

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND CULTURE
CABINET MEMBER**

**TO AMEND THE AGE RANGE OF BAYSGARTH SCHOOL
(ALTERATION OF UPPER AGE RANGE)**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 The local authority published a public notice on 19th September 2019 confirming its intention to amend the age range of Baysgarth School.
- 1.2 The object of this report is to seek the Cabinet Member's approval to implement the proposal.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The governing body undertook informal consultation in 2017 regarding the future viability of 6th form provision. The decision by Baysgarth governors was to continue to focus on driving up educational standards for 11-16 pupils and cease subsidy of the sixth form provision.
- 2.2 The decision of the Baysgarth governors to cease sixth form provision was consistent with the outcomes of the Greater Lincolnshire Area-wide Review of Post-16 Colleges led by the Further Education Commissioner. Learners transitioning from Baysgarth School continue enjoy a comprehensive choice of colleges in North Lincolnshire and post-16 providers across the wider sub-region.
- 2.3 Consequently the school published a statement on their website giving notice of the intention to no longer recruit to the sixth form. An article on the decision to close the sixth form was published on the council's website and in the Scunthorpe Telegraph on 11th November 2016. The school has no post 16 pupils registered on roll.
- 2.4 In September 2019 the Director of Learning, Skills and Culture gave approval for a public consultation to be undertaken on the proposal to change the age range of Baysgarth School. The public notice formally confirmed the LA's intention to amend the upper age range of the school from 11-18 years to 11-16 years. The public notice was published on 19th September 2019 and was open for a four week period. This gave interested parties an opportunity to

express objections or concerns. The consultation ran from 19th September 2019 to 17th October 2019.

- 2.5 No objections or concerns have been raised by interested parties about the proposal. The next stage in the statutory process is for the Local Authority to determine whether to proceed with or withdraw the proposal.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 There are two options that may be considered. These are described below.
- 3.2 **Option 1:** To implement the proposals outlined in the public notice of 19th September 2019 to amend the age range of the school from 11-18 years to 11-16 years with effect from 31st December 2019.
- 3.3 **Option 2:** To withdraw the proposal to amend the age range of the school from 11-18 years to 11-16 years.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 **Option 1:** Approve the proposal and publish the decision to amend the age range from 11-18 years to 11-16 years.
- 4.1.1 The rationale to support implementation of the decision includes: the public notice has been published in accordance with the relevant regulations; no comments or objections to the proposal have been received; following a consultation undertaken by the Governing body in 2017 regarding the viability of the 6th form provision the school published a statement on their website giving notice of the intention to no longer recruit to the sixth form. An article on the decision to close the sixth form was published on the council's website and in the Scunthorpe Telegraph on 11th November 2016. The school has no post 16 pupils registered on roll.
- 4.1.2 The next stage in the statutory process would be to publish the decision.
- 4.1.3 The Lincoln Anglican Diocese, Sheffield Diocese and Nottingham Catholic Diocese are the only bodies that have a right to appeal the decision. Subject to receiving confirmation from these bodies that they do not intend to appeal the decision, officers will implement the proposal.

- 4.2 **Option 2:** Not to change the age range.

- 4.2.1 The conclusion from the initial consultation was to no longer recruit to the 6th form and close the provision when all students had finished their courses. There has been no subsequent feedback from the public notice to indicate a change of opinion.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 **Staffing:** Staffing arrangements for Baysgarth School would be determined by the governing body in line with HR policy and in consultation with unions.
- 5.2 **Finance:** The decision by Baysgarth governors was to continue to focus on driving up educational standards for 11-16 pupils and cease subsidy of the sixth form provision.
- 5.3 **Statutory:** The process for undertaking changes to a school age range is governed by statutory processes and regulations: Section 18 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Mainstream Schools)(England) Regulations 2013

6. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

- 6.1 There have been no concerns or objections received by the Local Authority in response to the public notice.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 That the Cabinet Member approves option 1 to amend the age range of the school from 11-18 years to 11-16 years with effect from 31st December 2019.

