

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	26 September 2012
Title:	School enlargement proposals
Reference:	4183
Report From:	The Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Chris Holt, Head of School Organisation

Tel: 01962 845673

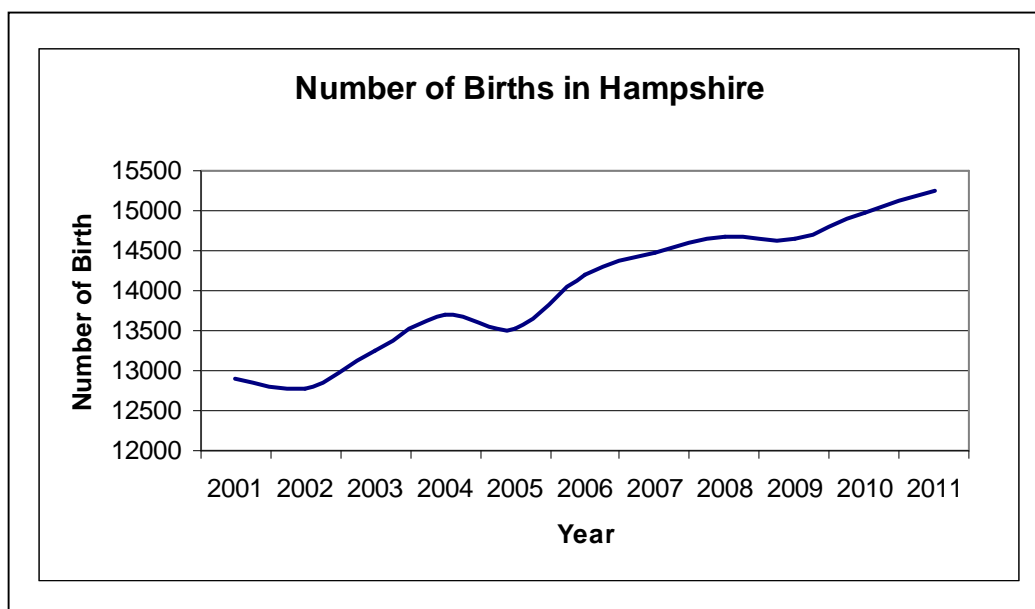
Email: chris.holt@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1.** The purpose of this paper is to seek authority to carry out statutory consultations on the enlargement of a number of primary schools, designed to ensure a sufficiency of school places in areas of the county where there is a sustained need for additional primary phase places.
- 1.2.** This paper sets out the background to the issues, identifies the schools concerned, explains why statutory consultation is necessary and the process to be followed.

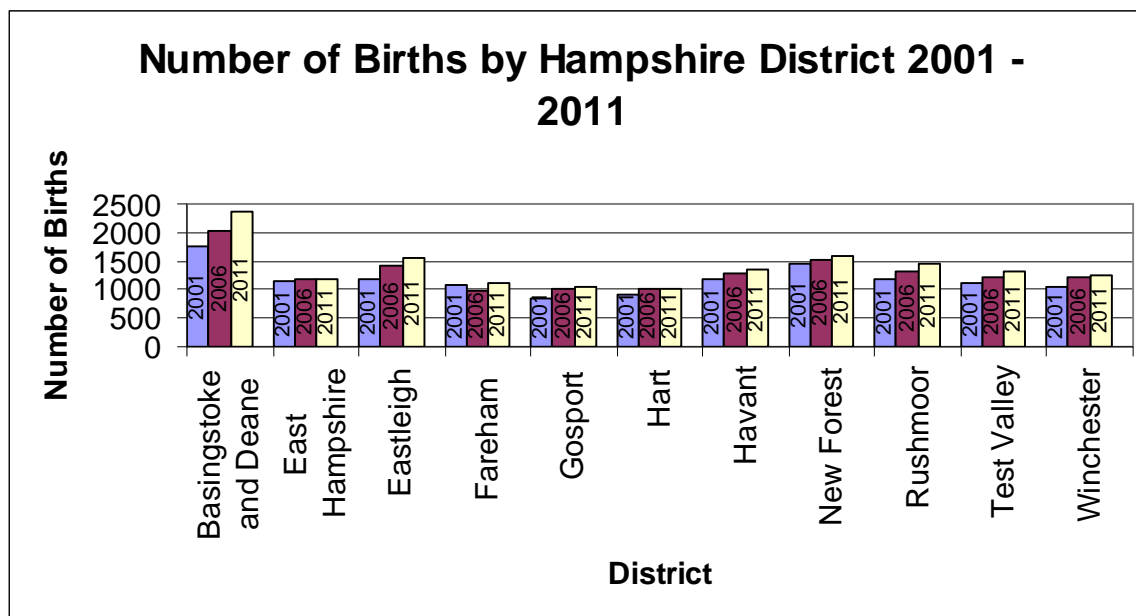
2. Contextual information

- 2.1.** In line with national trends Hampshire is experiencing an increase in demand for primary school places, particularly for admission at age 4+ (Year R). Birth data provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) whilst showing year on year fluctuations, demonstrates an upward trend in the number of births in Hampshire since 2001, as shown in the graph below :



2.2. Over the last ten years the number of births in Hampshire has increased by 18% (2,338 births) however, this increase has not been even or consistent across the County. The table below shows the number of births in each borough and district in this period :

Table 1



2.3. The rise in births in Hampshire, coupled with housing development and immigration has led to a number of areas in the County where there is pressure on primary school places, necessitating the need for additional provision at existing schools. In some cases this is as a result of a temporary bulge in pupil numbers, in others there is a long term sustained need. The additional provision is achieved either through a reconfiguration of existing accommodation, or through the provision of additional accommodation in either temporary or permanent construction.

