

# Public Document Pack



## EXECUTIVE DECISION DAY NOTICE

Executive Lead Member for Children's Services Decision Day &  
Executive Member for Education Decision Day

**Date and Time** Tuesday 14th May 2024 at 2.00pm  
**Place** Virtual Teams Meeting - Microsoft Teams  
**Enquiries to** members.services@hants.gov.uk

Carolyn Williamson FCPFA  
Chief Executive  
The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UJ

## FILMING AND BROADCAST NOTIFICATION

This decision day is being held remotely and will be recorded and broadcast live via the County Council's website.

## AGENDA

### EXECUTIVE LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES DECISION DAY

#### DEPUTATIONS

To receive any deputations notified under Standing Order 12.

#### KEY DECISIONS (NON-EXEMPT/NON-CONFIDENTIAL)

**1. DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND PENSIONS HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND - APRIL 2024 TO SEPTEMBER 2024** (Pages 5 - 30)

To receive a report from the Director of Children's Services outlining the proposed approach for the allocation of £7,124,127 from the Department for Work and Pensions Household Support Fund across Hampshire for the grant period April 2024 to September 2024.

#### NON KEY DECISIONS (NON-EXEMPT/NON-CONFIDENTIAL)

**2. PROPOSAL FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ADVISORY PANEL** (Pages 31 - 36)

To receive a report from the Director of Children's Services requesting approval to propose the dissolution of the Children and Families Advisory Panel to Full Council.

**3. WINKLEBURY INFANT SCHOOL AGE RANGE (Pages 37 - 50)**

To receive a report from the Director of Children's Services providing feedback on the statutory public notice in relation to the proposal for Winklebury Infant School in Basingstoke to lower their age range to take children from the age of two and deliver nursery provision.

**4. PEEL COMMON INFANT SCHOOL AND NURSERY UNIT AND PEEL COMMON JUNIOR SCHOOL – PROPOSED AMALGAMATION (Pages 51 - 102)**

To receive a report from the Director of Children's Services providing feedback on the statutory public notice period and seeking approval for the amalgamation of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School with effect from 1 January 2025.

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION**

**DEPUTATIONS**

To receive any deputations notified under Standing Order 12.

**KEY DECISIONS (NON-EXEMPT/NON-CONFIDENTIAL)**

N/a

**NON KEY DECISIONS (NON-EXEMPT/NON-CONFIDENTIAL)**

**5. SPECIALIST PROVISION FINAL APPROVAL SAMUEL CODY SCHOOL (Pages 103 - 118)**

To receive a report from the Director of Children's Services providing feedback from the statutory consultation period and requesting approval for the expansion of Samuel Cody School, Farnborough from September 2024.

**6. ALTERATIONS AND REFURBISHMENT AT SAMUEL CODY SCHOOL, FARNBOROUGH (Pages 119 - 138)**

To receive a report from the Director of Universal Services seeking approval for the proposals for alterations and refurbishment at the Samuel Cody School.

**7. ALTERATIONS AND REFURBISHMENT AT PROSPECT SCHOOL, HAVANT (Pages 139 - 156)**

To receive a report from the Director of Universal Services seeking approval for the proposals for alterations and refurbishment at Prospect School to improve the provision for pupils with special educational needs at the total cost of £650,000.

**8. ADDITIONAL SPECIALIST PROVISION - HOLLYWATER SCHOOL (Pages 157 - 166)**

To receive a report from the Director of Children's Services requesting approval to consult on proposed additional specialist provision at Hollywater School, Heathfield Special School and Saxon Wood Special School.

**9. APPROVAL TO CONSULT ON CHANGES TO APPROVED PUBLISHED NUMBERS AT CRESTWOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOL & HAVEN NURSERY (Pages 167 - 174)**

To receive a report from the Director of Children's Services requesting approval to consult on changes to approved published numbers for Crestwood Community School and Haven Nursery.

**ABOUT THIS AGENDA:**

**On request, this agenda can be provided in alternative versions (such as large print, Braille or audio) and in alternative languages.**

**ABOUT THIS SESSION:**

**The press and public are welcome to observe the public sessions of the decision day via the webcast.**

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## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
<b>Date:</b>	14 May 2024
<b>Title:</b>	Department for Work and Pensions Household Support Fund April 2024 to September 2024
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

**Contact name:** Sarah Snowdon, Assistant Director, Children's Services

**Email:** sarah.snowdon@hants.gov.uk

### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to outline the proposed approach for allocation of £7,124,127 from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Household Support Fund across Hampshire for the grant period April 2024 to September 2024. This report seeks approval from the Executive Lead Member for six months of spend and grant funding to organisations in support of vulnerable households via the connect4communities programme.
2. The DWP expectation is that the grant should primarily be used to support households in the most need, particularly those not eligible for the other support Government has recently made available but who are nevertheless in need. The Fund is intended to cover a wide range of low-income households in need including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers and disabled people who would otherwise struggle with energy bills, food and water bills.
3. Whilst immediate needs should be prioritised, Local Authorities are encouraged to use the Fund to provide support that has a long-term sustainable impact, for example household items that would reduce bills in the long term. This can also include support with income maximisation through advice and signposting to benefit, debt and employment services.

### Recommendations

4. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approves the following grants totalling £4,728,768:
  - a discretionary grant of £1,185,742 be available for schools, colleges and early years settings as described in paragraphs 20 to 23 of the report;
  - grants to a total value of £1,835,527 are distributed to District and Borough Councils across Hampshire, such that they can provide one £25 food

voucher to households in receipt of council tax support and £40 to households in receipt of housing benefit only, as described in paragraphs 32 to 33 of the report;

- funding to organisations that support unpaid carers and young carers in Hampshire up to the value of £421,250, inclusive of £26,250 administrative costs during the six-month period;
  - a grant of £483,569 is made available to Citizens Advice to support the most vulnerable households in Hampshire with utility costs and eligibility checking, supporting 2,800 households;
  - £525,525 is distributed to District and Borough councils to support households with exceptional housing costs during the Funding Period in accordance with paragraphs 47 to 51 of the report;
  - a grant to Hampshire Library Service of £57,155 to extend and develop its current community offer including signposting to relevant services, chat about groups for the elderly and infirm and the provision of warm and welcome resources and sanitary products;
  - a grant of £220,000 to the Environment Centre for providing direct guidance and support to households of any tenure on a range of energy-related topics, which would be delivered through a mix of remote help as well as well as provision of practical household items, depending on need; and to provide capital grants to 75 households.
5. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approves the allocation of £824,100 to deliver or commission direct support to households as follows:
- £4,300 is allocated to enable one £100 food voucher to be distributed to 43 families open to children's social care teams whose children are educated other than at school to contribute to the cost-of-living pressures;
  - £48,400 is ringfenced to award food vouchers to the value of £100 to each Hampshire Foster Carer household with a child or children currently in placement to contribute to the increase in cost of living, and that £16,400 to be awarded to 164 families where there is a Looked After Child placed at home, to be provided in the form of one £100 food voucher per household;
  - food vouchers to the value of £100 are awarded to 946 eligible special guardians or connected carers where children are placed either on a temporary or permanent basis, and who are currently receiving financial support, at a total cost of £94,600;
  - £18,000 is distributed to children's social care district-based and out of hours teams across Hampshire, so that financial assistance can be given at their discretion to vulnerable families as described in paragraph 27 of the report;
  - £88,700 is awarded for individuals open to Care Leavers teams to receive two £50 food vouchers across the six-month period to contribute to the increased cost of living;
  - to distribute food vouchers to the total value of £21,500 to unaccompanied asylum seeking children aged 16-18 during the six-month period;
  - £56,200 is ringfenced to provide one £100 food voucher to families open to the Disabled Children's Team and £476,000 to provide direct fuel support

to 8,000 adults open to social care not in residential accommodation, those that do not have any care and vulnerable adults who present in crisis at the front door to Adult and Health Care services.

6. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services delegates authority to the Director of Children's Services to award grants up to the total value of £1,395,000 in respect of the following initiatives, and in accordance with the grant criteria as set out in paragraphs 13 and 14, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member:
  - award up to £125,000 to organisations best placed to deliver advice services, which may include Citizens Advice and community-based organisations;
  - award £720,000 through grants for organisations who wish to support vulnerable residents county-wide or within their local area with food and fuel poverty and wish to apply for a community grant. In addition, this allocation would enable applications to be made for a 'crisis grant' whereby professionals working with vulnerable individuals can make applications for support, for example in respect of those struggling with one-off financial shocks or unforeseen events;
  - approve grant awards to organisations for the delivery of community pantry network schemes and to develop sustainable approaches to food support up to the value of £550,000 throughout the Funding Period.
7. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approves £176,259 to be retained by the County Council, in accordance with the grant guidance, to meet the costs of administering the Household Support Fund between April and September 2024.
8. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member delegates approval to the Director of Children's Services to approve the reallocation of any Household Support Fund remaining or underspent funds from initiatives set out in paragraphs 4 to 6 to organisations delivering services that meet the criteria of the grant in consultation with the Executive Lead Member.

### **Executive Summary**

9. This report seeks to detail the proposed approach and allocation of funds for the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Household Support Fund six-month extension across Hampshire. A key aim for the connect4communities programme will be to continue to support sustainable and environmentally beneficial food poverty initiatives. In addition to direct energy support, this will also enable us to further support with the increasing energy costs by freeing up household income which can be allocated to utility bills.
10. Although the grant has no ringfenced spend relating to types of households, the DWP grant guidance stresses that The Fund is intended to cover a wide range of low-income households in need, including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers and disabled people, larger families, single-person households, and those struggling with one-off financial

shocks or unforeseen events. The proposed Hampshire offer has initiatives in place to support these target cohorts.

### **Contextual information**

11. On 6 March 2024, the Government announced, as part of its Spring Budget, that the Household Support Fund (HSF) would be extended for six months from 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024, with a further £500m of national funding.
12. The final guidance relating to the fifth iteration of The Fund was shared with local authorities on 26 March 2024 ([Household Support Fund: guidance for local councils - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/household-support-fund-guidance-for-local-councils) (www.gov.uk)). The grant determination confirms that Hampshire County Council's allocation is £7,124,127, to be spent between 1 April 2024 and 30 September 2024. Despite being a grant extension, any grant underspend from the grant relating to the previous period cannot be carried forward and there are some changes to the grant guidance.
13. The DWP's expectation is that the grant should primarily be used to meet immediate needs and help those who are struggling to afford household essentials including energy and water bills, food, and wider essentials. Local Authorities can also use the funding to support households with housing costs where existing housing support does not meet this need, and to supplement support with signposting and advice.
14. Whilst immediate needs should be prioritised, for this round of funding, the guidance encourages Local Authorities to use The Fund to provide support that has a long term sustainable impact, for example household items such as insulating a hot water tank, fitting draft excluders to a front door, or replacing energy inefficient lightbulbs which would reduce bills in the long-term. This can also include support with income maximisation through advice and signposting to benefit, debt and employment services.
15. Local Authorities have discretion on how to identify and support those most in need, adopting the principle of working together with District Councils and third-party organisations including, where necessary and appropriate, other local services and charities. The Fund is intended to support a wide range of low-income households in need, including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers and disabled people, larger families, single-person households, and those struggling with one-off financial shocks or unforeseen events.
16. Local Authorities are expected to deliver support through a variety of routes, including proactive support; application-based support; or issuing grants. As part of the offer, there is a requirement for all Local Authorities to operate at least a part of their scheme on an application basis. This means residents should have the opportunity to come forward to ask for support.



17. Local Authorities are expected to offer support throughout the duration of The Fund period and must make public their plans for The Fund on their website, including how and when they intend to deliver the application-based portion of their scheme. Local Authorities are also expected to advertise the scheme through various channels, and not just online.

### **The Proposed Hampshire Offer**

18. The following sections of the report outline the proposed Hampshire offer for the grant period April to the end of September 2024. All proposals are in accordance with the grant guidance as set out in paragraphs 13 and 14.

### **Proactive support to vulnerable households**

#### **19. Low-income households with children**

20. It is proposed that a discretionary grant of £1,185,742 be available for schools, colleges and early years settings such that the funding would be available to support vulnerable families during the Funding Period.
21. The value of the discretionary grant allocation to each setting would be based on the number of children on roll, and for schools, the number of benefits-related free school meal eligible children there are. The discretionary grant is not means tested and is not specifically for those in receipt of benefits. Schools, colleges and early years settings have the discretion to support families they recognise as being in need, for example low paid working parents who seek support. Support may be provided through a food voucher or for wider essentials such as warm clothing, white goods and/or blankets.
22. Settings can apply for a discretionary grant to enable them to assist those families most in need, as intake and need may change throughout the year. Any schools that require additional funding over and above the amount allocated can apply for additional funding through the Community Grant Scheme outlined in paragraphs 54 to 56.
23. The element of the discretionary grant relating to the free school meal eligible children is for schools only and is not available for schools that had over 15% of their income held as balances over three years as at the end of 2023/24.
24. There are 43 children open to children's social care teams who are educated other than at school in Hampshire, who would otherwise have been eligible for free school meals. It is proposed that £4,300 is allocated to enable a £100 food voucher to be distributed to 43 families open to children's social care teams whose children are educated other than at school to contribute to the cost-of-living pressures.
25. Hampshire County Council has 484 foster carers with a child in placement supporting some of the most vulnerable children in Hampshire. In recognition of this, approval is sought for £48,400 to award food vouchers to the value of

£100 to each Hampshire Foster Carer with a child or children currently in placement to contribute to the increase in cost of living, and that approval is also sought for £16,400 to be awarded to 164 families where there is a Looked After Child placed at home, to be provided in the form of one £100 voucher per household.

26. There are children currently placed with connected carers either on a temporary or permanent basis or under Special Guardianship Orders where the Council provides an element of financial assistance that is usually means tested. It is proposed that food vouchers to the value of £100 are awarded to 946 eligible special guardians or connected carers at a total cost of £94,600.

27. Children's social care teams provide a range of support to families in need and in crisis. Approval is sought to enable £18,000 to be distributed to children's social care district-based and out of hours teams across Hampshire. The grant will be used for discretionary assistance, according to the presenting financial needs of the families they support who may be receiving early help, subject to Child in Need Plans or Child Protection Plans. Enabling this discretionary support could provide an immediate response for families and support them in achieving desired outcomes, and could take the form of food vouchers, contributions to clothing, transport or warm packs for example. This could support up to 720 households.

#### 28. **Care Leavers**

29. It is proposed that £88,700 is awarded for individuals open to the Care Leavers teams to receive two £50 food vouchers across the six-month period to contribute to the increased cost of living. As per the other targeted groups, care leavers will also be able to access the other forms of support on offer, such as the community pantry network outlined in paragraphs 58 to 62 and utility support and advice outlined in paragraphs 42 to 46. This will benefit 887 care leavers and post-16 children in supported lodging.

#### 30. **Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children**

31. There are 215 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children aged between 16 and 18 who could benefit from financial support. It is proposed to distribute food vouchers up to the value of £21,500 during the Funding Period.

#### 32. **Pensioners, low-income households and households that are not in receipt of other government support**

33. It is proposed that grants to a total value of £1,835,527, including £114,592 for voucher production and distribution costs, are distributed to District and Borough Councils across Hampshire, such that they can provide one £25 food voucher to households in receipt of council tax support and £40 to households in receipt of housing benefit only. As per the DWP guidance, those on housing benefits only are being targeted because they are ineligible for other Government support with the cost of living. This support will benefit

nearly 65,500 households across Hampshire.

**34. Unpaid carers and young carer support**

35. The most recent census data from 2021 shows 117,000 people in Hampshire who identified as carers. People with caring responsibilities may be facing acute challenges incurred through fulfilling these responsibilities for vulnerable citizens. For example, they may have additional heating, water or transport costs. In addition, a national survey of young carers by the Carers Trust in 2023 found that 57% of young carers reported that the cost of living was impacting on their families.

36. It is proposed to grant funding to organisations that support unpaid carers and young carers in Hampshire up to the value of £421,250, including £26,250 of administrative costs during the six-month period.

**37. Those with disabilities**

38. Disabled people in particular may be facing acute challenges to meet additional needs in order to manage their conditions, remain independent and avoid becoming socially isolated. For example, some disabled people may have increased utility bills due to the usage of equipment, aids or adaptations associated with their disability. They may also have additional heating, water or transport costs.

39. For children with disabilities, we will target children that have met the threshold to be open to our Disabled Children's Team, working with our social care teams and organisations to deliver direct support. There are currently 562 children open to our Disabled Children's Team.

40. For adults with disabilities, we will target adults that have met the threshold for our Adult Health and Care social care teams. Within this cohort, adults that do not live in residential care will be targeted for support. There are around 7,500 adults with disabilities open to social care that are not in residential accommodation and just over 500 who do not have any care provision in place that would benefit from this grant.

41. It is proposed to allocate £56,200 to provide one £100 food voucher to families open to the Disabled Children's Team and £476,000, inclusive of £16,000 administrative costs to provide direct fuel support to adults open to social care not in residential accommodation, those that do not have any care, and vulnerable adults who present in crisis at the front door to Adult and Health Care services.

**Self-referral Applications**

**42. Utility support**

43. It is proposed that a grant of £483,569 is made available to Citizens Advice, which includes £66,319 to deliver the administration of this scheme in order to administer the payments, carry out eligibility and fraud checks and to provide debt relief support, if applicable. This will support the most vulnerable households in Hampshire with utility costs during the six-month period, supporting 2,800 households. County council officers will continue to work with Citizens Advice to target support towards energy costs, reduce the potential for double funding and providing the financial support alongside broader support and advice. Citizens Advice is also well placed to undertake ID and benefits checks to mitigate potential risks of fraudulent claims.
44. Whilst there are providers on the market for providing fuel vouchers for pre-payment meters, there is a fee payable for each voucher and there is not yet an offer available for paying fuel bills that are not pre-payment. Conversely there is a wide market of providers who supply easy to use food vouchers with no fee, thus through the use of food vouchers the programme is freeing up more disposable income which would be available for fuel costs.
45. **Advice relating to food or fuel poverty**
46. It is proposed that that £125,000 be ringfenced to commission and support advice on budgeting, finances, maximising income as well as accessing other help. Council officers will work with local communities to identify those organisations best placed to deliver such advice services, which may include Citizens Advice and community-based organisations such as outreach from DWP job seekers support in Hampshire's libraries and community pantries. Approval is sought from the Executive Lead Member to delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to work with such organisations and grant will be provided on terms to be agreed by the Director of Children's Services and in accordance with the grant criteria as set out in paragraphs 13 and 14.
47. **Exceptional housing support**
48. The grant guidance states that in exceptional cases of genuine emergency and where existing housing schemes do not meet the exceptional need, support for housing costs can be met. It is proposed that £525,525, including £25,025 for administrative costs, is distributed to District and Borough councils as set out in the table below to support households with exceptional housing costs during the Funding Period.

**Table One: Exceptional housing support District and Borough allocations**

	<b>Exceptional housing (£)</b>
Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council	57,750
East Hampshire District Council	62,475
Eastleigh Borough Council	48,825
Fareham Borough Council	31,500
Gosport Borough Council	33,075
Hart District Council	30,975
Havant Borough Council	73,500
New Forest District Council	47,250
Rushmoor Borough Council	44,100
Test Valley Borough Council	50,925
Winchester City Council	45,150
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£525,525</b>

49. In the case of providing financial support around housing, eligibility for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) must first be considered before emergency housing support is offered through the Household Support Fund. Similarly, the Authority must also first consider whether the claimant is at statutory risk of homelessness and therefore owed a duty of support through the Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG).
50. The Fund can exceptionally and in genuine emergency be used to provide support for historic rent arrears built up prior to an existing benefit claim for households already in receipt of Universal Credit and Housing Benefit. This is because these arrears are excluded from the criteria for Discretionary Housing Payments. However, support with rent arrears is not the primary intent of the fund and should not be the focus of spend.
51. The Household Support Fund should not be used to provide housing support on an ongoing basis or to support unsustainable tenancies, nor can it be used to provide mortgage support, though homeowners could still qualify for the other elements of the Fund (such as food, energy, water, essentials linked to energy and water and wider essentials). Where a homeowner is having difficulty with their mortgage payments, they should contact their lender as soon as possible to discuss their circumstances as lenders will have a set procedure to assist.

### **Community based support**

52. **Infrastructure grants**
53. To enable organisations providing support across Hampshire that meet the DWP criteria as set out in paragraphs 13 and 14, it is proposed that grants

are awarded as follows:

- 53.1. Hampshire Library Service provides essential resources to the most vulnerable within our communities, including after school clubs, signposting to relevant services, chat about groups for the elderly and infirm including those with disabilities, additional needs and those living with dementia. It is recommended that £57,155 is awarded to the Library Service to extend and develop its current offer, including provision of warm and welcome resources and sanitary products.
- 53.2. DWP is encouraging Local Authorities to consider supporting households on low incomes to repair or replace white goods and appliances with more energy efficient ones, or to invest in simple energy efficiency measures which will pay back quickly, such as insulating a hot water tank, fitting draft excluders to a front door, or replacing energy inefficient lightbulbs or white goods. The intention of this is to provide sustainable support which results in immediate and potentially long-lasting savings for the household. The Environment Centre supports those in most need with affordable warmth related matters and has seen more than a 50% increase in demand for affordable warmth support over the last two years. It is proposed that a grant of £220,000 is awarded to the Environment Centre to continue and enhance this provision by providing direct guidance and support to households of any tenure on a range of energy-related topics. This would be delivered through a mix of remote help, as well as provision of practical household items to reduce energy or help them to keep warm, depending on need; and to provide grants to 75 households on means tested benefits or low income and vulnerable for essential heating and hot water works, such as repair or replacement of boilers.

#### 54. **Community grants**

55. It is proposed that £720,000 is made available through grants for organisations who wish to support vulnerable residents county-wide or within their local area with food and fuel poverty and wish to apply for a community grant. In addition, this allocation would enable applications to be made for a 'crisis grant' whereby professionals working with vulnerable individuals such as: social workers; keyworkers delivering early help and family support; housing officers; health visitors; and housing support officers can make applications for support, for example in respect of those struggling with one-off financial shocks or unforeseen events.
56. Any funded support must meet the DWP grant criteria as set out in paragraphs 13 and 14, however the fund will be flexible and responsive to local needs as and when they are identified. This community grant fund will also provide support to households who may not be able to access other initiatives set out in this report, for example, period poverty stations, baby banks, community cooking lessons through to food parcels and cooking equipment.

57. It is proposed that the Executive Lead Member delegates authority to the Director of Children's Services to approve community grants to organisations delivering services that meet the criteria of the grant for targeted support for those in need, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member up to the total value of £720,000.

**58. Community pantries and food support schemes**

59. Community pantries work on the principle of giving those in need the opportunity to have a 'helping hand' by getting food at a lower rate on a weekly basis. Items found in the pantry will be a range of fresh, frozen and general foods which will change on a weekly basis. Access to the community pantry is by way of membership and, for a small weekly contribution, members receive food to a significantly higher value than if purchased in local shops or the supermarket. For example, members are charged a nominal sum of £5.00 per shop and receive £15 plus worth of goods. Community pantries will be encouraged to provide a delivery service for those who are not able to come and shop for whatever reason.

60. There are 25 fixed venue connect4communities pantries in Hampshire and 10 mobile larders, of which nine are based in the New Forest. There is a current membership of over 13,000 households which continues to increase. The map below shows where the pantries are located. In addition, there are an estimated 80 food banks in Hampshire providing support for those in greater need.

