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**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date of Meeting:** 16 January 2014

**Subject:** Two Year Old Offer – Determination of Proposal to expand the age range at participating schools

**Report of:** Director of Children's Services

**Wards Affected:** All

**Is this a Key Decision?** Yes

**Is it included in the Forward Plan?** Yes

**Exempt/Confidential?** No

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### **Purpose/Summary**

The purpose of the report is to seek a determination on the proposal to expand the age range at the schools identified in this report.

### **Recommendation(s)**

Cabinet is recommended to note the contents of the report and approve the proposal to change the age range from 3 to 11 to 2 to 11 at the schools detailed in this report with effect from 1 February 2014.

### **How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?**

	<b><u>Corporate Objective</u></b>	<b><u>Positive Impact</u></b>	<b><u>Neutral Impact</u></b>	<b><u>Negative Impact</u></b>
1	Creating a Learning Community	✓		
2	Jobs and Prosperity		✓	
3	Environmental Sustainability		✓	
4	Health and Well-Being		✓	
5	Children and Young People	✓		
6	Creating Safe Communities		✓	
7	Creating Inclusive Communities		✓	
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy		✓	

### **Reasons for the Recommendation:**

The recommendations are made in accordance with the Authority's constitution.

### **What will it cost and how will it be financed?**

**(A) Revenue Costs** Participation in the two year old offer will help the Council achieve its target take up of this age group into nursery provision. Specific funding

has been given to each Local Authority through the Early Years DSG funding allocations and this should enable target numbers of two year olds to receive 15 hours free education per week. Any hours above this level would require parental contribution and this would be for each school to assess its capacity in terms of numbers and staffing to deliver the service in line with both DSG funding availability and parental contribution.

The wider implications on local nurseries and schools, where there is significant new or increased intake of two year olds, will need careful monitoring and place planning, to ensure capacity is maintained across given areas of change, and that DSG resources are applied, as necessary, to meet any changes in demand.

**(B) Capital Costs** This report is the start of a process to register the listed schools' intention to participate in the two year old offer. It is understood that participation is based on having sufficient capacity to accommodate two year olds within a nursery's current permissible numbers, and that there are no immediate issues with regard to increasing classroom space. The Capital programme does contain specific two year old capital grant which has been approved for use towards funding requests for capacity building at existing premises (£427k),

**Implications:**

The following implications of the proposals have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

<b>Legal</b>		
Schedules 2 and 4 of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007		
<b>Human Resources</b>		
N/A		
<b>Equality</b>		
1.	No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.	Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Impact on Service Delivery:**

Not Applicable.

**What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**

As detailed in the main report.

The Head of Corporate Finance (FD2696/13) has been consulted and would make the comment that the funding of the 2 year old offer will require strategic

management review to ensure provisional demand is targeted in the most appropriate places to keep costs down.

The Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD2001) has been consulted and comments have been incorporated into the report

**Are there any other options available for consideration?**

No.

**Implementation Date for the Decision**

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting.

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**Background Papers:**

None

## **Two Year Old Offer – Determination of Proposal to expand the age range at participating schools**

### **1.0 Introduction/Background**

- 1.1 Approval was given by Cabinet Member - Children, Schools, Families and Leisure on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013 to the publication of a statutory public notice to change the age ranges at the relevant schools from 3 to 11 to 2 to 11 at the following schools to enable them to develop places for 2 year olds as part of the Government's Two Year Old Offer:

Lander Road Primary School  
Christ Church CE Primary School  
St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School  
Thomas Gray Primary School  
Hudson Primary School  
Bishop David Sheppard Primary School

- 1.2 Notices were published in The Champion, in accordance with current legislation, on 6 November 2013 and this was followed immediately by a six-week representation period which ended on 18 December 2013. It has been necessary to amend the proposed implementation date for the proposals from 1 January 2014 to 1 February 2014 in order to fit in with the timetable for Cabinet Meetings.

### **2.0 Representations relating to the proposal**

- 2.1 During the representation period the notice was also displayed outside the schools and in their local library. **No representations have been received during this six-week period.**

### **3.0 The Decision Making Process**

- 3.1 Cabinet is the Decision Maker for the proposal which must be determined by the Local Authority. The Decision Maker must consider the four key issues below before judging the respective factors and merits of the proposal.

- Is any information missing?  
All necessary information is included in this report.
- Does the published notice comply with statutory requirements?  
The published notices have been compiled in accordance with the statutory guidelines and advice from the DfE on the wording to be used. An example is attached at Annex A.
- Has the statutory consultation been carried out prior to the publication of the notice?  
The consultation process was reported to Cabinet Member on 15 October 2013.
- Are the proposals "related" to other published proposals?

The individual proposals for these schools are not related to any other published proposals.

- 3.2 The Decision Maker is required by legislation to have regard to the Statutory Guidance – Factors to be Considered by Decision Makers, the relevant points are summarised below.

#### **4.0 Factors to be considered by the Decision Maker**

##### 4.1 A System Shaped by Parents

The Decision Maker should take into account the extent to which the proposals are consistent with the duties on LAs to secure diversity in the provision of schools and to increase opportunities for parental choice when planning the provision of schools in their areas.

##### 4.2 Standards

Decision Makers should be satisfied that proposals for prescribed alterations will contribute to raising local standards of provision, and will lead to improved attainment for children and young people.

##### 4.3 Diversity

Decision Makers should consider how proposals will contribute to local diversity. They should consider the range of schools in the relevant area of the LA and whether the alteration to the school will meet the aspirations of parents, help raise local standards and narrow attainment gaps.

##### 4.4 Every Child Matters

The Decision Maker should consider how proposals will help every child and young person achieve their potential in accordance with “Every Child Matters” principles which are: to be healthy; stay safe; enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution to the community and society; and achieve economic wellbeing.

##### 4.5 Views of Interested Parties

The Decision Maker should consider the views of all those affected by the proposals or who have an interest in them including: pupils; families of pupils; staff; other schools; local residents; diocesan bodies and other providers; LAs etc. No comments have been received during the representation period.

#### **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT has made comment within the revenue and capital financial section above.

## Example Statutory Notice

**[School Name and address]**

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that the Governing Body of [School Name] intends to make a prescribed alteration to [School Name and address] from [1 February 2014].

The governing body wishes to [propose to change the age range at the school from 3 to 11 to 2 to 11 to enable the school to develop places for 2 year olds as part of the Government's two year old offer.]

The current capacity of the school is [205] and the proposed capacity will be [205.] The current admission number for the school is [30] and the proposed admission number will be [30.]

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: the School Organisation & Capital Programme Team, Sefton Council, Town Hall, Bootle L20 7AE. Telephone 0151 934 3427 or by email at [school.organisation@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:school.organisation@sefton.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 The School Organisation & Capital Programme Team, Sefton Council, Town Hall, Bootle L20 7AE.

Signed: M Carney, Chief Executive and Authorised Officer of Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council.

Publication Date: 6 November 2013