

---

**Meeting:** Delegated Decision by the Executive Member for Children's Services on School Age Range Proposals

**Date:** 13 August 2013

**Subject:** Determination of statutory proposals to extend the age ranges of Lancot Community Lower School in Dunstable, Kensworth CE VC Lower School in Kensworth, Ashton St Peters CE VA Lower School in Dunstable and Manshead CE VA Upper School in Caddington.

**Report of:** Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive/ Director of Children's Services

**Summary:** The report sets out the representations received to the statutory proposal published by the Council to extend age range of a Community Lower School in Dunstable, and to statutory proposals published by the Governing Bodies of a Voluntary Controlled Lower School in Dunstable, a Voluntary Aided Lower School in Dunstable and a Voluntary Aided Upper School in Dunstable. Each of these proposals has been subject previously of statutory consultation and a further representation period has now concluded requiring the Council to determine the outcome of the proposals.

**Advising Officer:** Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services

**Contact Officer:** Pete Dudley, Assistant Director for Learning, Commissioning and Partnerships

**Public/Exempt:** Public

**Wards Affected:** Dunstable Watling, Caddington, Dunstable Central, Dunstable Manshead

**Function of:** Executive

**Key Decision** Yes

<b>CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS</b>
<b>Council Priorities:</b>  The report supports Central Bedfordshire's Medium Term Plan: <i>Delivering your priorities – Our Plan for Central Bedfordshire 2012-2016</i> and the specific priority of Improved Educational Attainment.

## **Financial:**

1. If approved, the implementation of the proposal to extend the age range at Lancot Community Lower School in Dunstable requires approximately £115k capital investment to provide two additional class spaces for September 2014. This will be funded from the school's own reserves. Further class spaces will be needed from September 2015 and these will be funded from the school's budget making additional use of the capital loan scheme established under terms and conditions set out in the Scheme for Financing Schools.
2. In publishing statutory proposals for Kensworth Lower, Ashton St Peters Lower and Manshead Upper School, the Governing Body of each school therefore carries the duty to implement the proposed change of age range if it is approved. At the point of determination of the proposals the Council as decision maker must be satisfied, that each school is able to implement the decision.  
  
The implementation of the proposal to extend the age range at Kensworth CE VC Lower will require capital funding of £6.4k. Likewise the Governing Body of Manshead CE VA Upper School has indicated a capital cost of £250k whereas the Governing Body of Ashton St Peters CE VA Lower does not envisage significant capital costs in implementation of their proposal.
3. The day to day running costs of expanded provision are met through revenue funding which is made available to each school as part of the dedicated schools grant, calculated on a per pupil basis. Nationally, School and Academy revenue budgets are set in line with the School and Early Years Finance Regulations 2013 which uses October school census data of pupil numbers accommodated at that moment in time to calculate the budget for the following financial year, for Council maintained schools, and the following academic year for Academies.
4. This funding 'lag' can have a significant impact on those schools and academies that are implementing changes in age range and retaining or admitting pupils into new year groups in the following September without the corresponding revenue funding that should ordinarily follow the child which only begins to flow into the schools budget in the following April, or September in the case of Academies. Likewise, this can also result in an overpayment to schools that are impacted by a corresponding reduction in pupil numbers as a result of admissions preferences made by parents and carers.
5. The Council has therefore requested approval in principle from the Secretary of State to vary the School and Early Years Finance Regulations 2013 and disapply the use of October census for specific schools affected by changes of age range in the Dunstable and Houghton Regis area with the intention to more accurately and timely reflect pupil numbers in those schools and academies during the financial year 2014-15 in the calculation of the basic entitlement funding of those schools. It is proposed to similarly apply for future financial years where schools and academies are in the transition of age range changes.

6. If approved, the calculation would be aligned to the principle of funding following the child, throughout the period of change. Clearly, whilst this will protect receiving schools, this may also have a significant, negative effect on those schools which are likely to lose pupils or which may have a reduced intake. In the case of Middle Schools reductions in Year 5 admissions as a result of pupils staying on at their former Lower School and simultaneous reductions in Year 7 pupils as a result of transfers to the new admission point in Secondary provision could result in significant financial reductions over a short period of time. If this variation is not approved by the Secretary of State each school or Academy that is approved to change its age range will need to consider the financial viability of its proposals as a result of the inevitable shortfall in revenue during the transition period.

