FULL PROPOSAL INFORMATION FOR THE PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF PREMISES OF ST ANDREW’S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY MAKING THE PROPOSALS
Brighton & Hove City Council
Kings House
Grand Avenue
Hove
BN3 2 LS

NAME, ADDRESS AND CATEGORY OF THE SCHOOL
St Andrew’s Church of England Primary School of Belfast Street, BN3 3YT is a Church of England Voluntary Aided primary school serving pupils from 4+ to 11 years of age. The school is a voluntary aided Church of England school.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL
In accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006, as amended, (the Act) it is proposed that Brighton & Hove City Council, King’s House, Grand Avenue, Hove, BN3 2LS make prescribed alterations to St Andrew’s Voluntary Aided Primary School, Belfast Street, Hove, BN3 3YT.

The proposal, being made by the Local Authority Brighton & Hove City Council, is that St Andrew’s Church of England Primary School is enlarged from a two form entry school which it is at present to a three form entry school from September 2015. The school currently takes 60 pupils into Year R each year and if this proposal goes ahead it will admit 90 pupils into Year R each year. The flexibility to admit up to 32 pupils into each Key Stage 2 class will remain. This will mean that the total capacity of the school will rise from 436 as it is at present to 654.

The school took a bulge class in 2012 which means that the number on roll at the school in September 2014 will be 463 and then from September 2015 this will increase by 30 pupils per year until the total of 654 is reached in September 2020.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSAL
Brighton & Hove has experienced year on year growth in the number of pre-school age children registered with GP practices in the city. To a great extent this growth has been centered to the west of the city in Hove but has had an impact city wide.

It is recognised that not all children registered with a GP practice will wish to access a maintained school place. Some will opt to attend private school, or be home educated. However even taking this into account the rise in the number of pre school age children is significant. Consequently there is a need for more primary school places in Hove. All the schools in this part of the city have already expanded recently apart from St Andrew’s CE Primary School. St Andrew’s C E Primary School is
currently two forms of entry but in 2012 it was necessary to add an additional ‘bulge’ reception class in order to accommodate all children living within the area.

The council has a statutory duty to secure a maintained school place for any child that wants one. As a result of the pressures mentioned above it is now proposed to expand St Andrew’s C E Primary School by one form of entry to ensure that primary age children living in this part of the city can attend a local primary school.

St Andrew’s CE Primary School was rated ‘outstanding’ in its most recent Ofsted inspection in December 2009. The Christian character of the school is complemented by a commitment to inclusiveness which is reflected in its admissions policy, which reserves 50% of places for ‘Foundation’ applicants who fulfil the faith criterion and 50% to ‘Community’ applicants of other faiths or none.

The school is popular locally, regularly receiving almost twice as many first preferences as there are places. Increasing the size of the school will mean that more local parents can have confidence that their child can have a place at their local school if they wish it.

**NEED AND DEMAND FOR ADDITIONAL SPACES**

In Brighton and Hove the live birth rate has been increasing each year since 2002/2003, and analysis of GP registers data for 2013 shows that this upward trend is continuing. Although there was a small reduction in the number of children to be placed in reception classes for 2013 compared with 2012, our forecasts suggested that for 2014 and 2015 the previous years’ increase would continue but at a slower rate. This has turned out to be the case and overall we are still looking at a slight increase of 4+ pupils across the city as a whole, albeit that the rate of increase is slowing. Looking forward we consider that numbers may be levelling off at around 2,850 pupils per year and there may then be a reduction in numbers overall in the next few years, although we expect this to be less marked in South Hove than in other parts of the city. However, further evidence of trends is required before we can consider this to be a reliable conclusion.

The increase in births has now for several years had a significant impact on the numbers of children aged 4+ presenting in primary schools. For 2014/15 we have 2,970 permanent Reception year places across the city. This has increased by 15.5 forms of entry (465 places) over the last 5 years as we have expanded schools in the west of the city to accommodate the additional children. For 2015 we are planning three further forms of entry (one of these at an existing Free School), as well as three forms of entry at an existing junior school to complement new provision commenced at an infant school in 2011. In addition, we have completed the programme of additional junior age places (2 fe) in existing schools in Portslade, to complement the provision of new infant age places already made. All this new provision is in the west of the city.

