

## ***Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Education***

***Monday, 10 September 2012 at 12.00 pm  
County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND***

### ***Items for Decision***

The items for decision under individual Cabinet Members' delegated powers are listed overleaf, with indicative timings, and the related reports are attached. Decisions taken will become effective at the end of the working day on 2010 unless called in by that date for review by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.

Copies of the reports are circulated (by e-mail) to all members of the County Council.

**These proceedings are open to the public**



Peter G. Clark  
County Solicitor

August 2012

**Contact Officer: *Deborah Miller***  
*Tel: (01865) 815384; E-Mail: [deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk)*

*Note: Date of next meeting: 1 October 2012*

**If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, but please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.**

## Items for Decision

### 1. **Declarations of Interest**

### 2. **Questions from County Councillors**

Any county councillor may, by giving notice to the Proper Officer by 9 am two working days before the meeting, ask a question on any matter in respect of the Cabinet Member's delegated powers.

The number of questions which may be asked by any councillor at any one meeting is limited to two (or one question with notice and a supplementary question at the meeting) and the time for questions will be limited to 30 minutes in total. As with questions at Council, any questions which remain unanswered at the end of this item will receive a written response.

Questions submitted prior to the agenda being despatched are shown below and will be the subject of a response from the appropriate Cabinet Member or such other councillor or officer as is determined by the Cabinet Member, and shall not be the subject of further debate at this meeting. Questions received after the despatch of the agenda, but before the deadline, will be shown on the Schedule of Addenda circulated at the meeting, together with any written response which is available at that time.

### 3. **Petitions and Public Address**

### 4. **Stanton Harcourt Primary School : Alteration of Lower Age Range and Merging with Preschool - Stage One**

*Forward Plan Ref:* 2012/103

*Contact:* Debbie Rouget, Early Years & Child Care Sufficiency & Access Manager  
Tel: (01865) 810617

Report by Director for Children's Services (**CMDE4E**).

Stanton Harcourt Primary School has completed the first section of the scheme for applying to open a Foundation Stage Unit (new nursery class) through the County Council Scheme. If approved this will allow the School to publish statutory notices to lower the age range at which they admit pupils from 4 to 3 years of age.

Most of the pupils who attend the school have had their pre school experience in Blackditch Bunnies which is on the School site. Both the School and the pre school work closely in partnership to ensure smooth transitions for children. The School Headteacher wants to further improve the provision, continuity and learning for the youngest children and has the full support of the pre school staff in making this application. The school expect to employ the pre school staff to work in the new unit, although there may need to be a reduction due to current staffing levels in the school and the numbers of children taking up places.

The School has consulted governors, parents, partnership schools and private and voluntary pre school providers in the area on these proposals and no objections have been received.

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

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Division(s): Eynsham

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION 10 SEPTEMBER 2012**

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

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

#### **Introduction**

1. Stanton Harcourt 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 Education.

#### **Background**

2. The proposal is to open a Foundation Stage Unit with 30 children aged from 3-5. The funding proposals have been based on 15 of these children attending part time in the mornings. An existing Partnership Foundation Stage unit arrangement would end and the pre-school on the site would be merged to create a Foundation Stage Unit. The pre-school and parents support this application to transfer all management, administration and governance to the School. The aim is to improve the management and organisation of the Foundation Stage and to raise the quality of teaching and learning for these youngest children and links to a corporate objective of raising achievement. Other implications include that there will no longer be provision for children aged under 3 as the pre-school currently do. Parents have been consulted and there are currently no objections to this. There may also be a reduction in staff across the FSU, although this could be averted as the school plans to look at the feasibility of opening for afternoon sessions to attract more children and to provide more flexibility for working parents.

#### **Financial Report**

3. The finance officer has assessed the financial position with the school and governors. The report shows it to be in balance for all three years. This indicates the sustainability of the proposal assuming the number of children planned for will be forthcoming.

#### **Premises Report**

4. The premises report indicates that the space is sufficient for the numbers in the room and that there is spare capacity. There are sufficient toilets and the environment is secure. It has access to an outdoor area and the available space in all areas is maximised for play and active learning.

## Quality Report

5. The report concludes that the application can be supported in terms of quality and practice, with some areas for development already identified. There are strong community links and partnerships with parents. There is adequate staffing for the numbers of children with appropriate qualifications for the care of Foundation stage children. They offer an appropriate curriculum and further training in the new Early Years Foundation Stage framework is planned. The Head teacher is committed to improving opportunities for the youngest children and has identified some areas around planning and resourcing which will be addressed should the plans for the FSU go ahead.

## Responses from Informal Consultation

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

## RECOMMENDATION

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

### JIM LEIVERS

Director for Children's Services

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, Principal Officer (Early Years) 01865 815181  
[Janine.foulkes-williams@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Janine.foulkes-williams@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Debbie Rouget, Sufficiency and Access Manager, Early Years and Childcare. 01865 810617  
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