**Map One: location of connect4communities pantries and larders in Hampshire**



61. It is proposed that funding is provided to continue to support the network of community pantries to provide sustainable alternatives to free school meal vouchers and support to any household that is in need. This will be through support to fund the increase in cost of food and gaps from a decrease in donated food; food vouchers for those unable to afford the membership fee; support of a food hub scheme; and a discretionary fund to support households with home, family and cooking essentials (not including white goods). Due to the ongoing food poverty being experienced within the local population, it is proposed that this allocation is also used to support other organisations such as food banks or local food partnerships wishing to build sustainable approaches to food support.
62. Approval is sought from the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services to delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to approve grant awards to organisations for the delivery of such schemes up to the value of £550,000 throughout the Funding Period. Through the grant, we will also continue to work with community organisations to broaden the support offer to include wraparound services such as health services, employment and financial support, and to develop sustainable approaches to food support.
- 63. Administration and scheme evaluation costs**
64. The DWP Household Support Fund guidance allows for reasonable administration costs to be funded from the grant allocation such that enable local authorities, and their partners to deliver the programme. Authorities are able to use a limited proportion of their allocations to conduct local evaluation of their scheme, considering evidence of impact and informing the best use of funding within the local area.
65. The County Council intends to use up to £176,259 (2.5%), in addition to partners' administration costs set out in paragraphs 33, 36, 41 and 48 to cover direct programme delivery costs, and the cost of evaluation activities.
66. Extensive communications are planned to ensure that a range of professional agencies and partner organisations are aware of the connect4communities programme and can signpost vulnerable households to the support being offered. It is proposed that the existing Hampshire County Council Children's Services and General Helplines are used to receive any telephone enquiries, as has been the case for previous Household Support Fund programmes.
67. Furthermore, the existing connect4communities directory will be further developed so that organisations and community groups can publish details of any local opportunities or support they wish to share. This is hosted on the Hampshire Family Information and Services Hub:  
(FISH: <https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/home.page>)
68. This directory enables residents of Hampshire to search by postcode to identify where they may be able to access financial and other support including subsidised food. For Hampshire County Council and partners, this



will provide a way to capture offers of support beyond those coordinated directly by the connect4communities programme, and an effective way of signposting residents to available support.

## Finance

69. A summary of the proposed allocation of funding across the initiatives to be delivered through the connect4communities scheme, funded by the Household Support Fund is set out in Table 2.

**Table 2: Proposed funding allocations**

<b>Household Support Fund - Connect4Communities</b>				
	<b>Proposed budget (£)</b>	<b>Grant (£)</b>	<b>Direct delivery (£)</b>	<b>Delegated approval (£)</b>
<b>Proactive support to vulnerable households</b>				
Low-income households with children	1,367,442	1,185,742	181,700	
Care Leavers	88,700		88,700	
Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children	21,500		21,500	
Pensioners, low-income households and households that are not in receipt of other government support	1,835,527	1,835,527		
Unpaid Carers and Young Carer support	421,250	421,250		
Those with disabilities	532,200		532,200	
<b>Self-Referral Applications</b>				
Utility support	483,569	483,569		
Advice relating to food or fuel poverty	125,000			125,000
Exceptional housing support	525,525	525,525		
<b>Community Based Support</b>				
Infrastructure Grants	277,155	277,155		
Community Grants	720,000			720,000
Community pantries and food support schemes	550,000			550,000
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>6,947,868</b>	<b>4,728,768</b>	<b>824,100</b>	<b>1,395,000</b>
Administration Cost	176,259			
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7,124,127</b>			

70. Approval is sought that the Executive Lead Member delegates approval to the Director of Children's Services to approve the reallocation of any Household Support Fund remaining or underspent funds from initiatives set out in this report to organisations delivering services that meet the criteria of the grant in consultation with the Executive Lead Member.
71. This grant is for a defined six-month period, with no expectation of recurrent funding. There is therefore an element of risk that without further funding after the grant period ends, services may experience an increase in demand from households in crisis. Mitigations include the community pantries and work to ensure that, where appropriate, projects receiving community grant funding can be sustainable.

## **Performance**

72. Authorities are required to send DWP a delivery plan outlining their intentions for the Fund, clearly setting out priorities and approach for use of the Fund and to demonstrate the ways in which they intend to allocate their funding.
73. All funding granted to third party organisations (including schools, colleges, early years providers and district and borough councils) will be supported by a grant agreement setting out the conditions of the funding as well as reporting requirements.
74. Third party organisations will be required to report to the Council on how they have spent the funding provided, in line with the DWP grant criteria.
75. Authorities are required to comply with DWP's reporting and Management Information (MI) requirements. The management information required by the DWP for this grant requires a granular data return from grant recipients. For each award as well as the spend and volumes, the number of households is also required. For example, if one family received £15 food vouchers from their school for their two children this will be reported as a total spend of £30, with a volume of 2 for 1 household.
76. Spend information is required by:  
Household composition (household with children, with pensioners, with a disabled person or other).  
Category (energy and water, food excluding free school meal support in the holidays, free school meal support in the holidays, essentials linked to energy and water, wider essentials, advice services or housing costs).  
Type of support (vouchers, cash, third party, tangible item, or other).  
Access route (application based, proactive support, other).

## **Consultation and Equalities**

77. Consultation and engagement with partners has been undertaken as part of developing and delivering the connect4communities programme.

78. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed, which will be published in advance of the decision day and is contained at Appendix A.
79. The proposals will have a positive impact on those with protected characteristics associated with age, disability, race, and poverty. Initiatives include open access as well as targeted support, and funding will be allocated across District geographies to reflect need across the county.

### **Climate Change Impact Assessment**

80. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.
81. A full assessment of climate change vulnerability was not completed as the initial vulnerability assessment showed that the project is at minimal risk from the climate vulnerabilities because it is largely administrative and short-term in nature.

### **Conclusion**

82. The Household Support Fund is intended to cover a wide range of low-income households in need. The proposed Hampshire offer has initiatives in place to support target cohorts, those in crisis, and in support of sustainable approaches to food or fuel support.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	Yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>	
	<u>Date</u>
<a href="#">Department for Work and Pensions Household Support Fund April 2023 to March 2024</a>	11 May 2023
<a href="#">Department for Work and Pensions Household Support Fund October 2022 to March 2023.</a>	22 November 2022
<a href="#">DWP Household Support Fund April – September 2022</a>	17 May 2022
<a href="#">Department for Work and Pensions Household Support Fund – Vouchers for Easter 2022 School Holiday</a>	1 April 2022
<a href="#">COVID Household Support Fund – Vouchers for October 2021 Half Term</a>	18 October 2021
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

**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	

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

### **Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment:**



## Equality Impact Assessment

### What is an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) and why does the County Council do them?

The [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) (PSED) is an obligation within the [Equality Act 2010](#) ("the Act"), which asks public authorities, like Hampshire County Council, to give 'due regard' to equality considerations, in particular to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

This includes assessing the impact of policies and practices on individuals and communities with a protected characteristic, as defined in the Act and some other specific groups. The County Council uses EIAs to ensure it has paid 'due regard' to equalities considerations when there are changes to a service or policy, a new project or certain decisions.

EIA author	Position & Department	Contact
James Atkins	Project Manager Children's Services	james.atkins@hants.gov.uk Tel:01962 845696

Title:	New round of Department of Work and Pensions - Household Support Fund April to September 2024
Related EIAs:	EIA Number: 414

EIA for Savings Programme:	No
Service affected	Support provided to vulnerable households through the Connect4Communities programme
Description of the service/policy/project/project phase	The Household Support Fund is a continuation of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) provision of funding to Local Authorities to provide financial support for food, water and energy bills. The Fund is intended to support those who are vulnerable or find themselves in financial hardship being impacted by the inflationary challenges and the cost of living. It covers a range of low-income households in need including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers and disabled people. Hampshire County Council (HCC) will work with a wide variety of partners and other organisations and support the development and delivery of a range of initiatives to support those most vulnerable. The DWP provide grant guidance to Local Authorities.
New/changed service/policy/project	The DWP will provide a further £7.124m funding to HCC to support vulnerable households with costs of food, energy, water bills and housing costs between April 2024 and September 2024. The grant conditions do not ringfence proportions of the funding for specific cohorts, however there is a requirement for at least a part of local schemes to operate on an application basis, enabling residents the opportunity to come forward to request support. Working with schools, colleges, and early years providers the proposed programme will deliver financial support to a wide range of vulnerable families between April 2024 and September 2024. Through grant funding, the programme will also support the development and delivery of a range of community led projects to meet local needs across Hampshire. A variety of initiatives have been identified working with our local community partners, to ensure there is year round support available.

Engagement
The use of the grant is constrained to within the criteria set by the Department for Work & Pensions and approved by Executive Member.

Stakeholder discussions have informed the proposals.

#### Equalities considerations - Impact Assessment

#### Age

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Positive
Rationale	<p>Children, families, individuals and pensioners who are vulnerable or find themselves in financial hardship: this programme, with support from signposting agencies, will help to identify and support those people to ensure they have access to food and heating over the coming year, as well as other basics such as cooking facilities, bedding or other essentials to keep warm over the coming winter.</p> <p>Discretionary funding allocated to over 600 schools, colleges and early years settings is not means tested, so settings can support families they recognise as being in need.</p> <p>Food vouchers will be awarded to over 500 Hampshire Foster Carers supporting some of Hampshire's most vulnerable children, as well as vouchers for families with open Special Guardianship Orders and Connected Carers and who receive financial support from the council.</p>
Mitigation	

#### Disability

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Neutral



Rationale	<p>Children, families, individuals and pensioners with disabilities who are vulnerable or find themselves in hardship can via this programme and with signposting from agencies, be identified and helped to ensure they have access to food and heating, as well as other basics which may be identified such as cooking facilities, bedding or other essentials.</p> <p>There are currently 560 children open to the Council's Disabled Children's Team, who may receive support via our social care teams or from working with provider organisations to deliver direct support.</p> <p>Adults with disabilities who have met the threshold for support from Adult Health and Care social care teams may benefit from this grant. There are around 7,500 adults with disabilities open to social care that are not in residential accommodation and just over 500 who do not have any care provision in place.</p> <p>Any adults with disabilities struggling with fuel costs will be able to access support from Citizens Advice. In the previous round of Household Support Fund, 37% of the support provided by Citizens Advice was accessed by households with a disability.</p> <p>Support will also be available for eligible unpaid and young carers.</p>
Mitigation	

## Gender Reassignment

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups.</p>
Mitigation	

## Pregnancy and Maternity

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups.
Mitigation	

## Race

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>According to the Office of National Statistics in October 2022, around two-thirds (69%) of Black or Black British adults and (59%) Asian or Asian British adults reported finding it difficult to afford their energy bills, compared with around 4 in 10 (44%) white adults.</p> <p>Community grants will provide opportunities for organisations working within ethnic minority communities to apply for funds to provide support. Additionally, through delivery partners and the communications planned, we can raise awareness of the connect4communities programme and signpost ethnic minority households to the support being offered.</p>
Mitigation	

## Religion or Belief

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups.
Mitigation	

### Sex

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups.
Mitigation	

### Sexual Orientation

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups.

Mitigation	

## Marriage and Civil Partnership

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups.
Mitigation	

## Poverty

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>The Office for National Statistics reported in October 2022 that the proportion of all adults finding it difficult to afford their energy bills, rent or mortgage payments has increased through the year: almost half of adults (45%) who paid energy bills (compared with 40% in March to June 2022) and 30% (compared with 26% March to June 2022) paying rent or mortgages reported these being difficult to afford.</p> <p>Children, families, individuals and pensioners who are vulnerable or find themselves in financial hardship: this programme, with support from signposting agencies, will help to identify and support those people to ensure they have access to food and heating, as well as other basics such as cooking facilities, bedding or other essentials to keep warm.</p> <p>Professionals supporting households who find themselves in crisis will be able to apply for a</p>

	<p>crisis grant through the scheme.</p> <p>Exceptional housing support where existing schemes do not meet the need, may be available via District Councils.</p>
Mitigation	

## Rurality

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups.</p> <p>It is the intention to work with community organisations in all Hampshire districts to ensure there is a means to apply for support. Additionally, community grants can be applied for by organisations across the county.</p>
Mitigation	

Geographical Impact: All Hampshire

## Equality Statement

### Additional information:

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Household Support Fund extension is targeted towards members of the public. There is no specific delivery aimed at staff, or required changes to working practices for our staff, therefore the impact for staff has been assessed as neutral.

This EIA accompanies a report to the Executive Lead Member of Children's Services on 14th May 2024.

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## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
<b>Date:</b>	14 May 2024
<b>Title:</b>	Proposal for the Dissolution of Children and Families Advisory Panel
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

**Contact name:** Kavitha Maxy, Area Director

**Email:** kavitha.maxy@hants.gov.uk

#### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to outline the reasons for seeking to dissolve of the Children and Families Advisory Panel.

#### Recommendation(s)

2. To approve the submission of the proposal to dissolve the Children and Families Advisory Panel to Full Council.

#### Executive Summary

3. This report puts forward the proposal to dissolve the Children and Families Advisory Panel.
4. The Children and Families Advisory Panel was formed in 2009. It is an Advisory Panel made up of 9 Members appointed proportionally and meeting three times a year.
5. The Panel's function is to advise the relevant Executive Lead Member on the strategic priorities that enhance the safeguarding of children and young people, the performance of Children's Services, the outcome of inspections and actions for improvement, and any other matters that may arise as a result of budgetary, organisational or legislative changes.
6. The future direction set by the Executive Lead Member in discussion with cabinet colleagues, members and senior officers of the Council is to streamline the scrutiny, oversight and decision making of Children's Services through the Corporate Parenting Board and the Children and Young People's Select Committee.

## **Contextual information**

7. The Children and Families Advisory Panel was formed in September 2009 and had its inaugural meeting on 1 December 2009. The Terms of Reference for this newly formed Advisory Panel were approved by the County Council at its meeting on 17 September 2009 and provided the operational basis for the Panel.
8. The Terms of Reference for the Children and Families Advisory Panel were updated in November 2017 and are as follows:
  - The development of further strategies that will enhance the safeguarding of children in Hampshire and ensure that children in care in Hampshire achieve the best possible outcomes.
  - The performance of the Children and Families Branch of the Children's Services Department and that of its partners in relation to such national and local targets as may be set.
  - The outcomes of Ofsted inspection of safeguarding, children in care, children's homes, fostering services and adoption services, as they may arise from time to time and any actions that are required to improve services.
  - Excellent and innovative practice in children's social care settings from which others can learn.
  - Any matters that may arise in relation to the Council's requirement to be corporate parents for children in care.
  - The views of children in care about the services they receive from the Council.
9. The Director of Children's Services and Senior Officers now agree that the above functions are met through the Children's and Young People Select Committee and the Corporate Parenting Board.
10. In order to avoid duplication and ensure member and officer time is utilised effectively and that decisions are joined up; it is recommended that the Children and Families Advisory Panel is dissolved.
11. All the functions of this Panel will be covered by the business of the Corporate Parenting Board (at its increased frequency of four times a year) and the Children and Young People's Select Committee which will be supported by Member Services.

## **Finance**

12. There are no financial implications for this report.

## **Performance**

13. There are no direct performance implications for this report.



## **Consultation and Equalities**

14. The proposal for the dissolution of the panel has been discussed with the Chair of the panel. The ELM will consult with other members ahead of ELM Decision Day in May 2024, where this proposal will be tabled. A further verbal update will be provided about the consultation with the Chair and other members in the meeting.

## **Climate Change Impact Assessment**

15. The carbon mitigation tool and climate change adaptation tool were not applicable because the decision relates to the proposal for dissolution of a panel and is strategic in nature.

## **Conclusions**

16. The Children and Families Advisory Panel has fulfilled its functions as per its terms of reference for a number of years now.
17. The recommendation for the dissolution of the Children and Families Advisory Panel does not pose any risk to the continuity and effectiveness of the scrutiny and service user focus of members and/or senior officers.
18. The recommendation for its dissolution reflects the iterative journey of the various Boards and Panels with focus on services for children, young people and their families, and the desire to be streamlined and joined up in demonstrating accountability and decision making about children.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	Yes

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Corporate Parenting Board meeting - report recommending revised TOR including increase in frequency of CPB meetings.	13 March 2024
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
None	

<b>Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents</b>	
<p>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.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment:**

This is a report adjusting the Council's committee structure so will have low or minimal impact on groups with protected characteristics.

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## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
<b>Date:</b>	14 May 2024
<b>Title:</b>	Winklebury Infant School Age Range
<b>Report From:</b>	Services for Young Children, Children's Services

**Contact name:** Peter Cooper - Service Manager Childcare Development

**Email:** Peter.Cooper@hants.gov.uk

#### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Executive Lead Member with feedback on the statutory public notice in relation to the proposal for Winklebury Infant School in Basingstoke to lower their age range to take children from the age of two and deliver nursery provision from 8.30am to 3.30pm.
2. This report seeks Executive Lead Member approval for the age range of the school to be lowered to take children from two years old and deliver nursery provision from 8.30am to 3.30pm.

#### Recommendation(s)

3. That approval be given to the following proposal, published by Hampshire County Council under Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006:
  - To make a prescribed alteration to Winklebury Infant School, Willoughby Way, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG23 8AF, to provide nursery provision for up to 24 places for children from two years old, with effect from 1 September 2024, with a requirement to consult with the Council prior to any further expansion of places.

#### Executive Summary

4. This report outlines the rationale, background and outcome of the Public Notice for the request to lower the age range for Winklebury Infant School.
5. Winklebury Infant School is a community school currently approved to take children of school age from Year R to Year 2. The Published Admission Number (PAN) for the school is currently 60 with a capacity of 180. The Governing Body of the school is seeking to:
  - (a) Lower the age range to two years old; and

- (b) Directly manage the early years' facility as part of the school.
6. Winklebury Infant School proposal is for the Governing Body of the school to take on the management of Winklebury Infant School pre-school known as WISPS currently operated by the Trustees of WISPS. The school will deliver 24 pre-school places for children aged two, three and four years old.
  7. The school leadership team has reviewed its management, financial and operational arrangements related to this proposal. These were presented to the Governors at their meeting on 20 November 2023, who gave full agreement to the proposal.
  8. There is no cost to Hampshire County Council associated with this proposal.
  9. A public consultation was held from 1 March 2024 with the consultation period closing on 29 March 2024.
  10. No objections were raised during the public consultation.
  11. A copy of the Public Notice is appended (Appendix 2). The County Council has complied with all statutory requirements relating to the publication of the Public Notice.

### **Statutory Public Consultation**

12. The [Making significant changes \('prescribed alterations'\) to maintained schools \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/guidance/making-significant-changes-to-maintained-schools) guidance sets out the process to be followed.
13. A Public Notice was published in the press on 1 March 2024 with the consultation period closing 29 March 2024. The school held a drop-in session on 11 March 2024 for members of the public to ask questions in respect of the consultation.

### **Contextual information**

14. The proposed pre-school provision will provide parents whose children currently attend WISPS continuation of childcare options from Winklebury Infant School.
15. Having a school managed pre-school will not make Winklebury Infant School an all through school. Parents of children attending the pre-school will still be required to apply for their place in Year R through the usual admission arrangements.
16. The Winklebury Infant School proposal to take on the management of the existing WISPS supports the continuing need for early years childcare services in the Winklebury area of Basingstoke, thus supporting families from an area

of deprivation.

## **Finance**

17. The current WISPS delivery is in an area of the school building on the school site specifically designed for pre-school care for 24 children. This area is currently leased through the County Council with the income of the tenancy provided to the school. This tenancy arrangement will cease when the Governing Body assumes the management of the pre-school. The provision will continue to be delivered by the School from the area within the school building.
18. The key to successful early years provision is the ability to be financially sustainable within the limitations of the early years' education funding. Providers achieve this through setting appropriate parental fees for additional services together with allowable consumable charges. It is therefore important that both the school's Governing Body and leadership team regularly review their business plans and financial forecasting and establish close monitoring of the income and expenditure with good debt management. It is also recommended that the income and expenditure of the proposed pre-school is kept separate to the school's main budget.
19. Winklebury Infant School has undertaken its own due diligence and understands that the pre-school income can only be met from early years education claims and parental fee income. At its meeting of 20 November 2023, the Governing Body approved the financial plans for the lowered age group. The Governing Body understands its financial responsibilities regarding this age range change including the budgetary requirements and the potential loss of income from the rental arrangement.
20. To support the process of taking on this early year's provision, the school have provided an outline business plan and financial projections. The school have indicated that the pre-school income will support taking on the current WISPS staffing and running costs of the provision. The school recognises and has accounted for the additional local government employer pension costs of staff transferring. The plan also indicates opportunities to be investigated by the school to extend the childcare offer to meet the needs of working families.
21. The Winklebury Infant School has accessed support from the Council's Education Finance Services (EFS) to gain clarity in respect of school budget and budget planning for the proposed pre-school provision. EFS are satisfied with the school's approach to budgeting in relation to this proposal.

## **Human Resources Implications**

22. As Winklebury Infant School is proposing to take on an existing provision, there are TUPE implications affecting five full time equivalent (FTE) staff. The school has identified that it can put in place appropriate staffing arrangements from September 2024 to support this proposal. The earliest date for transfer of

staff is 1 September 2024.

23. The school is responsible for ensuring employment of appropriate staff for the pre-school and have taken HR advice in considering this proposal.

### **Performance Impact**

24. Winklebury Infant School recognises that delivering an early years provision will offer an early intervention approach to children with SEND and implement early support prior to children starting school, thus allowing a smooth transition with identified support in place for children who, through the coordinated main round school admission process, are offered a Year R place at the school.
25. The school acknowledges that in having a single OFSTED rating, the future performance assessment of the infant school will be expanded to include the pre-school and therefore a positive or negative assessment on this new provision can impact on the outcomes for the whole school.

### **Consultation and Equalities**

26. Winklebury Infant School informed other local provisions and families of their intention to take over WISPS, which is currently under the management of the Trustees of WISPS who are in support of the proposal. Winklebury Infant School also organised a parent meeting on 11 March 2024 to discuss the proposal.
27. On 21 February 2024, a statutory four-week public consultation was approved in respect of this proposal. It ran from 1 March 2024 to 29 March 2024.
28. As part of the consultation process, the school published a “statement of intent” publicising a consultation drop-in session to be held on 11 March 2024. This statement also went out to all the parents of Winklebury Infant School.
29. Winklebury Infant School consulted with local stakeholders and has spoken to parents and directly with local childcare providers. During the Public Notice period, Winklebury Infant School held a meeting with parents to launch the proposal. Discussions with the neighbouring pre-school have been positive about the proposal of Winklebury Infant School going age downwards.
30. No objections were raised during the public consultation.
31. The school Admissions Team have no concerns with the proposal.
32. An Equalities Impact Assessment is attached to this report (Appendix 1). The proposal will provide inclusive access to early years education and therefore has a positive impact on users of the service.



## Conclusion

33. Winklebury Infant School proposal to expand their provision age downwards to **two-year-olds**. This supports the continuation of early years education and childcare and the anticipated growth in demand for early years education services. The school wish to manage the early years provision directly to provide a teacher led early years' service. Because the School is a local authority community school, the local authority was required to approve a statutory consultation and Public Notice to be undertaken before any decision can be confirmed.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	Yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<a href="#">Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools (publishing.service.gov.uk)</a>	January 2023

<b>Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents</b>	
<p>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.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment:**

**Name of project or proposal:** Lowering Age Range Winklebury Infant School

**Name of accountable officer:** Peter Cooper

**Email:** Peter.Cooper@hants.gov.uk

**Department:** Children's Services

**Date of assessment:** 8 January 2024

### **Service Affected**

Winklebury Infants School

### **Service Description**

Winklebury Infant School is a community school for 4 - 7 year olds. It is located in the Winklebury and Manydown Ward of Basingstoke with capacity for 180 children and 60 pupil admission number (PAN). 26.9% of pupils are eligible for free school meals and provides education to children of mixed gender.

