

Committee: **Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness**

Date: **10 September 2013**

By: **Interim Director of Children's Services**

Title of the report: **Proposed expansion of West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School**

Purpose of Report: **To seek Lead Member approval to publish statutory notices in respect of a proposal to expand West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School by September 2016.**

**Recommendation:**

**Lead Member is recommended to:**

- (1) authorise the publication of statutory notices in respect of a proposal to expand West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School by 90 places and 120 places respectively by September 2016; and**
- (2) delegate authority to the Interim Director of Children's Services to amend the proposals prior to their publication if required.**

**1. Financial Appraisal:**

1.1 Revenue: this proposal will not affect the Schools Funding Formula. Each school's budget share will increase in accordance with rising pupil numbers.

1.2 Capital: capital investment will be required to expand West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School. Approximately £17.5m is identified in the Council's Capital Programme, approved by Full Council on 7 February 2013, to deliver additional places across East Sussex, including Eastbourne. Feasibility design work is currently being undertaken at both schools to determine the level of capital funding required to deliver those additional places.

**2. Supporting Information:**

2.1 Pressures on primary places in Eastbourne are being driven mainly by births which have risen from 862 in academic year 2001/02 to 1,175 in 2010/11. In 2013/14 it is estimated that there will be a shortfall of four forms of entry at Year R plus a further one form of entry at Year 3. The estimated Year R shortfall rises to around seven forms of entry by 2015/16 and there are predicted to be shortfalls at Year R for several years beyond 2016/17.

2.2 In response, the Council undertook a period of public consultation between 26 June and 24 July 2013 on a proposal to expand West Rise Community Infant School by 90 places and West Rise Junior School by 120 places from September 2016. The proposal would provide an extra form of entry (30 places per year group, 210 places in total) in the east of the town which is the area of second highest demographic growth of young children in Eastbourne.

2.3 This report details the responses received during the period of public consultation and seeks approval from the Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness to publish statutory notices.

2.4 Proposed changes to the organisation of schools have to follow a prescribed process established by the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended by The School Organisation and Governance (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2007 which came into force on 21 January 2008 and The School Organisation and Governance (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2009 which came into force on 1 September 2009). This process complied with these requirements.

2.5 Public consultation took place over a four week period between 26 June and 24 July 2013. Approximately 1,650 consultation documents were distributed to interested parties in accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended). The full distribution list can be found as part of **Annex 1**. The consultation document was also made available on the County Council's website.

2.6 By the close of the consultation period, 149 replies had been received. This equates to a response rate of 9.03% (149 out of 1,650). Of the responses:

- 108 (72.5%) supported the proposal
- 8 (5.3%) neither agreed or disagreed with the proposal
- 32 (21.5%) did not support the proposal
- 1 (0.7%) gave no answer

2.7 The majority of responses came from parents and carers (87 out of 149) followed by staff and governors (40 out of 149). The breakdown is as follows:

- 4 (2.7%) were pupils at West Rise Infant or West Rise Junior
- 87 (58.4%) were parents/carers of a child at West Rise Infant and/or West Rise Junior
- 27 (18.1%) were members of staff at West Rise Infant or West Rise Junior
- 13 (8.8%) were governors at West Rise Infant and/or West Rise Junior
- 9 (6%) were members of the local community
- 9 (6%) were identified as 'other'

2.8 The main reasons for people not supporting the proposal were:

- Traffic congestion
- Parking

2.9 While these are valid concerns, issues about traffic and parking would be addressed through the statutory planning process the Council has to go through before it is able to start building on site. This would provide people with a further opportunity to raise concerns about these particular issues.

2.10 **Annex 1** provides detailed analysis of the consultation process and responses received.

2.11 The majority of people who responded to the consultation agree with the proposal to expand West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School as there is a pressing need for additional places in the east of the town. This leads us to recommend that we should continue with the proposal to expand both schools.

2.12 The next stage of the process is to publish statutory notices. The publication of notices would trigger a further four week period of consultation, known as the representation period, when people can again have their say on the proposal. Within two months of the end of the representation period, the Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness must determine the proposal taking into account the views of all those affected by the proposal or who have an interest in it, including for example: pupils; parents and carers; staff; other schools; local residents; diocesan bodies and other providers. It is envisaged that a final decision would be made at the Lead Member meeting on 9 December 2013.

