



## Minutes

### Meeting Details

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| <b>Name</b>          | Consultation Meeting on PAN   |
| <b>Date</b>          | Tuesday 12th December 2017  |
| <b>Time</b>          | 3:30am – 4:30pm   |
| <b>Location</b>      | Restaurant , Maritime House, Portland, DT5 2NA  |
| <b>Attendees</b>     | C Addis (CA) - Executive Principal / J Heap (JH) - Principal / A Lock (AL) Admissions Officer / E Clayton / T Upton / Cllr Kimber / S Gallie / K Haskins / J Menzies / Cllr K Wheller /Cllr R Nowak / L Pallister / A Boatswain / Cllr Garcia / Cllr L Grieve |
| <b>Distribution</b>  | Website, email attendees  |
| <b>Abbreviations</b> | AAP - Atlantic Academy Portland, CA - Claire Addis, FSM - Free School Meals, LAC - Looked after Children, MH - Maritime House, OQ - Osprey Quay, PAN - Published Admission Number, PP - Pupil Premium, Q&A - Question & Answer, T&L - Teaching & Learning     |

### Items

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| <b>1.</b>  | Welcome and introduction of Claire Addis (CA) Executive Principal, and Jonathan Heap, Principal (JH) outlining that this meeting is to explain in more detail the rationale behind the proposal and give the community the opportunity to ask questions.  |
| <b>2.</b>  | CA explained that the consultation is open and live until 12th January. CA invited everyone after the meeting today, to email any comments they would like considered when this is taken to the Trust Board to be decided upon. Attendees at the meeting were encouraged to share that message with anyone that has not been able to make it to the meeting: <a href="mailto:consultation@atlantic-aspirations.org">consultation@atlantic-aspirations.org</a>   |
| <b>3.</b>  | CA explained that she had taken some of the key areas from the document that has been circulated to discuss in more depth and displayed in a presentation which can be located on our website:<br><a href="http://www.atlantic-aspirations.org/265/admissions">http://www.atlantic-aspirations.org/265/admissions</a>   |
| <b>3.1</b> | PAN - we are considering a change to our Published Admission Number (PAN), reducing numbers from 90 in the primary provision at Reception stage (3 classes of 30) to 60 (2 classes of 30). Therefore the proposal is to reduce to 2 form entry (2 classes of 30 pupils). Secondary proposal is to change the provision numbers from 150 to 120 pupils. CA confirmed that the statutory time for consultation means this would be from September 2019 if the changes are to take effect.   |
| <b>3.2</b> | Background - CA explained that when she refers to the Trust, she is referring to the Aspirations Academies Trust. CA talked through the history of IPACA, before the Aspirations Academies Trust took over the Academy. The Academy currently has a PAN of 90 for primary years (Reception to Year 6) and 150 for secondary (Years 7 - 11), which along with a sixth form of 200 pupils, amounts to a potential student population of 1580. The Aspirations Academies Trust believe that the current buildings, operating between Maritime House and Osprey Quay, do not have the physical capacity to house this number of children and to educate them effectively. The proposed reduction in PAN will take the eventual student population |

