

Swindon Borough Council

Cabinet Panel on School Organisation

Thursday, 15 March 2018

Committee Room 1, Civic Offices

At 6.00 p.m.

Conservative Councillors

David Renard
Russell Holland
Oliver Donachie
Toby Elliott
Fionuala Foley
Brian Ford
Mary Martin
Cathy Martyn
Garry Perkins
Keith Williams

Committee Officer: Steve Jones, 463602, stevejones@swindon.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council can be contacted at the Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH (Telephone 01793 463000)

AGENDA

- 1. Appointment of Chair**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Declarations of Interest**
Members are reminded that at the start of the meeting they should declare any known interests in any matter to be considered, and also during the meeting if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed.
- 4. Minutes** (Pages 5 - 10)
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2017.
- 5. Public Question Time**
See explanatory note below. Please phone the Committee Officer whose name and number appears at the top of this agenda if you need further guidance.
- 6. Proposal to Increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Brimble Hill Primary Special School from 77 to 85 from September 2018** (CM:FF)
(Pages 11 - 26)

Date of Despatch: 07 March 2018

Key:**Officers:**

HE - Head of Education

Wards

None

Cabinet Members Responsible for the Service Area concerned:

DR	-	David Renard	Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet
RH	-	Russell Holland	Deputy Leader of the Council, Vice-Chair of Cabinet, Cabinet Member for Finance and Commercialisation
OD		Oliver Donachie	Cabinet Member for the Economy and Skills
TE	-	Toby Elliott	Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability
FF	-	Fionuala Foley	Cabinet Member for Children's Services and School Attainment
BF	-	Brian Ford	Cabinet Member for Adults' Health and Social Care
MM	-	Mary Martin	Cabinet Member for Communities and Place
CM	-	Cathy Martyn	Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety
GP	-	Garry Perkins	Cabinet Member for Regeneration
KW		Keith Williams	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Digitalisation

Role / Terms of Reference - *The Cabinet Panel on School Organisation (a Sub-Committee of Cabinet) was established by Cabinet in June 2007 to deal with issues of School Organisation. This followed changes in legislation that led to School Organisation Committees being abolished.*

The Panel comprises of any 5 members of Cabinet for each meeting, will consider the outcomes of consultation across a range of school organisation issues such as school expansions, closures and opening of new schools subject to "competition regulations".

Public Question Time - Swindon Borough Council remains committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters, and matters relating to planning and licensing applications). We will give priority to those who submit questions in writing at least two days before the meeting. Questions must be relevant, clear, and concise. You may not use Public Question Time as an opportunity to make speeches or statements.

Questions in writing should be sent to the Committee Officer whose contact details appear on the agenda above or to the Director of Law and Democratic Services, we will publish it, along with the answer, alongside the Minutes. The process associated with asking a public question is set out in the "Public Question Time at Council Meetings Protocol and Guidance" available on the Council's Website.

(<http://ww5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13338&path=0>) or from the Committee Officer named above.

Access Arrangements - *The venue is wheelchair accessible and an infrared receiver hearing system is provided. If you would wish to attend the meeting but*

have any special requirement to enable you to do so please contact the Committee Officer, whose name appears at the top of this agenda, as soon as possible prior to the date of the meeting.

If you would like to receive any of the pages contained in this agenda in a larger print size please contact the Committee Officer whose name appears on the first page of this agenda.

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CABINET PANEL ON SCHOOL ORGANISATION

WEDNESDAY, 14 JUNE 2017

PRESENT:- Councillors David Renard, Russell Holland, Oliver Donachie, Toby Elliott, Fionuala Foley and Garry Perkins

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mary Martin

1. Appointment of Chair

Resolved – That Councillor David Renard be chair for this meeting of the Panel.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting.

3. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2017 be confirmed as a correct record.

4. Public Question Time

Written responses to questions submitted in advance were tabled at the meeting and it was noted that responses had been emailed to the questioners. There were no further questions asked at the meeting.

