

COPY OF DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Cover Note

DP No.	232 (SEELB)	
School(s)	Ballymagee PS 401-6430	
Proposal	Establishment of a single nursery unit	
Minister's Decision	Approve	
Date of Decision	17/01/2013	
Minister's Comments	Agreed	
Additional notes	Implementation date 31 August 2013	
Information redacted	Some information and personal data may have been removed in line with the principles of the Freedom of Information and Data Protection Act.	
	Key	Details
	■	redaction
	*	refers to less than five cases where data is considered sensitive
	#	means figure has been suppressed to prevent disclosure of sensitive information under rules of disclosure

**From: LORRAINE FINLAY
Area Planning Policy Team**

TRIM Ref: DE1/13/2218

Date: 16 January 2013

To: JOHN O'DOWD MLA

copy distribution below

**DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL No. 232 – ESTABLISHMENT OF A SINGLE
NURSERY UNIT AT BALLYMAGEE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Issue:	The proposal to establish a single nursery unit at Ballymagee PS, Bangor with effect from 31 August 2013, or as soon as possible thereafter.
Timescale:	Urgent - an early decision would clarify the position for interested parents.
Financial / Resource Implications	A high-level funding estimate for an additional 26 part-time place nursery unit is approximately £49,000 per annum or £28,000 in-year. <i>This figure represents the AWPU factor and Premises Factor (pupil element). Other factors in the CFF are dependent on pupil numbers, floor areas and JSA/IS-entitlement etc. therefore cannot be estimated at this time.</i> The estimated staff costs are £50,000. The SEELB has advised that it will fund accommodation costs through its minor works budget, subject to the availability of capital funds.
FOI Implications:	The content of this submission is likely to be fully disclosable.
Legislation Implications:	N/A
Presentational / Contentious Issues:	It is likely that there will be local media and political interest in your decision and about the level of pre-school provision in the area. <i>(This has been cleared with the Communications Team.)</i>
Recommendation:	It is recommended that you approve the proposal to establish a new part time nursery unit at Ballymagee PS and agree the attached press release (Appendix D).

Background

On 13 November 2012, the South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) published Development Proposal (DP) No. 232, which proposes the establishment of a part-time nursery unit at Ballymagee PS with effect from 31 August 2013, or as soon as possible thereafter. The unit will accommodate 26 part-time places. The statutory two-month consultation period ended on 13 January 2013.

2 Ballymagee PS is a controlled co-educational Primary school situated at Ashbury Avenue, between the Gransha and Ballycrochan Roads in the Bangor East District. The school opened in September 1994 in purpose built accommodation.

3 The Early Days Playgroup is already located within the youth wing attached to the Primary school and the SEELB has confirmed that it will continue to operate.

Policy Context

Level of Provision and Pattern of Attendance

4 The current aim of the Department's Pre-School Education Programme (PSEP) to provide one year of funded pre-school education for every child whose parents wish to avail of it is included as a Programme for Government 2011-15 commitment.

5 In addition it is the Department's policy not to displace good quality pre-school provision already in existence with pre-school provision in an alternative setting. DE is also of the view that the pre-school phase is non-sectoral. Therefore, in considering proposals for the establishment of new statutory nursery provision, the overall level of provision in an area is taken into account.

6 The EPPNI (Effective Pre-school Provision in NI) research shows that full-time attendance offers no discernible benefit to children over part-time sessions. However from the outset of the PSEP, for historical reasons funding has been provided for both full-time and part-time provision. A focused consultation on

'Learning to Learn, A Framework for Early Years Education and Learning' is currently ongoing and runs until 31 January 2013. This framework proposes a moratorium on any new or additional full-time provision or conversion from part-time to full-time.

