Prince William School
Herne Road
Oundle
Northamptonshire
PE8 4BS

Interim Classroom Requirements, Works to Increase Car Park Capacity and School Fence Line
(June 2015 to June 2017)

Planning Statement

24th March 2015
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1.0 Introduction

1.1. This Statement has been prepared by Northamptonshire County Council in support of a detailed planning application submitted by Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) (the ‘Applicant’) for the provision of temporary classroom and learning accommodation at Prince William School in Oundle.

1.2. In addition to the interim accommodation requirements the Statement and Application include the necessary works to increase car park capacity at the school and to install a secure, managed fence line.

1.3. The Site offers a convenient location for the provision of temporary classrooms and facilities at the school for a period of 104 weeks. The proposed location of the interim accommodation is predominantly surrounded by school buildings and there is no line of sight to local residences.

1.4. The interim accommodation is required in order to accommodate the increase in pupil numbers in September 2015 as a direct consequence of the County Council’s policy to move from a three tier to a two tier education delivery model in North East Northamptonshire.

1.5. Feedback on the initial proposals was that there should be as short a transition period as possible, and that investment should be made at Prince William School for the first cohort of year 7 and 8 pupils in September 2015. This has influenced implementation timescales and the Council’s approach to how temporary accommodation is provided on site. This planning application for a significant modular building solution is therefore in response to this community feedback.

1.6. Year 6 and 7 pupils currently attending Oundle and Kings Cliffe Middle School and King John Middle School will transfer to Prince William School in September 2015. This will lead to an increase in pupil numbers of circa 395 taking the capacity of the school from the current 826 to 1,221.

1.7. The development of the school to a full capacity of 1,750 is currently at concept design stage and will be subject to a separate Planning Application and construction works. This is scheduled to complete in September 2017.

1.8. A full Statement of Educational need is provided at Appendix A to this Statement (Page 17-18)

The Applicant

1.9. NCC is the ‘Applicant’ and is responsible for the provision of education within the County of Northamptonshire. The ‘Agent’ for the Application is Progressive Architecture.

The Determining Authority

1.10. NCC Planning Services (the ‘Local Planning Authority’ or ‘LPA’) is the determining authority for the application.

The Scope of the Planning Application

1.11. The scope of the submitted planning application accords with that agreed with the LPA. This Planning Statement should be read in conjunction with the following Statements as well as the submitted plans and elevations:

Statements

• Application Form
• Statement of Educational Need (Refer to Appendix A)
• Design and Access Statement
• Energy and Sustainability Strategy
• External Lighting Statement
• Statement of Community Engagement
• Transport Assessment & Analysis
Pre-Application Consultation

1.12. Pre-application consultation has taken place prior to the submission of the application. It is intended that further consultations both with stakeholders and the community will continue after the submission has been made. The scope and nature of the pre-application was agreed with LPA Officers prior to commencement.

1.13. The application proposals reflect consultation with representatives of the County Council Education Directorate, LPA and other consultees. The approach followed, and influence upon the development of the proposals, is detailed further within Design and Access Statement.

1.14. The school has been actively engaged in the development of the requirements for interim accommodation and has been responsible for the evaluation of tenders received by contractors. Initial consultation with the school and stakeholders provided valuable design information. In particular the requirements for 'modern looking buildings' providing an 'open, light and welcoming environment' provided the shift in emphasis away from traditional mobile classrooms toward modular buildings.

Community Engagement

1.15. The proposal to change Prince William School from a 13 to 18 Upper School to a 11 – 18 Secondary School is a key component of the changing education structure from three tier to two tier in North East Northamptonshire. There was considerable community engagement throughout 2014 on the proposals to change, including many public meetings.

1.16. The Applicant has taken into account the guidance concerning community engagement and has engaged with Prince William School, Governors, Parents and Community Organisations regarding the proposed future development of the site. Engagement with the School, Governors and Community will continue throughout the proposed development.

1.17. Consultation in relation to interim accommodation has taken place in the wider context of the longer term development of the school site. Consultation in relation to the long term development of the school is on-going.

1.18. The school are actively involved with Oundle Town Council and consultation through the town council has commenced and the community are aware of the proposals to place interim classroom facilities on site at the school.

2.0 Site Context

The Site

2.1. The Site is broadly square in shape and measures approximately 1,750m². The Site is in the single ownership of Northamptonshire County Council.

