

Proposal

Peterborough City Council (PCC) proposes to expand Heltwate School so that it is able to provide 206 places in permanent accommodation. The school previously provided 140 places on their Bretton site and the number of places was increased to 206 by the addition of St George's campus and by utilising temporary accommodation. It is now proposed to formalise this increase in pupil numbers by replacing the temporary accommodation with permanent build.

Local Authority (LA) Details

Peterborough City Council, Sand Martin House, Bittern Way, Fletton Quays, Peterborough, PE2 8TY.

School details

Heltwate is a community special school for children and young people aged 4 to 19 with moderate to severe learning difficulties, all of whom have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan. The school was judged Good by Ofsted when inspected in November 2018.

Description of alteration and evidence of demand

The addition of St George's campus in September 2018, and temporary mobile classrooms installed on the Bretton site in September 2016 and February 2020, allowed the school to provide 206 places. Planning permission has been granted to replace the mobile classrooms with permanent accommodation. The permanent building is expected to open in March 2023.

The underpinning rationale for this proposed change is as follows:

- Mobile classroom accommodation should only be provided as a temporary measure to increase available school places for a limited time.
- The number of school places currently available (206) will remain the same irrespective of the change from temporary to permanent accommodation.
- Planning permission for the permanent accommodation has already been granted.
- The permanent building will improve the current facilities available and increase outdoor space for learners.

The Governing Body is supportive of the proposal to replace the temporary accommodation with a permanent building and secure the additional places as permanent capacity.

Objectives

To support the LA in ensuring that all pupils at the school are taught in permanent accommodation.

The effect on other educational institutions within the local area

This proposal is not expected to have any impact on other special schools in the city because it is making temporary accommodation permanent and does not affect the overall number of special school places currently available in Peterborough.

Project costs and indications of how these will be met

Planning permission for the permanent accommodation has been agreed and building work is expected to commence by summer 2021. The cost of the scheme is expected to be £6.8 million.

Other considerations

Pupil transition: The change to the number of places at Heltwate in permanent accommodation should have a positive impact on the pupils currently at the school. Admissions will continue to be made through Peterborough's Special Educational Needs/Disability (SEND) panel process.

Staffing and HR: The change from temporary to permanent accommodation will have little impact on the staffing structure or staffing requirements as the school has been staffed to serve 206 pupils since 2020.

Implementation plan

As part of the LA's decision-making process a consultation on the proposed changes will run for a period of 4 weeks from Monday 17th May to Monday 14th June 2021 and will seek the views of all interested parties. The LA will give careful consideration to all comments received during the consultation before reaching a decision on whether or not to proceed with the proposed formalisation of pupil numbers and changes to current accommodation. If the change is agreed, it is proposed that it would come into effect from March 2023.

How can you ask questions, or get more information or comment on the proposal?

If you have any questions, would like more information or wish to make a comment on this proposal please attend the consultation event (see details below) or email Naomi.Evans@cambridgeshire.gov.uk and include the words 'Heltwate Consultation' in the subject line.

Join Zoom Meeting on Monday 24th May 2021 at 7pm:

<https://zoom.us/j/95030398266>

Meeting ID: 950 3039 8266

Passcode: 545748