

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS
LYTHAM ST ANNES TECHNOLOGY
AND PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

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Your ref:
Our ref: CCMT/LD/SH
Date: 14 March 2017

Dear Colleague

Outcome of the Proposal to Permanently Lower the Age Range of Lytham St Annes Technology and Performing Arts College, Lytham

Following the publication of statutory notices, a report on the proposal to discontinue the post 16 sixth form provision at Lytham St Annes Technology and Performing Arts College by permanently lowering its age range from 11-18 years to 11-16 years, with effect from 31 August 2018, was considered on 8 March 2017. Since the required checks on the proposal had been made, confirmation that the legal requirements had been met and the statutory information had been provided, it was possible to consider the proposal on its merits. In doing so, the factors that decision makers are required to consider in accordance with central government guidance were taken into account and it was agreed to:

- (i) Approve the proposal, as detailed in the statutory notice, to discontinue the post 16 sixth form provision at Lytham St Annes Technology and Performing Arts College, by permanently lowering its age range from 11-18 years to 11-16 years, with effect from 31 August 2018; and
- (ii) Approve that an appropriate statutory decision letter be sent out as specified under legal requirements to give the reasons for the decision to those who are to be informed of them.

The report is available from the county council's website at <http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=9718>.

If you would prefer to receive a hard copy of the report to be sent to you, please contact Sarah Hirst on 01772 531842 or at sarah.hirst@lancashire.gov.uk.

As the report that was considered on 8 March 2017 explains, the decision was reached after considering the full details of the proposal allowed by the statutory notice.

In the light of the authority's consideration of the proposals published on 1 December 2016 against the statutory factors that decision makers are required to take into account when they decide proposals to permanently lower the age range of a school by closing a sixth

form, the proposals were approved in the form in which they were published, on the grounds that:

(a) the authority was satisfied that in consulting on the proposals and publishing them, the statutory requirements of the process were fulfilled;

(b) the proposal met the requirements of the factors to be considered by Decision Makers, as set out in DfE Guidance;

(c) by the close of the representation period on 20 January 2017, the local authority had received 49 written representations. Of these responses, 48 were from individuals and one was from the Fylde office of the National Union of Teachers. Of the 48 individual responses, 13 were from parents/carers of pupils currently attending the sixth form at the school; 12 were from former pupils; seven were from parents/carers of pupils wishing to attend the sixth form at the school; three were from members of the community; two were from members of staff at the school; two were from former members of staff; one was from a grandparent of a pupil; one was from a former member of the community; and the remainder did not provide this information. The representations cited various reasons against permanently lowering the age range of the school from 11-18 years to 11-16 years including the availability and location of alternative provision; the funding and financial issues being faced by the school; the nature of the consultation process; and the size of the future cohort. Of the responses, one was in support of the proposal, one neither agreed nor disagreed, and the remaining 47 objected to the proposal. Comments addressing the representations are detailed fully in the Cabinet Member report considered on 8 March 2017; and

(d) the county council believes that the post 16 provision offered by Lytham St Annes Technology and Performing Arts College is no longer financially viable and should close with effect from 31 August 2018, due to falling student numbers.

Since the decision has been taken by the local authority under Part 2 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the following bodies may appeal against the decision:

- Blackburn Church of England Diocesan Officers
- Lancaster Catholic Diocesan Officers
- Salford Catholic Diocese Officers
- The Education Funding Agency
- The governing body of Lytham St Annes Technology and Performing Arts College

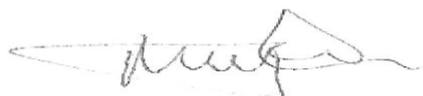
Appeals must be submitted to the local authority within 4 weeks of the notification of the local authority's decision. On receipt of an appeal the local authority must then send the proposals, and the comments and objections received, to the schools adjudicator within one week of the receipt of the appeal.

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Under the same provisions of the above Act, notification of the decision and the reasons for making it are being sent to:

- The chair of the governing body
- The Secretary of State
- The Diocesan authorities as above
- The Schools Adjudicator
- The Education Funding Agency
- The Fylde office of the National Union of Teachers

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Tomlinson', written in a cursive style.

County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson
Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools