

**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Education and Public Health Services</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> July 2014</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Proposal to Amalgamate Thorpe Hesley Infant and Junior Schools</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Children and Young Peoples Services</b>

**5. Summary**

This report seeks a final determination by the Cabinet Member in relation to the proposed amalgamation of Thorpe Hesley Infant and Junior Schools.

**6. Recommendations**

**In the absence of any representation during the statutory notice period that, the proposal to amalgamate Thorpe Hesley Infant and Junior Schools be approved with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014. The School will then be known as Thorpe Hesley Primary School.**

**That the Secretary of State for Education be informed accordingly.**

## **7. Proposals and Details**

Proposals to amalgamate the two schools by discontinuance of the Infant School and change of age range of the Junior School have stood since 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014 including the statutory notice period 6<sup>th</sup> June to 4<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

Previous reports on the proposals were submitted to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Family Services on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014 respectively.

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.

## **8. Finance**

The proposed amalgamation will allow the Headteacher and Governing Body to structure financial resources to best support a through school ethos across the Infant and Junior sites.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

There are always risks and uncertainties when school place provision is considered since future pupil numbers are based on estimations. Local Authorities are obliged, however, to provide sufficient places, promote diversity and increase parental preference. (CYD0015/018 - Corporate risk register).

A final decision should be determined by the decision maker within 2 months from the end of the representation period. If this fails to be done, then the matter is referred to the Schools Adjudicator for decision.

The advantages and disadvantages of the amalgamation were reported to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Family Services on 5<sup>th</sup> March and 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014.

## **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'.

Rotherham School Improvement Mission:

- ~ All children will make at least good progress
- ~ There will be no underperforming cohorts
- ~ All teachers will deliver at least good learning
- ~ All schools will move to the next level of successful performance

**11. Background Papers and Consultation**

The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013

The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013

School Organisation (Maintained Schools) guidance for proposers and decision makers (January 2014)

A full pre statutory and statutory consultation has been undertaken with relevant stakeholders.

Reports to Cabinet Member 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014.

Public Notice period 6<sup>th</sup> June to 4<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

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