

Equality Impact Assessment

Reference: EQIA402091153

Submitted: 18 February 2022 10:59 AM

Executive summary

Title of policy or decision: Proposal to establish a new primary school on the Limebrook Way development, Maldon, with effect from September 2024

Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy (or decision): The project is to deliver a new primary school. It is driven by the County Council's corporate objective to deliver the best possible educational outcomes for children within its administrative border, as well as its statutory duty to deliver a school place for every child requiring one. In this case the new primary school is planned for the Limebrook Way Development, which is a new Garden Suburb to the south of Maldon town centre.

What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?: A good place for Children and Families to Grow

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Transform the council to achieve more with less:
Educating outcomes, Levelling up outcomes for families

Is this a new policy (or decision) or a change to an existing policy, practice or project?: a new policy (or decision)

Please provide a link to the document / website / resource to which this EqIA relates:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/school-organisation-and-place-planning/consultations-and-statutory-proposals>

Please upload any documents which relate to this EqIA, for example decision documents:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/school-organisation-and-place-planning/consultations-and-statutory-proposals>

Assessing the equality impact

Use this section to record how you have assessed any potential impact on the communities likely to be affected by the policy (or decision): The new school will be located in Maldon, which for planning purposes would fall within Maldon Primary Planning Group 02 (Maldon and Heybridge).

On the latest available school census data (January 2021), the percentage of Reception to Yr. 6 pupils in this planning group identifying as White British is 93%, compared with a figure of 90.5% across the district of Maldon as a whole in the same age range. The creation of the new primary school will increase the number of primary school places available in the area each year. Although there is no way to predict this accurately, there is no reason to suggest that the population in the new housing will be substantially different from the existing population in the area. Consequently, there is no reason to suggest that the population of children attending the new school will be substantially different from that in the existing schools.

Primarily the new school will serve its local area, will have an age range 4-11 and will be mixed gender. The school will be expected to serve children in the locality with special education needs, for whom mainstream education is considered appropriate. The school will be DDA compliant and accessible to children who are wheelchair users. No specific transport arrangements are deemed necessary. The school will be accessible through walking and cycling and will be within the two mile statutory walking distance for children living within the locality. The Local Authority will actively support the new school in encouraging safe travel to school including walking and cycling. The admission arrangements of the school will comply with the DfE Admissions Code and

will be clear, fair and equitable and will ensure fair access for all who apply for a place.

Delivering a new primary school enhances the educational offer to local parents and adds, rather than withdraws, resources.

Does or will the policy or decision affect:

Service users: Yes

Employees: Yes

The wider community or groups of people, particularly where there are areas of known inequalities: No

Which geographical areas of Essex does or will the policy or decision affect?: Maldon

Will the policy or decision influence how organisations operate?: Yes

Will the policy or decision involve substantial changes in resources?: No

Is this policy or decision associated with any of the Council's other policies?: Yes

Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?: No

Description of impact

Description of Impact. If there is an impact on a specific protected group tick box, otherwise leave blank. You will be given the opportunity to rate identified impacts as positive, negative or neutral on the next page: No impact on any of the above groups

I confirm that I have considered the potential impact on all of the protected characteristics: I confirm that I have considered the potential impact on all of the protected characteristics

Describe any actions that have already been taken to mitigate negative impacts on any of the protected characteristics: A public consultation took place between Monday, 24th January and Sunday, 6th March 2022. The vast majority of those responding did so in support of a new primary school being delivered to serve the Limebrook Way Housing Development. A number of responses (both for and against) also raised a District-wide concern around provision in the area for children with Special Educational Needs and Additional Needs. This issue is currently being discussed by Essex County Council's School Organisation and SEND Strategy teams, and is not a viable alternative proposal to opening a new mainstream primary school to serve local demand generated by the housing development.

Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

Does your EqIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more equality groups?: No

Details of person completing the form

I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance: I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

Date EqIA completed: 18/02/2022

Name of person completing the EqIA: David Mason3

Email address of person completing the EqIA: David.Mason3@essex.gov.uk

Your function: Place and Public Health

Your service area: Sustainable Growth

Your team: School Organisation Service

Are you submitting this EqlA on behalf of another function, service area or team?: No

Email address of Head of Service: joseph.chell@essex.gov.uk