Although with this new planned provision there are sufficient primary places overall in the city to meet foreseeable demand, this overall figure obscures the significant challenge which we have in providing places in local schools for all primary age children in Hove.

For the September 2014 intake, in order to avoid a situation where almost thirty children from the South Hove area served primarily by Davidgord Infant School, St Andrew’s CE Primary School and West Hove Infant School (Connaught) having to
travel more than three miles to school, the Executive Director of Children’s Services decided to direct Davigdor Infant School to admit an additional reception class of 30 children. This still left more than twenty children from this area being offered places at schools that were not among their three preferences, many of them at schools more than two miles away. This arose even though a further permanent reception class is being added to West Hove infant School (Connaught) this year.

On ‘national offer day’, 16 April, only one school in Hove and Portslade (Mile Oak Primary School) did not have all its places fully allocated. In addition, some children living in South Hove were allocated places at schools in Brighton. A significant factor in the consultation responses has been that there are schools in Hove and Portslade that do not expect their reception classes to be full in September and that this means there is not a case for additional places. In reality, this does not mean that there is not a case for additional places but that parents for whatever reason, normally because of distance and other impracticalities, do not accept the places in more distant schools and make other arrangements. The Council cannot plan its provision on the basis that some parents will reject the places they are offered for their four year old children.

Our forecasts for the South Central Hove planning area for 2015, based mainly on GP registration data for October 2013, suggest that there will be around 30 more children to place than this year, that the numbers for 2016 will be similar to 2015 and that for 2017 the number may be around the same as for 2014.

PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE

It is intended to implement the proposal on 1st September 2015 and it is not intended to implement the proposal in stages.

WHERE AND WHEN THE STATUTORY NOTICE AND FULL PROPOSAL INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE

Brighton & Hove City Council will publish the statutory notice for this proposal on Wednesday 1st October 2014. The notice will remain in force for a period of 4 weeks i.e. until Wednesday 29th October 2014. Copies of the notice will be placed at all entrances to the school and in other places in the community; it will also be published in the Argus newspaper on 1st October 2014. A copy of the statutory notice is attached as Appendix 1 to this document. Attached as Appendix 2 is a list of the locations where the notice is posted.

On 1st October 2014 the full proposal information (this document plus appendices) will be sent to the following recipients

- The Governing Body of the School
- The Diocese of Chichester
- The Diocese of Arundel and Brighton
- Members of the Children and Young People Committee
- Ward Members for Central Hove, Brunswick & Adelaide, Goldsmid and Westbourne Wards
- Members of Parliament for Brighton & Hove
It will also be published on the council’s website at the following address http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/schools/school-statutory-notices.

Any person may request a copy of the full proposal information either by writing to Michael Nix, Head of Education Planning and Contracts, Brighton & Hove City Council, King's House, Grand Avenue, Hove, BN3 2SR or by contacting Gillian Churchill on 01273 293515 or via email at gillian.churchill@brighton-hove.gov.uk

**HOW TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS OR COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL**

Any person may object to or make a representation or comment on the proposal. This can be done by writing to Michael Nix, Head of Education Planning and Contracts, Brighton & Hove City Council, King's House, Grand Avenue, Hove, BN3 2SR before the closing date of 29th October 2014 or via email to michael.nix@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Following the closing date for representations, comments and objections a report will be prepared for the Children and Young People Committee to decide the proposal within 2 months i.e. no later than 29th December 2014. At the present time it is anticipated that the report will be considered at their meeting scheduled for 17th November 2014.

**CAPACITY OF THE SCHOOL CURRENTLY**

The school is currently able to accommodate 436 pupils in its main accommodation and has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 60. However, as mentioned above the school admitted a bulge class in 2012. This means that there are currently 463 pupils on roll at the school. This has been achieved by providing temporary accommodation. If this proposal were to go ahead this temporary accommodation would be replaced as part of the permanent new building.

**CAPACITY OF THE SCHOOL IF THE PROPOSAL PROCEEDS TO IMPLEMENTATION**

If this proposal were to proceed the capacity of the school would be increased to 654 by the addition of an extension to the school. The PAN would increase to 90. The proposal is that the accommodation will be provided in a new two storey extension block at the eastern end of the existing building. The proposal is to build on part of a public car park in Haddington Street, Hove and to make use of some of this car park to provide additional hard play space. **Appendix 3** includes a block plan and a site plan showing the location of the proposed extension to the School. There is a small area of existing school land that will be built upon if this proposal progresses. The Council will be making an application to the Secretary of State for Education for a Change of Use of this land as required by legislation.

