

Proposals to  
close Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School  
and expand and alter the age range of  
Valley Infant School



SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Proposals to close Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School and expand and alter the age range of Valley Infant School**

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that The Metropolitan Borough of Solihull, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull B91 3QB intends to discontinue Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School, Old Lode Lane, Solihull B92 8LW on 31 August 2014.

It is proposed that the children on roll at Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School at the time the school closes will be guaranteed a place at an expanded Valley Infant School, Fallowfield Road, Solihull, B92 9HQ. Admission may be sought to other schools which have places available.

Any child who is eligible to receive assistance under the Council's transport policy will not be affected by these proposals.

The proposal to close Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School is related to the proposal to expand as well as alter the age range of Valley Infant School to a 3 form entry primary school from 1 September 2014.

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that The Metropolitan Borough of Solihull intends to make a prescribed alteration to Valley Infant School, Fallowfield Road, Solihull B92 9HQ from 1 September 2014.

The Metropolitan Borough of Solihull is proposing to expand and alter the age range of Valley Infant School from ages 3 to 7 to ages 3 to 11. The expanded Valley School will require an additional site.

The current capacity of the school is 180 and the proposed capacity will be 630. The current admission number for the school is 60 and the proposed admission number will be 90. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 178 at the time of the publication of these proposals.

All statutory consultation requirements relating to these proposals have been complied with.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposals. Copies of the complete proposals can be obtained from: School Place Planning Team, Children's Services, The Metropolitan Borough of Solihull, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull B91 3QB or viewed on the website [www.solihull.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/consultation).

Within six weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending them to School Place Planning Team, Children's Services, The Metropolitan Borough of Solihull, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull B91 3QB or emailing [hatchfordbrookandvalley@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:hatchfordbrookandvalley@solihull.gov.uk).

Signed:   
Phil Mayhew  
Acting Director of Children's Services

Publication Date: 7 November 2013





## MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 15 PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE A SCHOOL

### **Extract of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):**

#### **Contact details**

1. The name of the LA or governing body publishing the proposals, and a contact address, and the name of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council  
Council House  
Manor Square  
Solihull  
B91 3QB

**Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School**

#### **Implementation**

2. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or, where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

31 August 2014

#### **Consultation**

3. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with.

All applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with.

4. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including:
  - a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted;
  - b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
  - c) the views of the persons consulted;and
  - d) copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available.

a) Attached at Appendix A  
b) Drop-in events were held at both schools and a separate event was organised for residents. Comments at these meetings were collated through the consultation response form.

c)Attached at Appendix B

d) Attached at Appendix C. Consultation documents were made available in a range of ways, direct mail, pupil post, published on the Council website and at all public meetings. The consultation process was also advertised in the local press.

### **Objectives**

5. The objectives of the proposal.

This proposal is linked to the proposals to expand and alter the age range of Valley Infant School.

In January 2010 Hatchford Brook JI School was categorised as inadequate by Ofsted. Since that time, the Council has provided intensive support to raise standards at the school. Subsequently the school was judged as satisfactory by Ofsted in June 2011.

Since then the Council has continued to provide a high level of support and monitor standards of education. In spite of this support the school remained of serious concern.

In June 2013 Ofsted visited Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School and found the school to be inadequate.

By pursuing a proposal to replace Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School with an expanded Valley Infant School the Council will be proactive in securing improved standards in school in the area and improving the outcomes for children.

Valley Infant School is a good school with strong leadership and management at both School and Governor level. The Council believes this strength and capacity can be extended to provide a good education for all the children attending both Valley Infant School and Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School and for children starting at the school in future years.

### **Standards and Diversity**

6. A statement and supporting evidence indicating how the proposals will impact on the standards, diversity and quality of education in the area.

Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School has been found to be Inadequate by Ofsted. Valley Infant School is a very successful school and the children do well there. This is a consequence of the effective leadership and management of the school. By closing Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant and expanding and changing the age range of Valley Infant School the Governors will extend the Valley ethos and success to a wider group of children, and ensure that all the children benefit from the opportunities that a larger school can offer.

The Ofsted Inspection at Valley Infant School in 2011 found that “The Headteacher is very effective in creating a shared vision for the school among staff. She has overseen the implementation of robust monitoring procedures and managed deployments within the school well to make the most of available expertise”. Also the report also notes “The governing body knows the school well and has good systems for holding it to account. The school therefore has a good capacity for sustained improvement.”

**Provision for 16-19 year olds**

7. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, how the proposals will impact on:

- a) the educational or training achievements;
- b) participation in education or training; and
- c) the range of educational or training opportunities,

for 16-19 year olds in the area.

Not applicable

**Need for places**

8. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

All of the children on roll at Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School when it closes will be guaranteed a place at the expanded Valley School. The expanded Valley School will provide sufficient places to meet demand from the area. It will have a published admission number of 90 which matched the published admission numbers for both schools currently.

9. 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.

Not applicable

**Current School Information**

10. Information as to the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is made at the school.

At October 2013 pupil count Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School had 369 pupils on roll plus 25 part-time nursery pupils. It caters for children from 4 to 11 years and has a nursery unit catering for up to 30 part time children age 3. The school caters for boys and girls and caters for children with special educational needs within the mainstream setting. In addition the school hosts an Additionally Resourced Centre (ARC) for pupils with speech and language difficulties.

**Displaced Pupils**

11. Details of the schools or FE colleges which pupils at the school for whom provision is to be discontinued will be offered places, including:

- a) any interim arrangements;
- b) where the school included provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for children with special educational needs, the alternative provision to be made for pupils in the school's reserved provision; and

c) in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by LAs other than the authority which maintains the school.

All displaced pupils from Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School will be guaranteed a place at the expanded Valley School. Parents may also express a preference for any school with a vacancy and places will be allocated in accordance with published admission criteria.

These proposals intend that the Additionally Resourced Centre hosted by Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School is hosted by the expanded Valley School. Should any change be proposed in the future this would be subject to a separate consultation process.

12. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or FE college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

None

### **Impact on the Community**

13. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

The Council will support parents and children within the community through transitional arrangements which will minimise the disruption to the children's education.

The expanded Valley School will operate across two school sites which should limit the impact on residents of parent parking and traffic.

In addition any identified community activities carried out at Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School will continue or be replicated at the expanded Valley School.

14. Details of extended services the school offered and what it is proposed for these services once the school has discontinued.

All of the extended services offered from Hatchford Brook JI School will continue or be replicated in the expanded Valley School.

### **Travel**

15. Details of the length and journeys to alternative provision.

The closure of Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant should not have an impact on the length of journeys for the displaced pupils. All children on roll at Hatchford Brook JI School when it closes will be guaranteed a place at the expanded Valley School which is the linked infant feeder school to Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School.

Any child who is eligible to receive assistance under the Council's transport policy will not be affected by these proposals.



16. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how they will help to work against increased car use.

The Council will work with the Headteacher and Governing Body of the expanded Valley School as well as with parents to produce a flexible school travel plan that will meet the changing travel patterns of children as the school develops. The first phase will be to develop different options such as walking buses and designated drop off points.

**Related Proposals**

17. A statement as to whether in the opinion of the LA or governing body, the proposals are related to any other proposals which may have been, are, or are about to be published.

The proposal to close Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School is related to the proposals to expand as well as alter the age range of Valley Infant School.

