

Appendix 1

Proposal to expand Springwell School

The Local Authority are proposing to expand Springwell School by 8 places from November 2012. An initial six week consultation period on this proposal begins on 22 June 2012. Further information on the proposal and the consultation, as well as details on how you can comment, can be found in this document.

Reasons for the proposal

There is currently a high demand for places at Springwell and, at present, the demand exceeds the number of places currently available at the school. The increased demand can be attributed to:

- An increase in the birth rate and consequently the total number of children living in the city
- Advances in child health and maternity services which means an increase in the numbers of children surviving with more complex needs

In order to ensure that the City can cater for the needs of all its children it is proposed that the Number on Roll at Springwell school be increased by 8 (one class group) to accommodate the additional children whose needs have been assessed and who would be appropriately placed at Springwell.

Springwell School currently has 64 places available and offers support to children with Learning Difficulties (including severe learning difficulties and autism). There are no plans to change the type of SEN provision available at the school. This consultation is about the possibility of expanding the number of places available at Springwell.

Why is Springwell the only school that is being proposed to expand?

This proposal is being put forward as a result of the detailed assessment of the special educational needs of each of the children that require additional educational support. Springwell provides support for children with learning difficulties (including severe learning difficulties and autism) and is the school best suited to supporting the needs of the additional children. If the proposal were approved, it will enable the City Council to offer a place to all of the children for whom Springwell is considered to be the appropriate provision. The Local Authority are required to ensure that provision is in place to meet the assessed special educational needs of individuals, whilst also taking into consideration any preference expressed by a parent.

There is no other school in the City that could offer the same level and quality of support for these children, and as a result, the expansion of Springwell is the preferred option that is being put forward in response to the rise in pupil numbers.

The only alternatives to expanding Springwell would be to direct mainstream schools to admit these pupils or to seek to secure placements outside of Southampton. However, mainstream schools may not have the specialist

staff and facilities or be able to meet the additional costs associated with supporting these children and provision of places outside of the City will involve significantly higher costs both to the Council and parents in relation to travel and transport costs and cost of securing places in other settings. It is unfair to expect young children to travel long distances on a daily basis to access education. Furthermore, it is considered that such an option would not meet the Council's duties to provide adequate provision to meet assessed need within the City and would result in practical difficulties for families with children attending other city schools. Either of these options could lead to a number of SEN Tribunals if these placements were challenged by parents. The expansion of Springwell, if approved, would mitigate these risks and is the preferred option for accommodating additional children. It would also meet the requirements of the SEN Improvement Test.

How will the extra children be accommodated?

If the additional children joined the school in November, an extra classroom, similar to those that already exist at the school (i.e. fully DDA compliant with accessible toilets) would be required. Given the short timescales, it is proposed that the new pupils would occupy teaching space in the existing school building and Year 6 pupils will be relocated to a modular classroom which would be located on the school site. The school would also need an extra teacher and 3 special school assistants to support the extra pupils.

The expansion of the school across all year groups will be subject to a review of the future demand for places at the school. If the school expanded further, additional teaching space and staff would be required.

Timescales

Pre-Statutory Consultation: 22 June 2012 – 3 August 2012

This first stage of consultation will give staff, pupils, parents and members of the community an opportunity to find out further information and comment on the proposals.

Statutory Consultation: August – September/October 2012

If the Local Authority (after reviewing any responses to the first stage of consultation) decide to proceed with the proposal, a formal notice will be published at the school and in the local newspaper and there will be another 6 week consultation period for people to comment.

Final Decision: October / November 2012

The final decision will be made by the Local Authority in October / November 2012.

Implementation: November 2012

If the proposals are approved by Cabinet, the additional places will be available at the school from November 2012.

How can I get more information on the proposals?

We are very interested in your views and would welcome any comments that you have on this proposal. You can respond to the consultation by completing and returning the response form on the final page of this document or by writing to or emailing the Council. You can send any comments to: Springwell Expansion Consultation, Strategy & Capital Programme Team, Southampton City Council, 3rd Floor, Southbrook Rise, 4-8 Millbrook Road East, Southampton, SO15 1YG or infrastructureandcapital.projects@southampton.gov.uk

A consultation drop in session will be held at school on Tuesday 10 July 2012 between 3.30pm and 4.30pm. Representatives from the school and the Local Authority will be in attendance so please feel free to come along if you would like to ask question or find out any further information.

More information, including a hard copy this document, is available at: www.southampton.gov.uk/learning/schools/springwell.aspx. Alternatively you can call 023 8091 7501 if you would a hard copy of the consultation document or the document in an alternative format.

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM: PROPOSED EXPANSION OF SPRINGWELL SCHOOL

Your views on the proposal are important to us. Please let us know what you think by completing the form below:

I am a (please tick the relevant box):

Parent/carer of a child at the school	
Parent/carer of a pre-school child	
Governor	
Member of staff	
Local Resident	
Local Councillor	
Other (please specify)	

I support the proposed expansion of Springwell School:

I do not support the proposed expansion of Springwell School:

I am unsure about the proposed expansion of Springwell School:

If you would like to make any additional comments including any suggestions for alternative options or proposals or any suggested changes to the proposals put forward by the Council, please do so in the box below (continue on a separate sheet if required):

Date:

Please return this form to: Springwell Expansion Consultation, Strategy & Capital Programme Team, Southampton City Council, 3rd Floor, Southbrook Rise, 4-8 Millbrook Road East, Southampton, SO15 1YG or infrastructureandcapital.projects@southampton.gov.uk

Any responses must be submitted by **Friday 3 August 2012**.

Summary of responses:

Relationship to school	I do support the expansion of Springwell	I do not support the expansion of Springwell	I am unsure about the proposed expansion of Springwell	Comments
Parent/carer of a child at the school	X			<p>I am very pleased that Springwell is expanding. It is unfortunate that even when it opened there were not enough places for children that needed appropriate special school provision, and a much larger school should have been built in the first place, if not two such schools as Springwell. I am however very concerned that Southampton has no Autism specific provision for secondary pupils, even more so with the closing of Hope Lodge and am hoping the LEA is going to address this issue. The reality is, that for a child like mine, special school provision is needed in order for him to be “included”, as he cannot cope with mainstream, the special school provision is true inclusion for him.</p> <p>It is a step in the right direction, but I know of children as yet undiagnosed that are not yet known to the LEA which are likely to have difficulties (i.e. it may not be enough provision).</p>
Parent/carer of a child at the school	X			<p>Think it is a wonderful idea. Springwell is a fabulous school. We are so lucky that our child has been able to attend Springwell and would love other families and children to benefit from the schools specialist provision.</p>
HT at junior school in the city	X			<p>I support the proposal to expand Springwell School. I have been repeatedly told that there are no spaces for a former pupil at our school whose needs, I believe, would have been very well met by attending Springwell School.</p>