

**Single Member Cabinet Decision****Executive  
Forward Plan  
Reference****E2211****Determination of the Statutory Notice Published by Oldfield School to Change Gender from Single Sex Girls to Co-educational**

<b>Decision maker/s</b>	Cllr Chris Watt Cabinet Member for Children's Service
<b>The Issue</b>	In October 2010 Oldfield School in Bath published a Statutory Notice to change from a single sex girls school to a co-educational school to commence in September 2012 with the admission of boys to Year 7. It is the responsibility of the Authority to determine the notice at the end of the six week Statutory Notice representation period.
<b>Decision Date</b>	25/12/2010
<b>The decision</b>	<p>The Cabinet Member agrees that:</p> <p>1.1 The statutory notice is approved so that the school can become co-educational from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012.</p> <p>1.2 A Transitional Exemption Order in relation to the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 is granted for a period of four years from the date of implementation of the proposal to allow for the gradual change from single sex to co-educational to be phased in over this period as set out in the school's published proposals.</p>
<b>Rationale for decision</b>	<p>1.2 No responses were received during the representation period, indicating that this proposal is not opposed and has the support of stakeholders, as expressed in the consultation exercise.</p> <p>1.3 Parental surveys and recent consultation exercises have identified the need for more co-educational places in the city, particularly in North West Bath. If Oldfield was a co-educational school this would provide equality of access for pupils of both sexes who live in this area of the city, as boys currently have to travel out of the Weston and Newbridge areas to attend other schools in Bath. If boys who live in this area were able to access their local school, travel distances for this group of pupils would be reduced.</p> <p>1.4 The proposal by Oldfield school meets the Cabinet's request that the school become co-educational in line with the plan for Bath.</p>
<b>Financial and budget implications</b>	The Council has agreed to invest capital of £1.85 million in the school to adapt the buildings so that boys can be accommodated. This will be funded from existing Children's Services capital funding. The first significant capital expenditure will be in the 2011/12 financial year.

<b>Issues considered</b>	Social Inclusion; Sustainability; Property; Young People; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation).
<b>Consultation undertaken</b>	Ward Councillor; Cabinet colleagues; Trades Unions; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer.
<b>How consultation was carried out</b>	Oldfield school sent letters to consultees and also posted information on the school's website. The school has confirmed that it completed a public consultation exercise in relation to the proposal prior to publishing the statutory notice in line with Department for Education school organisation requirements. The statutory notice publication period, requiring a notice to be published in a local newspaper and to be posted outside the school and in another public location nearby, gave a further opportunity for interested stakeholders to comment on the proposal.
<b>Other options considered</b>	The option of not approving the proposal so that the school remains as a single sex girls school was rejected as this would not meet parental demand and the school as proposer fully supports becoming co-educational.

<b>Signatures of Decision Makers</b>	
<b>Date of Signature</b>	

**Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision**