



## PAPER C

Purpose: For Decision

# Committee report

Committee	<b>CABINET</b>
Date	<b>11 JULY 2019</b>
Title	<b>WEST WIGHT SCHOOL PLACES (SECOND CONSULTATION OUTCOMES)</b>
Report of	<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION AND SKILLS</b>

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. On the 14 May 2019 the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills approved the commencement of a second four-week public consultation period on the removal of surplus primary school places within the West Wight school place planning area. The planning area is made up of the following schools; All Saints' CE Primary, Brighstone CE Primary, Shalfleet CE Primary, St Saviour's Catholic Primary and Yarmouth CE Primary.
2. As part of this further consultation period, the council set out an alternate option:
  - the closure of All Saints' CE Primary School on the 31 December 2019,
  - the expansion of Yarmouth CE Primary School to a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 30 from the 1 January 2020,
  - Yarmouth CE Primary school permanently relocating to the All Saints' site at a future date once building works are completed (estimated 2021).
3. The previous preferred option consulted on and reported was to close All Saints' CE Primary and expand St Saviour's Catholic Primary School.
4. This report summarises the responses received during the second period of consultation and the next steps to be taken by the council to progress the management of surplus school places within the West Wight school place planning area (SPPA).
5. This report recommends, that subject to approval by Cabinet:

- That a Public Notice be published in accordance with section 15 of the Education and Inspection Act 2006 to:
  - (a) discontinue All Saints' CE Primary School with effect from 3 April 2020,
  - (b) increase Published Admission Number at Yarmouth CE Primary School from 15 to 30 from 4 April 2020,
  - (c) that Yarmouth CE Primary School be permanently relocated to the All Saints' site once proposed building works are completed (estimated date of September 2021).
  
- 6. The council has listened to and fully considered the feedback it has received during both consultation phases. It is fully committed to achieving an outcome that ensures the best possible long-term educational opportunities for all children in the West Wight and removes a meaningful proportion of the identified surplus capacity in the area.

## BACKGROUND

- 7. On the 1 March 2019 the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills approved the commencement of an initial six-week public consultation period on the removal of surplus primary school places within the West Wight SPPA.
  
- 8. The outcome of this consultation was considered by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills on the 14 May. It recommended that a further four-week period of consultation be opened on an alternative strong and viable proposal to manage surplus primary capacity in the West Wight as set-out in paragraph 2 above.
  
- 9. This report provides a summary of the second phase of public consultation together with recommendations on the way forward. The consultation commenced on the 14 May 2019 and closed on the 11 June 2019. The consultation included two public meetings, two closed meetings with the staff of All Saints' CE Primary School and Yarmouth CE Primary respectively and an opportunity for all stakeholders to respond to the consultation either via the dedicated website and survey or, directly in writing to the council.
  
- 10. Available data clearly shows a significant fall in the number of children forecast to be seeking a place at Reception Year (Yr R) on the Island, and in particular the West Wight area. The number of children joining mainstream schools at Yr R has been stable for the last five years, 2014 to 2018, and a similar demand is forecast for 2019. However, in 2020 it is expected that numbers across the Island will reduce by approximately 200 children due to a known decrease in births.
  
- 11. As required by the Department for Education, the council uses School Place Planning Areas (SPPA) that break-up the Island in to smaller education areas. This ensures that when planning supply and demand of school places it can be done at a local level. The West Wight SPPA is made up of All Saints' CE Primary, Brighstone CE Primary, Shalfleet CE Primary, St Saviour's Catholic Primary and Yarmouth CE Primary.

12. Of the five schools in the West Wight SPPA, All Saints' CE Primary is not a school of choice for local families. The school has a capacity of 210 pupils but currently only has 79 children on roll meaning it has a surplus capacity of 62% which is significantly in excess of the 5% generally considered acceptable in school organisation terms. The school has been rated as Requires Improvement (RI) at its last three Ofsted inspections. It is also noted that Brighstone CE Primary has been RI at its last two Ofsted inspections and has surplus capacity of 47%. However, a section 8 monitoring visit by Ofsted to Brighstone on the 14 May 2019 concluded that "senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection in order for the school to become good".
13. Current pupil numbers of 84 Year R on roll in autumn 2018, show that only three of the four available forms of entry across West Wight are being taken up at Year R. 81 Year R offers to West Wight schools have been made for Sept 2019. However, pupil numbers are forecast to drop further to a position where only two of the four available forms of entry may be needed.
14. Statutory Guidance on 'Opening and closing maintained schools' and 'making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools' is provided by the Department for Education. These include particular reference to 'Rural schools and presumption against closure'. The council has and will continue to ensure that all consultations undertaken, and decisions made follow these guidelines.

