

# CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER MEETING

## Agenda Item 73

Brighton & Hove City Council

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Proposed Expansion of Davigdor Infant School</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>19 January 2009</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Director of Children's Services</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Gillian Churchill</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 29-3515
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<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Forward Plan No. CYP7245</b>	
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

### FOR GENERAL RELEASE

#### 1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 As part of the Council's future development of Schools within the city it is proposed to expand Davigdor Infant School by one form of entry.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to set out the background and rationale for this proposed expansion and to seek Cabinet Member endorsement to proceeding to the next stage of the statutory process, which is the publication of the required Statutory Notices.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To note and endorse the proposal to expand Davigdor Infant School by one form of entry.
- 2.2 To agree to the publication of the required Statutory Notices to progress this proposal.
- 2.3 That the results from the statutory consultation process are referred to Cabinet Member Meeting in June / July 2009 for decision.

#### 3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 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.

- 3.2 Over recent years there has been a considerable increase in the number of children growing up in the part of the city that is served by Davigdor Infant School. This is evidenced by the fact that the council had to temporarily increase the size of the school by one form of entry for September 2008 and 2009.
- 3.3 The proposal is to now expand the infant school so that it permanently becomes a four form entry school with a yearly intake of 120.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 The governing body of the infant school has been consulted as has the governing body of the adjacent Somerhill Junior School. This proposal is linked to a proposal to expand Somerhill Junior School by one form of entry in September 2011.
- 3.6 The views of the governing bodies will be finalised in light of the consultation, Governors will hold a special meeting at the end of the consultation period to determine their final views on the proposal.
- 3.7 In proposing the expansion of Davigdor Infant School the following programme is to be followed.

Publication of Consultation Document	3 October 2008
Public Consultation Meeting	4 November 2008
Last date for responses	21 November 2008
Report back to Cabinet Member Meeting	19 Jan 2009
Issue Public Notice	1 May 2009
End of public notice period	29 <sup>th</sup> May 2009
Decision by the Cabinet Member Meeting	June / July 2009
Provisional Opening	1 September 2010

- 3.8 In order to achieve the opening date of the proposed expanded school in September 2010 the statutory notices must be published on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2009. The timetable will then allow full analysis of responses to the notice to be

prepared and presented to the Cabinet Member Meeting in June / July 2009. The report to that meeting will seek the final decision on the proposal.

- 3.9 The reason for the delay in publishing the Statutory Notice following this decision is that the Statutory Notice for this proposal will only be published if it is also agreed to proceed with the proposal to expand Somerhill Junior School. The Somerhill Junior School Proposal is following a slightly different timetable and it is not anticipated that we will know the outcome of the first stage of consultation on this until Easter 2009.
- 3.9 A copy of the draft statutory notice is attached to this report at Appendix 1.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Following the key decision taken by the Director of Children's Services and the CYPT Cabinet Member on 21st July 2008 to commence public consultation a document outlining the amalgamation process was issued to governors, staff, pupils and parents and carers of Davigdor Infant School and copies were made available to any other interested parties. This consultation document is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.
- 4.2 As part of the public consultation process a public meeting was held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2008. This meeting gave parents and carers, governors and others the opportunity to put forward their views.
- 4.3 This initial stage of the consultation came to a close on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2008. The responses to this consultation exercise have been collated and analysed and are shown at Appendix 3 to this report.
- 4.4 In summary 14 responses were received of which 3 were in favour of the proposal and 11 were against the proposal.
- 4.5 Those against the proposal were concerned that there was insufficient outside play space for an expanded school, that the school would be too large at four forms of entry, that the building work would disrupt the pupils in the school, that there is no appropriately sized secondary school in the area, that a new school is needed in the area and issues relating to road safety.
- 4.6 Analysis of existing pupil placements suggests that those who do not achieve a place at Davigdor Infant School are allocated places across a range of other schools right across the city. The Council believes that there will be no negative impact on other local primary schools as a result of this proposal. It is anticipated that the present trend of rising primary aged pupil numbers in the city combined with potential new developments will mean that further additional places will be required in this part of the city even if this proposal is implemented.
- 4.7 The mix of pupils in primary schools generally reflect their local communities hence there is generally a narrower variation of social mix than that found within secondary school cohorts. The DCSF particularly supports the expansion of popular and successful schools where possible to better provide for parental preferences.

- 4.8 Regarding the argument that there is no need for an increase in places within the City, this year has seen an increase in infant place provision to accommodate a significant rise in numbers within the Hove area. These have been temporary provisions prior to proposed permanent expansion and a desired new primary school in Hove.
- 4.9 The funding for the proposed expansion is from a combination of the Primary Capital Programme funding, the schools Devolved Formula Capital and other Council capital funding. The Primary Capital Programme will provide significant funding for a large number of primary schools within the city over the next fourteen years and enables the Council to address the practicalities of school place planning and parental wishes. The proposal to expand Davigdor Infant School forms part of the wider strategy for providing school places across the City.

## **5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

- 5.1 Any implications for funding the additional floor area at Davigdor Infant School will be met from the Individual School Budget (ISB), which may increase as a result of any additional pupils into the Authority as a result of the expansion. If no additional pupils come into the Authority then the additional funding Davigdor Infant School will receive will come from within the existing ISB. Any capital costs arising from the proposal would have to be met from within the existing Education Capital Programme which includes streams such as the Primary Capital Programme, NDS modernisation and a contribution from the schools Devolved Formula Capital (DFC).

*Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore*

*Date: 09/12/08*

### Legal Implications:

- 5.2 In order to achieve the proposed expansion statutory notices will need to be published in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and associated regulations. There will then follow a period of 4 weeks within in which any person may make comment or objection to the proposal.

At the end of the publication period for the notice a decision will have to be made within 2 months of the end of the publication period.

*Layer Consulted: Serena Kynaston*

*Date: 07/11/08*

### Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Planning and provision of school places is conducted in such a way as to avoid potentially discriminatory admissions priorities or planning processes. The city council and voluntary aided school governing bodies must be mindful of bad practice as described in the Admission Code of Practice.

### Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 Planning and provision of school places are intended, so far as it is possible, to provide pupils, parents and carers with local places where they have asked for them. This is subject to limitations in school capacity, the funding available and the priority order for capital development determined by the Council.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

There are no implications for the prevention of crime and disorder arising from this report.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 There are no risk issues in terms of resources or risks to children as a result of this proposal.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 All planning and provision for school places in the city should be operating on the basis of admission limits and admission priorities which have been the subject of broad consultation. The effective coordination of planning arrangements should lead to sufficient school places in all areas of the city and the removal of excess provision.

**6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):**

- 6.1 The alternative option is to leave the school as a three form entry school.

**7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 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. This proposal will provide additional places where they are wanted by parents and carers.
- 7.2 The views of the parents and carers, staff, governors and pupils of the school expressed during the consultation have been considered.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices:**

1. Draft Statutory Notice
2. Consultation document for the proposed expansion
3. Responses to the consultation exercise.

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1. Consultation responses

**Background Documents**

1. None

