
Children and Young People’s Services Scrutiny Committee

28 February 2024

Chichester School Proposals – relocation of Jessie Younghusband Primary School and Expansion of St Antony’s School – Publication of Statutory Notices

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Summary

In December 2023 the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Learning and Skills approved the launch of a public consultation on proposals to expand the number of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) places in at St Anthony’s school, the relocation of Jessie Younghusband Primary School and an adjustment of catchment areas ([decision CYPLS05\(23/24\)](#)).

The consultation ran from 14 December 2023 to 31 January 2024.

Following the review of the consultation feedback, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Learning and Skills is preparing to approve the progression of the proposals to Statutory Notices as set out in the attached draft decision report.

Focus for scrutiny

The Committee is asked to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of the proposals and provide comments to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Learning and Skills for consideration to assist the decision making. The Committee will also hear from the local members.

Key lines of enquiry include:

- Whether the aims for SEND provision and the SEND strategy provide a reasonable basis for the plans for the future expansion of St Anthony’s
- Whether this provides a justification for the changes planned for Jessie Younghusband and the impact on pupils, families and the community
- That the need for mainstream primary places in Chichester will continue to be met by the proposals
- That the consultation responses have been addressed fully and fairly in preparing to proceed with the proposals.
- Any further comments for consideration by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Learning and Skills ahead of her decision.

The Chairman will summarise the output of the debate for consideration by the Committee.

Background and context

A key objective within the County Council's [SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2019 – 2024](#) is to increase provision for children and young people with SEND through the creation of additional places in Special Schools to support children to access local schools whenever possible and where it meets their needs. There is a need to expand St Anthony's Special School in Chichester to meet the need for special school places in the area.

Jessie Younghusband Primary School shares a site with St Anthony's. A new primary school is being built to the west of Chichester to meet the need for places arising from a new housing development (Minerva Heights). This could provide a new base for Jessie Younghusband and an opportunity for the school to expand at that new location. Such changes would also require a reorganisation of primary school catchment areas.

Following engagement with the schools, a set of proposals were developed and a public consultation was carried out to seek views on these proposals. The outcomes of the consultation have been considered and an approach is being proposed.

The background and context to this item for scrutiny are set out in the attached reports (listed below), including resource and risk implications, Equality, Human Rights, Social Value, Sustainability and Crime and Disorder Reduction Assessments.

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Appendices

Annex A: Draft Key Decision Report – Relocation of Jessie Younghusband Primary School and Expansion of St Antony's School – Publication of Statutory Notices

Appendix 1: Consultation Summary

Appendix 2: Proposed Catchment Areas

Appendix 3: Equality Impact Assessment

Background papers

None