**Legal:**

7. The main legislation governing school organisation is found in sections 7-32 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) (England Regulations 2007 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Mainstream Schools) (England) Regulations 2007.
8. The Department for Education produces guidance which provides information on the procedures established by this legislation containing both statutory guidance (i.e. guidance to which local authorities and governing bodies have a statutory duty to have regard) and non-statutory guidance, on the process for making changes to the upper age limit of a maintained mainstream school.
9. The Executive Member for Children's Services is authorised, under delegated authority, to exercise the Council's duty to determine proposals to alter the upper and lower age range of pupils in schools. As decision maker the Council must be satisfied that the proposals have followed due process and must also have regard to statutory guidance.
10. As decision maker for the statutory proposals reflected in this report the Executive Member for Children's Services must determine whether to:
- reject the proposals
  - approve the proposals
  - approve the proposals with a modification (e.g. the implementation date)
  - approve the proposals subject to them meeting a certain condition (e.g. planning permissions, acquisition of land etc).

In any case the proposals must be determined within two months of the close of the determination period, otherwise the proposals will be referred to the schools adjudicator.

11. The following bodies may appeal against a Council decision on the proposals in this report:

- The local Church of England diocese.
- The bishop of the local Roman Catholic diocese.
- The Governors and Trustees of a voluntary school that is subject to the proposals.

Any appeals must be submitted to the Council within 4 weeks of the decision and the Council must refer the matter to the schools adjudicator.

**Risk Management:**

12. Each of the proposals set out in this report has been developed and evaluated against the key criteria for decision makers that are outlined in guidance. Likewise the proposals have followed the procedures set out in regulation. This mitigates the risk on the Council of failing to comply with the relevant statutory requirements.

Key risks mitigated by the process that has been followed include:

- Failure to discharge legal and statutory duties/guidance.
- Failure to deliver the Council's strategic priorities.
- Reputational risks associated with the non delivery of required school places.
- Financial risks, including significant capital commitment to the Council, and the consequential additional running costs that will be borne by the schools.

13. If approved, the Governing Body of each school will develop and implement change management plans that will include risk assessment and management criteria to ensure the effective delivery of the objectives set out in the proposal documents. Any contract and construction risks will be overseen through the schools and Diocese project management of agreed projects.

**Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

14. Staff and Trade Unions at all four schools have been consulted throughout the statutory process and responses, where given, have been recorded in the minutes to staff and stakeholder meetings attached at Appendices A to D.

15. The Diocesan Board of Education of the Church of England Diocese of St Albans has been engaged in the consultations and has expressed support for the proposals brought forward by the Governing Bodies of Manshead CE VA Upper School and Ashton St Peters CE VA lower School, who are employers of the staff in each school. The Diocese has similarly expressed support for the proposal brought forward by the Governing Body of Kensworth CE VC Lower School.

16. In addition to the Council's statutory responsibilities as employer of staff in Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools, schools should ensure that they will have the support of their Human Resources provision where any proposals require changes in school staff structures or to terms and conditions of employment. The Council, in undertaking its statutory responsibilities, will have a role to ensure correct procedures have been undertaken where procedures may lead to dismissal.

**Equalities/Human Rights:**

17. Public authorities have a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and to foster good relations in respect of the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

This statutory duty includes requirements to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
  - Take steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
  - Encourage people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.
18. As Decision Maker for these proposals, the Executive Member acting on behalf of the Council has considered that there are no race or disability discrimination issues that arise from the changes being proposed. All of the schools have carefully considered these issues and where the proposals impact on provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities appropriate reference has been made in the proposal documents that have been published with the statutory notices. Similarly each school has made a commitment to provide access to a range of opportunities which reflect the ethnic and cultural mix of their local communities, while ensuring that such opportunities are open to all. Where the proposals impact on extended school services this is also outlined in the proposal documents attached to this report.

**Public Health:**

19. The schools currently provide a range of extended schools services including:
- Transition support for pupils, schools and families.
  - Combined clubs and after school activities.
  - Promotion of inter school sports and other activities.
  - Holiday activities.
  - Breakfast and after school clubs and activities.
  - Support for vulnerable pupils and families i.e siblings group and young carers.