## CONSULTATION

15. On 14 May 2019 the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills approved the commencement of a further four-week public consultation period on the removal of surplus primary school places within the West Wight SPPA.
16. During this second consultation council officers met with the staff of All Saints' CE Primary School and Yarmouth CE Primary School and held two public meetings. The first public meeting at Yarmouth CE Primary was attended by approximately 150 people, groups represented included school staff and governors, parents, local residents, local business and local councillors. The second meeting held at All Saints' was attended by around 180 people with the audience made up of similar groups to that of the first meeting.
17. Below is a summary of some of the key questions and issues raised and discussed at both public meetings. A summary of both meetings has been made available on the consultation website and are attached at appendix 1:
  - Yarmouth local community do not want to lose primary education provision from the town;
  - Yarmouth parents and community feel the relocation of the school to Freshwater will adversely impact the town's wider community provision;
  - Freshwater is the largest village on the Island and therefore should have a good quality primary education offer;

- Acceptance that action is required in relation to the standard of education offered by All Saints' CE Primary;
- That the consultation process had been too long and divisive and that it was important to conclude it as quickly as possible;
- That any decision taken now would have long term consequences including the loss of a good school site;
- That the revised proposal was a knee jerk reaction and that more time should be taken before deciding;
- That a holistic view should be taken to ensure there was a clear understanding of the impact the decision would have on the West Wight including a review of all schools on the Isle of Wight;
- Concern that the proposal would result in additional pressure on the highway and therefore have an impact on the environment;
- Yarmouth community and parents feel expanding and relocating the school to Freshwater will affect its current educational outcomes and strong federation with Shalfleet CE Primary;
- Concern that insufficient information was being provided to reassure the community that there would be appropriate support for all children during the transition with a specific concern around the impact on SEND and other vulnerable children;
- The closure of a school would undermine parental choice in West Wight;
- Concerns about the future of Little Stars Early Years provision on Yarmouth site and The Freshwater Early Years Centre on the All Saints' Site including breakfast clubs;
- Concern that the short-term increase in the number of children on the Yarmouth site could not be accommodated and would have a negative impact on standards and opportunities for children;
- Positive support for redevelopment of the school buildings using assigned DfE capital funding on the All Saints' site;
- Acknowledgement that whilst Freshwater has the significantly higher school population some parents are happy to continue to travel to Yarmouth as a preference for education;
- The creation of a larger new school on the Freshwater site would have a negative impact on the other good schools of Shalfleet and St Saviour's.

18. A total of 669 responses were received to the online survey and a further 196 direct written responses were also received, these are summarised at appendix 2. The following key conclusions can be drawn from them;

- Of the 669 survey responses, 16% were pupils, parents, staff and governors from All Saints' CE Primary and 22% from Yarmouth CE Primary.
- Of the 665 that responded to the question, 29% supported the proposed alternative option, the closure of All Saints' CE and expansion/relocation of Yarmouth CE Primary – this includes 51% of the All Saints' and 18% of the Yarmouth respondents.

- Analysis of the survey and direct emails/letters/submissions show:
  - 198 do not support the expansion and relocation of Yarmouth CE Primary;
  - 119 do support the closure of All Saints' CE and expansion/relocation of Yarmouth CE Primary;
  - 102 respondents are concerned over the disruption / damage to current pupils' education;
  - 95 support the closure of All Saints' CE and expansion of St Saviours RC Primary;
  - 75 highlighted concern about the impact on community fundraising activities in Yarmouth;
  - 72 support the retention of primary provision in Freshwater;
  - 71 support the closure of All Saint's CE Primary and sending pupils to the four other West Wight schools.

A full list is included at Appendix 2.

19. The Council also received three petitions supporting 'keep Yarmouth school in Yarmouth' – an electronic petition via change.org with 528 signatures and two written petitions containing 1980 signatures collectively.
  
