



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

***Monday, 9 March 2015 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 18 March 2015 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." The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Peter G. Clark
County Solicitor

February 2015

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

Note: Date of next meeting: 20 April 2015

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. **Proposal to Close West Kidlington Nursery School and Extend the Age Range of West Kidlington Primary School to Effect a "Merger"** (Pages 1 - 10)

Forward Plan Ref: 2014/183

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

Report by Director for Children's Services (**CMDCEF4**).

The proposal is to close West Kidlington Nursery School and alter the age range at West Kidlington Primary School to enable the establishment of a Nursery class. This will effect a "merger" between the two currently separate establishments.

The introduction in April 2011 of the Early Years Single Funding Formula, which funds eligible children attending settings, rather than the number of places provided (as previously), means there is now no financial advantage in the two establishments being separate.

This proposal's intention is to maintain the same level of high quality early years places while improving the financial viability and long term future of this provision.

As set out under Rule 17(a) of the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules, this decision is exempt from Call-In as it is deemed urgent and any delay would seriously prejudice the Council's interests, in that 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 Member's role would be negated by referral to the Schools' Adjudicator.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families is RECOMMENDED to approve the closure of West Kidlington Nursery School and the linked extension of age range of West Kidlington Primary School.

5. Home to School Transport for RAF Benson (Pages 11 - 24)

Forward Plan Ref: 2015/010

Contact: Neil Darlington, Admissions & Transport Services Manager Tel: (01865) 815844

Report by Director for Children's Services (**CMDCEF5**).

The Council has undertaken a consultation with the families living at RAF Benson, the public, the headteachers of the three schools involved upon a proposed amendment to the Home to School Transport Policy.

The proposed change is intended to address a capacity issue in the area of RAF Benson which can be resolved without significant additional cost to the council or the secondary schools involved.

The report contains an analysis of the responses to the consultation.

The Cabinet Member is asked to consider the consultation responses and then to decide which, if any, of the proposed changes are to be implemented.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Education & families is RECOMMENDED to adopt the following proposals:

- (a) to provide free travel for those of statutory school age from RAF Benson to Icknield Community College;***
- (b) to review the need for this provision on an annual basis since it concerns capacity and likely demand.***

6. Recommended Sponsor for New Primary School in Banbury at Longford Park (Pages 25 - 26)

Forward Plan Ref: 2014/109

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

Report by Director for Children's Services (**CMDCEF6**).

The Cabinet meeting of 4 September 2012 approved a process for the identification of sponsors for new academies to meet the needs of population growth such as this which requires a new primary school for 2016. In July 2014 Cabinet agreed that the decision on the preferred option could be delegated to the Lead Member for Children Education and Families.

This process has been followed and has now reached the point where a preferred provider has been identified from a group of 2 short-listed bidders which were assessed against criteria.

The Lead Member is asked to agree the preferred provider which will be submitted to the Regional Schools Commission for a final decision.

The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to agree GLF Schools as the recommended provider to be submitted to the Regional Schools Commissioner for final agreement.

Division(s): Kidlington South Also affecting: All Kidlington

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES – 9
MARCH 2015
FINAL REPORT ON PROPOSAL TO CLOSE WEST KIDLINGTON
NURSERY SCHOOL AND ALTER THE AGE RANGE AT WEST
KIDLINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Report by Director for Children’s Services

Introduction

1. At the meeting on 8 December 2012 the Cabinet Member for CEF agreed to the publication of formal proposals to close West Kidlington Nursery School and alter the age range at West Kidlington Primary School. The report outlining the basis for this decision is available to read on the OCC public website under Committee Papers.
2. The statutory notice (attached at Annex 1) was published by the Authority in the Oxford Mail on 7 January 2015 and expired following 4 weeks of formal consultation on 4 February 2015. In accordance with legislation the notice was also posted at the school gate and sent to the local library. A copy of the full proposal (attached at Annex 2) was made available on the OCC website under the Consultations section.
3. The decision-making power in terms of determining the notice lies with the Cabinet Member for Children Education & Families. As ‘decision-maker’ the 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 Member’s role would be negated by referral to the Schools’ Adjudicator.

