

CASE for CHANGE – Supporting Information

SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

AREA PLANNING DISTRICT	Belfast
DP NUMBER	DP 581
PROPOSER	Kim Scott Acting Director of Education Education Authority 028 9041 3151
SCHOOL(S) NAME	Currie Primary School
SCHOOL REFERENCE	101 0063
TYPE	Primary
MANAGEMENT	Controlled
DP PUBLICATION DATE	Week commencing 15 April 2019
PROPOSAL	A statutory nursery unit will be established at Currie School to provide 26 part-time nursery places with effect from 1 September 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter

STATUTORY CONSULTATION

Note: It may be necessary for documentary evidence to be provided to show that the statutory procedures have been followed. It is essential that relevant parties retain this information.

The following is to be completed by the Proposer and signed off by them.

EDUCATION AUTHORITY COMMENTARY ON PRE-PUBLICATION STATUTORY CONSULTATION

<p>PROPOSER</p> <p>Provide detail of consultation with the BOGs, teachers and parents of the affected school(s) – dates of meetings/letters. Good practice suggests all staff (including non-teaching) should be consulted as well as pupils.</p> <p>Summary and assessment of views received – how were these taken into account before publication of the DP?</p>	<p>In accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 a copy of the proposal was sent on 18 January 2019 to staff, parents and Governors of Currie Primary School be returned to the Education Authority by 22 March 2019.</p> <p>The Education Authority received a single response from the school which included the views of staff, parents and Governors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agreement to the proposal of a nursery unit at Currie Primary.• Request for a full time unit at Currie Primary given the number of children presenting with additional needs and the ongoing evidence reporting the low attainment in protestant working class boys.• Sunshine Playgroup is currently oversubscribed and a nursery would allow for two additional places with all applications being successful in securing first choice.• September 2019 as a start date or as soon as thereafter is the preferred start date given the quality of the current facilities and the potential to secure staff through NISTR or secondment from Currie Primary during a public recruitment process. <p><u>EA response</u></p> <p>The Department of Education has placed a moratorium on full time nursery therefore part time provision is the only way forward.</p> <p>The EA agrees there is a need for pre-school provision to serve the needs of the area and PEG comments supports this view.</p> <p>In the opinion of the Education Authority it is not feasible to have 1 September 2019 as the operational date - we acknowledge that the school feels it can meet this date with secondment of school staff to the new nursery however due to the uncertainty over when approval will be obtained an effective date of September 2020 remains the preferred date.</p>
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<p>CONFIRMATION BY THE PROPOSER</p>	<p>I confirm that the BOGs, Staff and Parents of pupils of Currie Primary School were consulted on 18 January 2019 and Equality Screening of the proposal has been carried out and the statutory requirements of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 (where appropriate) have been considered.</p> <p>NAME: Kim Scott</p> <p>OFFICE HELD: Acting Director of Education</p> <p>SIGNED: </p> <p>DATE: 11 April 2019</p>
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ASSOCIATED PROPOSALS

<p>DP XXX</p> <p>Published DD/MM/YY</p>	<p>N/A</p>
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The following is to be completed and signed off by the EA.

