://documents.hants.gov.uk/equality-impact-assessments/EIA86214706-EnlargementofCalthorpeParkSchool-2018-08-31.pdf>

3. Consultation

3.1. Formal consultation took place between 16 May and 29 June 2018. A letter was sent to consultees as detailed below and a consultation meeting was held at Calthorpe Park School on 5 June 2018. The proposal was also included on the County Council's consultation website. A copy of the consultation letter is attached.

3.2. Letters were sent to;

- Parents of children attending Calthorpe Park School

- Headteachers, school staff and Governing Body of Calthorpe Park School
- Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of neighbouring schools
- Hart District Council – Local Councillors
- Trade union representatives
- Local Dioceses
- MP – Rt Hon Ranil Jayawardena
- HCC Elected Member – Cllr Steve Forster
- Parish Councils – Church Crookham, Crookham Village, Crondall, Dogmersfield, Elvetham Heath, Hart District Association of Parish and Town Councils (HDAPTC)
- Residents in the local area (942 letters sent)

4. Consultation responses received

4.1. A total of 27 written comments were received. The key issues raised by consultees can be summarised as follows;

- HCC received 11 comments in support of the expansion. Whilst some of these comments suggested ways to mitigate the impact of the enlargement the comments agreed the enlargement was logical, that residents do accept that there is a shortage of places for school children in Fleet. Court Moor School also commented to advise that they gave the proposal unconditional support.
- HCC received 20 comments regarding parking and increased traffic in the local area with references to Hitches Lane, Emerald Avenue, Dukes Mead and Edenbrook Village Estate. Multiple consultees commented on the roundabout directly outside the school being heavily congested around drop-off and collection times. Many consultees raised issues regarding traffic management.
- HCC received 6 comments suggesting improving the provision of footpaths and cycleways. One consultee suggested that the roundabout outside the school should have a footpath or cycleway going all the way around. Some consultees suggested widening footpaths on Hitches Lane
- HCC received 5 from consultees regarding the lack of safe crossing points outside the school. One commented that classes now use the new sports centre on the opposite side of the road and therefore it should be a high priority to provide some sort of controlled crossing point or a footbridge. One consultee suggested a safer crossing point at the railway bridge roundabouts on the A323.
- HCC received 5 comments suggesting that pick up and drop off traffic should be accommodated within the school and playing fields to take the pressure off the surrounding roads.
- HCC received 4 comments in relation to a possible arrangement for drop off and collection with the leisure centre in regards to using their car park.
- HCC received 2 comments suggesting the implementation of school buses.

- HCC received a comment which encouraged strategies to encourage pupils and parents to walk and cycle to and from school.
- Church Crookham Parish Council advised that Malthouse Bridge is a pinch point for traffic from Church Crookham and that any future traffic surveys should include this area.
- A Church Crookham Parish Councillor advised that the Grove Farm development should improve the surface of the track into Lea Green and therefore promote cycling and walking from Church Crookham.
- HCC received 1 comment suggesting staggered start/finish times to ease congestion.
- HCC received 1 comment suggesting provision of extra car parking for staff and parents.
- HCC received 1 comment suggesting that there should be a system for waiting parents to create a free flow of traffic through the surrounding roads at peak times.
- HCC received 4 comments from consultees suggesting that building a new school instead of expansion would be preferred, including the local MP.
- HCC received 3 comments in regard to expanding Court Moor School as an alternative. 1 comment was received in regard to changing the catchment areas to spread the increased provision between the two schools, negating the need to expand Calthorpe Park School.
- HCC received 2 comments expressing concern that the proposed expansion of Calthorpe Park School will not be enough to cater for both the present additional growing population and also for the several proposed development plans in the area.
- HCC received 2 comments (including one from the Elvetham Heath Parish Council) expressing concerns over the schools ability to recruit new, quality teaching staff.
- HCC received 2 comments expressing concern over housing for staff, suggesting that it is likely that new teachers cannot accept posts within Fleet because of the excessive price of buying or renting a house.
- One consultee quoted the LSC Secondary School Size Review 2004 and expressed a concern about the size of the school and the number of pupils leading to increased truancy, falling attitudes, possible violent behaviour, falling in teacher perceptions, falling in cost and falling in attainment. Another 2 comments raised concerns over bullying due to size with one also expressing concerns about new starters getting lost or not being able to make friends in such a large school setting.
- One comment suggested a decrease in secondary capacity at Calthorpe Park School to enable sixth form capacity instead.
- Church Crookham Parish Council advised they are supportive of the principle of enlargement of Calthorpe Park School but mindful of road safety and transport in the area. The QEB Steering Committee has indicated support of funding a scheme for a safe crossing.