**Rural Primary Schools**

18. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15, a statement that the LA or the governing body (as the case may be) considered:

- a) the likely effect of discontinuance of the school on the local community;
- b) the availability, and likely cost to the LA, of transport to other schools;
- c) any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and
- d) any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school,

as required by section 15(4)

Not applicable

**Maintained nursery schools**

19. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out:

- a) the consideration that has been given to developing the school into a children's centre and the grounds for not doing so;
- b) the LA's assessment of the quality and quantity of alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
- c) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

Not applicable

**Special educational provision**

20. Where existing provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the LA or the governing body believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

This proposal intends that the Additionally Resourced Centre currently hosted by Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School is hosted by the expanded Valley School. Should the Council propose any changes to the ARC in the future this would be subject to a separate consultation process

## **21. Objections and comments**

Within six weeks from the date of publication, by no later than 19 December 2013, any person may object or make comments on the proposal by sending them to School Place Planning Team, Childrens Services, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull. B91 3QB or email [hatchfordbrookandvalley@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:hatchfordbrookandvalley@solihull.gov.uk)

## PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS: Information to be included in a complete proposal

### **Extract of Part 1 of Schedule 3 and Part 1 of Schedule 5 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):**

#### **In respect of a Governing Body Proposal: School and governing body's details**

1. The name, address and category of the school for which the governing body are publishing the proposals.

These proposals are being published by Solihull Council

#### **In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority details**

1. The name, address and category of the school .

The Metropolitan Borough of Solihull  
School Place Planning Team  
Childrens Services  
Council House  
Manor Square, Solihull B91 3QB

**These proposals relate to Valley Infant School, Fallowfield Road, Solihull. B92 9HQ which is a community school.**

#### **Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation**

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

1 September 2014

#### **Objections and comments**

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including —
- (a) the date prescribed in accordance with paragraph 29 of Schedule 3 (GB proposals)/Schedule 5 (LA proposals) of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), by

which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority;  
and

- (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

Within six weeks from the date of publication, by no later than 19 December 2013, any person may object or make comments on the proposal by sending them to School Place Planning Team, Childrens Services, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull. B91 3QB or email hatchfordbrookandvalley@solihull.gov.uk

#### **Alteration description**

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

It is proposed to expand as well as alter the age range of Valley Infant School so that it can accommodate up to 630 pupils plus nursery and cater for ages 3 to 11.

#### **School capacity**

5.—(1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 8, 9 and 12-14 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), the proposals must also include —

- (a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

It is proposed that the school will increase in capacity from 180 infant places to 630 infant and junior places.

- (b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

The school currently admits 60 children into Reception it is proposed that this will increase to 90 from September 2014. The School will also admit up to 80 part-time nursery pupils.

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

From September 2014 all of the children starting Reception and Nursery at the expanded Valley School will be admitted to the Valley Infant School site on Fallowfield Road. From September 2015, Year 2 children attending the school will be located on to one school site.

- (d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

Not Applicable

(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals) /paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 and 19 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

At the time of publication there are 178 pupils on roll at Valley Infant School plus 45 part-time nursery pupils.

### Implementation

6. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

Not applicable

### Additional Site

7.—(1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

In order for the proposal to be implemented Valley Infant School will require an additional site. The expanded Valley School will be located across two sites, the existing Valley Infant School site Fallowfield Road, Solihull B91 9HQ and the site of Hatchford Brook JI School, Old Lode Lane, Solihull B92 8LW.

(2) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

Not applicable

### Changes in boarding arrangements

8.—(1) Where the proposals are for the introduction or removal of boarding provision, or the alteration of existing boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21

of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

- (a) the number of pupils for whom it is intended that boarding provision will be made if the proposals are approved;

Not applicable

- (b) the arrangements for safeguarding the welfare of children at the school;

Not applicable

- (c) the current number of pupils for whom boarding provision can be made and a description of the boarding provision; and

Not applicable

- (d) except where the proposals are to introduce boarding provision, a description of the existing boarding provision.

Not applicable

(2) Where the proposals are for the removal of boarding provisions or an alteration to reduce boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

- (a) the number of pupils for whom boarding provision will be removed if the proposals are approved; and

Not applicable

- (b) a statement as to the use to which the former boarding accommodation will be put if the proposals are approved.

Not applicable

### **Transfer to new site**

**9.** Where the proposals are to transfer a school to a new site the following information—

- (a) the location of the proposed site (including details of whether the school is to occupy a single or split site), and including where appropriate the postal address;

The expanded Valley School will operate across two school sites, the Valley Infant School site and the Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School site

- (b) the distance between the proposed and current site;

Not applicable

- (c) the reason for the choice of proposed site;

Not applicable

- (d) the accessibility of the proposed site or sites;

Not applicable

- (e) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the school on its new site;  
and

Not applicable

- (f) a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how car use in the school area will be discouraged.

Not applicable

## Objectives

10. The objectives of the proposals.

Valley Infant School is a good and popular school with strong leadership and management at both School and Governor level. The Council believes this strength and capacity can be extended to provide a good education for more children

This proposal is related to the proposal to close Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School.

Following the closure of Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School the

expanded Valley School will be able to provide a high quality education to all of the children currently attending Valley Infant School and Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School as well as future children living in its community.

### Consultation

11. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—
- (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
  - (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
  - (c) the views of the persons consulted;
  - (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
  - (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

- a) Attached at Appendix A
- b) Drop-in events were held at both schools and a separate event was organised for residents. Comments at these meetings were collated through the consultation response form.
- c) Attached at Appendix B
- d) All applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with.
- e) Attached at Appendix C. Consultation documents were made available in a range of ways, direct mail, pupil post, published on the Council website and at all public meetings. The consultation process was also advertised in the local press.

### Project costs

12. A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

The implementation of this proposal will be phased. Phase One from September 2014 can be achieved without any significant capital outlay. The Governing Body of Valley School are considering how one or both buildings can be adapted to provide the best possible education for all of the children in future years. Once this is known the Council will work with the School to identify funding sources.

The current school funding regulations permit the lump sum to be maintained for a year after school reorganisation, and locally we would expect to extend that to two years. The value of the lump sum will be £175,000 from April 2014. As it is proposed that the school operate over two sites consideration will be given to developing a “split-site funding factor”.



13. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

Not applicable

#### Age range

14. Where the proposals relate to a change in age range, the current age range for the school.

This proposal does include a change to the age range. Presently the age range of Valley Infant School is from ages 3 to 7. The expanded school will offer education to children age 3 to 11.

#### Early years provision

15. Where the proposals are to alter the lower age limit of a mainstream school so that it provides for pupils aged between 2 and 5—

- (a) details of the early years provision, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;

Not applicable

- (b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services and how the proposals are consistent with the integration of early years provision for childcare;

Not applicable

- (c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;

Not applicable

- (d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools and in establishments other than schools who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school; and

Not applicable

- (e) reasons why such schools and establishments who have spare capacity cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the number of such provision.

Not applicable

**Changes to sixth form provision**

16. (a) Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school provides sixth form education or additional sixth form education, a statement of how the proposals will—

- (i) improve the educational or training achievements;
- (ii) increase participation in education or training; and
- (iii) expand the range of educational or training opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the area;

Not applicable

- (b) A statement as to how the new places will fit within the 16-19 organisation in an area;

Not applicable

- (c) Evidence —

- (i) of the local collaboration in drawing up the proposals; and
- (ii) that the proposals are likely to lead to higher standards and better progression at the school;

Not applicable

- (d) The proposed number of sixth form places to be provided.

Not applicable

17. Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school ceases to provide sixth form education, a statement of the effect on the supply of 16-19 places in the area.

Not applicable

## Special educational needs

18. Where the proposals are to establish or change provision for special educational needs—

- (a) a description of the proposed types of learning difficulties in respect of which education will be provided and, where provision for special educational needs already exists, the current type of provision;

The expanded Valley School will host a non delegated Additionally Resourced Centre (ARC) for pupils with speech and language difficulties which is currently hosted by Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School. Should the Council propose any changes to the ARC in the future this would be subject to a separate consultation process

- (b) any additional specialist features will be provided;

Not applicable

- (c) the proposed numbers of pupils for which the provision is to be made;

The Additionally Resourced Centre currently has places for 16 pupils

- (d) details of how the provision will be funded;

No change.

- (e) a statement as to whether the education will be provided for children with special educational needs who are not registered pupils at the school to which the proposals relate;

The pupils attending the Additionally Resourced Centre have a statement of special educational needs that names the unit as their provision.

- (f) a statement as to whether the expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated budget;

The Additionally Resources Centre is not delegated to the school.

- (g) the location of the provision if it is not to be established on the existing site of the school;

As the expanded Valley School will be located across two sites consideration will be given to how the quality provision offered by the Additionally Resourced Centre (ARC) can be maintained across both school sites. Should the Council propose any changes to the ARC in the future this would be subject to a separate consultation process.

