



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

***Monday, 4 February 2013 at 12.00 pm  
County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND***

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

The items for decision under individual Cabinet Members' delegated powers are listed overleaf, with indicative timings, and the related reports are attached. Decisions taken will become effective at the end of the working day on 12 February 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**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter G. Clark." with a horizontal line underneath.

Peter G. Clark  
County Solicitor

January 2013

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

Note: Date of next meeting: 11 March 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. **Bampton CE Primary School** (Pages 1 - 2)

*Forward Plan Ref:* 2012/157

*Contact:* Debra Rouget, Sufficiency & Access Manager: Early Years & Childcare

*Tel:* (01865) 810617

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

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

Most of the pupils who attend the school have had their pre school experience in Bampton Pre-school which is on the School site. Both the School and the pre school work closely in partnership to ensure smooth transitions for children.

The School Headteacher wants to further improve the provision, continuity and learning for the youngest children and has the full support of the pre school staff in making this application. The school expect to employ the pre school staff to work in the new unit, although there may need to be a reduction due to current staffing levels in the school and the numbers of children taking up places. The school intends to offer childcare for 2 1/2 year olds to ensure this provision isn't lost with the closure of Bampton Pre-school. The school will register with Ofsted for this purpose.

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

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

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Division(s): Burford and Carterton

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION 4 FEBRUARY 2013**

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

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

#### **Introduction**

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

#### **Background**

2. The proposal is to open a Foundation Stage Unit with 30 children aged 3-4. The funding proposals have been based on 15 children attending part time and the school offering paid-for childcare places for the remaining 15 if demand for funded places is low. An existing Pre-School on the site would close and staff would TUPE across to the school. The pre-school and parents support this application to transfer all management, administration and governance to the School. The aim is to improve the management and organisation of the Foundation Stage and to raise the quality of teaching and learning for these youngest children and links to a corporate objective of raising achievement. There may also be a reduction in staff across the FSU, with those not continuing in the nursery being given the opportunity to work elsewhere in the school. However, this is still to be confirmed as the school's discussions with HR progress, and dependent on demand for places.

#### **Financial Report**

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

#### **Premises Report**

4. The premises report indicates that the space is sufficient for the proposed pupil numbers under the Early Years Statutory Framework. There are sufficient toilets and the environment is secure. It has access to an outdoor area and the available space in all areas is maximised for play and active learning. The FSU will be in the temporary classroom which is currently owned by the Pre-School. The Governing Body will be responsible for taking advice on this before any potential merger and will be responsible for any costs involved in the transfer of ownership to the school. The Local Authority

has commissioned a condition survey of the unit to determine the potential lifespan of the unit and possible future maintenance costs. If these are found to be onerous, the Council will need to consider how these are to be met and their liabilities. This will determine whether the project can still be supported. This can take place at a later stage in the process.

## **Quality Report**

5. An early years specialist teacher will be appointed to lead the nursery class and planned staffing is suitable for the expected numbers of children. Facilities are appropriate for the age of children and a wide and varied range of resources are available. There are strong community links and partnerships with parents. The report from the Senior Early Years Team Leader concludes that the application is fully supported in terms of quality and practice, with 'good' ratings for all areas.

## **Responses from Informal Consultation**

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

## **RECOMMENDATION**

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

### **JIM LEIVERS**

Director for Children, Education & Families

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

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