

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Officer Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Peter Colenutt
Title:	Head of Strategic Development
Reference:	8105

Tel: 01962 845746

Email: mark.saunders@hants.gov.uk

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 Kings Copse Primary School, Kings Copse Road, Hedge End, Southampton, SO30 0PQ (category of school – Community) by enlarging the premises of the school, with effect from 1 September 2019.

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

- 2.1. Following local consultation, the County Council received 10 written comments regarding the proposal to enlarge the school. 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 Kings Copse Primary School from 210 to 315 places, with effect from September 2019, should proceed to the next stage of the process.

3. Consultation

- 3.1. Formal consultation took place between 10 October and 25 November 2016. A letter was sent to consultees as detailed below and a drop-in session was held at Kings Copse Primary School on 19 October. The proposal was also included on the County Council's consultation website. A copy of the consultation letter is attached (Appendix A).
- 3.2. Letters were sent to;
- Parents of children attending Kings Copse Primary School
 - Headteacher, school staff and Governing Body of Kings Copse Primary School
 - Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of neighbouring schools

- Eastleigh Borough Council – Chief Executive
- Trade union representatives
- Local Dioceses
- MP – Right Honourable Mims Davies
- HCC Elected Member – Councillor Rupert Kyrle
- Tracey Sanders – Manager, Services for Young Children
- Residents within 50 metres of the school boundary (256 letters sent)

4. Consultation responses received

4.1. A total of 10 written comments were received. The key issues raised by consultees can be summarised as follows;

- They expressed concerns regarding parking on roads by parents around the school at the beginning and end of the school day in Hindmarsh Crescent and Kings Copse Road. What improvements to accessing the school are planned to alleviate this issue?
- Parking for staff and parents on the school site is currently inadequate. Are there plans to provide additional parking on the school site as part of the scheme?
- Concerns were expressed regarding classroom size and the potential for small classrooms. Do the plans provide for larger classrooms?

5. Comments on consultation responses received

5.1. With respect to the 10 comments received around parking, 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 additional spaces 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. 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.
- 5.10. There are many schools in Hampshire operating successfully at the level proposed by this expansion and in this case the school is being brought back up to the same capacity as they were a number of years ago.

5.11. New classrooms will be built to the requirements as detailed in Department for Education (DfE) guidance to accommodate classes of 30 children.

6. Conclusion

6.1. Pupil forecasts for the Hedge End area show numbers growing as a result of increased demand for school places from within the school's catchment area. Other options were considered, however, in order to meet the County Council's statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places, this school needs 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 building 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:

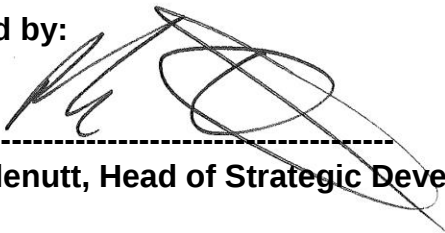
8.1. Conflict of interest declared by an Executive Member who is consulted by the officer which relates to the decision:

None

9. Dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service:

None

Approved by:



Peter Colenutt, Head of Strategic Development

On behalf of the Director of Children's Services

Date:

4 January 2017

Appendix A – Consultation Letter



*Children's Services Department
Elizabeth II Court North
Winchester
Hampshire SO23 8UG*

Telephone 0300 555 1384
Textphone 0845 603 5625

Enquiries to **Mark Saunders**

My reference

Direct Line **01962 846293**

Your reference

Date **10 October 2016**

E-mail **strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk**

Dear Consultee

Enlargement of Kings Copse Primary School – Consultation

I am writing to invite your views in respect of Hampshire County Council's proposal to permanently enlarge the premises of Kings Copse Primary School.

Hampshire County Council is proposing to increase the physical capacity of Kings Copse Primary School to allow them to offer 45 places for Year R (age 4+). This expansion will allow the school to cater for 315 pupils.

The demand for school places is a result of a rise in the number of births in the area and new housing development. It is intended that permanent facilities would be available from September 2019.

Reason for proposal

Hampshire County Council has a statutory duty to provide school places. Owing to an increase in the number of children in the school's catchment area, and in particular demand for Year R places, there is a need for additional school places to be provided.

Where a Local Authority proposes to permanently enlarge a school's capacity by 25% or more it must follow a procedure set out by the Department for Education. Further information and 'Frequently Asked Questions' is available on the following website;

<http://consultations.hants.gov.uk/active.aspx>

Director of Children's Services
Steve Crocker

The Consultation

The primary purpose of this consultation is to seek the view of consultees on the principle of enlarging the schools to meet the demand for additional school places in the local area. We understand that you may have some questions regarding how the school buildings will be expanded to accommodate additional pupils and whether there will be an impact on travel to and from the school as a result of accommodating additional pupils. Both of these aspects are important but at this stage these details will not be available as we need to obtain approval to the expansion before detailed work commences. It is important to hear your views at this stage so we can consider them as part of the detailed work to be undertaken should approval to the enlargement be obtained.

This consultation will run from 10 October to 25 November 2016. Officers will then take into consideration all the consultation responses received before deciding whether the proposal should continue to the formal publication stage.

If so, a statutory Public Notice will be published, setting out Hampshire County Council's intent to enlarge the school. It is anticipated that this will be published in January.

After the date of publication there will be a four week period in which any representations can be made to the local authority. After the conclusion of this period the County Council will decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal. It is anticipated that a decision will be made by the end of the summer.

Further Information

A drop-in session where you will be able to discuss the proposal with County Council officers will take place on **Wednesday 19 October 2016 at Kings Copse Primary School** between 3pm and 6pm.

The current proposed building plans are being developed with the Headteacher and governing body. The plans will be posted on the school website once they have been developed and agreed with the school. There will be a further opportunity to discuss the plans in detail at a pre-planning application consultation and we will notify you of the details once arranged.

If you are unable to attend this session or visit the above website and wish to make a comment then please write to Ian Douth, Project Officer, Children's Services Department, Ell Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG or e-mail strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk by 25 November 2016.

Yours sincerely



Mark Saunders
Strategic Development Officer
Children's Services Department