

CABINET

15th October 2003

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S DRAFT SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2003/04 – 2007/08

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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RECENT REFERENCES:

None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report outlines the main implications of Hampshire County Council's School Organisation Plan for Winchester District. The implications relate to the provision of school places in the new development areas within the District. This is also considered in the Winchester District Local Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 That Winchester City Council submit a comment on the School Organisation Plan, urging Hampshire County Council to ensure primary school provision at the west of Waterlooville Major Development Area at the earliest possible stage of development.
- 2 That Winchester City Council also submit a comment asking Hampshire County Council to ensure that there will be adequate provision for school places in Whiteley.
- 3 That there is an ongoing liaison between Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council about the need for school places as the number of completed housing developments in the district increase.

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DETAIL:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires each Local Education Authority (LEA) to prepare a School Organisation Plan, showing how it intends to match supply and demand for school places. This is to cover a five-year period. The LEA covering Winchester District is Hampshire County Council.
- 1.2 Any person may submit an objection to the Plan, and a copy was forwarded to Winchester City Council for comments. Any objections must be received by 16th October 2003. This report outlines the main issues which will affect Winchester District, and makes recommendations for the comments to be made to Hampshire County Council.
- 1.3 The School Organisation Plan sets out Hampshire County Council's policies guiding decisions on school organisation. These partly attempt to maintain a balance between the number of school places available and the number of pupils for whom they are required. The County Council can then use this document to strategically plan for these numbers to go up or down.

2 Implications for Winchester District

2.1 Background Policy

- 2.1.1 The principle impact that the School Organisation Plan may have on Winchester District is the provision of school places for new housing developments.
- 2.1.2 Where additional schools or school places are required as a consequence of development, the cost falls on the landowner and/or developers as far as possible. This would be by way of contributions, falling within the concept of "planning obligations".
- 2.1.3 Any new school sites required should be provided, free of charge, by developers. A financial contribution should also be made towards the cost of school accommodation. These contributions should be sought through Winchester City Council's development control process.
- 2.1.4 This proposed process of collecting contributions through the development control process is being considered and discussed with Hampshire County Council, and will be the subject of a further report from Forward Planning.
- 2.1.5 These contributions will be sought from all developments of ten or more dwellings where:

- there is a shortfall in school place capacity, or
- there are significant issues which restrict the ability of existing schools to absorb the additional pupils.

2.2 Provision of school places at development areas

- 2.2.1 Winchester District currently has one Major Development Area MDA, west of Waterlooville. There is also a reserve MDA identified at North Winchester.
- 2.2.2 At the West of Waterlooville MDA, the School Organisation Plan predicts that initially there will be some scope for existing schools to cater for the need for school places. Eventually, though, the development of 1000 new houses will generate the need for one new primary school. If the development extended to 3000 houses, then a second primary school would be needed.
- 2.2.2 The development will also generate a demand for secondary school places. However, this will not be enough to need a new secondary school. Appropriate improvements are to be made to existing secondary schools in the area to accommodate the new pupils. This will impact secondary schools in the Havant area.
- 2.2.3 A similar situation is predicted at the reserve MDA North of Winchester. A new primary school would be required at the site, whereas improvements would be made to local secondary schools to meet the need for places.
- 2.2.4 Points 2.2.2 – 2.2.3 above are set out in the Winchester District Local Plan.
- 2.2.5 It is noted in the School Organisation Plan that other developments in the District outside the MDA (including development at Knowle, Denmead and Whiteley) will be served by existing schools. Additional places are being created at Wickham Primary School to cater for the development at Knowle. Additional places will also be created at Perins Secondary (89) and Droxford Junior (22) in 2004/05.

2.3 Shortfall in school places

- 2.3.1 The School Organisation Plan indicates that there is a small shortfall in secondary school places in the Winchester/Alresford area. At the moment this is made up by Kings School which allows more pupils than their current capacity. Proposals are being brought forward by Hampshire County Council to increase the accommodation at this school. This will be in the context of agreed limits on the total number of pupils in the future.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

3 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

- 3.1 The proposals accord with the Council's vision to *work with partners to ensure that services are provided in ways that best meet the needs of the residents, both now and in the future.*

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 There are no resource implications for the Council as if additional school places are needed as a consequence of developments, the cost should fall as far as possible on the landowner and/or the developer.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Hampshire County Council's Draft School Organisation Plan 2003/04 – 2007/08

APPENDICES:

None