

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Education
Date of Decision:	18 March 2016
Decision Title:	Amalgamation of Vigo Infant and Vigo Junior Schools
Decision Reference:	7297
Report From:	Interim Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Chris Holt – Programme Manager, Children's Services

Tel: 01962 845674

Email: chris.holt@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. On 20 January 2016 the Executive Member for Education decided to publish a statutory notice (Appendix A) in accordance with sections 15 and 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, setting out the County Council's intention to amalgamate Vigo Infant and Junior Schools to form a primary school. This to be achieved through the closure of the junior school, the expansion of the Infant school, through the utilisation of the junior school's site and buildings, and extension of the infant school's age range to form a 630 place primary school for ages 4-11. The report sets out the context leading to that decision and reports back on the representations received to the statutory notice.
- 1.2. The report sets out and comments upon the statutory guidance for decision makers on factors that need to be considered when deciding on proposals to form a primary school through the closure of a junior school and extension of the age range and enlargement of an infant school.
- 1.3. The report recommends that Vigo Junior School be closed with effect from 31 August 2016 and that a three-form entry primary school to cater for 630 pupils aged 4-11 be established on the present schools' sites with effect from 1 September 2016.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. Vigo Junior School was inspected by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) in October 2012 and was judged to require improvement in the achievement of pupils, the quality of teaching and in leadership and management. The latest Ofsted inspection of Vigo Junior School in October 2014 judged the school to require special measures as it was failing to provide an adequate education for its pupils. Successive monitoring visits by

Ofsted in May and October 2015 concluded that the school was still not improving rapidly enough

- 2.2. Vigo Infant School was inspected by Ofsted in July 2013 and judged to require improvement in the achievement of pupils, the quality of teaching and in leadership and management. The latest Ofsted inspection in April 2015 judged the school to be good in all aspects.
- 2.3. In July 2015 the Chair of Governors of both Vigo Infant and Vigo Junior schools wrote, on behalf of both governing bodies, to the Executive Member for Education. The letter from the junior school governing body acknowledged that the school has been underperforming for a number of years and set out the governing body's view that a fresh start was needed through the creation of an all through primary school. The letter from the infant school governing body referred to the latest Ofsted judgement of "good" and expressed the view that it would make sense to have an all through primary school. The decision was taken to consult with the schools' community and other interested parties on the proposal to amalgamate the schools to form a primary school. A list of consultees is attached at Appendix B.
- 2.4. Under the leadership of the infant school headteacher the school has moved from an Ofsted judgement in July 2013 of "requires improvement" to a judgement of "good" in April 2015. The infant school headteacher took up the post of interim executive headteacher of both Vigo Infant and Junior schools in June 2015.
- 2.5. The schools are co-located in joined buildings and both have specialist resourced provision for children with speech, language and communication needs. This provision would continue in an amalgamated primary school.
- 2.6. The two consultation meetings and two drop-in sessions were attended by only 10 parents and one grandparent all of whom were in support of the amalgamation proposal. There were no written responses. A straw poll of 98 parents at pick-up and drop-off times revealed 87 in favour of the proposal 10 unsure and one against. As stated in 2.3 above, both governing bodies want the schools to form a primary school.

3. Representations received to the Public Notice

- 3.1. There were no representations.

4. Statutory guidance for decision makers regarding school closure and the alteration of a school's upper age limit

- 4.1. The Department for Education has issued statutory guidance for decision makers on factors that need to be considered when deciding on proposals to amalgamate schools. There are four key questions that must be answered before considering the relevant factors and merits of statutory proposals, viz:

- do the published notices comply with statutory requirements?

- has the statutory consultation been carried out prior to the publication of the notice?

- are the proposals related to other published proposals?

- is the decision maker satisfied that they have all the information needed to make a decision?

4.2 Before publication the Public Notice was checked against the Department for Education guidance to confirm that it did comply with statutory guidance.

4.3 A full consultation exercise was undertaken in line with statutory guidance.

4.4. The proposal to amalgamate Vigo Infant and Junior schools is not related to any other published proposals.

4.5. The relevant factors (as identified in the statutory guidance) to be considered in this case are:

Education standards and diversity of provision

4.7. Any proposal relating to a school closure should be based upon the fact that the closure will contribute to raising local standards of education provision and will lead to improved attainment for pupils. Vigo Junior School has been judged by Ofsted to be inadequate and failing to provide an acceptable standard of education for its pupils. Vigo Infant School is judged by Ofsted to be good in all aspects. The closure of Vigo Junior School and the establishment of a primary school will bring with it a number of advantages designed to ensure that pupils make the best possible progress in their learning such as greater continuity in planning the curriculum across the stages of education, a consistent approach to the ways in which pupils are taught and the removal of the potential disruption to children's education when transferring from infant to junior school.

4.8. The establishment of a primary school on the schools' sites will impact upon the diversity of provision in the area through the removal of separate infant and junior schools. However parents will be able to express a preference for neighbouring schools if they wish their child to attend separate infant and junior schools.

Schools causing concern

4.9. As a school judged by Ofsted to be inadequate Vigo Junior School falls under the definition of a "school causing concern". For a closure proposal involving a school causing concern guidance requires a copy of the monitoring letter for the school to be made available to the decision maker. A copy of the monitoring letter for Vigo Junior School is attached at Appendix C. There is a presumption that proposals pertaining to "schools causing concern" should be approved subject only to checking that there are sufficient accessible places available to accommodate displaced pupils and to meet future demand. The amalgamation of Vigo Infant and Junior schools will not result in any displaced pupils.

