



LEAD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND INCLUSION, SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY

DECISIONS to be made by the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability,

TUESDAY, 26 JUNE 2018 AT 2.00 PM (OR AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CABINET, WHICHEVER IS THE LATER)

ROOM CC1 - COUNTY HALL, LEWES

AGENDA

- 1 Decisions made by the Lead Cabinet Member on 30 April 2018 (*Pages 3 - 6*)
- 2 Disclosures of interests
Disclosure by all Members present of personal interests in matters on the Agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct
- 3 Urgent items
Notification of items which the Lead Member considers to be urgent and propose to take at the end of the appropriate part of the Agenda
- 4 Post 16 Transport Statement 2018-19 (*Pages 7 - 22*)
Report by Director of Children's Services
- 5 Lowering the age range at Langney Primary School, Eastbourne (*Pages 23 - 26*)
Report by Director of Children's Services
- 6 Lowering the age range at Ditchling (St Margaret's) CE Primary School, Ditchling (*Pages 27 - 30*)
Report by Director of Children's Services
- 7 Any urgent items previously notified under agenda item 3

PHILIP BAKER
Assistant Chief Executive
County Hall, St Anne's Crescent
LEWES BN7 1UE

18 June 2018

Contact Hannah Matthews, 01273 335138,

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LEAD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND INCLUSION, SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability, Councillor Bob Standley, on 30 April 2018 at the Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes

Councillors spoke on the items indicated

Councillor Barnes	- item 4 (minute 47)
Councillor Boorman	- item 4 (minute 47)
Councillor Bowdler	- item 4 (minute 47)
Councillor Elkin	- item 4 (minute 47)
Councillor Field	- items 4 and 5 (minutes 47 and 48)
Councillor O'Keeffe	- item 4 (minute 47)
Councillor Stephen Shing	- item 4 (minute 47)
Councillor Shuttleworth	- items 4 and 6 (minutes 47 and 49)
Councillor Tidy	- item 4 (minute 47)
Councillor Webb	- items 4, 5, and 6 (minutes 47, 48 and 49)

44 DECISIONS MADE BY THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER ON 18 APRIL 2018

44.1 The Lead Member approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2018.

45 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

45.1 Councillor Barnes declared a personal non prejudicial interest in item 4 as his grand daughter played with the East Sussex Youth Orchestra.

45.2 Councillor Field declared a personal non prejudicial interest in items 5 and 6 as the Chair of a Pre-school Group.

45.3 Councillor O'Keeffe declared a personal non prejudicial interest in item 4 as a former music teacher and items 5 and 6 as a Trustee of a Pre-school Group.

45.4 Councillor Webb declared a personal non prejudicial interest in item 4 as a Member of the Hastings Many Voices Project.

46 REPORTS

46.1 Copies of the reports referred to below are included in the minute book.

47 MUSIC SERVICE UPDATE

47.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Children's Services regarding proposals to address the financial sustainability of the East Sussex Music Service.

47.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to –

1) agree to implement the Management and Administrative restructure proposals and other efficiency measures in relation to the East Sussex Music Service (already consulted on in October 2017); and

2) welcome proposals from outside bodies to deliver an instrumental teaching service whilst also agreeing that a proposal be drawn up to close the instrumental teaching service, as outlined in Option B in the report

Reason

47.3 On balance Option A, as set out in the report, was not recommended for the following reasons:

- Option A leaves a deficit budget of between £37.5k and £77.3K in 2022/23 depending on the agreement reached with the Hub about how much money is released back to support the social mobility agenda. The Music Service is not a statutory service and it would be difficult to justify prioritising this service over other frontline services.
- The service would still remain financially at risk from any reduction in grant funding, any change in schools' commitment to supporting fee remission and any reduction in student numbers. Given the risks it is not considered that it is viable to constantly revisit options to address the financial sustainability of the service as it absorbs considerable senior management, HR and legal time each time we do it.

47.4 Although the Music Service is undoubtedly a valued and much loved service, for the reasons outlined in the report, the Lead Member agreed Option B and to implement the management and administrative restructure and other efficiency measures and ask that a proposal to close down the instrumental teaching is drawn up with an intended implementation date of September 2019 (subject to public consultation and further work).

47.5 It is hoped that revised proposals can be drawn up collaboratively with staff and Trade Unions, but given the financial forecast, it will be necessary to move quickly because of the budget pressures. We would hope to consult with the public from June 2018 and with staff from October 2018.