2.2. The Site is level with a slight gradient from the all-weather pitches towards the grass area.

2.4. The Site follows the line of the all-weather pitches and an existing brick pitched roof structure.
2.5. Vehicular access is provided along Herne Road, with access to the location via the School’s car park. The proposed modular buildings will replace and extend the existing modular buildings which are in poor condition.

2.6. The majority of new space provided is single storey, with the two storey elements being kept close to the existing brick pitched roof structure

**Surrounding Area**

2.7. The Site is located within Oundle, with the temporary nature of the building, being on site for 104 weeks to facilitate the future development of the school.

2.8. The Site has no other properties directly overlooking the site, other than adjacent properties connected with the operation of the school. The site location was chosen for this reason.

**Access**

2.9. The Site is accessed via the School Car park. During construction of the buildings care will be taken to ensure that delivery and traffic management minimises any disruption by keeping deliveries out with peak times.

2.10 Appendix B at pages 17-19 provides a detailed statement relating to how the modular buildings will be transported to site, installed and transported from site at the conclusion of the hire period in July 2017.

**3.0 Planning History**

3.1. *Installation of a roof mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) system.*

   Date of Decision 28 October 2011
   Application Ref: 11/00063/CCD, ENC – 11/01484/NCC

3.2. *Construction of a below ground Foul Pumping Station adjacent to and to replace the existing Foul Pumping Station.*

   Date of Decision 4 August 2010
   Application Ref: 10/00036/CCD, ENC – 10/00973/NCC

3.3. *New Vocational Learning Centre.*

   Date of Decision 5 January 2009
   Application Ref: NCC – 08/00096/CCD, ENC – 08/02147/NCC

3.4. *Construction of an extension to form changing facilities and associated teaching area.*

   Date of Decision 14 December 2007
   Application Ref: NCC – 07/00066/CCD, ENC – 07/02206/NCC

3.5. *Installation of a three classroom mobile science laboratory and a double mobile classroom unit.*

   Date of Decision 28 June 2007
   Application Ref: NCC – 07/00010/CCD, ENC – 07/00973/NCC
4.0 Proposed Development

Need for development

4.1. The main need for the buildings is to facilitate the future investment in Education at Prince William School. The full details of this are covered in the statement of educational need in Appendix A in this report.

Description

4.2. The Proposed Development comprises the construction of twelve temporary classrooms and a hall using a modular method of construction. These buildings will be on site for a period of 104 weeks.

4.3. The Proposed Development will provide decant accommodation to allow future investment in new buildings to improve the educational environment for Pupils and Staff.

4.4. The Proposed Development would deliver educational land uses, (D1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use Gross External Area (sq. m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Educational facility (D1) 1393 m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 1393 m²</td>
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</table>

4.5. Vehicle access to the school will be amended in line with the proposed plan submitted as part of this application, (Ref: 4157/03 T2).

4.6. Pedestrian access to the school will remain unchanged.

4.7. In terms of car parking / cycle parking spaces the existing arrangements will be amended in line with the proposed plan submitted as part of this application, (Ref: 4157/03 T2). This will provide for an increase of circa 37 designated car park spaces for staff and visitors. There will be increased provision for disabled parking. The proposals include for an additional 2 no. coach / bus spaces. The proposals submitted in plan Ref: 4157/03 T2 will meet the long term car park and access requirements of the school at full capacity.

4.8. The proposals include for new gates and security fencing for the school and again these are in line with the long term requirements for the school. (Ref: 4157/03 T2)
5.0 Planning Policy

The application for interim accommodation at Prince William School is an enabling development ahead of the main development of the school site. The main development of the school site will be subject to a separate planning application.

A. National Planning Policy

5.1. The Government Policy Statement (DCLG August 2011) seeks to ensure that the answer to proposals for the development of state-funded schools should be, wherever possible, “yes”. The policy statement sets out the following guidance and principles:

- There should be a presumption in favour of the development of state-funded schools, as expressed in the National Planning Policy Framework.

- Local authorities should give full and thorough consideration to the importance of enabling the development of state-funded schools in their planning decisions. The Secretary of State will attach significant weight to the need to establish and develop state-funded schools when determining applications and appeals that come before him for decision.

5.2. Paragraph 72 of the NPPF makes it clear that the Government attaches great importance to ensuring that a sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing and new communities and requires that local planning authorities should take a proactive, positive and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement for development that will widen choice in education provision. Paragraph 72 goes on to state that local planning authorities should:

- Give great weight to the need to create, expand or alter schools;

- Work with schools promoters to identify and resolve key planning issues before applications are submitted.