**OWNERSHIP OF THE SITE**

The freehold of the school site is owned by the Diocesan Board of Finance and School Trustees and the freehold of the car park is owned by Brighton & Hove City Council.
CONSULTATION
All applicable consultation was carried out prior to publishing this full proposal.

Initial meetings were held between the LA, the governing body of the school and the Diocese of Chichester. A feasibility study was carried out by the LA and discussed with the school. The school agreed that, subject to a number of conditions regarding the proposal, we could undertake a consultation of the wider community to gauge their feelings.

A consultation document was prepared and issued on 7th May 2014. It was published online on the council’s website and was circulated to the parents, staff and governors of St Andrew’s CE Primary School and to Heads of nearby schools and nursery settings in the area in hard copy. It was also circulated to local Councillors, members of the Children and Young People Committee and local Members of Parliament. A copy of the consultation document is attached as Appendix 4 to this document.

The document contained details of how comments on the proposal could be made and the closing date of the consultation.

During this consultation stage a public meeting was held at the school. A copy of the notes taken at that meeting are attached as Appendix 5 to this document.

The results of this consultation were reported to the Children and Young People Committee on 21st July 2014. A copy of the Committee report and Appendices are attached as Appendix 6, 6a and 6b to this document. In light of the results of this phase of the consultation the Committee decision was to undertake further work and further consultation prior to making a decision to proceed to the publication of the statutory notice and full proposal.

Further work was undertaken to amend the design to be acceptable to the school and parents. There was a further series of meetings held with the school, diocese and parents which culminated in the school agreeing that we could take a further report to Committee agreeing to the publication of the statutory notice. A copy of this Committee report and Appendices are attached as Appendix 7 to this document.

IMPACT ON OTHER SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES
The Council does not believe that the creation of additional places at St Andrew's CE Primary School will have a negative impact on other schools in this part of the city, although this was raised by two local schools as part of the initial consultation. As explained above there are significantly more primary age children in this part of the city than there are school places. Without any additional places, a significant number of children would need to be offered places at more distant schools outside their local community. Based on the experience this year when a bulge class had to be added to a local school, and the forecast of around thirty more children in the area in 2015 and 2016 than in 2014, this could be expected to be over 60 children. A significant number of these (more than 30) may have to be offered places at schools more than three miles away.
There are two factors in the concern that other schools have spare places. The first is that although schools may receive a full allocation of children for their reception classes on national offer day, 16 April, they have spare places at the start of term in September and these places are not subsequently filled. The reality is that for whatever reason some parents will not accept places in more distant schools. Allocations to more distant schools present these families with difficult choices, mainly based on the practicality of getting children to school, especially if there are younger children in the family too and a car or straightforward bus route is not available.

The second factor is that some schools experience more in year turnover of children than others. There will be various reasons for this, including for example the fact that the school is in an area of transient population, with people more likely to move elsewhere. Another reason is that parents may prefer an all through primary school to separate infant and junior schools, especially where the linked junior school is not immediately close to the infant school. This second factor is a quite separate matter from the need to have sufficient places as local as possible to where children live at the outset.

**PROJECT COSTS**

The anticipated cost of this project is £2.5million. This is based on similar projects undertaken by the council recently. The cost of this will be met by the Local Authority from a mixture of Basic Need and Maintenance funding provided by central government and any S106 funding available for developments in the local area.

The capital funding allocation for the 2014/15 financial year was announced in March 2013 and the allocations for 2015 to 2017 were announced in December 2013. A copy of the funding allocations from the Department for Education is attached as Appendix 8 to this document.

The capital expenditure for this project was agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee of Brighton & Hove City Council on 20th March 2014.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND DISABILITY**

St Andrew’s C E Primary School is a Voluntary Aided Church of England mainstream school. It does not have any specific provision or unit at present and it is not intended that it will have one as a result of this proposal. In line with all schools in the city the school does have a number of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. It is not intended as part of this proposal to alter this now or in the future. The same facilities will be extended to any future pupil at the school as at present.