### **Community Safety:**

20. The Council has a statutory duty to consider community safety implications in undertaking its delivery of core services. It is also acknowledged that schools have an important role in working alongside a range of other agencies to ensure safety in their local communities. Extending the age ranges of the schools in this report will require the Council to work to ensure that the community safety impact has been assessed and appropriate measures to mitigate any risk have been implemented. Complaints regarding noise, litter, young people and general anti social behaviour are higher in areas surrounding schools. Increasing the numbers accessing school sites has the potential to further increase complaints. The impact on travel and access has been considered, and the Council will need to work with the schools to ensure that the wider community safety impact is considered and appropriately addressed.

### **Sustainability:**

21. Whilst there may be additional costs in order to meet sustainability objectives for any new build and/or expansion of existing schools, these will be contained within the costs identified for each individual project and informed by the Council's Schools Sustainable Design Brief. These measures would contribute to reduced running costs through better energy and resource efficiency, alongside creating a better learning environment for the pupils.

### **Procurement:**

22. The Council's Procurement Team will continue to provide support for any scheme of planned capital investment to implement the proposals set out in this report, funded by the schools. This will ensure that value for money is secured and a range of potential procurement routes are considered.

### **Overview and Scrutiny:**

23. This matter has not been considered by Overview and Scrutiny.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Executive Member for Children's Services is asked to:**

1. **note that the procedures established by The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended by The School Organisation and Governance (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2007 and The School Organisation and Governance (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2009, have been complied with in bringing forward the proposals outlined in this report;**
2. **consider the representations received to the statutory notice as set out in Appendix A, issued on the 3 June 2013 under Section 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 in respect of the Ashton St Peters CE VA Lower School proposal;**

3. consider the representations received to the statutory notice as set out in Appendix B, issued on the 3 June 2013 under Section 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 in respect of the Kensworth CE VC Lower School proposal;
4. consider the representations received to the statutory notice as set out in Appendix C, issued on the 3 June 2013 under Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 in respect of the Lancot Community Lower School proposal;
5. consider the representations received to the statutory notice as set out in Appendix D, issued on the 6 June 2013 under Section 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 in respect of the Manshead CE VA Upper School proposal; and
6. determine the statutory proposals to extend the age ranges of the following schools with effect from September 2014 subject, by 1 February 2014, to the grant of any necessary planning permissions under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Secretary of State consents for the change of use of any necessary areas of school playing fields under Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998:
  - i. Ashton St Peters CE VA Lower School to provide 210 places in the main school for pupils aged 5-11, with a published admission number of 30.
  - ii. Kensworth CE VC Lower School to provide 105 places in the main school for pupils aged 5-11, with a published admission number of 15, plus provision for 20 part time nursery places.
  - iii. Lancot Community Lower School to provide 420 places in the main school for pupils aged 5-11, with a published admission number of 60, plus provision for 80 part time nursery places and 6 places for pupils with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties.
  - iv. Manshead CE VA Upper School to provide 1350 places in the main school for pupils aged 11-19, plus 8 places for pupils identified with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, with a published admission number of 210.

*Reason for Recommendations:*

*To determine the outcome of the statutory proposals for Ashton St Peters CE VA Lower School, Kensworth CE VC Lower School, and Lancot Community Lower School following the close of the representation period for the proposals on the 15 July 2013.*

*To determine the outcome of the statutory proposal for Manshead CE VA Upper School following the close of the representation period on the 18 July 2013.*

*If the Council were to fail to decide these proposals within 2 months of the end of the representation period it must forward proposals, and any received representations, to the schools adjudicator for decision.*

## **Executive Summary**

24. The purpose of this report is to provide the Executive Member for Children's Services with sufficient information and guidance to enable him to determine the proposals to extend the age ranges of Ashton St Peter CE VA Lower School, Kensworth CE VC Lower School, Lancot Community Lower School and Manshead CE VA Upper School.
25. The report will set out the background to the proposals and the process that they have followed to date, aligned with the statutory requirements set out in legislation and Department for Education guidance for proposals of this nature.
26. The report concludes with a recommendation to determine the proposals to change the age ranges at these four schools, with an implementation date of September 2014.

