

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET		
SUBJECT:	NEWLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL - RESOURCE BASE FOR CHILDREN WITH A HEARING IMPAIRMENT		
DATE OF DECISION:	15 DECEMBER 2020		
REPORT OF:	COUNCILLOR FIELKER CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT CARE		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

N/A

BRIEF SUMMARY

Southampton has a number of resource bases which are located within mainstream schools. These bases provide specialist teaching and support for pupils with specific special educational needs allowing them to be educated in a mainstream setting. All pupils who attend the resource base have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Tanners Brook Primary School currently hosts a resource base for 8 children with a hearing impairment. This base is due to be closed by the Academy Trust at the same time the proposed resource base at Newlands Primary School opens – September 2022.

A new purpose built resource base for 14 pupils is proposed at Newlands Primary School. We are seeking agreement to approve the statutory proposal as set out in appendices 3 and 4, together with agreement to spend the costs detailed within the Education Capital Programme, which was brought to Full Council in February 2020. The programme included the sum of £1.11M for the construction of this new resource base.

The agreed funding will be spread over 4 financial years.

20/21 £100,000

21/22 £550,000

22/23 £430,000

23/24 £29,000

The Property Division have undertaken a Feasibility Study on this proposal and two options have been considered for this building. The preferred option is to extend the Key Stage 1 wing of Newlands Primary School to provide this facility and approval is now sought to spend the allocated funds. It is intended to have the facility completed for Summer 2022.

RECOMMENDATIONS:											
	(i)	To approve the proposal as advertised in the statutory notice, without modification, subject to the granting of planning permission. For implementation from 1 September 2022.									
	(ii)	To approve the spend of £1.11M for this project.									
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS											
1.	Southampton, in recent years, has seen an increase in the number of pupils with complex needs relating to their hearing impairments. Whilst the needs of the majority of these pupils can be met in mainstream schools, a number require more specialist provision. In order to meet the needs of primary aged hearing impaired pupils, it is proposed to open a new purpose built resource base at Newlands Primary School to cater for pupils aged between 4 and 11. The total number of places available will not exceed 14, increasing the available number of places by 6.										
2.	The new resource base will be an extension of the current school. This will ensure that the pupils are fully included in all aspects of school life.										
3.	This proposal ensures that the Council can meet the needs of all hearing impaired pupils in the City by increasing the number of available places.										
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED											
4.	Decision makers can reject the proposal as advised.										
5.	A failure to invest in specialist provision locally would result in unnecessary out of county independent residential placements for these children. This would cost the LA up to £540,000 per pupil over the course of their education. Investment now produces a saving of up to £7.6M over the coming years. Additionally, children can be educated close to home giving them the best start in life. This links with the Council strategy.										
6.	Decision makers can approve the proposal with minor modification (such as start date).										
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)											
7.	From a general perspective, the numbers and complexity of children with special educational needs has been increasing year on year for the last 10 years and is predicted to continue to rise for the foreseeable future. This includes children and young people with a hearing impairment with an Education, Health and Care Plan.										
8.	The table below evidences the increase in the complexity of need in the City.										
	<i>Education, Health and Care Plans maintained by Southampton City Council 2010-2020</i>										
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	567	593	634	655	701	803	1021	1181	1387	1522	1736
	<i>Source: DfE SEN 2 Return</i>										
9.	The Local Authority must ensure that good quality school places can be provided quickly where they are needed and that additional new places will only										