47.6 Although this could have some negative impact in the long-term on music education opportunities and is likely to be met with public, staff and union opposition, this option would secure the financial viability to continue to provide many elements of the current Music Service and provide greater opportunity for the service and Hub partners to support the County Council's priorities around vulnerable people. An equalities impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the public consultation.

48 LOWERING THE AGE RANGE AT LANGNEY PRIMARY SCHOOL, EASTBOURNE

48.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Children's Services regarding proposals to lower the age range at Langney Primary School, Eastbourne

48.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to –

1) authorise the publication of statutory notices in respect of a proposal to lower the age range at Langney Primary School, Eastbourne from 3 to 11 to 2 to 11 with the proposal to take effect on 1 September 2018; and

2) delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to amend the proposals prior to publication if required

Reason

48.3 The proposal to lower the age range at Langney Primary school will help to build on work already done by the school, ensuring a fully integrated Early Years Foundation Stage to help secure good outcomes for all children. The proposal is in line with council strategy for the integration of nursery school provision.

49 LOWERING THE AGE RANGE AT DITCHLING (ST MARGARET'S) CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, DITCHLING

49.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Children's Services regarding a proposal to lower the age range at Ditchling (St Margraet's) CE Primary School.

49.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to –

1) authorise the publication of statutory notices in respect of a proposal to lower the age range at Ditchling (St Margaret's) CE Primary School from 4 to 11 to 2 to 11 with the proposal to take effect from 1 September 2018; and

2) delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to amend the proposals prior to their publication if required.

Reason

49.3 The proposal to lower the age range at Ditchling (St Margret's) CE Primary School will help to build on work already done by the school in conjunction with the Pre-schools Voluntary Management Committee. This will help ensure a fully integrated Early Years Foundation Stage to help secure good outcomes for all children in the future. The proposal is in line with council strategy for the integration of nursery / school provision.

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Committee:	Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability
Date:	26 June 2018
Title of Report:	Post-16 Transport Statement 2018-2019
By:	Director of Children's Services
Purpose of Report:	To approve the proposed Post-16 Transport Statement for the 2018-2019 academic year

Recommendation:

The Lead Member is recommended to approve the Post-16 Transport Statement for the 2018-19 academic year as shown in Appendix 3.

1. Financial appraisal

- 1.1 Local authorities do not have a statutory duty to provide free transport to school or college for students who are above compulsory school age; however East Sussex County Council (ESCC) remains committed to providing support for sixth form students who demonstrate exceptional circumstances regarding the journey to a suitable placement.
- 1.2 To meet this commitment, the Home to School Transport budget covers the following discretionary areas for sixth form learners -
- specialist transport for students needing support due to their Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and other difficulties;
 - Bespoke programmes of independent travel training;
 - a hardship fund divided between the main Further Education colleges to support the most vulnerable young people; and
 - subsidised rail tickets for all students regardless of family income.

2. Supporting information

- 2.1 Local authorities are obliged to consult on and publish the Post-16 transport policy statement each year. The statement must specify the arrangements for the provision of transport or otherwise that the authority considers necessary to facilitate the attendance of all persons of sixth form age receiving education or training.
- 2.2 The document that went out for consultation is shown in Appendix 1. The changes from the 2017-18 statement were minimal with changes to dates and prices of travel costs. Rye Studio School was removed from section 5 due to its closure.
- 2.3 Consultation took place between 30 April and 31 May 2018. There were two comments made and these are set out in Appendix 2.
- 2.4 Since consultation, the rail concession scheme has successfully been negotiated for a further academic year. There are minor changes to the way students will need to purchase tickets. The Southern railway web address has been amended in the proposed Post 16 Transport Statement and full instructions will appear online.
- 2.5 The cost of a Freedom Ticket is due to rise from £16 to £17 per week. This is the first rise since April 2015. As the parental contribution towards transport for young people with SEND (in agreed cases) is directly linked to the cost of a Freedom Ticket, the proposal is to increase the parental contribution so the costs are aligned. However, this increase is above the 2% limit officers can agree. The increased cost of a Freedom Ticket was not known until April 2018. This was prior to the consultation on the Post 16 transport statement but after the deadline for seeking approval for increases in fees/ charges which fell in February as part of the Council's 2018/19 budget setting process. Approval for the increased charge for the parental contribution will be sought from Members as part of performance reporting for Quarter 1.

