

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member and Advisers for Lifelong Learning and Culture</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> March 2012</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Proposal to consult on the ‘amalgamation’ of Maltby Hall Infant and Maltby Lilly Hall Junior Schools by the closure of Maltby Hall Infant School and the expansion and a change of age range at Maltby Lilly Hall Junior School.</b>
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Children and Young People’s Services</b>

### 5. Summary

It is proposed to consult on the ‘amalgamation’ of Maltby Hall Infant and Maltby Lilly Hall Junior Schools. This will be by the closure of the Infant school and the expansion and change of age range of the Junior school. Members have previously agreed to consult as appropriate where two schools are considered for amalgamation.

Following consultation with the Department for Education (DfE) School Organisation and Competitions unit and RMBC Legal Section it is necessary to re consult on the proposal.

Consultation has previously taken place and approval given to amalgamate the two schools on the Maltby Academy site as part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme. As the BSF programme was withdrawn in Rotherham, the new proposal is classed as a ‘significant change’ due to the change of location of the proposed Primary School to the Junior School site.

### 6. Recommendations

**It is recommended that pre statutory consultation should commence on the proposal to amalgamate Maltby Hall Infant and Maltby Lilly Hall Junior Schools as described above and that a further report be brought to Members with details of the outcome of the consultation in due course.**

## **7. Proposals and Details**

The proposal to be consulted on is:-

It is proposed to amalgamate Maltby Hall Infant and Maltby Lilly Hall Junior Schools from September 2013. To do this, the Infant school will be closed and the Junior school will be expanded and will have its age range changed from 7-11 years to 3-11 years therefore, becoming a 'through' primary school. It will accommodate the same number of pupils as are currently accommodated within the two schools, with no anticipated impact on the numbers of pupils in neighbouring schools.

The new School would have 420 places (R-Y6) with a Nursery unit of up to 26 places (52 FTE). (This is the combined numbers of the current two schools). The school would have a published admission number (PAN) of 60.

The principal objectives of amalgamation are:

- 1) to provide a continuous primary entitlement across the key stages; and
- 2) to provide a unified management structure with a single school ethos which will be more efficient and make more effective use of resources.

There will be a recruitment and selection process for the position of Headteacher at the new Primary School. This will ensure an open and transparent recruitment and selection process bringing the Authority in line with practice in other Local Authorities.

## **8. Finance**

Financial savings which arise are savings on staffing, mainly from the reduction of a Headteacher's post from the school's combined budget.

Initial planning permission has been sought to expand the existing building at the Junior School and funding has been allocated via the Capital Programme.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

The risks associated with an amalgamation are detailed in section 4 of **Appendix 'A'**.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

The major theme supported by the proposal is 'to ensure that everyone has access to skills, knowledge and information to enable them to play their part in society'. The principle advantages of amalgamation arise from the continuous primary education entitlements which are:-

- Removal of the school transfer at the end of Key Stage 1;
- Provision of a whole school curriculum across the primary age range;
- A unified management structure with a single school ethos;

- The potential to organise / arrange the staffing structure and to safeguard the staffing establishment when pupil numbers change across the key stages;
- A whole school approach to staff development across the primary phase; more efficient and effective use of resources, especially accommodation, when numbers fluctuate across the infant and junior phases.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

DfE Expanding a maintained mainstream school by enlargement or adding a sixth form guide and the 'School Standards and Framework Act 1998'

The consultation process is described in **Appendix 'A'**

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**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES**

**Proposal to 'amalgamate' Maltby Hall Infant and Maltby Lilly Hall Junior Schools by the closure of the infant School and the expansion and change of age range of the Junior School.**

**1 The Proposal and its Purpose**

The proposal is to 'amalgamate' Maltby Hall Infant and Maltby Lilly Hall Junior Schools from September 2013. To do this the Infant School will be closed and the Junior School will be expanded through additional construction and have its age range changed from 7-11 to 3-11 years. The school will, therefore, become a 'through' primary school, which will accommodate the same number of pupils as are currently accommodated within the two schools.

The School would have 420 places (R-Y6) with a Nursery unit of up to 26 places (52 FTE). (This is the combined numbers of the current two schools)  
The new school would have an admission number of 60.

The principal objectives of amalgamation are:

- i) to provide a continuous primary entitlement across the key stages; and
- ii) to provide a unified management structure with a single school ethos which will be more efficient and make more effective use of resources.

Considerations for amalgamation are listed below:

- 1) It is possible to accommodate all of the children on one site, thereby removing surplus places (if applicable).
- 2) The admission numbers are already no more than 60 for both schools.
- 3) There will be a vacancy for the head teacher's post.

**2 Existing Situation: Numbers on roll and Capacity****2.1 Maltby Hall Infant School**

Net Capacity	= 180
Admission Number	= 60
Number on Roll (2011/12) (NOR)	= 163
Surplus Places	= 17

**2.2 Maltby Lilly Hall Junior School**

Net Capacity	= 240
Admission Number	= 60

Number on Roll (2011/12) (NOR) = 200  
Surplus Places = 40

### 3 **Development of Numbers on Roll**

Year	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Infant	163	168	179	180	180
Junior	200	211	213	218	223
Total	363	379	392	398	403

### 4 **Advantages and Disadvantages**

The principal ADVANTAGES of amalgamation arise from the continuous primary education entitlement:

- removal of the school transfer at the end of key stage 1;
- provision of a whole school curriculum across the primary age range;
- a unified management structure with a single school ethos;
- the potential to organise and arrange the staffing structure and to safeguard the staffing establishment when pupil numbers change across the key stages;
- a whole school approach to staff development across the primary phase;
- more efficient and effective use of resources, especially accommodation, when numbers fluctuate across the infant and junior phases.
- The Infant School has a number of condition priorities which would need addressing in the coming years. The longer term financially viable option is to expand the Junior school site and vacate the current infant school site.

The principal DISADVANTAGES of amalgamation are:

- the reduction to only one head teacher post which could impact upon accessibility to staff, parents and pupils (this may have particular relevance where schools serve areas of social and economic disadvantage);
- potential difficulties in bringing together two different sets of working practice;
- possible fear of and resistance to change amongst staff, governors and parents;
- in some (but by no means all) cases, a lack of staff expertise in teaching and management across the two key stages.

5 **Consultation Timetable**

Cabinet Member to agree to consultation	March 2012
Pre statutory consultation period, including meetings with governors, staff and families	March / April 2012
Report to Cabinet Member and seek approval to proceed to statutory consultation Phase	April 2012
Publication of statutory notices	April 2012
<b>6 week</b> period for representations and objections closes	May 2012
LA decision	June 2012
Implementation	September 2013