20. As part of the consultation the council invited alternative options to be submitted. Those received have been considered, collated and are summarised below. Some of these are same as received during the first phase of consultation.
  - a. Federate All Saints' CE Primary with the Federation of Yarmouth CE and Shalfleet CE Primaries;
  - b. Federate All Saints' CE Primary with Brighstone CE Primary;
  - c. Federate all four Church of England schools in West Wight;
  - d. Close Brighstone CE Primary and move all pupils to All Saints' CE Primary;
  - e. Keep All Saints' CE Primary open and replace leadership;
  - f. Use Weston school site to create upper and lower school for St Saviour's RC Primary.
  
21. Appendix 3 sets out the pros and cons of each option.

### PREFERRED OPTION

22. Officers have now read and considered all the responses received during the two periods of consultation. Key to this decision is the long-term sustainability of locally accessible, high-quality education opportunities for all.

23. The preferred option being recommended is to close All Saints' CE Primary School and expand and relocate Yarmouth CE Primary School to the All Saint's site.
24. In order to best support pupils in transition arrangements and to meet best practice guidelines in the publication of statutory public notices during school term time, the overall timetable for changes has been updated. It is now recommended that the closure of All Saints' CE Primary is on 03 April 2020 and the expansion of Yarmouth CE Primary from 04 April 2020. This ensures sufficient time is allowed for the detailed implementation to be agreed.
25. Two implementation groups will be established to support the recommendation in this report – further detail can be found at paragraph 73.
26. In coming to this decision, the council has taken into consideration the following:
- The overall number of places in West Wight together with the current and forecast changing demand;
  - Closure of a school rated 'requires improvement' by Ofsted since 2013;
  - Retention of primary education provision within most populated area of West Wight;
  - Broadening the influence of a school rated 'good' by Ofsted with strong leadership and governance;
  - Increased opportunity for West Wight pupils to attend a school rated 'good' by Ofsted;
  - Securing significant government investment into the education estate;
  - Offering long-term financial stability to remaining West Wight schools, reducing total of 5 schools to 4;
  - Allowing sufficient time to fully consider and ensure the best transition arrangements are put in place for impacted pupils and their families;
  - Providing opportunity for future growth of a local school if required to mitigate yield from future housing developments.

#### CLOSURE OF A RURAL SCHOOL

27. The DfE produces guidance entitled "Opening and Closing of Maintained Schools" dated November 2018. This guidance states that the council should adopt a presumption against the closure of rural schools. However, this does not mean that a rural school will never close, but the case for closure should be strong and a proposal must be clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area. When producing a proposal to close a rural primary school, the proposer must consider:
- *the likely effect of the closure of the school on the local community;*
    - The recommendations set-out in this report would see an existing school relocated within the Freshwater community therefore, negating the impact of the closure of All Saints'.

- It is acknowledged, however, that as a result, primary provision would no longer be located in Yarmouth.
  - The close proximity of the relocated Yarmouth school should not preclude the continuation of its support to the Yarmouth community and associated activities.
- *the proportions of pupils attending the school from within the local community ie, is the school being used by the local community;*
    - Currently a significant number of local pupils do not attend the school, choosing to access education elsewhere within the West Wight and the wider island. The school currently has surplus capacity of 62%.
    - Community use of the school is limited. Opportunities for community use in the future would be increased if the recommendations in this report are implemented.
  - *education standards at the school and the likely effect on standards at neighbouring schools;*
    - All Saints' has been rated by Ofsted as 'Requires Improvement' at its' last three inspections. The recommendations in this report should have no educational impact on neighbouring schools.
  - *the availability, and likely cost to the LA, of transport to other schools;*
    - The closure of All Saints' and proposed relocation of Yarmouth CE Primary School to the All Saints' site will have limited impact on the council and its Home to School Transport arrangements. Short term arrangements if required will be put in place to support the recommendation in this report.
  - *Whether the school is now surplus to requirements (e.g. because there are surplus places elsewhere in the local area which can accommodate displaced pupils, and there is no predicted demand for the school in the medium to long term);*
    - Pupil numbers in the West Wight are forecast to fall in the short to mid-term. The pupils currently attending All Saints' and displaced by the closure can be accommodated locally in other schools.
  - *any increase in the use of the motor vehicle which is likely to result from the closure of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase;*
    - The closure of All Saints' when considered with the relocation of Yarmouth to the All Saints' site should reduce overall motor vehicle movements in the long term.
  - *any alternative to the closure of the school.*
    - Alternate options to closure have been fully considered, but with the forecast drop in pupil numbers and the sustained poor educational performance of the school over a long period of time, they have been considered as not viable.

## PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

28. Staffing implications will be considered subject to the outcome of this consultation. This will be done in accordance with the Council's Restructuring, Redundancy and Redeployment Policy, including a duty to

consult with those staff potentially affected by any proposed closure. Details of staff consultations will be set out, including the timetable for formal consultation with staff unions. TUPE implications will also be considered at this point.

## PERFORMANCE

29. Ofsted inspections are a key way in which the quality of provision and performance in schools is judged. Ofsted uses four grades to judge schools when it carries out full Ofsted inspections:

Outstanding  
Good  
Requires Improvement  
Inadequate

30. If schools are judged by Ofsted to be good, when it is time for them to receive their next Ofsted Inspection, they are subject to a short or full inspection, and the published results of these are one of the four grades described above.

31. If schools are judged by Ofsted to require improvement, they may be subject to monitoring inspections, and the published results of these are that senior leaders and governors:

- **are not** taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the last section 5 inspection in order for the school to become good.
- **are** taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection in order for the school to become good.

32. Currently three of the five West Wight schools are judged by Ofsted to be good: Shalfleet, St Saviour's and Yarmouth. Of the two that are not, Brighstone has had two Requires Improvement (RI) judgements since 2012, when it was last judged to be good. The most recent of these was in April 2018. However, a section 8 monitoring visit by Ofsted on the 14 May 2019 concluded that "senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection in order for the school to become good".

33. All Saints has had three RI judgements since 2013. Most recently, in July 2018, the school was subject to a monitoring visit in which the school was judged not to be taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the last section 5 inspection in order for the school to become good".

34. At the end of Key Stage 2, children in primary schools are assessed as to whether they have reached either the expected standard known as Age Related Expectations (ARE), or the higher standard (H), in reading and writing and maths combined.



35. The results of these assessments are tabled below for schools in the West Wight.
36. Also included in the table are three-year averages for both measures, as with small cohorts, it can be hard to make judgements about performance on the basis of one year, for instance where small numbers of children with very low data significantly lower cohort averages.

<b>School</b>	<b>2018 % children achieving ARE combined</b>	<b>2018 % children achieving H combined</b>	<b>3 year average % children achieving ARE combined</b>	<b>3 year average % children achieving H combined</b>
<i>National average</i>	64	10	60	8
All Saints'	50	0	42	0
Brighstone	40	0	45	3
Shalfleet	58	13	66	8
St Saviour's	75	25	68	13
Yarmouth	71	29	48	9

37. Both St Saviour's and Yarmouth have achieved significantly above national averages for the percent of their pupils achieving ARE in 2018, an indicator of strong academic performance.
38. Both All Saints' and Brighstone have achieved results that are well below national averages for the percent of their pupils achieving ARE in 2018.

## ADMISSIONS

39. The local authority has, as required by its published admission arrangements for September 2019, made 13 offers for children to start in Reception at All Saints' CE Primary School. Admission arrangements for 2020 have also been determined as required by statutory timescales. The published admission number for All Saints' CE Primary School was reduced in that process to 15, over the course of seven years this could restrict the school to 105 pupils. This would reduce the SPPA to 3.5 forms of entry, still a significant surplus when the total demand is forecast to reduce to only 2FE.
40. There are currently 79 children on the roll of All Saints' CE Primary School. Although the consultation processes being followed can lead to some uncertainty for parents, families to date have not made applications for their children to attend a school other than All Saints' CE Primary School. In line with statutory guidance any parent must be allowed to apply for a school place at any time. Any applications received will be processed alongside other 'in-year' applications.
41. Admissions at Brighstone Church of England Aided Primary School have, for some years, been fewer than their admission number of 30. The Governing Body are aware of the option to reduce the published admission number,

which can only be done following the prescribed consultation process, and are in dialogue with the Local Authority. The earliest date that a lower admission number can be established is September 2021.