- (h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local education authority believes that the new provision is likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children; and

Not applicable

- (i) the number of places reserved for children with special educational needs, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of such places.

No change

**19. Where the proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs—**

- (a) details of alternative provision for pupils for whom the provision is currently made;

Not applicable

- (b) details of the number of pupils for whom provision is made that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs during each of the 4 school years preceding the current school year;

Not applicable

- (c) details of provision made outside the area of the local education authority for pupils whose needs will not be able to be met in the area of the authority as a result of the discontinuance of the provision; and

Not applicable

- (d) a statement as to how the proposer believes that the proposals are likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children.

Not applicable

**20.** Where the proposals will lead to alternative provision for children with special educational needs, as a result of the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of existing provision, the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of—

- (a) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local education authority's Accessibility Strategy;
- (b) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;
- (c) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
- (d) improved supply of suitable places.

These proposals intend that the Additionally Resourced Centre is hosted by the expanded Valley School, should any change be proposed in the future this would be subject to a separate consultation process.

### **Sex of pupils**

**21.** Where the proposals are to make an alteration to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of one sex only becomes an establishment which admits pupils of both sexes—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area;

Not applicable

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education; and

Not applicable

- (c) details of any transitional period which the body making the proposals wishes specified in a transitional exemption order (within the meaning of section 27 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975).

Not applicable

**22.** Where the proposals are to make an alteration to a school to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of both sexes becomes an establishment which admits pupils of one sex only—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area; and

Not applicable

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education.

Not applicable

**Extended services**

**23.** If the proposed alterations affect the provision of the school's extended services, details of the current extended services the school is offering and details of any proposed change as a result of the alterations.

This proposal does not affect the extended services currently offered by Valley Infant School.

**Need or demand for additional places**

**24.** If the proposals involve adding places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

Although this proposal is to extend Valley Infant School from 180 to 630 places it is related to the proposal to close Hatchford brook JI School, therefore the expanded school will be able to meet the demand from the wider area currently served by both schools. The published admission number for the expanded school will be 90 which is the same number of places offered by both schools currently.

- (b) where the school has a religious character, a statement and supporting evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion or religious denomination;

Not applicable

- (c) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

Not applicable

**25.** If the proposals involve removing places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the reasons for the removal, including an assessment of the impact on parental choice; and

Not applicable

- (b) a statement on the local capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

Not applicable

**Expansion of successful and popular schools**

**25A.** (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to expansion proposals in respect of primary and secondary schools, (except for grammar schools), i.e. falling within:

(a) (for proposals published by the governing body) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 2 or paragraph 12 of Part 2 to Schedule 2;

(b) (for proposals published by the LA) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 4 or 18 of Part 4 to Schedule 4

of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

Valley School is a successful and popular school. Ofsted found the school to be good with outstanding features and it is the Council's view that the school has continued to make progress since its last Ofsted and that the current assessment of leadership and management is outstanding.

Attainment is above national averages at the end of Key Stage 1 in all subjects and significantly above the national averages in reading and in writing. This is a five year trend.

In the Year 1 phonics screening check, in 2013, 77% of pupils attained the standard, exceeding the national percentage of 69%

Valley School is popular with parents. The School has been full for the last three years and for admissions in September 2013 the Council is operating a waiting list of children waiting for a place at the school.

It is the Officers' view that the presumption for expanding successful and popular schools applies to this proposal.

## Appendix A

### **Proposals to close Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School and expand and alter the age range of Valley Infant School**

#### **List of people consulted**

##### **Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School**

Governing Body

Headteacher

Staff (including ARC staff)

Parents of current pupils

Parents of pre-school pupils living in the school catchment area

Parents of pupils due to start in September 2013

##### **Valley Infant School**

Governing Body

Headteacher

Staff

Parents of current pupils

Parents of pre-school pupils living in the school catchment area

Parents of pupils due to start in September 2013

##### **Other**

Chairman of Governors at all schools in Solihull

Headteachers of all schools in Solihull

Catholic Diocese of Birmingham

Church of England Diocese of Birmingham

Church of England Diocese of Coventry

Local residents

All Solihull Councillors

Teacher Associations/Unions

Neighbouring Councils

Lorely Burt MP

Caroline Spellman MP



**Appendix B**

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet for Education, Children and Young People
<b>Meeting date:</b>	9 October 2013
<b>Subject/Report Title:</b>	<b>HATCHFORD BROOK JUNIOR AND INFANT AND VALLEY INFANT SCHOOLS</b>
<b>Report from:</b>	Director of Children's Services
<b>Report Author/Lead Contact Officer:</b>	Chris Palmer
<b>Wards affected:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> All Wards <input type="checkbox"/> Bickenhill <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Blythe</span> <input type="checkbox"/> Castle Bromwich <span style="margin-left: 150px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Chelmsley Wood</span> <input type="checkbox"/> Dorridge/Hockley Heath <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elmdon</span> <input type="checkbox"/> Kingshurst/Fordbridge <span style="margin-left: 150px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Knowle</span> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lyndon <span style="margin-left: 150px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Meriden</span> <input type="checkbox"/> Olton <span style="margin-left: 150px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Shirley East</span> <input type="checkbox"/> Shirley South <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Shirley West</span> <input type="checkbox"/> Silhill <span style="margin-left: 150px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Smith's Wood</span> <input type="checkbox"/> St Alphege
<b>Public/Private report:</b>	Public
<b>Exempt by virtue of Paragraph:</b>	N/A

<b>1. Purpose of Report</b>
1.1 To update Cabinet Member on the outcome of the consultation process with schools and the wider education community on the proposal to close Hatchford Brook JI School and expand Valley Infant School from September 2014.
<b>2. Decision(s) Recommended</b>
2.1 To consider the outcome of the consultation and the preferred option identified in the report which is the closure of Hatchford Brook JI School and an expansion of Valley Infant School to be located across both sites.
2.2 Approve that Officers move to the representation stage of the statutory process for the proposal.
<b>3. Background</b>
3.1 On 23 <sup>rd</sup> May, Cabinet considered a report that outlined serious concerns with regards to the standards of education being provided by Hatchford Brook JI School. The report set out a proposal to consult on a structural change. Subsequently, on 19 <sup>th</sup> June, Cabinet Member authorised Officers to undertake a period of consultation on a proposal to close Hatchford Brook JI School and expand Valley Infant School to make it a 3 form entry primary school from September 2014. This consultation included two different implementation options (i) operating the expanded school on a split site. (ii) locating the expanded Valley School on the Hatchford Brook site.
3.2 During this process Hatchford Brook JI School was inspected by Ofsted who found the school to be 'Inadequate'. When a school is given an Inadequate rating by Ofsted it is the expectation of the Secretary of State that the school will become a sponsored academy. However, as the Council had already approved that consultation commence on the proposed closure of Hatchford Brook JI the Academy Performance and Brokerage Division of the DfE are awaiting the outcome of the Council process before taking further action.
3.3 On 10th September, HMI carried out a termly monitoring visit to the school. The report is included at Appendix C to this report. The feedback from this visit indicated that in the four school weeks since the initial inspection there has been substantial progress made in recognising and beginning to address the key weaknesses. The inspector identified the need for more short term targets to enable effective monitoring of progress at the school. It therefore found the School and Local Authority Plans 'Not fit for Purpose'. This has now been addressed at both school and LA level.
3.4 The consultation period started on 1 July 2013 with a closing date of 30 September (approximately 8 school weeks). Over 1500 consultation packs and response forms were sent out. Officers held a series of

