



**County Hall  
Hertford, SG13 8DF**

**Tel: 0300 123 4043**

**My ref: School Planning**

**Date: 20 June 2017**

Dear Consultee

**Consultation on the proposal to increase the number of places by 8 at Woodfield School, Malmes Croft, Hemel Hempstead HP3 8RL**

We are consulting you on the following proposal:

**An increase of 8 additional places at Woodfield School, Malmes Croft, Hemel Hempstead HP3 8RL from 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018.**

The proposal will support an increase of 8 places at the school. The current number of places is 78 and with the proposed increase the capacity will rise to 86 places.

The school does not currently have enough classrooms to accommodate the extra children. It is therefore proposed to provide additional accommodation to support the increased number of children.

**Why is this being proposed?**

In line with recent national trends for mainstream school places, and recent expansions at Hertfordshire mainstream schools, we are seeing an increase in the demand for special school places in some areas of Hertfordshire. The County Council considers it important to ensure that there are sufficient places available for all children with SEND as near as possible to their homes.

**Why this school has been chosen for an increase in pupils?**

This school has been chosen for enlargement due to the increased demand on special school places in the area for children with severe learning difficulties and associated needs.

This school has space to enlarge and the expertise to meet the needs of the children identified.

## **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.

Any specific town planning matters associated with this school site would need to be addressed as part of the planning application, including highways, parking and conservation issues.

## **Have your say**

The County Council believes that the enlargement of Woodfield SLD School will have a positive impact for its existing pupils, staff and local community by improving access to special school places, providing for enhanced education opportunities and for improved facilities in new buildings.

You have until 31 July 2017 to let us know your views. The easiest way you can do this is by completing the online 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 the number above. An interpreting service is available for those who need it.

Your comments must be received by 31 July 2017. 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:

<https://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings.aspx>.

<b>Process</b>	<b>Date</b>
Public consultation (6 weeks)	20 June – 31 July 2017
Education, Libraries & Localism Panel*	7 November 2017
Cabinet*	13 November 2017
Statutory notice period (4 weeks)	23 November – 20 December 2017
Delegated officer decision if no objections are received	3 January 2018
Cabinet* (for final approval if one or more objections are received)	22 January 2018
Implementation	9 April 2018

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny Coles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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