

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	6 December 2012
Title:	Aldershot Urban Extension (AUE) – additional primary places
Reference:	4333
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek authority to undertake a consultation exercise on how best to provide the first phase of additional primary places in Aldershot, as a result of the planned new housing development known as Aldershot Urban Extension (AUE) .
- 1.2. New primary places could be provided either through a newly built stand-alone primary school or through the same newly built provision but as part of the catchment secondary school by changing the school's character to create 4-16 all-through provision. This paper explains the background to the issues.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. The new housing development proposed at Aldershot Urban Extension (AUE) for 3,850 dwellings will be built over a period of some 13 years and will require additional primary and secondary pupil places. Primary provision will be needed providing 3 forms of entry (FE) (630 places) and 2FE (420 places) respectively, with the first primary provision being available for 2015. The first phase of primary provision would be opened in stages to match the inflow of pupils into the new housing. Once complete it will provide three forms of entry, giving an intake at 4+ of 90.
- 2.2. The provision of the new primary school buildings is subject to planning permission being obtained. The planning application is expected to be submitted to Rushmoor Borough Council this year. There is some spare capacity in the catchment secondary school, Connaught, to accommodate secondary age pupils who move into the early stages of the development.

- 2.3. The availability of specialist provision for primary age pupils with social and communication difficulties in this area of the County is limited. The development at AUE will produce additional primary age pupils who would benefit from such provision. Therefore as part of the first phase of the additional primary places, resourced provision for pupils with social and communication difficulties will be created.
- 2.4. The new primary provision will need a catchment area defined. This will be considered following full consultation with schools and all interested parties, with the intention that children attending the new primary provision on the new housing development would live within walking distance. The consultation on catchment area will be separate from the consultation on structures and governance which is the subject of this decision paper.
- 2.5. The proposed consultation which is the subject of this paper is predicated upon the expected need for new primary places, but not about the provision itself rather about the school organisation structures and governance within which places will be provided. It will cover the first phase of providing additional primary school places. Future consultations will be required to deal with the second phase of primary education provision for AUE which is anticipated to be needed in 2020.
- 2.6. Two possible options of school organisation are set out below and would form the basis of consultation. Proposals for other options will be requested as part of the consultation. The consultation document will contain the rationale and detail of the proposals. This Decision paper is requesting authority to consult and gives a high level outline of the options only.

OPTION A

3. Primary provision as part of The Connaught School

- 3.1. The new primary provision will be at the heart of the AUE development and will be within the catchment area of The Connaught School. This presents the opportunity to consider expansion of The Connaught School to include the primary phase. This would require the age range of Connaught School to be altered from its present 11-16 to a 4-16 age range with admissions to the school at 4+ (reception year/Year R) and 11+ (year 7).
- 3.2. A 4-16 school structure has been approved for The Westgate School in Winchester and this will be the first such school in Hampshire. It will not begin admitting pupils into the primary phase until September 2014, so 4-16 education in Hampshire is not yet a tested model although excellent examples exist in other parts of the country. This will be explained in the consultation document.
- 3.3. Under this option The Connaught School would have two Published Admission Numbers (PANs). Pupils attending The Connaught School for the primary phase would be entitled to remain for the secondary phase, although parents would have the opportunity to apply for alternative schools at 11+. This means that the school would have a second PAN at 11+, that has regard

to the number of secondary phase places, less the 90 places that could be taken up by pupils moving from the primary to secondary phases within the school.

OPTION B

4. The provision of a new primary school

4.1. Option B would be to create a new stand alone primary school. This would be subject to the Department for Education (DfE) guidance on establishing a new school, which states that an academy sponsor should be sought to manage and run the new school.

5. Further options

5.1. Further options might be identified during this consultation period. These will be considered by the local authority and reported at the end of the consultation period.

6. Financial implications

6.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from this decision to consult on school organisation and governance: the capital cost of either option will be the same.

6.2. The provision of additional primary places in Aldershot will have significant capital implications which have already been addressed through the Children's Services Capital Programme 2013/14, approved by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services on 23 March 2012.

7. Environmental implications

7.1. A full access analysis will be undertaken as part of the establishment of the new primary provision. School travel plans will be developed and existing ones reviewed and revised where necessary.

8. Equality impact assessment

8.1. A full equality impact assessment will be undertaken in conjunction with any authorised consultation process.

9. Recommendations

9.1. That approval be given to consultations taking place with local schools, parents, governors, staff, Rushmoor Borough Council and other interested parties on the options as set out above for the governance and school organisation for three forms of entry (630 places) of additional primary provision on a new school site on the Aldershot Urban Extension.

- 9.2. That a detailed consultation document be prepared and made available to consultees prior to consultations taking place clearly stating that proposals for viable alternative options would be welcomed.
- 9.3. That a report on the outcome of consultations be prepared for submission at the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services Decision Meeting in May 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:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
By securing the availability of school places to meet local demand.	

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.)

Document

Location

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1. A full impact assessment will be undertaken in conjunction with any authorised consultation process.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1. The proposal have no impact on crime and disorder.

3. Climate Change:

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

3.1. Any new permanent accommodation will be built according to the County Council's sustainability/carbon reduction standards. By seeking to provide primary places in as close a fit as possible to the homes of pupils the impact of vehicular transport and associated emissions is minimised. Other impacts that emerge during the consultation will be considered and reported upon

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

3.2 No specific measures have been identified.