

**FULL PROPOSAL INFORMATION TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF  
BLATCHINGTON MILL SCHOOL FROM 11 TO 18 TO 11 TO 16 THUS  
REMOVING THE SIXTH FORM**

**NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY MAKING THE PROPOSAL**

Brighton & Hove City Council  
Hove Town Hall  
Norton Road Hove  
BN3 4AH

**NAME, ADDRESS AND CATEGORY OF THE SCHOOL**

Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College, Nevil Road, Hove BN3 7BW is a mainstream community secondary school serving pupils from 11 to 18 years of age. It does not have a religious character.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL**

In accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006, as amended, (the Act) it is proposed that Brighton and Hove City Council, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove, BN3 4AH make prescribed alterations to Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College, Hove BN3 7BW.

The proposal, being made by the Local Authority, Brighton & Hove City Council, is that the age range of Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College is changed from an 11-18 school with sixth form, which it is at present, to an 11-16 school from September 2019. The school currently offers sixth form provision at Blatch Six for students aged 16-18. This proposal would close Blatch Six and the school would continue to provide an education for 11-16 year olds only.

**THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSAL**

During both the Sussex Area Review and the Local Area Review, concerns were expressed about the viability of post 16 provision where numbers of students are below 200 students across the 6<sup>th</sup> form. Although the focus of The Sussex Area Review was not schools, it drew attention to the application threshold of 200 for new school 6<sup>th</sup> forms.

In March 2016, guidance was issued by the Department of Education which states: "The Area Review encourages school sixth forms to collaborate to a greater extent to help drive efficiencies. Similar provision in sixth forms is often duplicated in relatively small geographical areas, when it could be delivered in a more joined up way. This may be particularly the case where sixth forms are very small, as some evidence raises concerns about costs, breadth of offer and outcomes for these providers."

The Local Area Review, which was undertaken by the Local Authority, culminated in a report that was presented to the Children Young People and Skills Committee in October 2016, and included the following recommendations-

“That governing bodies of schools and academies consider the future financial viability of their sixth form provision.

Where the long term financial circumstances of a sixth form is likely to be challenging, then each school or academy should have a plan to address these challenges. Strategies might include realistic plans for securing greater numbers via collaboration with aspects of provision with other institutions, or possible merger with another provider to achieve scale of provision.

Governing bodies and schools review their specialisms to meet needs of their learners, especially more vulnerable young people.

Schools and academies continue to build stronger relationships with local employers to ensure students have the skills needed for future employment.”

The LA recognises the benefits of having school based provision and would wish to see this continue but within a context of sustainability and viability which could be a joint or sole provision in the Hove area. It is also essential that there is sufficient provision to meet the city's needs and this applies specifically to more vulnerable learners.

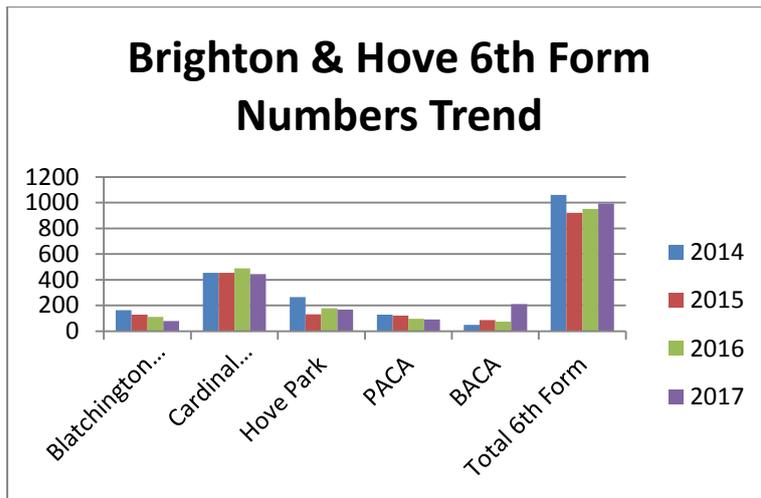
The Blatchington Mill Head teachers post 16 report of July 2017 makes it clear that the numbers of students on roll, and the level of success achieved on academic courses are insufficient to argue for provision at the school to continue as it has been in the past.

Partnership with Hove Park School has brought renewed energy to the provision, and a strong and clear focus on Blatch six provision from the leadership team in 2016-17 has meant that standards have risen. There are a number of students for whom a school sixth form is of huge value – and the local authority supports this view. However, it is likely that this is only sustainable with at least 250 students. There is no indication that the sixth form will attract these numbers in the future.

This proposal will in effect mean that the sixth form at Hove Park School will become the school sixth form provision for the Hove area of the city. In making this proposal it is anticipated that the sixth form provision at Hove Park School will recruit sufficient numbers to make one sustainable viable successful school sixth form.

### **NEED AND DEMAND FOR PLACES & CAPACITY OF POST-16 PROVISION WITHIN THE LA CURRENTLY**

Overall school sixth form numbers in the city remain fairly constant at around 980 students per year. The most recent census data shows, sixth form numbers at Blatchington Mill School have declined to 78 in October 2017 whilst Hove Park School's sixth form are more than double this at 168 students.



6th Form Numbers	2014	2015	2016	2017
Blatchington Mill	163	129	111	78
Cardinal Newman	453	454	490	445
Hove Park	266	131	178	168
PACA	129	121	97	92
BACA	50	87	75	210
<b>Total 6th Form</b>	<b>1061</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>993</b>

Within the city, there is significant demand by students and their parents/carers for school based sixth forms. The smaller environment and levels of pastoral support offer an individualised and more supported experience which is highly valued. This complements the provision provided by the two sixth form colleges in the city. The proposed larger sixth form at Hove Park School will also enable the development of a more sustainable and wider curriculum offer for students, with the potential to increase the vocational curriculum offer both at level 2, or at a mixed level 2 and level 3.