5. Proposal to Lower the Age Range at Westrop Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years from September 2017

Councillor Fionuala Foley, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and School Attainment, and the Head of Education, submitted a joint report seeking the Cabinet Panel's agreement to lowering the age range at Westrop Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years in order to create a maintained nursery from September 2017. The report set out the results of the consultation process held in early 2017 on the proposal to lower the age range and captured the responses received by the local community. It was noted that the report was necessary to enable the Local Authority to notify the Department of Education of change in age range at Westrop Primary School.

Councillor Foley introduced the report, summarising the background to the proposal and also explaining to the Panel the detail of the response to the consultation on the proposal.

In reaching its decision, the Cabinet Panel confirmed that it -

- had carefully considered the joint report and the representations made at the meeting by Council Officers along with the representations made at public question time.

- was satisfied that
 - it had the necessary information in order to make the decision referred to above,
 - the Statutory Notice complied with the statutory requirements,
 - the statutory consultation was carried out properly prior to the publication of the Notice, and
 - the Notice did not relate to any other published proposal.
- had carefully considered the factors to be considered by the decision makers, as set out in the statutory guidance from the Department for Education in April 2016, “Making ‘prescribed alterations’ to maintained schools”.

The Cabinet Panel’s decision was to approve the proposals as set out in the statutory notice to:

1. lower the age range of Westrop Primary School to include 2, 3 and 4 year olds to create a maintained nursery provision opening in September 2017.

The reasons for the decision are as follows:

Education standards and diversity of provision

The Cabinet Panel believed that the Local Authority was responding to the Government’s wish to see a dynamic system in which the best schools are able to expand and spread their ethos and success. Westrop Primary School was rated by in January 2017 by Ofsted as a good school.

The proposal to lower the age range at Westrop Primary School has been developed to respond to the Childcare Act 2016, which places a duty on LAs to secure 30 hours of free childcare for working families with 3 and 4 year olds from September 2017.

In addition, it is recognised by Ofsted that educational outcomes are improved by having a qualified early years’ teacher in the provision. This proposal would offer families in Highworth the opportunity to attend a maintained early years setting, open with flexible hours. The proposal would increase the range in types of provision as the community does not have access to a school led early years facility in Highworth.

The Panel noted that January 2017 Ofsted inspection of Westrop Primary School recognised that children enter school with a range of experiences and do not have the skills to enable them to be ready for learning. Currently 95% of Westrop School’s reception intake comes from Highworth pre-school. There has been an increase over the last 3 years in children not reaching reception expectations on entry. The impact of this is the need to ‘fill the gaps’ for a considerable part of the Reception year prior to starting the curriculum. The proposed addition of a maintained nursery class as part of Westrop Primary School would allow the school to continue to improve and strive towards “Outstanding”.

A school-led system with every school an academy

The Cabinet Panel noted that Westrop Primary School is a Local Authority maintained school. Therefore, the proposal is not consistent with the Government's policy a school-led system with every school an academy. However, the proposal does increase the school-led provision in Highworth by increasing the breadth of places Westrop Primary School could offer.

Demand

Cabinet Panel noted that Westrop Primary School is very popular with parents and is operating close to full capacity. Westrop Primary School recognises the important role that parents play in the life of the school, and their preference for their children to attend this school.

The Panel noted that there is an identified shortfall of early years places in Highworth, which based on a decreasing birth rate it is accepted would reduce in September 2018. However, with the introduction of 30 hours free childcare, based on data provided by the Department for Education of anticipated eligibility of families and learning generated from the early implementation project Swindon Borough Council is currently undertaking, there is an identified shortfall of places within Highworth that the Council has a duty to address under the Childcare Act 2016.

The Panel noted that the Local Authority is under a specific duty to respond to representations from parents about the provision of new schools, including requests to establish new schools or make changes to existing schools. This provides for greater inclusion and access for pupils within the existing school community.

School size

Westrop Primary School has a capacity of 315 places and currently has 266 pupils on roll as at the October 2016 School Census.

Proposed admission arrangements (including primary provision)

The Cabinet Panel noted that the proposed maintained nursery would be incorporated into the space within the Ladybirds Family Centre. Therefore, no further expansion of the premises is required.