## **Background**

27. Central Bedfordshire's guidance for maintained schools proposing changes to age ranges was published on the Council's website, in Central Essentials and Governors Essentials and in the Members Bulletin in September and October 2011. A notification regarding the availability of the guidance was repeated in the same publications in September and October 2012. The guidance was created using Department for Education statutory guidance for decision makers as its basis.
28. A proposal from the Governing Body of Lancot Community Lower School to become a 3-11 Primary school from September 2014 was received and acknowledged by the Council in January 2013. The proposal was considered and subsequently approved by the Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services on 4 March 2013 to proceed to statutory consultation.
29. Separately, the Governing Bodies of Ashton St Peters CE VA Lower School, Kensworth CE VC Lower School, and Manshead CE VA Upper School determined, as they are able to do as Voluntary Schools, to undertake statutory consultation on their proposals to change age ranges. Although the Governing Bodies of these schools are able to propose to change age ranges, to consult and to publish statutory notices for the purpose, the Council is the eventual decision maker in the process.
30. The statutory consultation periods for Ashton St Peters CE VA Lower and Kensworth CE VA Lower School commenced on 29 January 2013 to 26 March 2013. The statutory consultation period for Manshead CE VA Upper School commenced on 25 March to 20 May 2013. The statutory consultation period for Lancot Community Lower School commenced on 8 March to 3 May 2013. Each school was supported to ensure that the process followed that set out in Department for Education guidance and regulation.
31. The Governing Body of Lancot Community Lower School submitted its consultation materials, minutes of public meetings and copies of all responses received, to the Council at the conclusion of the statutory consultation period.

32. The Governing Body of Lancot Community Lower School also prepared a summary of the responses received, setting out those made in support and objection to the proposal and also providing additional comment where relevant. The Governing Body also formally confirmed their continuing support for the proposal and requested that the Council approve the publication of statutory notices.
33. The school's consultation materials, minutes of public meetings and copies of all responses, including the school's own response to issues raised is attached at Appendix C to this report.
34. On the 17 May 2013 Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Executive Member for Children's Services, considered the outcome of the statutory consultation and the statement of the Governing Body of the school and approved the publication of statutory proposals, under Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, for the school to change its age range to become a Primary School catering for pupils aged 3-11 with effect of September 2014.
35. The Governing Bodies of Ashton St Peters CE VA Lower School, Kensworth CE VC Lower School, and Manshead CE VA Upper School also considered the outcome of their statutory consultations and determined to progress with the publication of statutory proposals under Section 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to change their age ranges with effect of September 2014.
36. Each of the statutory proposals were published in line with Department for Education guidance along with evidence of the previous statutory consultations and other information prescribed by regulation inviting further comment or objection to the proposals by the end of a representation period. Copies of the Statutory Notices and the prescribed information for each of the proposals are attached at Appendices A to D.
37. If the Council were to fail to decide these proposals within 2 months of the end of the representation period it must forward proposals, and any received representations, to the schools adjudicator for decision.

## **Determination**

38. The Executive Member for Children's Services is authorised, under delegated authority, to exercise the Council's duty to determine proposals to alter the upper and lower age range of pupils in these schools. As decision maker the Council must be satisfied that the proposals have followed due process and he must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
39. Before judging the respective factors and merits of the statutory proposals, the Executive Member for Children's Services must consider four key issues. These are:
  - Is any information missing?
  - Do the published notices comply with statutory requirements?
  - Have statutory consultations been carried out prior to the publication of the notices?
  - Are the proposals "related" to other published proposals?

