



## 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, Councillor Bob Standley

**WEDNESDAY, 21 JUNE 2023 AT 11.00 AM**

**REMOTE MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

### **AGENDA**

1. Decisions made by the Lead Cabinet Member on 22 May 2023 (*Pages 3 - 4*)
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. Proposed Specialist facility at Denton Community Primary School (*Pages 5 - 10*)  
Report by the Director of Children's Services.
5. Proposed Specialist facility at Meridian Community Primary School (*Pages 11 - 16*)  
Report by Director of Children's Services
6. Proposal to lower age range at Punnett's Town Community Primary School (*Pages 17 - 20*)  
Report by the Director of Children's Services.
7. Any urgent items previously notified under agenda item 3

PHILIP BAKER  
Assistant Chief Executive  
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13 June 2023

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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 22 May 2023 at Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams

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### 1. DECISIONS MADE BY THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER ON 28 MARCH 2023

1.1 The Lead Member approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2023.

### 2. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

2.1 There were none.

### 3. URGENT ITEMS

3.1 There were none.

### 4. REPORTS

4.1 A copy of the reports referred to below is included in the minute book.

### 5. HOLY CROSS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

5.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Children's Services regarding the future of Holy Cross CE Primary School.

### DECISIONS

5.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to approve the Local Authority taking forward a statutory process to consult on the closure of Holy Cross CE Primary School by 31 December 2023.

### REASONS

5.3 The Local Authority is committed to ensuring all children in East Sussex are able to receive an excellent standard of education. Regrettably, the Local Authority and the Diocese no longer believe that the education on offer at the school meets this standard. Given the urgency of the situation in terms of the rapidly decreasing number of children, the challenge of securing appropriate leadership and teaching staff for the school and the concerns over the quality of education that children are receiving, the Local Authority and the Diocese believe that closure of the school at the earliest opportunity is in the best interests of the children and the school community.

### 6. POST-16 TRANSPORT POLICY STATEMENT 2023-2024

6.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Children's Services regarding the proposed Post-16 Transport Policy Statement for the 2023-2024 academic year.

#### DECISIONS

6.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to approve the Post-16 Transport Policy Statement for the 2023-24 academic year as set out in Appendix 3 of the report.

#### REASONS

6.3 The County Council has carried out its legal duty to consult on the annual Post-16 Transport Policy Statement. Following consultation, the proposed statement has been updated from the draft statement to reflect all the bus fare changes, the reduction to the Post 16 contribution and to the Vacant Seat rate.

#### 7. PUBLISHED ADMISSION NUMBER (PAN) FOR IFORD & KINGSTON CE SCHOOL 2024-25

7.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Director of Children's Services regarding an increase PAN for Iford & Kingston CE Primary School.

#### DECISIONS

7.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to agree to an increase in PAN for Iford & Kingston CE Primary School from 20 places to 30 places for the 2024-25 academic year.

#### REASONS

7.3 The request to increase the PAN was proposed following a change in leadership at the school and a higher than anticipated number of applications being received for the September 2023 intake.

# Agenda Item 4

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

Date: **21 June 2023**

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

Title of report: **Proposed specialist facility at Denton Community Primary School**

Purpose of report: **To seek Lead Member approval to establish a new specialist facility at Denton Community Primary School.**

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Lead Member is recommended to approve the establishment of a new specialist facility for up to eight pupils at Denton Community Primary School with effect from 1 September 2023.**

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### **1. Background**

1.1 On the 28 March 2023, the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability (the Lead Member) considered a report on a proposal to establish a new specialist facility at Denton Community Primary School (the School).

1.2 As described in the report, the overall number of children and young people aged 4-19 with Education, Health and Care Plans has been rising in recent years and is forecast to continue to rise. The primary need group with the largest increase continues to be Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Rising ASD pupil numbers reflect increases in diagnosis and an increase in parental and professional awareness of these needs.

1.3 In recent years, the Local Authority has been implementing its Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) strategy to develop more places in East Sussex for pupils with SEND. This has included securing new free special schools and the development of more specialist facilities in mainstream schools. Feedback from the Local Authority's consultation on its SEND place planning strategy in 2021 agreed that a priority for the Local Authority should be the creation of specialist provision in mainstream primary schools for pupils with ASD in the Newhaven area. To address this, the Local Authority would like to establish a facility for up to eight pupils at the School from September 2023.