In addition, the Panel noted that the school would develop an admissions policy for the maintained nursery.

National Curriculum

The Cabinet Panel believes that the proposed changes to the age range at Westrop Primary School would offer the high quality education provided to children, to more pupils in the area. The school has an excellent record of delivering a broad range of subjects and the students make good progress during their time at the school.

The Panel also has confidence in the capacity of the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body to continue to deliver a high standard of education to the pupils and parents it serves.

Equal opportunity issues

The Cabinet Panel believed that there would not be any sex, race or disability discrimination issues that arise from the changes being proposed. A diversity impact assessment has been carried out which has not identified any issues.

Community cohesion

The Cabinet Panel Believes that Swindon Community Cohesion is borne out of all stakeholders working together to facilitate high aspiration, create equity in terms of life opportunities and achievements, increase awareness/appreciation of difference and diversity, challenge discrimination, develop resilience to manage change, promote connections between different communities and encourage positive citizenship. All schools are called to meet this aspiration.

The Panel notes that the proposal aims to create a range of provision and support that can respond to the needs of pupils and parents preferences.

The Panel notes that Westrop Primary School has an excellent reputation for providing high quality education and care for its learners by, lowering the age range to create a maintained nursery the school would continue to provide a supportive environment for children to ensure they continue to develop the skills and knowledge required to move successfully into secondary school education.

Westrop Primary School has already taken over the Ladybird family centre building from April 2017.

Travel and accessibility

The Cabinet panel noted that the proposals would not unreasonably extending journey times or increasing transport costs, or result in too many children being prevented from sustainable travel due to unsuitable routes e.g. for walking, cycling etc.

Funding

The Cabinet Panel noted that if approved there is no Capital funding required for the proposal to lower the age range of Westrop Primary School.

School premises and playing fields

The Cabinet Panel noted that the proposal would not include any conversion of existing accommodation. It would not reduce the space available on the site for outdoor pitches and games courts. The proposal would enable the school to continue to provide suitable outdoor space for physical education in accordance with the school curriculum.

Views of Interested Parties

The Cabinet Panel noted that the views of the Highworth community have been clear and numerous with regards to concerns about the proposal if agreed leading to the loss of Highworth preschool. The Local Authority understands that the provision is an integral part of the community and has amended the original proposal to reflect the feedback and is now planning that Westrop Primary School's proposed nursery and Highworth Preschool to operate in the Highworth community,

offering a greater choice for parents and increase in high quality places required.

The Panel noted further that there were 648 individual responses to the survey of which 580 objected to the proposal and 68 were in favour. The summary at Appendix 3 of the report highlights the key themes of the objections and the LAs response to those objections in detail.

The Panel noted that the vast majority of the responses received were objecting to the proposal based on wanting to support Highworth Pre School remaining in the space that exists within the Ladybird Family Centre.

The Panel noted that based on the feedback received throughout the consultation period regarding the future of Highworth preschool, and concerns raised around the demand for the additional spaces, a decision has been made by the Local Authority to allow Highworth preschool to remain in situ from September 2017. It would operate from within the same premises as the proposed Westrop Primary School nursery and remaining as a separate charity run preschool. Demand will be reassessed from early 2018 taking into account impact from the roll out of 30 hours free childcare policy.

The Panel noted that the Local Authority is planning to work with Highworth preschool to agree a lease commencing September 2017. The lease would be for 3 years, with a break clause at 12 and 24 months.

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Increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Brimble Hill Primary Special School from 77 to 85 from September 2018

Cabinet Panel for School Organisation

Date: 15th March 2018

Author: Cabinet Member for Children's Services and School Attainment
Head of Education

Wards: All

Parishes Affected: All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To seek agreement to increase the published admission number (PAN) that is recognised by the Local Authority as reserved for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) at Brimble Hill Primary Special School from 77 to 85.
- 1.2 This report is necessary to enable the Local Authority to create additional provision that is reserved for pupils with Special Educational Needs, (SEN) by increasing the PAN to provide support for children from 5-11 years with Complex Learning Difficulties.
- 1.3 The recommendations of this report support the delivery of One Swindon Outcome comply with the Vision for Education in Swindon 'For every child, irrespective of background, to fulfil their potential through the best education possible'. It also contributes towards Priority Two of the Council's Vision: "Offer education opportunities that lead to the right skills and the right jobs in the right places."