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|             | <p>capacity on the MH site to 1020 (or 1220 if including sixth form) by September 2019. However, the ultimate aim is for every child on the Isle of Portland to attend either St George's or AAP in Primary, and AAP in Secondary.</p> <p>CA apologised for the omission of St George's in the published document and confirmed that it was always the intention to include St George's alongside APP as a provider of primary places for the island.</p>  |
| 4.          | <p>CA explained that the first part of the rationale is around space and capacity and the split between MH and OQ create a lot of issues. AAP does not have the problem at the moment as we are operating under the PAN number. Even with pupils moved from OQ to MH, there is still capacity at MH. However, as AAP improves and the Ofsted ratings improves, AAP needs to have a plan in place for a future increase in numbers as the Academy becomes more popular. Therefore, that is why the proposal is to reduce the PAN. AAP wants to educate pupils in a building that works for them.</p> <p>CA talked through the figures received from the local authority, included in the presentation slide No 5 that give schools an idea of the numbers of children coming up in future years for the schools in their area. Looking at the green column that is the 4 years + that is coming to AAP, St George's has a capacity of 60 (2 form entry), and if AAP were reduced to 2 form entry (60 as well), there will be on the Island, an offer of 120 places between the two schools. CA noted that by 2021 the predicted places will have dropped to 102 children to share across the Island between the 2 schools and 120 places available.</p> <p><a href="#">Statement from the floor - noted that the figures being discussed, from 2021 are predictions and children are not yet born. She reported that she has asked DCC what basis they are making the predictions and acknowledged that there is a slight trend downwards but raised concerns that that the predicted numbers are going to be accurate.</a></p> <p>CA confirmed that they are predictions and calculated by DCC using a formula she is not familiar with, past formulas have proven to be accurate. CA explained that AAP cannot hold things back for future numbers predicted, as it will not give the children that are currently at the school the best opportunities.</p> |
| 5.          | <p>CA explained the other side around the rationale is Teaching &amp; Learning (T&amp;L): - all Years 1- 4 are now at MH, after a move for some from OQ. There is currently a consultation out now to move Early Years and Reception from OQ to MH site.</p> <p>As part of a legacy of IPACA, Ofsted and HMI still visit the school and have stated in the past the inconsistencies between the two sites, with OQ not performing as highly as MH. HMI had reported that this could be addressed with moving pupils to one site to ensure consistency of teaching and monitoring from Senior Leadership Team (SLT). A follow up visit from HMI 3 weeks after the school became AAP, were impressed with the improvements made. Facilities at MH are exceptional, with skilled subject teachers that benefit all pupils. The T&amp;L for AAP, the move away from special measures and to the point where AAP want it to be, will only be successful if AAP pupils are in one facility. This then goes back to the issue that they cannot all fit in MH unless numbers are reduced; 60 Primary - 120 Secondary are the ideal numbers for AAP to work to absolute advantage for our children.</p> <p>CA asked for any questions from the floor.</p>   |
| 6.<br>Q & A | <p><a href="#">How much can we respond if figures are much more on the plus side, can it increase the PAN again or is this the best we can offer?</a></p> <p>CA reported that Atlantic had met with representatives from DCC to discuss the figures received from them and asked them for permission to share this information with you today. CA explained that AAP can only work with the figures given and if there was an increase in the future population on Portland, APP would make an increase in their PAN, as this would not need to be consulted on, it is only when the PAN is decreased it needs to put to consultation.</p> <p>CA explained that AAP want local children to come to the local schools (St Georges and APP in Primary and APP in secondary. AAP can increase their PAN and do have a couple of options and are not adverse to change. If an increase in future numbers was experienced, they would have the option to open OQ to more primary pupils or extend MH facility. Difficulty with OQ option would be again be educating over different sites and CA stressed that AAP is very adamant that children need to be taught together in one place, for it to be run for future success.</p> <p><a href="#">What happens to OQ site?</a></p> <p>CA explained that with the proposal for Reception students to move to MH, OQ will be used as the 6th form base, and is an ideal site for them as it is near to many local businesses and local links for possible future</p>  |

apprenticeships. With a 200 capacity for 6th form, this will free up student space at MH to keep consistency of T&L.

[If 6th form takes off then OQ is not available for future primary?](#)

CA reported that if AAP became so successful that they needed to increase the PAN, they would look to alternative options and have spoken to Compass Estates, who still own parts of the adjacent building at MH, about future options.

CA is confident that the plan being put forward is the right one for the students in the school now and will allow AAP to provide those students with a good education in the immediate future while planning for the long term future of education on the island.

[Question raised about Atlantic assuming responsibility for providing education that is needed on the Island and surrounding area. Stated that they were disappointed that the Local Authority \(LA\) were not in attendance at this meeting as the LA has some responsibility in a situation like this for those people in Wyke and surrounding area, and this is beyond AAP remit.](#)

CA explained that she has experience in a similar situation in a Bournemouth school with increasing numbers, needing to increase capacity to accommodate the places. She stated that she is taking responsibility at AAP with the pupil numbers currently predicted; with any future possibility of an over capacity situation, a plan will be in place to address the need and it is important to work with the LA.

