

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	17 July 2012
Title:	Primary provision in Winchester – outcome of consultations
Reference:	3899
Report From:	The Director of Children's Services

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to report back on the outcome of local consultations on a strategy for the provision of additional primary phase places in the Winchester Town area.
- 1.2. The paper sets out the background to the consultations, discusses responses to the consultations, addresses the financial implications and recommends the next steps to be taken.
- 1.3. The recommended strategy to provide the additional primary places is to create a 420 place primary provision on the Rotherly site adjacent to The Westgate School, change the age range of the school so that it caters for children from 4–16 years of age, and enlarge Winnall and St. Peter's Primary Schools. The implementation of this strategy is dependant upon the outcome of the separate consultation and approval of a proposal to close The Westgate School's boarding provision which is located in Rotherly House.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. At his Decision Day on 23 March 2012, the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services authorised consultation on proposals to provide additional primary phase places in the Winchester Town area from September 2014. A very considerable amount of information and background material was made available as part of the consultation documentation and can be accessed at;
www.hants.gov.uk/winchesterprimaryplaces

3. Current position and future need for places

- 3.1. In recent years, and in line with national trends, Winchester Town (which comprises the six Winchester City Council wards and adjoining built up areas of Harestock, Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery) has seen an increase in demand for primary school places, most notably for admission at age 4+ (Year R). This reflects national trends but the rise in Winchester being particularly significant and rapid.
- 3.2. In terms of Year R admissions, the total of the Published Admission Numbers (PAN) of the Winchester Town schools is 406. Several schools have agreed to increase their Year R admissions in September 2012 and September 2013 as set out in the table below, providing an additional 74 Year R places to meet the anticipated demand. This will be achieved by the provision of temporary classrooms and/or internal adaptation of spaces.

Table 1: Winchester places 2012 and 2013

School	Original PAN for September 2012	Places available for September 2012 and September 2013
All Saints Primary	20	30
Harestock Primary	36	45
Oliver's Battery Primary	40	40
St Bede Primary	60	60
St Faith's Primary	20	20
St Peter's Primary	45	60
Stanmore Primary	45	45
Weeke Primary	60	60
Western Primary	60	90
Winnall Primary	20	30
TOTALS	406	480

- 3.3. The current overall capacity of the schools in the area, together with recent and forecast numbers on roll, is shown in the table below and demonstrates the impact the additional children entering Year R have going forward.

Table 2: Forecast NOR for Winchester

Net Capacity	Actual Number on Roll January 2012	Forecast Number on Roll				
		2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
2780	2711	2795	2861	2908	2959	2967

- 3.4. The number of primary school pupils in Winchester schools is predicted to continue to increase. Winchester City Council's recently published pre-submission Winchester District Local Plan Core Strategy proposes that some 4,000 additional dwellings should be built in the Winchester Town area between 2011 and 2031. Of these 2,000 are proposed at Barton Farm, with the other 2,000 on smaller sites in the town area. Development at Barton Farm would include a new primary school so this development does not need to be taken into account in this strategy for primary school places.
- 3.5. 426 of the remaining 2,000 dwellings are already taken into account in the forecast pupil numbers. The demand arising from the remaining 1,574 would require additional primary schooling provision on top of that which will be provided as an outcome of this consultation. This is reflected in the draft Winchester District Local Plan Core Strategy which proposes that this could be met through the provision of a primary school on a site to be identified. Planning for the school place provision needed as a result of these 1,574 dwellings in the Local Plan Core Strategy will be undertaken when the Strategy, including development timelines, is confirmed.
- 3.6. The March 2012 Executive Member decision report explained that it had not previously proved possible to identify a site within the Winchester town area which could accommodate significant additional primary school places. However, one such site could become available because of separate proposals to close the small boarding units at The Westgate and Kings' Schools. The boarding provision at The Westgate School (Rotherly House) occupies a large enough site to build a 420 place primary facility. This requires the agreement of the school's governing body to an expansion of the existing school on the school's land, and the primary element requires access to the school's team games area. The Westgate School is located at the heart of the residential areas which are showing the greatest pressure on school places.
- 3.7. The Rotherly site also accommodates Rotherly Nursery and baby unit, a highly regarded early years setting. This would be preserved as part of any proposal to build new primary provision on the Rotherly site and accommodated in modern, temporary facilities where it would maintain business as usual until new permanent accommodation was provided as part of any overall scheme.

