

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
SUBJECT:	MODIFICATION TO THE STATUTORY PROPOSALS TO EXPAND FAIRISLE INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOL AND WORDSWORTH INFANT SCHOOL
DATE OF DECISION:	17 JULY 2012
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY:	
None.	

BRIEF SUMMARY:

Cabinet previously approved proposals to expand Fairisle Infant School from 3 forms of entry to 4 forms of entry from September 2012 and Fairisle Junior School from 3 forms of entry to 4 forms of entry from September 2015. This report is asking cabinet to approve a modification to this to the implementation date for these expansion proposals, so that the infant school would expand from September 2013 and the junior school would expand from September 2016.

Cabinet also previously approved proposals to expand Wordsworth Infant School from 2 forms of entry to 3 forms of entry from September 2012 and for up to 90 pupils to progress from year 2 to year 3 from September 2015 as part of the schools expansion to become a primary school. This report is asking cabinet to approve a modification to this to the implementation date for this proposal so that up to 60 children could progress from year 2 to year 3 in September 2013 and September 2014.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To approve a modification to the Cabinet decision of 14 March 2011 by way of altering the implementation for the expansions of Fairisle Infant from September 2012 to September 2013 and of Fairisle Junior from September 2015 to September 2016.
- (ii) To approve a modification to the Cabinet decision of 11 April 2011 by way of altering the implementation for the expansion of Wordsworth Infant school so that current year R and year 1 pupils will progress to year 3 in 2013 and 2014.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Fairisle Infant school was due to expand from 3 forms of entry to 4 forms of entry from September 2012 as part of our primary school expansion programme, which was initiated in response to the unprecedented increase in the rise in pupil numbers.
2. When on time applicants were allocated places, it became apparent that the additional 30 places that were added to Fairisle would not be filled. Further analysis indicated that approximately 20 pupils within the schools vicinity applied for and were allocated a place at Hampshire schools. Had these children been allocated a place at their local school, the majority of these places would have been filled.

3. The planned capital project at the Fairisle Infant School was to be a new classroom ready for September 2012. As the 30 additional places that put on at the school remain unfilled, a capital project to add capacity at the school does not seem an appropriate use of capital funds. Officers suggest that this expansion project be postponed for 1 year in order to ensure that our capital funding is targeted at the areas/schools with the greatest need for additional capacity.
4. The pupils at Fairisle Infant school generally feed into Fairisle Junior school, which is located on the same site as the infant. If the infant school project is postponed for 1 year, the junior school project would also need to be postponed from September 2015 to September 2016.
5. The planned capital project at the Fairisle Infant School was to be a new classroom ready for September 2012. As the 30 additional places that put on at the school remain unfilled, a capital project to add capacity at the school does not seem an appropriate use of capital funds. Officers suggest that this expansion project be postponed for 1 year in order to ensure that our capital funding is targeted at the areas/schools with the greatest need for additional capacity.
6. Wordsworth Infant is expanding from a 2 form of entry infant school to a 3 form of entry primary school from September 2012. The initial proposal was for the school to admit 90 children to year R from September 2012 and to allow these children to progress to year 3 in September 2015.
7. At present 60 children from Wordsworth Infant and 90 children from Shirley Infant generally compete for 120 places at Shirley Junior. This results in up to 30 children having to access key stage 2 places outside of the local area. The expansion of Wordsworth from an infant to a primary would add additional key stage places and relieve the pressure on key stage 2 places.
8. The capital project for the school is due for completion in September 2013, meaning that the school will have significant number of spare classrooms, which wouldn't be fully used until pupils work their way through Key Stage 2 year groups from September 2015. During the consultation on the building project it became apparent that there was parental demand for pupils to remain at the school and progress to year 3 in September 2013, if the teaching space was available. This is supported by the positive responses that the LA and school received as part of a consultation process (see Appendix 1).
9. The available accommodation and level of support for the alteration has encouraged both the school and LA to seek to bring forward the date as to when the existing school pupils will progress to year 3 September 2013.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:

10. The LA could have proceeded with the PAN increase and associated capital works at Fairisle Infant, although this would more than likely have led to the additional capacity being built at the school remaining empty. Given the current constraints on capital budgets, expenditure on this project, for the 2012/2013 academic was not considered as the best use of funds.

11. The admissions arrangements that were agreed in the original school organisation decision could remain in place (i.e. that the school would only admit year 3 pupils from September 2015). This was planned this way so that the increased Year R cohort from 2012 would be the first to access Year 3 places at Wordsworth. This arrangement could remain in place, however the completion of the capital project by September 2013 means that there will be a significant number of surplus classrooms available and there is also considerable interest from parents of current Wordsworth pupils for their children to remain at the school from 2013 onwards (see Appendix 1). If the arrangements remained in place, a significant capital asset would remain under utilised and it could be perceived that the LA were not satisfying parental demand.
12. The changes to the year 3 admissions arrangements would also serve to relieve the pressure on key stage 2 places in the West of the city and in Shirley in particular. Currently 3 classes from Shirley Infant and 2 from Wordsworth infant feed into 4 at Shirley Junior. This deficit of junior places often leaves children displaced from their community and peers. This situation would continue for a further 2 years if the admission arrangements were not altered, which would continue to put pressure on junior schools in the West of the city.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out):

