



Meeting: Council Meeting

Date: 7 April 2016

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report Title: New Primary School in Paignton

Is the decision a key decision? Yes

When does the decision need to be implemented? Immediately

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1. Proposal and Introduction

- 1.1 Subject to consultation, in September 2017 the Council intends to relocate Torbay School from its existing site at Torquay Road, Paignton. This will leave the Council with a vacant school site in the centre of Paignton.
- 1.2 In Children's Services Capital Programme, approved by Council in September 2015, £4.5m of Basic Need funding was ring fenced to enable the provision of a new primary school in Paignton. To date no monies have been spent on developing the site as primary school. Children Services propose to use this site to open a new one form of entry primary school with early year's provision.
- 1.3 The preferred opening date of the new school would be September 2018.

2 Reason for Proposal

- 2.1 Primary numbers in Paignton and Torquay have been increasing over the last few years as a result of a rising birth rate, new housing and net in-migration. The Council has responded to the increase in demand by expanding schools across Torbay.
- 2.2 However, there are now no longer any viable and affordable options for future expansions of existing schools so if numbers continue to rise then the only way the Council will meet its statutory duty is by opening a new school.
- 2.3 This is timely because the Department of Education is strongly promoting the opening of new schools across the country. Torbay has not opened a new primary

school since becoming a unitary authority in 1998 and is one of only a small number of Council's not to do so.

3 Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 That the identified need for a new school in Paignton as outlined in the submitted report be noted.
- 3.2 That, subject to consultation the proposal to open a new primary school on the Torbay School Site at Torquay Road from September 2018 be approved.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Supporting Information and Impact Assessment
- Appendix 2: Map of Torbay Schools
- Appendix 3: Data from September 2015 Census