42. In the event that All Saints' CE Primary School is closed on the 3 April 2020 and Yarmouth CE Primary School increases its PAN to 30 from the 4 April 2020, the authority will work with families and provide advice on how to make an application for an alternative school place. The expansion of Yarmouth would provide additional capacity for pupils displaced from All Saints' should parents wish to choose this option. The advice will include spaces that are available in the area, although parents are not restricted to applying only to schools with places.

### TRANSPORT

43. The council has a statutory duty to provide transport when the nearest suitable school for a compulsory school age child is more than two miles away, for children aged up to seven, and 3 miles away for children aged 8 and over. Also, when there is no safe route of less than 2 miles between home and the nearest suitable school there is a duty to provide local authority funded transport.
44. The council will assess the transport implications in full, including safe routes to school, in relation to the recommendations set-out in the report. Temporary/transitional or permanent transport arrangements may be required. In the case that the recommendation in this report is implemented, the council will, if required, provide free transport for those displaced pupils between All Saints' and Yarmouth until the relocation of Yarmouth to the All Saints' site takes place.

### EARLY YEARS PROVISION

45. The recommendations set-out in this report do not seek to impact on the existing early years provision on the All Saints' site. Freshwater Early Years Centre is a committee run provision rated 'outstanding' at its last inspection by Ofsted in 2016.
46. Little Stars Preschool forms part of the wider Yarmouth CE Primary School offer. The setting is run directly by the school and offers sessional care.
47. Subject to the recommendations in this report being implemented detailed work will be undertaken to look at how quality early years provision is maintained across the West Wight and as part of the relocated school and its wider offer.

### GOVERNANCE

48. The option being recommended will not alter the current Federation arrangements at Yarmouth and Shalfleet CE Primaries.

## STRATEGIC CONTEXT

49. The recommendation set out in paragraph 78 promotes the raising of educational achievement which is a priority of the council as set out in the council's Corporate Plan and Education Strategy Document "Delivering Educational Excellence".

## FINANCIAL / BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

50. Schools nationally and locally continue to struggle with managing limited resources and increasing numbers of schools have moved into a cumulative deficit position. Schools continue to be innovative in terms of merging year groups, sharing support functions and managing contract costs but around 80% of expenditure directly relates to staffing. Regular restructuring is taking place in many schools however; it is becoming more difficult to achieve long term financial stability where local declines in pupil numbers are predicted. The removal of a school on the West Wight will remove some of the costs and liabilities linked to education estate both in terms of capital and revenue.
51. The financial position of All Saints' CE Primary school has worsened since 2016/17 when it previously had a significant surplus of funding of £75,947. This has subsequently been utilised to cover a 2017/18 deficit of £72,025 and again the final 2018/19 outturn has confirmed a cumulative deficit position of £81,802. An updated three year budget plans was supplied by the school in May 2019 but recovery is not likely during 2019/20.
52. Under the Isle of Wight Scheme for Financing Schools the final balance of any closing schools reverts to the Council and therefore this financial risk to the local authority will be closely monitored to minimise any deficit should the consultation confirm the closure of All Saints'. The local authority is now working with the school to ensure transparency and forward budget forecasting is robust.
53. Revenue funding for maintained schools passes through the local authority and is strictly controlled by operational guidance supplied by the DfE. Changes in schools generally have a per pupil impact on the overall funding allocation. When the overall pupil numbers in an area reduce the local allocation is reduced on a per pupil basis. Increasing the PAN of a school, as long as there are increased pupil numbers to fill the school will help ensure the financial sustainability of the Yarmouth CE Primary school budget through economies of scale.
54. Potential financial impacts that still need to be quantified include any impact on home to school transport requirements within the area and possible asset management costs linked to periods when sites might be empty. These impacts will be carefully managed if the proposals in this report progress.

