

## **Consultation on the proposal to increase the capacity of Icknield School, Andover**

Hampshire County Council would like to hear your views on the proposal to increase the capacity for Icknield School, Andover.

We are running a consultation from the 13 November until the 11 December 2020.

### ***Why do you need to enlarge the school?***

Hampshire County Council is committed to expanding successful provision where possible to meet demand. Currently there is an increased need to provide support for pupils with complex needs in this area of the county. This proposal will provide much needed specialist educational capacity to meet this increased demand.

Icknield School is a 78 place special school catering for 3-19 year old pupils with Severe Learning Difficulties, (SLD), Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) and other complex needs. The school is successfully meeting the needs of children with a range of difficulties in a safe and secure environment.

The County Council is proposing to undertake remodelling and refurbishment works, including a small expansion - these works will allow the school to increase the capacity on the main site by up to additional 10 places from September 2022. The works will provide additional internal teaching accommodation to enable more children to attend the school and also improve the overall internal and external learning environment for all pupils. This will give a final overall capacity of 88 places at Icknield School.

### ***What building works will be taking place?***

To accommodate the increased number of places, it is proposed that an extension, remodelling and refurbishment works will be undertaken on site at Icknield School. The works will provide additional internal teaching accommodation to enable more children to attend the school and also improve the overall internal and external learning environment for all pupils.

It is planned that the building works will start on site in summer 2021 and be completed by September 2022.

***When will the building works start and how will you ensure the health and safety of pupils attending the school whilst the works are taking place?***

It is planned that the building works to create the permanent facilities at Icknield School will commence during the summer 2021. We will provide the school with further details as the design work for the project progresses so the school can keep you informed of progress and inform you of key dates.

Health and safety of children, staff and visitors is paramount. The County Council works with construction partners who have significant experience of working on school sites. A detailed health and safety plan will be drawn up with the school to include items such as restricting delivery times for materials to avoid the beginning and end of the school day, maintaining safe access routes for pupils, staff and visitors etc.

The construction site will be isolated and will be kept secure from the current school and community users during construction.

***What will be the impact on pupils within the school?***

Icknield School will continue to operate as normal during the building works. Everything will be done to minimise the impact on pupils teaching and learning but we do acknowledge there may be some disruption. The County Council is liaising fully with the Headteacher and governors on the project to ensure that the implementation of the building works run as smoothly as possible.

***What about the impact on traffic due to the school taking more pupils?***

The school will work closely with the County Council's Travel Planning team to manage the additional traffic relating to the few extra pupils attending the site.

***Will the school receive additional funding due to the numbers increasing?***

Icknield School will receive additional funding based upon the increase in number of pupils on their roll. This will provide appropriate funding for all additional staffing and resources required for the extra places.

***Will the school have to contribute to the capital build costs?***

No, Hampshire County Council will fund all capital costs for the new spaces, including all teaching accommodation, furniture & IT equipment, landscaping and external works.

### ***What happens after this consultation?***

The purpose of this consultation is to seek the view of all stakeholders on the principle of increasing the school capacity to meet the demand for additional special school places in the Test Valley area.

The consultation and decision-making process is outlined below:

- This initial consultation will run from the 13 November to 11 December 2020.
- A report outlining the consultation responses received will then be taken to the Elected Member for Children's Services Decision Day in January 2021 to decide if the proposal should continue to the formal statutory consultation stage.
- If approved, a statutory Public Notice would be published in February 2021, setting out Hampshire County Council's intent to increase the capacity of the school and to add to its designation. This is a four week period in which any representations can be made to the local authority.
- A final report would then be taken to Elected Member for Children's Services Decision Day in March 2021 who will decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal.

### ***Will I have the opportunity to discuss the proposal and ask questions?***

Due to Covid-19 restrictions and ensuring public safety, unfortunately we are unable to hold a public drop-in event at the school. However please send in your views and queries by email to [strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk).

If you would like to speak to an Officer then please make that request by email, briefly outlining your query so we can arrange a mutually convenient time for you to speak to an appropriate officer, either via conference call or telephone.

If you are unable to email or visit the above website and wish to make a comment then please write to Christine Jones, SEN Service Manager, Children's Services Department, Ell Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG.

**The closing date for responses is the 11 December 2020.**