1.4 The School and the Local Authority have identified the existing modular classroom building on the site as suitable to accommodate the new facility. Some internal adaptations would be required to the building and the Local Authority would work closely with the School to ensure these are completed in time for the facility to open. Funding for these adaptations has been identified within the Local Authority's approved capital programme for SEND provision.

1.5 The Local Authority consulted with the school community, local schools, and other key stakeholders on the proposal between 13 January and 10 February 2023. By the end of the consultation period 46 responses had been received, 41 (89%) of which supported the proposal. Four respondents (9%) did not support the proposal and one (2%) did not respond to this question.

1.6 Having considered the feedback from the consultation, the Lead Member approved the publication of a statutory proposal to establish a new specialist facility at the School with effect from 1 September 2023. [The report and minute](#) from 28 March 2023 Lead Member meeting can be viewed on the Local Authority's website.

### **2. Statutory process**

2.1 Proposed changes to the organisation of maintained schools must be in accordance with Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended) and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alternations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 (the regulations).

2.2 In accordance with these requirements, a statutory proposal was published on the Local Authority's website on 21 April 2023. Statutory notices were published in the Sussex Express and posted at the entrances to the School on the same day, providing details to interested parties on how the full proposal could be accessed.

2.3 Publication of the statutory proposal triggered a 4-week representation period, when comments or objections could be made to the Local Authority. By the close of the representation period on 19 May 2023 no comments or objections had been received.

2.4 The regulations describe several factors to which the Lead Member should have regard before making a final decision on the proposal. These are set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

### **3. Equality Impact Assessment**

3.1 The Lead Member is required to have 'due regard' to the duties set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (the Public Sector Equality Duty) in determining the proposal. The Local Authority has completed an equality impact assessment (EqIA) which is available for elected members to view in the Cabinet and Members Rooms at County Hall. No potential equality barriers were identified by stakeholders during either the initial consultation or the subsequent representation period following the publication of the statutory proposal. We believe the proposal would have a positive impact on provision at the School as the facility would be able to meet the needs of local pupils with ASD.

### **4. Conclusion and recommendations**

4.1 In conclusion, the Local Authority has identified a gap in specialist provision in mainstream primary schools for pupils with ASD in the Newhaven area. The Local Authority would like to establish a specialist facility for up to eight pupils with ASD at the School.

4.2 For these reasons the Lead Member is recommended to approve the establishment of a new specialist facility at the School for up to eight pupils with effect from 1 September 2023.

**ALISON JEFFERY**  
**Director of Children's Services**

Contact Officer: Gary Langford  
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Email: [gary.langford@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:gary.langford@eastsussex.gov.uk)

LOCAL MEMBERS  
Councillor James MacCleary

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS  
None.

## Appendix 1

Factors which the Lead Member should consider before reaching a decision on the proposal.

1.1	Is the proposal related to other published proposals?	The proposal to establish a specialist facility at Denton Community Primary School is not related to other published proposals.
1.2	Is conditional approval being sought for the proposal?	No
1.3	Was a statutory consultation carried out prior to the publication of notices?	<p>Consultation was carried out between 13 January and 10 February 2023.</p> <p>By the close of the consultation period 46 responses had been received. Respondents were overwhelmingly in favour of the proposal, as can be seen in the breakdown below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 41 (89%) supported the proposal</li> <li>• 4 (9%) did not support the proposal</li> <li>• 1 (2%) did not respond to the question</li> </ul> <p>In summary, those in favour of the proposal recognise the need for a specialist facility to support children in the local community, the benefit of keeping children in mainstream schools and that a facility would encourage inclusiveness. Those that did not support the proposal suggested that the facility should be at another school as Denton Community Primary School is too small and that for there to be real benefit the proposal should be on a much larger scale than eight pupils.</p>
1.4	Did the published notice comply with statutory requirements?	The notice was published in accordance with Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended) and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alternations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.
1.5	How will the proposal affect education standards and diversity of provision?	<p>In East Sussex specialist facilities promote an ethos of inclusion across the school and help integrate their pupils into the mainstream school for as much of their learning time as their needs allow. Facilities also provide access to a base within the school for more intensive support when required.</p> <p>The primary objectives of establishing a new specialist facility at Denton Community Primary School are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to provide sufficient places for pupils with ASD</li> <li>• to improve the attainment and progress of pupils with SEND</li> <li>• to provide more local options for pupils to attend schools within their local community.</li> </ul> <p>Page 7</p>