The Proposal

4. The proposal is to close West Kidlington Nursery School and alter the age range at West Kidlington Primary School to enable the establishment of a Nursery class. This will effect a “merger” between the two currently separate establishments.
5. The introduction in April 2011 of the Early Years Single Funding Formula, which funds eligible children attending settings, rather than the number of

places provided (as previously), means there is now no financial advantage in the two establishments being separate.

6. This proposal's intention is to maintain the same level of high quality early years places while improving the financial viability and long term future of this provision.
7. In practical terms, there would be no alteration on the ground that parents, children or teaching staff would notice. All provision would remain in the same accommodation as it is currently. The change proposed is purely administrative in nature.
8. In removing the need to duplicate work (e.g. preparation for two separate Ofsted inspections and managing two separate budgets for the two establishments), the aim is for back office and management staff time to be freed up and processes streamlined to make them more efficient.

Representations

9. The formal representation (Statutory Notice) phase was from 7 January 2015 – 4 February 2015. No representations were received.

Making a decision

10. The proposal is being made under The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2013 and Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools Regulations 2013 that came into effect on 28 January 2014. Local authorities also have a duty to have regard to statutory guidance, in this particular case 'School Organisation, Maintained Schools: Guidance for proposers and decision-makers' ("the Guidance").
11. The Guidance requires proposers to consult interested parties initially for a minimum of 4 weeks. The consultation period was in line with the Guidance having run from 7 January 2015 – 4 February 2015. The consultation was therefore carried out in accordance with the Regulations.
12. A decision is now required as to whether to approve this proposed merger.
13. **Legal background.** The closure of a school is subject to statutory procedures, as set out in "School Organisation: Maintained Schools. Guidance for proposers and decision-makers" (The Guidance) published January 2014. When reaching a decision, Cabinet Member must have regard to The Guidance, in particular paragraphs 39 – 66.
14. 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. 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.

15. **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.
16. **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.
17. **Funding and land.** The Decision Maker should be satisfied that any land, premises and capital required to implement the proposals will be available.

Equality and Inclusion Implications

18. As this proposal constitutes no change other than administrative, it has no implications in terms of any change to equality and inclusion.

Financial and Staff Implications

19. The financial implications of this report are anticipated to be positive, as the reduction in time and work required by management and staff in maintaining two separate establishments should result in time and cost efficiencies.

Decision

20. 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

21. **The Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families is RECOMMENDED to approve the closure of West Kidlington Nursery School and the linked extension of age range of West Kidlington Primary School.**

JIM LEIVERS

Director for Children's Services

Annexes: Annex 1: Statutory notice
 Annex 2: Full proposal document

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

February 2015



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed closure of West Kidlington Nursery School and alteration of lower age range at West Kidlington Primary School to effect a “merger”.

Notice is given in accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that Oxfordshire County Council intends to close West Kidlington Nursery School and make a prescribed alteration to West Kidlington Primary School, Oxford Road, Kidlington, OX5 1EA from 31 March 2015.

It is proposed that the Nursery School closes as a separate establishment, and its federated Primary School’s age range is extended to include 3 year-olds, effectively “merging” the two establishments. The intention is to maintain the same level of high quality early years places while improving the financial viability and long term future of the provision.

Both establishments share a Governing Body and Headteacher. In practical terms, there would be no alteration on the ground, and all provision would remain its current accommodation.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be viewed at <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultation>. Copies can also be obtained by contacting:

Diane Cameron
School Organisation & Planning
County Hall
FREEPOST OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.
Tel: 01865 816445
Email: diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk

From the date of publication of these proposals until 4 February 2015, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to the local authority using the online feedback form at <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consultation> or by email to the above email address.

