

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT – 1 FEBRUARY 2011**

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

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

#### **Introduction**

1. Kingham Primary School has completed the first section of the scheme for applying to open a Foundation Stage Unit which will combine the F1 class and the existing on-site Pre-School and provide places for 26 FTE children aged 3-5 years. In order to proceed to the second stage the application requires the approval of the Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement.

#### **Background**

2. Kingham Primary School and Pre-School currently offer PFSU provision. The proposal is to open a Foundation Stage Unit for a total of 26 FTE 3, 4 and 5 year old children. The on site pre-school supports 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 25 part time 3 and 4 year olds as planned. Georgina Paton (School Finance support team leader) and Caroline Baggs (Service Manager Schools HR) have supported the head teacher and governors to create a financial plan to cover all expenses including meeting the costs of redundancies if this is applicable. The option presented has needed to be re-considered to allow finances to cover a qualified teacher paid on teachers pay and conditions for the F2 class.
4. The head teacher was advised to check that staffing requirements for the new FSU meets the required standards for staffing qualifications and ratios. (which can be found in the Early Years Foundation Stage Welfare requirements.) He has liaised with both HR and the Finance Support team to inform the financial plan for staffing. The head teacher has met with governors to discuss the options available and he has stated that they have come up with a plan that will enable them to pay two qualified one for reception aged children F1 and one for the nursery class F2.

## Premises Report

5. A purpose built PFSU was completed in autumn 2008. Provision for the F1 class was judged to be 'outstanding' by OFSTED in autumn 2010. The quality and 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 children with disabilities. A kitchenette and small office are included in the building.

## Quality Report

6. This report has considered the 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

7. The Head teacher has informed us that all consultations to other providers have been sent out and no objections received. Parent consultations have been sent this term with requests for response by 17 January 2011.

## RECOMMENDATION

8. **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 and 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.

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