

Individual Decision

Title of Report:	Statutory Proposal for Spurcroft School		
Report to be considered by:	Cllr M Lock	on:	21 April 2005
Forward Plan Ref:	ID0961		

Purpose of Report: To agree to publish a Statutory Proposal to amend the age range for Spurcroft Primary School.

Recommended Action: To agree to publish the Statutory Proposal.

Reason for decision to be taken: To enable the admission of children to a Nursery Class.

List of other options considered: None.

Key background documentation:

- Schools Standards & Framework Act
- DfES Guidance on Statutory Proposals

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Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 Spurcroft Primary school has undergone substantial changes as a result of local development and use of Section 106 monies to enable local catchment area pupils to attend their local community school. The expansion has been staged with the school increasing the admission number to 38 for the 2004/5 academic year and further to 45 for the 2005/6 year and the future.
- 1.2 Within the plans for the school, there has always been the intention and availability of space for the establishment of an early years setting for admission to a Nursery Class, separately from admission to the school proper. Early consultation was undertaken at the planning stage and subsequently the Net Capacity Assessment for the completed school, which is used to determine an Indicative admission number, did not take account of the area specifically designated for this purpose. However, the Authority failed to publish the aim for the school to have a Nursery Class and that the age range of the school would be amended to allow this to happen. At this stage it is necessary, therefore, to undertake the processes dictated by legislation to amend the age range of the school to ensure cost effective use of the resources of the school as originally planned.
- 1.3 Prior to publishing Statutory Notices the school, on behalf of the authority, has undertaken consultation with interested parties:
- The Governing Body – Governors were involved with the original planning from the outset and have always been in agreement with plans for a dedicated Nursery Class to be established on the school site and will have the responsibility for admissions to the nursery. Within the authority's Admission Arrangements, it is accepted that pupils enrolled at the Nursery Class will be considered as attending a Linked Partner Nursery within the agreed oversubscription criteria when seeking places at the school proper for Reception Year at the appropriate time.
 - Parents – all current parents of pupils at the school have been consulted. There has been no written feedback on this issue but the Headteacher has reported many voices of agreement and support from those parents at various times.
 - Local Pre-Schools – The Headteacher has consulted local groups and has undertaken visits to discuss the plans for the school, including the Thatcham Pre-school, being the nearest private provider. No negative comment has been received.
 - Neighbouring Primary schools – When original planning was undertaken for the school to include a nursery class, all local area schools with similar provision was consulted. Further consultation has been undertaken by the school prior to this process, and wider to include all local schools. No adverse comment has been made.
 - Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership – The EYDCP was involved in the early discussions regarding the establishing of a nursery class and has always been in favour of this.
- 1.4 It remains to publish a formal statutory proposal notice to increase the age range from 4 to 11 to 3 to 11. A six week representation period will follow, in which it is expected that there will be no formal objection, followed by implementation by the LEA. Agreement to the implementation by the Schools Organisation Committee will only be required if there is formal comment or objection within the representation period.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Statutory Proposal Notice

Implications

There are no implications contained within this report.

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council: Royce Longton

Select Committee Chairmen: Graham Pask

P&L Committee Chairman N/A
(where appropriate):

Ward Members: N/A

Opposition Spokesperson: Graham Pask

Advisory Members: N/A

Local Stakeholders: As detailed within report

Officers Consulted: Ian Pearson

Trade Union: N/A