



***Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Children,  
Education & Families***

***Monday, 24 June 2013 at 12.00 pm  
County Hall, Oxford***

***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 Tuesday 2 July 2013 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.*

Peter G. Clark  
County Solicitor

June 2013

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

Note: Date of next meeting: 15 July 2013

**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. Closure of John Hampden Nursery School and Alteration of Lower Age Limit at John Hampden Primary School (Pages 1 - 34)

*Forward Plan Ref:* 2013/043

*Contact:* Diane Cameron, School Organisation Officer Tel: (01865) 816445

Report by Director for Children's Services (**CMDE4**).

The report outlines a proposal is to merge John Hampden Primary School with its federated Nursery School. The legal mechanism to achieve this is to formally close the Nursery School, and extend the age range of the Primary School to include 3 year olds. Currently the same Governing Body and Headteacher run both establishments. Under this proposal, the services provided by each school would continue, under the same management as presently but with simplified administration.

Additionally if the proposal is approved, only one Ofsted inspection would need to be carried out on the site, and only one set of data requested by the Department for Education would need to be returned by the school staff. This would release administrative and management time in each case.

***The Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families is RECOMMENDED to approve the alteration of the lower age limit of John Hampden Primary School and the linked closure of John Hampden Nursery School with effect from 1 September 2013.***

**5. Closure of Five Acres Nursery School and Alteration of Lower Age Limit at Five Acres Primary School (Pages 35 - 68)**

*Forward Plan Ref: 2013/041*

*Contact: Diane Cameron, School Organisation Officer Tel: (01865) 816445*

Report by Director for Children's Services (**CMDE5**).

The report outlines a proposal to merge Five Acres Primary School with its federated Nursery School. The legal mechanism to achieve this is to formally close the Nursery School, and extend the age range of the Primary School to include 3 year olds. Currently the same Governing Body and Headteacher run both establishments. Under this proposal, the services provided by each school would continue, under the same management as presently but with simplified administration.

The reasons for proposing this change are to consolidate the Governing Body's financial responsibility into one budget where they currently must manage two. With a single budget to manage, funding could be directed toward priorities agreed upon across the whole school whereas currently for example, the primary budget cannot be spent on the nursery school.

Additionally if the proposal is approved, only one Ofsted inspection would need to be carried out on the site, and only one set of data requested by the Department for Education would need to be returned by the school staff. This would release administrative and management time in each case.

***The Cabinet Member for Education is RECOMMENDED to approve the alteration of the lower age limit of Five Acres Primary School and the linked closure of Five Acres Nursery School with effect from 1 September 2013.***

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Division(s): Thame & Chinnor

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES – 24 JUNE 2013**

### **CLOSURE OF JOHN HAMPDEN NURSEY SCHOOL AND ALTERATION OF LOWER AGE LIMIT AT JOHN HAMPDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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

#### **Introduction**

1. At the meeting on 26 February 2013, the Cabinet agreed to the publication of formal proposals to alter the lower age limit at John Hampden Primary School in order to admit 3 year olds, and a linked proposal to close John Hampden Nursery School as a separate establishment. The report outlining the basis for this decision is available to view on the public website as one of the documents pertaining to the Cabinet meeting on that date.
2. The statutory notice listing the two linked proposals (Annex 1) was published by the Authority in the Thame Gazette on 13 March 2013 and expired following 4 weeks of formal consultation on 26 April 2013. In accordance with legislation the notice was also posted at the school gate and sent to the local library. A copy of the two full proposal documents (Annexes 2 and 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 Children, Education & Families (if there have been no objections). 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.
4. As no objections in relation to the proposal have been received the decision is referred to the Member for Education. The proposed implementation date for the proposal is 1 September 2013.

## **The Proposal**

5. The proposal is to merge John Hampden Primary School with its federated Nursery School. The legal mechanism to achieve this is to formally close the Nursery School, and extend the age range of the Primary School to include 3 year olds. Currently the same Governing Body and Headteacher run both establishments. Under this proposal, the services provided by each school would continue, under the same management as presently but with simplified administration.
6. The reasons for proposing this change are to consolidate the Governing Body's financial responsibility into one budget where they currently must manage two. With a single budget to manage, funding could be directed toward priorities agreed upon across the whole school whereas currently for example, the primary budget cannot be spent on the nursery school.
7. Additionally if the proposal is approved, only one Ofsted inspection would need to be carried out on the site, and only one set of data requested by the Department for Education would need to be returned by the school staff. This would release administrative and management time in each case.
8. Because of changes made in April 2011 by the DfE to the Early Years Single Funding Formula for nursery schools, there is now no financial advantage to running two establishments in parallel and the duplication of work and time would increasingly become an unnecessary financial drain on the Governing Body.
9. There would be no noticeable change as a result of this proposal for the staff, children or parents. The change proposed is purely administrative in nature. No change to school admission rules would follow.

## **Representations**

10. The formal representation (Statutory Notice) phase was from 13 March 2013 – 26 April 2013 and a Statutory Notice (Annex 1) was publicly displayed at John Hampden Primary School, was also available on the OCC website and was published in The Thame Gazette newspaper on 13 March 2013.
11. No representations were received in response to the publication.
12. As no objections in principle to the proposal have been raised, the decision on whether to implement the proposal is referred to the Member for Education rather than the Cabinet.

## **Legal background**

13. School expansions and closures are subject to statutory procedures, as established by The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended). Local authorities also have a duty to have

regard to statutory guidance, in this particular case ‘Making Changes to a Maintained Mainstream School’, pages 20-36 and “Closing a Maintained Mainstream School” (“the Guidance”) pages 19-34. When reaching a decision, Cabinet Member must have regard to The Guidance. Cabinet Member is referred in particular to pages in The Guidance.

14. Guidance on closing maintained schools states that *“In deciding whether to approve any proposals to close a nursery school, the Decision Maker should be aware that nursery schools generally offer high quality provision, and have considerable potential as the basis for developing integrated services for young children and families. There should be a presumption against the closure of a nursery school unless the case for closure can demonstrate that:*
  - (a) *the LA is consistently funding numbers of empty places;*
  - (b) *full consideration has been given to developing the school into a Sure Start Children’s Centre, and there are clear, justifiable grounds for not doing so, for example: unsuitable accommodation, poor quality provision and low demand for places;*
  - (c) *plans to develop alternative provision clearly demonstrate that it will be at least as equal in terms of the quantity and quality of early years provision provided by the nursery school with no loss of expertise and specialism; and that*
  - (d) *replacement provision is more accessible and more convenient for local parents.”*
15. This proposal, while legally closing the nursery school, would continue to offer the same level of service at the same location, and therefore nursery provision will not change as a result of this proposal.
16. 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 by the proposals. The Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families, as Decision Maker, 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 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.
17. **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.