- 2.6 The proposed increase is £38 per annum unless the low income threshold is met in which case the increase will be £19 pa. This is based on the following calculation:
- Current contribution – Freedom ticket £16 x 38 weeks = £608/£304 for low income.
 - Proposed contribution – Freedom ticket £17 x 38 weeks = £646/£323 for low income.

This represents an increase of 6.25%.

- 2.7 Should the increase be approved, parents will be advised that the new tariff will be effective from September 2018. If the increase is declined, the policy and statement will revert to the current charge as shown in paragraph 2.6.

3. Conclusion and reason for recommendation

- 3.1 The County Council has carried out its legal duty to consult on the annual Post-16 Transport Statement. Since consultation there have been some small revisions to the wording but, in essence, the level of support the policy provides remains unchanged.
- 3.2 The Lead Member is therefore recommended to agree the Post-16 Transport Statement as outlined in the Transport Statement – in Appendix 3 to fulfil its statutory duty.

Stuart Gallimore
Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Ian Crudge, Principal Admissions and Transport Officer
Tel: 01273 337382

Local Members: All

Background Documents:

- Post-16 transport to education and training

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Draft Post-16 Transport Statement for consultation

Appendix 2 – Comments received

Appendix 3 – Proposed Post-16 Transport Statement

Transport policy statement for learners of sixth form age and continuing learners aged 19+ (Academic Year 2018/19)

1	<p>Summary of policy statement</p>
	<p>This document details the support available from the County Council and the eligibility criteria. The County Council’s policy offers help with transport costs to young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). These students may not be able to use public transport and/or may have long and expensive journeys to access a suitable course nearest to their home.</p> <p>The County Council encourages young people to become more independent and offers training to students to help them to travel independently. This training will also help young people to access leisure facilities and provide opportunities for employment.</p> <p>Students from families with genuine money difficulties, who do not meet the eligibility criteria, or those who are “looked after”, should contact the school or college to apply for help with travel and other costs from the 16-19 Bursary Fund. This fund is administered by the schools and colleges.</p>
2	<p>Details of concessionary fares, discounts, subsidies, passes or travel cards available for students aged 16–19</p>
	<p>Seats on coaches serving schools with sixth forms Students attending schools with sixth forms, where hired vehicles are available, can purchase a travel permit. The cost from September 2018 is £135 per term (based on a six term year). Full details of the scheme are online at eastsussex.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/public</p> <p>College and school’s own transport Some colleges and schools provide their own transport for students. Details can be obtained direct from the college/school. Contact details are in section 5.</p> <p>Concessionary rail and bus tickets <u>Rail</u> - Further Education students aged 16-19 are able to obtain season tickets offering one third off fares subject to a minimum cost of £8 per week and travel for a minimum of one month. Students will need to obtain a Sussex Student Card (application forms obtainable from www.c360.org.uk/travel or Admissions and Transport Team) before they can apply for a season ticket at southernrailwaytickets.com/ This scheme is provided at the Council’s discretion. At the time of consultation, we are negotiating with the rail company to continue with the current scheme in 2018/19.</p> <p><u>Bus</u> – Under 19’s can buy the East Sussex Freedom bus Ticket for £17 per week. This gives 7 days unlimited travel on most bus routes in East Sussex.</p> <p>Some bus companies operate their own discount scheme so we advise students to check which deal is best before committing to the Freedom Ticket. Find out more on travel concessions at www.c360.org.uk/travel or visit eastsussex.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/public for information on public transport services.</p> <p><u>3i-D Card</u> – the 3i-D enables 16-19 year olds to prove their age, which ensures they pay the correct bus fare for their age and can be used in shops and leisure providers to obtain discounts and special offers. To find out more visit www.3i-d.co.uk</p>

3 Help for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The Council recognises that some students with learning difficulties or disabilities may not be able to travel to school or college independently or may not yet be ready to do so. The council expects that where possible in these circumstances parents or carers should be responsible for making travel arrangements. This could include support from their broader family networks.

Criteria for help

In **exceptional** cases, students with learning difficulties or disabilities, or their parents or carers may apply for travel assistance. Each case will be considered by the council's SEND Travel Panel, and support will usually only be considered further if all the following criteria are satisfied:

1. The student must be attending an appropriate funded, full time course at the nearest or most accessible school or college to their home. If an alternative equivalent course is offered by an FE provider nearer to their home, the student will not be eligible for support.
2. The Council may fund transport to a college placement up to the academic year in which a young person reaches a maximum of 25 years of age.
3. The student must be travelling over three miles to their nearest appropriate provider, unless their learning difficulties or disability means they are unable to travel this distance either walking or on public transport (specific and up-to-date evidence from relevant health and/or educational appropriate professionals supporting the student will be required to assist the decision) and there is not a parent/carer who could make themselves available to take them.

