

# **Proposed Decision to be made Under the Council's Urgency Procedure by the Portfolio Holder for Children, Families and Education on 16 December 2021**

## **Age Range Change - Camp Hill Primary School**

<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder for Children, Families &amp; Education</b>
<b>Date of decision</b>	<b>16 December 2021</b>
	<b>Signed</b>

### **Decision taken**

That the Portfolio Holder for Children, Families & Education agrees to the undertaking of a public consultation on changing the age range at Camp Hill Primary School with effect from March 2022.

### **Reasons for decisions**

Camp Hill Primary School currently has an age range of 3 – 11, admitting 3 year olds into a Nursery class. The school also operates a Pre-School for 2-4 year olds.

The school wishes to change its age range to become a 2 – 11 primary school, in advance of converting to academy status in March 2022. The academy conversion process is such that, for the school to continue to support 2 and 3 year old children, this age range change should be made in advance of the conversion.

There will be no material alterations to the places offered for 2, 3 and 4 years olds at the school.

It is a statutory requirement that a public consultation is undertaken prior to changing the age range of a maintained school.

### Reasons for Urgency

The decision is required under the Council's urgency procedure owing to the upcoming academy conversion date of 1 March.

In December, we were informed by the DfE of the target date for conversion of 1 March. The statutory consultation required to enable the age range change described above is 4 weeks in length and then Cabinet approval of the change is required.

To request approval of Cabinet at the February 2022 meeting, the consultation must operate during the first four weeks in January. Therefore Portfolio Holder approval is required before Christmas to allow the consultation to be launched in early January.

### Background information

Any proposed changes to the age range of a community school must be carried out in accordance with the Statutory Guidance issued by the Department for Education 'Making Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools.' The guidance requires the local authority to undertake a statutory consultation for a period of at least 4 weeks, with the proposals published both online and in a local newspaper, as well as to the governing body, the parents of registered pupils at the school, and anyone else considered appropriate.

The local authority should make its decision within 2 months of the end of the consultation period.

In order to meet the time scales for this change to be implemented for March 2022, consultation needs to take place during January 2022.

The results of the consultation will be included in a future Cabinet report for approval, followed by implementation (if agreed) from March 2022.

### Financial implications

None

### Environmental implications

None

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<b>Lead Member</b>	Portfolio Holder for Children, Families & Education

<b>Urgent matter?</b>	Yes
<b>Confidential or exempt?</b>	No
<b>Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?</b>	No

<b>List of background papers</b>
None

<b>Members and officers consulted and informed</b>
<p>Portfolio Holder – Councillor Jeff Morgan</p> <p>Corporate Board – Mark Ryder, Strategic Director for Communities</p> <p>Legal – Nichola Vine, Strategy and Commissioning Manager Legal and Democratic</p> <p>Finance – Andrew Felton, Assistant Director Finance</p> <p>Equality – n/a</p> <p>Democratic Services – Isabelle Moorhouse</p> <p>Councillors – n/a</p> <p>Local Member(s): n/a</p>