4. The options for consultation

- 4.1. The March 2012 report set out two options and invited viable proposals for a further option.
- 4.2. **Option A: Primary provision as part of The Westgate School**
Option A is to create a 420 place primary provision on the Rotherly site adjacent to The Westgate School, and change the age range of the school so that it caters for pupils between the ages of 4-16. This option is dependent on the outcome of the separate consultation and approval of proposals to close the boarding provision at The Westgate School. This option would require the publication of statutory notices proposing a change

in The Westgate School's age range. This option also involves the provision of additional places at two existing schools which in turn would require the publication of statutory notices relating to their proposed enlargement. The option would require a review of Winchester's primary schools' catchment areas and this would be the subject of a separate statutory consultation.

Option B: The expansion of existing primary schools

Option B is to expand the following existing schools in the Winchester area. This option would require the publication of statutory notices proposing the enlargement of All Saints, St. Peter's, Western and Winnall Primary Schools.

Table 3: Expansion of Schools in Option B

School	Existing capacity	Existing PAN	Proposed capacity	Proposed PAN
All Saints Primary	140	20	210	30
Harestock Primary	252	36	315	45
St Peter's Primary	315	45	420	60
Western Primary	405	60	630	90
Winnall Primary	140	20	210	30

Option C: Alternative proposals

Consultees were invited to suggest proposals for viable alternative options.

- 4.3. Each of the options would provide a minimum of 74 places each year for admission into Year R, and ultimately in excess of 500 additional primary places in the Winchester Town schools.

5. Consultations

- 5.1. Consultations commenced on 28 March 2012, with a closing date for comments of 15 June, based around a dedicated web site containing all the consultation materials, at www.hants.gov.uk/winchesterprimaryplaces.
- 5.2. Public meetings were held on the evenings of 8 May (at The Westgate School) and 15 May (at the County Council offices) and daytime drop-in sessions on 24 April, 2, 9, 16 and 22 May.
- 5.3. Consultation meetings were offered to the staff and governors of Winchester schools and took place separately with the governing bodies of Western and The Westgate Schools and with the Westgate staff.

- 5.4. A list of consultees is given in Appendix C to this report. This included the governing bodies, staff and parents at all schools (nursery, primary, secondary and special) in the Winchester Town area and the surrounding villages that are served by secondary schools in Winchester Town (as defined in 3.1) and local County and District Councillors, MPs and the dioceses.
- 5.5. As well as inviting detailed comments, consultees were encouraged to respond using an on-line survey.

6. Consultation responses

- 6.1. A total of 101 written responses have been received, including detailed responses from the governing bodies of 3 primary schools: Western, Winnall and St Bede; and from the governing body of one secondary school, The Westgate. These schools' responses are included as Appendix D to this report.
- 6.2. The on-line survey attracted 133 responses. Of these 46 (35%) favoured Option A, 70 (53%) favoured Option B and 16 (12%) suggested alternatives under Option C. A detailed analysis of the survey responses is given at Appendix F.
- 6.3. No responses have been received from other statutory consultees, with the exception of Portsmouth Catholic Diocese who indicated support for Option A with the caveat that one of the other two existing schools to be expanded is St Peter's.

7. Option A – consultees responses R and local authority comment C

- 7.1 R - 4-16 schooling is untested and unproven.

C - The development of all-through schools is a growing trend within education in England. All-through schools used to be confined to the private sector where they remain popular, but they are becoming more common within the state funded sector with upwards of 60 such schools across the country. Because the provision of all-through schools is relatively new, there is little academic research evidence that can be drawn on to accurately determine their long-term effectiveness. The growing interest in all-through education is seen as an organisational solution to the problems that have been endemic in the English education system for some time such as transfer from primary to secondary phases of education and its impact on pupils' progress, and early intervention when a child is experiencing difficulties. Whilst these are not particular issues in Winchester given the strength of its schools there would be scope to benefit from the model.

- 7.2 R - Why the proposal for a primary facility to be managed as part of a 4-16 school rather than a freestanding primary school? How would this work?

C - There are a number of factors which have led to this proposal, one being practicality. Whilst the Rotherly site is sufficient in size to house a 420-place primary school it could not provide the necessary team games area. A 4-16 Westgate school would see primary age pupils able to access the present

school's playing fields. (This could also be achieved by agreement between a freestanding primary and The Westgate school however The Westgate governors have indicated that they would not be prepared to cede part of their land to a stand alone primary school).

Another factor is related to the process of admissions to schools and recent legislation, which leads to the presumption that any new school would be an academy. An academy would determine how pupils would be admitted to the school and would almost certainly admit pupils into all seven primary year groups. This would result in the new school offering places to children already attending schools, which could have a destabilising effect on the current pattern and funding of primary education in Winchester.

