



Cabinet report

Date **16 DECEMBER 2021**

Title **CLOSURE OF CARISBROOKE COLLEGE SIXTH FORM**

Report of **CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION AND LIFELONG SKILLS**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this paper is to report the outcome of the public consultation and seek authority from Cabinet to approve the alteration of the upper age range so as to remove the Sixth Form at Carisbrooke College with effect from 31 December 2021.
2. A consultation process has been undertaken (in line with the Department for Education's publication "Making Significant Changes ("prescribed alterations") to Maintained Schools) for four weeks (as set out in the regulations) between 28 September and 9 November 2021
3. No representations were received in response to the consultation.

4. RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet approves the alteration of the upper age range so as to remove the Sixth Form at Carisbrooke College with effect from 31 December 2021

BACKGROUND

5. Since 1 September 2016, the Island Sixth Form has been administered as part of Medina College. Prior to September 2016 the administration of the Island Sixth Form was managed by Carisbrooke College and Medina College together and Sixth Form students were allocated to either Carisbrooke College or Medina College. All students allocated to Carisbrooke College have now left the Sixth Form and all Sixth Form students are now registered under Medina College. There are no post 16 students registered under Carisbrooke College.

6. The Governing Board therefore requested an alteration of the upper age range so as to remove the sixth form at Carisbrooke College therefore, changing its age range from 11-19 to 11-16.
7. With Medina College and Carisbrooke College sharing a site the Sixth Form element at Medina College will continue to work closely with Carisbrooke College. This will include opportunities for Carisbrooke College students to access the full range of events at the Sixth Form and Carisbrooke College staff continuing to teach post 16 classes at the Sixth Form. There will be no detrimental effects on students or staff from this proposal.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

8. This directly links to the Corporate Plan 2021-25 priority which is to work with local communities to maintain and ensure appropriate local school provision. In addition to this it supports the commitment that through ongoing business of the council we will work with and challenge schools performance to ensure that all are good or outstanding, and to ensure work is undertaken to challenge schools in financial deficit to secure a more sustainable position for the schools and the council.

CONSULTATION

9. The Public Notice was published on the 28 September and the consultation period ran until the 9 November 2021. The notice was published on the iwight.com and information was shared by the school to all parents/carers.
10. The consultation also appeared in the County Press and Observer Friday 1 October 2021 to allow other stakeholders to comment on the proposal.
11. A period of informal consultation was undertaken by the Governing Body from the 9 November 2020 until the 6 December 2020 and was advertised to the parents and carers in the Carisbrooke College Newsletter dated 6 November 2020.
12. No representations have been received by the Isle of Wight Council, Governing Board or other stakeholders in response to these consultations.

FINANCIAL / BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

13. Schools have devolved funding and accountability through individual governing bodies, using separate finance systems and bank accounts. Government formula-based revenue funding for 6th Forms is passported onto relevant schools by the local authority as it is received from the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). The authority monitors the overall budget position of maintained schools through compliance checks required within the Scheme for Financing Schools. There is no direct financial impact of this proposal to the Isle of Wight Council.

IMPACT ON YOUNG PEOPLE AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

14. This proposal will have a positive impact on both the short- and long-term future for the young people, and future generations on the Isle of Wight. All students under the Federation including those attending Carisbrooke College will continue to access the full range of events at the Sixth Form.

CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT & UNESCO BIOSPHERE IMPACT

15. Subject to the availability of funding heat decarbonisation plans will be commissioned in the near future for all LA owned school buildings. This will assist us in the submission of applications for future funding and ultimately to support the IWCs target to be carbon neutral by 2035.
16. All students are already located at the Island Sixth Form Centre, therefore, there will be no change in carbon emissions as a result of this proposal.
17. The current sixth form opening hours are not intended to be changed, and therefore as a result of the proposal it is not likely to have an impact on the building emissions. The school do however regularly promote active travel to school which will continue to support the reduction of emissions created from transporting children to school by car.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

18. Changes to maintained schools are considered 'prescribed alterations', which require a specific statutory process to be followed for their correct implementation. This process has been followed and is set out in the statutory guidance 'Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools updates in October 2018. The specific prescribed alteration in this report is a change of age range of three years (including the removal of a sixth form), which is a prescribed alteration capable of proposal by the Governing Body of a foundation school and which requires a period of at least four weeks' formal consultation after the publication of a statutory proposal/notice before a decision can be made.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

19. The council as a public body is required to meet its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equal opportunities between people from different groups and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or believe, sex and sexual orientation.
20. The recommendations being proposed by the Council in this report; the closure of the sixth form at Carisbrooke College will not have a negative impact on equality and diversity.

21. The policies of the council and Medina College in relation to equal opportunities and eliminating discrimination will continue to apply should the proposed change be approved.
22. An equality impact assessment has been completed and is attached in Appendix 1.

PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

23. There are no property implications arising from the proposal as the Island Sixth Form will continue to operate from the same site

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – EIA – Carisbrooke College

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