



NOTICE OF MEETING

CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION

WEDNESDAY, 25 MARCH 2020 AT 4.00 PM

THE EXECUTIVE MEETING ROOM - THIRD FLOOR, THE GUILDHALL

Telephone enquiries to Lisa Gallacher 02392 834056
Email: lisa.gallacher@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

If any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting has access requirements, please notify the contact named above.

CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION

Councillor Suzy Horton (Liberal Democrat)

Group Spokespersons

Councillor Tom Coles, Labour
Councillor Terry Norton, Conservative

(NB This Agenda should be retained for future reference with the minutes of this meeting.)

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AGENDA

- 1 **Apologies for absence**
- 2 **Declarations of interest**
- 3 **Education Budget Monitoring Report for third quarter (Pages 5 - 10)**

Purpose of report

To inform the Cabinet Member of the projected financial position for the portfolio revenue cash limit and capital programme for the current financial year 2019/20. This report sets out the budget position and contributing factors to the projected spend within the portfolio as at the end of December 2019.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet Member notes the Education Portfolio forecast revenue and capital budget positions, as at the end of December 2019, together with the variance and pressure explanations.

4 Dedicated Schools Grant 2019-20 quarter three budget monitoring
(Pages 11 - 20)

Purpose of report

To inform the Cabinet Member of the projected revenue expenditure of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the current financial year 2019-20 as at the end of December 2019.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet Member notes the forecast year-end budget position for the Dedicated Schools Grant as at 31 December 2019, together with the associated explanations contained within this report.

5 Proposed amalgamation of Wimborne Junior and Infant Schools (Pages 21 - 36)

Purpose of report

- (1) This report sets out the findings from a pre-statutory consultation in relation to a proposal to amalgamate Wimborne Infant and Wimborne Junior Schools. The consultation was undertaken between 14th February 2020 and 9th March 2020.
- (2) This report carefully considers the responses and determines whether the proposal should be amended.
- (3) In conclusion, the proposal remains unchanged. Approval is sought to proceed to the publication and representation stages of the statutory process.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet Member:

- (1) Considers the responses to the pre-statutory consultation carried out on the proposal to amalgamate Wimborne Infant and Junior Schools; and**
- (2) Authorises the Director for Children, Families and Education to proceed to the publication and representation stages of the statutory process to amalgamate Wimborne Infant and Junior Schools.**

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Title of Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Education
Date of Meeting:	18 th March 2020
Subject:	Education Portfolio Budget Monitoring Report for the Third Quarter 2019/20
Report from:	Chris Ward, Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer
Wards affected:	All
Key decision:	No
Budget & policy framework decision:	No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To inform the Cabinet Member of the projected financial position for the portfolio revenue cash limit and capital programme for the current financial year 2019/20. This report sets out the budget position and contributing factors to the projected spend within the portfolio as at the end of December 2019.

2. Summary

- 2.1. The current forecast is for the total portfolio spending to be £309,900 in excess of the revenue budget provision. There are significant pressures on school transport that are currently partially offset by staffing savings from vacant posts, staff turnover and an operational underspend. Of the projected overspend £337,700 relates to the overspend on Home to School Transport and will be funded from contingency. The capital programme is currently forecasting a balanced budget on the approved capital budget of £88.5m.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 **It is recommended that the Cabinet Member notes the Education Portfolio forecast revenue and capital budget positions, as at the end of December 2019, together with the variance and pressure explanations.**

4 Summary Position against Cash Limited Budget at the end of December 2019

- 4.1 The Education Portfolio at the end of the third quarter, is projecting an overspend of £309,900 in year. The 2019/20 budget includes £117,000 of one off funding from the portfolio reserve that was carried forward from 2018/19. This leaves £102,000 in the Education portfolio reserve to support this years overspend.
- 4.2 The £309,900 in year overspend is broken down in the table below.

Service Area	Current Budget	Current Forecast	Variation
	£000	£000	£000
Strategic Services	-112	-134	-22
School Improvement	726	727	1
Inclusion Support	3,869	4,290	421
Sufficiency, Participation & Resources	779	777	-2
Early Help and Prevention	221	133	-88
Total Education Directorate	5,483	5,793	310
PCMI	243	243	0
Community Learning	0	0	0
Youth & Play Shared Services with the HRA	76	76	0
Total Education Portfolio	5,802	6,112	310

*Numbers are subject to rounding and may not add up exactly

This projected overspend is a decrease of £56,800 compared to Quarter 2 and the forecast variances to budget are explained further below.

- 4.3 **Strategic Services** (£22,000 underspend): The service is currently projected to be underspent due to small underspends on staffing, interest on school balances and redundancy costs.
- 4.4 **School Improvement** (£1,000 overspend): An overspend in the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS) has been largely offset by underspends in the other areas to leave a small overspend. The EMAS service overspend is a result of fewer schools buying services than anticipated resulting in income levels being 3% lower than budgeted. The service is looking to increase pay as you use income and reduce costs in order to mitigate this overspend.
- 4.5 **Inclusion Support** (£421,000 overspend): Home to school transport provision continues to be a budget pressures and the current forecast is for an overspend in the region of £338,000. This forecast reflects the impact of 2019-20 academic year contracts. The remaining overspend in this area relates to SEND services including tribunal & legal costs and Short Breaks.
- 4.6 **Sufficiency, Participation and Support** (£2,000 underspend): An overspend on staffing within the business support team is offset by an underspends on staffing and income in the business and partnerships team and IT costs within core services budget.

