

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	17 November 2010
Title:	The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College, Farnborough
Reference:	2076
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report seeks approval for the relocation of The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College from its current site to the Oak Farm Community School site in Farnborough when the latter school closes on 31 August 2011.
- 1.2. This report explains the background to the proposal to relocate the college, highlights the financial implications and explains why relocation would provide better opportunities for pupils at The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 27 April 2009 Cabinet agreed to the closure of Oak Farm Community School, Farnborough due to falling pupil numbers. In addition Cabinet re-affirmed its commitment to continuing use of the Oak Farm Community School site for educational and community purposes.
- 2.2 Members of the Cabinet, at the meeting on 27 July 2009, requested that a further report be submitted to the Executive Lead Member for Children's services, detailing the strategy for continued educational and community use of the Oak Farm Community School site.

3. The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College

- 3.1. The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College caters for secondary age pupils with moderate learning difficulties and currently has 119 pupils on roll. It was judged to be outstanding by OFSTED when inspected in November 2009. The current accommodation consists of a main building and five temporary

classrooms with limited external areas for team games etc. The number of pupils has grown in recent years resulting in the need for temporary classrooms and creating pressure on the utilisation of specialist teaching facilities and infrastructure. The school shares a site with The Wavell Secondary School and concerns have been raised about health and safety regarding vehicular/pupil access, as well as curriculum pressures resulting from the need to share facilities such as playing fields. The school site is too restrictive to accommodate both schools, especially if The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College's temporary classrooms were to be replaced in the future with permanent facilities.

- 3.2. A major new housing development known as Aldershot Urban Extension is planned on former Ministry of Defence land to the south of the Wavell/Cody site. This will potentially provide up to 4,500 new dwellings and require additional secondary school places to be provided at The Wavell School and The Connaught School, Aldershot. The relocation of The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College would provide additional space on the Wavell site for any potential expansion required to accommodate future pupil numbers.
- 3.3. Discussions have taken place with the headteacher and governors of The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College about the opportunity to relocate to the Oak Farm Community School site following the closure of the latter school in the summer of 2011. Following further consultation with stakeholders including staff and parents, confirmation was received from the governing body that the school would be willing to relocate to the Oak Farm Community School site. A copy of the letter received from the chair of governors and a summary of the meeting held with parents are attached as Appendices 1 and 2 respectively.

4. Community use of Oak Farm site

- 4.1 Oak Farm Community School has been funded by the County Council to develop and deliver a locally managed community education programme since the 1970s. Arrangements were formalised in an agreement between the County Council and the school's governing body in 1997. Since 2005 the school has been developing as an extended school and is now a member of the Rushmoor Extended Services Partnership. The school offers an extensive, varied and much valued programme of learning opportunities for its community and beyond, in partnership with other educational establishments, agencies and authorities.
- 4.2 The school provides opportunities for community groups to use its facilities through community lettings, utilising the buildings and grounds, including the sports hall and all-weather pitch. In addition there are a significant number of adult and community learning programmes provided at the school:
 - Personal and community development learning with a total of 134 courses offered , with enrolment numbers of 1,409
 - Family learning
 - Skills for independent living provided to adults with a learning difficulty

- Basic skills and vocational courses.
- 4.3 The Oak Farm Pre-School is situated in the school buildings and provides 26 places for part of each week. The school is well-used by groups from the local Nepalese community. There are also links with the Mayfield Youth Partnership, Rushmoor Healthy Living Initiative, Mayfield Community Partnership and the local family learning cluster group, working with the Owls Children's Centre, situated at Cherrywood Primary School. The Military Preparation College has been based at the school since September 2009 providing training and learning programmes for post 16 students, and working closely with local secondary schools on support programmes.
- 4.4 A pavilion and club room were constructed adjacent to the all-weather pitch in 1998 using lottery funding provided by Sport England. In keeping with their normal conditions of grant, the County Council entered into a separate agreement with Sport England designed to ensure continued community use of the lottery funded facilities.
- 4.5 An important issue raised during the consultation on the closure of Oak Farm Community School related to the impact on the community if the school closed, due to the importance of the site as a venue for local activities. This important element has been part of the discussions on relocation with the headteacher and governors of The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College. They have considerable experience in the management of community use, through their involvement in the extensive provision made on the Wavell/Cody Campus. Rushmoor Borough Council is an active partner in the community programmes at both sites and supports the proposed new arrangements. The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College would have an important role in securing continuing provision for the existing users as well as developing new opportunities in collaboration with local groups and agencies.
- 4.6 There will be a need for the College's Governing Body to enter into a new community management agreement with the County Council which would set out arrangements for managing community use of the site and include Sport England's terms and conditions applying to the facilities funded by the lottery grant. A management committee would be constituted with representatives of the College, user groups and the local community. Once secured, the agreement would enable the balance of Oak Farm School's community budget to transfer to the College.
- 4.7 The community staff currently employed by Oak Farm Community School would transfer to The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College if it relocates. A series of discussions and meetings with local community groups will be arranged to explain the position and plan provision if approval is given to the relocation of the College. The College would seek to re-instate the post of Community Manager which is currently unfilled. The cost of the post would be covered within the community budget and be cost neutral to the County Council. The annual allocation made from the Children's Services Department's community education budget to Oak Farm School's community budget would be transferred to the Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College unchanged.

