



SPRINGFIELD PRIMARY – PROPOSAL TO ADD ENHANCED RESOURCE PROVISION

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Nationally, the number of children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is increasing and provision within Derby is full. Council Cabinet, at its meeting on 10 September 2010, approved £1.3 million capital funding to provide additional accommodation and facilities for a primary phase enhanced resources unit for ASD pupils.
- 1.2 Following Cabinet Member approval, consultation has now taken place on a proposal to provide 12 enhanced resource places for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Springfield Primary School, Spondon. Consultation on the proposal took place over an eight week period from 12 December 2011 to 6 February 2012, with consultation papers circulated to key stakeholders and interested parties. A summary of responses received is set out in Appendix 2 of this report and a copy of the consultation document is attached as Appendix 3.
- 1.2 Due to the majority of support shown in the consultation responses, and given the need for additional enhanced resource provision for pupils with ASD, this report recommends that Council Cabinet gives approval to move to the next stage of the consultation process, which involves the publication of a statutory notice and a further six week representation period.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve the publication of a statutory notice on the proposal to add enhanced resource provision for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder to Springfield Primary School from September 2013.
- 2.2 To delegate authority to determine the proposal to the Strategic Director of Children & Young People, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Children and Young People, if no objections are received and, if objections are received, to bring a further report to Council Cabinet for a decision.
- 2.3 To approve commencement of the capital scheme to provide additional accommodation at the school, subject to the approval of the proposal.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 This proposal is part of a longer term strategy to increase ASD provision within Derby thus reducing the need to place children at independent schools. The provision is funded through enhanced resource school funding and can typically be delivered from £8,000 to £19,000 per annum per full time placement, this represents very good value for money.
- 3.2 From the consultation responses, there has been a majority of support for the proposal. Of a total of 8 respondents, 6 (75%) expressed support for the proposed merger. A breakdown of consultation responses is set out in Appendix 2 of this report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Consultation has taken place on a proposal to provide 12 enhanced resource places for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Springfield Primary School. The proposal is for the school to have a purpose built support area linked closely to the mainstream school from September 2013. The facility will be staffed by professionals who have experience in offering personalised learning for pupils who may otherwise experience difficulties in the mainstream environment. This report seeks Council Cabinet approval to move to the next stage of the process which includes the publication of a statutory notice on the proposal.
- 4.2 The school will remain as a mainstream community school and there are no proposals to change the school's admission number or catchment area. If the proposal goes ahead, we would work closely with the school to provide extra accommodation and minimise any disruption that could be caused by the building work.
- 4.3 The proposal is for the enhanced resource facilities to open in September 2013. Initially, three pupils with ASD will be placed at the school. Each year, an additional three pupils with ASD will be offered a place until, gradually, all 12 places have been taken up. When placements are made, careful consideration will be given to the number of pupils with ASD within each year group of the school.
- 4.4 The consultation period on the proposal began on 12 December 2011 and ran for an eight-week period up until 6 February 2012. Appendix 2 sets out a detailed analysis of consultation responses. Of a total of 8 respondents, 6 (75%) expressed support for the proposed merger. Given that the number of children and young people with ASD is increasing and the outcome of the consultation, the recommendation is that the proposal to add enhanced resource provision to Springfield Primary should proceed to the next stage of the consultation process which includes the publication of a statutory notice.
- 4.5 The Headteacher, Governing Body and Staff of Springfield Primary School support the proposal to provide enhanced resource provision for pupils with ASD at the school.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Expressions of interest were invited from all primary phase schools on the proposal to provide enhanced resource places for pupils with ASD. In considering the most appropriate location for the provision other schools were looked at, but due to site constraints and the availability of funding, Springfield Primary was considered to be the best option for the provision.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Robin Constable, Solicitor Alison Parkin, Acting Head of Finance, Children and Young People's Dept. Liz Moore, Strategic HR Business Partner
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Gurmail Nizzer, Head of School Organisation and Provision, tel. 01332 642720, email Gurmail.nizzer@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implication Appendix 2 – Summary of consultation responses Appendix 3 – Consultation Document

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 Council Cabinet, at its meeting on 10 September 2010, approved £1.3 million capital funding to provide additional accommodation and facilities for a primary phase enhanced resources unit for ASD pupils. The cost of building the additional ASD provision will be met from savings from reducing the number of out of authority placements. This capital investment has been secured through additional borrowing and will be repaid from the Dedicated Schools Grant. Schools Forum has already approved this.
- 1.2 The school would be provided with the additional funding needed to staff and resource the unit through the schools formula budget allocations funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant.
- 1.3 This is part of a longer term strategy to enhance internal provision thus reducing the need to place children at independent schools. Internal provision is provided through enhanced resource School funding and can typically be delivered from £8,000 to £19,000 per annum per full time placement. Derby has been very successful in containing pressures on these types of budgets despite the pressure increasing nationally.

