

APPENDIX ONE

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF PREMISES AT PARRENTHORN HIGH SCHOOL

SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED & RESPONSES

Lack of consultation regarding the proposal

Discussions between the LA and its secondary schools about how to address demand pressures began some two years ago. The LA made clear that it would work with individual schools to respond to localised demand pressures. Meetings followed with individual schools. More specifically, several discussions took place with Prestwich Arts College about demand pressures and the condition of the school building. The specific proposal in relation to Parrenthorn was the result of these discussions with individual schools, at which point it was shared more widely as part of this consultation.

In accordance with School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, the proposal was published on 8 June 2017, setting out arrangements for those affected by the proposal to make their views known. The closing date for receipt of comments was 7 July 2017. The LA received four responses to the proposal which, in addition to the issue about consultation as set out above, raised the following points:

Any increase in capacity at Parrenthorn High School will be detrimental to other schools in the area

Any increase in the Admission Number of Parrenthorn will be detrimental to Castlebrook High School

Castlebrook could accommodate additional pupil numbers

An increase at Parrenthorn will create overcapacity

Several schools close to Parrenthorn, including Castlebrook, have surplus places in all year groups

The same pressures with regards to increased demand for places are equally applicable to Prestwich Arts College

In response:

The following table illustrates the current number of pupils on roll (2016/17) in the secondary schools serving the south of the borough by year group, and the number of surplus places for each of those year groups. Whilst this shows a level of surplus capacity across all year groups, specifically at Castlebrook, this figure drops significantly for the 2016 intake, as increased demand feeding through from primary schools begins to impact.

High Schools	Admission No	Y7	Surplus capacity	Y8	Surplus Capacity	Y9	Surplus Capacity	Y10	Surplus Capacity	Y11	Surplus Capacity	Total Surplus Capacity	Total Pupils on roll
Castlebrook High School	187	169	18	158	29	150	37	151	36	142	45	165	957

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Parrenthorn High School	168	180	-12	179	-11	168	0	168	0	165	3	-20	1028
Philips High School	176	184	-8	174	2	177	-1	177	-1	173	3	-5	1061
Prestwich Arts College	172	177	-5	176	-4	173	-1	169	3	156	16	9	1023

The following table illustrates, for the 2017 intake, the number of preferences, places offered, and numbers remaining on the waiting lists for schools in the south of the Borough.

	Preferences					Allocations	Waiting List
	1st	2nd	3rd	4/5th			
PRESTWICH (PAN 172)	Bury	51	63	53	1	70	5
	Other LAs	103	63	41	16	104	28
	Total	154	126	94	17	174	33
		1st	2nd	3rd	4/5th		
PARRENTHORN (PAN 168)	Bury	241	132	48	1	172	68
	Other LAs	51	49	29	5	6	62
	Total	292	181	77	6	178	130
		1st	2nd	3rd	4/5th		
PHILIPS (PAN 176)	Bury	212	154	138	1	177	63
	Other LAs	6	12	14	3	3	12
	Total	218	166	152	4	180	75
		1st	2nd	3rd	4/5th		
CASTLEBROOK (PAN 187)	Bury	84	64	50	2	128	-
	Other LAs	5	2	2	0	5	-
	Total	89	66	52	2	133	-
		1st	2nd	3rd	4/5th		

Whilst there is clearly a low level of demand for places at Castlebrook coming so soon after its poor Ofsted outcome, and recent conversion to become an Academy, there is sufficient demand for places across the area to justify additional places. The LA would anticipate that, with the stability now provided by the Shaw Trust, that demand for places at Castlebrook will improve. There is also clear evidence of increasing demand for places from non Bury residents.

Demand for places from the resident population is increasing across the south of the borough, with insufficient capacity at year 7 to meet current and forecast needs. This does not factor in growing demand pressures in neighbouring LA's which clearly has the potential to impact, given that over 50% of the intake into Prestwich Arts College is from Manchester or Salford.

The following table illustrates forecast pupil numbers on roll at schools in the south of the Borough.

