

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	23 March 2012
Title:	Primary provision in Winchester
Reference:	3738
Report From:	The Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Chris Holt, Head of School Organisation
Ian Lawson, School Organisation Officer

Tel: 01962 845673 **Email:** chris.holt@hants.gov.uk
01962 846350 ian.lawson@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek authority to undertake a consultation exercise on proposals to provide additional primary phase places in the Winchester town area (as defined in 2.1 below) from September 2014.
- 1.2. This paper seeks to explain the background to the issue and examines alternative strategies whereby these places could be provided on the Rotherly site, adjacent to The Westgate School and incorporated within The Westgate Secondary's responsibility, by expanding existing schools, or through any further option that may be put forward during this consultation.

2. Current position and future need for places

- 2.1. In recent years, and in line with national trends, Winchester Town (which comprises the six Winchester wards and adjoining built up areas of Harestock, Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery) has seen an increase in demand for primary school places, particularly for admission at age 4+ (Year R).
- 2.2. In terms of Year R admissions, the total of the Published Admission Numbers 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 more intensive use of existing spaces.

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

- 2.3. The current overall capacity of the schools in the area, together with recent and forecast numbers on roll, is shown in the following table:

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

- 2.4. 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.
- 2.5. The demand arising from the development of the remaining 2,000 would require additional primary schooling provision. This is reflected in the draft Winchester District Local Plan Core Strategy which proposes that this would be met through the provision of a primary school on a site to be identified.

3. Rotherly site

- 3.1. To date it has not proved possible to identify a new site within the existing built up Winchester 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 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 as an expansion to an existing school and is located at the heart of the residential areas which are showing the greatest pressure on school places.

- 3.2. 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.

OPTION A

4. Primary provision as part of The Westgate School

- 4.1. The proximity of the Rotherly site to The Westgate School presents a structural solution whereby the primary phase places could be part of Westgate School. This would require the age range of Westgate 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).
- 4.2. The expertise within the staff and governing body would need to be expanded to cover the primary phase. Staffing structures would be the responsibility of the governing body. It would be necessary to define a catchment area for the primary phase, following full consultation with schools and all interested parties, with the intention that children attending the new primary provision at Westgate would live within walking distance.
- 4.3. The Westgate School would have two Published Admission Numbers (PANs). As a two form entry primary provision, the PAN at 4+ would be 60. Pupils attending the 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 60 places that could be taken up by pupils moving from the primary to secondary phases within the school. The effect of this would be to maintain the status quo in the number of places available for secondary admissions within the Winchester schools.

OPTION B

5. The expansion of existing schools

- 5.1. An alternative to providing additional primary places on the Rotherly site would be to expand existing schools. Site constraints prevent any of the primary schools in the area being able to provide an additional 2 forms of entry (420 places) so this strategy would require several smaller expansions at a number of schools. As referred to in 2.2 above several primary schools

have already agreed to increase their Year R admissions in September 2012. In the majority of cases this will be through the provision of temporary classrooms.

- 5.2. If Option B were to go ahead then permanent accommodation could be provided at those schools showing the greatest pressure on school places with further local consultation as appropriate.

6. Further options

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

7. Financial implications

- 7.1. The provision of additional primary places in Winchester will have significant capital implications. A financial appraisal for each of the options will form part of the report back on the outcome of consultations.

8. Environmental implications

- 8.1. A full access analysis will be undertaken with regard to the final chosen option and the relevant school travel plans will be reviewed and revised where necessary.

9. Equality impact assessment

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

10. Recommendations

- 10.1. That approval be given to statutory consultations taking place with local schools, parents, governors, staff, their wider communities and other interested parties on the option of providing two forms of entry (420 places) of additional primary provision on the Rotherly site, Winchester, through an alteration to the age range of The Westgate School from 11 – 16 to 4 – 16, on the option to provide the additional primary provision required through the expansion of existing Winchester primary schools; and to invite proposals for further options for consideration.
- 10.2. That a detailed consultation document be prepared and made available to consultees prior to consultations taking place.
- 10.3. That a report on the outcome of consultations be prepared for submission at the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services Decision Meeting in July 2012.

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

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Maximising well-being:	no
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.)

DocumentLocation

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 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?**
- 3.2. 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.
- a) **How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?**
- 3.3. No specific measures have been identified.