### **3. Conclusion and reason for recommendation:**

3.1 The Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places to meet current and future demand. In light of the pressing need for additional primary places in the east of the town and the overwhelming support for the proposal, it is recommended that the Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness:

- i) Authorises the publication of statutory notices in respect of a proposal to expand West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School by 90 places and 120 places respectively by September 2016; and
- ii) Delegates authority to the Interim Director of Children's Services to amend the proposals prior to their publication if required.

### **GED ROWNEY**

Interim Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Gary Langford, School Place Planning Manager Tel: 01273 481758

Local Members: Councillor Alan Shuttleworth

Background Documents: None

## ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES

### 1. Background:

- 1.1 East Sussex County Council undertook a consultation between 26<sup>th</sup> June and 24<sup>th</sup> July 2013 on a proposal to expand West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School in Eastbourne by 90 places and 120 places respectively.
- 1.2 The proposal would provide an extra form of entry (30 places per year group, 210 places in total) in the east of the town by September 2016, which is the area of second highest demographic growth of young children in Eastbourne.

### 2. Purpose of report:

- 2.1 This report is in two parts:
  - Part 1: the consultation process
  - Part 2: analysis of consultation responses

### 3. Part 1: the consultation process:

- 3.1 Approximately one thousand six hundred and fifty (1,650) consultation documents were distributed in accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended). Consultees included for example: pupils; parents and carers; staff; other schools in Eastbourne; the local MP; the Borough Council; diocesan bodies and local early years providers. The full distribution list is provided in Table 1 below. The consultation document explained the proposal and provided a range of means to respond. These included; by freepost reply, online questionnaire or by emailing East Sussex County Council. The consultation document was also made available on the County Council's website.

Table 1: Consultation distribution list

Organisation	No. of copies
West Rise Community Infant School – pupils and parents/carers	220
West Rise Community Infant School – staff	40
West Rise Community Infant School – governors	20
West Rise Community Infant School – spares for main reception	35
West Rise Junior School – pupils and parents/carers	240
West Rise Junior School – staff	50
West Rise Junior School – governors	20
West Rise Junior School – spares for main reception	35
All Eastbourne primary schools	15 copies each
All Eastbourne secondary schools	15 copies each
All Eastbourne special schools	15 copies each
Sussex Downs College	5
ESCC Councillors	50
ESCC Chief Officers Management Team	7
ESCC Children's Services Senior Management Team	5
ESCC contractors (e.g. catering, cleaning etc)	1 copy each
Stephen Lloyd MP	5
DFE	1
Eastbourne Borough Council	35
Diocese of Chichester (Church of England)	5
Diocese of Arundel and Brighton (Catholic)	5
Lighthouse Medical Practice	30
Harbour Medical Practice	30
Sussex Voluntary and Community Learning Consortium	10

Langney Library	30
Langney Children's Centre	30
Shinewater Children's Centre	30
West Rise Nursery	30
Just Learning Nursery	30
The Bishop Bell Nursery	30
Priory Foundation Learning Centre	30
The Haven Nursery School	30
Bluebell Hill Children's Nursery	30
Meadows Mere Nursery School	30
Meadows Nursery School	30
Trade Unions (e.g. Association of Teachers & Lecturers / NASUWT / NHT / NUT / Voice of the Union of Education Professionals / GMB / UNISON)	1 copy each
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,650</b>

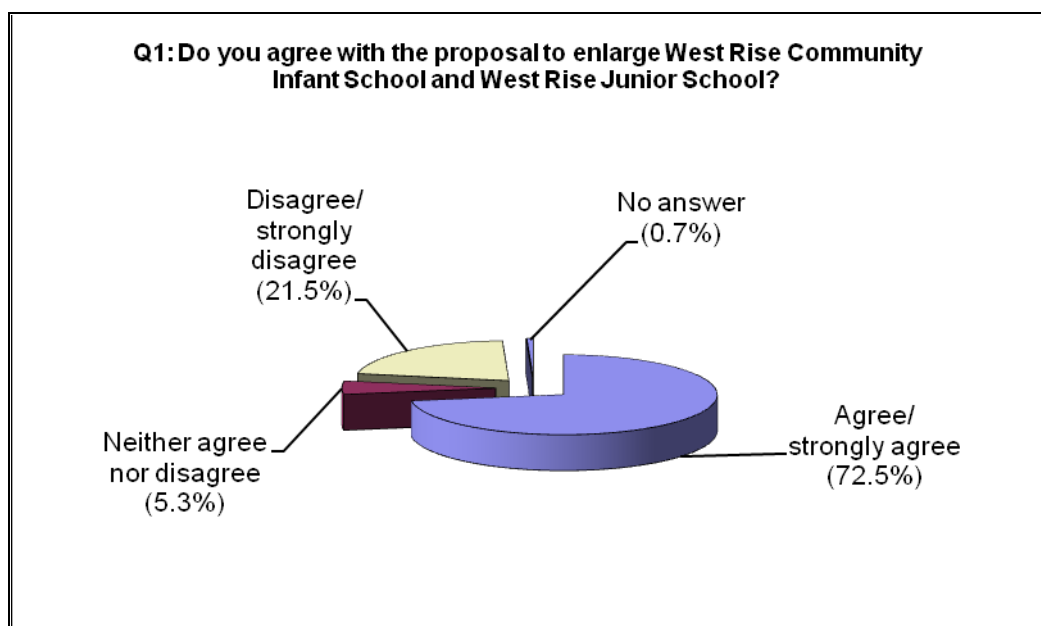
3.2 The consultation period ran from Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June to Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