18. **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.
19. **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.
20. **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**

21. The financial implications of this report are considered to be positive and are linked to the desired consolidation of the budgets for the John Hampden site as a whole, to produce improved efficiency and reduce workload for the governors and school staff.

### **Equality and Inclusion Implications**

22. There are not considered to be any equality and inclusion implications arising from this proposal. Should the merger go ahead following statutory consultation, the same services will be provided in the same location.

### **Decision**

23. In considering the proposals for a school expansion, the Decision Maker can decide to:
  - Reject the proposals;
  - Approve the proposals;
  - Approve the proposals with a modification (e.g. the implementation date); or
  - Approve the proposals subject to them meeting a specific condition (see the Guidance).



## RECOMMENDATION

24. The Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families is **RECOMMENDED** to approve the alteration of the lower age limit of John Hampden Primary School and the linked closure of John Hampden Nursery School with effect from 1 September 2013.

**JIM LEIVERS**

Director for Children's Services

Annexes:                      Annex 1: Statutory notice  
   Annex 2: Full proposal document alteration of age limit  
   Annex 3: Full proposal document closure of nursery school

Contact Officer:                Diane Cameron, School Organisation Officer, School Organisation & Planning, 01865 816445

May 2013

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## STATUTORY NOTICE

### **Proposed closure of John Hampden Nursery School and alteration of lower age range at John Hampden Primary School**

Oxfordshire County Council intends to merge John Hampden Nursery School and John Hampden Primary School in Thame through the legal mechanism of closing the nursery school and extending the age range of the primary school.

#### **Part 1: Closure of John Hampden Nursery School**

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND intends to discontinue John Hampden Nursery School, Park Street, Thame, OX9 3HU on 31 August 2013. Alternative provision will continue on the same site as part of John Hampden Primary School, where it is intended to extend the age range to include 3-year-olds (see below). As provision will continue on the same site, no transport arrangements for displaced pupils are required.

#### **Part 2: Extension of age range at John Hampden Primary School by adding a nursery unit**

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Oxfordshire County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to John Hampden Community Primary School, Park Street, Thame OX9 3HU from 01 September 2013.

It is proposed to extend the age range of John Hampden Primary School to 3 - 11, to make provision for children displaced if John Hampden Nursery School closes (see above). The proposed alteration will make provision for 60 part-time equivalent nursery places (30 full-time equivalent places). The current capacity of the school is 315 (Years F1 - 6) and the proposed capacity will be 315. The current admission number (into F1) for the school is 45 and the proposed admission number will be 45.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk> or by contacting Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Tel: 01865 816453 / Email:

**[JohnHampdenmerger-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:JohnHampdenmerger-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk)**

Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal online at

**<http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>** by emailing **[JohnHampdenmerger-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:JohnHampdenmerger-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk)** or by writing to Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Signed: Jim Leivers, Director for Children's Services

Publication Date: 15 March 2013

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PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS: Information to be included in a complete proposal

**Extract of Part 1 of Schedule 3 and Part 1 of Schedule 5 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):**

**In respect of a Governing Body Proposal: School and governing body's details**

1. The name, address and category of the school for which the governing body are publishing the proposals.

n/a

**In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority details**

1. The name, address and category of the school .

John Hampden Primary & Nursery Schools (Community)  
Park Street  
Thame  
OX9 3HU

**Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation**

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

Closure of John Hampden Nursery School on 31 August 2013  
Alteration of lower age range at John Hampden Primary School on 1 September 2013

### Objections and comments

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including

- (a) the date prescribed in accordance with paragraph 29 of Schedule 3 (GB proposals)/Schedule 5 (LA proposals) of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and
- (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

- a) Objections or comments should be sent to Oxfordshire County Council by 26 April 2013.
- b) Any person may object to or make comments on the proposal online at <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk> by emailing **JohnHampdenmerger-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk** or by writing to Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

### Alteration description

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

Oxfordshire County Council intends to merge John Hampden Nursery School and John Hampden Primary School in Thame through the legal mechanism of closing the nursery school and extending the age range of the primary school.

### School capacity

5.—(1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 8, 9 and 12-14 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), the proposals must also include —

- (a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

Current Net Capacity is 315. There will be no alteration to the Net

Capacity of the school as nursery accommodation is excluded from the Net Capacity calculation.

- (b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

Admission Number in F1 (Reception) is 45 and will remain 45.

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

n/a

- (d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

n/a

(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals) /paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 and 19 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

Current numbers on roll at John Hampden Primary School is 285 (F1 – Year 6)

### Implementation

6. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be

implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

n/a

**Additional Site**

7.—(1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

No new site is required as Nursery and Primary schools are on the same site.

(2) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

n/a

**Changes in boarding arrangements**

8.—(1) Where the proposals are for the introduction or removal of boarding provision, or the alteration of existing boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

(a) the number of pupils for whom it is intended that boarding provision will be made if the proposals are approved;

n/a

(b) the arrangements for safeguarding the welfare of children at the school;

n/a



- (c) the current number of pupils for whom boarding provision can be made and a description of the boarding provision; and

n/a

- (d) except where the proposals are to introduce boarding provision, a description of the existing boarding provision.

n/a

(2) Where the proposals are for the removal of boarding provisions or an alteration to reduce boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

- (a) the number of pupils for whom boarding provision will be removed if the proposals are approved; and

n/a

- (b) a statement as to the use to which the former boarding accommodation will be put if the proposals are approved.

n/a

**Transfer to new site**

9. Where the proposals are to transfer a school to a new site the following information—

- (a) the location of the proposed site (including details of whether the school is to occupy a single or split site), and including where appropriate the postal address;

n/a

(b) the distance between the proposed and current site;

n/a

(c) the reason for the choice of proposed site;

n/a

(d) the accessibility of the proposed site or sites;

n/a

(e) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the school on its new site; and

n/a

(f) a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how car use in the school area will be discouraged.

n/a

**Objectives**

10. The objectives of the proposals.

Oxfordshire County Council intends to merge John Hampden Nursery School and John Hampden Primary School in Thame through the legal mechanism of closing the nursery school and extending the age range of the primary school.

The reasons for proposing this change are to consolidate the Governing Body's financial responsibility into one budget where it currently must manage two. With a single budget to manage, funding could be directed toward priorities agreed upon across the whole school whereas currently for example, the primary budget cannot be spent on the nursery schools.

Additionally if the proposal is approved, only one Ofsted inspection would need to be carried out, and only one set of data requested by the Department for Education would need to be returned by the school staff. This would release administrative and management time.

Because of changes made in April 2011 by the DfE to the Early Years Single Funding Formula for nursery schools, there is now no financial advantage to running two establishments in parallel and the duplication of work and time would increasingly become an unnecessary financial drain on the Governing Body.

