

Subject:	Expansion of West Hove Junior School		
Date of Meeting:	16 July 2013		
Report of:	Director of Children's Services		
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Ward(s) affected:	Brunswick & Adelaide, Central Hove, Goldsmid, Westbourne, Wish		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Note: The special circumstances for non-compliance with Council Procedure Rule 3, Access to Information Procedure Rule 5 and Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) are that the consultation period did not end until 10 July 2013.

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 It is proposed that West Hove Junior School expand to include the additional junior age school provision to be provided at the former police station site in Holland Road, Hove.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to report on the outcome of consultation on this proposal and to seek approval to proceed to the next stage of the statutory process, which is the publication of Statutory Notices.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To note the responses to the consultation undertaken regarding the proposal in 1.1 above.
- 2.2 To agree to the publication of the required Statutory Notices to progress this proposal.
- 2.3 That following the statutory notice period the matter is referred back to the meeting of the Children and Young People Committee on 14 October 2013 for final 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 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 at the Connaught site of West Hove Infant School. Following this change there existed a need to find a site for the additional forms of entry for juniors (school years 3 to 6) in the proximity of the Connaught site.
- 3.3 At its meeting on 12th July 2012 Policy and Resources Committee agreed to the purchasing of Hove police station which was due to be vacated by the Police in January 2013. This purchase has now been concluded and design work has started on converting the building to a four form entry junior school. This would provide a comparable number of places to the year groups that would be moving up from the Connaught site of West Hove Infants.
- 3.4 Discussions were held with two local junior schools regarding the management of the former police station upon its conversion to a junior school. The decision was taken to proceed with a proposal to expand West Hove Junior School onto the site of the former police station.
- 3.5 The governing body of West Hove Junior School have indicated that they are happy to take on this responsibility in principle but would wish to reserve making a final decision until the results of the consultation exercise are known.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Following receipt of Delegated Authority to commence consultation with pupils, parents, carers and staff on 22nd May 2013, a consultation document was issued on 5 June 2013, published online and was circulated to the parents, staff and governors of West Hove Infant and Junior Schools and to Heads of all schools and Colleges in Brighton & Hove. It was also circulated to all Councillors. (attached as Appendix 1 to this report).
- 4.2 As part of the public consultation process a public meeting was held on 17th June 2013 at West Hove Infant School Connaught site. The meeting was noted and a copy of the notes is included as Appendix 2 to this report.
- 4.3 This initial stage of the consultation came to a close on 8 July 2013. The responses to this consultation exercise have been collated and analysed and are shown at Appendix 3 to this report.
- 4.4 In summary 24 responses were received of which 23 were in favour of the proposal and 1 was against the proposal. There was support for the proposal that the new site should be managed as part of West Hove Junior School and that the new site should be a 'linked school' with West Hove Infant School for admissions purposes.
- 4.5 Practical concerns were raised about families and staff travelling between split sites and a shuttle bus was suggested in addition to staggered timetabling. There was concern about child safety with traffic, particularly industrial vehicles

using Holland Road. Several of those supporting the proposal suggested that using the police station site should be a temporary measure while purpose built facilities with playing fields were developed or as a minimum that an external play area was found.

- 4.6 The one response opposed to the proposal preferred a self-managed free school.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The costs of re-modelling the former police station building will be met from the education capital programme for 2013/14 and 2014/2015. The revenue costs of funding the new forms of entry will be met from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2014/15 onwards

Finance Officer Consulted: Name: Andy Moore Date: 04/07/13

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 In order to achieve the proposed expansions it has been necessary to carry out a formal consultation exercise with all interested parties. If the decision is now made to proceed with the proposals following this consultation, statutory notices will need to be published in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and associated regulations. There will then follow a period of 4 weeks within which any person may make comment or object to the proposal.

At the end of this representation period a decision on the proposals will need to be taken by the Children and Young Persons Committee within 2 months.

Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston Date: 04/07/13

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 There are no implications for crime and disorder arising from this proposal.

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.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.7 There are no public health implications arising from this report

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 These proposals are an essential element in providing additional local school places for children.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The proposal for the management of this new provision was discussed with the governing bodies of two local schools. West Hove Junior School governing body was willing in principle to accept this role. This has the benefit that West Hove Junior School already works closely and successfully in partnership with West Hove Infant School, and this positive relationship can be extended for the benefit of children transferring from the Connaught site to the Holland Road site.
- 6.2 The site could have been developed as a separate new school. Under current legislation, this would have to be a free school. The Council has not been approached by a potential sponsor group, and given the timescales against which the junior places must be provided, it would not now be feasible to build in the process of seeking a sponsor who would then need to secure DfE approval before developing the school.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 At its meeting on 12th July 2012 Policy and Resources Committee agreed to the purchasing of Hove police station which was due to be vacated by Sussex Police in January 2013 since this was the preferred option for providing the additional forms of entry for junior age children currently at West Hove Infant School Connaught Annex.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 To meet the projected future growth in pupil numbers we need to provide four additional forms of entry for junior age children.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Consultation document
2. Notes from the public meeting
3. Analysis of responses

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. A copy of all responses to the consultation

Background Documents

None