	<p>consultation meetings for parents at both schools during July with follow up sessions during September. Meetings were held with staff and Officers attended Governing Body meetings at both schools.</p> <p>3.5 A separate meeting was arranged for residents and held at the Meadow Meeting Rooms at Solihull Ice Rink. This was advertised through direct mail to residents whose properties adjoin the school sites as well as being advertised in the local press and on the Council's twitter feed.</p> <p>3.6 The Student Council of both schools have discussed the proposal.</p> <p>3.7 A detailed analysis of the consultation process and its outcomes can be found in Appendix A and Appendix B. The file of individual consultation responses is available in the Members Resource area. Any responses received after this report is published will be updated at the Cabinet Member session.</p>
<b>4. Evaluation of Alternative Option(s)</b>	
<p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p> <p>4.4</p>	<p>The Council's consultation process asked for views on two separate implementation options. Option one a split site option where the expanded Valley Primary School operates across both existing school sites and Option 2 locating the expanded school on the Hatchford Brook School site. 102 respondents expressed a clear opinion on these options, with 19 preferring the single site and 83 preferring the split site.</p> <p>163 respondents have put forward an alternative option as part of the consultation process they include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace Hatchford Brook JI with a sponsored academy</li> <li>• Make no change and keep both schools the same</li> <li>• Expand Valley Infant to a 3fe Infant school and make Hatchford Brook a 3fe Junior School</li> <li>• Make Hatchford Brook JI a 1fe primary school and Valley Infant a 2fe primary school on the Valley school site.</li> </ul> <p>152 of the responses support the sponsored academy option. Responses indicate that parents perceive this option as the least disruptive for children and the closest option to no change by maintaining a school on both sites.</p> <p>The local Ward Members have been active in supporting local residents to engage in the consultation process. As a consequence they have been able to canvass local views on the proposals and the anticipated local impact of the changes. Their formal response to the consultation is included at Appendix D. The Ward Members do not object to the implementation of an expanded Valley School split across both sites. They are also supportive of those parents that wish the schools to stay as they are and that Hatchford Brook should become an Academy.</p> <p>An analysis of the alternative options and an Officer response is</p>

included in Appendix A of this report.

## **5. Reasons for Recommending Preferred Options**

- 5.1 The outcome of the consultation process has indicated that a significant proportion of the responses would support a sponsored academy solution rather than the closure option that has been proposed. Responses show that parents feel that this option will create the least disruption to their children's education. However as outlined in Appendix A the normal sponsored academy route may take up to 12 months to implement before the sponsor could take over the running of the school and does not address the structural issue of an infant school feeding into a primary school, identified by the Governing Body of Hatchford Brook School as a key issue affecting standards at the school.
- 5.2 The Council consultation for the closure of Hatchford Brook School offered two implementation options, either a split site option or a single site option. As shown in Appendix A the consultation has indicated that out of the two implementation options, the split site option is preferred by parents and residents. This is because they feel it limits the impact on traffic and parking on Old Lode Lane, it feels like the least change option for the children and it ensures that children benefit from the investment that has already taken place at Valley Infant School. However it must be noted that the Governing Body of Valley Infant School do believe that the single site option is in the best interests of the children. Elmdon Ward members have indicated that they would have no objection to this implementation option
- 5.3 Members will recall that in June, Officers made a bid to the DfE for approximately £2.5 million to support the building work on the Hatchford Brook school site should the proposal go ahead. This bid was refused as the DfE felt that this pre-empted the outcome of the consultation process. Therefore at this stage the Council does not have the capital funding required to deliver the extensive building modifications to the Hatchford Brook Building. An outline study on the split site option has shown that it would require less capital funding of approximately £1 million to enlarge the Valley Infant School building and make some internal modifications to the Hatchford Brook building.
- 5.4 In light of the outcome of the consultation and the significant investment that the Council has already made in the Valley Infant School site it would seem appropriate to take forward the split site option in terms of implementation.
- 5.5 There are resource implications for the Additional Resource Centre located at Hatchford Brook JI School with a split site option and these will need to be considered as part of the implementation plan.
- 5.6 What has become clear through the consultation process is that parents and residents would like more detailed information on how the changes will be implemented, in particular what the change would mean for children at the schools, the timing of any changes and the

	extent and cost of any necessary building work. If the proposal is approved Officers will work with the Governors and Headteacher of Valley to develop a detailed implementation plan to share with parents.
<b>6.</b>	<b>Scrutiny</b>
6.1	No report has been considered by Scrutiny.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Implications</b>
7.1	<b>Policy/Strategy Implications</b>
7.2	This proposal is consistent with the Council's duty to promote high standards in its area.
7.3	<b>Meeting the duty to involve</b>
7.4	Officers have carried out a period of statutory consultation with the schools and the wider community on the proposals and the outcome of the consultation can be found in Appendix A and B
7.5	<b>Financial Implications</b>
7.6	For revenue implications, when two schools merge the Council normally takes the approach that any restructuring costs are funded by the saving from the lump sum component of the funding formula over a three year period. Given the nature of the current structure of the two schools, significant restructuring costs are not expected.
7.7	The current school funding regulations permit the lump sum to be maintained for a year after amalgamation, and locally we would probably extend that to two years. The value of the lump sum will be £175,000 from April 2014.
7.8	If the solution is for a split site then consideration would have to be given to develop a "split-site funding factor" as the Solihull formula does not currently contain such a factor, yet geographic split sites are normally considered to involve extra costs of administration, management and maintenance. This would probably mean that the full saving of the lump sum would not happen; a significant part of it would be re-cycled into a split-site factor.
7.9	As referred to in paragraph 5.3, the Council has not identified significant sources of capital funds that would enable a school to be established on a single site, so in the short term, the single school option would have to use the two sites largely as currently configured. From this position, there is still scope to re-assess resources in the capital programme, and to make further capital bids to the Education Funding Agency over the longer term.
7.10	<b>Legal implications</b>
7.11	The Council is undertaking a statutory process to discontinue Hatchford Brook JI School and expand and alter the age range of Valley Infant School. The process is being carried out in accordance with Government guidance.

**7.12 Risk Implications**

7.13 The proposal to close Hatchford Brook and expand Valley Infant School is made on educational grounds. This is seen as the quickest and most effective way to ensure a rapid and continuously improving impact on the standards and quality of education for the children at Hatchford Brook JI. The key risk in not approving this structural change is that the present uncertainties that surround the school's future is prolonged. If closure is approved, the leadership of Valley can drive the school forward very quickly and everyone can focus on the needs of the children.

7.14 In the longer term, the Academy option could secure the improvement in standards, but may take longer. This option will not be able to address the transition issues in the short term, so a further structural change would probably be required in the future. Thus creating more uncertainty and potential for instability. The process for a school to convert to a sponsored Academy would be expected to take at between six and twelve months. This means the sponsor would have no real influence over the school until after that time.

**7.15 Statutory Equality Duty**

7.16 None undertaken at this stage

**7.17 Carbon Management/Environmental**

7.18 No implications as a direct consequence of this report.

**7.19 Partner Organisations**

7.20 All key stakeholders have been included in the consultation process that is required to make school organisational changes.

**7.21 Safeguarding/Corporate Parenting Implications**

7.22 No implications as a direct consequence of this report.

**7.23 Customer Impact**

7.24 A full consultation process has been carried out to identify the views of the school and wider community on the proposed changes. An assessment of the key issues raised have been outlined in Appendix B

7.25 All of the children at Hatchford Brook and Valley Schools will be guaranteed a place at the expanded Valley Primary School.