Currently a charitable organisation provides early years childcare on the school site offering 24 places, 5 days a week. There are 4.6 FTE staff in the preschool.

### **Service Change**

The school proposes to absorb the current charitable operated pre-school provision which will continue to be accommodated in the separate preschool room on the school site and to be directly managed by school governance. The number of preschool children will remain the same due to the space limitations of the building they occupy but will become part of the schools pupil numbers.

There will be no changes to the staff of either the school or pre-school other than pre-school staff employment terms and conditions will come under HCC. There will be no change to the staff hours of employment at this time. The school offer to the community will change to infant and preschool education for 2-7 year olds. Committee run preschools find it difficult to recruit parents to their committees with some at risk of closure. By the school taking over the pre-school the early years places for this location are secured for future families. The places support continuous provision for children in this area and ensure a clear transition from the pre-school provision to the school. It will enable more opportunity for joint activities between the school and preschool. The school use the Management Information System in Arbor and /or CPOMs to collect data for the protected characteristics. When children join, parents use a paper copy questionnaire to answer such questions and the information is collated and uploaded to Arbor. The pre-school also use paper copies. So if the age down process is approved the school will put the pre-school children onto the Arbor system.

### **Geographic Impact**

Basingstoke and Deane

### **Engagement/Consultation**

No, but intend to or planned.

### **Additional Information**

Discussions have taken place with the staff and school governors

### **Overview Statement**

#### **Age**

Public Impact - Positive

Staff Impact – Positive

#### **Decision Rationale**

Children from age 2 years will benefit from continual provision at the same locality with familiar faces and surroundings. This will build on their confidence and friendships. The flow through school will ensure any additional needs identified and supported by early years are known to the school at an earlier stage in the child's education.

#### **Mitigation/Actions**

**Disability**

Public Impact - Neutral

Staff Impact - Positive

**Decision Rationale**

The building is accessible for adults and children with low level access and wide entry. The early years service will continue to be inclusive and support children aged 2/3 and 4 with SEND.

**Mitigation/Actions****Gender Reassignment**

Public Impact - Neutral

Staff Impact - Neutral

**Decision Rationale**

There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups. The adult toilet in this facility is gender neutral as is the accessible toilet.

**Mitigation/Actions****Pregnancy & Maternity**

Public Impact - Neutral

Staff Impact - Neutral

**Decision Rationale**

There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups.

**Mitigation/Actions****Race**

Public Impact - Neutral

Staff Impact - Neutral

**Decision Rationale**

There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups.

**Mitigation/Actions****Religion or Belief**

Public Impact - Neutral

Staff Impact - Neutral

**Decision Rationale**

There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups.

**Mitigation/Actions**

**Sex**

Public Impact - Neutral

Staff Impact - Neutral

**Decision Rationale**

There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups.

The school is mixed gender.

**Mitigation/Actions**

**Sexual Orientation**

Public Impact - Neutral

Staff Impact - Neutral

**Decision Rationale**

There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups.

**Mitigation/Actions**

**Marriage & Civil Partnership**

Public Impact - Neutral

Staff Impact - Neutral

**Decision Rationale**

There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups.

**Mitigation/Actions**

**Poverty**

Public Impact - Positive

Staff Impact - Neutral

**Decision Rationale**

Positive as the school intends to offer early years funded places to low income eligible families with children aged 2 and through early years pupil premium for those aged 3 and 4 year old.

The move to school management ensures the staff have continued employment.

**Mitigation/Actions**

**Rurality**

Public Impact - Neutral

Staff Impact - Neutral

**Decision Rationale**

There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups.

**CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

The decision for this report is essentially to note the change of Governance for the pre-school provision at Winklebury Infant School who are going age down to include 2 year olds from 1 September 2024. The school age range will become 2 to 7 years. There are no other changes as the same area within the school will continue to be used to provide early years education offering the same number of places. When the building was constructed consideration would have been given to the impact of climate change. There are no adaptations planned for the building at this time. Should there be in the future regard would be given to climate change and Hampshire's target to become carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2025.

The space is part of the school building which will be monitored for future changes in view of the anticipated increase in temperatures and to keep users safe from overheating.

The staff remain the same, they and parents are encouraged to walk to the pre-school with their children and to avoid using cars so reducing carbon emissions.

No other change is planned at this time, and as such does not have any climate change considerations.



**WINKLEBURY INFANT SCHOOL, BASINGSTOKE – REDUCTION IN AGE RANGE**

1. Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that Hampshire County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to **WINKLEBURY INFANT SCHOOL**, Willoughby Way, Winklebury, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG23 8AF (category of school – community) with effect from 1 September 2024.
2. The PAN for the school is currently 60. It is proposed that the age range for the school is lowered by two years from Year R to two-year-olds by taking over the management of the WISPS Pre-school, which is on the school site.
3. The current capacity of the school is 180 and will be unaffected by the proposal. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 176. The current admission number for the school is 60 and is not affected by the school taking on the preschool. There are no costs associated with this proposal.
4. This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal may be obtained from Glenn Parkinson, Strategic Development Officer, Children’s Services Department, EII Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG; telephone 07958 501922; e-mail: [strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk)
5. Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Glenn Parkinson, Strategic Development Officer, Children’s Services Department, EII Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG; telephone 07958 501922; e-mail: [strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk)

Dated 1 March 2024

Carolyn Williamson  
Chief Executive

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## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
<b>Date:</b>	14 May 2024
<b>Title:</b>	Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School – Proposed Amalgamation
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

**Contact name:** Mark Saunders, Senior Strategic Development Officer

**Email:** Mark.saunders@hants.gov.uk

#### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide feedback on the statutory public notice period and obtain approval for the amalgamation of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School with effect from 1 January 2025.

#### Recommendation(s)

2. That approval be given under the Education & Inclusion Act 2006, Schedule 2, part 2 paragraph 8 to close Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit with effect from 1 January 2025.
3. That approval be given to expand the age range of Peel Common Junior School from 7 to 11 to, 3 to 11 from the 1 January 2025 to form an all-through primary school and nursery unit.

#### Executive Summary

4. Discussions have taken place with the headteachers and governing bodies from both schools over many months with respect to declining pupil numbers and the associated impact this has on educational standards, school budgets and on-going viability of both schools. Pupil demand has dropped to 1fe (form of entry) and has resulted in changes being made to the PAN (Published Admission Number) of both schools to reflect this requirement. The proposal to close the infant School and extend the age range of the junior School to form a 1fe primary reflects forecast demand for places at the school and across the local area.
5. Following a request from both governing bodies an informal consultation on the closure of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and expansion of the age range Peel Common Junior School was approved by the Director of

Children's Services in discussion with the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services. This consultation ran from 15 November 2023 to 15 December 2023. Drop-in sessions were held at Peel Common Infant School on 28 November 2023 and 5 December at the junior School. These sessions allowed parents and other stakeholders to put forward their views on the consultation directly to officers, offer alternate proposals and ask any questions.

6. This report includes the feedback from that consultation and the statutory Public Notice, analyses the feedback and recommends the closure of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and extension of the age range of Peel Common Junior School proceeds from the 1 January 2025.

### **Contextual information**

7. The informal consultation undertaken was a response to a formal approach by the governing bodies of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School for the County Council to consider an amalgamation. The amalgamation, if approved, will result in the closure of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit (3 to 7) and a change to the age-range of Peel Common Junior School to 3 to 11 to form a primary school with nursery unit.
8. Pupil forecasts over the next five years indicate that there is a 1fe (form of entry) demand for places in the locality. The infant school PAN was varied from 60 to 30 in September 2022 and 2023 following approval from the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA). The PAN will reduce permanently from 60 to 30 with effect from September 2024 as agreed via the statutory admissions consultation process.
9. The junior school PAN for 2023 was varied from 60 to 33 following a successful OSA application in summer 2023. The PAN for 2024 was permanently reduced to 45 via the statutory admissions consultation. Whilst linked school data supported a reduction to 30, the school's governing body only supported a PAN reduction to 45. An OSA application to reduce the PAN to 30 in 2024 could therefore be an option although the variation decision can only be made by the adjudicator and relies on parental preference and offer data.
10. A permanent reduction to a PAN of 30 for the junior school was approved through the admission arrangements consultation process (13 November 2023 and 29 December 2024) for implementation in Sept 2025/26.
11. The reduction in pupil numbers has led to significant budget pressures at both the infant and junior schools creating significant difficulties with budget recovery and on-going viability. The proposed amalgamation to form a 1fe primary school on one school site presents a better opportunity for the schools to secure an improved budget position with a more settled pupil

number intake and organisational structure.

## **Finance**

12. A meeting to discuss significant financial concerns at the infant school with the County Education Manager (Primary), School Improvement Manager, Education Finance Service Manager, Principal Accountant, Headteacher and Chair of Governors was held on 27th February 2023. It was agreed that the infant school should take every available action to ensure that it avoided an in-year deficit. The figures, as illustrated within the Revenue section below, show that this has not been achieved.

13. The infant and junior Schools will have the following balances as at 31 March 2024:

Peel Common Infant £110,883 Deficit

Peel Common Junior £42,123

Should approval be given to close the infant school, the revenue deficit will be absorbed by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) contingency fund.

14. The schools have the following Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) balances (1 April 2024):

Peel Common Infant £23,323

Peel Common Junior £2,640 Deficit

15. Should the recommendations in paragraphs 2 and 3 be approved capital expenditure will be required to relocate the existing nursery provision from the infant school site to the junior school site. The junior school is felt to be the better option due to the site layout and its relationship to the playing field and hard play area. This could be achieved by relocating an existing purpose built nursery unit from another maintained school site or by extending the existing junior school building. Works will also need to be undertaken on the junior school site to make it suitable for key stage 1 pupils. Estimated costs for the works identified are £750,000 and will be funded in full from the Children's Services Capital Programme. Approval for the required capital expenditure will be obtained at a future Executive Lead Member for Children's Services Decision Day.

16. Discussions will take place regarding all opportunities that exist for utilising or disposing of the surplus accommodation and land should the recommendations be approved.

17. In addition, approval will be required from the Department for Education (DfE) under Section 77, in the event the status of the infant school site changes.

## **Performance**

18. Educational outcomes – Expected Standard % shown.

Infant School				
	2022	National	2023	National
Y1 Phonics	69.2%	75.5%	78.6%	79%
Ks1 Reading	58.3%	66.9%	76.9%	68.3%
Ks1 Writing	47.2%	57.6%	71.8%	60.2%
Ks1 Maths	52.8%	67.7%	69.2%	70.5%
Junior School				
	2022	National	2023	National
Ks2 Reading	45.5%	74.5%	79.5%	72.5%
Ks2 Writing	43.1%	69.5%	47.7%	71.4%
Ks2 Maths	52.7%	71.4%	72.7%	72.9%
Ks2 RWM	32.7%	58.7%	45.5%	59.4%

19. The table above shows that attainment was below average in reading, writing and mathematics (RWM) at the infant School in 2022. This improved significantly in 2023 following Local Authority support. The ability of school leaders to sustain these improvements over time remains under close review.
20. The proportion of pupils achieving the Year 1 Phonics Check was below average in 2022 and in line with national in 2023.
21. The proportion of pupils who achieved the Expected Standard rose considerably in reading and maths in 2023; both of these figures were in line with National standards. The figure for writing remained below national standards in 2023. The combined RWM measure was 26% below national in 2022 and despite the improvements remained 14% below national standards in 2023; this figure was impacted by the below average attainment in writing. mathematics (+20%) in 2023 although there was less improvement in writing which impacted upon the combined RWM measure.
22. Overall effectiveness at both schools is currently judged to be good by Ofsted. The infant School was last inspected in October 2018 and the junior School was last inspected in November 2019. Both schools are likely to be re-inspected by July 2025 (in accordance with information provided by Ofsted in June 2023).

### **Consultation and Equalities**

23. An informal consultation was conducted from 15 November to 15 December 2023 which included a letter sent to stakeholders, a web site with information including FAQ's and two public drop-in sessions, one at each school. People and groups consulted included the parents of both schools, the Member of Parliament, local councillors, and Trade Unions (Appendix A).
24. In total 15 responses were received via e-mail or recorded during the consultation drop-in sessions. The comments received during the consultation process are shared in full at Appendix B.

25. The Statutory Public Notice period took place between Friday 1 March and Friday 26 March 2024 and a copy of the Public Notice is attached at Appendix C. The notices were displayed at the school, circulated to stakeholders, and published in the Hampshire Independent and on Hampshire County Council's public notice portal: [Public notices | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/public-notices)
26. In total one response was received during the Public Notice period. The comments received during the consultation process are shared in full at Appendix D.

### **Personnel implications**

27. Procedures will be developed on behalf of the governing bodies of both schools to support the closure of Peel Common Infant School and expansion of Peel Common Junior Schools, based on a framework already established with trade unions as outlined within the Manual of Personnel Practice. The procedure will then be consulted upon with both staff affected and trade union representatives.
28. As the proposal is a closure of the infant School, all staff at the infant School would be at risk of redundancy at the point of closure. It is however, anticipated that a number of staff will secure employment in the primary school as the junior school will need to recruit for their newly expanded age range. Any infant School staff who do not secure employment in the new primary school will be provided with redeployment support, in anticipation of them securing alternative employment in another Hampshire maintained school or within the County Council.

### **Admissions**

29. The proposal would result in the junior School expanding its age range to become a primary school with a published admission number (PAN) of 30 for year R.
30. Parents of children attending the nursery will still be required to apply for their place in Year R through the usual admission arrangements.
31. The main admissions round for infant/primary and junior school applications for September 2025 opens on 1 November 2024, with a closing date of 15 January 2025. If the recommendations in this report are agreed, Peel Common Infant and Junior Schools would be removed from the admissions rounds, thereby removing the possibility of applications being made for either school based on the current admission arrangements. They would be replaced with a Peel Common Primary School, with a Year R intake.
32. If the proposal is approved, a request for a variation to the junior school policy will need to be made to the OSA. This would change it to a primary school policy with a Year R intake of 30. The existing Year 2 pupils at Peel Common

Infant School would not need to make a Year 3 junior school application as they will progress through to the Key Stage 2 provision in September 2025.

### **Transport**

33. There are no School Transport implications anticipated because of these proposals.

### **Conclusion**

34. That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services gives approval to proceed with the closure of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and expansion of the age range of Peel Common Junior School to form an all-through primary school with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025.



**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	No
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	No
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	Yes

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>	
<u>Title</u> None	<u>Date</u>
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>	
<u>Title</u> None	<u>Date</u>

<b>Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents</b>	
<p>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.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

## Equalities Impact Assessment:



## Equality Impact Assessment

What is an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) and why does the County Council do them?

The [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) (PSED) is an obligation within the [Equality Act 2010](#) ("the Act"), which asks public authorities, like Hampshire County Council, to give 'due regard' to equality considerations, in particular to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

This includes assessing the impact of policies and practices on individuals and communities with a protected characteristic, as defined in the Act and some other specific groups. The County Council uses EIAs to ensure it has paid 'due regard' to equalities considerations when there are changes to a service or policy, a new project or certain decisions.

EIA author	Position & Department	Contact
Glenn Parkinson	Strategic Development Officer Children's Services	glenn.parkinson@hants.gov.uk Tel:07958 501922

Title:	Peel Common Infant and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior Schools - Proposed Amalgamation
Related EIAs:	None

EIA for Savings Programme:	No
Service affected	Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School
Description of the service/policy/project/project phase	<p>The governing bodies of both Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School have contacted Hampshire County Council to discuss opportunities for both schools to work closer together following discussions over recent months regarding low pupil numbers and concerns over the financial positions of both schools. Both schools originally catered for 60 pupils per year group. Over the recent period numbers have dropped which has reduced the school budgets and created organisational difficulties due to low pupil numbers. This has resulted in reductions being made at both schools to their published admission numbers (PAN) . The pupil forecasts indicate that there is a reduced demand for places in the locality compared with recent years. This has led to budget issues at both schools, creating significant difficulties with budget recovery and on-going viability. Indeed, the published admission number has already been reduced to 30 at the infant and 33 at the junior (to reflect offers made to year 3) for 2023 and we are seeking ratification of this for future years.</p>
New/changed service/policy/project	<p>Due to the reduction in pupil numbers in recent years, discussions took place with the governing bodies and Children's Services staff on the impact on school budgets and long term sustainability of two schools with PAN's of 60 where pupil intake was at half that level. The conclusion of the discussions was that the Governing bodies and Hampshire County Council feel the best way forward is to re-organise the schools into a single primary school. The proposed amalgamation to form a 1 form of entry (1FE), or 30 places per year group, primary school presents a better opportunity to secure an improved budget position with a more settled pupil number intake and organisational structure. The amalgamation to form a one form of entry (210 places) primary school will be achieved by the closure of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and the extension of the age-range of the junior school to cater for primary age children. The planned implementation date is 1 January 2025. This approach would result in one governing body overseeing the new school, rather than separate Infant and Junior governing bodies as currently exists. There are many advantages to bringing Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School together,</p>



some of which are listed below: - Greater continuity in planning the curriculum across the key stages of education so that pupils make the best possible progress in learning - A consistent approach to the ways in which children are taught - Enhance teachers' professional development through increased opportunities to teach across a wider age range within the same school - Removes the need for separate admission and transfer at the end of key stage 1 (infant to junior transfer) - Parents are able to develop a longer-term relationship with the school - Gives children the opportunity to work with or alongside younger or older pupils allowing them to put their own learning in context and develop important social skills Both schools share the same site and a decision will be reached in due course as to which school is utilised to provide the accommodation for pupils, but it is likely, due to the overall site layout, that the junior building will be used to provide the nursery and primary school facilities. Building feasibility work will be undertaken once we know the outcome of the consultation and final decision. In the interim both buildings will be used. If approved, there will be a need to review the staffing organisation for the new 1fe primary school and this will be decided upon by the junior school as it becomes a primary. Staff from the infant school will be able to apply for jobs at the new primary school. The current stage of the statutory process is that following consultation approval is being sought to issue a Public Notice for 4 weeks seeking any comments on the proposal. Thereafter a final decision is expected in May 2024.

## Engagement

A consultation ran from 15 November 2023 until 15 December 2023.

The project proposal was also included on the Hampshire County Council's (HCC) consultation website: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations>

Letters were sent to; • Headteachers at both schools • Chair of Governors of both schools • School staff at both schools • Parents of children at both schools (via the schools) • Headteachers and Chairs of Governors at all schools within 2 miles • Staff union representatives • MPCaroline Dinenage • HCC Elected member • Local District Council • Early Years Development and Childcare • Other relevant HCC Officers • Local Diocese

Two public meetings were held, one at the infant school on 28 November 2023 and one at the junior school on 5 November 2023 to allow stakeholders to put forward their views on the proposal directly to officers, offer alternate proposals and ask any questions they might have had. During the consultation we received 15

responses. Further detail on the responses received can be found within the Elective Lead Member for Children's Services February Decision Day report that this EIA is attached to. A link to the ELMCS report can be found here

[Agenda for Executive Lead Member for Children's Services Decision Day & Executive Member for Education Decision Day on Tuesday, 20th February, 2024, 2.00 pm | About the Council | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

Equalities considerations - Impact Assessment

Age

Impact on public	Negative - Low
Impact on staff	Negative - Low
Rationale	There is a negative low impact envisaged in relation to age as the proposal, if approved, will mean that school provision remains in the area and will serve the same pupil age range including nursery provision,. Whilst the proposal, if approved, would result in the closure of the infant school, the junior school would increase its age-range to serve nursery and primary pupils. Therefore the only impact would be that the infant school age pupils would need to move from the building they're currently being educated in, over to the junior school building which is adjacent on the same site, should that be the decision.
Mitigation	In relation to staff there is a negative low impact envisaged as the age of staff will have no bearing in relation to any staff reorganisation that will be necessary as a result of the changes planned through the proposal. The Hampshire County Council Human Resources department will work with and support all members of staff in line with all appropriate policies, regardless of their age, to assist with finding alternative employment elsewhere if needed.

Disability

Impact on public	Neutral
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Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>It is assessed there will be a neutral impact on disability as the proposal, if approved, does not make any changes to the policies and practices that the junior school utilises which will continue to be used should the school become a primary with the approval of the proposal.</p> <p>Any building works will be managed accordingly to ensure that there will be no impact on movement around the building that will affect anyone with a disability.</p>
Mitigation	

### Gender Reassignment

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>It is assessed there will be a neutral impact on gender reassignment as the proposal, if approved, does not make any changes to the policies and practices that the junior school currently has and these will still apply once it becomes a primary school should that be the final decision.</p>
Mitigation	

### Pregnancy and Maternity

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Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>The proposed change is expected to have a neutral impact on people who share pregnancy and maternity as a protected characteristic. All schools will have a policy in relation to this protected characteristic which will be adhered to if required.</p> <p>The Hampshire County Council Human Resources department will support and work with all members of staff in line with all appropriate policies, including those on maternity or paternity leave, to assist with finding alternative employment elsewhere if required.</p>
Mitigation	

## Race

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>It is assessed there will be a neutral impact on race as the scheme does not make any changes to the policies and practices that the Junior school currently has which will continue when they become a primary school, should the proposal be approved.</p>
Mitigation	

## Religion or Belief

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral

Rationale	It is assessed there will be a neutral impact on religion or belief as the scheme does not make any changes to the policies and practices that the Junior school currently has which will continue when they become a primary school, should the proposal be approved
Mitigation	

### Sex

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	It is assessed there will be a neutral impact on sex as the scheme does not make any changes to the policies and practices that the Junior school currently has which will continue when they become a primary school, should the proposal be approved
Mitigation	

### Sexual Orientation

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	It is assessed there will be a neutral impact on sexual orientation as the scheme does not make any changes to the policies and practices that the Junior school currently has which will continue when they become a primary school, should the proposal be approved

Mitigation	
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## Marriage and Civil Partnership

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	It is assessed there will be a neutral impact on marriage and civil partnership as the scheme does not make any changes to the policies and practices that the Junior school currently has which will continue when they become a primary school, should the proposal be approved
Mitigation	

## Poverty

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	It is assessed there will be a neutral impact on poverty as the scheme does not make any changes to the provision of school places in the local area and that the policies and practices that the Junior school currently has will continue when they become a primary school, should the proposal be approved
Mitigation	

## Rurality

Impact on public	Neutral

Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	It is assessed there will be a neutral impact on rurality as the proposal does not make any changes to the provision of school places in the local area and that the policies and practices that the Junior school currently has will continue when they become a primary school, should the proposal be approved
Mitigation	

Geographical Impact:Gosport

## Equality Statement

### Additional information:

Should the proposal be approved to move to the next stage of the process there will be a further period of consultation through the publication of a statutory Public Notice for 4 weeks and subject to any comments being received would then be finally approved by the Elected Lead Member for Children's Services. It is planned to be implemented from 1st January 2025.

### Overview Statement:

A summary assessment to show that due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty has been paid, which is undertaken when a full EIA is not needed:

EIA reference number: 00530

Date of production of EIA for publication: 15/01/2024

## **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.

### **Carbon Mitigation**

The proposal is to create a primary school likely utilising the Junior School building. This report seeks approval to the amalgamation of the two schools relating to school place planning, but mitigation and adaptation strategies may be needed in the future to ensure that the buildings are resilient to climate change. However, this will be outlined in future reports and the climate impacts on the school buildings will be closely monitored.

