

23 April 2014**Agenda Item: 10****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS AND
INCLUSION****MATTERSEY AND WINTHORPE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOLS:
PROPOSALS FOR THE DELIVERY OF EARLY YEARS EDUCATION PLACES
- CONSULTATION OUTCOMES****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides Committee with the outcomes of formal consultation about the proposals to provide early years places at the above-named schools from September 2014.
2. It also seeks approval to publish statutory notices as required under the provisions of Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) to formally lower the schools' age range from 5-11 to 3-11 years also from September 2014.

Information and Advice

3. At its meeting on 10 February 2014, Committee gave its approval for the formal consultation with the staff, governors, pupils and parents/carers of Mattersey and Winthorpe Primary Schools, local communities and other interested parties about the proposals referred to in this report.
4. Members may recall that these proposals will provide early years places in rural communities currently without such provision and increase opportunities for parental choice. They will also support the schools' aims to provide continuous education from ages 3 through to 11 years.

Consultation

5. Consultation leaflets concerning each separate proposal were circulated to all the staff, governors and parents/carers of pupils at the schools concerned to explain the rationale for the proposals and to give them the opportunity to make any comments about what was being proposed.
6. Copies of the leaflets were also sent out to the wider community including residents adjoining the schools' sites where appropriate, other schools in the localities, the Members of Parliament and local County Councillors, Diocesan Authorities, the local district councils, and other interested parties.

7. The consultation periods for each proposal ran from 12 February to 4 April 2014 and written responses were invited either by the reply form provided, via the County Council's website or by electronic mail. The attached **Appendices 1 & 2** summarise the number of responses received and the various comments, issues and concerns that were raised and expressed.
8. The governors of Winthorpe Primary also held a public meeting at their school during the above-mentioned consultation period on 26 February. This meeting for interested parties was well attended and provided an opportunity for the governors' proposal to be explained in more detail.
9. The headteachers, staff and governing bodies of Mattersey Primary and Winthorpe Primary are supportive of the proposal affecting their respective school.
10. The Pupil School Councils of each of the above schools were consulted and are similarly supportive of early years places being provided at their respective schools.
11. In summary, the main issues arising from respondents opposing each respective proposal are:-
 - i) Mattersey Primary:
 - other existing alternative early years providers would provide parents with more choice
 - ii) Winthorpe Primary:
 - the possible disruption to existing pupils' education if mixed age classes were created
 - the capacity of the school allegedly being too small to cater for early years places being provided
 - the needs of younger children potentially not being met if they are placed with older pupils
12. In comparison to the above issues, the main comments in support of each respective proposal can be summarised as:-
 - i) Mattersey Primary:
 - there is a consensus of support for the proposal to proceed
 - there is an alleged inadequacy of local public transport that prevents families from being able to access alternative early years provision
 - the provision of early years places would be an asset not only to the school but also to the local community.
 - ii) Winthorpe Primary:
 - providing local early years places increases the opportunity for parental preference and helps reduce the potential number of car journeys to alternative providers

- there is support from the staff and governors concerning the proposal to establish early years places at their school
 - there would be continuity of education in one setting for children from the age of 3 years.
13. Account has been taken of all the comments received during the consultation period concerning each of the proposals referred to in this report. It is difficult to predict with absolute certainty how the respective proposals will impact on local infrastructure because the overall take-up of places in any setting is predicated by a number of factors including parental choice and birth rates.
14. On balance, it is therefore recommended that the proposals referred to in this report concerning Mattersey and Winthorpe Primary Schools should proceed.

Statutory Notice

15. If Committee agrees to the recommendation within this report, under the provisions of the EIA 2006, following formal consultation 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.

Other Options Considered

16. As previously reported, the closure during December 2013 of a local pre-school playgroup in Mattersey has reduced parental choice for early years provision. 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 send them to alternative early years providers outside of the village.
17. There is currently no early years provision within the Winthorpe community and the nearest alternative provider is located one and a half miles away from the school.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

18. The proposals outlined in this report are perceived as being in the best interests of both schools and their respective communities.

Statutory and Policy Implications

19. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, 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

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

Financial Implications

21. Any variation to the numbers of children attending the school through this proposed change to the admission arrangements will be reflected in the school's budget through the Early Years Single Funding Formula, and funded by the Education Funding Agency through the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Public Sector Equality Duty Implications

22. If approval was to subsequently be given for these proposals to proceed, the proposals will ensure the availability of an early years education place for all children whose parents wish them to have one.
23. Equal opportunities issues for staff will be addressed within an agreed enabling document which will follow an agreed standard format.
24. Prior to requesting any formal approval for the implementation of the proposals referred to in this report, consideration will be given to undertaking Equality Impact Assessments in due course.

Human Resources Implications

25. If, as a result of these proposals, additional staffing is required in school to ensure the effective delivery of the early years education proposed, both schools will use appropriate recruitment and selection procedures when making appointments.

Crime and Disorder Implications

26. Appropriate consideration has been given to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It is the view of the County Council that these early years places proposals do not pose a significant risk to increasing criminal activity within the locality of the two schools.

Human Rights Implications

27. Parental preference will be facilitated.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

28. By providing local early years education places, the need for travelling to alternative providers by car can be reduced.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That:-

- 1) Committee notes and considers the outcome of formal consultation with staff, governors, pupils, parents/carers, local community and other interested parties about the proposals referred to in this report;

- 2) Committee agrees to the publication of statutory notices, under the provisions of Section 19 of the EIA 2006, for the proposals to:-
- establish 10 full-time equivalent (20 part-time) early years places within the existing premises of Mattersey Community Primary School and lower the school's age range from 5-11 to 3-11 years with effect from 8 September 2014 and
 - establish 5 full-time equivalent (10 part-time) early years places within the existing premises of Winthorpe Community Primary School and lower the school's age range from 5-11 to 3-11 years with effect from 8 September 2014;
- 3) a further report be submitted to this Committee on the outcome of the four week representation period of the County Council's published Section 19 Notices with recommendations for action.

John Slater
Service Director, Education Standards and Inclusion

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Jayne Littlewood
Children's Place Planning & Admissions Area Officer - Bassetlaw and Newark
T: 0115 9772571
E: jayne.littlewood@nottsccl.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (LM 03/04/14)

29. The Children and Young People's Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments (KLA 04/04/14)

30. The financial implications of the report are set out in paragraph 21 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- 1) Mattersey and Winthorpe Community Primary Schools:
Proposals for the Delivery of Early Years Education Places - report to Children and Young People's Committee on 10 February 2014 (previously published)
- 2) The respective consultation leaflets for parents/carers, staff, governors and other interested parties concerning the proposed early years places at Mattersey and Winthorpe Primary Schools (circulated from 12 February 2014)

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 Divisions and Members Affected

Misterton:	Councillor Liz Yates
Collingham:	Councillor Maureen Dobson

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