

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

Date: **30 April 2018**

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

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

Purpose of report: **To seek Lead Member approval to publish statutory notices in respect of a proposal 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:

- 1) authorise the publication of statutory notices in respect of a proposal to lower the age range at Langney Primary School 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 their publication if required.**
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1 Background

1.1 The school currently runs a nursery class on site for 3 to 4 year olds. The governing body of the school wishes to lower their 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 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. 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 published by the Local Authority is in line with council strategy for the integration of nursery / school provision.

2 Supporting information

2.1 The governing body consulted between 26 February and 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 By the close of the consultation period one positive response was received, with the parent confirming:

"I am very much in favour to this proposal. I think it is a very positive step forward and progression for an all-inclusive service. It offers a wider service for families at Langney"

2.3 Proposed changes to the organisation of schools have to follow a prescribed process established by the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013. In view of the feedback received

during the consultation period it is proposed that a statutory notice is now published with regard to the proposal in accordance with the regulations.

2.4 The governing body has undertaken thorough financial modelling to ensure the proposal is cost neutral and will not impact on the school budget.

2.5 It is intended that the notice would be published in the Eastbourne Herald on Friday 11^h May, 2018 and posted on the entrances to the school on the same day. The notice and full proposal would also be posted on the Council's website. A four week period of representation would follow, giving interested parties a further opportunity to comment on the proposals. The Council has a duty to determine each proposal within two months of the end of the representation period. We anticipate that a decision would be taken at the Lead Member meeting on 26 June 2018.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 In conclusion, we believe 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.

3.2 For this reason, the Lead Member is recommended to:

- 1) authorise the publication of statutory notices in respect of a proposal to lower the age range at Langney Primary School 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 their publication if required.

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LOCAL MEMBER

Councillor David Tutt