

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CABINET
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	DETERMINATION OF WORDSWORTH INFANT SCHOOL'S PROPOSAL TO EXPAND FROM A 2 FORM ENTRY INFANT TO A 3 FORM ENTRY PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM SEPTEMBER 2012
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	11 APRIL 2011
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING
<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>	
None	

### **BRIEF SUMMARY**

This report sets out proposals to increase Wordsworth Infant School from a 2FE infant to a 3FE primary school from 1 September 2012. This proposal would alleviate the pressure on primary school places in the Shirley area of the city and would address the imbalance of infant and junior school places between Shirley Infant & Wordsworth Infant and Shirley Junior School. This proposal is in addition to the Local Authority's proposals to add approximately 2600 primary school places in the city by 2018.

As Wordsworth Infant is a foundation school only they, and not the LA, are able to conduct consultation on proposals to change the age range of the school. The governing body are asking the LA, as the decision maker on school organisation decisions (see Appendix 5), to approve these proposals.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (i) To consider and take into account the outcome of statutory consultation as set out in Appendix 1.
- (ii) To approve the implementation of the enlargement of Wordsworth Infant School from a 2FE Infant to a 3FE primary from 1 September 2012. This will be achieved by admitting 30 extra children to year R from 1 September 2012 and in subsequent years.  

The school will change from an infant school to become an all through primary school by changing the age range of pupils to be admitted from 4-7 year olds to 4-11 year olds. In order to achieve the change of age range the school will expand. Up to 90 pupils will be permitted to transfer from Year 2 (age 6) to Year 3 (age 7) or be admitted as casual vacancies to Year 3 (age 7) from 1 September 2015 and in subsequent years.

This would have the effect of enlarging the school from a 2FE (60 places per year group) infant to a 3FE (90 Places per year group) primary, and increasing the net capacity of the school from 180 to 630 by 1 September 2018.
- (iii) To note that the high level estimate of capital costs associated with the implementation of this decision is circa £4m, and to note the assumptions about affordability as set out paragraphs 11 – 20.

## **REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. As Wordsworth Infant is a foundation school, only the governing body can carry out consultation on proposals to change the age range of the school. Having been made aware of the potential shortage of primary school places in the city and wishing to address the imbalance of infant and junior schools in the Shirley area, the school have conducted pre-statutory and statutory consultation (see Appendices 3 and 4) on proposals to expand the school and are now asking the LA to make a decision on the proposals.
2. Southampton is facing a shortage of primary school places over the next 4-5 years. The LA has developed proposals to add approximately 2600 places to primary schools by September 2018. However, additional places are required in the city, particularly in the Shirley area, in order to allow the LA to meet its statutory duty to provide a school place to every child in the city that wants one. Wordsworth Infant school's proposals would enable the LA to meet its statutory duty to provide a school place to all children in the city who want one in September 2012.
3. There is currently an imbalance in the Shirley area between the number of Infant and Junior school places available. The majority of the 90 children at Shirley Infant and 60 children from Wordsworth Infant apply for the 120 year 3 places available at Shirley Junior School. This potentially leaves 30 children without a junior school place within a reasonable distance from their home address. This problem would be exacerbated by the additional infant school places that are required in the area and the change from a junior to a primary school of St Mark's, which may previously have offered junior school places to those who did not get a place at Shirley Junior. The change from an infant to a primary would address the imbalance in infant and junior school places in the Shirley area.

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

4. The Council, as decision maker, could either;
  - Approve the proposals as published
  - Approve the proposals with modification (e.g. to implementation dates)
  - Approve the proposals subject to one of the limited statutory conditions, or
  - Reject the proposals
5. If the proposals were rejected this would likely result in the LA being unable to fulfil its statutory duty to offer a school place to all those children in the city that want one.
6. Consideration was given to expanding Shirley Infant and Junior schools, but was not taken forward due to a lack of internal and external space.
7. In addition to increasing Wordsworth infant from 2FE to 3FE, the building of a 2FE junior school on the Wordsworth Infant site was also considered. However this would potentially result in 30 pupils from Wordsworth infant not being able to continue their key stage 2 educations with their peers, and was therefore not considered.

## **DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)**

8. Pre-statutory consultation was carried out in accordance with statutory guidance between 1 November 2010 and 13 December 2010 and the results were considered by the Governing Body on 6 January 2011, who approved moving to publication of statutory proposals.
9. On 11 January 2011 Statutory Notices were displayed at all entrances to the school, see Appendix 3. The consultation period lasted for the statutory period of 6 weeks. Details of the consultation were sent to all Headteacher's and Chair of Governors, the Roman Catholic and Church of England Dioceses and a list of relevant local stakeholders. Full statutory proposals, See Appendix 4, were also available on request from the school.
10. There were several responses to the statutory notices, largely sent by residents that live close to the school. These can be found in Appendix 1. The predominant concern was that the increase in pupil numbers would increase volumes of parking and traffic in the area. Residents living in Stratton Road, Hyde Close and Ridding Close were concerned that the current traffic infrastructure was inadequate as it is and could not cope if the school trebled in size, as is proposed. Concerns were also raised about the consultation process. In response the authority explained that they were happy that the school had followed the correct statutory consultation procedures. It was also explained that any parking/traffic issues would be considered as part of the feasibility study to expand the school, which has yet to begin. Residents may be given the opportunity to feed into, and comment on, this process.

