

Subject:	Permanent arrangements for the management of Connaught Infant School		
Date of Meeting:	10 November 2011		
Report of:	Strategic Director, Place		
Lead Member:	Cabinet Member for Children & Young People		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Gil Sweetenham	Tel: 29-3474
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Key Decision:	Yes	Forward Plan No: CAB25603	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 The Council negotiated with City College and acquired a thirty year lease of the Connaught Building. The CMM report of 10 December 2010 detailed the interim arrangements for the management and refurbishment of the Connaught Building as infant provision.
- 1.2 Interim arrangements were agreed with the Governing Body and Headteacher of West Hove Infant School for them to run the Connaught Building as an extension of their school for a period of two years from September 2011.
- 1.3 Governors at West Hove Infant School will review this arrangement in January 2012.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Cabinet agrees that West Hove Infant School manage the Connaught Building permanently from September 2012.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The Connaught Building opened in September 2011 as part of West Hove Infant School.
- 3.2 The school opened with three reception classes offering 90 places to children within the city.
- 3.3 For September 2011 there were over 200 applications for a reception class place at the school.

3.4 The options and plans for the Junior classes to support the three forms of entry at the Connaught Building are presented in a separate paper to Cabinet.

3.5 These Junior classes will need to be in place for September 2014

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 The Council has worked closely with the Headteacher and Governing Body of West Hove Infants throughout the establishment of the Connaught Building as a temporary part of their school.

4.2 Consultation with the Governing Body in July 2011 concluded that Governors will make their final decision, as to whether they would support the temporary arrangement becoming permanent for September 2012, in January 2012

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of the recommendation in this paper

Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore

Date: 20/10/11

Legal Implications:

5.2 If the Governing Body of West Hove Infants School agree to manage the Connaught building permanently from September 2012 such an arrangement would constitute a permanent expansion to the school. It would then be necessary for the Authority to follow the procedures as set out in section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 for proposed school expansions, which require formal consultation and the subsequent publication of statutory notices.

Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston

Date: 19/10/11

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 best practice as described in the Admission Code of Practice.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 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.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 By including the community in the development and use of the facilities at the schools 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

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 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.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The conversion of the Connaught Building into a tree form entry annexe to West Hove Infant School has been essential in providing additional places in the Hove area.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The options for the permanent arrangement for the Connaught Building from September 2012 are:

- The permanent establishment of the interim arrangement with West Hove Infant School
- An extension to an existing school, other than West Hove Infants School.

- 6.2 If neither of these options is adopted then a third option would be for the Connaught Building to become a separate Infant School run as an academy or free school from September 2013

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Given the number of applicants for places in reception classes at the Connaught Building, and expressed parental and community support for the interim work of West Hove Infant School in managing the site, officers believe the interim arrangements should become permanent as soon as possible.
- 7.2 Making the interim arrangement permanent will reassure local parents and the community that they have a permanent local infant school and sufficient places for the rising number of local children..
- 7.3 Making the interim arrangement permanent will enable West Hove Infant School to properly plan ahead for the Connaught Building regarding staffing and parental and community links.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Documents In Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

1. CMM paper titled The Connaught Building – the infant stage of a new primary school for Hove, 10 December 2010