## Consultation

**11.** Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—

- (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
- (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- (c) the views of the persons consulted;
- (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
- (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

## a) List of persons consulted:

The governing body of any school which is the subject of proposals (if the LA are publishing proposals)	Consulted through distribution of consultation leaflets (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013).
The LA that maintains the school (if the governing body is publishing the proposals).	n/a
Families of pupils, teachers and other staff at the school.	Through distribution of consultation leaflets (to families via children) (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013)
Any LA likely to be affected by the proposals, in particular neighbouring authorities where there may be significant cross-border movement of pupils.	The proposals are not judged to affect other local authorities.
The governing bodies, teachers and other staff of any other school that may be affected.	Other Oxfordshire schools consulted through online consultation (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013) and alerted via email. Early years providers were alerted by email and sent leaflets.
Families of any pupils at any other school that may be affected.	Consulted through online consultation and via email to other schools' Headteachers (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013).
Any trade unions who represent staff at the school; and representatives of any trade union of any other staff at schools who may be affected by the proposals.	Consulted through online consultation and via email directly (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013).
(If proposals involve, or are likely to affect a school which has a particular religious character) the appropriate diocesan authorities or the relevant faith group in relation to the school.	Oxford CE diocese and Birmingham and Portsmouth RC dioceses consulted through online consultation and alerted via email (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013).
The trustees of the school (if any).	n/a
(If the proposals affect the provision of full-time 14-19 education) the Learning and Skills Council	n/a

MPs whose constituencies include the schools that are the subject of the proposals or whose constituents are likely to be affected by the proposals.	Local MP sent a copy of the consultation leaflet.
The local district or parish council where the school that is the subject of the proposals is situated.	Local district and county councillors consulted through distribution of consultation leaflets (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013) and online consultation.
Any other interested party, for example, the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (or any local partnership that exists in place of an EYDCP) where proposals affect early years provision, or those who benefit from a contractual arrangement giving them the use of the premises.	Members of the School Organisation Stakeholder Group consulted through online consultation and meetings.

b) n/a

c) Twelve responses to the consultation were received. Nine respondents supported the proposal in principle. Two opposed the proposal in principle, but one of these had misunderstood the proposal and retracted their objection following explanation by a council officer.

The reasons given for supporting the proposal were:

- Financial benefits for both establishments
- Time freed up for administrative work.

The concerns raised by the respondent that objected were:

- As a manager of an independent preschool on one of the school sites, the respondent was concerned that the nursery budget would be diverted to the primary school with a knock-on effect on the quality of opportunities for the nursery children.
- The respondent was also concerned whether nursery staff would be required to “move to other areas of the school...affecting the stability of these very young children”.

d) All applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with.

e) The consultation leaflet is still available to view online on the original public consultation webpages at <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk> and was made available online and was distributed to all parents of children at the school, staff

and governors, local councillors for the area and childcare providers.

**Project costs**

12. A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

n/a

13. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

n/a

**Age range**

14. Where the proposals relate to a change in age range, the current age range for the school.

Current age range 4-11

**Early years provision**

15. Where the proposals are to alter the lower age limit of a mainstream school so that it provides for pupils aged between 2 and 5—

- (a) details of the early years provision, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;

60 part time equivalent nursery places will be offered (30 full time equivalent) five days a week mornings and afternoons. No change to services currently offered by the nursery school for disabled children is proposed as part of this Notice.

- (b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services and how the proposals are consistent with the integration of early years provision for childcare;

The provision will be the same as exists currently.

- (c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;

n/a

- (d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools and in establishments other than schools who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school; and

This proposal does not result in any change in the number of places provided, and therefore will not impact on the capacity, quality and sustainability of Early Years provision in the area.

There are 6 providers of Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of John Hampden Nursery School. Details will be provided on request by email to:

**JohnHampdenmerger-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk**

- (e) reasons why such schools and establishments who have spare capacity cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the number of such provision.

This proposal is not related to any forecast increase in number or an increase in capacity.

### Changes to sixth form provision

16. (a) Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school provides sixth form education or additional sixth form education, a statement of how the proposals will—

- (i) improve the educational or training achievements;

- (ii) increase participation in education or training; and
- (iii) expand the range of educational or training opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the area;

n/a

- (b) A statement as to how the new places will fit within the 16-19 organisation in an area;

n/a

- (c) Evidence —
  - (i) of the local collaboration in drawing up the proposals; and
  - (ii) that the proposals are likely to lead to higher standards and better progression at the school;

n/a

- (d) The proposed number of sixth form places to be provided.

n/a

17. Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school ceases to provide sixth form education, a statement of the effect on the supply of 16-19 places in the area.

n/a

**Special educational needs**

18. Where the proposals are to establish or change provision for special educational needs—



- (a) a description of the proposed types of learning difficulties in respect of which education will be provided and, where provision for special educational needs already exists, the current type of provision;

n/a

- (b) any additional specialist features will be provided;

n/a

- (c) the proposed numbers of pupils for which the provision is to be made;

n/a

- (d) details of how the provision will be funded;

n/a

- (e) a statement as to whether the education will be provided for children with special educational needs who are not registered pupils at the school to which the proposals relate;

n/a

- (f) a statement as to whether the expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated budget;

n/a

- (g) the location of the provision if it is not to be established on the existing site of the school;

n/a

- (h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local education authority believes that the new provision is likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children; and

n/a

- (i) the number of places reserved for children with special educational needs, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of such places.

n/a

**19. Where the proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs—**

- (a) details of alternative provision for pupils for whom the provision is currently made;

n/a

- (b) details of the number of pupils for whom provision is made that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs during each of the 4 school years preceding the current school year;

n/a

- (c) details of provision made outside the area of the local education authority for pupils whose needs will not be able to be met in the area of the authority as a result of the discontinuance of the provision; and

n/a

- (d) a statement as to how the proposer believes that the proposals are likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children.

n/a

**20.** Where the proposals will lead to alternative provision for children with special educational needs, as a result of the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of existing provision, the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of—

- (a) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local education authority's Accessibility Strategy;
- (b) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;
- (c) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
- (d) improved supply of suitable places.

n/a

**Sex of pupils**

**21.** Where the proposals are to make an alteration to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of one sex only becomes an establishment which admits pupils of both sexes—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single sex-education in the area;

n/a

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education; and

n/a

- (c) details of any transitional period which the body making the proposals wishes specified in a transitional exemption order (within the meaning of section 27 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975).

n/a

**22.** Where the proposals are to make an alteration to a school to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of both sexes becomes an establishment which admits pupils of one sex only—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area; and

n/a

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education.

n/a

**Extended services**

**23.** If the proposed alterations affect the provision of the school’s extended services, details of the current extended services the school is offering and details of any proposed change as a result of the alterations.

n/a

**Need or demand for additional places**

**24.** If the proposals involve adding places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

n/a

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- (b) where the school has a religious character, a statement and supporting evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion or religious denomination;

n/a
-----

- (c) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

n/a
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**25. If the proposals involve removing places—**

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the reasons for the removal, including an assessment of the impact on parental choice; and

n/a
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- (b) a statement on the local capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

n/a
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**Expansion of successful and popular schools**

**25A.** (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to expansion proposals in respect of primary and secondary schools, (except for grammar schools), i.e. falling within:

(a) (for proposals published by the governing body) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 2 or paragraph 12 of Part 2 to Schedule 2;

(b) (for proposals published by the LA) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 4 or 18 of Part 4 to Schedule 4

of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

n/a
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MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 15 PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE A SCHOOL

**Extract of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):**

**Contact details**

1. The name of the LA or governing body publishing the proposals, and a contact address, and the name of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

Proposal published by Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND Proposal to close John Hampden Nursery School, Park Road, Thame OX9 3HU
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**Implementation**

2. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or, where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

31 August 2013
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**Consultation**

3. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with.

