

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

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

Contact name: Mark Saunders, Senior Strategic Development Officer

Email: Mark.saunders@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision

- 1.1. 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.
- 1.2. 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.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. A decline in the number of children living in the schools' catchment area has led to falling numbers on roll. Student forecasts over the next five years indicate that there will be a 1fe (form of entry) demand for places in the locality.
- 2.2. The reduction in pupil numbers has led to significant budget pressures at both the infant and junior schools creating difficulties with budget recovery and on-going viability.
- 2.3. 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 leading to more sustainable opportunities and better outcomes for children.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Do nothing – to take no action would leave both schools facing continuing budget pressures with no viable mid to longer-term budget recovery strategy. This would impact opportunities and outcomes for children.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: None

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not Applicable

7. Statement from the decision maker:

7.1. In taking this decision I have fully considered the current and forecast position of both schools from an educational and financial perspective.

7.2. The closure of Peel Common Infant School and Nursery Unit and the expansion of the age range of Peel Common Junior School to form an all-through Primary School on the existing junior school will ensure a strong long-term educational offer is maintained at the heart of this community.

Approved by:

Date:

Councillor Edward Heron
Executive Lead Member for Children's Services

14 May 2024