WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RECORD OF MEMBER DELEGATED DECISION

Approval of the Change of Age Range of Fladbury CE First School

Date of Decision	25 November 2024				
Decision Maker	Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education				
Brief Description of Decision	The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education: approved the change of age range of Fladbury CE First School from 4-9 to 3-11 from 1 September 2025 as per their delegated authority in relation to prescribed alterations to maintained schools				
Reason(s) for Decision	For Fladbury CE First School proposals, seventeen (17) responses were received during this representation period: fourteen (14) were in support of the proposal; and three (3) were in objection to the proposals. Of the responses in support of the proposal, they were received from a member of staff, parent carers, Governors and a resident. The key reasons for support of this proposal are outlined below: a) It would create fewer transitions for children; b) Transition to high school would be at an appropriate time; c) The High school would provide more specialist teaching; d) It would align with more areas nationally; and e) It may lower the carbon footprint with less travel time to school. The objections received were from parent/carers, and residents. The key reasons for objection to the proposal is outlined below: f) There would not be sufficient physical space at Fladbury CE First School, and g) Views that middle schools prepare children for high school. The most common themes in responses were that a two-tier system means fewer transitions and disruptions for children,				

	and the transition to high school would be at a suitable time at the end of a key stage.			
Alternative Options Considered and Rejected	Between July and September 2021, the Pershore Education Planning Area schools' governing bodies and Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) confirmed in writing to the Local Authority their agreement / intentions to consult on the change to a two-tier Education Planning area (primary and secondary), seek changes of age range (where necessary) and in the instance of the Middle Schools amalgamate with the First Schools.			
	In April 2022, Cabinet agreed a commitment to support a collective change of age range to align schools in the Pershore EPA to a single, two-tier (primary and secondary) system of education, subject to confirmation of the funding necessary to expand Pershore High School.			
	The change of age range is dependent on Pershore High School being expanded to accommodate all Year 7 pupils from all schools within the area. In June 2023 HM Treasury confirmed support for the £22m Department of Education Schools Rebuilding Programme to partially rebuild and expand the school which will deliver the additional Year 7 places required from September 2027.			
	One alternative proposal was provided: this was to extend the years spent at the middle school. This option would not align the Pershore Education Planning Area into a coordinated tier system (primary and secondary), which the majority of respondents are in agreement with.			
	Do not approve – Rejected as the proposal was supported during the consultation and supports to ensure sufficiency of early education places.			
Any Conflict of Interest declared by a consulted Cabinet Member/ any dispensation granted	None			
Signature of Decision Maker	Councillor David Chambers			
Date of Implementation of Decision	3 December 2024			