Should approval eventually be granted to close the school, the decision would support the strategic priority of ensuring people in Hampshire live safe, healthy, and independent lives is met.

# Appendix A



**Hampshire**  
County Council

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

Telephone 0300 555 1384  
Textphone 0845 603 5625

Enquiries to Glenn Parkinson

My reference

Direct Line

Your reference

Date 15 November 2023

E-mail [strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk)

Dear Consultee

## **Consultation on the amalgamation of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School, Rowner**

Hampshire County Council, with the full support of the headteachers and their governing bodies, wishes to consult on the amalgamation of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School, Rowner.

### **Background**

The governing bodies of both Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School have contacted Hampshire County Council to discuss opportunities for both schools to work closer together following discussions over recent months regarding low pupil numbers and concerns over the financial positions of both schools.

The pupil forecasts indicate that there is a reduced demand for places in the locality compared with recent years. This has led to budget issues at both schools, creating significant difficulties with budget recovery and on-going viability. Indeed, the published admission number has already been reduced to 30 at the infant and 33 at the junior (to reflect offers made to year 3) for 2023 and we are seeking ratification of this for future years.

In view of this, the Governing bodies and Hampshire County Council feel the best way forward is to re-organise the schools into a single primary school. The proposed amalgamation to form a 1 form of entry (1FE), or 30 places per year group, primary school presents a better opportunity to secure an improved budget position with a more settled pupil number intake and organisational structure.

Director of Children's Services  
Stuart Ashley



Providing an outstanding service to children and families

This approach would result in one governing body overseeing the new school, rather than separate Infant and Junior governing bodies as currently exists. There are many advantages to bringing Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School together, some of which are listed below:

- Greater continuity in planning the curriculum across the key stages of education so that pupils make the best possible progress in learning.
- A consistent approach to the ways in which children are taught.
- Enhance teachers' professional development through increased opportunities to teach across a wider age range within the same school.
- Removes the need for separate admission and transfer at the end of key stage 1 (infant to junior transfer)
- Parents are able to develop a longer-term relationship with the school.
- Gives children the opportunity to work with or alongside younger or older pupils allowing them to put their own learning in context and develop important social skills.

A decision will be reached in due course as to which school is utilised to provide the accommodation for pupils, but it is likely, due to the overall site layout, that the junior building will be used to provide the nursery and primary school facilities. Building feasibility work will be undertaken once we know the outcome of the consultation and final decision. In the interim both buildings will be used.

The Governing Bodies of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School have requested that Hampshire County Council consult with the schools' community and other interested parties on the possibility of both schools becoming a primary school.

### **The proposal**

In order for both Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School to work together and operate as one primary school, there is a statutory process which needs to be followed.

Hampshire County Council is therefore proposing to amalgamate Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School, through the closure of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and extension of the age range of Peel Common Junior School to become a Primary School with a Nursery Unit (3 – 11 years). Upon the implementation of this potential proposal, the school will continue to offer 30 places for Year R (age 4+). If agreed, it is anticipated that this proposed change would take effective on the 1 January 2025.

### **Consultation - we want to hear your views**

We would like to hear your views on this proposal. We are therefore consulting with you and other interested parties over the coming weeks.

**This consultation will run from the 15 November to 15 December 2023.** A drop-in session will be held at each school as detailed below. At these sessions, you will have an opportunity to discuss the proposals with the Headteacher, governors and

Hampshire County Council officers. Please see the table below for dates of the drop-in sessions:

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 28 November 2023	3:30pm – 5:30pm	Peel Common Infant
Tuesday 5 December 2023	3:30pm – 5:30pm	Peel Common Junior

From 15 November 2023, a website with the details of the consultation will be available via the link below:

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

Officers will take into consideration all the consultation responses received before deciding whether the proposal should continue to the formal publication stage.

If the decision to proceed is made, a report will be taken to a future Executive Lead Member for Children's Services Decision Day seeking approval for a statutory Public Notice to be published. This will set out Hampshire County Council's intent to close Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and change the age range of Peel Common Junior School. It is anticipated that the Public Notice will be published in March 2024.

After the date of publication, there will be a four-week period in which any representations can be made. After the conclusion of this period, the County Council will decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal.

#### **Further information**

If you are unable to attend any of the sessions detailed in this letter and wish to make a comment, please write to Glenn Parkinson, Strategic Development Officer, Children's Services Department, Ell Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG or e-mail [strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk) **before the 15 December 2023**

Yours sincerely



**Glenn Parkinson**  
Strategic Development Officer  
Children's Services Department



# Appendix B

## 1

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 November 2023 12:42  
**To:** Strategic Planning Unit  
**Subject:** Consultation on the amalgamation of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School, Rowner

**Categories:** Consultation

**Caution:** This is an external email and could contain malicious content. Do not open any links or attachments if you were not expecting them. If the e-mail looks suspicious, please report via the 'Report Phishing' Button found on your toolbar.

Dear Team

Thank you for the opportunity to feedback on the consultation. I will be attending on the 5<sup>th</sup> Dec session. My questions / viewpoints in advance which I would like raised are;

- Why are we in this situation now? E.g. how long has this option been discussed?
- Why are registrations slowing? Why are parents choosing other schools in the area?
- What actions have the leadership of the school taken to address this with the Council, Ofsted or surrounding schools?

Can you provide numbers, by Class Year (e.g. Reception), since 2022 of;

- How many children were registered at each year
- How many children remained at the end of full year?
- How many children joined part way through and remained at the year end?
- For children who have withdrawn part way through the year, how many of those had a meeting/correspondence between parents of the child and the school about their reasons for leaving?

Can you provide numbers, by Class Year, since 2022 of;

- How many teachers and assistants were assigned for a teaching role at the beginning of each year?
- How many of those remained at the end of full year?

Fundraising and Social Events for Children;

- The school has a number of fundraising initiatives such as Christmas decorations, there is never a thank you given or details of how much was raised and what it funded.
- What charities has it supported and how much money was raised for them?
- The school advertises a Friends of the school and advertises a number of events organised by them. This has not occurred for 3 years, albeit 1 disco. Can details be given of why and how has the school appealed for members to assist?

**Other issues to take into consideration:**

- Poor estate issues – the general unkept look of the school.
- High staff turnover resulting in poor academic and social unrest for children in the infants.
- Poor leadership – bad communication with parents about issues such as teaching staff off unwell and how this is impacting the children with unknown teachers on the door every day.

**Future:**

- Can the Council give assurance of continued funding for the school and for how many years?
- Can the Council give details of any additional funding the school can access now they are in this situation
- Where is Ofsted input into the consultation?

Thank you for your time.



Consultation on the amalgamation of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery  
Unit and Peel Common Junior School, Rowner

Comment Response Form

**Please respond by: Friday 15 December 2023**

Are you a:

Parent/Guardian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pupil	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resident	<input type="checkbox"/>
School Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please detail any comments you wish to make on the proposal:

*specifically elected for our daughter to come to Peel Common because we felt, based on her experience at a nursery unit at a nearby primary school, that ~~on~~ a smaller school with only infant pupils would benefit her, given that she is quite shy and was overwhelmed in a larger setting. Very disappointed that a move to a primary fees inevitable. PTO.*

Please continue overleaf if necessary

**Contact details (please tick boxes which apply):**

- Yes, I provide consent to be contacted in regards my response above and understand that it is optional to provide this information and that I can withdraw my consent at any time. ✓
- Yes, I confirm that I have read and understood the supporting privacy notice. ✓

Name: [REDACTED]  
 Address: [REDACTED]  
 Telephone No: [REDACTED]  
 Email address: [REDACTED]

(Any information provided here will not be used for any other purpose / all responses will be made anonymous in reports)

Return address: Strategic Development Team, Floor 3, Elizabeth II Court North, Hampshire County Council,  
 Children's Services Department, The Castle, Winchester, SO23 8UG  
 email: [strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk)

## Privacy Notice

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*Also very concerned at losing the beautiful grounds, including the middle and woodland. This 'country feel' was a big pull towards Peel Common and I feel concerned that this will be lost.*

Consultation on the amalgamation of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School, Rowner

Comment Response Form

Please respond by: Friday 15 December 2023

Are you a:

Parent/Guardian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pupil	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resident	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
School Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please detail any comments you wish to make on the proposal:

I would have concern regarding the use of the infant school building post a move into the Juniors.

I would strongly oppose the building + land being sold for housing as don't feel this would benefit the estate + wouldn't want a building site next to the new school. Loss of the building would be a loss to the community.

I would expect the building to be used for the Community library, Community Centre etc.

Please continue overleaf if necessary

**Contact details (please tick boxes which apply):**

Yes, I provide consent to be contacted in regards my response above and understand that it is optional to provide this information and that I can withdraw my consent at any time.

Yes, I confirm that I have read and understood the supporting privacy notice.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

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If it was to be used for a special needs school or support centre I would expect careful consideration given to the community needs. Risks + benefits would need to be properly assessed.

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Consultation on the amalgamation of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School, Rowner

Comment Response Form

Please respond by: Friday 15 December 2023

Are you a:

Parent/Guardian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pupil	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resident	<input type="checkbox"/>
School Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please detail any comments you wish to make on the proposal:

I wish to make it as easy on my children with the transition. To keep the gamilar faces of staff for my infant child.

Both infants and juniors have worked wonders on my family / children / nieces / nephews.

Thank you for everything.

Please continue overleaf if necessary

**Contact details (please tick boxes which apply):**

Yes, I provide consent to be contacted in regards my response above and understand that it is optional to provide this information and that I can withdraw my consent at any time.

Yes, I confirm that I have read and understood the supporting privacy notice.

Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone No: [REDACTED]

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Consultation on the amalgamation of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School, Rowner

Comment Response Form

Please respond by: Friday 15 December 2023

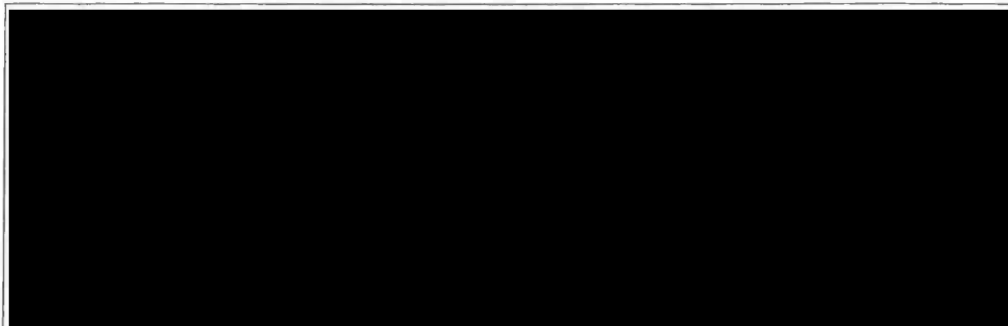
Are you a:

Parent/Guardian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pupil	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resident	<input type="checkbox"/>
School Governor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please detail any comments you wish to make on the proposal:

The proposal makes good educational sense. My concern is the purpose built school left empty. This would make a good special school to support all those children who cannot get help but may only require it for a short time.

Please continue overleaf if necessary



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Comment Response Form

Please respond by: Friday 15 December 2023

Are you a:

Parent/Guardian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pupil	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resident	<input type="checkbox"/>
School Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please detail any comments you wish to make on the proposal:  
I think the proposal is a great idea, but feel it would make more sense to move the 'start date' to September 2024 to coincide with the start of the new academic year. This will be far more beneficial for the children to start a new school year in their new class with a new teacher, rather than upheaving them part-way through the term. It will also make more logistical sense for the move to take place over the 6 week break.

Please continue overleaf if necessary



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Consultation on the amalgamation of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School, Rowner

Comment Response Form

Please respond by: Friday 15 December 2023

Are you a:

Parent/Guardian	
Pupil	
Resident	
School Governor	
Staff	
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please detail any comments you wish to make on the proposal:

I EXPECT RESIDENTS AND PARENTS MAY MAKE THIS POINT DURING THE CONSULTATION. A DEVELOPMENT LESS THAN 200 METRES FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL IS SCHEDULED TO GET UNDERWAY SHORTLY. ALTHOUGH IT WILL ONLY BE FOR 90 HOUSES, THE DEVELOPMENT WILL BE FOR 100% AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND VERY LIKELY BE OVERWHELMINGLY FOR YOUNG FAMILIES. I UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF THIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN DISMISSED ON THE BASIS THAT IT IS IN FAREHAM BOROUGH. BUT THE NATURE AND LOCATION OF THE HOUSING WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY IMPACT THE SCHOOL NUMBERS IN THE FUTURE. HOWEVER, I WOULD ACCEPT THAT EVEN 90 NEW FAMILIES IS UNLIKELY TO MOVE THE DIAL TO THE EXTENT WHERE IT INFLUENCES THE DECISION. I SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL.

Please continue overleaf if necessary

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Comment Response Form

Please respond by: Friday 15 December 2023

Are you a:

Parent/Guardian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pupil	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resident	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
School Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please detail any comments you wish to make on the proposal:

Questions answered and look forward to further consultation.

Please continue overleaf if necessary

Return address: Strategic Development Team, Floor 3, Elizabeth II Court North, Hampshire County Council, Children's Services Department, The Castle, Winchester, SO23 8UG  
email: [strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk)

## Privacy Notice

### Why we collect your Information

Hampshire County Council is the organisation responsible for processing your information (the Data Controller). Our Strategic Development Team would like to contact you to discuss the response you have provided to the amalgamation consultation event. To be able to do this, we need your permission (your consent) to be able to store and use any contact details you provide to us to be able to make contact. Although you may say yes when completing this form, you can withdraw your consent at any time.

We will store a copy of this consent form, containing your information, within the County Council's Document Management System (DMS). Our DMS is hosted in the UK within the County Council's secure data centre and we will retain this information for a period of five years, at which point we will dispose of the information as appropriate.

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To remove or update your consent, please email [strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk), call 0370 779 4892 or write to the Strategic Development Team at Hampshire County Council, Childrens Services, E11 Court, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8UG, confirming your name and contact details previously provided so we can find you on our database and either have your details removed or preferences updated as instructed by you.



9

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 14 December 2023 19:55  
**To:** Strategic Planning Unit  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Closure of Peel Common Infants School and Nursery  
**Categories:** [REDACTED]

**Caution:** This is an external email and could contain malicious content. Do not open any links or attachments if you were not expecting them. If the e-mail looks suspicious, please report via the 'Report Phishing' Button found on your toolbar.

Dear Sir/Madam,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], I was surprised to hear that there were plans to close the infant school and amalgamate with the junior school.

I had serious reservations about closing the infants school and attended the open evening to meet the HCC staff.

At the open evening, I met with a very friendly chap, Mark, from the HCC school Strategy department. We had a long discussion and I asked lots of questions regarding the status of the school and how it got to where it is now.

My main take-aways from our discussion was as follows:

The school is ~£100k PA in the red.  
Each student attracts £6k PA of HCC funding.  
Across the local 8 or 9 infant/primary schools, the total under admission quota is ~90 students.  
Peel Common Infants alone accounts for 30+ of these ~90 under quota student places.  
Peel Common Infants has a higher than average number of special needs students requiring extra support staff costs taken from their budget.  
The junior school will require extension building works to accommodate the movement of students and staff.  
This building extension work is estimated to cost £950k (equivalent to 9.5 years of annual deficit)  
Building the extension then moving the students and staff allows the infant school to make 2 members of staff redundant.

As a child, I attended Peel Common nursery, infant and junior schools.  
My personal experience of learning at all three schools was a very good one, I even learnt to swim in the now derelict swimming pool.

Unfortunately, in my opinion, the school appearance has gone heavily down hill. I did not actually realise how shabby the school looked until I came for the year R open evening.

Year R open evening is held at the back of the school (where the year R and year one class rooms are located)

When I came to [REDACTED] year R open evening, I was disappointed with the unkempt, heavily overgrown appearance of the whole back area of the school. To name a few things, there were old car tyres full of water strewn around the place, brambles with rubbish trapped inside, piles of leaves approx. 8 inches deep in multiple places against the main building. The children's bicycle rack was mucky, had an old rusty abandoned bike and was half buried in overgrown bushes.

The outdoor educational facilities at the back were very poor, these consisted of two activity trollies, the car tyres, and a play house shed that had a wobbly play kitchen as a substitute for a second story ladder that had been lost/broken.

The front of the school is quite nice but unfortunately this is not what the year R entries are seeing.

As I'm sure you are aware, from a purely commercial point of view, these open evenings are where the school needs to sell itself to prospecting parents. Year R admissions naturally lead the student count for the two subsequent year groups.

During our [REDACTED] open evening visit, I personally heard multiple parents make disparaging comments regarding the appearance of the year R area. My partner and I were so disappointed in fact, we almost sent our [REDACTED] to Crofton Anne Dale (which I understand is oversubscribed) I know two other Peel Common resident families with children in my eldest son's year that chose Crofton Anne Dale over Peel Common for this same reason. My partner and I decided to give Peel Common a chance due to my historical experience with the school [REDACTED].

Both of our sons have attended [REDACTED] which is night and day different in it's impression. [REDACTED] actively include parents in maintenance days and I have enjoyed helping out on multiple occasions taking in equipment and improving the facilities.

I believe failure to sell itself at the year R input is where the school has fallen down. Unfortunately, if the school doesn't do a good job of attracting parents, the subsequent budget then gets cut by £6k per student per year. This failure to attract quota rapidly becomes a year on year downward spiral with less and less student funding available to spend on facilities, ending in closure which is where we are, or close to being now.

With planning applications in for 1200 homes (Longfield Ave), 90 homes (Newgate Ln East), 206 homes (adj Stubbington Cemetery) and probably more to follow in the parcels of land in amongst these, it would seem the number of local school children is set to rise considerably.

The education [REDACTED] at Peel Common has been second to none. Every week he blows us away with what he has learned and I would not change a thing when it comes to the teaching staff. It's so sad that such good education facility isn't selling itself to the point of closure. On the recent parents evening, I discussed this [REDACTED] and she said "please help save our little school.."

I own an engineering company. We have had a profitable year and it would make me happy to donate time, use of machinery, materials and purchase outdoor play equipment to transform the back of the school ready for the next year R admission. From my experience [REDACTED], I am sure a rallying call would also get other parents to muck in.

The head led me to believe the closure decision was a done deal but I hope this is not the case.  
I would appreciate the opportunity to sit down and discuss the matter further if it's not too late?

Hopefully together we can save this little school.  
Kind regards

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

# 10

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 14 December 2023 20:28  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Peel common infant school closure  
**Categories:** [REDACTED]

Caution: This is an external email and could contain malicious content. Do not open any links or attachments if you were not expecting them. If the e-mail looks suspicious, please report via the 'Report Phishing' Button found on your toolbar.

Good evening

I would like to pass on my thoughts and sadness about the planned closure of Peel Common Infants School.

With the planned new homes a few yards away from the school, I am surprised that the closure has been given the go ahead. Where are the children meant to receive an education?

I note that the school do not have the amount of children coming into the classroom, but usually would have lee on Solent overfill. I wonder why these pupils are not coming to Peel Common. There is a lack of parent involvement with the school which I feel could be really helpful, things like school fayrs, sponsorship, fundraising, along with maintaining the grounds and buildings. If numbers in peel common are falling then there should be improvement to increase this, particularly around supporting children who require more support (neuro divergent children)

I do not advocate the school closure, [REDACTED]

I also would want to consider the impact of further cars driving to alternative schools particularly with the new homes, which will not only increase traffic on both new gate lane, wych way and Rowner lane but pollution also.

Many thanks  
[REDACTED]

11

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 14 December 2023 20:42  
**To:** Strategic Planning Unit  
**Subject:** Peel common infants

**Categories:** [REDACTED]

Caution: This is an external email and could contain malicious content. Do not open any links or attachments if you were not expecting them. If the e-mail looks suspicious, please report via the 'Report Phishing' Button found on your toolbar.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a parent [REDACTED]

I was surprised to hear that there were plans to close the infant school and amalgamate with the junior school.

I'm sad to hear that it's due to financial burdens and not having enough pupils. I am encouraged though that with upcoming development and that younger families are buying on the eastate this number will improve.

I have concerns that the junior school is not big enough and wonder what would happen to the infants building/land. Will it benefit the children?

I feel more should be done to attract people to the school. I had reservations when I came for an open day as the ceiling panels were damaged or missing and there were holes in the carpet but the school has a lot to offer and I don't want to risk that being lost.

Why are there no fundraisers or seeking help from the parents/community/churches?

More/better advertising for the nursery needs to be done. Could you lower the age further? I know so many people struggle to find a good nursery at a reasonable price and surely with the new free hours due to kick in soon demand will be higher?

I hope the decision hasn't yet been finalised and by listening to parents you still have an open mind.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

# 12

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 14 December 2023 21:01  
**To:** Strategic Planning Unit  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Peel Common Infants School  
**Categories:** [REDACTED]

Caution: This is an external email and could contain malicious content. Do not open any links or attachments if you were not expecting them. If the e-mail looks suspicious, please report via the 'Report Phishing' Button found on your toolbar.

Dear Sir/Madam

I have a child [REDACTED] at Peel Common Infants. On hearing about the merger with the juniors has disappointed and worried me. My children went to school in Fareham. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] attended Woodcot preschool. Whilst I was pleasantly surprised and impressed with the preschool the school itself was appalling. I refused my [REDACTED] to attend there. [REDACTED] I almost sent [REDACTED] to Redlands primary where [REDACTED]. But after seeing the school and meeting the teachers at Peel Common Infants I decided this was the school for her. The passion and commitment of the staff is faultless. The class sizes are perfect. The only problems I see is that children that need more attention take away from the majority. It's all down to funding. The school having to budget for extra staff etc. the school grounds don't look appealing to new prospective parents. Those that have no knowledge of sending children to school. They want to see the "shop window" to entice them. I thankfully saw beyond the appearance to what actually mattered. It would be such a pity to combine the schools. It's amazing as it is. As a parent I would be more than happy to help out with turning this school around. [REDACTED] would be able to join the nursery next year. I was hoping to send her here.

Please leave the Infants school. Financially it makes more sense to make good of what's there. Attract new students in the coming years. It's the best school in the area without a doubt.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

# 13

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 14 December 2023 21:45  
**To:** Strategic Planning Unit  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Closure/Amalgamation of Peel Common Nursery & Infant School

**Categories:** [REDACTED]

**Caution:** This is an external email and could contain malicious content. Do not open any links or attachments if you were not expecting them. If the e-mail looks suspicious, please report via the 'Report Phishing' Button found on your toolbar.

Good evening,

As I understand tonight is the deadline for comments regarding the above, as a parent to a child attending the school, I felt it was important to make an input.

I feel like my child receives an excellent education at the school, and always believe I made the right choice to send [REDACTED] here but I do feel like the general appearance and maintenance of the school is let down considerably, and to this end, perhaps that is why student uptake is low.

The general feeling from fellow parents is that if this improved (perhaps through fundraising or community effort) then perhaps there might be a chance to save the school and preserve the status quo that provides the children with this wonderful learning experience, as I do have concerns that amalgamation with the junior school might have an overall negative impact on the education quality the children receive.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to hearing the outcome.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

14

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 14 December 2023 23:09  
**To:** Strategic Planning Unit  
**Subject:** Peel common/junior amalgamation comments  
**Categories:** [REDACTED]

**Caution:** This is an external email and could contain malicious content. Do not open any links or attachments if you were not expecting them. If the e-mail looks suspicious, please report via the 'Report Phishing' Button found on your toolbar.

Good evening,

I have only just been made aware that the amalgamation between peel common infants and juniors is not set in stone.

