REGULATED ALTERATION TO JOHNSTON CP SCHOOL
- ADDITION OF SEN PROVISION

1. COUNCIL DECISION
At the meeting of Council held on 17 July 2014, consideration was given to the need for a regulated alteration to Johnston CP School. In particular, consideration was given to the statutory consultation that had been undertaken and the publication of the subsequent Consultation Report. The decision of Council was as follows:

“RESOLVED

That the Director for Children and Schools be authorised to issue a Statutory Notice under Section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, giving notice of the following:

(a) The proposal to make a Regulated Alteration to Johnston CP School by adding Special Educational Needs provision at the school.

(b) That the additional Special Educational Needs provision be recognised by the Council as being reserved for pupils with SEN.

2. PUBLICATION OF STATUTORY NOTICE

(a) The Statutory Notice (Document A) was published on 3 September 2014 and placed at/in conspicuous places in the area served by the school, as follows:

   i. The County Council's website
   ii. The entrances of Johnston CP School
   iii. Johnston Post Office, 16 St Peter’s Road, Johnston
   iv. Village Notice Board – village green
   v. Johnston Village Hall
   vi. Londis – convenience store
   vii. The Vine Inn

(b) A significant number of copies of the Statutory Notice were provided to Johnston CP School to distribute to pupils, parents/carers/guardians and
staff members; the school was provided with letters to be sent to parents advising them of the publication of the Statutory Notice and that it could be obtained from the school or the County Council’s website. This letter (Document B) also indicated the duration of the statutory objection period and details of how to object to the proposal.

(c) The following statutory consultees to the proposal received either a hard copy of the proposals or an emailed link to the Statutory Notice on the County Council website:

- The governing body of Johnston CP School
- The Chairs of the governing bodies, Headteachers and staff of Cleddau Reach VC, Hook Community, Mary Immaculate RC, Neyland Community, St Marks VA and Tasker Milward VC schools
- The Directors of Education for the Dioceses of Menevia and St David’s
- The Welsh Ministers
- Estyn
- Local and regional Assembly Members, Members of Parliament and County Councillors representing the area subject to the proposal
- Teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and other staff at the schools subject to the proposal
- ERW – the Regional Education Consortium
- SWWITCH – the Regional Transport Consortium
- The Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner
- Johnston, Tiers Cross, Rosemarket and Llanstadwell Community Councils
- All independent nursery/childcare providers in the area
- The Early Years, Childcare and Learning Group of the Childcare and Young People’s Partnership
- The Hywel Dda Health Board
- SNAP Cymru
- National Autistic Society
- Pembrokeshire Local Service Board
- Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion County Councils

(d) The objection period under the Statutory Notice expired on 1 October 2014. No objections were made to the proposal.

3. DETAILS RELATING TO CONSULTATION

Statutory Consultation

Statutory Consultation was undertaken between 17 February 2014 and 31 March 2014 and complied with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and School Organisation Code.
The Consultation Document was published on 17 February 2014 and provided details of both the current provision and the Council’s proposal; a pupil consultation session and meetings with staff, governors and parents were held during the consultation period.

A Consultation Report was subsequently published and included:
- A summary of each of the issues raised by consultees;
- A response to these issues by means of clarification, rejection of concerns and supporting reasons;
- Estyn’s view of the overall merits of the proposal.

The Consultation Report was presented for consideration to Council at its meeting on 17 July 2014 and reflected the observations made by consultees.

4. FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING THIS PROPOSAL

(a) Standards of provision in Johnston CP School

All staff at the school place a high priority in meeting the individual needs of all learners. Staff know their pupils well and plan stimulating and challenging lessons. A strong ethos of high quality support is shared across the school.

As part of the school’s work scrutiny visit in May 2014, the following judgements were made:
- All learning activities are purposeful and build successfully on what pupils know. Teachers differentiate by outcome as well as by task and they use a range of strategies to enable nearly all pupils to succeed in the tasks provided.
- Over time, there is evidence of whole-school strategies bringing about measurable improvements in standards and quality of teaching.

(b) The standard of education currently provided and the continuing ability of the school to maintain satisfactory standards

Across the school, standards are improving. In 2014, the school’s performance in both the Foundation Phase and in Key Stage 2 (KS2) has continued to be above that of its national core data family, local authority and Wales. In the Foundation Phase, Johnston CP School continues to perform at above expected levels in language, communication, English, mathematical development and the phase outcome indicator. In KS2, performance in all subjects at Level 4+ and the core subject indicator has improved in 2014. The school is performing above expected levels in mathematics and science and just below in English.
Similarly, following the school’s Planning and Reviewing in Partnership (PRIP) for Additional Learning Needs visit in June 2014, it was reported that whilst the school has been very pro-active in undertaking a range of whole school training, further capacity building is required in Inclusive Education and Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCO) courses.