Signed: Jim Leivers, Director of Children’s Services

Publication Date: 7 January 2015

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PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS

Proposal made under School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013:

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

West Kidlington Nursery School and West Kidlington Primary School, Oxford Road, Kidlington OX5 1EA. Both schools are run by Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND and are federated with each other.

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented:

31 March 2015

Objections and comments

Any person may respond by 4 February 2015, sending their comments or registering an objection or support in writing to:

Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, FREEPOST Oxfordshire County Council.

Responses may also be emailed to

diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk putting WEST KIDLINGTON in the subject line, or can be submitted online via a feedback form at

<http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Alteration description

The proposal is to close West Kidlington Nursery School as a separate establishment and alter the lower age range of West Kidlington Primary School, to effect a "merger". 3-year olds would be admitted into a nursery class on the school roll.

School capacity

West Kidlington Primary School has a Net Capacity of 420. This proposal would not affect the Net Capacity, as accommodation for 3 year-olds is excluded from its calculation. There would be no change in accommodation as a result of this proposal.

Objectives and reasoning

West Kidlington Nursery and Primary Schools are already federated, and share a Governing Body and a Headteacher.

The introduction in April 2011 of the Early Years Single Funding Formula, which funds eligible children attending settings, rather than the number of places provided (as previously), means there is now no financial advantage in the two establishments being separate.

This proposal's intention is to maintain the same level of high quality early years places while improving the financial viability and long term future of this provision. To do this, it is proposed that the Nursery School closes as a separate establishment, and the Primary School age range is extended to include 3 year-olds, effectively "merging" the two establishments into one.

In practical terms, there would be no alteration on the ground that parents, children or teaching staff would notice. All provision would remain in the same accommodation as it is currently. The change proposed is purely administrative in nature. As such, there will be no displaced pupils and accessibility and convenience of provision for local parents is not affected.

In removing the need to duplicate work (e.g. preparation for two separate Ofsted inspections and managing two separate budgets for the two establishments), the aim is for back office and management staff time to be freed up and processes streamlined to make them more efficient.

Consultation

The consultation ran from 9 September 2014 – 21 October 2014, for the prescribed six-week minimum period. Persons consulted: the governing body and staff of both schools, their partnership primary schools, parents /

guardians of both schools' pupils, the local MP, relevant Parish, District and County Councillors, trade union representatives, Church of England and Catholic Dioceses, members of the School Organisation Stakeholder Group and county council teams.

Three responses to the consultation were received.

Two respondents supported the proposal in principle, as it would maintain the good provision for early years children on the site.

One respondent objected, concerned that the proposal would close a Nursery School rated "Good" by Ofsted and that parents would be confused if they had children in the nursery class and had to apply for a place in Reception class in the same school for the next year.

The county council responded to the respondent that objected as follows:

- West Kidlington Primary School is also rated "Good" by Ofsted and already has the same Headteacher and governors as the Nursery School.
- No staff changes are proposed.
- All parents, wherever their child attends nursery / preschool, must apply for a place in Reception year group at a school for their child when they reach the correct age. This would not change as a result of this proposal.

The consultation document was widely distributed by both the school and the county council and is available to view on the county council website in the Current Consultations list at

<http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Project costs

There are no costs associated with this proposal. The financial implications are anticipated to be positive, as the reduction in time and work required by management and staff in maintaining two separate establishments should result in time and cost efficiencies.

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Division(s): Chalgrove & Watlington, Wallingford and Benson & Cholsey
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CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES – 09 MARCH 2013

HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT FOR RAF BENSON

Report by Director for Children's Services

Introduction

1. The legal basis for providing home to school transport is set out in sections 508A, 508B, 508C, 508D and 509AD and Schedule 35B of the Education Act 1996 (as amended by Part 6 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006) and where appropriate the Equality Act and English and European case law.
2. In addition, local authorities are under a statutory duty to have regard to the Guidance on Home to School Travel and Transport issued by the Department for Education in July 2014. A copy of this guidance has been placed in the Members' Lounge together with copies of all responses to the consultation.
3. The decision to review the impact of the new Home to School Transport Policy on families living at RAF Benson was taken following representations from RAF Benson, RAF Benson School and Icknield Community College. This resulted in a decision to consult upon a proposal to provide free travel to children living at RAF Benson to Icknield Community College due to capacity issues in that area. It is also proposed that this arrangement should be annually reviewed to ensure that if the capacity issue is resolved the free travel can be ended for those starting at the school.