We have a child in year [REDACTED], another due to join year R in September and an older [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who attended infants before moving across to the junior site. We would really love to do all we can to help save the school. From speaking with other parents who share the same sentiment it is clear we have the resources and willingness to help with improvements to help drive more parents to chose the school as well as help making it a more engaging space to learn and play.

I would like to make some further comments on the situation as it stands. It is also my personal opinion that the school does not always apply for EHCP's for children with additional needs which could help financially with funding towards additional resources/staffing costs, particularly as it indeed does have a higher number of children with additional needs. While I am aware not all children with additional needs require an EHCP, in my own personal experience it is something sometimes overlooked. F [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We would be happy to help put in time and effort to improve the school facilities and appearance which we feel would help attract more prospective parents. I don't believe the real reason for the reduced intake is caused by declining birth rates at all, but the decision parents are making when choosing local schools or even the decision to move schools. [REDACTED] the infant school it seemed so busy and now seems so empty by comparison. [REDACTED] I know from speaking with others that have pulled their children from the infants/juniors school and moved schools, not because they have moved house, but due to issues such as the way the way the junior school has dealt with bullying etc. This automatically also impacts the number of younger siblings that would be attending the infant setting and combining the schools, will not resolve these types of issues.

We would also be interested in running some type of fundraising events to help as we feel it is in the schools, staff and children's best interests to continue run separately.



Kind regards



Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

15

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 December 2023 10:14  
**To:** Strategic Planning Unit  
**Subject:** Consultation re: amalgamation of Peel Common Infant and Junior Schools  
**Categories:** [REDACTED]

**Caution:** This is an external email and could contain malicious content. Do not open any links or attachments if you were not expecting them. If the e-mail looks suspicious, please report via the 'Report Phishing' Button found on your toolbar.

Good morning,

Please can I submit my views to the consultation of the amalgamation of Peel Common Infant and Junior school. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I have the objective view that the amalgamation is a good decision to make. This is so that the strong foundations for learning can be embedded in one school and built on under one roof. The skill set within the junior school is such that this would be positive in securing positive social, emotional and academic outcomes for the children.

I have identified some challenges currently present around transition and securing the right support particularly for children with SEN. This is inevitable with the current format due to different policies, staffing and approach. However, an amalgamation would lead to a single-track approach for children without the inevitable differences between two schools and ultimately lead to swift, consistent and appropriate provision given to the children.

It is my understanding that the amalgamation means the school will be brought onto the junior site and therefore leave the infant site vacant. I would like to use this opportunity to strongly advocate for the infant site being repurposed for a special school. It will be all too well known by the strategic planning team that there is a huge short-fall in special school places in Hampshire and particularly in the Fareham and Gosport district. It would make sense to use an existing site for a special school and support Hampshire's SEN strategic placement planning. In my opinion, it would be irresponsible and shortsighted for the infant site to be used for anything other than a special school as the need can be met relatively easily and quickly without the need for new building work.

I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute my views to this consultation and wish the schools and the community the best of success in the future.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]



# Appendix C



## AMALGAMATION OF PEEL COMMON INFANT SCHOOL AND NURSERY UNIT AND PEEL COMMON JUNIOR SCHOOL

1. Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schols) (England) Regulations 2013 that Hampshire County Council, Elizabeth II Court, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8UG intends to discontinue **PEEL COMMON INFANT SCHOOL AND NURSERY UNIT**, The Drive, Gosport, PO13 0QD (category of school – Community) and to establish a community primary school by enlarging **PEEL COMMON JUNIOR SCHOOL, THE DRIVE, GOSPORT, PO13 0QD** with effect from 1 January 2025.
2. The closure of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and the amalgamation with Peel Common Junior School is being proposed following a request from the headteachers and their governing bodies. It is as a result of falling pupil numbers at both schools that the amalgamation is proposed. The amalgamation will continue to provide local school places in line with pupil demand within an Ofsted rated “Good” school.
3. Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and Peel Common Junior School share a site and it is proposed to amalgamate the two schools to form a primary school catering for pupils from age 3-11 years (including the maintained nursery) utilising the existing junior school building. It is expected that additional accommodation will be required at an estimated cost of up to £750,000.
4. The primary school will provide up to 210 places catering for pupils between the ages of 3 and 11. The school will continue to admit up to 30 pupils at the age of 4+. 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.
5. Places will be available for all pupils affected by the closure of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit at Peel Common Junior School. The number on roll for both schools at October 2023 census was 223. The numbers will reduce from 2024 and the proposed capacity at the primary provision of 210 places will be sufficient to meet local demand.
6. Applications for Year R for 2024 to Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit will be submitted in the normal way. If the decision is made to close Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit places will be available for pupils at the newly created primary school.
7. Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may make comments on the proposal by sending them to Mark Saunders, Senior Strategic Development Officer, Children's Services Department, EII Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG; e-mail: [strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk)

Dated 1 March 2024

Carolyn Williamson  
Chief Executive

# Appendix D

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 05 March 2024 15:00  
**To:** Strategic Planning Unit  
**Subject:** Peel Common Infant School  
**Categories:** Consultation

**Caution:** This is an external email and could contain malicious content. Do not open any links or attachments if you were not expecting them. If the e-mail looks suspicious, please report via the 'Report Phishing' Button found on your toolbar.

Dear Mr Parkinson

I hope this email finds you well.

[REDACTED] We are a very small specialist school [REDACTED] with just [REDACTED] pupils. We offer an alternative experience where our pupils mental health is our priority which leads to our young people being at the centre of their learning.

[REDACTED] is a specialist independent school for students aged between 11 and 16 years with Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs. For most of our young people this means that they have Autism, ADHD, Attachment/Trauma and/or extreme anxiety. Before starting with us many of our pupils have experienced Emotional Based School Non-Attendance.

Due to our success and the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection, we find ourselves in a position where demand is far greater than the placements we can offer sadly. We are currently full until September 2025. As a result, we are looking to expand our service so that we can help more students and their families, and would like to offer our services in Hampshire, which is our neighbouring borough.

As such, I am writing to you as I have acquired your details as being the Hampshire contact regarding the consultation to amalgamate Peel Common Infant School and Peel Common Junior School.

I am writing to express my interest in leasing Peel Common Infant School building, should it become available due to amalgamating with the Junior School.

[REDACTED] I am deeply invested in the sector. I understand the importance of maintaining SEND educational spaces within the local neighborhood. I believe that repurposing Peel Common Infant School building for community use would be a beneficial endeavour, providing valuable resources and opportunities for local children and their families.

I am interested in utilising the building to replicate a setting such as the one that we have [REDACTED] or young people with SEMH needs. This initiative aligns with the values of lifelong learning that are integral to our community's ethos.

I am committed to ensuring that the Peel Common Infact School building continues to serve as a hub for educational and community enrichment. I would be very happy to discuss terms of lease, maintenance responsibilities, and any other relevant details in order to facilitate an agreement that meets everyone's needs, and that ultimately creates a positive impact in the local community.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email, and should you wish to discuss any aspect of it, or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach me at this email, [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Education
<b>Date:</b>	14 May 2024
<b>Title:</b>	Specialist Provision – Final Approval for expansion at Samuel Cody School
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children’s Services

**Contact name:** Emma Steele, County Education Manager (SEN Resources and Access)

**Email:** [emma.steele2@hants.gov.uk](mailto:emma.steele2@hants.gov.uk)

#### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide feedback from the statutory consultation period and request approval for the expansion of Samuel Cody School, Farnborough from September 2024.

#### Recommendation(s)

2. That approval be given to the following proposal published by Hampshire County Council under Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006: to make a prescribed alteration to Samuel Cody School, Farnborough (category of school: Special) to expand from 295 places to 338, with effect from September 2024.

#### Executive Summary

3. Hampshire County Council has a statutory duty to provide school places for all children, including those who have special educational needs and/or a disability. The County Council is committed to further developing successful provision to meet this demand within the Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) sector.
4. The proposed additional SEND provision outlined within this report will help manage some of the school place pressures generated by the increase in the number of Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs) maintained by the Local Authority. As of January 2024, the number of maintained EHCPs was 16,065. By 2030-31, Hampshire is forecast to have c28,000 pupils who will have an EHCP if unmitigated.
5. This increased demand has resulted in a corresponding pressure for places in special schools and resourced provisions. The County Council is committed to further developing locally maintained successful provision or

creating new provision, where possible, to meet this additional demand for places.

6. The lack of sufficient provision within Hampshire Schools has led to an increase in placements within the independent and non-maintained sector (INMSS). The proposals contained within this report aim to build on good quality Hampshire school provision and meet the needs of children and young people within their local area. This will reduce the Local Authority's dependence upon INMSS and will aim to keep pupils as close to the home community as possible.
7. All Local authorities have a duty to promote sustainable and active travel to school. Hampshire is made up of diverse urban and rural communities and causes long travel times for already vulnerable children. However, having closer local provision minimises school transport costs and its use.

## **Contextual information**

### Expansion of Samuel Cody School, Farnborough

8. Samuel Cody School caters for primary and secondary aged pupils with a wide range of special education needs including moderate and complex learning difficulties, autistic spectrum condition and social, emotional and mental health needs. The school is rated by Ofsted as a good school ([Samuel Cody School - Inspection Report](#)).
9. The proposal is to refurbish and reconfigure some currently under-used areas of the primary phase of the school to provide a new entrance, reception area, two classrooms, staff room and appropriate toilets. This will provide accommodation to meet the needs of up to 20 additional primary aged pupils with moderate learning difficulties (MLD) and Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC).
10. Additionally, Oak Farm Community Pre-School, who are currently based in the primary block, will move into larger refurbished accommodation on the site with its own entrance and external play space. This larger independent accommodation will support increased numbers, longer opening hours and widening age profile for local families and enable new requirements around wraparound care to be met.
11. Samuel Cody School currently caters for 295 pupils with the Cody Oaks provision not yet full. Therefore, subject to the outcome of the consultation, their total agreed pupil number would become 338, 248 in main school and 90 in Cody Oaks SEMH provision. It is proposed that places will be available from September 2024.
12. £800,000 is identified in the Childrens Services Capital Programme to undertake the required works and was approved at the Executive Lead



Member for Children’s Services Decision Day on 19 January 2024.

## Finance

13. Creating additional specialist places in Hampshire schools has both revenue and capital finance implications. Revenue funding is provided through the Dedicated Schools Grant, with funding coming from the High Needs Block and the Schools Block.
14. From a revenue perspective, it is more cost effective to educate within a community special school than in the independent non maintained sector (INMSS) as the table below indicates:

Type of provision	Average revenue cost per place (March 2024)
Community Special School	£19,776
Resourced Provision (RP)	£17,117
Independent and non-maintained special school place (INMSS)	£61,200

## Savings Model

15. Funding from the High Needs Block is calculated by the government using a national funding formula, which includes population and proxy factors of need based on children living in Hampshire and a basic entitlement factor.
16. The annual revenue cost of the proposed additional places has been calculated based on the average funding rates for the schools that are expanding:

Name of school	Number of new places being created	Average cost per place*	Estimated Revenue Cost
Samuel Cody School	43	£18,219	£783,417

*\*estimated under the new top-up framework for special schools*

17. The total revenue cost of £0.783m for the special school places compares to an estimated £2.63m for the same number of places in INMSS using the average cost of a SEN only funded day placement. This equates to approximately £1.85m of cost avoidance on the High Needs Block.
18. Capital Costs – £800,000 was approved for this project at the Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services Decision Day on 19 January 2024.

## Consultation and Equalities

Expansion of Samuel Cody School, Farnborough

19. The Statutory Public Notice period for Samuel Cody School took place between 29 March 2024 and 26 April 2024. A copy of the Public Notice is attached at Appendix B.
20. The Notice was displayed at the schools, circulated to stakeholders, published in the Hampshire Independent and on Hampshire County Council's public notice portal: [Public notices | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/public-notices)
21. One response was received (Appendix C) during the Public Notice period requesting information about future class sizes at the school. The Headteacher responded to this query.

### **Climate Change Impact Assessment**

22. A Climate Change Impact Assessment is not applicable to this decision report as it relates to the overall capital programme and is therefore strategic in nature. The major individual projects contained within this report will be subject to individual project appraisals which will cover climate change impact assessments requirements.

### **Conclusion**

23. The proposal contained within this report aims to build on established high quality Hampshire specialist provision and meet the needs of children and young people within their local settings. This will reduce the Local Authority's dependence upon independent and non-maintained provision (INMSS) keep as many pupils as possible as close to their home community as possible and in mainstream environments and, also minimising the need for high-cost School Transport.
24. In considering the consultation responses received, approval is sought to proceed with the expansion of specialist places at Samuel Cody School, Farnborough

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy, and independent lives:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	Yes

**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.)

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act regarding the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment:**

Equalities Impact Assessments for the 2 projects named within this report are inserted below at Appendix A1 & A2.

## Appendix A - Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Samuel Cody Special School



### Equality Impact Assessment

What is an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) and why does the County Council do them?

The [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) (PSED) is an obligation within the [Equality Act 2010](#) ("the Act"), which asks public authorities, like Hampshire County Council, to give 'due regard' to equality considerations, in particular to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

This includes assessing the impact of policies and practices on individuals and communities with a protected characteristic, as defined in the Act and some other specific groups. The County Council uses EIAs to ensure it has paid 'due regard' to equalities considerations when there are changes to a service or policy, a new project or certain decisions.

EIA author	Position & Department	Contact
Amy Chambers	Senior Operations Officer Children's Services	amy.chambers@hants.gov.uk Tel:03707 798802

Title:	Consultation on the proposal to increase the capacity of Samuel Cody School, Farnborough
Related EIAs:	None

EIA for Savings Programme:	No
Service affected	Samuel Cody School, Ballantyne Road, Farnborough, GU14 8SN
Description of the service/policy/project/project phase	The Samuel Cody School currently has capacity for 294 pupils aged 4-16 years and caters for pupils with Moderate Learning Disabilities (MLD), Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH). This is provided in three separate buildings across the main site. Places at the school are offered by the local authority to children who have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) identifying the school as being the most appropriate educational setting. It has been identified that there are an increasing number of children in the county who are being diagnosed with Moderate Learning Disabilities (MLD) and we are working towards expanding the offer of support to these children. The proposed additional SEND provision outlined within this EIA will help manage some of the school place pressures generated by the increase in the number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) maintained by the Local Authority. On 31st March 2022 in Hampshire there were 13,178 children with EHCPs. An increase of 428 from January of the same year.
New/changed service/policy/project	It is proposed to increase the overall places at the school to 338 (248 in main school and 90 in Cody Oaks SEMH provision) from September 2024. The increase in pupil numbers will be in the main school site for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD). The area of the main school that caters for primary pupils has unused spare classrooms that can be brought back into use. In addition it is proposed to move Oak Farm Community Pre-School into the Pavilion building on the site to increase the accommodation for primary pupils. The Pavilion building will also be reconfigured to make a larger pre-school space to allow the preschool to grow and cater for the demand from the local community, it would have its own access and entrance. The total cost of the proposals is estimated to be c£750,000.

Engagement	
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This consultation will run from Friday 26 January to Friday 23 February. The purpose of this consultation was to seek the view of consultees on the principle of enlarging the school to meet the demand for additional specialist school places in the local area. It was important to hear the views of stakeholders so that Hampshire County Council can consider them as part of the detailed work to be undertaken should approval to the enlargement be obtained.

The proposal was also included on the Hampshire County Council's (HCC) consultation website: <http://consultations.hants.gov.uk/active.aspx> Letters were sent to; Parents of children at the school (via the school) • Headteacher • Chair of Governors • Schools within 2 miles • Staff union representatives • MP • HCC Elected member – Cllr Roz Chadd • Local District Council • Other relevant HCC Officers •

A drop-in session was held at Samuel Cody Special School on Thursday 8 February 2024 between 3:30pm and 6:30pm enabling members of staff and the public to discuss the proposal with Hampshire County Council officers. A website was also set up with the details of the consultation which included some 'Frequently Asked Questions' that may address any queries. The initial consultation drop in event was attended by a number of local residents and nursery school staff who wanted to understand how the proposals will impact the local community. There was positivity about the need for increased provision and specialist support and some concerns about increased traffic in the area.

#### Equalities considerations - Impact Assessment

#### Age

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Positive
Rationale	<p>The increase in specialist provision will support primary aged pupils with special education needs, specifically Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) and enable them to thrive in an inclusive, and supportive specialist environment. It means that more children will be able to attend the special school in Farnborough and could result in less children being out of school whilst waiting for a place in a specialist provision. With the increase of children in Hampshire with EHCP's this expansion will have an incredibly positive impact on primary aged children who share this protected characteristic.</p> <p>As we are proposing to do renovation work to the pavilion building to allow Oak Farm Nursery to move into their own self contained space, the children and staff of Oak Farm Nursery will also positively benefit from the proposal. The relocation of the nursery will allow them to increase their capacity, offer a wider range of services to more families within the community, and will provide additional jobs in the local area.</p>

Mitigation	

## Disability

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Positive
Rationale	<p>Hampshire County Council is proposing to deliver renovation works to the pavilion building that would see the formation of 3 separate rooms and associated toilet works. The renovation would see the installation of an accessible toilet for both children and staff to use. There will also be landscaping works to the external areas that will be level and accessible to all. There will be shaded areas throughout the external play area that will ensure all children can access the outdoor space.</p> <p>Within the main primary school building, Hampshire County Council are proposing to complete renovation works that would reconfigure internal spaces into two new classrooms, reception area, staff room and planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) area, emotional literacy support assistants (ELSA) room and associated toilets. These improvement works across the school campus will have a positive impact on all of the children who attend this special school, and will also allow the school to admit additional students. All work which is proposed is being designed in conjunction with the school and their headteacher in order to ensure that the needs of the children and staff are being met.</p> <p>The staff are also going to be positively impacted as there will be an accessible toilet installed within the pavilion.</p>
Mitigation	

## Gender Reassignment

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Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Positive
Rationale	As part of the planned proposal, the pupil and staff toilets will both be unisex which makes them more accessible to any individuals that may share gender reassignment as a protected characteristic.
Mitigation	

### Pregnancy and Maternity

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people.
Mitigation	

### Race

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people.

Mitigation	

### Religion or Belief

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people.
Mitigation	

### Sex

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Positive
Rationale	As part of the planned proposal, the pupil and staff toilets will both be unisex which makes them more accessible to any individuals that may share sex as a protected characteristic.
Mitigation	

### Sexual Orientation

Impact on public	Neutral
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Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people.
Mitigation	

### Marriage and Civil Partnership

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people.
Mitigation	

### Poverty

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Positive
Rationale	There is a high level of poverty within the area the school is located in and therefore any project that will bring additional jobs is a positive action. The increase in provision for children with Special Educational Needs is also positive as it means that more children will be able to access the appropriate provision for their needs potentially closer to home

	providing that the school is named on their Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP).
Mitigation	

## Rurality

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people. The area the school is located in is not seen to be rural.
Mitigation	

Geographical Impact: Basingstoke and Deane, Hart, Rushmoor

## Equality Statement

### Additional information:

Hampshire County Council has a statutory duty to provide school places for all children including those who have special educational needs and/or a disability. The County Council is committed to further developing successful provision to meet this demand within the Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) sector within the County of Hampshire to reduce using the more expensive private and independent school sector. This is part of an ongoing drive to seek opportunities in Hampshire Schools to expand, develop or re-designate themselves. or increase their pupil numbers, in order to meet the increasing need for SEN places.

### Overview Statement:

A summary assessment to show that due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty has been paid, which is undertaken when a full EIA is not needed:

EIA reference number: 00580

Date of production of EIA for publication: 14/02/2024

## Appendix B – Samuel Cody School Public Notice



### SAMUEL CODY SCHOOL, FARNBOROUGH –INCREASE OF AGREED PUPIL NUMBER

1. Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that Hampshire County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to SAMUEL CODY SCHOOL, Ballantyne Road, Farnborough, GU14 8SS (category of school – special) by increasing the capacity of the school with effect from 1 September 2024.
2. The school currently has capacity for 294 pupils aged 4-16 year and caters for pupils with Moderate Learning Disabilities (MLD), Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. This is provided across three separate buildings on the main site. It is proposed to increase the overall places by 44 to from September 2024. The increase in pupil numbers will be on the main school site for primary aged pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD).
3. The proposal to increase the pupil numbers at Samuel Cody School is required to meet the high demand for primary school spaces for children with learning difficulties. The proposal to enlarge the school will now be with effect from 1 September 2024.
4. The estimated capital cost of this project is £800,000 and is included in the Children's Services Capital Programme report approved by Executive Lead Member for Children's Services on 19 January 2024. It is proposed to reconfigure and repurpose the pavilion building on site so that Oak Farm Pre-School can move from the Samuel Cody School primary building. The space in the primary school building would then be reconfigured and repurposed to provide 2 additional SEND classrooms which could accommodate the additional pupils. Along with the two classrooms there would also be associated additional facilities including a meeting room, headteachers office, staff room, ELSA therapy room and works to the toilets.
5. This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal may be obtained from Claire Campling, Assistant SEN Service Manager, Children's Services Directorate, EII Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG; e-mail: [strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk)
6. Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Claire Campling, Assistant SEN Service Manager, Children's Services Directorate, EII Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG; e-mail: [strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk)

Dated: 29 March 2024

Carolyn Williamson  
Chief Executive

## Appendix C – Comments from Samuel Cody Public Notice

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 April 2024 09:15  
**To:** Strategic Planning Unit  
**Subject:** Samuel Cody

**Categories:** [REDACTED], Consultation

Caution: This is an external email and could contain malicious content. Do not open any links or attachments if you were not expecting them. If the e-mail looks suspicious, please report via the 'Report Phishing' Button found on your toolbar.

Good morning

May I please enquire about the proposal to increase capacity at Samuel Cody Primary School? The proposal says it will allow for 44 extra pupils to attend, but with just 2 extra classrooms. Does this mean that the number of pupils in each class will also increase as a result?

I am pleased to see that consideration for the high demand on SEND school places is being considered as this is something which must be a high priority to serve the children and families in the area.

Kind regards,  
[REDACTED]

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Education
<b>Date:</b>	14 May 2024
<b>Title:</b>	Alterations and Refurbishment at Samuel Cody School, Farnborough
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Universal Services

**Contact names:** Colin Jackson, Senior Delivery Manager  
Nick Yarrow, Delivery Manager

**Tel:** 0370 7796580      **Email:** colin.jackson@hants.gov.uk  
nick.yarrow@hants.gov.uk

#### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek spend approval to the project proposals for alterations and refurbishment at Samuel Cody School to create additional teaching accommodation for children with special educational needs at a total cost of £800,000.

#### Recommendation

2. That the Executive Member for Education gives approval to spend £800,000 on the project proposals for alterations and refurbishment at Samuel Cody School to create additional teaching accommodation for children with special educational needs.

#### Executive Summary

3. Samuel Cody School currently provides education for up to 294 pupils aged between 4 and 16 years old with Moderate Learning Difficulties, Autism Spectrum Condition or Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs.
4. The project comprises alterations and refurbishment to the main school to provide an additional 14 places for pupils aged between 4 and 11 years old with Moderate Learning Difficulties, enabled by the relocation of the existing pre-school from the main school into a separate pavilion building.
5. The project includes alterations and refurbishment to the pavilion building to enable its use by the pre-school for children aged between 2 and 4 years old and providing a larger space for the potential expansion of the pre-school in the future from 26 places up to 40 places.

6. The project is included in the Children's Services Capital Programme, approved at the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services Decision Day on 19 January 2024 with a budget of £800,000.
7. Hampshire County Council Development Management have confirmed that the works are Permitted Development and do not therefore require planning consent.

