



**Hertfordshire County Council
County Hall
Hertford, SG13 8DF**

Tel: 0300 123 4043

My ref: School Planning

Date: 10 January 2018

Dear Consultee

We are consulting you on the following proposal:

The enlargement and relocation of Westfield Community Primary School, Westfield Road, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, EN11 8RA by 30 places (1 form of entry), to a new 2 form entry school building located within the nearby High Leigh housing development from September 2020 (or at a later date, depending on the timing of the housing development).

This proposal would support a permanent increase in the size of this school by 30 places (1 form of entry). The capacity of the school on its current site is 210 pupils and the eventual capacity in the proposed new school building would be 420 pupils. This means the school would then have the capacity to admit up to 60 pupils per year group to allow it to meet both the existing local demand for school places plus demand from the new housing development at High Leigh. The school would manage the growth in pupil numbers across the school; increasing gradually to provide sufficient additional places, as necessary, to meet demand from the new housing (with up to 60 places being made available in all year groups).

Why is this being proposed?

On 2 April 2015, Broxbourne Borough Council granted planning permission for up to 523 dwellings at High Leigh, Hoddesdon. The development is expected to create demand for about 1 form (30 pupils) for each primary school year. A legal agreement linked to the granting of planning permission requires the developers to make available land to the county council, and make a financial payment, for a 1 form entry school.

The County Council has a preference for primary schools of at least 2 forms of entry because it considers that they are financially and educationally more viable in the longer term. Larger schools can also offer a broad curriculum and enhanced opportunities for staff development. A 2 form entry school would also manage fluctuations in pupil numbers more easily than a smaller school.

As the proposed development is so close to Westfield Community Primary School (less than 0.5 miles), an option for the county council to acquire additional land sufficient to accommodate a 2 form entry school has been secured to provide the opportunity to consider the enlargement and relocation of the school. In addition to the educational benefits of becoming a larger school, relocation from an older school building to modern, energy-efficient accommodation would also have a positive impact on the school's running and maintenance costs. It also avoids the provision of two smaller primary schools within close proximity to each other.

The Governing Body of the school is supportive of the proposal to relocate as a 2 form entry school.

When would the school relocate?

The earliest anticipated timing for completion of the new school is September 2020, based on current information on the developer's programme. Although this is some time off, a decision is required now in order to be certain of meeting legal timescales necessary to achieve this.

What would the new school look like?

As part of the initial feasibility work that will be used in the decision making process, it has been necessary to progress some design work. A project team has been working with representatives from Westfield Community Primary School to develop the design of the proposed new 2 form entry school building. There will be an opportunity to see the plans of the new building at a public exhibition **at Westfield Community Primary School on Tuesday 23 January between 2:30 pm and 8:00 pm.**

The purpose of the event is twofold: firstly, to provide an opportunity to speak to school place planning team representatives and ask any questions about the expansion and relocation proposal; secondly, to display the plans for the proposed new school ahead of submission of a planning application. Representatives from the project team, including highways and planning consultants, will be available to answer questions and gather feedback about the new school design for consideration as part of the town planning process.

If you are unable to attend, the exhibition material will be available to view **between 24 and 31 January 2018** at: www.vincent-gorbing.co.uk/consultation and at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/consultations

Have your say

The County Council believes that the enlargement and relocation of Westfield Community Primary School would have a positive impact on existing and future pupils and staff and the local community. This proposal would secure the right number of school places and provide enhanced education opportunities in a brand new school building.

You have until 27 February 2018 to let us know your views. The easiest way you can do this is by completing the online form on our website at:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/consultations

You can tell us if you agree or disagree with the proposal and leave your comments.

If you do not have access to the internet you can visit your local library where free access is available to all Hertfordshire residents. Should you wish to request a hard copy of the response form or need help understanding this information you can email contact@hertfordshire.gov.uk or alternatively please call us on 0300 123 4043. An interpreting service is available for those who need it.

Your comments must be received by 27 February 2018. We will not be able to acknowledge or respond individually to your comments but they will be taken into account, as explained below.

How the decision will be taken

This is a consultation and no decision has been made yet. All comments received will be made available to elected members who make the final decision. All responses may be made available in public reports, although personal details will be removed to respect individual privacy.

The following timetable outlines the decision-making process. Please note that meetings marked with * will be open to the public. Although it will not be possible to inform everyone individually of the decisions made, you will be able to access this information throughout the process at:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/committees

Process	Date
Public consultation	10 January to 27 February 2018
Education Panel*	17 April 2018
Cabinet*	23 April 2018
Statutory notice period (4 weeks)	3 to 30 May 2018
Cabinet* (for final approval if objections received)	9 July 2018
Implementation	September 2020 (Indicative only)

Yours faithfully

Simon Newland
Operations Director, Education