

Subject:	Proposed options for the provision of 3 Junior forms Portslade - Results of consultation		
Date of Meeting:	10th May 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: 28968	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

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

- 1.1 Current and projected pupil numbers for the city 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 Cabinet agreed at its meeting on 19th January 2012 on the preferred option for providing the 3 additional junior forms of entry that are needed.
- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to report the outcome of the initial consultation undertaken between February and April 2012 and to seek Cabinet endorsement to proceeding with the publication of the necessary statutory notice. In addition to seek Cabinet endorsement to the necessary site acquisition for the expansion of St Peter's Community Infant School.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Cabinet endorses 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 To agree to the publication of the required Statutory Notices to progress this proposal.
- 2.3 To delegate the final decision on the proposal to the Strategic Director, People and the lead member for Children and Young People following the end of the statutory notice period.

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 19th January 2012 Cabinet agreed the preferred option for providing the 3 additional junior forms of entry that are needed and that the further consultation required by the Education and Inspections Act 2006 on the proposals to extend the age range of all three schools be undertaken and the results be reported back to Cabinet.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Following the Cabinet meeting on 19th January 2012 a consultation document was prepared for each of the schools and was circulated to the parents, pupils, staff and governors at the schools. Copies of the document were also placed in the reception areas of each school and on the website of each school.
- 4.2 Copies of the consultation document were also sent to the head teachers of all other schools in Portslade, ward councillors, the local Member of Parliament and representative of the Diocese.
- 4.3 The consultation document included details of how to respond and a tear of response slip. The closing date for the consultation was 2nd May 2012. The responses to the consultations are reported below.

St Nicolas Church of England Junior School.

- 4.4 A total of 11 responses were received of this 10 were in favour and 1 was against.

Portslade Infant School.

- 4.5 A total of 54 responses were received of this 52 were in favour and 2 were against.

St Peter's Community Infant School

- 4.6 A total of 6 responses were received of this 6 were in favour and none were against
- 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 The results of the consultation indicate that there is support to make the changes as suggested it is therefore recommended to proceed to the next stage of the process which is the publication of the statutory notices.

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 publish the statutory notices, 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.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3. The revenue costs of funding the additional forms of entry will be met from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2013/14 onwards.

Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore

Date: 17 04 12

Legal Implications:

- 5.4 In order to achieve the proposed changes in age range 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 6 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 within 3 months.

Lawyer Consulted:

Natasha Watson

Date: 27/05/12

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:

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

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 This paper presented to Cabinet in January 2012 presented the full range of options available to address the need for future. These were the preferred option for addressing this need.

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 Portslade.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. None

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. DfE document 'Making changes to a maintained mainstream school'