All applicable statutory requirements to consult have been complied with.
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4. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including:

- a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted;
- b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- c) the views of the persons consulted; and
- d) copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available.

a) a) List of persons consulted:	
The governing body of any school which is the subject of proposals (if the LA are	Consulted through distribution of consultation leaflets (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013).

### Annex 3

publishing proposals)	
The LA that maintains the school (if the governing body is publishing the proposals).	n/a
Families of pupils, teachers and other staff at the school.	Through distribution of consultation leaflets (to families via children) (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013)
Any LA likely to be affected by the proposals, in particular neighbouring authorities where there may be significant cross-border movement of pupils.	The proposals are not judged to affect other local authorities.
The governing bodies, teachers and other staff of any other school that may be affected.	Other Oxfordshire schools consulted through online consultation (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013) and alerted via email. Early years providers were alerted by email and sent leaflets.
Families of any pupils at any other school that may be affected.	Consulted through online consultation and via email to other schools' Headteachers (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013).
Any trade unions who represent staff at the school; and representatives of any trade union of any other staff at schools who may be affected by the proposals.	Consulted through online consultation and via email directly (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013).
(If proposals involve, or are likely to affect a school which has a particular religious character) the appropriate diocesan authorities or the relevant faith group in relation to the school.	Oxford CE diocese and Birmingham and Portsmouth RC dioceses consulted through online consultation and alerted via email (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013).
The trustees of the school (if any).	n/a
(If the proposals affect the provision of full-time 14-19 education) the Learning and Skills Council	n/a
MPs whose constituencies include the schools that are the subject of the proposals or whose constituents are likely to be affected by the proposals.	Local MP sent a copy of the consultation leaflet.
The local district or parish council where the school that is the subject of the proposals is situated.	Local district and county councillors consulted through distribution of consultation leaflets (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013) and online consultation.



<p>Any other interested party, for example, the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (or any local partnership that exists in place of an EYDCP) where proposals affect early years provision, or those who benefit from a contractual arrangement giving them the use of the premises.</p>	<p>Members of the School Organisation Stakeholder Group consulted through online consultation and meetings.</p>
<p>b) n/a</p> <p>c) Twelve responses to the consultation were received. Nine respondents supported the proposal in principle. Two opposed the proposal in principle, but one of these had misunderstood the proposal and retracted their objection following explanation by a council officer.</p> <p>The reasons given for supporting the proposal were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial benefits for both establishments</li> <li>• Time freed up for administrative work.</li> </ul> <p>The concerns raised by the respondent that objected were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a manager of an independent preschool on one of the school sites, the respondent was concerned that the nursery budget would be diverted to the primary school with a knock-on effect on the quality of opportunities for the nursery children.</li> <li>• The respondent was also concerned whether nursery staff would be required to “move to other areas of the school...affecting the stability of these very young children”.</li> </ul> <p>d) The consultation leaflet is still available to view online on the original public consultation webpages at <a href="http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk">http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk</a> and was made available online and was distributed to all parents of children at the school, staff and governors, local councillors for the area and childcare providers in the area.</p>	

**Objectives**

5. The objectives of the proposal.

<p>Oxfordshire County Council intends to merge John Hampden Nursery School and John Hampden Primary School in Thame through the legal mechanism of closing the nursery school and extending the age range of the primary school.</p> <p>The reasons for proposing this change are to consolidate the Governing Body’s financial responsibility into one budget where it currently must manage two. With a single budget to manage, funding could be directed toward priorities agreed upon across the whole school whereas currently for</p>
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example, the primary budget cannot be spent on the nursery schools.

Additionally if the proposal is approved, only one Ofsted inspection would need to be carried out, and only one set of data requested by the Department for Education would need to be returned by the school staff. This would release administrative and management time.

Because of changes made in April 2011 by the DfE to the Early Years Single Funding Formula for nursery schools, there is now no financial advantage to running two establishments in parallel and the duplication of work and time would increasingly become an unnecessary financial drain on the Governing Body.

**Standards and Diversity**

6. A statement and supporting evidence indicating how the proposals will impact on the standards, diversity and quality of education in the area.

The Governing Body and Headteacher of John Hampden Nursery School are the same for John Hampden Primary School. In closing the Nursery School and effectively making the provision part of the Primary School, there is no expectation that there will be any effect on standards, diversity and quality of education.

**Provision for 16-19 year olds**

7. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, how the proposals will impact on:

- a) the educational or training achievements;
- b) participation in education or training; and
- c) the range of educational or training opportunities,

for 16-19 year olds in the area.

n/a

**Need for places**

8. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

The places currently provided by the nursery school will continue to be provided by the primary school. There will be no displaced pupils as a result of the formal closure of the nursery school.

9. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the

impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

n/a

**Current School Information**

10. Information as to the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is made at the school.

The provision at the nursery school is for 60 children on a part-time basis (30 full-time equivalent).

**Displaced Pupils**

11. Details of the schools or FE colleges which pupils at the school for whom provision is to be discontinued will be offered places, including:

- a) any interim arrangements;
- b) where the school included provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for children with special educational needs, the alternative provision to be made for pupils in the school's reserved provision; and
- c) in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by LAs other than the authority which maintains the school.

Provision will be continued through the primary school.

12. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or FE college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

n/a

**Impact on the Community**

13. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

This closure will have no adverse impact on the local community, as provision will continue through the primary school.

14. Details of extended services the school offered and what it is proposed for these services once the school has discontinued.

All services offered will remain the same, provided by the primary school.

**Travel**

15. Details of the length and journeys to alternative provision.

Provision will continue on the same site through the primary school.

16. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how they will help to work against increased car use.

n/a

**Related Proposals**

17. A statement as to whether in the opinion of the LA or governing body, the proposals are related to any other proposals which may have been, are, or are about to be published.

The proposals are related to concurrent proposals to alter the lower age range of John Hampden Primary School, so that the current Nursery School effectively becomes the Primary School's nursery class.

