



Derby City Council

COUNCIL CABINET 11 September 2013

Report of the Cabinet Member for Children and
Young People

ITEM 10

The Bemrose School – Age Range Extension

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Nationally, the demand for primary school places is increasing and projections are showing that this will remain at this level for a number of years. In order to ensure there are sufficient school places in Derby, the proposal is to extend the age range at The Bemrose School to 3-18 and provide an additional 315 primary school places and 26 nursery places.
- 1.2 Following Cabinet Member approval in June 2013 and The Bemrose School Governing Body approval, statutory consultation has now taken place on a proposal to permanently extend the age range at The Bemrose School. Consultation on this proposal took place over a four week period from Friday 28 June 2013 to Friday 26 July 2013, with the publication of a statutory notice in the local press as legally required. The notice was also displayed at the local library and at the entrance of the School. A summary of responses received and the Local Authority's comments are set out in Appendix 2 of this report, and a copy of the consultation document is attached as Appendix 3.
- 1.3 All responses received from both the initial consultation which was reported to Council Cabinet in June 2013 and the statutory consultation will be considered, and The Bemrose School Governing Body will make a final decision on the proposal. As The Bemrose School is a foundation school it is therefore legally required to take this decision, in consultation with the Council.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the outcome of statutory consultation in relation to the proposal to extend the age range at The Bemrose School to 3-18.
- 2.2 To note The Bemrose School Governing Body will consider the responses received and will take a final decision on whether to expand the age range at The Bemrose School from September 2014.
- 2.3 To agree that the Council fully supports the proposal to extend the age range at The Bemrose School to provide additional primary school places in Derby.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To inform Council Members of the outcome of the statutory consultation in relation to the proposal to extend the age range at The Bemrose School from September 2014.



COUNCIL CABINET

11 September 2013

Report of the Strategic Director for Children and Young People

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Initial and statutory consultation has taken place on an exciting proposal to permanently extend the age range at Bemrose School from 11-18 to 3-18 from September 2014. This means that there would eventually be 45 primary places available in each primary year group (Reception – Year 6) making a maximum number of 315 primary pupils and a 26 place nursery available on site. The expansion of primary school places would be gradual until reaching all year groups in 2020/2021.
- 4.2 The reason for the proposal is to meet an increase in demand for primary pupil places across the City. If the proposal goes ahead, the Council would continue to work very closely with the school to provide extra accommodation and to minimise any disruption that could be caused by the building work.
- 4.3 The statutory consultation period on the proposal begun on Friday 28 June 2013 and ran for a four week period up until Friday 26 July 2013. Appendix 2 sets out a detailed analysis of consultation responses. Given that the demand for primary school places is increasing and the confidence that those concerns raised in relation to traffic congestion and land drainage during the initial consultation will be solved, the Council would support the proposal to extend the age range at The Bemrose School from September 2014.
- 4.4 The Council approached The Bemrose School Governing Body in relation to this expansion proposal, and the Governing Body fully supports the proposal to extend the age range at the school and to provide 315 primary school places and 26 nursery places.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 There are no alternative options in providing additional school places in this area of the City to ensure a sufficiency of primary school places.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s)	Robin Constable, Solicitor Alison Parkin, Head of Finance Phil Derbyshire, Head of Maintenance and Energy Frank, McGhee, Director for Commissioning
---	--

Other(s)	
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Gurmail Nizzer – Head of School Organisation and Provision 01332 642720 gurmail.nizzer@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Consultation Responses Appendix 3 – Consultation Document

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 The Schools Capital Programme will fund the required capital funding to permanently extend the age range at The Bemrose School to 3-18 and to provide 315 primary school places and 26 nursery places. The estimated cost of this project is £4million.
- 1.2 There will be revenue implications in terms of funding additional classrooms from September 2014. This will be a further additional pressure on the Dedicated Schools Grant in fully funding these additional pupils.

Legal

- 2.1 Under The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007, statutory consultation is required for any proposal that seeks to expand a school by both 30 and 200 or 25% of its school size. The process involves consultation, publication of a statutory notice and consideration of the responses received. Subject to the outcome of this process, the proposed implementation date is September 2014.
- 2.2 The Council has a legal duty to ensure that there are sufficient primary school places in Derby, and is working very closely with the school in relation to this proposal. As The Bemrose School is a foundation school, the Governing Body is legally required to take the decision on this proposal.

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 None arising from this report.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None arising from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None arising from this report.

