

**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE
COMMITTEE
ADDENDUM**

4.00PM, MONDAY, 21 JULY 2014

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

ADDENDUM

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Proposed Expansion of St Andrew's C of E Primary School to Three Forms of Entry
From September 2015: Outcome of Consultation

Question

There has been indecent haste about this whole process. The Local Authority is giving the impression of taking decisions 'on the hoof' to respond to a disparity in pupil places without a long-term strategy to address the underlying issues. A new school has been swept into the long grass as being too complicated and costly to countenance (at a time when major funds have been irresponsibly set aside to indulge the Council's own accommodation projects). The responses to the concerns raised about road safety, loss of recreational play space and disruption show a naive and dismissive understanding of the situation. And sending surveyors around the school in the midst of the consultation process was intimidating and in bad taste. The project risks damaging an excellent and popular school running at optimum efficiency. It is bad practice to operate on a healthy patient. A new site solution should be found irrespective of timescales. Will the Committee please confirm that it will heed the findings of this consultation?

Stephen Jacques

Question

The proposed plans include the conversion of half the grass playing field to an all-weather surface, but as you cannot have a surface for football or running that is half grass and half all-weather, this will make it impossible to retain either the football pitch or athletics track in their current form and size. Has the Council consulted with Sport England regarding the loss of these two sports facilities?

Will Brandt

Question

Does the council believe that sufficient information has been published during the consultation to allow members of the public to make an informed response?

Lucy Brandt

Question

With such a large majority of 86.64% against the expansion what can realistically be achieved by 2015? Surely its inevitable a new consultation on a new basis is required. What is the council's interim Plan B measure?

Alexandra Tate

Question

Parents with SEND children have fled Davigdor Infants for St Andrews because of the modern facilities and space it offers. Don't the council and councilors realise that their doomed proposal of trying to cram in an extra 210 children at St Andrews is going to badly affect societies most vulnerable children, and aren't they ashamed of this, when they have £28.5 M of central Government funding to build new schools?

Info

I have special educational needs and was very lucky to go to St Andrews school. Mrs Chambers and her SEND team are brilliant. This is why they currently have eleven full statemented children in the school. Davigdor Infants with roughly the same number of children, has only one or two full statements since they over expanded to a four form entry, and were then forced to take bulge classes in 2012 and 2014.

Joshua Stanley

Question

As the parents of St Peter's Primary have found out to their cost, the council expand a school without any traffic safety plan being put in place. Its obvious to a child like me that 990 children and 990 carers just won't fit into the already hopelessly over crowded streets around St Andrews school and the choc-a-bloc dangerous Tesco car park. Why are the Council treating the the safety of us children in such a frighteningly casual manner?

Jessica Stanley

Question

When will this administration realise that wasting £2.5 million on 15 planned community places in St Andrews, in the wrong place, to address the vexed issue of directed children is patently not the answer, and that they need to consider the following options:

- Making Holland Road a straight through 2 form entry primary in 2017, after taking emergency bulge classes in 2015 and 2016 under the Davigdor name on the Holland Road Site to keep the council stats on directed children in check.
- Replacing the totally unsuitable Holland Road site (as a junior for West Hove Connaught Rd school) with a junior school on the old bowling alley on the seafront, which has remained empty for many years. The nearby bowls club which is under threat could be incorporated as a sports facility for the school rather than being turned into an ice cream parlour.
- Alternatively place West Hove Connaught site under the control of the superb management and teaching team of St Andrews School and remodel the two sites as a infant school (Connaught Road) and Junior School (Belfast St) using the shared facilities of the superb sports field at St Andrews. The Holland Road site can then be made a straight through 2 form primary and a further new 2 form primary school can be built in an area of high demand once the council has commissioned better granularity and migration data.
- Alternatively following through on Councilor Wealls pragmatic proposal to site a primary school on the rear of Kings House.

John StanleyInfo

Davigdor has taken emergency bulge classes in 2012 and 2014. The Council tried to push through totally unsuitable plans to expand Stanford Infants in 2013. I and a number of privileged colleagues have seen dot map data from the council officers, that show a majority of directed children in the recent 2014 allocation (pre Davigdor bulge class) were centred around Brunswick Square and St Michaels Place, which have no natural schools. The council now have £28.5 Million in central Government funding for new schools.

Question

Can the council confirm (and provide evidence) that the consultation process has met council defined and national statutory criteria ?

Peter Fleming

Subject:	Review of Secondary Schools Admissions Procedures		
Date of Meeting:	21 July 2014		
Report of:	Executive Director of Children's Services		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Michael Nix	Tel: 29-0732
	Email:	michael.nix@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

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 (as amended), (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) were that this report was commissioned by the Cross Party School Organisation Working Group at its meeting on 1 July 2014 and there was insufficient time to complete the report prior to the agenda being published..

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider and agree the timescale for the review of secondary schools admissions procedures which was requested by the Committee at its meeting on 10 March 2014.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee agrees that, in order to secure sufficient time to explore all options, consult widely and develop a consensus around sustainable procedures, the timescale set out in paragraph 3.10 should be adopted.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The purpose of the review of secondary schools admissions procedures is to consider options for admissions arrangements which sustain a high level of confidence through being fair, clear and objective and which provide the greatest possible level of certainty and predictability. These arrangements must have the flexibility to respond to the increasing numbers of secondary age students and must promote the most efficient use of all the school places available across the city.
- 3.2 A proposed methodology and timescales for the review have been considered by the Cross Party School Organisation Working Group (CPWG) and by the Secondary Places Planning Group consisting of secondary head teachers, college principals and representatives of the two universities. Officers have reviewed forecasts of secondary school numbers within each of the catchment areas and undertaken initial modelling of the effect of possible changes to catchment areas. A proposal for a research project into stakeholders'

perceptions of the existing admissions procedures has been agreed with the University of Brighton.

3.3 Key drivers for this review include

- Growth in secondary school student numbers which will continue throughout this decade and beyond
- The fact that some catchment areas already have or soon will have insufficient school places for the number of children living within them who are likely to want a school place
- The fact that even with this growth some catchment areas have too few children living within them, with the result that there are too many empty places in some schools

In order to secure sufficient places for the growing number of secondary age children in the city it will be necessary both to provide new places and fill the places that are already available. The admissions procedures are an important factor in achieving the objective of securing sufficient places

3.4 Aspects of the admissions arrangements that the review may consider include

- Whether catchment areas should continue or whether allocations should be determined by distance from home to school
- If catchment areas are retained, whether they should be changed and what would be the effect
- If catchment areas are retained, whether any over subscription should be resolved by random allocation as now or by home to school distance

3.5 The School Admissions Code contains statutory deadlines that in large part determine the timescale of any review. Formal consultation must take place within a minimum eight week period between 1 November and 1 March and arrangements must be formally approved by 15 April each year. At the end of the consultation the Council must decide whether to adopt the changes consulted upon or make no changes. It may not substitute different changes without further consultation, which would then cause the exercise to slip to the next annual cycle.

