

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES  
CABINET MEMBER**

**BERKELEY INFANT SCHOOL AND BERKELEY JUNIOR SCHOOL  
IMPLEMENTATION OF AMALGAMATION PROPOSAL**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 The local authority (LA) published a public notice on 17 December 2015 confirming its intention to merge Berkeley Infant School and Berkeley Junior School to create a through-primary school.
- 1.2 The object of this report is to confirm the outcome of the public notice and seek the Cabinet Member's approval to implement the amalgamation proposal.
- 1.3 Berkeley governors are holding headship interviews on 27 and 28 January 2016. The board would like to be able to confirm the appointment as the Head of the Primary School, therefore an urgent decision is necessary, so prospective candidates can be advised accordingly that the amalgamation has been approved.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 On 1 October 2015 approval was granted for a public consultation to be undertaken regarding the proposal to merge Berkeley Infant School and Berkeley Junior School to create a through-primary school. The consultation ran from 12 October 2015 to 22 November 2015 and the feedback identified support for the creation of a through-primary school.
- 2.2 Following the consultation, approval was subsequently granted to publish a public notice formally confirming the council's intention to create a through-primary school. The public notice ran from 17 December 2015 until 14 January 2016 and provided a final opportunity for any interested parties to express objections or concerns.
- 2.3 As the public notice period has now expired, the LA must make a decision on the proposal within a two month period, otherwise the matter must be referred to the school adjudicator.
- 2.4. The Cabinet Member, as the decision maker, must have regard to DfE's guidance document "*Schools Organisation Maintained Schools: Annex B: Guidance for Decision-makers (January 2014)*", which describes the factors that should be taken into account prior to making a final decision.

### 3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 **Option 1:** To confirm the proposal outlined in the Public Notice of 17 December 2015, which will result Berkeley Infant School and Berkeley Junior School becoming a primary school with effect from 1 September 2016.
- 3.2 **Option 2:** To withdraw the proposal to amalgamate Berkeley Infant School and Berkeley Junior School.

### 4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

#### 4.1 **Option 1: To confirm the amalgamation proposal**

- 4.1.1 This option will help realise the opportunities and benefits that can be achieved through the creation of a through-primary school. These benefits have been previously described in Cabinet Member reports and the public consultation documents.
- 4.1.2 The vast majority of stakeholders would like to see Berkeley Infant School and Berkeley Junior School become amalgamated. Therefore, this option supports their vision and aspiration for the individual schools to become a through-primary school.
- 4.1.3 No comments or objections have been received following the publication of the public notice, which provides assurance that stakeholders support the proposal to amalgamate Berkeley Infant School and Berkeley Junior School.
- 4.1.4 This option supports the LA's policy regarding school amalgamation as outlined in the document "*A Framework for Developing a Sustainable Primary School Estate*".

#### 4.2 **Option 2: Not to amalgamate schools**

- 4.2.1 As feedback from the public consultation strongly supports the amalgamation proposal and because there have not been any objections resulting from the public notice, this option does not support stakeholders' views.
- 4.2.2 If the proposal was not agreed, the benefits of creating a through-primary school may not be realised.

### 5. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

- 5.1 **Staffing:** The board of governors are responsible for staffing implications, which will be in line with HR policy and in consultation with unions.
- 5.2 **Finance:** There are no financial implications for the council.

### 6. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 6.1 An integrated impact assessment has been completed, which has not identified any potential impacts.

6.2 The process has been undertaken in accordance with: Section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

## 7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

7.1 The public consultation demonstrated significant support for the amalgamation proposal. A summary of the key findings, based on responses received, is as follows:

- 149 questionnaires were received.
- 95% of respondents confirmed that they liked the proposal.

7.2 No objections or representations have been received following the publication of the Public Notice.

## 8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That the Cabinet Member approves option 1 to merge Berkeley Infant School and Berkeley Junior School together to create a through-primary school with effect from 1st September 2016.

DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE

Civic Centre  
Ashby Road  
Scunthorpe  
North Lincolnshire  
DN16 1AB

Author: Dr Steve Piper  
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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

- 1) Cabinet Member Report: Amalgamation Consultation, Berkeley Infant School and Berkeley Junior School: 1 October 2015
- 2) Cabinet Member Report: Berkeley Infant School and Berkeley Junior School Amalgamation: 9 December 2015
- 3) Statutory Proposals relating to the amalgamation of Berkeley Infant School and Berkeley Junior School (<http://www.northlincs.gov.uk/berkeleyamalgamation>)
- 4) Consultation document and feedback analysis relating to the amalgamation of Berkeley Infant School and Berkeley Junior School (<http://www.northlincs.gov.uk/berkeleyamalgamation>)
- 5) DfE: School Organisation Maintained Schools: Annex B: Guidance for Decision-Makers. (January 2014)
- 6) NLC document: A Framework for Developing a Sustainable Primary School Estate".