

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 23 APRIL 2013**

REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING**

SUBJECT: **HAWARDEN INFANT AND JUNIOR AMALGAMATION**

1.00 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To determine the amalgamation of Hawarden Infants and Rector Drew Church in Wales Voluntary Aided Junior schools to form a new through Primary school on the same site.

2.00 **BACKGROUND**

2.01 In accordance with the policy of the Council to amalgamate infant and junior Schools, the relevant consultations have been conducted, the result of which were reported to Cabinet at the meeting on the 19th of February 2013.

2.02 The decision of the Cabinet members was that a statutory notice be published in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Government.

2.03 The published notice set out the intention of the Authority to close the existing infant and junior schools as of 31st August 2014 and to open the new school, in the existing buildings on the 1st of September 2013.

2.04 One month was allowed for any formal (written) objections to be lodged.

3.00 **CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 No formal objections were received during the statutory period which commenced on the 27th of February 2013 and concluded on the 27th of March 2013.

3.02 As a result of this, the determination of the proposal can be made by the Cabinet of the Council, without reference to Welsh Ministers.

4.00 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 That Members approve the proposal to effect an amalgamation of the existing Infant and Junior schools to form a new through Church in

Wales Voluntary Aided Primary school on the existing site and utilising the existing buildings from 1st September 2013.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 As a result of the amalgamation into a single school, linking works between the two adjacent schools will need to be carried out, together with work to meet up with the Disability Discrimination Act requirements. Work is ongoing to establish the build costs to link the two schools and when this is complete a report will be submitted to the Corporate Asset Management Group to consider the funding for the project.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 There is no impact as a direct result of this report. All schools work to address national and local anti poverty priorities.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 The proposed new school link between the existing school buildings will comply with all environmental requirements as detailed for the local Planning and Welsh Government requirements. The linking works will also meet with the requirements of the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM).

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 The link between the existing schools will be built to a high accessibility standard and improve access to any user of limited mobility.

8.02 The enhanced environment will provide improved learning opportunities for the community, together with enabling staff to have one staff room.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 The temporary Governing Body of the new school will be responsible for the appointment of a Headteacher who will lead the new school. There is currently one Headteacher in post for the Infant and Junior Schools, following the retirement of one of the Headteachers in 2012. 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

10.01 No further requirement for consultation.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Full consultation meetings with the relevant groups.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 None.

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

None.

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