- 4.7 **Early Help and Prevention** (£88,000 underspend): this relates to staffing vacancies within the locality teams which are currently being recruited to.
- 4.8 **PCMI - Portsmouth Craft & Manufacturing Industry** (On Budget): The forecast includes the demobilisation costs for closing the PCMI Manufacturing Unit at the end of January 2020. The costs for the redundancies will be funded from the MTRS reserve with any residual costs to be funded from the PCMI Skills and Employment specific reserve.
- 4.9 **Youth & Play Shared Services with the HRA** (On Budget): This area is predicted to be on budget.

5 Capital Programme

- 5.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is the current capital budget monitoring position in respect of all schemes in the capital programme for Education, which was approved by Council in 12th February 2019.
- 5.2 Current spending at £62.5m is some £26.0m below approved funding for the schemes identified, reflecting the longer term nature of capital spending. At this stage, the forecast eventual spending levels suggest a balanced budget against total approved funding of £88.9m.
- 5.3 The authority has recently received notification of additional costs relating to the car park and delays in relation to the Admiral Lord Nelson secondary sufficiency project. Further work to clarify the position is underway and should they be confirmed as accurate a request to re-align funding through the School Places 2020-21 scheme will be brought to Cabinet Member for approval. Comments related to the variations are noted on Appendix 1.

6 Summary

- 6.1 The portfolio budget is currently forecast to overspend by £309,900. The overspend after the full use of the remaining portfolio reserve of £101,600 is £208,300. The most significant variation is transport provision, with some in year savings against staffing budgets reducing the forecast deficit position slightly. It has been recognised that the costs associated with Home to School transport cannot be met from within the portfolio cash limit and therefore this will be met from contingency.
- 6.2 The capital programme is currently projected to balance. If required, a request to utilise funding set aside for additional school places for 2020-21, will be brought to Cabinet Member if costs exceed the 2019/20 capital budget.

7 Integrated impact assessment (IIA)

- 7.1 An integrated impact assessment is not required as the recommendations do not have a negative impact on communities and safety, regeneration and culture, environment and public space or equality and diversity.

8 Legal comments

8.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

9 Director of Finance comments

9.1 Financial comments are contained within the body of the report.

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Chris Ward, Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The information upon which this report has been based has been drawn from a variety of sources; however much of the information used is held in budget files prepared by the Children and Education Finance Team. Please contact Angela Mann, Finance Manager, if required.

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by the Cabinet Member for Education on

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Signed by: Cabinet Member



Children and Education Capital Budgets						APPENDIX 1
Number	Scheme	Current Approved Budget	Actual spend to date	Manager Forecast Spend	Forecast Variance	Explanation
		£	£	£	£	
1	Primary Capital Programme	15,827,700	15,826,300	15,827,700	0	
2	Sufficiency Programme Phase One 2013- 2015	6,289,300	6,289,100	6,289,300	0	
3	Sufficiency Programme Phase Two 2015- 2017	11,024,900	10,645,400	11,090,600	65,800	
4	Secondary School Feasibility Study	97,700	97,600	97,700	0	
5	Temporary Accommodation	358,000	358,000	358,000	0	
6	Vanguard Centre	3,264,900	3,231,100	3,302,400	37,500	
7	King Richard School Rebuild 900-1000 places	1,712,300	1,418,800	1,714,300	2,000	
8	Portsmouth College Sufficiency Post 16	263,400	263,500	263,600	300	
9	Universal Infant Free School Meal Works	892,800	889,300	892,000	-800	
10	Universal Infant Free School Meal Provision	628,700	593,600	593,900	-34,800	
11	Salix	124,200	115,500	124,400	200	
12	Access SEN Pupils	290,600	290,600	292,100	1,500	
13	ALN Lift Repairs	42,200	41,100	41,100	-1,100	
14	St Edmunds SI Provision	557,300	557,300	557,300	0	
15	Schools Conditions Projects - Modernisation	1,447,000	1,422,600	1,447,900	800	
16	School Condition Projects 2014-2016	2,781,100	2,726,500	2,782,900	1,700	
17	School Conditions Project 2016 - 17	981,400	869,500	956,500	-24,900	
18	Secondary School Places Expansion Phase (1)	1,643,000	1,651,800	1,698,000	55,000	
19	Special Education Needs - Building Alterations	3,191,600	2,480,500	3,209,300	17,800	
20	Schools Devolved Formula Capital 2016-17	4,343,800	3,109,700	4,343,800	0	
21	Sufficiency of Secondary School Places	5,517,500	1,932,900	5,200,300	-317,200	Final tender came in lower than expected
22	Future Secondary School Places Feasibility	304,500	60,000	88,600	-216,000	Expected to undertake 4 feasibility projects, 2 completed to date, currently reviewing requirements
23	School Condition 2017-18	954,300	685,100	923,800	-30,400	
24	Beacon View - Kitchen Block	45,000	41,700	45,700	700	
25	School Condition 2018-19	1,362,200	1,039,300	1,526,100	163,900	Increases due to further works identified on site and Tenders coming in higher than expected. Offset by underspends on previous years condition projects.
26	Sufficiency of School Places 2018-19	10,437,800	3,376,300	11,061,000	204,900	Overspend due to Additional Highway and Car Park Work, together with additional costs due to extension of time due to school undertaking window works which were not complete on time.
27	Special School Places - Redwood Park	3,053,700	353,200	3,053,700	0	
28	Special School Places - Willows	400,000	223,300	406,300	6,300	
29	Milton Childcare Sufficiency	69,100	66,400	70,400	1,300	
30	Forest School - Community Accessible Education Centre	30,000	0	30,000	0	
31	30 Hours Delivery Support EY	10,000	0	10,000	0	
32	Maintained Schools Urgent Condition Work	1,700,000	148,000	1,700,100	100	Two years of condition funding, £931,000 allocated in 2019-20 and £809,000 held for use in 2020-21
33	Additional School Places - Design	1,037,600	1,067,800	1,079,100	41,500	
34	Additional School Places in Mainstream Schools - Design	250,000	40,500	295,800	45,800	
35	Additional Secondary Schools Places - St Edmunds Catholic School (GRANT)	650,000	650,000	650,000	0	
36	Additional School Places 2020/2021	6,908,000	0	6,908,000	0	
37	Wymering Site	70,000	16,700	109,000	39,000	
Income	Academy Income	-35,000	-60,900	-95,900	-60,900	
TOTALS		88,526,600	62,518,100	88,944,800	0	