5.3 This application is associated with the expansion of age range at Prince William School and the reorganisation and education delivery in the area. The school serves the whole North East Northamptonshire area for secondary education, and in terms of national planning policy is an essential provision for state funded schools in Northamptonshire. The following aspects specifically address this policy:

- Schools to serve communities: Prince William serves pupils aged 11 to 18 in the NE Northamptonshire area; the alternative would be to travel out of County or to the nearest secondary schools at Raunds, Higham Ferrers or Corby.

- Sufficiency of places: NCC has a statutory duty to provide school places and provision is required at Prince William to serve Oundle and the surrounding area

- Widen choice in education provision: change to an 11 to 18 school is to support increased educational standards and effective curriculum delivery: the aim is to ensure Prince William is a school of choice for parents and their children

- Collaboration in developing proposals: the transitional accommodation that is being proposed at Prince William has been determined through considerable community engagement and the desire to ensure good quality learning environments

5.4. The NPPF sets out the Governments planning policies and how these are expected to be applied. It identifies at paragraph 6 that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies at paragraph 7 that there are three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental and that the planning system must therefore perform a number of roles:

- an economic role – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy;

- a social role – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities;
• **an environmental role** – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment.

The relevant provisions of the NPPF in addressing the key issues to the determination of the Proposed Development are considered in detail within the following Section of this Planning Statement. In summary, the Proposed Development would contribute to the achievement of sustainable development via:

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BENEFIT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

**An economic role**
- Facilitate capital investment of approximately £9 million.
- Additional spend will be generated within the local and town centre economy

**A social role**
- Facilitate the Development of Prince William School.

**An environmental role**
- Modular Construction is a modern method of construction reducing disruption to the community during construction.

**B. Regional Planning Policy**

*(North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy)*

5.5 The County Council’s proposals to change the education delivery model from a three-tier to a two tier system in North East Northamptonshire will have clear positive outcomes contributing to specific objectives set out in the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy. The Statement of Education Need set out in Appendix A provides further detail.

5.6 Primary schools situated in the villages, (see below) within the North East Northamptonshire area currently educate pupils in the age range 4 to 9 years. From September 2015 pupils in the area will remain within the primary schools until the age of 11.

- Glatthorn
- Kings Cliffe
- Titchmarsh
- Polebrook
- Aldwincle
- Nassington
- Warmington

5.7 The move to a two tier system of Primary and Secondary schools will strengthen the primary schools in the communities and the role they play within the community. This in turn will contribute directly to Objective Three of the Plan: Network of Settlements by contributing to the self-sufficiency of the area as a whole.

5.8 The provision of a single secondary school in Oundle, (Prince William School) for educating pupils from ages 11 to 18 will contribute to Objective Four of the Plan: Town Centre Focus by enhancing the services and facilities located in the town centre.

5.9 **Objective Six: Infrastructure and Services.** The planned improvement in educational provision within North East Northamptonshire as a result of the move from three to two tier delivery will sustain and enhance existing communities and promote investment and confidence in the area.
5.10 The provision of interim accommodation at Prince William School is an essential requirement in delivering the transformation from a three tier to two tier education delivery model in the area. The accommodation will allow the school to take on the additional pupils whilst the long term development of the site is completed.

5.11 **Objective Nine: Regeneration.** The Council considers that the best educational outcomes at GCSE and ‘A’ Level can be achieved by Prince William School becoming a 11 to 18 Secondary school. This is key for the core spatial strategy in terms of economic success for North East Northamptonshire and the enhancement of pupils’ life skills for future employment.

5.12 **North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy. Relevant Policies.**

Policy 1: Strengthening the Network of Settlements – This application is part of a larger proposal to improve education provision in Oundle. This will directly reinforce and enhance the rural service spine and comply with this policy.

Policy 9: distribution & Location of Development – The site for the temporary classroom block is an existing hard surface play area on the Prince William School site and replaces an existing building. It is as close as possible to the other buildings on site while allowing the redevelopment of the school. The accessibility of the site will be improved by the provision of extra car parking spaces.

