



**STATUTORY PROPOSAL FOR THE PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO MOORLANDS
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

PROPOSER - LOCAL AUTHORITY DETAILS

Reading Borough Council, Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading, RG1 2LU

NAME, ADDRESS AND CATEGORY OF SCHOOL

Moorlands Primary School, Churchend Lane, Tilehurst, Reading, RG30 4UN

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ALTERATION

It is proposed that Moorlands Primary School be expanded from a school capacity of 420 to 630, increasing the school's admission number from 60 to 90 per year. The increase in pupil numbers will require a physical expansion of the school building.

SCHOOL CAPACITY

The school's original capacity was 420 pupils, however due to the acceptance of 2 bulge classes in 2012 and 2013, the current school capacity is 480 pupils. The proposed capacity from September 2019 would be 630.

EVIDENCE OF NEED OR DEMAND FOR ADDITIONAL SCHOOL PLACES

For the purposes of pupil place planning in Reading, the Borough is split into 5 zones or planning areas as required by the Department for Education (DFE). The forecast demand for pupil places compared to existing School capacity is shown in Table 1. It indicates that the planning areas with the greatest shortfall of available places are Central followed by South and East. The majority of the housing new development will be in the Central and West Planning Areas. The table indicates across Reading an ongoing rise in demand for pupil places in 2017/18 and 2018/19 - with estimated shortfalls of 81 places in Sept 2017 and 32 places in Sept 2018.

The forecast figures included in Table 1 include adjustments for:

- Estimated number of places derived when we include the impact of planned housing developments identified in the RBC Infrastructure Delivery Plan until 2036.
- Cross border Import and Export of pupils to other Local Authorities over the last 3 years
- Number of pupils who do not take up their allocation in September
- Anticipated In year admissions in year R.
- Adjustment is made within the capacity figure in each year for bulge classes as they are freed up at the end of their 7 year cycle.

Table1

Year R		FORECAST (scap) inc Housing yield	CAPACITY (scap)	Balance of Places	FORECAST (scap) inc Housing yield	CAPACITY (scap)	Balance of Places	FORECAST (scap) inc Housing yield	CAPACITY (scap)	Balance of Places	FORECAST (scap) inc Housing yield	CAPACITY (scap)	Balance of Places
Planning Area	Planning Area	2017/18			2018/19			2019/20			2020/21		
8700001	North	450	470	20	452	470	18	444	530	86	447	470	23
8700002	East	407	330	-77	405	330	-75	383	330	-53	372	330	-42
8700003	South	443	405	-38	479	405	-74	473	405	-68	471	405	-66
8700004	Central	600	470	-130	591	500	-91	576	500	-76	576	470	-106
8700005	West	476	465	-11	460	495	35	457	495	38	465	465	0
Balance of places Forecast / capacity		2376	2140	-236	2387	2200	-187	2333	2260	-73	2331	2140	-191
Final balance of places with Admissions adjustments				-81			-32			82			-36
Admissions adjustments													
Average no. of places freed by pupils exported to other LA's last 3 years = 216													
Average no. of places filled by pupils imported from other LA's last 3 years = 36													
Average no. of places not taken up in Sept =125													
Average no. of places filled by in year admissions last 3 years = 150													

There is planned development in south and north planning zones to develop additional primary capacity. In the south the Council currently has a Section 106 agreement in place with a housing developer to build a 1 FE Primary school, however given the levels of development going ahead (by others) and planned the school capacity will need to expand to 2 FE, for which the Council would be expected to pay for the 2nd form of entry. A much neater solution will involve the Council in no cost, and the development of the 2FE Free School, commissioned by the Education Funding Agency (EFA). Discussions are now underway with the EFA, the developer, and an Academy sponsor to make this a reality.

In the north the Education Funding Agency is committed to developing a 2 FE Primary Free school, and has developed temporary capacity for 200 of the 350 pupils envisaged by the sponsor. The permanent site at Mapledurham has been identified by the EFA, but has yet to secure approval. The uncertainty around the site presents a serious risk to the future of this school, and 150 primary pupil places from September 2018. Contingency planning is in place to provide capacity at community schools in North Reading were this proposal to fail. The anomalous school capacity of 350 would be addressed on completion of the new school, when capacity will move to 420 places.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSAL

The objective is to provide additional pupil places as close to the Central Planning Area as possible.

The criteria we have used to identify Moorlands School as a suitable site to ensure the most economical approach are as follows:

- Located on an existing School site
- Is a School which is either Ofsted rated Good or Outstanding
- Avoiding designated open space.
- Where there is sufficient space to develop the extra capacity required

- Where there would be minimal disruption to the existing school and avoiding the necessity to decant children from existing classrooms.
- Within a 2 mile walking radius of the pupil growth areas.

Having looked at existing provision across the Planning Areas the proposal was to expand Moorlands Primary School. At an early stage in 2016 the head and Chair of School governors were approached to gauge their reaction to the school being expanded. The response was very positive, meetings have been held with the school to develop the detailed proposal.

Given the forecast demand for primary aged pupil places, additional places will be required by September 2019. The probable need to expand a West Reading primary school was identified within the Education Capital Programme options report presented to Policy Committee on 2 November 2015.

EFFECT ON OTHER EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS

It is not anticipated that any there will be a negative impact on any of the local educational establishments due to the predicted need for further school places in the area.

PROJECT COSTS INCLUDING HOW LONG TERM VALUE FOR MONEY WILL BE ACHIEVED

The proposed expansion costs are £4.35 million. The proposal includes a combination of two story clad modular classrooms, and traditional extension and refurbishment to the front and nursery area of the school - providing additional classroom space with the additional long term improvements made to the ancillary spaces within the school. The modular development will be provided on a 60 year life period, at a defined quality meeting BB103, the Education Funding Authority's area requirements for mainstream schools.

IMPLEMENTATION AND PROPOSED STAGES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The expansion works are proposed within three separate development zones. The zones were identified and agreed early with the school to allow the natural progression and proximity of year groups to be maintained throughout the school.

Phase one, starting in Summer 2018, is a proposed two-storey KS-2 teaching block and a single storey 3-classroom KS-1 block and associated external works, both of which are proposed to utilise off-site construction methods, with the KS-2 block being a refurbishment and re-cladding of two double-stack modular units at two Reading school sites.

Phase two is a proposed traditional extension and refurbishment to the front of the school, including a new main entrance and entrance forecourt and new staffroom, to allow all admin/ staff facilities to be located together. It also includes external and car parking works.

Phase three is a proposed traditional single classroom extension (Year R), demolition of a single temporary classroom, refurbishment of a double modular unit for Nursery provision and associated external works.

Classification: OFFICIAL

It is proposed that the admission number for the school will permanently increase in September 2019 from 60 to 90 pupils, with the school reaching its proposed full capacity of 630 pupils by September 2025.

PROCEDURE FOR RESPONSES - SUPPORT, OBJECTIONS OR COMMENT

Should you wish to comment on the proposal, please either complete the online form at www.reading.gov.uk/moorlandsexpansion

[Email: Asset.Managementunit@reading.gov.uk](mailto:Asset.Managementunit@reading.gov.uk)

Or write to:

Myles Milner
Schools Services Service Manager
Education, Children and Early Help Services
Reading Borough Council
Civic Offices
Bridge Street
Reading
RG1 2LU

All comments should be received by 7pm on Friday 29th September.

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