**Rural Primary Schools**

18. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15, a statement that the LA or the governing body (as the case may be) considered:

- a) the likely effect of discontinuance of the school on the local community;
  - b) the availability, and likely cost to the LA, of transport to other schools;
  - c) any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; &
  - d) any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school,
- as required by section 15(4)

n/a

**Maintained nursery schools**

19. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out:

- a) the consideration that has been given to developing the school into a children's centre and the grounds for not doing so;
- b) the LA's assessment of the quality and quantity of alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
- c) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

- a) All services offered by the nursery school will be continued as part of the primary school at the same site.
- b) While legally closing the nursery school, the primary school would continue to offer the same level of service at the same location, and therefore will not reduce quantity or quality of provision. Specialist staff will continue to be employed for the early years age range.
- c) Replacement provision would be at the primary school on the same site and in the same building.

**Special educational provision**

20. Where existing provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the LA or the governing body believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

n/a

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Division(s): Bicester South

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION – 24 JUNE 2013**

### **CLOSURE OF FIVE ACRES NURSERY SCHOOL AND ALTERATION OF LOWER AGE LIMIT AT FIVE ACRES PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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

#### **Introduction**

1. At the meeting on 26 February 2013 OCC Cabinet agreed to the publication of formal proposals to alter the lower age limit at Five Acres Primary School in order to admit 3 year olds, and a linked proposal to close Five Acres Nursery School as a separate establishment. The report outlining the basis for this decision is available to view on the public website as one of the documents pertaining to the Cabinet meeting on that date.
2. The statutory notice listing the two linked proposals (Annex 1) was published by the Authority in the Bicester Advertiser on 13 March 2013 and expired following 4 weeks of formal consultation on 26 April 2013. In accordance with legislation the notice was also posted at the school gate and sent to the local library. A copy of the two full proposal documents (Annexes 2 and 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 (if there have been no objections). 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.
4. As no objections in relation to the proposal have been received the decision is referred to the Member for Education. The proposed implementation date for the proposal is 1 September 2013.

#### **The Proposal**

5. The proposal is to merge Five Acres Primary School with its federated Nursery School. The legal mechanism to achieve this is to formally close the Nursery School, and extend the age range of the Primary School to include 3 year

olds. Currently the same Governing Body and Headteacher run both establishments. Under this proposal, the services provided by each school would continue, under the same management as presently but with simplified administration.

6. The reasons for proposing this change are to consolidate the Governing Body's financial responsibility into one budget where they currently must manage two. With a single budget to manage, funding could be directed toward priorities agreed upon across the whole school whereas currently for example, the primary budget cannot be spent on the nursery school.
7. Additionally if the proposal is approved, only one Ofsted inspection would need to be carried out on the site, and only one set of data requested by the Department for Education would need to be returned by the school staff. This would release administrative and management time in each case.
8. Because of changes made in April 2011 by the DfE to the Early Years Single Funding Formula for nursery schools, there is now no financial advantage to running two establishments in parallel and the duplication of work and time would increasingly become an unnecessary financial drain on the Governing Body.
9. There would be no noticeable change as a result of this proposal for the staff, children or parents. The change proposed is purely administrative in nature. No change to school admission rules would follow.

## **Representations**

10. The formal representation (Statutory Notice) phase was from 13 March 2013 – 26 April 2013 and a Statutory Notice (Annex 1) was publicly displayed at Five Acres Primary School, was also available on the OCC website and was published in The Bicester Advertiser newspaper on 13 March 2013.
11. No representations were received in response to the publication.
12. As no objections in principle to the proposal have been raised, the decision on whether to implement the proposal is referred to the Member for Education rather than the Cabinet.

## **Legal background**

13. School expansions and closures are subject to statutory procedures, as established by The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended). Local authorities also have a duty to have regard to statutory guidance, in this particular case 'Making Changes to a Maintained Mainstream School', pages 20-36 and "Closing a Maintained Mainstream School" ("the Guidance")pages19-34. When reaching a decision, Cabinet Member must have regard to The Guidance. Cabinet Member is referred in particular to pages in The Guidance.



14. Guidance on closing maintained schools states that *“In deciding whether to approve any proposals to close a nursery school, the Decision Maker should be aware that nursery schools generally offer high quality provision, and have considerable potential as the basis for developing integrated services for young children and families. There should be a presumption against the closure of a nursery school unless the case for closure can demonstrate that:*
  - (a) *the LA is consistently funding numbers of empty places;*
  - (b) *full consideration has been given to developing the school into a Sure Start Children's Centre, and there are clear, justifiable grounds for not doing so, for example: unsuitable accommodation, poor quality provision and low demand for places;*
  - (c) *plans to develop alternative provision clearly demonstrate that it will be at least as equal in terms of the quantity and quality of early years provision provided by the nursery school with no loss of expertise and specialism; and that*
  - (d) *replacement provision is more accessible and more convenient for local parents.”*
15. This proposal, while legally closing the nursery school, would continue to offer the same level of service at the same location, and therefore nursery provision will not change as a result of this proposal.
16. 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 by the proposals. The Member for Education, as Decision Maker, 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 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.
17. **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.
18. **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.

19. **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.
20. **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**

21. The financial implications of this report are considered to be positive and are linked to the desired consolidation of the budgets for the Five Acres site as a whole, to produce improved efficiency and reduce workload for the governors and school staff.

### **Equality and Inclusion Implications**

22. There are not considered to be any equality and inclusion implications arising from this proposal. Should the merger go ahead following statutory consultation, the same services will be provided in the same location.

### **Decision**

23. In considering the proposals for a school expansion, the Decision Maker can decide to:
  - Reject the proposals;
  - Approve the proposals;
  - Approve the proposals with a modification (e.g. the implementation date); or
  - Approve the proposals subject to them meeting a specific condition (see the Guidance).

### **RECOMMENDATION**

24. **The Cabinet Member for Education is RECOMMENDED to approve the alteration of the lower age limit of Five Acres Primary School and the linked closure of Five Acres Nursery School with effect from 1 September 2013.**

**JIM LEIVERS**

Director for Children's Services

Annexes:                   Annex 1: Statutory notice  
                                  Annex 2: Full proposal document alteration of age limit  
                                  Annex 3: Full proposal document closure of nursery  
                                  school

Contact Officer:           Diane Cameron, School Organisation Officer, School  
                                  Organisation & Planning, 01865 816445

May 2013

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## **STATUTORY NOTICE**

### **Proposed closure of Five Acres Nursery School and alteration of lower age range at Five Acres Primary School**

Oxfordshire County Council intends to merge Five Acres Nursery School and Five Acres Primary School in Ambrosden through the legal mechanism of closing the nursery school and extending the age range of the primary school.