Policy 13: General Sustainable Development Principles – The proposed temporary classrooms will enable the school to be redeveloped in a more sustainable manner than it is currently. In terms of the temporary building itself, it has all the sustainable advantages of modular buildings – waste reduction, energy efficient building envelope, quality control and disruption minimised etc. Once the main building is completed, the temporary building will be removed and the space it occupies will revert to recreation space. The nature of the building and its speed of construction and removal will ensure that any impact on the amenity of neighbours in terms of construction will be absolutely minimised. The location on site and minimal external lighting means that there will be no impact on residents in terms of noise, light pollution, overshadowing or overlooking.

Policy 14: Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Construction – The proposal is not for a large development. The modular building has been designed to be energy efficient and completely recyclable at the end of its life. Sanitary facilities and sinks will be specified to minimise water use, with percussion taps, small cisterns etc. There will be the opportunity to educate pupils in waste reduction and recycling as per the school policies regarding these.

**C. Local Planning Policy**

**Rural North, Oundle & Thrapston Plan**

5.13 The Rural North Oundle & Thrapston Plan (RNOTP) was adopted in 2011 and reflects the existing three tier pattern of education in North East Northamptonshire with lower, middle and upper schools. The move to a two tier system of primary and secondary schools is therefore not reflected in this document although many of the policies in the Plan are still applicable, particularly Policy 1: Settlement Roles.

5.14 In the Area Wide Spatial Policies (Section 4) Oundle is identified as a Rural Service Centre, which means it is to be considered a focal point for infrastructure where “the service base of the town will be diversified and extended.” The proposal to expand the age-range of Prince William School means that the focus for secondary education in the area is reinforced at Oundle, as pupils will be attending the school from the age of 11 onwards. The RNOTP talks about the settlement hierarchy for the area where there are different levels of local services and roles of towns and villages to form a network.

5.15 The proposed organisation of schools reflects this hierarchy with Prince William becoming the hub for secondary education in the Plan area, for pupils to move on to after completing their primary education at ten primary schools in the surrounding villages as well as Oundle and Thrapston. This also fits the Economic Policies of Section 7 where “in particular Oundle has been identified as serving an extensive rural hinterland.”
5.16 Section 8 of the RNOTP makes specific reference to Prince William in the context of planned development rather than the circumstances associated with educational re-organisation. Policy OUN5 (page 74) does however establish the principle that additional school infrastructure can be delivered at the Prince William site and there will be development of new school buildings. There is reference to any new buildings being “at least equivalent in terms of size, usefulness, attractiveness and quality” and, although temporary accommodation, the proposed modular building solution that is the subject of this planning application is considered to meet these aspirations. The choice of a modular solution to provide bright, modern learning environments was a key piece of feedback during community engagement, to achieve something that was different from traditionally provided mobile classrooms.

5.17 The overarching aim of the educational reorganisation, and specifically Prince William becoming a 11-18 secondary school, is the desire to raise educational standards. The reports that have been presented to Cabinet during 2014 have highlighted that GCSE and A-level performance have been below expectations and national benchmarks. Part of the strategy to address this is to remove the extra transition involved in the three tier system and align curriculum accountability and progression to the key stages and school phases.

5.18 This application concerns the temporary accommodation arrangements that are needed for September 2015 so that Prince William can accept Year 7 and 8 pupils at the start of their secondary education. This directly supports Section 3 of the RNOTP where it endorses higher educational attainment as one of the identified outcomes of the Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008-15. Paragraph 3.8 specifically refers to healthy, fulfilled and balanced lifestyles as a social outcome that can be achieved by “increasing the capacity of local educational establishments to cater for the increasing population and drive up local expectations and educational achievements.” It is particularly important that standards at Prince William are not affected by the transition to a two tier system and the modular building solution that is proposed, although temporary, signals a major investment in facilities at the school and aspirations of higher educational achievements even before permanent buildings can be completed.

5.19 Policy OUN5 – PRINCE WILLIAM SCHOOL – This policy recognises the need for Prince William School to expand to the east of its current premises as part of its identified need. The proposed site for the temporary building is to the east of the existing buildings and is therefore compliant with this policy. The building will be located on recreation space, but this will revert back to recreation when the building is removed.
Planning Statements

5.19 **Arboricultural**, (Tree Protection Statement). The proposed development is adjacent to a small copse consisting of mainly Ash trees. The location of the modular buildings, (as detailed in ST000) are clear of the tree canopies by several metres, (six metres) and the line of the modular buildings is further away from the location of the existing mobile classroom units on site, (M540 and M925). The development does not involve the removal or pruning of any of the existing trees, (Ref: ST000 – Replacement Mobiles).