Development Proposal

7 Statistical information relating to the proposal is contained in **Appendix B**.

The key issues may be summarised as follows:-

- The proposal is for part-time provision which is in accordance with the proposals in the new framework for Early Years.
- The projected level of provision for 2012/13, as analysed by the Early Years Team, is 91% within a 2 mile radius of Ballymagee PS and 87% within a 5 mile radius.
- There were 12 children, the majority of whom were in Bangor, unplaced in the SEELB area at the end of the process for September 2012 admissions. The SEELB had difficulty sourcing additional voluntary/ private provision in the area. This would breach the PfG commitment.
- Primary school pupil population projection figures for the North Down area show a steady increase until 2018.
- A high-level funding estimate for a 26 place part-time unit, using 2012/13 Common Funding Formula values, is £49k (full year) and £28k (in-year).
- There are additional staff costs of around £50,000 plus accommodation costs estimated at £140,000.
- The SEELB has confirmed that the existing Early Days Playgroup will continue to operate.
- The proposal is supported by the Early Years Team and by the ETI.

Board Comment

8 The SEELB advises that there has been pressure for pre-school places over the past number of years within Bangor town, specifically in the Ballycrochan, Ballyholme, Ballymaconnell and Ballymagee wards.

9 The Board believes that the establishment of a new nursery unit at Ballymagee PS is appropriate due to the continuing problem of insufficient places in the area.

Support and Objections

10 The Department did not receive any correspondence on the proposal during the statutory two-month consultation period. The SEELB received 3 responses to their consultation, all supportive of the new nursery unit. One from the existing Early Days Playgroup comments that they hope to work in partnership with the new nursery.

Consultation

11 The SEELB has confirmed that it has fulfilled its statutory duty in relation to consultation and has provided proof of publication.

Conclusion and Recommendation

12 There has been pressure over the past number of years for pre-school places in the area and rising pupil population projections will exacerbate the situation.

13 The proposal has unanimous support from the SEELB, the Early Years Team and the ETI.

14 It is recommended that you approve the development proposal and agree the attached press release. Attached for your consideration are the following:-

- Appendix A: Published Development Proposal
- Appendix B: Statistical information relating to the proposal
- Appendix C: Location Map
- Appendix D: Draft Press Release



Lorraine Finlay
Ext. 59992
Email: lorraine.finlay@deni.gov.uk

cc Paul Sweeney
John McGrath
Noelle Buick
Faustina Graham
Diarmuid McLean
Linda Wilson
Marleen Collins
Brenda Shearer
Ashley Waterworth
Roisin Lilley
Debbie Gladwell
Press Office
Scott Harbinson
Mark Mullan
aptpocorres@deni.gov.uk

Published Development Proposal

SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD

DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

**In accordance with Article 14 of the
Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986**

PROPOSAL NO. 232
AREA NO. 3 Bangor

The South Eastern Education and Library Board propose that a single nursery unit should be provided at Ballymagee Primary School. The nursery unit will accommodate 26 part time places.

It is proposed that the nursery unit is established at the school with effect from 31 August 2013 or as soon as possible thereafter.

This proposal has been submitted to the Department of Education. Any comments or objections to the proposal should be made in writing to the Department of Education, as detailed below, within two months of the date of publication.

Area Planning Policy Team
Department of Education
Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
Bangor BT19 7PR

The Department of Education and the Education and Library Boards operate a regime of openness under the Freedom of Information Act and letters of objection and information supplied to the Department are open to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, if requested. (A fee may be charged for supplying this information).

A copy of the proposal may be inspected at the offices of the South Eastern Education and Library Board at Grahamsbridge Road, Dundonald, Belfast BT16 2HS during normal office hours.

Gregory P Butler
Chief Executive
SEELB

Detailed Background

Statistical information relating to the proposalEnrolments at Ballymagee PS

Table 1: (Approved Enrolment 2012/13 - 406)

2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
404	411	409	405	404

Intakes

Table 2: (Approved admissions 2012/13 - 58-60)

2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
60	59	57	59	60

Alternative Provision

Table 3: Playgroups

	2010/11 Funded	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Funded	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Funded	2012/13 Actual
1 Mile						
Early Days	24	24	24	24	24	24
Ballycrochan	26	59	26	75	38	72
Sub-total	50	83	50	99	62	96
2 Miles						
Chuckles	19	26	19	23	17	28
Ballyholme Presbyterian	24	29	25	28	25	27
Tiddli-winks	24	24	25	26	24	24
Groomsport	11	37	26	49	23	44
Bangor Abbey	14	33	16	29	26	26
Little Acorn	31	50	32	52	33	52
Sub-total	123	199	143	207	148	201
Total	173	282	193	306	210	297