3.6 As the admissions arrangements for 2015 are already set, the earliest date for which new arrangements could be introduced is September 2016. As this would be a strategic change, it would be for the full Council to approve any new arrangements. Therefore any change in the arrangements for 2016 would need to be consulted upon between 1 November 2014 and 1 March 2015 and approved at or before the Council's meeting on 26 March 2015.

3.7 If it is not possible to achieve this deadline, any new arrangements could only be introduced for September 2017.

3.8 The last full review of the secondary admissions arrangements took two years to complete, with the Council finally approving the present arrangements based on catchment areas and random allocation in February 2007, for admissions in September 2008. It could be argued that this extensive experience, which has been further developed through the work on smaller scale reviews since 2007

such as the one in 2011/12 and the analysis of updated student number forecasts referred to in paragraph 3.2, provides sufficient information to develop a set of proposals for catchment area change for formal consultation in the 1 November 2014 to 1 March 2015 period. On the other hand, it could be argued that this timescale provides little time for informal consultation before proposals are published. The shorter timescale would not allow for a more detailed consideration of the current admissions processes, for example the use of catchment areas and random allocation rather than distance measurement.

3.9 The table below sets out an indicative timetable for introducing new arrangements for September 2016.

Complete data analysis and development of options for change	August 2014
Informal consultation with schools	September 2014
Committee reports and formal consultation papers prepared	September – October 2014
CYPC approves proposals for consultation	13 October 2014
Consultation commences	3 November 2014
Consultation ends	9 or 16 January 2015
Analysis and report writing	January – February 2015
CYPC: considers responses to proposals and whether to recommend to full Council for approval	9 March 2015
Council: final approval	26 March 2015

3.10 The table below sets out an alternative timetable for completion in time to implement for admissions in 2017.

Working Group set up: data analysis and informal consultation	March – December 2014
Research project to inform review	September 2014 – June 2015
Interim report to CYPC prepared	November - December 2014
CYPC considers interim report and makes recommendations for further work	January 2015
Working Group completes task through further data analysis and informal consultation and prepares final report	January- July 2015
Committee reports and formal consultation papers prepared	August – September 2015
CYPC approves proposals for consultation	October 2015
Consultation commences	1 November 2015
Consultation ends	Mid-January 2016

Analysis and report writing	January – February 2016
CYPC: considers responses to proposals and whether to recommend to full Council for approval	March 2016
Council: final approval	March 2016

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Committee at its meeting on 10 March 2014 commissioned a review of the secondary schools admissions procedures and this report concerns the implementation of that commission. The review is an essential element in the strategy for securing sufficient secondary school places as student numbers continue to grow over the next eight to ten years.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The proposals for the review have been developed through discussion with the Cross Party School Organisation Working Group and with the Secondary Places Planning Group which includes the heads of all ten secondary schools, the three college principals and representatives of the two universities.
- 5.2 Implementation of the review will include informal and formal consultation in accordance with the statutory School Admissions Code.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Council must plan ahead to secure sufficient secondary school places as student numbers continue to grow over the next eight to ten years. The review of secondary school admissions procedures is an essential element in that plan, in particular so that parents and children can have more certainty about the options available to them and so that efficient use is made of all the places available.
- 6.2 The timescale for this review must relate to the framework in the School Admissions Code. A decision needs to be made, in the light of the information in this report, on whether the review outcomes are to be implemented for admissions in September 2016 or September 2017.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 As Secondary school pupil numbers rise these will be reflected in the DSG revenue funding of the following financial year i.e. October 15 pupil numbers will be funded in 2016/17.
- 7.2 As far as any capital spending this will depend upon where additional places are needed and will be met from identified pupil place funding and timings and funding implications will be dependent upon the choice of location.

Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore

Date: 10/07/14

Legal Implications:

- 7.3 Section 88C of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-Ordination of Admission Arrangements) Regulations 2012 require admission authorities to determine their admission arrangements annually. Arrangements must be determined 18 months in advance of the academic year to which they apply.
- 7.4 Following the review the CYPC will need to agree the proposed admission arrangements prior to the statutory consultation period. The Regulations provide that the statutory consultation must last for a minimum period of 8 weeks and must take place between 1 November and 1 March. Arrangements must thereafter be determined by the Council by 15 April.
- 7.5 School admission arrangements for the academic year 2016/17 must therefore be determined by 15 April 2015, and for the academic year 2017/18 by 15 April 2016.

Lawyer Consulted:

Serena Kynaston

Date: 11/07/14

Equalities Implications:

- 7.6 All school admissions arrangements must be in accordance with the statutory School Admissions Code, which requires arrangements to be fair, clear and objective. An Equalities Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of the review.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.7 The current arrangements among other things ensure that most students do not have unreasonably long journeys to school and that many can walk or cycle to school if they wish. Any changes to these arrangements would need to take into account the impact upon home to school journeys and whether this would make it more or less difficult for students to walk or cycle to school.

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.8 The admissions procedures are integral to fulfilling the Council's duty to secure sufficient school places for all children of compulsory school age who want one. The Council needs to ensure that the admissions procedures support the most efficient use of all the places available.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. None

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. None

3. **CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Brighton & Hove City Council has a legal requirement to secure sufficient school places for all school age children in the city. It is a reasonable expectation that school places should be provided in such a way that parents and pupils can access a local school wherever possible, especially for reception class admissions.
- 3.2 Although there are sufficient primary school places across the city as a whole, the growth in the number of primary age children over the last ten years means that despite the Council's investment in new primary places the number of spare places for reception class intakes is now lower than the 5% - 10% range recommended by the Department for Education (DfE). The proposed addition of 30 new places at Saltdean Primary School and the planned increase in the Published Admission Number (PAN) of the Bilingual Primary School from 60 to 90 when it moves to its permanent site in Hove Park will assist in addressing the challenge of providing sufficient primary places. However, many of the spare places that are available are in schools towards the edge of the city and the areas of greatest increase in numbers are in the more central areas, in particular in South and Central Hove. This means that unless there are additional places provided in this part of the city, the Council will be obliged to offer places to children living in this area in the schools where there are spare places, in many cases more than two or even more than three miles from where they live.
- 3.3 For the September 2014 intake, in order to avoid a situation where almost thirty children from the South Hove area served primarily by Davigdor Infant School, St Andrew's CE Primary School and West Hove Infant School (Connaught) having to travel more than three miles to school, the Executive Director of Children's Services decided to direct Davigdor Infant School to admit an additional reception class of 30 children. This still left more than twenty children from this area being offered places at schools that were not among their three preferences, many of them at schools more than two miles away. This arose even though a further permanent reception class is being added to West Hove infant School (Connaught) this year.
- 3.4 On 'national offer day', 16 April, only one school in Hove and Portslade (Mile Oak Primary School) did not have all its places fully allocated. In addition, some children living in South Hove were allocated places at schools in Brighton. A significant factor in the consultation responses has been that there are schools in Hove and Portslade that do not expect their reception classes to be full in September and that this means there is not a case for additional places. In reality, this does not mean that there is not a case for additional places but that parents for whatever reason, normally because of distance and other impracticalities, do not accept the places in more distant schools and make other arrangements. The Council cannot plan its provision on the basis that some parents will reject the places they are offered for their four year old children.
- 3.5 Our forecasts for the South Central Hove planning area for 2015, based mainly on GP registration data for October 2013, suggest that there will be around 30 more children to place than this year, that the numbers for 2016 will be similar to 2015 and that for 2017 the number may be around the same as for 2014.

