

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****Decision Report**

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Education
<b>Date:</b>	26 March 2014
<b>Title:</b>	Review of Hampshire's Boarding Provision at Kings' Secondary School, Winchester
<b>Reference:</b>	5613
<b>Report From:</b>	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 the boarding provision at Kings' Secondary School on 31 August 2015.
- 1.2. The proposal has come about following contact from Kings' Secondary School governing body and the financial viability of the boarding facility remaining open.

## **2. Contextual information**

- 2.1. On 23 March 2012 approval was sought to consult on the closure of the boarding provision at both The Westgate School and Kings' Secondary School. The consultations on the closure of both the girls boarding provision at The Westgate Secondary School and the boys boarding provision at Kings' Secondary School were held between March and July 2012.
- 2.2. Following these consultations a public notice was published on 6 September 2012 outlining the closure of the boarding provision at The Westgate School on 31 August 2013. Within the same public notice the boarding provision for Kings' Secondary School is to close on 31 August 2017.
- 2.3. For those female pupils attending The Westgate School and wishing to continue boarding, alterations were made to the Kings' School boarding house for boys, to allow mixed gender boarding and this work was completed in time for the start of the 2013/14 academic year.
- 2.4. Table 1 below gives the actual and forecast number of boarders in a mixed gender facility (as reported by The Westgate School and Kings' School in January 2012):

**Table 1**

	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13	Total
2013/14		2	9	11	8	4	1	35
2014/15			2	9	11		4	26
2015/16				2	9			11
2016/17					2			2

2.5. The actual number of boarders in the boarding house has dropped much more quickly than forecast and currently there are 24 boarders within the boarding facility rather than the 35 forecast for the 2013/14 academic year.

2.6. Table 2 below gives the forecast boarder numbers in the mixed gender facility based on actual boarder numbers this year (as reported by Kings' School in February 2014):

**Table 2**

	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13	Total
2013/14		1	3	9	8	3		24
2014/15	3	1	1	5	9	?*	?*	19
2015/16		3	1	1	5	?*	?*	10
2016/17			3	1	1	?*	?*	5

\* Boarder numbers for Y12 and Y13 are unknown as they relate to post-16 pupils attending colleges outside mainstream (11-16) education.

2.7. As the numbers of boarders reduce there comes a point where there is an irreducible minimum cost for staffing and utilities irrespective of the number of boarders in the house. Income for the boarding house comes from the fees paid by the parents of the boarders. The more quickly the boarder numbers fall the quicker the facility becomes financially unviable.

2.8. The governors of the school have concluded that as the number of boarders decrease there will be too few pupils to provide a socially rewarding community within the house after the end of the 2014/15 academic year.

### **3. Timing of possible closure**

3.1. The original closure date for the Kings' School boarding house was 31 August 2017. The governing body of Kings' School has asked that Kings' boarding house be closed at the end of August 2015. Should this be the outcome of the consultation there could be 10 boarders who would have been expecting a place in the boarding house for the 2015/16 academic year of which 5 could have been expecting to remain for the 2016/17 academic year.

- 3.2. Should a decision be taken to close the boarding establishment at Kings' School in advance of pupils completing their statutory secondary education in accordance with their wishes, then alternative provision for pupil's boarding needs would be required. Individual assessments of pupil's needs and requirements would be undertaken in conjunction with pupils, parents and school staff in order to identify appropriate alternative provision.

#### **4. Finance**

- 4.1. A decision to close the boarding house at Kings' School will have a revenue implication. A more detailed financial appraisal will form part of the report back on the outcome of the consultation.

#### **5. Processes and timescales**

- 5.1. If approved the consultation will take place over a six week period and a report back on the outcome of the consultation prepared for submission to the Executive Member for Education at a future decision day.
- 5.2. Should the decision be to proceed with the proposal then the County Council will publish a statutory notice setting out its intent. The notice period would run for six weeks during which time comments/objections can be made.

#### **6. Recommendation(s)**

It is recommended:

- 6.1. that the Executive Member for Education approves the consultation taking place with parents, pupils, governors, staff and other interested parties on the proposal to close the boarding provision at Kings' School with effect from 31 August 2015
- 6.2. that a consultation document be prepared and made available to all consultees in advance of any consultations
- 6.3. that a report on the outcome of the consultation be prepared for submission at a future decision day for the Executive Member for Education

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

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>OR</b>	
<b>This proposal does not link to the Corporate Strategy but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:</b>	

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Review of Hampshire's Boarding Provision at the Westgate and Kings' Secondary Schools, Winchester	3675	23 March 2012
Review of Hampshire's Boarding Provision at the Westgate and Kings' Secondary Schools, Winchester	3902	17 July 2012
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>		
<u>Title</u>	<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>
None	

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

- 1.1 There will be some impact on those boarders wishing to remain at the schools until the completion of their education at the end of Y11 and what boarding accommodation will be available to them. The school places of the boarders are, however, secure until the completion of their education should they wish to remain on the school roll.
- 1.2 Where boarders are from other cultural backgrounds the consultation document will be made available in the native tongue of both pupils and the parents of pupils.
- 1.3 There will be a loss of cultural diversity for the schools that the boarders bring from their different backgrounds.

### **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?  
No impact has been identified.
- 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.