

CABINET – 15 JULY 2014

Modification to Approved Alteration of Age Range at St Edburg's CE (VA) Primary School, Bicester

Report by Director for Children's Services and the Governing Body

Introduction

1. This report seeks a modification to part of a proposal previously approved by Cabinet on 17 July 2012, as set out in the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.
2. The approved prescribed alteration is to expand St Edburg's CE (VA) Primary School in Bicester from 1 to 2 form entry, and to alter the lower age range to admit 3 year olds into a nursery class. As part of the alterations, the school is to relocate to the new Kingsmere housing development in SW Bicester, and become its designated area school in a new purpose-built building. The implementation date for this was approved as September 2014.

The Proposal

3. The new school will be commissioned and delivered by the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education. Due to delays in beginning the construction of the new school building, the county council has now received confirmation from the Governing Body of St Edburg's CE (VA) Primary School that its nursery class will now open in September 2015. (See **Annex 1** for the confirmation letter).
4. As the school is still located in its original buildings, there is no accommodation available to enable the opening of the new nursery class. The implementation date of this part of the approved alterations must therefore be delayed until the new school building is in use.
5. Under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, the proposer of alterations, in this case the Governing Body, can seek modifications from the decision-maker before the approved implementation date. This is the function of this report to Cabinet.
6. Until the new nursery class can open, 1st and 2nd Step Pre School (located on the existing school site) will continue to operate, in order to continue to provide childcare for these younger children. Upon the opening of the new nursery class, the Pre School currently plans to close.

