

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER MEETING

Agenda Item 105

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Proposed Expansion of Longhill School
Date of Meeting: 20 April 2009
Report of: Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Name: Gillian Churchill Tel: 29-3515
E-mail: gillian.churchill@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Key Decision: Yes Forward Plan No. CYP8678
Wards Affected: All

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 Longhill School by one form of entry from September 2010.
- 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 for proceeding to the next stage of the statutory process, which is the publication of the required Statutory Notice.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To note and endorse the proposal to expand Longhill School by one form of entry from September 2010.
- 2.2 To agree to the publication of the required Statutory Notice to progress this proposal.
- 2.3 That the results from the statutory consultation process are referred to Cabinet Member Meeting on 6 July 2009 for decision.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Brighton & 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 Brighton & Hove has been experiencing a rise in the number of children registered with GP's across the city for the last 5 years. This is already having an impact in the number of school places needed in primary schools and will start to impact in the secondary sector in the future.

- 3.3 In addition to this there has been a number of planning applications granted in recent years for developments of considerable size at Brighton Marina and Saltdean. This has led us to look closely at the provision of secondary places across the city and particularly in the east of the city in the area of Longhill School.
- 3.4 The proposal is to now expand Longhill School so that it becomes a 9 form entry school with a yearly intake of 270 from September 2010.
- 3.5 Owing to an increase in numbers the school has agreed to take an additional 24 pupils from September 2009. Longhill School has typically experienced peaks and troughs in its admission number but it is anticipated that the trend will be upwards overall for the foreseeable future.
- 3.6 To enable the school to accommodate the proposed permanent additional form of entry it will be necessary to provide additional accommodation at the school. The extent and nature of this accommodation has been discussed with the school following the completion of a detailed curriculum analysis and suitability survey of the school.
- 3.7 The curriculum analysis has shown that in addition to enhanced dining facilities and toilets the school will require additional general teaching spaces. It is proposed that the additional accommodation will be provided in a mix of new build and some internal remodelling.
- 3.8 One of the initial issues raised by the head teacher is the suitability of the dining accommodation which is inadequate even for a school of its current size. This situation has arisen as the school has expanded over time without consideration being given to facilities such as the dining accommodation.
- 3.9 In proposing the expansion of Longhill School, the following programme is to be followed.

Publication of Consultation Document	23 rd January 2009
Public Consultation Meeting	24 th February 2009
Last date for responses	13 th March 2009
Report back to Children and Young Peoples Cabinet Member	20 th April 2009
Issue Public Notice	1 st May 2009
End of public notice period	28 th May 2009
Decision by the Children and Young Peoples Cabinet Member	6 th July 2009

3.10 A copy of the draft statutory notice is attached to this report at Appendix 1.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 The governing body of the school has been consulted. The proposal was considered by the governing body prior to taking the decision to hold a public consultation. The initial view of the governing body was that it was a sensible and desirable proposal that would benefit the community served by the school.

4.2 The views of the governing body 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.

4.3 A document outlining the expansion process was issued to governors, staff, pupils and parents and carers of Longhill School on 23rd January 2009 and copies were made available to any other interested parties. In total 2,000 copies of this document were printed and circulated. This consultation document is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

4.4 As part of the public consultation process a public meeting was held on 24th February 2009. This meeting gave parents and carers, governors and other interested parties the opportunity to put forward their views.

4.5 In summary the general feeling of those at the meeting were that they were not opposed to the expansion of the school but concern was expressed about the impact on residents of the increased parking and traffic. A note of the main points raised at the meeting is attached as Appendix 3 of this report.

4.6 This initial stage of the consultation came to a close on 13th March 2009. The responses to this consultation exercise have been collated and analysed. Copies of the responses have been put in the Members Rooms.

4.7 In summary 28 responses were received of which 10 were fully in favour of the proposal and 2 were in favour of the proposal but expressed concerns about increased noise and disturbance to residents.

4.8 16 responses were received that were not in favour of the proposal. In summary the reasons for not supporting the proposal were the school will be too big at 1,350, concerns about traffic and disturbance to local residents, parking on public highway adjacent to the school, and concerns about the form of the proposed extension and the need for a new school for the city rather than expanding the existing schools.

4.8 Analysis of existing pupil placements suggests that those who do not achieve a place at Longhill 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 secondary schools as a result of this proposal. .

- 4.9 The funding for the proposed expansion is from a combination of the Targeted Capital Funding, the schools Devolved Formula Capital and other Council capital funding.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial implications:

- 5.1 Any implications for funding the additional floor area at Longhill 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 Longhill 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 Targeted Capital Funding, NDS modernisation and a contribution from the schools Devolved Formula Capital (DFC). The full cost of this project will be reported in due course.

Finance Officer Consulted: Sue Coleman

Date: 03/04/2009

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: Natasha Watson

Date: 27/03/2009

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:

- 5.5 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 to 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 paces 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 an eight form entry school.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Brighton & 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. There was no significant educational objection to the proposal expressed during the consultation.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Draft Statutory Notice
2. Consultation document for the proposed expansion
3. Notes from the public consultation meeting held at the school

Documents In Members' Rooms

1. Consultation responses

Background Documents

1. None

