PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH SPECIALIST RESOURCED PROVISION IN A MAINTAINED SCHOOL BRISBANE PARK INFANT SCHOOL, BARROW-IN-FURNESS

Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (prescribed alterations to maintained schools) (England) Regulations 2013.

1. Name of Proposing Body and the Affected Educational Establishment

The proposing body is Westmorland and Furness Council, School Organisation Team, Post Box 304, Kendal, LA9 4GY.

The affected educational establishment is Brisbane Park Infant School, Blake Street, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA14 1NY. This is a community school.

2. Description of Alteration

Westmorland and Furness Council is proposing to establish Resourced Provision with a designation of Speech, Language and Communication (SLCN) to provide 18 places for Key Stage 1 pupils at Brisbane Park Infant School. The provision will be established with effect from 5 January 2027 for 12 places with a phased admissions approach for the six additional places, to allow for completion of necessary capital works. It is intended that the provision will be fully established with effect from September 2027, subject to completion of relevant capital works.

3. Evidence of Demand

The council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) within the Local Authority. Demand for specialist provision for children and young people with SEND has increased substantially over recent years.

Westmorland and Furness Council has a strategy that aims to secure access to a high-quality continuum of provision for all children and young people, enabling the majority of children and young people with additional needs to access local provision, with appropriate capacity and resources to meet need. The continuum comprises of various elements, including the provision of specialist SEND units and resource provisions within mainstream schools.

Resource provision and SEND units are designated areas and facilities within a mainstream school that enables support to be provided to pupils with specific types of special educational needs and disabilities. Such provisions allow pupils to access specialised support and resources tailored to their needs whilst also having access to mainstream resources and facilities as appropriate.

The Council proposes to enhance this continuum of provision by establishing and expanding specialist SEND Units and Resourced Provisions linked to mainstream schools.

Analysis of demand data has demonstrated the increasing and ongoing need for specialist places to meet the needs of children with cognition and learning needs in the area

This proposal is intended to ensure that Barrow-in-Furness has sufficient provision for local children with cognition and learning needs (C&L).

4. Objectives of Proposal

The objectives of the proposal are to:

- Increase the number of resourced provision places for children with cognition & learning needs in the Barrow-in-Furness area.
- Enable this cohort of children to be educated alongside their peer group whilst receiving specialist support as appropriate.

5. Effect on nearby Educational Institutions

The Local Authority is confident that the proposal will not adversely impact on other local schools. All relevant and local stakeholders have been consulted in relation to the proposal. An Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared and updated following the consultation process.

6. Funding for the Proposal

Any capital funding to support the proposal will be funded from the Local Authority's High Needs Provision Capital Allocation grant which is to be used to invest in new places for pupils with SEND in mainstream schools.

The Local Authority's standard methodology for funding SEND places in SEND Units and Resourced Provisions will provide the revenue funding for the operational aspects of the Resourced Provision.

7. Implementation and Any Proposed Stages for Implementation.

It is proposed that the provision will be established with effect from 5 January 2027 for 12 places with a phased admissions approach for the six additional places, to allow for completion of necessary capital works. It is intended that the provision will be fully established with effect from September 2027, subject to completion of relevant capital works.

8. Objections and Comments

Within four weeks of the date of publication of this notice any person wishing to raise objections or make comments on the proposal may do so in writing by 29 November 2026.

Westmorland and Furness Council, School Organisation Team, Post Box 304, Kendal, LA9 4GY. Email: school.organisation.WAF@cumbria.gov.uk