		The expertise of staff within the facility would provide significant benefits to the rest of the school and other schools in the local area to support all pupils with SEND and create a fully inclusive learning environment.
1.6	How will the proposal affect the proposed admission arrangements for the school?	Pupils within the facility would be on the roll of the school and would be in addition to the published admission number. Placements are determined by the Local Authority according to clear criteria.
1.7	Has due regard under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) been given to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations?	<p>An equality impact assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken. No potential equality barriers were identified by stakeholders during either the initial consultation or the subsequent representation period following the publication of the statutory proposal.</p> <p>The local authority believes the proposal would have a positive impact on provision at the school. Specialist staff would work with pupils in the facility and also work with teaching staff across the school to develop skills and expertise in responding to SEND needs and creating an inclusive environment.</p> <p>The local authority believes that the facility would be well placed to support children with ASD in the local area.</p>
1.8	Will the proposal have an impact on community cohesion?	<p>Across East Sussex there are five primary specialist facilities in mainstream schools for pupils aged 4-11 with ASD and associated needs: All Saints CE Primary School in Bexhill, Churchwood Primary Academy in Hastings, Grovelands Primary School in Hailsham, Manor Primary School in Uckfield and Wallands Primary School in Lewes. The local authority SEND forecasts provide clear evidence that we will continue to see an increase in the number of pupils with SEND over the next 10-15 years. The primary need group with the largest increase continues to be ASD.</p> <p>The proposal would have a positive impact on provision at the school and the wider community as it would be able to meet the needs of local pupils with ASD.</p> <p>No potential community impacts were identified by respondents to the consultation.</p>
1.9	Will the proposal have an impact on travel and accessibility?	Although children attending the new facility might be expected to travel from a wider geographical area than the school's immediate community area, it is not believed that this would have a significant impact on travel and accessibility as the new facility would cater for up to eight children at a time, an increase of less than 4% on the school's current capacity of 210 places.



1.10	Has capital funding been identified and secured to enable the proposals to be implemented?	Capital funding is required to implement the proposal and has been identified in the Council's approved capital programme.
1.11	Have any particular issues or objections been raised during the representation period which could directly affect the proposal?	By the close of the representation period no comments or objections had been received.

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# Agenda Item 5

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

Date: **21 June 2023**

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

Title of report: **Proposed specialist facility at Meridian Community Primary School**

Purpose of report: **To seek Lead Member approval to establish a new specialist facility at Meridian Community Primary School.**

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Lead Member is recommended to approve the establishment of a new specialist facility for up to eight pupils at Meridian Community Primary School with effect from 1 September 2023.**

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### **1. Background**

1.1 On the 28 March 2023, the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability (the Lead Member) considered a report on a proposal to establish a new specialist facility at Meridian Community Primary School (the School).

1.2 As described in the report, the overall number of children and young people aged 4-19 with Education, Health and Care Plans has been rising in recent years and is forecast to continue to rise. The primary need group with the largest increase continues to be Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Rising ASD pupil numbers reflect increases in diagnosis and an increase in parental and professional awareness of these needs.

1.3 In recent years, the Local Authority has been implementing its Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) strategy to develop more places in East Sussex for pupils with SEND. This has included securing new free special schools and the development of more specialist facilities in mainstream schools. Feedback from the Local Authority's consultation on its SEND place planning strategy in 2021 agreed that a priority for the Local Authority should be the creation of specialist provision in mainstream primary schools for pupils with ASD in the Peacehaven area. To address this, the Local Authority would like to establish a facility for up to eight pupils at the School from September 2023.

