

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION TAKEN BY AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER

This form **MUST** be used to record any decision taken by the Elected Mayor or an individual Executive Member (Portfolio Holder).

The form must be completed and passed to the Head of Members' Services no later than NOON on the second working day after the day on which the decision is taken. No action may be taken to implement the decision(s) recorded on this form until 7 days have passed and the Head of Members' Services has confirmed the decision has not been called in.

1. Description of decision

To approve the publishing of a consultation on the closure of Willington Lower School and the expansion of Cople Lower on 14th October until 5th December 2016.

To approve the publishing of statutory notices for Willington Lower School and Cople Lower School on 7th December 2016 until 4th January 2017 (If in agreement after consideration of consultation).

2. Date of decision

7th October 2016

3. Reasons for decision

To enable Willington and Cople schools to become one Primary school operating across 2 sites.

4. Alternatives considered and rejected

Not to support the public consultation would mean 2 lower schools continuing in a 2 Tier school system.

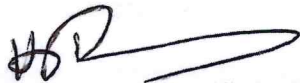
5. How decision is to be funded

N/A

6. Conflicts of interest

Name of all Executive members who were consulted AND declared a conflict of interest.	Nature of interest	Did Standards Committee give a dispensation for that conflict of interest? (If yes, give details and date of dispensation)	Did the Chief Executive give a dispensation for that conflict of interest? (If yes, give details and the date of the dispensation).
CF 100616			

The Mayor has been consulted on this decision

Signed 

Date 7/10/2016

Name of Decision Taker CLLR VANN

This is a public document. A copy of it must be given to the Head of Members' Services as soon as it is completed.

Date decision published: 10th October 2016

Date decision can be implemented if not called in: 19th October 2016

(Decision to be made exempt from call in.....~~YES~~ or NO.....)

Bedford Borough Council – Portfolio Holder

Date of Decision: 7 October 2016

Report by the Assistant Director for Education and Early Help (Chief Education Officer)

Subject: Consultation on the closure of Willington Lower School at the end of 2016/17 academic year

1. Executive Summary

This report is requesting Portfolio holder decision on whether to issue a consultation to the public on the closure of Willington Lower School

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Portfolio Holder is requested to consider the report and, if satisfied, approve the publishing of a consultation on the closure of Willington Lower School and the expansion of Cople Lower School for no less than 6 term time weeks from 14 Oct 2016 running until 5 December 2016.

2.2 The Portfolio Holder is requested to consider the consultation after 5th December and, if satisfied to continue the process, approve the publishing of statutory closure notice for Willington Lower School and expansion of Cople Lower School for 4 weeks from 7 December 2016 until 4 January 2017.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 To enable the merging of Willington Lower School and Cople Lower School into one Primary School across the two school sites.

4. Key Implications

4.1 Legal Issues

The process for school closure found in the Department for Education **Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers (April 2016)**.

Policy Issues

4.2 The Executive agreed policy of two tier education in Bedford Borough on 20 January 2016.

Resource Implications

4.3 Full Council approved the capital budget for two tier conversion works on 3rd February 2016.

4.4 The continuing Primary School will operate on both school sites to ensure all current resources continue to be utilised.

Risk Implications

4.4 The risk of this not being approved is that Willington Lower School would continue within a two tier school system.

Environmental Implications

4.7 There are no environmental impacts.

Equalities Impact

4.8 In preparing this report, due consideration has been given to the Borough Council's statutory Equality Duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations, as set out in Section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010.

4.9 The equality analysis is being conducted throughout the statutory process and will be finalised and acted upon towards the end of the process.

5. Details

- 5.1 There has been excellent joint working between Cople Lower School and Willington Lower School.
- 5.2 In the emerging two tier system the proposal is that one school exists across the current Cople Lower School and Willington Lower School with one school registration number.
- 5.3 To achieve one school with one school registration number across the two sites once school must close. For the avoidance of doubt there is no intention to close wither of the school sites. This is about merging both sites into one school.
- 5.4 The proposed consultation period is outlined below;

7 th October 2016	Portfolio Holder decision to consult on the closure of Beauchamp Middle School and, after reviewing the consultation, to publish statutory proposals if necessary.
14 th October 2016	Consultation starts
5 th December 2016	Consultation ends
By 7 th Dec	Portfolio holder to review consultation and decide whether to publish statutory proposal to close school and extend age range of school remaining open.
7 th Dec	Publish statutory proposal with a 4 week representation period
4 th Jan	4 week representation period ends
By 18 th Jan	Portfolio Holder decision (post consultation and statutory notice period) to consider whether to submit paperwork to School Adjudicator on school closure.

5.5 This decision enables the portfolio holder to review the consultation during august and make a decision on whether to continue the process by issuing the statutory notices. The submission of the proposal to the school adjudicator would be subject to an additional decision.

6. Summary of Consultations and Outcome

6.1 The following Council units or Officers and/or other organisations have been consulted in preparing this report:

Children's and Adults' Services Senior Leadership team
Cople Lower School
Willington Lower School

6.2 No adverse comments have been received.

Report Contact Officer: Colin Foster, Assistant Director – Education
e-mail : colin.foster@bedford.gov.uk

File Reference: Fosterc/REPORTS/Portfolioholder/BMSSLS

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None