

Secondary School Places in Chelmsford

Consultation on a proposal for a new 1,200 place secondary school at the Greater Beaulieu Park development, Springfield, Chelmsford

September 2016



Essex County Council

Introduction

The County Council must ensure that there is a school place every year for each child in Essex. In doing so we want to take every opportunity to allow more parents to send their children to their preferred school, and also support schools to increase the educational achievement and life chances for all young people.

As in many areas of the county, pupil numbers have been rising in the Chelmsford area. Sustained further growth in Chelmsford is predicted as a result of new housing at the Greater Beaulieu Park development, and we are therefore commissioning a further secondary school to meet the high demand.

Through this consultation we are seeking views on a proposal to provide 1,200 secondary places as part of a new school to be opened on the Greater Beaulieu Park development from September 2019.

It is vital that we commission more school places in Chelmsford, and I invite you to let me have your views on this proposal so that these may be taken into account when a final decision is made.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Gooding', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cllr. Ray Gooding
Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning

Background

Essex County Council has a duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places for children living within the county. In order to do this the Council monitors birth rates, new housing developments and patterns of parental preference. This information is used to forecast pupil numbers and to ensure there are sufficient school places across the county.

Secondary pupil numbers in the Chelmsford area of Springfield are forecast to grow over the coming years, primarily due to the development of new housing at Beaulieu Park, circa 3,700 new dwellings.

Secondary place forecast for the Chelmsford area:

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Number of Permanent Yr. 7 Places 2016/17	1,822	1,822	1,822	1,822	1,822	1,822	1,822	1,822	1,822	1,822	1,822
Demand	1,792	1,804	1,856	1,806	1,952	1,880	1,881	2,004	1,910	1,855	1,874
With New Housing Pupil Product	1,792	1,822	1,894	1,870	2,041	1,999	2,027	2,174	2,102	2,066	2,103
Surplus/ shortage	30	0	-72	-48	-219	-177	-205	-352	-280	-244	-281
% Surplus/ shortage	1.6%	0.0%	-4.0%	-2.7%	-12.0%	-9.7%	-11.3%	-19.3%	-15.3%	-13.4%	-15.4%

Autumn 15 long term forecast

Long term forecast information indicates a permanent demand for increased secondary school places in Chelmsford from September 2017. To enable the Local Authority to provide these extra places, the Council is in discussion with some secondary schools to accommodate the forecast demand for 2017 and 2018.

The forecast deficit of places from 2017 onwards is as a result of new housing in Chelmsford, with the greatest concentration of new housing at the Greater Beaulieu Park development. In response to this, the Council is proposing to commission a new all-through provision in Chelmsford to ensure that local children have the opportunity to access a local school.

The Way Forward

Essex County Council, following discussions with local schools and other stakeholders, is consulting on meeting the forecast demand for secondary school places in Chelmsford through opening a new 900 - 1,200-place, 6-8 form entry (fe), mainstream secondary building on the Greater Beaulieu Park development, Chelmsford.

Consultation took place during 2014 about establishing a new 420-place (2fe) primary building and 56-place Early Years building at the Greater Beaulieu Park development, to open in September 2018.

It is envisaged that the primary and secondary buildings will be operated as an all-through provision from Reception age through to age 16, thereby establishing one school.

The Greater Beaulieu Park education site is also large enough to build a 250-place sixth form centre, the responsibility for funding its construction resting with the Education Funding Agency (EFA).

New Provision: 1,200-place (8fe) secondary building at Beaulieu Park

A new all-through provision, which would be a Free School as required by Government legislation, is proposed to be established within the Greater Beaulieu Park development, Chelmsford. This would provide additional provision for pupils residing in the Springfield area of Chelmsford, where further pressure on places is predicted to continue as a result of new housing.

The opening date for the secondary building would be September 2019. The all-through provision would cater for between 900 - 1,200 secondary-aged pupils, 6-8fe, when operating at full capacity. It is anticipated that the new secondary building would open with an intake of 180 places, 6fe, in September 2019, and grow to 1,200 places, 8fe, by 2022.

The Local Authority will publish a specification inviting proposals to sponsor the new all-through provision to accommodate the need for additional local places, in accordance with Department for Education (DfE) requirements. Subject to the outcome of this consultation and a decision by the County Council's Cabinet, the successful sponsor for the new all-through provision would be determined by the DfE.

Benefits to an All-Through Provision

Creating an all-through provision to serve Greater Beaulieu Park would deliver an innovative educational model that provides a seamless education for the pupils attending it.

Essex County Council considers the advantages of its proposal to be:

- A community where all pupils are known by staff, thereby creating a culture of pastoral excellence;
- A community of support for families that will provide extensive home-school support and access to a range of specialist agencies where necessary;
- A place where pupils are mutually supportive of one another and recognise the importance of peer-peer support across key phases of the school;
- Access for all pupils (from primary through to sixth form) to specialist teachers, creating a learning community that is focussed upon excellence and high quality outcomes for all pupils;

- High quality state-of-the-art buildings and technology infrastructure, that will support pupils learning in the 21st century and beyond;
- Access for all pupils to extensive extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities that will enhance their achievement. In particular, enabling primary-aged pupils to benefit from a sporting, arts and culturally extensive curriculum, supported by state-of-the-art facilities and equipment.