1.4 The School and the Local Authority have identified the existing modular classroom building on the site as suitable to accommodate the new facility. Some internal adaptations would be required to the building and the Local Authority would work closely with the school to ensure these are completed in time for the facility to open. Funding for these adaptations has been identified within the Local Authority's approved capital programme for SEND provision.

1.5 The Local Authority consulted with the school community, local schools, and other key stakeholders on the proposal between 13 January and 10 February 2023. By the end of the consultation period 20 responses had been received, 17 (85%) of which supported the proposal. Three respondents (15%) did not support the proposal.

1.6 Having considered the feedback from the consultation, the Lead Member approved the publication of a statutory proposal to establish a new specialist facility at the School with effect from 1 September 2023. [The report and minute](#) from 28 March 2023 Lead Member meeting can be viewed on the Local Authority's website.

### **2. Statutory process**

2.1 Proposed changes to the organisation of maintained schools must be in accordance with Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended) and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alternations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 (the regulations).

2.2 In accordance with these requirements, a statutory proposal was published on the Local Authority's website on 21 April 2023. Statutory notices were published in the Sussex Express and posted at the entrances to the school on the same day, providing details to interested parties on how the full proposal could be accessed.

2.3 Publication of the statutory proposal triggered a 4-week representation period, when comments or objections could be made to the Local Authority. By the close of the representation period on 19 May 2023 no comments or objections had been received.

2.4 The regulations describe several factors to which the Lead Member should have regard before making a final decision on the proposal. These are set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

### **3. Equality Impact Assessment**

3.1 The Lead Member is required to have 'due regard' to the duties set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (the Public Sector Equality Duty) in determining the proposal. The Local Authority has completed an equality impact assessment (EqIA) which is available for elected members to view in the Cabinet and Members Rooms at County Hall. No potential equality barriers were identified by stakeholders during either the initial consultation or the subsequent representation period following the publication of the statutory proposal. We believe the proposal would have a positive impact on provision at the school as the facility would be able to meet the needs of local pupils with ASD.

### **4. Conclusion and recommendations**

4.1 In conclusion, the Local Authority has identified a gap in specialist provision in mainstream primary schools for pupils with ASD in the Peacehaven area. The Local Authority would like to establish a specialist facility for up to eight pupils with ASD at the School.

4.2 For these reasons the Lead Member is recommended to approve the establishment of a new specialist facility at the School for up to eight pupils with effect from 1 September 2023.

**ALISON JEFFERY**  
**Director of Children's Services**

Contact Officer: Gary Langford  
Tel: 07584262521  
Email: [gary.langford@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:gary.langford@eastsussex.gov.uk)

LOCAL MEMBERS  
Councillor Christine Robinson

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS  
None.

## Appendix 1

Factors which the Lead Member should consider before reaching a decision on the proposal.

1.1	Is the proposal related to other published proposals?	The proposal to establish a specialist facility at Meridian Community Primary School is not related to other published proposals.
1.2	Is conditional approval being sought for the proposal?	No
1.3	Was a statutory consultation carried out prior to the publication of notices?	<p>Consultation was carried out between 13 January and 10 February 2023.</p> <p>By the close of the consultation period 20 responses had been received. Respondents were overwhelmingly in favour of the proposal, as can be seen in the breakdown below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17 (85%) supported the proposal</li> <li>• 3 (15%) did not support the proposal</li> </ul> <p>In summary, those in favour of the proposal recognise the need for a facility in the area, and that a facility would promote an inclusive and enabling environment, but asked whether more than eight places should be provided. Those that do not support the proposal suggested that money should be spent on resources for all children to access and that a facility should not be located at the school.</p>
1.4	Did the published notice comply with statutory requirements?	The notice was published in accordance with Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended) and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alternations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.
1.5	How will the proposal affect education standards and diversity of provision?	<p>In East Sussex specialist facilities promote an ethos of inclusion across the school and help integrate their pupils into the mainstream school for as much of their learning time as their needs allow. Facilities also provide access to a base within the school for more intensive support when required.</p> <p>The primary objectives of establishing a new specialist facility at Meridian Community Primary School are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to provide sufficient places for pupils with ASD</li> <li>• to improve the attainment and progress of pupils with SEND</li> <li>• to provide more local options for pupils to attend schools within their local community.</li> </ul> <p>The expertise of staff within the facility would provide significant benefits to the rest of the school and other schools in the local area to support all</p>

