

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANGEMENT COMMITTEE
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	DETERMINING PROPOSALS TO ADD PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES THROUGHOUT SOUTHAMPTON
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	17 FEBRUARY 2011
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>	
None	

**SUMMARY**

Southampton faces a shortage of primary school places in the city over the next 5 years. This report sets out proposals to expand a number of primary schools in the city in response to this.

The proposals, scheduled to be discussed at Cabinet on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2011, are informed by statutory consultation with parents, schools, the local community and the local Roman Catholic and Church of England Dioceses and are in response to a continuing forecast rise in the primary school population, driven mainly by a rise in the number of births.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (i) That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee comments on the proposals to expand a number of primary schools in the city outlined in Appendix 1.

**REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. This report is in response to a request from the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

2. Pre-statutory consultation consulted on different options for expanding schools in the Millbrook area of the city from September 2012. The options were to increase Oakwood Infant and Oakwood Junior, Fairisle Infant and Fairisle Junior or Mansel Park Primary (this would have been in addition to this school expanding in September 2011). After considering responses to the consultation and re-evaluating internal and external space at these schools, it was decided that the proposal to expand Fairisle Infant and Fairisle Junior would be taken forward to statutory consultation along with all other proposals.

## DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3. The proposals, outlined in Appendix 1, have been formulated in response to the increase in the number of school places that will be required over the next 5-7 years. The proposals went through pre-statutory consultation in September and October 2010 and statutory consultation in January and February 2011. Statutory notices were displayed at all the schools involved, published in the Daily Echo and on the SCC website. They were also sent to headteachers, Chairs of Governors and key stakeholders. After considering the responses that were received the recommendations outlined in Appendix 1 have been proposed.
4. If all the expansion proposals were approved there would be a total of 3030 year R places in the city in September 2012. This would enable us to meet our statutory duty to provide every child in the city who wants one with a school place.

## RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

### Capital/Revenue

5. High level, indicative costs of the overall scheme are between £14 million and £15 million. Feasibility studies are underway for 2011 projects and are shortly to be commissioned for 2012 projects. Once complete, these will give a more accurate cost of the overall scheme. The projects, and thus the costs, will be phased in over a number years. Programmes of works and costs will also be reviewed on a regular basis.
6. The table below shows the capital funding available to fund Primary Review Phase 2.

<b>Funding</b>	<b>2011-12 Confirmed £000</b>	<b>2012-13 Estimated £000</b>	<b>2013-14 Estimated £000</b>	<b>Total</b>
DfE Basic Need	4,735.0	4,735.0	4,735.0	14,205.0
DfE Basic Need Safety Valve	690.0			690.0
Banister Infant Phase 1 budget (already in capital programme)	574.0			574.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,999.0</b>	<b>4,735.0</b>	<b>4,735.0</b>	<b>15,469.0</b>

7. No announcements have yet been made about Department for Education capital grant allocations for 2012-13 and beyond. However, it is anticipated that as future grant will be targeted at areas of need, that Southampton will receive similar allocations of Basic Need funding. The figures in the table above for 2012-13 and 2013-14 are therefore indicative, and if the grant is less than expected alternative sources of funding such as prudential borrowing may need to be substituted.

## **Property/Other**

8. The enlargement programmes will largely be achieved via reorganising internal space, new build and modular buildings. Some schools may require formerly 'redundant' classrooms which have been let to other agencies being taken back into school use. These groups will need to be re-housed into other suitable buildings. These issues will be covered in more detail in the report going to cabinet on 14 March 2011.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:**

9. Local Authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area, promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. Local Authorities must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in their area and promote diversity and parental preference.
10. Alterations, changes, creation or removal of primary provision across the city is subject to 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. In addition, statutory Guidance on bringing forward proposals applies, which requires a period of pre-statutory consultation followed by publication of statutory notices, representation periods and consideration of representations by Cabinet. Cabinet must determine proposals within 2 months of the close of the statutory representation periods.

### **Other Legal Implications:**

11. 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**

12. 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.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices**

1.	Primary Phase Review - Details of expansion proposals and high level cost estimates
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**Documents In Members' Rooms**

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**Background Documents**

Title of Background Paper(s)

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

	None.	
<b>KEY DECISION</b> Yes		<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b> All