

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** **CABINET**

**DATE:** **TUESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2013**

**REPORT BY:** **DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING**

**SUBJECT:** **HAWARDEN INFANT & RECTOR DREW CHURCH IN  
WALES VOLUNTARY AIDED JUNIOR SCHOOL  
AMALGAMATION - FEEDBACK FROM  
CONSULTATION**

**1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To inform members of the response to the consultations relating to the proposed amalgamation of Hawarden Infants and Rector Drew Junior Schools, and to consider the publication of the statutory notice for the formal amalgamation process to begin.

**2.00 BACKGROUND**

2.01 At their meeting on 12 June 2012, the Cabinet approved the report relating to proposed consultations with the relevant groups of Staff, Parents and Governors of the respective schools.

2.02 The period for responses to be submitted to the council about the proposal was the 18<sup>th</sup> January. The responses to the consultations have been overwhelmingly in support of the amalgamation. This was confirmed at meetings with Governors, Staff and Parents/Carers. Both the existing Governing Bodies and the Anglican Diocesan Director have expressed their wish to amalgamate the two schools and establish a new Aided Primary school.

2.03 Maintained schools have different designations: -

- Community schools, which account for most schools in Flintshire
- Voluntary Controlled (V.C.) or Voluntary Aided (V.A.) schools, which have a religious character. Voluntary Aided schools have more autonomous arrangements relating to admissions and staffing. There are two V.C. schools and thirteen V.A. schools in the County.

As the existing Rector Drew Infants school is already Voluntary Aided status, the designation of the new school of the same status has attracted only one comment (Appendix 1). It is therefore recommended that the successor school holds the same designation.

2.04 An amalgamation of two schools requires a period of consultations followed by a statutory period which begins with the publication of the notice and continues with a period of one month for the submission of written (formal) objections to the proposal. The Statutory Notice is attached as Appendix 2.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 That the Cabinet notes the response to the consultations and approves the publication of the Statutory Notice.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 The linking of the two school buildings has been approved for inclusion in the Capital Programme and is funded from the Prudential Borrowing facilities available to the Council. The savings identified by the amalgamation will support a budget of approximately £750K.

#### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

6.01 No impact as a result of this report.

#### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 No impact as a result of this report. Any changes to the buildings will be subject to the planning and environmental regulations.

#### **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 Schools are bound by the equalities legislation, and will have their own equality statements. The amalgamation will result in the establishment of a new Voluntary Aided school, which will be bound to the same legislative requirements.

#### **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 The appointment of a new Headteacher to lead the school will be made by the Temporary Governing Body. Other teaching staff will be recommended for transfer to the 'new' school en bloc.

#### **10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 No further consultations required.

#### **11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 Consultation meetings with Parents, Governors, Diocesan Authority and Senior Staff.

## **12.00 APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - Letter from parent in response to the consultations  
Appendix 2 - Statutory Notice.

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

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