

Subject:	Proposed options for the provision of 3 Junior forms Portslade		
Date of Meeting:	19th January 2012		
Report of:	Strategic Director, People		
Lead Cabinet Member:	Cabinet Member for Children & Young People		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Gil Sweetenham	Tel: 29-3474
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Key Decision:	Yes/No	Forward Plan No:	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Note: The special circumstances for non-compliance with Council Procedure Rule 7, Access to Information Rule 5 and Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act as amended (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) were that the consultation ended on 13 January 2012 and sufficient time was required to properly consider and address the responses within the report.

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 the west of the city.
- 1.2 As part of the solution for providing these places, Benfield Junior School was made into a primary school in September 2010. This has resulted in a mismatch in the numbers of forms of entry for infant places and junior places.
- 1.3 This report sets out the preferred option for providing the 3 additional junior forms of entry that are needed.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the preferred option of making St Peters Community Infant School, Portslade Infant School and St Nicolas Church of England Junior school into all through primary schools from September 2013.
- 2.2 That Cabinet agrees to undertaking the necessary formal consultation processes arising from the proposal.
- 2.3 That Cabinet note that following further investigations the preferred option for the provision of junior places in Hove is at Hove Police Station.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Pupil numbers across the city are rising generally and the rise in Hove and Portslade is greater than the city generally and already causing a pressure on school places that cannot be met locally.
- 3.2 The need for additional reception and infant class places in the city over the last three years has been partly addressed by providing permanent additional forms of entry Benfield Primary School. As a result of this change there still exists a need to find sites for three additional forms of entry for juniors (school years 3 to 6) in Portslade.
- 3.3 At its meeting on 10th November 2011 Cabinet approved negotiations with St Nicolas Church of England Junior School and St Peters Community infant school.
- 3.4 Following the Cabinet meeting officers met with the governing body at St Nicolas Junior School and the Diocese of Chichester to discuss the options that may be available. The school also invited the governing body of Portslade infant school to the meeting.
- 3.5 Both governing bodies and the diocese felt that their preferred option would be to make both schools all through primary schools rather than making St Nicolas a four form entry junior school and undertaking no work at all at Portslade infant School.
- 3.6 Officers also met with the head at St Peters Community Infant School who confirmed that the school is very keen to become an all through primary school.
- 3.7 It will be necessary to acquire a site adjacent to St Peters Infant school to be able to expand the school. Negotiations are underway on this element of work.
- 3.8 There is also a need to provide an additional 3 forms of entry for junior age children in Hove from September 2014. This is to provide junior places for the three forms of infant pupils who started at the Connaught building in September 2011.
- 3.9 A number of options were initially considered but all had draw backs of some description. The preferred option at the present time is to acquire Hove Police Station once it is vacated by the Police authority. This proposal will be the subject of further consultation and a separate Cabinet report in April.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Following the Cabinet meeting on 10th November officers met with the head teachers and governing bodies of St Nicolas Junior and Portslade infant schools to discuss the options available.
- 4.2 A short consultation document was sent to each school in Portslade explaining the options available. This information was also sent to ward councillors affected by the proposals and the executive member for children's services,

representatives of the two dioceses covering Brighton & Hove and West Sussex County Council.

- 4.3 The directly affected schools passed the consultation document to their staff, parents and pupils and the views expressed have been summarised in Appendix 1.
- 4.4 A total of 164 responses were received to the consultation of which 159 respondents were broadly in favour of making changes to St Peters Community Infant school, Portslade Infant School and St Nicolas Church of England Junior School.
- 4.5 The majority of these respondents favoured making St Peters Community Infant school a one form entry all through primary school by purchasing an adjacent site and making both Portslade infant School and St Nicolas Junior School two separate two form entry all through primary schools.
- 4.6 If the recommendations of this report are approved a further round of more formal consultation will be undertaken following the statutory provisions contained in the Education and Inspections Act 2006.
- 4.7 Guidance issued by the DfE entitled "Making changes to a maintained mainstream school' sets out the procedures that will have to be followed by the Authority in order to effect these proposed changes. A copy of this document is in the members rooms for information.
- 4.8 There will need to be public consultation on the junior school proposal for Hove both in terms of the proposed site and the management arrangements for the school.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There are no direct implications as a result of the recommendation to note the outcome of the informal consultation on the proposal to extend the age range of the three schools, or the recommendation to undertake formal consultation, however if the proposals are approved at a later stage then any Capital implications of the expansion will have to be met from the existing Capital programme in 2012/13. The cost of acquiring the site adjacent to St Peters Infants School will have to be met from the existing Capital programme in 2012/13 along with the costs of furnishing the new building in 2013/14 which will also have to be found from the existing Capital programme. The revenue costs of funding the new forms of entry will be met from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2013/14 onwards.
- 5.2.1 The cost of acquiring any new site for the junior element for Portslade will need to be met from the existing Capital programme, presumably in 2012/13 or 2013/14, in order to allow for any refurbishment or costs of furnishing a building in 2013/14 and 2014/15, which will also have to be found from the existing Capital programme. The revenue costs of funding the new junior school will be met from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2014/15 onwards.

Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore

Date: 06/01/12

Legal Implications:

- 5.4 If Cabinet approves the preferred options as outlined in paragraph 2.1 above, the Authority will need to carry out a formal consultation of all interested parties as required under the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Results of the consultation will be referred back to Cabinet for a decision as to whether to take the proposals forward with the publication of statutory proposals.

Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston

Date: 10/01/2012

Equalities Implications:

- 5.5 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:

- 5.6 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:

- 5.7 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

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.8 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.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.9 There are no public health implications arising from this report.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.10 These proposals are an essential element in providing additional places in local areas for local children.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 This paper presents the range of options available to address the need for future primary places within this part of the City.

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 the west of the city on the Portslade / Hove border.
- 7.2 To meet the projected future growth in pupil numbers we need to provide three additional forms of entry in both Hove and Portslade.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Summary showing the responses to the consultation

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. Copies of all responses to the consultation
2. DfE document 'Making changes to a maintained mainstream school'