

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

STATUTORY PROPOSAL FOR WHYTRIG COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL

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 alterations to the school:

Enlargement of Premises

Whytrig Community Middle School, Elsdon Avenue, Seaton Delaval, Whitley Bay, Northumberland, NE25 0BP by making permanent the enlargement of the premises with effect from 1 October 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter.

- The number of pupils on roll in Year 5 to Year 8 at the school in January 2019 was 231. The current published capacity of the school is 216. The proposed capacity of the school is to be 360 following expansion of the school building on its current site. The current maximum number of pupils admitted at age 9 is 90 as a result of an increase to the PAN in September 2018 as a result of growing numbers of pupils in the school catchment. Nursery admission numbers would remain unchanged.

Whytrig Middle School is a local authority maintained community school.

Contact Details

Full copies of this proposal may be obtained from :

The School Organisation and Resources Team
Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2EF

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

Implementation

It is proposed that the expansion of the accommodation for Whytrig Community Middle School would be made permanent from 1 October 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter. Whytrig Community Middle School is located within the Astley Community High School site.

Objectives

The objective of this proposal is to:

Make permanent the expansion of the accommodation for Whytrig Community Middle School on the Astley High School site in order to accommodate the growing number of pupils being born in the school's catchment area.

Reasons for proposal

In 2017, it was agreed that from September 2018 the Planned Admission Number of Whytrig Community Middle School should be raised from 54 to 90 in September 2018 to take account of the increasing number of children being born in the catchment area. The growth in the proposed admission number has been necessary in order that the council fulfils its statutory duty under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to provide sufficient school places for all pupils of a statutory age. Birth data now indicates that the current expansion of the school building will need to be made permanent and therefore there is a requirement under regulations to undergo a statutory process.

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

The accommodation for Whytrig Community Middle School is being expanded in order to accommodate the growth in pupil numbers within its own catchment area, therefore there will be no impact on other schools, academies or other educational institutions in the Seaton Valley area as a result of this proposal.

Project Costs and Proposed Stages for Implementation

The costs for the building works necessary to expand the accommodation for Whytrig Community Middle School within the Astley High School site have been resourced through the Council's Basic Need funding grant from the ESFA (which is specifically allocated to local authorities to assist with pupil growth) and the costs are as set out in the table below:

School	Costs
Whytrig Community Middle	£672,457 (upto)

The agreed expansion of the accommodation at the school now needs to be made permanent as a result of the continued growth in pupil numbers in the catchment area.

Pupil Numbers and Admissions

Whytrig Community Middle School

In January 2019, there were 231 pupils on roll at the school in Year 5 to Year 8.

The age range of the school is 9-13 and it provides education to both boys and girls.

There are currently 6 pupils with an Education Healthcare Plan currently enrolled at the school.

Timeline for Implementation

It is proposed that the expansion of the school accommodation will be made permanent from 1 October 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter subject to final approval of the Council's Cabinet.

Impact on the Community

It is expected that there will be a positive impact on the local community served by Whytrig Community Middle School as the growing number of children living in the catchment area of the school will continue to be able to be educated within their own community.

Balance of denominational provision

There would be no impact on the balance of denominational provision in relation to the making permanent of the expansion to the accommodation at Whytrig Community Middle School.

Maintained nursery schools

N/A - Whytrig Community Middle School only provides education to children aged 9 to 13.

Provision for 16-19 year olds

There may be a need at some point in the future to request the expansion of the Planned Admission number at Astley High School as the growing number of pupils from Whytrig Community Middle School feed into the high school at age 13.

Special educational provision

There is no specialist provision for pupils with SEND currently at Whytrig Community Middle School

There are currently 6 pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs/Education Healthcare Plan on roll at Whytrig Community Middle School.

Current SEND provision at the school would not be impacted by this proposal.

Travel

- Transport for pupils resident in Northumberland is arranged in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy and designated catchment areas.
- It is not anticipated that there would be an impact on Home to School Transport provision as a result of the making permanent of the expansion of the accommodation at Whytrig Community Middle School.
- There would be no anticipated significant increase in car use as a result of these proposals.

Consultation

All of the applicable statutory guidelines to consult on this proposal were complied with during the pre-publication consultation period that took place between 17 March and 11 May 2016.

A consultation document was distributed electronically to interested parties, including parents, staff and Governors and published on the Council's Website. A public event was also held at Whytrig Community Middle School on 6 March, at which a number of school staff and a parent attended. Local authority officers were present at the event to answer questions and provide further information on the proposal to permanently expand the school. 9 responses were received in relation to the Whytrig expansion, including from the head of school, another member of staff, 6 parents and a member of staff from another school. All but one of the responses was in support of the expansion. This low response rate is assumed to be as a result of the non-contentious nature of this proposal.

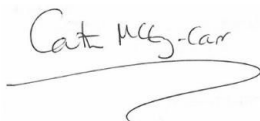
Details of the persons and parties consulted are detailed in the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services 9 July 2019, which is available on the Council's website at <http://committee.northumberland.gov.uk/Meeting.aspx?MeetID=9488>

Submission of Objections and Comments on Proposals

Within four weeks after the date of publication of these proposals (i.e. **by midnight on Thursday 8 August 2019**), any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending their written representations to: **The Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2EF**, or by email to educationconsultation@northumberland.gov.uk.

Signature

Publication Date: 11 July 2019



Cath McEvoy-Carr

The Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services
Northumberland County Council