2. Recommendations

Cabinet Panel is recommended to:

- 2.1 Approve the proposals, as set out in the statutory notice attached as Appendix 2, to increase the PAN that is recognised by the Local Authority as reserved for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) at Brimble Hill School, Swindon from 77 to 85 Pupils on roll. This proposal would seek to increase the admission number to 85 permanently, with an implementation date of 1st September 2018.

3. Detail

Background

- 3.1 The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 set out the alterations to school premises that can be made by governing bodies and Local Authorities (LAs). The changes to community, voluntary aided, voluntary controlled and foundation schools, which require statutory proposals, that are covered by this guide includes the addition,

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Gareth Cheal, 01793 465802, gcheal@swindon.gov.uk.

Increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Brimble Hill Primary Special School from 77 to 85 from September 2018

Cabinet Panel for School Organisation

Date: 15th March 2018

change or removal of provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN).

- 3.2 The initial proposal for Brimble Hill Primary Special School, Swindon, would seek to increase the PAN from the current 77 pupils, to 85 in line with the permitted 10% increase limit, enabling the school to offer educational provision for the full 5-11 age range.
- 3.3 Increasing the admission number to 85 will allow flexibility for the school to admit up to 93 pupils within the 10% threshold limit if necessary.
- 3.4 The Department for Education (DfE) Decision Makers Guidance for School Organisation attached at Appendix 4 requires that full consideration must be given to a number of Key Factors below. The officers' views on the key factors are set out below.

Consideration of consultation and representation period

- 3.5 Following agreement from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services to the contents of a Cabinet Member Briefing Note dated 11th January 2018 concerning the intention to commence consultation on proposals to increase the PAN at Brimble Hill Primary Special School. A consultation was carried out from the 24th November 2017 – 19th January 2018. A copy of the consultation document is attached as Appendix 1. As part of the process, a drop in session for parents, staff and governors was held on the 28th November 2017 at 15:30 to examine the proposal.
- 3.6 Notices were published in the Swindon Advertiser, at the school gates, and sent to the relevant stakeholders identified by the School Organisation Regulations 2013, on the 24th November 2017. A copy of the public notice is attached at Appendix 2. A copy of the full proposal for the statutory consultation stage is attached as Appendix 3.
- 3.7 The notice published proposed an implementation date of 1st September 2018 to permanently increase the PAN at Brimble Hill Primary Special School. A summary of the results can be found in Appendix 4.

Education standards and diversity of provision

- 3.8 The Local Authority is responding to the Government's wish to see a dynamic system in which the best schools are able to expand and spread their ethos and success. Brimble Hill Primary Special School is rated by Ofsted as a good school with outstanding features.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Gareth Cheal, 01793 465802, gcheal@swindon.gov.uk.

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- 3.9 The proposal to increase the PAN has been developed due to Commissioners identifying a requirement for an additional 8 pupils on role at Brimble Hill Primary Special School. This will enable the school to take an additional 8 pupils, taking the PAN to a maximum of 93 pupils under the 10% increase limit.
- 3.10 Brimble Hill Primary Special School is a Local Authority maintained special school, therefore, the decision maker must be aware that the proposal is not consistent with the Government's policy on Academies.

Demand

- 3.11 Brimble Hill Primary Special School is very popular with parents and is operating at full capacity, with a waiting list. Brimble Hill Primary Special School recognises the important role that parents play in the life of the school, and their preference for their children to attend this school.
- 3.12 In common with many Local Authorities, Swindon has seen a large increase in the number of children with Statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN). These children would struggle with attending a mainstream primary school.
- 3.13 The Local Authority is under a specific duty to respond to representations from parents about the provision of new schools, including requests to establish new schools or make changes to existing schools. This provides for greater inclusion and access for pupils within the existing school community.