Title of meeting:	Cabinet Member for Education
Date of meeting:	25 March 2020
Subject:	Dedicated Schools Grant 2019-20 Quarter 3 budget monitoring
Report by:	Chris Ward, Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer
Wards affected:	All
Key decision:	No
Full Council decision:	No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Cabinet Member of the projected revenue expenditure of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the current financial year 2019-20 as at the end of December 2019.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member:

- 2.1. Notes the forecast year-end budget position for the Dedicated Schools Grant as at 31 December 2019, together with the associated explanations contained within this report.

3. Background

- 3.1. The DSG is a ring-fenced grant for Education and can only be used for the purposes of the Schools Budget as defined in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations.
- 3.2. The original DSG budget for the financial year 2019-20, was approved by the Cabinet Member for Education and endorsed by Schools Forum in January 2019. Further budget adjustments were agreed by the Cabinet Member and endorsed by Schools Forum in July 2019. This report provides Cabinet Member with the latest forecast estimate of the year-end outturn as at 31 December 2019.
- 3.3. Table 1 below sets out the forecast year-end financial position of the DSG budget as at 31 December 2019.

Table 1 - Dedicated Schools Grant				
	Original budget 2019-20 £000's	Revised Budget 2019-20 £000's	Projected outturn 2019-20 £000's	Projected over / (under) spend £000's
Income				
DSG Brought forward 2018-19	0	(3,138)	(3,138)	0
DSG and other specific grants	<u>(72,309)</u>	<u>(70,263)</u>	<u>(70,263)</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Income	(72,309)	(73,401)	(73,401)	0
Expenditure				
Primary ISB	28,753	26,672	26,493	(179)
Secondary ISB	11,680	11,680	11,680	0
Special school place funding	1,578	1,411	1,436	25
Inclusion Centre Place funding	302	307	307	0
Alternative provision place funding	<u>1,090</u>	<u>1,090</u>	<u>1,090</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Delegated	43,403	41,159	41,006	(153)
De-delegated and central budgets	1,580	1,746	1,421	(325)
Early Years	14,138	14,176	14,125	(51)
High Needs	13,189	13,652	14,354	702
Total Expenditure	72,309	70,734	70,906	172
DSG Carried forward	0	2,668	2,495	(172)

Academy conversions / school closures

- 3.4. There have not been any academy conversions since the quarter two report was communicated in December 2019.

Individual schools budget

- 3.5. The budgets for the Diocese schools were overstated by £179,000 which related to the NNDR rates at the start of the financial year. The schools agreed to an adjustment of their allocations to correct their financial position and this was actioned in July 2019. An adjustment to the budget for the NNDR rates for the affected schools will be included in the schools budgets for the next financial year.

Special School places

- 3.6. The forecast overspend on Special School places is due to additional pupil placements over the commissioned place numbers at Mary Rose and Cliffdale. It is assumed the places will continue until the end of the financial year, however, the forecast may be revised as further information becomes available.

De-delegated and Central Budgets

- 3.7. The forecast outturn remains the same as quarter two and is not expected to change by the end of the financial year.
- 3.8. The forecast position includes growth fund allocations that have been issued to all eligible schools and academies meeting the criteria for 2019-20. Three maintained schools and nine academies received growth funding for the financial year 2019-20 and no further payments are expected. This will result in a £319,000 underspend compared to budget.
- 3.9. The remaining £6,000 underspend is due to DfE centrally negotiated licenses costs which were £6,000 less than the estimated budget.

Early Years Block

- 3.10. The Early Years Block is forecast to underspend by a net £51,000. The third quarter's accounts contain the final summer and autumn term payments to early years' providers, and estimated payments for the spring term 2020.
- 3.11. Table 2 below provides a breakdown of the forecast position regarding two three and four year old place funding.

