

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	20 July 2011
Title:	Review of school places at West End Infant and Beaumont Junior Schools, Aldershot
Reference:	3025
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 consult on a proposal to close West End Infant and Beaumont Junior Schools to form a 420 place (two form entry) primary school.
- 1.2. The proposal has come about because standards currently attained by pupils at age 11 should be higher. The latest Ofsted inspection reports show that West End Infant School is judged to be satisfactory and Beaumont Junior School has recently been judged to be inadequate. Local Authority officers believe that the closure of both schools and the creation of a new all through primary school offers the best opportunity of securing outstanding educational opportunities for the community.
- 1.3. When a school is judged by Ofsted to be providing an inadequate education, the Local Authority has a statutory duty to consider whether a structural solution would improve the quality of education being provided. The District Manager, Education and Inclusion, has informed both headteachers and both chairs of governors that officers will be seeking the approval of the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services to consult on these proposals.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. West End Infant is the linked feeder to Beaumont Junior. The two schools operate on separate sites approximately half a mile apart and serve an established, largely urban area in north east Hampshire.
- 2.2. The proposal, if implemented, would mean that the establishment of a primary school, in the first instance operating on both sites but with a view to providing sufficient accommodation on one of the sites for all primary pupils.

3. Finance

- 3.1. Any future strategy will need to be self financing in terms of capital funding. A primary school would be located in one of the two present school buildings, with land sales expected to realise a capital receipt which would be used to fund the work necessary to create a primary school. Discussions with developers will be undertaken to maximise capital receipts from the land to ensure the financial viability of the required work. A more detailed financial proposal will form part of the report on the outcomes of any consultation.

4. School Performance/pupil achievement

- 4.1. Beaumont Junior School was inspected on 8/9 March 2011 and judged to be inadequate and given a “notice to improve” because it is:

“Performing significantly less well than in all the circumstances it could reasonably be expected to perform”.

- 4.2. The report goes on to state that:

“Significant improvement is required in relation to pupils’ achievement, particularly in mathematics and for boys, generally, the quality of teaching and opportunities for pupils to develop their basic skills across the curriculum”.

5. Other key issues

- 5.1. Beaumont Junior School has required considerable intervention over the past three years. When the school was inspected in April 2008 it was judged to be satisfactory and, as such, was subject to a monitoring visit by Ofsted.
- 5.2. The monitoring visit occurred on 27 April 2010 and the judgement was that the school was making inadequate progress in making improvements but, due to the restructuring of the leadership team, was demonstrating satisfactory progress in demonstrating a better capacity for sustained improvements.
- 5.3. The monitoring report goes on to state: “Pupils’ achievements is inadequate. Attainment at the end of Year 6 is low on English and mathematics. Pupils’ progress is inadequate and continues the trend of the previous two years as evident in the results of the National Curriculum tests”.
- 5.4. When a school is judged by Ofsted to be “inadequate” and requiring a “notice to improve” the Local Authority is required to consider the scope for closure of the school or whether other structural solutions would be likely to improve the quality of education being provided.
- 5.5. Were a new primary to be created there may be some advantages to it being a sponsored academy and this would be explored as part of the consultations.

6. Pupil numbers and school capacities

- 6.1. Table 1 shows the schools capacities, present and projected number on roll (NOR) at schools within two miles of Beaumont Junior School.

Table 1

School	Capacity	Actual			Forecast			
		NOR 2009/10	NOR 2010/11	NOR 2011/12	NOR 2012/13	NOR 2013/14	NOR 2014/15	NOR 2015/16
West End Infant	150	126	132	151	154	156	155	156
Talavera Infant	270	260	254	241	248	257	266	279
St Josephs RCA Primary	204	195	203	204	200	197	196	195
St Michaels CEC Infant	260	267	270	267	257	248	244	244
Belle Vue Infant	270	213	228	236	241	251	257	260
Park Primary	90	86	81	81	76	81	81	84
Marlborough Infant + J	104	100	109	106	107	108	116	120
Total	1,348	1,247	1,277	1,286	1,283	1,298	1,315	1,338
School	Capacity	NOR 2009/10	NOR 2010/11	NOR 2011/12	NOR 2012/13	NOR 2013/14	NOR 2014/15	NOR 2015/16
Beaumont Junior	189	108	117	95	86	91	91	103
Talavera Junior	296	330	295	291	291	313	305	318
St Josephs RCA Primary	272	264	262	264	269	272	273	272
St Michaels CEC Junior	350	371	378	385	396	409	405	396
Newport Junior	263	227	235	243	257	306	323	349
Park Primary	120	90	89	91	102	99	99	95
Marlborough Infant + J	35	20	10	20	22	22	17	23
Total	1,525	1,410	1,386	1,389	1,423	1,512	1,513	1,556
Grand total	2,873	2,657	2,663	2,675	2,706	2,810	2,828	2,894

6.2. The combined forecasts show that all school places need to be retained to ensure sufficient provision in the area and forecast numbers are predicated upon the continued pattern of the number of pupils seeking places at the schools. There is no opportunity to consider closure of either school without the opening of alternative provision.

7. Future direction

7.1. If consultations are agreed, formal meetings will be arranged with governors, staff and parents of the two schools. In addition the local County Councillor, the appropriate trade unions, Rushmoor Borough Council, parish councils, local strategic partnership and the local member of parliament will be consulted, along with any other interested parties in the wider schools' community.

8. Views of the local County Councillor

8.1 The local County Councillor is aware of the recommendations in this report and his views on the possible closure of Beaumont Junior and West End Infant Schools and the creation of a primary school will be sought as part of any authorised consultation process.

9. Recommendation(s)

- 9.1. **that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approves consultations taking place during the autumn term 2011 with parents, governors, staff and other interested parties on the possible closure of West End Infant and Beaumont Junior Schools, Aldershot and the creation of a 420 place (two form entry) primary school on one of the school sites;**
- 9.2. **that the consultation process should include dialogue with the community about whether the new school should be an academy;**
- 9.3. **that a report on the outcomes of the consultation be prepared for submission in autumn 2011.**

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
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

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.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1.

3. Climate Change:

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

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