

At a meeting of the SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE OF CABINET held in the CIVIC CENTRE (COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 6) on WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL 2009 at 3.45 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P Smith in the Chair

Councillors Speding and Trueman.

Receipt of Declarations of Interest

Councillor P Smith declared a personal interest in the report under Item 3 – ‘Governing Body Proposal to Alter the Lower Age Limit at St. Anne’s RC Primary School’, as a member of the Roman Catholic faith.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Timmins and P Watson.

Governing Body Proposal to Alter the Lower Age Limit (Establish a Nursery Class) at St. Anne’s Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School

The City Solicitor submitted a report which asked the Committee to consider a statutory proposal published by the Governing Body of St. Anne’s R.C. Primary School to alter the lower age limit of the school in order to establish a nursery class.

The proposal was to reduce the lower age limit of the school from four to three years by the addition of a nursery class for 26 part-time pupils. The statutory notice was published on 15 January 2009 with the six week representation period expiring on 26 February 2009.

The Headteacher, Chair and Vice Chair of Governors of St. Anne’s RC Primary School were in attendance at the meeting to present the proposal and answer Members’ questions.

During the notice period for the proposal, one objection was received from a local provider of nursery education, details of which were attached at Appendix 3. The

Headteacher of St. Anne's advised that she had spoken to the objector about her concerns and would continue to work in partnership with other providers in the area.

The Headteacher outlined the objectives of the proposal, together with the positive responses received to the consultation process and showed Members a letter from the Diocese which confirmed the necessary funding for the proposed nursery.

Having considered all of the papers including the objection to the proposal and the representations from the school, it was felt that although additional places would be created in the area served by the school, there was strong evidence of parental preference and demand for the provision of a Catholic nursery setting at St. Anne's. In addition, as required by the Statutory Guidance produced by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), the Committee was satisfied that the capital required to implement the proposal was available from the Diocese.

Accordingly, it was:-

1. RESOLVED that the proposal to lower the age limit of St. Anne's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School from four to three years in order to establish a nursery class be approved.

(Signed) P SMITH
Chairman