## **Background**

8. Samuel Cody School currently provides education for up to 294 pupils aged between 4 and 16 years old with Moderate Learning Difficulties, Autism Spectrum Condition or Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs.
9. Originally built as a secondary school in 1973, the secondary school closed in 2011 and became the new location for Samuel Cody Special School in 2012. A new-build specialist facility was added to the campus in 2022 for pupils aged between 10 and 16 years old with Social Emotional Mental Health needs.
10. Oak Farm Community Pre-School currently operates from within the main school building, providing 26 mainstream places for pre-school children aged between 2 and 4 years old.
11. A stand-alone building, known as the Pavilion, currently supports various community uses adjacent to the school's synthetic turf sports pitch and is proposed as the new location of the pre-school, providing a larger space for the potential expansion of the pre-school in the future from 26 places up to 40 places.
12. The proposed alterations to the main school building increases the capacity of the school by 14 pupils. A further 30 pupils will be accommodated in spare capacity within the existing accommodation, including the Cody Oaks facility, taking its overall capacity to 338 pupils, to meet the demand for additional places in the local area for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties.
13. The project is included in the Children's Services Capital Programme, approved at the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services Decision Day on 19 January 2024 with a budget of £800,000.

## **Finance**

Capital Expenditure:

14. The Capital Expenditure has already been approved in principle; the following table outlines the breakdown of its distribution across the project. The current estimate includes inflation to mid-point construction in August 2024 (3Q24).



Capital Expenditure	Current Estimate	Capital Programme	
		£'000	£'000
Buildings		687	687
Fees		113	113
<b>Total</b>		<b>800</b>	<b>800</b>

Sources of Funding:

15.

Financial Provision for Total Scheme	Buildings	Fees	Total Cost
	£'000	£'000	£'000
1. From Own Resources			
a) Capital Programme (as above)	0	0	0
2. From Other Resources			
a) High Needs Provision Grant	687	113	800
<b>Total</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>800</b>

a) Building Cost:

Net Cost = not applicable due to the nature of the works

Gross Cost = £1,779/m<sup>2</sup>

Cost Per Pupil Place = £57,143/pupil

Gross Internal Floor Area = 364m<sup>2</sup> (refurbishment area)

b) Furniture & Equipment:

Included in the above figures is an allocation of £30.5k for the provision of loose furniture and fittings to the primary building (inclusive of fees).

c) School Balances:

The school has the following level of balances:

- Published revenue balance as of 31 March 2023: £220,818
- Devolved formula capital balance as at 31 March 2023: £68,879

Revenue Issues:

16. The revenue impact of this project was laid out in the report Additional Specialist Provision and approved by the Executive Member for Education at the 14th May 2024 Decision Day. Any ongoing revenue funding needs should be met by the DfE national funding formula allocation.

17. Schools in England receive revenue funding provided on the basis of the DfEs National Funding Formula, this formula takes a variety of factors into account, including the number of pupils a school has and how this affects school's running costs. Schools are able to use this funding to pay for the day-to-day running costs of a school, such as teacher pay, support staff pay, energy bills, minor maintenance, and teaching materials.

18. Overview of Additional Revenue Implications:

	(a) Employees £'000	(b) Other £'000	(a + b) *Net Current Expenditure £'000	(c) Capital Charges £'000	(a + b + c) Total Net Expenditure £'000
Revenue Implications Additional +/ Reductions	0	0	0	16	16

**Details of Site and Existing Infrastructure**

19. Samuel Cody School is located off Ballantyne Road in Farnborough within a residential area, with public playing fields to the south. The site is entered off Ballantyne Road to the north-east and exited via Chaucer Road to the north-west.
20. A site plan of the school is included in Appendix 2.
21. The existing pre-school is currently located at the west end of the school campus within the area of the school that caters for primary aged pupils, in a single-storey Scola Mark 3 building, built in 1977.
22. A single-storey brick building known as the Pavilion is in the centre of the campus adjacent to the synthetic turf sports pitch. Built in 1996, it has a pitched roof with metal covering. The southern end of the Pavilion provides changing facilities for the adjacent sports pitch and this use will continue, accessed directly from the pitch. The remainder of the building and its associated external area is currently used for various community purposes, with a separate access.
23. Staff car parks are located to the north of the site at the front of the school, adjacent to the boundaries with Ballantyne Road and Chaucer Road.
24. An external hard play area is located to the south of the main school buildings, with a grassed school playing field to the south. A further small external play area is located directly adjacent to the Pavilion.
25. The existing services infrastructure to the site are sufficient to accommodate the project proposals.

**Scope of the Project**

26. The project comprises alterations to the main school building for primary aged use, together with alterations to the Pavilion building and associated external

play area to accommodate the relocation of the pre-school from the main school building, as shown on the plans in Appendix 2.

### **The Proposed Alterations**

27. The proposed alterations to and refurbishment of the primary building comprise:
- Refurbishment of existing pre-school classroom for use by Reception year pupils
  - New toilets for Reception year pupils
  - Conversion of existing staff room into classroom
  - Reconfigured staff offices and toilet
  - New reception and lobby
28. The proposed alterations to and refurbishment of the Pavilion building comprise:
- New floor coverings to existing multi-use space
  - New pre-school toilets
  - New staff /visitor toilet

### **External Works**

29. The proposed external works comprise:
- New path access for the primary age pupils
  - 2 new canopies to the new pre-school play area, together with new rubber crumb and artificial grass external surfaces and replacement solid-boarded boundary fences.
  - New directional road markings and signage to school car park areas
  - Conversion of 2 existing standard parking bays into an additional minibus parking bay
  - Conversion of 4 existing standard parking bays into 2 accessible parking bays.
30. The current parking arrangements have sufficient capacity to accommodate the increased staff parking requirements, in accordance with Hampshire County Council On-Site School Parking Policy.

### **Planning**

31. Hampshire County Council Development Management have confirmed that the proposed alteration work, including the external canopies, is Permitted Development and does not therefore require planning consent. An updated school travel plan will be required.

### **Construction Management**

32. The school site will remain in use during the construction period and local management arrangements will be put in place to manage the health and

safety impact for all school users. The contractor will access the school site via the staff car park off Ballantyne Road site entrance and will leave via Chaucer Road school site exit.

33. Two contractor site compounds will be established adjacent to their respective working areas, one directly adjacent to the main school building and one adjacent to the Pavilion, as shown on the plans in Appendix 2. Both will be segregated from school users.
34. No deliveries or movements of vehicles will take place at the start or end of the school day, to avoid traffic conflict when pupils are arriving at or departing from the school.
35. The works will be procured through the Minor Works Framework and are anticipated to commence on site during early summer 2024 with the new arrangements becoming operational in September 2024.

### **Building Management**

36. The existing building management arrangements will remain in place.

### **Professional Resources**

37.

Architectural	Universal Services – Property Services
Landscape	Universal Services – Property Services
Mechanical and Electrical	Universal Services – Property Services
Structural Engineering	Universal Services – Property Services
Quantity Surveying	Universal Services – Property Services
Principal Designer	Universal Services – Property Services
Drainage Engineering	Universal Services – Hampshire Engineering Services

### **Consultation and Equalities**

38. The local HCC Member, Cllr Roz Chadd, Member for Farnborough North has been consulted throughout the process and is fully supportive of the proposal.
39. A principle of enlargement consultation was undertaken in February 2024.
40. The following have been consulted during the development of this project.
  - Headteacher and School Staff.
  - School Governors.
  - Parents of Current Pupils.
  - Residents.
  - Children’s Services.
  - Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services.
  - Local County Councillor; Cllr Roz Chadd

- District Council and District Councillors
- Fire Officer.
- Access Officer.
- HCC Strategic Transport Team
- HCC School Travel Planning Team
- HCC Development Management.
- HCC Management Surveyor.

41. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and is included in Appendix 1.

## **Risk & Impact Issues**

### **Fire Risk Assessment**

42. Sprinkler systems shall be installed in new and refurbished buildings where appropriate, based upon a risk assessment methodology.
43. With respect to fire safety and property protection, the proposals have been risk assessed in line with the agreed Property Services procedures and it is confirmed that the provision of sprinklers is not required in this instance.

### **Health and Safety**

44. Design risk assessments, pre-construction health & safety information and the Health & Safety File will be produced and initiated in accordance with the Construction Design and Management Regulations for the proposed scheme.

### **Climate Change Impact Assessments**

45. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.

### **Climate Change Adaptation**

46. Along with the rest of the existing school buildings, the areas of the proposed internal alterations will be vulnerable to the future extreme heat, rain and wind events that will occur with the climate consequences of a global average 2°C temperature rise by 2050. Such events could cause significant disruption to the use of the school, like many schools and buildings across the Council's estate.

## **Carbon Mitigation**

47. Carbon emissions from this project arise during the supply of its raw materials manufacture and construction, together with the operational emissions from its heating and power consumption throughout its use.
48. The project will incorporate the following measures to reduce the operational carbon emissions and those embodied in its construction process:
  - The adaptation and reuse of existing buildings, rather than building an extension, reducing the embodied carbon emissions from construction.
  - Energy efficient lighting and heating controls
  - The use of timber from sustainable sources
  - A site waste management plan will be developed to ensure that during construction the principles of minimising waste are maintained.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	Yes

**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.)

Document

Location

None

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment:**

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and is included in Appendix 1 below.





## Equality Impact Assessment

What is an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) and why does the County Council do them?

The [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) (PSED) is an obligation within the [Equality Act 2010](#) ("the Act"), which asks public authorities, like Hampshire County Council, to give 'due regard' to equality considerations, in particular to:

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EIA author	Position & Department	Contact
Amy Chambers	Senior Operations Officer Children's Services	amy.chambers@hants.gov.uk Tel:03707 798802

Title:	Consultation on the proposal to increase the capacity of Samuel Cody School, Farnborough
Related EIAs:	None

EIA for Savings Programme:	No
Service affected	Samuel Cody School, Ballantyne Road, Farnborough, GU14 8SN
Description of the service/policy/project/project phase	The Samuel Cody School currently has capacity for 294 pupils aged 4-16 years and caters for pupils with Moderate Learning Disabilities (MLD), Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH). This is provided in three separate buildings across the main site. Places at the school are offered by the local authority to children who have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) identifying the school as being the most appropriate educational setting. It has been identified that there are an increasing number of children in the county who are being diagnosed with Moderate Learning Disabilities (MLD) and we are working towards expanding the offer of support to these children. The proposed additional SEND provision outlined within this EIA will help manage some of the school place pressures generated by the increase in the number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) maintained by the Local Authority. On 31st March 2022 in Hampshire there were 13,178 children with EHCPs. An increase of 428 from January of the same year.
New/changed service/policy/project	It is proposed to increase the overall places at the school to 338 (248 in main school and 90 in Cody Oaks SEMH provision) from September 2024. The increase in pupil numbers will be in the main school site for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD). The area of the main school that caters for primary pupils has unused spare classrooms that can be brought back into use. In addition it is proposed to move Oak Farm Community Pre-School into the Pavilion building on the site to increase the accommodation for primary pupils. The Pavilion building will also be reconfigured to make a larger pre-school space to allow the preschool to grow and cater for the demand from the local community, it would have its own access and entrance. The total cost of the proposals is estimated to be c£750,000.

Engagement
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This consultation will run from Friday 26 January to Friday 23 February. The purpose of this consultation was to seek the view of consultees on the principle of enlarging the school to meet the demand for additional specialist school places in the local area. It was important to hear the views of stakeholders so that Hampshire County Council can consider them as part of the detailed work to be undertaken should approval to the enlargement be obtained.

The proposal was also included on the Hampshire County Council's (HCC) consultation website: <http://consultations.hants.gov.uk/active.aspx> Letters were sent to; Parents of children at the school (via the school) • Headteacher • Chair of Governors • Schools within 2 miles • Staff union representatives • MP • HCC Elected member – Cllr Roz Chadd • Local District Council • Other relevant HCC Officers •

A drop-in session was held at Samuel Cody Special School on Thursday 8 February 2024 between 3:30pm and 6:30pm enabling members of staff and the public to discuss the proposal with Hampshire County Council officers. A website was also set up with the details of the consultation which included some 'Frequently Asked Questions' that may address any queries. The initial consultation drop in event was attended by a number of local residents and nursery school staff who wanted to understand how the proposals will impact the local community. There was positivity about the need for increased provision and specialist support and some concerns about increased traffic in the area.

Equalities considerations - Impact Assessment

Age

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Positive
Rationale	<p>The increase in specialist provision will support primary aged pupils with special education needs, specifically Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) and enable them to thrive in an inclusive, and supportive specialist environment. It means that more children will be able to attend the special school in Farnborough and could result in less children being out of school whilst waiting for a place in a specialist provision. With the increase of children in Hampshire with EHCP's this expansion will have an incredibly positive impact on primary aged children who share this protected characteristic.</p> <p>As we are proposing to do renovation work to the pavilion building to allow Oak Farm Nursery to move into their own self contained space, the children and staff of Oak Farm Nursery will also positively benefit from the proposal. The relocation of the nursery will allow them to increase their capacity, offer a wider range of services to more families within the community, and will provide additional jobs in the local area.</p>

Mitigation	

## Disability

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Positive
Rationale	<p>Hampshire County Council is proposing to deliver renovation works to the pavilion building that would see the formation of 3 separate rooms and associated toilet works. The renovation would see the installation of an accessible toilet for both children and staff to use. There will also be landscaping works to the external areas that will be level and accessible to all. There will be shaded areas throughout the external play area that will ensure all children can access the outdoor space.</p> <p>Within the main primary school building, Hampshire County Council are proposing to complete renovation works that would reconfigure internal spaces into two new classrooms, reception area, staff room and planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) area, emotional literacy support assistants (ELSA) room and associated toilets. These improvement works across the school campus will have a positive impact on all of the children who attend this special school, and will also allow the school to admit additional students. All work which is proposed is being designed in conjunction with the school and their headteacher in order to ensure that the needs of the children and staff are being met.</p> <p>The staff are also going to be positively impacted as there will be an accessible toilet installed within the pavilion.</p>
Mitigation	

## Gender Reassignment

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Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Positive
Rationale	As part of the planned proposal, the pupil and staff toilets will both be unisex which makes them more accessible to any individuals that may share gender reassignment as a protected characteristic.
Mitigation	

### Pregnancy and Maternity

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people.
Mitigation	

### Race

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people.

Mitigation	

### Religion or Belief

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people.
Mitigation	

### Sex

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Positive
Rationale	As part of the planned proposal, the pupil and staff toilets will both be unisex which makes them more accessible to any individuals that may share sex as a protected characteristic.
Mitigation	

### Sexual Orientation

Impact on public	Neutral
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Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people.
Mitigation	

### Marriage and Civil Partnership

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people.
Mitigation	

### Poverty

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Positive
Rationale	There is a high level of poverty within the area the school is located in and therefore any project that will bring additional jobs is a positive action. The increase in provision for children with Special Educational Needs is also positive as it means that more children will be able to access the appropriate provision for their needs potentially closer to home

	providing that the school is named on their Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP).
Mitigation	

## Rurality

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people. The area the school is located in is not seen to be rural.
Mitigation	

Geographical Impact: Basingstoke and Deane, Hart, Rushmoor

## Equality Statement

### Additional information:

Hampshire County Council has a statutory duty to provide school places for all children including those who have special educational needs and/or a disability. The County Council is committed to further developing successful provision to meet this demand within the Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) sector within the County of Hampshire to reduce using the more expensive private and independent school sector. This is part of an ongoing drive to seek opportunities in Hampshire Schools to expand, develop or re-designate themselves. or increase their pupil numbers, in order to meet the increasing need for SEN places.

### Overview Statement:

A summary assessment to show that due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty has been paid, which is undertaken when a full EIA is not needed:

EIA reference number: 00580

Date of production of EIA for publication: 14/02/2024

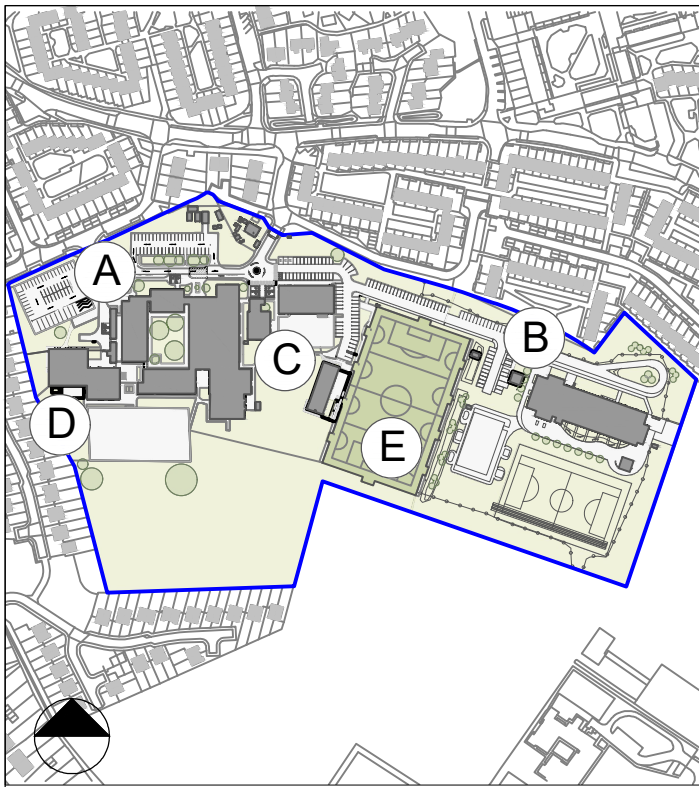


# Alterations and Refurbishment at Samuel Cody School, Farnborough

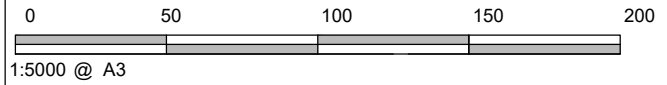
## Project Appraisal

### Plan Key

- Vehicular Access
  - Main School Entrance
  - Pedestrian Access
  - Contractor's Access
  - Site Boundary
  - Contractor's Compound
  - Proposed Fence
  - Existing Fence
  - Extent of Pre School
  - Proposed
- 
- A Samuel Cody School Main Building
  - B Cody Oaks Facility
  - C Pavilion building
  - D Primary building
  - E Synthetic Turf Pitch
- 
- 1 Refurbished Pavilion Building
  - 2 Refurbished Primary Building
  - 3 Proposed One Way Road markings and Signage
  - 4 Proposed Primary building path access
  - 5 Proposed Mini Bus Only Road markings
  - 6 Proposed Dropped kerbs and Accessible Parking Bays
  - 7 Proposed external pre school play area with 2 new canopies, rubber crumb surfacing and artificial grass

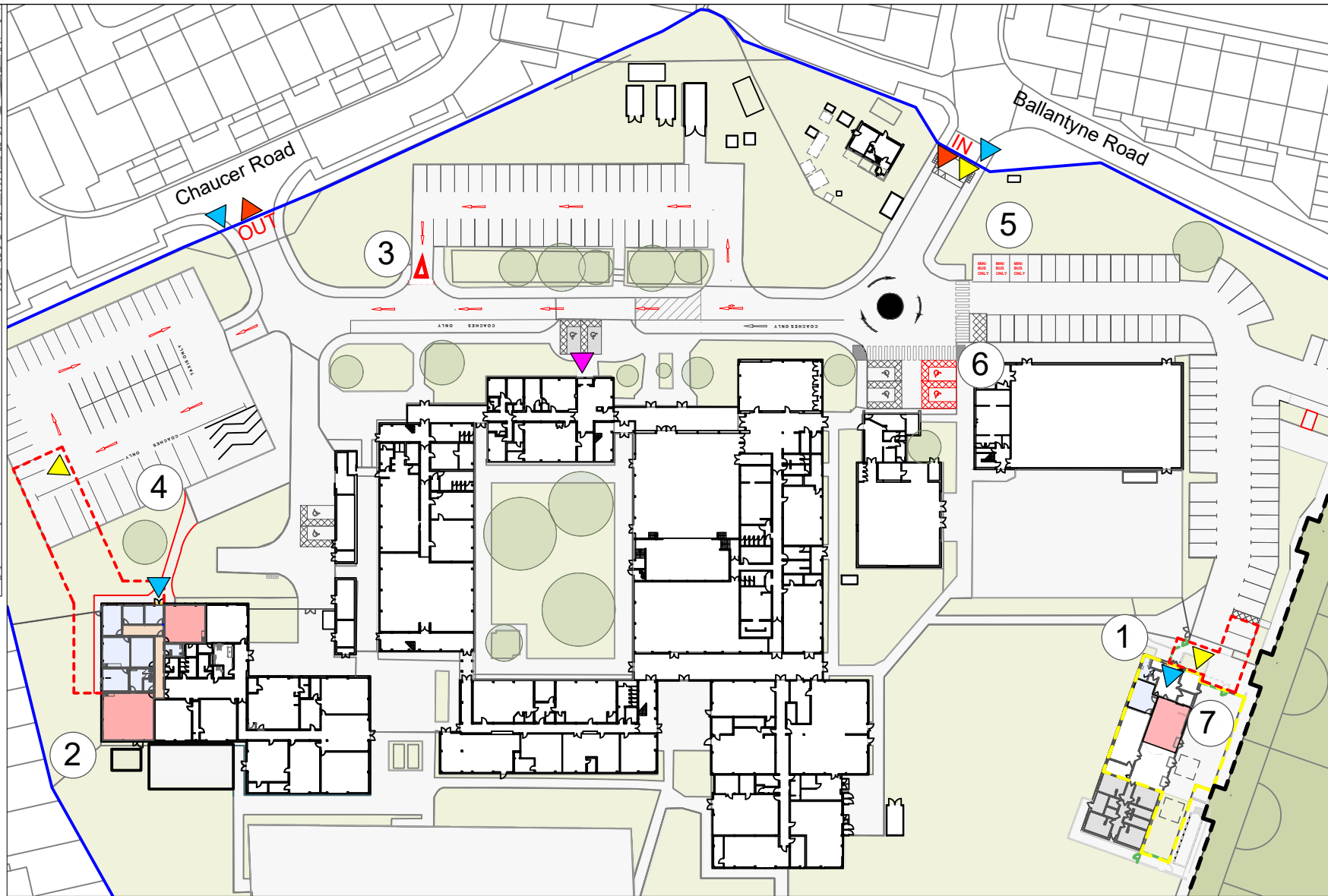


Site Location Plan



1:5000 @ A3

Page 137



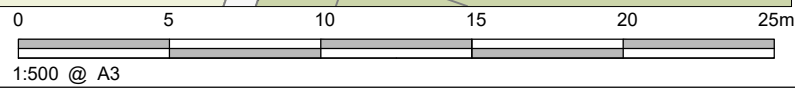
Site Plan



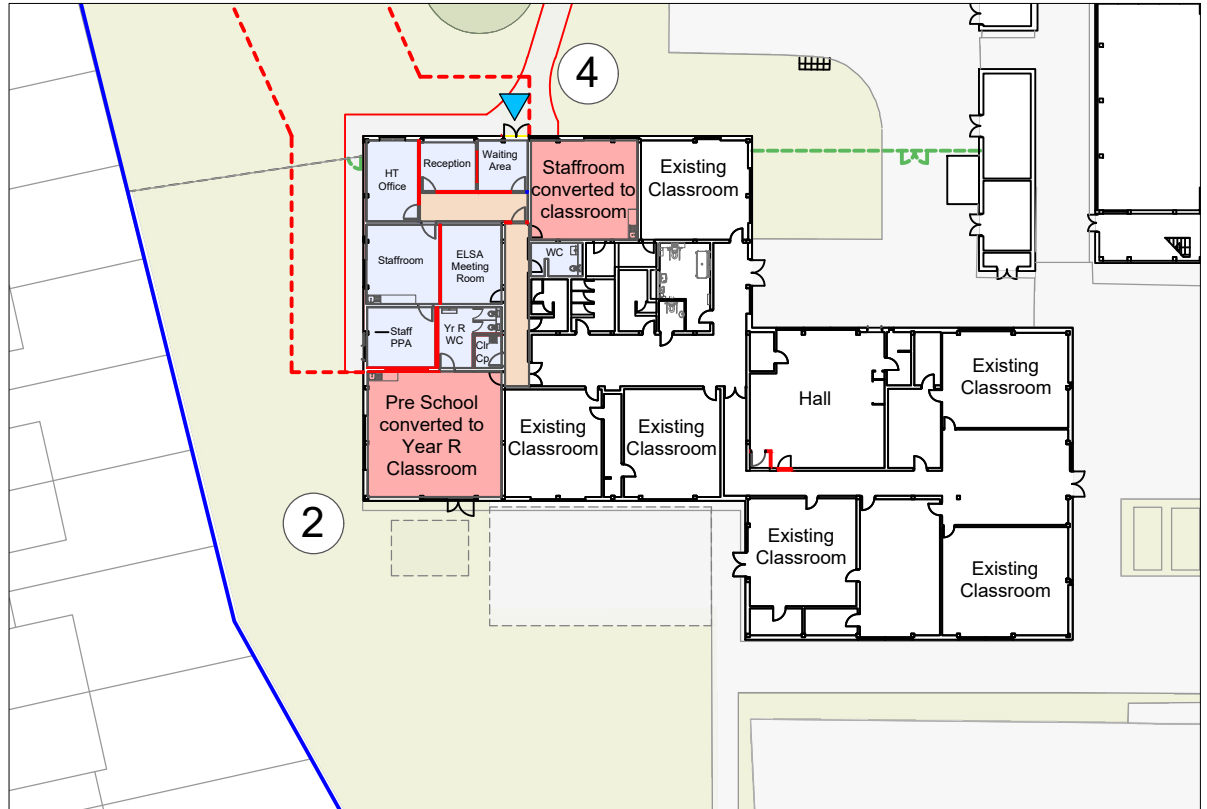
1:1000 @ A3



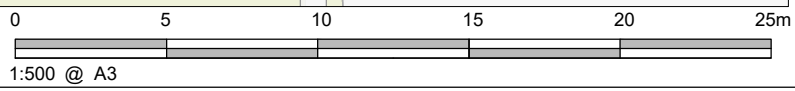
Refurbished Pavilion Building



1:500 @ A3



Refurbished Primary Building



1:500 @ A3

- General Teaching - Refurb
- Non-Teaching - Refurb
- Circulation

HCC Property Services,  
Three Minsters House,  
76 High Street, Winchester SO23  
8UL  
tel: (01962) 847801



