

12 July 2012

This record relates to Agenda Item 30

## **RECORD OF POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE DECISION**

**SUBJECT:** CHANGING THE AGE RANGE OF  
THREE PRIMARY PHASE SCHOOLS IN  
PORTSLADE – FINAL DECISION

**AUTHOR:** GIL SWEETENHAM

### **THE DECISION**

- (1) That the decision to proceed with each of the three proposals be endorsed;  
and
- (2) That the Council at its meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012 be recommended to confirm the statutory notices and resolve to change the age range to allow for an additional junior form of entry and expand the premises of St Peter's Community Infant School, Portslade Infant School and St Nicolas Voluntary Aided Church of England Junior School from September 2013.

### **REASON FOR THE DECISION**

The Council has a statutory duty to provide a school place for any child that wants one. Current and projected pupil numbers for the city as a whole show there is an immediate and ongoing need for additional school places in the city.

It is recommended that the proposals to change the age range of St Peter's Community Infant School, Portslade Infant School and St Nicolas Church of England Junior School and expand the premises accordingly are approved as this will provide the three additional forms of entry for junior age children needed in Portslade.

The Council believes the advantages of the creation of all through primary schools are follows:

- Greater continuity in teaching, pupil care and development under a single head teacher and teaching staff. It is very important to ensure continuity in planning the curriculum across the stages of education so that pupils make the best possible progress in learning.
- The school could offer a greater range of teaching skills, including the opportunity to appoint curriculum co-ordinators with the time to oversee the effective teaching of individual subjects across the whole 4–11 age range.
- Greater flexibility that a 4–11 school has in organising classes, deploying teachers and support staff and using resources, including buildings, more effectively.
- Closer contact with parents over a longer period of time and covering the full span of the children's primary education.
- Practical advantages to parents' e.g. same staff development days, the same school policies relating to home links, uniform, codes of conduct

etc.

- Transfer to a different school environment after three years or less of schooling might be seen as an unnecessary disruption to pupil's sense of security and well being. A positive feature of 4–11 schools is the social interaction between younger and older pupils.

The initial public consultation on options for providing the additional places showed that the majority of parents and carers of children at the current schools were happy with the proposal to create all through primary schools. Very few parents and carers were unhappy with the selected option. Subsequent consultation has shown that the number of parents and carers who do not support the proposals has further diminished. The vast majority of respondents (96%) to the consultation just prior to publication of the statutory notice supported the proposals.

The schools currently provide a range of extended services to the school community; this situation will not change as a result of these proposals.

The schools are covered by the admissions arrangements which strives to provide truly local schools which serves its most immediate community and assists in the aspirations of the Local Authority in terms of green travel arrangements.

#### **DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

A paper to Cabinet in January 2012 presented the full range of options available to address the need for future places in Portslade. The proposals within this report were the preferred option for addressing this need.

**Proper Officer:**

Mark Wall, Head of Democratic Services

**Signed:**



Date: 16 July 2012

#### **CALL-IN FOR SCRUTINY**

Note: This decision will come into force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of the meeting at which the decision was taken subject to:

- (i) any requirement for earlier implementation of the decision or,
- (ii) the decision being called in for review by 5 Members from two or more Groups represented on the Council.