Buildings

The County Council is proposing to provide a new purpose built secondary building with associated external areas. This building project would provide a high quality educational environment required to deliver all-through provision.

The new 6-8fe (900 - 1,200-place) secondary building will be designed to allow for shared facilities, to cope with both primary & secondary core functions. In partnership with Chelmsford City Council, as part of the overall design for the site it is also planned to provide a Joint Community Use sports building. This will contain a sports hall, activity studio and fitness suite, as well as changing facilities. The sports hall and activity studio will be used by the school during the day and open to the community out-of-hours, such as in the evening and at weekends.

Outline drawings can be seen at the end of this document, to suggest what might be provided on the site should this project go ahead. The appointed contractors will develop detailed designs for the new building, which will then be subject to planning approval. As part of that process a separate public consultation will be held, where the chosen contractor will share their drawings for viewing and comment.

Early Years & Primary Provision

As part of the Greater Beaulieu Park development the Local Authority is providing a 420-place, 2fe, primary school and 56-place Early Years building on the site, responding to high demand within the locality. Consultation for this took place during January 2014.

Admissions

The Free School sponsor, once appointed, will consult with the local community on its admissions policy and determine its admissions arrangements, in line with the Admissions Code. Essex County Council will publish in its specification that, as part of the application criteria to run it, the new all-through provision is required to meet local demand for school places.

Information on how to apply for places at the new all-through provision will be made available at the relevant times by Essex County Council's Admissions Service, which co-ordinates admissions for all schools.

Funding

The County Council will commission the new buildings and will provide the capital funding for the work. It will also use its Growth Fund to ensure the new building has sufficient revenue funding as it is established, and grows over time to reach its full capacity.

Making Your Views Known

Essex County Council is now seeking to consult on this proposal. Two drop-in sessions have been arranged to provide an opportunity for members of the local community and other interested parties to ask questions and express their views on the proposal outlined within this document. At this stage no decision has been made; all views received, either at the meetings or separately in writing, will be considered prior to a decision being taken as to whether or not to proceed with proposals to establish an all-through provision on Greater Beaulieu Park. Public drop-in sessions will be held as follows:

- Tuesday, **13 September 2016 – 1.30pm until 4.00pm** at **Springfield Parish Centre**, St Augustine's Way, Chelmsford, CM1 6GX;
- Thursday, **22 September 2016 – 6.00pm until 8.30pm** at **Essex Record Office**, Wharf Rd, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6YT.

These drop-in sessions will give an opportunity to the community to find out about the proposed new all-through provision and give their views. No appointment is necessary, and stakeholders are encouraged to attend.

Your Comments

You may respond to this consultation using the following electronic survey form:

<http://tinyurl.com/Beaulieu-feedback-form>

Alternatively, you may write to or email us with your comments to the addresses given below by **10th October 2016**. All comments received through these mechanisms or made directly to council officers or members will be collected to be included in the analysis of feedback received.

All written comments should be received by The Council by **10th October 2016**. ECC handles information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998 and is the data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998. Your answers to this consultation will only be used to assess the community's view of the proposed amalgamation and not for any other purpose. Information about you will not be given to anyone outside the County Council.

If you have any questions about the consultation process or the proposal you can call **Mark Pincombe** on **03330 131155** or **David Mason** on **03330 131189**.

The information contained in this document can be made available in alternative formats: large print, Braille, audio tape or disk. Please call 03330 131189.

What happens next?

At the end of this consultation period the feedback and views expressed during the consultation will be considered, and an Essex County Council Cabinet decision will be taken on whether or not to proceed with the proposal.

If a decision is taken to proceed with a new all-through provision at Beaulieu Park, Chelmsford, the Local Authority will publish a specification in the autumn, inviting proposals to sponsor it.

Timescale

The consultation period will run from midday on Monday, **5th September 2016** to midday on Monday, **10th October 2016**.

Date	Activity
5th September 2016 (midday)	Consultation commences – consultation document can be viewed at: http://tinyurl.com/EssexCCConsultations
13th September 2016	Public drop-in session held from 1.30pm until 4.00pm at Springfield Parish Centre, St Augustine's Way, Chelmsford, CM1 6GX.
22nd September 2016	Public drop-in sessions held from 6:00pm until 8:30pm at Essex Record Office, Wharf Rd, Chelmsford, CM2 6YT.
10th October 2016 (midday)	End of consultation period.
December 2017	Decision by Essex County Council; whether or not to publish a specification inviting proposals to run an all-through provision at the Greater Beaulieu Park, Chelmsford.
January 2017	Specification for all-through provision published, and invitation made for applications from potential sponsors.*
1st September 2018	New 2fe primary opens
1st September 2019	New 6fe secondary opens (growing to 8fe by 2022)

*These stages only apply if the proposal is approved by Essex County Council.

You can contact us in the following ways:

By email: **school.organisation@essex.gov.uk**

By post: **Essex County Council, School Organisation, PO Box 4261,
County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1GS**

The information contained in this document can be translated, and/or made available in alternative formats, on request.

This information is issued by Essex County Council, People Commissioning.

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Beaulieu Park, Essex

Drawing: Draft Beaulieu Masterplan
Drawing No: 1071-0027
Scale: 1:1000 @ A3
Date: June 2016



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