EDUCATION AUTHORITY COMMENTARY ON PRE-PUBLICATION STATUTORY CONSULTATION

<p>THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY</p>	<p>I confirm that the schools which the EA consider might be impacted by this proposal were consulted on 18 January 2019 to 22 March 2019.</p> <p>NAME: Kim Scott</p> <p>OFFICE HELD: Acting Director of Education</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Kim Scott</i></p> <p>SIGNED:</p> <p>DATE: 11 April 2019</p>
<p>Provide detail of consultation with schools that may, in the EA's opinion, be affected by the proposal - list of schools, dates of letters issued to schools/meetings.</p> <p>Summary of views received (number of responses, recurring themes, petitions, community support or opposition).</p> <hr/> <p>Responses/Assurances in respect of issues raised during consultation.</p> <hr/> <p>Dates of EA meetings e.g. Education Committee/ Board etc.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Details of issues raised by members of EA Board</u></p>	<p>In accordance with Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 a copy of the proposal was sent, on 18 January 2019, to schools which might be affected by the proposal. Comments were invited from the Boards of Governors to be returned to the Education Authority by 22 March 2019.</p> <p>A total of 161 schools were forwarded the draft proposal for their comments.</p> <p><u>S Orr (Secretary to Board Governors – Holy Family PS)</u></p> <p>Currie Primary School have very strong links with Holy Family Primary and have carried out very good cross-community work over the years. The community is much more stable as a result.</p> <p><u>CSSC</u></p> <p>CSSC supports this DP on the basis that the establishment of a 26 place part-time nursery unit in Currie Primary School is a replacement for Sunshine Playgroup.</p> <p>The proposal will not increase the overall provision in the area and will not have an impact on alternative providers.</p>

	<p>This development proposal was discussed by the EA's Education Committee at its meeting on 11 April 2019.</p> <p><u>EA Response</u></p> <p>The proposed new nursery provision is required to ensure continuity of provision in the area and ensure local families have access to pre-school provision. The Authority welcomes the support from Holy Family PS and CSSC.</p>
<p>EDUCATION AUTHORITY COMMENTS</p> <p>In the context of planning on an area basis - what is the EA's view of the proposal, taking into account any pre-publication consultation. Does the EA support the proposal?</p> <p>NAME: Kim Scott</p> <p>OFFICE HELD: Acting Director of Education</p> <p>SIGNED: </p> <p>DATE: 11 April 2019</p>	<p>The Education Authority supports the proposal as the proposer.</p> <p>The loss of the pre-school provision would have a detrimental impact on the area. PEG has agreed that there remains a need for pre-school provision within the area and that the most logical course of action is for the establishment of a nursery unit at Currie Primary School. The comments from PEG are included within the Case for Change.</p> <p>The Authority is in agreement with PEG that the best long-term solution for the area is to establish a nursery unit at Currie Primary School.</p> <p>The enrolment and application history for the current pre-school provider shows a continuing demand for places.</p>

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Pre-school education is a non-compulsory phase of education. Whilst it is a Government commitment to ensure that at least one year of pre-school education is available to every family that wants it, there is no guarantee that a funded place will be available at a parent's preferred pre-school provider.

Research in the UK and US shows that good quality pre-school education has important benefits for individuals, families, communities and society and the economy as a whole. Children who experience good pre-school education, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds or with special needs, are better prepared for school, learn more quickly and have fewer emotional or behavioural difficulties in later life. In addition, parents have greater opportunity to work, undertake study or training, or care for other dependants.

Sunshine Playgroup, a voluntary provider, has been operating successfully for a number of years in accommodation at Currie Primary School. The application history of the playgroup is detailed in Table 1 below:

Academic Year	1st Preference	Total Admissions
2013-14	16	19
2014-15	35	48
2015-16	25	24
2016-17	28	26
2017-18	27	24
2018-19	26	24

The existing management committee of the pre-school has indicated to the Pre-School Education Group (PEG) that it intends to cease operation from June 2019, however, due to the requirement for pre-school provision in the area, it is anticipated that the management committee will continue until such times as a development proposal is approved to establish a nurse unit at Currie Primary School.

- 1.2 PEG has indicated to the Education Authority that pre-school provision is still required in the area presently served by Sunshine Playgroup. Overleaf is the comments received from PEG.

EDUCATION AUTHORITY

PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAMME

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NURSERY UNIT FOR 26 PART-TIME PUPILS AT CURRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2020 OR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER

