

Children and Families Committee

Date of Meeting:	6 October 2021
Report Title:	School Organisation: Academisation of Schools: Forward Plan
Report of:	Ged Rowney, Interim Director of Children's Services
Report Reference No:	CF/10/21-22
Ward(s) Affected:	All

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. At the Children and Families Committee meeting on 12 July 2021, a decision was taken to enable identified school academy conversions to be progressed via Officer Decision Record subject to specific exemptions. Where these exemptions were required, papers would be presented to Committee on specific schools for their consideration.
- 1.2. A summary report (Appendix1) will be presented to Committee on a regular basis to summarise recently converted schools and those in process so that Committee Members are kept aware of all school academy conversions.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the Committee receives and notes the summary table (Appendix 1) showing the status of academy conversions across Cheshire East Schools.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1. The Committee has asked to receive information regarding school academy conversions and this table (Appendix 1) ensures Committee Members are fully briefed on the status of ongoing conversions.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1. School Governing Boards will decide to progress with an Academy process; the alternative is to remain a maintained school. There is no requirement for a

school to convert to an academy unless directed to do so through an inadequate Ofsted inspection.

5. Background

- 5.1. A detailed Committee paper was presented and agreed at the July Committee meeting where a series of recommendations were approved relating to ensuring that school academy conversions are fully compliant and meet the requirements of the Council particularly in relation to three key areas, these being: land transfer, commercial trading (CTA) and financial status.
- 5.2. Full details of this paper can be found at [this link on the Cheshire East website](#).

6. Implications

6.1. Legal

- 6.1.1. All legal requirements are undertaken and approved ahead of any Academy conversion.

6.2. Finance

- 6.2.1. All financial requirements are undertaken and approved ahead of any Academy conversion.

6.3. Policy

- 6.3.1. The implementation of Academy conversion is undertaken in accordance with national legislation as per the various Education Acts as referred to in the previous paper to Committee on 12 July (see section 5.2 for the link to the report).

6.4. Equality

- 6.4.1. Not applicable for this report summary.

6.5. Human Resources

- 6.5.1. Not applicable for this report summary.

6.6. Risk Management

- 6.6.1. Not applicable for this report summary.

6.7. Rural Communities

- 6.7.1. Not applicable for this report summary.

6.8. Children and Young People/Cared for Children

- 6.8.1. There are no direct implications for children and young people.

6.9. Public Health

- 6.9.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

6.10. Climate Change

6.10.1. There are no direct implications for climate change.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Mark Bayley Head of Service – Infrastructure and Outcomes Mark.bayley@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	Appendix 1: Forward Plan for academisation
Background Papers:	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/convert-to-an-academy-documents-for-schools