



Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Education

***Monday, 22 April 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 30 April 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

April 2013

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

Note: Date of next meeting: 20 May 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. **Hill View Primary School, Banbury - Alteration of Lower Age Limit to Create a Foundation Stage Unit (FSU)** (Pages 1 - 4)

Forward Plan Ref: 2013/048

Contact: Debra Rouget, Sufficiency & Access Manager, Early Years & Childcare
Tel: (01865) 810617

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

Hill View Primary School has completed the first section of the County Council scheme for applying to open a Foundation Stage Unit. In order to proceed to the second stage the application this requires the approval of the Cabinet Member for Education. If approved the County Council will publish statutory notices to lower the age range at which they admit pupils from 4, to 3 years of age.

At present, children access their pre-school education at a variety of nurseries and pre-schools in Banbury. These included Hill View Pre-school which operates on the school site in the former Caretakers bungalow This Pre-school have received two consecutive Inadequate Ofsted ratings and as a result has had funding for early education places withdrawn by the Council. The pre school have therefore decided to close. The school would now like to develop their own FSU places to ensure a high quality provision for local families

The FSU, if approved, will initially open in September 2013 in the premises vacated by Hill View Pre-School. Funds have been identified to remodel and improve the accommodation. Longer term, Officers are investigating the possibility of including

the FSU within already scheduled extension and remodelling of the school. The school intends to offer up to 40 part time places but allow parents to of rising 3s to pay for a term of nursery prior to qualifying for a free place.

The School has consulted governors, parents, partnership schools and private and voluntary pre school providers in the area on these proposals and at the time of report submission, no objections had been received. However, the consultations are still ongoing and an update will be provided to the Cabinet Member before the meeting should any objections arise.

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.

5. Proposal to Alter the Lower Range at St Peter's CE(A) Primary School, Cassington (Pages 5 - 6)

Forward Plan Ref: 2012/185

*Contact: Debbie Rouget, Sufficiency and Access Manager, Early Years & Childcare
Tel: (018654) 810617*

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

St Peter's CE Primary School has completed the first section of the County Council scheme for applying to open a Foundation Stage Unit. 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 Cassington Pre-school which is in a small prefabricated building on the School site. This unit is reaching the end of it's useful life and is becoming increasingly expensive to maintain. Both the School and the pre school work closely in partnership to ensure smooth transitions for children. The School has successfully bid for a share of Local Capital Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP) money to fund a permanent extension to create a new FSU. The School and pre-school together have also fundraised in excess of £25,000 to put towards the project.

If the project is approved, the pre-school will close and the staff will transfer to the school. The extension will create a purpose-built foundation stage unit to house the F1 to F3 age group. The School Headteacher has the full support of the pre school staff in making this application. The school intends to offer childcare for 2 1/2 year olds to ensure this provision isn't lost with the closure of Cassington 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.

Division: Banbury Hardwick

CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION 22 APRIL 2013

APPLICATION TO OPEN A NEW FOUNDATION STAGE UNIT

Report by Director for Children's Services

Introduction

1. Hill View Community Primary School has completed the first stage 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 40 children aged 3-4. The aim is to replace and improve upon on-site provision following the closure of Hill View Pre-school. The Head teacher aims to improve the management and organisation of the Foundation Stage and to raise the quality of teaching and learning for these youngest children. This links to a corporate objective of raising achievement.

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 at present insufficient toilets but the school plan to address this before the FSU opens. The environment is secure. It has access to an outdoor area.
5. There are current plans for building work at the school to provide for growth in numbers of statutory school age pupils. We will investigate whether these plans can be adapted to create a purpose built FSU in due course.

Quality Report

6. The FSU will be led by an existing PGCE member of staff with an early year's specialism. The planned staffing overall is suitable for the expected numbers of children. The School Head teacher has sought regular advice from the County Council early year's advisory teacher in developing the FSU plans. The teacher who will lead the unit has been observed as good and outstanding by the head teacher, the EYAT and by OFSTED. The supporting practitioners are currently performance managed as part of the school systems. The current EYFS was deemed to be 'good' in March 2011.
7. The school has developed strong links with parents of F1 children. Children and parents have a home visit before they start school. Parents contribute to their children's learning via home-school diaries, homework, reading diaries, learning journals and by attending stay and play sessions, parents' meetings and parent workshops throughout the year. The key person system will be the foundation of this partnership.
8. These practices will be extended to the parents of F2 and F3 children and the Head teacher is seeking advice on this from her early year's advisory teacher. There is a commitment to using high quality resources.
9. The Governing body and current school staff are keen for the new unit to be established as they firmly believe that an earlier connection with the school will benefit local children and the local community.
10. The County Council Early Years Advisory Teacher is fully supportive of this proposal and adds that the establishment of a good quality provision in this location is highly desirable.

Responses from Informal Consultation

11. The required consultations are currently still in progress, with a closing date of 15 April. The proposal has had to be developed rapidly as part of the Early Years Sufficiency and Access Manager's investigations on sufficiency of early year's places in this area of Banbury, since the pre-school's decision to close. There will be a shortage of places for September 2013 if this proposal does not go ahead and this is exacerbated by the fact that the extension to the entitlement for disadvantaged two year olds will also be introduced. Three year old places in the new FSU should free up some other places in the area for two year olds. However we have advised the school that the urgency of the application should not mean that the statutory consultations are foreshortened. An update on the final position regarding these consultations will be presented at the meeting.

12. RECOMMENDATION

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

JIM LEIVERS

Director for Children's Services

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

Contact Officer: Debbie Rouget, Sufficiency and Access Manager, Early Years and Childcare. 01865 810617
debbie.rouget@oxfordshire.gov.uk

March 2013

This page is intentionally left blank

Division: Hanborough

CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION 22 APRIL 2013

APPLICATION TO OPEN A NEW FOUNDATION STAGE UNIT

Report by Director for Children's Services

Introduction

1. St Peter's CE (Aided) Primary School has completed the first stage 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. 15 places would be full time F1 and the remainder would be part time F2 and F3 places. An existing Pre-School on the site would close and where possible staff will 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 this links to a corporate objective of raising achievement.

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 a purpose built extension to the school, with work proposed to start on site in Summer 2013. The building would be ready for occupation by April 2014.

Quality Report

5. An early years specialist teacher will be appointed to lead the FSU and planned staffing is suitable for the expected numbers of children. The School Headteacher has sought regular advice from the County Council early years advisory teacher in developing the FSU plans. An Ofsted inspection in November 2012 resulted in a 'requires improvement' outcome. The inspectors recognised that there was need for improvement in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The school is receiving regular support from the Early Years Advisory Team (Focused Improvement) and an ECERS audit has been arranged. This should help to focus the staff on making changes to improve the opportunities for F1 children, It will also help the school to continue to forward plan for the new FSU. The report from the Senior Early Years Team Leader concludes that the unit will provide a high quality and inclusive EYFS environment and anticipates that outcomes for Foundation stage children will be positively influenced by the new FSU.

Responses from Informal Consultation

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

RECOMMENDATION

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

JIM LEIVERS

Director for Children's Services

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

Contact Officer: Debbie Rouget, Sufficiency and Access Manager, Early Years and Childcare. 01865 810617
debbie.rouget@oxfordshire.gov.uk

March 2013