

Agenda Item No. 6 (g)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

8 June 2017

Report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services

**EXTENSION OF AGE RANGE AT HARPUR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL –
(YOUNG PEOPLE)**

1. Purpose of Report

To provide a report to Cabinet on the outcome of an pre-publication consultation carried out by the school following discussion with the Authority on a proposal to extend the age range of the school from 4-11 years to 3-11 years so that it can offer nursery provision, and to consider whether or not to proceed to the publication of Statutory Notices to extend the school's age range.

2. Information and Analysis

The Local Authority Early Years sufficiency assessment has identified an undersupply of places in Harpur Hill and a need for nursery provision. This demand is set to increase from September 2017 with the introduction of 30 hours' funded provision. It is proposed that the school will provide up to 26 (FTE) places in September 2017. This proposal meets the needs of demands of the families in the area and provides opportunities for flexible access to nursery provision at the school. There is currently also a private nursery provider who offers early years education. The sufficiency assessment shows that there will be sufficient demand for a school nursery as well as the private provider. The school has carried out a pre-publication consultation and no responses were received. The Headteacher has reported that Governors and staff are supportive of the proposed extension of their age range.

3. Financial Considerations

It is proposed to locate the nursery within the former Children's Centre

building which is housed on the same site as the school, and capital funding of £24,019 for the remodelling of the accommodation was approved at the 14 March 2017 Cabinet Member For Children's Services meeting. The school will receive revenue funding for all early years pupils who have reached the age of 3 at specific census points throughout the year (January, May and October).

4. Human Resources Considerations

The school already has Early Years-trained staff on its teaching and non-teaching personnel. If the school was to extend its age range to provide a nursery, the school would need to recruit one additional qualified teacher and two non-teaching staff in order to comply with current ratios set out by the DfE. The staffing cost will be met from the revenue funding mentioned in the financial considerations.

5. Legal Considerations

The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 and the relevant DfE statutory guidance 'Making Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools – statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers' (April 2016) set out the procedure for changing the age range in schools. The 2013 Regulations and statutory guidance have been complied with in the proposal to extend the age limit at Harper Hill Primary School

6. Social Value Considerations

Research has shown that when schools provide Early Years education, pupils make improved progress as they move between Early Years and Key Stage 1, allowing for consistent progress. The transition becomes a smooth and effective process allowing the children to settle more quickly. Staff can get to know the parents/carers on entry and build on this partnership in the ensuing years; it provides the continuity of education and provision through a single leadership team and governing body. It is widely recognised that Early Years education can deliver educational, developmental and social benefits.

7. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: - prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, and environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

8. Background Papers

A file is available within the Children's Services' Development Section.

9. Officer's Recommendations

- (1) To consider and approve the Statutory Notice at Appendix 1;
- (2) To approve the publication of the Statutory Notice and to proceed to a formal consultation in respect of the proposal to extend the age range from 4-11 to 3-11 at Harpur Hill Primary School.
- (3) To write to the private nursery provider informing them of the proposal and seeking their comments.

Jane Parfremment, Strategic Director for Children's Services

Appendix 1

Derbyshire County Council

Harpur Hill Primary School

Consultation on a Proposal by the Local Authority to extend the age range at Harpur Hill Primary school from 4-11 to 3-11

Context

Harpur Hill Primary School is situated next to woodland at the foot of Solomon's Temple. The school was built in 1953 and has been extended over the years as it has grown in size and popularity. The school site and surrounding area provides many opportunities for learning beyond the classroom. There are three separate playgrounds, a MUGA (multi-use games area) and a large field. The former Children's Centre which closed in January 2016, was built in 2008 and is situated on the school site, close to the main school building.

The Local Authority has identified an undersupply of nursery places within Harpur Hill. There is currently a private provider leasing space within the former children's centre building, and projections have identified that there will be sufficient demand for a school nursery as well as a private provider. The demand for pre-school places is rising due to the provision of 30 hours free childcare to parents who meet certain eligibility criteria.

Proposal

The Local Authority has proposed that Harpur Hill Primary School should extend their age range from 4-11 years to 3-11 years so that the school can offer nursery provision.

Staff

The school has Early Years-trained staff already on its teaching and non-teaching personnel. If the school were to extend their age range to provide a nursery, the school would need to recruit one additional qualified teacher and two non-teaching staff members.

Funding

The Authority receives funding from the Government, in the form of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), for all children who have reached the age of 3 by the 31 December prior to the January School Census. These children are currently eligible for a maximum of 15 hours of free early year's provision. The school will receive its funding for eligible children under Derbyshire's Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF), a common formula which funds all of the free entitlement for children in nursery units within a mainstream school, nursery schools and private, voluntary and independent settings. Funding will be based on a count of actual weekly hours attended by qualifying children as at the three School Census points (i.e. January,

May and October).

Statutory Consultation

The consultation on this proposal will be for four weeks from 16 June 2017 to 15 July 2017.

The consultation document will be available on request from Jenny Webster, Assistant Education Officer, at the address and e-mail address below, and is available on the school's website and on www.derbyshire.gov.uk.

Any comments, observations or objections should be sent to –

Director of Children's Services (Ref. DEV/JW),
Development Team
Chatsworth Hall
Chesterfield Road
MATLOCK
Derbyshire
DE4 3FW

Or by e-mail to

jenny.webster@derbyshire.gov.uk

The deadline for receiving responses to this consultation is **15 July 2017**.

[See Annex A of the DfE statutory guidance which set outs minimum requirements which must be contained within the statutory notice, namely:-

- *School and LA details;*
- *Description of alteration and evidence of demand;*
- *Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)*
- *The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area;*
- *Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved;*
- *Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation; and*
- *A statement explaining the procedure for responses: support; objections and comments.]*