2.4. In the case of long term sustained need for additional accommodation, and where that need would be met by an enlargement of the premises of the school which would increase the capacity of the school by both more than 30 pupils and by 25% of the capacity of the school or 200 pupils (whichever is the lesser) then statutory proposals are required.

2.5. There are five statutory stages for this type of statutory proposal, as set out below :

Consultation – 4 weeks.

Publication of notices – 1 day.

Representation – notices run for a period of 4 weeks during which time comments and/or objections to the proposal can be made.

Decision – the local authority must decide the proposals within 2 months of the expiry of the public notice.

(If there are objections to the proposal the decision whether or not to enlarge the school falls to the Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services. If there are no objections the decision falls to the Director of Children’s Services).

Implementation – no prescribed timetable but must be as specified in the published notice.

A number of such statutory consultations have already been undertaken, or are underway, in several areas of the county including, Fleet, Winchester, Farnborough, Bramley and Overton.

3. Schools proposed for enlargement

- 3.1. The table below identifies the schools proposed for enlargement (growing schools) and sets out present capacities, proposed capacities, and the number of additional places this represents:

Table 2

School	Present capacity	Proposed capacity	No. of additional places
Vigo Infant, Andover	180	270	90
Vigo Junior, Andover	240	360	120
Endeavour Primary, Andover	210	420	210
The Crescent Primary, Eastleigh	420	630	210
Nightingale Primary, Eastleigh	315	420	105
Merton Infant, Basingstoke	180	270	90
Merton Junior, Basingstoke	240	360	120
Emsworth Primary, Emsworth	210	315	105
Kingsworthy Primary, Winchester	330	420	90

4. Finance

4.1. Revenue

There are provisions within existing Schools Forum arrangements and mechanisms to support growing schools defined as: “A school where the capacity has been increased, with planned expenditure on buildings, which has been agreed by the County Council”. With the exception of Endeavour Primary School, should the proposed enlargements of the schools named in the table above proceed, then capital funding to provide the additional accommodation necessary would be forthcoming (see 4.2 below)

In the case of Endeavour Primary, the school was constructed as a 420 place school but opened with only seven classrooms in use and a published admission number of 30, the other 7 classrooms being “mothballed” or utilised for other purposes. This action was taken to ensure that pupils from new housing, continuing to be built in the area, would be able to secure a

place at their local school. The timing is now right to bring all the school's classrooms into use for primary age pupils necessitating the need for a "technical" enlargement. Endeavour Primary meets the criteria to be a growing school defined as: "A school where there is a planned increase in Planned Admission Number (PAN) and which has not had the full set of admission in-take."

The School funding Reform arrangements that come into effect in 2013/14 allow authorities to create a "growth fund". This has to be ring-fenced for supporting growth in pupil numbers to meet basic need. Schools forum will need to agree criteria for allocating such funds. However, it is envisaged that the criteria will be similar to those applied in the current arrangements.

4.2. Capital

Resources for school enlargements in 2012/13 to 2014/15 were reported as part of the Children's Services Capital Programme report to the Elected Lead Member for Children's Services on 23 March 2012. The proposed enlargements identified in 3.1 represent a capital investment of around £15 million. Although as an aggregated programme the level of expenditure would qualify this report as a key decision, it is important to note that each of the proposals is a stand-alone one and will be subject to individual and separate timeframes, consultations and decisions.

The Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services is producing costed feasibility studies, where appropriate, for each of the projects. Where possible, implementation costs will be reduced by focusing on efficiencies in design, procurement and delivery of new school buildings, extensions and refurbishment projects. Options are being considered for better design templates, more off-site and standardisation of building construction, and aggregation savings through supply change management and through continued development of our joint cluster working arrangements with neighbouring authorities. If resources are insufficient to provide the additional places in permanent construction then temporary accommodation may need to be considered as an option.

The implication of the late capital announcement for 2012/13 and one year capital allocations from the Department for Education is that some of the additional school places will have to be provided in temporary accommodation in the short term.

5. Recommendation

5.1. That approval be given to statutory consultations taking place with:

the governing bodies, parents, pupils and staff of the schools listed in table 2 above, together with the governing bodies, staff and parents of any other schools that may be affected, trade unions, diocesan authorities, MPs, district, borough and parish councils, neighbouring local authorities and any other interested parties.

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

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes

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.)

DocumentLocation

Expanding a Maintained Mainstream School by Enlargement or Adding a Sixth Form.
A Guide for Local Authorities and Governing Bodies.

Department for Education website.

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1. Race and equality impact assessment has been considered in the development of this report and no adverse impact has been identified.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1. No impact has been identified.

3. Climate Change:

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

When the Children's Services Capital programme invests in new build, replacement or refurbishment works, Property Services colleagues include an assessment of reductions in energy consumption (carbon use) in the design. In all 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. Many projects are also able to employ passive design approaches, including natural ventilation and improved insulation to actively reduce consumption in summer and winter conditions.

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

The proposals seek to provide compact and energy efficient building envelopes. Any new build or extensions will meet current building regulation standards for thermal performance. Where possible, appropriate sustainable materials will be employed to reduce the environmental impact of the proposals.