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING, SKILLS & CULTURE

Hewson House
Station Road
Brigg
North Lincolnshire
DN20 8XJ

Author: Jo Rea

Date: 17th October 2019

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

Change in age range full proposal

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

Proposal to amend the age range at Baysgarth School

(Alteration of upper age range)

Notice is given in accordance with section 18 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Mainstream Schools)(England) Regulations 2013 that North Lincolnshire Council, Church Square House, 30-40 High Street, Scunthorpe, DN15 6NL propose to alter the upper age range at Baysgarth School, Barrow Road, Barton upon Humber, DN18 6AE on 31st December 2019.

The school is currently registered for pupils aged 11-18 years. This proposal seeks to amend the registered age range to 11-16 years, recognising that no pupils aged 17-18 have been on roll since September 2018.

This notice forms part of the full proposal. Copies of the full proposal may be viewed or downloaded from the Authority's website: <https://www.northlincs.gov.uk/your-council/have-your-say/current-consultations/>

Alternatively a copy may be requested by writing/emailing to the address shown below or by telephoning Tel: 01724 297153.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object or make comments on the proposal by sending them to: schoolorganisation@northlincs.gov.uk or Sandra Burniston, North Lincolnshire Council, Church Square House, 30-40 High Street, Scunthorpe, DN15 6NL

**Signed: Chris Ramsbottom
Head of Service, Asset Management & Infrastructure**

Publication Date: 19th September 2019

SAFE WELL PROSPEROUS CONNECTED

Statutory proposal for
'prescribed alterations' to the upper age range of
Baysgarth School

1.0 Introduction

This report provides an explanation regarding North Lincolnshire Council's proposal to alter the upper age range of Baysgarth School to cease post 16 provision at the site.

This report meets the requirement as specified in the DfE's Guidance Document: Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools, statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers (October 2018).

2.0 What is being proposed and how it will be implemented

The Governing body consulted on the future of 6th form provision in 2017. The conclusion of the consultation was to no longer recruit to the 6th form and close the provision when all current students had finished their courses. Consideration by the Governors was given to the financial viability of a small 6th form and ensuring a continuing focus to drive up standards for year 7-11 pupils.

The Local Authority, as the decision maker for community schools, is seeking to formalise the proposal to change the age range from 11-18 years to 11-16 years at Baysgarth School, Barrow Road, Barton upon Humber, DN18 6AE.

The planned date for the proposal to be implemented is 1st January 2020.

3.0 Who is publishing the proposal and how do I contact the proposer?

The proposal is being published by: North Lincolnshire Council
Church Square House
30-40 High Street
Scunthorpe
DN15 6NL

The contact to discuss the proposal or send representations is: schoolorganisation@northlincs.gov.uk
Sandra Burniston,
Access Manager (Capital & Buildings)
Church Square House
30-40 High Street
Scunthorpe
DN15 6NL

Tel. 01724 297893

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may make representations to support, object or comment on the proposal.

4.0 Objectives and reason for the proposal

The Government launched a review of post-16 education and training institutions in July 2015. North Lincolnshire was included in the Greater Lincolnshire area review that commenced in October 2016. The review focused on FE and sixth form colleges but also incorporated school based 6th form provision. Every institution was asked to examine whether their provision was cost effective.

The guidance for new school sixth forms set a benchmark of a minimum of 200 students. The number of pupils previously attending the small sixth form (46 pupils) made it financially unviable to continue. The DfE guidance on 6th forms also advised that there should be a minimum of 15 A level subjects available.

The decision by Baysgarth governors was to continue to focus on driving up educational standard for 11-16 pupils and cease subsidy of the sixth form provision.

5.0 Project costs

Nil cost

6.0 Effects on other Schools/Academies

Baysgarth School continues to work with local colleges and sixth forms to promote post-16 options. There were no post-16 pupils on roll at the school for the 2018/19 academic year.