5.20 The proposed development will not impact on the root systems of any of the adjacent trees. Therefore there are no requirements for any root protection measures during the works required to locate the buildings on site.

5.21 The proposals include for a 1.5m path to be constructed adjacent to the buildings on the North elevation between the building line and the adjacent copse. (Ref: ST000)
5.22 During the construction stages, (delivery, commissioning and removal) it is proposed to install secure heras type fencing line around the site for protection. The fence line will protect the trees adjacent to the site. Fencing adjacent to the tree line on site will be in line with BS5837:2012, Paragraph 6.2 and will be at a height of 2.0m around the site. (Ref: ST-000 0 – Tree Line Protection). See figures below. The fencing erected adjacent to the tree line will be treated as sacrosanct and once erected will not be compromised, removed or dismantled during the construction period without prior written consent from the Planning Authority.

**Figure 2**  Default specification for protective barrier

Key
1. Standard scaffold poles
2. Heavy gauge 2 m tall galvanized tube and welded mesh infill panels
3. Panels secured to uprights and cross-members with wire ties
4. Ground level
5. Uprights driven into the ground until secure (minimum depth 0.6 m)
6. Standard scaffold clamps
Figure 3  Examples of above-ground stabilizing systems

a) Stabilizer strut with base plate secured with ground pins

b) Stabilizer strut mounted on block tray
5.14 **External Lighting Statement.** The only external lighting proposed within the proposed development is over the external door bulkheads on the building entrances. There are seven entrances around the complex these are indicated in the drawings below:
5.15 The proposed external light fittings are detailed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Voltage: 240v, Mains voltage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wattage: 60W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamp holder: ES (E27), 1x 60W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type: Bulkhead / Wall light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction: Cast aluminium / Polycarbonate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finish: Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lightshade: White polycarbonate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP Rating: IP23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projection: 105mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diameter: 295mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.16 Transport Assessment. A full transport assessment has been undertaken in support of this Planning Application. In addition to this the overall impact on transport in September 2015 as a result of the proposed changes has been analysed by considering where the actual pupils who will transfer to Prince William School travel from and how they will travel to the school. The results are shown in the table below:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of pupils transferring to Prince William School</th>
<th>395</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of transferred pupils who are resident in Oundle</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of transferred pupils who would previously have travelled into Oundle to attend Oundle and Kings Cliffe Middle School</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of pupils who would now no longer travel into Oundle as they will now attend primary schools rather than Oundle and Kings Cliffe Middle School</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net journeys into Oundle (September 2015)</strong></td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.18 The school has also undertaken a travel survey of parents, governors, staff and visitors and an interim School Travel Plan has been drafted this will be reviewed in November 2015.

5.19 Both the recent survey undertaken by the school and information from the County Council school bus service indicate that a significant majority of pupils travel to school, (> 80%) by school bus. The net increase vehicle movements in September 2015 equates to approximately 1 coach and sixty car journeys, (including increase in staff).

### 6.0 Assessment of the Proposed Development

6.1. We consider that the key issues relevant to the assessment of the Proposed Development are as follows:

- Principle of development
- Good design
- Sustainability

6.2. These are addressed in turn below with reference to the Proposed Development and the relevant planning policies.

#### Principle of Development

6.3. The use of temporary modular buildings to facilitate capital investment provides an economic, quality teaching environment whilst future permanent projects are being completed. After the capital investment is complete the temporary accommodation will be removed and the land reinstated the site to the original condition.

#### Good Design

6.4. The use of modular construction allows a space efficient design to comply with relevant design standards. Flexibility of design will allow the building design to work within the parameters of the site, taking into consideration the schools requirements and the impact on the community the school is part.

#### Sustainability

6.5. The use of modular construction provides a rapid means of constructing buildings, by constructing the superstructure off-site. This reduces the number of transport movements to site and corresponding disruption associated with the construction process.

6.6 The appointed contractor Roan Building Solutions operates an ISO14001 accredited environmental management system.
6.7 All modular buildings have been designed and manufactured with ease of disassembly and recycling in mind. Bolted components, flashings and trims are all designed to be easily dismantled and reused.

6.8 Modular buildings do not use concrete as part of their fabric.

6.9 They are manufactured in a factory which minimises vehicle movements and the units to be deployed at Prince William School will be refurbished and fitted out off site.

