

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER MEETING

Agenda Item 63

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Proposed Expansions of Primary Schools – Consultation Outcome		
Date of Meeting:	26 April 2010		
Report of:	Director of Children’s Services		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Gillian Churchill	Tel: 29-3515
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Key Decision:	Yes	Forward Plan No: CYP14508	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 As part of the Council’s future development of Schools within the city it is proposed to permanently expand Goldstone Primary School and Westdene Primary School by one form of entry from September 2011 and Queens Park Primary School by half a form of entry by September 2011.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to set out the background and rationale for these proposed expansions and to seek Cabinet Member endorsement for proceeding to the next stage of the statutory process, which is the publication of the required Statutory Notice.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 (1) That the proposal to permanently expand Goldstone Primary School by one form of entry from September 2011 be noted and endorsed.
(2) That the proposal to permanently expand Westdene Primary School by one form of entry from September 2011 be noted and endorsed.
(3) That the proposal to permanently expand Queens Park Primary School by half a form of entry from September 2011 be noted and endorsed.
- 2.2 That the publication of the required Statutory Notice to progress these proposals be agreed.
- 2.3 That the results from the statutory consultation processes are referred to Cabinet Member Meeting on 28th June 2010 for decision.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Brighton & Hove City Council has a legal requirement to provide sufficient school places for all school age children in the city. School places should be provided in such a way that parents and pupils can access a local school wherever possible.
- 3.2 Over recent years there has been a considerable increase in the number of children growing up in the city. Pupil numbers across the city are rising generally and the rise in south central Hove is greater than the city generally and already causing a pressure on school places that cannot be met locally.
- 3.3 The proposal is to now permanently expand Goldstone Primary School and Westdene Primary School by one form of entry each and Queens Park Primary by half a form of entry by September 2011.
- 3.4 To support the proposed expansions of the schools there will be extensions of each of the school premises that will be funded by a combination of the Basic Need Safety Valve Funding, Primary Capital Programme funding, the schools Devolved Formula Capital and other council capital funding. The extensions will provide additional classrooms to accommodate the extra pupils. There will also be some internal remodelling and refurbishment to each school to provide accommodation that will better fit the needs of current teaching and learning and the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum.
- 3.5 The governing body of each school has been consulted as part of the initial consultation process.
- 3.6 The views of the governing body will be finalised in light of the outcome of the consultation. The initial view of each governing body was that they supported the proposal to expand their schools. They are aware that the proposals would benefit the increasing number of parents and pupils of the communities served by the schools. Each Governing body will hold a special meeting at the end of the consultation period to determine their final views on the proposal that relates to their school.
- 3.7 In proposing the expansion of the three schools the following programme is to be followed.

Publication of Consultation Document	11 th January 2010
Public Consultation Meeting	February / March 2010
Last date for responses	5 th March 2010
Report back to Children and Young Peoples Trust Board	26 th April 2010

Issue Public Notice	10 th May 2010
End of public notice period	7 th June 2010
Decision by the Children and Young People Cabinet Member	28 th June 2010
Provisional Opening	1 st September 2011

- 3.8 The timetable will allow full analysis of responses to the notice to be prepared and presented to the Cabinet Member Meeting to be held on 28th June 2010. The report to that meeting will seek the final decision on the three proposals.
- 3.9 Copies of the draft statutory notices are attached to this report at Appendix 1.
- 3.10 For clarity these three proposals are not linked in any way. It will be possible to progress none, any or all of the proposals depending on the results of the consultation process.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Increasing the number of pupils within a school no longer falls under School Organisation regulations as it did before September 2009. However the resultant enlargement of the premises is still covered under the School Organisation regulations.
- 4.2 The School Admissions Code 2010 requires that any admission authority wishing to increase a school's published admission number can propose to do so during the annual consultation and determination of admission arrangements for all schools in the area. The School Admissions consultation carried out for Brighton & Hove between November 2009 and March 2010 for the academic year 2011/12 included the proposals to expand the three schools. Results of that consultation were reported to the Children and Young People Cabinet Member Meeting held on 22nd March 2010.
- 4.3 Documents outlining the expansion process were issued to governors, staff, pupils and parents and carers of all three schools 11th January 2010 and copies were made available to any other interested parties. Copies of these consultation documents are attached as Appendix 2 to this report
- 4.4 As part of the public consultation process public meetings were held at each school. The meeting at Goldstone was held on 1st March 2010, at Westdene on 23rd February 2010 and at Queens Park on 22nd February 2010. These meetings gave parents and carers, governors and other interested parties the opportunity to put forward their views. The meetings were attended by councillors, governors, head teachers and officers of the Local Authority. Notes of the three meetings are attached to this report at Appendix 3.

4.5 Goldstone Primary School

- 4.6 The Goldstone meeting was attended by approximately 30 members of the public. The main points raised at the meeting were about increases in traffic and the effect of the increased size of the school on local residents. There was also concern about whether there would be any loss of external play space.
- 4.7 This initial stage of the consultation came to a close on 5th March 2010. The responses to this consultation exercise have been collated and analysed. Copies of the responses received have been copied and put in the members rooms.
- 4.8 In summary 58 responses were received of which 34 were in favour of the proposal and 24 were against the proposal.
- 4.9 The responses from those who supported the proposals said that they understood the need for additional places in the area and welcomed the increase in capacity for the school as this would increase the chances of local children being able to gain a place at their local school.
- 4.10 The main reasons for opposing the proposal were
- Concerns about the traffic and parking situation outside the school
 - The school is big enough already at 2 FE
 - There will be disruption during any associated building works
 - Concern at the loss of outside space at the school