Proposed changes to the Home to School Transport Policy

4. Local authorities are required to consult upon any proposed changes to the published Home to School Transport Policy and a consultation of this kind must last at least 28 days. Oxfordshire's consultation opened on 12 January 2015 and ended on 27 February 2015. This means that the consultation lasted for 47 days. Updated information on the consultation will be submitted as an addendum to this report on 9 March 2015.
5. The proposal was placed on the County Council's public website and was accessible through the Consultation Portal. Links to the documents were sent to the three state funded schools that were likely to be affected in Oxfordshire and letters were posted to all families with children at RAF Benson School outlining the proposal.
6. At the time of writing there have been 19 on-line responses all of which are in favour of the proposal, including one from the Chair of Governors of RAF Benson Primary School and one from the Leadership Team & Governors of

7. Icknield Community College. In addition we have had 15 paper responses to the consultation and one letter, and, as with the on-line responses, all of them have been in favour of the proposal. An updated record of responses to the consultation will be submitted on 9 March 2015.
8. The Chair of Governors at RAF Benson Community Primary School stated:

“.... I would like to thank the Council for taking this pragmatic approach to providing school transport for children who live at RAF Benson. There is no doubt that the initial proposal has caused much angst among parents and this common sense solution is welcomed by all and I thoroughly support the proposal and would like to thank Neil Darlington for attending a recent meeting at the school to brief us on the proposal.”
9. The Leadership Team & Governors of Icknield Community College stated that:

“We, the Leadership Team and Governors of Icknield Community College, fully support this proposal. We have an excellent relationship with RAF Benson Primary School and we are pleased that OCC have taken steps to enable this relationship to continue with no cost to parents or students. Thank you.”
10. The Headteacher of Wallingford School stated that:

“Wallingford School is happy with the proposal and keen to help make the process of applying for a school place as easy as possible for those living at the base.”
11. A summary of the results of the consultation can be found in Annex 1
12. Copies of the responses have been placed in the Members’ Lounge.
13. If the proposal is agreed the new arrangement would apply for entry from September 2016 onwards.
14. Currently the admissions arrangements for Wallingford School give priority to those living within the designated area of the school and RAF Benson is outside the designated area. Evidence from 2014 and 2015 together with demographic projections for 2016 onwards suggests that children living at RAF Benson are highly unlikely to obtain places at Wallingford School even though this is the closest school to their address, given the demand from within the designated/catchment area. In addition, if the admission arrangements were changed to ensure that children from RAF Benson could have a reasonable expectation of obtaining a place at Wallingford School this could only be achieved by displacing other children who currently live within the designated area. This in turn could be expected to lead to the need for expenditure on additional Home to School Transport routes.