Table 2 Early Years Block Forecast two three and four year old place funding

	Total 2019-20		
	Budget 2019-20	Forecast	Variance (Under) / Over
	£	£	£
Two year olds	1,865,300	1,832,200	(33,100)
Two year old contingency growth fund	48,100	48,100	0
Three & four year olds universal hrs	7,924,200	8,024,100	99,900
Willows Nursery Closure Costs	0	100,000	100,000
Three and four year olds additional hours	3,236,800	3,161,000	(75,800)
Three & four year old contingency growth fund	153,200	29,100	(124,100)
Total	13,227,600	13,294,500	(33,100)

- 3.12. The two year old place funding forecast underspend has decreased by £70,000 to £33,100 since quarter two. This is an area that has overspent in recent years and is starting to see the impact of a falling birth rate. Should the number of pupils on the January 2020 early years census reflect the reduction of pupil numbers seen in the summer and autumn terms 2019 then the authority will see a reduction in funding in 2020-21.
- 3.13. There is an expected overspend for three and four year old place funding due to an increase in pupil numbers over the summer and autumn terms and the estimated final balance determination following the closure of

Willows nursery. The growth contingency fund has been utilised in order to reduce the impact of the predicted overspend.

Table 3 Early Years Block Forecast Other Expenditure			
	Total 2019-20		
	Budget 2019-20	Forecast	Variance (Under) / Over
	£	£	£
Disability Access Fund	59,700	18,500	(41,200)
Inclusion Fund (2,3 and 4 year olds)	117,100	117,100	0
Central services	643,300	643,300	0
Three & four year olds Pupil Premium	127,800	151,100	23,300
Total	(17,900)	930,000	(17,900)

3.14. In line with the increased number of three and four year old place funding the budget for the pupil premium grant for eligible three and four year olds is forecast to overspend by £23,000.

3.15. The DfE has recognised that the current rules for the provision of Disability Access Fund have restricted the funding that local authorities are able to pass to early years settings. From 2020-21 the DfE have lifted the restriction of the set amount and will allow the authority to pass additional funding to settings.

High Needs Block

3.16. The September and October 2019 class lists for Special Schools, Inclusion Units and Alternative Provision (AP) settings across the City were fully validated and paid during the third quarter and estimated Element 3 payments for the period to 31 March 2020 have been paid to schools and included in the Quarter 3 forecasts. This included payments for 20 additional pupils at Mary Rose and Cliffdale who started school in September 2019.

3.17. Table 4 below summarises the forecast outturn position for the high needs block, explanations for which are set out in the following paragraphs.

Table 4 - High Needs Budget	2019-20 Revised budget	Forecast Outturn as at 31 Dec 19	Forecast (under)/overspend
	£	£	£
Element 3 Top up	9,653,000	9,833,000	180,000
Out of City providers	2,365,100	2,880,300	515,200
Permanent exclusion recharge	0	(67,300)	(67,300)
EYs Complex Needs Inclusion Fund	52,500	126,500	74,000
SEN support services	674,700	674,700	0
Medical Education	660,000	660,000	0
Outreach	186,900	186,900	0
Fair Access Protocol	60,000	60,000	0
Total High Needs Block	13,652,200	14,354,100	701,900

Element 3 Top-up

3.18. Table 5 below breaks down the forecast overspend position for the Element 3 Top up funding as at the end of December 2019.

Table 5 - Element 3 Top-up	2019-20 Revised budget	Forecast Out turn as at 31 Dec 19	Forecast (under)/over spend
	£	£	£
EHCP Mainstream	1,413,600	1,861,200	447,600
Element 3 Top Up Special Schools	6,258,700	5,970,800	(287,900)
Element 3 Top Up - Resource Units	215,100	210,800	(4,300)
Element 3 Top Up - AP	213,700	188,800	(24,900)
Post 16 Special Educational Needs	1,122,000	1,230,900	108,000
Element 3 Top Up - OLA School	429,900	370,500	(59,400)
Total Element 3 Top-up	9,653,000	9,833,000	180,000

3.19. The forecast position for pupils at mainstream schools with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), is showing a predicted overspend of £447,600 due to an increase in both pupil numbers and average costs. The forecast position includes any changes to pupils with EHC Plans up to the end of December 2019 along with the expected growth over the remaining months of the academic year.

3.20. Whilst the number of mainstream pupils with EHCPs has remained static from the end of quarter two at 518, the average cost per pupil has increased from £3,537 at the end of the second quarter to £3,599 at the end of quarter three.

3.21. The increase on the underspend on the element 3 Top-up for Special Schools is due to the number of pupils who are placed by other local

authorities, for which Portsmouth is not responsible for paying the Element 3 Top-up, continuing into the autumn term.

- 3.22. The summer and autumn half term (September and October) class lists have been received for the Alternative Provision and Resource Units resulting in a small net underspend of £29,200.
- 3.23. During the third quarter the authority received confirmation of the number of pupils attending post 16 Colleges in the City. The authority also received clarification from the Department of Education regarding the responsibility for paying element 2 place funding of £6,000 for each pupil with an EHCP attending the two Post 16 colleges in the City. This confirmed that as the home authority Portsmouth were responsible for the place funding even if the home authority for the individual pupil was located outside of Portsmouth. This has created a forecast overspend of £108,900 for the post 16 element 3 budget for 2019-20. This change has been built into the 2020-21 budget and the authority is expecting to be funded for these additional places (although on a lagged basis) via the 2020-21 import/export.
- 3.24. In July 2019, the high needs allocation funding was adjusted through the Import/Export adjustment. This has provided an additional £213,000 which is included in the revised budget figure for Post 16 Special Educational Needs. As part of this process the authority challenged a number of adjustments, in November 2019 the authority received confirmation from the DfE of the acceptance of the adjustments which has created an additional £18,000.