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Capital**

11. A detailed feasibility study of the work required to convert Wordsworth from a 2FE infant into a 3FE primary has not yet been undertaken. If cabinet approval is given to implement this proposal, a detailed feasibility study will be undertaken from April 2011, after which the LA will be able to provide a more definitive cost.
12. Based on a high level analysis, it is anticipated that a high level indicative cost for this scheme is approximately £4,000,000
13. The project would be delivered in 2 phases. The first phase, estimated to cost £325,000 will include modifications to the existing infant school building between 2012 and 2014. The second phase, estimated to cost £3,675,000 will involve the provision of key stage 2 accommodation and will be required from 2015 onwards.
14. It is clear that that the final proposal will have to match the resources available to the council and that the final cost may be lower than the above estimate. The cost of this project would be phased over a number of years and would be reviewed on a yearly basis.
15. The majority of the cost of expanding the school will be incurred by the Local Authority, although the governing body may be required to make a contribution to the costs of equipping out the new classrooms from their Devolved Formula Capital allocations. Discussions will take place, between

the Local Authority and the school regarding if and how the school may contribute to the project

16. The March report to Cabinet detailed the estimated funding available to fund the overall Primary Review Phase 2 scheme over the next 3 years, as reproduced in the table below:

<b>Funding</b>	<b>2011-12 Confirmed £000</b>	<b>2012-13 Estimated £000</b>	<b>2013-14 Estimated £000</b>	<b>Total</b>
DfE Basic Need	4,735.0	4,735.0	4,735.0	14,205.0
DfE Basic Need Safety Valve	690.0			690.0
Banister Infant Phase 1 budget (already in capital programme)	574.0			574.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,999.0</b>	<b>4,735.0</b>	<b>4,735.0</b>	<b>15,469.0</b>

17. This funding will be sufficient to fund phase 1 of the work at Wordsworth Infant.
18. The major works to Wordsworth (Phase 2) will be required to be completed for September 2015. No announcements have yet been made about Department for Education capital grant allocations for 2012-13 and beyond. However, it is anticipated that as future grant will be targeted at areas of need, that Southampton will receive similar allocations of Basic Need funding. The figures above for 2012-14 are therefore indicative.,
19. It is currently anticipated that the works to Wordsworth (Phase 1 and 2) can be funded and are affordable from within these indicative allocations.
20. However, it must be recognised that should future capital grant levels be lower than anticipated, the Council may need to re-prioritise proposed schemes within the CSL capital programme and review whether scheme outputs can be reduced. In addition, where affordability remains an issue, the council may need to undertake further borrowing in order to ensure delivery of key schemes.

### **Revenue**

21. The revenue costs of all schools are met from the Individual Schools Budget funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant. The amount of Dedicated Schools Grant that the authority receives each year is based on the number of children in the city. If the city's overall numbers grow, this will result in an increase in the amount of grant received which can be passed onto schools via budget shares calculated using Southampton's Fair Funding Formula.

### **Property/Other**

22. There are unlikely to be any significant impacts on property. This expansion will be achieved via the re-organisation of internal space within the school and a potential mixture of modular buildings and permanent buildings.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

23. Local Authorities have a statutory duty under the Education Act 1996 to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area, promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. Local Authorities must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in their area and promote diversity and parental preference.
24. Alterations, changes, creation or removal of primary provision across the city is subject to the statutory processes contained in the School Standards and Frameworks Act 1998 (as amended by the Education & Inspections Act 2006). Proposals for change are required to follow the processes set out in the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) Regulations 2007. In addition, statutory Guidance on bringing forward proposals applies, which requires a period of pre-statutory consultation followed by publication of statutory notices, representation periods and consideration of representations by Cabinet. Cabinet must determine proposals within 2 months of the close of the statutory representation periods.
25. In reaching its decision Cabinet MUST have regard to the statutory guidance for decision makers set out in Appendix 5.

**Other Legal Implications:**

26. In bringing forward school organisation proposals the Local Authority must have regard to the need to consult the community and users, observe the rules of natural justice and the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998 (including article 2 of the First Protocol -right to education) and the Equalities Act 2010.

**POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

27. The Primary Strategy for Change will contribute to the achievement of the outcomes set out in the City of Southampton's Strategy, the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Plan and the Primary Vision, by providing improved buildings for primary pupils and communities in Southampton.
28. It will facilitate closer joint working between schools and thereby enable a range of strategic objectives to be met.
29. These proposals have been formulated in line with the Children and Young People Plan and will aid the achievement of the aims set out in the plan, largely by investing in new infrastructure and school buildings.

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**KEY DECISION?** Yes

<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	Shirley
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## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

**Non-confidential appendices are in the Members' Rooms and can be accessed on-line**

### **Appendices**

1.	Responses to Statutory Consultation
2.	Confirmation of the Governing Body decision to expand the school
3.	Statutory Notice
4.	Full Statutory Proposals
5.	Decisions Maker Guidance for Expanding a Maintained Mainstream School by Enlargement or Adding a Sixth Form

### **Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None
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### **Integrated Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to be carried out.	No
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### **Other Background Documents**

**NONE**

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)