15. RAF Benson lies within the designated/catchment area of Icknield Community College which is the second closest school to this location. This is the school that most children from RAF Benson will attend on secondary transfer. In addition in all but a few cases Icknield Community College will be the closest school to their address with an available place. This in turn means that these children will receive free travel to Icknield Community College.
16. Under the present policy to be certain that free transport will be provided to Icknield Community College parents have to list Wallingford School as their first preference and hope that a place is not made available which would mean their children would receive free transport to Icknield Community College because this school would then be the nearest school with an available place.
17. Under this proposal parents could list Icknield Community College as a first preference and feel safe in the knowledge that free transport will be provided from RAF Benson. They would not be required to name Wallingford School as a first preference while really wishing to send their son/daughter to Icknield Community College and having to wait to see if Wallingford School fills from its designated area before a place is offered at Icknield Community College along with free school transport on the basis of it being the nearest available school with a place.
18. This year 8 children from RAF Benson have obtained a place at Wallingford School for entry in September 2015. All of these children are eligible for free transport to Wallingford School (the nearest secondary school to RAF Benson). In addition, 23 children from RAF Benson are eligible for free transport to Icknield Community College because it is the nearest school to their address with an available place. Both Icknield Community College and Wallingford School have filled all available places. Only 1 child from RAF Benson will not be eligible for free transport and that child will not be attending either Icknield Community College or Wallingford School.
19. It is proposed that the need for free travel from RAF Benson to Icknield Community College should be reviewed on an annual basis. The reasons for this annual review are:
 1. Wallingford School is an academy and therefore the County Council is not responsible for the school's admission arrangements and these arrangements could be changed. If the admission arrangements for Wallingford School were altered so that children from RAF Benson could reasonably be expected to obtain places at Wallingford School there would be no need for free travel from RAF Benson to Icknield Community College. However, unless there is an increase in the school's capacity this could be expected to lead to a number of children within the school's current designated area being placed in an alternative school. This in turn would have potential implications for expenditure on home to school transport. In these circumstances it would not be equitable to continue to provide free travel for "new starters" from RAF Benson to Icknield Community College.

2. If the capacity of Wallingford School is increased to the point that the children from RAF Benson could reasonably be expected to obtain places at that school there would be no need for free travel from RAF Benson to Icknield Community College. In these circumstances it would not be equitable to continue to provide free travel for “new starters” from RAF Benson to Icknield Community College.
20. The responses received from Icknield Community College, Wallingford School and RAF Benson School were all in favour of the proposal as were all other responses.
21. It is not anticipated that there would be any increase in the number of children receiving free travel to school given the capacity issue at Wallingford School.
22. The position of families who live at RAF Benson, and which is described in paragraphs 13 to 20, is unique in Oxfordshire. Therefore in legal terms this justifies considering an annually reviewable departure from the current home to school transport policy.

Carbon Reduction

23. The proposal should not lead to an increase in the Council’s carbon footprint.

Financial and Staff Implications

24. There are no staffing implications.
25. There are no likely cost implications given that it is not anticipated that there will be any increase in the number of children receiving free travel to school given the capacity issue at Wallingford School.

RECOMMENDATIONS

26. **The Cabinet Member for Children, Education & families is RECOMMENDED to adopt the following proposals:**
 - (a) **to provide free travel for those of statutory school age from RAF Benson to Icknield Community College;**
 - (b) **to review the need for this provision on an annual basis since it concerns capacity and likely demand.**

JIM LEIVERS

Director for Children’s Services

Background papers: Home to School Transport and Travel Guidance July 2014,
Department for Education

Contact Officer: Neil Darlington, Admissions and Transport Services Manager
February 2015

On line responses to the question “Do you support or object to the proposal relating to home to school transport from RAF Benson?”

Support	Oppose	Comments	Date
Y	N	We, the Leadership Team and Governors of Icknield Community, fully support this proposal. We have an excellent relationship with RAF Benson Primary School and we are pleased that OCC have taken steps to enable this relationship to continue with cost to parents or students. Thank you.	18 Jan 2015
Y	N	I would most welcome consideration of the proposal being retrospectively considered for the 2015 intake as well as 2016	18 Jan 2015
Y	N		18 Jan 2015
Y	N	I would like to see it retrospectively introduced to 2015	19 Jan 2015
Y	N		19 Jan 2015
Y	N		19 Jan 2015
Y	N		25 Jan 2015
Y	N		26 Jan 2015
Y	N	Very welcomed proposal to give access to the best education for children who are often subject to changing schools with regularity owing to Service careers. Extending to post-compulsory education (6th form/college) would also be beneficial.	26 Jan 2015
Y	N	Transport to either school is essential.	26 Jan 2015
Y	N	We strongly support this proposal. Driving to school is not an option for us, public transport is not safe for an 11 year old child to be travelling alone and we feel it is unfair to pay for transport for children to get to school.	26 Jan 2015
Y	N		26 Jan 2015
Y	N		26 Jan 2015
Y	N		26 Jan 2015
Y	N		26 Jan 2015
Y	N		26 Jan 2015
Y	N		4 Feb 2015
Y	N		9 Feb 2015
Y	N	As Chair of Governors at RAF Benson Community Primary School, I would like to thank the Council for taking this pragmatic approach to providing school transport for children who live at RAF Benson. There is no doubt that the initial proposal has caused	13 Feb 2015