		pupils with SEND and create a fully inclusive learning environment.
1.6	How will the proposal affect the proposed admission arrangements for the school?	Pupils within the facility would be on the roll of the school and would be in addition to the published admission number. Placements are determined by the Local Authority according to clear criteria.
1.7	Has due regard under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) been given to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations?	<p>An equality impact assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken. No potential equality barriers were identified by stakeholders during either the initial consultation or the subsequent representation period following the publication of the statutory proposal.</p> <p>The local authority believes the proposal would have a positive impact on provision at the school. Specialist staff would work with pupils in the facility and also work with teaching staff across the school to develop skills and expertise in responding to SEND needs and creating an inclusive environment.</p> <p>The local authority believes that the facility would be well placed to support children with ASD in the local area.</p>
1.8	Will the proposal have an impact on community cohesion?	<p>Across East Sussex there are five primary specialist facilities in mainstream schools for pupils aged 4-11 with ASD and associated needs: All Saints CE Primary School in Bexhill, Churchwood Primary Academy in Hastings, Grovelands Primary School in Hailsham, Manor Primary School in Uckfield and Wallands Primary School in Lewes. The local authority SEND forecasts provide clear evidence that we will continue to see an increase in the number of pupils with SEND over the next 10-15 years. The primary need group with the largest increase continues to be ASD.</p> <p>The proposal would have a positive impact on provision at the school and the wider community as it would be able to meet the needs of local pupils with ASD.</p> <p>No potential community impacts were identified by respondents to the consultation.</p>
1.9	Will the proposal have an impact on travel and accessibility?	Although children attending the new facility might be expected to travel from a wider geographical area than the school's immediate community area, it is not believed that this would have a significant impact on travel and accessibility as the new facility would cater for up to eight children at a time, an increase of less than 2% on the school's current capacity of 420 places.
1.10	Has capital funding been identified and secured to enable the proposals to be implemented?	Capital funding is required to implement the proposal and has been identified in the Council's approved capital programme.

1.11	Have any particular issues or objections been raised during the representation period which could directly affect the proposal?	By the close of the representation period no comments or objections had been received.
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# Agenda Item 6

Report to:	<b>Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability</b>
Date:	<b>21 June 2023</b>
By:	<b>Director of Children's Services</b>
Title of report:	<b>Proposal to lower the age range at Punnetts Town Community Primary School</b>
Purpose of report:	<b>To seek Lead Member approval to lower the age range at Punnetts Town Community Primary School to enable the governing board to take over the management and running of the voluntary run early years provision currently on the school site.</b>

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## ***RECOMMENDATION:***

**The Lead Member is recommended to authorise a change of age range at Punnetts Town Community Primary School from 4 to 11 to 2 to 11 with effect from 1 September 2023.**

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## **1. Background**

1.1 On 28 March 2023, the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability (the Lead Member) considered a report on a proposal to lower the age range at Punnetts Town Community Primary School (the school).

1.2 As described in the report, the current voluntary run early years provision, Little Punnetts, has been operating on the site of the school since February 2014. The current Trustees of Little Punnetts can no longer continue to oversee the management and running of the pre-school and have requested the governing board of the school take over the provision. To enable the school to do this the governing board are seeking to lower the school's age range from 4 to 11 to 2 to 11 with effect from 1 September 2023. The East Sussex Early Years Forecasting model is showing a need for early years provision within the village.

1.3 The aim of the proposal is to integrate fully nursery provision into the Early Years Foundation Stage within the school. The governing board wishes to ensure that there will continue to be nursery provision to support the local area and offer high quality early education delivered by experienced and well-trained staff across the Early Years Foundation Stage.

1.4 A consultation was carried out between 10 January and 24 February 2023. By the close of the consultation period, 11 responses had been received. All respondents were fully supportive of the proposal to lower the school's age range from 4 to 11 to 2 to 11 to provide early years provision for children within the village.