- The local MP raised concerns over class sizes, teacher ratios, difficulties with excursions and a risk to standards in a large school.
- One comment was received in relation to maintaining and improving the leadership team to ensure maintained standards.
- Two comments raised an objection.

5. Comments on consultation responses received

- 5.1. As part of the consultation process officers from Hampshire County Council attended the consultation meeting to explain the process in developing a School Travel Plan (STP), and to seek the community's views and concerns over parking, travel and transport that exist. These concerns have been captured through a feedback response form and emails whereby consultees categorised their position within the community and the comments that they have.
- 5.2. The School Travel Plan is a long-term document produced by the whole school community and any other interested/affected parties. It looks at how children, parents, staff and visitors travel to and from school, and sets out measures to;
- Encourage and enable pupils, parents, guardians and staff to walk, scoot and cycle to school. Where this is not possible, consider public transport, car sharing or 'Park and Stride' to school.
 - Encourage and provide educational programmes relating to child travel and how this links to the environment, safety and health.
 - Improve safety.
- 5.3. Once the consultation forms have been collated and summarised, the school with the support of the School Travel Planning Team, will then survey pupils, parents and staff as to how they travel, the barriers that they may encounter, and suggestions as to improvements. Using the results of this along with responses from the principle to expand consultation the issues will be classified on behalf of the whole school community along with possible solutions.
- 5.4. The school and STP team will subsequently work with the various key stakeholders to develop an action plan to target the issues that are preventing pupils, parents and staff from using alternatives to the car. The initiatives identified will be a combination of physical measures such as scooter storage or crossing points, and 'soft' measures relating to education, promotion and enforcement. For those who have no alternative but to use the car, other options will be considered such as 'Park and Stride' sites.
- 5.5. The travel plan will link to a Transport Statement, undertaken by consultants, using additional data acquired from traffic surveys, accident data, parking beat surveys and so on. The outcomes of the Transport Statement will clearly define between measures that are essential to mitigate against the travel impact of the increase in numbers, and desirable measures that will provide a general improvement to routes to school, long term.
- 5.6. The suggested proposals will be taken back to the school community at the pre planning consultation event for further discussion, and possible adjustment, prior to submission of the planning application. All suggestions made at this stage

with regard to the design have been passed on to the design team for consideration.

- 5.7. At present there are no plans that the school catchment area will change. The demand for school places is coming from the local area.
- 5.8. A review of the staff car parking numbers will be undertaken against current parking regulations and if additional places are identified as being required then they will be provided as part of the school expansion project.
- 5.9. The comment regarding staggered start/finish times has been communicated to the Headteachers for consideration.
- 5.10. The Calthorpe Park School expansion is to cater for growing local demand for secondary school places from within the catchment area. HCC Children's Services is working closely with Hart District Council to develop a secondary school strategy which supports the proposed Local Plan.
- 5.11. The governors and Headteachers have been central to the consultation process to date and have confirmed their support for the proposal to expand. Children's Services will develop the scope of the project with the Headteachers and governors. Internal and external areas will be reviewed and remain within the guidance provided by the DfE. The governors will ensure that education standards and opportunities for all children are maintained.
- 5.12. An analysis of national and local data concerning the relationship between secondary school size and performance (CSDMT Report - The Relationship between Secondary School Size and Performance, 2015) states that the available evidence demonstrates that, for most measurable outcomes, large secondary schools perform statistically better than small secondary schools. This is not, of course, an absolute. There are some highly successful small schools and some very poor large schools but the evidence suggests that there is an advantage in being large which allows these schools to manage negative factors.
- 5.13. The analysis also states that schools are highly complex organisations and it is the interrelated factors within a school which determine its success. The impact of high quality leadership, good teaching and the make-up of the pupil cohort and parent body are far more important factors than size in determining the culture and success of a school. It is impossible to isolate the impact of size since these other factors also impact upon school size. A highly effective headteacher who improves teaching and learning and engages effectively with parents is likely to drive a commensurate increase in the size of his or her school. What is clear, however, is that the perceived advantages of small schools and disadvantages of large schools are illusory.
- 5.14. There are no plans to create sixth form provision at Calthorpe Park School. There is already established high quality post 16 provision – academic, technical and work-based – within the immediate and wider travel-to-learn area including that at Farnborough, Yateley, Basingstoke and Alton. This is supporting very high levels of participation by young people, 16-18. As of September 2018, all sixth form and further education college provision is graded as good or outstanding.
- 5.15. Class sizes and teacher ratios will not be affected by the expansion.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1. Pupil forecasts for Calthorpe Park School show numbers growing as a result of increased demand for school places from within the school's catchment area and from linked local primary schools. In order to meet the County Council's statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of school places these schools need to be expanded.
- 6.2. The comments received during the consultation will be considered through the development of the school travel plan, the design process for the new school buildings and as part of the planning application process. In considering the responses received the County Council felt that the provision of additional school places was necessary and that comments received did not represent sufficient concern to prevent proceeding with the enlargement.

