

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1	Meeting:	Cabinet
2	Date:	19th June 2013
3	Title:	Proposals to make a ‘prescribed alteration’ to Thrybergh School and Sports College by a change of age range from 11-16 to 3-16 by closure of Dalton Foljambe Primary School.
4	Directorate:	Children and Young Peoples Service

5 Summary:

In September 2012 Thrybergh School and Sports College formed a collaboration (formerly referred to as a soft federation) with Dalton Foljambe Primary School.

Since the collaboration has been established Dalton Foljambe Primary School has been judged good by Ofsted and the school’s outcomes have been above the National floor standards. The collaboration is now well established and both schools are requesting the opportunity to enter a more formal arrangement. It is proposed that a ‘Prescribed Alteration’ to Thrybergh School and Sports College be consulted upon to change its age range from 11-16 to 3-16 by the closure of Dalton Foljambe Primary School and the Foljambe site becoming the Primary education phase annex of the school.

6 Recommendations:

It is recommended that Cabinet approve the commencement of Pre-Statutory Consultations on the proposals and that a further report be brought to Members detailing the outcome of the consultation.

7. Proposals and Details

Under the requirements of the 'School Organisation (prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 it will be necessary to undertake a full consultation on proposals to make a 'prescribed alteration'. (confirmed by DfE).

The consultation timeline is outlined in section 11 of this report:

Thrybergh School and Sports College will continue to convert to Academy status 'as is' during the consultation process and should the proposals be approved, Foljambe will then become part of the Academy. Approval of the proposals will then lead to the commencement of legal processes to transfer the land at Foljambe to the Academy Trust by the established lease agreement process.

Historical data and future pupil number projections for Dalton Foljambe and Thrybergh School and Sports College:

DALTON FOLJAMBE JUN & INF SCHOOL

Admission Number: 30 (210 total)

Net Capacity: 140 (NB the number is lower than the Admission Number as Pupil numbers at the School had been traditionally low in previous years)

(as at School Census date in January)

Year	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	TOTAL
02/03	15	16	19	20	17	25	22	134
03/04	18	15	16	20	16	17	27	129
04/05	11	19	14	18	16	17	15	110
05/06	11	11	23	16	19	16	14	110
06/07	18	10	11	21	16	20	16	112
07/08	15	17	9	10	17	15	18	101
08/09	15	11	15	10	11	17	14	93
09/10	11	12	13	14	9	12	15	86
10/11	18	10	12	12	13	10	11	86
11/12	15	18	8	13	14	13	10	91

Pupil Numbers for the latest October 2012 School Census and future projections

	REC	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	TOTALS
12/13	25	14	16	7	12	15	13	102
13/14	22	26	14	16	8	12	15	113
14/15	22	22	26	14	16	8	12	120
15/16	24	24	23	27	15	17	9	141

16/17	27	24	23	23	27	15	17	156
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THRYBERGH SCHOOL

Admission number: 140

Net Capacity: 704

Historical data for the School, Pupil Numbers for the latest October 2012 School Census and future projections

	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	TOTAL
07/08	126	118	114	116	126	600
08/09	122	125	121	117	115	600
09/10	111	120	119	117	116	583
10/11	115	110	115	120	114	574
11/12	107	112	105	119	116	559
12/13	82	103	105	105	110	505
13/14	113	84	105	107	107	516
14/15	116	114	86	107	109	532
15/16	117	116	115	88	109	545
16/17	115	117	116	116	90	554
17/18	126	115	117	116	118	592

The proposal to change the age range at Thrybergh School and Sports College will mean that the Foljambe Primary annex would have a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 30 pupils per year group and pupils will automatically stay on roll at the school in the transition from Year 6 to Year 7 and transfer to the Secondary Education site to continue their education.

The Secondary aged phase will maintain a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 140 but up to 30 places will automatically be allocated to the 'through School' pupils who will remain on roll. There is no intention currently to increase or decrease either Schools PAN.

8. Finance:

During the transfer of the land and assets via lease agreement to the Academy Trust there will be a charge for legal processes of approximately £6,500k which the School will need to budget for.

9. Risks and Uncertainties:

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

- removal of the need for a formal school transfer process at the end of key stage 2;
- 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 and secondary phases;
- more efficient and effective use of resources, especially accommodation, when numbers fluctuate across the infant and junior phases.

The principal DISADVANTAGES of amalgamation are:

- potential difficulties in bringing together two different sets of working practice;
- possible fear of and resistance to change amongst staff, governors and parents;
- different site locations
- potential impact on neighbouring schools

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'.

11. Background Papers and Consultation:

Proposed consultation timeline

Cabinet to agree to consultation	19 th June 2013
Pre statutory consultation period Commences including meetings with governors, Staff and parents etc.	
Report to Cabinet	September 2013
Publication of statutory notices	September 2013
6 week period for representations and objections closes	October 2013
LA decision and notification to Secretary of State	November 2013
Implementation	Date to be determined by legal transfer of assets to the Academy Trust

Consultation meetings should be undertaken with the Governing Bodies of Dalton Foljambe Primary school and Thrybergh School and Sports College. Consultation meetings should also be held with Staff and Trade Unions, Parents (families) of the affected schools, local Councillors, any local Parish Council and the local MP.

Additionally consultation will also need to be undertaken with the Governing bodies of any other school that may be affected plus the Diocese of any school likely to be affected.

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