	be provided at schools that have an overall Ofsted rating of 'good' or 'outstanding'.
10.	The Education Act 1996 requires that Local Authorities secure diversity in the provision of schools and increase opportunities for parental choice.
11.	The establishment of a resource base at Newlands Primary School, and the subsequent increase in available places will ensure that children in Southampton with complex needs relating to their hearing impairment continue to have access to a high quality education and provide parents with a choice of schools within the City. Newlands Primary School was judged to be 'Good' at its last Ofsted inspection.
12.	The proposal is to establish a resource base at Newlands Primary School is not believed cause any detrimental effect to any of the pupils or staff within the school.
13.	This proposal will ensure that children with a hearing impairment: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are admitted to their parents preferred school • Have access to a suitable educational environment • Have access to a Teacher of the Deaf and specialist trained staff in communication • Are treated equitably in relation to children with similar needs • Can have their needs met locally avoiding the need for children to spend unnecessary time travelling to an alternative school further away.
14.	It is proposed that the new resource base will be an extension of the current school. This will ensure that the pupils are fully included in all aspects of school life.
15.	This proposal ensures that the Council can meet the needs of all hearing impaired pupils in the City by increasing the number of available places.
16.	This proposal is aligned to a wider strategy of expansion and reconfiguration of specialist provision across the city and is supported by the school senior leadership and governors.
17.	Newlands Primary School is approximately 1 mile from the current resource base at Tanners Brook Primary School therefore, this proposal does not unreasonably extend journey times for children or increase transport costs. The LA's duty to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport to school is not affected.
18.	A full statutory consultation has been carried out by the Council which included face to face engagement with the parents of pupils with hearing impairments, a consultation letter issued to interested parties and publication of this in the school, and on Council and school websites. During engagement events, parents had the opportunity to raise questions and comments for officer response. At those events, parents were interested in discussing the options available to them and their children in relation to the practicalities of moving school. They queried the availability of home to school transport. At the time of consultation, all affected children were eligible for home to school transport funded by the local authority. This posed no change to the current transport status for these children. The response to the proposals at engagement events was overwhelmingly positive. There were no written responses to the consultation. See detail in appendices 1 and 2.

19.	Full Council (February 2020) approved the sum of £1.11M to be added to the Education Capital Programme for 2020/21. Since then Property Division has undertaken a feasibility study to determine what options would be appropriate for the base.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
20.	Funding to come from allocation to Education Capital Programme as agreed at Full Council in February 2020.
21.	We are currently exploring the option of having a low specification modular for Newlands Primary school to use in the interim. The space would be for small group intervention work and a staff office. If we decide to proceed with this it will be funded from the DSG high needs revenue budget and has no impact on the funding of this capital scheme.
22.	There are no additional revenue implications to running the resource base because the pupils will bring funding with them from their existing school places. Additionally, this provision will assist in long term savings to the High Needs Block, as it will eliminate the need for costly out of county independent placements for this specific cohort of pupils.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
23.	This proposal will free up physical space at Tanners Brook Primary School who currently host a similar provision for pupils with a hearing impairment. This provision will be closed by the Academy Trust at the same time as the opening of the base at Newlands Primary School.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
24.	A Governing Body or LA must have regard to statutory guidance when exercising functions under The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 ('the Prescribed Alterations Regulations'). It should be read in conjunction with Parts 2 and 3 and Schedule 3 of the Education and Inspections Act (EIA) 2006 and the Prescribed Alterations Regulations. It also relates to the Establishment and Discontinuance Regulations and The School Organisation (Removal of Foundation, Reduction in the Number of Foundation Governors and Ability of Foundation to Pay Debts) (England) Regulations (2007)('the 'Removal Regulations'). It is the responsibility of LAs and GBs to ensure that they act in accordance with the relevant legislation when making changes to a maintained school.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
25.	Special educational needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0-25 Years The Code of Practice provides statutory guidance on duties, policies and procedures relating to Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and associated regulations and applies to England. It is relevant as all pupils who attend a resource base have an Education, Health and Care Plan which states the provision required to meet their needs.
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	

26.	The proposals may cause low to moderate level stakeholder concern. The formal consultation has provided the opportunity for these concerns to be raised and considered.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
27.	The provision of this resource base is consistent with the Council's policies and strategies.

KEY DECISION?	Yes
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Statutory Notice of Prescribed Alterations to Newlands Primary School
2.	Prescribed Alterations Proposal Newlands Primary School 2020 Full Consultation Document
3.	Equality Impact Assessment

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None.
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	Yes
Data Protection Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.	No
Other Background Documents	
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)
1.	
2.	