

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Corporate Director of Children & Learning
to

Cabinet and All Members of Council

on

15th March 2011

Report prepared by: Jane Theadom,
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Nursery provision at Hinguar Primary School
Children & Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee
– Executive Councillor: Councillor Roger Hadley
A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet's permission to consult on the development of nursery provision to Hinguar Primary School when it moves to its new building in Gunner Park in September 2012.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That officers undertake an informal consultation to gauge local opinion and proceed to Statutory Notices via delegated authority if the feedback is favourable.**

3. Background

- 3.1 In 2007 it was agreed to accept a plot of land in Gunners Park Shoeburyness as part of an S106 agreement to build a residential development on the de-commissioned MOD land. It was also decided that due to its very poor condition and restricted size, Hinguar Primary School would be re-built on the plot.
- 3.2 In July 2009, The Willows, a private nursery in Ness Road Shoeburyness closed. The nursery was registered for 61 children. These places have not been replaced. Following an on-going childcare sufficiency assessment by Early Years a need for the replacement of nursery places within the area has been demonstrated.
- 3.3 The Primary Strategy for Change and the Primary Capital Programme recommended the inclusion of nursery provision with all infant and primary schools. The agreed planning permission design for Hinguar Primary School includes accommodation for a 26 FTE nursery class.
- 3.4 An informal consultation is therefore being recommended to gauge local opinion (including current private providers) on adding a maintained nursery to the school.
- 3.5 The new nursery would not open until September 2012 when the new school opens. However, the consultation process is recommended to start now to give the school the time to set up a waiting list and give parents and carers of

children under five, time to make informed choices of the best nursery provision for their children. The consultation would ask questions relating to all aspects of provision including flexibility and access for two year olds.

4. Other Options

- 4.1 It is necessary to consult because of the identified need for nursery provision in the area. The consultation will identify whether other options are feasible, including expanding existing provision.

5. Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 The proposal to consult is being recommended because of the statutory requirement to ensure sufficient supply of high quality childcare across Southend and specifically for these purposes, in the Shoeburyness area.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities

This proposal will ensure a wider choice of nursery care for all 3-5 year olds, and contribute to the Council's priority of improving outcomes for vulnerable children.

6.2 Financial Implications

The financial implications are accounted for in the Capital Programme.

6.3 Legal Implications

The Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient nursery places.

6.4 People Implications

The establishment of a nursery would require staffing at recommended ratios.

6.5 Property Implications

The accommodation for this facility is within the plans and budget for the rebuild of Hinguar Primary School within Gunners Park.

6.6 Consultation

An informal consultation of four weeks would be undertaken with all stake holders. If the response is favourable then a formal statutory six week consultation would be undertaken.

6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

The consultation will actively seek to identify particular needs in respect of diversity for any new provision.

6.8 Risk Assessment

There would be a risk of the Council not fulfilling its statutory duties if this does not go ahead.

6.9 Value for Money

The siting of a nursery provision within a school site allows for potential economies in infrastructure costs.

6.10 Community Safety Implications
None

6.11 Environmental Impact
This proposal would deliver local services that reduce the need to travel.

7. Background Papers

7.1 Relocation of Hinguar 6th November 2007 Cabinet Report