4.11 Westdene Primary School

- 4.12 The Westdene meeting was attended by approximately 25 members of the public. The main points raised at the meeting were about the capacity of the local roads to accommodate additional traffic at school drop off and pick up times. There were also a few concerns about the size of the school if the proposal was to go ahead.
- 4.13 This initial stage of the consultation came to a close on 5th March 2010. The responses to this consultation exercise have been collated and analysed. Copies of the responses received have been copied and put in the member's rooms.
- 4.14 In summary 78 responses were received of which 70 were in favour of the proposal and 8 were against the proposal.
- 4.15 The responses from those who supported the proposals said that they understood the need for additional places in the area and welcomed the increase in capacity for the school as this would increase the chances of local children being able to gain a place at their local school.
- 4.16 The main reasons for opposing the proposal were;
- The school currently has a wonderful community feel and ethos. Increasing the size of the school will jeopardise this;
 - The schools would be too big at three forms of entry;
 - there will be disruption during any associated building works;
 - Concerns about the traffic and parking situation outside the school.

4.17 Queens Park Primary School

4.18 The Queens Park meeting was attended by approximately 15 members of the public. The main concern raised at the meeting was about the size of the school and the site if the proposal was to go ahead.

4.19 This initial stage of the consultation came to a close on 5th March 2010. The responses to this consultation exercise have been collated and analysed. Copies of the responses received have been copied and put in the member's rooms.

4.20 In summary 33 responses were received of which 19 were in favour of the proposal 13 were against the proposal and one respondent was not sure.

4.21 The responses from those who supported the proposals said that they understood the need for additional places in the area and welcomed the increase in capacity for the school as this would increase the chances of local children being able to gain a place at their local school. They also welcomed the proposed expansion of the school as they felt that this would afford the school greater opportunities for extended activities.

4.22 The main reasons for opposing the proposal were

- That the site of the schools is too small to accommodate an increased number of pupils
- Concern about the increase in traffic on the local residents.

4.23 Analysis of existing pupil placements suggests that those who do not achieve a place at any of the three schools mentioned above are allocated places across a range of other schools right across the city. The Council believes that there will be no negative impact on other local primary schools as a result of these proposals. It is anticipated that the present trend of rising primary aged pupil numbers in the city combined with potential new developments will mean that further additional places will be required in the city even if these proposals are implemented.

4.24 The mix of pupils in primary schools generally reflects their local communities hence there is generally a narrower variation of social mix than that found within secondary school cohorts. The DCSF particularly supports the expansion of popular and successful schools where possible to better provide for parental preferences.

4.25 Regarding the argument that there is no need for an increase in places within the City, the numbers of children being born in the city has been rising for a number of years. The oldest of these children are now presenting for a primary school place. As a result of this it has been necessary to provide temporary additional forms of entry at Goldstone and Westdene Primary Schools from September 2010.

- 4.26 The proposal to expand these three schools forms part of the wider strategy for providing school places across the City

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1.1 The capital costs of the proposals would need to be funded from existing resources such as the Basic Need Safety Valve Funding, Primary Capital Programme, NDS modernisation and a contribution from the schools Devolved Formula Capital. Provision has been made for £7.67m in 2010/11 for the 3 schools and is included in the Capital Programme 2010/11 to CYP Cabinet Member Report dated 26th April 2010 (subject to approval). However, the total estimated capital costs are yet to be quantified and the overall funding will be identified in due course.
- 5.1.2 In respect of revenue costs, schools will be funded for additional pupil numbers and any potential increases in floor area through their budget share. The overall Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and Individual Schools Budget (ISB) will increase as a result of additional pupils coming into the Authority. If no additional pupils come into the Authority as a consequence of the expansion of the schools, the extra funding due to individual schools will be provided via the existing DSG and ISB.

Finance Officer Consulted: Michelle Herrington

Date: 07/04/2010

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 If it is agreed to proceed with the proposed expansions of the schools it will be necessary for the Council to publish statutory notices in accordance with section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and associated regulations. Following publication there will then follow a period of 4 weeks during which any person may make comment or objection to the proposal.

At the end of this representation period a decision on the proposed expansions will need to be taken within 2 months.

Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston

Date: 10/03/2010

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Planning and provision of school places is conducted in such a way as to avoid potentially discriminatory admissions priorities or planning processes. The city council and voluntary aided school governing bodies must be mindful of bad practice as described in the Admission Code of Practice.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 Planning and provision of school places are intended, so far as it is possible, to provide pupils, parents and carers with local places where they have asked for them. This is subject to limitations in school capacity, the funding available and the priority order for capital development determined by the Council.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 There are no implications for the prevention of crime and disorder arising from this report.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 There are no risk issues in terms of resources or risks to children as a result of this proposal.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 All planning and provision to for school places in the city should be operating on the basis of admission limits and admission priorities which have been the subject of broad consultation. The effective coordination of planning arrangements should lead to sufficient school places in all areas of the city and the removal of excess provision.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The alternative option is to leave the schools at their current sizes.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Brighton and Hove City Council has a legal requirement to provide sufficient school places for all school age children in the city. School places should be provided in such a way that parents and pupils can access a local school wherever possible. This proposal will provide much needed additional places.
- 7.2 The views of the parents and carers, staff, governors and pupils of the school expressed during the consultation have been considered.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Draft Statutory Notices
2. Consultation documents for the proposed expansions
3. Record of the public meetings held in February and March 2010

Documents In Members' Rooms

1. Consultation responses

Background Documents

1. None