Property and Asset Management

- 7.1 Where permanent school expansions are proposed, work will be planned to meet relevant building regulations. Part L of the building regulation generally requires new components to be more environmentally friendly and efficient

Risk Management

- 8.1 There is a risk that the Council will not be meeting its legal duty in respect of school places if additional school places are not provided.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 All people in Derby City will enjoy achieving their learning potential.

**Proposal to extend the age range at The Bemrose School
Summary of statutory consultation responses**

The table below sets out a summary of statutory consultation responses:

Type of Respondent	Number of Responses	'Yes I agree with the proposal'	'No I don't agree with the proposal'	I am undecided about the proposal
Schools	2	0	2	0
Other	1	0	1	0
Total	3	0	3	0

The following issues of concern were raised:

Consultation Comment	Local Authority Response
<p>1. Concerns were raised over the Council not meeting with local schools to discuss the proposal and also, the overall consultation process in that not enough has been done to ensure views and comments are submitted to the Council and The Bemrose School.</p>	<p>On Wednesday 13 February 2013, the Council met with local schools to discuss the proposal to extend the age range at The Bemrose School. On Friday 22 March 2013, a note was included in the School Circular, informing all Derby City Schools of the proposal at The Bemrose School and this included a link to the website in which the consultation document could be found.</p> <p>Parents of children attending The Bemrose School were provided with information on the proposal and the consultation process. Ward Councillors and Trade Unions were also informed directly via email.</p> <p>On Tuesday 26 March 2013, Derby City Council hand delivered a letter to residents of Rowditch Avenue and Radcliffe Drive, informing them of the proposal at The Bemrose School and stated where residents could obtain the consultation document. Residents were also made aware that views and comments on this proposal should be sent to The Bemrose School. Copies of the</p>

	<p>consultation document and a map of the location of the proposed primary school were also taken to a Neighbourhood Meeting on Tuesday 16 April 2013 with very detailed consultation taking place.</p> <p>A statutory notice on the proposal was published in the local paper on Friday 28 June 2013 which marked the beginning of a four week consultation period. The notice was also put on display in the local library and at the entrance of the school.</p>
<p>2. What support will schools receive from the Council?</p>	<p>The Council assure you that they will support all schools within Derby City in relation to the current demand for school places. One way in which the Council are doing this, is by ensuring all proposed expansions are gradually expanded so that only the intake years will be expanded until reaching all year groups to avoid 'pulling' pupils from other schools.</p> <p>The main area of concern is the increase in birth data therefore the priority is the intake years hence the gradual increase. The Council will also continue to closely monitor pupil projections and actual school data to determine where the demands are and to ensure there are sufficient school places available.</p>
<p>3. Accuracy of pupil projections and where the demand for school places is.</p>	<p>In 2012, Derby City Council experienced an unprecedented increase in the demand for primary school places which resulted in a number of primary schools being temporarily expanded. In depth analysis of pupil data and birth data was carried out which confirmed that the high demand for primary school places is to remain at this high level for a number of years.</p> <p>These high pupil projections are determined by birth data and historic trends. As a result of the unprecedented increase which was experienced nationally, across other Local Authorities, the Council further analysed birth data to ensure the numbers are high as a result of birth data – this analysis confirmed this.</p> <p>There is a high demand for primary school places in Cluster 2 of the City and the schools</p>

	<p>that fall within this area (Ashgate Primary School, Becket Primary School, Bishop Lonsdale CE Primary School, Dale Community Primary school, Firs Estate Primary School, St Chads CE Infant School and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School), currently have no or very little places available in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, which are the year groups with significant pressure.</p> <p>Although The Bemrose School is within close proximity to other primary schools, pupil projections and birth data shows that pupil numbers will remain at this high level over the coming years and therefore suggests that local schools are unlikely to be affected by this increase.</p> <p>Secondary school projections show that at present, there will be sufficient school places across existing secondary schools when the high primary pupil numbers feed through to secondary schools. Pupil data will continue to be closely monitored.</p>
<p>4. Concerns were raised over the proposals to demolish Firs Estate Primary School approximately 5 years ago and the affect the proposal will have on the schools that are within close proximity to The Bemrose School.</p>	<p>Since 2007/08, Derby City has seen an increase of 530 pupils for reception intake and 1,106 pupils overall, across all year groups. Over the past 5 years, pupil numbers have changed dramatically and are no longer at the level they were at 5 years ago. Point 1.1 below this table shows the increase in pupil numbers since 2007.</p> <p>Pupil projections and birth data show that Derby will experience another significant increase for September 2013 and they will remain at this high level for a number of years.</p> <p>Point 1.2 below this table, shows the actual and projected figures for the demand on primary school places within Cluster 2 of the City.</p> <p>Based on this information, the Council are confident that additional school places are required in this area of the City to ensure the Council meets its legal duty in ensuring there are sufficient school places and that local schools are unlikely to be affected by the</p>

