

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **22ND JANUARY 2013**

REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING**

SUBJECT: **PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF SHOTTON INFANT
AND TALIESIN JUNIOR SCHOOLS**

1.00 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform members of the outcome of the consultation process and to seek approval to publish the statutory notice proposing the amalgamation scheduled for September 2014.

2.00 **BACKGROUND**

Members of the Cabinet approved the process leading to consultations on the 6th June 2012.

Subsequent consultation meetings have been held with the Staff, Governors and Parents of the two schools, and a consultation period for responses to the consultations came to an end on the 21st. December 2012.

An additional consultation meeting was held with local residents as part of the planning process for the new school building, to which 14 people attended. This consultation is not part of the statutory process for proposing changes to School organisation.

3.00 **CONSIDERATIONS**

The proposal has met with general approval from the relevant groups of consultees.

Two letters of support have been received from the Governing Bodies of the Infant and Junior Schools. (appendix 1)

No negative correspondence has been received during the consultation period.

Residents in the immediate area did express concerns relating to increased traffic and parking issues related to the houses immediately opposite the proposed new School on the Taliesin site. No written representations have been received relating to this consultation.

The amalgamation of the schools requires the statutory process of publication of the proposals, and the commencement of a period of one month during which anyone may raise a formal objection to the proposal. The receipt of any objection would lead to the calling in of the proposal and consideration by Welsh Ministers. If formal objections are not received during the period, the proposal may be determined by members of the Cabinet.

The Statutory proposal is appended as Appendix 2

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

That members note the outcome of the consultations and approve the publication of the statutory notice in the local press and at the affected schools

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed new school building is to be funded by a combination of grant funding from the Welsh Government – Tranche three of the School Buildings Improvement Grant (SBIG) (70%) and Flintshire County Council (30%)

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

No impact as a direct result of this report

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed new school building will comply with all environmental requirements as detailed in the Planning, and Welsh Government requirements. The building will also meet with the requirements of the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM), compliance with which is a pre-requisite of the Welsh Government grant funding

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

The new school buildings will be built to a high accessibility standard. The new environment will provide first rate learning opportunities for the community.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

If the proposal is approved, the Temporary Governing Body of the new school will appoint a Headteacher who will lead the new school. There are currently two Headteachers in post for the Infant and Junior Schools respectively. Other school staff will be recommended by the Local Authority for adoption by the Temporary Governing Body for the staffing of the new school.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

No further consultations are required, but a statutory period of notice and the opportunity to lodge formal (written) objections will be given in accordance with the legal requirements.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

All consultations that are required with relevant groups have been carried out

12.00 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Statutory Notice
Appendix 2 – Letters of Support

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None

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