

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker	Executive Member for Education and Skills, Human Resources and Performance
Date:	27 March 2019
Title:	Prospect School – Capacity increase
Report From:	Director of Children’s Services

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Recommendation

1. That the Executive Member for Education and Skills, Human Resources and Performance approves that public notices be published, in accordance with Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, notifying of the approval to make prescribed alterations to PROSPECT SCHOOL, Freeley Road, Havant, Hampshire, **P09 4AQ** (category of schools – Special) by increasing the capacity of the school, with effect from 1 September 2019.

Executive Summary

2. The purpose of this paper is to report on the outcome of the formal public consultation regarding the proposal to increase the capacity of Prospect School by 18 places for pupils with complex social, emotional and mental health difficulties. This paper sets out the background to the consultation, discusses the responses and recommends that Public Notices be published to make this prescribed alteration.

Contextual information

3. Prospect School is currently a 62 place special school for 11-16 year old boys with social, emotional and mental health difficulties. The County Council is proposing to increase the capacity of the school by adding an additional 18 places. This will give a final overall capacity of 80 places at Prospect School.
4. Hampshire County Council is committed to expanding successful provision where possible to meet demand. Currently there is an increased need to provide support for boys with social, emotional and mental health difficulties in

this area of the county. This proposal will provide much needed specialist educational capacity to meet this increased need.

Finance

5. The capital cost of this project, £800,000, was included in the Children's Services Capital Programme report approved by Executive Lead Member for Children's Services on 17 January 2019. This funding provides 3 new classrooms, new administrative areas, 3 parking spaces and associated IT and equipment.

Consultation and Equalities

6. A formal consultation took place between 4 February and 4 March 2019. A letter was sent to consultees as detailed below and a consultation meeting was held at Prospect School on 25 February 2019. The proposal was also included on the County Council's consultation website.
7. A total of 8 written comments were received. 3 Objections, 3 responses expressing concerns, and 2 comments in support of the proposal. The key issues raised by consultees can be summarised as follows;
 - Staff parking – two comments highlighted insufficient parking as an issue. Additional on-site staff parking bays are being included supporting this project and hope to be implemented in 2019/20 academic year. It is appreciated that some staff do park on the surrounding roads which are public highway without parking restrictions. However the Headteacher is keen to work with local residents if there any recurring problems.
 - Antisocial behaviour of pupils – climbing of boundary fences was highlighted. The Council will be increasing the height and improving the strength of the fence at one boundary to avoid pupils scaling it and reduce noise to the nearby housing. The headteacher has also restructured the organisation of staff during break and lunchtimes to ensure that key areas within the grounds have a higher staffing level. The increased number of places at the school will allow the staff numbers also to be increased and thereby have more staff on duty at lunch and breaktimes
 - Antisocial behaviour of pupils outside of school grounds - smoking, swearing and numbers of boys outside the school premises was highlighted. The Leadership Team and Governors of the School are committed to improving and managing behaviour of pupils, both on-site and off-site. The Headteacher has made recent changes in the structure of the school day so that the number of students now able to go off-site during school hours has been cut by 75%. Smoking is not permitted within the school or within 50m of the school boundary. The Headteacher is keen to work in partnership with the local community and welcomes their direct contact to explore any further issues.

Conclusions

8. It is recommended that approval be given to the publication of a public notice for the increased capacity at Prospect School under Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Further representation can be made during this process and reported back to Executive Member following the end of the notice period if objections received.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Strategic Plan**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	Yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

DocumentLocation

None

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

1.1 The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2 Equalities Impact Assessment:

Equality and diversity objectives are not considered to be adversely affected by the proposals of this report.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. Crime and disorder objectives are not considered to be adversely affected by the proposals of this report.

3. Climate Change:

How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

There is no negative impact on carbon footprint /energy consumption.

How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

Not applicable