1.5 Having considered the feedback from the consultation, the Lead Member approved the publication of a statutory proposal to lower the school's age range with effect from 1 September 2023. [The report and minute](#) from 28 March 2023 Lead Member meeting can be viewed on the Local Authority's website.

## **2. Statutory process**

2.1 Proposed changes to the organisation of maintained schools must be in accordance with Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended) and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 (the Regulations).

2.2 In accordance with these requirements, a statutory proposal was published on 5 May 2023. Statutory notices were published in the Sussex Express and posted at the entrance to the school on the same day, providing details to interested parties on how the full proposal could be accessed.

2.3 Publication of the statutory proposal was followed by a four-week period of representation, when further comments or objections could be made to the Local Authority. At the end of the representation period on 2 June 2023, no comments or objections had been received.

2.4 The regulations describe several factors to which the Lead Member should have regard before making a final decision on the proposal. These are set out in **Appendix 1** to this report.

### **3. Equality Impacts**

3.1 The Lead Member is required to have due regard to the duties set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (the Public Sector Equality Duty) in determining the proposal. The Local Authority has completed an initial equality impact assessment which concludes that a full equality impact assessment is not required. No potential equality impacts or barriers have been identified by officers or stakeholders during either the initial consultation or the subsequent representation period following the publication of the statutory proposal. The Local Authority believes the proposal will have a positive impact by creating opportunities for children and families to continue to access early years provision within their local area that meets their needs.

### **4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

4.1 In conclusion, the Local Authority and governing board of Punnetts Town Community Primary School would ensure there continues to be early years provision to support the local area and offer high quality early education across the Early Years Foundation Stage.

4.2 For this reason, the Lead Member is recommended to authorise the change of age range at Punnetts Town Community Primary School from 4 to 11 to 2 to 11 with effect from 1 September 2023.

#### **ALISON JEFFERY**

##### **Director of Children's Services**

Contact Officer: Jane Spice

Tel. No. 01323 747425

Email: jane.spice@eastsussex.gov.uk

#### LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Bob Bowdler

#### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

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 at Punnetts Town Community Primary School.

1	Did the published notice comply with statutory requirements?	The notice complied with statutory requirements as set out in 2.1 of the report.
2	Are the proposals related to other published proposals?	The proposal is not related to other published proposals.
3	Is conditional approval being sought for the proposal?	No
4	Was consultation carried out prior to the publication of notices?	The governing board undertook a period of consultation between 10 January and 24 February 2023.  By the close of the consultation period 11 responses had been received. All the responses fully supported the school's proposal to lower the age range from 4-11 to 2-11 to provide early years provision for children within the village.
5	How will the proposal affect education standards and diversity of provision?	The aim of the proposal is to integrate, fully, nursery provision into the Early Years Foundation Stage within the school. The governing board wishes to ensure that there will continue to be nursery provision to support the local area and offer high quality early education delivered by experienced and well-trained staff across the Early Years Foundation Stage.
6	How will the proposal affect the proposed admission arrangements for the school?	The proposal will not affect the admission arrangements of the school, which will remain as published.
7	Will the proposal have an impact on community cohesion?	No potential community impacts were identified by respondents to the consultation. The proposal would have a positive impact on provision at the school and the wider community as it will meet the needs of local children and families looking for nursery provision
8	Will the proposal have an impact on travel and accessibility?	The proposal would have a positive impact on travel and accessibility as families would be able to access early years places in the village, thereby reducing travel times to other provision outside the village.  The East Sussex Early Years Forecasting model shows a need for early years provision within the area. It is proposed that the nursery offers 24 full-time equivalent places for 2-4-year-olds.
9	Has capital funding been identified and secured to enable the proposals to be implemented?	No Capital funding is required to implement the proposal.
10	Has due regard under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) been given to the need to eliminate	No potential equality barriers were identified by officers or stakeholders during either the initial consultation or the subsequent representation period following the publication of the statutory notice. The local authority believes the

	discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations?	proposal will have a positive impact by creating opportunities for children and families to continue to access early years provision within their local area that meets their needs.
11	Have any particular issues or objections been raised during the representation period which could directly affect the proposal?	By the close of the representation period no comments or objections had been received.