**7.26 Other implications**

7.27 No implications as a direct consequence of this report.

**8. List of Appendices Referred to**

8.1 Appendix A: Summary of Consultation responses

8.2 Appendix B: Summary of Key Issues raised

8.3 Appendix C: HMI Monitoring Visit Letter

8.4 Appendix D: Elmdon Ward Members consultation response

<b>9.</b>	<b>Background Papers Used to Compile this Report</b>
9.1	DfE guidance to discontinue, expand and alter the age range of schools
<b>10.</b>	<b>List of Other Relevant Documents</b>
10.1	None

## **Summary of the Outcome of the Consultation on the proposal to Close Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School and Expand Valley Infant School**

1. On 19<sup>th</sup> June Cabinet approved consultation with schools and the wider educational community on the proposal to close Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School and to expand Valley Infant School from September 2014.
2. The consultation period started on 1 July 2013 with a closing date of 30 September 2013 (approximately 8 school weeks). Over 1500 consultation packs and response forms have been sent out. Packs were sent to the parents and carers of children at both schools, all pre-school children living in the catchment areas for Hatchford Brook and Valley Schools, Headteachers and Chair of Governors of all schools in Solihull, neighbouring councils, residents associations, trades unions, ward Councillors, the Catholic and Church of England Diocese, Caroline Spellman MP and Lorely Burt MP.
3. The Council held consultation meetings for parents at both schools in July and then held follow up meetings during September. The evening sessions of these meeting were open to the public and wider community. In addition a specific meeting for residents was held on Monday 22 July at the Meadow Meeting Rooms at Solihull Ice Rink. Officers wrote to all residents whose properties adjoin both school sites to notify them about the meeting and it was advertised in the press and through the Council's twitter feed. Special meetings were arranged for staff at both schools both in July and September and a meeting was held for staff at the Additionally Resourced Centre located at Hatchford Brook School. Officers attended the Governing Body meetings at both schools and Parent Council meetings at Valley Infant School.
4. Following the first set of parents consultation meetings the Council published a frequently asked questions document for parents providing answers to the main questions that were raised at the consultation meetings. The consultation proposal has been covered by the local press. All of the consultation responses and the consultation documentation are available in the Members Resource area.

### **5. Summary of Consultation Responses**

Outlined below is a detailed analysis of the responses from each part of the community.

Total responses received: 298 (20%)



The table below shows a breakdown of the areas of the community that responded to the consultation process.

School	Hatchford Brook JI School	Valley Infant School	Both	Total
Parents/Carers	116	39	34	<b>189</b>
ARC	4			<b>4</b>
Governors	2	3		<b>5</b>
Staff	5 (1 ARC)	9		<b>14</b>
Residents			71	<b>71</b>
Other			15	<b>15</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>298</b>

## 6. Analysis of responses from Hatchford Brook JI community

A total of 127 response forms were received from the Hatchford Brook community. 116 of the responses were from parents with children at the school, (parents with children at both schools are counted below).

23 responses clearly indicated a preference for a split site option (Option 1). 2 responses were received in support of the single site option (Option 2). 84 responses thought the Council should support Hatchford Brook becoming a sponsored academy. One respondent thought there should be no change.

### Key Issues and concerns raised by the Hatchford Brook community through discussions/meetings and written comments:

- Traffic and Parking issues for single site option
- Size of school for single site option
- How do you know that the Leadership and management at Valley Infant School will succeed in making the necessary change
- The proposal is about making financial savings not children's education.
- How will the proposal be implemented
- Impact of building work on children's education
- Hatchford Brook JI School should become an Academy
- Investment in current Valley site and building would be wasted.
- Impact of change on standards at both schools
- Is the Hatchford Brook site big enough for a school of over 700 pupils impact on play space and health and safety.
- Chose a primary school do not want children separated if single site option
- What will happen to existing Valley site

## 7. Analysis of responses from Valley Infant community

A total of 51 response forms were received from the Valley Infant community. 39 responses were from parents with children at the school, (parents with children at both schools are counted below).

12 responses clearly indicated a preference for a split site option (Option 1). 5 responses were received in support of the single site option (Option 2). 13 responses thought the Council should support Hatchford Brook becoming a sponsored academy and 9 responses want no change at either school.

**Key Issues and concerns raised by Valley Infant community through discussions/meetings and written comments:**

- Impact of proposal on standards at Valley Infant School
- Need to protect special nature of Valley
- Single Site option is too large
- Split site option would mean least disruption for children
- Support for sponsored academy at Hatchford Brook JI
- Investment in Valley site and buildings would be wasted.
- Need to protect what makes Valley Infant 'good'
- Traffic and parking around both school sites
- Traffic and parking with single site option
- Single site option will have most impact on improving standards for children.

**9. Analysis of response from ARC staff and parents**

5 responses were received from parents and staff of the Additionally Resourced Centre which is located at Hatchford Brook School.

Three responses supported the the single site option and one response supported the sponsored academy solution.

**Key Issues and concerns raised by ARC community through discussions/meetings and written comments:**

- Single site would be best for ARC which caters for infant and junior age pupils.
- Concern about size of single site school
- How would split site affect the ARC

**10. Analysis of responses from parents with children at both schools**

34 responses were received from parents with children at both schools.

22 responses clearly indicated a preference for a split site option (Option 1). One response was received in support of the single site option (Option 2). 14 responses thought the Council should support Hatchford Brook becoming a sponsored academy and 2 response wants no change at either school.

## **Key Issues and concerns raised by parents with children at both schools**

- Prefer single site option
- What would Valley site be used for
- Single school site would be too big
- Impact on standards at both schools
- Action needs to happen quickly
- Impact of split site on leadership and management.

### **11. Analysis of responses from Staff and Governors**

A total of 19 responses have been received from staff and governors of the schools. Of the responses from Valley, 6 responses indicated a preference for the single site option, 5 for the split site option, supports the Academy option and 1 for no change.

6 responses have been received from staff and governors of Hatchford Brook School 4 of which indicate a preference for a sponsored academy, 1 for the single site option and one an alternative option.

### **12. Analysis of responses from Residents and ‘Other’**

86 response were received from residents and other interested parties.

21 responses clearly indicated a preference for a split site option (Option 1). One response was received in support of the single site option (Option 2). 34 responses thought the Council should support Hatchford Brook becoming a sponsored academy. 3 responses think there should be no change

## **Key Issues and concerns raised by Resident and ‘Other’ respondents**

- Inconsiderate parking at both school sites
- Impact of any building work disruption for residents and noise
- Chaos at beginning and end of school day
- Access for emergency vehicles
- What would happen to Valley site
- Lack of consultation
- Wasted investment in Valley site and buildings
- Stop children travelling into these schools from outside of Solihull
- Split site option would cause least disruption
- Let Hatchford Brook become an Academy
- Consider designated drop off areas for parents

### **13. Summary of consultation responses**

The outcome of the consultation process has indicated that a significant proportion of the responses would support a sponsored academy solution rather than the closure option that has been proposed. Responses show that

parents feel that this option will create the least disruption to their children's education and is perceived to be the no change option. This is a viable option.

The Council's consultation for the closure of Hatchford Brook School offered two implementation options, either a split site option or a single site option. The consultation has indicated that out of the two implementation options, the split site option is preferred by parents and residents. This is because they feel it limits the impact on traffic and parking on Old Lode Lane, it feels like the least change option for the children and it ensures that children benefit from the investment that has already taken place at Valley Infant School.

What has become clear through the consultation process is that parents and residents need more detailed information on how the changes will be implemented, in particular what the change would mean for children at the schools, the timing of any changes and the extent and cost of any necessary building work. If the proposal is approved Officers will produce an implementation plan that will consider the issues raised.

#### **14. Alternative Options**

The Council were keen to explore through the consultation process any alternative options that the community thought should be considered as part of the process. Listed below are all of the alternatives that have come forward with an Officer view on whether they are possible:

##### **a) Sponsored Academy**

A large number of responses to the consultation process have raised the issue of Hatchford Brook JI School becoming a sponsored academy, with Arden School as a potential sponsor. Parents believe this to be the best option with minimal disruption to their children's education, whilst bringing about the change in leadership and management that is required.

As was indicated to Cabinet in previous reports when a school is considered inadequate by Ofsted, it is the Secretary of State's expectation that the school will become a sponsored academy.

Cabinet had approved consultation on the proposed closure of Hatchford Brook JI School prior to the outcome of the latest Ofsted inspection being known. The DfE are waiting to hear the outcome of the consultation process and the decision of the Council before making a decision on whether to proceed with a sponsored academy solution.

**Response:** Solihull has a good track record with working with academy schools in the area, both convertor academies and sponsored academies. So the idea of an academy is not the issue. It is expected that the sponsored academy process for Hatchford Brook JI will not be a fast track process and is therefore likely to take 6 to 12 months for the change to be implemented. This means that any influence by a sponsor would not be felt for up to a year. Schools that make the change to become an academy need the capacity

within the staff and leadership to make the change, which is extensive. Clearly capacity will be provided by the sponsor school however there will need to be capacity within the current school to make the change as well which could detract from the necessary changes required to improve standards at the school.