- 3.6 It is in this context that the proposal to expand St Andrew's CE Primary School was discussed with the governing body and the Diocese and issued for consultation. There were 51 responses supporting the proposal but 331 responses opposing it. The main features of these responses are identified in the summary at Appendix 3 and discussed more fully in section 5 of this report.
- 3.7 In light of these responses, the governing body met again on 1 July and 9 July to consider its response to the consultation. Letters from the Chair of Governors following these two meetings are attached as Appendices 4 and 5. In summary, the governing body has asked the Council to defer the process of statutory notice and decision making until there has been time for the Council to respond fully to the conditions set out in the letter from the 1 July meeting. The response from the Diocese is attached as Appendix 6. On 8 July officers met with a small group of parents to discuss in more detail the case for additional places and at the time of writing a further meeting is proposed with a larger group of parents.
- 3.8 As St Andrew's is a voluntary aided school the governing body is the admissions authority. The Council may make a decision to expand the school even if the governing body or the Diocese is opposed, but it would then be open to the governing body or the Diocese to refer the matter to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator, who would decide whether the case for additional places outweighed the objections of the governing body or the Diocese.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 There is no doubt that there will be substantially more children in the South Hove area needing reception class places in 2015 and in subsequent years than there are places available in the local schools. The alternatives to additional places at St Andrew's are a new school, expansion of a different school, further bulge classes or allocating places to a much greater number of children at more distant schools.
- 4.2 A new school would require a site and funding. Under current government policy, it would also require a free school or academy sponsor. Extensive site searches have failed to identify appropriate and available sites in the city for new schools. Any sites that were to become available would, like the Hove Police Station site which is being developed for West Hove Junior School, almost certainly incur site purchase costs. The estimated cost of building a new one form of entry school (without any site purchase costs) is between £4 million and £5 million, significantly more than the figure of £2.5m included in the capital programme for expanding St Andrew's. The Council has not been made aware of any free school or academy sponsors interested in establishing a school in Brighton & Hove and who are currently able to meet the DfE's criteria for starting a new school. Identifying a sponsor through open competition would add to the timescale for developing a new school whereas additional places are needed now.
- 4.3 Other local schools have already been expanded and are probably not capable of becoming larger on their existing sites. West Hove Infant and Junior Schools are now (or planned to be) eight forms of entry, each on two fully developed sites (and with no playing field on any of the four sites). Davigdor Infant and Somerhill Junior Schools are both four forms of entry, with bulge classes in two of the three

year groups at Davigdor soon to move through to Somerhill. There is little prospect of expanding these schools without encroaching on the playing field.

- 4.4 Outside the immediate South Hove area, Aldrington CE Primary School and Goldstone Primary School have already been expanded by a form of entry and are probably not capable of further expansion. In any case, expansion of these schools would almost certainly impact on other schools with spare places rather than address the situation in South Hove. The reorganisation of primary schools in South Portslade has provided two additional forms of entry overall and is considered to be sufficient to meet the demand from their immediate area and South West Hove. There are considered to be no options for expanding schools in the immediately adjacent parts of Brighton, all of which occupy small sites, most of them without playing fields.
- 4.5 Options for further bulge classes are very limited. The governing bodies of St Andrew's and Davigdor declined bulge classes this year with well argued reasons and the class at Davigdor was only secured by direction. The West Hove Infant and Junior School sites should be considered to be fully developed – as with all paired infant and junior schools, we have to be confident that both parts are capable of taking the bulge class in due course. Bulge classes in schools outside the immediate area would also be difficult to accommodate and would be likely to have the same impact as expansions of these schools i.e. one that does not primarily benefit the South Hove area.
- 4.6 Without any additional places, a significant number of children would need to be offered places at more distant schools outside their local community. Based on the experience this year had the extra class at Davigdor not been made available, and the forecast of around thirty more children in the area in 2015 and 2016 than in 2014, this could be expected to be over 60 children. Undoubtedly a significant number of these (more than 30) will be offered places at schools more than three miles away. Many of these children would be eligible for transport assistance and as bus routes to these schools may not be straight forward the Council would also need to consider funding supported bus services.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The consultation paper (Appendix 1) was issued on 9 May 2014 to parents, carers, staff, governors and other local people, including other nearby schools and pre-schools. It was also circulated to all Councillors and was included in the following week's Schools Bulletin to all schools. A public meeting was held on 21 May 2014 at St Andrew's. The notes of this meeting are included as Appendix 2.
- 5.2 The consultation period ended on 30 June 2014. Appendix 3 contains a brief summary of responses and all the responses are available for inspection by Members of the Committee.
- 5.3 In summary 51 responses were received in support of the proposal and 331 responses were against. The responses from the St Andrew's governing body and the Diocese can be found at Appendices 4 – 6. The governing bodies of three other schools also responded. Davigdor Infant School wrote in support of the proposal. West Hove Infant School and Benfield Primary School did not

express a specific view for or against the proposal, but expressed concerns that extra places at St Andrew's could increase the issues that Benfield and the Connaught site have with in year pupil moves. These responses can be found at Appendices 7 – 9.

