



**County Hall  
Hertford  
SG13 8DF**

**Tel:** 0300 123 4043

**My ref:** School Planning

**Date:** 20 June 2017

Dear Consultee

**Consultation on a proposal to change the age range of Widford School, Ware Road, Widford, Hertfordshire, SG12 8RE, to allow nursery-aged children to be admitted from the age of 2.**

We are writing to consult you on a proposal to change the age range of Widford School, Ware Road, Widford, Hertfordshire, SG12 8RE, [“the School”] a community school, by changing the age range from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years thereby allowing nursery-aged children to be admitted from the age of 2.

The implementation date, should the Local Authority not receive any objections to the proposals contained in the subsequent statutory notice, will be the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018; however should the Local Authority receive objections to the proposals contained in the statutory notice, the implementation date will be the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018, subject to any agreed alterations.

**Why is this being proposed?**

Owlets Pre-School, the only pre-school provision in the village of Widford offering free early-education places for 2 and 3-year-olds, is closing at the end of July 2017. This proposal to change the age range of the School from 4 to 11 years to 2 to 11 years will enable the School to offer free early-education places for these children to ensure continued provision in the local area. This proposal is at the request of the governing body of the School.

Currently the School offers 8 reception places each year for local children. It is proposed that the School, in addition to these reception places, would offer up to 10 early-years places in their nursery as either part-time or full-time places.

The School has sufficient space to accommodate nursery-aged children and therefore no additional spaces, buildings or site are required to implement this proposal. The current capacity of the School is 56, excluding the nursery, and it is proposed that this will not change.

The current number of pupils registered at the School in reception year to year 6 is 52; in addition there are currently 3 children in the nursery. The current admission number for the School is 8 and this will not change.

Should this proposal go ahead, there would be no automatic right for children attending the nursery to gain a reception place at the School; parents/carers of nursery-aged children would need to apply in the normal way for admission to the primary phase of the School.

This proposed change of age range is a 'prescribed alteration' which requires Hertfordshire County Council, as the proposer, to follow a statutory process, including a public consultation. We would therefore like to hear your views on this proposal.

### **Have your say.**

You have until 31 July 2017 to let us know your views on this proposal. The easiest way you can do this is by completing the online form on our website at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/consultations). You can tell us if you agree or disagree with the proposal and leave your comments.

If you do not have access to the internet you can visit your local library where free access is available to all Hertfordshire residents. Should you wish to request a hard copy of the response form or need help understanding this information you can email [contact@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:contact@hertfordshire.gov.uk) or alternatively please call us on the number above. An interpreting service is available for those who need it.

Your response must be received by 31 July 2017. We will not be able to acknowledge or respond individually to your comments but they will be taken into account, as explained below.

### **How the decision will be taken.**

This is a consultation and no decision has been made yet. All responses received will be made available to elected members who make the final decision. All responses may be made available in public reports, although personal details will be removed to respect individual privacy.

The following timetable outlines the decision-making process. Please note that meetings marked with \* will be open to the public. Although it will not be possible to inform everyone individually of the decisions made, you will be able to access this information throughout the process at:

<https://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/CabinetandCommittees.aspx>

<b>Process</b>	<b>Date</b>
Public consultation (6 weeks)	20 June – 31 July 2017
Education, Libraries & Localism Panel*	7 November 2017
Cabinet*	13 November 2017
Statutory notice period (4 weeks)	23 November – 20 December 2017
Chief Officer delegated decision (final decision if no objections are received to the statutory notice)	21 December 2017
Implementation (following Chief Officer delegated decision)	8 January 2018
Cabinet* (for final decision if one or more objections are received to the statutory notice)	22 January 2018
Implementation (following Cabinet decision)	5 February 2018

Yours faithfully

**Jenny Coles**  
**Director of Children's Services**