

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

BROOKSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, EAST LEAKE – DELIVERY OF EARLY YEARS EDUCATION PLACES

Purpose of the Report

1. This report seeks the approval of Cabinet to consult with the staff, governors and parents/carers of the above-named school and other interested parties about the proposal to provide early years places at the school.

Information and Advice

Background

2. It is Government policy that early years education places can be delivered through Local Authority maintained schools and providers in the private, independent and voluntary sectors.
3. Having considered the implications of providing such places for children living in their catchment area, the governors of Brookside Primary school have decided they wish to develop this provision from September 2012 at the earliest.
4. A formal request to initiate the statutory process concerning early years provision has been received by the County Council's Strategic Place Planning and School Admissions (SPP & SA) service from the school. The SPP & SA service has reviewed the current take up of early years education places in the area and acknowledges the potential benefits of the proposal for the school. The proposal will provide additional early years places and increase opportunities for parental choice. It will support the school's aim to provide continuous education from ages 3 through to 11.

Consultation

5. Under the provisions of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006), the County Council is required to publish a Section 19 Notice where it is proposed to lower the age limit of admission to a community school by one year or more. Prior to publication however, it also a requirement for the County Council to consult with local people so that they can give their views.

6. It is intended to consult with Brookside Primary's staff, governors and parents/carers and any other interested parties deemed appropriate.

Other Options Considered

7. The only other feasible option available to the school for parents who wish their children to receive early years education between the ages of 3-4 years, is to continue to send them to alternative early years providers.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

8. Please refer to paragraph 2 of this report. This proposal is perceived as being in the best interests of Brookside Primary School and the school's community.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

10. Children and families will have access to early years education in their immediate locality.

Financial Implications

11. There are no financial implications arising from this report. However, should approval be sought for the publication of a statutory notice, any subsequent report would include financial implications.

Equalities Implications

12. If approval was to subsequently be given for this proposal to proceed, the proposal will help to ensure the availability of an early years education place for all children whose parents wish them to have one.

Human Resources Implications

13. There are no personnel implications arising directly from this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:-

- 1) consultations be approved with the staff, governors and parents/carers of Brookside Primary School and other appropriate interested parties, to consider the proposal referred to above in paragraph 1 of this report;

- 2) a further report be submitted to Cabinet on the outcome of the consultations with recommendations for action.

Councillor Philip Owen
Cabinet Member for Children & Young People's Services

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (LMc 26/7/11)

14. Cabinet has delegated authority to approve the recommendations in the report in order to discharge the County Council's functions as a local authority responsible for the provision of education.

Financial Comments (NR)

15. The financial implications are referred to in paragraph 11.

Background Papers

Letter dated 19 July 2011 from the governors of Brookside Primary School.

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Soar Valley: Coun Lynn Sykes

M19C2855