- 5.4 Respondents in favour of the proposal welcomed the additional places in an accessible school in the heart of Hove which would nurture community spirit for local pupils and ease pressure on nearby oversubscribed schools. There would be more places for children with faith and for those without. Parents would have more choice when applying for a school and it was positive to increase the capacity of a school which was seen to have high standards. Some respondents commended the plans for capital development.
- 5.5 There were many reasons given by those who opposed the proposed expansion, but these can essentially be grouped into four categories: questioning the need for new places when there were perceived to be spare places available elsewhere; dissatisfaction with the currently proposed design for new buildings and the impact this would have on playgrounds and the playing field; traffic, safety and access issues; impact on the character and ethos of the school.
- 5.6 The need for new places. Numerous responses questioned the need for new places, especially as there was a perception that other schools had spare places. In the meeting with a small group of parents on 8 July it was suggested that GP registration data were an unreliable data source and that a more refined analysis could present a different outcome. In particular, the Council should review the extent to which the pressure on places in South Hove was created by people moving away from other schools, and it was suggested that the Council would do better to focus on improving schools that were less popular.
- 5.7 The case for new places is set out in paragraphs 3.2 – 3.6 above. The Council is open to refining its analysis and adopting new approaches. However, it should be noted that:
- GP registration data are commonly used by most local authorities in forecasting 4+ numbers
 - We are required to explain our forecasting methodology annually to the DfE, who routinely challenge local authorities on their methodology if they do not find it acceptable
 - In a recent paper the DfE published the number of times it had had to go back to local authorities to challenge their methodology – Brighton & Hove was one with few such challenges
 - Our forecasts include a 10% 'discount' on the raw GP data figures to allow for parents choosing to educate their children elsewhere and factors around the reliability of the GP data – this discount is based on previous experience and is kept under review
 - The B&H forecasts over recent years have had a high level of accuracy, in most years within 1% of actual numbers

While there will inevitably be plus or minus variation against the forecast, the differences between the forecast number and the places available are such that the need for new places remains clear.

- 5.8 There are two factors in the concern that other schools have spare places. The first is that although schools may receive a full allocation of children for their reception classes on national offer day, 16 April, they have spare places at the start of term in September and these places are not subsequently filled. This factor is commented on in paragraph 3.4 above. The reality is that for whatever reason some parents will not accept places in more distant schools. Allocations to more distant schools present these families with difficult choices, mainly based on the practicality of getting children to school, especially if there are younger children in the family too and a car or straightforward bus route is not available.
- 5.9 The second factor is that some schools experience more in year turnover of children than others. There will be various reasons for this, including for example the fact that the school is in an area of transient population, with people more likely to move to other parts of the city or return to their country of origin. Another reason is that parents may prefer an all through primary school to separate infant and junior schools, especially where the linked junior school is not immediately close to the infant school – as is the case for Connaught, for example. This second factor is a quite separate matter from the need to have sufficient places as local as possible to where children live at the outset.
- 5.10 Design proposals. 102 respondents expressed concerns about how the additional accommodation would be provided, in particular about the loss of the current outside play areas and impact on the playing field. Some feared that the building work would be very disruptive, or that there was insufficient space for another 210 pupils. Several respondents wanted more information and sight of the plans before they were submitted. 45 respondents wanted the Council to consider the feasibility of building on the site of the Haddington Street public car park adjacent to the school.
- 5.11 The current preferred accommodation option for the expansion of the school has been developed in consultation with the school. Six other options were considered, including two which included taking some or all of the Haddington Street car park. Options including the car park were not considered further because it was assumed that this could not be made available without compensating land from the school, which would have encroached upon the playing field. The current preferred option includes two new blocks at the front and back of the school linked by a corridor across the eastern end of the existing building. This does take up playground space and the design team has been working with the school on how areas of all weather surface could be included to compensate for this. The design does not however impact upon the playing field.
- 5.12 In light of the strength of feeling in the school community on this matter, the governing body has revised its opinion of the current preferred option and has asked the Council to revisit options that include the Haddington Street car park.
- 5.13 Traffic, safety and access issues. 45 respondents expressed concerns about traffic, and there were 30 additional concerns about safety and access issues in the narrow streets around St Andrew's, especially given the proximity to the West Hove Infant School (Connaught) site which is already being expanded to four forms of entry. These issues clearly reflect the urban nature of the school's location and the lack of alternative sites in this urban context and must be addressed in the planning for any expansion. Through the process of the project

design, highway planners and others will be involved with the design team and the school in identifying the travel and access issues that need to be addressed and working up solutions to these, including for example measures for traffic calming and pedestrian safety. These elements will be an essential part of the planning application and a likely condition of planning consent. The Council's Travel Plan officers would also work with the school in reviewing and developing its existing travel plan as a consequence of the increased number of children.

- 5.14 Impact on the character and ethos of the school. 52 respondents were concerned that an extra form of entry would change the ethos of the school, impacting on the achievement and happiness of the children and increasing pressure on staff, including those in the SEN department. Some were concerned that it would affect the school's Christian character. Many of these respondents valued the fact that St Andrew's was smaller than other schools nearby and were concerned about the impact of overcrowding upon health and safety.
- 5.15 St Andrew's is a popular school which regularly receives almost twice as many first preferences as there are places. It was rated 'outstanding' in its most recent Ofsted inspection in December 2009. The Christian character of the school is complemented by a commitment to inclusiveness which is reflected in its admissions policy, which reserves 50% of places for 'Foundation' applicants who fulfil the faith criterion and 50% to 'Community' applicants of other faiths or none. This commitment to inclusiveness and to the needs of the local community strongly informed the school's agreement in principle to consultation on a proposal to expand St Andrew's.
- 5.16 Being larger need not affect the character and ethos of the school where there is outstanding leadership and a commitment to core principles as is the case at St Andrew's.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 We believe the case for additional places in this part of the city is compelling and that without any new places there could be significant challenges for families who have to take their young children relatively long distances to school with often awkward journeys. The proposal to provide additional places at St Andrew's will not fully resolve these issues, but it will make an important contribution to reducing the number of allocations to more distant schools, especially those that are the furthest distance away.
- 6.2 We also believe that alternative solutions as set out in paragraphs 4.1 – 4.6 above are either not available or could not be delivered on time or at less cost.
- 6.3 However, it is clear that there is at present insufficient support for the proposal from the existing school community and that in light of the strength of this feeling the governing body is unable to support the proposal until time has been taken to explore in more depth the conditions expressed in the Chair's letter of 2 July.
- 6.4 In particular, it is clear that the governing body is no longer able to support the current preferred option for the building design and that they require a solution which involves the Haddington Street car park. This brings additional risks to the

proposal and to consider this fully will require joint work between Children's Services, Property & Design, Transport, Planning and the school.

- 6.5 Timescales for the proposal are already very tight. However, in light of the consultation outcomes it is recommended that more time is needed to seek to secure support for the proposal.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of the recommendations in this report. Clearly if future options involve building on Haddington Road car park then the loss of income would need to be stated in any proposal. If a future report proposes expanding St Andrews or any other school then there will be revenue and capital implications that will be stated.

Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore

Date: 15/07/14

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 Under the new School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) Regulations 2013 there is no longer a statutory 'pre-publication' consultation period when it is proposed to permanently expand a school. However Guidance issued by the DfE in January 2014 states that "there is a strong expectation on Local Authorities to consult interested parties in developing their proposal prior to publication as part of their duty under public law to act rationally and take into account all relevant considerations." The consultation period which has just been completed therefore accords with Government guidance.
- 7.3 Once the further work on the proposals has been completed a further report will need to be brought back to committee for a decision to be made as to whether to proceed with the publication of statutory notices. If notices are published there will be a further period of four weeks during which any person or organisation can submit comments on the proposal to the Local Authority before a final decision is made.

Lawyer Consulted:

Serena Kynaston

Date: 16/07/2014

Equalities Implications:

- 7.4 The governing body of St Andrew's CE Primary School as admissions authority must treat all applications openly and fairly in accordance with the statutory School Admissions Code.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.5 There are no sustainability implications arising from this proposal. More children will be able to attend a local school, rather than travel longer distances to other

schools. The building extension will be completed to high sustainability standards and will not impact on the school playing field.

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.6 The implications of not providing additional capacity close to where children live have been set out extensively in this report. These implications apply most particularly to the families who may be affected.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Consultation document
2. Notes of the Public Meeting held on 21 May 2014
3. Summary of consultation responses
4. Letter from Christine Bartley, Chair of Governors, received 2 July 2014
5. Letter from Christine Bartley, Chair of Governors, received 10 July 2014
6. Letter from Sally Collins, School Buildings Officer, Diocese of Chichester, received 30th June 2014
7. Response from Davigdor Infant School
8. Response from Benfield Primary School
9. Response from West Hove Infant School

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. Councillors may view the full set of responses by contacting Roz Scott in room 312, King's House, extension: 0736.

Background Documents

None



Brighton & Hove

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

**PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ST ANDREW'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL
TO THREE FORMS OF ENTRY FROM SEPTEMBER 2015**

- Inviting you to have your say -

Why are we consulting you?

The Council is proposing that St Andrew's Church of England Primary School permanently expands into a three form entry all-through Primary School from September 2015. This document is published by Brighton & Hove City Council and explains the arrangements for consultation. At the end you will find a reply slip for you to let us know what you think. There is also some information about what happens after consultation. The document will be distributed to the school's parents, pupils, staff and governors, the Diocese of Chichester and other groups who may be interested in the proposal to expand. It is also available on the Council's website under the consultation portal.

This consultation is being conducted in accordance with the [School Organisation: statutory guidance](#) published by the Department for Education (DfE) in January 2014, which can be found on the DfE web site.

Some background facts

St Andrew's C.E. Primary School is a successful and popular Church of England voluntary aided school. It caters for children primarily living in the BN3 2, BN3 3, BN3 4 and BN3 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 is particularly acute in the area of the city served by St Andrew's C.E. Primary School. It is anticipated that although this growth in children entering reception classes of primary schools may be reaching a peak, the number of children exceeding the number of school places available in this part of the city is going to continue for the foreseeable future.

The Council has a statutory duty to secure 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. Our aim is to ensure as far as possible that children can access a primary school that is local to their home.

The proposal

The proposal is to expand St Andrew's C.E. Primary School to a three form entry school with a yearly intake of 90 children into reception (Year R), an increase of 30 places per year. The school will retain the flexibility to admit up to 32 pupils per class in years 3 to 6.

To support the expansion of the school there will be an extension of the school premises that will be funded by using capital provided to the Local Authority for providing additional school places. Where possible and appropriate we will also use other funding streams such as funding secured under S106 agreements with housing developers. The extension will provide additional classrooms, hall space

and hard play space to accommodate the extra pupils. There may also be some internal remodelling and refurbishment to meet the requirements of the latest school premises regulations and guidance and the school's own preferences.

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, parents and carers 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 St Andrew's C.E. Primary School has been consulted before taking the decision to hold a public consultation. The initial view of the governing body is that it recognises the need for additional places in this area of the city. However, it is also committed to safeguarding the school's ethos and quality of education for current and future pupils. Having fully discussed the issues around expansion with the LA and the Diocese, it is confident that with careful planning this can be sustained.

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

The Diocese of Chichester has expressed its support for consultation on future expansion of St Andrew's CE Primary School to accommodate pressures for additional places in the local community.

Consultation arrangements

We have arranged a public meeting to give parents, carers and other local people the opportunity to hear more about the proposal and to ask questions. This meeting will be held at St Andrew's C.E. Primary School, Belfast Street, Hove on **Wednesday 21 May at 7:00 p.m.** Anyone with an interest in the proposal is

welcome to attend. The meeting will be attended by officers of the Local Authority and the Diocese of Chichester, as well as members of the school's senior leadership and governing body.

If, having read this document, you would like to comment on the proposals, there are several ways you may do so:

- You can complete and return (either to St Andrew's C.E. Primary School or Kings House) the reply slip included in this document
- You can send a letter to Michael Nix, Head of Education Planning and Contracts, Grand Avenue, Hove BN23 2LS. *Please mark your letter for the attention of Michael Nix*
- You can complete a form online on the consultation portal of the Council's website at <http://consult.brighton-hove.gov.uk/portal>
- You can email your response: please address your email to Roz Scott at roz.scott@brighton-hove.gov.uk

In the interests of economy, letters and emails will not be acknowledged or responded to.

Replies must be received by Monday, 30th June 2014

The next stage

All the views put forward during the consultation stage will be reported to the Children and Young People Committee at a meeting on 21 July 2014. The views of the Diocese of Chichester and the governing body of the school will be made clear in the report. 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 for Education. 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 Children and Young People Committee having due regard of the views expressed by the Diocese of Chichester and the governors of the school on 13th October 2014.

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 & Hove City Council, the Diocese of Chichester and the governors of the school.

The following timetable is proposed:

Publication of Consultation Document	Monday 12 th May 2014
Last date for responses	Monday 30 th June 2014
Children and Young People Committee	Monday 21 st July 2014
Issue Public Notice	Early September 2014
End of Public Notice period	Late September/early October 2014
Decision by the Children and Young People Committee	13 th October 2014

The Children and Young People Committee's 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.

