

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Director for People
to
Cabinet

on
11th November 2014

Report prepared by:
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Capital

Outcome of Consultation on the Permanent Expansion of Primary Places in Southend
Executive Councillor: Councillor Anne Jones
A Part 1 (Public) Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update members on the outcome of the consultation to expand six primary phase schools in the central area of Southend.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Hamstel Infant School be permanently expanded to 450 places from September 2015;
- 2.2 That Hamstel Junior School be permanently expanded to 600 places from September 2016;
- 2.3 That Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School be permanently expanded to 420 places from September 2015;
- 2.4 That St. Helen's Catholic Primary School be permanently expanded to 420 places from September 2015;
- 2.5 The Federated Thorpe Greenways Infant School be permanently expanded to 450 places from September 2015;
- 2.6 The Federated Thorpe Greenways Junior School be permanently expanded to 600 places from September 2017.

3. Background

- 3.1 At the Cabinet meeting of 7th January (and subsequent call in to People Scrutiny) it was agreed that a statutory joint consultation be undertaken with the Diocese of Brentwood concerning the provision of

primary places in central Southend, that being the significant enlargement of: Hamstel Infant and Junior Schools, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, St. Helen's Catholic Primary School and The Federated Thorpe Greenways Infant and Junior Schools.

- 3.2 It was further agreed that the decision to proceed to the statutory stage be delegated to the Corporate Director for People, in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Children and Learning, if there are no strong objections.
- 3.3 The initial consultation started on 2nd June 2014 with opportunities for all stake holders to comment. At the end of this stage there were 81 responses, one of which was a 40 signature petition from Thorpe Greenway residents opposing the expansion based on traffic and parking concerns. A breakdown of who responded is set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.4 Nine respondents commented on the overall plan although three of these also commented through individual school responses. On the overall principle to expand primary schools: four said no to expansion, four said yes and one did not know. Two of the yes respondents also said no to the individual school expansions but agreed on the need to expand. A third respondent was 'did not know' for both responses.
- 3.5 As can be seen in Appendix 1 the main concern expressed about expansion of the schools is the traffic, parking and access issues with 44 expressing that concern (including the petition) although of those, nine were also in favour of expansion but wanted the traffic issues resolved. Nine commented that schools would be too big, four concerned that standards would fall, two said to expand elsewhere and eight had no comment.
- 3.6 There were eight respondents through the on-line survey, seven from Thorpe Greenways and one from Hamstel; two were parents and six were local residents. Seven commented with two agreeing that more places should be provided and five raised concerns about traffic and parking issues.
- 3.7 The Director for People consulted with the Executive Councillor on 23rd June 2014 and agreed to proceed to the formal consultation stage. A notice was published in the local newspaper and posted on school gates on 30th June 2014, allowing for the statutory four school weeks for consultation, giving a closing date of 7th September 2014. A copy of the notice is at Appendix 2.
- 3.8 Shortly after the closing date of 21st June 2014, 46 further comments were received and these are set out in Appendix 3. Of these 41 are from Hamstel staff members who responded in favour of expansion, these were received in bulk from the school at the end of term and the actual date of these responses is not known. Five other responses

were also received from four residents and one parent. Of these, three were exclusively concerned about the traffic and parking issues with the two other responses raising a range of other concerns one of which included traffic and parking.

- 3.9 Following publication of the statutory notice, three comments have been received from residents in the Hamstel area. One, which is not dated, is not opposed to the expansion but raised parking and traffic issues; one other response also made comment in the initial consultation stage and raised overdevelopment of the site, parking/traffic/ pedestrian safety and noise. The third respondent also raised concerns about parking and safety.
- 3.10 Comments received are available for members to view in the Member's Lounge.
- 3.11 The headteachers and governing bodies at all the schools fully support the proposed expansions. The Brentwood Diocese also supports the proposals.

4. Proposals

- 4.1 Analysis of the comments and views expressed shows that overall there is very little objection to the expansion of schools other than in relation to parking and traffic around some schools and this is more a matter for Planning than it is about the need for places or for educational reasons.
- 4.2 Traffic Impact Assessments have been undertaken for the four school sites and these will be taken into account when the planning applications are submitted. Revised Travel Plans will be submitted with all planning applications illustrating how parents and pupils get to school and measures put in place by the school to encourage less use of vehicles. In addition, designs for the schools have looked at how access to the schools can be improved.
- 4.3 The main concern about traffic and parking at Thorpe Greenways will be addressed by improving the parking provision at Southchurch East car park by providing better lighting and CCTV cameras to improve security. Further work will be undertaken with the Highways department to look at what measures, such as parking restrictions, can be put in place to minimise the impact on local residents arising from the additional pupils at the other expanded schools.
- 4.4 Members are asked to agree to the permanent expansion of Hamstel Infant and Junior Schools, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, St. Helen's Catholic Primary School and The Federated Thorpe Greenways Infant and Junior School. This is to meet the demand for places from September 2015 and beyond.