- 7.3 R - Much concern was expressed about the traffic implications and children's safety. Some respondents were of the view that traffic congestion was already unacceptable even without the addition of an eventual 420 more children accessing the Westgate School site.

C - The County Council's highway consultant's initial assessment is that, overall, he would expect the boarding house site to be suitable in terms of transport for use as a 2 form entry (420 place) primary facility. This would be on the understanding that the start and finish times for the primary and secondary pupils were staggered so that the current peak of activity was extended, rather than all occurring at once. It would be expected that school related parking would increase on Cheriton Road as a consequence of the primary pupils. The expectation of a local catchment would mitigate this to some extent as more pupils could walk to school.

A framework travel plan for the new primary provision would be required initially as part of the planning application process, with a subsequent full travel plan produced by the school during the first term of primary phase occupation. The travel plan would identify and, where possible, implement measures to minimise vehicular trips to and from the school, in consultation with the school community. Monitoring of the travel plan would be expected so as to assess the impact of the new provision on the local community, evaluate the success of measures implemented, reflect any changes that may occur and ultimately to keep a track of the travel modes of the school. It is likely that with the younger age of pupils there would be a need for a school crossing patrol. (see also paragraph 7.8)

- 7.4 R - The Rotherly site is not big enough

C - The site is of sufficient size to house a 420-place primary school together with the Rotherly nursery with the primary age children having access to The Westgate School's playing fields.

- 7.5 R - Concern was expressed about the potential impact on primary schools' catchment areas e.g. a sibling at one school and a change to catchment areas puts a sibling in a different catchment area.

C - Option A will require a review of catchment areas. Any design for the changes would seek to take into account likely home to school journeys and the existing definition of communities by school catchment area. In periods of transition from one set of admissions arrangements to another, specific

admission criteria can be used to mitigate the impact on siblings in particular.

- 7.6 R - The new primary provision would be too close to the primary provision at Western and would fragment the community.

C - The Westgate and Western schools work closely together to serve the same community. There is no reason to suppose this would not continue. Option A puts school places in a best fit to where the demand from additional pupils will be. This is an urban area, and there are examples in many urban areas of schools in very close proximity to each other determined, as in this case, by the availability of land and the distribution of the pupils. An example is the Crescent and Norwood schools in Eastleigh.

- 7.7 R - Newly built primary provision in such close proximity to Western Primary School will impact negatively on Western staff's morale.

C - The quality and success of any school, and the morale of its staff, relies much more on the leadership of the school and the quality of the staff than on its buildings. Western staff can be proud of their achievements as recognised by both the County Council and Ofsted. The close working relationship which exists between Western and Westgate can continue with opportunities for the cross fertilisation of primary staff from both schools. Para 15.4 recommends a limited amount of capital to address some of the identified accommodation issues at Western (and two other schools) should Option A move ahead.

- 7.8 R - Staggered start times between the primary and secondary provision at The Westgate School would result in a longer period of disruption for local residents.

C - Yes there would be a longer period of drop off and pick up, but proposed changes to The Westgate site and a revised school travel plan would strive to manage this better overall and minimise or reduce disruption. In particular the plans for the new school building, with all access from The Westgate side of the building, are designed to greatly reduce the traffic problems currently experienced in Links Road and Walnut Grove. The travel plan would be produced by the whole school community and would look at how pupils, staff and visitors travel to and from school. As in all travel plans measures would be identified to encourage pupils, parents and staff to walk and cycle to school and to improve safety.

- 7.9 R - Which other two schools would be expanded as part of this option?

C - Winnall Primary and St. Peter's Primary schools, reflecting a balance between parental demand and where children live.

- 7.10 R - This option will result in falling rolls in other primary schools .

C - It would be intended to work to a "phased opening" of any new primary provision on The Westgate site with pupil numbers largely restricted to growing gradually through successive reception year admissions. This would also be the case at Winnall and St. Peter's schools. Forecast pupil numbers in the medium to long term demonstrate a need for all the places which will be available in the Winchester Town schools.

- 7.11 R - Primary provision on The Westgate site will be a distraction for pupils and staff, will change the character of the school and have a negative impact on the performance of the secondary element.

C - The governing body and the headteacher of The Westgate School, whose responsibility it would be to implement a 4-16 model, are confident in their belief that it will have a positive impact upon the secondary element and enhance learning opportunities across the phases. (Appendix D – Westgate governing body letter refers).

- 7.12 R - How will Rotherly Nursery continue whilst construction work is taking place?

C - It is likely to be necessary to house the nursery in suitable temporary buildings whilst construction takes place. The nursery provision will then be reprovided in new buildings on the Rotherly site.