## CARBON EMISSIONS

55. The recommendations set out in this report support the Council's Carbon Management Plan;

- the total number of primary schools in the West Wight area would be reduced from five to four, leading to fewer car journey's being made,
- a new or substantially refurbished energy efficient school on the All Saints' site will reduce overall energy use across the school estate.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

56. The Council has the power to make a proposal to close a maintained school under the *Education and Improvement Act 2006*, in conjunction with the *School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013*. The council is required to have regard to statutory guidance issued by the DfE when deciding whether a maintained school should close. The relevant statutory guidance is the "*Opening and Closing of Maintained Schools*" dated November 2018 and "*The making significant changes (prescribed alterations) to maintained schools*" dated October 2018
57. In deciding to discontinue a maintained school, the Council must be satisfied that there are sufficient surplus places elsewhere in the local area to accommodate displaced pupils and the likely supply and future demand for places in the medium and long term. The Council should take into account the overall quality of alternative places in the local area and the popularity of other local schools.
58. The guidance states that the council should adopt a presumption against the closure of rural schools. However, this does not mean that a rural school will never close, but the case for closure should be strong and a proposal must be clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area
59. A proposal, as outlined in DfE guidance, must be published at the same time as any public notices. When producing a proposal to close a rural primary school, the proposer must consider:
- the likely effect of the closure of the school on the local community;
  - the proportions of pupils attending the school from within the local community ie, is the school being used by the local community;
  - education standards at the school and the likely effect on standards at neighbouring schools;
  - the availability, and likely cost to the LA, of transport to other schools;
  - Whether the school is now surplus to requirements (e.g. because there are surplus places elsewhere in the local area which can accommodate displaced pupils, and there is no predicted demand for the school in the medium to long term);
  - any increase in the use of the motor vehicle which is likely to result from the closure of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and
  - any alternative to the closure of the school.
60. In addition to the above, the proposer should provide evidence to show that it has carefully considered:

- (a) alternatives to closure including: federation with another local school; conversion to academy status and joining a multi-academy trust; the scope for an extended school to provide local community services and facilities e.g. child care facilities, family and adult learning, healthcare, community internet access etc;
  - (b) transport implications i.e. the availability, and likely cost of transport to other schools and sustainability issues;
  - (c) The size of the school and whether it puts the children at an educational disadvantage e.g. in terms of breadth of curriculum or resources available;
  - (d) the overall and long-term impact on local people and the community of the closure of the village school and of the loss of the building as a community facility; and
  - (e) wider school organisation and capacity of good schools in the area to accommodate displaced pupils.
61. In deciding a proposal to close a school that has been designated with a religious character, the council needs to consider the effect that this will have on the balance of denominational provision in the area, as well as the number of pupils currently on the roll, the medium and long term need for places in the area, and whether standards at the school have been persistently low.
62. When producing a proposal to discontinue a maintained school, the proposer must consider and provide evidence for the following information (School Organisation Regs Sch 2):
- (a) The name and contact address of the local authority publishing the proposals and the details of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued;
  - (b) The date on which it is proposed to close the school;
  - (c) The reason for closure;
  - (d) The current pupil numbers and admissions information;
  - (e) A statement and supporting evidence about the need for school places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils;
  - (f) Details of schools at which pupils at the school to be discontinued will be offered places;
  - (g) Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance;
  - (h) A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community of the closure of the school and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact;

- (i) Where the school is designated as a rural school, a statement that the local authority has considered the matters as set out in paragraph 59 above;
- (j) Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice;
- (k) Details of length and journeys to alternative provision;
- (l) The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how the proposed arrangements will mitigate against increased car use.

### EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

- 63. The council as a public body is required to meet its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equal opportunities between people from different groups and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 64. The proposal being put forward by the council in this report; the closure of All Saints' CE Primary School, the enlargement and subsequent relocation of Yarmouth CE Primary School will not have a negative impact on equality and diversity.
- 65. The policies of the council and Yarmouth and Shalfleet CE Primary Federation in relation to equal opportunities and eliminating discrimination will continue to apply should the proposed changes be approved.
- 66. Council officers will work closely with the headteacher and governing body to assess and support students and their families / carers should the proposed changes be approved.
- 67. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken and is appended with this report.

### PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 68. The recommendations in this report would see primary education maintained on the All Saints' site.
- 69. The DfE through its Priority Schools Building Programme 2 (PSBP2) is working with the Council on a capital investment programme for the All Saints' site, this would look to significantly invest in the existing facilities or, seek to replace the existing buildings with new ones.
- 70. The Yarmouth CE Primary School site is jointly owned by the diocese of Portsmouth and Isle of Wight Council. If the site is vacated future detailed discussion would be required between both stakeholders and the wider Yarmouth community about its future use.