The standard of education currently provided, and the recognition of the school of the need to build capacity in ALN and Inclusion as summarised above, provides a good foundation for the future and gives confidence of the school’s ability to maintain and improve standards following the implementation of the Council’s proposal.

(c) Delivery of the curriculum
The ability of the school to deliver the National Curriculum requirements of the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 curriculum will be considerably strengthened and enhanced with the provision of a new build and a dedicated special needs facility. It will enable staff to fully plan for a more pupil-led approach to meeting individual needs of particular learners and vulnerable pupils. The increased resource will facilitate the development of teams of staff to deliver specific programmes to meet the full and diverse range of needs of the pupils. The improved use of data systems will enable staff to monitor and track progress more effectively right through from Nursery to Year 6. The emotional and wellbeing needs of all pupils and their families will be further developed and will further enhance the school’s good relationships with the community.

(d) The effect of the proposal on other schools and educational institutions
The proposal seeks to establish a new SEN Unit (learning resource centre) as part of the new school premises for Johnston CP School. The proposal will have limited effect on other schools and educational institutions in the area, but will have the effect of increasing the Council’s ability to meet the needs of children with SEN.

(e) The need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools
The findings of a review undertaken to ascertain the level of provision required to meet the demands of learners with complex learning needs and autistic spectrum disorder have determined a need to realign the provision available in order to ensure the appropriate allocation of provision is accessible to learners across the County. The findings identify a greater need for placements within the central area of the County and Johnston is well placed to accommodate this.

(f) Demand for schools of a particular type
Johnston CP School will remain as a Community School as part of the current proposal.

(g) Journeys to school
There will be no impact on school journeys as a result of this proposal, and the Council’s Home to School Transport policy will apply.
(h) **Access for disabled pupils**
The proposed new school will be fully compliant with equality legislation.

(i) **Financial implications**
The Strategic Outline Case in relation to the proposal was approved by Welsh Government in April 2014. The Council has no other source of funding other than through the 21st Century Schools building programme and it is imperative that the related business case process identifies the best option. It is anticipated that the Outline Business Case in relation to this proposal will be approved during December 2014. In the case of this proposal, the potential revenue savings amount to an average of £161k per annum. This amount is based on the assumptions included in the Outline Business Case and will be further revised as part of the ongoing business case process.

(j) **Views of consultees**
No objections were received in response to the publication of the Statutory Notice.

(k) **21st Century Schools**
The establishment of the new school will promote a high standard of education provision, with purpose built facilities for a 21st Century School. The proposal will assist the Authority in its ambition to develop learning environments to the same high standard across all schools, improve efficiency in the use of energy and other resources and help to ensure that the school can meet future curricular needs. The provision of a new SEN Unit, as part of a replacement school for Johnston, will make an important strategic contribution to address the needs of children in the Milford Haven, Haverfordwest, Neyland and Johnston areas.

(l) **Consideration of alternatives**
In arriving at the proposal, seven options for change were considered and described in the Consultation Document, namely:

1. Maintain the status quo
2. Address backlog maintenance, mechanical and engineering, fire and asbestos requirements
3. Option 2 plus remodelling to incorporate larger classrooms
4. Option 2 plus extension for larger classrooms
5. New school and site with learning resource centre (SEN Unit)
6. New school on new site
7. New school on existing site

All options have been appraised through the investment objectives and critical success factors of the 21st Century Schools HM Treasury Five Case Business Model. The report of the Director of Finance and Leisure to Cabinet on 4 November 2013 sought Cabinet’s approval on the preferred option namely, option 5. This is the basis of the Council’s
successful Strategic Outline Case, Outline Business Case, and consequently, this proposal.

(m) **Impact on the community**
A draft Community Impact Assessment was included in the Consultation Document for this proposal, and which was further completed as a result of the responses received during the statutory consultation period. The main concerns arising from this impact assessment seem to arise from the concerns of parents and residents at the perceived increase in traffic due to the relocation of the school and the introduction of a Multiple Needs SEN Unit. Concerns regarding traffic and general access to the current school site at Cranham Park were identified during initial discussions with the local Member and Headteacher. Whilst it is inevitable that there will be some additional traffic arising as a result of the establishment of the new SEN Unit, the new school site at Langford Road will provide improved access. Should the proposal proceed, a Traffic Impact Assessment will be undertaken and actions will be taken as part of the design process to minimise the impact of parents’ and residents’ concerns.

