

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	31 May 2012
Title:	Enlargement of Bramley CE (C) Primary School
Reference:	3861
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Glenn Parkinson – School Organisation Officer

Tel: 01962 846664

Email: glenn.parkinson@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report seeks approval to the enlargement of Bramley CE (Controlled) Primary School to reflect demand for pupil places from within the school's catchment area.
- 1.2. This paper details the consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the proposals and responses received to the statutory Public Notices setting out the County Council's intention to enlarge the school.

2. Bramley CE (C) Primary School

- 2.1. Bramley CE (C) Primary School currently has a capacity of 420 places with a published admission number (PAN) of 60. The number of four year olds within the school's catchment area in 2011 exceeded the available places which resulted in the school accepting 65 pupils into Year R in September 2011.
- 2.2. The projected number of four year olds in the school's catchment area for the next 5 years is detailed below;

2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
87	83	90	86	79

Demand for 2012 Year R admissions exceed the current PAN of 60 and 75 Year R offers have been made.

- 2.3 Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council have recently consulted on their Core Housing Strategy which highlighted new housing sites which partly lie within Bramley's catchment area. The Strategy also indicates up to 200 new

dwellings in Bramley. The demand for places is forecast to continue. It is proposed that the school be expanded to provide a total of 525 places and admit 75 pupils in 2013 and future years to reflect demand for places from within the school's catchment area. This pressure is very much in line with the national picture in relation to primary school places.

3. Consultation

- 3.1. In line with statutory procedures formal consultation on the proposed enlargement of the school has been undertaken. Meetings with the full governing body were held on the 1 and 23 March 2012 as well as further meetings with the governors building committee on 27 March and 20 April . A meeting with parents to view and discuss the plans was arranged for the 12th March 2012 but was re-arranged at the request of the governing body to the 23 April 2012 .A summary of the outcome of those consultations together with a copy of the consultation letter are attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.2. Although the meeting for parents and other interested parties took place after the publication of public notices, its timing did not in any way affect the weight which was attached to the comments and objections, and they were in effect treated as an extension to the consultation proper.
- 3.3. Following consideration of the responses received to the formal consultation statutory Public Notices were published in the local paper and displayed at the school and within the community on 5 April 2012. A copy of the Public Notice and complete proposal is attached at Appendix 2.

4. Representations received to the Bramley Public Notice

- 4.1. Six representations were received and are available to view in full in the Members room and a copy given to the Elected Lead Member for Children's Services. Significant or recurring issues raised are set out and commented on below;
- 4.2. Issue - How will the 75 pupils per year be organised and what is the reasoning behind the increase in pupil numbers.

Comment – the building alterations will create three year R classes to house the pupils expected in 2012. This provides the opportunity to run three classes of 25 pupils with the school receiving additional revenue funding due to the increase in pupil numbers. The organisational structure within the school is the responsibility of the headteacher as the school grows. The number of projected four year olds within the school's catchment area exceeds the current places available and the demand for places locally requires the expansion of the school.

- 4.3. Issue – Unavailability of building plans to assist with making a response to the proposal

Comment – An open meeting was held on 23 April 2012 at the school where plans were presented and the opportunity was given to ask questions regarding the proposed expansion. Plans of the proposed building expansion were provided to anyone who requested a copy during the consultation

process. A detailed planning application for the permanent buildings will be submitted in June which will provide further opportunity for comment.

4.4. Issue – Consultation was inadequate

Comment – Consultation took place as set out in section 3 above, with further details provided in appendices 1 and 2.

4.5. Issue - Concerns were expressed regarding the ability of the school's management and governors to oversee the expansion project and the impact such a project may have on pupils' education. Has an impact and health and safety assessment been undertaken.

Comment - The headteacher and governors have been fully involved throughout the discussions on the proposed expansion. Strategies to minimise impact on teaching and learning during the building works are being finalised with the school. The installation of the temporary classroom building will be arranged at a time agreed with the school to minimise disruption and the building work to create the additional Year R spaces is likely to take place during the summer holidays. The permanent part of the extension project will start early in 2013 and measures will be put in place to mitigate the impact of these works on pupils and staff. This adds to the imperative for a decision to be made now, so that school holidays might be used to maximum effect.

