

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER MEETING

Agenda Item 29

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Informal Consultation on the creation of an all through primary school from St Luke's Infant and Junior Schools.		
Date of Meeting:	21 July 2008		
REPORT OF:	Director of Children's Services		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Gil Sweetenham	Tel: 29-3433
	E-mail:	Gil.sweetenham@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	Yes	Forward Plan No. CYP 2163	
Wards Affected:	All		

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 Brighton and Hove City Council has had a policy of supporting the amalgamation of infant and junior schools where appropriate since 2000. Protocols were established following the Scrutiny Panel and report recommendations following the merger of three primary schools in 1999. This protocol has been revised in the light of the Primary Strategy for Change and the creation of the CYPT
- 1.2 The protocol states that the main reason for creating an all through primary school must be to provide a better school. The triggers for consideration include in section 2.2 (i):
- A Headteacher leaving**
- In the case of separate infant and junior schools serving the same area, if one Headteacher leaves then the school is automatically considered as a possible all through primary school.
- 1.3 The headteacher of St Luke's Infant School left the school in August 2007 and subsequently discussions have been had with both school governing bodies regarding the possible creation of a new all through primary school

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the publication of the informal consultation document proposing the creation of an all through primary school from St Luke's Infant and Junior Schools be agreed.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Brighton and Hove City Council has had a policy of supporting the amalgamation of infant and junior schools where appropriate since 2000. Protocols were established following the Scrutiny Panel and report recommendations following the merger of three primary schools in 1999. This protocol has been revised in the light of the Primary Strategy for Change and the creation of the CYPT
- 3.2 At present the two schools operate as separate institutions within the same building and on the same site, each with its own headteacher, staff and governing body. Children remain in the Infant school until the age of seven, and then are able to transfer to the Junior School in accordance with the City's admissions criteria. The majority of children do transfer from one school to the other in this way. The main schools are housed the same building with sufficient capacity for the schools intake.
- 3.3 The proposal is the creation of a new all through primary school by closing St Luke's infant school and extending the age range of St Luke's junior school to create a new single school to cater for pupils aged 4–11 years. The creation of a new all through primary school, if approved, would require the closure of the infant school and the establishment of a new all-through community primary school.

It is proposed that the new school be three form of entry (i.e. an intake of 90 pupils). This would mean that the infant school intake number would be increased from 85 to 90 and that there would be a small increase in numbers at the new primary school.

To support the creation of a new all through primary school there will be some building adaptations recognising the limitations imposed by listed building status. Funding will be provided from the Primary Capital Programme with the intention of providing accommodation to better fit the needs of current teaching and learning and the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Both governing bodies have been consulted. The proposal was considered by both school governing bodies on 29th January and on 27th March 2008. The Governing Body of the junior School fully supports the proposed creation of a new all through primary school.

The Governing Body of the infant School disagrees with the proposal on the basis of increased size, potential change of ethos and the loss of phase specialism.

- 4.2 A public meeting will be held at the school if it is agreed to proceed with issuing

the consultation document. Responses to this document and the public meeting will be reported to the Council prior to any future decision being taken to proceed to the statutory notice period.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 Any revenue costs of the creation of a new all through primary school from the separate infant and junior schools would have to be met from the existing Individual School Budget (ISB) for that financial year, as there are no additional resources available to fund any associated costs that may arise. Any Capital costs of the merger would have to be met from the Primary Capital Programme budget; however these may fall after that financial year."

Andy Moore Schools Principal Accountant 13th June 2008

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The existing buildings are listed and any adaptations to the school will have to be completed within the limits imposed by this designation.
Before proceeding with any proposals to create an all through primary school the Council is required to consult all interested parties, by virtue of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007. It is within the Council's power to determine the nature of the consultation, however sufficient time and information should be provided to allow those consulted to form a considered view.

Serena Kynaston Lawyer 24 June 2008

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 An Equalities Impact Assessment has not been carried out as all schools promote the creation of a fairer society where everyone can participate and has the opportunity to fulfil their potential and address unfair discrimination based on a membership of a particular group. Schools recognise and value difference in its broadest sense and create a culture and practices that recognise, respect, value and harness difference for the benefit of pupils, and staff.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 Schools promote the four priorities of the council's commitment to address sustainability:
Sustainable Consumption and Production
Climate Change and Energy
Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement
Sustainable Communities

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 Schools are key contributors to preventing crime and disorder.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 Any change to school organisation will be of concern to local residents, parents and staff. The purpose of the consultation process is to explore fully the concerns raised by these groups and to determine whether these outweigh the advantages of the proposed changes

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The Council has had a policy of supporting the amalgamation of infant and junior schools where appropriate since 2000.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The council could continue with the two schools as separate entities. This would not address the potential advantages of an all through primary school detailed in the consultation paper and the protocol.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Although the council is clear in its pursuit of the potential benefits of an all through primary school, both existing schools have been judged by Ofsted to be successful; one governing body supports the proposal one does not; and the local community has yet to be consulted.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Draft Public consultation document proposing the creation of an all through primary school at St Luke's

Background Documents

1. The Protocol for the Creation of an All Through Primary School