7. Other options considered and rejected:

- 7.1. Not to approve the proposal would mean that there are insufficient secondary school places available in the school to meet the demand from within the catchment area.

8. Conflicts of interest:

- 8.1. Conflict of interest declared by an Executive Member who is consulted by the officer which relates to the decision:

None

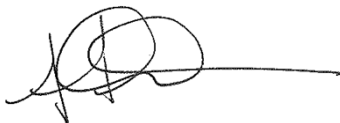
9. Dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service:

None

Approved by:

Date:

7 September 2018



Peter Colenutt, Head of Strategic Development

On behalf of the Director of Children's Services

APPENDIX 1 – CONSULTATION LETTER



Children's Services Department
Elizabeth II Court North
Winchester
Hampshire SO23 8UG

Telephone 0300 555 1384
Textphone 0845 603 5625

Enquiries to **Mark Saunders**

My reference

Direct Line **01962 846293**

Your reference

Date **16 May 2018**

E-mail **strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk**

Dear Consultee

Calthorpe Park School, Hitches Lane – Consultation on Principle of Enlargement

I am writing to invite your views in respect of Hampshire County Council's proposal to permanently enlarge the premises of Calthorpe Park School.

Hampshire County Council is proposing to increase the physical capacity of Calthorpe Park School to allow them to offer 60 additional places in Year 7 (age 11+) from September 2021. This expansion will increase the Year 7 pupil admission number to 345 pupil places and create a total capacity of 1725 pupil places across all five year groups.

The demand for additional school places is a result of a rise in the number of children reaching secondary school age and new housing development in the area. It is intended that permanent facilities will be available from September 2021.

Reason for proposal

Hampshire County Council has a statutory duty to provide school places. Owing to an increase in the number of children in the school's catchment area, and in particular demand for future Year 7 places, there is a need for additional school places to be provided. Frequently Asked Questions' are available on the following website from 16 May 2018, <http://consultations.hants.gov.uk/active.aspx>

Director of Children's Services
Steve Crocker

The Consultation

The primary purpose of this consultation is to seek the view of consultees on the principle of enlarging the school to meet the demand for additional school places in the local area. We understand that you may have some questions regarding how the school buildings will be expanded to accommodate additional pupils and whether there will be an impact on travel to and from the school as a result of accommodating additional pupils. Both of these aspects are important but at this stage these details will not be available as we need to obtain approval to the expansion before detailed work commences. It is important to hear your views at this stage so we can consider them as part of the detailed work to be undertaken should approval to the enlargement be obtained.

This consultation will run from 16 May to 29 June 2018. Officers will then take into consideration all the consultation responses received before deciding whether the proposal should continue to the formal publication stage.

If so, a statutory Public Notice will be published setting out Hampshire County Council's intent to enlarge the school. It is anticipated that this will be published in September 2018.

After the date of publication there will be a four week period in which any representations can be made to the local authority. After the conclusion of this period the County Council will decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal. It is anticipated that a decision will be made by the end of the year.


Further Information

A drop-in session where you will be able to discuss the proposal with County Council Officers will take place on 5 June 2018 at Calthorpe Park School between 4.00pm and 7.00pm.

The current proposed building plans are being developed with the Headteachers and governing body. The plans will be posted on the school website once they have been developed and agreed with the school. There will be a further opportunity to discuss the plans in detail at a pre-planning application consultation and we will notify you of the details once arranged.

If you are unable to attend this session or visit the above website and wish to make a comment then please write to Mark Saunders, Strategic Development Officer, Children's Services Department, Ell Court, North Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG or e-mail strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk by Friday 29 June.

Yours sincerely



Mark Saunders
Strategic Development Officer
Children's Services Department