

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

|          |                     |   |
|----------|---------------------|---|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Meeting:</b>     | <b>Cabinet</b>  |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Date:</b>        | <b>18<sup>th</sup> September, 2013</b>  |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Title:</b>       | <b>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.</b> |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Directorate:</b> | <b>Children and Young People’s Services</b>   |

### **5 Summary:**

In September 2011 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.

Pre-statutory consultation commenced on the 19<sup>th</sup> June following an initial report to Cabinet on the proposed ‘Prescribed Alteration’ to Thrybergh School and Sports College 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:**

**That the Cabinet approve that: -**

- **Statutory Consultation commence on the proposal 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 through the posting of a public notice for a six-week period.**
- **That a further report be brought to Cabinet 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, Dalton Foljambe Primary School 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.**

The proposal to change the age-range at Thrybergh School and Sports College will mean that the Dalton 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:

### Consultation timeline: -

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Cabinet to agree to Consultation  | 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2013  |
| Pre-statutory Consultation period Commences including meetings with governors, Staff and parents etc. |   |
| Report to Cabinet   | 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2013   |
| Publication of statutory notices  | 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2013   |
| 6 week period for representations and objections closes   | 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2013   |
| LA decision and notification to Secretary of State  | December 2013   |
| Implementation  | Date to be determined by DfE and by legal transfer of assets to the Academy Trust |

Consultation meetings and correspondence on the proposals have been undertaken with the Governing Bodies of Dalton Foljambe Primary school and Thrybergh School and Sports College. Consultation meetings have also been held with Staff and Trade Unions, Parents (families) of the affected schools, local Councillors, local Parish Councils and the Constituency MP.

Additionally consultation and correspondence has also been undertaken with the Governing bodies of neighbouring schools and any other school that may be affected plus the Diocese of any school likely to be affected.

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