Community cohesion

- 4.10. The establishment of a primary school with a single ethos, vision and set of values will enhance community cohesion as endorsed by a number of respondents to the consultation.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1. The Local Authority has met the statutory guidance to enable a decision to be made regarding the amalgamation of Vigo Infant and Junior Schools.
- 5.2. The Public Notice has resulted in no representations.
- 5.3. Both Vigo Infant and Vigo Junior schools' governing bodies want the schools to amalgamate to form an all through primary school.
- 5.4. There is support from the schools' community for the amalgamation.
- 5.5. The amalgamation of Vigo Infant and Junior schools and the establishment of an all through primary school is the option most likely to be successful in effectively bringing about rapid improvement in the quality of provision for Key Stage 2 pupils.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1. It is recommended that approval be given to the proposal published by the Local Authority, in accordance with sections 15 and 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to:
- (a) Discontinue Vigo Junior School with effect from 31 August 2016**
 - (b) Establish a community primary school for up to 630 pupils by enlarging Vigo Infant School, through the utilisation of Vigo Junior School's site and buildings and extension of Vigo Infant School's age range to form a primary school for ages 4-11, with effect from 1 September 2016.**

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	No
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	Yes
Corporate Business plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	No

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u> Amalgamation of Vigo Infant and junior Schools	<u>Reference</u> 7117	<u>Date</u> 20/1/2016
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u> Education and Inspections Act 2006		<u>Date</u> 8/11/2006

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>
School Organisation-Maintained Schools Guidance for proposers and decision makers	Department for Education website

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

Equalities have been considered and no adverse impact identified

- **Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

The recommendations will have no impact on crime and disorder

- **Climate Change:**

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

No impact has been identified

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

Appendix A



Amalgamation of Vigo Infant and Vigo Junior Schools, Andover.

Notice is given in accordance with section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG intends to discontinue Vigo Junior School, Vigo Road, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1JZ on 31 August 2016.

Places will be available for pupils affected by the closure of this school (including those with special educational needs) at the community primary school proposed to be established in September 2016 in accordance with the related proposal set out below. There will be no alteration to transport arrangements for pupils currently attending the schools.

Notice is also given that Hampshire County Council intends to establish a community primary school by enlarging Vigo Infant School under section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 through the utilisation of Vigo Junior School's site and joined buildings and extension of Vigo Infant School's age range to form a primary school for ages 4-11. It is proposed that the primary school will open on 1 September 2016.

The primary school will cater for pupils between the ages of 4 and 11 and ultimately provide places for 630 boys and girls. The school will admit up to 90 pupils at the age of 4+ for the 2016/17 school year. The specialist resourced provision for children with speech, language and communication needs currently in place at the infant and junior schools will continue in the primary school. Pupils will be admitted to the school in accordance with the local authority's admissions policy, published each year before the date on which applications must be submitted; this includes details of the criteria to be applied in the event of over-subscription. Transport will be provided for any pupils who qualify under the local authority's published policy.

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to these proposals have been complied with.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposals. Copies of the complete proposals can be obtained from Chris Holt, Programme Manager, Children's Services Department, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG (e-mail: chris.holt@hants.gov.uk).

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending them to Chris Holt, Programme Manager, Children's Services Department, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG (email: chris.holt@hants.gov.uk).

John Coughlan, Chief Executive, Hampshire County Council

Publication date: 29 January 2016

Appendix B - Vigo consultees

Abbots Ann Primary School
Amport Primary School
Andover Primary School
Anton Infant School
Anton Junior School
ASCL (Regional Official)
ATL (Assistant Secretary)
ATL (Regional Official)
Balksbury Infant School
Balksbury Junior School
Cllr for Andover West
Clatford Primary School
Endeavour Primary School
GMB representative
Grateley Primary School
Hatherden Primary School
Cllr for Andover South
Hurstbourne Tarrant Primary School
Director of Education Portsmouth and Winchester Diocese
Knights Enham Infant School
Knights Enham Junior School
Longparish Primary School
Local MP
NAHT representative
NASUWT representative
NUT representative
Pilgrims Cross Primary School
Portway Infant School
Portway Junior School
Cllr for Andover North
Roman Way Primary School
Smannell and Enham Primary School
St John the Baptist Primary School
TLP representative
Chief Executive TVBC
Unison representative
Unite representative
Interim Director of Schools Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
Vernum Dean Gillums Primary School
Voice representative
Wherwell Primary School
Vigo schools' parents and staff

Appendix C

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk



22 October 2015

Mrs Anne Perriam
Interim Headteacher
Vigo Junior School
Vigo Road
Andover
SP10 1JZ

Dear Mrs Perriam

Special measures monitoring inspection of Vigo Junior School

Following my visit to your school on 29 and 30 September 2015, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the inspection findings. Thank you for the help you gave during the inspection and for the time you made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's previous monitoring inspection.

The inspection was the third monitoring inspection since the school became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place in October 2014. The full list of the areas for improvement which were identified during that inspection is set out in the annex to this letter. The monitoring inspection report is attached.

Having considered all the evidence I am of the opinion that at this time:

Leaders and managers are not taking effective action towards the removal of special measures.

The school may not appoint newly qualified teachers before the next monitoring inspection.

This letter and monitoring inspection report will be published on the Ofsted website. I am copying this letter and the monitoring inspection report to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Hampshire.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Farr
Her Majesty's Inspector