

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LEARNING
CABINET MEMBER**

**CONSULTATION FEEDBACK
PROPOSAL TO CREATE NURSERY PROVISION AT
OAKFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Cabinet Member on the outcome of the consultation regarding the proposal to create nursery provision at Oakfield Primary School.
- 1.2 To seek the Cabinet Member's approval to proceed to the next stage of the process and publish a public notice.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Department of Education made available capital funding to support the implementation of 30 hours free childcare for working parents of 3- and 4-year-olds. North Lincolnshire Council was successful in bidding for funding to extend the early years provision at Oakfield Primary School.
- 2.2 The local authority consulted with the Head Teacher and governing board prior to undertaking a consultation exercise with a wider group of stakeholders including parents. The consultation took place over a period of 6th April 2017 and 28th April 2017.
- 2.3 To implement the proposal to extend the age range of pupils at Oakfield Primary School to include nursery provision, the local authority must follow the DfE statutory guidance for making 'prescribed alterations' to maintained schools. This guidance sets out the procedure for consultation, timescales and responsibilities for making decisions.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 There are two options that may be considered. These are described below.

3.2 **Option 1:** To proceed to the next stage of the process and publish a public notice to change the age range.

Option 2: To withdraw the proposal to change the age range of pupils at Oakfield Primary School.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Option 1:

4.1.1 This option allows the change in age range to proceed to the next stage as determined by the statutory guidance. The public notice formally confirms the council's intention to open nursery provision at Oakfield Primary School subject to completion of the building extension.

4.1.2 Following publication of the public notice there is a four week statutory representation period which provides a final opportunity for anyone to submit feedback on the proposal.

4.1.3 When the four week period has elapsed, a final decision will be sought from the Children, Learning and Families Cabinet Member on whether to ratify the proposal. The building of an extension will also be subject to planning permission being granted.

4.1.4 The stakeholder consultation shows that 78% of respondents support the proposal to create nursery provision.

4.2 Option 2

4.2.1 Unless approval is granted to publish the public notice, the change in age range cannot proceed any further. This would, by default, conclude the process and the school would not be able to provide nursery provision.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 **Staffing:** Staffing arrangements for the primary school would be determined by the governing body.

5.2 **Finance:** The additional nursery places will be funded in line with the NLC approved early years funding agreement. Continuing with the public consultation process will incur minimal costs relating to the publication of the public notices which will be met from existing budgets. The DfE capital funding is dependent on 25% match funding.

- 5.3 **Statutory:** The process for undertaking changes to a school age range to establish nursery provision is governed by statutory processes and regulations: The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulation 2013 and The Education and Inspections Act (EIA) 2006 and The Education Act (EA) 2011.

6. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

- 6.1 An integrated impact assessment has been completed in respect of the nursery provision.
- 6.2 The proposed new building will be subject to a planning application. The building will be designed to minimise the impact on the environment and neighbours whilst ensuring the safety of children and staff.
- 6.3 The proposed provision meets an anticipated increase in demand for early years places, as a result of implementation of 30 hours free childcare for working parents.

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

- 7.1 The LA undertook consultation with the public by means of a formal questionnaire between 6th April 2017 and 28th April 2017. Feedback was received back from parents/carers, a governor and other interested parties.
- 7.2 The large majority of the respondents to the consultation (78%) support the provision of nursery education at Oakfield Primary School with 83% of family respondents supporting the proposal. In addition, 33% of families said they would take up 30 hours free childcare at Oakfield. Overall 58% of families said they would use the nursery provision and only 8% said they would not use the provision (the remaining 34% did not respond to this question).
- 7.3 Concerns raised by respondents included: Ofsted rating and raising education standards at the school being a higher priority; existing choice of early years and childcare providers in the area and the potential impact on these providers; sufficient school places for children wanting reception places; on-street parking around the school; and current staffing shortages at the school.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the Cabinet Member approves proceeding to the next stage in changing the age range of pupils at Oakfield Primary School by publishing a public notice.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None