

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEMBER SIGNING
FRIDAY, 4 JANUARY 2013**

Present: Councillor Claire Kober, Leader of the Council.

In Attendance: Xanthe Barker, Principal Committee Officer, Jan Doust, Deputy Director Prevention and Early Intervention, Eveleen Riordan, Deputy Head of Admissions (Placement Planning).

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
HSP45.	<p>URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>There were no items of Urgent Business.</p>	
HSP46.	<p>DETERMINATION OF PROPOSALS OUTLINED IN A PUBLISHED NOTICE IN RESPECT OF CLOSURE OF A JUNIOR SCHOOL AND THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE AGE RANGE OF AN INFANT SCHOOL</p> <p>The Leader of the Council considered a report, which set out proposals from the governing bodies of St Mary's Church of England (CE) Infant School and St Mary's CE Junior School, with regard to the closure of the Junior School and the enlargement of the Infant School from its current age range of three to seven years of age to three to eleven years of age. The objective of the proposals was to establish a single primary school, which would be called St Mary's CE Primary School.</p> <p>It was noted that no objections had been received during the consultation period and that several parents had expressed their support for the proposals.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. That the closure of St Mary's CE Junior School be approved with effect from 11 January 2013. ii. That the enlargement of the age range of St Mary's CE Infant School, from its current age range of three to seven years of age (including nursery aged children) to three to eleven years of age, to form an 'all-through' Primary School encompassing children from Reception to Year 6 and nursery aged children, be approved, with effect from 11 January 2013. <p>Alternative Options Considered</p> <p>As part of the governing bodies' deliberations regarding the future of the schools a number of options were considered. These included retaining the current arrangements and keeping separate infant and junior schools; becoming an academy; hard federation; closing both schools and putting forward a proposal to open a new school and; the proposals set out in the report.</p> <p>Following the governing bodies' consideration of all the options, the proposals to close the Junior School and to enlarge the age range of the</p>	<p>Dir Children's Services</p> <p>Dir Children's Services</p>

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Infant School, as detailed in the report, were put before stakeholders, including staff and parents and carers, from January 2012. Since that time, taking into account representations made as part of that consultation, no alternative options have been considered.

Reasons for Decision

St Mary's CE Infant School was recently (November 2011) judged to be an 'outstanding' school by Ofsted Inspectors. Its Key Stage 1 (KS1) results for its pupils are at or above national and borough averages and the school has been judged to have outstanding leadership. In contrast, during the same month St Mary's CE Junior School was placed into Special Measures by Ofsted Inspectors (November 2011) with concerns expressed with regard to leadership, teaching and learning.

Following the Ofsted reports the governing bodies of the two schools appointed the existing Head of the Infant school to be interim Head of the Junior school. This appointment followed the retirement of the Head teacher of the Junior School at the beginning of 2012.

Having considered a number of options for the future of the two schools the governing bodies resolved to publish statutory notices with respect to the closure of the Junior School and the enlargement of the age range of the Infant School to include KS2 pupils (aged eight to eleven). This decision followed consultation carried out with stakeholders on the future of the schools, which showed broad support for the proposals to close the Junior School and enlarge the age range of the Infant School. Full details of this consultation process carried out by the schools and the representations received are set out in Appendix 4 of the report.

A statutory notice was published on the 2 November 2012 to close the Junior School and to enlarge the age range of the Infant School from its current age range of three to seven to three to eleven years of age. The publishing of the statutory notice marked the beginning of a six week representation period. During this period no representations for or against the proposals were made.

The implementation of the proposals outlined in the statutory notice provided a carefully considered and calculated opportunity for the children at KS2 to improve their outcomes. This was based on the proven leadership and management and resultant strong KS1 results of the Infant School. The proposals have been agreed by both governing bodies of the schools and initial consultation showed support for the reorganisation from the school community. There were no objections as a result of the statutory representation which ran from 2 November 2012 to 14 December 2012.

Taking into account all of the above factors it is recommended that the proposals outlined in the statutory notice dated 2 November 2012 are agreed subject to the modification of the implementation date from 1 January 2013 to 11 January 2013.

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	There were no new items of Urgent Business.	
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The meeting closed at 10.40am.

COUNCILLOR CLAIRE KOBER

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