5 Financial implications

- 5.1 There is a requirement to undertake some internal alterations to specialist areas and refurbishment works to the Oak Farm Community School buildings to provide the required facilities at an estimated cost of £0.645m (including fees). It is planned for this work to be phased so as not to compromise the continued operation of Oak Farm Community School until the end of the summer term 2011.
- 5.2 It is also recognised that the existing buildings and site have some significant maintenance liabilities including boiler and heater replacement and repairs in the region of £0.3m. The liabilities will have to be considered against other competing maintenance priorities in future capital repair programmes in the context of future reductions in funding and grant from Central Government.
- 5.3 Approval was given by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services on 11 March 2010 to part of the funding earmarked through the Targeted Capital Fund (TCF) to be used to address high priority SEN projects. The relocation of The Samuel Cody School is one of those priorities for which funding is available subject to the approval of the Children's Services Capital Programme report elsewhere on this agenda. Subject to that approval, the Director of Property Business and IT will produce a detailed feasibility study with a view to works starting in summer 2011. A detailed report on the building works will be brought to a later decision day.
- 5.4 It is the case that the Oak Farm Community School site area exceeds that required for The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College and continued community use. The opportunity will be taken by the County Council to examine ways in which its asset may be best used with full consultation with the governing body of The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College and other interested parties as appropriate.
- 5.5 The budget share savings from the closure of Oak Farm Community School as a secondary school will cover the additional premises and building running costs for The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College as a special school on that site.
- 5.6 The capacity of The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College for site management is limited given the present shared arrangements with The Wavell School for site management of the Wavell/Cody Community Campus, There will be a need for additional site management hours if Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College relocates. Discussions will take place with existing Oak Farm Community School site staff with regard to the options for existing site staff if the move goes ahead. The appropriate staffing costs for site staff have been accounted for in the revenue funding calculations and will be met from the budget share allocation to The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College if they move.
- 5.7 The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College serves a large geographical area with pupils attending the school from the Rushmoor Borough and Hart District areas, as well as other districts of the County. The relocation of the school will have limited impact on the home-to-school transport budget due to the

short distance between the sites. A review will be undertaken of current pupils' entitlement to home to school transport.

6 Use of former Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College building

- 6.1 If the relocation of The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College is approved then consideration will need to be given to the use to be made of its former buildings in the context of the present surplus of secondary school places in the area and the likely future need for places. If approval is given to the relocation discussions will take place with interested parties about the use to be made of the College's former accommodation from September 2011.
- 6.2 Retention of the current Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College site for other day time educational purposes for three to sixteen years olds could still be funded from the Schools Budget (Dedicated Schools Grant). Any use which did not meet the Schools Budget definition of use of funding would have to be considered being met from the Local Authority budget.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 There are significant opportunities for pupils/learners at The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College through a move to the Oak Farm Community School site, with access to a larger site with facilities better able to support delivery of the full secondary curriculum, although some internal alterations and refurbishment will be required.
- 7.2 The closure of Oak Farm Community School required consideration to be given to the future use of the site and buildings. Maintaining the site and buildings for community use, in the absence of a school, would require a significant on-going revenue investment from the County Council, estimated at between £0.25m and £0.4m per annum.
- 7.3 The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College shares a restricted site with The Wavell Secondary School which impacts on the availability of space and facilities necessitating the provision of additional temporary accommodation. The site is too restricted to allow expansion of either school and there will be pressure on places at The Wavell Secondary School in the future due to significant additional housing.
- 7.4 The relocation of The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College to the Oak Farm Community School site would provide the college with better general and specialist teaching facilities and more appropriate playing field and external spaces to reflect the size of school and enhance curriculum delivery.
- 7.5 Relocating The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College would allow the continuation of community provision, in a cost effective manner, and enable further opportunities for enhancing provision to meet local needs.

8 Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that:

- 8.1 Approval be given to the relocation of The Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College to the Oak Farm Community School site with effect from 1 September 2011.
- 8.2 The County Council enters into a community management agreement with the Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College Governing Body regarding the community provision on the Oak Farm site with effect from 1 September 2011.

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

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	No
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	No
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
OR	
This proposal does not link to the Corporate Strategy but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:	
<i>NB: Only complete this section if you have not completed any of the Corporate Strategy tick boxes above. If it is not applicable, please delete.</i>	

NB: If the 'Other significant links' section below is not applicable, please delete it.

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Future Use of the Oak Farm Community School Site	755	27 July 2009
Oak Farm Community School, Farnborough - approval to discontinue the school with effect from 31 August 2011	631	27 April 2009
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>		<u>Date</u>
None		

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 Equalities issues have been considered and no adverse impact identified.

2 Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1 These proposals will have no impact on crime and disorder.

3 Climate Change:

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

- Opportunities will be assessed to reduce the impact in planning for the continued use of the Oak Farm Community site and re-use of the Samuel Cody Specialist Sports college buildings.

8.2.2 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