

16 June 2014

Agenda Item: 9 (revised)

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS AND
INCLUSION**

**MATTERSEY AND WINTHORPE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOLS:
PROPOSALS FOR THE DELIVERY OF EARLY YEARS EDUCATION PLACES
– OUTCOMES OF PUBLISHED SECTION 19 NOTICES**

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides Committee with the outcome of published Section 19 Notices and seeks approval, with effect from 8 September 2014, for the implementation of the following 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 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.

Information and Advice

2. Formal proposals were agreed by Committee at its meeting on 23 April 2014 and in accordance with the provisions of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the Local Authority (LA) is required to publish Section 19 Notices. Appropriate Notices were subsequently published on 1 May 2014 which provided details of the proposals referred to in paragraph 1 above.
3. There is a four week representation period following the publication of Notices during which support, objections and comments can be made. The Notices expired on 29 May 2014 and during their publication period no representations were received.
4. The decision on the above proposals now falls to Committee to determine. It is a statutory requirement however, that this determination has to be made within two months of the expiry of the Notice's representation period i.e. by 29 July 2012. Failure to meet this requirement would result in the proposal having to be referred to an independent Schools Adjudicator for a decision to be made.

Other Options Considered

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. The only other feasible option available to either school's parents/carers who wish their children to receive early years education between the ages of three and four years, is to continue to send them to alternative providers and move the children to Mattersey and Winthorpe Primary Schools as appropriate for their statutory education.

Reason for Recommendation

8. It is Government policy that early years education places can be delivered through LA maintained schools and providers in the private, voluntary and independent sectors. 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

9. 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

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

Financial Implications

11. Any variation to the numbers of children attending the schools through these proposed changes to the admission arrangements will be reflected in the schools' budgets through the Early Years Single Funding Formula.

Public Sector Equality Duty Implications

12. 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.
13. Equal opportunities issues for staff will be addressed within an agreed enabling document which will follow an agreed standard format.

14. An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is available as a background paper.

Human Resources Implications

15. 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

16. 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

17. Parental preference will be facilitated.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

That:-

- 1) Committee notes the outcome of the Section 19 Notices published under the provisions of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 concerning Mattersey and Winthorpe Community Primary Schools.
- 2) Committee agrees to the implementation of the proposals with effect from 8 September 2014 to respectively lower the existing age limits of Mattersey and Winthorpe Community Primary Schools from 5-11 to 3-11 years, thereby enabling the schools to admit children to attend early years education places.

John Slater
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Constitutional Comments (SLB 23/05/14)

19. Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (KLA 23/05/14)

20. The financial implications of the report are set out in paragraph 11 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) Mattersey and Winthorpe Community Primary Schools:
Proposals for the Delivery of Early Years Education Places - report to Children and Young People's Committee on 23 April 2014 (previously published)
- 3) The Complete Proposals referred to in the published Section 19 Notices
- 4) Equality Impact Assessment

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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