Bury South	11+	12+	13+	14+	15+	TOTAL
ACTUAL 2015/16	701	683	675	647	654	3360

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2016/17	739	701	683	675	647	3445
2017/18	712	739	701	683	675	3510
2018/19	731	712	739	701	683	3566
2019/20	749	731	712	739	701	3632
2020/21	751	749	731	712	739	3682
2021/22	770	751	749	731	712	3713
2022/23	780	770	751	749	731	3781

Current intake capacity in the south of the Borough is 703, providing a total capacity of 3,515. The proposed increase in capacity at Parrenthorn will result in an intake capacity of 745, and a total capacity of 3,725. Historically, the LA pupil forecasts have proven to be very accurate.

The capacity of the new build at Castlebrook is in line with current capacity at 935, not 1,000 as suggested in the objection. The table contained within the objection shows current surplus capacity across each year group. Whilst this is not in line with the LA figures, it does reflect a lower demand for places, during a period when Castlebrook experienced a poor Ofsted judgement and converted to become an Academy.

The assertion is that additional demand could be accommodated at Castlebrook. Forecasts suggest that future demand cannot be met from within existing capacity, even with Castlebrook admitting to capacity. However, demand for individual schools is a matter of parental preference and it does assume that parents will apply for places. There is no suggestion that this will not be the case for Castlebrook.

Whilst Parrenthorn is the most heavily oversubscribed school in the south of the Borough, it continues to serve its immediate locality, the majority of places allocated being from within its catchment area, as illustrated below.

Catchment Area	Places Allocated at Parrenthorn		
	2017	2016	2015
Parrenthorn	129	126	113
Castlebrook	7	4	5
Philips	11	7	15
Prestwich Arts	22	31	38
Derby	2	1	1
Elton	1	0	0
XD	6	12	7
Total	178	181	179

Prestwich Arts Colleges does not face the same demand pressures as Parrenthorn High School. For the 2017 September intake, there were 292 1st preference applications for Parrenthorn, and 154 1st preference applications for Prestwich Arts College (figures include late applications).

57% of applications for Prestwich Arts College are from outside of the borough. It is important to note that the LA statutory role in relation to supply of school places relates to demand from its resident population and therefore, whilst the demand for places at Prestwich Arts College from outside of the borough is a reflection of the positive parental

perception of the school, the LA should not be basing decisions on the location of additional capacity on such extra district demand.

Furthermore, DfE Guidance for Decision Makers states “The decision-maker should take into account the quality and popularity of the schools in which spare capacity exists and evidence of parents’ aspirations for a new school or for places in a school proposed for expansion. The existence of surplus capacity in neighbouring less popular schools should not in itself prevent the addition of new places. Reducing surplus places is not a priority (unless running at very high levels). For parental choice to work effectively there may be some surplus capacity in the system as a whole. Competition from additional schools and places in the system will lead to pressure on existing schools to improve standards.”

Further points were raised in respect of capital funding:

Would it not be more prudent to split the available funding between Prestwich and Parrenthorn rather than commit the significant amount of £3m to just one school?

This is excessive expenditure by Bury Council given that Castlebrook High School will benefit from a £12m new build which will more than satisfy the number of required placements well into the next decade.

The representations made by Prestwich Arts College make extensive reference to the condition of its school building. The LA would not disagree that the school requires capital investment.

However, this proposal is about provision of additional school places, to be funded from the Basic Need capital grant, which is specifically allocated to meet the cost of providing new school places. The funding being utilised for Parrenthorn could not therefore be used specifically to improve the condition of the Prestwich Arts College building.

Castlebrook High School is scheduled to be rebuilt under the second tranche of the Priority Schools Building Programme, to be funded by the Education Funding Agency. The new school will be built at the same capacity as the current building, to accommodate 935 pupils. As set out above, the capacity at Castlebrook will be insufficient to meet future demand pressures, nor would Castlebrook represent the most appropriate school to increase capacity given the levels of oversubscription at Parrenthorn.

Additional comments in response to the objections

The LA does have a statutory duty to ensure an adequate supply of school places, and where new places are required the emphasis should be on these being provided on ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ schools.

The LA does support schools that are not judged good or outstanding, and has every confidence that both Castlebrook High School and Prestwich Arts College will improve.

The LA would agree that it is important that all pupils benefit from being able to access a ‘good’ school place, and has every confidence in the sponsor of Castlebrook High School in securing a good or better outcome from its next inspection.