

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

**Date:** 26 September 2017

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

**Title of report:** School age range change – Sandown Primary School

**Purpose of report:** To seek Lead Member approval to lower the age range at Sandown Primary School to enable the governing body to take on management of the onsite Maplehurst Nursery, currently run by East Sussex Children's Centres.

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

**The Lead Member is recommended to:**

**Authorise a change of age range at Sandown Primary School from 5 to 11 to 2 to 11 with effect from 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017.**

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### **1 Background**

1.1 Maplehurst Nursery is currently run by East Sussex Children's Centres for 2-5 year olds on the Sandown Primary School site. Children's Centres are no longer required to provide education and childcare as part of their service offer. The governing body of the school wishes to lower the school's age range from 5-11 to 2-11. This will enable the school to take on the management of the nursery and maintain the 'outstanding' rated provision for children in the community, both now and in the future.

1.2 The aim of the proposal is to integrate nursery provision into the Early Years Foundation Stage 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 Early Years Foundation Stage. This will build on the work already done by the school and nursery to secure good outcomes for all children in the future.

### **2 Supporting information**

2.1 The governing body consulted between 27 January and 3 March 2017 on a proposal to lower the school's age range. The governing body consulted with staff, families of children at the school and nursery, the local community and other interested parties. No responses were received during the consultation period.

2.2 On 19 June 2017, 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?CId=456&MIId=3094&Ver=4>

2.3 The statutory notice was published on 14 July 2017 in the Hastings and St Leonards Observer. The notice was also posted at the entrance to the school. The notice and full proposal was available on the Local Authority'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 Local Authority. 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 proposed changes. These are set out in **Appendix 1**.

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

4.1 In conclusion, East Sussex County Council believe the proposal to lower the age range at Sandown Primary School will help to build on work already done by the school and nursery, ensuring a fully integrated Early Years Foundation Stage to help secure good outcomes for all children.

4.2 For this reason, the Lead Member is recommended to authorise a change of age range at Sandown Primary School from 5 to 11 to 2 to 11 with effect from 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

#### **STUART GALLIMORE**

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

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#### LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Laurie Loe

#### APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Factors to which the Lead Member should have regard before making a final decision

#### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Lead Member report and minute from 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017:

## APPENDIX 1

**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 5-11 to 2-11 at Sandown 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 to lower the age range at Sandown Primary School 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 27 January and 3 March 2017 on a proposal to lower the school's age range from 5-11 to 2-11 to allow them to take on the management of the on-site nursery provision run by East Sussex Children's Centres.
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 Local Authority does not believe the proposal will have a negative impact on other providers, schools and academies in the surrounding areas as it will simply change the management arrangements of the nursery.
6	The demand for places	The proposal is about changing the management arrangements for the nursery to support its long term sustainability and promote excellence across the Early Years Foundation Stage; it will not provide additional places. Based on current eligibility criteria, forecasts of need in the area indicate there are sufficient early years places to meet demand over the coming years.
7	The impact on school size, premises and funding	The proposal will not affect the size of the school, which will remain at its current capacity. The proposal does not require a change to the premises and as such will not require capital funding to implement them.
8	The proposed admission arrangements	The proposal will not affect the admission arrangements of the school, which will remain as published.
9	National curriculum	Sandown Primary school will deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage for children aged 2-5 years.
10	Equal opportunities issues	<p>The Local Authority 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 Early Years Foundation Stage 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 Early Years Foundation Stage. This will build on the work already done by the school and nursery to secure good outcomes for all children in the future.</p>
11	Community cohesion	The Local Authority believes that the proposal will enhance community cohesion by bringing the nursery under the governing body's management.
12	Travel and accessibility	The Local Authority does not believe the proposal will have any impact on travel and accessibility as the nursery provision will remain in its current location.