



**Hertfordshire County Council  
County Hall  
Hertford  
SG13 8DF**

**Tel: 0300 123 4043**

**My ref: School Planning**

**Date: 11 February, 2019**

Dear Consultee

We are consulting you on the following proposal:

**The enlargement of the premises of Codicote C of E VC Primary School by 1 form of entry to 2 forms of entry from September 2020**

The proposal will support a permanent increase in the physical size of this school by up to 30 places (1 form of entry). The current capacity of the school is 210 pupils and the eventual capacity will be 420 pupils (excluding nursery pupils). This means the school would then have the capacity to admit up to 60 pupils per year group to allow it to meet both the existing local demand for school places plus demand from the proposed new local housing developments. It is anticipated that the school would manage the growth in pupil numbers across the school, increasing gradually to provide sufficient additional places, as necessary, to meet demand from the new housing (with up to 60 places being made available in all year groups in the long term).

**Why is this being proposed?**

In line with recent national trends we are seeing an increase in the demand for reception class places in parts of Hertfordshire. The county council considers it important to ensure that there are sufficient places available for very young children as near as possible to their homes. There is more information on how we plan to meet the demand for school places and our methods for forecasting pupil demand at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolplaces](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolplaces).

**The position in Codicote**

The latest pupil forecast indicates a deficit of places in each future forecast year in Codicote. This correlates with experience in past years, where additional temporary

places have been made available at Codicote C of E VC Primary to meet demand from local families.

### Codicote (12.1)

Summer 2018/19 Forecast	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Number of reception places available	30	30	30	30
Demand	35	35	37	40
Surplus/Shortage	-5	-5	-7	-10
% Surplus/Shortage	-16.7%	-16.7%	-23.3%	-33.3%
No of FE	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3

This forecast demand does not take account of the additional pupil yield anticipated from proposed new housing which will add further pressure on the need for local school places.

There are 315 new dwellings proposed over four sites in Codicote, which will result in a demand for around 0.6 forms of entry of school places in the village. Combined with the existing level of forecast unmet demand in the village this demonstrates a need to plan for an additional 1 form of entry of capacity.

A planning application for residential development on land south of Heath Lane has been submitted to NHDC which will provide the opportunity for additional land to be made available to support an enlargement of Codicote C of E VC Primary School.

Therefore based on the forecast need to meet existing local demand and the anticipated pupil yield from the proposed level of housing growth, an additional 1 form of entry of places is needed to meet the longer term demand in Codicote. This will alleviate the demand for places and ensure the future needs of local pupils are met.

### Why this school has been chosen for enlargement

The proposal to enlarge this school has been assessed against, and is considered to meet, the county council's *Four Tests*. These are:

- Does it provide the right number of places in the right location?
- Does it support and not undermine school effectiveness?
- Are the implications for buildings, environment and cost, feasible and affordable?
- What are the transitional implications?

Codicote C of E VC Primary School is the only primary school in the village and is located close to the area of demand. Initial feasibility work concludes that the site is capable of accommodating an enlargement, subject to further design work, town planning permission and the acquisition of adjacent land that is not currently in the county council's ownership.

For further information on the possible options that were considered, please see [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolplaces](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolplaces).

## **The alterations required for enlargement**

If a decision is made to enlarge this school, the county council would work closely with the school to provide the additional accommodation required. We would work hard to make sure that the accommodation supports pupils' needs whilst also ensuring that good value for money is achieved in the context of restrictions on public sector finance. The work would be managed by the county council using contractors who would ensure a safe environment for pupils and staff, and minimise the impact of any building works at the school.

## **Have your say**

The county council believes that the enlargement of Codicote C of E VC Primary School would have a positive impact for its existing pupils, staff and local community by improving access to school places, providing for enhanced education opportunities and providing improved facilities in new buildings.

You have until 1 April 2019 to let us know your views. The easiest way you can do this is by completing the online response form on our website at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/consultations). You can tell us if you agree or disagree with the proposal and leave your comments.

If you do not have access to the internet you can visit your local library where free access is available to all Hertfordshire residents. Should you wish to request a hard copy of the response form or need help understanding this information you can email [contact@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:contact@hertfordshire.gov.uk) or alternatively please call us on 0300 123 4043. An interpreting service is available for those who need it.

Your comments must be received by 1 April 2019. We will not be able to acknowledge or respond individually to your comments but they will be taken into account, as explained below.

## **How the decision will be taken**

This is a consultation and no decision has been made yet. All comments received will be made available to elected members who make the final decision. All responses may be made available in public reports, although personal details will be removed to respect individual privacy.

The following timetable outlines the decision-making process. Please note that meetings marked with \* will be open to the public. Although it will not be possible to inform everyone individually of the decisions made, you will be able to access this information throughout the process at: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/committees](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/committees).

<b>Process</b>	<b>Date</b>
Public consultation	11 February – 1 April 2019
Education Panel*	10 May 2019
Cabinet*	13 May 2019
Statutory notice period (4 weeks)	Week commencing 13 May 2019
Cabinet * (for final approval if objections received)	8 July 2019
Implementation	September 2020

Yours faithfully



**Jenny Coles**  
**Director of Children's Services**