- 7.13 R - Winchester is fortunate to have three very good, but different secondary schools providing choice for parents to match their children to the appropriate learning environment. A large through school would affect the other two schools adversely.

C - Three outstanding, but different secondary schools would remain as a choice for parents. The other two secondary schools in Winchester have expressed concerns that the pupils in the primary phase at Westgate would move through to Year 7 as a cohort and upset the balance of pupil movements to the three secondary schools. Parents would be able to choose to move their children at the end of year 6, but it is accepted that it is likely that the majority will continue into Year 7 at The Westgate. This would be 60 pupils in an intake of 240 overall at The Westgate. It is 60 pupils in an intake of 750+ pupils across the three Winchester secondary schools. In Option B 30 of those pupils would be at Western, a linked feeder school to The Westgate. The majority of those pupils live in The Westgate catchment. It therefore appears unlikely that there would be significant perverse impacts overall. There is also no intention to increase The Westgate secondary admission numbers as a result of Option A, and it is important to note that the growth in primary aged pupils will feed through to the secondary system so all three Winchester schools will remain full.

- 7.14 R - Concern was expressed about the impact on non-Westgate pupils and their integration at Year 7. Conversely Westgate pupils remaining in Year 7 are privileged as a result of a “seamless transition”

C - Pupils in the primary phase of a 4-16 Westgate school would have right of passage into the secondary phase. Parents of Westgate primary children would have the right to express a preference for an alternative secondary school. The Westgate has an admission number of 240 in each year group which they currently manage across 12 Year 7 classes. Even if all 60 pupils from the primary phase move into Year 7 at The Westgate 75% of the Year 7 intake will be from other schools. The first transition from Westgate’s primary to secondary phase would take place in 2021. The Westgate has a well established transition process which includes working with all its linked feeder primary schools and this will continue.

- 7.15 R - Part of the rationale for 4-16 provision is to address the dip in pupil performance at transition from Year 6 to Year 7. This should be addressed for all pupils not just those at the through school.
- C - Transition from Year 6 to Year 7 is, and will continue to be, addressed for all pupils.
- 7.16 R - Infrastructure issues at existing schools will not be addressed.
- C - This makes an assumption that Option B will provide significant enhancements to the facilities of the existing schools beyond the minimum needed to accommodate the additional pupil numbers. It will not. Option B is not an upgrade to existing schools, it is a use of basic need capital funding to provide the necessary school places. That funding has to stretch across Hampshire and is not sufficient to be used to make significant upgrades to any school. Representation was made as part of the consultation about best value in relation to capital works. The County Council is constantly mindful of the most effective use of funds and the impact of capital spend for revenue savings, but considers this across Hampshire not just for Winchester in isolation. Where capital works are undertaken assessment is always made of the most appropriate treatment of other building issues in the school at the same time.
- 7.17 R - Option A makes the best use of available capital providing new, purpose built facilities for 420 primary age children.
- 7.18 R - All through schooling would result in controlled and mutually beneficial interaction between older and younger pupils; early access for primary age pupils to specialist teaching and facilities in a wide range of subjects; the ability for secondary teaching to benefit from primary practice and vice versa.
- 7.19 R - 4-16 schooling will present opportunities for team teaching across all key stages; secondary subject specialists supporting primary colleagues with the planning and delivery of key concepts in the primary curriculum; primary colleagues leading the development of literacy and numeracy across all key stages.
- 7.20 R - Greater value for money with regard to business support facilities releasing funding for teaching resources and staffing.
- 7.21 R - Cross phase interaction between pupils.
- 7.22 R - A 4-16 school will enable early engagement with harder to reach parents and a maintenance of relationships into the secondary phase.
- 7.23 R - Option A is an opportunity for Winchester and Hampshire County Council to lead the way in forward thinking education provision.
- 7.24 C - It is important to note that the three responses received from the governing bodies of Winchester primary schools express their concerns about the impact of a new primary provision on their schools, particularly in relation to parental preference. There will also be a need for a review of catchment areas which is always unsettling for local communities. There is concern that pupils in the new provision could be advantaged over those in

other Winchester primary schools by the educational provision that could be on offer to them. If constant striving for better educational outcomes is one of the roles of the local authority then it is hard for the local authority to oppose a proposal that potentially improves the life chances of some pupils. However it is accepted that other Winchester primary schools could find themselves more frequently the second preference of parents if Option A proved to be a popular primary provision. While the buildings may be more attractive, it is likely that the quality of the educational provision and ethos of the school, as determined by Ofsted and 'the grapevine' will rapidly become the more heavily relied on determinant of parental choice. It is therefore necessary to return to the premise that the quality of leadership, teaching, reputation and parental word of mouth will in the medium and long term be the key issues impacting on parental choice.

