

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

FULL PROPOSAL TO ENLARGE THE PREMISES AND INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF SHEPSHED ST BOTOLPHS CURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM 280 TO 630 PLACES

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that Leicestershire County Council of County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RF proposes to enlarge the premises and increase the capacity of the following school:

1. Name, address and contact details of proposer

Leicestershire County Council, School Organisation Service, Children and Family Services,
County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RF
Tel: 0116 3050970
Email: SchoolOrgService@leics.gov.uk

2. Name, address and category of school

St Botolphs Church of England Primary School, Loughborough Road, Shepshed, Loughborough LE12 9DN. Voluntary Controlled

3. Description of alteration and evidence of demand

The transfer of the site of the current school to the site of the former Shepshed High school building which is located on the same school campus. The building will be reconfigured to serve primary age children in the existing local community as well as those children in the new housing developments. The Governance at the school will remain unchanged and still remain as part of the Leicester Diocese Board of Education.

There are currently 280 pupils on roll (as at the school Autumn Term Census 2020).

The current forecasts for the four primary schools (St Botolphs C of E primary school. St Winefrides Primary, Newcroft Primary and Oxley Primary) shows a total deficit of 263 places within Shepshed by 2025. There are site constraints at other local schools to expand places in the numbers required.

There are 5 housing developments with detailed planning permission or under construction with a total of 927 dwellings. This generates 278 primary places. There are also a further 3 developments with outline planning to build a total of 575 dwellings, generating 175 primary places.

The county council has considered the reutilisation of surplus buildings, via remodelling to the required standard for primary age school children.

4. Objectives

Leicestershire County Council proposes to increase the permanent capacity of St Botolphs C of E Primary School to meet the demand for school places in the Shepshed locality, both at the current time and in the future.

The proposals will allow the school to provide additional classes to cope with the increasing demand arising from the increasing birth rate and number of new housing developments within the Shepshed area.

The project fulfils Leicestershire County Council's statutory obligation of providing sufficient school places and to try to ensure pupils are able to attend their local primary school. The changes will also assist schools in improving educational standards by preventing excessive class sizes and will also ensure parental choice is maintained through the provision of the additional places.

5. The effect on other schools, academies and educational establishments within the area

There are 3 other Leicestershire primary schools within 2 miles of St Botolphs C of E primary school. St Winefrides Primary (0.5 miles), Newcroft Primary (0.7 miles), Oxley Primary (1.1 miles).

It is anticipated that there will be positive effects on other schools, academies and educational establishments within the area by giving the opportunity to improve education generally and also bring in new expertise and knowledge to the area and strengthen local partnerships and collaborative working.

6. Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved

The project to increase the capacity at St Botolphs C of E Primary School from 280 to 630 is part of the Shepshed school campus masterplan which will cost an estimated £17million. The project is funded from Section 106 developer contributions, DfE contribution and basic need grant funding.

The County Council uses the SCAPE framework for procuring works of this nature and regularly reviews the costs per square metre and per pupil to ensure long term value for money. The additional accommodation will be refurbished to appropriate building and DfE requirements to ensure it can be used long term.

7. Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

The increase to admission numbers will be in a staged programme. Initially a 60-place limit will be set which will apply to the reception year group only, with the increased admission numbers then feeding through year on year.

When demand from the new Shepshed housing developments dictates, the reception year group admission number will be increased to 75 then to 90. The school, where applicable, will allow older pupils to seek admission up to their published admission numbers in other year groups.

It is proposed that the increases to the admission numbers will initially apply to any admissions into the reception year group commencing on or after Monday, 23rd August 2021.

Within 4 weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any interested party may support, object to, or make comment upon the proposal by sending them to School Organisation Service, Children and Family Services, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RF or by email to

SchoolOrgService@leics.gov.uk

The closing date for comments and objections is 16th July 2021.

Signed: Lauren Haslam
Director of Law and Governance

Date: 16 June 2021