

Subject:	Proposal to change the age range of Blatchington Mill School to remove sixth form provision		
Date of Meeting:	5 March 2018		
Report of:	Executive Director of Families, Children and Learning		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Richard Barker	Tel: 01273 290732
	Email:	Richard.barker@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 It is proposed to change the age range of Blatchington Mill Secondary school from 11 to 18 to 11 to 16 from September 2019.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to report the representations and objections received during the statutory notice period and to seek the final decision of the committee on the proposal.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Children Young People and Skills Committee confirm the proposal to change the age range of Blatchington Mill School from 11 to 18 to 11 to 16.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The full background to this proposal was contained in the report to this committee on 15 January 2018 attached as appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.2 At its meeting on 15 January the Children, Young People and Skills Committee agreed to publish the statutory notice required to progress the proposal to change the age range of Blatchington Mill School from 11 to 18 to 11 to 16.
- 3.3 Following that meeting the statutory notice was published on 19 January 2018. The subsequent representation period of four weeks was the final opportunity for interested people and organisations to express their views on the proposals.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The alternative option would be for the school to continue as an 11 to 18 school with a sixth form. This is not considered to provide the best outcomes for students or to be financially sustainable.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consultation on changes to school organisation must follow the processes set out in section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) as amended.
- 5.2 Consultation with staff, governors, parents and the wider community on the proposal was undertaken in November and December 2017 and the outcomes of this consultation were reported to the Committee on 15 January 2018.
- 5.3 At this meeting the Children and Young People Committee authorised the Executive Director of Children's Services to proceed to publish the required statutory notice. The subsequent representation period of four weeks was the final opportunity for interested people and organisations to express their views on the proposals.
- 5.4 Statutory notices were published in the Brighton & Hove Independent 19 January 2018. In addition notices were displayed at the entrances to the school and at other places used by the community, including local post offices and Jubilee Library.
- 5.5 The statutory notice forms part of the full proposal. Copies of the full proposal were sent to the governing body of the school, the Anglican and Catholic dioceses, ward members of all wards within the school catchment area, members of the Children and Young People and Skills Committee, the Members of Parliament for the city of Brighton & Hove and the Department for Education (DfE).
- 5.6 Copies of the full proposal have to be made available to anyone who requested a copy during the publication period.
- 5.7 The closing date for representations / objections to the statutory notice was 16 February 2018.
- 5.8 During the notice period there were no requests for a copy of the full proposal information.
- 5.9 During the notice period no representations / objections were received to the proposal.
- 5.10 The required statutory notice period, including the provision of full proposal information has now been completed.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 In light of fact that no representations or objections were received during the statutory notice period it is recommended that the proposal to change the age range of Blatchington Mill School from 11-18 to 11-16 with effect from September 2019 be approved.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The school has a current licensed deficit agreement for 2017/18 for three years and to balance its budget in 2019/20. The closure of the sixth form will result in a reduction in funding for the school of approximately £500,000 in a full financial year; however this should be offset by a reduction in costs in staffing. Given the pupil numbers in the sixth form have been reducing in recent years, the costs of the sixth form have been supported by the main school budget. The closure of the sixth form should leave the school in a better financial position in the longer term.

Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore

Date: 29 January 2018

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 The Education and Inspections Act 2006, as amended, provides that the Local Authority is the decision maker on any proposals to alter the age limit of a school. The Children, Young People and Skills Committee will act as the decision maker for the Local Authority on these proposals. The decision must be made within two months of the end of the representation period. The exact process by which a decision maker carries out their decision making process is not prescribed however it must have regard to the statutory 'Decision-makers Guidance' published by the DfE in April 2016. A full copy of this Guidance is available in the Member's Room.

The Guidance states that the decision-maker will need to be satisfied that the appropriate representation period has been carried out and that the proposer has had regard to the responses received. The decision maker must consider all the views submitted, including all support for, objections to, and comments on the proposals.

In issuing a decision the decision-maker can;

- reject the proposal
- approve the proposal without modification
- approve the proposal with modifications, having consulted the governing body
- approve the proposal-with or without modification- subject to certain prescribed conditions being met

Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston Date: 01 February 2018

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 There are no equalities implications arising from this proposal.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 There are no sustainability implications arising from this proposal

Any Other Significant Implications:

7.5 None

Appendices:

1. CYPS report from 15 January 2018 meeting

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. Decision Maker's Guidance, Department for Education, April 2016

Background Documents

None