

DETERMINATION

Case reference: STP/000572

Referral body: Clyst Honiton Church of England Primary School,
Exeter, Devon

Statutory proposal: To modify the date set for the implementation of a
determined proposal to expand and relocate Clyst
Honiton Church of England Primary School, Devon.

Date of decision: 10 April 2012

Determination:

Under the powers conferred on me by paragraph 21 of the School Organisation (Transitional Provisions) (England) Regulations 2007 I hereby approve the modification to the determined proposal to expand and relocate Clyst Honiton Church of England Primary School, such that the date for implementation shall now be 1 September 2012.

The referral

1. The Governing Body of Clyst Honiton Church of England Primary School (the School) wrote to the Office of the School's Adjudicator on 6 March 2012, requesting a modification to bring forward from September 2013 to 1 September 2012 the implementation date for the enlargement of the School to accommodate 420 pupils.

Jurisdiction

2. The original proposals to change the status of the school from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided, to increase the age range by the addition of a foundation unit and to expand the school to provide 420 places were approved by the Devon School Organisation Committee at its meeting on 2 April 2007, conditional on appropriate planning permission being obtained by 31 July 2008. The notices and procedures were properly made and carried out as required by the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The School's change of category to Voluntary Aided status was implemented in September 2007.

3. In a Determination of 3 July 2008, the Schools Adjudicator modified this determined proposal so that the School would be enlarged from September 2010 subject to planning permission being granted by January 2009, and so that the age range would be extended by the addition of a foundation stage from September 2009.

4. A second modification to delay these implementation dates by one year was approved by the Adjudicator in a Determination of 24 November 2008.

5. In a subsequent Determination of 22 December 2009, the Adjudicator approved a further modification such that the date for expansion would be

September 2013, subject to planning permission being granted by 31 December 2010, and such that the age range would be extended from September 2012.

6. A further request for a modification has now been referred. I am satisfied that I have jurisdiction to consider this matter under paragraph 21 of the School Organisation (Transitional Provisions) (England) Regulations 2007.

Procedures

7. In considering the proposed modification, I have had full regard to the relevant legislation and guidance.

8. I have considered all the papers put before me including:

the Adjudicator's determination of 3 July 2008;

the Adjudicator's determination of 24 November 2008;

the Adjudicator's determination of 22 December 2009;

the School's letter of referral of 6 March 2012;

a letter from the Church of England Diocese of Exeter (the Diocese) dated 15 March 2012;

a letter from Devon County Council (the Council) dated 21 March 2012;

the Council's email of 28 March 2012; and

the School's letters of 30 March 2012 and other correspondence.

The Proposal

9. The original proposal was prompted by the creation of a new housing development at Cranbrook, a new community, to the east of Exeter, where the Council reports a growing demand for places. The School is designated to serve the western end of the new community and another primary school (a community school) is planned to serve the needs of the eastern end of Cranbrook.

10. The School's change of category was implemented in September 2007. However, the impact of the downturn in the economy led to delays in the development of the housing estate, created uncertainty about the implementation date and resulted in several variation requests. The School has now requested the implementation date be brought forward by one year to September 2012. For certainty I have taken the proposed implementation date to be 1 September 2012.

Background, Consideration of Factors and Conclusion

11. From the original proposals approved by the Devon School Organisation Committee in 2007, only the School's change to voluntary aided status was completed within the planned timeframe. The proposals to increase the age range and to expand the school were significantly delayed as a result of the economic

downturn and slow building development, and consequently their implementation dates were subject to several modifications determined by the Schools Adjudicator. However, both the School and the Council now report that substantial progress has been made such that the new buildings will be ready for occupation in September 2012 instead of September 2013. The Diocese fully supports this modification request, as does the Council. The Council commented that as the development at Cranbrook grows the move and expansion of the School will serve the needs of the new community.

12. The School has reported it has kept the local community informed through the school newsletter and regular updates in the parish magazine and the local church newsletter distributed to the surrounding parishes. The Council has also reported that schools in the area have been kept informed throughout the period that the move has been planned. In addition a consultation event was held in January 2012 on the impact of future housing development in Cranbrook and the surrounding areas and that all schools were invited to attend. The Council has confirmed that initially it does not anticipate that any other school will be affected by this modification.

13. As the proposed change to the implementation date has the support of the key interested parties, and as the new buildings will be ready for occupation, I have decided that I should approve the proposed modification, and am doing so.

Determination

14. Under the powers conferred on me by paragraph 21 of the School Organisation (Transitional Provisions) (England) Regulations 2007 I hereby approve the modification to the determined proposal to expand and relocate Clyst Honiton Church of England Primary School, such that the date for implementation shall now be 1 September 2012.

Dated: 10 April 2012

Signed:

Schools Adjudicator: Cecilia Galloway