Alterations and Refurbishment at Samuel Cody School

Project Appraisal

SCALE	DRAWN	CHKD	APRV
As indicated @ A3	SP	NY	HCC

**DRAWING No.**  
project code - originator - volume - level - type - role - revision version  
P14110-HCC-00-XX-DR-A-2301 .1

**SUITABILITY**  
code description  
April 2024

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## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Education
<b>Date:</b>	14 May 2024
<b>Title:</b>	Alterations and Refurbishment at Prospect School, Havant
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Universal Services

**Contact name:** Colin Jackson, Senior Delivery Manager  
Nick Yarrow, Delivery Manager

**Tel:** 0370 7796580      **Email:** colin.jackson@hants.gov.uk  
nick.yarrow@hants.gov.uk

#### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek spend approval to the project proposals for alterations and refurbishment at Prospect School to improve the provision for pupils with special educational needs at the total cost of £650,000.

#### Recommendation

2. That the Executive Member for Education gives approval to spend £650,000 on the project proposals for the alterations and refurbishment at Prospect School to improve the provision for pupils with special educational needs.

#### Executive Summary

3. Prospect School is a special school providing education for up to 80 boys aged between 11 and 16 years old with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs, some of whom also have additional difficulties which impact on their learning, such as Autistic Spectrum Condition.
4. The project comprises alterations and refurbishment to make the current accommodation more suitable to the pupils' special educational needs, including improvements to skills rooms and sport and exercise facilities.
5. There are no additional places for pupils created as part of this project.
6. The project is included in the Children's Services Capital Programme, approved at the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services Decision Day on 19 January 2024 with a budget of £650,000.
7. Hampshire County Council Development Management have confirmed that the works are Permitted Development and do not therefore require planning

consent.

## Background

8. Prospect School is a special school providing education for up to 80 boys aged between 11 and 16 years old with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs, some of whom also have additional difficulties which impact on their learning, such as Autistic Spectrum Condition.
9. Prospect School was built in 2007, providing specialist education for boys with emotional, behavioural and social difficulties. The teaching and administration accommodation was expanded in 2019, through the conversion of space within the pitched roofs, enabling an increase in the capacity of the school from 62 to 80 pupils.
10. The proposed alterations and refurbishment works are required to make the current accommodation more suitable to the pupils' special educational needs and support their education through improvements to skills rooms and sport and exercise facilities.
11. The project is included in the Children's Services Capital Programme, approved at the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services Decision Day on 19 January 2024 with a budget of £650,000.

## Finance

Capital Expenditure:

12. The Capital Expenditure has already been approved in principle; the following table outlines the breakdown of its distribution across the project. The current estimate includes inflation to mid-point construction in May 2024 (2Q24).

<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>Current Estimate</b>	<b>Capital Programme</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Buildings	558	558
Fees	92	92
<b>Total</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>650</b>

Sources of Funding:

13.

<b>Financial Provision for Total Scheme</b>	<b>Buildings</b>	<b>Fees</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
1. From Own Resources			
a) Capital Programme (as above)	0	0	0
2. From Other Resources			

a) Basic Need Grant	558	92	650
<b>Total</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>650</b>

a) Building Cost:

Net Cost = not applicable due to the nature of the works

Gross Cost = £2,959/m<sup>2</sup>

Cost Per Pupil Place = not applicable

Gross Internal Floor Area = 148m<sup>2</sup> (area of refurbishment)

b) Furniture & Equipment:

Included in the above figures is an allocation of £60k for the provision of fittings and I.T. (inclusive of fees).

c) School Balances:

The school has the following level of balances:

- Published revenue balance as of 31 March 2023: £102,413
- Devolved formula capital balance as at 31 March 2023: £32,209

Revenue Issues:

14. As the scheme described above is a school improvement project and not creating additional places no material additional implications for the ongoing school revenue budget are expected.

### **Details of Site and Existing Infrastructure**

15. Prospect School is located off Freeley Road, Havant in a residential area on the north-west edge of the settlement.
16. A site plan of the school is included in Appendix 2.
17. Built in 2007, the school comprises a series of single-storey clay-tiled pitched roof forms surrounding two landscaped courtyards. Deep overhanging eaves shelter a covered walkway overlooking the courtyards, providing the main circulation around the school. The structure is steel frame, with brick elevations.
18. In 2019, sections of the roof space were converted to provide three additional classrooms, together with additional office space and a meeting room.
19. A pupil drop-off zone is provided to the east front of the school, with the staff car park located adjacent to Freeley Road.
20. A fenced multi-use games area is located to the south of the school building, together with a grassed playing field.

21. The existing services infrastructure to the site are sufficient to accommodate the project proposals.

### **Scope of the Project**

22. The project comprises various internal alterations and refurbishments to the ground floor accommodation, together with some improvements to external sport and exercise facilities, as shown on the plans in Appendix 2.

### **The Proposed Alterations**

23. The proposed alterations and refurbishments comprise:

- Conversion of a small 1:1 room into a life skills room
- Conversion of a small meeting room into an interactive gaming hub, including refurbishment of adjacent office and meeting room.
- Conversion of unused changing rooms into a small fitness gym.
- Refurbishment of the existing food technology room to provide a training kitchen fitted-out to catering college standard.

### **External Works**

24. The proposed external works comprise:

- Installation of new external gym equipment.
- Upgrade to the existing multi-use games area.

### **Planning**

25. Hampshire County Council Development Management have confirmed that the works are Permitted Development and do not therefore require planning consent.

### **Construction Management**

26. The construction work will take place during the school holiday period and local management arrangements will be put in place to manage the health and safety impact for any staff on site during that time. The contractor will access the school site via the staff car park off Freeley Road.

27. A contractor's compound will be established on part of the staff car park, as shown on the plans in Appendix 2.

28. As the works will be undertaken during the school holiday there will be no need for restrictions on the timing of deliveries or movements of vehicles at the start or end of the day.

29. The works will be procured through the Minor Works Framework and are anticipated to commence on site at the start of the summer school holiday

2024, completing for September 2024.

### **Building Management**

30. The existing building management arrangements will remain in place.

### **Professional Resources**

31.

Architectural	Universal Services – Property Services
Landscape	Universal Services – Property Services
Mechanical and Electrical	Universal Services – Property Services
Structural Engineering	Universal Services – Property Services
Quantity Surveying	Universal Services – Property Services
Principal Designer	Universal Services – Property Services
Drainage Engineering	Universal Services – Hampshire Engineering Services

### **Consultation and Equalities**

32. The local HCC Member, Cllr Liz Fairhurst, Member for North West Havant has been consulted.

33. The following have been consulted during the development of this project.

- Headteacher and School Staff
- School Governors
- Children’s Services.
- Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services.
- Local County Councillor – Cllr Liz Fairhurst
- Fire Officer.
- Access Officer.
- HCC Development Management.
- HCC Management Surveyor

34. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and is included in Appendix 1.

### **Risk & Impact Issues**

#### **Fire Risk Assessment**

35. Sprinkler systems shall be installed in new and refurbished buildings where appropriate, based upon a risk assessment methodology.

36. The existing building is fitted with sprinklers and the system will be adapted to suit the proposed alterations.

## **Health and Safety**

37. Design risk assessments, pre-construction health & safety information and Health & Safety File will be produced and initiated in accordance with the Construction Design and Management Regulations for the proposed scheme.

## **Climate Change Impact Assessments**

38. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.

## **Climate Change Adaptation**

39. Along with the existing school building, the areas of the proposed internal alterations will be vulnerable to the future extreme heat, rain and wind events that will occur with the climate consequences of a global average 2°C temperature rise by 2050. Such events could cause significant disruption to the use of the school, like many schools and buildings across the Council's estate.
40. The proposed alterations will incorporate the following climate adaptation measures to improve resilience to summer overheating of the specific spaces involved in the project:
- Night-time cooling by mechanical ventilation to life-skills room, gaming hub and small gym.

## **Carbon Mitigation**

41. Carbon emissions from this project arise during the supply of its raw materials manufacture and construction, together with the operational emissions from its heating and power consumption throughout its use.
42. The project will incorporate the following measures to reduce the operational carbon emissions and those embodied in its construction process:
- The adaptation and reuse of the existing accommodation, rather than building an extension, reducing the embodied carbon emissions from construction.
  - Energy efficient lighting and heating controls
  - The use of timber from sustainable sources
  - A site waste management plan will be developed to ensure that during construction the principles of minimising waste are maintained.



**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	Yes

**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.)

Document

Location

None

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment:**

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and is included in Appendix 1 below.



## Equality Impact Assessment

What is an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) and why does the County Council do them?

The [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) (PSED) is an obligation within the [Equality Act 2010](#) ("the Act"), which asks public authorities, like Hampshire County Council, to give 'due regard' to equality considerations, in particular to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

This includes assessing the impact of policies and practices on individuals and communities with a protected characteristic, as defined in the Act and some other specific groups. The County Council uses EIAs to ensure it has paid 'due regard' to equalities considerations when there are changes to a service or policy, a new project or certain decisions.

EIA author	Position & Department	Contact
Amy Chambers	Senior Operations Officer Children's Services	amy.chambers@hants.gov.uk Tel:03707 798802

Title:	Internal and External Alterations and Refurbishment at Prospect School, Havant
Related EIAs:	None

EIA for Savings Programme:	No
Service affected	Prospect School, Freely Road, Havant.
Description of the service/policy/project/project phase	Prospect School is a special school providing education for up to 80 boys aged between 11 and 16 years old with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs, some of whom also have additional difficulties which impact on their learning, such as Autistic Spectrum Condition.
New/changed service/policy/project	The project comprises various internal alterations and refurbishments to the ground floor accommodation, together with some improvements to external sport and exercise facilities. The proposed internal alterations and refurbishments comprise: conversion of a small 1:1 room into a life skills room, conversion of a small meeting room into an interactive gaming hub, including refurbishment of adjacent office and meeting room, conversion of unused changing rooms into a small fitness gym, refurbishment of the existing food technology room to provide a training kitchen fitted-out to catering college standard. The proposed external works comprise: installation of new external gym equipment and upgrade to the existing multi-use games area.

Engagement
Prospect School have been consulted throughout the development of the project to ensure that the proposed works are adequate and appropriate for the needs of the children attending the school. The Headteacher, with support from the Children's Services liaison officer, has consulted with school staff and governors to ensure they support the proposed works.

Equalities considerations - Impact Assessment

Age

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Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	The proposed works will have a positive impact on the children aged 11-16 years that attend the school. The works will provide them with additional and more suitable accommodation that they can use throughout the school day.
Mitigation	

## Disability

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	<p>Prospect School is a special school providing education for up to 80 boys aged between 11 and 16 years old with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs, some of whom also have additional difficulties which impact on their learning, such as Autistic Spectrum Condition. Admission into the school is only via the Special Educational Needs team approving the placement for a child/ young person and them having Prospect School named on their Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP).</p> <p>The additional works will create additional accommodation that students will be able to access. The creation of a life skills room will enable the students to practice real life daily activities in a supporting and secure environment such as washing dishes, cooking, doing laundry, eating a meal at a table etc. The creation of the interactive gaming hub will allow students use the space as a reward for good behaviour which will hopefully encourage more by positive role modelling across the school.</p>
Mitigation	

## Gender Reassignment

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people.
Mitigation	

## Pregnancy and Maternity

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people.
Mitigation	

## Race

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral

Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people.
Mitigation	

## Religion or Belief

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people.
Mitigation	

## Sex

Impact on public	Positive
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	Prospect School is a special school providing education for up to 80 boys aged between 11 and 16 years old with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs, some of whom also have additional difficulties which impact on their learning, such as Autistic Spectrum Condition so the proposed projects at the school will have a positive impact on those who share sex as a protected characteristic.
Mitigation	

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## Sexual Orientation

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people.
Mitigation	

## Marriage and Civil Partnership

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people.
Mitigation	

## Poverty

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral



Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people.
Mitigation	

## Rurality

Impact on public	Neutral
Impact on staff	Neutral
Rationale	There will be no change in benefits to this protected characteristic group, over and above the current circumstances and over other protected characteristics groups, therefore the impact has been assessed as neutral for both staff, children and young people.
Mitigation	

Geographical Impact: East Hampshire, Fareham, Gosport, Havant

## Equality Statement

### Additional information:

Prospect School admits children from all over Hampshire however their main areas of travel are East Hants, Havant, Fareham and Gosport.

### Overview Statement:

A summary assessment to show that due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty has been paid, which is undertaken when a full EIA is not needed:

EIA reference number: 00603








Date of production of EIA for publication: 09/04/2024

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# Alterations works at Prospect School, Havant

## Project Appraisal

### Plan Key

-  Vehicular Access
-  Main School Entrance
-  Pedestrian Access
-  Contractor's Access
-  Temporary Pedestrian Access
-  Site Boundary
-  Contractor's Compound

- 1 Conversion of 1 to 1 room into lifeskills room
- 2 Reconfiguration into gaming hub, small group room and staff office
- 3 Conversion of unused changing room into fitness gym
- 4 Re-fit existing Food Tech to catering college standard training kitchen
- 5 Upgrade to existing multi use games area (goal posts and basketball hoops)
- 6 New External Gym Equipment
- 7 Contractor parking and welfare

-  Non-Teaching - Refurb.
-  Circulation
-  General Teaching - Refurb.

HCC Property Services,  
Three Minsters House,  
76 High Street, Winchester SO23  
8UL  
tel: (01962) 847801



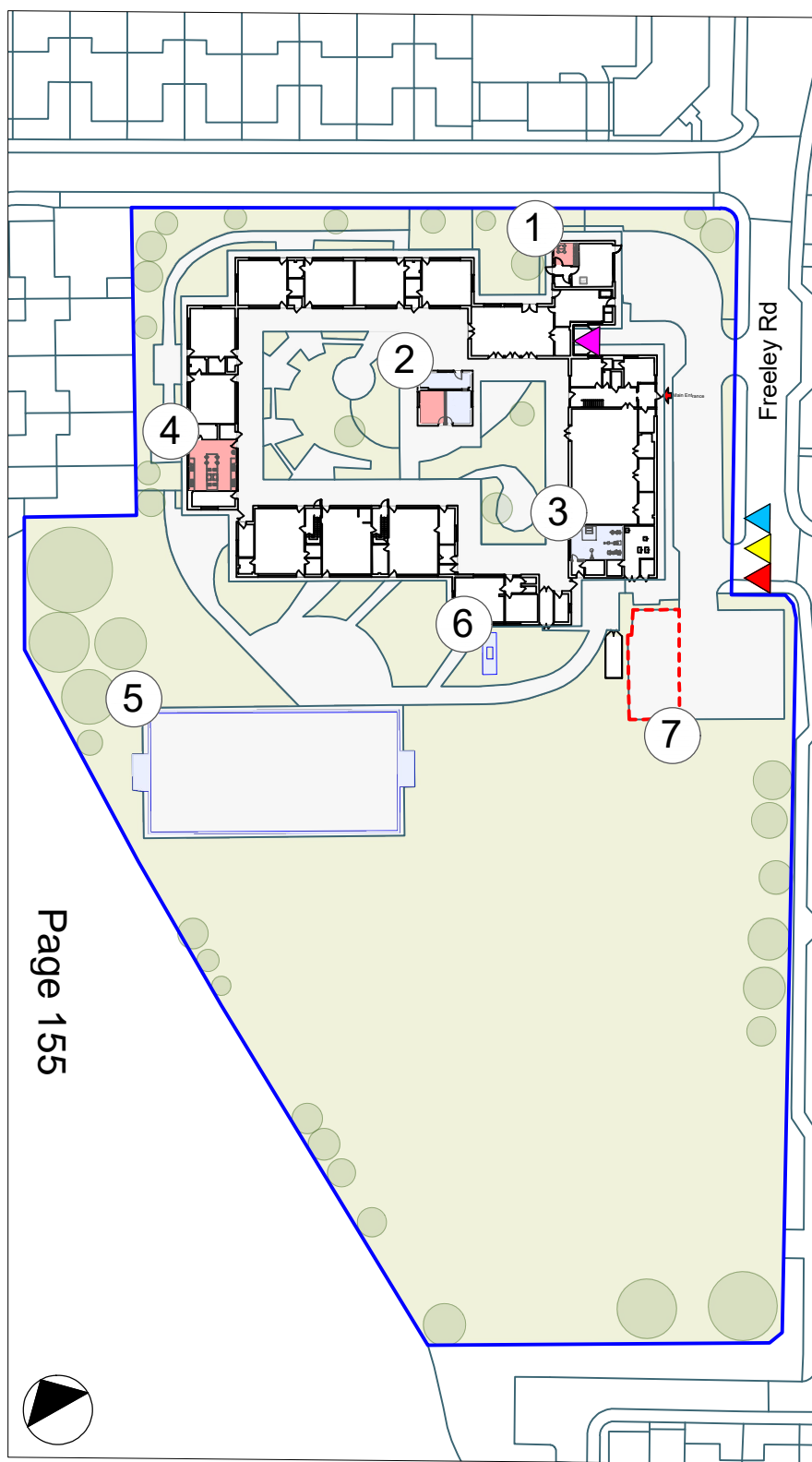
Prospect School Alterations for Summer 2024

Project Appraisal Drawing

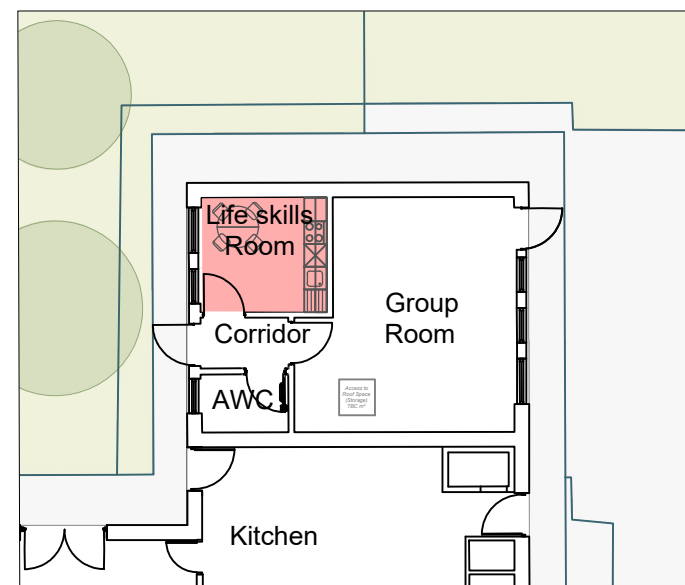
SCALE	DRAWN	CHKD	APRV
As indicated	SP	NY	HCC

**DRAWING No.**  
project code - originator - volume - level - type - role - revision version  
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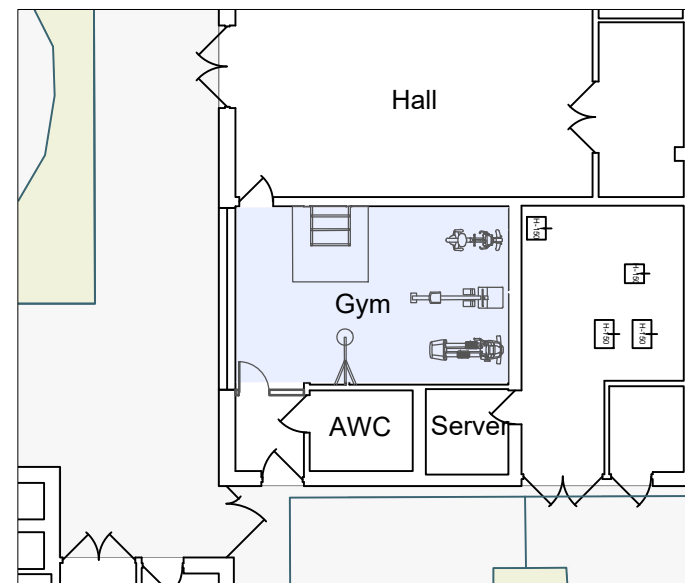
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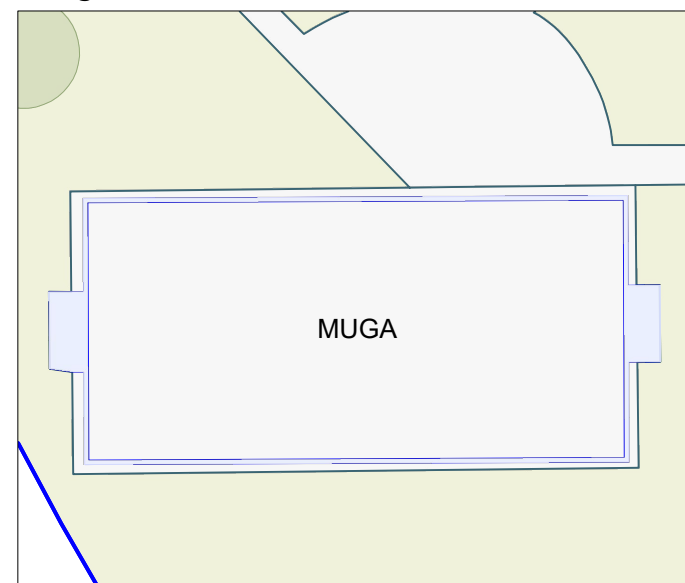
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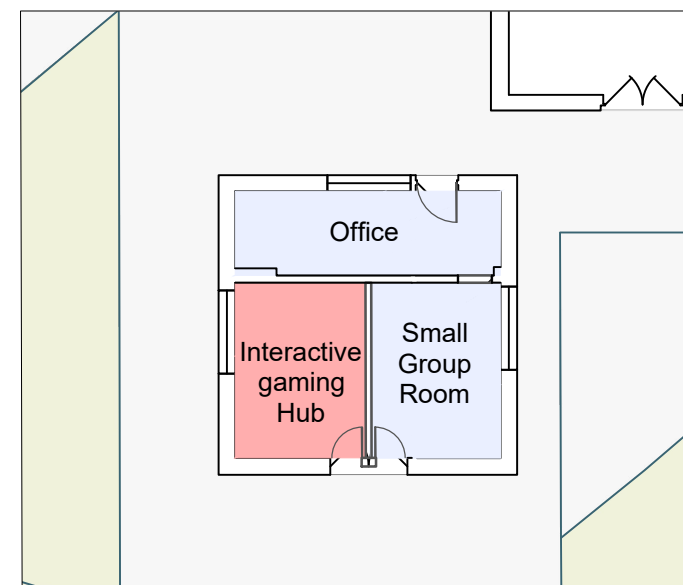
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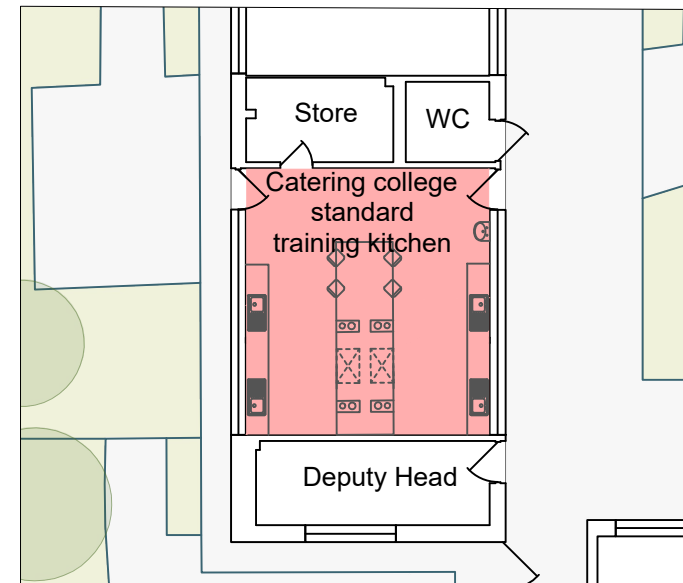
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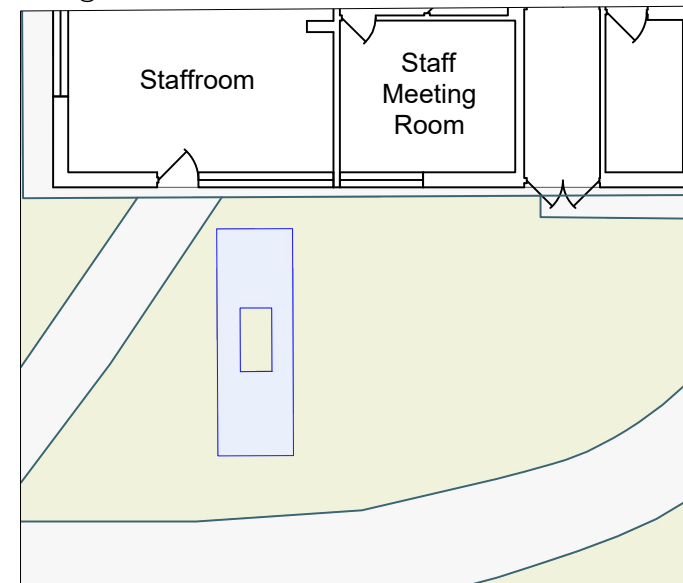
5 - Upgrade to existing multi-use games area  
0 5 10 15 20m  
1:500 @ A3



2 - Interactive gaming hub  
0 1 2 3 4 5m  
1:200 @ A3



4 - Catering college standard training kitchen.  
0 1 2 3 4 5m  
1:200 @ A3



6 - New Gym Equipment  
0 1 2 3 4 5m  
1:200 @ A3



Site Location Plan

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## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Education
<b>Date:</b>	14 May 2024
<b>Title:</b>	Additional Specialist Provision - Hollywater School
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

**Contact name:** Emma Steele, County Education Manager SEN Resources & Access

**Email:** [emma.steele2@hants.gov.uk](mailto:emma.steele2@hants.gov.uk)

### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is:
  - To request approval to consult on the expansion of Hollywater School, Bordon, to provide an additional 20 places for children and young people with Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) from September 2025.
  - To request approval to consult on the expansion of Heathfield Special School, Fareham, to provide up to 20 places for children and young people with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) and SLD in phases from September 2024.
  - To request approval to consult on adding SLD to the specialist designation of Saxon Wood Special School, Basingstoke.

### Recommendation(s)

2. That approval to consult is given on the following:
  - The expansion of Hollywater School, Bordon by an additional 20 places for children and young people with SLD.
  - The expansion of Heathfield Special School, Fareham by up to an additional 20 places for children and young people with MLD and SLD.
  - Adding MLD and SLD to the specialist designation of Saxon Wood Special School, Basingstoke.
3. A report is brought back to a future Executive Member for Education Decision Day following the statutory consultation periods for approval for the proposed expansions of Hollywater School, Bordon and Heathfield School, Fareham, and the statutory consultation periods for approval for adding the extra specialist designations to Saxon Wood School.

## Executive Summary

4. Hampshire County Council has a statutory duty to provide school places for all children, including those who have special educational needs and/or a disability. The County Council is committed to further developing successful provision to meet this demand within the Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) sector.
5. “Leaders and practitioners are highly ambitious for all children and young people with SEND in Hampshire to succeed” (Ofsted CQC (Care Quality Commission) 2020 <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80472>).
6. The proposed additional SEND provision outlined within this report will help manage some of the school place pressures generated by the increase in the number of Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs) maintained by the Local Authority. As of January 2024, the number of maintained EHCPs was 16,065. By 2030-31, Hampshire is forecast to have c28,000 pupils who will have an EHCP if unmitigated.
7. Demand has resulted in a corresponding pressure for places in special schools and resourced provisions. The County Council is committed to further developing successful provision or creating new provision, where possible, to meet the demand for places.
8. The lack of sufficient provision within Hampshire schools has led to an increase in placements within the independent and non-maintained sector (INMSS). The proposals contained within this report aim to build on good quality Hampshire school provision and meet the needs of children and young people within their local area. This will reduce the Local Authority’s dependence upon independent and non-maintained provision (INMSS) and will aim to keep pupils as close to their home community as possible.
9. All Local Authorities have a duty to promote sustainable and active travel to school. Hampshire is made up of diverse urban and rural communities, creating longer travel times for already vulnerable children. However, having closer local provision minimises school transport costs and its use.

## Contextual information

### Expansion of Hollywater School, Bordon

10. Hollywater School is rated as a good school by Ofsted ([Hollywater School - Inspection Report](#)). The school caters for pupils aged 4 to 19 years. It provides specialist support for pupils who have profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD), SLD, MLD, and social and communication needs (SLCN), including ASC (appendix 1). All pupils attending the school have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

11. The proposal is to install a two-classroom modular building to provide accommodation for the Post-16 pupils. This will create additional accommodation in the main school for additional pupils aged 4 to 16 years. Some minor works may be required to these spaces. A covered link to the new Post-16 building is also proposed.
12. The additional accommodation in the main school will meet the needs of up to 20 additional primary aged pupils with SLD and increase the schools agreed pupil number from 143 to 163 from September 2025.

#### Expansion of Heathfield Special School, Fareham

13. Heathfield Special School is rated as a good school by Ofsted ([Heathfield Special School - Inspection Report](#)). The school caters for primary pupils with MLD/SLD. All pupils have an EHC plan. The school is part of the federation of Heathfield and St Francis Schools. St Francis School is an all-through special school situated on the same site. The schools share a governing body.
14. The proposal is to refurbish two classrooms, make improvements to adjacent areas and relocate the teachers' planning spaces. This will provide accommodation to meet the needs of up to 20 additional primary aged pupils with SLD and increase the schools agreed pupil number from 170 to 190 from September 2024 – the additional pupils will be admitted in phases.

#### Adding Specialist Designations

15. By adding the extra specialist designations to Saxon Wood School, for our more complex of learners, good quality school places can be provided quickly where they are needed. Although places may not be increased by adding the specialist designation, the breadth of provision is greater.

#### **Finance**

16. Creating additional specialist places in Hampshire schools has both revenue and capital finance implications. Revenue funding is provided through the Dedicated Schools Grant, with funding coming from the Childrens Service Capital Programme - High Needs Block and the Schools Block.
17. From a revenue perspective, it is more cost effective to educate within a community special school than in the independent non maintained sector (INMSS) as the table below indicates:

Type of provision	Average revenue cost per place (March 2024)
Community Special School	£19,766
Resourced Provision (RP)	£17,117
Independent and non-maintained special school place (INMSS)	£61,200

## Savings Model

18. Funding from the High Needs Block is calculated by the government using a national funding formula, which includes population and proxy factors of need, based on children living in Hampshire and a basic entitlement factor.

19. The annual revenue cost of the proposed additional places has been calculated based on the average funding rates for the schools that are expanding:

Name of school	Number of new places being created	Place Funding per place	TPG/ TPECG/ HNAF per place	Average top up per pupil place*	Estimated Revenue Cost
Hollywater School	20	£10,000	£1,166	£11,041	£444,140
Heathfield School	20	£10,000	£1,076	£11,041	£442,340
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>40</b>				<b>£886,480</b>

\*Funding replacing the previous Teacher's Pay and Teacher's Pension Employer Contribution Grants which is funded per place, plus the High Needs Additional Funding from 2023/24, also funded per place.

\*\*estimated under the new top-up framework for special schools using an average of step 3 compared to funding of other Hampshire maintained SLD schools

20. The total revenue cost of £886,480 for the special school places compares to an estimated £2,448m for the same number of places in independent and non-maintained special schools using the average cost of a SEN only funded day placement. This equates to approximately £1.56m of cost avoidance on the High Needs Block.

21. Capital Costs – the following amounts will be included in the Childrens Services Capital Programme Report going to Executive Lead Member for Children's Services Decision Day in June.

Hollywater School – £800,000

Heathfield Special School – £93,000



## School Transport

22. Additional cost avoidance or savings would also be made on School Transport with pupils attending more local provision. It is not possible to quantify these precisely as the exact figures depend on the students' addresses and these are not yet known. However, **assuming that students are likely to live relatively locally** to the schools in these proposals the estimated School Transport costs are likely to decrease overall. This is because the most likely destination independent and non-maintained special schools are further away. Estimates for each proposal are given below:

### Hollywater School

23. The most likely destination independent and non-maintained special schools that would be able to meet need are some distance away from Hollywater. These are Napier School (14 miles) and Fernways (24 miles). Assuming that the students are local to Hollywater, the estimated cost avoidance of transporting the proposed 20 students to Hollywater and not the INMSS schools would be between £171,000 and £361,000.

### Heathfield School

24. The most likely destination independent and non-maintained special schools that would be able to meet need is Light Years, which is only 1.4 miles from Heathfield. Any savings would therefore be relatively marginal, and would fall within the range of uncertainty due to the not knowing the students' addresses at this stage.

### Saxonwood

25. There is no proposal to increase capacity at this school, but to add Specialist Designations. The likely independent and non-maintained special schools that would be able to meet need are Haywards Farm School, Priors Court, Tadley Court and The Loddon School. These are between 4 and 21 miles from either Saxonwood. If students are local to Saxonwood, the potential transport savings if they attended those schools and not the above INMSS schools could be in the region of £15,200 per student per annum for the longest journeys, which are those to Priors Court. For those INMSS schools that are closer (Tadley Court and Loddon) any transport savings would be marginal.

## **Consultation and Equalities**

26. A four-week statutory consultation period will be undertaken if the proposal to expand Hollywater and Heathfield Schools is approved.
27. A four-week statutory consultation will be undertaken if the proposal to add to the specialist designation of Saxon Wood Special School is

approved.

28. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) will be undertaken if the proposal is agreed. A later report will detail any likely equalities impacts of consulting.

### **Climate Change Impact Assessment**

29. The climate change tools were not applicable on the grounds that this decision relates to an early-stage request to consult. This is an informational report only requesting an approval to consult; therefore, it does not require a climate change assessment.

### **Conclusion**

30. The proposals contained within this report aim to build on established good quality Hampshire specialist provision and meet the needs of children and young people within their local settings. This will reduce the Local Authority's dependence upon independent and non-maintained provision (INMSS) and will aim to keep pupils as close to the home community as possible and in mainstream environments.

31. Approval is therefore sought to consult on:

- The expansion of Hollywater School, Bordon.
- The expansion of Heathfield Special School, Fareham.
- Adding MLD and SLD to the specialist designation of Saxon Wood Special School, Basingstoke

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy, and independent lives:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	Yes

**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.)

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

This section will be completed once approval to consult has been given. This is because the projects aren't in place where the tool can be applied as yet.

### **Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act regarding the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

## **2 Equalities Impact Assessment:**

See above.

## **Appendix 1 - SEN Abbreviations**

[SEN Code Abbreviations and What They Mean \(insidegovernment.co.uk\)](http://insidegovernment.co.uk)

ASC = Autism Spectrum Condition

HI = Hearing Impaired now called Hearing Loss

MED= Medical

MLD = Moderate Learning Difficulties (we have MLD resource provisions and Schools, but these pupils are catered for well in mainstream)

PD= Physical Disability

PMLD = Profound and Multiple Learning Disability

SEMH = Social, Emotional and Mental Health

SLCN = Speech, Language & Communication Needs

SLD = Severe Learning Difficulties (could be ambulant or not)

VI= Visually Impaired

**DfE have categorised needs into four areas.**

### **1. Communication and Interaction**

This includes:

Speech, language and communication needs (SLCN). Children and young people with SLCN have difficulty in communicating with others, this may be because they have difficulty saying what they want to, understanding what is being said to them or they do not understand or use social rules of communication.

Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC), including Asperger's Syndrome and Autism.

### **2. Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties (SEMH)**

Children and young people may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties which manifest themselves in many ways. These may include becoming withdrawn or isolated, as well as displaying challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour. These behaviours may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression, self-harming, substance misuse, eating disorders or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained. Other children and young people may have disorders such as attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder.

### **3. Cognition and Learning**

Support for learning difficulties may be required when children and young people learn at a slower pace than their peers. Learning difficulties cover a wide range of needs, including:

- Moderate learning difficulties (MLD)
- Severe learning difficulties (SLD), where children and young people are likely to need support in all areas of the curriculum and associated difficulties with mobility and communication.
- Profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), where children and young people are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment.

- Specific learning difficulties (SpLD), affect one or more specific aspects of learning. This includes a range of conditions such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.

#### **4. Sensory and/or Physical Needs**

Some children and young people require special educational provision because they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities generally provided. This includes children and young people with:

- Visual impairment (VI),
- Hearing impairment (HI)
- Multi-sensory impairment (MSI) (a combination of vision and hearing difficulties)
- Physical disability (PD)

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Education
<b>Date:</b>	14 May 2024
<b>Title:</b>	Approval to Consult on Changes to Approved Published Numbers At Crestwood Community School and Haven Nursery
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

**Contact name:** Emma Steele, County Education Manager SEN resources & Access

**Email:** [emma.steele2@hants.gov.uk](mailto:emma.steele2@hants.gov.uk)

#### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to request approval to consult on:
  - A decrease to the Approved Publish Numbers (APN) within Crestwood Community School, Specific Learning Difficulties SpLD Resource Provision.
  - An increase to the approved published number (APN) of Nursery aged children at the Haven Nursery Special Educational Needs (SEN) Hub.

#### Recommendation(s)

2. That request for approval to consult is given on:
  - Decreasing the APN within Crestwood Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) Resource Provision, Eastleigh, by seven places from 22 to 15.
  - Increasing the approved published number (APN) of Nursery aged children at the Haven Nursery SEND Hub, Gosport (servicing Fareham as well) from 16.80fte (28 children) to 21.6 fte (36 children).
3. A report is brought back to a future Executive Member for Education decision day following the statutory consultation periods for approval for both the proposed changes.

#### Executive Summary

4. Hampshire County Council has a statutory duty to provide school places for all children, including those who have special educational needs and/or a disability. The County Council is committed to further developing successful provision to meet this demand within the Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) sector.

5. “Leaders and practitioners are highly ambitious for all children and young people with SEND in Hampshire to succeed” (Ofsted CQC (Care Quality Commission) 2020 <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80472>).
6. The proposed outlined within this report will help manage some of the school place pressures generated by the increase in the number of Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs) maintained by the Local Authority. As of January 2024, the number of maintained EHCPs was 16,065. By 2030-31, Hampshire is forecast to have c28,000 pupils who will have an EHCP if unmitigated.
7. Demand has resulted in a corresponding pressure for places in special schools and resourced provisions. The County Council is committed to further developing successful provision or creating new provision, where possible, to meet the demand for places.
8. The lack of sufficient provision within Hampshire schools has led to an increase in placements within the independent and non-maintained sector (INMSS). The proposals contained within this report aim to build on good quality Hampshire school provision and meet the needs of children and young people within their local area. This will reduce the Local Authority’s dependence upon independent and non-maintained provision (INMSS) and will aim to keep pupils as close to their home community as possible.

## **Contextual information**

### Decrease in APN at Crestwood Community School Specific Learning Difficulty Resource Provision

9. A child or young person with a Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD) may have difficulty with one or more aspects of learning. This includes a range of conditions such as dyslexia, dyscalculia, and dyspraxia.
10. In the current Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Code of Practice (DfE/DoH, 2015), dyslexia is described as a special educational need (SEN) that may require provision that is ‘different from and additional to’ that which is usually provided, but it is also a disability recognised in the 2010 Equality Act and therefore requiring schools to ‘make reasonable adjustments’ for those identified with SpLD.  
Most children with special educational needs, such as SpLD, will have their needs met through high-quality teaching and adaptations to it. This might include adjustments to their Universal Provision and/or Targeted and Specialist Provision, depending on the individual’s level of need. Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCo) have become better in establishing a consistent whole-school approach to meeting the needs of pupils.
11. Crestwood Community is rated as a good school by Ofsted [Crestwood Community School - Open - Find an Inspection Report - Ofsted](#)



12. The school operates two resourced provisions for students with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs): one for Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) on the Shakespeare campus, the other for Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs on both campuses. Admissions is coordinated by the local authority's SEN service. Student support is coordinated by specialist staff and includes academic monitoring and pastoral support.
13. Students within the resourced provisions have consistently made rapid and sustained progress compared with their starting points.
14. Several educational interventions and programmes are available for children with SpLD and through effective teaching techniques and support children can still achieve success outside of specialist provision.
15. The numbers of pupils requiring the resourced provision for has been reducing over time, due to their needs being well met in local secondary schools.

Actual Pupil Numbers Crestwood RP							
Summer 2021	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023	Autumn 2024
28	25	25	24	21	21	22	15

16. This reducing number in children with SpLD needing specialist placement within the RP has been the experience at Crestwood School and so following discussion with the school leadership, it was agreed that a reduction in APN was appropriate.
17. Reducing numbers within the RP mean that Childrens with SpLD needs are better met within the main school. Additional spaces will be taken up by extra local children.

#### Increasing the APN within Haven Nursery SEN Hub

18. Commissioned provision for preschool children (Year R minus 1 and 2) with SEND in Hampshire is delivered in several ways:
  - A placement in a special school with nursery provision.
  - A placement at an Early Learning Groups (ELGs).
  - An SEN placement in a resourced early years provision (also known as a *SEN hub*)
19. Need has grown with a significant number of children in Year R minus 1 and 2 over the last two years, leaving this part of Gosport without a consistent Local Offer for this type of provision compared to other geographical areas of Hampshire.

Haven SEN Hub	APN 2019/20	APN 2020/21	APN 2021/22	APN 2022/23	APN 2023/24	APN 2024/25
Individual Children	20	20	20	28	28	36
APN	12	12	12	16.8	16.8	21.6

**For example** 20 children x 0.6fte = 12 places. 6 full time places divided by 0.6 = 10 children.

## Finance

20. Creating additional specialist places in Hampshire has revenue funding implications. This is provided through the Dedicated Schools Grant, High Needs Block (HNB)
21. The places within Haven are funded at an amount to meet children's more complex special education needs or disabilities, comparable to other east Early Years SEN Hubs.
22. Children outside of the current agreed APN at Haven are funded through discretionary payments at an extra cost, adding additional pressure to the HNB.
23. Funding for other eastern Hampshire provisions has historically been at a higher APN, therefore generating more revenue funding.
24. From a revenue perspective, it is more cost effective to educate within a community setting than in the independent non maintained sector (INMSS) as the table below indicates:

Type of provision	Average revenue cost per place (March 2024)
Static SEND Hub	£14,531
Community Special School	£19,766
Resourced Provision (RP)	£17,117
Independent and non-maintained special school place (INMSS)	£61,200

25. Funding the additional APN will cost an additional £69,749 (full year affect) difference from last year's funding. In the first year there will be a 7/12 par year effect to the increase in place funding

Haven SEN Hub	APN 2023/24	APN 2024/25
Individual Children	28	36
APN	16.8	21.6
Value per place £	14,330	14,531
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>244,121</b>	<b>313,870</b>

## **Savings in reduction of APN at Crestwood Community RP**

26. Funding from the High Needs Block is calculated by the Government using a national funding formula, which includes population and proxy factors of need, based on children living in Hampshire and a basic entitlement factor.

Crestwood Community School SpLD RP	Agreed Place Number	£ Funding per Place	£ Revenue Cost
2023/24	22	6,000	132,000
2024/25	15	6,000	90,000
Cost Avoidance			42,000

27. The revenue cost for 24/25 will be £90,000 compared to £132,000, a reduction of £42,000 of cost for the High Needs Block.

## **Consultation and Equalities**

28. A four-week statutory consultation period will be undertaken if permission to consult is approved to decrease the APN in Crestwood Community School RP and increase the APN in Haven Nursery SEN Hub are approved.
29. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) will be undertaken if the proposal is agreed. A later report will detail any likely equalities impacts of consulting.

## **Climate Change Impact Assessment**

30. The climate change tools were not applicable on the grounds that this decision relates to an early-stage request to consult. This is an informational report only requesting an approval to consult; therefore, it does not require a climate change assessment.

## **Conclusion**

31. The proposals contained within this report aim to build on established good quality Hampshire specialist provision and meet the needs of children and young people within their local settings. This will reduce the Local Authority's dependence upon independent and non-maintained provision (INMSS) and will aim to keep pupils as close to the home community as possible and in mainstream environments.
32. Approval is therefore sought to consult on:
- The reduction of APN at Crestwood Community School SpLD RP.
  - The expansion of APN at Haven Nursery SEN Hub.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy, and independent lives:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	Yes

**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.)**

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

As this is an information report an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) will not need to be undertaken at this stage as this paper is looking for approval to consult.

A later report will detail any likely equalities impact of consulting after public consultation.

### **Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act regarding the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment:**

As above.

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