

Swindon Borough Council

Cabinet Panel on School Organisation

Wednesday, 14 June 2017

Committee Room 6, Civic Offices

At 5.00 p.m.

Conservative Councillors

David Renard
Russell Holland
Oliver Donachie
Toby Elliott
Fionuala Foley
Brian Ford
Mary Martin
Cathy Martyn
Garry Perkins
Keith Williams

Committee Officer: Steve Jones, 463602, stevejones@swindon.gov.uk

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AGENDA

- 1. Appointment of Chair**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Declarations of Interest**
Members are reminded that at the start of the meeting they should declare any known interests in any matter to be considered, and also during the meeting if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed.
- 4. Minutes** (Pages 5 - 22)
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2017.
- 5. Public Question Time**
See explanatory note below. Please phone the Committee Officer whose name and number appears at the top of this agenda if you need further guidance.
- 6. Proposal to Lower the Age Range at Westrop Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years from September 2017** HE (CM:FF) (Pages 23 - 50)

Date of Despatch: 01 June 2017

Key:**Officers:**

HE - Head of Education

Wards

None

Cabinet Members Responsible for the Service Area concerned:

DR	-	David Renard	Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet
RH	-	Russell Holland	Deputy Leader of the Council, Vice-Chair of Cabinet, Cabinet Member for Finance and Commercialisation
OD		Oliver Donachie	Cabinet Member for the Economy and Skills
TE	-	Toby Elliott	Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability
FF	-	Fionuala Foley	Cabinet Member for Children's Services and School Attainment
BF	-	Brian Ford	Cabinet Member for Adults' Health and Social Care
MM	-	Mary Martin	Cabinet Member for Communities and Place
CM	-	Cathy Martyn	Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety
GP	-	Garry Perkins	Cabinet Member for Regeneration
KW		Keith Williams	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Digitalisation

Role / Terms of Reference - The Cabinet Panel on School Organisation (a Sub-Committee of Cabinet) was established by Cabinet in June 2007 to deal with issues of School Organisation. This followed changes in legislation that led to School Organisation Committees being abolished.

The Panel comprises of any 5 members of Cabinet for each meeting, will consider the outcomes of consultation across a range of school organisation issues such as school expansions, closures and opening of new schools subject to "competition regulations".

Public Question Time - Swindon Borough Council remains committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters, and matters relating to planning and licensing applications). We will give priority to those who submit questions in writing at least two days before the meeting. Questions must be relevant, clear, and concise. You may not use Public Question Time as an opportunity to make speeches or statements.

Questions in writing should be sent to the Committee Officer whose contact details appear on the agenda above or to the Director of Law and Democratic Services, we will publish it, along with the answer, alongside the Minutes. The process associated with asking a public question is set out in the "Public Question Time at Council Meetings Protocol and Guidance" available on the Council's Website.

(<http://ww5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13338&path=0>) or from the Committee Officer named above.

Access Arrangements - The venue is wheelchair accessible and an infrared receiver hearing system is provided. If you would wish to attend the meeting but have any special requirement to enable you to do so please contact the Committee

Officer, whose name appears at the top of this agenda, as soon as possible prior to the date of the meeting.

If you would like to receive any of the pages contained in this agenda in a larger print size please contact the Committee Officer whose name appears on the first page of this agenda.

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CABINET PANEL ON SCHOOL ORGANISATION

MONDAY, 27 MARCH 2017

PRESENT:- Councillors David Renard, Russell Holland, Garry Perkins, Brian Ford and Keith Williams

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors

Councillors attended the meeting in respect of Minute

6. Appointment of Chair

Resolved – That Councillor David Renard be chair for this meeting of the Panel.

Councillor Renard took the chair.

Introduction

The Chair explained that this was not a meeting of the Cabinet and referred to the distinct role played by the Cabinet Panel. He made it clear that the Cabinet Panel had no pre-determined view on the items under consideration and would make its decisions on the evidence before it and on the questions and comments arising at the meeting.

The Chair referred to the process to be adopted at the meeting.

7. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting.

8. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th June 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

9. Public Question Time

Mrs Pauline Webster, on behalf of little Scholars Nursery, and Mr Jim Webster had submitted written questions regarding the proposal to lower the age range at Abbey Meads Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years in order to create a maintained nursery from September 2017. Written responses had been prepared and these were tabled at the meeting and made available to Mr and Mrs Webster.

Both Mr Webster and Mrs Webster asked supplementary questions, also relating to the proposals, which the Leader of the Council answered at the meeting.

10. Proposal to Lower the Age Range at Abbey Meads Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years from September 2017

Councillor Fionuala Foley, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, and the Head of Education, submitted a joint report seeking the Cabinet Panel's agreement to lowering the age range at Abbey Meads Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years in order to create a maintained nursery from September 2017. The report set out the results of the consultation process held in early 2017 on the proposal to lower the age range and captured the responses received by the local community.

It was noted that that the report was necessary to enable the Local Authority to notify the Department of Education of change in age range at Abbey Meads Primary School.

Councillor Foley introduced the report, referring to the positive response to the consultation undertaken in respect of the proposal, with 85 of the 89 responses agreeing with the proposals, and also advised of the receipt of a letter from the Governing Body also expressing support for the proposal.

In reaching its decision, the Cabinet Panel confirms that it -

- has carefully considered the joint report and the representations made at the meeting by Council Officers and by Mrs Pauline Webster and Mr Jim Webster, on behalf of little Scholars Nursery.
- is satisfied that:
 - it has the necessary information in order to make the decision referred to above,
 - the Statutory Notice complied with the statutory requirements,
 - the statutory consultation was carried out properly prior to the publication of the Notice, and
 - the Notice did not relate to any other published proposal.
- has carefully considered the factors to be considered by the decision makers, as set out in the statutory guidance from the Department for Education in April 2016, "Making 'prescribed alterations' to maintained schools".

The Cabinet Panel's decision is to approve the proposals as set out in the statutory notice to:

- 1) lower the age range of Abbey Meads Community Primary School to include 2, 3 and 4 year olds to create a maintained nursery from September 2017.

The reasons for the decision are as follows:

Education standards and diversity of provision

The Cabinet Panel believed that the Local Authority was responding to the Government's wish to see a dynamic system in which the best schools are able to expand and spread their ethos and success. Abbey Meads Community Primary School is rated good by Ofsted.

The proposal to lower the age range at Abbey Meads Primary School would also respond to the Childcare Act 2016, which places a duty on LAs to secure 30 hours of free childcare for working families with 3 and 4 year olds from September 2017.

In addition, the Cabinet Panel noted that Ofsted recognises that educational outcomes are improved by having a qualified early year's teacher in the provision. This proposal would offer families in North Swindon the opportunity to attend a maintained early years setting, open with flexible hours

Demand

The Cabinet Panel noted that Abbey Meads Community Primary School was very popular with parents and was operating close to its full capacity, having admitted an extra reception class in September 2016.

The Panel noted that there is a shortfall of early years' places in north Swindon. With the introduction of 30 hours' free childcare there is expected to be a further shortfall of places within the area, which Swindon Borough Council has a duty to address under the Childcare Act 2016. This is based on data provided by the Department for Education of anticipated eligibility of families and learning generated from the early implementation project Swindon Borough Council is currently undertaking.

School size

Abbey Meads Community Primary School has a capacity of 450 places and had 449 pupils on roll as at the October 2016 School Census.

Proposed admission arrangements (including primary provision)

The Cabinet Panel noted that the proposed maintained nursery would be incorporated into the space currently occupied by Little Scholars Pre School. Therefore, no further expansion of the premises is required.

In addition, the Panel noted that the school would develop an admissions policy for the maintained nursery.

National Curriculum

The Cabinet Panel believes that the proposed changes to the age range at Abbey Meads Primary School will offer the high quality education provided to children, to more pupils in the area. The school has an excellent record of delivering a broad range of subjects and the students make good progress during their time at the school.

The Panel also has confidence in the capacity of the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body to continue to deliver a high standard of education to the pupils and parents it serves.

Community cohesion

The Cabinet Panel believes that the Local Authority will be able to provide a range

of provision and support that can respond to the individual needs of pupils and parents preferences.

The Cabinet Panel notes that Abbey Meads Primary School has an excellent reputation for providing high quality education and care for its learners. The Panel believes that lowering the age range to create a maintained nursery the school would continue to provide a supportive environment for children to ensure they continue to develop the skills and knowledge required to move successfully into secondary school education.

Travel and accessibility

The Cabinet Panel noted that the proposals would not have the effect of unreasonably extending journey times or increasing transport costs, or result in too many children being prevented from sustainable travel due to unsuitable routes e.g. for walking, cycling etc.

Capital

The Cabinet Panel noted that there is no capital funding required for the proposal to lower the age range of Abbey Meads Primary School; however, there is an approved scheme to add an additional mobile classroom on the school site because of the additional class added in September 2016. Cabinet approved a capital budget of £350K for the additional school places.

School premises and playing fields

The Cabinet Panel noted that the proposal to lower the age range would include conversion of existing accommodation, and would not reduce the space available on the site for outdoor pitches and games courts. The proposal would enable the school to continue to provide suitable outdoor space for physical education in accordance with the school curriculum.

Expansion of provision for 2 to 11-year olds.

The Cabinet Panel believes the proposal to extend provision to 2 to 11, will improve, extend the range, and increase participation in high quality educational or training opportunities for pupils within the Local Authority or local area. The new places will fit within the organisation of 2 to 11 aged provision in Swindon.

Views of Interested Parties

The Cabinet panel noted that during the consultation period the majority of the responses (84 out of 88) were in favour of the proposal.

11. Increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Brimble Hill Primary Special School from 70 to 77 from September 2017

Councillor Fionuala Foley, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, and the Head of Education, submitted a joint report seeking the Cabinet Panel's agreement to increasing the published admission number (PAN) that is recognised by the Local Authority as reserved for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disability

(SEND) at Brimble Hill Primary Special School from 70 to 77.

It was noted that the report was necessary to enable the Local Authority to create additional provision that is reserved for pupils with SEND by increasing the PAN to provide support for children from 5-11 years with Complex Learning Difficulties.

Councillor Foley introduced the report, drawing the panel's attention, in particular, to the consultation results, all of which responses fully supported the proposal.

In reaching its decision, the Cabinet Panel confirms that it -

- has carefully considered the joint report and the representations made at the meeting by Council Officers.
- is satisfied that
 - it has the necessary information in order to make the decision referred to above,
 - the Statutory Notice complied with the statutory requirements,
 - the statutory consultation was carried out properly prior to the publication of the Notice, and
 - the Notice did not relate to any other published proposal.
- has carefully considered the factors to be considered by the decision makers, as set out in the statutory guidance from the Department for Education in April 2016, "Making 'prescribed alterations' to maintained schools".

The Cabinet Panel's decision is to approve the proposals as set out in the statutory notice to:

- 1) increase the published admission number (PAN) at Brimble Hill Primary Special School from 70 to 77 from September 2017.

The reasons for the decision are as follows:

Education standards and diversity of provision

The Cabinet Panel believes that the Local Authority was responding to the Government's wish to see a dynamic system in which the best schools are able to expand and spread their ethos and success. Brimble Hill Primary Special School is rated good by Ofsted.

The proposal is to increase the PAN Brimble Hill Primary Special School due to an identified requirement for an additional 7 pupils on role at Brimble Hill Primary Special School. This will enable the school to take an additional 7 pupils, taking the PAN to a maximum of 84 pupils under the 10% increase limit.

However, the Cabinet Panel noted that Brimble Hill Primary Special School is a Local Authority maintained special school; therefore, the proposal is not consistent with the Government's policy on Academies.

Demand

The Cabinet Panel noted that Brimble Hill Primary Special School is very popular

with parents and it is currently operating at full capacity, with a waiting list. Brimble Hill Primary Special School recognises the important role that parents play in the life of the school, and their preference for their children to attend this school.

The Panel was also aware that in common with many Local Authorities, Swindon has seen a large increase in the number of children with Statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN). These children would struggle with attending a mainstream primary school.

The Local Authority is under a specific duty to respond to representations from parents about the provision of new schools, including requests to establish new schools or make changes to existing schools. The Cabinet Panel accepts that this proposal provides for greater inclusion and access for pupils within the existing school community.

School size

Brimble Hill Primary Special School currently has 70 pupils on roll. In recent years the school has been able to be flexible about its intake to accommodate 77 pupils as an increase is permitted within a 10% limit. This proposal would make that increase permanent. Increasing the admission number to 77 will allow flexibility for the school to admit up to 84 pupils within the 10% threshold if necessary.

Proposed admission arrangements (including primary provision)

The Cabinet Panel noted that the proposed increase in PAN would be incorporated into the space at the school already available for 5-11 year olds, by maximising the class sizes at the school.

The Cabinet Panel also took into account that the pupils will all be required to have Statements of Special Educational Need or an Education Health and Care Plan and will be commissioned by the Local Authority.

National Curriculum

The Cabinet Panel believes that the proposed changes to the PAN at Brimble Hill Primary Special School will offer the high quality education provided to our students, to more pupils in the area. The school has an excellent record of delivering a broad range of subjects and the students make outstanding progress during their time at the school.

Community cohesion

The Cabinet Panel believes that the Local Authority will be able to provide a range of provision and support that can respond to the individual needs of pupils and parents preferences.

The Cabinet Panel notes that Brimble Hill Primary Special School has an excellent reputation for providing high quality education and care for its learners. Increasing the admission number would enable the school to continue to provide a supportive environment for these vulnerable and complex students to ensure they continue to develop the skills and knowledge required to move successfully into appropriate

secondary school education.

Travel and accessibility

The Cabinet Panel noted that the proposals would not have the effect of unreasonably extending journey times or increasing transport costs. It is not likely to increase traffic to and from the school during drop off and pick up times. There are surplus places on existing transport, which could be utilised to accommodate this rise.

Capital

The Cabinet Panel noted that there is no requirement for capital to alter the existing school arising from this proposal, as the school already has the capacity to accommodate the extra 7 pupils

School premises and playing fields

The Cabinet Panel noted that the proposal to increase the PAN would not include any conversion of existing accommodation. It will not reduce the space available on the site for outdoor pitches and games courts. The proposal will enable the school to continue to provide suitable outdoor space for physical education in accordance with the school curriculum.

Increasing the PAN from 70 to 77

The Cabinet Panel believes that the proposal to increase the PAN by 7 pupils, will improve, extend the range, and increase participation in high quality educational opportunities for primary aged pupils within the LA or local area.

Views of Interested Parties

The Cabinet Panel acknowledges the responses to the consultation attached at Appendix 3 to the report that highlighted support for the proposal from within the Special Educational Needs community.

12. Lowering the Age Range at the Special Resource Provision (SRP) at Eldene Nursery and Primary School from 7-11 to 6-10 from September 2017

Councillor Fionuala Foley, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, and the Head of Education, submitted a joint report seeking the Cabinet Panel's agreement to lowering the age provision that is recognised by the Local Authority as reserved for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) at The Special Resource Provision (SRP) at Eldene Nursery and Primary School from 7-11 year olds to 6-10 year olds.

It was noted that the report was necessary to enable the Local Authority to create additional provision that is reserved for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disability, (SEND) by an lowering the age range to provide support for children between 6-10 years with Complex Learning Difficulties.

Councillor Foley introduced the report, advising that of 62 responses to the consultation, 61 were in support of the proposal. Councillor Foley also referred the Panel to paragraph 3.19 of the report, and the specific intent of the proposal to enable earlier intervention in a children's school life and facilitate reintegration into mainstream education.

In reaching its decision, the Cabinet Panel confirms that it -

- has carefully considered the joint report and the representations made at the meeting by Council Officers.
- is satisfied that
 - it has the necessary information in order to make the decision referred to above,
 - the Statutory Notice complied with the statutory requirements,
 - the statutory consultation was carried out properly prior to the publication of the Notice, and
 - the Notice did not relate to any other published proposal.
- has carefully considered the factors to be considered by the decision makers, as set out in the statutory guidance from the Department for Education in April 2016, "Making 'prescribed alterations' to maintained schools".

The Cabinet Panel's decision is to approve the proposals as set out in the statutory notice to:

- 1) lower the age range of Special Resource Provision (SRP) at Eldene Nursery and Primary School from 7-11 to 6 to 10 from September 2017.

The reasons for the decision are as follows:

Education standards and diversity of provision

The Cabinet Panel believed that the Local Authority was responding to the Government's wish to see a dynamic system in which the best schools are able to expand and spread their ethos and success. Eldene Nursery and Primary School is rated good by Ofsted as a 'Good school with outstanding features'.

In addition, the Cabinet Panel also believes that the proposal will enable children after a period of time in the SRP to be reintegrated back into a mainstream primary, and they could go on to attend a mainstream secondary for KS3 rather than a secondary aged special school.

The Cabinet Panel is aware that the SRP at Eldene Nursery and Primary School is Local Authority maintained, therefore, the proposal is not consistent with the Government's policy on Academies.

Demand

The Cabinet Panel noted that the SRP at Eldene Nursery and Primary School is very popular with parents and is operating at full capacity. Further, the Panel recognises the important role that parents play in the life of the school.

The Cabinet Panel also noted that, in common with many Local Authorities, Swindon has seen a large increase in the number of children with SEND and some of these children would struggle with attending a mainstream primary school without additional support

School size

The SRP at Eldene Nursery and Primary School is a 10 place special provision Key stage 2 class, (7-11 years) which will become a key stage 1 (6-7 years) and 2 class (7-10 years) under this proposal.

Proposed admission arrangements (including primary provision)

The Cabinet Panel notes that it is anticipated that the proposed Key Stage (KS) 1 element will be incorporated into the 10 places available for 6-10 year olds. In addition, the Panel notes the pupils will all be required to have an Education Health and Care Plan and the places will be commissioned by the Local Authority.

National Curriculum

The Cabinet Panel believes that t3.17 The proposed changes to the existing SRP class will offer a full KS1 and KS2 curriculum, designed to allow these young people to achieve their potential and achieve the highest possible educational standards

Community cohesion

The Cabinet Panel believes that the Local Authority will be able to provide a range of provision and support that can respond to the individual needs of pupils and parents preferences.

The Cabinet Panel also believes that this proposal will enable earlier intervention in a children's school life. This will give the opportunity for children after a period of time in the SRP to be reintegrated back into a mainstream primary, and then could go on to attend a mainstream secondary for KS3. If this were not appropriate, they would then transfer for Year 6 to a primary class attached to a special school, as the SRP would have a maximum year group of Year 5. An alternative placement in mainstream or a special primary school can be identified early and the transition planned.

Travel and accessibility

The Cabinet Panel noted that the proposals would not have the effect of unreasonably extending journey times or increasing transport costs. The proposal to lower the age range at the school is contained within the current 10 places at the SRP; therefore, it is unlikely increase traffic to and from the school during drop off and pick up times.

Capital

The Cabinet Panel noted that Cabinet approved a capital budget of £100k and Council in February 2017 to locate the SRP more centrally within the school as it is currently located in a KS2 classroom. The current KS2 classroom is too far away from the KS1 block, so a more centralised classroom would serve the proposed age

range and integrate the SRP in the hub of the school.