The Councillors for the area are:

Goldsmid	Ruth Buckley, Alex Philips and Rob Jarrett
Westbourne	Denise Cobb and Graham Cox
Central Hove	Christopher Hawtree and Andrew Wealls
Brunswick and Adelaide	Phelim MacCafferty and Ollie Sykes

RESPONSE FORM

*Please return no later than
30th June 2014*

To: Michael Nix
Head of Education Planning and Contracts
Kings House
Grand Avenue
Hove
BN3 2LS

Tel: (01273) 290732

**Proposed Expansion of St Andrew's C.E. Primary School by a form of Entry from
September 2015**

Name and Address	
<input data-bbox="261 1211 408 1261" type="text"/>	I support the proposal to expand St Andrew's C E Primary School by one form of entry from September 2015
<input data-bbox="261 1424 408 1473" type="text"/>	I do not support the proposal to expand St Andrew's C E Primary School by one form of entry from September 2015
<i>Please add any comments here and on the reverse of this slip if needed:</i>	
Signature and date:	

Appendix 2: St Andrew's CE Primary School Public Meeting Notes

Meeting date 21st May 2014 at 19.00Hrs
Attendees Michael Nix, Gillian Churchill from the Local Authority (LA),
Christine Bartley Chair of Governors and Trevor Cristin Head Teacher St Andrews CE Primary School
Sally Collins from the Diocese of Chichester
Councillors Wealls and Hawtree
Approx 30 members of the public

Trevor Cristin gave introductions and stated that the governors recognise the need for additional places but want to be sure that the ethos and education offered by the school is not lost. They have agreed to undertaking the consultation process because they believe that the situation is sufficiently compelling. The Governors will finalise their views at the end of the consultation period. They have not yet made their final decision on whether to support the proposal. They are holding a school community only meeting on 9th June to seek the views of the school community.

Michael Nix gave a short presentation outlining the process and why the LA was making the proposal. He also stated that this is a genuine consultation, no decision has yet been made and that the final decision will be made by elected members, not by officers. As St Andrew's is a Voluntary Aided School the views of the governing body and the Diocese are very important.

All responses to the consultation will be seen by members before the decision is made. The decision is made on balance, bearing in mind the responses to the consultation about the need to provide additional school places. The governors of the school and the Diocese have the right of appeal to the Schools Adjudicator if they do not agree with the decision made by Committee.

The floor was then opened to questions

You are consulting on something that is very vague, there are no plans of the school for people to comment on.

The LA and the school are working closely together on feasibility proposals for any resultant extension. The school has made their requirements very clear, minimum impact on the outside space, year group clusters and the ability to hold whole school assemblies. There will be an opportunity for the public to view the plans prior to any planning application being submitted.

Will the governing body share the plans with the school community prior to 30th June which is the end date of this consultation?

Yes. The governing body are meeting with the LA at the end of this week to finalise the feasibility stage of the project. The governing body will be in a position then to share these plans with the school community.

The head teacher of West Hove Infant School, Connaught Annex read out a statement (attached). She raised the point that her school is not full and that if the proposed expansion of St Andrew's was to go ahead there could be a negative impact on her school. Please could the LA consider this when deciding about the proposal for St Andrews.

It was agreed that the LA would look into this matter prior to any decision being made (this was done and the response that was sent out the following day, is also attached).

What will the council do if the proposal is ultimately rejected in October?

We would need to consider putting in more bulge classes if possible but ultimately the only other option open to the LA would be to make use of the surplus capacity on the periphery of the city. This could mean pupils travelling over 3 miles to school. This needs to be taken into account when the decision is made as we have to consider the impact on families as well as schools.

Sally Collins from the Diocese said that the Diocese has 159 schools across their areas and the situation with increasing pupil numbers is not peculiar to Brighton & Hove. She also urged the meeting to consider the position of the school in its parish and community as a whole.

There is much evidence that suggests that a 2 form entry primary school is the ideal size for a school. What is the diocese view on this?

Sally Collins said that the diocese have schools from 50 up to 4 form entry schools (840 pupils). In her experience the success of a school is not linked to the size of the school.

If there was a change in government next year, would this alter the ability of the Local Authority to open and operate new schools?

The problem for the LA is not that it cannot open new schools; it is much more that there are no sites available in the area of need which could be used to develop a new school. This is something that has also been accepted by central government who are having trouble locating sites for the two free schools in the city, both of which are currently located at temporary sites while a permanent home is sought.

The Bilingual Primary School is looking to move to the Hove Park Depot site. Will this improve the situation in this part of the city in terms of number of school places available?

The Bilingual School offers a bilingual Spanish curriculum which is not something that every parent will want for their child and is therefore deemed to be a city wide provision. In the event of over subscription, the school uses random allocation to determine who gets a place and not proximity to the school. As a consequence of this is thought to be largely irrelevant where in the city the Bilingual Primary School is located.

Is this need caused by a 'demand bubble' that could fall away in the future and what will happen if it does?

This is something that the LA always has to consider when proposing additional school places. It is necessary to strike a balance between providing additional school places or asking parents with very young children to travel considerable distances to access a school place. With the forecasts we have available, it appears that there will be sufficient pupils to fill these additional places for the foreseeable future.

Will the admission priorities for the school change as a result of this proposal?

No, the admission priorities will remain the same for the school.

Are Reception year places full in most local infant schools?

West Hove Infant School, Connaught Annex has no spare places in Reception although it does have some spare capacity in Year 1. The school also has a full allocation for September with a waiting list, should any of the initial allocations drop out.

Will the proposal result in additional staff being employed?

Yes the school will need to engage additional staff as it expands. As a result of this, the staff accommodation will be included in the extension proposals.

The impact of the proposal on traffic and pedestrian movements will need to be considered. Might it be possible to open up an entrance on Haddington Street?

As part of developing the scheme prior to submitting a planning application, the council will engage a traffic consultant to look specifically at this. If it is possible, we will provide another entrance. We will liaise with the planning and highways officers to see if this can be achieved.

There is nothing positive in this proposal for St Andrew's School, the governors should say no.

What would happen in the event that the committee making a decision that was against the wishes of the school and the diocese?

The diocese and school's response to the consultation will play an important part in the decision made by the committee. In the unlikely event that the Committee make a decision that is against the wishes of the school and the diocese, they both have the right to refer the decision to the Schools Adjudicator who will review the reasons for the LA decision and, if necessary, change the outcome.

Meeting ended.

Appendix 3

Responses to consultation about proposed expansion of St Andrew's Primary School to three forms of entry by September 2015 as at 01.07.14 (Final)

The proposal: to expand St Andrews C of E school from two to three forms of entry by September 2015 in order create more school places in Hove.

In support: 26 online portal, E-mail: 2, paper: 23 (including Parish Church of St Andrews)

Against: online portal = 98 online, paper: 227, E-mail: 6

Total in support: 51

Total opposed: 331

Methodology: Please note that the totals above represent actual numbers of responses received. The numbers below reflect all of the points made by each respondent. The numbers above and below, therefore may not match.