[Question raised concerning the Consultation for Reception class now for Sept 2018 - hope that everything will be in place with transport etc?](#)

CA reported AAP were advised not to put anything regarding the Consultation on the website where parents are currently choosing their schools - (AAP had suggested that parents should be aware that if they chose to come to Atlantic there will be the possibility that they will be based at MH. DCC advised it was not necessary to inform parents until the decision had been finalised). Transport would not be provided unless eligible for the DCC transport arrangements (living over a certain distance range that DCC provide transport for). AAP would then work with DCC for provision of bus attendants as necessary.

AAP currently provide a minibus daily with 7 Reception pupils taking up the use of transport provided, as AAP moved the pupils late in the day, after letters had gone out saying Reception children would be based at OQ. This time it is a much earlier consultation; parents will be choosing a school where they know their child will be based at MH.

[Will Nursery be moving up too?](#)

CA explained this depends where Reception students will be based and if there is enough space. Surveyors are currently looking at areas at MH for Reception and pre school, but this has yet to be finalised. It may have to be a staggered move.

[Catchment area - When IPACA became AAP it brought about a situation where children living in Underhill were bused past St George's to get to AAP - will this continue or will the catchment area reflect the shift? Previously OQ was functioning as a catchment school for Underhill school.](#)

CA explained that Academies do not have catchment areas, they have a 'By distance criteria', which is measured by the distance of where the children live. (St George's do have a catchment area as part of DCC)

Parents make their applications online and DCC administer the process. AAP pay into the Admissions DCC service and the criteria for admissions in order are: Looked after Children (LAC), medical, sibling and distance. CA acknowledged the complications of passing schools and being geographically closer to another school as it is a complicated system with new Academies opening or converting. AAP does not have all the answers but can only offer what they hope to be an improved education for the children.

[What is the business case thinking in taking pre school away from Underhill, especially if parents work in Weymouth? If AAP could get 'bums on seats' this would hopefully keep them within the AAP school system. Suggested that if another local school added capacity to provide preschool provision, AAP would lose children.](#)

CA explained that it is a risk and long term goals need to be considered and having staff and students together outweighs the opportunity to have a few more students. She reiterated that it is very hard monitoring standards on separate sites, supporting staff who themselves are isolated from all opportunities on offer, with them being so remote from the rest of the staff.

[Do we think in the future there will be education in Underhill?](#)

Looking at the future numbers predicted by DCC, there does not appear to be a need for additional capacity at this point.

[Who would keep control of OQ?](#)

AAP have a 125 year sublease on the site.

[Do you think, with 120 at senior school level, you will get the 200 input for 6th form? In the early years it is going to be a struggle?](#)

CA explained that 200 would not be achieved at this point, however the Trust is aware and will commit and support this over the first few years. There are 100 places in each year group, so 200 in total. They would promote and offer the courses that have been researched and offer unique opportunities for the young people. It is about the children in our school now, about offering the best we can for the pupils we have, and are very aware that it takes a number of years to build up a successful sixth form provision.

Discussion took place on all through opportunities; the opportunity of staying in one site, removing the 3 transitions that children normally have, is a huge advantage and alleviates the stress to families.

Trust felt this gives the children and the parents a huge advantage as they will understand the vision and what is expected of them. Parents and members of the community have been on a tour and seen first hand how this works. It does not work on two sites. Parents will make journeys to a good or an outstanding school and AAP is looking to being that school.

[As a parent of 2 year old and ideal is walking your child to school - how as a school are AAP going to link to parents in early years stage to be able to be part of their education?](#)

CA explained that DCC run a scheme that is not well publicized, that if families meet the criteria of the bus allocation, primary parents can apply for a bus pass too, and travel with their child.

[As a working parent, parents want to be able to link to the school face to face if they are not picking their children up daily.](#)

CA explained the extra curricular events ie school plays, various performances or open door celebrations that are put on regularly at the end of half terms for primary phase. These give parents the opportunities to view work and talk to the teachers.

[Do understand why the students need to be on the same site for the education to work effectively, however there are parents that are not engaged as they could be and not having them at the door could cause more worries for those children? Also the parents that want to be engaged but can't, will there be a system in place to be able to communicate with their child's teacher?](#)

Discussion took place on how AAP keep parents engaged; email system, book contacts; after school clubs which help if a parent cannot make pick up at 3:30 but are able to make 5:30 and teachers can meet when convenient to both. AAP are really trying to improve communication and opportunities. They will be getting a better education but we need to try and give more options for parents to be involved.

[It is Underhill parents and children that have been hit by this and will continue to be hit.](#)

CA outlined that if you look at the analysis from what Underhill children were achieving to what they were achieving at MH, there was a marked difference, as acknowledged by Ofsted. Why should Underhill children be disadvantaged because they are not having the same opportunities as those at MH? It is a positive that they are receiving the same opportunities as their peers.

[Can you reinforce this to the Underhill parents as they feel very cut off, very isolated and very let down. If you were to have a list of those parents that cannot get to the school and maybe provide special provision for those parents.](#)

CA acknowledged that it was a particular concern.

[AAP thanked for putting this consultation meeting on. As one of the locals and a town council member, was upset when the Consultation paper came out and acknowledged that it had been misread, as thought the school was being selective. Having heard the rationale for it and learnt the reasoning for the reduction in numbers, wish the school well. It is in the interest of the Island that the school thrives and is a place that](#)

children want to go. Extended an offer to attend the Town Council meetings sometimes to keep open communication links going and allow the town council members to support the school.

CA confirmed that AAP will take on board the need for early communication and the offer of the town council invitation and assured people the proposal was not about being selective. Appreciate that the meeting has been helpful.

#### PP

CA explained Pupil Premium (PP) - additional funding for students dependant on need for school population. There is a higher than average allocation at AAP that is due to a number of factors that are calculated in a formula. including parents are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), and funding is allocated accordingly. There is a number of different ways the funding is used ie additional staffing (to support smaller groups), support to provide resources to individuals to enable inclusion; may be for a very bright child for a piano lesson - AAP looks across the whole curriculum. Schools report on their website the amount allocated, how they have spent the money and the following year then has to include the impact that money spent, has had.

#### Future as you see it?

There is a lot of need at the school and as more legacy issues are being unpicked, there are cost implications for everything. AAP have employed high quality staff, as high quality teaching is a priority.

CA confirmed that the presentation and the Minutes of the meeting will go on the website. She reiterated the need for people to email any comments through to [consultation@atlantic-aspirations.org](mailto:consultation@atlantic-aspirations.org)

For the record think that it would be useful for you to say about over capacity, why it is AAP cannot provide for those children.

CA will not say that, as AAP can provide for the children that want to attend the school. AAP currently operate at a fixed cap at 60. In September Admissions are closed through DCC and become in year admissions. If bulk year group is anticipated, AAP will liaise with DCC in order to accommodate them.

AAP would look at how to manage any future increase in numbers. CA clarified that the Trust is committed to the children on the Island to have a place if they want one.

#### Discussion took place on how we get the word out: -

- minutes published
- parents talking to each other.
- future meetings need to be later.
- information needs to be worded better to make parents feel inclusive;
- communication needs to be better;
- massive headlines out.

#### Post 16 - when will it open and when A Level engineering in Maths.

JH explained the BTecs being offered are very very close to A Levels this year. Budmouth competing well with Thomas Hardy and we could not compete previously. AAP will offer 5 or 6 Level 3 courses to run economically.

#### Communication with other schools - AAP need to get out of the IPACA shadow as the process was unpleasant at times with repercussions that carry on.

JH confirmed that AAP are working with St George's, with visits and assemblies, sharing resources, cross moderation; it is about the education of the pupils, not one versus the others. AAP are working to build bridges and are in touch with the Head at St George's.

CA confirmed that AAP pupils in Year 6 are guaranteed a place at Atlantic Academy.

St George's or children at other schools would need to apply to attend AAP. Agreed that it would benefit those children if there was more contact and increased communication with AAP prior to transition.

6.

Past is in the past, it is about a fresh start.  
CA thanked everyone for coming.  
Meeting ended 4:45pm