

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 12 JUNE 2012**

REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING**

SUBJECT: **AMALGAMATION OF SHOTTON INFANTS AND
SHOTTON TALIESIN JUNIOR SCHOOL**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek the approval of the Cabinet for Officers to carry out a series of consultations relating to the proposed amalgamation of Shotton Infant and Taliesin Junior Schools.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 In accordance with the Flintshire County Council policy for amalgamating Infant and Junior Schools whenever appropriate, officers have liaised with the Headteachers and Chairs of the respective Governing Bodies to discuss the proposal to amalgamate the two schools to provide an all-through Primary School, on the site of the present Ysgol Taliesin. The submission of a bid to replace the existing schools partly funded the School Buildings Improvement Grant (S.B.I.G.) with a new school building was approved by the Welsh Assembly in 2010.

2.02 Subsequent meetings with the full Governing bodies of the schools and with Staff indicated that there was general support for an amalgamation of the Infant and Junior Schools to form a through Primary school.

2.03 Consultations with the relevant groups of Parents, Governors and Staff need to be carried out in preparation for the statutory process of publication of a notice of proposal to amalgamate the two schools.

2.04 This proposal could appropriately be effected by September 2014 as only one Head teacher would be in post.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.04 Members approved the policy for considering the amalgamation of Infant and Junior schools when appropriate, at their meeting on the 16th September 2009

3.02 The proposed amalgamation would provide for a single Headteacher

to manage the all-through Primary School, providing one ethos and vision for both Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. The proposed new School would be managed by one Governing Body.

3.03 Establishing a new school is subject to the process of adequate consultation with the relevant groups, and the subsequent publication of a statutory notice, where any objection to the proposal may be lodged over a two month period.

3.04 In the event of formal (written) objections, the matter will be determined by the Welsh Assembly Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (DCELLS). When no formal objections have been received in this period, the Council may determine the matter locally.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members approve a period of consultation with Staff, Governors and Parents of both Shotton Infant and Taliesin Junior Schools in relation to the proposed amalgamation, the outcome of which will be related back to the Cabinet in a subsequent report.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No implications at the stage of consultation.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

No implications at the stage of consultation.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

No implications at the stage of consultation.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

No implications at the stage of consultation.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

No implications at the stage of consultation.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

There is a requirement for adequate consultations to be undertaken with the relevant groups prior to a decision to publish statutory proposals.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

Informal consultation with staff and Governors of the schools.

12.00 APPENDICES

None.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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