School premises and playing fields

The Cabinet Panel noted that the proposal to lower the age range will include conversion of existing accommodation, and will not reduce the space available on the site for outdoor pitches and games courts. The proposal will enable the school to continue to provide suitable outdoor space for physical education in accordance with the school curriculum.

Lowering the age range of Special Resource Provision from 7-11 to 6 to 10

The Cabinet Panel believes that the proposal to add KS1 provision, will improve, extend the range, and increase participation in high quality educational opportunities for primary aged pupils within the LA or local area.

Views of Interested Parties

The Cabinet Panel noted that the responses to the consultation attached at Appendix 3 to the report highlight the support for the proposal from within the Special Educational Needs community, with 61 out of the 62 responses in favour

13. Proposal to Lower the Age Range at Even Swindon Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years from September 2017

Councillor Fionuala Foley, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, and the Head of Education, submitted a joint report seeking the Cabinet Panel's agreement to lowering the age range at Even Swindon Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years in order to create a maintained nursery from September 2017. The report set out the results of the consultation process held in early 2017 on the proposal to lower the age range details the consultation undertaken. It was noted that the report was necessary to enable the Local Authority to notify the Department of Education of change in age range at Even Swindon Primary School.

Councillor Foley introduced the report. She advised that this was a retrospective application, to rationalise an arrangement that had been operating successfully for a period of time.

In reaching its decision, the Cabinet Panel confirms that it -

- has carefully considered the joint report and the representations made at the meeting by Council Officers.
- is satisfied that
 - it has the necessary information in order to make the decision referred to above,
 - the Statutory Notice complied with the statutory requirements,
 - the statutory consultation was carried out properly prior to the publication of the Notice, and
 - the Notice did not relate to any other published proposal.
- has carefully considered the factors to be considered by the decision makers, as

set out in the statutory guidance from the Department for Education in April 2016, “Making ‘prescribed alterations’ to maintained schools”.

The Cabinet Panel’s decision is to approve the proposals as set out in the statutory notice to:

- 1) lower the age range of Even Swindon Primary School to include 2, 3 and 4 year olds to create a maintained nursery from September 2017.

The reasons for the decision are as follows:

Education standards and diversity of provision

The Cabinet Panel believed that the Local Authority was responding to the Government’s wish to see a dynamic system in which the best schools are able to expand and spread their ethos and success. Even Swindon Primary School was rated by in November 2014 by Ofsted as a good school.

The proposal to lower the age range at Even Swindon Primary School would also respond to the Childcare Act 2016, which places a duty on LAs to secure 30 hours of free childcare for working families with 3 and 4 year olds from September 2017.

In addition, the Cabinet Panel noted that Ofsted recognises that educational outcomes are improved by having a qualified early year’s teacher in the provision. This proposal would offer families in North Swindon the opportunity to attend a maintained early years setting, open with flexible hours

The Cabinet Panel is aware that Even Swindon Primary School is Local Authority maintained, therefore, the proposal is not consistent with the Government’s policy on Academies.

Demand

The Cabinet Panel noted that Even Swindon Primary School is very popular with parents and is operating close to full capacity. Even Swindon Primary School recognises the important role that parents play in the life of the school, and their preference for their children to attend this school.

It addition, the Panel noted that the school is already operating a nursery from the age of 2 years old. The setting is full and is popular with parents; therefore, this proposal is to bring the 2 year old provision as part of the school.

School size

Even Swindon Primary School has a capacity of 630 places and has 566 pupils on roll as at the October 2016 School Census.

Proposed admission arrangements (including primary provision)

The Cabinet Panel noted that the proposed maintained nursery would be incorporated into the space already used by the school as a nursery. Therefore, no further expansion of the premises is required.

The Panel also noted that if the proposal is approved the school will develop an admissions policy for 2 year olds as part of the maintained nursery.

National Curriculum

The Cabinet Panel believes that the proposed changes to the age range at Even Swindon Primary School will continue to offer the high quality education provided to children. The school has an excellent record of delivering a broad range of subjects and the students make good progress during their time at the school.

The Panel also has confidence in the capacity of the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body to continue to deliver a high standard of education to the pupils and parents it serves.

Community cohesion

The Cabinet Panel believes that the Local Authority will be able to provide a range of provision and support that can respond to the individual needs of pupils and parents preferences.

The Cabinet Panel notes that Even Swindon Primary School has an excellent reputation for providing high quality education and care for its learners. By, lowering the age range to include 2 year olds into the maintained nursery the school would continue to provide a supportive environment for children to ensure they continue to develop the skills and knowledge required to move successfully into secondary school education.

Travel and accessibility

The Cabinet Panel noted that the proposals will not have the effect of unreasonably extending journey times or increasing transport costs, or result in too many children being prevented from sustainable travel due to unsuitable routes e.g. for walking, cycling etc.

Capital

The Cabinet Panel noted that, if approved, there is no capital funding required for the proposal to lower the age range of Even Swindon Primary School.

School premises and playing fields

The Cabinet Panel noted that the proposal would not include any conversion of existing accommodation. It will not reduce the space available on the site for outdoor pitches and games courts. The proposal will enable the school to continue to provide suitable outdoor space for physical education in accordance with the school curriculum.

Expansion of provision for 2 to 11-year olds.

The Cabinet Panel believes the proposal to extend provision to 2 to 11, will improve, extend the range, and increase participation in high quality educational or training opportunities for pupils within the Local Authority or local area. The new places will

fit within the organisation of 2 to 11 aged provision in Swindon.

Views of Interested Parties

The Cabinet Panel noted that although it was satisfied that the necessary consultation process was followed, there, the Council receive no responses from the community.

14. Proposal to Lower the Age Range at Lawn Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years from September 2017

Councillor Fionuala Foley, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, and the Head of Education, submitted a joint report seeking the Cabinet Panel's agreement to lowering the age range at Lawn Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years in order to create a maintained nursery from September 2017. The report sets out the results of the consultation process held in early 2017 on the proposal to lower the age range and captures the responses received by the local community. It was noted that the report was necessary to enable the Local Authority to notify the Department of Education of change in age range at Lawn Primary School.

Councillor Foley introduced the report, summarising the background to the proposal and also explaining to the Panel the detail of the limited response to the consultation on the proposal.

In reaching its decision, the Cabinet Panel confirms that it -

- has carefully considered the joint report and the representations made at the meeting by Council Officers.
- is satisfied that
 - it has the necessary information in order to make the decision referred to above,
 - the Statutory Notice complied with the statutory requirements,
 - the statutory consultation was carried out properly prior to the publication of the Notice, and
 - the Notice did not relate to any other published proposal.
- has carefully considered the factors to be considered by the decision makers, as set out in the statutory guidance from the Department for Education in April 2016, "Making 'prescribed alterations' to maintained schools".

The Cabinet Panel's decision is to approve the proposals as set out in the statutory notice to:

- 1) lower the age range of Lawn Primary School to include 2, 3 and 4 year olds to create a maintained nursery from September 2017.

The reasons for the decision are as follows:

Education standards and diversity of provision

The Cabinet Panel believed that the Local Authority was responding to the

Government's wish to see a dynamic system in which the best schools are able to expand and spread their ethos and success. Lawn Primary School was rated by in April 2016 by Ofsted as a good school.

The proposal to lower the age range at Lawn Primary School would also respond to the Childcare Act 2016, which places a duty on LAs to secure 30 hours of free childcare for working families with 3 and 4 year olds from September 2017.

The Cabinet Panel is aware that Lawn Primary School is Local Authority maintained, therefore, the proposal is not consistent with the Government's policy on Academies.

Demand

The Cabinet Panel noted that Lawn Primary School is very popular with parents and is operating close to full capacity. Lawn Primary School recognises the important role that parents play in the life of the school, and their preference for their children to attend this school.

The Cabinet Panel noted that there is a shortfall of early years' places in north Swindon. With the introduction of 30 hours' free childcare there is expected to be a further shortfall of places within the area, which Swindon Borough Council has a duty to address under the Childcare Act 2016. This is based on data provided by the Department for Education of anticipated eligibility of families and learning generated from the early implementation project Swindon Borough Council is currently undertaking.

School size

Lawn Primary School has a capacity of 420 places and currently has 411 pupils on roll as at the October 2016 School Census.

Proposed admission arrangements (including primary provision)

The Cabinet Panel noted that the proposed maintained nursery would be incorporated into the space currently occupied by Lawn Pre School. Therefore, no further expansion of the premises is required.

The Panel also noted that if the proposal is approved the school will develop an admissions policy for the maintained nursery.

National Curriculum

The Cabinet Panel believes that the proposed changes to the age range at Lawn Primary School will continue to offer the high quality education provided to children. The school has an excellent record of delivering a broad range of subjects and the students make good progress during their time at the school.

The Panel also has confidence in the capacity of the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body to continue to deliver a high standard of education to the pupils and parents it serves.

Community cohesion

The Cabinet Panel believes that the Local Authority will be able to provide a range of provision and support that can respond to the individual needs of pupils and parents preferences.

The Cabinet Panel notes that Lawn Primary School has an excellent reputation for providing high quality education and care for its learners. By, lowering the age range to create a maintained nursery the school would continue to provide a supportive environment for children to ensure they continue to develop the skills and knowledge required to move successfully into secondary school education.

Travel and accessibility

The Cabinet Panel noted that the proposals will not have the effect of unreasonably extending journey times or increasing transport costs, or result in too many children being prevented from sustainable travel due to unsuitable routes e.g. for walking, cycling etc.

Capital

The Cabinet Panel noted that, if approved, there is no capital funding required for the proposal to lower the age range of Lawn Primary School.