School size

- 3.14 Brimble Hill Primary Special School currently has 85 pupils on roll. In recent years the school has been able to flex the intake to accommodate 85 pupils as an increase is permitted within a 10% limit. This proposal would make that increase permanent. Increasing the admission number to 85 will allow flexibility for the school to admit up to 93 pupils within the 10% threshold if necessary.

Proposed admission arrangements (including primary provision)

- 3.15 It is anticipated that the proposed increase in PAN will be incorporated into the space already available at the school for 5-11 year olds.
- 3.16 The pupils will all be required to have Statements of Special Educational Need or an Education Health and Care Plan and will be commissioned by the Local Authority.

Increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Brimble Hill Primary Special School from 77 to 85 from September 2018

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National Curriculum

- 3.17 The proposed changes to the PAN at Brimble Hill Primary Special School will offer the high quality education provided to our students, to more pupils in the area. They have an excellent record of delivering a broad range of subjects and the students make outstanding progress during their time at the school. By increasing the admission number, we will seek to extend this to the additional 10% of pupils also.

Community cohesion

- 3.18 The Local Authority will be able to provide a range of provision and support that can respond to the individual needs of pupils and parents preferences.
- 3.19 Brimble Hill Primary Special school has an excellent reputation for providing high quality education and care for its learners by, increasing the admission number we would continue to provide a supportive environment for these vulnerable and complex students to ensure they continue to develop the skills and knowledge required to successfully move into appropriate secondary school education
- 3.20 The responses to the consultation highlight the support for the proposal from within the Special Educational Needs community.

Travel and accessibility

- 3.21 The proposals will not have the effect of unreasonably extending journey times or increasing transport costs. It is not likely to increase traffic to and from the school during drop off and pick up times. We have surplus places on existing transport which could be utilised to accommodate this rise.

Capital

- 3.22 We have not identified a need for capital to alter the existing school arising from this proposal, as the school already has the capacity to accommodate the extra 8 pupils, and have been doing so for a while within the 10% ruling. There is further capacity to accommodate a further 9 pupils within the current school if needed.

School premises and playing fields.

- 3.23 The proposal to Increase the PAN will not include any conversion of existing accommodation. It will not reduce the space available on the site for outdoor pitches and games courts. The proposal will enable the school to continue to

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provide suitable outdoor space for physical education in accordance with the school curriculum.

- 3.24 The proposal to increase the PAN by 8 pupils, will improve, extend the range, and increase participation in high quality educational opportunities for primary aged pupils within the LA or local area.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 The only alternative option would be not to proceed with increasing the PAN. However, this would limit the ability of the school to respond to demand for places as set out in the body of the report.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 All proposals to increase the number of commissioned SEN places will affect the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budget. The Department (DfE) recognise mainstream pupil growth in annual grant settlements albeit on a lagged basis. From 2018/19 a new National Fair Funding model will be in place for Mainstream and High Needs funding and it is expected that increases in High Needs places will also be recognised by the annual grant settlement albeit on a lagged basis. The DSG budget needs to include an allocation of funding to meet the cost of expanded High Needs provision. At the 10th October 2017, meeting the Schools Forum was advised that Swindon was undertaking a consultation to increase the PAN at Brimble Hill Primary Special School.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 The Council has a responsibility to ensure that there are sufficient school places available. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires Local Authorities to promote choice and diversity when carrying out their strategic duties in relation to the provision of new school places
- 5.3 Any statutory proposals relating to Brimble Hill Primary Special School are subject to the relevant provisions in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.
- 5.4 The statutory process required under that Act has five key stages which are as follows:
1. Consultation
 2. Publication of Notice

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Gareth Cheal, 01793 465802, gcheal@swindon.gov.uk.

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Cabinet Panel for School Organisation

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- 3. Representation period
- 4. Decision, and
- 5. Implementation.
- 5.5 Legal and Human Rights considerations have been taken into account fully in compiling this report. It is considered that the recommendations of this report are compatible with Convention rights.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.6 None other than those previously highlighted were identified in the preparation of this report.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.7 A Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) has been completed. No adverse or other significant issues were found. A copy of the DIA can be obtained from the report author.