6.10 The modular buildings are air tight exceeding the required U-value ratings.

6.11 The proposed development will use natural daylight and ventilation throughout.

7.0 Conclusion

7.1. There is a need to increase accommodation and capacity at Prince William School in order to transform the delivery of education from a three tier to a two tier delivery model in the area.

7.2 The proposed development is temporary. The development of the long term site is subject to a further Planning Application.

7.3. The proposed development contributes both directly and indirectly to the objectives set out in the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy.

7.5. The town of Oundle and the wider North East Northamptonshire area will benefit from the future planned investment in education facilities.

7.6. The use of modular buildings is a fundamentally sustainable approach to the development of the site which will reduce carbon use.

7.7. The project facilitates the long term transformation of the Site delivering benefits to the local community.

7.8. The majority of pre-application community engagement indicates support for the scheme and particularly the educational use of the building.

7.9. All matters set within national guidance, local policy and/or material considerations can be met fully either now or through the application of subsequent planning condition(s). There is no known impediment to prevent approval of the Proposed Development.
Appendix A – Statement of Need (Educational)

A1. Introduction

The need to install a modular building solution at Prince William School has arisen from the changing education system in North East Northamptonshire. Temporary accommodation of 12 classrooms and a hall is required for two years, so that the change to 11-18 secondary education on the Prince William site can be implemented from September 2015 in advance of permanent extensions being built. A separate planning application will be made regarding the proposals for an £8m investment in permanent new facilities at the school, due to be built by October 2017.

The County Council’s Cabinet granted final approvals for the change to a two tier education system on 11 November 2014 including the accommodation solutions for each school and the transition arrangements that would be required for implementation in September 2015. In the case of Prince William, this means that an extra 450 pupils will be attending Years 7 and 8 at the school for the first time, whereas previously 55% of them would have been in Oundle at the Middle School, and 45% were in Thrapston at King John Middle.

The case for change has been an educational one, as education results have been consistently below expectations for the area. Prince William School provides the Key Stage 4 curriculum (GCSEs) and Sixth Form offer for the whole of NE Northants and the change of age-range to create an all-through 11-18 secondary school instead of a 13-18 upper school is a key part of the strategy to improve results and lifetime opportunities for all pupils in the area. The provision of a high quality teaching and learning environment through an interim, modular building solution is an essential arrangement prior to the re-development and expansion of the current school buildings on the Prince William site.

A2. Background

NE Northamptonshire is the only part of the county that currently has a three tier system of education with lower, middle and upper schools. There are nine lower schools with an age-range of 4 – 9, two middle schools for pupils aged 9 – 13, and a single upper school (Prince William) for pupils aged 13 – 18. The area also includes Easton Garford Endowed CE Primary School. This was a lower school (4-9) until September 2013 when its age range was changed to 4-11 years of age following a statutory process initiated by the Governing Body. The two middle schools are The King John School at Thrapston and Oundle & Kings Cliffe Middle School in Oundle. The middle schools are technically deemed secondary schools by the Department for Education (DfE), but provide education for two year groups of primary Key Stage 2 children (Years 5 and 6) and two year groups of secondary Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8). Children then transfer to upper school for the final year of Key Stage 3 in Year 9 prior to selecting GCSE courses at Key Stage 4.

The last major education re-organisation in the county was the Northampton Review when the three tier system was replaced with a pattern of primary and secondary schools, again with the underpinning rationale for the change being the need to improve educational standards. Since those decisions in 2002, the educational landscape has changed considerably and a number of other factors have contributed to the decision to implement the change in NE Northants including changing legislation and governance for school organisation arrangements, and financial and estate issues associated with pupil numbers and longer term viability of schools. When the Northampton Review was implemented there was a £200m capital investment via a large group schools PFI contract; the accommodation implications arising for schools in NE Northants will not be a PFI solution and will be dealt with via conventional procurement. The closure of the Northampton Middle Schools was also phased over two years, and this is not the case for NE Northants, where a single date of transition was preferred. The Middle Schools in Oundle and Thrapston will therefore close on 31 August 2015 and the new arrangements will be in place for the start of the 2015-16 academic year. It is for all these reasons therefore that temporary accommodation is required at Prince William and the proposed modular buildings has been identified as the preferred solution.

A3. Pupil numbers

The Thrapston, Oundle and surrounding areas form a more rural part of Northamptonshire with a population spread over a wide area and with limited transport networks. This means that for many parents and families, Prince William is the only option for secondary education and there is a need to ensure that educational performance is improved, and sustained in the future with high quality facilities and learning environments.
The planned admission number at Prince William is 280 pupils per year group, although in recent years, the school has not been admitting the full number.