Table 4: Nursery Schools and Units

	Approved Pattern of Attendance	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Nursery School 2 Mile					
Bangor Central	26f/t	26	26	26	26
	52p/t	52	52	52	52
Trinity	52f/t	52	52	52	52
Nursery Units 1 Mile					
Kilmaine	52p/t	52	52	52	52
Bloomfield	52p/t	53	52	52	52
Nursery Units 2 Miles					
Towerview	52p/t	51	52	52	52

f/t = full-time p/t = part-time

Table 5: Primary Admissions

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Approved Admission
1 mile						
Kilmaine NU	88	89	87	86	89	87
Bloomfield NU	31	41	44	60	59	58
Ballymagee	60	59	57	59	60	58
Sub-total	179	189	188	205	208	203
2 miles						
Ballyholme	90	76	84	93	90	90
Bangor Central Int	80	86	85	86	87	87
Grange	51	50	43	53	60	57
Clandeboyne	24	15	21	26	51	78
Towerview NU	42	41	48	53	55	46
Sub-total	287	268	281	311	343	358
Total	466	457	469	516	551	561

NU = Nursery Unit

Table 6: Primary Population Projections for North Down

Year	No of pupils
2011	5890
2012	6071
2013	6190
2014	6264
2015	6284
2016	6344
2017	6371
2018	6380

- Table 3 above shows that although funding is only provided for 210 places in playgroups in the area there are in fact in 2012/13 297 pupils attending.
- The nursery schools and units are full to capacity as shown in Table 4. Since 2010/11 no child under 3 has attended any of the nursery schools or units.
- Table 6 shows a steady increase in the primary pupil population in North Down until 2018 so the demand for nursery places will also increase.

SEELB PEAG Comments

The Pre-school Education Advisory Group for the South Eastern Area considered statistical data provided by the Department of Education regarding the pre-school provision in each Ward area and the shortfall of provision against the target population.

The Group found that there has been pressure over the past number of years for pre-school places within Bangor town, specifically in the eastern part of the town comprising of the Ballycrochan, Ballyholme, Ballymaconnell and Balymagee Wards.

ETI Comments

Initial Comments

Initially the ETI recommended that the proposal, to establish a single, part-time nursery unit in Ballymagee Primary School, Bangor, should not be accepted.

This recommendation was made on the basis that the nursery:-

- Could displace the existing voluntary provision at the Early Days Playgroup.
- Such a closure would lead to loss of jobs as the majority of the playgroup staff would be unable to transfer across to nursery unit.
- Further, if DE were to approve the statutory provision, it would require the provision of a new classroom, appropriate resources and the appointment of a qualified pre-school teacher and, therefore, increased costs.

Revised Comments

The initial ETI response was written without the detailed data now available.

Given the under-provision in the area, ETI would therefore **support** the establishment of a part-time unit at Ballymagee Primary School.

Early Years Team (EYT) Analysis and Comments

Level of Pre-School Provision

- The need for additional places in the area is supported by the statistical information available in relation to this proposal.

2011/12 school year (2 mile radius) - Source: Census

Level of provision = 96.5%

Level of provision (excluding reception) = 96.1%

Statutory nursery places filled by under 3s = <1%

2011/12 school year (5 mile radius) - Source: Census

Level of provision = 91.0%

Level of provision (excluding reception) = 90.5%

Statutory nursery places filled by under 3s = <1%

2012/13 school year (2 mile radius) - Source: Census (provisional)

Level of provision = 91.0%

Level of provision (excluding reception) = 91.0%

Statutory nursery places filled by under 3s = 0%

Proposed level of provision = 95.3%

2012/13 school year (5 mile radius) - Source: Census (provisional)

Level of provision = 87.0%

Level of provision (excluding reception) = 86.7%

Statutory nursery places filled by under 3s = 0%

Proposed level of provision = 89.1%

- There were 12 target age children unplaced in the SEELB area at the end of the process for September 2012 admissions, the majority of whom were in Bangor. The SEELB had difficulty sourcing additional voluntary/private provision in the Bangor area to meet the shortfall in demand.
- Provision is currently insufficient to meet the PfG commitment that a pre-school place should be available for every child whose parents seek one. Even with the

approval of 26 additional places there would still be a shortfall in provision in both the 2 & 5 mile radius.