Out of City Placements

- 3.25. Out of City placements are split between:
- Independent and Specialist provision
 - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).
- 3.26. Table 6 below provides a breakdown of the forecast position for each element.

Table 6 - Out of City Placements						
	Budget		Forecast position		Variance	
	£	Pupils	£	Pupils	£	Pupils
Independent & Specialist providers	2,337,700	36	2,797,800	47	460,100	11
CAMHS	27,400	7	82,500	10	55,100	3
Total	2,365,100	43	2,880,300	57	515,200	13

Independent and specialist provision

- 3.27. The budget is currently forecast to overspend by £460,100 a reduction of £38,300 since quarter two. This represents a net increase of one pupil from

quarter two and a reduction in the average cost per pupil by £2,127 to £59,527 per pupil reflecting the change in the level of need of some pupils in independent and specialist provisioned places.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

3.28. There are currently 10 Pupils where the authority is expecting to fund a CAMHS placement at an estimated total cost £82,500; this is £55,100 over budget. Whilst there has been no increase in the number of pupils since quarter two, the average cost per pupil has increased to £8,251 (increase of £2,285). The quarter two forecast contained estimated costs for a number of pupils whose costs were unknown, which has now been confirmed.

Permanent Exclusion Recharge

3.29. As previously reported the credit of £67,300 represents the proportion of permanent exclusion income from schools where pupils have been placed in an alternative provision setting for a period of time before moving to a new mainstream placement. This is an annual contribution to the element 3 top-up costs.

Early Years Complex Needs Inclusion Fund

3.30. With the closure of Willows the number of early years high needs nursery places reduced. To support early years' pupils with high needs in mainstream nursery settings the early years complex needs fund was set up. This was funded from a small saving from the closure of Willows and the use of the carry forward.

3.31. Since the provision was set up the service has supported 24 pupils over the autumn term and is forecast to support a further 39 pupils during the spring term. Due to the increased numbers this budget is forecast to overspend for 2019-20 by £74,000.

Grant funding

3.29 The authority received a revision to the DSG grant funding allocation in November 2019. This included a further increase to the High Needs Block import/export of an additional £18,000 following DfE confirmation of underfunded places as set out in paragraph 3.24 above. Plus the recoupment of Post-16 place and academy special school places agreed with the DfE from September 2019 (£280,000). Table 5 sets out the adjustments to the funding blocks as at November 2019.

Table 6			
DSG Funding Blocks	July 2019 allocation (excluding academies)	November 2019 allocation (excluding academies)	Revised DSG allocation (excluding academies)
	£,000	£,000	£,000
Schools Block	39,131	39,131	0
Central School Services Block	825	825	0
Early Years Block 2018-19	14,176	14,176	0
High Needs Block	16,372	16,110	(262)
Total DSG	70,504	70,504	(262)

Carry forward balance

3.35 As at the 31 December 2019 the forecast carry forward has increased to £2.5m from £2.3m reported in Quarter two, which reflects the forecast year end position as at the end of December 2019 and decisions made by Cabinet Member and endorsed by Schools Forum to use the brought forward balance to manage pressures in the high needs block.

4. Reasons for recommendations

4.1 It is recommended that Cabinet Member notes the contents of the report in respect of the financial forecast outturn for 2019-20 as at the end of the third quarter, 31 December 2019.

5. Equality impact assessment

5.1 An integrated impact assessment is not required as the recommendations do not have a positive or negative impact on communities and safety, regeneration and culture, environment and public space or equality and diversity.

6. Legal implications

6.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendations contained within this report

7. Director of Finance's comments

7.1 Financial comments are contained within the body of the report

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 Signed by:

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The information upon which this report has been based has been drawn from a variety of sources: however much of the information used is held in budget files prepared by the children and Education Finance Team. Please contact Beverley Pennekett, Finance Manager, if required.

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by:

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Title of meeting:	Cabinet Member for Education
Date of meeting:	25 th March 2020
Subject:	Proposal to amalgamate Wimborne Infant and Wimborne Junior Schools - outcome of pre-statutory consultation
Report from:	Alison Jeffery, Director of Children, Families and Education
Report by:	Chris Williams - School Place Planning and Capital Strategy Manager
Wards affected:	Central Southsea and Milton
Key decision:	No
Full Council decision:	No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report sets out the findings from a pre-statutory consultation in relation to a proposal to amalgamate Wimborne Infant and Wimborne Junior Schools. The consultation was undertaken between 14th February 2020 and 9th March 2020.
- 1.2 This report carefully considers the responses and determines whether the proposal should be amended.
- 1.3 In conclusion, the proposal remains unchanged. Approval is sought to proceed to the publication and representation stages of the statutory process.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet Member:

- considers the responses to the pre-statutory consultation carried out on the proposal to amalgamate Wimborne Infant and Junior Schools; and
- authorises the Director for Children, Families and Education to proceed to the publication and representation stages of the statutory process to amalgamate Wimborne Infant and Junior Schools.