If a student is able to be considered for travel assistance, factors the Council will take into account when determining whether a student is eligible for assistance may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The student is unable to travel to their placement by public transport, either unaccompanied or accompanied by a responsible adult (specific and up-to-date evidence from relevant health and/or educational appropriate professionals supporting the student will be required).
2. The family does not have a suitable vehicle, which may include a Motability vehicle, for their transportation to school or college.
3. The length or complexity of the journey and whether parents or carers could reasonably be expected to provide transport or act as a chaperone themselves. If parents/carers or other family members are not available this should be fully explained in the application. It is unlikely that broader family caring responsibilities will be considered as exceptional circumstances.
4. The student has been assessed by the Authority as requiring an escort, or as a 'high needs' case.
5. Other circumstances relevant to each case.

Annual contribution once help has been agreed

In all cases where assistance is agreed, a contribution towards to the cost of travel is required. The charge in 2018/2019 is £646 and payment can be made in 10 instalments. Transport will not be arranged until payment in advance is made. If subsequent payments are late, transport will be suspended or even cancelled.

Low income families will be asked to contribute £323 per academic year. As at 1 April 2018, Low income is defined as parents/carers or students in receipt of one of the following:

- Universal Credit – provided your household income is less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support received under part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (but not also Working Tax Credit unless in receipt of the maximum level) based on an income of £16,190 or less

The annual contribution level is fixed to the same cost of an annual Freedom Ticket (see section 2) and is reviewed each year.

Type of help given

Each applicant who is assessed as requiring assistance will be risk-assessed for their immediate needs and the most cost-effective suitable mode of travel support will be arranged. At the same time, each will be assessed for suitability for our intensive Independent Travel Training (ITT) programme, which can provide a young person with the skills and confidence for greater independence in their adult life. A young person who is ready for travel training may be offered temporary travel assistance until they have 'graduated' as independent travellers on their journey to school or college, at which point they will be given free bus or train travel for a limited fixed period. For students who can access public transport, a journey time of up to 75 minutes each way is considered reasonable according to national guidance for best practice.

Where an applicant is assessed as eligible for SEND travel assistance, the type of travel assistance provided will be the most cost-effective available to the Council at the time, appropriate to the student's needs. This may be one of the following:

- A place on a contracted vehicle
- A Personal Travel Budget (PTB)

Please note that taxis will usually only be provided in the most **exceptional** cases, and for students with severe disabilities and/or the most complex health needs. This may not be a door-to-door service.

Limitations for travel assistance

Students will usually only be transported to and from a school or college at their published school start and school finish times. This may therefore require the student to arrive earlier than the start of their first session or wait at the end of their timetabled day until other young people are ready for shared transport.

The Council does not provide travel assistance to work experience placements, medical appointments or other off-site visits; responsibility for this remains with the parents or carers, or school or college as appropriate.

Reimbursements for travel costs incurred before application cannot be made.

Students wishing to undertake a new course at the same or similar level to a level of qualification already achieved may not necessarily be successful in their application for travel support.

Review of eligibility

1. Any applicant for whom travel assistance has been agreed by the SEND travel panel must apply each academic year. It should not be assumed that the same form of travel assistance will be agreed for a further period.
2. In every case, travel assistance will be reviewed following a house move, change in placement or course, or a change in the student's needs (condition, medication or equipment) or any other change in circumstances which may be relevant.
3. Following an incident on school or college transport, it may be necessary to stop provision until a further risk assessment has been carried out to make sure that the student can be transported safely. If this occurs, parents or carers will be responsible for transport and costs until the situation has been resolved.

How to apply

Applications for 2018/19 can be made from March 2018 onwards but must be received by **30 June 2018** for transport (if agreed) to be in place from September 2018. Applications after this date will be considered but there are no guarantees that transport support will be in place for the start of the academic year (if agreed).

Applicants must use our online form found at www.eastsussex.gov.uk/sendtravel

4 What help is available if my college is beyond daily travelling?

East Sussex students should be able to attend a college which is within daily travel distance. Plumpton College offers limited boarding facilities for students and priority is given to those students living furthest away. Account is also taken of access to the college by public transport.