5. Reason for Recommendations

- 5.1 Permanent expansion at the schools will provide sufficient places for reception pupils in the short and long term. At this stage any alternatives to providing quality permanent places could not be achieved given the timescales. Mitigation of traffic, parking and pedestrian concerns for local residents will be addressed through the planning proposals and if necessary appropriate planning conditions. Addressing these concerns is also in the interests of pupils, parents and schools.

6. Corporate Implications

- 6.1 **Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities**
The provision of places allows pupils within the Borough to access quality learning opportunities to achieve the best possible outcomes for all children.
- 6.2 **Financial Implications**
Funding for the expansion of the schools outlined in the report is within the agreed capital programme. This comes from the Basic Need allocations from DfE to provide additional school places and from specific Targeted Basic Need Grant of £3.8 million.
- 6.3 **Legal Implications.**
The Council has a duty to provide sufficient pupil places. The consultation outlined in this report meets the requirements of the School Organisation Regulations 2007 for the permanent expansion of Hamstel Infant and Junior Schools, Sacred Heart Primary School, St. Helen's Primary School and The Federated Thorpe Greenways Infant and Junior Schools.
- 6.4 **People Implications**
None.
- 6.5 **Property Implications**
None.
- 6.6 **Consultation**
The consultations undertaken are outlined in this report. The report was considered and discussed at the People Scrutiny Committee on 14th October 2014. There was general consensus and support for the content of the report. The report has been updated to reflect the questions and comments raised by Members at the meeting.
- 6.7 **Equalities and Diversity Implications**
The provision of addition primary places at the schools will provide additional pupil places across the central area of Southend which will enhance access to school places for all groups and increased

satisfaction of parental preference.

6.8 Risk Assessment
None.

6.9 Value for Money
None.

6.10 Community Safety Implications
None envisaged.

6.11 Environmental Impact
None envisaged.

7. Background Papers

7.1 Cabinet 2nd November 2010 – “Provision of Primary School Places”.
<http://apps.southend.gov.uk/minutes/>

7.2 Cabinet 20th April 2008 – “Sacred Heart Primary School”
<http://apps.southend.gov.uk/minutes/>

7.3 Children and Lifelong Scrutiny Committee 26th November 2012 –
“Provision of Primary Places 2015”
<http://apps.southend.gov.uk/minutes/>

7.4 Cabinet 8th January 2013 – “Provision of Primary Places 2015”
<http://apps.southend.gov.uk/minutes/>

7.5 People Scrutiny Committee 26th November 2013 – “Provision of
Primary Places”
<http://apps.southend.gov.uk/minutes/>

7.6 Cabinet 7th January 2014 Provision of Primary Places
<http://apps.southend.gov.uk/minutes/>

8. Appendices

8.1 Responses to Initial Consultation - Appendix 1.

8.2 Notice of Expansions – Appendix 2

8.3 Further Responses to Initial Consultations – Appendix 3

Appendix 1 -

Responses to Initial Consultation

Parents	37
Residents	31
Parent & resident	3
Pupil	1
Councillor	1
Governor	2
School staff	2
Parent at pre-school	1
Not given	2

Of those respondents (73) that could be identified with individual school consultations the responses were:

	Thorpe Greenways	Hamstel	Sacred Heart	St. Helen's
Yes	19	5	1	12
No	19	11	1	1
Don't know	1	2	0	1

Appendix 1 continued

Of the 81 responses received to the initial consultation:

	Number of Responses	Too Big	Traffic/ Parking/ Access	Attainment	Expand elsewhere	Yes	No	Do not know	No comment
Hamstel	18	0	15	0	1	5	11	2	1
Sacred Heart	2	7	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
St Helens	14	0	0	0	0	12	1	1	4
Thorpe Greenways	39	0	23	3	1	19	19	1	3
Unidentified to a school	2	1	1	0	0	1		1	0
General Consultation not in individual School response	6	1	4	1	0	2	4	0	0
	81	9	44	4	2	40	36	5	8

Appendix 2

PROPOSAL TO PERMANENTLY EXPAND SIX PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN SOUTHEND ON SEA FROM SEPTEMBER 2015

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Southend Borough Council, Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend on Sea, SS2 6ER intends to make prescribed alterations to six primary phase schools in the Borough of Southend on Sea.