In addition, the new premises will maintain and enhance the use of Johnston CP School as a venue for various community groups. The overall impact of the proposal is that it will have a positive impact on the community.

(n) **Equality issues**
An equality impact assessment has been undertaken and has identified no negative impact on any vulnerable or minority groups. This proposal should not, therefore, lead to any unlawful discrimination.

(o) **The impact of changes on other services for children with SEN**
The proposal will introduce provision to the school which will make a positive contribution on the ability of the Council to meet its responsibilities to meet the needs of children with SEN. The proposal will provide an inclusive environment for all pupils in the area which adheres to the Authority’s plans and Welsh Government policy on inclusion.

(p) **Standards of accommodation for pupils with SEN**
The new school will provide an excellent standard of accommodation for pupils with SEN and will include age appropriate classrooms which will include wet play areas and sensory rooms for use across the age range.
5. **CONCLUSION**

(a) The proposal will provide a valuable contribution to the provision available across the County for children with special educational needs. The location of Johnston is of strategic importance as it provides good access to such provision for the areas of Haverfordwest, Milford Haven and Neyland.

(b) The Strategic Outline Case and Outline Business Case for the proposal have been approved by Welsh Government and offer a high degree of certainty of investment from the 21st Century Schools Programme. In the event that this is not approved, the Authority has no other source of capital funding to proceed with this proposal.

(c) It should be noted that the proposal has received little or no opposition from parents and residents.

(d) Prior to reaching a decision, Members should note the factors to be considered in determining this proposal, and which are set out in Paragraph 4 above. These individual factors represent the reasons for the recommendation set out below.

(e) It should be noted that:

i. the statutory consultation in relation to this proposal has been conducted in accordance with the School Organisation Code;

ii. the proposal (statutory notice) has been published in accordance with the School Organisation Code;

iii. no objections have been received to this proposal.

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**RECOMMENDATION**

To implement the proposal as published, i.e., to make a Regulated Alteration by adding SEN provision as part of a new school to be built for Johnston CP School, effective from 1 September 2016.

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**Background Documents:**


Equality Impact Assessment
Proposer: Pembrokeshire County Council, County Hall, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1TP (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”)

Notice is given in accordance with Section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that the Council, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to alter Johnston Community Primary School (“the School”), Cranham Park, Johnston, Haverfordwest, SA62 3PU, so that Special Educational Needs (“SEN”) provision is added to the School. The School is currently maintained by the Council.

The Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the Council’s response and the views of Estyn, is available to view on the Council’s website.

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1 September 2016.

The current number of pupils at the School is 188 (January 2014), the pupil capacity of the School is 178 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 210.

The admission number for pupils aged 4/5 at the School in the first school year in which the proposal is to be implemented will be 30. There will be 30 nursery places.

In addition to the above, 20 places will be provided in an attached Learning Resource Centre (Special Needs Unit). This will make provision for learners with special educational needs, as defined by Section 312 (1) of the Education Act 1996 and will also support provision for those with the wider range of additional learning needs.

Within a period of 28 days of the date on which the proposal was published, that is to say by 1st October 2014, any person may object to the proposal in writing or by e-mail.

Objections to the proposal should be sent to the Director for Children and Schools, Pembrokeshire County Council, County Hall, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1TP.

E-mail address – educationconsultations@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Jake Morgan

Director for Children and Schools

For Pembrokeshire County Council

Dated this 3rd day of September 2014.
EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This explanatory note does not form part of the Notice but is offered by way of explanation)

As part of its intention for a new school to be built at Langford Road, Johnston to replace the existing Johnston CP School, the Council proposes to add new SEN provision to the School. This will take the form of a 20 place Learning Resource Centre for pupils with complex learning needs. The provision will aim to provide learners with a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum, whilst also having their exceptional needs met in as inclusive a way as possible.
To: Parents/Carers of pupils attending Johnston Community Primary School

Publication of Statutory Notice

Proposed Regulated Alteration to Johnston CP School
– Addition of SEN Provision

Dear parent/carer,

I wish to advise that the Statutory Notice in relation to the above was published on 3rd September and will remain in force for a period of 28 days, i.e. until 1st October 2014. During this period, any objections to the proposal should be made in writing to:

The Director for Children and Schools
Pembrokeshire County Council
County Hall
Haverfordwest
SA61 1TP

OR

By Email to Educationconsultations@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

You may view the Statutory Notice by obtaining a copy from your child’s school, or alternatively, by visiting the County Council website at:

www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/statutorynotices

Yours faithfully,

Katharine Evan-Hughes
Head of Education