

# **Expansion of Lostock Hall Academy, Todd Lane North, Lostock Hall, Preston, Lancashire, PR5 5UR.**

## **What is happening and why?**

As part of Lancashire County Council's duty to provide enough pupil places for Lancashire children, they are proposing, in agreement with the school and academy trust to start the process to expand Lostock Hall Academy. The proposal would eventually lead to the provision of an additional 175 secondary school places in South Ribble planning area by 2028.

We are now starting a period of consultation seeking the views of interested parties. The consultation period will commence on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

## **Background**

Increases in pupil numbers as a result of increased birth rates in the local area, coupled with the effect of significant housing development, means the number of school places currently available in the combined South Ribble and Chorley planning areas will not be enough to meet the increased demand over the next few years.

On 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Lancashire County Council's Cabinet approved the School Place Planning Delivery Programme 2023-25, which includes the provision of 560 additional secondary places in future years at Chorley and South Ribble secondary schools. It is proposed that the additional places would be gradually increased across the district by 112 places per school year with effect from September 2024.

The proposed expansion of Lostock Hall Academy would provide an additional 175 places by 2028, by admitting 35 additional pupils to each Year 7 with effect from September 2024. This would follow the school exceeding its Published Admission Number by 35 places in 2023/24 via a temporary expansion within existing accommodation.

The permanent expansion of the school from September 2024 would be delivered through internal modification of existing accommodation.

The approval of the proposal to permanently expand Lostock Hall Academy would help to address the projected shortfall of places and ensure so far as is reasonably possible that every child is provided with a school place in close proximity to their home.

## School Information and Consultation so far

Lancashire County Council's pupil projections indicate a shortfall of secondary school places in the combined Chorley and South Ribble planning areas and identify a need for additional permanent places from September 2024.

In early 2022 a consultation exercise was conducted with all the secondary schools in the districts of Chorley and South Ribble, where expressions of interest were sought for temporary expansion for 2023/24 and permanent expansion from 2024/25.

An appraisal process was carried out to consider the expansion proposals from schools interested in expansion and it was concluded that Lostock Hall Academy offered the potential for school expansion to meet the shortfall in the area and has a school site large enough to accommodate a permanent school expansion.

Lostock Hall Academy is a popular secondary school. For September 2022 intake, the school received 150 1<sup>st</sup> Preferences against a Published Admission Number of 120. The Academy has temporarily exceeded its intake for the last few years in response to its popularity and the request of Lancashire County Council for additional school places in the South Ribble area.

Lostock Hall Academy currently has achieved a 'Good' rating in its last Ofsted inspection (November 2022).

The estimated capital costs have not yet been drawn up as the project has not been committed to the design stage by Lancashire County Council. The Governing Body is not being asked to contribute to the scheme.

## Timescale

December/January 2022	Representation
February 2023	Final decision by Cabinet on Scheme
February 2023	Submission of proposal to DfE
Spring 2023	DfE decision
September 2024	Implementation (if approved)

## Current Consultation

A period of consultation is to be undertaken on the proposal to allow a permanent increase in the Published Admission Number of Lostock Hall Academy from 120 to 155 places from September 2024, over time expanding the number of places in the

school from 600 to 775. This would be enabled by internal modification of existing accommodation within the Academy.

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## Your views

**We want to hear what you think about the proposal to expand Lostock Hall Academy, over time providing an additional 175 secondary school places.**

This is a formal consultation and representations will be used to inform the next steps in relation to additional secondary school places in South Ribble and Chorley.

You can have your say on this proposal until **5pm on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023** via the online survey [Lostock Hall 2022 \(snapsurveys.com\)](https://snapsurveys.com) or by email to [schoolexpansionproposal@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:schoolexpansionproposal@lancashire.gov.uk)