8. Option B – Consultees responses R and local authority comment C

8.1. R - This option will provide school places across Winchester Town's primary schools to enable local children to attend their catchment school.

C - There is an imbalance in some schools' catchment areas between the number of children residing within them and the places available. Parental preference for a school place is not always for the catchment school. Nonetheless, it is recognised that a more even spread between schools of the additional primary places to provide for the growth in Winchester may provide the best solution in terms of admissions.

8.2. R - The expansion of existing schools would enable infrastructure issues at those schools to be addressed.

C - see 7.16

8.3. R - Option B has less of an impact regarding traffic implications than Option A.

C - It is likely that the expansion of existing schools would spread the issues associated with children travelling to school by car or bus but the same number of pupils will be moving within Winchester. Option B would create additional pressures across a number of school sites, particularly for Western who would be accepting an additional 210 pupils in total. There would need to be very careful assessments of schools' travel plans.

8.4 R - This option presents an opportunity to rebuild and expand Western Primary School.

R - The current infrastructure at Western cannot cope with an additional form of entry (an additional 210 children).

C - There is no intention to rebuild Western Primary and the funding is not available to do so. The school would be expanded to provide an additional form of entry through the provision of seven new classrooms. There would be limited additional work to address any significant issues expansion would raise in relation to the school's core infrastructure. Amended library space, larger kitchens and staff room and additional toilets are part of the plan (see table 5). However, the capital funding identified for this purpose (paragraph

13.5 refers) is to provide “basic need” school places and not for enhancements to the general facilities of existing schools.

- 8.5 R - 90 children per year group at Western (creating a 630-place school) is too big.

C - There are a number of primary schools of this size in Hampshire which operate successfully, delivering good outcomes and experiences for pupils.

- 8.6 R - This option would enable some of the expanded schools to move to single age classes e.g. admission numbers in year groups increasing from 20 to 30 .

C - Many schools prefer to operate with single age classes and the expansion of some existing schools would provide the ability for them to do so.

- 8.7 R - Option B would be quicker to implement.

C - It is intended to have the permanent accommodation required for the additional primary places operational with effect from September 2014. This is a challenging but achievable timescale with respect to both Options A and B. Neither can be achieved any sooner.

9. Option C – consultee responses (R) and local authority comment (C)

- 9.1. R - Build a new 2-form entry (420 place) primary school on a different site.

C - All options of alternative sites have been explored. There is no vacant land in County Council ownership that could provide for a two-form entry primary facility. It would be prohibitively expensive to purchase land on the open market in Winchester which is currently realising in the region of £2m per acre. It would also be cost prohibitive to use land that the County Council is currently using for something else e.g. office accommodation, as there would be a need to relocate, potentially through site acquisition and build, whatever provision was displaced. The consultation document addresses the main proposals that have been put forward as alternative sites. As requested during the consultation, the Falcon House/Clarendon site has been re-examined as an option. The site is outside the areas of the city where the growth in pupil numbers is greatest. The cost of re-providing the current County Council office accommodation that is on that site is estimated at between £8m and £10m. The current buildings would require extensive remodelling. The site also has an opportunity cost in terms of residential provision of a minimum of £3m. There is no opportunity cost to the County Council of the use of The Westgate site in Option A because the County Council could not sell it or use it for other purposes without the full co-operation of the governing body.

- 9.2. An area of Winchester City Council (WCC) owned land at Abbots Barton has very recently been proposed as a potential site for a 420 place primary school. WCC has confirmed that the land could be available subject to a case being made for development to the City Council Planning Officer, as the site is outside the settlement boundary, and subject to the outcome of consultations with the local community. In return WCC would require from

the County Council alternative recreational space in the community (recognising there is a park nearby), possible access to the school recreational facilities out of hours, and a land swap with the County Council to support WCC's new homes programme.

The site is located within the catchment area of St Bede school. As with any new school in Winchester, a catchment area review would be needed and the school would open as an Academy and therefore could set its own admission arrangements and admit across all year groups from opening. The timeline that would be required for the planning and local consultation processes, alongside the considerable uncertainties as to the outcome, mean that this site would be a highly risky choice for completion of a new school for opening in September 2014. The requirement for a 'land swap' adds an opportunity cost dimension for the County Council as the County Council would have to give the City Council land which it could otherwise sell at market rates (residential land values are approximately £2m an acre in Winchester).