Legal

- 2.1 Under The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007, statutory consultation is required for any proposal that seeks to add special educational needs provision to a mainstream school. The process involves consultation, publication of a statutory notice and consideration of the responses received. Subject to the outcome of this process, the implementation date is likely to be September 2013 to tie in with likely construction timescales.

Personnel

- 3.1 School budgets are largely based on pupil numbers. Therefore, if enhanced resource places are added to Springfield Primary, the additional pupil numbers will result in increased revenue funding for the school to employ the additional specialist teaching staff required.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 None for consideration.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None for consideration.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 Work will be planned to meet relevant building regulations. Part L of the building regulations generally requires new components to be more environmentally friendly and efficient.

Asset Management

- 7.1 The proposal is to expand a community school. Derby City Council's asset management responsibilities in respect of community schools will continue in respect Springfield Primary School if the expansion takes place.

Risk Management

- 8.1 For capital programme schemes, risks are identified throughout the project and measures put in place to mitigate these as far as possible.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 All people in Derby will enjoy achieving their learning potential

Proposal to add enhanced resource places to Springfield Primary School Summary of consultation responses

The table below sets out a summary of consultation responses:

Type of Respondent*	Number of Responses	'Yes I agree with the proposal'	'No I don't agree with the proposal'	I am undecided about the proposal
Parent	3	2	1	0
Governor / Governing Body	1	1	0	0
Headteacher	1	1	0	0
Staff	1	1	0	0
Other school	2	1	1	0
Total	8	6	2	0

**Please note that a formal response was received in support of the proposal from the Headteacher, Staff and Governing Body of Springfield Primary School. This has been shown as three responses in the above table but indicated that all at the school fully support the proposal.*

Overall, **75%** of respondents were in favour of the proposal.

The key comments made in relation to the merger can be summarised as follows:

The following points were raised in support of the proposal:

- ♦ An enhanced resource for students with ASD would be very positive for students and the school.
- ♦ Support was expressed for the school in relation to providing this type of provision.

The following issues of concern were raised:

Comment	Local Authority Response
The shortage of places for children with ASD appears to be for children with more complex and more challenging needs.	The LA data indicates that there is a rise in the number of children and young people with ASD across the spectrum of ASD as demonstrated by School Census data. In 2010, there was a 3.3% rise in the percentage of pupils with a statement of SEN or at School Action Plus by their primary type of need with ASD in Derby.
It is unclear how money can be saved for the new building when the children with more complex needs would continue to need more specialist provision.	The cost of the building will be met by savings from reducing the number of out of authority placements. This will take time as the ER numbers are built up over four years.
During the Early Years and KS1, children continue to be assessed to inform decisions about their	It is important that there is clarity about the function of all the current provision and the proposed new provision.

placement. Might the pupils with ASD that are placed at Springfield Primary need to be moved to another school with more specialist provision? This could impact on that school and create pressure on pupil numbers.	We want to avoid changes of placement as far as possible as they cause distress to children, families and staff.
If the new provision was to be parallel to that of other schools, then savings could be made by reducing transport costs, as the schools could serve the different areas of the city. Schools would embrace the opportunity to work together on parallel provision.	<p>This suggestion could result in transport savings, noting that parental choice would still need to be taken into consideration.</p> <p>If the proposal to add enhanced resource provision to Springfield Primary receives approval there will be opportunities to share good practice.</p>

Appendix 3



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Consultation Document
Monday, 12 December 2011

Please give us your views and comments on our proposal to provide Enhanced Resource places for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Springfield Primary School