#### 4. Part 2: analysis of consultation responses:

4.1 Question 1 on the response form asked people to indicate whether they agreed with the proposal to expand West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School. 149 people responded to this question, which equates to a response rate of 9.03% (149 out of 1,650). From the 149 responses:

- 108 (72.5%) supported the proposal
- 8 (5.4%) neither agreed or disagreed with the proposal
- 32 (21.5%) did not support the proposal
- 1 (0.7%) gave no answer

4.2 The chart below illustrates the breakdown of responses.



4.3 Question 2 asked people to give reasons for their answers to question 1. The main areas of concern were:

- Traffic congestion
- Parking

- 4.4 While these are valid concerns, issues about traffic congestion and parking would be addressed through the statutory planning process the Council has to go through before it is able to start building on site. This would provide people with a further opportunity to raise concerns about these particular issues.
- 4.5 Table 2 below provides a selection of comments received. A full list of comments is available for inspection.

Table 2: Selection of comments received

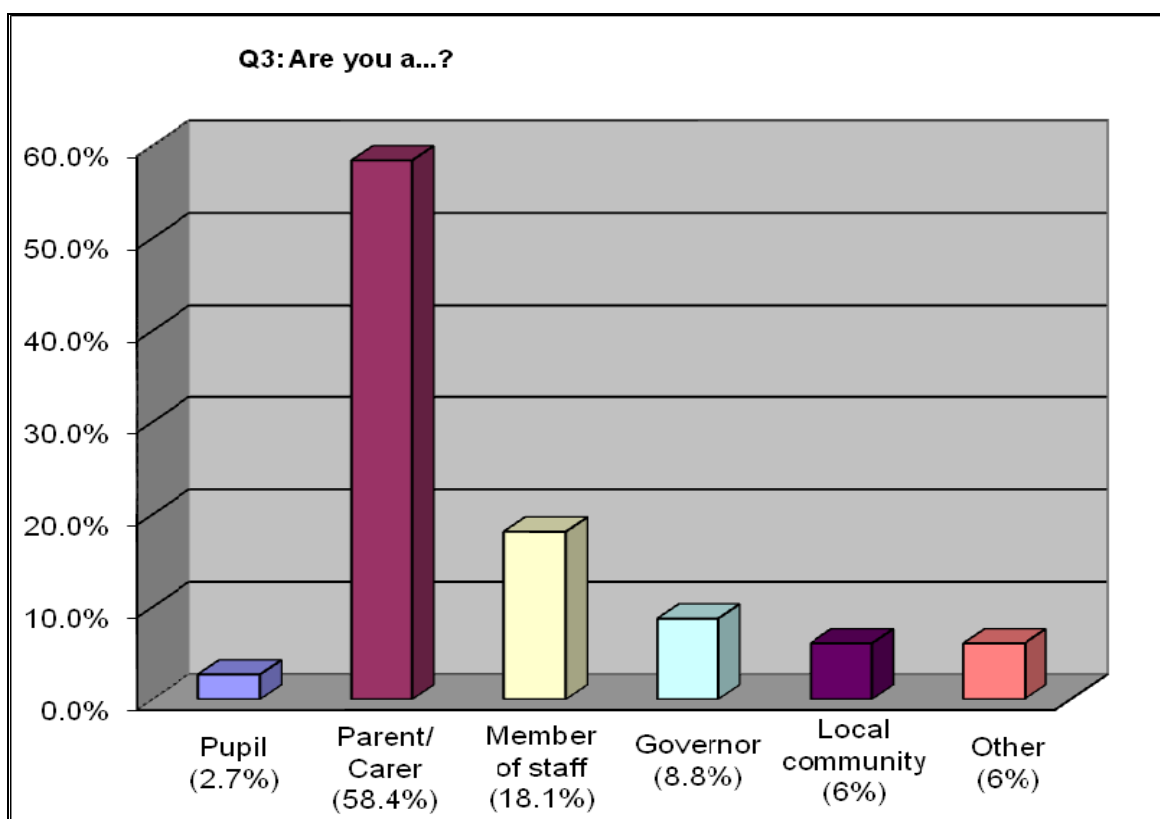
Comment summary	
1	Disagree. I am a parent of a child who currently attends west rise juniors. The main road used to access the school is already seriously over used, being a residential road there is already a number of people that use and park on that road, but that added to that Monday to Friday many parents use the road to access the school which at times causes me a great deal of concern, many parents are not considerate of small children crossing and speed up and down, that added to the already severe lack of parking, parents already double park, park across driveways, park on the yellow zig zags outside the school gates I have often thought that that road and how people use it is a accident waiting to happen I cannot help but feel that increasing the amount of children to the school would only enhance an already untenable situation in regards to parking and access to school. If the plans do go ahead to extend the school I can only hope that serious consideration can be given extra access & parking, child's safety and the local residents.
2	Strongly disagree. I am the mother of a member of staff at the school and feel that the road would not cope with the extra staff and that there is insufficient parking. The extra staff and pupils would make the roads even more dangerous. I am worried that children from other areas will be forced to go to school in Langney.
