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**PROPOSALS TO CLOSE EASTBOURNE NURSERY SCHOOL AND CHANGE THE  
CHARACTER OF DODMIRE INFANT SCHOOL**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) -Councillor Stephen Harker, Education Portfolio**

**Responsible Director(s) - Geoff Pennington, Director of Education**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. This report sets out progress to date on the proposals for the closure of Eastbourne Nursery School and to change the character of Dodmire Infant School to include a nursery unit.

**Information and Analysis**

2. A report was taken to the School Organisation Committee on 19th January which referred to changes to the two above named schools. Previous to the 19th January, the Council had consulted with parents on a proposal to close Eastbourne Nursery School and change the character of Dodmire Infant School from 1st April 2004. The responses to that consultation persuaded the Council to reconsider the proposals and that if changes to the two schools were to be implemented, they should be done not from the 1st April, as was the original proposal, but from 1 September 2004.
3. The report of the 19th January informed the SOC that the Council had withdrawn the statutory notices previously published, and that it intended to consult again on a revised proposal. The revised proposal set out an implementation date of the 1st September for the proposed changes.
4. Parents and other relevant bodies were informed of the revised proposals by letter on the 29th January. The letter set out the process for expressing views. It also indicated that there would be an opportunity to respond to the statutory notices and that the statutory notices would explain how this should be done. Only one letter was received in response to the letter of the 29th January, and a detailed reply was sent to it.
5. Statutory notices were published on the 18th March, for a six-week representation period. No objections were received in response to the statutory notices. As a result, the Director will implement the proposals under his delegated powers.

**Outcome of Consultation**

6. This follows statutory procedures and there were no objections.

## **Legal Implications**

7. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

## **Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

8. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

## **Council Policy Framework**

9. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework.

## **Decision Deadline**

10. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

## **Recommendations**

11. Members are asked to note the outcome of the statutory proposals in relation to Eastbourne Nursery and Dodmire Infant Schools.

## **Reasons**

12. The recommendation is supported because the statutory process has been completed and no objections were received. This report is to update Members on the outcome.

**Geoff Pennington, Director of Education**

## **Background Papers**

SOC report of the 19th January  
Letter to parents of 29th January.

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