School premises and playing fields

The Cabinet Panel noted that the proposal would not include any conversion of existing accommodation. It will not reduce the space available on the site for outdoor pitches and games courts. The proposal will enable the school to continue to provide suitable outdoor space for physical education in accordance with the school curriculum.

Expansion of provision for 2 to 11-year olds.

The Cabinet Panel believes the proposal to extend provision to 2 to 11, will improve, extend the range, and increase participation in high quality educational or training opportunities for pupils within the Local Authority or local area. The new places will fit within the organisation of 2 to 11 aged provision in Swindon.

Views of Interested Parties

The Cabinet Panel noted that although it was satisfied that the necessary consultation process was followed, there were only three responses of which two objected to the proposal and one was in favour.

15. Proposal to Lower the Age Range at Chiseldon Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years from September 2017

Councillor Fionuala Foley, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, and the Head of Education, submitted a joint report seeking the Cabinet Panel's agreement to lowering the age range at Chiseldon Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years in order to create a maintained nursery from September 2017. The report sets

out the results of the consultation process held in early 2017 on the proposal to lower the age range and captures the responses received by the local community.

It was noted that the report was necessary to enable the Local Authority to notify the Department of Education of change in age range at Chiseldon Primary School.

Councillor Foley introduced the report, summarising the results of the consultation and also the requirement for this matter to be a decision of the Cabinet Panel as a result of an amendment to the Department of Education's statutory consultation, transferring that responsibility from the School Governing Body to the Local Authority.

In reaching its decision, the Cabinet Panel confirms that it -

- has carefully considered the joint report and the representations made at the meeting by Council Officers.
- is satisfied that
 - it has the necessary information in order to make the decision referred to above,
 - the Statutory Notice complied with the statutory requirements,
 - the statutory consultation was carried out properly prior to the publication of the Notice, and
 - the Notice did not relate to any other published proposal.
- has carefully considered the factors to be considered by the decision makers, as set out in the statutory guidance from the Department for Education in April 2016, "Making 'prescribed alterations' to maintained schools".

The Cabinet Panel's decision is to approve the proposals as set out in the statutory notice to:

- 1) lower the age range of Chiseldon Primary School to include 2, 3 and 4 year olds to create a maintained nursery from September 2017.

The reasons for the decision are as follows:

Education standards and diversity of provision

The Cabinet Panel believed that the Local Authority was responding to the Government's wish to see a dynamic system in which the best schools are able to expand and spread their ethos and success. Chiseldon Primary School was rated good by Ofsted in November 2014.

The proposal to lower the age range at Chiseldon Primary School would also respond to the Childcare Act 2016, which places a duty on LAs to secure 30 hours of free childcare for working families with 3 and 4 year olds from September 2017.

In addition, the Cabinet Panel noted that Ofsted recognises that educational outcomes are improved by having a qualified early year's teacher in the provision. This proposal would offer families in Chiseldon the opportunity to attend a maintained early years setting, open with flexible hours

Demand

The Cabinet Panel noted that Chiseldon Primary School is very popular with parents and it is operating close to full capacity. Chiseldon Primary School recognises the important role that parents play in the life of the school, and their preference for their children to attend this school.

The Panel is also aware that the school has been operating a nursery at the school since September 2016 on a 12-month temporary basis. The setting is both full and popular with parents; therefore, there is demand for this proposal is to establish the setting as a permanent part of the school.

School size

The Cabinet Panel was informed that Chiseldon Primary School has a capacity of 210 places and currently has 178 pupils on roll as at the October 2016 School Census..

Proposed admission arrangements (including primary provision)

The Cabinet Panel noted that that the proposed maintained nursery would be incorporated into the space already used by the school as a nursery. Therefore, no further expansion of the premises is required.

The Panel also noted that if the proposal is approved the school will develop an admissions policy for the maintained nursery.

National Curriculum

The Cabinet Panel believes the proposed changes to the age range at Chiseldon Primary School will offer the high quality education provided to children, to more pupils in the area. The school has an excellent record of delivering a broad range of subjects and the students make good progress during their time at the school.

The Panel also has confidence in the capacity of the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body to continue to deliver a high standard of education to the pupils and parents it serves.

Community cohesion

The Cabinet Panel believes that the Local Authority will be able to provide a range of provision and support that can respond to the individual needs of pupils and parents preferences.

The Cabinet Panel notes that Chiseldon Primary School has an excellent reputation for providing high quality education and care for its learners. By, lowering the age range to create a maintained nursery, the school would continue to provide a supportive environment for children to ensure they continue to develop the skills and knowledge required to move successfully into secondary school education.

Travel and accessibility

The Cabinet Panel noted that whilst the proposals would not have the effect of unreasonably extending journey times or increasing transport costs, or result in too many children being prevented from sustainable travel due to unsuitable routes e.g. for walking, cycling etc.

Capital

The Cabinet Panel noted that no capital funding is required for the proposal to lower the age range of Chiseldon Primary School.

School premises and playing fields

The Cabinet Panel noted that the proposal to lower the age range will not include conversion of existing accommodation, and will not reduce the space available on the site for outdoor pitches and games courts. The proposal would enable the school to continue to provide suitable outdoor space for physical education in accordance with the school curriculum.

Expansion of provision for 2 to 11-year olds.

The Cabinet Panel believes the proposal to extend provision to 2 to 11, will improve, extend the range, and increase participation in high quality educational or training opportunities for pupils within the Local Authority or local area. The new places will fit within the organisation of 2 to 11 aged provision in Swindon.

Views of Interested Parties

The Cabinet Panel noted the responses to the consultation attached at Appendix 3 to report, which highlights the results of the consultation on the proposal from within the local community.

Proposal to Lower the Age Range at Westrop Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years from September 2017

Cabinet Panel on School Organisation

Date 14th June 2017

Author:	Cabinet Member for Children's Services and School Attainment and Head of Education
Wards:	Blunsdon and Highworth
Parishes Affected:	Highworth

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To seek agreement to lower the age range at Westrop Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years in order to create a maintained nursery from September 2017.
- 1.2 The report sets out the results of the consultation process held in early 2017 on the proposal to lower the age range and captures the range of responses received by the Highworth community.
- 1.3 This report is necessary to enable the Local Authority to notify the Department of Education of change in age range at Westrop Primary School.
- 1.4 This report supports the Priority Two of the Vision to "Offer education opportunities that lead to the right skills and right jobs in the right places". The recommendations of this report also support the delivery of One Swindon Outcome comply with the Vision for Education In Swindon 'For every child, irrespective of background, to fulfil their potential through the best education possible'.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet Panel on School Organisation is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the summary and analysis of the consultation process.
- 2.2 Approve the proposals, as set out in the statutory notice attached as Appendix 2, to lower the age range of Westrop Primary School to include 2, 3 and 4 year olds to create a maintained nursery provision opening in September 2017.

3. Detail

Background

The School Organisation Regulations 2013 set out the alterations to school premises that can be made by governing bodies and Local Authorities (LAs). The changes to community, voluntary aided, voluntary controlled and foundation schools, which require statutory proposals, that are covered by this guide includes the alteration of upper or lower age range by 1 year or more (for

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Gareth Cheal, 01793 465802, gcheal@swindon.gov.uk.

Proposal to Lower the Age Range at Westrop Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years from September 2017

Cabinet Panel on School Organisation

Date 14th June 2017

community school including the adding or removal of sixth form or nursery provision).

Background

- 3.1 It is the statutory duty of the Local Authority to ensure sufficient school places and sufficient early year's provision. In order to carry out that duty the Local Authority is implementing a number of changes to school provision to ensure a greater level of access to provision and to ensure children are receiving education in quality provision.
- 3.2 The proposal in the report is in relation to an increase of early year's provision in school settings.
- 3.3 Across the Borough, funded early year's education and childcare places are provided by a total of 254 small and large nursery chains, independent nurseries, preschools, maintained primary schools and childminders.
- 3.4 At present, there are 22 maintained primary schools delivering early years education for 3 and 4 year olds across the Borough. Of these, 4 schools also deliver 2 year old funded education, with Cabinet approval for a further two primary schools to deliver early years places from September 2017; Abbey Meads Primary School and Lawn Primary School.
- 3.5 It is acknowledged by Ofsted that a primary school which also has a nursery provision achieves better outcomes for children; The Chief Inspector of Schools, Sir Michael Wilshaw, noted in his 2012 -13 annual report that 'It is widely accepted that progress in early years for children from low income backgrounds depends on attendance in the highest quality settings. The only early education provision that is at least as strong, or even stronger, in deprived areas compared with wealthier areas is nursery schools.'
- 3.6 Furthermore, a direct recommendation of the report was that 'the Government should promote the expansion of nursery schools into those local areas where they are not currently present – in particular disadvantaged areas - to raise quality and improve outcomes both through direct provision of places, and system leadership of the local early years sector.' It was also a recommendation that where a nursery school was established then 'It should be a priority to make the best possible use of the maintained nursery schools to deliver 2-year-old places, in preference to lower quality settings.'
- 3.7 In addition, the Childcare Act 2016 placed a duty on local authorities to secure 30 hours of free childcare for working families with 3 and 4 year olds from September 2017. To meet the anticipated demand the increase in hours will

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Proposal to Lower the Age Range at Westrop Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years from September 2017

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create, Swindon Borough Council are required to ensure additional places are available and that they can offer greater flexibility to working families.