CMDCEF

		<p>much angst among parents and this is common sense solution is welcomed by all and I thoroughly support the proposal and would like to thank Neil Darlington for attending a recent meeting at the school to brief us on the proposal.</p>	
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Paper responses to the proposal

Agree	Disagree	Comments	Date
Y	N	It is very important to have this kind of facilities for community and their children.	15 Jan 2015
Y	N		15 Jan 2015
Y	N		16 Jan 2015
Y	N	A great proposal and would be needed in this community (RAF Benson)	17 Jan 2015
Y	N	I think transport should remain free if your child goes to their agreement catchment school or the closest school, it is completely unreasonable to suggest otherwise. Transport should only be charged for it a parent chooses to take their child out of these options	17 Jan 2015
Y	N		21 Jan 2015
Y	N		21 Jan 2015
Y	N		22 Jan 2015
Y	N		22 Jan 2015
Y	N	If the council held any regard for the military covenant, this would be a 'given' – without the need for a consultation. Well done at least for taking a belated but welcome step in the right direction for service children.	22 Jan 2015
Y	N	As a parent of two children at RAF Benson I think that the proposal to allow free transport to Icknield Community College is of paramount importance. Service children are disadvantaged frequently through no fault of their own because of their parents employment, whether it be frequency of house moves, the turbulence of deployments,	26 Jan 2015

CMDCEF

		the frequent ending of friends because of moves etc.	
Y	N		27 Jan 2015
Y	N		27 Jan 2015
Y	N	Free transport to school is essential regardless of the school they are attended. Families should not be penalised because of the home location.	10 Feb 2015
Y	N	I think it is very important for the families of RAF Benson. As parents of a child in Y6 the fact that transport to Icknield may not be funded has been a worry for us.	13 Feb 2015

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Service and Community Impact Assessment (SCIA)

Front Sheet:

Directorate and Service Area:

Children, Education & Families

What is being assessed (eg name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change):

Home to School Transport for RAF Benson

Responsible owner / senior officer:

Admissions & Transport Services Manager – Education and Early Intervention

Date of assessment:

This was initiated as a working document in January 2015 and is kept under review.

Summary of judgement:

There are judged to be no major impacts on the groups with protected characteristics in this proposed policy change.

As the proposal relates very specifically to children aged 11-16 years old who are based at RAF Benson, many of whom already receive free school transport, there will be limited impact overall.

In reviewing the policy it has been acknowledged that the council is committed to the Military Covenant and its aim to ensure that the military community is treated equitably.

Detail of Assessment:**Purpose of assessment:**

To assess the impact of the proposed amendment to the Home to School Transport Policy in relation to children based at RAF Benson for 2016 onwards.

Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 (“the 2010 Act”) imposes a duty on the Council to give due regard to three needs in exercising its functions:

- o Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act.
- o Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- o Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic, and those who do not.

Complying with section 149 may involve treating some people more favourably than others, but only to the extent that that does not amount to conduct which is otherwise unlawful under the new Act.

The need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard to the need to:

- remove or minimise disadvantages which are connected to a relevant protected characteristic and which are suffered by persons who share that characteristic,
- take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and which are different from the needs other people, and
- encourage those who share a relevant characteristic to take part in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such people is disproportionately low,
- take steps to meet the needs of disabled people which are different from the needs of people who are not disabled and include steps to take account of a person’s disabilities.