It is important to note that if the Hatchford Brook JI becomes an academy it will convert with its current school organisation with 1fe infant department and up to 3fe junior department. It was highlighted by Hatchford Brook Governors at the start of this process that they felt that this arrangement was key to the issues being experienced by the school, however a sponsored academy solution will not bring about a structural change to school organisation. Clearly once the school has become an academy the Academy Trust can consult on proposals to change the school organisation, in the same way that the Council currently has.

Responses in favour of a sponsored academy have indicated that this will be the least disruptive solution and as a school will be maintained on both school sites feels like a no change option. However it is important to note that should Hatchford Brook become a sponsored academy the future school organisation will be a matter for the Academy Trust and not the Council. Once conversion has taken place the Academy Trust can propose changes to the structure of the Academy in the same way as the Council has done through this process. The decision on the outcome of such a change will lie with the Education Funding Agency not the Council. Any change made to the Academy will have a subsequent effect on Valley Infant School.

#### **b) Make no changes and keep both schools**

Some consultation responses have asked that both schools be left as they are, and that Hatchford Brook School be given time to continue with the improvement that is now underway.

No action is not an option. If the Council decides not to close Hatchford Brook School then the Secretary of State will make Hatchford Brook a sponsored academy. Either way the school will cease to exist in its present form and new leadership and management will be put in place.

#### **c) Expand Valley Infant to 3fe infants and keep Hatchford Brook as a 3fe junior school.**

This is very similar to the split site option that the Council is proposing however parents are suggesting that the current Hatchford Brook School remains open and becomes a junior school. This is not a viable option for the Council because as indicated above if the Council does not close Hatchford Brook JI School then the Secretary of State will make it into a sponsored academy which would convert with its current school organisation. Under the Council's split site option the expanded Valley School could operate in this way, however the organisation of the year groups across the two sites would

be a matter for the Leadership and Management of the expanded Valley Primary School.

**d) Make Hatchford Brook J1 a 1fe primary school, and Valley Infant a 2fe primary school on the Valley site.**

For this option to be viable Hatchford Brook School would have to be a sponsored academy, and the academy trust would have to agree to reduce the size of the school post conversion. Clearly it is not within the Council's power to deliver this option.

It must be noted that for alternative options b, c and d these could only be delivered through a sponsored academy solution, and where organisation change would be required this would have to be through a proposal from the academy trust.

Appendix B

**Key Issues raised on the proposal to close Hatchford Brook JI School and Expand Valley Infant School**

<b>Consultation Key Issue</b>	<b>Officer Response</b>
Impact on Standards of Education	<p><b>Question: How can making Hatchford Brook and Valley into one large school improve standards at Hatchford Brook?</b></p> <p><b>Response:</b> One of the major reasons for the systemic failure of Hatchford Brook in recent times has been the intake to Year 3. This has had a destabilising effect on standards and was not managed well. Having one school will balance the numbers across infants and juniors and support the transition from Key Stage 1 into Key Stage 2. This will ensure that there is accurate baselining of assessments and that standards are carefully monitored throughout the whole school. Also, the curriculum for both Key Stages can be planned more effectively so that each year builds on the previous. Consequently preventing any lack of challenge that could be built into the Junior curriculum if planned separately. It would also support a culture of high expectations for all children.</p> <p><b>Question: This is the second time Hatchford Brook has been in ‘Special Measures’, what makes the Council think that this proposal will work?</b></p> <p><b>Response:</b> There can be no guarantee that any school will always succeed. However, by addressing the standards issue with the drive and commitment of the leadership team from Valley and careful monitoring by the Local Authority it is anticipated that the expanded school will continue to improve. Whatever the structural changes to the school the Local Authority will continue to provide support and challenge to the school and the leadership team and, until it is a good school there will be half-termly monitoring.</p> <p><b>Question: The problem is at Hatchford Brook JI why should the children at Valley be affected?</b></p> <p><b>Response:</b> The current school organisation in the area means that these two schools are linked through the junior admissions process and therefore any change made to one of the schools will have an impact</p>

Appendix B

	<p>on the other school. The majority of the children at Valley Infant School transfer into Hatchford Brook at Year 3, therefore the current low standard of education at Hatchford Brook will have a direct impact on the education of these children. By making Valley Infant School, which has been identified by Ofsted as having good leadership and management with the capacity for further improvement, part of the solution to the standards issue at Hatchford Brook JI School, the Council will secure the education for all of the children in the area.</p> <p><b>Question; Will the proposed changes have a detrimental impact on the special nature of Valley.</b></p> <p><b>Response:</b> Valley is a very successful school and the children do well there. This is as a consequence of the effective leadership and management of the school. In expanding and increasing the size of the school the Governors will extend the Valley ethos and success to a wider group of children, and ensure that all children benefit from the opportunities that a larger school can offer.</p>
<p>Leadership and Management</p>	<p><b>Question: Why do you think the leadership and management of Valley Infant can improve standards at Hatchford Brook?</b></p> <p><b>Response:</b> The Ofsted inspection of Valley Infant in 2011 found that “The headteacher is very effective in creating a shared vision for the school among staff. She has overseen the implementation of robust monitoring procedures and managed deployments within the school well to make the most of available expertise.” Also the report notes that “The governing body knows the school well and has good systems for holding it to account. The school therefore has a good capacity for sustained improvement.” Since 2011 Valley has continued to improve and the current assessment of leadership and management is outstanding. The drive and vision that the leadership team have will enable standards to improve at Hatchford Brook.</p> <p><b>How will leadership and Management improve standards with a split site school?</b></p> <p><b>Response:</b> Having a split site could be more demanding for the leadership but not impossible to improve standards. Leaders will need to ensure that there is consistency in all aspects of teaching and learning</p>



Appendix B

	<p>and behaviour management across both sites. This will require a strong leader in each site overseen by the Headteacher who would operate over both sites. The Borough currently has a couple of similar school arrangements.</p>
<p>Site Issues</p>	<p><b>Question: The Hatchford Brook site is not big enough for 700+ pupils?</b></p> <p><b>Response:</b> The expanded Valley Primary School would need to cater for 630 full time students, 80 part time nursery pupils, split 40 morning and 40 afternoon, and the Additionally Resourced Unit. A feasibility study of the Hatchford Brook site shows that it does have sufficient room to accommodate a school of this size. If the project were to be approved and the single site option implemented then a full design process would be undertaken which would involve consultation with all stakeholders.</p> <p><b>Question: What about the investment that has taken place at Valley Infant already, that will be wasted and what will happen to the Valley site if the single site option goes ahead?</b></p> <p><b>Response:</b> With the split school site option the Valley Infant site will be used for infant age pupils. If the Council approved the single site option then the Valley Infant site and building would still be needed to accommodate the children until the building work on the Hatchford Brook site is completed. Only after this could the Council consider alternative uses of the Valley Infant site. At this stage it is not possible to predict any future possible uses.</p>
<p>Traffic and Parking</p>	<p><b>Question: Old Lode Lane is a major road and bus route which can not cope with the additional traffic?</b></p> <p><b>Response:</b> Views of the highways department are an integral part of any planning application that would be required to expand the current buildings. The impact of either implementation option would be a consideration and highways requirements would have to be met before a planning application could be approved.</p> <p><b>Question: Parking at the beginning and end of the school day is already bad and having the</b></p>