#### **Part 1: Closure of Five Acres Nursery School**

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND intends to discontinue Five Acres Nursery School, Blackthorn Road, Ambrosden, Bicester OX25 2LN on 31 August 2013. Alternative provision will continue on the same site as part of Five Acres Primary School, where it is intended to extend the age range to include 3-year-olds (see below). As provision will continue on the same site, no transport arrangements for displaced pupils are required.

#### **Part 2: Extension of age range at Five Acres Primary School by adding a nursery unit**

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Oxfordshire County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Five Acres Community Primary School, Blackthorn Road, Ambrosden, Bicester OX25 2LN from 01 September 2013.

It is proposed to extend the age range of Five Acres Primary School to 3 - 11, to make provision for children displaced if Five Acres Nursery School closes (see above). The proposed alteration will make provision for 60 part-time equivalent nursery places each morning and afternoon (30 full-time equivalent places). The current capacity of the school is 315 (Years F1 - 6) and the proposed capacity will be 315. The current admission number (into F1) for the school is 45 and the proposed admission number will be 45, but subject to a separate Notice to increase to 60. The two Notices are not dependent on each other.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk> or by contacting Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Tel: 01865 816453 / Email:

**[FiveAcresMerger-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:FiveAcresMerger-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk)**

Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal online at

<http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk> by emailing [FiveAcresMerger-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:FiveAcresMerger-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk) or by writing to Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Signed: Jim Leivers, Director for Children's Services

Publication Date: 14 March 2013

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PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS: Information to be included in a complete proposal

**Extract of Part 1 of Schedule 3 and Part 1 of Schedule 5 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):**

**In respect of a Governing Body Proposal: School and governing body's details**

1. The name, address and category of the school for which the governing body are publishing the proposals.

n/a

**In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority details**

1. The name, address and category of the school .

Five Acres Primary & Nursery Schools (Community)  
Blackthorn Road  
Ambrosden  
Bicester  
OX25 2LN

**Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation**

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

Closure of Five Acres Nursery School on 31 August 2013  
Alteration of lower age range at Five Acres Primary School on 1 September 2013

## Objections and comments

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including

- (a) the date prescribed in accordance with paragraph 29 of Schedule 3 (GB proposals)/Schedule 5 (LA proposals) of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and
- (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

- a) Objections or comments should be sent to Oxfordshire County Council by 26 April 2013.
- b) Any person may object to or make comments on the proposal online at <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk> by emailing [FiveAcresMerger-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:FiveAcresMerger-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk) or by writing to Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

## Alteration description

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

Oxfordshire County Council intends to merge Five Acres Nursery School and Five Acres Primary School in Ambrosden through the legal mechanism of closing the nursery school and extending the age range of the primary school.

## School capacity

5.—(1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 8, 9 and 12-14 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), the proposals must also include —

- (a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;



Current Net Capacity is 315. There will be no alteration to the Net Capacity of the school as nursery accommodation is excluded from the Net Capacity calculation.

- (b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

Admission Number in F1 (Reception) is 45 and will remain 45. There is a separate Notice proposed to increase this to 60 but the two Notices are not dependent on one another.

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

n/a

- (d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

n/a

(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals) /paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 and 19 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

Current numbers on roll at Five Acres Primary School is 283 (F1 – Year 6)

## Implementation

6. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

n/a

## Additional Site

7.—(1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

No new site is required as Nursery and Primary schools are on the same site.

(2) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

n/a

## Changes in boarding arrangements

8.—(1) Where the proposals are for the introduction or removal of boarding provision, or the alteration of existing boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

- (a) the number of pupils for whom it is intended that boarding provision will be made if the proposals are approved;

n/a

(b) the arrangements for safeguarding the welfare of children at the school;

n/a

(c) the current number of pupils for whom boarding provision can be made and a description of the boarding provision; and

n/a

(d) except where the proposals are to introduce boarding provision, a description of the existing boarding provision.

n/a

(2) Where the proposals are for the removal of boarding provisions or an alteration to reduce boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

(a) the number of pupils for whom boarding provision will be removed if the proposals are approved; and

n/a

(b) a statement as to the use to which the former boarding accommodation will be put if the proposals are approved.

n/a

### **Transfer to new site**

9. Where the proposals are to transfer a school to a new site the following information—

- (a) the location of the proposed site (including details of whether the school is to occupy a single or split site), and including where appropriate the postal address;

n/a

- (b) the distance between the proposed and current site;

n/a

- (c) the reason for the choice of proposed site;

n/a

- (d) the accessibility of the proposed site or sites;

n/a

- (e) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the school on its new site; and

n/a

- (f) a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how car use in the school area will be discouraged.

n/a

## Objectives

10. The objectives of the proposals.

Oxfordshire County Council intends to merge Five Acres Nursery School and Five Acres Primary School in Ambrosden through the legal mechanism of closing the nursery school and extending the age range of the primary school.

The reasons for proposing this change are to consolidate the Governing Body's financial responsibility into one budget where it currently must manage two. With a single budget to manage, funding could be directed toward priorities agreed upon across the whole school whereas currently for example, the primary budget cannot be spent on the nursery schools.

Additionally if the proposal is approved, only one Ofsted inspection would need to be carried out, and only one set of data requested by the Department for Education would need to be returned by the school staff. This would release administrative and management time.

Because of changes made in April 2011 by the DfE to the Early Years Single Funding Formula for nursery schools, there is now no financial advantage to running two establishments in parallel and the duplication of work and time would increasingly become an unnecessary financial drain on the Governing Body.

## **Consultation**

**11.** Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—

- (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
- (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- (c) the views of the persons consulted;
- (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
- (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

a) List of persons consulted:

The governing body of any school which is the subject of proposals (if the LA are publishing proposals)	Consulted through distribution of consultation leaflets (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013).
The LA that maintains the school (if the governing body is publishing the proposals).	n/a
Families of pupils, teachers and other staff at the school.	Through distribution of consultation leaflets (to families via children) (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013)
Any LA likely to be affected by the proposals, in particular neighbouring authorities where there may be significant cross-border movement of pupils.	The proposals are not judged to affect other local authorities.
The governing bodies, teachers and other staff of any other school that may be affected.	Other Oxfordshire schools consulted through online consultation (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013) and alerted via email. Early years providers were alerted by email and sent leaflets.
Families of any pupils at any other school that may be affected.	Consulted through online consultation and via email to other schools' Headteachers (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013).
Any trade unions who represent staff at the school; and representatives of any trade union of any other staff at schools who may be affected by the proposals.	Consulted through online consultation and via email directly (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013).
(If proposals involve, or are likely to affect a school which has a particular religious character) the appropriate diocesan authorities or the relevant faith group in relation to the school.	Oxford CE diocese and Birmingham and Portsmouth RC dioceses consulted through online consultation and alerted via email (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013).
The trustees of the school (if any).	n/a
(If the proposals affect the provision of full-time 14-19 education) the Learning and Skills Council	n/a

MPs whose constituencies include the schools that are the subject of the proposals or whose constituents are likely to be affected by the proposals.	Local MP sent a copy of the consultation leaflet.
The local district or parish council where the school that is the subject of the proposals is situated.	Local district and county councillors consulted through distribution of consultation leaflets (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013) and online consultation.
Any other interested party, for example, the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (or any local partnership that exists in place of an EYDCP) where proposals affect early years provision, or those who benefit from a contractual arrangement giving them the use of the premises.	Members of the School Organisation Stakeholder Group consulted through online consultation and meetings.

b) n/a

c) Twelve responses to the consultation were received. Nine respondents supported the proposal in principle. Two opposed the proposal in principle, but one of these had misunderstood the proposal and retracted their objection following explanation by a council officer.

