

Summary of responses to Pre Statutory Consultation – the Willows prescribed alterations

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Children and Young People's Services

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Our reference: WSS01

Contact Mr Dean Fenton
29th June 2021

Dear Stakeholder

A report was approved by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Cabinet on 21st June 2021 to commence a period of pre statutory consultation on proposals to make prescribed alterations (under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013), to the Willows Special School, Locksley Dr, Thurcroft, Rotherham S66 9NT.

Following the recent building extension and adaptation works at the school to meet demand for places a capacity assessment determines the NET capacity of the school to now be sufficient for 150 pupils on site.

The report proposes to increase the registered number of places at the school on a permanent basis from the current 120 to 150. Prescribed alterations are required when the number of pupils in a special school has increased by 10% or 20 pupils (whichever is the lowest) and this is expected to be in place for more than 2 years (as this is considered a permanent increase). The current registered number of 120 places has been exceeded by 10% or 20 places for above 12 months and this continues to be the case for the foreseeable future.

The proposal within the report seeks to ascertain the views of stakeholders on proposals to increase the number of planned places at the school to 150 on a permanent basis by making prescribed alterations to the school in line with the above regulations.

The timeline for the prescribed alteration process is outlined below.

June 2021 - Report to Cabinet seeking approval to commence a period of pre-statutory consultation on proposals.

June/July 2021 - (4 weeks minimum) period of pre-statutory consultation.

October 2021 - Report to Cabinet outlining the outcome of pre-statutory consultation and seeking approval to commence a period of statutory consultation by the publication of a public notice.

October 2021 - Notification to the Department for Education and submission of proposals being consulted upon.

November 2021 - Public Notice period (4 weeks minimum) commences.

January 2022 - Report to Cabinet outlining the outcome of statutory consultation and seeking a determination of the proposals.

January 2022 - Notification to the Secretary of State for Education of the determination of the proposals.

Redacted comments from the pre statutory consultation will be used to report back to Cabinet in October 2021 when seeking to progress to a period of statutory consultation by the posting of a public notice in November 2021. Following statutory consultation, a further report will be submitted to Cabinet in January 2022 seeking a determination of proposals after consideration of representations received during the public notice representation period. Should the proposals be approved then the Secretary of State for Education will be formally notified of the formal changes and registration information will be amended on the get information about schools (GIAS) system.

A copy of the 21st June 2021 report can be obtained from the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council website by using the link below

[Browse meetings - Cabinet - Rotherham Council](#)

Or by requesting a copy from Christopher stones.

Should you wish to comment on the proposals please contact:

Christopher.stones@rotherham.gov.uk

by Monday 9th August 2021.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Fenton', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Dean Fenton
Head of Service – Access to Education

**Prescribed Alterations to the Willows School pre statutory Consultation -
29.6.21 – 9.8.21**

Responses / Comments:

There were no responses or enquiries received during the pre statutory consultation period.