



Brighton & Hove

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF LONGHILL SCHOOL BY ONE FORM OF ENTRY FROM SEPTEMBER 2010

- inviting you to have your say -

Why are we consulting you?

This document is published by Brighton and Hove City Council and is intended as a basis for consultation with governors, staff, pupils, parents and other interested groups about a proposal to expand Longhill School by one form of entry from September 2010.

This document sets out the reasons for the proposal, identifies the issues for consideration and explains the arrangements for consultation. At the end you will find details of a public meeting to which you are invited and a reply slip for you to let us know what you think. There is also some information about what happens after consultation.

Some background facts

Brighton and 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.

The current position

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.

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. 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.

What is proposed?

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

By increasing the number of places available at the school it is likely that more local families would be able to access their local secondary school. This will assist the Local Authority ambition that schools become centres of community learning.

The scheme is to be funded from Targeted Capital Fund (TCF) in 2009/10 and 2010/11 plus funding from school in 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.

Views of the Governing Body

The governing body of the school has been consulted. The proposal was considered by the governing body prior to taking the decision to hold a public consultation. The initial view of the governing body was

that it was a sensible and desirable proposal that would benefit the community served by the school.

The views of the governing body will be finalised in light of the consultation, Governors will hold a special meeting at the end of the consultation period to determine their final views on the proposal.

Consultation arrangements

Secondary heads were consulted regarding this proposal at their meeting on 12th November 2008 and comments invited through a follow-up e-mail sent to all secondary schools on 24th November 2008.

To progress further there is a need to consult publicly as part of statutory process under Education and Inspections Act 2006

The school will also consult with community on the form of building prior to making planning application. These consultations are seen as part of planning process.

If, having read this document, you would like to comment on the proposals, there are several opportunities for doing so:

- You should complete and return (either to the school or Kings House) the reply slip included in this document.
- You can send a letter to the Assistant Director Central Area and School Support, Kings House, Grand Avenue, Hove BN23 2SR. *Please mark your letter for the attention of Gil Sweetenham*
- In the interests of economy, letters will not be acknowledged or responded to.

- **Replies must be received by 13th March 2009**

- You are welcome to attend the **Public Meeting** which has been arranged for:

Date: 24th February 2009

Time: 7pm

Venue: Longhill School

- At this meeting parents and others will have the opportunity to put forward their views. Officers from the Children and Young Peoples Trust will be present to clarify points of detail.

The next stage

All of the views put forward during the consultation stage will be reported to the Cabinet Member for the Children and Young Peoples Trust. This will allow an informed decision to be made regarding progression to the next stage in the process.

If it is decided to move ahead with the proposal the next stage is the issuing of a Statutory Notice detailing the proposal. The notice will be in force for a period of four weeks during which time objections to and comments on the proposal may be made by any person or group. Details of how to make an objection or comment will be incorporated within the Statutory Notice.

The Council is empowered to make the decision on whether to implement the proposal contained in the Statutory Notice but in doing so has to take account of guidance issued by the Department of Children Schools and Families. Any comments or objections have to be considered as part of the decision making process. The Final decision regarding this proposed change will be made by the Cabinet Member for the Children and Young Peoples Trust.

The proposals set out in this document are put forward as a basis for consultation only. It is stressed that **no decisions have yet been made** and that none will be made until consultations have been completed and all views carefully considered by Brighton and Hove City Council.

The Children and Young Peoples Trust major objective is to ensure the outcome of this consultation has local support and is in the best interests of pupils in Brighton and Hove.

DO PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR VIEWS

If you require any further copies of this document please request them by ringing 01273 293474 or emailing marie.chesham@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Address for this returning this document:
Marie Chesham Brighton & Hove City Council
Room 320, King's House, Grand Avenue
HOVE, BN3 2ZZ

Please return by **13th March 2009**

All responses will be treated confidentially
Thank you for your assistance in our review

The following timetable is proposed:

Publication of Consultation Document

23rd January 2009

Public Consultation Meeting	24 th February 2009
Last date for responses	13 th March 2009
Report back to Cabinet member Meeting	20 th April 2009
Issue Public Notice	1 st May 2009
End of public notice period	28 th May 2009
Decision by the CYPT Cabinet Member	June / July 2009

Provisional Opening 1 September 2010

The Councillors for the area are:

Rottingdean Coastal – Councillors Mary Mears, Lynda Hyde and David Smith

Woodingdean – Councillors Dee Simpson and Geoffrey Wells

East Brighton – Councillors Gill Mitchell, Craig Turton and Warren Morgan

Please Note: Apart from the public meeting on 24th February 2009, which will be held at the school, all other meetings are held at Hove Town Hall. For the exact times, please contact Marie Chesham on telephone number: 01273 293474

RESPONSE FORM

Please return no later
than
13th March 2009

To: Gil Sweetenham
Assistant Director Central Area
And School Support
Kings House

Tel: (01273) 293433

Fax: (01273) 293596

Proposed expansion of Longhill School

Name

Address

(Please tick as appropriate) I am:

The parent of a pupil:

I support the proposal

A member of staff:

A school governor:
(please state which school)

I do not support the proposal

Other interested party:
(please state which)

My comments are as follows: *(please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)*