

Chapel Road School
Statutory Proposal to expand and relocate the school

1. LA details

Norfolk County Council
County Hall
Martineau Lane
Norwich
NR1 2DL

2. School details

Chapel Road School
Chapel Road
Attleborough
NR17 2DS.

3. Description of alteration and evidence of demand

Chapel Road Complex Needs School is currently based in Attleborough and provides 60 places for children and young people aged 3 to 19. It has been consistently judged outstanding by Ofsted.

The school buildings are in exceptional need of modernisation and a larger site is required to rebuild the school to meet the present and future needs of its pupils, who have a range of special needs of an increasingly complex nature. The County Council also wants to ensure that it can cater for as many children with special educational needs as possible from the south of the County, to reduce their travel times and costs. The new school will provide 110 pupil places, an increase of 50 places.

The site has been identified close to Old Buckenham Primary School and Old Buckenham High School, with the support of these schools, so that collaborative and shared curriculum activities can be developed. The grid reference for the site is Easting: 606694 / Northing: 291906

The County Council received statutory Planning consent for its proposed building on 24th October 2014. A number of changes to the highways layout in the vicinity of the new school location have been made since the pre-publication consultation and were part of the approved planning application. These included an extension of the present 30mph limit into the village to incorporate the school entrance and a revision of the entrance arrangements to ensure that vehicles do not stack up out on to the highway.

4. Objectives and reasons (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)

We have a very clear SEN strategy in Norfolk, based on increasing the availability of good and outstanding provision for children and young people with SEN, to ensure that we can reduce our reliance on high cost / out of

county placements and ensure that travel time within our large rural county is appropriate for these vulnerable learners.

A new build Chapel Road School in the south of the county is needed to meet the need for increased demand and to assist with our strategy. The school is currently oversubscribed and cannot meet the increasing needs of pupils in the local area. It is the only special school in South Norfolk, an area which is identified for future growth in the approved Breckland Local Development Framework.

The school, consistently judged outstanding despite its inadequate site conditions, demonstrates added value derived from tangible links between children within this complex needs school and children in local mainstream schools. Co-location with a mainstream primary and high school will generate further opportunities for collaborative work. This is likely not only to improve the outcomes for pupils at Chapel Road School, but also enhance the educational experience of pupils in the mainstream.

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

Chapel Road is the only complex needs school serving South Norfolk.

This proposal will have little effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area, other than the positive opportunities mentioned above for all pupils which is offered by co-locating this special school with two mainstream schools.

6. Project costs and an indication of how these will be met

The County Council has been granted £3.83m from the Department for Education. This must be expended by August 2015. The County Council has committed a further £8.02m of its own capital grant funding to meet the estimated costs of the 110 pupil place school including access requirements.

7. Implementation date and proposed stages

This proposal will be implemented in September 2016

8. Procedure for making representations: support, objections and comments

Any person may object to, express support for, or make comments on the proposals by emailing us at schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk, or by writing to us at:

Chapel Road School Consultation, FREEPOST, 1H2076, Floor 8 (Bay 10), County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2BR. You don't need a stamp.