	proposal at The Bemrose School.
5. Concerns over the ability to predict pupil numbers – how are predictions made? Based on what? New housing? Immigrations Laws?	Pupil projections are determined by pupil data taken from Pupil Level Annual Census (PLASC) returns and the current PLASC return, birth data taken from the Health Authority data on 0-4 year olds registered with GP's and historic trends.
6. Uncertainty over falling numbers in the established schools, potential job losses, restructuring and empty rooms is causing stress and anxiety.	Please see consultation comments 2, 3 and 4 .
7. Evidence of 'concerns raised during the initial process will be solved', as stated in the response to views and comments submitted during initial consultation.	<p>This relates to the concerns raised in relation to traffic congestion and land drainage which is proposed to be resolved as the project at The Bemrose School is underway.</p> <p>Evidence of this will be available once the project is complete.</p>
8. The efforts to involve trade unions and elicit opinion from the union representatives have been poor and unsatisfactory.	On Friday 22 March 2013, an email was sent to eight Union Representatives, including the Branch Secretary, with the consultation document attached.
9. No alternative proposals have been considered which is why the Council will not look again, at the proposal.	<p>The Council is proposing to temporarily expand 27 primary schools across the City from September 2013. Although, these proposed expansions are in place, a projected shortfall still remains.</p> <p>Due to the number of expansions proposed at existing schools within Derby, it seems sensible that a new primary school is built within Derby City.</p> <p>There is no available land within the City for solely a new primary school and the timescales for a new primary school to be built can take between 4-5 years to complete.</p> <p>The Bemrose School has enough land available to build a new primary school and to still have sufficient land for sports activities.</p>

	Also, it is located in an area of the City where there is significant demand for primary school places (across Clusters 1 and 2 of the City).
<p>10.Comments in relation to the Complete Proposal document:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the proposal of 45 places for primary aged children in each year to create two classes per year per group? 2. Is the aim of the age range proposal to bolster the under-utilised facilities due to the number of surplus places currently? It appears that present facilities could accommodate extra primary pupils without the need for a new primary school. 3. The document states that all minutes of all public consultation meetings were published – discussions were not minuted despite protests from those in attendance. 4. The document states that public consultation was carried out through a consultation document which was circulated widely which and made available on the Council's website – I dispute this statement as little consultation of home owners in this area. 5. The document states 'N/A' to age range proposals. 6. Early years provision states 'N/A'. 7. The Cluster 2 projections reveal a rise in 61 pupils; can the schools within Cluster 2 not accommodate these? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A school with an Admission Limit of 45, and total capacity of 315 pupils will have 7 classrooms. This is to ensure 30 pupils per class. This level of accommodation will not allow two classes per year group. Any school with two classes per year group would require 14 classes with capacity for 420 places. This is not proposed for The Bemrose School. 2. The aim of the age range proposal is to create additional primary school provision in the City to deal with high primary pupil projections. The age range proposal has no connection to the secondary school provision and the current level of surplus. 3. This relates to Neighbourhood Forum meetings which are not minuted. The Bemrose School proposal was one agenda item at the Neighbourhood Forum meeting. 4. Please see consultation comment 1. 5. The Complete Proposal has been updated and re-circulated. 6. The Complete Proposal has been updated and re-circulated. 7. The proposal at The Bemrose School is to help ease the current pressures of both Cluster 1 and Cluster 2 of the City. It has been confirmed that the number of New Arrivals in to the City is increasing. Since 2010, 206 additional primary aged new arrivals have come in to the City which has seen a significant increase in the demand for school places within Cluster 1 of the City. It is expected that there will be a significant demand for school places in Derby given the changes which are due to take place in December 2013 with regard to the rights of A2 nationals in addition to the demand caused by migration of A8 nationals and others.
11. There is a proposed housing	The siting of the proposed primary school is