The need to foster good relations between different groups involves having due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

These protected characteristics are:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- pregnancy and maternity
- race – this includes ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality
- religion or belief – this includes lack of belief
- sex
- sexual orientation
- marriage and civil partnership

Context / Background:

The impact of the current home to school transport policy on families living at RAF Benson needs to be reviewed in the light of concerns raised by RAF Benson, RAF Benson School and Icknield Community College.

Essentially the nearest school to RAF Benson is Wallingford School. However, RAF Benson is outside Wallingford School's catchment/designated area and this school does not have the capacity to meet any increase in the demand for school places from families who live on the base, particularly since there is likely to be an increase in the demand for secondary school places from within the Wallingford School catchment/designated area. However, Icknield Community College does have the capacity to provide places for all likely demand from RAF Benson for the foreseeable future. Neither of these secondary schools is within a safe walking distance of RAF Benson and there are no suitable public bus service connections to Icknield Community College. However, the Council does already provide a free bus service to Icknield Community College.

The Council is committed to the Military Covenant and is also keen to ensure that that the Home to School Transport Policy is equitable.

A proposed amendment to the Home to School Transport Policy would provide free travel from RAF Benson to Icknield Community College. This would address the capacity issue in the Wallingford area and the concerns expressed by RAF Benson about the uncertainty around receiving free travel to Icknied Community College.

There is a need for an annual review because Wallingford School is an academy and is therefore responsible for setting its own admission arrangements. It may decide to give a higher priority for admission to children living at RAF Benson or increase its capacity and in either case it would then be inequitable to continue to provide free travel to new entrants to Icknield Community College since they could have places at Wallingford School, the nearest school to their address.

This proposal is being consulted upon until 27th February and is then to be considered by the Cabinet Member in March 2015. The responses to the consultation will be reported at that time. If the proposal is agreed there would be no likely increase in expenditure for Oxfordshire County Council but parents living at RAF Benson would have the security of knowing that their children will be able to access the secondary school which is most likely to be able to offer places, Icknield Community College.

There would still be a statutory entitlement to provide any child living at RAF Benson who is offered a place at Wallingford School free transport to that school since it is the nearest school to RAF Benson. The numbers involved are likely to be low given the capacity of Wallingford School and the likely future demand for places.

Proposals:

On 9 March 2015 the Cabinet Member for Education will consider whether to agree the following proposal in whole or in part:

1. To provide guaranteed free travel for children of statutory school age from RAF Benson to Icknield Community College.
2. To review the need for this provision on an annual basis since it will be affected by changes in local schools' capacity and changing demand for free travel.

Evidence / Intelligence:

A consultation exercise has been undertaken to ascertain the views of 'stakeholders' including the identification of potential impacts. This closes on 27th February 2015 and this assessment will be updated to reflect the findings, any changes to the proposals and any additional impacts identified.

The following steps were taken to ensure that the consultation reached those most likely to be affected:

the parents of children at RAF Benson School were all contacted by letter;
Icknield Community College, Wallingford School and RAF Benson School were contacted by letter;
the Admissions & Transport Services Manager met with Governors of RAF Benson School;
the proposal was advertised through the consultation tracker used by the Council.

The proposal is not expected to either increase or decrease the number of children in receipt of free travel.

Alternatives considered / rejected:

The alternative approach would have been to simply rely upon the Home to School Transport policy to provide free travel as necessary for children for whom Icknield Community College is the nearest available school. The number likely to receive free travel could be expected to be the same but as it is not guaranteed this could also be expected to lead to anxiety for Service families.