#### **PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

It is intended to implement the proposal on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019. However the school will not be taking pupils into the sixth form in September 2018. Any pupils currently on roll at the sixth form who are undertaking a two year course will be able to complete their course at the school by July 2019 hence the proposed implementation date of September 2019.

#### **WHERE AND WHEN THE STATUTORY NOTICE AND FULL PROPOSAL INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE**

Brighton & Hove City Council will publish the statutory notice for this proposal on Friday 19 January 2018. The notice will remain in force for a period of 4 weeks i.e. until Friday 16 February 2018. Copies of the notice will be placed at all entrances to the school and in other places in the community; it will also be published in the Brighton & Hove Independent newspaper on 19 January 2018. A copy of the

statutory notice is attached as **Appendix 1** to this document. Attached as **Appendix 2** is a list of the locations where the notice is posted.

On 19 January 2018 the full proposal information (this document plus appendices) will be sent to the following recipients

The Governing Body of the School  
The Diocese of Chichester  
The Diocese of Arundel and Brighton  
East Sussex County Council  
Members of the Children, Young People and Skills Committee  
Ward Members  
**Hangleton and Knoll** Cllrs Dawn Barnett, Tony Janio and Nick Lewry  
**Wish** Cllrs Robert Nemeth and Gary Peltzer Dunn  
**Westbourne** Cllrs Tom Bewick and Denise Cobb  
**Central Hove** Cllrs Claire Moonan and Andrew Wealls  
**Brunswick and Adelaide** Cllrs Phelim MacCafferty and Ollie Sykes  
**Regency** Cllrs Tom Druitt and Alex Phillips  
**Goldsmid** Cllrs Saoirse Horan, Amanda Knight and Jackie O'Quinn  
**Hove Park** Cllrs Jayne Bennett and Vanessa Brown  
**St Peters and North Laine** Cllrs Lizzie Deane, Louise Greenbaum and Pete West  
Members of Parliament for Brighton & Hove

It will also be published on the council's website at the following address  
<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/schools/school-statutory-notice>.

Any person may request a copy of the full proposal information either by writing to Richard Barker, Head of School Organisation, Brighton & Hove City Council, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road Hove BN3 4AH or by contacting Gillian Churchill on 01273 293515 or via email at [gillian.churchill@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:gillian.churchill@brighton-hove.gov.uk). The full proposal is also on the council's website and can be found at <http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/>

## **HOW TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS OR COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL**

Any person may object or make a representation or comment on the proposal. This can be done by sending them to Richard Barker, Head of School Organisation, Brighton & Hove City Council, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road Hove BN3 4AH.

Following the closing date for representations, comments and objections a report will be prepared for the Children and Young People Committee to decide the proposal within 2 months i.e. no later than 16 April 2018. At the present time it is anticipated that the report will be considered at their meeting scheduled for 6 March 2018.

## **CAPACITY OF THE SCHOOL IF THE PROPOSAL PROCEEDS TO IMPLEMENTATION**

If this proposal were to proceed the capacity of the school would not be changed. The school currently has accommodation for sixth form teaching and social space, in the event that this proposal proceeds to implementation this space will be used to support the 11 to 16 pupils in the school.

## **OWNERSHIP OF THE SITE**

The freehold of the site is owned by Brighton & Hove City Council.

## **CONSULTATION**

All applicable consultation was carried out prior to publishing this full proposal.

Initially the school and its governors approached the Local Authority (LA) to say that they wished to consult on a proposal to change the age range. As this is a proposal that can only be made by the LA it was agreed that we would take this proposal forward. This included undertaking a consultation with parents / guardians, pupils and staff at the school as well as the wider community to gauge their feelings on the proposal.

A consultation document was prepared and issued on 6 November 2016. It was published online on the council's website and was circulated to the parents / guardians, pupils, staff and governors of Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College. In addition a copy of the consultation document was sent to the members of the Children, Young People and Skills Committee and all ward councillors whose wards fall into the catchment area for the school. A copy of the consultation document is attached as **Appendix 3** to this document.

The document contained details of how comments on the proposal could be made and the closing date of the consultation.

During this consultation stage a public meeting was held at the school. A copy of the notes taken at this meeting are attached as **Appendix 4** to this document.

The results of this consultation were reported to the Children and Young People and Skills Committee on 15 January 2018. At that meeting the decision was to proceed to the publication of the statutory notice and full proposal. A copy of the Committee report and Appendices are attached as **Appendix 5** to this document.

## **IMPACT ON OTHER SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES**

It is not believed that the removal of Blatch Six will have a negative impact on other schools or sixth form providers in the city. The two further local schools with sixth forms (Hove Park and PACA) may observe a slight increase in their intakes. But as Blatch Six has become so small, the potential surplus of students will be minimal.

Any changes will be of benefit to other sixth form providers through increased numbers.

The consultation referred to above included the sixth form providers local to Blatch Six. The consultation was brought to the attention of all schools in the city by using the Schools Bulletin. There have been no representations received from other schools to this proposal.

### **PROJECT COSTS**

There are no anticipated capital costs as a result of this proposal.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND DISABILITY**

Blatch Six is a mainstream school sixth form. It does not have any specific provision or unit at present and it is not intended that it will have one as a result of this proposal. In line with all colleges in the city Blatch Six does have a number of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. It is not intended as part of this proposal to alter this now or in the future. The same facilities will be extended to any future pupil at the 11-16 school as at present.