The Abbotts Barton site may be a possibility for primary school provision in the future (paragraph 3.5 refers) but the balance of timeline, uncertainty and cost make it impractical as a solution for September 2014.

- 9.3. R - Build a 4-form entry infant school on the Rotherly site. Expand Western buildings to become a 4-form entry junior school. Operate as either two separate schools, or one Western split-site primary school.

C - Whilst recognising separate infant and junior schools form part of Hampshire's provision for primary age children and deliver high quality education for them, new schools for primary age children are built as all-through primary schools providing a seamless transition from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2. To operate as two separate schools would require a statutory procedure to change the character of Western Primary to a junior school and the creation of an infant Academy. The academy would determine how pupils would be admitted to the infant school as set out in paragraph 7.2.

The Westgate School are fully supportive of Option A, a 4–16 school and prepared to use their land for this purpose. The Westgate governing body would not be prepared to transfer some of the school site to the control of an infant Academy or to a split-site primary school.

- 9.4. R - Build a new primary school on the Lanterns Nursery school site.

C - This proposal was addressed in the consultation document. Lanterns Nursery School with its maintained nursery provision, additional facilities for special needs and a children's centre fully utilises the existing site. The costs of purchasing land and reprovisioning Lanterns would add very significantly to costs.

10. General issues raised by consultee responses R and local authority comment C

10.1 R - Whatever option is chosen funding should be allocated to create a network of safe walking and cycling routes that will encourage parents to allow their children to make their own way to school.

C - All schools to be expanded will review and re-develop, as appropriate, their school travel plans designed to encourage walking and cycling to school. Within the severely restricted local authority budget position it is unlikely that significant funds could be made available to significantly enhance the current walking and cycling network provision, but this can be considered as part of the travel assessment and travel planning.

10.2 R - The consultation exercise did not have reference to detailed costings for the proposed options.

C - It was made clear at the consultation events and in the supporting documentation that this information was being established through detailed work with the individual schools, and that a breakdown of the capital costs of each option would be included in the report back on the outcome of the consultations. That detail can be found in Section 13 of this report.

10.3 R - Resources should be used in a way which creates the greatest advantage for the greatest number.

C – The very significant financial resources which will be deployed to provide additional primary places in Winchester are intended to do this. However, it is important to note that the funds available are to provide the additional school places needed and will not enhance the infrastructure of existing schools. Option B does not therefore infer ‘greatest advantage’ for the majority as it will not enhance the facilities available to the current pupils. The potential adverse impact of greater numbers of pupils on individual school sites also needs to be considered – this will vary from school to school depending on the nature of the school site.

10.4 R - The County Council needs to ensure developer contributions are sought and secured in accordance with its policy.

C - Action has been taken to ensure this is, and will continue to be, the case.

11. Western Primary Parent Teachers Association (PTA) Consultation

11.1 During the more general, countywide consultation on school places Western Primary School’s PTA conducted a survey aimed at identifying how the additional places might best be achieved. They presented the responses to their questionnaire to the County Council and requested that they be taken into consideration as part of the Winchester-specific consultation which is the subject of this report.

11.2 It should be noted that the PTA’s survey took place before the County Council embarked on the formal consultation on primary provision in

Winchester and the consultation documentation and information had not been made available to parents.

- 11.3 90% of the 233 respondents to the Western PTA survey were parents of children at Western Primary School. Some may also have responded to the consultation that is the subject of this report. The survey's questions and responses can be found at Appendix E. One question asked:

“How supportive are you of Western School becoming a permanent three-form entry school?”

The response to this question is set out in the table below:

Table 4: Extract from Western School PTA survey

	Response Count	Response %
Extremely supportive	19	8.5
Moderately supportive	51	22.9
Neutral	27	12.1
Slightly unsupportive	47	21.1
Very unsupportive	74	33.2
I do not have enough information to respond	5	2.2
Total	223	100

12. Views of the local County Councillors

- 12.1 Councillors Porter, Dickens, Collin and Bailey jointly submitted a paper on 12 April 2012, which can be found at Appendix G.
- 12.2 Officers met with the Councillors on 8 May to address a number of their queries and to discuss the content of their joint response to the consultation.
- 12.3 Councillors' recognition of a need for additional primary school places on top of those proposed in this consultation is reflected in the County Council's submission to Winchester City Council's Core Strategy regarding the potential need for a new primary school on a site to be identified. See paragraph 3.5.
- 12.4 The Councillors' preferred strategy would be to create separate infant and junior schools on the Western and Rotherly sites, the implications of which are addressed in paragraph 9.3 of this report.