A detailed health and safety plan is being drawn up with the school which will include restricting deliveries of materials to avoid school drop-off and pick-up times, safe access routes for pupils to play areas etc. The County Council has significant experience of working on school sites and has the utmost regard to health and safety issues.

4.6. Issue - The impact on car parking and traffic congestion as a result of the expansion.

Comment - Additional car parking will be provided on site for staff. The Local Authority and school will continue to work with the community on ways to reduce the reliance on the car to minimise the impact on traffic movements locally through the development of the school travel plan. This issue will be considered in further detail as part of the planning application process for the permanent buildings.

4.7. Issue – What are the current statistics to prove the demand for additional places and will Bramley Primary School “sweep up” children who fail to obtain a place in their preferred school?

Comment – as detailed in paragraph 2.2 the projected number of four year olds exceed the current places available resulting in pressure for Year R places in 2011 and 2012. There is a strong likelihood of additional housing in Bramley reinforcing the need to expand the school. Although it is possible that out of catchment children will be admitted to the school for a variety of reasons, the current projections would suggest that the school's cohort will almost exclusively be made up of Bramley residents.

4.8. Issue – How will HCC ensure the performance of the school improves and what will be the recruitment strategy to accommodate the expansion.

Comment – It is necessary to secure the provision of additional places to reflect the pressure from within the school’s catchment area. It is not appropriate to delay this long-term education provision whilst a separate process takes place elsewhere, albeit one which the County Council is acutely aware of and has an excellent track record in resolving.

- 4.9. Issue – What are the proposals to address the lack of expansion of areas such as the hall?

Comment – It has not proved possible to expand the hall within the current budget for the project. However, the proposed scheme does create a new larger staff room and provides a small group teaching room. Options, such as relocating the store from within the hall, are being considered as the scheme for the school’s main expansion project is developed further subject to the availability of funding within the overall limit for the scheme.

- 4.10. Issue – Temporary classrooms are being provided during the construction period. Please confirm they will be removed at the end of the building contract and that they will have sufficient air conditioning and heating.

Comment – The intention is that the temporary classrooms, which may more accurately be classed as modular buildings, will be removed at the end of the building contract. They will have appropriate heating and ventilation.

- 4.11. Issue - why were options to provide additional places at other schools not considered

Comment – the pressure for places comes from within the school’s catchment area and it would be inappropriate to consider expanding other schools which are a significant distance from Bramley Primary school. Expanding other schools would require more children to travel out of Bramley to receive their education.

5. Capital Funding

- 5.1. The proposal requires capital resources for its implementation. In keeping with statutory guidance which states that “funding for the proposals should be in place when the proposals are decided”, the capital resources required for the enlargement of Bramley Primary school was identified in the Children’s Services Capital Programme 2012/13 which was approved by the Elected Lead Member for Children’s Services on 23 March 2012.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1. There is significant pressure for school places at Bramley Primary School resulting in the school admitting pupils over PAN in Year R in 2011. This demand is expected to continue in the future and the school needs to be expanded to meet the pressure for places from within their catchment area.

7. Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that, in accordance with Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006;

- 7.1. **Bramley CE (C) Primary School be enlarged to provide a capacity of 525 places with effect from 1 September 2013.**

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
OR	
This proposal does not link to the Corporate Strategy but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u> Children's Services Capital Programme 2012/13 to 2014/15	<u>Reference</u> 3653	<u>Date</u> 23 March 2012
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

1.1. Equalities have been considered and no adverse impact is identified.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. The proposals will have no impact on crime and disorder.

3. Climate Change:

a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

In new buildings and in the majority of refurbishment type investments, the latest technologies and materials are specified in order to maximise the impact on reducing carbon consumption.

b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

No specific measures have been identified.