<p>development on the old Kingsway site which could accommodate a primary school and be a more suitable location to expand other schools. I consider that Derby City Council is avoiding this as a new school would become an academy – there are political implications here.</p>	<p>located within the area of the city where there are significant current pressures for primary school places. In addition to this, pupil projections show that this pressure will remain over the next seven years.</p> <p>The proposed housing development on the old Kingsway Hospital site currently falls within the catchment areas of Brackensdale Infant School and Brackensdale Junior School and it is proposed that these schools could expand to accommodate the children expected to be generated from this proposed housing development.</p> <p>The timescales of this housing development are not known and is likely to take several years to complete which is not appropriate in dealing with the current pressures on primary school places in this area of the City.</p> <p>The Council is not against new primary schools to accommodate proposed housing developments providing the proposed housing development is large enough. The proposal has always been that the children from this development will fall within Brackensdale Infant and Junior Schools but there will be scope to include The Bemrose School (primary) as part of the plans for ensuring the children from this development can be accommodated at a local school.</p>
--	---

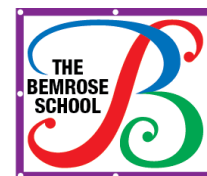
1.1 The following table show the increase in pupil numbers since 2007:

Year	Reception Intake	Overall (across all year groups)
2007/08	2724	19533
2008/09	2869	19518
2009/10	2840	19500
2010/11	2952	19610
2011/12	3073	20025
2012/13	3254	20639
2013/14 (projected figure)	3536 (projected figure)	21535 (projected figure)

1.2 The following table shows the actuals projections for Cluster 2:

Year	Reception Intake	Overall (across all year groups)
2010/11	308	1874

2011/12	330	1944
2012/13 (projected figure)	343 (projected figure)	2001 (projected figure)
2013/14 (projected figure)	384 (projected figure)	2116 (projected figure)
2014/15 (projected figure)	381 (projected figure)	2209 (projected figure)
2015/16 (projected figure)	398 (projected figure)	2311 (projected figure)
2016/17 (projected figure)	390 (projected figure)	2390 (projected figure)
2017/18 (projected figure)	391 (projected figure)	2472 (projected figure)



To:
3

Appendix

Parents of pupils at The Bemrose School and other local schools, Staff, Governors, Trade Unions & Derby City Councillors (Ward Members).

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Friday 22 March 2013 to Friday 03 May 2013

Please give us your views and comments on our proposal to extend the age range at The Bemrose School for primary school places.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Derby City Council and The Bemrose School Governing Body is consulting on an exciting proposal to permanently extend the age range at Bemrose School from 11-18 to 3-18 from September 2014. This means that there would eventually be 45 primary places available in each primary year group (Reception – Year 6) making a maximum number of 315 primary pupils and a 26 place nursery available on site. The expansion of primary school places would be gradual until reaching all year groups in 2020/2021. Council Cabinet at its meeting on 13 March 2013 approved significant capital funding of £4,000,000 for this exciting project. A detailed design feasibility study is underway, in consultation with the school.
- 1.2 The reason for the proposal is to meet an increase in demand for primary pupil places across the City. If the proposal goes ahead, Derby City Council would work closely with the school to provide extra accommodation and to minimise any disruption that could be caused by the building work.
- 1.3 This consultation document tells you the reason for the proposal and how the decision making process works. Please take time to read through the document and let us know your views and comments on the attached Consultation Response Form. The closing date for responses is **Friday 03 May 2013**. We hope you find the document helpful and informative.

2.0 Why is the Governing Body proposing to increase pupil places?

- 2.1 Councils have a legal responsibility to make sure that there are enough school places available to meet local needs. Councils also have a duty to increase the scope for parental choice in planning for and securing school places. The

aim is that parents should be able to gain a place for their child at their preferred school, although this can never be guaranteed. The provision of additional primary school places at the Bemrose School by the governing body will assist the Council in meeting its duties.

2.2 For September 2012, Derby City experienced high demand for school places and created approximately 700 school places to deal with this demand. It is anticipated that this demand for school places will continue for September 2013 and will remain at this level for some years.

2.3 The Council are also proposing to expand additional schools for September 2013 to ensure there are sufficient primary places near to the centre of the City.

3. Why is the Governing Body proposing an increase to 315 pupil places (admission number of 45)?

3.1 When looking at primary school sizes, classroom organisation needs to be considered. The aim, wherever possible, is to achieve whole forms of entry (multiples of 30) or half forms of entry for primary schools. For example, an admission number in each year group of 30, 45, 60, 75 and so on.

3.2 The demand for places in this area of the City has now reached a point where it is appropriate to create a primary school with an admission number of 45 from September 2014. This would result in an extra 315 primary pupil places at The Bemrose School by September 2020.

3.3 There is currently a close match between pupil numbers and places in and near to the centre of the City and projections are showing an increasing trend. An admission number of 45 is proposed because this provides the best fit with the projected pupil numbers in the area.

4. What are the views of Headteacher and Governors?

4.1 The Bemrose School's Governing Body fully supports the proposal to extend the age range to 3-18 and is working closely with the Council.

5. What are the implications for teaching staff?

5.1 School budgets are largely based on pupil numbers. The extra pupils will result in increased funding for the school to employ sufficient primary teaching staff.

6.0 Will there be an impact on other schools?

6.1 Age range extensions require careful consideration and need to be seen in the context of school places in the wider area. The proposal to extend the age range at The Bemrose School is to meet an increase in demand for primary places in this area of the City. There is no intention to reduce the size of

schools elsewhere as a result of this proposal. All local schools are being consulted on this proposal.

- 6.2 A number of primary schools are located in this area of the City and some fall within the existing catchment area of The Bemrose School. The proposal is that all existing primary schools that fall within the catchment area of The Bemrose School will become 'option areas'.
- 6.3 This means that parents who live within any of the existing primary school catchment areas will have equal priority for a normal area place either at one of the existing primary schools, or the proposed primary phase at The Bemrose School. This will only apply to the areas that fall within the existing boundary for The Bemrose School. Appendix 1 shows which schools and the part of their catchment area that will become an 'option area'.
- 6.4 The Bemrose School will become an all-through school for pupils aged 3-18 and as such, pupils who are admitted in to the primary phase of the school, i.e. the Reception Year or any subsequent primary year, will continue in to Year 7 without the need for parents to re-apply for a place in Year 7 via Derby City Council. Places in Year 7 will automatically be allocated to The Bemrose School's Year 6 pupils by Derby City Council and form part of the Year 7 Pupil Admission Number (PAN) for The Bemrose School. Parents of The Bemrose School's Year 6 pupils, of course, will be free to apply for alternative Year 7 places if they wish to, via Derby City Council's secondary transfer round.
Please note that, like every other Derby City school, nursery aged children will not automatically transfer in to the primary school within The Bemrose School and that they would need to apply during the reception intake round.
- 6.5 In terms of secondary projections, pupil numbers and trends will continue to be monitored as high primary pupil numbers will eventually feed through to secondary schools.

7.0 How can I give my views and comments on the proposal?

- 7.1 The Bemrose School and Derby City Council are very interested in your views and comments on our proposal. Please respond to us in writing by using the Consultation Response Form attached to this paper. There is a six-week period for people to respond to this proposal. The closing date for responses is **Friday 03 May 2013**. If you would like to discuss any specific aspects of the proposal or need more information, please contact:

The Bemrose School Business Manager
The Bemrose School
Uttoxeter New Road
Derby
DE22 3HU

8.0 What are the next steps?

- 8.1 As The Bemrose School is a Foundation Trust School, the governing body needs to consult and publish a public notice on the proposal to extend the age range at the school to include a primary phase. Please use this consultation as an opportunity to give us your views and comments on our proposal to extend the age range at The Bemrose School, Uttoxeter New Road, Derby, DE22 3HU.
- 8.2 After the closing date of this initial consultation, all the responses will be gathered and reported to the School Governing Body to make a decision on this proposal and progress to the next stage of the consultation process. If The Bemrose School Governing Body approves moving to the next stage, a formal public notice will be published with a further four-week consultation period, as required by law. Following that, consideration will be given to the responses received and a final decision will be taken on the proposal. We anticipate that a final decision will be taken by September 2013. The proposed increase in the admission number will also need to be consulted on and processed in line with the School Admissions Code.
- 8.3 If the proposal to increase pupil places goes ahead, Derby City Council will work closely with the school on proposals for the new accommodation. The Council would seek to minimise any disruption that could be caused by the building work and full consideration will be given to issues such as traffic and the impact on the environment as part of the planning process.