Save the Children Report 2015

- 3.8 A recent report by Save the Children 'How England's nursery lottery is failing too many children' states that children who benefit from high quality childcare start school on average around three months ahead in their literacy and language skills compared with children who attend low quality settings. These children are 20% more likely than children who go to low quality settings to get 5 A*-C GCSE's and earn more as adults. Multiple studies show that having highly qualified staff is the biggest indicator of childcare quality. Studies consistently show that the presence of a trained teacher and staff with relevant degree level qualifications in nurseries brings an added impact for a child's early learning and development, particularly for those growing up in poverty.
- 3.9 Throughout this consultation the recommendations of this report have been questioned in relation to Highworth, due to the relatively low levels of deprivation in Highworth. However, the reports outcomes are relevant as they are universal and not specifically about children growing up in poverty.
- 3.10 Swindon Borough Council is keen to respond to the recommendations made by both reports by encouraging more primary schools to establish their own maintained nursery classes to include 2, 3 and 4 year old's which in turn will mean more children are able to access high quality provision with a qualified teacher, improving their outcomes throughout life.

Consideration of consultation and representation period

- 3.11 Following approval from Cabinet in December 2016 (Cabinet minute 74 2016/17 refers) to commence consultation on a proposal to lower the age range at Westrop Primary School, a consultation was carried out from the 16th January 2017 to 28th February 2017.
- 3.12 A copy of the consultation document is attached as Appendix 1. As part of the process a drop in session for parents, staff and governors was held on the 30th January 2017 to discuss the proposal.
- 3.13 As part of the prescribed process, notices were published in the Swindon Advertiser, at the school gates, and sent to the relevant stakeholders identified by the School Organisation Regulations 2013, on the 16th January 2017. A copy of the public notice is attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.14 The notice published proposed an implementation date of 1st September 2017 to lower the age range. A summary of the results can be found at Appendix 3.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Gareth Cheal, 01793 465802, gcheal@swindon.gov.uk.

Proposal to Lower the Age Range at Westrop Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years from September 2017

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- 3.15 There were 648 individual responses to the survey of which 580 objected to the proposal and 68 were in favour. The summary at Appendix 3 highlights the key themes of the objections and the LAs response to those objections in detail.
- 3.16 The vast majority of the responses received were objecting to the proposal in support of Highworth Pre School remaining in the space that exists within the Ladybird Family Centre. There has also been well co-ordinated campaign led by Highworth Pre School which has been well supported by the local community, including a public meeting, leafleting houses in Highworth, representation at the Town Council, a march in the centre of Highworth and an 814 signature petition.
- 3.17 The views from the Highworth community have clearly set out a wealth of support for the continuation of the services that Highworth Pre School offer, however, some of the communication to the community has led to a distorted view of the aims and intention of the proposal as the campaign centred on the survival of Highworth Pre School being at risk and requiring support in order to avoid closure. Therefore, the responses have focused on criticising the proposal rather than engaging and attempting to develop options to secure the future of the pre school, which is the LAs intention..
- 3.18 Unfortunately, the campaign and responses have also fostered a feeling of the school versus Highworth Pre School, which has allowed some people to air a grievance against the school through the consultation. This is unfair on the school as the consultation is LA led, but if there are genuine issues there are existing processes to escalate them rather than through a consultation on this proposal.
- 3.19 Based on the feedback received throughout the consultation period regarding the future of Highworth preschool, and concerns raised around the demand for the additional spaces, the decision has been made to allow Highworth preschool to remain in situ from September 2017. Demand will be reassessed from early 2018 taking into account impact from the roll out of 30 hours free childcare policy.
- 3.20 The LA will work with Highworth preschool to agree a lease commencing September 2017. The lease will be for 3 years, with a break clause at 12 and 24 months. There will be an expectation that rent will be payable to the school which is reflective of the market value of the premises. This will come into effect from September 2017.
- 3.21 Highworth preschool will operate from within the same premises as the proposed Westrop Primary School nursery; remaining as a separate charity run preschool.

Education standards and diversity of provision

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Proposal to Lower the Age Range at Westrop Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years from September 2017

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- 3.22 The Local Authority is responding to the Government's wish to see a dynamic system in which the best schools are able to expand and spread their ethos and success. Westrop Primary School was rated by Ofsted as a good school in January 2017.
- 3.23 The proposal to lower the age range at Westrop Primary School has been developed to respond to the Childcare Act 2016, which places a duty on LAs to secure 30 hours of free childcare for working families with 3 and 4 year olds from September 2017.
- 3.24 In addition it is recognised by Ofsted that educational outcomes are improved by having a qualified early year's teacher in the provision. This proposal would offer families in Highworth the opportunity to attend a maintained early years setting, open with flexible hours. The proposal will increase the range in types of provision as the community doesn't have access to a school led early years facility in Highworth.
- 3.25 The recent Ofsted inspection of Westrop Primary School in January 2017 recognised that children enter school with a range of experiences and do not have the skills which enable them to be ready for learning. Currently 95% of Westrop schools reception intake comes from Highworth pre-school. There has been an increase over the last 3 years in children not reaching reception expectations on entry. The impact of this is the need to 'fill the gaps' for a considerable part of the Reception year prior to starting the curriculum. The proposed addition of a maintained nursery class as part of Westrop Primary School will allow the school to continue to improve and strive towards Outstanding.
- 3.26 This year the results were above national and local authority in all areas across the school. Westrop Primary School was ranked third out of all the schools in the local authority. These results have now been validated across the country and Westrop Primary School was:
- 3.26.1 Above National percentages for Early Years Development
 - 3.26.2 Above National for Year 1 and Year 2 Phonics test.
 - 3.26.3 Above National percentages at KS1
 - 3.26.4 Above National percentages at KS2
 - 3.26.5 Above National for progress from KS1 to KS2
- 3.27 Westrop were also ranked in the top 10 % in the whole country for reading and maths attainment at KS2.
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Proposal to Lower the Age Range at Westrop Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years from September 2017

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A school-led system with every school an academy

- 3.28 Westrop Primary School is a Local Authority maintained school. Therefore, the decision maker must be aware that the proposal is not consistent with the Government's policy a school-led system with every school an academy. However, the proposal does increase the school-led provision in Highworth by increasing the breadth of places Westrop Primary School could offer.

Demand v need

- 3.29 Westrop Primary School is very popular with parents and is operating close to full capacity. Westrop Primary School recognises the important role that parents play in the life of the school, and their preference for their children to attend this school.
- 3.30 There is an identified shortfall of early years places in Highworth, which based on a decreasing birth rate it is accepted would reduce in September 2018. However, with the introduction of 30 hours free childcare, based on data provided by the Department for Education of anticipated eligibility of families and learning generated from the early implementation project Swindon Borough Council are currently undertaking, there is an identified shortfall of places within Highworth which Swindon Borough Council has a duty to address under the Childcare Act 2016.
- 3.31 The Local Authority is under a specific duty to respond to representations from parents about the provision of new schools, including requests to establish new schools or make changes to existing schools. This provides for greater inclusion and access for pupils within the existing school community.

School size

- 3.32 Westrop Primary School has a capacity of 315 places and currently have 266 pupils on roll as at the October 2016 School Census.

Proposed admission arrangements (including primary provision)

- 3.33 It is anticipated that the proposed maintained nursery will be incorporated into the space within the Ladybirds Family Centre. Therefore, no further expansion of the premises is required.
- 3.34 If the proposal is approved the school will develop an admissions policy for the maintained nursery.

National Curriculum

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Gareth Cheal, 01793 465802, gcheal@swindon.gov.uk.

Proposal to Lower the Age Range at Westrop Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years from September 2017

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- 3.35 The proposed changes to the age range at Westrop Primary School will offer the high quality education provided to children, to more pupils in the area. The school has an excellent record of delivering a broad range of subjects and the students make good progress during their time at the school.
- 3.36 The Local Authority is confident in the capacity of the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body to continue to deliver a high standard of education to the pupils and parents it serves.

Equal opportunity issues

- 3.37 It is not envisaged that there will be any sex, race or disability discrimination issues that arise from the changes being proposed. A diversity impact assessment has been carried out which has not identified any issues.

Community cohesion

- 3.38 In Swindon Community Cohesion is borne out of all stakeholders working together to facilitate high aspiration, create equity in terms of life opportunities and achievements, increase awareness/appreciation of difference and diversity, challenge discrimination, develop resilience to manage change, promote connections between different communities and encourage positive citizenship. All schools are called to meet this aspiration.
- 3.39 The proposal aims to create a range of provision and support that can respond to the needs of pupils and parents preferences.
- 3.40 Westrop Primary School has an excellent reputation for providing high quality education and care for its learners by, lowering the age range to create a maintained nursery the school would continue to provide a supportive environment for children to ensure they continue to develop the skills and knowledge required to successfully move into secondary school education.
- 3.41 Westrop Primary School has already taken over the Ladybird family centre building from April 2017.
- 3.42 The responses to the consultation attached at Appendix 3 highlight the objection for the proposal from within the Highworth community.
- 3.43 The views of the Highworth community have been clear and numerous with regards to the loss of Highworth preschool. The Local Authority understands that the provision is an integral part of the community and has amended the original proposal to reflect the feedback.

Proposal to Lower the Age Range at Westrop Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years from September 2017

Cabinet Panel on School Organisation

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- 3.44 Swindon Borough Council would like both Westrop Primary School's proposed nursery and Highworth Preschool to operate in the Highworth community, offering a greater choice for parents and increase in high quality places required.

Travel and accessibility

- 3.45 The proposals will not have the effect of unreasonably extending journey times or increasing transport costs, or result in too many children being prevented from sustainable travel due to unsuitable routes e.g. for walking, cycling etc.
- 3.46 Swindon Borough Councils vision is that all Children will be able to access their school as safely and sustainably as possible and develop skills and desire to maintain lifelong sustainable travel habits. To this end each school has developed a school travel strategy.

Funding

- 3.47 If approved there is no Capital funding required for the proposal to lower the age range of Westrop Primary School.