13. Discussions took place between LA Officers and the headteacher at Fairisle Infant to explain the lower than expected number of applications for the school. The headteacher recognised the situation and agreed that building a classroom which not be filled would not be the best use of resources. A letter was also sent to the headteacher of Fairisle Junior School explaining that as the infant school project was being delayed by a year, the junior school project would also be delayed by a year from September 2015 to September 2016.
14. An email/letter setting out the alteration for Wordsworth was sent to the head teachers at the following neighbouring schools – Shirley Infant and Junior, Hollybrook Infant and Junior, Great Oaks, Foundry Lane Primary, St Mark's CE Primary, Shirley Warren Primary, Banister Infant School, Springhill Catholic Primary, Freemantle CE Academy, Tanners Brook Junior School and Fairisle Junior School.
15. Wordsworth Infant School carried out a consultation amongst existing parents at the school and prior to this a number of parents wrote to the LA stating their desire for year 3 places to be available at Wordsworth from September 2013. No objections to the proposed admission arrangements were submitted and all responses from parents indicated that they would like their children to remain at Wordsworth from 2013 if key stage 2 places were available. Copies of the letters sent to local head teachers and parents as well as responses to the consultation can be found in Appendix 1.
16. The schools governing body (who are also the admissions authority for the school) discussed and agreed to take forward the proposal at a meeting on 31 May 2012. The school is also a member of the Upper Shirley Learning Community Trust and the proposal was discussed at a Trust meeting on 14 May. The Trust expressed concerns as to how this would affect secondary school places. The headteacher of Shirley Junior (Wordsworth's neighbouring

key stage 2 school) confirmed that Wordsworth and Shirley Junior had had discussions about the proposal.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Capital/Revenue:

17. Capital

The capital budget for Primary Review Phase 2 was added to the Children's Services Capital Programme by Cabinet in March 2011 and April 2012.

18. There are no additional capital costs for the changes to implementation for these projects. The expansion of Fairisle Infant and Junior would be delayed by one year. The building works at Wordsworth would still be due for completion by September 2013.

19. Revenue

The revenue costs of all schools are met from the Individual Schools Budget funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant. The amount of Dedicated Schools Grant that the authority receives each year is based on the number of children in the city. If the city's overall numbers grow, this will result in an increase in the amount of grant received which can be passed onto schools via budget shares calculated using Southampton's Formula.

Property/Other:

20. The implication at Fairisle Infant and Junior would be that the planned capital projects would not be delivered in September 2012 for the infant and September 2015 for the junior. The expansion (and required buildings works) would not take place for another year.

21. The building works at Wordsworth are due for completion by September 2013 and this date will not alter as a result of this alteration. The alteration for the children to progress to year 3 in September 2013 is partially driven by the fact the project will be completed and the classroom space will be available, earlier than anticipated.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

22. The council had previously approved proposals to expand Fairisle Infant School from September 2012, Fairisle Junior School from September 2015 and for Wordsworth Infant School to allow its year 2 pupils to transfer to year 3 in September 2015. These decisions were made in accordance with the statutory processes contained in the School Standards and Frameworks Act 1998 (as amended by the Education & Inspections Act 2006). Proposals for change are required to follow the processes set out in the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) Regulations 2007.

23. In accordance with section 21 of the Act and the Regulations, such proposals, including any modifications required to the proposals prior to the implementation date, fall to be decided by the Council.

24. Proposals cannot be modified to such an extent that new proposals are substituted for those originally approved and for which statutory proposals would be required in their own right. It is considered that the proposal to amend the implementation dates fall within those permitted by the Regulations.

25. In reaching its decision Cabinet MUST have regard to the statutory guidance for decision makers set out in Appendix 2.

Other Legal Implications:

26. In bringing forward school organisation proposals the Local Authority must have regard to the need to consult the community and users, observe the rules of natural justice and the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998 (including article 2 of the First Protocol -right to education) and the Equalities Act 2010.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS:

27. The Primary Strategy for Change will contribute to the achievement of the outcomes set out in the City of Southampton’s Strategy, the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Plan and the Primary Vision, by providing improved buildings for primary pupils and communities in Southampton.
28. It will facilitate closer joint working between schools and thereby enable a range of strategic objectives to be met.
29. These proposals have been formulated in line with the Children and Young People Plan and will aid the achievement of the aims set out in the plan, largely by investing in new infrastructure and school buildings.

AUTHOR:	Name:	James Howells	Tel:	023 8091 7501
	E-mail:	james.howells@southampton.gov.uk		

KEY DECISION Yes

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	Coxford, Shirley
------------------------------------	------------------

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Non-confidential appendices are in the Members’ Rooms and can be accessed on-line

Appendices:

1.	Wordsworth Consultation Documents and Responses
2.	Decisions Maker Guidance for Expanding a Maintained Mainstream School by Enlargement or Adding a Sixth Form

Documents In Members’ Rooms:

1.	None
----	------

Integrated Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to be carried out.	No
--	----

Other Background Documents - None

Integrated Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
------------------------------	--