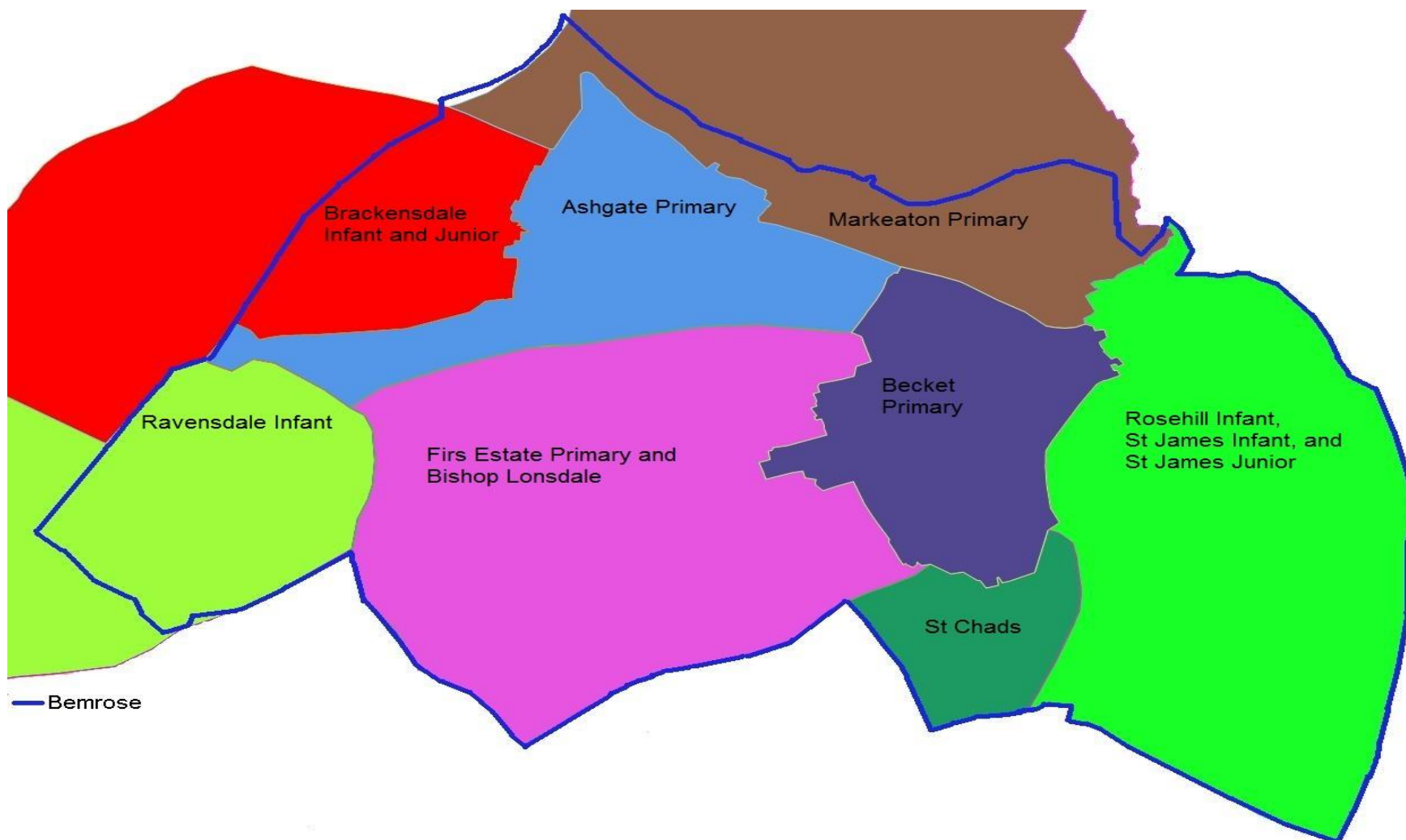


Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY



Appendix 1

Primary Schools within Bemrose School's Catchment Area 'Option Areas'



Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY



Appendix 2

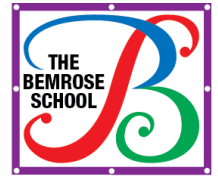
Bemrose School's Catchment Area





Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY





Proposal to extend the age range at The Bemrose School

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

We are very interested in your views and comments on this proposal. Please use this form to let us have your views. (Please use extra sheets if you wish).

Do you support the Council's proposal to extend the age range at The Bemrose School as shown in the consultation document?

I support the proposal. ☐

I don't support the proposal. ☐

I'm undecided about the proposal. ☐

Please give us any comments here

Date.....

Status.....

(For example, a parent, governor, school, agency, other)

Please return your completed form to: The Bemrose School Business Manager, The Bemrose School, Uttoxeter New Road, Derby, DE22 3HU

All responses will be treated confidentially.

The closing date for getting your views and comments in is: Friday 03 May 2013.

Continuation Sheet...



Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY

