

Considerations of the consultation feedback – Consultation on the proposed expansions of Great Oaks School and Vermont School

Quantitative (tick box) question feedback

Quantitative consultation feedback		Officer response	Actions proposed
Section	Summary		
Vermont School Proposals	<p>52% of respondents disagreed that the current building is adequate for Vermont School pupils.</p> <p>The majority of respondents (84%) agreed with the proposed expansion of Vermont School, and this goes up to 91% from parents and pupils from school sites affected.</p> <p>Almost 3 quarters of respondents (74%) agreed with the proposed relocation of Vermont School. This goes up to 86% from parents and pupils from school sites affected, and goes down to 48% from local residents from sites affected.</p>	N/A	N/A
Great Oaks School expansion on Vermont Close Proposals	<p>46% of respondents disagreed that the current building is adequate for Great Oaks School pupils.</p> <p>The majority of respondents (82%) agreed with the proposed expansion of Great Oaks School on Vermont Close. This goes up to 96% from employees from both school sites affected and other schools. This goes down to 51% from local residents from sites affected.</p>	N/A	N/A
Great Oaks School expansion on Green Lane Proposals	<p>43% of respondents disagreed that the current building is adequate for Great Oaks School pupils.</p> <p>The majority of respondents (64%) agreed with proposals to expand Great Oaks School on Green Lane, and this went up to 95% from parents and pupils from school sites affected. Over a quarter of respondents (29%) disagreed with proposals to expand Great Oaks School on Green Lane, and this went up to 76% from respondents who visits or works at the Green Lane site.</p>	N/A	N/A

Comment themes – SEND provisions / overall comments

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Consultation Feedback	Officer Response	Actions Proposed
Comment themes and overall number of respondents who made comments		
Comments about the consultation process (3 respondents)	The statutory consultation was to consult on the pupil place at Great oaks and Vermont School, it was open for all to comment via SCC web page, SCC's City News, SCC's Your City Your Say e-newsletter, school newsletter, SCC social medias. Printed paper letters were sent to properties that abut the proposed site, further paper letters were sent to residents on neighbouring streets and the consultation period was extended to the 31 July. This consultation meets the statutory legal requirements.	The consultation responses have been evaluation and report will be appendix will be appended to the November Cabinet paper.
1.Positive comments around increasing capacity for SEND [generally] (12 respondents)	A requirement for additional SEND pupil places had been identified in historic Cabinet papers, Southampton SEND Strategic Review June 2017 – March 2018 and SEND Strategic Plan 2022/27. This SEND Capital delivery programme is targeting to increase pupils' places within the city by 278 before 2029.	No further action required.

2.More SEND provision city-wide (4 respondents)	The Council would ideally have SEND provision spread out geographically around the City. However, the SEND programme is limited in scope due to financial and logistical constraints. The increase in numbers is to also enable SEND children currently travelling to out-of-city to attend local city schools.	Southampton Officers will incorporate the consultation feedback into the lessons learnt.
3.More spaces / specialist facilities needed [further than proposals] (8 respondents)	It is proposed with increasing the pupil spaces is to ensure specialist facilities are reviewed/included during the detailed design with the school requirements within the new building. Southampton City Council Education Department had already bid for new free special school; however, it was turned down. These are the maximum pupil places that can be expanded by due to financial and logistical constraints.	There are ongoing Design Team Meeting and Client Engagement Meeting to incorporate end user requirements.
4.Other suggestions / concerns (1 respondent)	The specialist facilities will be reviewed during the detailed design with the school requirements within the new building.	No further action required.

Comment themes – Vermont School expansion and relocation

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Comment themes	Officer Response	Actions Proposed
5.Positive comments around expanding Vermont School capacity (6 respondents)	The specialist facilities will be reviewed during the detailed design with the school requirements within the new building.	There is still a lot of detailed design work to be progressed, the Project Team will continue to work on as part of the planning application process. Regular DTMs and CEMS are taking place to capture SEN pupil needs.
6.Agree that current building needs updating / is inappropriate (4 respondents)	It is proposed to demolish the Vermont school building and replace it with a new two storey building for Great Oaks School, with Vermont relocating to a heavily refurbished Victorian building with a new two storey building providing additional accommodation supporting pupils with complex learning needs.	
7.Agree with the relocation of Vermont School (6 respondents)	The Proposal is to relocate Vermont School to the east side of the site in Sholing ward for pupils with SEMH needs. The proposals will include a developed construction traffic management plan to ensure safe and considerate movement of vehicles around the site during the construction period.	Officer will review future construction management and travel plan to the site.
8.Other comments (1 respondent)	N/A.	N/A.
9.Concern - New site location near busy road compared to Vermont School / will need traffic management (12 respondents)	The proposals will include a developed school travel plan to ensure safe and considerate movement of vehicles around the site during the construction period. Fencing and security of the school will be reviewed against school and SEN requirements as part of the scheme. Southampton City Council education team will be reviewing the School Travel Service. Each Family will have the opportunity to request a review on their transport plan.	Officer will review construction management and travel plan to the site and security around the site.

