

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER MEETING

## Agenda Item 48

Brighton & Hove City Council

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>The Connaught Building – the infant stage of a new primary school for Hove</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>10 December 2010</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Strategic Director, People</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Gil Sweetenham</b>	<b>Tel: 29-3474</b>
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<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Forward Plan Number: 18698</b>	
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

## FOR GENERAL RELEASE

### 1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 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 as a whole. This need is most acute in south central Hove and on the Brighton / Hove border.
- 1.2 The most immediate need for places has been partially addressed by providing permanent additional forms of entry at Davigdor Infant, Somerhill Junior, Goldstone Primary School, Westdene Primary School and Queens Park Primary School, a total of 4.5 forms. A further form of entry has been added to West Blatchington Primary School on a temporary basis and two forms of infant entry have been added temporarily at Benfield. Consultation has begun on making this arrangement permanent for September 2011.
- 1.3 However, this still leaves a need for a further three additional forms of entry in the primary sector in Hove.
- 1.4 The Council has negotiated with City College and acquired a thirty year lease on the Connaught Building. This report sets out the detail regarding the interim arrangements for the management and refurbishment of the Connaught Building as the infant stage of the new Hove primary school

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) That the Cabinet Member notes the interim arrangements for the management and refurbishment of the Connaught Building as a temporary expansion of West Hove Infant School to open in September 2011.
- (2) That the Cabinet Member notes that further work will be undertaken to formally establish the Connaught Building as the permanent infant stage of a new Hove Primary School, which will be reported to the Cabinet Member in due course.

(3) That the Cabinet Member notes that further work will be undertaken to create the permanent Junior Stage of the new Hove Primary School at another site, which will be reported to the Cabinet Member in due course.

(4) That the Cabinet Member endorses the proposed admission arrangements for the interim provision in the Connaught Building for the academic year 2011/12.

### **3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:**

3.1 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.

3.2 At the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2009 the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People agreed that the CYPT should pursue the option of providing a new Primary School by further considering the top 4 scoring sites in Appendix 2 to that report. These being Hove Park depot, Hove Park Upper School, BHASVIC and Leicester Villas.

3.3 Since that time the Connaught Building became available and a leasehold interest has been acquired by the Council for a period of 30 years. This building is in the area of most need but is not big enough to host a three form entry all-through primary school. Officers looked in detail at different options and concluded that the Connaught Building should become a three form entry infant stage of the new Hove Primary School.

3.4 In order to open the school in September 2011 it will be opened as an annexe to West Hove Infant School for a period of two years whilst options for the permanent arrangement are finalised.

3.5 There are a number of possible routes for the legal creation of the permanent arrangement for the Connaught Building from September 2013. These include the creation of a new infant or primary school by following the competition route required by the school organisation legislation, the expansion of an existing school or the permanent establishment of the interim arrangement. This is not an exhaustive list of the possible routes and we will investigate all possibilities.

3.6 Admissions to the interim infant stage provision in the Connaught Building will be by application for a place at the Connaught Centre Annexe (referred to as the New Hove School in the admissions booklet) and determined by standard admissions criteria including distance measurement from the Connaught site. The allocation of places will quite separate from those for West Hove Infant School. The building will open in September 2011 with three reception classes only.

3.7 Capital allocations are known for the current financial year but not beyond as we are at the end of a three year spending review period. The Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) gives high level information on the capital that will be available nationally for the 4 year CSR period but it is not yet possible to accurately determine the level of funding that might be available from April 2011 onwards.

- 3.8 Plans are currently being drawn up for the refurbishment of the Connaught Building. Once future capital allocations are known it will be possible to package the work to suit the finance available. As an absolute minimum three reception classes, ancillary accommodation such as toilets, dining facilities, some staff accommodation and a school office will be provided in time for September 2011. Additional works will be carried out at the same time if possible or planned into future years budget allocations.
- 3.9 The adult social care day centres at the rear of the school are unaffected by these proposals. A full risk assessment will be undertaken ensure that it is possible to separate the activities of the school and the day centres without impacting negatively on either

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Discussions were held with a number of school Head Teachers and their Chairs of Governors prior to the decision for West Hove Infant School to manage the Connaught Building as an annexe for two years.
- 4.2 Discussions will be held with Head Teachers and their chairs of governors at those schools potentially affected by the proposed options within this report.

#### **5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

##### Financial Implications:

- 5.1.1 A figure of £1.5m has been identified and committed for redevelopment of the Connaught Site in the Primary Capital programme budget in the financial years 2011/12 & 2012/13. However given the announcement on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010 that indicates that the Department for Education's Capital budget will reduce by 60% over the period 2011/12 to 2014/15, we are not sure if this will impact on funding for School Capital. If this reduced then the funding for an expansion, additional build or purchase in Hove, for the junior department, will have to be the first call on any reduced budget.
- 5.1.2 The revenue funding implications will be that the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2011/12 onwards will include the funding for 3-16 year old pupils, therefore when planning the 2011/12 and future schools budgets, the funding for any expansion to a particular school or new school will have to be calculated.

Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore      Date: 22/10/10

##### Legal Implications:

- 5.2 Given that the report sets out that there is a projected future growth in pupil numbers and an anticipated shortfall in places in the academic year 2011-12, Members should be mindful that the Council has a statutory duty under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to ensure the provision of sufficient schools for the provision of primary and secondary education in its area.

The interim arrangements whereby the Connaught Building will operate as an annexe to West Hove Infants School pending the establishment of permanent infant provision

on the site do not require the publication of statutory notices as it is proposed that these arrangements will only remain in place for two years. Once decisions have been taken as to how the permanent arrangement for the Connaught Building will take effect, the Council will need to comply with the provisions of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 which sets out the statutory procedures which will need to be followed.

The national deadline for parents to express preferences for an infant/primary school place is 15 January 2011. The admissions booklet published in September 2010 alerted parents to the prospect of a decision being made in December 2010 regarding the interim arrangements for infant provision in the Connaught Building. It is recommended that in the event that the decision is taken in December to proceed with these arrangements that all parents are notified in order that they can decide whether to include the Connaught site as one of their preferences.

Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston

Date: 10/11/2010

- 5.3 Equalities Implications: 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 best practice as described in the Admission Code of Practice.
- 5.4 Sustainability Implications: All new extensions to Brighton and Hove Schools utilise, where ever possible, environmental and sustainable principles such as higher than minimum insulation levels, the use of efficient gas condensing boilers, under floor heating, solar shading and natural ventilation. Materials are sourced from sustainable sources where ever possible.
- 5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications: Throughout the development of the proposals consultation will be undertaken with community groups and the Community Safety team and police liaison officers. It is anticipated that by including the community in the development and use of the facilities at the schools that crime and disorder in the local area will be reduced. This will be further improved by offering extended use of the facilities to the community outside of the school day
- 5.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications: It is important that this opportunity is taken to ensure the future provision of learning and teaching, and continuing improvement in standards of education in the city.
- 5.7 Corporate / Citywide Implications: To meet the projected future growth in pupil numbers we should be looking to provide a minimum of 90 additional primary school places which equates to 3 forms of entry for September 2011.

## **6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):**

- 6.1 The Connaught Building offers the only opportunity to create 3 additional forms of entry by September 2011 in permanent buildings.

## **7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 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 as a whole. This need is most acute in south central Hove.
- 7.2 To meet the projected future growth in pupil numbers we need to provide a minimum of 90 additional primary school places which equates to 3 forms of entry for September 2011.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

#### **Appendices:**

1. NONE

#### **Documents In Members' Rooms**

1. NONE

#### **Background Documents**

1. NONE