School premises and playing fields.

- 3.48 The proposal will not include any conversion of existing accommodation. It will not reduce the space available on the site for outdoor pitches and games courts. The proposal will enable the school to continue to provide suitable outdoor space for physical education in accordance with the school curriculum.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 This consultation was to test the impact of the proposal to lower the age range of Westrop Primary School to provide a maintained mainstream nursery. No alternative options were presented.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no capital financial implications for the Council as a result of the proposal to lower the age range at Westrop Primary School.
- 5.2 Funding for the early years places proposed to be created will be funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). DSG income is calculated based on the January census, so new places created in September will need to be funded from the DSG with no income received to cover these places until January.

Proposal to Lower the Age Range at Westrop Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years from September 2017

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- 5.3 The school have produced a business plan that balances the income from the proposed new nursery and has set aside an allocation for set up and equipment costs.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.4 The Council has a responsibility to ensure that there are sufficient school and early year's places available. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires Local Authorities to promote choice and diversity when carrying out their strategic duties in relation to the provision of new school places
- 5.5 The Childcare Act 2016, which places a duty on Local Authorities to secure 30 hours of free childcare for working families with 3 and 4 year olds from September 2017.
- 5.6 The statutory process required under that Education and Inspections Act 2006 has five key stages which are as follows:
1. Consultation
 2. Publication of Notice
 3. Representation period
 4. Decision, and
 5. Implementation.
- 5.7 Legal and Human Rights considerations have been taken into account fully in compiling this report. It is considered that the recommendations of this report are compatible with Convention rights.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.8 None other than those previously highlighted were identified in the preparation of this report.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.9 A Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) has been completed. No adverse or other significant issues were found while equality and community cohesion issues are addressed in the body of the report. A copy of the DIA can be obtained from the report author.

Proposal to Lower the Age Range at Westrop Primary School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years from September 2017

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Risk Management

- 5.10 If the changes at Westrop Primary School to provide the places proposed in this report are approved, there will be monthly risk monitoring, site visits and communication with the school.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

- 6.2 The full list of all those consulted are as follows:

6.2.1 Parents of students on roll at Westrop Primary School

6.2.2 Governors and Staff at Westrop Primary School

6.2.3 Staff and committee at Highworth pre school

6.2.4 Swindon Members of Parliament.

6.2.5 Local Ward Councillors

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Copy of the Proposal document

- 8.2 Appendix 2 – Copy of the statutory notice

- 8.3 Appendix 3 – Results from consultation process

- 8.4 Appendix 4 – School Organisation Regulations 2007 Decision Makers Guidance *(circulated to Cabinet members under separate cover. Copies are available from Committee and Member Services, on request)*

Formal Consultation to lower the age range at Westrop Primary School to 2-11
From 1st September 2017

Westrop Primary School is an Ofsted graded 'Good' school situated on Rivers Way, Highworth. There is currently capacity for 285 pupils at the school, the proposal to lower the age range of the school to include early years provision will see the total capacity rise to 385 pupils.

Highworth Preschool is an Ofsted graded 'Good' committee run preschool operating from the school site. The proposal is for Westrop Primary School to take over this space and operate a maintained nursery provision as part of the school.

This consultation is regarding the proposal to lower the age range of Westrop Primary School to 2-11 from 1st September 2017.

Support will be offered to Highworth Preschool by Swindon Borough Council to seek alternative premises elsewhere in the Borough to relocate the existing provision.

Why are we proposing to lower the age range?

Westrop Primary School has expressed an interest to operate their own maintained nursery class for some time, following approaches from prospective parents when visiting the school. The current Head approached Swindon Borough Council to explore this further following the Government announcement to offer working families 30 hours of free childcare for 3 and 4 year olds.

The schools aim is to operate the maintained nursery provision for extended hours to better meet the needs of working families. The preschool have been informed of the schools intentions and will be looking to implement this change in the next academic year.

The school plans to open the nursery provision the same hours as the school is currently open to better meet the needs of families who have children in both the school and the nursery as pick up and/or drop off times would be in line with each other. Demand will be gauged from parents for offering sessions in line with the schools breakfast and after school clubs.

Whilst there is no guarantee that children attending the nursery will gain a place at the school, already a significant number of reception aged children feed through from Highworth Preschool. The school would like the opportunity to have educated these children directly from the start of their early education entitlement meaning a smoother transition into the school should the decision be made by parents to apply.

It is acknowledged by Ofsted that a primary school which also has a nursery provision achieves better outcomes for children; The Chief Inspector of Schools, Sir Michael Wilshaw, noted in his 2012-13 annual report that 'It is widely accepted that progress in early years for children from low income backgrounds depends on attendance in the highest quality settings. The only early education provision that is at least as strong, or even stronger, in deprived areas compared with wealthier areas is nursery schools.'

Furthermore, a direct recommendation of the report was that 'the Government should promote the expansion of nursery schools into those local areas where they are not currently present – in

particular disadvantaged areas - to raise quality and improve outcomes both through direct provision of places, and system leadership of the local early years sector.' It was also a recommendation that where a nursery school was established then 'It should be a priority to make the best possible use of the maintained nursery schools to deliver 2-year-old places, in preference to lower quality settings.'

A recent report by Save the Children 'How England's nursery lottery is failing too many children' states that children who benefit from high quality childcare start school on average around three months ahead in their literacy and language skills compared with children who attend low quality settings. These children are 20% more likely than children who go to low quality settings to get 5 A*-C GCSE's and earn more as adults. Multiple studies show that having highly qualified staff is the biggest indicator of childcare quality. Studies consistently show that the presence of a trained teacher and staff with relevant degree level qualifications in nurseries brings an added impact for a child's early learning and development, particularly for those growing up in poverty. This report supports the vision of the school Governors and Headteacher to establish its own maintained nursery class with a qualified teacher in post to help make an impact on children during their early education.

Swindon Borough Council is keen to respond to the recommendations made by both reports by encouraging more primary schools to establish their own maintained nursery classes to include 2, 3 and 4 year old's which in turn will mean more children are able to access high quality maintained nursery provision with a qualified teacher, improving their outcomes throughout life.

What are the reasons for the proposed change?

There are many reasons why we are proposing to lower the age at Westrop Primary School. The main ones are summarised below:

1. The proposals are not due to lack of quality from the existing provision on the school site. Highworth preschool is rated 'Good' by Ofsted and has built an excellent reputation as part of the Highworth community over the last 50 years.
2. The proposals are in response to recommendations made by both Ofsted and Save the Children to encourage more primary schools to establish their own maintained nursery classes to include 2, 3 and 4 year olds, allowing more children to access high quality provision with a qualified teacher, improving their outcomes throughout life.
3. There are increasing pressures across the borough to provide additional early year's places due to new housing developments and the introduction of 30 hours of free childcare. Westrop Primary School has a long term vision to offer sessions more in line with full day care provision with consideration for all year round sessions if there is sufficient demand.
4. Children will become pupils of the school, allowing access to a school with a 'Good' Ofsted rating and whilst there is no guarantee of a place within the school from reception those children who are successful in applying for a school place will be used to the school environment, teaching staff and ethos. Education will be provided by a qualified teacher improving individual pupils early learning and development opportunities.

5. Staff appointed to work within the maintained nursery class will have access to training alongside colleagues across the whole of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, and vice versa. There may be opportunities to work within all year groups sharing experience benefiting children throughout the school.

How will the proposed change benefit pupils of Westrop Primary School?

If the proposal is approved, the change could bring many benefits for pupils. The main ones are summarised below:

1. Westrop will be able to build upon the high quality education provided for their current pupils between the ages of 4-11.
2. There will be opportunities for continuity for pupils who choose to enrol for primary provision at Westrop Primary School, to remain in an environment with which they are familiar - from early year's through to year 6 should they wish. Existing networks will be in place and they will be taught by teachers who know them well and have developed relationships with them from a young age.
3. Pupils who attend Westrop Primary School will not be disadvantaged when deciding on their transition to primary education. They will have the same choice as those in other early years provision in Swindon – to apply to stay on at Westrop if they wish to, or to apply for another institution if they feel it more suited to individual needs

What are the potential issues arising from the proposed change?

There will be challenges to address before a nursery provision can be opened, these include;

1. The space is currently occupied by Highworth Preschool. Support will need to be offered to the preschool to seek alternative premises should relocation elsewhere be the preferred option.
2. Recruitment will need to commence to ensure high quality teaching and administration staff are in place in advance of September. If the proposal goes ahead, adverts will go out in Summer term 2017 to ensure appropriate staffing is in place for the start the new academic year 2017/2018. Westrop Primary School will manage this process as part of their usual safer recruitment guidelines.

Submission of feedback to the consultation

It is important that all stakeholders and other interested parties are given the opportunity to express their views in order for the Local Authority to consider these before making a final decision. **The consultation period will begin on 9th January 2017 – 28th February 2017.** The purpose of this document is to provide you with information and to give you the opportunity to express your views.

Feedback can be given online;

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/westrop>

You can also email any comments or questions you may have to: educationplaces@swindon.gov.uk no later than 5.00pm on Tuesday 28th February 2017.

There will also be an opportunity to discuss the proposal at drop in sessions at Westrop Primary School on; **Monday 30th January from 8:30am-9:30am and from 2:45pm-3:45pm**. Students and staff will be given an opportunity to discuss the change.

All responses to the consultation will be reported to and considered by a panel of Cabinet in March 2017.

We welcome your feedback.

What are the next steps?

16 th January 2017	Consultation period starts
28 th February 2017	Consultation closes
Early March 2017	Consultation analysis report circulated
March 2017	Cabinet Panel to make final decision

If decision is made to go ahead with the proposal:

1 st September 2017	The school's age range is lowered and early years aged children being accessing maintained nursery provision.
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Consultation List:

- Students on roll at Westrop Primary School
- Parents of pupils on roll at Westrop Primary School
- Staff at Westrop Primary School
- Parents of pupils registered at Highworth Preschool
- Staff and committee at Highworth Preschool
- Head teachers and Chairs of Governors of all Swindon Primary Schools
- Trade Unions
- Swindon's 2 MPs
- Local Councillors
- Any other local community groups that might be affected by the proposal
- Any other interested party

Lowering the age range of Westrop Primary School

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Swindon Borough Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Westrop Primary School, Rivers Way, Highworth, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN6 7DN from 01 September 2017.

The Local Authority is proposing to lower the age range of Westrop Primary School to include 2, 3 and 4 year olds. This notice seeks to extend the age range from the current 4-11 status to include early years aged pupils, thereby enabling the school to offer educational provision for the full 2-11 primary age range.

The current capacity at Westrop Primary School is for 285 pupils and the proposed expansion will increase this to 385 pupils. This additional capacity will be secured through utilising the existing nursery space currently occupied by Highworth Pre School.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Danielle Maundrell, Swindon Borough Council, Wat Tyler House, Beckhampton Street, Swindon, SN1 2JG or DMAundrell@Swindon.gov.uk

Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Danielle Maundrell, Swindon Borough Council, Wat Tyler House, Beckhampton Street, Swindon, SN1 2JG. Or DMAundrell@swindon.gov.uk

Signed:



Peter Nathan
Head of Education

Publication Date: 16th January 2017

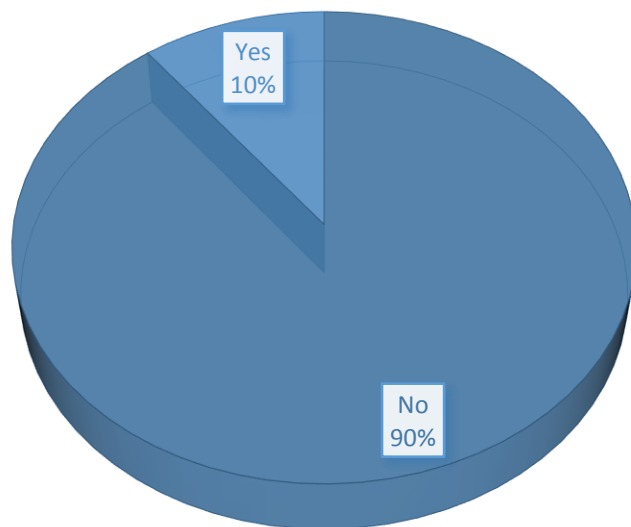
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Consultation Analysis – Proposal to Lower the Age Range Westrop Primary School

There were a total of 648 responses received via the online survey.

The survey asked 'Do you agree with proposals to lower the age range of Westrop Primary School?'

RESPONSES



Total responses: 648

Yes: 68

No: 580

Summary of written responses

Key Issues Raised	% respondents raised issue	Local Authority Response
The phrase 'if it's not broke don't fix' has been a common theme in the responses received throughout the consultation. There are also concerns raised that the existing preschool is Ofsted rated 'Good' and therefore there is no need to change what is currently offered from the site.	19% 124 respondents	<p>Swindon Borough Council are responding to changes in Government policy; Childcare Act 2016 which places a duty on local authorities to secure 30 hours of free childcare for working families with 3 and 4 year olds from September 2017. To meet the anticipated demand the increase in hours will create, Swindon Borough Council are required to ensure additional places are available which offer greater flexibility to working families.</p> <p>It is recognised by Ofsted (Early Years Report 2015) that some children are starting school at a disadvantage where there are problems with transition. Problems with transition can be minimised when children attend school nurseries where they can, subject to successfully applying for a school place, move directly into reception.</p> <p>95% of children attending Westrop Primary School attend Highworth preschool. Over the last 3 years the percentage of children starting school below reception entry expectations has risen which impacts children's educational outcomes as they progress through school.</p> <p>To offer families in Highworth the opportunity to attend a maintained early years provision, open with flexible hours with a qualified teacher overseeing the education provided will give greater choice of high quality childcare options. This proposal is not about replacing like for like, it is building on the existing overall offer to parents in Highworth by introducing a maintained nursery provision which the Highworth community don't have access to at present.</p> <p>During Westrops recent Ofsted inspection (date) it was recognised that children enter school with a range of experiences and do not have the skills which enable them to be ready for learning. In many schools where there is</p>

		a nursery class this discrepancy has been minimised (evidence). The addition of a maintained nursery class as part of Westrop Primary School will allow the school to continue to improve and strive towards Outstanding.
<p>Maintained nursery provision in general. Specifically, respondents have raised the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change of environment for children • Impact of mixing older children with younger children • A focus will be put on education for children, not learning through play • Impact of higher ratio's • That children will become 'institutionalised' from a young age and be taught in a formal classroom environment • Children with SEND won't receive the same level of 1-1 support they may receive in a preschool environment 	<p>16%</p> <p>106 respondents</p>	<p><u>Change of environment for children</u></p> <p>Due to the amendments to the original proposal, children who currently attend Highworth preschool will experience no change to their environment.</p> <p>The proposed new nursery class will be situated within the former family centre building and will be fully resourced for early years use.</p> <p>Westrop have spent time visiting other maintained nurseries and will take advice from what works well to ensure the provision they create is the best environment for children.</p> <p><u>Impact of mixing older children with younger children</u></p> <p>It is not proposed to mix the children. The nursery would remain as a separate unit in the same way as the existing preschool. The children would have separate outside play and their own separate environment inside. There would be opportunities where the children could come together as a school, for Christmas performances for example, however this would be carefully managed based on individual children's needs.</p> <p><u>A focus will be put on education for children, not learning through play</u></p> <p>The focus would be on learning through play encouraging development in line with the early year's framework of April 2017.</p> <p>Outdoor provision would be utilised throughout each day along with play activities which would be planned to meet the needs of each individual child. A key worker would be allocated to a child and the relationship</p>

		<p>between home and nursery would continue to be of importance through shared understanding of progress contributed to by parents, carers and nursery staff.</p> <p>Westrop propose to use the existing secure internet based programme so parents could see and contribute to their child's developmental progress, adding photos and comments as appropriate. The schools focus would be towards ensuring the child's development of skills through play. The current staff at the school are already trained in this. Vulnerable families would be offered extra support by the schools family support workers. All nursery staff would be regularly appraised and offered appropriate development opportunities to ensure their skills are the best they can be.</p> <p><u>Impact of higher ratio's</u></p> <p>Whilst a qualified early years teacher will oversee the teaching and learning, the school are proposing to operate at a ratio of 1:8 for 3 and 4 year olds and 1:4 for 2 year olds. This is in line with preschool and nursery settings. Every member of staff would hold at least the minimum requirement of qualifications for early years.</p> <p>The proposed ratios could enable opportunities for children to develop their prime areas of listening and attention, understanding and speaking. Westrop School aim to help children to become self- confident and self-aware giving them opportunities to learn skills which will help them in the future , for example, communicating confidently with other children through their play. The early years statutory curriculum gives more detail on the kinds of skills children should develop at age 2, 3 and 4 (22-36 months, 30 – 50 months and 40 – 60 months). Currently many children spend part of their Reception year 'catching up' on early years skills which needed to be in place prior to school , for example, being able to listen to simple instructions</p>
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		<p><u>Children will become ‘institutionalised’ from a young age and be taught in a formal classroom environment</u></p> <p>The environment could be set up, run and organised in the most effective way for children to learn through play. This would be situated within the building designed and currently used for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. There is potential for some adaptation across the year to enable developmental points to be reached as it is recognised that children have very differing needs and these would change as a child grows.</p> <p>Enriching opportunities will be provided for example trips, musical experiences, and art and craft days.</p> <p><u>Children with SEND won’t receive the same level of 1-1 support they may receive in a preschool environment</u></p> <p>Children would receive at least the minimum level of support as indicated by an Education Health and Care Plan. Westrop School has a highly trained Inclusion Manager who could provide support and professional training of staff. The Inclusion Manager would be available to identify any special needs which had not previously been identified by other agencies or the family. Westrop School has an excellent relationship with many professional agencies for a variety of special needs support for example autism, speech, behaviour, hearing.</p> <p>Parental concerns about the special needs of their children could be addressed through regular drop ins with Westrop’s Inclusion team preventing escalation of worries and ensuring support is in place. Recently a parent was concerned over a child’s speech at an early stage but was not offered support as the child was considered too young – this could be prevented from happening as the school could intervene at an earlier stage.</p>
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Impact the decision will have on the future of Highworth preschool. A common theme has been that The preschool is 'a big part in a small community' throughout the responses received and whilst many respondents have stated they are supportive of the school lowering the age range, they are against this if it means closure of the preschool.	14% 96 respondents	<p>The views of the Highworth community have been clear and numerous with regards to the loss of Highworth preschool. The Local Authority understand that the provision is an integral part of the community. Therefore, the original proposal has been amended to allow Highworth preschool to remain in situ, with a full review of demand and places in early 2018 to assess the impact of the introduction of 30 hours free childcare policy.</p> <p>Long term, Swindon Borough Council would like both Westrop's proposed nursery and Highworth Preschool to operate in the Highworth community, offering greater choice for parents and increase in high quality places required.</p>
Concerns with the quality of Westrop Primary School	12% 78 respondents	<p>A number of issues have been raised by individuals during this consultation around Westrop Primary School.</p> <p>Westrop School is a good school as recently judged by Ofsted. The Local Authority is confident in the capacity of the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body to continue to deliver a high standard of education to the pupils and parents it serves.</p> <p>Unfortunately, a significant number of issues have been raised about the school, which cannot be taken into account as part of this consultation. If there are issues that parents feel need to be raised with the school, there is an existing process to address these.</p>
How will the new provision will be funded, and what impact this will have for older children within the school.	7% 45 respondents	<p>The school has allocated funding within their budget for nursery set up. The case for allocating these funds is that the funding received from the Department for Education for the delivery of free early education and childcare places could pay it back over time. This is quite usual in terms of cash flow in a school's budget where schools pay for projects upfront and then receive payment later within the financial year. For example, the Year 5 classroom in summer 2016 received funding to cover the costs in Autumn 16.</p>

		<p>This year Westrop School are in a good financial position due to the increasing number of pupils on role. Funding is provided a year after the increase in numbers has taken place therefore the school has no financial concerns. Westrop School ensure all children have many enriching experiences each term which are paid for through the school budget. This would not change as a result of implementing this proposal, if it is approved.</p> <p>This proposal would have no impact on planned expenditure for the older children as the staffing, projects would continue to be a priority.</p> <p>When Westrop School established the breakfast and after school club it was agreed to be a necessity and was funded to ensure its success. Initially this was from the school budget but costs were recouped very quickly. The same thing is proposed for the set-up of the proposed nursery provision.</p> <p>In addition, there will be an expectation that Highworth preschool will pay rent to Westrop Primary School for the space they will be occupying. This funding will be utilised to help facilitate running costs of the school building.</p>
Impact for children currently attending Highworth preschool and the changes they will face from September 2017. Whether this is transitioning to the new proposed nursery at Westrop Primary School or to a potential new premises to remain as part of Highworth preschool, both will require the children to face a change of staff and/or building.	5% 33 respondents	Due to the amendments to the original proposal, there will be no requirement for children to transition, unless families choose to opt to apply for a place at the proposed maintained nursery. With the introduction of the 30 hours free childcare policy many families are choosing to split their funding across settings which could mean families access both Highworth preschool and the proposed maintained nursery (or any other combination of providers).
There is already sufficient early year's provision and therefore the additional places are not required.	5% 33 respondents	There is an identified shortfall of early years places in Highworth, which based on a decreasing birth rate it is accepted would reduce in September 2018. However, with the introduction of 30 hours free childcare, based on data provided by the Department for Education of anticipated eligibility of families and learning generated from the early implementation project Swindon Borough Council are currently undertaking, there is an identified

		shortfall of places within Highworth which Swindon Borough Council has a duty to address as per Childcare Act 2016.
Focus of the senior leadership team and early years lead will be taken away from reception, KS1 and KS2 pupils currently attending and refocused towards the new proposed early year's provision.	3% 20 respondents	<p>The experienced leadership team and governors are used to managing new projects such as Yr 5 classroom in summer 16. Much of this work is completed after the children have gone home, during weekends and holidays. This is down to Westrop School having a committed and hardworking staff.</p> <p>The senior leadership team manage their time and expertise to ensure that all children have the best possible education throughout the school year. The early year's team works extremely well together at a high level with many professional qualifications. Sustainability of the team is planned into day to day workload, it does not rely on the expertise of any one person. No child would ever be put at a disadvantage.</p>
Whilst the school is 'Good' and respondents are happy with the quality of the education provided by Westrop Primary School, some feel the focus should be towards striving towards Outstanding and not towards expanding the school until this has been achieved.	3% 22 respondents	<p>Westrop School is a self- reflecting and evaluative school. The school have 3 targets from their recent Ofsted which were acknowledged by Ofsted to be partly in place and just require embedding. These were already identified by the school and on their school improvement plan. This year the results were above national and local authority in all areas across the school, Westrop ranked third compared to all other schools in the local authority.</p> <p>Ofsted recognised that children enter school with a range of experiences and do not have the skills which enable them to be ready for learning. In many schools where there is a nursery class this discrepancy has been minimised. This will enable the school to achieve Outstanding.</p> <p>Westrop School are very proud of the results of all the children's hard work last academic year. These results have now been validated across the country and Westrop was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Above National percentages for Early Years Development

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Above National for Year 1 and Year 2 Phonics test. • Above National percentages at KS1 • Above National percentages at KS2 • Above National for progress from KS1 to KS2 <p>Westrop were also ranked in the top 10 % in the whole country for reading and maths attainment at KS2.</p>
Impact on local providers who currently deliver wrap around care and potential loss of business from those families who may choose to take up full day provision at the proposed new maintained nursery. There are also concerns that children who attend the proposed new nursery are more likely to wish to choose to stay at Westrop Primary school and this may have an impact on admissions numbers for other local schools.	2% 10 respondents	<p>Parents have the right to choose which provider they would like their child to attend prior to compulsory school age. With the full roll out of the 30 hours free childcare policy from September 2017, working parents will be able to double their entitlement for their 3 and 4 year olds. This is going to increase demand and put additional pressure on places.</p> <p>Parents are able to split their entitlement across more than one provider so whilst some parents may choose to attend the proposed new nursery, they will have the opportunity to keep existing childcare arrangements for wrap around care, if this is the best option for the individual family. SBC are keen to ensure greater flexibility for parents when making their childcare choices.</p> <p>Whilst parents may choose to keep their children at Westrop Primary after attending the proposed new Westrop Nursery, there is no guarantee that a child who attends the nursery will be offered a school place. Families must go through the school admissions process in the same way. Families who attend the nursery would have the option to apply for a school place elsewhere, in the same way that families who don't attend the nursery could apply for a school place.</p>
Lack of space on the Westrop School site and where the additional children will go.	2% 13 respondents	<p>The proposed new nursery would be situated in former Ladybirds family centre building so will not be putting pressure on the school building itself. Session times could be extended, creating additional places within the same building.</p>

Loss of income for Swindon Borough Council from the loss of rent currently paid by Highworth preschool	2% 12 respondents	Highworth preschool pays a contribution of service charges to Westrop Primary School for their share of utility costs, there would be no loss of income for Swindon Borough Council as a result of this proposal. Following the amendment to the original proposal, the rent which will be required to be paid by Highworth preschool for their continued use of their premises will be paid to the school, as has currently been paid for the service charge costs.
Impact on the Ladybirds family centre services if Westrop Primary School take over this building.	1% 8 respondents	The original proposal was for space to be made available for services to continue to be delivered from the Ladybirds building. Due to amendments to the proposal, this space will not be available as the proposed space will be utilised by Highworth preschool. Other options for space within the Highworth community will be explored to identify an alternative space for services to be delivered.
Timescales are too tight for Westrop Primary School to establish their new proposed provision in time for opening September 2017 and feel this should be delayed until September 2018.	1% 8 respondents	There is time to enable the proposal to be implemented if it is approved.
Westrop Primary School are making these proposals with the sole reason being to make money.	1% 5 respondents	Schools are unable to make money and any income must be allocated within the school and education. The proposed new nursery would be funded in the exact same way using the same model as all other early year's providers in Swindon. It is proposed that a significant amount of income will be spent on employing high quality staff, including the early year's qualified teacher.
There won't be funded places available in the same way preschools are able to offer these free of charge to parents through Government funding.	1% 4 respondents	The proposed new nursery would be entitled to provide free early education and childcare places in the same way all providers on the Swindon early years register are permitted to do so. The school would receive Government funding in the same way all other providers do to provide these places. The proposed new nursery would offer full day care hours, if there is sufficient demand, meaning greater flexibility of free early education and childcare availability for working families; meeting the requirements of the Early Years and Childcare Statutory Guidance March 2017.
Pupils who attend the proposed maintained nursery provision won't be guaranteed a school place at Westrop Primary School	1% 4 respondents	No, all children are required to apply through the school admissions process via Swindon Borough Council. This is the same for all schools with nursery provision delivered as part of the school.

Bias has been shown towards Westrop Primary School throughout this process and no support has been offered to Highworth Preschool	1% 4 respondents	<p>As a maintained school, the Local Authority is responsible for the proposed changes and therefore, Westrop Primary School is the main focus of this consultation as the consultation is directly regarding lowering the schools age range. It is not intended to show any bias, but the Local Authority is clearly proposing the intended change.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the decision to lower the age range of Westrop would have an impact on Highworth preschool and meetings have taken place with the preschool involving senior management within the education team and Cabinet Member for Children's Services. Following analysis of feedback received throughout the consultation the decision has been made to amend the proposal to allow Highworth preschool to remain in situ from September 2017, pending a review of demand for places in early 2018.</p>
Why was Northview Primary School closed in the first place if there is now an increased need for education places in Highworth	1% 3 respondents	<p>Availability of education places and demand is constantly assessed based on birth data and changes to policy.</p> <p>The decision was made to lower Northview in relation to a reducing requirement for school places in Highworth. However, a recent change in Government policy means an additional requirement for early year's places however, these changes are not in relation to school aged children and are completely separate to the previous decision to close Northview Primary School.</p>
Impact on parking and traffic locally if additional children are attending as pupils of the school and being dropped off and picked up at the same time as reception, KS1 and KS2 children	0.6% 2 respondents	<p>The impact on traffic and parking will be carefully assessed to ensure any impact is minimal. Parents who have children across year groups in the school would be required to travel to the school for one pick up and drop off time which could minimise the time spent at the school during these busy periods.</p> <p>Parents would be encouraged to walk to the school where possible, as is encouraged currently.</p>

In addition to the above, a petition totalling 814 signatures has also been delivered to Cllr Foley – Cabinet Member for Children’s Services. The petition is opposing the decision made by Swindon Borough Council to serve notice to Highworth preschool and require vacation of their existing premises located within the Ladybirds Family Centre.