Comments in support of the proposal

Responses in support of the proposal

- Good to have an accessible school in the heart of Hove (2)
- Builds community spirit if children attend a school in the neighbourhood. (2)
- Will ease pressure on places in Hove including neighbouring schools that are oversubscribed. (4)
- Retain ethos of C of E School. More places for children with faith. (4)
- Will create capacity at the local school for those without faith. (3)
- Positive to increase capacity at a school of such a high standard. (2)
- More choice for parents applying for school places in their locality. (2)
- Proposed changes to the Plans look excellent. (2)

Concerns from people in support of the proposals

- The neighbourhood is already congested and parking is already extremely difficult. (5)
- Careful extension of the building and grassy playground is needed. (2)
- There are school places in Portslade. (1)

Other Responses

- The Governors of Benfield Primary School expressed concern because Benfield is currently undersubscribed by 25%. A similar concern was expressed by West Hove Infant School. (2)

Responses opposing the expansion:

- The neighbourhood needs more infrastructure and is already densely populated. Health and safety concerns must be addressed. (30)
- School transport should be used to take children to schools with places that are less central. The infrastructure in the neighbourhood of St Andrews will not support the proposals. (3)
- Traffic congestion makes parking very difficult, especially in the mornings and particularly since the Infant school at Connaught Road was set up. (45)

- A sustainable solution should be found which eases rather than increases congestion. (1)
- Must be allowed to build classrooms on Haddington Street car park. Do not abolish the cycle racks (also used for scooters) in/near the car park. (45)
- Will increase capacity for children without faith and dilute the Christian ethos. The whole school will no longer fit in St Andrews Church. (14)
- Only half the places at St Andrews are available for 'non-church-goers.' The expense will not be worth it for an additional 15 local places. (8)
- Expanding a popular church school should not take precedence over undersubscribed state schools. (1)
- Change the ethos of the school (impact on achievement, happiness, pressure on staff including SEN department, impact of overcrowding on safety.) Staggered break and lunch times will change the ethos of the school and segregate infant from junior school pupils. School trips will become more difficult to organise. Evidence suggests young children in particular, thrive in smaller schools. (52)
- Planning related concerns: Loss of current playing field to accommodate extra pupils. There will be no separate play area for infants. The building work will also be disruptive. There are more appropriate sites elsewhere. More information is needed about proposed plans for development of the St Andrews site. Plans should include an additional SEN room and a lockable playground, available to local children after school. Hove needs a new school which should be built further out where there is space, for example the Bingo site on Portland Road, Dyke Road, Cardinal Newman playing fields or next to the King Alfred. (102)
- An alternative site should be found rather than expanding St Andrews (9)
- Build on the staff car park. (1)
- More information should be published and proposals should not be rushed through in the summer term. Brighton and Hove City Council should consult the neighbourhood early and undertake long-term financial planning. (20)
- The expansion of St Andrews Primary School will undermine the development of neighbouring schools. (15)
- The available space will not be sufficient for an extra 210 pupils. (5)
- There are already sufficient places in Brighton & Hove primary, infant and junior schools, including at the West Hove Infant School Annex at Connaught Road, Benfield Primary School and in Portslade. The places are needed in West Hove, not central Hove. The Council should publish an up to date assessment of the demand for school places across Hove, Portslade and Hangleton. (32)
- Expand the West Hove Annex at Connaught Road to two form entry instead. (1)
- Will the expansion mean that St Andrews CE Primary School becomes an Academy? (1)
- Brighton & Hove City Council should be accountable for its failure to plan and provide adequate places. St Andrew's Primary School should not suffer as a result. (2)
- Brighton & Hove City Council should justify this use of Council Tax and public money. (4)

- Long-term residents of Brighton & Hove should be given priority over newcomers to the area. (1)
- It is very difficult for disabled parents to travel both in an adapted vehicle and on a bus, when taking their child to school. (1)

Where households submitted 2 separate responses (one from each parent) they have been counted separately.

Appendix 4: Letter from Chair of Governors, St Andrew's CE Primary School, received 2 July 2014

The governing body of St Andrew's school met on 1st July 2014 to consider its response to the Local Authority's proposal to expand St Andrew's school to 3 forms of entry from 2015. The governing body considered the best interests of the current school community as well as the need in the wider community for additional school places as identified by the Council through their planning process. As a Church of England school this approach was strongly supported by the National Society and the Diocese of Chichester. The governing body also took into account the results of the consultation process and any new information received during the process.

The governing body acknowledged the strength of opposition to the proposed expansion from the results of the consultation. There were a wide range of reasons for this opposition but many of the concerns were linked to the LA policy and communication regarding key issues.

These issues included a questioning of the specific need for St Andrew's to provide additional school places, as well as concerns regarding the potential impact on other local schools. There was concern that insufficient information had been provided for the school community to fully understand the context of the request for St Andrew's to expand and decisions were being made too quickly.

There was also dissatisfaction with the proposed expansion plans largely on the basis that there was no provision of any additional land to accommodate the proposed increase in pupil numbers. There was a concern that the Haddington St car park had not been incorporated in the planning options. This was the initial favoured option of the governing body but the LA advised that this would not be possible without a "land swap" or significant reimbursement from the building project funding. However, the LA's position seems to have moderated on this issue during the consultation.

The issue of traffic congestion is a major concern and concern was expressed about the lack of information regarding this key issue.

In response to this feedback, the governing body has made a decision to defer its final submission regarding the proposed expansion to provide an opportunity for the Council to communicate more clearly and directly with the school community regarding the above issues. It specifically requests the following:

- LA representatives agree to meet with interested and concerned members of the school community to provide additional information and respond to questions;
- The LA provide clear information regarding the specific need for additional school places in the area immediate around St Andrew's and the potential impact on other local schools. This should include the current numbers attending local schools for September 2014. An infographic providing a map of demand, and spare places, would be helpful.
- The LA must provide new plans which include the use of Haddington St car park and would not require a land swap from our existing site or compromise the project funding allocation. This is essential to being able to address a wide range of concerns.
- The LA must set out a clear and detailed procedure, including a timeframe for developing a safe travel plan for children if the school were expanded.
- The LA reconsider the timeframe regarding the next stage of the consultation process to ensure that the above information can be provided to the school community prior to the governing body making a final submission. Once the LA has confirmed the timeframe, the school community will be informed as to when the governors' final submission will be made.

Finally the governing body acknowledges that these were not the only issues to be raised by the school community, however at this stage we have decided to defer our final submission on the basis of the issues related to the LA policy and communication which we consider could helpfully be addressed by the LA. The outcome of this communication and other issues raised during the consultation will be taken into account as part of the governing body's final submission.

Appendix 5: Letter from Chair of Governors, St Andrew's CE Primary School, received 10 July 2014

Thank you for your letter regarding our response to consultation which we discussed at the FGB meeting last night. In our previous letter to you we stated that we would like to defer our final response in order to allow for additional direct dialogue and presentation of information between the LA and parents as well as further plans which include Haddington Street. This process has started well with the meeting last week with parents and the school has also received interest from a number of parents regarding your offer to meet with them. However we do not consider after less than a week that we are in a position to be able to make a final submission which suggests that we are providing any form of support even conditional at this stage, given the strength of opposition from the school community. We consider that if we supported the move to statutory consultation, even with conditions, this would undermine our position with the school community.