PEG Comments

School	Currie Primary School
Address	Limestone Road, Belfast, BT15 3AB
Does PEG/EA support the proposal?	PEG is in support of this proposal
What is the potential impact if the proposal is/ is not approved? (alternatives for meeting demand/ potential for over provision)	24 pre-school places are currently funded within Sunshine Playgroup which is located within the school. Staff in the playgroup have been consulted and are in support of the establishment of a nursery unit. The Principal advised the staff may have an opportunity to be employed within the school.
What is the PEG assessment of need for pre-school provision for the area? Is this need currently met?	For the 2018-19 academic year a total of 523 funded places are available within a 1 mile radius of Currie PS with a total of 487 1st preference applications being received. Sunshine PG is included within these figures with 26 1 st preference applications.
How many 1 st preference applications were received by the setting? (usually 2 years figures but this depends on the timing of the development proposal)	Sunshine PG intake 2019 23 1 st preferences 2018 26 1 st preferences 2017 27 1 st preferences 2016 28 1 st preferences
Are there current or anticipated pressures in placing pre-school children in the area?	The projected live births for the former ward of Duncairn where Currie PS is located are as follows:- 2018 pre-school admissions 83 2019 pre-school admissions 91 2020 pre-school admissions 73
Have children been unplaced at the end of the process in previous years?	BT15 postcode 2018 2 2017
Has demand been increasing over time but the number of places has not? Is the level of need or provision changing significantly? Eg new housing development, provider leaving PSEP	Sunshine PG has a consistent number of 1 st preferences every year and fill the 24 funded places within the setting.
Can existing voluntary/private providers expand to help meet demand? Is there potential for new providers to come on to the programme?	There are 3 other voluntary/private settings within the 1 mile radius that would still have spare capacity.

What is the potential impact on existing good quality provision (displacement)?	Sunshine PG is already in existence with 24 funded pre-school places. PEG has received correspondence to advise the playgroup will close if the DP for a nursery unit is approved.
If there are other development proposals in the area, how might they impact? (eg if proposal A were to be approved, would B still be required?)	None that PEG is aware of
Other comments	

The alternative pre-school provision to Sunshine Playgroup, within 1 mile, is shown on Table 2 below:

Table 2 – Alternative Provision	Ward	Places at September 2018
Resurrection Nursery & Playgroup	Cavehill	13
Bunscoil Bheann Mhagain	Cliftonville	30
Tudor Lodge Nursery School	Crumlin	52
Seaview Primary School	Fortwilliam	52
New Lodge Nursery School	New Lodge	52
Stanhope Street Nursery School	New Lodge	52
Victoria Nursery School	New Lodge	26
Hope Nursery School	Shankill	52
174 Trust Playgroup	Water Works	15
Cliftonville Integrated Primary School	Water Works	30
Holy Family Primary School	Water Works	52
Naiscoil Mhic Rheachtain	Water Works	20
Old Park Nursery School	Water Works	52

The pre-school settings listed above have filled their allocation of places for September 2018 and there remains a need for pre-school provision in the Duncairn ward.

2.0 SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

PEG has indicated there remains a need for pre-school provision in the area currently served by Sunshine Playgroup. The proposal is to establish a nursery unit at Currie Primary School and this assessment is centred on the primary school.

2.1 The assessment is as follows:

1. Quality of Education – the ETI inspection of May 2013 noted that:

“The quality of the teaching observed ranged from good to outstanding; half of the lessons were very good and one-quarter were outstanding. Key strengths of the planning and teaching are the teachers’ realistically high expectations of what the children can achieve with very good challenge for the more able and very effective support for those experiencing difficulties with their learning.”

2. Stable Enrolment Trends – The enrolment history of the school is as follows:

Year	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Yr7	Total
2011/2012	22	19	22	21	15	15	19	133
2012/2013	30	23	20	22	18	13	14	140
2013/2014	21	30	22	21	22	19	17	152
2014/2015	28	23	36	21	19	20	19	166
2015/2016	34	28	23	34	18	19	19	175
2016/2017	31	31	25	20	29	19	20	175
2017/2018	25	32	31	25	20	26	19	178
2018/2019	25	25	33	31	28	19	26	187

The school remains a sustainable school and well above the 140 required for an urban school as defined in the SSP.

3. Sound Financial Position – The school remains financial stable and has been in surplus for a number of years.

4. Strong Leadership and Management – the ETI report noted that:

“Principal, supported well by the Board of Governors and the whole school community, provides excellent strategic direction for the school. All of the staff work collegially to ensure that the provision is continuously evaluated and improved.”

