

DECISION RECORD

**Decision Ref. No.
B137/22**

Officer Key Decisions are subject to the Council's Call-In Procedure (Annex 9 of the Council's Constitution <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/freedom-of-information-and-council-data/open-data-statistics-about-hertfordshire/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/who-we-are-and-what-we-do.aspx>)

Subject: Whether to agree to the statutory proposal to change the age range of Aboyne Lodge Primary School (a community school), Etna Road, St. Albans, AL3 5NL by altering the lower age limit. If enacted this will change the age range from 3 to 11 years to 4 to 11 years, to enable the cessation of nursery provision at the school with effect from January 2023.

Staff Contact: Melany Knowles, Head of Early Years
Tel: 01992 555874

Executive Member: Terry Douris
Portfolio: Executive Member for Education, Libraries & Lifelong Learning

1. **Decision**

To agree to the statutory proposal to change the age range of Aboyne Lodge Primary School (a community school), Etna Road, St. Albans, AL3 5NL by altering the lower age limit from 3 to 11 years to 4 to 11 years, to enable the cessation of nursery provision at the school with effect from January 2023.

2. **Reasons for the decision**

Aboyne Lodge Primary School nursery class has had falling roll numbers for several years with parents / carers choosing alternative provision in the local community. Within a one-mile radius of the school there are ten other provisions offering similar opportunities including significant wrap around care places. The lower take up of places in the Aboyne Lodge nursery class has led to an additional financial pressure on the school which in turn impacts on the school's long-term sustainability. The closure of the nursery class will ease the financial pressure on the school.

On 14 November 2022, Cabinet agreed to the publication of a Statutory Notice to change the age range of Aboyne Lodge Primary School, from 3 to 11 years to 4 to 11 years to enable the cessation of nursery provision at the school with effect from January 2023. A Statutory Notice was published for 4-weeks ending on 30 December 2022 and no objections have been received to its publication. Therefore the Executive Director of Children's services will determine the proposal using delegated powers.

3. **Alternative options considered and rejected**

None

4. **Consultation**

(a) Comments of Executive Member

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The Executive Member has no comments other than to concur with the Executive Director's intention to agree the proposal.

(b) Comments of other consultees

None

5. **Following consultation with, and the concurrence of the Executive Member, I am proceeding with the proposed decision.**

Signed: Jo Fisher

Title: Executive Director of Children's Services

Date: 5 January 2023

6. Copies of agreed document to:

- Elaine Shell, Democratic Services Manager, Room 213, Old Block, County Hall (signed paper original).
Electronic copy to: Democratic.Services@hertfordshire.gov.uk

and following the expiry of the call-in period to:

- Executive Member - Councillor Terry Douris
- Local Member – Councillor Chris White
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee; Chair Councillor David Andrews, and Vice-Chairs, Councillors Lynn Chesterman OBE and Nigel Quinton
- The governing board of Aboyne Lodge Primary School - email to head teacher to forward to the Chair of governors for distribution to governing board members
- The local Church of England diocese - Canon David Morton, Diocesan Director of Education, Diocese of St Albans (dde@stalbans.anglican.org)
- The local Roman Catholic diocese - Mr Peter Sweeney, Director of Education, Diocese of Westminster (petersweeney@rcdow.org.uk)