Appendix B

	<p><b>combined schools on the Hatchford Brook site will make it worse?</b></p> <p><b>Response:</b> Parking around schools sites is always an issue, especially for residents. The Council will work with the Governing Body of the School and the local community to evaluate the impact of both implementation options and take measures to ensure the safety of children around the school entrance, through schemes such as designated parking areas etc for the determined option.</p>
<p>Additionally Resourced Unit</p>	<p><b>Question: What will happen to the Additionally Resourced Centre located at Hatchford Brook?</b></p> <p><b>Response:</b> There are no plans to change the Additionally Resourced Centre which is located at the school. In the event that the split site option is preferred, a full review will be undertaken to assess how the needs of the children served by the ARC can best be met. If the expanded Valley school is located on the Hatchford Brook site, there will be no change to the ARC location. In the event that the chosen implementation option is for the combined school to be located across both schools the Council will review its operation across two sites to determine if this is viable. This review will be undertaken as part of the implementation process</p>
<p>Financial Savings</p>	<p><b>Question: This is just a money saving exercise?</b></p> <p><b>Response:</b> Previous Cabinet reports have identified that the closure of Hatchford Brook School might mean a saving of approximately £200,000 per annum for a single site solution. Note that this relates to the lump sum element in the school funding formula, which the DfE have decided will be £175,000 from April 2014. For a split-site solution, the council would probably re-cycle a significant part of the lump sum into a new split-site factor.</p> <p>Initially, any saving will be ring-fenced to fund the transition costs and therefore reinvested into the expanded Valley Primary School for the benefit of the children. After the transition costs have been met, normally 2 – 3 years, any saving would be recycled back to all schools through the funding formula.</p> <p>There may be financial implications from a decision to close the school, but the purpose of the proposal</p>

Appendix B

	<p>is to raise standards of education and provide a sound basis of school organisation in the future that will support high standards, not to make a financial saving.</p>
<p>Concern about resident consultation</p>	<p><b>Question: Why haven't residents been consulted?</b></p> <p><b>Response:</b> As part of the consultation process the Council wrote to the parents of all current pupils at both schools, 293 pre-school families living in the catchment area of the two schools. In addition the Council direct mailed 138 properties adjoining the schools sites. The direct mail shot advised residents of a consultation event held at the ice rink for them to make their views known. In addition the consultation event was advertised in the local press and through the Council's twitter feed.</p>
<p>Sponsored Academy</p>	<p><b>Question: A sponsored academy would create the least disruption to the children's education why isn't this one of the Council proposals?</b></p> <p><b>Response:</b> The Council can not make Hatchford Brook JI School into a sponsored academy, this action can only be taken by the Secretary of State, so does not form part of the Council's consultation process. In the event that the Council decides not to close Hatchford Brook JI School it is expected that it would become a sponsored Academy.</p> <p>The DfE have indicated that the sponsored academy process for Hatchford Brook JI would not be a fast track process and is therefore likely to take 6 to 12 months for the change to be implemented. This means that any influence by a sponsor would not be felt for up to a year. In advance of a sponsor taking over, the school leadership, and the Council would be required to focus on the administrative and structural impact of the changeover rather than continue the drive to quickly and radically improve the standard of education for the children.</p> <p>Many parents have responded to the consultation saying that they do not want Hatchford Brook to close, and see the Academy option as a way of avoiding this. Others believe that a sponsored Academy will bring about the change in leadership and management that is required whilst avoiding disruption to the children.</p>

## Appendix B

	<p>It is important to note that if the Hatchford Brook JI becomes an academy it will convert with its current school organisation with 1fe infant department and up to 3fe junior department. It was highlighted by Hatchford Brook Governors at the start of this process that they felt that this arrangement was key to the difficulties being experienced by the school however a sponsored academy solution will not bring about a structural change to school organisation. Clearly once the school has become an academy the Academy Trust can consult on proposals to change the school organisation, in the same way that the Council currently has. If this happens then the period of change for the school is prolonged and the disruption arising from a structural change still happens but takes much longer.</p> <p><b>Question: The Council has already failed the school so an Academy is the best solution?</b></p> <p><b>Response:</b> This is the second time that Hatchford Brook JI School has been in a ‘Special Measures category, in 2010 when the school was first put into Special Measures the Council worked with the leadership and management of the school, providing additional support. The School made good progress and was then judged as Satisfactory by Ofsted. At that point it was expected that the school would continue to make the progress expected, however it has subsequently been identified that there was insufficient capacity within the leadership and management at the school to sustain the necessary improvement. The Council identified the School as a ‘school of concern’ in September 2012 and has been providing additional support since that time. In spite of that the school was still making insufficient progress so in the Spring Term of 2013 it was decided that a structural solution would be in the best interests of the children.</p>
Size of Single site school	<p><b>Question: A 3fe school for 700 pupils is too big? It will be intimidating for younger pupils starting school?</b></p> <p><b>Response:</b> The size of a school is not necessarily the issue but actually how the school is organised. There are examples within Solihull of schools of this size which successfully operate different key stage departments within the larger school, measures such as separate play areas, access doors and even school day times can help to make nursery and reception pupils feel part of a smaller environment whilst</p>

Appendix B

	<p>being part of a 3fe primary school. In the event that the proposal were approved this would be a management issues for the Headteacher and Governing Body of Valley Primary School.</p>
<p>Impact of Building work on children's education</p>	<p><b>Question: Won't a major building project at the school have an impact on the education of the children</b></p> <p><b>Response:</b> The impact of a school building project on the education of the children is taken very seriously and every possible effort will be made to minimise the effect.</p> <p><b>Question: Building work has a major impact on residents?</b></p> <p><b>Response:</b> There will be an impact on local residents as a result of potential noise and construction traffic. Every effort will be made to minimise this impact.</p>
<p>Detailed implementation information was not available at part of the consultation process</p>	<p><b>Question: How can I make an informed decision on the proposal when there is no detailed plans about how the proposal will be implemented?</b></p> <p><b>Response:</b> It is correct that at this early stage in the process the Council has not produced detailed plans for either of the site options. If the Council decides to proceed with the closure of Hatchford Brook JI School through the expansion of Valley on either a single site or split site implementation, then the next stage will be to develop an implementation plan with the Headteacher and Governing Body of Valley that will consider how the buildings will be managed, the timescales for making the implementation changes with the education and wellbeing of the children being crucial.</p>



# Consultation Document

Proposal to close Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School and replace it by expanding and changing the age range of Valley Infant School

## Introduction

Solihull Council is consulting on proposals to close Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School and to replace it by expanding and extending the age range of Valley Infant School.

These changes are explained in more detail below. This consultation starts on Monday 1st July 2013 and will run until Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

## School Information

**Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School** is a community school that caters for pupils aged 3 to 11. The school admits 30 children into reception and then admits up to a further 45 children at Year 3 normally from Valley Infant School. At the January 2013 pupil census there were 359 pupils on roll (excluding nursery).

The school also hosts a specialist provision for 16 pupils with speech, language and communication disorders, the Additionally Resourced Centre (ARC), which is managed by the Specialist Inclusion Support Service on behalf of the Council.

Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School was judged as satisfactory by Ofsted in June 2011. Ofsted inspected the school on 5 and 6 June 2013, their findings are not yet published.

**Valley Infant School** is a community school that caters for pupils aged 3 to 7. At the January 2013 pupil census there were 172 pupils on roll (excluding nursery children). Valley Infant School was last inspected by Ofsted in November 2011 and was found to be a good school with capacity for further improvement. At the end of year 2, the majority of children at Valley Infant School transfer to Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School for Years 3 to 6.

## What changes are proposed?

The proposal is to close Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School and to expand Valley Infant School both in size and age range.

Valley Infant School currently has the capacity for 180 pupils, 60 in each year group, plus a 60 place nursery unit. Under this proposal, the age range at Valley will be extended so that it caters for children age 3 – 11 years. In terms of capacity, Valley School will be expanded to 630 places, 90 in each year group, plus an 80 place nursery unit. This will allow 90 children to be admitted into the reception year group, so there will be no need for an additional Year 3 intake at the school. There will continue to be an Additionally Resourced Centre for pupils with speech and language difficulties located at the school. The Headteacher of Valley Infant School will be the Headteacher of the expanded Valley School.



The implementation of this proposal can be managed in two ways:

- By operating the expanded Valley School on a split site with the infant department located on the current Valley site and the junior department located on the Hatchford Brook site; or
- By relocating the expanded Valley School to the Hatchford Brook site.

We are particularly interested in your views on these implementation options.