3. Background

- 3.1 Wimborne Infant and Junior Schools are maintained schools that operate from separate buildings on a shared site in Wimborne Road, Southsea. The majority of the pupils attending Wimborne Infant school will progress to Wimborne Junior School on junior transfer.
- 3.2 In December 2018 the Governing Boards of Wimborne Infant and Junior Schools consulted on a proposal to federate the two schools as an initial step towards the amalgamation of the two schools from September 2020. On 23rd April 2019 the two schools formally federated forming The Wimborne School's Federation. The two schools, although still separate schools are now governed by a single Governing Board and led by an Executive Headteacher.
- 3.3 Amalgamation of the two schools would provide the following benefits
- i. All through primary schools support parents and carers by automatically allowing their children to continue through their primary education to the end of Key Stage 2 without the need for making an application during Year 2 for a place in a Junior School.
 - ii. The security of a guaranteed place in Year 3 would be attractive for parents and carers if the two schools were to amalgamate. Portsmouth has had a growing school population and there are fewer spare school places in the City and less options for parents and carers, particularly in the primary phase. An amalgamated school would therefore be of significant benefit to parents and carers of pupils attending the schools providing them with the certainty of a place at the school for their child throughout the primary phase.
 - iii. An amalgamation will mean just one financial audit and one Ofsted inspection.
- 3.4 As Wimborne Infant and Junior schools are both community maintained schools, the amalgamation process proposed is to close the two maintained schools and open a new community maintained primary school on the same site. The Schools Adjudicator would be the decision maker for this amalgamation process, with the Local Authority being the proposer. The prescribed alteration is required to follow the five stage statutory process set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Statutory process for the closure of a maintained school

Stage	Description	Timescale	Comments
Stage 1	Pre-statutory consultation	No required timescale	
Stage 2	Publication (statutory proposal / notice)		
Stage 3	Representation (formal consultation)	Must be at least 4 weeks	As prescribed in the 'Prescribed Alteration' regulations.
Stage 4	Decision		The Schools Adjudicator is the decision maker for an amalgamation of two or more maintained schools proposed by the LA.
Stage 5	Implementation	No prescribed timescale	However it must be as specified in the published statutory notice, subject to any modifications agreed by the decision-maker.

3.5 On 14th February 2020, the Council commenced a pre-statutory consultation on the proposal to amalgamate the two Wimborne schools. The consultation document (attached as Appendix 1) was sent to the parents and carers of all children attending both of the Wimborne schools. The consultation document was also circulated to Ward Councillors, Portsmouth MPs, colleagues in neighbouring Local Authorities, the Portsmouth Anglican and Roman Catholic Dioceses.

3.6 The consultation closed on 9th March. A public drop-in consultation meeting was held at Wimborne Junior School on Wednesday 26th February to allow any interested party the opportunity to ask questions or comment on the proposal.

4. Outcome of consultation

4.1 Details of the responses received to date are set out in Appendix 2. There were a total of 35 responses with 97% of respondents supporting the proposal.

4.2 The comments from respondents have been carefully considered and are included in Appendix 2.

4.3 Therefore, it is concluded that the proposal should move to the next stages in the process, publication and representation.

5. Reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 The two Wimborne schools federated in April 2019 as an interim step towards amalgamation to allow the schools management, leadership and practice to be aligned over the two Wimborne schools. The full amalgamation of the two schools was expected to take place in September 2020.
- 5.2 The amalgamation of Wimborne Infant and Wimborne Junior schools would benefit the school and the parents/carers of the children attending the school as described in paragraph 3.3.

6 Integrated impact assessment

- 6.1 An integrated impact assessment is not required as the recommendations do not have a positive or negative impact on communities and safety, regeneration and culture, environment and public space or equality and diversity.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 Statutory proposals relating to the amalgamation of community maintained infants and junior schools are subject to the relevant provisions in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013. The local authority must also have regard to the DfE's 'Opening and closing maintained schools: statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers' November 2019.
- 7.2 As set out in this report and the above legislation, prior to the publishing of any statutory proposals, the local authority must consult such persons as appear to them to be appropriate before making a decision to publish proposals to establish a new school and/or discontinue an existing school. If the local authority then decides to proceed with the proposal, it must publish statutory proposals under section 11 and section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 in the manner prescribed in the Act and Regulations. The final decision on the proposals will be made by the Schools Adjudicator.
- 7.3 In considering the recommendations in this report, the decision maker must be satisfied that adequate pre-statutory consultation has been carried out. The regulations leave it to the local authority to decide how consultation is carried out and for how long the consultation lasts.
- 7.4 It is within the Cabinet Member's powers to approve the recommendations set out in paragraph 2, once full consideration of the pre-statutory consultation responses has taken place.

8. Director of Finance's comments

- 8.1 The costs of publishing statutory proposals will be met from within the existing Education Department Budget.
- 8.2 Should the Schools amalgamate in September 2020, under the current funding arrangements, the new primary school will continue to receive funding to the equivalent of the infant and junior budgets (including two Lump sums) until 31 March 2021. From the financial year following that in which the schools amalgamate the new school would only be eligible for one lump sum allocation, however the Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2020 provide transition arrangements for schools amalgamating. This would enable the new primary school to retain 85% of the two lump sums in the financial year following the year of amalgamation. Based on the national fair funding lump sum value of £114,400 the amalgamated school would see a funding reduction of approximately £34,300 in the 2021-22 financial year.
- 8.3 In future years, the amalgamated schools budget share will be recalculated to determine whether the school is eligible for 'minimum funding guarantee' protection based on the combined 'per pupil' funding rate.
- 8.4 Any balances remaining on the closure of the maintained infant and junior schools must be transferred back into the Dedicated Schools Grant. The regulations allow the authority to allocate an equal and opposite amount to the successor school via the schools specific contingency fund.