Risk Management

- 5.8 The changes made at Brimble Hill Primary Special School to provide the places proposed in this report will be subject to monthly risk monitoring, site visits and communication with the school.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.
- 6.2 The full list of all those consulted are as follows:
 - 6.2.1 Students on roll at Brimble Hill Primary Special School
 - 6.2.2 Parents of students on roll at Brimble Hill Primary Special School
 - 6.2.3 Staff at Brimble Hill Primary Special School
 - 6.2.4 Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of all Swindon Primary Schools
 - 6.2.5 Other local FE providers
 - 6.2.6 Other LAs who send students to Brimble Hill Primary Special School

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Gareth Cheal, 01793 465802, gcheal@swindon.gov.uk.

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Date: 15th March 2018

6.2.7 Local Ward Councillors

6.2.8 Swindon's two Members of Parliament.

6.2.9 Trade Unions

7. Background Papers

7.1 None

8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1 – Copy of the Proposal document

8.2 Appendix 2 – Copy of the statutory notice

8.3 Appendix 3 – Statutory guidance for decision-makers deciding prescribed alteration and establishment and discontinuance proposals -- April 2016 (*This appendix is available online at the Council's website or on request from Committee and Member Services*).

8.4 Appendix 4 – Results from representation process

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Formal Consultation on the Proposal to increase the admissions number at Brimble Hill Primary
Special School
From 1st September 2018

Brimble Hill is a Primary special school for Primary Special School for children with severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) and severe learning difficulties based in Tadpole Lane, Swindon. They currently have 77 students on roll. This proposal is to increase the admission number by 8, which would see these numbers rise to 85 students on roll by September 2018.

What are we proposing and why?

Swindon Borough Council as the Local Authority is opening a period of formal consultation on the proposal to increase the admission number at the school from 1 September 2018. The proposal to increase the published admission number from 77 to 85 has been developed in the light of an increasing need for special school places across the borough. In addition the Local Authority has identified the proposal for this increase to Brimble Hill Primary Special School as a key part of the long term Special Educational Need provision development strategy.

As a school, Brimble Hill Primary Special is confident that they have the quality of staff and the support of other local educational establishments to provide first-class educational provision for the additional 8 pupils on role.

The initial proposal would seek to increase the admission number from the current 77 status by an additional 8, to 85 in total.

It is important that all stakeholders and other interested parties are given the opportunity to express their views in order for the school and governors to consider these before making a final decision. The consultation period will begin on 24th November until the 19th January 2018. The purpose of this booklet is to provide you with information regarding the proposals and to give you the opportunity to express your views.

If you wish to express a view please complete the online survey at
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BrimbleHillPANincrease>

You can also email comments/questions to: educationplaces@swindon.gov.uk or
Head@Brimblehill.swindon.sch.uk

There will also be an opportunity to discuss the proposal at drop in sessions on; Tuesday 28th November at 15:30pm. Students and staff, will be given an opportunity to discuss the proposals at this time.

All responses to the consultation will be reported to and considered by a panel of Cabinet in January 2018. If the Cabinet Panel decides that a formal proposal to increase the admission number should be made then it is proposed in September 2018.

Please complete the online survey. We welcome your feedback.

What are the reasons for the proposed change?

There are many reasons why the proposal is being made. The main ones are summarised below:

1. Brimble Hill School is a Primary Special School for children with severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) and severe learning difficulties (SLD) in Swindon.
2. In recent years the school has been able to flex the intake to accommodate 85 pupils as an increase is permitted within a 10% limit.
3. Brimble Hill Primary Special school has an excellent reputation in the local community. There is still demand for this high level of specialist provision in Swindon and the school has a waiting list.
4. Increasing the admission number to 85 will allow flexibility for the school to admit up to 94 pupils within the 10% threshold if necessary.

How will the proposed change benefit our students?