Analysis

- The Pre-School Education Programme (PSEP) has developed as a genuine partnership between the statutory and voluntary/private sectors. The Department's policy is that each sector is equally valued with both following common curriculum guidelines and being subject to the same inspection standards.
- The Department's policy is not to displace good quality pre-school provision already in existence with pre-school provision in an alternative setting. Therefore the Department would not, unless in exceptional circumstances, support a proposal to establish or increase provision in an area where there is a sufficient level of quality pre-school provision (irrespective of the type of provider).
- There is however a pattern of under-provision in this area over the past few years which, unless addressed, will inhibit the Department's ability to meet the PfG commitment.
- The SEELB has stated in their Development Proposal that the existing voluntary playgroup (Early Days), which is located within Ballymagee PS and currently offers 24 funded pre-school places, will continue to operate.
- The shortfall in provision in this area is such that the creation of a new nursery unit, increasing provision within a 2 mile radius to 95.3%, should not have a detrimental impact on the existing voluntary provider.

Recommendation

- Early Years Team **supports** the proposal to establish a 26 place p/t nursery unit at Ballymagee PS.

Financial Implications

If the proposal were approved the following financial implications need to be considered:

(a) Accommodation

The South Eastern Education and Library Board will finance the required accommodation for the proposed nursery through its minor works allocation subject to the availability of capital funds. The building cost would be approximately £140k.

(b) Common Funding Scheme – additional allocation

AWPU Factor	$26 * 0.895 * £2,025.32$	=	£47,129
Premises Factor - Pupil (FTE)	$13 * £127.29$	=	£1,655
Funding			
TOTAL		=	£48,784

A high-level funding estimate based on the above, using 2012/13 CFF values, is £49k (full year) and £28k (in-year).

Note:

A more robust calculation could only be done on opening of the unit, when the actual pupil numbers and data affecting the other factors in the Common Funding Formula (e.g. TSN) would be known. These additional factors would increase the resource requirement, perhaps substantially.