.....
Signed by:
Director of Children, Families and Education

Appendices:

- APPENDIX 1: Consultation Document
- APPENDIX 2: Consultation Responses

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
Statutory Guidance - "Making 'prescribed alterations' to maintained schools"	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-organisation-maintained-schools

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

.....
Signed by:

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Dear parents, carers, staff members and other interested persons

Consultation on the proposal to Amalgamate Wimborne Infant School and Wimborne Junior School

In December 2018 the Governing Boards of Wimborne Infant and Junior Schools consulted on a proposal to federate the two schools as an initial step towards the amalgamation of the two schools from September 2020. On 23rd April 2019 the two schools formally federated. The Wimborne School's Federation is now governed by a single Governing Board and led by an Executive Headteacher.

Portsmouth City Council is now consulting on a proposal to amalgamate the two schools currently within the Wimborne School's Federation to form a 'new' all through Primary School for the area.

Why amalgamate the Wimborne Schools?

There are a wide range of benefits when an infant and junior school converge towards a single provision to the community. Many of these benefits have been realised by the previous Federation of the two schools.

The key benefits of federation can be summarised as follows:

1. Recruitment and retention of staff

- Federation is likely to lead to a more effective policy of recruitment and retention of staff. Nationally, there are significantly more primary schools than infant and junior schools, and teaching staff and non-teaching staff find that posts in Primary Schools are more attractive than posts in infant and junior schools as they offer better career development opportunities.
- A larger school, covering the full primary age range, offers improved opportunities to develop staff which in turn aids the retention of staff.
- Expertise is targeted across the primary age range enabling senior leaders to more effectively deploy staff

2. Transition and supporting pupils' progress

- A Federated school allows for high levels of consistency to be achieved throughout a pupil's time at the school and provides better capacity for sustained improvement
- Removal of the need to change school at the transition point between Key Stages 1 and 2 eliminates the achievement 'dip' that can often be experienced at this time and any anxiety felt by pupils.
- Tracking of pupil progress and early intervention is significantly enhanced for those pupils moving between Key Stages 1 and 2
- Expectations for behaviour and learning are more consistent than if the schools were operating in two separate ways

- Pupils have greater opportunities to access aspects of the curriculum which might otherwise be denied to them because of the phase in which they are working. Some pupils in Key Stage 1 might be ready to access aspects of the curriculum and staff in Key Stage 2 but this is difficult to achieve outside of an all through primary school

3. **Sharing of resources / expertise and efficiency gains**

- A better opportunity to build on the sharing of resources and expertise across Key Stages 1 and 2 which in turn will support an enriched curriculum.
- Enable the single Governing Board to make efficiencies in the running of the amalgamated school (particularly in respect of finance, administration and caretaking but also in other areas such as pastoral care, IT, etc), releasing more resources for where they are most needed
- Improved efficiencies in the financial management of the school due to the fact there will be one budget instead of two and one financial audit instead of two.

4. **Leadership and vision**

- Parents and carers of children who attend the primary school benefit from knowing one school and one staff. They know and understand how the school works and do not have to adjust to the demands of a different school as their child progresses through the federation.

5. **Role models / social development of pupils**

- Opportunities for children to work across Key Stages 1 and 2 and support each other. 4 year olds are not educated alongside 11 year olds, but pupils have the opportunity to interact with different aged children. This can include older pupils having some appropriate pastoral responsibilities for younger children

Amalgamation confers the following **additional** benefits:

1. **Admissions**

- All through primary schools support parents and carers by automatically allowing their children to continue through their primary education to the end of Key Stage 2 **without the need for making an application during Year 2 for a place in a Junior School.**
- The security of a **guaranteed place in Year 3** would be attractive for parents and carers if the two schools were to amalgamate. Portsmouth has a growing school population and there are fewer spare school places in the City and less options for parents and carers, particularly in the primary phase. An amalgamated school would therefore be of significant benefit to parents and carers of pupils attending the schools providing them with the certainty of a place at the school for their child throughout the primary phase.

2. **Ofsted / financial audit**

- An amalgamation will mean just one financial audit and one Ofsted inspection.

The council and the Governing Board of Wimborne Federation believe therefore that there are significant additional benefits that this amalgamation proposal will bring to the whole school community.

The Proposal

The 'new' school will provide a minimum of 570 places for 4-11 year olds, i.e. 70 pupils in each year groups in Key Stage 1 (Years R, 1 and 2) and 90 pupils in each of the year groups in Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6). The proposed 'new' all through Primary School would therefore be the same size as the combined Federated Infant and Junior Schools, and will continue to have one Governing Board and one Headteacher. All the pupils attending the two existing schools will automatically transfer to the roll of the 'new' Primary School, which would operate on the current site of the existing schools and in the same buildings.

This means that the two existing schools would close on 31st August 2020, and the 'new' Primary School would open on 1st September 2020.

What happens next?

No decision, other than to consult, has been made at this stage.

Portsmouth City Council is consulting widely from 14th February 2020 to 9th March 2020 and is interested to hear and collect your views. These will be reported to the Cabinet Member for Education, who will carefully review and consider the responses to the consultation and a number of other factors, and decide at a Council Committee (which is open to the public) whether to proceed to the next stage of consultation – this is the 'statutory' consultation and would involve the publication of a 'statutory' notice.