Impact Assessment:

Impact on Individuals and Communities:

Risks	Mitigations
Age The policy specifically applies to all children aged 11 to 16 years old based at RAF Benson who attend Icknield Community College.	None. The specific age range is appropriate in light of the policy being discussed.
Disability n/a	None
Gender reassignment n/a	None
Race Ethnic minority groups make up a lower percentage of the pupil population in the Armed Services. Therefore a lower proportion of these groups will be entitled to free home to school transport.	No specific mitigation is required as there is no inherent discrimination in the policy.
Religion or belief n/a	None
Sex n/a	None
Sexual Orientation n/a	None
Marriage and civil partnership n/a	None
Rural communities n/a	The policy will be assisting access to a school which is based in a rural ward of the county.
Areas of deprivation n/a	None

Impact on Staff: n/a

Impact on other Council services: n/a
The council already provides a free bus service to Icknield Community College.

Impact on providers: n/a

Action plan: n/a

Monitoring and review:

Person responsible for assessment: Neil Darlington, Admissions & Transport Services Manager – Education and Early Intervention

Version	Date	Notes
v.1	January 2015	Initial document to support consultation
v.2	February 2015	Update to reflect consultation process
v.3	September 2015	Review if the policy is agreed by Cabinet
v.4	September 2016	Review of the capacity issue and the proposed admissions arrangements for Wallingford school

Division(s): All Banbury and Bloxham

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES – 9 MARCH 2015

NEW SCHOOL FOR BANBURY AT LONGFORD PARK: REPORT ON SELECTION PROCESS FOR APPROVED PROVIDER AND APPROVAL OF PREFERRED OPTION

Report by Director for Children's Services

Introduction

1. The Cabinet meeting of 4 September 2012 approved a process for the identification of sponsors for new academies to meet the needs of population growth such as the one at Longford Park, Banbury. The Cabinet meeting of 15 July 2014 gave approval for the decision to be delegated to the Lead Member for Children, Education and Families, unless there are exceptional circumstances. There are no exceptional circumstances in this case.
2. The approved specification for Banbury sought a provider for a new 1.5 form entry primary school in the new development of Longford Park.
3. The specification did not impose restrictions on the nature of provider – e.g. faith organisations, or existing providers – given that the local consultation was inconclusive on these issues.
4. The specification invited interest from providers able and willing to work with the County Council to promote inclusive opportunities for the most vulnerable children and have a strong focus on equalities, early intervention, and supporting the needs of the local community.

Background

5. The agreed process has now completed the following stages:
 - (a) Assess expressions of interest and then invite detailed bids to show clear plans of how they will contribute to the raising of education standards, add diversity of choice and which best fits the local requirements and meets the needs of those within groups offered specific protection under s149 Equality Act 2010.
 - (b) Assess bids against criteria and rank in order of preference. Agree a preferred option to be approved by Lead Member for Children, Education and Families.
6. Two expressions of interest were received. These were assessed according to criteria derived from Department for Education (DfE) Academy/Free school presumption paper February 2014 and also from the council's specification

document for Banbury previously agreed by Cabinet. A scoring system was used to assess the strongest applications. As both providers achieved high scores in some but not all areas both were taken through to the shortlist.

7. The two shortlisted providers were:

Aspirations Academy Trust

The Trust currently runs 4 schools in Oxfordshire (Banbury School, Dashwood, Harriers, and the Space School). It has 7 other schools in West London and Bournemouth

GLF Schools

The Trust currently has 13 schools and the group contains primary, secondary and special schools. It has been approved as the provider for one of the new primary and the new secondary school in Great Western Park, Didcot.

8. The shortlisted providers were asked to complete a more detailed application form and make a presentation to a panel consisting of officers and the cabinet member for Children Education and Families. The providers were again scored against specified criteria.
9. The highest scoring provider was GLF Schools.

Financial and Staff Implications

10. There are none arising directly from this report. However, once an approved sponsor has been confirmed by the Secretary of State there will be a need for significant and on-going liaison with council officers.

RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to agree GLF Schools as the recommended provider to be submitted to the Regional Schools Commissioner for final agreement

JIM LEIVERS

Director for Children's Services

Contact Officer: Charlotte Christie, 01865 328567

March, 2015