3	Strongly disagree. My main objection is the extra volume of traffic this will mean. I live on Sevenoaks Road and the traffic during school rush hour is already extremely heavy and for those of us trying to get to work for a 9am start have great difficulty trying to exit onto Willingdon Drove. An extra 210 places at the school could mean an extra 210 cars on an already busy stretch of road.
4	Strongly disagree. The school site is already at bursting point. The roads leading to the school; no parking. Also the playground is too small and the school area. To put an additional overall new pupils of 210 is like putting a whole new school on a very small area. Solution: build a NEW SCHOOL between Polegate and Shinewater area
5	Disagree. Very concerned about traffic as it is already dangerous for those of us that walk.
6	Disagree. We chose West Rise because it is a small school. The staff know each child. It is a school which is very well run at the moment. I am worried it would become faceless and lose what makes it such a great school. They would also lose so much of the valuable outside space. Expanding would ruin West Rise!
7	Disagree. I chose this school for its community feel and I think this would be lost with more pupils. I also wonder where all the new staff would park? Would the school be losing some of its 'green' space which is vital for infant/primary years. I also worry about buildings work disrupting schooling over a prolonged period of time. The road leading to the main school is already dangerous with fast driving and mis-parking. This proposal doesn't give enough information to make an informed decision.
8	Strongly disagree. We have serious concerns for two main reasons.  1) The current level of traffic from parents dropping off children is currently at times, we feel, dangerous. The number of cars parking at the entrance, on yellow zig zag lines, manoeuvring and reversing around the entrance makes it dangerous crossing the road. I walk both our children to the school and on one occasion all three of us have almost been run over by a car reversing onto the yellow zig zag lines whilst also clearly not looking around properly.  With the proposed 50% increase in pupil numbers there will invariably be a significant increase in traffic levels that simply can't be sustained. It's dangerous enough as it is at times, with the increased traffic it would only be a matter of time before there is a fatality.