	<p>The school travel plan will aim to maximise efficiency and the flow of traffic.</p> <p>The current school site can hold 270 infant school pupils, the proposal is to reduce that number to 76 primary school-aged pupils with SEMH needs.</p>	
10.Concern - Around safety of the local area for residents if school is expanded (3 respondents)	<p>The current school site holds c250 infant school pupils, the proposal is to reduce that number to 76 primary school aged pupils with SEMH needs. The proposals will be supported through the production of a School Travel Plan to aim to maximise efficiency and the flow of traffic.</p> <p>Fencing and security of the school will be reviewed against school requirements and SEN requirements as part of the scheme.</p>	Officer will review construction management and travel plan to the site and security around the site.
11.Concern - Around suitability of new building / relocation (11 respondents)	<p>The proposal will include looking at the outside space for the pupils against DfE, planning and Sport England requirements.</p> <p>The proposal includes refurbishing the existing Victorian building and providing a new 2-store building, including for SEN requirements and providing existing facilities that Vermont school has. Fencing and security of the school will be reviewed against school and SEN requirements as part of the scheme.</p> <p>The Council would ideally have SEND provision spread out geographically around the City. However, the SEND programme is limited in scope due to financial and logistical constraints. The increase in numbers is to also enable SEND children currently travelling to out-of-city to attend local city schools.</p> <p>There will be a reduction in school traffic to this site. The current school site holds c250 infant school pupils, the proposal is to reduce that number to 76 primary school aged pupils with SEMH needs.</p> <p>The current school site holds c250 infant school pupils, the proposal is to reduce that number to 76 primary school aged pupils with SEMH needs.</p>	The education team have reviewed available educational use land within the city.
12.Suggestion - Improve current site rather than relocating (2 respondents)	<p>During the early stages of reviewing Vermont School's current site, it was found that it is in a bad state of repair. It was concluded that the building would be best placed to be removed. The Council would ideally have SEND provision spread out geographically around the City and a strategic review was made against the programme regarding school management plan including Great Oaks.</p>	No further action required.
13.Concern around proposal disrupting children / local community (4 respondents)	<p>The development of this programme is at its early stages and the project team are fully aware of the impact delays to a child's school start date could have on their mental health. The proposed contractors will be aware of this and a note is in the tender information to ensure that the scheme is delivered on time.</p> <p>The Council would ideally have SEND provision spread out geographically around the City and a strategic review was made against the programme regarding school management plan including Great Oaks.</p> <p>Once the schemes are further developed a construction phase plan will be developed to mitigate constraints on the community.</p>	The project team will work with the contractor to ensure set delivery dates.
14.Concerns around increasing pupil numbers (2 respondents)	<p>The Council would ideally have SEND provision spread out geographically around the City. However, the SEND programme is limited in scope due to financial and logistical constraints. The increase in numbers is to also enable SEND children currently travelling to out-of-city to attend local city schools.</p> <p>The Council believes that relocation and design elements will be beneficial for the expansion of Vermont school and its pupils. The design development is still ongoing with the school's input.</p>	No further action required.
15.Other suggestions / concerns comments (8 respondents)	<p>It is proposed to refurbish the existing Victorian building. The Council would ideally have SEND provision spread out geographically around the City. However, the SEND programme is limited in scope due to financial and logistical constraints. Engagement will be made with the school on the logistics for the future of the school.</p> <p>The Council's education team and schools will work together to ensure a smooth transition for the pupils who will be attending the school.</p>	No further action required.

	<p>The Council would ideally have SEND provision spread out geographically around the City. However, the SEND programme is limited in scope due to financial and logistical constraints. The increase in numbers is to also enable SEND children currently travelling to out-of-city to attend local city schools.</p> <p>During the early stages of the reviewing Vermont School current site, it was found that it is in a bad stage of repair. It was concluded that the building would be best places to be removed. The Council would ideally have SEND provision spread out geographically around the City. The proposal includes refurbishing the existing Victorian building and provide a new 2-store building, including for SEN requirements and provide existing facilities that Vermont school has.</p> <p>During the development of the design, a Highways consultant will review what is best fit for the site, against school and planning requirements.</p> <p>The current propose plans will continue to be development and the legal consultation responses will be review along with future planning consultation feedback</p>	
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Comment themes – Great Oaks School expansion on Vermont Close

