

## Criteria for change of age range approved by Cabinet in October 2016

**Where a first or primary school is seeking to lower its age range to create or alter provision for early years the Council will, subject to any overriding individual factors, support the proposal provided that:**

- a) open and fair consultation has taken place with parents and other relevant stakeholders and there is clear support for the change;
- b) the school has a good or outstanding early years judgement, or can demonstrate how the change would support improvement;
- c) the change will sustain or improve the quality of any existing provision;
- d) the school has a clear plan to meet the requirements of the statutory framework for the early years foundation stage;
- e) the change does not reduce the number of nursery places in an area of need;
- f) the change does not reduce the number of school places in an area of need; and
- g) funding for any necessary accommodation changes has already been secured.

**Where a school is seeking to make any other change in age range (other than in relation to sixth form provision) the Council will, subject to any overriding individual factors, support the proposal provided that:**

- a) open and fair consultation has taken place with parents and other relevant stakeholders and the school can clearly demonstrate how any objections or issues raised will be managed;
- b) the school has a good or outstanding Ofsted judgement, or can demonstrate how the change would support improvement at the school;
- c) the school involved can demonstrate the capacity to manage any curriculum changes or has secured appropriate support to do so;
- d) the school involved can demonstrate that appropriate facilities, staff and systems will be in place, including how they will manage additional revenue costs;
- e) there is no detrimental impact on other schools i.e. it does not undermine the quality of education provided by other good or outstanding schools in the area, by creating additional places where there is already surplus capacity;
- f) there is an agreed, clear and practical pathway for children to move on from each school affected by the change;
- g) funding for any necessary accommodation changes has already been secured;

- h) any reduction in Published Admission Number or change in admission criteria required has been consulted upon and agreed; and
- i) appropriate planning permission and any other consent required have been secured.

**Sixth Form provision** – Where a school is seeking to alter its age range to add or remove sixth-form provision this is subject to a different statutory process and will be considered on a case by case basis.