5 Education provider information

Organisation	phone number	email address	web address (www)
Bexhill College	01424 215245	studentservices@bexhillcollege.ac.uk	bexhillcollege.ac.uk
Plumpton College	01273 890454	enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk	plumpton.ac.uk
Sussex Coast College, Hastings	01424 442222	studentadvisers@sussexcoast.ac.uk	sussexcoast.ac.uk
Sussex Downs College – (Park & Eastbourne)	030 300 39300	info@sussexdowns.ac.uk	sussexdowns.ac.uk
Sussex Downs College (Lewes)	030 300 39200	info@sussexdowns.ac.uk	sussexdowns.ac.uk
Beacon Community College	01825 603000	admin@beacon-academy.org	beacon-academy.org
Hailsham Community College	01323 841468	office@hailshamcc.e-sussex.sch.uk	hailshamcc.e-sussex.sch.uk
Heathfield Community College	01424 866066	office@heathfieldcc.e-sussex.sch.uk	heathfieldcc.e-sussex.sch.uk
Seaford Head School	01323 891623	reception@seafordhead.org	seafordhead.org
Uckfield Community Technology College	01825 764844	uctcadmin@uctc.org.uk	uctc.org.uk
UTC@Harbourside	01273 916170	info@utc-harbourside.org	utc-harbourside.org
Uplands Community College	01892 782135	office@uplandsc.com	uplandsc.com

6	Appeals procedure
	<p>SEND students or their parents can ask for their case to be considered by the Discretionary Transport Appeal Panel. This Panel comprises three elected County Councillors. There is no further right of appeal once the Appeal Panel has made its decision.</p>
7	Consultation
	<p>Each year local authorities are required to consult young people of sixth form age and their parents as well as other stakeholders on the Post 16 Transport Policy statement before it is finalised.</p> <p><i>Please note that the policy could be changed in the future and the current support available does not amount to a legitimate expectation that it will continue to be offered.</i></p>

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Responses to consultation on East Sussex County Council's proposed Post-16 Transport Statement 2018-2019

We asked for views on any aspect of the proposed statement.

Two people completed the survey online. Their comments are as follows:

- 1) The policy appears to support those in greatest need and given the financial stranglehold Whitehall has imposed on local authorities, it seems to make sense to target the most vulnerable in society.

- 2) Many young people with disabilities need to go to schools or colleges further from their home. Other young people do not. Therefore, some young people will be paying for transport where another person in the same street does not. This is a direct result of their disability and is therefore discriminatory.

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2. The family does not have a suitable vehicle, which may include a Motability vehicle, for their transportation to school or college.
3. The length or complexity of the journey and whether parents or carers could reasonably be expected to provide transport or act as a chaperone themselves. If parents/carers or other family members are not available this should be fully explained in the application. It is unlikely that broader family caring responsibilities will be considered as exceptional circumstances.
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Applicants must use our online form found at www.eastsussex.gov.uk/sendtravel

4 What help is available if my college is beyond daily travelling?

East Sussex students should be able to attend a college which is within daily travel distance. Plumpton College offers limited boarding facilities for students and priority is given to those students living furthest away. Account is also taken of access to the college by public transport.

5 Education provider information

Organisation	phone number	email address	web address (www)
Bexhill College	01424 215245	studentservices@bexhillcollege.ac.uk	bexhillcollege.ac.uk
Plumpton College	01273 890454	enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk	plumpton.ac.uk
Sussex Coast College, Hastings	01424 442222	studentadvisers@sussexcoast.ac.uk	sussexcoast.ac.uk
Sussex Downs College – (Park & Eastbourne)	030 300 39300	info@sussexdowns.ac.uk	sussexdowns.ac.uk
Sussex Downs College (Lewes)	030 300 39200	info@sussexdowns.ac.uk	sussexdowns.ac.uk
Beacon Community College	01825 603000	admin@beacon-academy.org	beacon-academy.org
Hailsham Community College	01323 841468	office@hailshamcc.e-sussex.sch.uk	hailshamcc.e-sussex.sch.uk
Heathfield Community College	01424 866066	office@heathfieldcc.e-sussex.sch.uk	heathfieldcc.e-sussex.sch.uk
Seaford Head School	01323 891623	reception@seafordhead.org	seafordhead.org
Uckfield Community Technology College	01825 764844	uctcadmin@uctc.org.uk	uctc.org.uk
UTC@Harbourside	01273 916170	info@utc-harbourside.org	utc-harbourside.org
Uplands Community College	01892 782135	office@uplandsc.com	uplandsc.com