The proposed change will bring many benefits for our students. The main ones are summarised below:

1. We will be able to offer the high quality education provided to our students, to more pupils in the area. We have an excellent record of delivering a broad range of subjects and our students make outstanding progress during their time at the school. By increasing the admission number, we will seek to extend this to the additional 10% of pupils also.
2. There will be able to offer an additional 10% of places on top of the increased admission number of 85. This will offer a potential further 9 places, taking some of the pressure off the waiting list.
3. Brimble Hill Primary Special School has an excellent reputation for providing high quality education and care for its learners by, increasing the admission number we would continue to provide a supportive environment for these vulnerable and complex students to ensure they continue to develop the skills and knowledge required to successfully move into appropriate secondary school education.

What are the potential issues arising from the proposed change?

We have not identified many issues arising from this proposal, as the school already has the capacity to accommodate the extra 8 pupils, and have been doing so for a while within the 10% ruling. There is further capacity to accommodate a further 7 pupils within the current school if needed.

The school has highly qualified specialist teachers in post, many of whom are outstanding practitioners. However, additional recruitment of experienced teachers and specialist instructors may be required should the admission number increase over the proposed 85. This will ensure the school is able to provide first-class education. The opportunity to teach in this successful school will further enhance the ability of the school to attract the very best teachers.

What are the next steps?

December 2017 / January 2018	Consultation period
January / February 2018	Governing Body considers responses
January 2018	Consultation closes

If decision is made to go ahead with the proposal:

March 2018	Cabinet Panel
September 2018 onwards	The school admission number increases

Consultation List:

- ☐ Students on roll at Brimble Hill Primary Special School
- ☐ Parents of students on roll at Brimble Hill Primary Special
- ☐ Staff at Brimble Hill Primary Special School
- ☐ Head teachers and Chairs of Governors of all Swindon Secondary Schools
- ☐ Principal and Chair of Governors of Swindon College / New College
- ☐ Other local FE providers
- ☐ The Local Authority and any other LAs who send pupils to Brimble Hill Primary Special School
- ☐ Trade Unions
- ☐ Swindon's 2 MPs
- ☐ Local Councillors
- ☐ Any other local community groups that might be affected by the proposal
- ☐ Any other interested party

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**Increasing the admission number of
Brimble Hill Special Primary School**

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Swindon Borough Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Brimble Hill Special Primary School, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN25 2NB from 01 September 2018.

The Local Authority is proposing to increase the admission number of Brimble Hill Special Primary School to 85 pupils. This notice seeks to increase the admission number from the current 77 status to 85 pupils, thereby enabling the school to offer an additional educational provision for 8 pupils.

The current capacity at Brimble Hill Special Primary School is for 77 pupils and the proposed expansion will increase this to 85 pupils. This will also allow flexibility for the school to admit up to 94 pupils within the 10% threshold if necessary. This additional capacity will be secured through utilizing the space within the existing school

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Jayne Smith, Swindon Borough Council, Wat Tyler House, Beckhampton Street, Swindon, SN1 2JG or Educationplaces@Swindon.gov.uk

Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Jayne Smith, Swindon Borough Council, Wat Tyler House, Beckhampton Street, Swindon, SN1 2JG. Or Educationplaces@swindon.gov.uk

Signed:



Peter Nathan
Head of Education

Publication Date: 24th November 2017

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Increasing the Admission number at Brimble Hill Primary Special School

Consultation Analysis

A full and detailed consultation has been carried out with all residents and parents who would be directly impacted by the increase of Admission number at Brimble Hill Primary Special School. The purpose of this consultation was to inform the public and to seek feedback. A consultation session was held inviting the public to ask any questions they may have.

We have received 44 responses as part of the consultation, all of which were received via Survey Monkey.

Who was involved in the consultation?