5. Accessibility – the school is located in an area which can be accessed by foot, private car and bus. The majority of the pupils live close to the primary school.

6. Strong Links with the Community – Currie Primary School has been located in its current setting for a number of years and has strong links with the local community and other local schools. The parents are an active part of the school and contribute to the overall school community.

3.0 AREA PLANNING IMPACT

- 3.1 This proposal will secure pre-school provision for the area and will have no impact on area planning.
- 3.2 This proposal has been progressed outside of the action plan due to the withdrawal of the existing playgroup which could not be foreseen.
- 3.3 As stated previously the proposed new nursery will be located within Currie Primary School accommodation. This primary school is viewed as fully sustainable as shown on the enrolment history detailed within Section 2.0.

4.0 RATIONALE FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The data provided in Table 1 shows that Sunshine Playgroup remains a popular pre-school provider and is an essential component of the local community. The closure of the playgroup would have a detrimental impact on pre-school provision in the Duncairn ward area. Removal of provision within this ward would result in local families being severely disadvantaged.
- 4.2 The inclusion of a 26 part-time nursery unit will strengthen the controlled primary school and assist in the long-term sustainability of the school.

There will be no impact on other pre-school providers in the area.

5.0 EDUCATIONAL IMPACT

- 5.1 Continuity of pre-school provision is essential and the retention of pre-school provision for the Duncairn ward area is an important part of the overall PSEP.
- 5.2 It has been determined that part-time places at a pre-school setting provide the same level of education as full-time places.

6.0 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (IF THE PROPOSAL IS APPROVED)

- 6.1 The proposal has an effective implementation date of September 2020.
- 6.2 In order for the school to recruit the required staff it would be essential that approval of the proposal is provide at least 6 months before this date. Any lead time less than this will cause issues with regard to recruitment and the ability for the new nursery to be operational for the 2020 effective date.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 It is intended for the proposed new nursery to make use of the accommodation vacated by the playgroup – this building is held under the ownership of the Education Authority and would not require any investment.
- 7.2 The accommodation will require some light refurbishment works which is estimated to cost £50,000 plus a renewal of some of the furniture and equipment which would cost approximately £10,000. The EA would plan to finance this expenditure via the minor works budget.
- 7.3 In addition the proposed new nursery will require new staffing at an approximate cost of £40,000.

SITE AND ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION IN
SUPPORT OF A DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

In order for the Development Proposal to be considered information regarding current accommodation provision is required. Pages 1-6 of this document must be completed and submitted along with the Case for Change to the Department.

The information provided will be used to form input from the Investment and Infrastructure Directorate regarding the Development Proposal.

Should the Development Proposal be approved this information will be used to inform the feasibility study regarding accommodation needs.

If you have any queries regarding completion of the form please contact the Estate Operations Team on 028 91 279514.

SCHOOL DETAILS:

Name of School: Currie Primary School

Address: Limestone Road, Belfast

Postcode: BT15 3AB

Tel No: 028 9074 7982

Principal's name: Ms A Galway

Email address:

No. of Teaching Staff:

ACCOMMODATION AND SITE INFORMATION - CURRENT PROVISION AND ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Primary Schools

No of :	Current Provision	Additional Requirement	Timescale for requirement			Comments – for completion by the Department
			Year1	Year 2	Year 3	
Classrooms (Include rooms currently used as classrooms and those which could be refurbished and reinstated as classrooms if currently used for another purpose)	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>				
Resource Areas	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>				
Multi-Purpose Rooms	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>				
Multi-purpose Hall	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>				
Library	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>				
Staffroom	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>				
Offices (Including Principal, VP, Secretary and General)	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>				
Caretaker's Room	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>				
Toilet Facilities:	Current provision	Additional Requirement	Year1 Year 2 Year 3			
Pupil toilets (cubicles)	<u>14</u>	<u>0</u>				
Pupil toilets (urinals)	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>				
Staff	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>				

Could the Development Proposal proceed without additional provision: - Some minor refurbishment works required