6	Appeals procedure			
	<p>SEND students or their parents can ask for their case to be considered by the Discretionary Transport Appeal Panel. This Panel comprises three elected County Councillors. There is no further right of appeal once the Appeal Panel has made its decision.</p>			
7	Consultation			
	<p>Each year local authorities are required to consult young people of sixth form age and their parents as well as other stakeholders on the Post 16 Transport Policy statement before it is finalised.</p> <p><i>Please note that the policy could be changed in the future and the current support available does not amount to a legitimate expectation that it will continue to be offered.</i></p>			

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Report to: **Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability**

Date: **26 June 2018**

By: **Director of Children's Services**

Title of report: **Lowering the age range at Langney Primary School, Eastbourne**

Purpose of report: **To seek Lead Member approval to lower the age range at Langney Primary School to enable the governing body to incorporate two year olds in their current nursery provision.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lead Member is recommended to approve a change of age range at Langney Primary School from 3 to 11 to 2 to 11 with effect from 1 September 2018.

1 Background

1.1 The school currently runs nursery provision onsite for 3 and 4 year olds. The governing body of the school wishes to lower the age range from 3 to 11 to 2 to 11 to accommodate families who wish to access funded two year old places at the school.

1.2 The aim of the proposal is to integrate, fully, nursery provision into the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) within the school. The governing body wishes to ensure that the nursery continues to support the local area and to offer high quality early education delivered by experienced and well-trained staff across the EYFS. The aim is to build on the work already done by the school to secure good outcomes for all children in the future. The proposal is in line with council strategy for the integration of nursery and school provision.

2 Supporting information

2.1 The governing body consulted between 26 February and the 23 March 2018 on a proposal to lower the school's age range with effect from 1 September 2018. The governing body consulted with staff, families of children at the school, the local community and other interested parties.

2.2 No responses were received during the consultation period.

2.3 On 30th April 2018, the Lead Member considered the outcome of the consultation and approved the publication of statutory notices in relation to the proposal. A copy of the Lead Member report can be viewed by following the link below.

<https://democracy.eastsussex.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=3541&x=1>

2.4 The statutory notice was published on 11 May 2018 in the Eastbourne Herald. The notice was also posted at the entrance to the school. The notice and full proposal was available on the Council's website.

2.4 Publication of the notice was followed by a four-week period of representation, when comments or objections could be made to the Council. At the end of the representation period, no comments or objections had been received.

3. Factors to be considered by the decision maker and types of decision

3.1 Proposed changes to the organisation of maintained schools have to follow a prescribed process established by the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.

3.2 The process set out above complied with these requirements.

3.3 The regulations set out a number of factors to which the Lead Member should have regard before making a final decision on the proposal. These are set out in Appendix A.

4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

4.1 In conclusion, the proposal to lower the age range at Langney Primary School will help to build on work already done by the school, ensuring a fully integrated EYFS to help secure good outcomes for all children. The proposal is in line with council strategy for the integration of nursery and school provision.

4.2 For this reason, the Lead Member is recommended to approve a change of age range at Langney Primary School from 3 to 11 to 2 to 11 with effect from 1 September 2018.

STUART GALLIMORE Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Jane Spice, Early Years Funding Manager
Tel. No. 01323 747425
Email: jane.spice@eastsussex.gov.uk

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Lead Member report and minute from 30th April 2018:

LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor David Tutt

APPENDIX A

The Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability should have regard to the following factors before reaching a final decision on the proposed change of age range from 3-11 to 2-11 at Langney Primary School.

1	Did the published notice comply with statutory requirements	The notice complied with statutory requirements as set out in 3.1 of the report.
2	Are the proposals related to other published proposals	The proposals are not related to other published proposals.
3	Was consultation carried out prior to the publication of notices	The governing body undertook a period of consultation between 26 February and 23 March 2018 on a proposal to lower the school's age range from 3-11 to 2-11 to enable them to incorporate two year olds in their current nursery provision.
4	Have any particular comments or objections been raised during the representation period which could directly affect the proposals	No comments or objections were received during the representation period, and there is no new information or evidence since the notice of proposal was published.
5	The effect on education standards and diversity of provision	The Council does not believe the proposal will have a negative impact on other providers, schools and academies in the surrounding areas as it is about changing the admission arrangements for the nursery to include two year olds to support its long term sustainability and promote excellence across the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).
6	The demand for places	The school will provide two year old places by utilising space in the de-designated former children's centre on site which is now used for nursery provision. Based on current eligibility criteria, forecasts of need in Langney area indicate there are likely to be sufficient early years places over the next few years. The proposal is in line with council strategy for the integration of nursery and school provision.
7	The impact on school size, premises and funding	No capital investment is required by the Council to implement the proposal. However, the school is currently having building works completed to extend the nursery building to provide more places for three and four year olds who are eligible for the extended 30 hour offer. Work is due to be completed in June 2018.
8	The proposed admission arrangements	The proposal will not affect the admission arrangements of the school, which will remain as published.
9	National curriculum	Langney Primary school will deliver the EYFS for children aged 2-5 years.
10	Equal opportunities issues	The Council does not believe there are any sex, race or disability discrimination issues arising from the proposed changes. The proposal will have a positive impact by integrating, fully, nursery provision into the EYFS within the school. The governing body wishes to ensure that the nursery continues to support the local area and to offer high quality early education for all, delivered by experienced and well-trained staff across the EYFS. This will build on the work already done by the school to secure good outcomes for all children in the future.
11	Community cohesion	The Council believes that the proposal will enhance community cohesion by enabling the governing body to offer funded places to two year olds.
12	Travel and accessibility	The Council does not believe the proposal will have any impact on travel and accessibility as the nursery provision will remain in its current location.

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Agenda Item 6

Report to: **Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability**

Date: **26 June 2018**

By: **Director of Children's Services**

Title of report: **Lowering the age range at Ditchling (St Margaret's) CE Primary School**

Purpose of report: **To seek Lead Member approval to lower the age range at Ditchling (St Margaret's) CE Primary School to enable the governing body to take on management of the Ditchling Pre-School Group, currently run by a Voluntary Management Committee.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lead Member is recommended to approve a change of age range at Ditchling (St Margaret's) CE Primary School from 4 to 11 to 2 to 11 with effect from 1 September 2018.

1 Background

1.1 Ditchling Pre-School Group is currently run by a Voluntary Management Committee for 2 to 4 year olds in the Scout Hut in Ditchling village. The Voluntary Management Committee is no longer able to provide the management structure the pre-school needs to continue to offer education and childcare places and has worked with Ditchling (St Margaret's) CE Primary School to find an alternative solution. The governing body wishes to lower the school's age range from 4 to 11 to 2 to 11 to enable the school to provide nursery provision on site and maintain quality early years provision for children in the community, both now and in the future.

1.2 The aim of the proposal is to integrate, fully, nursery provision into the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) within the school. The governing body wishes to ensure an offer of high quality early education delivered by experienced and well-trained staff across the EYFS. This will build on the work already done by the school to secure good outcomes for all children in the future. The proposal is in line with council strategy for the integration of nursery and school provision.

2 Supporting information

2.1 The governing body consulted between 11 September and the 6 October 2017 on a proposal to lower the school's age range with effect from 1 September 2018. The governing body consulted with staff, families of children at the school and the pre-school, the local community and other interested parties.

2.2 By the close of the consultation period twelve responses had been received supporting the proposal to lower the school age range at Ditchling (St Margaret's) CE Primary School to 2 to 11 to take on the management of the village pre-school. Only one response raised concerns around the loss of internal and external space on the school site if the school was to offer early years provision on site. The governing body has set out how, through remodelling some spare and under-utilised spaces the nursery can be accommodated on site. The governing body will fund all of the capital works required to facilitate the move.

2.4 On 30 April 2018, the Lead Member considered the outcome of the consultation and approved the publication of statutory notices in relation to the proposal. A copy of the Lead Member report can be viewed by following the link below.

<https://democracy.eastsussex.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MId=3541&x=1>

2.4 The statutory notice was published on 11 May 2018 in the Sussex Express. The notice was also posted at the entrance to the school. The notice and full proposal was available on the Council's website.

2.4 Publication of the notice was followed by a four-week period of representation, when comments or objections could be made to the Council. At the end of the representation period, two comments in support of the proposal had been received.

3. Factors to be considered by the decision maker and types of decision

3.1 Proposed changes to the organisation of maintained schools have to follow a prescribed process established by the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.

3.2 The process set out above complied with these requirements.

3.3 The regulations set out a number of factors to which the Lead Member should have regard before making a final decision on the proposal. These are set out in Appendix A.

4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

4.1 The proposal, to lower the age range at Ditchling (St Margaret's) CE Primary School will help to build on work already done by the school in conjunction with the Pre-school's Voluntary Management Committee. This will help ensure a fully integrated EYFS to help secure good outcomes for all children in the future. The proposal is in line with council strategy for the integration of nursery and school provision.

4.2 The proposal to lower the school age range from 4 to 11 to 2 to 11 at Ditchling (St Margaret's) CE Primary School to is supported by the Diocese of Chichester.

4.3 For these reasons the Lead Member is recommended to approve a change of age range at Ditchling (St Margaret's) CE Primary School from 4 to 11 to 2 to 11 with effect from 1 September 2018.

STUART GALLIMORE

Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Jane Spice, Early Years Funding Manager

Tel. No. 01323 747425

Email: jane.spice@eastsussex.gov.uk

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Lead Member report and minute from 30th April 2018:

LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Sarah Osborne

APPENDIX A

The Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability should have regard to the following factors before reaching a final decision on the proposed change of age range from 4-11 to 2-11 at Ditchling (St Margaret's) CE Primary School.

1	Did the published notice comply with statutory requirements	The notice complied with statutory requirements as set out in 3.1 of the report.
2	Are the proposals related to other published proposals	The proposal is not related to other published proposals.
3	Was consultation carried out prior to the publication of notices	The governing body undertook a period of consultation between 11 September and 6 October 2017 on a proposal to lower the school's age range from 4-11 to 2-11 to enable them to provide nursery provision on the school site.
4	Have any particular comments or objections been raised during the representation period which could directly affect the proposals	<p>Two responses in support of the proposal were received during the representation period both commenting on the benefits to the community this proposal will bring.</p> <p>Respondent 1: 'I am writing in response to the proposal to lower the age limit at Ditchling St Margaret's Primary school from age 4 to age 2 with effect from September 2018.</p> <p>I am wholly supportive of this proposal and feel that it would be of huge benefit to the school, the children and the local community.</p> <p>I look forward to seeing the changes as they take place'.</p> <p>Respondent 2: 'I just wanted to reiterate everyone's feelings about the proposal for the school.</p> <p>My son currently attends the preschool & has one more year before Reception. The move to the school can only be a positive one for the preschools sustainability, & to improve numbers for the school also.</p> <p>There will be a much better setting environment for the children at the school & an easier transition for starting at school.</p> <p>The potential wrap around care for all ages will benefit the community immensely too.</p> <p>We look forward to the exciting new changes this coming academic year!'</p>
5	The effect on education standards and diversity of provision	The Council does not believe the proposal will have a negative impact on other providers, schools and academies in the surrounding areas. The proposal will help build on the work already done by the school in conjunction with the voluntary management committee of Ditchling Pre-School. This will help ensure a fully integrated Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to help secure good outcomes for all children in the future. The proposal is in line with council strategy for the integration of nursery and school provision.
6	The demand for places	<p>The proposal is not about providing more places – it is about securing the viability of early years provision in the village by fully integrating it in to the school.</p> <p>Based on current eligibility criteria, forecasts of need in Ditchling area indicate there is no requirement to provide more places.</p>
7	The impact on school size, premises and funding	<p>The proposal will have no impact on the size of the school.</p> <p>. The school will undertake some internal remodelling of the premises to implement the proposal. No capital investment is required by the Council</p>

8	The proposed admission arrangements	The proposal will not affect the admission arrangements of the school, which will remain as published.
9	National curriculum	Ditchling (St Margaret's) CE Primary school will deliver the EYFS for children aged 2-5 years.
10	Equal opportunities issues	<p>The Council does not believe there are any sex, race or disability discrimination issues arising from the proposed changes.</p> <p>The proposal will have a positive impact by integrating, fully, nursery provision into the EYFS within the school. The governing body wishes to ensure that the nursery continues to support the local area and to offer high quality early education for all, delivered by experienced and well-trained staff across the EYFS. This will build on the work already done by the school to secure good outcomes for all children in the future.</p>
11	Community cohesion	The Council believes that the proposal will enhance community cohesion by enabling the governing body to provide early years provision on the school site and maintain quality early years provision in the community, both now and in the future
12	Travel and accessibility	The Council does not believe the proposal will have any impact on travel and accessibility. Journey times may actually be reduced for parents who have children of both nursery age and school age.