## OPTIONS

71. The Council has consulted on two occasions. The first consultation focussed on option a) below and the second on option b). A number of alternate options submitted during the two periods of consultation were also considered.
- a) Closure of All Saints' CE Primary School on 31 December 2019 and expansion of St Saviours Catholic Primary School to 1 form entry from 01 January 2020;
  - b) Closure of All Saints' CE Primary School on 31 December 2019, the increased Published Admission Number at Yarmouth CE Primary School from 15 to 30 from 01 January 2020 and Yarmouth CE Primary school permanently relocating to the All Saints' site at a future date once building works are completed (estimated 2021).
72. This report recommends that option b) above is now progressed with a revised timetable through the publication of statutory notices.
73. The revised timetable for public notice period and final decision-making phase is attached at appendix 4.

## IMPLEMENTATION

74. Two implementation groups will be formed to take forward the recommendations in this report following the statutory public notice period and final approval by Cabinet being given.
75. The first implementation group will work with the governors and headteacher at All Saints' CE Primary to ensure that the closure of the school is carefully overseen. It will meet monthly or more regularly if required. It will be chaired by a senior education and inclusion officer. Representatives will include but not be limited to governors, headteacher, diocese and local authority officers with relevant expertise in HR, property, finance and school improvement. The group will ensure that risks associated with the final recommendation are identified, managed and fully mitigated where possible. The group will primarily focus on:
- the wellbeing of all pupils and their families impacted by the recommendations in this report;
  - ensuring the highest quality of education in the lead up to the school's closure;
  - ensuring the transition of the education of the children when they transfer to other schools is as seamless as possible and the disruption to assessments is minimised;
  - the support of all staff;
  - regularly updating parents and other stakeholders;

- the financial, property and asset management implications of the closure.
- 76. The second implementation group will work with the governors and Headteacher at the Yarmouth CE Primary and Shalfleet CE Primary Federation to ensure that the expansion of Yarmouth CE Primary and future relocation are carefully overseen. Many of the decisions that will need to be taken if the final recommendation is approved will be for the Governing Body to decide after taking professional advice from the headteacher. The aim of the implementation group will be to ensure that the school has access to the highest quality advice when arriving at those decisions. The Local Authority will work closely with the school's governing body to ensure the decision is implemented carefully with a focus on:
  - the wellbeing of all pupils and their families impacted by the recommendations in this report;
  - constructing careful induction arrangements for children being admitted to Yarmouth CE Primary so that children feel fully integrated;
  - ensuring that the highest possible teaching and learning standards are maintained;
  - considering accommodation needs in the period leading up to the relocation of Yarmouth CE Primary onto the site vacated by All Saints CE Primary;
  - considering any interim transport arrangements during the transition period;
  - considering issues around uniform requirements;
  - the support of all staff;
  - the financial, property and asset management implications of the expansion and subsequent relocation of Yarmouth CE Primary;
  - regularly updating parents and other stakeholders.

## EVALUATION

- 77. Following an initial period of public consultation, it is the considered view of officers that the recommendations set-out in paragraph 78 of this report offer a positive way forward in regard to managing surplus school places in West Wight. The proposal being recommended will:
  - manage the number of surplus school places in West Wight;
  - retain primary provision within Freshwater;
  - improve quality of local educational offer;
  - bring significant external capital investment in to the schools' estate;
  - make the Yarmouth site available for alternate use.



## RECOMMENDATION

78. That the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills recommends that the Cabinet approves the following:
- That a Public Notice be published in accordance with section 15 of the Education and Inspection Act 2006 to:
    - (a) discontinue All Saints' CE Primary School with effect from 3 April 2020;
    - (b) increase Published Admission Number at Yarmouth CE Primary School from 15 to 30 from 4 April 2020;
    - (c) that Yarmouth CE Primary School be permanently relocated to the All Saints' site once proposed building works are completed (estimated date of September 2021).

## APPENDICES ATTACHED

79. The following appendices are included with this report:

[Appendix 1](#): Notes from the two public meetings

[Appendix 2](#): Summary of consultation response data

[Appendix 3](#): Alternative Options submitted during consultation

[Appendix 4](#): Draft timetable

[Appendix 5](#): Equality Impact Assessment

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