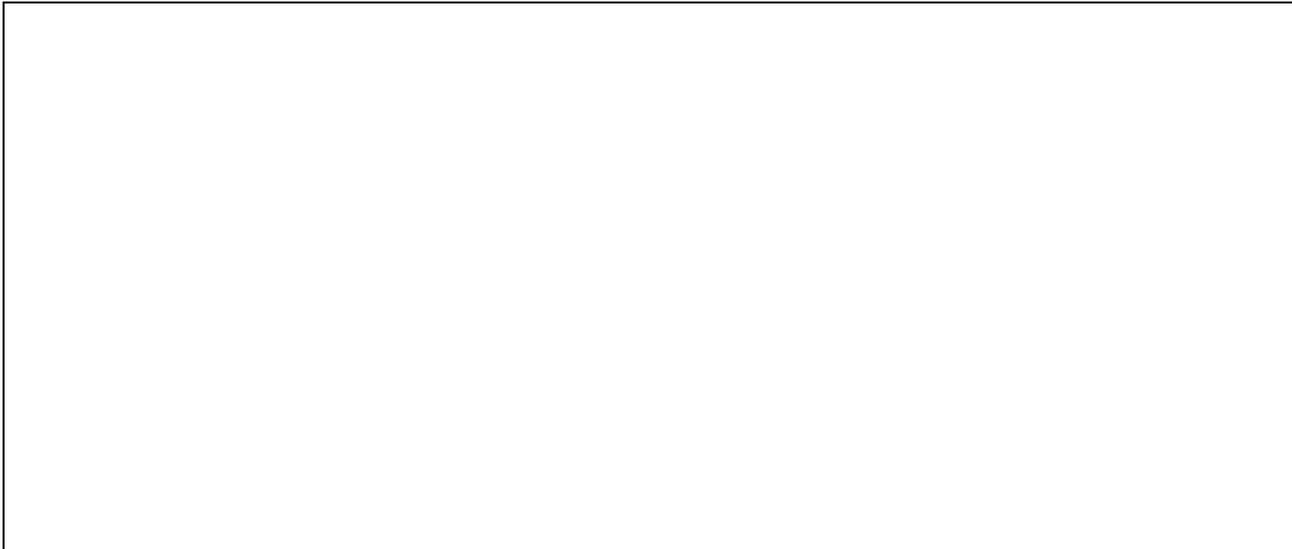
Use the space below, if required, to add any additional information, for example

- if the request relates to an Irish Medium Unit within a host school please provide additional details,
- Or if the request relates to accommodation or facilities not specified in the table above, such as Learning Support Units.

Please also use this space to detail if adaptation of existing accommodation is possible.

The school will make use of the area of the main building vacated by the playgroup – it is owned by the Education Authority.

Some minor work is required to improve the overall condition of the room.



Note cost estimates are not required from the school.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSED CHANGES - CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

(NOTE THIS SECTION IS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE DEPARTMENT)

The changes proposed should be set out in the table below and should be based on the **minimum investment** required to produce a workable solution to the school's accommodation requirements.

In the Year column please provide a realistic timeframe for delivery, for example, modular accommodation will take approximately one year to install on site, permanent build extensions will take longer.

For any recommendations please ensure consideration has been given to the size and position of the site and provide confirmation in the Comments column that any additional accommodation/facilities will fit on the existing site, or provide details of additional site requirements.

The Comments column should also include any additional relevant information which may impact on the delivery, for example if any adverse site conditions exist or any contamination issues are known.

SITE INFORMATION

Please provide a site plan of the existing site and complete the table below where possible.

Area of Existing Site	
Area of Existing Hard Play	
For Primary Schools: Area of Existing Grass Play	
For Post Primary Schools: Number of Existing Pitches	

Year	Description of Additional Accommodation/Facilities to be in Place for the Commencement of the School Year	Estimated Cost	Comments
Year 1 (20 /20)			
Year 2 (20 /20)			
Year 3 (20 /20)			
Year 4 (20 /20)			
Year 5 (20 /20)			