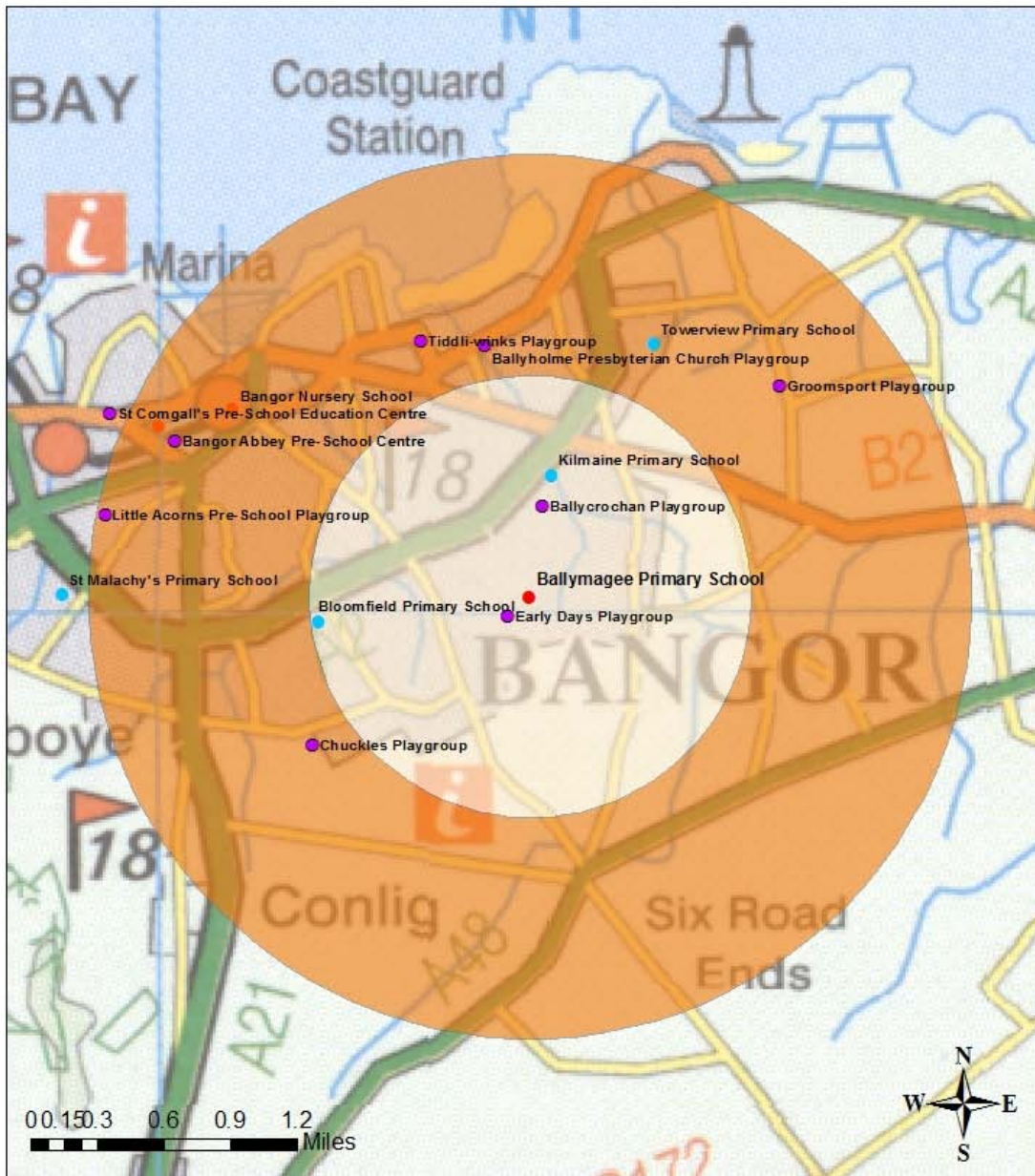
In the current financial climate, School Finance Team are concerned that approval of this Development Proposal will increase pressure on an already severely stretched Aggregated Schools Budget.

(c) Staffing costs

The estimated staffing costs as provided by the SEELB are £50,000.

Location Maps

Ballymagee Primary School



- Key
- Ballymagee Primary School
 - Pre-schools
 - Nursery
 - Primary Schools with Nursery Units
- Ballymagee Primary School
- Buffer Distance
- 0.00 - 1.00
 - 1.00 - 2.00



Draft Press Release

O'DOWD APPROVES PART-TIME NURSERY UNIT AT BALLYMAGEE PRIMARY SCHOOL, BANGOR.

Education Minister, John O'Dowd, has approved the establishment of a 26 place part-time nursery unit at Ballymagee Primary School, Bangor.

Commenting on his decision, the Minister said: **“The establishment of this new facility will be welcome news. I am satisfied that there is a clearly demonstrated need to create more pre-school places for the benefit of the children in the area.”**

“It is well-established that high quality pre-school education has a positive impact on children’s educational outcomes. To this end, a key Programme for Government target for my Department is to provide a place in their immediate pre-school year for all children whose parents wish it. This increased provision at Ballymagee will help achieve this aim in Bangor.”

Notes to Editors:

- 1 On 4 December 2012 the Minister outlined the future direction for early years education and learning in the document ‘Learning to Learn: A Framework for Early Years Education and Learning’. The framework is currently out for focused consultation and can be accessed at <http://www.deni.gov.uk/learning-to-learn>
- 2 The South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) published Development Proposal No 232 on 13 November 2012, proposing that a single nursery unit should be provided at Ballymagee Primary School with effect from 31 August 2013, or as soon as possible thereafter. The statutory two-month consultation period ended on 13 January 2013. It is intended that the nursery unit would offer 26 part-time places.
- 3 Media queries, contact the Department of Education Press Office on 028 9127 9701. Out of office hours please contact the Duty Press Officer via pager number 07699 715 440 and your call will be returned.