

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES  
14 JULY 2014**

**FINAL REPORT ON THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF AGE  
RANGE AT CARTERTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Report by Director for Children's Services**

**Introduction**

1. This report follows a statutory notice period relating to the governing body's proposal to extend the age range of Carterton Community College from its current 11 - 16 status to 11 - 19. The governors wish is to establish post-16 provision.
2. At the meeting on 18 March 2014 the Cabinet agreed to support the governors of the school in their wish to proceed to publish a statutory notice. The report outlining the basis for this decision is available to view on the OCC website.
3. The statutory notice (attached at Annex 1) was published by the governing body, supported by the Local Authority, in the Witney Gazette on 23 April 2014 and expired following 4 weeks of formal consultation on 21 May 2014. In accordance with legislation the notice was also posted at the school entrances and sent to the local library. A copy of the full proposal (attached at Annex 2) and the notices were sent to the governing body and the Secretary of State and made available on the Oxfordshire County Council website.
4. The decision-making power in terms of determining the notice lies with the Cabinet or can be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families. 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. The decision must be made within 2 months of the close of the notice period; as a consequence, it is necessary for the Chairman of the Council to determine that the decision cannot be subject to 'call-in' as this would, in most cases, prevent a decision being finalised within the required timescale and mean that the Cabinet's role would be negated by referral to the Schools' Adjudicator.

**The Proposal**

5. The governors propose to establish post-16 education at Carterton Community College over an initial 3-year period. The proposed pupil numbers are detailed below:

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	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
<b>PUPIL NUMBERS (90%ret'n)</b>			
Y12	25	50	50
Y13	0	25	50
<b>Total Post-16 roll</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total School roll</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>709</b>

6. The above data shows the initial 3-year establishment period only. Cohort sizes have risen steeply in primary schools in the town in the last few years and future forecasts are for growth at secondary age because of this and due to significant housing developments planned for the town.
7. Carterton Community College currently has a planned admission number of 140 but has the physical capacity for an admission number of 186 meaning that it has the capacity within its buildings to meet an increase in student numbers.

### Representations

8. The formal representation (Statutory Notice) phase was from 23 April 2014 to 21 May 2014 and a Statutory Notice (Annex 1) was publicly displayed at Carterton Community College entrances, was also available on the OCC website and was published in the Witney Gazette newspaper.
9. Four representations were received, all of which were in favour of the proposal in principle.
10. No objections to the proposal were received.

### Legal background

14. The establishment of a Sixth Form (post-16 education) is subject to statutory procedures, as set out in "School Organisation: Maintained Schools. Guidance for proposers and decision-makers" (The Guidance) published January 2014. When reaching a decision, Cabinet Member must have regard to The Guidance, in particular paragraphs 19 – 25.
15. 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 Decision Maker should consider the views of all those affected. Details of the consultation should be included in the proposals. The Decision Maker must be satisfied that the consultation meets statutory requirements. If the requirements have not been met, the Decision Maker may judge the proposals to be invalid and should consider whether they can make

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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.

16. **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.
17. **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.
18. **Need for places.** The Decision Maker should consider whether there is a need for the expansion and should consider the evidence presented for the expansion. There is a strong presumption that proposals to expand popular and successful schools should be approved. If surplus capacity exists in neighbouring schools the Decision Maker should ask how it is planned to tackle any consequences for other schools.
19. **Funding and land.** The Decision Maker should be satisfied that any land, premises and capital required to implement the proposals will be available.

#### **Financial and Staff Implications**

20. There will be on-costs to the College, in time, for additional staff, however this would be minimal to begin with as the proposal is to implement over a three year period. Initially the College will be utilising existing capacity of teaching staff to deliver the increased provision. The day to day revenue costs for repair and maintenance and staffing costs must be met through the College's delegated individual school budget.
21. Funding for post 16 students in schools, colleges and Academies is via national funding formula determined by the Education Funding Agency (EFA). The formula for the academic year starting in August 2014 would normally be based on lagged pupil numbers i.e: the number of students participating in the previous academic year.

The College has calculated its costs and income as shown below and has submitted these details to the Education Funding Agency (EFA):

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POST-16 Capacity: 150 Est with EFA March 2014

EXPENDITURE	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
<b>Courses: total on offer</b>			
A Level	4	7	10
BTEC L3	3	4	4
<b>Staff costs per annum</b>			
Total cost (£)	61009	132750	183750
Additional each year	61009	71741	51000
<b>Additional resources</b>			
Books/consumables	3000	5000	5000
Equipment		10000	3000
Total	3000	15000	8000
<b>Total predicted costs</b>	<b>64009</b>	<b>147750</b>	<b>191750</b>

INCOME	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
<b>PUPIL NUMBERS (90%ret'n)</b>			
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<b>Total Post-16 roll</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100</b>
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<b>PUPIL INCOME</b>			
KS3 @ £4088.06	1344971.74	1471701.6	1655664.3
KS4 @ 4288.06	956237.38	947661.26	874764.24
POST-16 @ £5000	125000	375000	500000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2426209.12</b>	<b>2794362.86</b>	<b>3030428.54</b>

22. The school will incur additional revenue costs in later years for additional staff, resources and exam fees. The initial small sixth form numbers means that no additional teaching staff are required in the initial three-year period of implementation, however the school will need to plan to meet other costs.