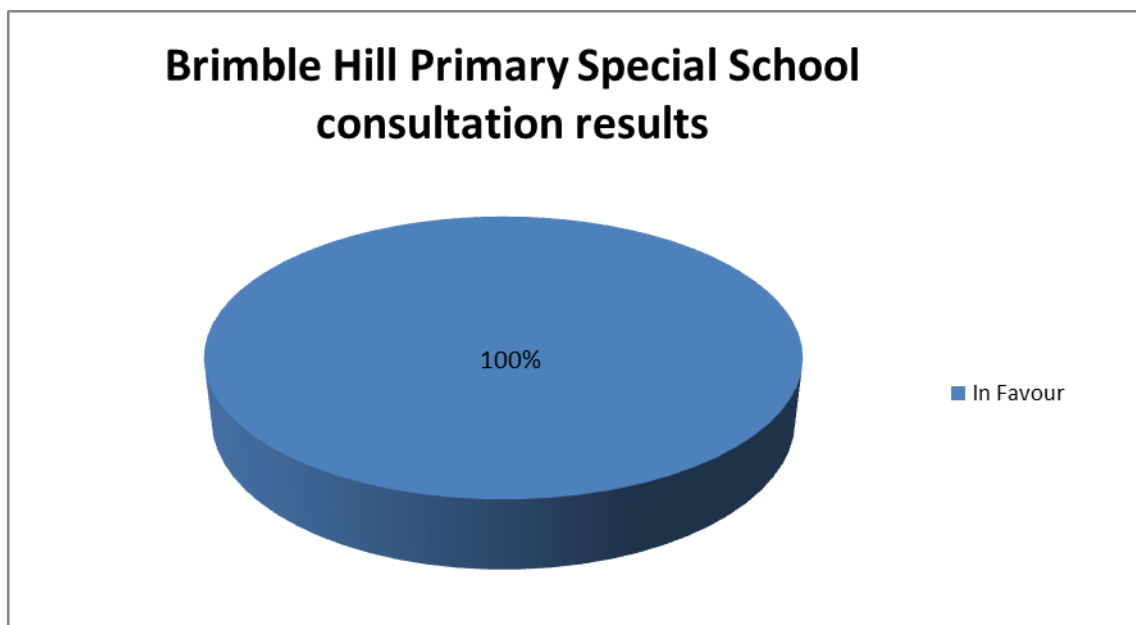
All residents in the immediate surrounding areas, Ward Councillors and Parents at the school were made aware of the consultation via the council website, and announcements from the school. The consultation ran from 24th November 2017 and 19th January 2018.

A drop in session was held on Tuesday 28th November at 15:30pm to examine the proposal.

To date:

We have received 44 comments from resident's staff and parents of the school.
All of these comments fully supported the proposal.

These have been amalgamated and are shown in the graph below:



A summary of some of the positive comments received are below:

"As a children's community learning disability nurse I have a number of children on my caseload who attend Brimble Hill School, and am aware of the excellent"

"If Swindon, as a borough, is to meet the needs of its young population, then the amount of specialist placements simply must meet the demand. This is only fair and right."

"This is an essential provision that has such a positive impact on the children, young people and their families."

"All children are entitled to appropriate education and so the places should be increased to enable more SEN learners to gain the education they deserve."

"This is a drop in the ocean when you consider how many SEN young people will be needing educational placements. Especially with the new Tadpole Farm estate."

"Much needed extra spaces for children with SEN in Swindon"

"In respect of the amount of students being diagnosed as having besd or Autism is increasing the need for their education to be catered for is very important"

"This is very much needed for Swindon."

"I welcome anything SBC can do to increase the provision of good special needs education in Swindon."

"We have a waiting list for our service and because Brimble cannot take under 5's currently we cannot take on the new children. More spaces would be wonderful."

"The level of support that the pupils whom attend Brimble hill require is very specialised and requires very specific educational and medical training. Often very specialised equipment is needed to meet pupils health needs. In addition pupils at Brimble also get to use a purpose built hydrotherapy pool, access to speech and language therapy as well as physiotherapy. It is simply not possible to provide this level of care in a unit attached to a mainstream school, without significant expenditure. From a purely financial perspective it makes sense to increase the admission at Brimble Hill. It is simply much more cost effective. More importantly the specialised knowledge of existing staff at Brimble enables pupils with significant physical, social and intellectual disabilities access a school curriculum that is focused towards increasing their independence."

"I am aware that there is a significant pressure on places at Brimble Hill and it would be great if they could work with a larger number of pupils from an early age."

"Working in the SEND EY sector it is clear that an increase in places is required. we are holding long waiting lists at an EY level as children are unable to move onto Brimble at a Nursery level due to the number of primary children requiring places."