40. The statutory proposals were published on 3 and 6 June 2013, as outlined earlier in this report, with information prescribed by regulation and supplemented with significant additional content explicitly outlining the objectives of each school, in bringing the proposals forward. The information was complete, clear and complied with statutory requirements. Evidence that the initial consultation was carried out before the statutory notices were published was provided to the Council and each proposal is independent and capable of being determined without preventing or undermining the implementation of others in this report.
41. The Department for Education guidance for decision makers is issued by the Secretary of State and contains a number of key factors to be considered when they make a decision on proposals of this nature. The guidance is clear that these factors should not be taken to be exhaustive and all proposals should be considered on their individual merits.
42. The key factors outlined in guidance include:
- The effect on standards and school improvement
  - School characteristics
  - The need for places
  - Funding and land
  - Special Educational Needs Provision
  - Views of interested parties
43. Each school has reflected these factors in the objectives of their proposals, throughout the consultation process and in the proposal documents produced to support the process. These are attached to the report in Appendices A to D. The purpose and potential impact of the proposals in relation to some of these factors have been questioned by respondents, both in the statutory consultation phase and the final representation period.
44. The most significant issue has been the potential impact of the proposals on standards and school improvement. The Governing Bodies of each school have provided a further response where these issues have been raised throughout the process. These are also attached to the report in Appendices A to E.
45. The need for places is one factor where the Council's statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places is in particular focus. The impact of these proposals on the supply of places in the Dunstable and Houghton Regis area and the need to retain clarity of admissions choices for parents and carers are both essential roles for the Council.
46. The Council's School Organisation Plan is refreshed on an annual basis to take account of the supply and demand for school places. It is informed by data on school capacity and forecasts of pupil numbers as a result of changes in birth rate, housing development and parental preferences. The pattern of provision in Central Bedfordshire is also reflected in the Plan and it is traditionally a three tier area of lower, middle and upper schools and Academies.

47. From September 2013 there will also be 11 primaries serving the 5-11 age range (Hawthorn Park, Thornhill, Tithe Farm, Thomas Whitehead, Houghton Regis, St Marys, Eaton Bray, Hadrian, St Christophers, Barnfield Vale and St Vincents), a middle deemed primary serving the 5-13 age range (Caddington Village), 2 secondaries serving the 11-19 age range (Houghton Academy and All Saints Academy) and a University Technical College serving the 14-19 age range, all within the Dunstable and Houghton Regis area.
48. This change to the historical pattern of provision, which has concentrated largely on the Houghton Regis area to date, is as a result of previous Council and DfE decisions to change existing age ranges in a number of schools and Academies, fundamentally towards a more traditional primary/secondary pattern of provision.
49. Within the geographical area of Dunstable and in addition to these schools and academies and the Council maintained schools reflected in this report, a further 3 Academies currently serving the Lower School age range (Lark Rise, St Augustine's and Ardley Hill) received DfE approval on the 30 July 2013 to become 4 -11 Primaries. Likewise, Priory Academy currently serving the Middle School age range has also been approved by the DfE to become a 9-16 school and Queensbury Academy currently serving the Upper school age range has been approved by the DfE to become a 11 – 18 Secondary from September 2014.
50. Of the remaining schools in the area, Brewers Hill Middle and Beecroft Lower have indicated an intention to change age range to become Primaries following Academy conversion and Dunstable Icknield, Watling, Studham and Slip End Lower Schools are developing partnership arrangements with other schools and Academies in the area to ensure their existing age range and traditional point of transfer is retained.
51. Ashton Middle, Streetfield Middle and Totternhoe Lower schools are continuing to consider and evaluate their options although it is undeniable that the proposals contained within this report, if approved, will add further pressure on the local pattern of provision to align in a primary/secondary model as former lower schools retain children into Years 5 and 6 and the traditional transfer point at the end of Year 8 will disappear after September 2015.

52. The following table illustrates the size of each school year group cohort currently in schools and academies in the Dunstable and Houghton Regis area (May 2013 School Census data).

Year	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Total number of pupils	897	822	819	793	750	675	686	648	656	610	576	663

The local impact of the rise in birth rate which is significant at a National level, can be seen in the data, although historical analysis of pupil journeys in the area also reflects traditional patterns of the transfer of pupils to Roman Catholic Secondary provision in Luton and to other schools in neighbouring authorities and areas of Central Bedfordshire. There is however a significant increase in pupil population in schools and academies in the Dunstable and Houghton Regis area which will need to be accommodated in future years.

53. In school place planning terms a minimum number of 840 places in each year group would currently allow for parental preferences to be accommodated while also balancing the negative impact of inefficient over supply of places across the area. This does not take account of new school provision which will be needed as a result of the proposed North Houghton Regis extension which will provide required additional education infrastructure as part of that development.
54. The following table illustrates the number of school places that will be available across the area if the proposals outlined in this report are approved.

