

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2012**

REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING**

SUBJECT: **PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF PENYFFORDD
INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To seek approval to begin the consultations with the school communities with regard to amalgamation of the infant and junior schools to form a primary school.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The agreed policy of the Council is to amalgamate infant and junior schools whenever appropriate. County Council policy recognises the benefits of all-through Primary education. These include continuity of planning and provision for learners and their families. This process has been actioned over the last three years. The schools at Penyffordd are the last to be proposed for amalgamation and would mark the completion of the process to amalgamate all infant and junior schools in the County.

2.02 The Headteacher of the infant school has announced her intention to retire at the end of the academic year in August 2013. This provides a timely opportunity to consult with the school about the amalgamation, into a primary school with one Headteacher and one Governing Body.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The existing Infant and Junior Schools are on separate sites. The new school would therefore be on a split site. However, evidence shows that where appropriately organised and managed this does not have a negative impact on the outcomes of the school. This is demonstrated by other primary schools on split sites, an example of which is at Mynydd Isa.

3.02 Consultations to be undertaken in the New Year would involve meetings with staff, governors, parents/carers and the community. After consultations, a further report to Cabinet would be prepared, which would detail the responses of Parents, Governors, Staff and Community. Approval would then be sought to publish statutory notices in which the proposal to amalgamate the schools by September 2013 would be detailed.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That members consider the report and approve the process of consultations to be undertaken by officers early in the New Year.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 There are no financial implications that will arise from the process of consultations.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 There are no implications that would arise from this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 There are no implications that would arise from this report

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 The process of consultations will involve the reference to equalities impact on the Community and the Welsh language of any eventual amalgamation.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 Initial consultations are required in accordance with statutory requirements.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None at the schools.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 None.

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

Contact Officer: Tom Davies
Telephone: 4011
Email: tom.davies@flintshire.gov.uk