Our preference therefore would be for you to defer your report to the Children and Young People Committee from 21st July until the autumn term. By that time we would hopefully have information to consider on Haddington Street and assess the views of the school community in response to that.

If you are not able to defer the process we will provide a separate response which will state that at this stage we cannot support the proposed expansion based on the strength of opposition and the fact that the additional information we requested in order to give this further consideration has not yet been received.

Please let me know whether we are able to delay our submission as initially requested or if you intend to proceed with a report to the Committee on the 21st July in which case we will need to provide a further submission for the Committee to consider.

Appendix 6: Diocese of Chichester response to proposed expansion of St Andrew's Hove from 2FE to 3FE, received 30th June 2014

The Diocese has considered the responses to the consultation for the expansion on grounds of meeting basic need for projected demand in the Hove area for pupil places. Whilst some parents were concerned about increase to 3FE so oppose 215 against and 45 in favour of the change we have considered the issues raised, and feel that these have been addressed by the Local Authority or would be throughout the development of the project.

- Traffic – potential problems will be addressed through the planning process
- Data – the Diocese accepts the LA advice relating to pupil numbers data and potential impact on neighbouring schools, and is satisfied that the LA see the need for additional places within the Hove area.
- Haddington Road Car Park – in response to the consultation and due to the LA bringing forward new information this area should be included within the scheme.
- Ethos – National and Diocesan view is that the Church of England ethos of the school will not be adversely impacted by expansion of the school and the increased places will further strengthen the Christian ethos.

The National Society was founded and exists on the basis of providing inclusive education to the poor of the parish and to meet the needs of the local community. The expansion of St Andrew's Hove school is supported by the Diocese to this end and in line with the aim to provide primary education to local children, not solely on grounds of faith. Whilst there is local support for smaller schools, the reality of inner city demographic changes is leading to sustainable larger primary schools. We feel the ethos of the school and meeting the needs of every individual child; can be maintained with strong leadership.

"Church schools are rooted in the Christian tradition and are committed to providing an education system that seeks to build character and enable students to develop as whole, rounded, spiritual human beings. The ethos provides a framework for the kind of character we want our children to develop so that our schools can draw out the full potential of each child. A vital part of that ethos comes through understanding the person and teachings of Jesus Christ who is at the heart of our faith and who also provides an example to aspire to.

The Christian values which underpin the life of the school will be experienced through worship and teaching and will be reflected in every aspect of the school's life."

National Society.

Sally Collins
Schools Buildings Officer
Diocese of Chichester

30 June 2014

RESPONSE FORM

Please return no later than

30th June 2014

To: Michael Nix
Head of Education Planning and Contracts
Kings House
Grand Avenue
Hove
BN3 2LS

Tel: (01273) 290732

Proposed Expansion of St Andrew's C.E. Primary School by a form of Entry from September 2015

Name and Address	<i>Hildi Mitchell Acting Headteacher, Darigden Infants School.</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I support the proposal to expand St Andrew's C E Primary School by one form of entry from September 2015
<input type="checkbox"/>	I do not support the proposal to expand St Andrew's C E Primary School by one form of entry from September 2015
<i>Please add any comments here and on the reverse of this slip if needed:</i>	
<i>Darigden Infants school has been impacted on by the number of children requiring school places in this area. Staff, parents and governors have all expressed concern that there has been a need to provide spaces at the last minute and for that reason I welcome this move to increase capacity of the area through a planned expansion.</i>	
Signature and date: <i>Hildi Mitchell</i> . <i>22 May 2014</i> .	

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Benfield Primary School

'Inspiring Success'



255 Old Shoreham Road
Portslade
BN41 1XS
e-mail: office@benfield.brighton-hove.sch.uk
Website: www.benfield.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Telephone (01273) 294950
Fax (01273) 294948

Head of School: Mrs. H. Horsley
Executive Head: Mrs. E. Lake

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION FOR EXPANSION OF ST ANDREW'S PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM BENFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Benfield Primary School is a two form entry primary school situated west of Boundary road. Benfield was expanded from a junior school to a 2 form entry primary in September 2010 to meet increasing pupil numbers in the west of the city.

We are an undersubscribed school and although growing in popularity, mobility remains a significant issue for our school. For the last two years, our school population has changed by approximately 25% throughout the school year with arrivals and leavers.

Furthermore, we have been informed that for 2015/16 there will be a fall in the demand for school places in reception.

Currently, we have capacity for 430 children and have 325 on roll. Therefore we are 75% capacity. In KS1, we have 125 children out of a possible 180.

In KS2, we have 200 out of a possible 240. Our biggest year groups are in 5 and 6.

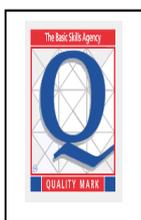
We currently have a confirmed 41 children for reception 2014.

We believe that this increases our vulnerability and could make it difficult to sustain as a two form entry and this could be even more difficult if St. Andrew's intake is increased.

At Benfield, we are committed to working in partnerships with other schools and ensuring the very best education for all our children across the city.

We believe that the increased intake could create inequalities and make schools in Portslade, including Benfield, face some very difficult circumstances which would not serve or help the children of Portslade and West Hove.

Staff and Governing Body of Benfield Primary School.



Appendix 9: response received on behalf of West Hove Infant School

On behalf of West Hove Infants, Connaught Site

West Hove Infants, school road is an outstanding school and we were asked by the local authority to expand across two sites to meet the need for local schools for local children in 2011 and we were very happy to do this. The Connaught Site is in very close proximity to St Andrews with whom we enjoy an extremely positive and supportive relationship including use of the field at St Andrews.

Our site has grown in size from 90 children in 2011 to 330 if we are at full capacity in September. The site was originally designed to be 3 forms of entry however, we too, have been asked to take additional classes over the last two years and, as of September 2014, we will be a 4 form entry site.

However, our numbers are far from stable and we have never been at full capacity. Clearly there are many factors affected this and we know that anxiety over the distance between the junior site has led to many parents moving their children. Over last 3 years we have lost 57 children (nearly 20% of school population), 7 of which have joined St Andrews. Our transience is averaging at nearly 20% and we currently have 25 spaces across the school, 19 of which are in Yr. 1. This amounts to nearly a whole class.

This understandably has a huge impact in all areas including pupil attainment and resourcing. Having spaces also means that we are one of the few schools in the area who are able to accept more vulnerable children often from out area and we are finding it increasingly difficult to meet their needs with the resources that we have.

We sincerely believe that an additional class at St Andrews will only add to this situation and we ask that the potentially negative impact on neighbouring schools be taken into account.

