



## Brighton & Hove

### CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

## PROPOSED EXPANSION OF WESTDENE PRIMARY SCHOOL TO THREE FORMS OF ENTRY FROM SEPTEMBER 2011

- 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 Westdene Primary School to three forms of entry.

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**

Westdene Primary school is a successful and popular school. It caters for children primarily living in the BN 1 5 postcode areas of the city.

Over the last few years there has been year on year growth in the number of pre-school age children registered with General Practice (GP) Surgeries in the city. This increase seems particularly acute in the area of the city served by Westdene Primary School. It is anticipated that this situation is going to continue.

It is recognised that not all of these children will enter the maintained education sector, some will opt to attend church schools or private school, it is also recognised that parents of pre school age children tend to be most geographically mobile in the first four years of a child's life. However even

taking these figures into account the increase in the number of pre school age children in this part of the city is significant.

The Council has a statutory duty to provide a maintained school place for any child that wants one. We are committed to working with schools to make them centres for community learning, and supporting them in meeting the wider needs of the community by engaging social services, health, the police, and the voluntary sector. For this to be successful it is important that children can access a primary school that is local to their home.

### **What is proposed?**

The proposal is to expand Westdene Primary school to a three form entry school with a yearly intake of 90, an increase of 30 places per year.

To support the expansion of the school there will be an extension of the school premises that will be funded by a combination of the Primary Capital Programme funding, the schools Devolved Formula Capital and other council capital funding. This extension will provide additional classrooms to accommodate the extra pupils. There will also be some internal remodelling and refurbishment to provide accommodation that will better fit the needs of current teaching and learning and the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum.

### **What might be the advantages of expanding the school to three forms of entry?**

Expanding the school by a form of entry (an additional 30 places each year) will ensure that more families can access their local school. This means that children will be able to attend school with friends that they have made prior to starting school, parent will not have to travel long distances to deliver their children to school and extended services offered by the school can be tailored to meet the needs of the whole community.

### **Views of the Governing Body**

The governing body of Westdene Primary School has been consulted prior to taking the decision to hold a public consultation. The initial view of the governing body was that Governors and staff will look forward to the positive benefits such expansion will bring, both for the school and for the local community. Governors voted unanimously and also enthusiastically in favour of both the addition of a third form of entry at Westdene from Sept 2010 and in moving towards expanding the school to three form entry in perpetuity.

The views of the governing bodies will be finalised in light of the consultation results.

## Consultation arrangements

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 Schools Futures Project Director, Kings House, Grand Avenue, Hove BN23 2SU. *Please mark your letter for the attention of Gil Sweetenham*
- You are welcome to attend the **Public Meeting** which has been arranged for:

**Date: XX February 2010**

**Time: 7pm**

**Venue: Westdene Primary 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 Children and Young People. 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 six 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 Children and Young People.

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**

***Gil Sweetenham***

Schools Futures Project Director  
Brighton and Hove Council 01273 293433

Table 1 – Current and forecast rolls for Westdene Primary School and surrounding schools

				Forecast Rolls assuming proposal implemented				
				Capacity Range	Admission Numbers	Spring 08	Jan 09	Jan10
Westdene								

If you require any further copies of this document please request them by ringing 01273 294224 or emailing [alison.price@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:alison.price@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

Address for this returning this document:  
**Alison Price Brighton & Hove City Council  
Room 310a, King's House, Grand Avenue  
HOVE, BN3 2SU**

Please return by **5 March 2010**

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

***Provisional timetable:***

Publication of Consultation Document	11 January 2010
Public Consultation Meeting	XX February 2010
Last date for responses	5 March 2010
Report back to Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	26 April 2010
Issue Public Notice	3 May 2010
End of public notice period	18 June 2010
Decision by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	XX July 2010
Provisional Opening	1 September 2011

The Councillors for the area are:

Ken Norman  
Ann Norman  
Pat Drake

**Please Note:** Apart from the public meeting on February 2010 which will be held at the school, all other meetings are held at Hove Town Hall. For the exact times, please contact Alison Price on telephone number: 01273 294224

# RESPONSE FORM

*Please return no later than  
5 March 2010*

To: Gil Sweetenham  
Schools Futures Project Director  
Kings House

Tel: (01273) 293433  
Fax: (01273) 293596

## Proposed Expansion of Westdene Primary School by a form of Entry

Name

Address

(Please tick as appropriate) I am:

The parent of a pupil:

I support the proposal

A member of staff:

A school governor:

I do not support the proposal

(please state which school)

Other interested party:

(please state which)

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