The current pupil roll is for Years 9 – 13 as an Upper school:

- Year 9: 200
- Year 10: 236
- Year 11: 230
- Sixth Form (two years): 162

From September 2015, the school will be admitting pupils for Years 7 and 8, so that the school provides the full secondary curriculum. The current pupil numbers in Years 6 and 7 at the Middle Schools are:

- King John Middle, Thrapston: Year 6: 108 and Year 7: 92
- Oundle & Kings Cliffe Middle: Year 6: 128 and Year 7: 123

This gives a total of 451 pupils who potentially would be transferring to Prince William for September 2015, although it is expected this number will decline as some parents have opted for schools outside of the NE Northants area.

The transport assessment provides further details of where these pupils are travelling from and the net impact on journeys into Oundle.

A4. Modular Building Solution

The County Council has procured a modular building solution via the Crown Commercial (RM875) Modular Buildings Framework for “Educational Units – Lease Hire of Modular Buildings”. Following an Open Day in November 2014 for the companies on the Framework, with an opportunity to view the school site, a detailed specification was provided to meet the needs of the school. The interim accommodation is needed to meet basic need requirements in the period from September 2015 up until permanent extensions being available for the new academic year in September 2017. The contract for the hire of the modular buildings runs from June 1st 2015 through to the end of June 2017, with an option for a rolling one month extension up to the end of August 2018. Planning permission is therefore being sought up until 31st August 2018 or the end of the construction period for the permanent facilities if completed sooner. The contractor is responsible for all aspects of the installation of the modular buildings and their decommissioning at the end of the contract.

The school’s requirements are for twelve classrooms and an additional larger space for general purpose use, (e.g. seminars, group assemblies, examinations, group learning and other similar use). The classrooms will be used for teaching a wide range of subjects including English, Modern Languages, Humanities and Mathematics. Two of the classrooms will be for the teaching of science and will be fitted out accordingly; one of the classrooms will be configured to be used as an ICT rich learning environment.

The tender specified a requirement for the external appearance of the modular buildings to be given careful consideration. In order to achieve the school’s commitment to raising standards, the interim classroom facilities on site need to be modern, stylish and welcoming in appearance to foster the confidence of parents and the pupils’ enthusiasm for learning. The quality of finishes within the internal classroom environment will be indistinguishable from any modern new build classroom in a permanent building.

The modular buildings are being sited on the current netball court adjacent to the all weather pitch and the school changing rooms, making use of the existing hard-standing and adjacent utility and drainage connections. This allows the school to operate effectively and meet safeguarding requirements for pupil movements between buildings on site. The location also takes account of where extensions and new facilities are being planned, and how contractor access will be provided for the duration of construction. The school will make alternative arrangements to deliver the PE curriculum whilst the netball court is temporarily unavailable; some re-organisation of facilities and minor works will be completed for September 2015 to support curriculum delivery, including increased hall provision for sports and dining.
Appendix B – Site Access Statement

This appendix sets out the approach and methodology relating to the transportation of modular buildings to site, their installation on site and subsequent transport off site at the end of the lease period.

B1. The proposed route into and out of Oundle for the delivery and removal of the Modular Buildings to and from site will be M1, A45, A605, Station Road A427, Osyths Lane, South Road then Herne Road.

B2. The typical dimensions of the individual modular building units are approximately 3m by 12.2m and will be transported to site by articulated vehicles. The dimensions of the units enable transport to site by articulated vehicles with a minimum of overhang, (300mm).

B3. During the delivery and removal of the individual units to and from site only a single articulated vehicle and unit will be allowed on site at any one time. Vehicles will be marshalled on and off site by the site manager in conjunction with the logistics sub-contractor.

B4. The total number of units to be delivered to and removed from site is 34 and it is anticipated the delivery and removal of units will take place over a four day period.
B5. Full consultation with Northamptonshire Police and Highways will be undertaken in advance of the delivery and removal of the modular building units in order to minimise disruption to local residents and the school.

B6. A single 100 tonne crane with 20m radius will be deployed to site and located as indicated in the diagram below in order to lift and place the units in line with the proposed plans.
B7. Swept Path Analyses, (SPA) have been provided for all vehicle movements to / from site in support of this application, (Ref: -------------------)