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Comment themes	Officer Response	Actions Proposed
2.Positive comments / agreement around expanding Great Oaks School / capacity (17 respondents)	<p>The expansion seeks more space for the population of the school. More detail will be available at the next consultation stage.</p> <p>The proposal has reviewed the current accommodation against DFE and school requirements, to now include more space/facilities within the site.</p>	No further action required.
3.Concerns around traffic / parking nearby (27 respondents)	<p>The proposals will include a developed construction traffic management plan to ensure safe and considerate movement of vehicles around the site during the construction period. Staggered start and finish times will be reviewed in the proposals; a requirement from the school's perspective. The design development will review highway concerns to mitigate the disruption and a further consultation at the planning stage of this scheme will be carried out for your input.</p> <p>It is likely that a School Travel Plan will be required to support a planning application. For SEND school developments travel plans typically focus on promoting and enabling the use of non-car modes for staff travel to work. The Travel Plan should build on the initial travel planning work undertaken for the temporary accommodation planning application for the existing Great Oaks site.</p>	No further action required.
5.Suggestions around more specialist facilities within the school (e.g. sensory rooms, soft play rooms, accessible toilets) (4 respondents)	<p>The proposal has reviewed the current accommodation against DFE and school requirements, to now include more space/facilities within the site.</p> <p>During the design process, the design team have liaised with Great Oaks School to review the pupil needs they intended to support across the proposed sites. This will include separate year groups. The design team are liaising with the school on each pathway requirements.</p>	No further action required.
Concerns around noise disruptions for locals (4 respondents)	<p>Southampton Council wants to ensure that the pupils of the schools which are expanding are affected as little as possible and we strive to assure special needs pupils are provide with a safe education. The project team wants to ensure that during construction it is a safe environment and will have early conversations with contractors to be any delay. Works will be programmed best fit in term holidays where possible.</p>	No further action required.

	It is proposed to expand Great Oaks who provide education for pupils with Complex needs on to this site and Vermont School who provide education for SEMH pupils will be relocated to St Monica.	
Concerns around building disruptions (2 respondents)	Southampton Council wants to ensure that the pupils of the schools which are expanding are affected as little as possible and we strive to assure special needs pupils are provide with a safe education. The project team wants to ensure that during construction it is a safe environment and will have early conversations with contractors to be any delay. Works will be programmed best fit in term holidays where possible.	No further action required.
Other suggestions / concerns (8 respondents)	<p>The Council would ideally have SEND provision spread out geographically around the City. However, the SEND programme is limited in scope due to financial and logistical constraints. The increase in numbers is to also enable SEND children currently travelling to out-of-city to attend local city schools.</p> <p>Great Oaks currently use the location facilities of Red Lodge Swimming pool located on Vermont Close.</p> <p>It is likely that a School Travel Plan will be required to support a planning application. For SEND school developments travel plans typically focus on promoting and enabling the use of non-car modes for staff travel to work. The Travel Plan should build on the initial travel planning work undertaken for the temporary accommodation planning application for the existing Great Oaks site.</p> <p>Further design development and information will be provided in the planning consultation. The design team will be working with landscape and planning consultants on the design and will look to mitigate noise and privacy concerns of the local residents.</p>	No further action required.

Comment themes – Great Oaks School expansion on Green Lane

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Comment themes	Officer Response	Actions Proposed
Positive comments around expanding onto Green Lane (9 respondents)	<p>The SEND Programme to expand Great Oaks on this site will be budgeted.</p> <p>It is proposed to provide the current Great Oaks provision at Green Lane better school facilities including a dining hall and additional classrooms.</p> <p>There will be a further investment on facilitate as a result of this expansion. <i>(JH)</i></p>	No further action required.
Suggestions around more specialist facilities within the school (e.g. sensory rooms, soft play rooms, accessible toilets) (2 respondents)	During the design process, the design team have liaised with Great Oaks School to review the pupil needs they intended to have across the proposed sites. This will include separate year groups. The design team are liaising with the school on each pathway requirements.	No further action required.
Concerns / suggestions around reducing community space (including at Testlands and City Farm) (60 respondents)	<p>Southampton City Council want to ensure that Testlands continue to provide a safe community space and the City Council are aware of the impact the reduction of space will have on the providers, users and the wider community of Testlands Hub. Testlands Hub and City Council are and will be working together to establish the extension of Testlands lease and to address the concerns over the reduction of space for the use of SEN Pupils.</p> <p>The site lease stakeholders will be included in any design and engagement meetings that impact their footprint.</p> <p>A requirement for additional SEND pupil places had been identified in historic Cabinet papers, Southampton SEND Strategic Review June 2017 – March 2018 and SEND Strategic Plan 2022/27.</p>	Officers will continue to work with Testlands Hub, who are already supportive of the expansion of the school.

	<p>The purpose of this consultation is for the increase in SEND school pupil places. Other site users are considered in any works planned.</p> <p>Access and ingress routes will be optimised during the design development phase. We are following Sports England guidance on outdoor playing areas.</p>	
Traffic concerns around events held at school / testlands (2 respondents)	A school travel plan will be developed for the expansion of Great Oaks school and will aim to maximise efficiency and the flow of traffic and other site user traffic implications will be considered in this plan.	No further action required.
Other suggestions / concerns (6 respondents)	<p>A school travel plan will be developed for the expansion of Great Oaks school and will aim to maximise efficiency and the flow of traffic and other site user traffic implications will be considered in this plan.</p> <p>The Council would ideally have SEND provision spread out geographically around the City. However, the SEND programme is limited in scope due to financial and logistical constraints. The increase in numbers is to also enable SEND children currently travelling to out-of-city to attend local city schools.</p>	No further action required.