### **Why do we want to do this?**

In January 2010 Hatchford Brook was categorised as inadequate by Ofsted. Since that time, the Council has provided intensive support to raise standards at the school. Subsequently the school was judged as satisfactory by Ofsted in June 2011.

Since the June 2011 Ofsted visit at Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School, the Council has continued to provide a high level of support and monitor standards of education at the school. In spite of this the school remains of serious concern. The Council's present assessment is that the school is inadequate.

The Headteacher of the school left at Easter and as part of the Council's support and improvement plan, an Interim Headteacher has been located at the school to increase the management capacity and to start to make the necessary improvements.

Ofsted visited the School on 5 and 6 June 2013 but the report from this inspection has not been published at the time this consultation was launched. In the event that the published Ofsted report confirms the Council's assessment and finds the school to be inadequate, the Local Authority will be required to take action to rapidly improve the school's performance. The Department for Education (DfE) is likely to expect that the school will be replaced by a sponsored Academy.

Valley Infant School is a good school with strong leadership and management at both school and Governor level. The Council believes this strength and capacity can be extended to provide a good education for all the children attending both Valley Infant School and Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School and for children starting at the expanded school in future years. The school serves largely the same community as Hatchford Brook, with many families in the area having children at both schools.

It is the Council's view that a structural change to Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School is necessary and that the alteration of the age range and expansion of Valley Infant School will provide a local solution to facilitate the improvements in the outcomes for children across the wider area.

### **How will this affect pupils at Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant and Valley Infant Schools?**

All the children attending Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School if it closes will be guaranteed a place at the expanded Valley School as will the pupils at Valley Infant School. It is a key priority to support the children of both schools during these changes and minimise disruption to the children's education.

Under this proposal there would no longer be an intake at the school at Year 3 as the children would continue through from reception to Year 6.

Any parents wishing to apply for a reception or nursery place for September 2014 will be able to do so, through the normal online admission process. Priority will continue to be given to families living in the catchment areas for Hatchford Brook and Valley schools, or with siblings at either school.

### **How will this affect pupils in the Additionally Resourced Centre (ARC) at Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School?**

The ARC was judged by Ofsted in June 2011 to be providing highly effective support and securing good pupil progress. This proposal assumes the Centre continues as it is. However if the implementation of the proposal were to be across the two school sites then consideration will need to be given to how the quality of provision offered by the ARC can be maintained across both sites.

Should the Council propose any changes to the ARC in the future – and none are planned - this would be subject to a separate consultation process.

### **How will this affect staff?**

The Headteacher and Governing Body of the expanded Valley Infant School will be responsible for drawing up the new staffing structure required for the expanded school so staffing decisions can be taken at an early stage therefore minimising uncertainties for staff. The Governors will have a draft staffing structure proposed as soon as a final decision on the potential reorganisation is taken. Based on the current consultation timeline, a final decision is expected in December.

There are formal processes in place to manage such situations. These are contained within the Council's Management of Change Policy which has been formally agreed with Trade Unions and in operation for over five years. In addition any provisions in the Standard Teachers Pay & Conditions Document (STPCD) will be honoured.

It is recognised that this situation creates uncertainty for staff and the Council will work with both schools to do all it can to minimise this.

### **How will this affect parents of pupils?**

A consultation process will be undertaken with parents of children currently at Hatchford Brook and Valley Schools and with parents of pre-school children in the area to ensure that they are fully informed about and have the chance to comment on the proposed changes and the educational benefits for their children.

### **Is there enough space to accommodate all the children?**

All the children currently attending either Valley Infant School or Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School are guaranteed a place at the expanded Valley School.

We are considering two ways of implementing this proposal:

**Option one** - operating the expanded Valley School on a split site with the infant department located on the current Valley site and the junior department located on the Hatchford Brook site. This would require additional classrooms to be built on the Valley School site to accommodate the increase in infant children (from 180 plus 60 nursery to 270 plus 80 nursery) as well as some remodelling of the Hatchford Brook school site. The Headteacher would manage the school across the two sites.

**Option two** - relocating the expanded Valley School to the Hatchford Brook site. If the expanded school was to be relocated to the Hatchford Brook site, the Hatchford Brook building will be expanded and remodelled to ensure the best teaching environment for the children. Plans for the changes will be drawn up in close partnership with the Headteacher and Governing Body of Valley Infant School. It is unlikely that the building work will be completed for September 2014 so it may be necessary to accommodate the children across both school sites until the building work is complete. If this becomes necessary the Headteacher will manage the school across both sites.

In the event that this option was taken forward, then the Valley Infant site would no longer be required. The Council would then give consideration to the best use of the building and the site, including its continued use for educational purposes. Any change of use of the site would be subject to a separate consultation process.

The Valley Infant School building and site is not big enough to accommodate all of the children, so locating the expanded school on the Valley infant school site is not an option being considered.

As part of the consultation process, we are seeking views on both the school reorganisation and the two implementation options set out above. If the proposal is approved we will work on a more detailed implementation plan on how the changes to the school buildings will be managed with the Headteacher and Governing Body of Valley Infant School and when we have

more details we will share them with parents and children. It will be a priority to ensure that any disruption to the children's education is kept to a minimum.

### **Admission Arrangements**

It is proposed that the admissions arrangements remain the same and Valley Infant School catchment area will be expanded to include the current Hatchford Brook School catchment area. This means that any child that currently has a catchment priority for either school will have a catchment priority for the expanded Valley School.

Parents applying for nursery or reception places for September 2014 should apply for either Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School or Valley Infant School. If a decision is taken to go ahead with the proposal preferences will be transferred to the expanded Valley School.

The Year 3 intake at Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School will cease.

### **Will this definitely happen?**

There is a statutory process we must follow to make these sorts of changes to schools. At the moment we are at the consultation stage during which we want to hear your views on the proposal. If, after considering your views, we still think it is a good idea, we will publish full proposals and there will be another period when people can formally comment. It is expected that Councillors will meet in December to decide whether to proceed with this proposal or consider alternative arrangements to improve standards at Hatchford Brook School.

### **How can I make my view known?**

This is your opportunity to let us know what you think about these proposed changes.

### **Consultation Meetings**

We will be holding consultation meetings for parents at both schools where you will have the opportunity to ask officers about the proposals and find out more information. You can choose which session suits you best and drop in at any time between the times shown.

The consultation meetings for parents and the wider community will be held on:

#### **Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School, Old Lode Lane, Solihull**

Tuesday 9 July	8.00 am to 9.30 am	Parents
	2.30 pm to 4.00 pm	Parents
	6.00 pm to 8.00 pm	Parents and community

**Valley Infant School, Fallowfield Road, Solihull**

Thursday 11 July	8.00 am to 9.30 am	Parents
	2.30 pm to 4.00 pm	Parents
	6.00 pm to 8.00 pm	Parents and community

Separate meetings will be held for staff and the Governing Bodies of both schools.

We will arrange more dates in September to answer any further questions you may have.

**Response Form**

You can register your views by emailing, writing or by completing the enclosed response form. Please respond to:

**Email:** hatchfordbrookandvalley@solihull.gov.uk

**Post:** School Place Planning Team, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull. B91 3QB

**School:** You can return response forms to either Hatchford Brook or Valley Schools.

**Internet:** You can access the most up to date information and the response form on the Council's website at [www.solihull.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/consultation)

The closing date for responses is **Monday 30 September 2013**.

Individual replies will not be made to consultation responses. However you will receive an acknowledgement to confirm that your response has been received. Your written responses will be made available to any person or body responsible for making or reviewing the decision on whether to proceed with this proposal.

**What happens next?**

The table below sets out the consultation and possible implementation timeline for the proposal. This is for guidance only as the dates could be subject to change depending on the outcome of the consultation process.

Date	
1 July 2013	Consultation begins
30 September 2013	Consultation ends
9 October 2013	Cabinet Member considers outcomes from consultation process.
October 2013	Statutory representation period
December 2013	Final decision – Cabinet Meeting
September 2014	Valley Infant School expanded and Hatchford Brook Junior and Infant School is closed