

# ROCHDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO LOWERPLACE PRIMARY STATUTORY PROPOSALS

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 (2013/3110) that Rochdale Borough Council, Children's Services, Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale, OL16 1XU, intends to make a prescribed alteration to Lowerplace Primary.

**1. The name and contact address of the local authority or governing body publishing the proposals:**

**Local Authority:** *Rochdale Borough Council*

**Address:** *School Organisation and Development Team, Early Help & Schools, Rochdale Borough Council, Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale, OL16 1XU*

**Date of Publication of Proposals for Consultation:** *5<sup>th</sup> February 2018.*

**2. The name, address and category of the school that is proposed to be altered:**

**Address:** Lowerplace Primary, Kingsway, Rochdale ,OL16 4UU

**Category of school:** Community Primary School.

**3. The date in which the proposed changes will take effect in terms of both the buildings and additional place provisions:**

*1<sup>st</sup> September 2018.*

**4. The place to which representations can be made, and by when:**

*Any person can make representations on the proposal by using the following link to the council consultation website at: <https://consultations.rochdale.gov.uk/research/enlargement-of-lowerplace-primary> or by sending them by 4<sup>th</sup> March 2018 to: Robert Aspinall, by e-mail at [robert.aspinall@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:robert.aspinall@rochdale.gov.uk) or in writing to this address: Robert Aspinall, School Organisation & Development Team, Early Help and Schools, Rochdale Borough Council, Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale, OL16 1XU.*

**5. What is proposed?**

*The proposal is to permanently enlarge Lowerplace Primary, Rochdale from 510 places to 630 places with effect from 1st September 2018. This would mean that the Published Admission Number would increase from 60 to 90 in each successive new year group.*

**6. School capacity and places- current pupil numbers and admissions- (distinguishing between compulsory and non-compulsory school age pupils), age range, sex, and special educational needs (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is currently made:**

Lowerplace Primary has 505 pupils on roll from Reception to Year 6 based on the October 2017 school census. The current age range of the children is 4-11 and does not include a nursery.

ROCHDALE OCTOBER 2017 CENSUS	Places 2017	Rec NOR	Places 2016	Year 1 NOR	Places 2015	Year 2 NOR	Places 2014	Year 3 NOR	Places 2013	Year 4 NOR	Places 2012	Year 5 NOR	Places 2011	Year 6 NOR	Total NOR
Lowerplace	60	60	60	60	60	59	60	57	90	91	90	90	90	88	505

The school has had previous bulge classes and has an extra class in years 4, 5 and 6. The school is at, or close to full in all year groups.

## 7. Why do we want to make the change(s)?

### Reasons for the expansion of places

7.1 Rochdale Borough Council needs to make sure there are enough primary school places for those who need them, taking account of the demographic growth and change and demand for places. Previous analysis of data and consultation has shown that there are three key factors driving the need for more school places in the Rochdale Township:

- i. A Continuation of high birth rates since 2012 across the borough, contrary to national trends.
- ii. Movement of families into the borough and township which is creating a lack of capacity for in-year transfers with an ongoing issue of lack of spare places in Key Stage 2 year groups.
- iii. New housing developments.

The proposal to increase the number of school places at Lowerplace Primary will make sure that there are enough school places available for families within a reasonable distance of this popular school.

7.2 Additionally the Council has, in its 5 year housing plan, proposals for a further 1851 houses in the south of Rochdale Township.

7.3 The proposal is therefore to enlarge Lowerplace Primary by providing an additional 30 places in each new year group.

### Quality of Provision

7.4 The current OfSTED report for Lowerplace Primary was published in April 2017 and the school was judged as 'Good' for its 'effectiveness of leadership and management' and 'personal development, behaviour and welfare', but 'Requires Improvement' for overall effectiveness. Its intake has a high percentage of disadvantaged pupils. It is very popular with local parents and has a waiting list in current Reception class of 43 children.

7.5 The advantages to the school and the children will be:

- Creation of extra capacity in an area of high local demand, meaning shorter journeys to school for many families;
- The school is split site with separate Reception, Key stage 1 and Key Stage 2 buildings. This means that for such a large school it is not overwhelmingly large for pupils in their early years;
- Capacity to develop a strong leadership team which will share the responsibility of knowing children and their families individually, and have direct and empowered links with the Head teacher and governors when necessary;
- Flexibility of organisation due to multiple year groups and a significant budget;
- Opportunities for staff to specialise and offer high quality support to colleagues;
- Capacity to retain high quality staff by offering a wide range of experience and consequent promotion opportunities within one organisation; and
- Opportunities to offer a very wide range of extra-curricular activities due to the range of talents and interests of the staff.

7.7 The Governing Body of Lowerplace Primary is committed to upholding the standards and ethos of the School. Through the Leadership and Management Team and alongside the Governing Body, the school aspires to provide an 'Outstanding' education to all of the children in its community. The school will maintain all staffing ratios: resources for which are provided through the school funding formula,

and which will be increased accordingly each year as numbers grow.

