

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT - 6 JULY 2010**

### **PROPOSED EXTENSION OF AGE RANGE AT UFFINGTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Report by Director for Children, Young People & Families**

#### **Introduction**

1. At the meeting on 7 April 2010 the Cabinet Member agreed to the publication of formal proposals to extend the age range at Uffington CE Primary School to 3-11, in order to formally incorporate the early years provision provided by the pre-school. The report outlining the basis for this decision is attached at Annex 1.
2. The statutory notice (attached at Annex 2) was published by the Authority in the Wantage Herald on 22 April 2010 and expired following 6 weeks of formal consultation on 3 June 2010. In accordance with legislation the notice was also posted at the school gate and local library. A copy of the proposal (attached at Annex 3) and the notices were sent to the governing body and the Secretary of State and additionally made available on the Oxfordshire County Council website.
3. The decision-making power in terms of determining the notice lies with the Cabinet or can be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement. This follows decisions taken by the Cabinet in July 2007 under new legislation encompassed in the Education & Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) whereby School Organisation Committees were abolished and arrangements became the responsibility of the relevant local authority. In meeting as 'decision-maker' the Cabinet or Cabinet Member must have regard to government guidance and statutory timescales otherwise a decision can be referred to the independent Schools' Adjudicator for reconsideration. Also at its meeting in July 2007 the Cabinet confirmed that in considering notices as 'Decision-maker' it was necessary for the Chairman of the Council to determine that the decision could not be subject to 'call-in' as this would, in most cases, mean that the Cabinet's role would be negated by referral to the Schools' Adjudicator. The Cabinet decision must be made within 2 months of the close of the notice period.
4. As no representations in relation to the proposal have been received the decision is referred to the Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement. The proposed implementation date for the proposal is 1 September 2010.

#### **The Proposal**

5. Uffington School and Pre-school combined in September 2005 to work in partnership. In order to improve management across the age range and

achieve smooth seamless education it is now proposed that the school should formally incorporate the early years provision, extending its age range to become a 3-11 school.

## Representations

6. No representations have been received in relation to this notice during the statutory consultation process.

## Making a Decision

7. In terms of reaching a decision all proposals should be considered on their merits but the following factors should be borne in mind but are not considered to be exhaustive. The Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement must be satisfied that the statutory consultation has been carried out prior to the publication of the notice. Details of the consultation should be included in the proposals. The Decision Maker must be satisfied that the consultation meets statutory requirements. If some parties submit objections on the basis that consultation was not adequate, the Decision Maker may wish to take legal advice on the points raised. If the requirements have not been met, the Decision Maker may judge the proposals to be invalid and should consider whether they can make a decision on the proposals. Alternatively the Decision Maker may take into account the sufficiency and quality of the consultation as part of their overall judgement of the proposals as a whole.
8. **The effect on standards, school improvement and diversity.** The government aims to create a dynamic system shaped by parents that delivers excellence and equality, closing weak schools, encouraging new providers and popular schools to expand. Decision Makers should be satisfied that the proposals will contribute to raising local standards of provision and improved attainment and consider the impact on choice and diversity. They should pay particular attention to the effect on groups that tend to under-perform including children from certain ethnic minorities and deprived backgrounds. The decision-maker should consider how the proposals will help deliver the 'Every Child Matters' principles.
9. **School characteristics.** The decision-maker should consider whether there are any sex, race or disability discrimination issues that arise and whether there is supporting evidence to support the extension and take into account the existence of capacity elsewhere. The decision-maker needs to consider the accessibility of the provision for disadvantaged groups as the provision should not unduly extend journey times or cost.
10. **Funding and land.** The decision-maker should be satisfied that any capital required to implement the proposals will be available.



Division(s): Shrivenham
-------------------------

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT 7 APRIL 2010**

### **APPLICATION TO OPEN A NEW FOUNDATION STAGE UNIT**

#### **Report by Director for Children, Young People & Families**

#### **Introduction**

1. Uffington CE Primary School has completed the first section of the scheme for applying to open a Foundation Stage Unit (new nursery class). In order to proceed to the second stage the application requires the approval of the Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement.

#### **Background**

2. The proposal is to open a Foundation Stage Unit for a total of 30 3, 4 and 5 year old children, some of whom will attend part time. There is currently a pre school on site in the school but they support this application to transfer all administration and governance to the School. The aim is that simplified procedures and management will lead to better resourcing, less duplication and most importantly will raise the quality of teaching and learning for these youngest children.

#### **Financial Report**

3. The finance officer has assessed the financial position with the school and governors. It shows it to be in balance this year and the income generated by the younger pupils will cover the cost of extra staffing. The sustainability of the proposal assumes there will be 15 part time 3 and 4 year olds as planned.  
Premises Report
4. The School raised £130000 for the purpose built accommodation in 2005. The premises report confirms that the new purpose built unit provides first class accommodation. There is sufficient space and toilets in the building for the planned number of children, the environment is secure and has access to good outdoor provision and resources. There is access and provision for disabled children. A kitchenette and small office are included in the new building.

#### **Quality Report**

5. This report has considered the new environment which already offers high quality provision. Well qualified staff work well as a team and are reflective

and keen to develop further. They offer an appropriate curriculum which gives children rich learning opportunities. The Head teacher is committed to improving opportunities for the youngest children and supports the staff well.

### **Responses from Informal Consultation**

6. All the required consultations have been carried out and all the responses received are positive and encouraging.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

7. **The Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement is RECOMMENDED to agree to the publication of statutory notices to take this proposal forward to the next formal phase.**

MEERA SPILLETT

Director for Children, Young People & Families

Background papers: Proposal form from school, reports from finance and premises officers and the advisory teacher for the area. These are available from the Contact Officer – or from Janine Foulkes-Williams, Business Support officer 01865 815181  
[Janine.foulkes-williams@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Janine.foulkes-williams@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Maggie Smith Strategic Lead Early Years, Early Years and Family Support Tel: 01865 815697  
[maggie.smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:maggie.smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

March 2010