

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

STATUTORY PROPOSAL FOR HEXHAM PRIORY SCHOOL, HEXHAM

In accordance with Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2EF intends to make the following prescribed alteration to the school below:

Increase in number of pupils through enlargement of the premises

- **Hexham Priory School, Corbridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 1UY** by increasing the number of places available on the school roll from 80 to 112 with effect from 1 September 2018. This increase would be achieved through the enlargement of the current premises of the school.
- There would be no change to the type of need catered for at Hexham Priory School as a result of the above proposal.

Hexham Priory School is a local authority maintained community special school.

Contact Details

Copies of this proposal may be obtained from:

School Organisation Team
Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2EF

and from the Council's website at www.northumberland.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

Implementation

Hexham Priory School is proposed to increase its capacity with effect from 1 September 2018. The school would admit additional pupils onto the school roll in a phased way with effect from 1 September 2018.

Objectives

The objectives of this proposal are to:

Increase the number of pupils through enlargement of the school premises:-

- It is proposed to increase the capacity of the Hexham Priory School from 80 to 112. This increase would be achieved through the enlargement of the school on its current site with effect from 1 September 2018.

Reasons for proposal

Hexham Priory School in the west of Northumberland currently has 90 pupils on roll aged between 2 and 19 with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Multi-Sensory Impairment, Severe Learning Difficulties and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties. The school is currently operating at above its physical capacity of 80 places in order to accommodate local children who require specialist education facilities. This has resulted in the loss of amenity of some rooms including the loss of the Young Enterprise scheme, the Arts Award programme and the loss of 'messy play' provision within the 'Discovery Room'. Current pupil number projection data indicates that the population of school aged children with profound and multiple needs in the west of the county is forecast to continue to rise: Historical Number on Roll (NOR) at Hexham Priory School: January 2013: 61 January 2014: 65 January 2015: 77 January 2016: 78 January 2017: 89 June 2017: 92 7. This indicates a 50.8 per cent increase in the NOR within the last 5 years. Although

precise forecasts are difficult, within Hexham Priory School's catchment area, there are approximately 5 pre-school learners and 5 school aged admissions per year and as a consequence the school is forecast to grow at an average of 5 pupils/year until it peaks at 150. It should be noted that the increased need for provision is driven by a more complex generation of learners. The projected pupil numbers for Hexham Priory School are as follows;

2017-18: 95

2018-19: 100

2019-20: 105

Hexham Priory School is a very popular and successful school with an outstanding Ofsted rating. There would be no change to the current admissions arrangements at the school.

Effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions in the area

It is not envisaged that there would be an impact on any other schools, special schools or educational institutions in Northumberland or neighbouring authorities as a result of this proposal.

Project Costs and Proposed Stages for Implementation

Should this Statutory Proposal be approved for implementation, there would be a need to carry out building works resulting in enlargement of Hexham Priory School to facilitate the changes. The total cost of funding the capital works at the school site is £1,173,717 from the following funding source.

Funding Source	Contribution
Council's Medium Term Plan	£ 1,173,717

Pupil Numbers and Admissions

There are currently 90 pupils on roll at Hexham Priory School. The age range of the school is 2 to 19 and it provides education to both girls and boys.

Timeline for Implementation

To facilitate the above proposal, it is proposed that Hexham Priory School would admit additional pupils onto the roll of the school in a phased way from 1 September 2018 subject to finalisation of the buildings programme.

Impact on the Community

There is no anticipated impact on the community as a result of this Statutory Proposal and no response was received from members of the community during consultation stating that there would be an adverse impact on the community.

Balance of denominational provision

There would be no impact on the balance of denominational provision as a result of the implementation of this proposal.

Rural Primary Schools

Hexham Priory School is not a designated rural school as stated on the Department for Education's 'List of designated rural primary schools 2017' and in any event is not proposed for closure under this proposal.

Maintained nursery schools

Hexham Priory School is an age 2 to 19 Special School and nursery provision would not be

impacted as result of this proposal.

Provision for 16-19 year olds

N/A – Hexham Priory School is an age 2 to 19 Special School and does not provide secondary education.

Special educational provision

Hexham Priory School is a special school providing education to children aged 2 to 19 with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Multi-Sensory Impairment, Severe Learning Difficulties and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties. There would be no change to the type of need catered for at Hexham Priory School as a result of this proposal.

Travel

The creation of additional places at Hexham Priory School through enlargement of the premises would increase specialist education places in the local area, reducing the need for children and young people to travel longer distances to provision outside of their local communities in Northumberland. This could also result in a reduction on the Special Educational Needs Transport budget.

Consultation

Northumberland County Council undertook an informal consultation on the current Vision and Strategy for meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). A further aim of the consultation was to seek views on options to increase the capacity of schools and educational provision to meet the needs of the growing number of children and young people with SEND across Northumberland. The outcomes of this consultation are set out in Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services 10 April 2018 available on the Council's website at

<http://committee.northumberland.gov.uk/Meeting.aspx?MeetID=7796>

Furthermore, on 25 January 2018 a consultation event was held at Hexham Priory School on the proposal to increase the capacity at the school by 32 places by enlargement of the school's building took place on January 25 2018 at the school and 25 consultees attended, including parents and staff.

Submission of Objections and Comments on Proposals

Within four weeks after the date of publication of these proposals (**i.e. by midnight on Friday 25 May 2018**), any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending their written representations to: **The Executive Director of Children's Services, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2EF**, or by email to Lorraine.Fife@northumberland.gov.uk.

Signature

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Cath McEvoy
Executive Director of Children's Services
Northumberland County Council