

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1	Meeting:	Cabinet
2	Date:	18th December, 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:

Statutory consultation has taken place between 5th October and 15th November 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:

In the absence of any formal objections during the representation period it is recommended that the proposal be approved by Cabinet.

That the Secretary of State for Education be informed accordingly.

7. Proposals and Details

Under the requirements of the ‘School Organisation (prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 it has been 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 has continued 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 and assets 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 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 and children on roll at Dalton Foljambe in Y6 will not be required to apply for a Secondary School place in Y7 at Thrybergh. Children not on roll at Dalton Foljambe can express a preference for Thrybergh as part of normal secondary school admissions round.

There is no intention currently to increase or decrease either School's 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 th June 2013
Pre statutory consultation period Commences including meetings with governors, Staff and parents etc. Report to Cabinet	18 th September 2013
Publication of statutory notices for a 6 week period	
LA decision and notification to Secretary of State	18 th 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 pupils at 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.

A public notice has been in place for a 6 week period as per statutory requirement detailing how to object to the proposals and who to write to with representation.

No formal objections or representations were received during the statutory consultation phase, an objection was received in writing during the pre-statutory consultation phase as reported to Cabinet on the 18th September 2013.

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