	<p>2) Whilst the proposal states that there would be an increase in the associated facilities, but doesn't go into specific details, we have concerns that these additional facilities would not be in proportion to the 50% increase in pupil numbers.</p> <p>As a past pupil of a school that went through an almost identical increase in size, I have experienced firsthand the situation of the facilities not being added in proportion to the increase in pupil numbers and suffering the disadvantages i.e. less access to sports hall facilities etc. as more people had to share them.</p> <p>We feel that in its current size the school is large enough and works perfectly as a community school. To increase pupil numbers by 50% would pose a real threat of destroying this community feel and lose the fantastic environment that West Rise school has.</p>
9	Strongly agree. Both schools are extremely popular with parents and children and each year a large number are disappointed at not getting a place. If the infrastructure is put in place to support the expansion, including addressing the safety and parking issues relating to traffic, I would strongly support the proposal which would allow more children access to a fantastic education.
10	Strongly agree. I am concerned about the parking but apart from that think it will be an exciting time for both schools.
11	Agree. I feel it would be a good idea but access to the schools needs to be considered as it is very busy with parking and traffic in Chaffinch Road.
12	Strongly agree. I think it's a fantastic opportunity for both schools and new pupils. However, could something be arranged regarding all the vehicles arriving at the school as there would be a great deal of cars in a small area of older residents.
13	Strongly agree. West Rise is an amazing school. As many children as possible should the opportunity to attend.
14	<p>Agree. There is plenty of room to expand the schools, there is lots of fields which is brilliant. Be careful with just adding classrooms. Please consider the logistics that the current buildings are not big enough to have 50% more children. The sports hall, playground, kitchens, both school halls, ICT suite (infants) etc; will all need enlarging as would the relevant staff rooms. This is not just simply adding a few classrooms.</p> <p>Vehicle access will also need to be significantly improved. Chaffinch Road is too small to deal with 50% more cars.</p>
15	Strongly agree. West Rise Infant and Junior is a fantastic school which really addresses children's individual needs and nurtures their development. Teaching is outstanding. Staff put children first and work tirelessly to ensure each child sees that learning, respect, loving each other, accepting each other and working harmoniously is a life skill and fun.
16	Strongly agree. In my opinion West Rise Junior School has a robust and creative ethos which lends itself well in supporting the rising demand for infant/junior school placements. I therefore feel that it is best placed to capitalise on a larger school campus. The school(s) should continue as a 'gem' in the local community.

#### 4.6 In answer to question 3, respondents classified themselves as:

- 4 (2.7%) were pupils at West Rise Infant or West Rise Junior
- 87 (58.4%) were parents/carers of a child at West Rise Infant and/or West Rise Junior
- 27 (18.1%) were members of staff at West Rise Infant or West Rise Junior
- 13 (18.8%) were governors at West Rise Infant and/or West Rise Junior
- 9 (6%) were members of the local community
- 9 (6%) were identified as 'other'

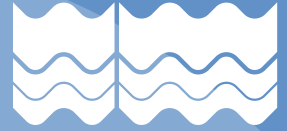
#### 4.7 The chart below illustrates the breakdown:



- 4.8 Of the 87 parents and carers who responded, 58 (66.7%) support the proposal, while 22 (25.3%) do not. 7 (8%) do not have a view either way.
- 4.9 4 pupils attending the schools replied to the consultation. 2 (50%) support the proposal, while 2 (50%) do not.
- 4.10 Of the 40 members of staff and governors who responded, 37 (92.5%) support the proposal while 2 (5%) do not. 1 (2.5%) did not have a view either way.
- 4.11 9 members of the local community replied to the consultation. 4 (44.4%) support the proposal while 5 (55.6%) do not, generally for the reasons outlined in 4.3 above.
- 4.12 The 9 people who responded under the heading 'other' included an Eastbourne Borough Councillor, governors and members of the local community. 7 (77.8%) support the proposal, 1 (11.1%) does not and 1 (11.1%) does not have a view either way.
- 4.13 'About you' questions. We collect this information to ensure that we are seeking the views of everyone in our community and to demonstrate that we are complying with relevant diversity and equalities legislation. The responses to the 'About you' questions are available for inspection.
- 4.14 At the time of writing we had received 3 late consultation responses, none of which is taken into account in the analysis above.
- 4.15 A copy of the consultation document is provided in **Appendix A**.







June 2013

# Have your say on a proposal to increase the size of West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School

The consultation runs from 26 June to 24 July 2013.



## **What is the proposal?**

The proposal is to permanently enlarge West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School from September 2016. West Rise Community Infant School would grow from 180 places to 270 places (ages 4-7) and West Rise Junior School would grow from 240 places to 360 places (ages 7-11). This would provide an additional 210 primary places (ages 4-11) across the east area of Eastbourne.

This consultation document is for pupils, parents and carers, staff, the local community and other interested parties. East Sussex County Council will consider all the views put forward before a decision is taken by the Lead Members for Children's Services on whether to continue with the proposal to expand. We welcome your views on this proposal.

## **What is the background to this proposal?**

Eastbourne is experiencing an increase in demand for primary school places as a result of a rising birth rate. Births in Eastbourne have risen from 862 in academic year 2001/02 to 1,175 in 2010/11 (an increase of 36%). This reflects what is happening to the birth rate in other parts of East Sussex and the country as a whole.