Proposal

1. Derby City Council is consulting on a proposal to provide 12 enhanced resource places for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Springfield Primary School, Spondon. The reason for the proposal is to meet an increase in demand for places for pupils with ASD.
2. The proposal is for the school to have a purpose built support area linked closely to the main school from September 2013. The facility will be staffed by professionals who have experience in offering personalised learning for students who may have otherwise experienced difficulties in a mainstream school environment.
3. The school will remain as a mainstream community school and there are no proposals to change the school's admission number or catchment area. If the proposal goes ahead, we would work closely with the school to provide extra accommodation and minimise any disruption that could be caused by the building work.
4. This consultation document tells you the reason for our proposal and how the decision making process works. Please take time to read the document and let us know your views and comments on the attached Consultation Response Form. The closing date for responses is **Monday, 6 February 2012**. We hope you find the document helpful and informative.

Enhanced Resource Places

5. Enhanced resource places are places at mainstream schools for pupils with specific special educational requirements. The proposal is to add 12 enhanced resource places to Springfield Primary School for pupils with ASD. The school will remain as

a mainstream community school but there will be additional facilities and support for up to 12 children with ASD to allow them to attend a mainstream school.

6. The proposal is for the enhanced resource facilities to open in September 2013. Initially, three pupils with ASD will be placed at the school. Each year, an additional three pupils with ASD will be offered a place until, gradually, all 12 places have been taken up. When placements are made, careful consideration will be given to the number of pupils with ASD within each year group of the school.
7. In assessing the need for enhanced resource places at mainstream schools, the Council has considered how future demand for places can be met and how this provision can meet the needs of all learners. The Council believes that all pupils should have access to a broad and balanced curriculum within a learning environment in which they can be healthy and stay safe.
8. The Council proposes that the enhanced resources unit at Springfield Primary School would form part of a range of alternative provision for ASD pupils across the City:
 - Pupils with mild ASD could be accommodated within any mainstream school,
 - Pupils needing a little more support could be offered a place within the enhanced resources provision at Springfield Primary School,
 - Pupils requiring more specialist ASD support could be offered places within Enhanced resources provision at Brackensdale Infant or Junior School, or if appropriate, within a Special School.
9. Nationally the numbers of children and young people with ASD is increasing and all our provision in Derby is full. We are therefore struggling to offer places for children within the city. This can result in parental requests for placements out of the city which are often more costly.
10. The cost of building the additional ASD provision will be met from savings from reducing the number of out of authority placements. The school would be provided with the additional funding needed to staff and resource the unit.

View of the Headteacher and Governors

11. The Headteacher and Governing Body of Springfield Primary School support the proposal to provide enhanced resource provision for pupils with ASD at the school.

Contact information

12. We are very interested in your views and welcome your comments. Please respond to us by using the response sheet attached to this paper.

Should you wish to discuss any specific aspects of this proposal, please contact:

Angela Cole, Head of Inclusion and Intervention,

Children and Young People's Department,
Derby City Council,
Tel 01332 256753
E-mail: angela.cole@derby.gov.uk

Timescale / Next steps

13. The consultation period for responses will end on **Monday, 6 February 2012**. The outcome of this consultation will be reported to Council Cabinet for consideration and a decision will then be made as to whether or not we should progress the proposal to the next stage. If proposals are to be taken forward a formal public notice would be published with a further six-week statutory consultation period as required under Government legislation.
14. In order to meet the required deadline for opening the unit in September 2013, the Council may need to submit a planning application before the above consultation process has been completed. This should not prejudice the outcome of the consultation or the decision making process. Any comments on the appearance of the proposed unit can be made separately through the planning application process.

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

We are very interested in your views and comments on this proposal. Please use this form to let us have your views. (Please use extra sheets if you wish).

Do you support the Council's proposal to provide enhanced resource places for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Springfield Primary School?

I support the proposal. ☐

I don't support the proposal. ☐

I'm undecided about the proposal. ☐

Please give us any comments here

Date.....

Status.....

(For example, a parent, governor, school, agency, other)

Please return your completed form to: Hayley Millward, Children and Young People's Directorate, Middleton House, 27 St Mary's Gate, Derby DE1 3NN
Email: hayley.millward@derby.gov.uk

All responses will be treated confidentially.

The closing date for getting your views and comments in is: **Monday, 6 February 2012**

Continuation Sheet...