

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Officer Decision Record

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

Tel: 01962 846664

Email: glenn.parkinson@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 NORTHERN INFANT SCHOOL, Richmond Rise, Portchester, Fareham, PO16 8DG (category of school – community) by increasing the physical capacity of the school, with effect from 1 September 2017.

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

- 2.1 Following local consultation, the County Council received 13 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 increase the physical capacity of Northern Infant School, Portchester to allow them to offer 60 places for Year R (age 4+) allowing the school to cater for 180 pupils, should proceed to the next stage of the process.

3. Consultation

- 3.1. Formal consultation took place between 7 November and 16 December 2016. A letter was sent to consultees as detailed below and a consultation meeting was held at Northern Infant School on 14 November 2016. 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 Northern Infant School
 - Headteacher, school staff and Governing Body of Northern Infant School

- Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of neighbouring schools
- Fareham District Council – Cllr Susan Bell and Cllr Nick Walker
- Trade union representatives
- Local Dioceses
- MP – Right Honourable Suella Fernandes MP
- HCC Elected Member – Councillor Roger Price
- Tracey Sanders – Manager, Services for Young Children
- Residents in the local area (733 letters sent)

4. Consultation responses received

4.1. A total of 13 written comments were received. The key issues raised by consultees can be summarised as follows;

- Illegal parking at drop-off and collection times. Grass verges damaged due to parking.
- Traffic and parking concerns on Richmond Rise, Froxfield Gardens and Linden Lea.
- That Hillview Road and Richmond Rise junction do not have yellow lines.
- Suggestion to provide a school bus to ease traffic.
- Suggestion to use space at the front of the school for parking.
- Support for expansion as buildings improve site and single year group classes will be beneficial.

4.2. With respect to the comments received in respect of 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 meeting to explain the process in developing a School Travel Plan (STP), and to seek the community's views regarding 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.

4.3. 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.

4.4. Once the consultation forms have been collated and summarised, the school with the support of the School Travel Planning (STP) 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.

4.5. 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. Conclusion

5.1. Pupil forecasts for Northern Infant School show numbers growing as a result of increased demand for school places from within the local area. In order to meet the County Council's statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of school places the school needs to be expanded.

5.2. The comments received during the consultation will be considered through the development of the school travel plan. 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.

6. Other options considered and rejected:

6.1. 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 local area.

7. Conflicts of interest:

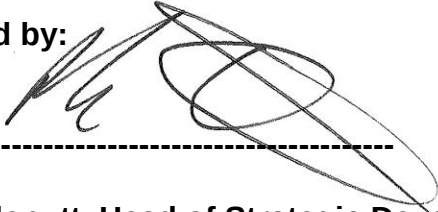
7.1. Conflict of interest declared by an Executive Member who is consulted by the officer which relates to the decision:

None

8. Dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service:

None

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned over a dashed line.

Date:

5 January 2017

Peter Colenutt, Head of Strategic Development

On behalf of the Director of Children's Services