Eastbourne Borough, while constituting one primary school place planning area, is also divided into sub areas based on geographical clusters of schools. West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School are located in the east of the town which is the area of second highest demographic growth of young children in the town. Between 2001/02 and 2010/11 the number of births in this area increased by 35% compared to 71% in the central south area, 25% in central north, 20% in the west area and 36% across the Borough as a whole.

East Sussex County Council has a duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places available. In response to a rising demand for places, we established a temporary 'bulge' class in reception year at West Rise Community Infant School in 2012/13 and we plan to do so again in 2014/15. We also expect to establish a temporary 'bulge' class in Year 3 at West Rise Junior School in 2015/16 to reflect the larger cohort of children moving through from West Rise Community Infant school that year. This proposal is about formalising those arrangements for the future.

Both schools are popular and successful. West Rise Community Infant School was rated 'good' at its last Ofsted inspection, as was West Rise Junior School. In recent years both schools have been over-subscribed. Both schools have indicated their in-principle support for expansion.

## **What size would the enlarged schools be?**

We propose to increase the size of both schools from two forms of entry to three forms of entry, enabling each school to admit up to 90 pupils in every year group. West Rise Community Infant School's capacity would increase from 180 places in 6 classes to 270 places in 9 classes. West Rise Junior School's capacity would increase from 240 places in 8 classes to 360 places in 12 classes.

To support the expansion of each school, the premises would be extended to provide the additional classrooms and associated facilities. If approved, the Council intends to fund the building work from its capital programme.

The Council is very experienced in managing construction projects and the health and safety of children is paramount when any building project takes place. The build programme would be developed to minimise disruption to the schools during this time. Concerns relating to planning and transport can be raised as part of the statutory planning process which is subject to a separate consultation.

The Council anticipates that building work would begin during summer 2014 with full completion across the two schools due in summer 2016.

## Who makes the final decision and when?

The Council is the decision maker for this proposal. This is not a referendum but all of the views expressed during the consultation period together with other sources of information will be used to inform the decision.

Following consideration of the consultation responses we could choose to:

- stop the process - in this case the expansion of the schools would not proceed;
- change the proposal - in this case the next steps would depend on what the proposed changes are; or
- continue with the proposal - we would publish a Statutory Notice for the expansion of the schools in the local paper, probably in September 2013, which would be followed by a further 4-week period of consultation (known as the representation period).

We have a duty to make a final decision on the proposal within two months of the end of the representation period. In this instance, a decision would probably be taken in November 2013.

## Who is being consulted?

We are consulting with pupils, parents and carers, staff, other local schools and trade unions. We are also consulting with a wide range of other groups including the Borough Council, the local MP, the Church of England and Catholic dioceses and the wider local community.

## How do I have my say?

This consultation runs until **24 July 2013**.

You can give your views by:

- completing the attached questionnaire and returning it in the envelope provided
- completing the online questionnaire at: [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/haveyoursay](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/haveyoursay)
- emailing the County Council at [school.consultations@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultations@eastsussex.gov.uk) quoting West Rise in the subject line.



## Consultation – Response Form

Our proposal is to enlarge West Rise Community Infant School from 180 places to 270 places and West Rise Junior School from 240 places to 360 places by September 2016. This would enable each school to admit up to 90 pupils in every year group.

East Sussex County Council would welcome your views on the proposal. Please complete this response form and return it to the address at the bottom of the page no later than 24 July 2013.

**Q1. Do you agree with the proposal to enlarge West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

**Q2. If you wish, you can give your main reasons for your answers to Q1 above, and/or any other options you think the Council should consider:**

**Q3. Are you a...?**

- Pupil at either West Rise Community Infant School or West Rise Junior School
- Parent/carer of a child at West Rise Infant and/or West Rise Junior
- Member of staff at either West Rise Infant or West Rise Junior
- Member of the governing body at West Rise Infant and/or West Rise Junior
- Member of the local community
- Other (please say) \_\_\_\_\_

Once completed, please tear off this page along the perforation, fold and return it in the window envelope provided by **24 July 2013** to the address below.

Please ensure that the address is clearly visible in the window of the envelope.

**You don't need a stamp.**

**Primary School Consultation (West Rise)  
FREEPOST BR157  
East Sussex County Council  
County Hall  
St Anne's Crescent  
Lewes BN7 1SF**



