

Bath & North East Somerset Council

DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Chris Watt, Cabinet Member for Children's Service	
DECISION DATE:	On or after 31 st July 2010	PAPER NUMBER 1
TITLE:	Proposed Alteration of the Lower Age Limit at Castle Primary School in Keynsham – Determination of Statutory Notice	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE: E 2146
WARD:	Keynsham South, Keynsham North, Keynsham East, Saltford	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1 – Statutory Notice		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The Governors of Castle Primary school have decided that the new Early Years provision located on the school site should be run by the school. This would serve to alter the lower age limit at the school from age 4 to age 3 by the addition of Early Years provision. This proposal requires the Council to carry out a statutory process of consultation and publication of a legal notice before any changes can be implemented.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet member is asked to agree that:

2.1 The lower age limit at Castle Primary school should be altered from age 4 to age 3 by the addition of Early Years provision to commence on 1st September 2010.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Capital: There are no financial implications as a result of this proposal. The Early Years building has already been completed, the capital to provide this facility coming from a DfE (Department for Education) capital grant via the Council's Early Years and Extended Services Team with a contribution also coming from the school.
- 3.2 Revenue: There are no financial implications as a result of this proposal. There is a known existing need for more Early Years provision in Keynsham and therefore places are expected to be in demand which should serve to make the provision financially viable. As the school will be running the provision, the responsibility will lie with the Governing Body and not the Council. Should there be any shortfall in funding this would be met from the school's budget.

4 CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- *Building communities where people feel safe and secure* – through the delivery of Children's Centre services to families using the early year's facility, the school and in the surrounding area.
- *Improving life chances of disadvantaged teenagers and young people* – by investing in high quality early years, longitudinal research has evidenced that the outcomes for all children are significantly improved throughout school and into adulthood.
- *Improving school buildings* – by providing early years and children's centre services on a primary school site a significant investment is being made in developing and delivery of 21st Century Schools on this school site.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 In order to address the current shortfall in Early Years provision in Keynsham, Bath and North East Somerset Council working in partnership with Castle Primary school, has allocated capital funding to enable Early Years provision to be located on the Castle Primary school site.
- 5.2 The Governing Body has decided to run this facility as a part of the school. This provision will mean that results at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) could be raised for all children, with a particular focus on working to raise the attainment of children assessed to be in the bottom 20% of attainment.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The report author and Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 A proportionate equalities impact assessment has been carried out using corporate guidelines.

8 RATIONALE

- 8.1 In order to run the Early Years facility which will accept children from the term following their third birthday, the school will need to change its designated age from 4 to 11 to 3 to 11.
- 8.3 The school has already established good links with the local Children's Centre in Keynsham and with representatives from other local agencies and the school intends to continue to develop these links further through the new Early Years provision. The Children's Centre will also use the Early Years facility for delivery of local services for young children and their families in the area. The school also hope to host other community events in the future.
- 8.4 The Governing Body at Castle Primary school and the Local Authority believe that this proposal offers a positive opportunity for the local community and for families with young children in the Keynsham area.
- 8.5 The statutory consultation on the proposal received six responses, five of which were in support of the proposal and the sixth could see the benefits of the proposal with some concerns over possible traffic issues. As demand for Early Years provision is particularly high for families living within "pram pushing" distance of the school who do not have access to transport, it is not anticipated that the new provision on the school site will generate significant additional traffic movements.
- 8.6 No further responses were received during the six week representation period following publication of the statutory notice.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.5 The Early Years provision on the school site could be run by an independent provider other than the school. If an alternative provider needed to be identified to run the provision, this could delay the provision being able to commence on 1st September 2010. Parents/carers already have children on the waiting list for a place and there is an expectation that the provision will be available from the beginning of the new term in September.

10 CONSULTATION

- 10.5 *Ward Councillors; Keynsham Town Council; Trades Unions; Staff; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Stakeholders/Partners; Chief Executive; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer*
- 10.2 A hard copy of the consultation document was given to all parents/carers of children at the school, all staff at the school (teaching and non teaching) and to the Governing Body and Headteacher of the school. A hard copy was also mailed to 200 households immediately surrounding the school.
- 10.3 An electronic copy of the consultation document was emailed to Trade Union representatives, other neighbouring LAs, Headteachers and Governing Bodies of all other local primary schools in Keynsham and Saltford, the local MP for Wansdyke, all local ward councillors in Keynsham and Saltford, Keynsham Town Council, the Early Years Childcare and Play team, all Early Years providers in Keynsham and Saltford (a few were posted to individuals), B&NES PCT School

Nurse, the Chief Executive, the Director of Children's Service and the Primary School Advisers for the Keynsham area.

10.4 Notification of the consultation and how to obtain more information or comment on the proposal was also placed on E-Consult, the Council's on line consultation system. A copy of the document was also placed in Keynsham library.

10.5 The school carried out consultation activities with pupils via their School Council and in whole school assemblies and held a consultation meeting for local residents, parents/carers and other local pre-schools/nurseries.

10.6 A statutory notice was published in a local newspaper, posted in the Library and outside the school, outlining the proposal and explaining how interested parties could comment on the proposal.

11 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

11.5 Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Property; Young People; Corporate.

12 ADVICE SOUGHT

12.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Council Solicitor) and Section 151 Officer (Strategic Director - Support Services) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	Helen Hoynes 01225 395169
Background papers	Consultation document: Consultation on the Proposed Alteration of the Lower Age Limit at Castle Primary School in Keynsham From Age 4 to Age 3 by the Addition of Early Years Provision. Single Member report E2121: Proposed Alteration of the Lower Age Limit at Castle Primary School in Keynsham
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