

Proposed Expansion of Stopsley High School

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Luton Borough Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Stopsley High School (Foundation), St Thomas' Road, Luton, LU2 7UX from 01 September 2012.

It is proposed to enlarge the School by refurbishing the current school premises and adding additional accommodation.

The current capacity of the School is 990 and the proposed capacity will be 1350. The current number of pupils registered at the School is 968. The current admission number for the School is 198 and the proposed admission number will be 270.

The proposals will be implemented by the LA with the approval of the Governing Body.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from Deborah Smith by telephoning 548041 or writing to the Planning & Admissions Team, Children & Learning Department, Luton Borough Council, 4th Floor Unity House, 111 Stuart Street, Luton LU1 5NP. Alternatively, the complete proposal can be viewed at: www.luton.gov.uk/consultationsoneducation

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to, or make comments on, the proposal by sending them to: Mrs Deborah Smith, Planning & Admissions Officer, 4th Floor Unity House, 111 Stuart Street, Luton, LU1 5NP.

Signed: Debbie Jones – Corporate Director, Children & Learning

Publication Date: 13th January 2010

Explanatory Notes

The refurbishment and proposed expansion of Stopsley High School is part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme, which is a government funded scheme designed to significantly invest in secondary schools buildings to support educational transformation. The expansion in the number of places at the School is required to accommodate growing pupil numbers.

Proposals for the expansion of Stopsley High School

These proposals have been published by Luton Borough Council and relate to Stopsley High School, St Thomas' Road, Luton, LU2 7UX. Stopsley High School is a Foundation School maintained by Luton Borough Council.

Implementation:

It is proposed that the expansion of the school premises should be completed to accommodate a larger Year 7 intake from 1st September 2012.

Objections & Comments:

Any objections to, or comments on, the proposals should be put in writing and addressed to:

Mrs Deborah Smith
Planning & Admissions Officer
4th Floor Unity House
111 Stuart Street
Luton, LU1 5NP

The period for comments on, or objections to, the proposals is four weeks from the date of publication. The closing date for objections is therefore 10th February 2010.

Alteration Description:

The proposals for Stopsley High School will provide:-

- Improved pedestrian and vehicular access.
- A new entrance plaza to the front of the School.
- A new build main entrance and associated youth and community facilities.
- A new 4 court sports hall and various new build extensions to the School to increase the current floor area from approx 9600m² to approx 11600m² necessary to accommodate 1350 students.
- Remodelled and refurbished teaching accommodation to provide a rational school layout and excellent learning environments with state of the art ICT infrastructure.
- Improved landscape to provide outdoor learning spaces beside classrooms.

School Capacity:

The current capacity of Stopsley High School is: 990
The proposed capacity of Stopsley High School is: 1350
The current number of children on roll at Stopsley High School is: 968

Pupils are admitted up to the Published Admission Number, which is currently 198 pupils. Following the enlargement of the school premises, it is proposed to increase the School's Published Admission Number to 270. This increased Admission Number will apply to the Year 7 intake for September 2012 and for all subsequent intakes.

It is not proposed to change the age range of the school. The Social & Communication Difficulties Unit at the School will not be affected by these proposals.

Implementation:

The proposals for the expansion of the school premises will be implemented by Luton Borough Council. The implementation of the expansion is dependent on planning permission being granted.

Objectives:

The objective of this proposal is to increase the School's capacity to enable the Published Admission Number to increase. The proposed expansion is necessary to ensure there are sufficient school places within Luton for the town's growing pupil population.

Consultation:

All applicable statutory consultation requirements have been complied with.

The following people/organisations were consulted before publication of these proposals:

- Governing Body of Stopsley High School.
- Staff and pupils at the School.
- Parents & prospective parents.
- Trade Union representatives.
- Local residents.
- MPs and Ward Councillors.
- Governing bodies and staff at neighbouring schools
- Main primary feeder schools.

A copy of the consultation document is attached to these proposals (see Appendix A) together with a report setting out responses to the consultation in respect of Stopsley High School (see Appendix B). A public meeting was held at the School on 1st December 2009 where Council officers and School Staff were available to answer queries. Only three people attended the meeting. Copies of the consultation document were available at the public meeting, from the School and Council and available to download on the Council's Website.

Project Costs:

The cost of these proposals is approximately £18.5 million. Around £0.5m will come from Luton Borough Council to provide Youth & Community facilities. The remainder will be funded by the Building Schools for the Future Programme.

Need or demand for additional places:

The pupil projections, set out at Table 1 in Appendix A, demonstrate that the town has a rising pupil population. There is currently acute pressure on school places in the primary sector. Pupil projections indicate that the secondary population will grow by 3,399 pupils between September 2008 and 2018 – this is a 28% growth in pupil numbers within 10 years.

The expansion of Luton secondary schools, including Stopsley High School, are needed to ensure there are sufficient secondary school places for Luton's children.

Expansion of Popular & Successful Schools:

Luton Borough Council considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools applies to these proposals as Stopsley High School is considered to be a popular & successful school as demonstrated by:

- GCSE results are approximately in line with the national average on main measures.
- Results place the School slightly above the average (median) for the LA.
- GCSE CVA score is in line with expectations and has continued to improve over the last three years.
- Results at the school demonstrate improvement over time.

APPENDIX C

Stopsley High School is popular in terms of parental preference. The school is consistently oversubscribed for the Year 7 intake and year groups are generally full.