

Cabinet report



10 September 2019

Proposal to expand Hanslope Primary School

Name of Cabinet Member	Councillor Nolan Cabinet member for Children and Families
Report sponsor	Mac Heath Director of Children's Services
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Exempt / confidential / not for publication	No
Council Plan reference	5.6
Wards affected	Newport Pagnell North and Hanslope Ward

Executive summary

In order to make significant changes to a maintained school the council must follow a four stage process prescribed by law:

- 1) Publish a statutory proposal
- 2) Formal consultation (four weeks)
- 3) Decision
- 4) Implementation (if appropriate)

Before commencing this statutory process the law provides that there is a strong expectation on schools and the council to carry out an early consultation exercise with interested parties about the principle of the proposal. From 4 March 2019 to 12 May 2019 an early consultation in relation to the proposal to expand Hanslope Primary School was undertaken. The expansion would increase the number of pupil places available at the

school from September 2021, in order to meet a projected increase in demand from new housing. There has been a significant majority of support for the proposal put forward to expand the number of places available at the school.

The principle of the proposal was whether, from an education perspective, the expansion of Hanslope Primary School was the appropriate means by which to provide additional school places in this area of Milton Keynes. The school has sufficient space on site to expand and was last judged by Ofsted as 'Outstanding' in 2016.

1. Decision/s to be made

That the option to expand provision at Hanslope Primary School, conditional upon the grant of planning permission under Part 3 of the Town and County Planning Act 1990, be approved.

2. Why is the decision needed?

2.1 Hanslope Primary School is a 270 place community primary school located in the village of Hanslope. The published admission number of the school is 30 from Year R to Year 2 and 45 for Year 3 to Year 6. The catchment area of the school for Year R to Year 2 is Hanslope Parish (except Milford Leys, Lincoln Lodge, Bullington End and Leamington Farm) and from Year 3 to Year 6 the catchment area includes Castlethorpe Parish. The school is a popular choice for parents and was last judged by Ofsted as 'outstanding' in 2016.

2.2 Outline planning permission was recently approved for up to 150 dwellings on Castlethorpe Road, Hanslope and a further 141 dwellings off Long Street Road. It is anticipated that this size of development would generate between 15 and 20 pupils per year group.

2.3 The council has secured a parcel of land adjacent to the school's playing field that would be suitable for an expansion of the school. Because Hanslope Primary School is a long established and successful school situated in the area of new housing, the council has been in discussions with the Governing Body to consider expansion so that the number of places available at the school could grow in line with the proposed housing developments.

2.4 An informal consultation on this proposal was carried out from 4 March 2019 to 12 May 2019, a period of ten weeks. Notification of the consultation was sent to a range of stakeholders and the consultation was available online in order to give stakeholders the opportunity to submit their views. Of the 13 responses received, 92% of respondents agreed with the proposal to expand Hanslope Primary School (Annex C).

2.5 Following a delegated decision (Annex D) on 18 June 2019, a formal statutory consultation took place from 4 July 2019 and 1 August 2019, a notice (Annex A) was published in the press and the consultation, including a detailed proposal document (Annex B), was published on the council website and was distributed to stakeholders

including school staff, parents, governors, other local schools, council staff; trade unions and diocesan/faith boards, local MPs, Ward Councillors, and Hanslope Parish Council.

2.6 There were no representations made during the statutory consultation period.

3. Implications of the decision

DfE guidance states that when issuing a decision, the decision-maker can:

1. Reject the proposal
2. Approve the proposal with modifications, having consulted the appropriate body.
3. Approve the proposal without modification subject to planning permission. **This is the recommended option.**

Option 1 – Reject the proposal

Milton Keynes Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure that there are sufficient school places to meet the needs of our population and ensure that our education functions are exercised with a view to promoting high standards; ensuring fair access to opportunity for education and learning, and promote the fulfilment of learning potential. If Hanslope Primary School is not expanded, families moving into the new development areas of Hanslope will not be able to access a local school place and pupils would need to be transported to schools elsewhere across the borough, disrupting families and potentially challenging the developing cohesion of the new community. As Hanslope Primary School is in a village location, pupils unable to secure a place there may be eligible for home to school transport; this would impact on the council’s home to school transport budget.

Option 2 – Approve the proposal with modifications

None of the responses to the early consultation request or indicate that a modification to the proposal is required.

Option 3 – Approve the proposal without modification subject to planning permission

As desired by the significant majority of respondents, that Hanslope Primary School be expanded by 30 places per year group implemented in stages with effect from admissions into Year R (Reception) in September 2021, conditional upon the grant of planning permission under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The current Year 3 intake of 15 pupils would continue. This is the recommended option.

Financial	Yes	Human rights, equalities, diversity	No
Legal	Yes	Policies or Council Plan	Yes
Communication	No	Procurement	No
Energy Efficiency	No	Workforce	No

a) Financial implications

Capital - The total cost for providing the additional accommodation is expected to be £4.1m and would be funded by a combination of Section 106 funding from the developer and Basic Need funding. The capital funding will be confirmed on 13 September 2019.

Revenue - Schools funding is part of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and therefore the proposed expansion of the school does not directly impact on the council's General Fund.

b) Legal implications

The representation period for the statutory consultation expired on 1 August 2019. The council has two months from this date to determine whether the change should proceed.

c) Other implications

Policy - Ensuring sufficient primary school places within the education system is fundamental to delivering the council's vision that residents have access to all the services they need and have the support to access opportunities and enjoy a healthy and good quality of life.

4. Alternatives

Other alternatives have been considered throughout this process; see Option 1 and Option 2 above.

5. Timetable for implementation

- Planning application resolved - October 2019 – January 2020
- Capital build - January 2020 – August 2021
- Expansion complete - September 2021

List of annexes

Annex A – [Statutory Notice](#)

Annex B – [Complete Proposal](#)

Annex C – [Summary of the responses to the informal consultation](#)

Annex D – [Delegated Decision 18 June 2019 following information consultation](#)

Annex E – Consideration of DfE guidance