

# **CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER MEETING**

## **Agenda Item 72**

Brighton & Hove City Council

|                         |  |  |                            |
|-------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|
| <b>Subject:</b>         | <b>Proposed Expansion of Longhill School</b> |  |                            |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b> | <b>19 January 2009</b>                       |  |                            |
| <b>Report of:</b>       | <b>Director of Children's Services</b>       |  |                            |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b> | <b>Name:</b>                                 | <b>Gillian Churchill</b>               | <b>Tel:</b> <b>29-3515</b> |
|                         | <b>E-mail:</b>                               | gillian.churchill@brighton-hove.gov.uk |                            |
| <b>Key Decision:</b>    | <b>Yes</b>                                   | <b>Forward Plan No. CYP7243</b>        |                            |
| <b>Wards Affected:</b>  | <b>All</b>                                   |  |                            |

### **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 expand Longhill School by one form of entry and to carry out the necessary adaptations to the building to facilitate this expansion.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to set out the background and rationale for this proposed expansion and to seek Cabinet Member endorsement to proceeding to the first stage of the statutory process, which is the initial consultation period required by the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 To note and endorse the proposal to expand Longhill School by one form of entry.
- 2.2 To agree to the initial consultation with the staff, parents and carers and pupils of the school and any other interested party.
- 2.3 That the results from the initial consultation process is referred to Cabinet Member Meeting in March 2009.

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

- 3.1 Brighton & Hove has been experiencing a rise in the number of children registered with GP's across the city for the last 5 years. This is already having an impact in the number of school places needed in primary schools and will start to impact in the secondary sector in the future.
- 3.2 In addition to this there has been a number of planning applications granted in recent years for developments of considerable size at Brighton Marina and Saltdean.

- 3.3 This has led us to look closely at the provision of secondary places across the city and particularly in the east of the city in the area of Longhill School.
- 3.4 Providing an additional form of entry at Longhill School from September 2010 will address the issues that could be raised by the increase in pupil numbers as a result of the increasing birth rate and the possible developments locally. It would also reduce the projected future pressure in the Dorothy Stringer and Varndean secondary admissions catchment area.
- 3.5 Consequently it is recommended that Longhill School is permanently expanded by one form of entry from September 2010. This would increase its published admission number to 270.
- 3.6 To enable the school to accommodate the additional pupils it will be necessary to provide additional accommodation at the school. The extent and nature of this accommodation is being discussed with the school. The discussions are being held following the completion of a detailed curriculum analysis and suitability survey of the school and discussion with the head teacher.
- 3.7 The curriculum analysis has shown that in addition to enhanced dining facilities and toilets the school will require additional general teaching spaces. It is proposed that the additional accommodation will be provided in a mix of new build and some internal remodelling.
- 3.8 One of the initial issues raised by the head teacher is the suitability of the dining accommodation which is inadequate even for a school of its current size. This situation has arisen as the school has expanded over time without consideration being given to facilities such as the dining accommodation.
- 3.9 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 sets out the process for making prescribed changes to maintained schools and this includes expanding a school by more than 27 pupils. The first stage of this process is to carry out an initial stage of consultation with all interested parties. It is proposed that this initial consultation is carried out in time for the results to be reported to The Cabinet Member Meeting in March 2009.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Secondary heads were consulted regarding this proposal at their meeting on 12 November 2008 and comments invited through a follow-up e-mail sent to all secondary schools on 24 November.
- 4.2 To progress further there is a need to consult publicly as part of statutory process under Education and Inspections Act 2006
- 4.3 The school will also consult with the community on the form of building prior to making planning application. These consultations are seen as part of the planning process.

## 5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

### Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The scheme is to be funded from Targeted Capital Fund (TCF) in 2009/10 and 2010/11 plus funding from the school in the form of Devolved Formula Capital (DFC). Other capital funding may be made available to this project and used as appropriate, however this will come from within existing capital budgets.

Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore – Schools Principal Accountant – CYPT  
Finance Date: 09/12/08

### Legal Implications:

- 5.2 In order to achieve the proposed expansion the Council will need to follow the statutory procedures set out in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and associated Regulations and Guidance issued by the DCSF. At this stage of the process the Council is required to consult 'all interested parties' on the proposals. The results of the consultation process will then be brought back to Cabinet in March 2009 for a decision whether to proceed to the next stage of the statutory process i.e. the publication of Statutory Notices.

Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston Date: 09/12/08

### 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 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 the 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 school as at present.
- 6.2 The concern regarding the adequacy of school places would remain.
- 6.3 The school would struggle to improve school meal take up and quality of food offered.

**7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 Investment in the school is essential to ensure the school continues to improve.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices:**

- 1. None

**Documents in Members' Rooms**

- 1. None

**Background Documents**

- 1. None