13. Capital strategy

- 13.1. The consultation document outlined high-level costings for both options based on some of our recently completed schemes in Hampshire. The document also explained the national and local government funding position, which continues to present significant challenges when considering the prioritisation of capital investment projects for schools. This position has been exacerbated by the fact that capital funding from the Department for Education (DfE) has been allocated on a year-by-year basis, a change from the three to five year planning horizon that was previously well established and highly desirable for making strategic funding decisions. Following the decision of the County Council on 23 February 2012 to add significant resources to the Children's Services capital programme (£27.9m) and Government Grant allocations for 2011/12 and 2012/13 of £44m, the County Council is now in a position where it can start to make commitments to basic need projects for schools across Hampshire.
- 13.2. The feasibility studies for the options in this report have been undertaken using Building Bulletin 99 guidelines issued by the DfE as a reference point. Typically, the brief and areas are adjusted to match specific project requirements with input from the school in question. When adding school places to existing school provision the aim is to try and address any significant departures from the guidelines but there is usually a certain amount of interpretation required or compromise necessary due to the existing accommodation and availability of funding. There is also a judgement to be made around how feasible and cost effective it is to bring the facilities strictly in line with BB99 guidance. During the consultation process, the feasibility studies have been further reviewed with the individual schools.
- 13.3. In advance of the recommendations contained within this report, a strategy was developed for the September 2012 admissions round that has involved working with primary schools in Winchester over the past year to plan for modern temporary accommodation which will be sited where the need is, and where the school sites allow it. Temporary classrooms have been located on the following school sites:
- All Saints Church Of England Primary School
 - Harestock Primary School
 - Western Church Of England Primary School
 - Winnall Primary School
- 13.4. In addition to temporary buildings, some schools will have internal works undertaken over the summer period to facilitate additional pupils.
- Western Church of England Primary School – Extension of the Year R play area along with some internal classroom divides

St Peter's Catholic Primary School – Conversion of the IT suite into the staffroom and some structural internal changes to create an additional classroom.

13.5. Proposed works under each option are:

Table 5: Proposed capital works

Option A

School	Proposed Form entry	No. of additional classrooms	Pre-existing classrooms	Proposed places per school	Cost £m	Additional other spaces proposed
Westgate School	2	14	n/a	420	7.75	All necessary non-teaching spaces. Re-house Rotherly nursery on same site as new primary provision. Allowance to upgrade playing field for more intensive use.
Winnall Primary	1	2	5	210	0.96	Library space, staffroom and accessible WC
St Peters Primary	2	3	11	420	1.33	Group room and music drama room.

Option B

School	Proposed Form entry	No. of additional classrooms	No. of Pre-existing classrooms	Proposed places per school	Cost £m	Additional other spaces proposed
Harestock Primary	1.5	2	9	315	0.86	Library, SEN group rooms, and music drama room
Western Primary	3	7	14	630	5.25	Additional hall, staff accommodation, toilets and kitchen. Combined IT and library space to form new Learning Resource area. Allowance to upgrade playing field for more intensive use.
All Saints Primary	1	2	5	210	1.38	Library, specialist practical space, music room, staff room and group room.
Winnall Primary	1	2	5	210	0.96	Library space, staffroom extension and new accessible WC
St Peter's Primary	2	3	11	420	1.33	Group room and music drama room

Additional toilets and car parking spaces are to be provided in each case proportionate to the number of classrooms in the school.

- 13.6 Paragraph 4.2 proposes that, if Option A is pursued then Public Notices be published proposing for a change in the school age range for Westgate School from 11-16 to 4-16 along with the enlargement of Winnall Primary School from 140 to 210 places and St Peter's Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School from 315 to 420 places. This strategy delivers an additional 85 primary school places across the primary age range at a cost to the Children's Services capital programme of £10.04m. Option B delivers an additional 74 places and has been costed at £9.78m, this figure excludes the ongoing maintenance liabilities of the existing school buildings.
- 13.7 The budget estimates quoted above are based on preliminary stage feasibility costs and will be further refined in due course for whichever of the projects are to be taken forward and subsequently further developed in line with the points raised in paragraph 13.2. The costs of adding 90 places at Western Primary School are proportionally higher than the costs of the other proposed extension projects due to the significant additional accommodation requirements of creating a 630 place school. However, there is confidence that the overall anticipated costs can be contained within the total figures identified at 13.5 above for either of the options A or B identified in this report.

