



# Report to Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and the Cabinet Member for Schools

Decision to be taken on or after 19 April 2004

Decision can normally be implemented at least 3 working days after decision has been signed.

Cabinet Member Report No. CYP04.04

**Title:** Future arrangements for the education of primary children with special educational needs in Aylesbury Vale and the possible opening of a Primary Complex school.

**Date:** 7 April 2004

**Author:** Nick Powley; Head of Policy, Planning and Performance

**Contact Officers:** Rebecca Cooper 01296 382192

**Electoral Divisions Affected:** All

**Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee:** Lifelong Learning

## Summary

1. To confirm the outcome of the County Council's deliberation, following the public, formative consultation on the proposal to develop a primary complex school on the Stoke Leys/Kynaston schools' site, and taking account of the educational argument, and the revenue and capital implications.  
To obtain agreement to publish statutory notices.

## Recommendation

That approval be given for:

- (1) statutory notices to be published, proposing the reorganisation of AV primary provision and the build of a complex day school for primary aged pupils as consulted upon in the public consultation document attached as Appendix 1; and
- (2) subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation, the capital project to develop the Stoke Leys/Kynaston site go ahead to the timescale required; the new school to open with effect from 1 September 2007.

**A. Narrative setting out the reasons for the decision**

2. Following a previous Cabinet Member decision report, published on 4 February 2004, a consultation exercise took place with staff, parents and members of the public.
3. This formative consultation was on the proposal that a primary complex school be built on the site currently occupied by in Aylesbury by Kynaston and Stoke Leys Schools.
4. The complex school would:
  - enable pupils to be educated, within the school, alongside other children, appropriate to their individual needs and abilities;
  - offer a multi-disciplinary approach to the planning and provision of appropriate support to both children and their families;
  - as part of a partnership with mainstream schools the new school would offer, where appropriate, short-term or part-time placements to children;
  - be a centre of excellence facilitating an exchange of training, resources and expertise between the special school and mainstream providers;
  - offer outreach work to facilitate collaboration with mainstream schools, SEN departments and pupil referral units;
  - support early intervention and inclusive practice; and
  - if a respite/residential unit were to be included, offer residential and respite accommodation for pupils for 52 weeks of the year;
5. The consultation consisted of four proposals:
  1. That Stoke Leys School enlarges and changes status to become a primary complex school,
  2. That Kynaston School closes with effect from 31 August 2007,
  3. That with effect from 1 September 2007 Furze Down School changes its age range to take secondary-aged pupils only,
  4. That with effect from 1 September 2007 The Park School changes its age range to take secondary-aged pupils only.
6. The consultation document asked for responses to four questions:
  - Q1. Do you support the principle of creating a primary complex school?

- Q2. The proposal states that one of the elements of the building will be that a residential/ respite care unit is built. Do you support this proposal?
- Q3. Would you support the proposal for a primary complex school if the residential/ respite unit was not included in the proposed building?
- Q4. Do you support the development of the school at the Stoke Leys/Kynaston site?
7. A copy of the consultation document is attached as Appendix 1.
8. 1172 consultation documents were sent and 158 written responses to the consultation exercise were received. This represents an approximate 13% response rate. Meetings for staff were held at The Park School, Aylesbury and Furze Down School, Winslow. Further meetings for the public were held at Furze Down School and at Kynaston School in Aylesbury: over 100 people attended these meetings.
9. In summary of those who returned the consultation document: the support for the four questions asked is as follows:
- Q1: 80% were in favour of the principle of creating primary complex school proposal,;
- Q2: 77 % were in favour of the proposal that a residential/respite be an element of the building
- Q3: 68% were in favour of the proposal for a primary complex school if the residential/respite unit was not included
- Q4: 73% were in favour of the development being at the Stoke Leys/Kynaston site
10. Overall the majority of comments at the four meetings were supportive of the proposals.
11. Appendix 2 gives an analysis of the written responses to the consultation. The analysis details for the four categories of those consulted, parents, staff, residents and others, the respective response rates to the questions asked.
12. The proposal to open the primary complex school is in line with the County Council's strategy for Special Educational Needs.

