

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>EXPANSION OF THORNHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM SEPTEMBER 2017</b>		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	<b>19 JANUARY 2016</b>		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE</b>		
<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>			
<b>None</b>			
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>			
<p>Following a statutory consultation, this paper seeks the approval of Cabinet for the expansion of Thornhill Primary School from 315 pupils to 420 pupils from 1 September 2017. The Published Admission Number (PAN), the number of Year R pupils admitted in each academic year, will rise from 45 (1.5 Forms of Entry (FE)) to 60 (2FE) from the same date and in subsequent years until the new capacity is fully achieved.</p>			
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>			
	(i)	To note the outcome of statutory consultation as set out in this report;	
	(ii)	To approve the increase in pupil numbers at Thornhill Primary School to 420, increasing the PAN of the school to 60 (2FE) from September 2017; and	
	(iii)	To delegate authority to the Service Director, Children and Families Service, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Social Care, to give effect to the recommendations in this report.	
<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>			
1.	Southampton has seen a significant increase in pupils entering Year R since 2010. The rise was forecast to peak in admissions for September 2015. The Council responded by expanding schools in the Primary sector. The majority of these expansions were permanent to ensure sufficient places for the general rise in the school population in Southampton.		
2.	In total, since September 2010, 4,810 places have been added to the Primary sector (in all years) in Southampton. At Year R, 825 extra places (27.5FE) have been provided for the forecast peak year of 2015.		
3.	From September 2016 the forecast total number of children requiring a Year R place in Southampton is set to fall slightly. However, an increase in the number of completed and proposed housing developments in the east of the		

	City, combined with an increase in pressure on nearby Hampshire schools, means there will continue to be pressure in the east planning area (as designated by the School Capacity Survey) in the coming years.
4.	The current forecast suggests that 30-60 places will be required in the east of the City in 2016. There will also be increasing pressure on school places in all Primary year groups in this part of the City until 2019.
5.	The LA therefore intends to raise the PAN at Thornhill Primary School, expanding the school as part of a wider strategy to ensure sufficient places for all children who require one.
6.	Thornhill Primary School is currently rated Good by Ofsted (November 2012) and the provision has been oversubscribed in recent years. There is a presumption, as outlined in the School Organisation Guidance (Jan 2014), in favour of expanding good and/or popular schools.
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>	
7.	The Council could decide not to increase pupil numbers at Thornhill Primary School but the current forecast suggests it would therefore not be able to fulfil its statutory duty to provide a school place to all those who require one.
8.	Expansion at other Primary schools was considered and many have already expanded in recent years as part of the Primary review begun in 2010. The current forecast suggests the required demand for 2016 and beyond will be in the Bitterne, Peartree and Harefield Wards. Therefore the proposed expansion at Thornhill, combined with a proposed bulge class at St Monica Primary School, provides school places in the right area.
<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>	
9.	A statutory consultation has taken place (following the guidance in the School Admissions Code (December 2014) (attached)). Four weeks of pre-publication consultation began on 1 September 2015 and ran until 12 October 2015. This was followed by a statutory consultation (representation) period from 19 October 2015 to 1 December 2015, (to take account of term time) following the publication of a notice in the Daily Echo on 19 October 2015 and at the school's main entrances. Key stakeholders (including Head Teachers, Local Councillors, Local MPs and Trade Union Representatives) were notified via email. A web page with full details of the proposal, including a copy of the formal statutory notice, was published on the SCC website from 19 October 2015.
10.	The consultation documents and all responses can be found in appendices 2 and 3.
11.	The detailed submission and responses are enclosed (as referred to above). However key issues raised during the consultation (in the context of in principle support for the proposals) included queries around the need for increased space in this location as opposed to, say, Woolston arising out of the Centenary Quay development; the use of the former Woolston secondary school site and careful consideration of retention of green play and sport space, particularly in light of the adjacent Springwell expansion.
12.	The current forecast, which takes account of local housing developments, including Centenary Quay, suggests that there will be a surplus of places in the Weston area and a falling overall roll until at least 2019. Therefore,

	providing another bulge class in this area would only add to the current surplus and could negatively affect admissions at smaller schools (1 or 1.5 FE). Permanent provision (i.e. at Woolston secondary's site) would not be in line with the falling roll in the area and would also impact negatively on current provision.
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## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Capital/Revenue**

13.	The school was a 2FE entry Primary school up until 2007, when the PAN was reduced in response to lower birth rates in the area. The school therefore already has sufficient class bases (14) to allow for this expansion.
14.	Changes to the curriculum and school's needs will mean the LA will seek to support the school in the provision of suitable learning spaces throughout the school to assist with this rise in population.
15.	Based on the Net Capacity Assessment the school has made available space for the expansion but now lacks provision for small group and breakout classes. A bid for £30,000 for Thornhill expansion has been agreed by the Council Capital Board to assist the school in creating such spaces in order to ensure the continued level of education provided by the school. This will go through February 2016 Cabinet as part of the capital update.
16.	Any revenue cost will be expected to be managed within the allocated Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) so there will be no pressure on General Fund (GF).

### **Property/Other**

17.	As in Paragraph 11 (above) no changes to the school property are planned at this time.
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## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:**

18.	Local Authorities have a statutory duty under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to secure that sufficient school places are available in their area.
19.	Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 also requires that Local Authorities secure diversity in the provision of schools and increase opportunities for parental choice in the provision of primary and secondary education.
20.	Proposals to make prescribed alterations to a Community School are published under Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and take account of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.
21.	Statutory Guidance on bringing forward proposals entitled "School Organisation-Maintained School. Guidance for Proposers and decision makers" applies, which requires publication of statutory notices followed by a prescribed representation period which must take part predominantly within School term time to meet the requirements of full, open, fair and accessible consultation with those most likely to be affected (pupils, parents and staff often being on vacation or otherwise unavailable during school holiday periods). Any representations made during this period must be considered by Cabinet who are responsible for determining whether or not to approve the proposals as advertised. Minor modifications and / or statutory conditions can

	be applied to proposals in limited prescribed circumstances but are not proposed in this case.
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
22.	In bringing forward School Organisation proposals the Council must have regard to the need to consult the community and users, the statutory duty to improve standards and access to educational opportunities, the statutory special educational needs improvement test, observe the rules of natural justice, the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998, Article 2 of the First Protocol (right to education) and the Equalities Act 2010. The Council is satisfied the proposals in this report fully conform to the legislative framework and are necessary to meet a pressing social need in the local authority area
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
23.	This proposal is in line with Southampton's School Organisation Plan 2014-2024

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	<b>Harefield, Bitterne, Peartree</b>
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	Copy of the statutory notice.
2.	Copy of the full consultation document
3.	Comments on / Objections to the proposal and responses
4.	Equality and Safety Impact Assessment
5.	School Organisation Guidance 2014

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

	<b>None</b>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	
<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Privacy Impact Assessment</b>	
<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to be carried out.</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Other Background Documents</b>	
<b>Title of Background Paper(s)</b>	
	<b>None</b>