

CABINET – 14 DECEMBER 2011

DECISION – AGENDA ITEM 7 – BIRKENSHAW MIDDLE SCHOOL, BIRKENSHAW CE (C) FIRST AND NURSERY SCHOOL AND EAST BIERLEY CE (VC) FIRST SCHOOL

(1) That the responses to the statutory consultation on revised proposals for the closure of Birkenshaw Middle School including feedback received about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils, and the fact that the Council has until 18 November 2012 to consider whether to publish a statutory notice for the closure of Birkenshaw Middle School be noted.

(2) That it be noted that the Governing Body of Birkenshaw Middle School has begun the process to convert the School to Academy status in partnership with the BBG Academy Trust from April 2012 (the final outcome of this process is not expected to be confirmed until February or March 2012) and that, should Birkenshaw Middle School become an Academy, the Council will no longer be able to publish a statutory notice for its closure.

(3) That the responses to the non-statutory consultation on the proposal to relocate Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School from its current site to the current site of Birkenshaw Middle School, including feedback received about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils and that the fact that a decision to move the school would be a non-statutory decision and can be made at any time whilst the school remains a Voluntary Controlled School be noted.

(4) That it be noted that to support the retention of Y5 pupils for September 2012 modular accommodation will need to be put in place to provide space for up to 60 additional pupils on the Birkenshaw CE(C) First and Nursery School site.

(5) That the responses to the non-statutory consultation on the proposal to reduce the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) at East Bierley CE (VC) First School, including feedback received about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils be noted. A decision to reduce the PAN at the school would need to be part of the consultation on admission arrangements that takes place between 1 November and 1 March with arrangements being determined by 15 April in the year before the one to which the arrangements are to apply. This can be done in any year (with implementation at the next relevant admission point) whilst the school remains a Voluntary Controlled School.

(6) That it be noted that to support the retention of Y5 pupils for September 2012 options for modular accommodation are being explored in order to put in place enough capacity space for up to 30 additional pupils on or adjacent to the East Bierley CE (VC) site.

(7) That the intention of Officers to bring forward a further report, recommending decisions in respect of Birkenshaw Middle School closure, the relocation of Birkenshaw First and Nursery School and the reduction in PAN at East Bierley CE (VC) First School, once further information regarding academy conversion and capital funding is available (expected in December (annual funding from DfE), late December (regarding the Priority Schools Building Programme) and in February (from the Council's capital plan)) be noted.