This notice will then be followed by a four week period to allow comments or objections to be sent to Portsmouth City Council.

At the end of this period, Portsmouth City Council will report back to the Schools Adjudicator who will make the final decision.

If the proposals are approved, the council will prepare for the closure of the Infant and Junior Schools to make way for the 'new' Primary School to open on 1st September 2020.

Target timeline: expected key dates in the decision making process

14 th February 2020	Start of consultation period
26 th February 2020	Public consultation meeting to be held at the Wimborne Schools' main hall – junior site.
9 th March 2020	This phase of the consultation (pre-statutory) concludes
18 th March 2020	Report sent to Portsmouth City Council Cabinet Member for Education on the outcome of the consultation and the decision of the Governing Body. The Cabinet Member will carefully consider and review the responses to the consultation before deciding if the proposal should proceed to the next stage and the publication of a statutory notice

If the proposal proceeds:

20 th March 2020	If agreed, statutory notices are published
20 th March 2020 to 17 th April 2020	Statutory consultation period (four weeks)
June or July 2020	School Adjudicator to make final decision
1 st September 2020	If agreed, new Primary School opens

How can you have your say?

We will be holding public drop in sessions where anyone who would like to discuss these proposals would be welcome to attend.

Everyone is welcome to attend at the times set out below. Please come along and ask us any questions you may have about what this means for the schools and the community.

You can also fill in the attached questionnaire, and return it to Portsmouth City Council at the address below, or return completed questionnaires to the school offices at either the Infant or Junior Schools.

If you prefer, you can ring Portsmouth City Council on 023 9284 1226, and they will note your comments, or email the information to eandsc@portsmouthcc.gov.uk (please title your email: Wimborne Schools Proposal)

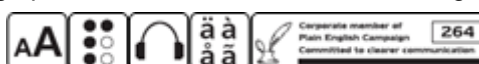
Meetings will be held as follows:

Public drop in meetings:

To be held at Wimborne Schools' main hall (junior site) Wednesday 26th February 7-7:30pm.

Thank you

You can get this Portsmouth City Council information in large print, Braille, audio or in another language by calling 9284 1717.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. If the proposal goes ahead, when will the 'new' Primary School open?

A. It is proposed that the 'new' Primary School would operate from September 2020 on the same site and in the same buildings as the existing Infant and Junior Schools.

Q. Will parents/carers need to apply for a place at the 'new' Primary School if the proposal goes ahead?

A. No, all children on roll at both the Infant and Junior Schools at the time of the amalgamation will automatically transfer to the roll of the 'new' Primary School.

Q. Who decides if the proposal goes ahead?

A. The timeline above sets out the various stages of the decision making process. The views expressed by parents/carers, staff, Governors and all other interested parties during the pre-statutory consultation period will be reported to Portsmouth City Council for a Cabinet Member decision on whether to proceed to the statutory process.

At the end of the statutory process, the final decision rests with the Office of the Schools Adjudicator.

Q. What would happen to staff working at the Infant and Junior Schools if the proposal goes ahead?

A. A new staffing structure will be created for the federated schools. If this requires a restructure of staff, trade union representatives and staff will be invited to participate in the consultation and will be fully informed throughout the process. It is expected that the amalgamated school will adopt this new staffing structure and that all posts will transfer to the 'new' primary school.

Response Form

Pre-Statutory Consultation on the proposal to amalgamate Wimborne Infant and Wimborne Junior Schools

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Please tick:

Parent Governor Staff Other (please state) _____

Please state which school:

Infant Junior Not attached to a particular school

Do you support the proposal to amalgamate Wimborne Infant and Junior Schools?

YES NO

Signature: _____ Date _____

It is important that you sign and date this form.

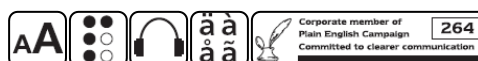
Responses must be received by 9th March 2020.

Please return response forms either to the School Office, or by post to:

Janet Andrews, Education, Portsmouth City Council, Floor 2, Core 5/6, Civic Offices, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth PO1 2EA. Tel No: 023 9284 1226, **or by email to eandsc@portsmouthcc.gov.uk** (please title your email: Wimborne Schools Proposal)

The information you provide will be used for the analysis of responses received as part of the Pre-Statutory Consultation on the proposal to amalgamate Wimborne Infant and Wimborne Junior Federated Schools for the purpose of compiling recommendations for Portsmouth City Council. Personal information will not be shared with any other sections of the Council.

You can get this Portsmouth City Council information in large print, Braille, audio or in another language by calling 9284 1717.



Appendix 2

Pre-statutory consultation on the proposal to amalgamate Wimborne Infant and Junior Schools

CONSULTATION RESULTS

	YES	NO
Parent	32	1
Governor	0	0
Staff	2	0
Other	0	0
TOTAL	34	1

Summary

Total number of responses received to date: 35

Total number in support of the proposal: 34

Total number not in support of the proposal: 1

Total number of responses that did not record a preference: 0

List of comments received:

- Yes, But call it Wimborne Middle School or Primary not Federation.
- Happy - so long as from a logistical point of view there is NO enforced change of uniform until new stuff is required by child i.e. can wear Junior School tip until it needs replacing due to size/condition. Once replaced new stuff can say Primary etc.

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