## **B. Options**

13. The preferred option, after careful consideration of the outcomes of the formative public consultation, the educational argument, and the capital and revenue implications of the alternatives, is to create a primary complex special school, developing the Stoke Leys/ Kynaston site for this purpose. It is not proposed to build the residential/respite unit at present.

## **C. Resource implications**

### **Capital**

14. The County Council has identified funding to enable this project to be implemented. In total, the capital funding identified is £9.2 million, inclusive of £3.5 million supported borrowing approval granted by the DfES.

### **Revenue**

15. It is expected that the complex school will be able to operate at the level of revenue funding currently invested into the AV primary phase special schools. It is anticipated that in the medium term the school will be successful in enabling some children to develop skills and stratagems such that less intensive intervention is required in the long term, allowing resources to be “recycled” into more preventative and early intervention activity.

### **Staff**

16. The number of pupils supported by the new school will be similar to the number of primary pupils currently on the roll of current providers. It is, therefore, anticipated that there will be no compulsory redundancies as a direct result of this proposal. The expertise of teachers, learning support assistants and others working in our special schools is highly valued and it is hoped that staff will be redeployed to the benefit of the primary pupils supported by the proposed new school.

## **D. Legal implications**

17. Informal advice has been sought from the Department for Education and Skills (DfES). Following the outcome of the consultation exercise, the responses have been carefully considered and advice sought from the Head of Legal and Administrative Services. That advice was that a Cabinet Member decision paper could be published seeking agreement to the publication of Statutory Notices. This report seeks to obtain the agreement of the Cabinet Members for Children and Young People and Schools that statutory notices relating to the proposal to open a primary complex school be published.

## **E. Other implications/issues**

18. The DfES allocation of £3.5million Targeted Capital Funding (i.e. revenue supported borrowing), is subject to a time limit, which includes the requirement to issue statutory notices by the end of April 2004.

## **F. Feedback from consultation and Local Member views**

19. Appendix 2 gives an analysis of the public consultation exercise that was undertaken on the proposal. The Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered this proposal at a number of meetings, and supported the proposal for a primary complex school because it sits well within the Council's Special Educational Strategy and it recommended that the project should proceed to the consultation phase.

## **G. Communication issues**

20. All members were sent copies of the consultation document. In addition, the The Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered this proposal at a number of meetings, and supported the proposal for a primary complex school because it sits well within the Council's Special Educational Strategy and it recommended that the project should proceed to the consultation phase.
21. Copies of the individual response forms are available from Rebecca Cooper 01296 282192.

Copies of the consultation document were sent to:

- All parents/staff/governors of the four schools directly affected
- All headteachers and chairmen of Buckinghamshire schools
- All County Councillors
- Local residents
- Stoke Mandeville Parish Council
- Winslow Town Council
- Aylesbury Vale District Council and local district councillors
- Parents, guardians and carers of children in local early years settings
- Parent Partnership
- Primary Care Trusts and the Strategic Health Authority
- Buckinghamshire Race Equality Council
- Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
- Groups and organisations that hire the schools premises
- Social Care: Children and Families
- Neighbouring Authorities
- Teaching Associations and UNISON.

## **H. Process**

22. It is planned that the statutory notices be published in the week commencing 26 April. The notices remain extant for two calendar months during which objections may be submitted. If one or more objections were to be received the matter would go to the School Organisation Committee for decision; if no

objections were to be received the decision may be determined by the Local Education Authority.

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## **Background Papers**

Appendix 1 Consultation document on proposals: distributed March 2004.

Appendix 2 Analysis of the responses to the consultation exercise.

Report to Cabinet Members for Children and Young People and Schools dated 4 February 2004.

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## ***Your questions and views***

*If you have any questions about the matters contained in this paper please get in touch with the Contact Officer whose telephone number is given at the head of the paper.*

*If you have any views on this paper that you would like the Cabinet Member to consider, or if you wish to object to the proposed decision, please inform the Democratic Services Team by 5.00pm on Friday 16 April 2004. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 383610), Fax (to 01296 382538), or e-mail to [cabinet@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:cabinet@buckscc.gov.uk)*

**CABINET MEMBER REPORT NO. [Number]**

**DECISION TAKEN:**

I have taken into account any representations received concerning the contents of this report.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**DECISION NOT TAKEN:**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_  
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