The reasons given for supporting the proposal were:

- Financial benefits for both establishments
- Time freed up for administrative work.

The concerns raised by the respondent that objected were:

- As a manager of an independent preschool on one of the school sites, the respondent was concerned that the nursery budget would be diverted to the primary school with a knock-on effect on the quality of opportunities for the nursery children.
- The respondent was also concerned whether nursery staff would be required to “move to other areas of the school...affecting the stability of these very young children”.

d) All applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with.

e) The consultation leaflet is still available to view online on the original public consultation webpages at <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk> and was made available online and was distributed to all parents of children at the school, staff

and governors, local councillors for the area and childcare providers.

### **Project costs**

**12.** A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

n/a

**13.** A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

n/a

### **Age range**

**14.** Where the proposals relate to a change in age range, the current age range for the school.

Current age range 4-11

### **Early years provision**

**15.** Where the proposals are to alter the lower age limit of a mainstream school so that it provides for pupils aged between 2 and 5—

- (a) details of the early years provision, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;

60 part time equivalent nursery places will be offered (30 full time equivalent) five days a week mornings and afternoons. No change to services currently offered by the nursery school for disabled children is proposed as part of this Notice.



- (b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services and how the proposals are consistent with the integration of early years provision for childcare;

The provision will be the same as exists currently.

- (c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;

n/a

- (d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools and in establishments other than schools who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school; and

This proposal does not result in any change in the number of places provided, and therefore will not impact on the capacity, quality and sustainability of Early Years provision in the area.  
There are 12 providers of Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of Five Acres Nursery School. Details will be provided on request by email to: **[FiveAcresMerger-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:FiveAcresMerger-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk)**

- (e) reasons why such schools and establishments who have spare capacity cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the number of such provision.

This proposal is not related to any forecast increase in number or an increase in capacity.

### **Changes to sixth form provision**

**16.** (a) Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school provides sixth form education or additional sixth form education, a statement of how the proposals will—

- (i) improve the educational or training achievements;

- (ii) increase participation in education or training; and
- (iii) expand the range of educational or training opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the area;

n/a

(b) A statement as to how the new places will fit within the 16-19 organisation in an area;

n/a

(c) Evidence —

- (i) of the local collaboration in drawing up the proposals; and
- (ii) that the proposals are likely to lead to higher standards and better progression at the school;

n/a

(d) The proposed number of sixth form places to be provided.

n/a

**17.** Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school ceases to provide sixth form education, a statement of the effect on the supply of 16-19 places in the area.

n/a

**Special educational needs**

**18.** Where the proposals are to establish or change provision for special educational needs—

- (a) a description of the proposed types of learning difficulties in respect of which education will be provided and, where provision for special educational needs already exists, the current type of provision;

n/a

- (b) any additional specialist features will be provided;

n/a

- (c) the proposed numbers of pupils for which the provision is to be made;

n/a

- (d) details of how the provision will be funded;

n/a

- (e) a statement as to whether the education will be provided for children with special educational needs who are not registered pupils at the school to which the proposals relate;

n/a

- (f) a statement as to whether the expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated budget;

n/a

- (g) the location of the provision if it is not to be established on the existing site of the school;

n/a

- (h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local education authority believes that the new provision is likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children; and

n/a

- (i) the number of places reserved for children with special educational needs, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of such places.

n/a

**19. Where the proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs—**

- (a) details of alternative provision for pupils for whom the provision is currently made;

n/a

- (b) details of the number of pupils for whom provision is made that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs during each of the 4 school years preceding the current school year;

n/a

- (c) details of provision made outside the area of the local education authority for pupils whose needs will not be able to be met in the area of the authority as a result of the discontinuance of the provision; and

n/a

- (d) a statement as to how the proposer believes that the proposals are likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children.

n/a

**20.** Where the proposals will lead to alternative provision for children with special educational needs, as a result of the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of existing provision, the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of—

- (a) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local education authority's Accessibility Strategy;
- (b) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;
- (c) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
- (d) improved supply of suitable places.

n/a

### **Sex of pupils**

**21.** Where the proposals are to make an alteration to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of one sex only becomes an establishment which admits pupils of both sexes—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single sex-education in the area;

n/a

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education; and

n/a

- (c) details of any transitional period which the body making the proposals wishes specified in a transitional exemption order (within the meaning of section 27 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975).

n/a

**22.** Where the proposals are to make an alteration to a school to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of both sexes becomes an establishment which admits pupils of one sex only—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area; and

n/a

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education.

n/a

**Extended services**

**23.** If the proposed alterations affect the provision of the school's extended services, details of the current extended services the school is offering and details of any proposed change as a result of the alterations.

n/a

**Need or demand for additional places**

**24.** If the proposals involve adding places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

n/a

- (b) where the school has a religious character, a statement and supporting evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion or religious denomination;

n/a

- (c) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

n/a

**25. If the proposals involve removing places—**

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the reasons for the removal, including an assessment of the impact on parental choice; and

n/a

- (b) a statement on the local capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

n/a

**Expansion of successful and popular schools**

**25A.** (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to expansion proposals in respect of primary and secondary schools, (except for grammar schools), i.e. falling within:

(a) (for proposals published by the governing body) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 2 or paragraph 12 of Part 2 to Schedule 2;

(b) (for proposals published by the LA) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 4 or 18 of Part 4 to Schedule 4

of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

n/a
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## Annex 3

### MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 15 PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE A SCHOOL

#### **Extract of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):**

##### **Contact details**

1. The name of the LA or governing body publishing the proposals, and a contact address, and the name of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

Proposal published by Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND  
Proposal to close Five Acres Nursery School, Blackthorn Road, Ambrosden, Bicester OX25 2LN

##### **Implementation**

2. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or, where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

31 August 2013

##### **Consultation**

3. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with.

All applicable statutory requirements to consult have been complied with.

4. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including:

- a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted;
- b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- c) the views of the persons consulted; and
- d) copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available.

a) a) List of persons consulted:

The governing body of any school which is the subject of

Consulted through distribution of consultation leaflets (3 December 2012)

proposals (if the LA are publishing proposals)	– 28 January 2013).
The LA that maintains the school (if the governing body is publishing the proposals).	n/a
Families of pupils, teachers and other staff at the school.	Through distribution of consultation leaflets (to families via children) (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013)
Any LA likely to be affected by the proposals, in particular neighbouring authorities where there may be significant cross-border movement of pupils.	The proposals are not judged to affect other local authorities.
The governing bodies, teachers and other staff of any other school that may be affected.	Other Oxfordshire schools consulted through online consultation (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013) and alerted via email. Early years providers were alerted by email and sent leaflets.
Families of any pupils at any other school that may be affected.	Consulted through online consultation and via email to other schools' Headteachers (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013).
Any trade unions who represent staff at the school; and representatives of any trade union of any other staff at schools who may be affected by the proposals.	Consulted through online consultation and via email directly (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013).
(If proposals involve, or are likely to affect a school which has a particular religious character) the appropriate diocesan authorities or the relevant faith group in relation to the school.	Oxford CE diocese and Birmingham and Portsmouth RC dioceses consulted through online consultation and alerted via email (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013).
The trustees of the school (if any).	n/a
(If the proposals affect the provision of full-time 14-19 education) the Learning and Skills Council	n/a
MPs whose constituencies include the schools that are the subject of the proposals or whose constituents are likely to be affected by the proposals.	Local MP sent a copy of the consultation leaflet.
The local district or parish council where the school that is the subject of the proposals is situated.	Local district and county councillors consulted through distribution of consultation leaflets (3 December 2012 – 28 January 2013) and online consultation.

<p>Any other interested party, for example, the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (or any local partnership that exists in place of an EYDCP) where proposals affect early years provision, or those who benefit from a contractual arrangement giving them the use of the premises.</p>	<p>Members of the School Organisation Stakeholder Group consulted through online consultation and meetings.</p>
<p>b) n/a</p> <p>c) Twelve responses to the consultation were received. Nine respondents supported the proposal in principle. Two opposed the proposal in principle, but one of these had misunderstood the proposal and retracted their objection following explanation by a council officer.</p> <p>The reasons given for supporting the proposal were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial benefits for both establishments</li> <li>• Time freed up for administrative work.</li> </ul> <p>The concerns raised by the respondent that objected were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a manager of an independent preschool on one of the school sites, the respondent was concerned that the nursery budget would be diverted to the primary school with a knock-on effect on the quality of opportunities for the nursery children.</li> <li>• The respondent was also concerned whether nursery staff would be required to “move to other areas of the school...affecting the stability of these very young children”.</li> </ul> <p>d) The consultation leaflet is still available to view online on the original public consultation webpages at <a href="http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk">http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk</a> and was made available online and was distributed to all parents of children at the school, staff and governors, local councillors for the area and childcare providers in the area.</p>	

**Objectives**

5. The objectives of the proposal.

<p>Oxfordshire County Council intends to merge Five Acres Nursery School and Five Acres Primary School in Ambrosden through the legal mechanism of closing the nursery school and extending the age range of the primary school.</p> <p>The reasons for proposing this change are to consolidate the Governing Body’s financial responsibility into one budget where it currently must manage two. With a single budget to manage, funding could be directed toward priorities agreed upon across the whole school whereas currently for</p>
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example, the primary budget cannot be spent on the nursery schools.

Additionally if the proposal is approved, only one Ofsted inspection would need to be carried out, and only one set of data requested by the Department for Education would need to be returned by the school staff. This would release administrative and management time.

Because of changes made in April 2011 by the DfE to the Early Years Single Funding Formula for nursery schools, there is now no financial advantage to running two establishments in parallel and the duplication of work and time would increasingly become an unnecessary financial drain on the Governing Body.

### **Standards and Diversity**

6. A statement and supporting evidence indicating how the proposals will impact on the standards, diversity and quality of education in the area.

The Governing Body and Headteacher of Five Acres Nursery School are the same for Five Acres Primary School. In closing the Nursery School and effectively making the provision part of the Primary School, there is no expectation that there will be any effect on standards, diversity and quality of education.

### **Provision for 16-19 year olds**

7. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, how the proposals will impact on:

- a) the educational or training achievements;
- b) participation in education or training; and
- c) the range of educational or training opportunities,

for 16-19 year olds in the area.

n/a

### **Need for places**

8. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

The places currently provided by the nursery school will continue to be provided by the primary school. There will be no displaced pupils as a result of the formal closure of the nursery school.

9. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the

impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

n/a

### **Current School Information**

10. Information as to the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is made at the school.

The provision at the nursery school is for 60 children on a part-time basis (30 full-time equivalent).

### **Displaced Pupils**

11. Details of the schools or FE colleges which pupils at the school for whom provision is to be discontinued will be offered places, including:

- a) any interim arrangements;
- b) where the school included provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for children with special educational needs, the alternative provision to be made for pupils in the school's reserved provision; and
- c) in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by LAs other than the authority which maintains the school.

Provision will be continued through the primary school.

12. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or FE college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

n/a

### **Impact on the Community**

13. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

This closure will have no adverse impact on the local community, as provision will continue through the primary school.

14. Details of extended services the school offered and what it is proposed for these services once the school has discontinued.

All services offered will remain the same, provided by the primary school.

## Travel

15. Details of the length and journeys to alternative provision.

Provision will continue on the same site through the primary school.

16. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how they will help to work against increased car use.

n/a

## Related Proposals

17. A statement as to whether in the opinion of the LA or governing body, the proposals are related to any other proposals which may have been, are, or are about to be published.

These proposals are related to the proposals to alter the lower age range at Five Acres Primary School, so that the current Nursery School effectively becomes the Primary School's nursery class.

Proposals to expand Five Acres Primary School to an admission number of 60 from its current 45 will shortly be determined. However this proposal is not related to the proposal to close Five Acres Nursery School, or alter the age range of the Primary School.

## Rural Primary Schools

18. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15, a statement that the LA or the governing body (as the case may be) considered:

- a) the likely effect of discontinuance of the school on the local community;
  - b) the availability, and likely cost to the LA, of transport to other schools;
  - c) any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; &
  - d) any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school,
- as required by section 15(4)

n/a

## Maintained nursery schools

19. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out:

- a) the consideration that has been given to developing the school into a children's centre and the grounds for not doing so;

- b) the LA's assessment of the quality and quantity of alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
- c) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) All services offered by the nursery school will be continued as part of the primary school at the same site.</li><li>b) While legally closing the nursery school, the primary school would continue to offer the same level of service at the same location, and therefore will not reduce quantity or quality of provision. Specialist staff will continue to be employed for the early years age range.</li><li>c) Replacement provision would be at the primary school on the same site and in the same building.</li></ul> |
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**Special educational provision**

20. Where existing provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the LA or the governing body believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

n/a
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