

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Officer Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Peter Colenutt
<b>Title:</b>	Head of Strategic Development
<b>Reference:</b>	6779

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### 1. The decision:

- 1.1. That unconditional approval be given to the following proposal; the publication of a public notice under Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006:

**To make a prescribed alteration to KING'S FURLONG INFANT SCHOOL AND NURSERY AND KINGS FURLONG JUNIOR SCHOOL, Upper Chestnut Drive, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 8YJ (category of schools – community) by enlarging the premises of the schools, with effect from 1 September 2017.**

### 2. Reason(s) for the decision:

- 2.1. Following local consultation, the County Council received 33 written comments regarding the proposal to enlarge the schools. In considering the responses received the County Council felt that the provision of additional school places was necessary and that comments received did not represent sufficient concern to prevent proceeding with the enlargement. The proposal to enlarge King's Furlong Infant School and Nursery from 210 to 270 places, and Kings Furlong Junior School from 240 to 360 places, with effect from 1 September 2017, should proceed to the next stage of the process.

### 3. Consultation

- 3.1. Formal consultation took place between 24 April and 5 June 2015. A letter was sent to consultees as detailed below and a drop-in session was held at King's Furlong Infant School on 12 May 2015. The proposal was also included on the County Council's consultation website. A copy of the consultation letter is attached.
- 3.2. Letters were sent to;
- Parents of children attending King's Furlong Infant School and Nursery and Kings Furlong Junior School

- Headteacher, school staff and Governing Body of King's Furlong Infant School and Nursery and Kings Furlong and Junior Schools
- Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of neighbouring schools
- Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council – Chief Executive
- Trade union representatives
- Local Dioceses
- MP – Right Honourable Maria Miller
- HCC Elected Member – Councillor Criss Connor
- Tracey Sanders – Manager, Services for Young Children
- Residents within 50 metres of the school boundary (150 letters sent)

#### **4. Consultation responses received**

4.1. A total of 33 written comments were received. The key issues raised by consultees can be summarised as follows;

- Concerns over significant congestion on roads around the schools at the beginning and end of the school day and what improvements to access the schools are planned to alleviate this congestion
- Children crossing at the junction of Lower Chestnut Drive present a road safety risk and are there any plans to address this issue.
- Parking for staff on the school site is currently inadequate and staff parking on roads around the schools exacerbates the school travel related issues. Are there plans to provide additional parking for staff and visitors.
- In order to alleviate the traffic and parking in the surrounding roads has consideration been given to a park and stride from Morrison's car park being created.
- If the school extension is provided to the north of the site this would place the buildings close to the school boundary so safeguarding measures for pupils will need to be considered.
- If the buildings are provided to the north of the site they will be close to existing houses which will overlook the accommodation so measures must be taken to ensure that residents are not able to see into the classrooms.
- Given the potential for disruption during the construction of the new accommodation, especially due to the narrow roads around the school, consideration must be given to minimise any disruption caused by construction traffic and noise from the site.
- Maria Miller, MP for Basingstoke, commented that she was in agreement to the provision of additional places being provided at the schools but

urged that additional nursery places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds be provided at King's Furlong Infant School.

- Councillor Michael Westbrook, representing the Brookvale and Kings Furlong Ward of the Borough Council, was in support of the proposal to provide additional school places but did raise concern about highway congestion.

## **5. Comments on consultation responses received**

5.1. With respect to the comments received around traffic congestion there is a process that will be followed to identify issues and seek solutions. As part of the consultation process officers from Hampshire County Council attended the consultation drop-in session to explain the process in developing a School Travel Plan (STP), and to seek the community's views and concerns over parking, travel and transport that exist. These concerns have been captured through a feedback response form whereby consultees categorised their position within the community and the comments that they have.

5.2. The School Travel Plan is a long-term document produced by the whole school community and any other interested/affected parties. It looks at how children, parents, staff and visitors travel to and from school, and sets out measures to;

- Encourage and enable pupils, parents, guardians and staff to walk, scoot and cycle to school. Where this is not possible, consider public transport, car sharing or 'Park and Stride' to school.
- Encourage and provide educational programmes relating to child travel and how this links to the environment, safety and health.
- Improve safety.

5.3. Once the consultation forms have been collated and summarised, the school with the support of the School Travel Planning Team, will then survey pupils, parents and staff as to how they travel, the barriers that they may encounter, and suggestions as to improvements. Using the results of this along with responses from the principle to expand consultation the issues will be classified on behalf of the whole school community along with possible solutions.

5.4. The school and STP team will subsequently work with the various key stakeholders to develop an action plan to target the issues that are preventing pupils, parents and staff from using alternatives to the car. The initiatives identified will be a combination of physical measures such as scooter storage or crossing points, and 'soft' measures relating to education, promotion and enforcement. For those who have no alternative but to use the car, other options will be considered such as 'Park and Stride' sites.

5.5. The travel plan will link to a Transport Statement, undertaken by consultants, using additional data acquired from traffic surveys, accident data, parking

beat surveys and so on. The outcomes of the Transport Statement will clearly define between measures that are essential to mitigate against the travel impact of the increase in numbers, and desirable measures that will provide a general improvement to routes to school, long term.

- 5.6. The suggested proposals will be taken back to the school community at the pre planning consultation event for further discussion, and possible adjustment, prior to submission of the planning application.
- 5.7. A review of the staff car parking numbers will be undertaken against current parking regulations and if additional places are identified as being required then they will be provided as part of the school expansion project.
- 5.8. The headteacher and governors will be fully involved in the development of the design of the new accommodation and all plans will ensure that pupils are safeguarded both during construction and through the design of the new buildings.
- 5.9. Discussions will be held with staff from Services for Young Children (SfYC) regarding the demand for pre-school places in the area and if it is felt additional places are required opportunities will be considered as to how additional provision can be made.
- 5.10. The organisation of the construction phase of the project will take account of issues of access to the site and the working arrangements on site. A number of measures will be put in place to minimise disruption such as ensuring no deliveries are made to site during the beginning and end of the school day. Health and safety is a key issue for school expansion projects and will be considered at all stages.

## **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1. Pupil forecasts for King's Furlong Infant and Kings Furlong Junior Schools show numbers growing as a result of increased demand for school places from within the school's catchment area. In order to meet the County Council's statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of school places these schools need to be expanded.
- 6.2. The comments received during the consultation will be considered through the development of the school travel plan, the design process for the new school buildings and as part of the planning application process. In considering the responses received the County Council felt that the provision of additional school places was necessary and that comments received did not represent sufficient concern to prevent proceeding with the enlargement.

## **7. Other options considered and rejected:**

- 7.1. Not to approve the proposal would mean that there are insufficient primary school places available in the school to meet the demand from within the catchment area.

**8. Conflicts of interest:**

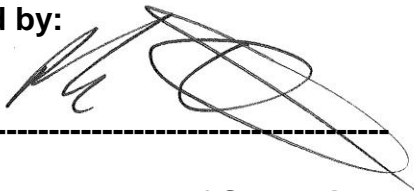
8.1. Conflict of interest declared by an Executive Member who is consulted by the officer which relates to the decision:

None

**9. Dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service:**

None

**Approved by:**



**Date:**

**23 June 2015**

**Peter Colenutt, Head of Strategic Development**

**On behalf of the Director of Children's Services**