

Notice of Non-key Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	Implementation of the establishment of a nursery class at Langtons Infant School- whether to proceed
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Robert Benham – Deputy Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Families
SLT Lead:	Tim Aldridge, Director of Children’s services
Report Author and contact details:	Pooneeta Mahadeo School Organisation Manager Pooneeta.mahadeo@havering.gov.uk Tel. 01708 431092
Policy context:	The Childcare Act 2006 placed duties on all local authorities to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14.
Financial summary:	The school will use an existing Reception class for the nursery provision and thus there are no capital financial implications for this provision. Revenue costs of running the nursery will be met from the Early years Block of the DSG
Relevant OSC:	Children & Learning
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	No

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The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Communities making Havering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Places making Havering	<input type="checkbox"/>
Opportunities making Havering	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connections making Havering	<input type="checkbox"/>

Place an X in the [] as appropriate

Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

To approve the statutory proposal to lower the age range of Langtons Infant School from 5-7 to 3-7 to make provision for a nursery with 26 3 & 4 year old places from 1 September 2018.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Part 3,

Section 3.5.3 (mm) (iii) gives the Assistant Director Education the authority to .Keep under review school organisation, including monitoring demographic and other social changes and to take all necessary action and make any determinations in relation to the proposals for the establishment, alteration, amalgamation or discontinuance of schools.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Following the pre-statutory consultation process undertaken from 14 May to 8 June 2018, the Lead Member signed the (Non-key) Executive Decision on the 22/06/2018 to proceed to the representation stage.

The representation stage, from 29 June to 27 July 2018, complied with statutory requirements by inviting representations from all interested parties on the proposal.

A Statutory Notice, that included details of the proposal, was published in the Romford Recorder on 29 June 2018; notice was also fixed to the entrance gate of the school and circulated to all interested parties, including private providers in the area and DfE, as required by legislation. A Notice was also published on the Council's website with a link to further information about the proposals.

The investment will help extend and improve the early years facilities, making Langtons Infant school increasingly more attractive to local families. Other objectives of the proposal are as follows;

- To provide children with the best possible start in their education, creating strong links with the school's foundation stage.
- To ensure a higher base-line of progression into the reception class.
- The improvement of social and learning outcomes to benefit the children throughout their schooling and into adulthood.
- To provide flexible pre-school provision to local parents, offering pre-school

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provision throughout the academic year.

Langtons Infant School considers that this proposal presents an exciting opportunity to offer high-quality; free education to 3 and 4 year olds on-site with the likely added benefit of enabling a seamless transition into full time education at Langtons Infant School. While there is no guarantee of a place in the Infants School for former nursery pupils, given current conditions it is likely that a large number, if not all, will transfer in this way if they make an application to do so.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Do Nothing. This was rejected because it fails to achieve the positive advantages of the proposal as set above.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

A statutory notice was published on the 29 June 2019 inviting representations on the proposal to establish a maintained nursery and lower the age range limit to include 3 & 4 year olds at Langtons Infant School. At the end of the 4 weeks representation period, 1 comment was received supporting the proposal.

'I am very pleased to hear that will be opening a nursery at Langtons Infant School and am interested to apply for my daughter....'

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Pooneeta Mahadeo

Designation: School Organisation Manager

Signature:



Date: 13/08/2018

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The LA is the decision-maker for this proposal. Decisions must be made within a period of two months of the end of the representation period or they must be referred to the Schools Adjudicator.

The department does not prescribe the exact process by which a decision-maker carries out their decision-making function. However, the body or individual that takes the decision must have regard to the statutory 'Decision-makers Guidance' – Appendix 1

When issuing a decision, the decision-maker can:

reject the proposal;
approve the proposal without modification;
approve the proposal with modifications, having consulted the LA and/or governing body (as appropriate); or
approve the proposal – with or without modification – subject to certain prescribed events (such as the granting of planning permission) being met.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Capital Implications

There are no capital implications for this proposal. The nursery can be located within the existing Infants School building without the requirement for capital expenditure to redesign or re-configure the space.

Revenue Implications

LAs receive funding for nursery provision through the Early Years block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The funding is based on participation and is allocated according to the total number of FTE 3 and 4 year olds attending a provision within Havering at a census date in January 2018 and adjusted for either an increase or decrease in provision at a second census date in January 2019. Havering's current allocation is £5.28 per hour. This funds Havering's allocation to each early years setting, which, for all providers including maintained schools is £4.53 per hour for 15 hours per week for 38 weeks (0.6 FTE) plus supplements for deprivation. Funding is provided for the additional 15 hours extended offer at the same rate.

The nursery at Langtons Infant School will therefore be funded based on participation (i.e. the numbers on roll) from funding received through the Early Years block of the DSG. Any shortfall in funding caused by a low take up of the places available will be met from the school's delegated budget.

Langton's Infant has spare accommodation as numbers are below the published admission number and making use of this accommodation for early years provision

will attract additional funding from the children attending and help address the school's difficult financial position. Parents' experience of a nursery provision on a school site often encourages them to name the school in their preferences when choosing a school place which would again support the school's financial position.

**HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS
(AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)**

The human resources implications will be managed by the school with Education HR support where appropriate and as a consequence there may be a need to recruit additional support staff and the school will undertake the recruitment and selection process in accordance with the existing and relevant policies and procedures.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Equality Act 2010 section 149 states:

"149 Public sector equality duty

(1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to—

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The following issues have been considered relevant in fulfilling this duty

The Childcare Act 2006 placed duties on all local authorities to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children). The location of additional resources within Langtons Infant School will improve access to childcare and will ensure continuity of education provision for children and their parents. The proposal to expand the age range of pupils admitted to the school from 5 to 7 years to 3 to 7 years from September 2018 will particularly benefit families who have young children.

The informal consultation carried out by the school amongst parents, pupils, governors, staff and other providers showed that most respondents were supportive of the establishment of a nursery at Langtons Infant School. There was a positive response to the statutory consultation as well. No equality implications were identified as part of the consultation but the impact of the proposal will be monitored to ensure that any negative impact is minimised / eliminated, and positive outcomes are optimised.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Appendix 1 – Decision-maker guidance

Part C – Record of decision

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Decision

Proposal agreed

Delete as applicable

Proposal NOT agreed because

Details of decision maker

Signed



Name: Trevor Cook

Cabinet Portfolio held:

CMT Member title:

Head of Service title: Assistant Director Education Services

Other manager title:

Date: 13th August 2018

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to the proper officer, Debra Marlow, Principal Democratic Services Officer in Democratic Services, in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on

13/08/2018

Signed