Year	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 **	11**
School planning need	840	840	840	840	840	840	840	840	840	840	840	840
Number of places	987	987	987	987	987	1336	1336	1382	1382	802	877	877
% surplus/ Deficit places	+18	+18	+18	+18	+18	+59	+59	+65	+65	-5	+4	+4

\*\* this includes an assumed 75 places at the UTC for pupils who may wish to transfer at the end of Yr 9

55. This analysis does not account for the intentions of a number of schools set out in Section 50 of this report which would further exacerbate the over supply of places across the Primary age range. It does however illustrate that available capacity in Years 9 to 11 would be at or below desired levels (i.e +/- 5% noting that 75 places have been included as available through the University Technical College in the figures above) as a result largely of the proposed reduction in the published admission number from 270 to 210 reflected in the proposal of the Governing Body of Manshead CE VA Upper School.

56. If the proposals set out in this report are implemented, the Council will be required to commission additional school places in the future simply to accommodate the growth in pupil numbers that are already in the local school system through capital investment or by reorganising existing provision.
57. The significant surplus of places at Years 5 to 8 is indicative of the duplication of these year groups in the existing and proposed Primary and Secondary provision across the area and Middle School provision that has traditionally accommodated these year groups. This surplus is likely to reduce as schools and academies referred to in sections 47 and 50 of this report convert to accommodate the Primary age range.
58. However, there is a significant risk for both Ashton CE VA Middle and Streetfield Community Middle Schools that have yet to align with the Primary/Secondary pattern of provision that they will become financially and educationally unviable as a result of admission numbers to Year 5 and transfers to Secondary at their admission point of Year 7, resulting in the corresponding withdrawal of funding as outlined in Sections 4 to 6 of this report.
59. A key factor for the decision maker is the views of interested parties. The Department for Education guidance is clear that the decision maker should consider the views expressed during the statutory consultation and the representation period, following publication of statutory public notices. In doing so he should not simply take account of the numbers of respondents expressing a particular view but instead give the greatest weight to representations from stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by the proposals.
60. The analysis of the responses to the initial consultation is attached with the Statutory Notices for each school at Appendices A to D. Each of these Appendices is structured to provide:

The school's original proposal and consultation document  
 A report of responses received and the outcome of the statutory consultation  
 The Statutory Notice of the full proposal and prescribed information  
 Responses received within the representation period  
 Response of each Governing Body to the issues raised

Appendix E to this report sets out responses received within the representation period that did not necessarily relate specifically to any one of the proposals but were more generic in nature.

## **Decision**

61. As set out in Section 10 of this report, in considering the proposals the decision maker may decide to reject, approve or to approve with modifications (e.g. the implementation date) the proposals set out in this report. In either case, the reasons for the final decision must be carefully recorded indicating the main factors considered and the reasons for the decision. A copy of the final decision must be forwarded to a range of bodies specified in guidance.

62. Whilst the determination of the proposal relating to Lancot Lower School will be binding as it is a Community School, there is provision within the legislation for the Governing Body, Trustees and Diocese to appeal the decision in connection with each of the proposals relating to Ashton St Peters CE VA Lower School, Kensworth CE VC Lower School, and Manshead CE VA Upper School by reference to the Office of the School Adjudicator.
63. Having followed the procedure required by regulation and in consideration of the key issues and factors for decision makers set out in guidance it is recommended that the proposals to extend age ranges at the four schools as set out in this report and published by Statutory Notices issued on 3 June 2013 for Lancot Community Lower School, Kensworth CE VC Lower School and Ashton St Peter CoE VA Lower School and on 6 June 2013 for Manshead CE VA Upper School, be determined.

### **Appendices:**

Appendix A - Consultation document, Report on outcome of initial consultation, Statutory Notices and prescribed information, Representations received, Response of the School's Governing Body for Ashton St Peters CE VA Lower School

Appendix B - Consultation document, Report on outcome of initial consultation, Statutory Notices and prescribed information, Representations received, Response of the School's Governing Body for Kensworth CE VC Lower School

Appendix C - Consultation document, Report on outcome of initial consultation, Statutory Notices and prescribed information, Representations received, Response of the School's Governing Body for Lancot Community Lower School

Appendix D - Consultation document, Report on outcome of initial consultation, Statutory Notices and prescribed information, Representations received, Response of the School's Governing Body for Manshead CE VA Upper School

Appendix E – Generic representations received

**Background Papers:** (open to public inspection)  
Statutory Notice and Prescribed Alteration Documents