

Central Bedfordshire Council

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 16 January 2018

Proposed Change of Age Range for Southill Lower School, Southill, Bedfordshire from 4-9 to 2-9 years of age

Report of Cllr Steven Dixon, Executive Member for Education and Skills,
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This report relates to a decision that is non-key

Purpose of this report

1. The Council has been approached by the Governing Body of the Shelton and Southill School Federation regarding a proposal to change the age range of both Southill Lower and Shelton Lower in order to establish a pre-school at each school. The proposal is for the schools to operate and manage their pre-schools whilst continuing to fulfil the statutory education obligations of both nursery and lower phases.
2. DfE guidance requires the Council to undertake a statutory process for a proposed change of age range for Southill Lower, which is a community school.
3. Unlike Southill Lower School, Shelton Lower School is a Foundation School and the revised guidance published on 8 April 2016 allows Foundation schools to propose and determine a change of age range of up to two years without asking for permission from either the DfE or the Council's Executive.
4. If approved the proposal would be implemented from September 2018.
5. The school referred to within the report serves the Ward of Northill

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to recommend to Executive:

1. **approve the statutory process for the proposal to change the age range of Southill Lower School from 4–9 years to 2-9 namely:**
 - i. **Approve publication of the statutory notice**
 - ii. **Commence formal consultation of at least four weeks**
 - iii. **Approve that determination for the proposed change be made by the Executive Member for Education and Skills, if responses to the formal consultation are favourable. If responses to the formal consultation are not favourable determination to be made by the Executive.**

Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations

1. Overview and Scrutiny are asked to recommend to Executive the approval for the statutory process for the proposal to change the age range of Southill Lower School from 4–9 years to 2-9.

Council Priorities

2. The report supports Central Bedfordshire's Five Year Plan 2015- 2020 and the specific priority of Improving Education and Skills.

Legal Implications

3. As set out in the Legal Implications section of the report attached as Appendix 1.

Financial and Risk Implications

4. As set out in the Financial Implications section of the report attached as Appendix 1.

Equalities Implications

5. As set out in the Equality Implications section of the report attached as Appendix 1.

Conclusion and next Steps

6. Subject to Overview and Scrutiny recommendations and Executive approval, the lower school will commence a formal consultation to change the age range of Southill Lower School from 4–9 years to 2-9 year of age.
7. The determination for the proposed change of age range will be made by the Executive Member for Education and Skills, if responses to the formal consultation

are favourable. If responses to the formal consultation are not favourable determination is to be made by the Executive

Appendices

Appendix 1 is attached.

Background Papers

None

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