

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Officer Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Peter Colenutt
Title:	Prescribed Alterations to Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College

Tel: 01962 846686

Email: gemma.bowry@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 SAMUEL CODY SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE, Ballantyne Road, Farnborough, GU14 8SS by expanding the age range to 4-16, and the capacity by 50 places with effect from 1 January 2018. Existing onsite community spaces will be converted into teaching accommodation for the primary division.

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

- 2.1. Following local consultation, the County Council received 4 written comments regarding the proposal to **expand the age range to 4-16 and the capacity of 50 places**. 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 prescribed alteration. The proposal to enlarge Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College from 128 to 178 places for 4-16 year olds, with effect from 1 January 2018, should proceed to the next stage of the process.

3. Consultation

- 3.1. A formal consultation took place between the 21st of June and 2nd of August 2017. A letter was sent to consultees as detailed below and a consultation meeting was held at Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College on the 10th of July 2017. 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 Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College
- Headteacher, school staff and Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College
- Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of neighbouring schools (within 2 miles)

- Rushmoor District Council
- Trade union representatives
- Local Dioceses
- MP – Right Honourable Leo Docherty MP
- HCC Elected Member – Councillor Roz Chadd
- Tracey Sanders – Manager, Services for Young Children
- Residents in the local area (739 letters sent)

4. Consultation responses received

4.1. A total of 4 written comments were received. The key issues raised by consultees can be summarised as follows;

- A expression of full support in principle of the proposal. A provision of this nature would be very welcome in the area, and would benefit the community.
- Concerns sent in around SEND schools being more expensive to run, and that this proposal does not comply with the inclusion policy and integration of SEND children into their communities.
- A expression of full support in principle of the proposal. Children with any form of special needs rarely do well in mainstream schools, therefore this school has great benefits and is a credit to the community.
- Queries into the internal and external works being carried out on existing community spaces and whether the exterior profile of the building will be enlarged.

5. Comments on consultation responses received

5.1. Hampshire County Council has recently undertaken a significant review to project the number of specialist school places required up to and beyond 2021. This review indicates the lack of specialist Primary places for children with moderate learning difficulties and social communication difficulties in the North of Hampshire.

5.2. It is the Local Authority intention to maintain the current proportion of children with Education, Health and Care Plan's placed in specialist schools or resource provision. Whilst it is correct to state that this percentage is above other local authorities, according to the latest Special Educational Needs Data this gap is closing. The Local Authority is confident that this balance between specialist places and the number of children placed in mainstream schools in their local community is the correct one. Each case is decided on an individual basis taking into account the SEN of the child or young person

and parental preference. All money allocated to school is funded via the Dedicated Schools Grant and is managed via the Schools Forum.

- 5.3. As a Local Authority Maintained Special School the buildings are part of the Local Authority and there is a need to ensure that such buildings are used to support the education of Hampshire children. However the Local Authority also recognises the need to support and work with the Local Community. The proposal for any potential development of the site allows for a balance between education and community use and allowing the school to retain income from such lettings.
- 5.4. 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.
- 5.5. With respect to pupil numbers and the location of the school, forecasts support the expansion of the schools due to existing pressure.
- 5.6. Mainly internal alterations will be made to existing community spaces. Externally, the plan is to remove the bin storage unit and make good around this area.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1. Hampshire County Council has recently undertaken a significant review to project the number of specialist school places required up to and beyond 2021. This review indicates the lack of specialist Primary places for children with moderate learning difficulties and social communication difficulties in the North of Hampshire.
- 6.2. From considering the responses received the County Council felt that a primary provision of additional SEN 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 for SEN children to meet the demand in the North or Hampshire.

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:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Peter Colenutt', is written over a horizontal dashed line. The signature is somewhat stylized and loops back.

02.08.2017

Peter Colenutt, Head of Strategic Development

On behalf of the Director of Children's Services