**8. The need or demand for additional places- a statement and supporting evidence about the need for school places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate additional pupils in the current schools:**

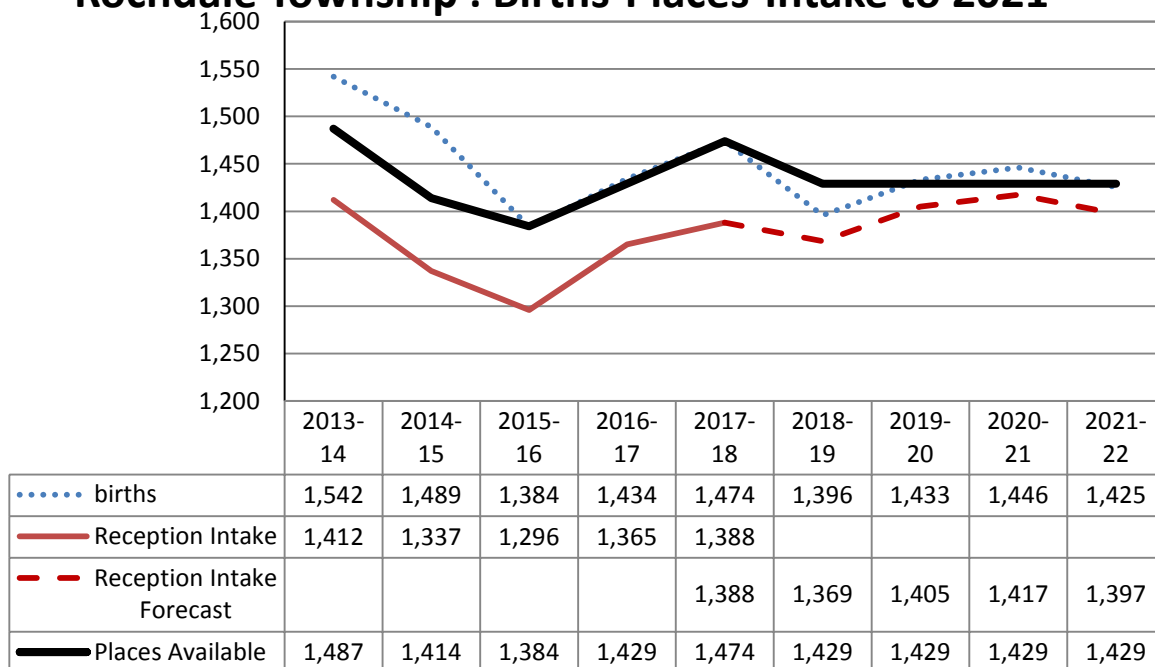
8.1 New pupil projections for Rochdale Borough and Township were published and consulted upon during October-December 2017. The consultation information can be found in the link below:

<https://consultations.rochdale.gov.uk/council-wide/extra-primary-places/>

This highlighted the serious need for additional primary school places within the Rochdale Township, key factors being:

- Continuing high birth rate in the locality;
- Demand of in-year transfers both in the borough and township;
- High number of extra housing being planned.

**Rochdale Township : Births-Places-Intake to 2021**



8.2 All of the neighbouring schools are full and the expansion of Lowerplace is required to meet the demands outlined in 8.1 above. No adverse impact on local schools is expected.

8.3 Lowerplace Primary is a popular and successful school. There has been a high level of demand for places at the school in each year group.

8.4 Consultation was undertaken during Oct-Dec 2017 with schools (face to face meetings) and Townships (via committee meetings).

- 9. Interim arrangements - details of the schools or further education colleges, taking the following into consideration:**
- any temporary arrangements;
  - the provision that is to be made for those pupils who receive educational provision recognised by the local authority as reserved for children with special educational needs; and
  - in the case of special schools, the alternative provision made by local authorities other than the local authority which maintain the school:

*Not applicable.*

**10. Details of any other measures to be taken to increase the number of school or further education college places available in consequence of the proposed alterations:**

*Not applicable.*

**11. Impact on the community**

**- a statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact, e.g during the build period:**

*The Local Authority aims to plan well in advance to ensure that the school, other users on the site and the contractors can work together to minimise disruption on site. The building contractors will be familiar with working on school sites and will be audited on considerate construction.*

**12. Rural primary schools- where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of Section 15, a statement that the Local Authority or the governing body (as the case may be) has considered section 15(4):**

*Not applicable.*

**13. Balance of denominational provision- where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed alterations on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice:**

*Not applicable.*

**14. Quality and quantity measures of the proposed school-**

- a) the LA's assessment of the quality and quantity of the proposed alterations on the school, and;**
- b) to ensure that the convenience for local children and parents is also considered.**

- a) Careful consideration has been given to the additional teaching spaces required to ensure that an increase of pupils on roll does not negatively impact on the teaching and learning of existing pupils or new admissions. The class sizes will not increase as a result of the additional primary school places to ensure that this increase in places complies with regulations regarding adult to pupil ratios.*
- b) The increased place capacity will help to alleviate any concerns with regards to local children as well as acknowledging parental preference.*

**15. Travel requirements and provision of travel costs- details of the length and journeys to alternative provision and the proposed arrangements for travel for pupils to other schools including how the proposed arrangements will mitigate against increased car use:**

*A school travel plan will be produced to help reduce the impact of increased pupil numbers over the next few years by encouraging sustainable patterns of travel to school.*

**16. Capital**

*The capital cost of the proposals will be met by the Local Authority from capital grant resources already available. Approval for expenditure was given by Cabinet on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and because contracts for the work have not been agreed the amount available is commercial in confidence. This will help secure value for money in procurement of the project. The site is in Council Ownership.*

**17. Implementation of the Proposals**

*Rochdale Borough Council as promoter has responsibility for implementing the proposals.*

**18. Public Sector Equality Duty**

*Not applicable.*