1 - The proposal to permanently expand Hamstel Infant School, Hamstel Road, Southend on Sea, SS2 4PQ from 1st September 2015. This will expand the school from its current capacity of 360 to 450 pupils by increasing the permanent admissions limit in reception from 120 to 150. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 389. The current published admissions number is 150⁽¹⁾ and the proposed admission number will be 150. The school will gradually increase to the new maximum number by taking increased reception intakes from 1st September 2015. The older year groups already on roll at the school will not increase in size.

2 - The proposal to permanently expand Hamstel Junior School, Hamstel Road, Southend on Sea, SS2 4PQ from 1st September 2016. This will expand the school from its current capacity of 480 to 600 pupils by increasing the permanent admissions limit in reception from 120 to 150. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 465. The current admission number is 120 and the proposed admission number will be 150. The school will gradually increase to the new maximum number by taking increased year three intakes from 1st September 2016⁽¹⁾. The older year groups already on roll at the school will not increase in size.

3 - The proposal to permanently expand Thorpe Greenways Infant School, Greenways, Thorpe Bay, Southend on Sea, SS1 3BS from 1st September 2015. This will expand the school from its current capacity of 360 to 450 pupils by increasing the admissions limit in reception from 120 to 150. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 360. The current admission number is 120 and the proposed admission number will be 150. The school will gradually increase to the new maximum number by taking increased reception intakes from 1st September 2015. The older year groups already on roll at the school will not increase in size.

4 - The proposal to permanently expand Thorpe Greenways Junior School, Greenways, Thorpe Bay, Southend on Sea, SS1 3BS from 1st September 2017. This will expand the school from its current capacity of 480 to 600 pupils by increasing the admissions limit in reception from 120 to 150. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 479. The current admission number is 120 and the proposed admission number will be 150. The school will gradually increase to the new maximum number by taking increased year three intakes from 1st September 2017⁽²⁾. The older year groups already on roll at the school will not increase in size.

5 - The proposal to permanently expand Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Windermere Road, Southend on Sea, SS1 2RF from September 2015. This will expand the school from its current capacity of 210 to 420 pupils by increasing the admissions limit in reception from 30 to 60. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 210. The current admission number is 30 and the proposed admission number will be 60. The school will gradually increase to the new maximum number by taking increased reception intakes from 1st September 2015. The older year groups already on roll at the school will not increase in size.

6 - The proposal to permanently expand St Helen's Catholic Primary School, North Road, Westcliff on Sea, SS0 7AY from September 2015. This will expand the school from its current capacity of 210 to 420 pupils by increasing the admissions limit in reception from 30 to 60. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 210. The current admission number is 30 and the proposed admission number will be 60. The school will gradually increase to the new maximum number by taking increased reception intakes from 1st

September 2015. The higher year groups already on roll at the school will not increase in size.

Whilst these proposals are part an over-arching plan to meet the increased demand for primary places due to elevated birth rates each proposal stands alone and will be evaluated on its own merits.

These Notices are extracts from the complete proposals. Copies of the complete proposals can be obtained from: Gloria Harris, School Development Team, Southend Borough Council, Floor 5, Civic Centre, Victoria Ave, Southend on Sea, SS2 6ER. 01702 215000

Within four school weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, by the 7th September 2014, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them in writing to Gloria Harris, School Development Team, Southend Borough Council, Floor 5, Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend on Sea, SS2 6ER.

Signed - Rob Tinlin, Chief Executive, Southend Borough Council

NOTES

1 – Hamstel Infant School increased its published admission number from 120 to 150 on a temporary basis for September 2013 and September 2014. These extra pupils will enter Hamstel Junior School from September 2016.

2 – Thorpe Greenways Infant School has agreed to admit 150 in September 2014 on a temporary basis for one year. These extra pupils will enter Thorpe Greenways Junior School in September 2017.

3 – These proposals are independent of required planning permissions that will be submitted as required for the extension of the accommodation at these schools for the proposed additional pupils.

Appendix 3 Further Responses to Initial Consultation.

School	Hamstel I&J (date)	Thorpe Greenways (date)	Unknown (date)
Staff	41 (23/07)	0	0
Resident	2 (23/06)	1 (24/06)	1 (23/06)
Parent	1 (23/06)	0	0

	Overall Plan go ahead?	Hamstel I&J	Thorpe Greenways
No	2	1	0
Yes	0	41	0
Don't Know	0	1	1

	Hamstel I&J	Thorpe Greenways	Unknown
Traffic /Parking	2	1	1
Noise levels during development	1		
Congested pavements	2		
Light pollution from new structure	1		
Loss of green space	2		
Strain on resources (swimming esp. & ICT)	1		
Constant development	1		
Build a new school	1		