

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CABINET		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	GREAT OAKS SPECIAL SCHOOL EXPANSION		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	18 APRIL 2017		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	Service Lead; Education and Early Help		
<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
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#### **STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

NONE

#### **BRIEF SUMMARY**

The Council is required by statute and regulations in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the 'Making prescribed alterations to maintained schools – Statutory Guidance for Proposers and Decision Makers, April 2016, to approve any expansion of Approved Pupil Numbers (APNs).

This report is submitted for consideration as a general exception under paragraph 15 of the Access to Information procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, notice having been given to the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the public. The matter requires a decision by the Council. The urgency is linked to the fact that 14 parents are still waiting confirmation of a place at Great oaks for September 2017. The statutory deadline for confirmation of secondary phase transfer was 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017, meaning that we have already missed this deadline.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Having complied with paragraph 15 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules.

	(i)	To approve the expansion of Great Oaks from an Approved Pupil Number (APN) of 178 to an APN of 212
	(ii)	To authorise the Service Director, Children and Families Services, in consultation with the Service Director - Finance & Commercialisation, to take any action necessary to give effect to aforementioned expansion.

#### **REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1.	This report is submitted for consideration as a General Exception under paragraph 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the City Council's Constitution, notice having been given to the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Panel and the Public. The matter requires a decision to comply with the Council's duty to fulfil its duty as the decision-maker in prescribed alteration to schools
2.	The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure that all children who want a school place in the city are allocated one.
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>	
3.	Do nothing. This would result in children not being allocated a place at Great Oaks and they will inevitably have to be accommodated in out of city schools at much increased cost to the Council.
4.	Increase the size of another school in the city. Realistically, Great Oaks is the only school that can cater for the needs of these children
<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>	
5.	The number of pupils in Southampton schools has been increasing in recent years, firstly in the Primary sector and more recently in the Secondary sector. Special schools are also experiencing this surge in numbers, hence the increase in size of Springwell. Great Oaks is now at full capacity and there is a need to increase provision that they offer.
6.	In accordance with the statutory guidance, 'Statutory Guidance for Proposers and Decision Makers, April 2016', a consultation was held over a four week period between Thursday March 16 and Wednesday April 12, and views were sought from across key stakeholders on the proposed expansion.
7.	All schools were informed of the proposals and a Statutory Notice placed outside Great Oaks School. Both RC and CE diocesan education departments were also informed.
8.	Consultation documents were published on the Council's public website for the duration of the consultation.
9.	This report is being written in advance of the closure of the consultation period and will be amended/withdrawn should there be a consistent argument against the expansion.
10.	To date, (4 April), only two responses have been received. One from a nearby Primary school which was wholly in favour of the expansion, and another from a person, (whose relationship with the school was not disclosed), who felt that if Great Oaks was to expand it would become too big and class sizes would increase. This person was not in favour of expansion.
11.	Officers maintain that Great Oaks needs to increase in size to accommodate increasing demands for special school places; their budget would increase to provide funding for the requisite amount of teachers and ancillary staff.
12.	A full list of responses can be found in Appendix 1.
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	

<b><u>Capital/Revenue</u></b>	
13.	This report is seeking to increase the APN of Great Oaks to 212. The report is also seeking to authorise the Service Director, Children & Families Services, in consultation with the Service Director - Finance & Commercialisation, to make the necessary arrangements about placements and funding. The revenue cost of special schools is met from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs block. There is currently a forecast pressure of £2.9M in 2017/18 against the total budget available for this block. The revenue impact of expanding Great Oaks to 200 places (a part year impact of £0.26M) is reflected in the forecast £2.9M pressure.
14.	A working group consisting of schools representatives from all phases is currently looking into different options to meet this shortfall. Any final options are expected to be presented to the Schools Forum meeting in June 2017.
15.	There may be an additional pressure as a result of increasing Great Oaks APN from 200 up to 212. The increased numbers of pupils at Great Oaks School will include the incorporation of the autistic spectrum disorder resource unit which is currently managed within Bitterne Park School but is proposed to move over to the management of Great Oaks School. Thus the other 12 places will be a transfer from one school to another, along with the attached funding per pupil. However, the costs per pupil may be marginally higher than the funding available.
16.	The increase in APN up to 212 will allow Southampton City Council (SCC) to accommodate Southampton pupils within the city. This means the Council will not have to fund independent settings to accommodate Southampton pupils. The independent placements could cost approximately £60,000 per pupil per year, with an additional cost of £10,000 per pupil per year for school transport. This would give an annual cost of £1.54M for 22 pupils. This is £1.15M more than the £0.39M annual cost of the Great Oaks option.
17.	Some minor works to the tune of around £15,000 need to be carried out to convert a room into two classrooms. This funding is already identified in the 'Schools Access Initiative' budget line within the Children's and Families Portfolio Approved Capital Program.
<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	
18.	None.
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
19.	It is for the Local Authority to determine these proposals under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2013
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
20.	None
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
21.	These proposals are in line with the Council's seven priorities and the

	'Southampton Children and Young People's Strategy, (SCYPS) 2017-2020.
22.	Specifically Priority 3, 'Protecting vulnerable people' is at the heart of the Great Oaks expansion. Children with SEND are vulnerable and their needs are best met with specialist teaching in a safe and secure setting near their home. The expansion of Great Oaks will ensure that this is the case.
23.	Priority 1, 'Jobs for local people'. Should we not expand Great Oaks and end up having to fund our pupils in other Local Authorities special schools, then we are effectively exporting jobs as well as pupils. The expansion of Great Oaks will bring with it extra jobs – both teaching and non-teaching.
24.	Priority 7, 'A Sustainable Council'. The expansion of Great Oaks will mean that our financial liability to other LAs is decreased, thus reducing the strain on Council's reserves and making the Council's finances more sustainable
25.	'Southampton Children and Young People's Strategy 2017-20' prioritises pupils' achievement and potential and an expanded Great oaks will be in a better position to deliver these.

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	No	
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	All	
<b><u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u></b>		
<b>Appendices</b>		
1.	None	
<b>Documents In Members' Rooms</b>		
1.	None.	
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>		
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.		Yes
<b>Privacy Impact Assessment</b>		
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to be carried out.		No
<b>Other Background Documents</b>		
<b>Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:</b>		
Title of Background Paper(s)		Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	Equality Impact Assessment – Great Oaks Expansion	