14. Future direction

- 14.1 There is a fundamental need to provide additional primary school places in Winchester given the rise in the numbers of children entering the education system. As such two options have been proposed with the ability to meet this need, with an invitation to propose alternative, viable options. In the absence of any other viable option being identified, the two proposed options are:
- Option A – create a 420 place primary provision on the Rotherly site adjacent to The Westgate School, and change the age range of the school so that it caters for pupils between the ages of 4-16 and;
- Option B – The expansion of existing primary schools.
- Each option has its own merits.
- 14.2 The majority of comments and issues raised by consultees relate to Option A as set out in Section 7. This is not surprising given the concept of a 4–16 through school is something new to Hampshire's maintained sector. Section 7 also sets out a number of comments from consultees, which would support the development of all-through schooling. However, it is important not to overstate the case, particularly in Winchester where people are well served already by the present pattern of primary and secondary provision which option B would retain. There are pros and cons relating to each option and the key ones are summarised below.

Key Pros and Cons

14.3 Option A – Pros.

- The provision of new, purpose built facilities for primary age children.
- Less disruption for some Winchester primary schools in terms of building work and traffic implications.
- Presents an innovative educational opportunity and brings 4-16 schooling to Hampshire with potential associated advantages.
- Has the full support of The Westgate governing body and leadership team.
- Creates greater diversity of provision offering greater choice.
- Creates 11 additional places per year group over Option B (85 as opposed to 74) equating to 77 more places across the primary age range, introducing greater flexibility in the system and greater choice for parents.
- “Future proof” the system in that the opportunity to expand some existing primary schools, were that to prove necessary in the future, would remain (see 3.5 for explanation of 1574 more dwellings in WCC plan).

14.4 Option A – Cons

- The educational model of 4-16 schooling in the maintained sector is a relatively untested innovation.
- Additional pupils on the Westgate site would add to the traffic congestion which already exists at the beginning and end of the school day. Staggered start and finish times for the primary and secondary provision would serve to alleviate the impact but would consequently prolong the length of time when pupils are accessing and vacating the school site.
- Changes the present pattern of school provision in Winchester which is causing concern within the school community.
- Requires a review of schools’ catchment areas which will inevitably lead to a further period of unsettling debate.
- There is a perception amongst some consultees that option A is a “done deal” and the decision is already made.

14.5 Option B – Pros.

- Presents an opportunity to build on the existing good practice in Winchester’s tried and tested primary and secondary schools which deliver high quality education for their pupils.
- Maintains the present pattern of schooling in Winchester.
- Schools’ catchment areas would remain as now with no need for review.
- The majority of responses from schools’ communities indicate this is their preferred option.

- This option will in effect be happening for the 2012 and 2013 admission rounds albeit it in the majority of cases through the provision of temporary accommodation.

14.6 Option B – Cons.

- An insufficiency of school places in the area of greatest need.
- Removes the opportunity to “future proof” the system through retaining the option of expansion of existing primary schools.
- Creates 11 fewer places per primary year group (77 places overall).
- Adds to traffic issues at a greater number of schools / areas of Winchester.
- Creates school places but does not address all associated core infrastructure issues at schools.
- Western Primary School PTA’s survey showed a significant majority of parents are unsupportive of the school becoming a permanent three form entry (630 place) school.
- Loses an exciting educational opportunity to provide a greater diversity of school provision in Winchester.

14.7 As stated above there is merit in both proposals. However, on balance option A, the creation of a 420 place primary provision on the Rotherly site is considered to be the best way forward.

15. Recommendations :

15.1 That public notices be published, in accordance with Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, to make prescribed alterations to The Westgate School, Winchester, by altering the lower age limit of the school from 11 years to 4 years and enlarging the premises of the school by 420 places, with effect from 1 September 2014.

15.2 That approval be given to statutory consultations taking place on the enlargement of Winnall Primary School to a total of 210 places and St Peter’s Catholic Primary School to a total of 420 places, with effect from 1 September 2014.

15.3 That funding estimated at £10.04m be made available from the Children’s Services capital programme to allow the projects outlined in Option A to proceed within the 2012/13 financial year.

15.4 That funding of £0.4m be made available to help address some of the identified accommodation deficiencies at All Saints, Harestock and Western primary schools.

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

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u> Primary provision in Winchester	<u>Reference</u> 3738	<u>Date</u> 23 March 2012
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u> None	<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>
Copies of consultation responses	Children's Services Department

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

An impact assessment has been undertaken. This has not identified any adverse impact on equalities.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

The proposals have no impact on crime and disorder

3. Climate Change:

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

Any new permanent accommodation will be built according to the County Council's sustainability and 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. No other impacts have been identified during the consultation process.

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.