

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:**           **CABINET**

**DATE:**               **TUESDAY, 12 JUNE 2012**

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

**SUBJECT:**           **REPORT ON THE AMALGAMATION OF HAWARDEN  
INFANTS AND RECTOR DREW VA JUNIOR SCHOOL**

**1.00**   **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

**1.01**   To seek the approval of the Cabinet for Officers to carry out a series of consultations relating to the proposed amalgamation of Hawarden Infant and Rector Drew Church in Wales Voluntary Aided Junior School.

**2.00**   **BACKGROUND**

**2.01**   Following the retirement of the Headteacher from Rector Drew Voluntary Aided school at Easter 2012, officers liaised with the Anglican Diocesan Director of Education, Headteacher of the Infant school and Chairs of the respective Governing Bodies to discuss the immediate interim arrangements for the management of the schools, and the proposal to consider the amalgamation of the two schools to provide an all-through Primary School, in accordance with the Flintshire County Council policy to amalgamate Infant and Junior schools whenever appropriate.

**2.02**   The schools presently have one permanent Headteacher based in the Infants School, who, with the agreement of Governors and the Diocesan Director also leads the Junior school on an interim basis.

**2.03**   Subsequent meetings with the full Governing bodies of the schools and with Staff indicated that there is general support for an amalgamation of the Infant and Junior Schools to form an all-through Church in Wales Voluntary Aided Primary school, which would occupy the existing accommodation.

**2.04**   The existing schools although in close proximity are currently separate buildings. Work has been identified to link the two schools, which would provide coherent primary accommodation.

**2.05**   The Governing Bodies want the Local Authority to consider proposals to reconfigure the school accommodation to link the existing buildings. Works necessary could be funded by prudential borrowing in

accordance with the Flintshire County process for unsupported borrowing. This would need a specific project plan and authorisation.

- 2.06** This proposal for amalgamation could be effected by January 2013 as only one Head teacher is in post. It has therefore been considered that this is an appropriate time to propose amalgamation, as the Governance and leadership of the proposed amalgamated school could be resolved in a timely manner.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.01** 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 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**

- 4.01** That members approve a period of consultation with Staff, Governors and Parents of both Hawarden Infant and Rector Drew 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**

None at this consultation phase.

### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

None at this consultation phase.

### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

None at this consultation phase.

### **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

None at the consultation phase.

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

None at this consultation phase.

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

As required by WG guidance.

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

Informal consultation with Governors, Diocesan Authority Senior staff and Governors.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

None.

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

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