

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER

**BROUGHTON INFANT SCHOOL AND
BROUGHTON JUNIOR SCHOOL AMALGAMATION**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 The object of this report is to seek the Cabinet Member's approval to implement the amalgamation proposal for Broughton Infant School and Broughton Junior School.
- 1.2 The local authority published a public notice on 16 January 2014 confirming its intention to merge Broughton Infant School and Broughton Junior School to create a through-primary school. The notice period has now come to an end and the Local Authority must decide whether to implement or refuse the proposal.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 On 2 February 2013 approval was granted for a public consultation to be undertaken regarding the proposal to merge Broughton Infant School and Broughton Junior School to create a through-primary school. The consultation ran from 22 May 2013 to 9 July 2013 and the feedback identified significant support for the creation of a through-primary school.
- 2.3 Following the consultation, a public notice was issued which formally confirmed the LA's intention to create a through-primary school. The public notice was published on 16 January 2014 and was open for a six week period. This was the final opportunity for any interested parties to express objections or concerns.
- 2.4 As the public notice period has now expired, the LA is required to decide whether the proposal should be implemented or refused.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 **Option 1:** To implement the proposal outlined in the public notice of 16 January 2014 and amalgamate Broughton Infant School and Broughton Junior School with effect from 1st September 2014.
- 3.2 **Option 2:** Not to implement the proposal to amalgamate Broughton Infant School and Broughton Junior School.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 The analysis relating to the amalgamation proposal has been thoroughly discussed and documented throughout the formal consultation process.

4.2 Option 1: Amalgamate both schools

4.2.1 The consultation that preceded the publication of the public notice confirmed that 87% of the respondents agreed with the proposal to amalgamate Broughton Infant School and Broughton Junior Schools.

4.2.2 The amalgamation will allow a through-primary school to be created, which will help create closer integration between the phases. This will, not only, facilitate better transition from KS1 to KS2 but also help maximise opportunities to improve learning and attainment for all Broughton school children.

4.2.3 The public notice has been published in accordance with the relevant regulations and no comments or objections have been received.

4.2.4 The primary school will be located in the newly extended junior site which is currently under construction.

4.3 Option 2: Not to amalgamate schools

4.3.1 The proposal could be withdrawn at this stage. However, this option does not support the views of the majority of the consultees.

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

5.1 **Staffing:** Staffing implications are subject to governor decisions, which will be in line with HR policy and in consultation with unions.

5.2 **Finance:** The costs associated with School Organisation are met from within existing budgets.

5.3 **Property:** The infant site will become surplus to requirement as an operational school building, although an area will be retained for additional car parking for the primary school. The LA will consider options for future use or disposal of the remaining site.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment has been undertaken which indicated no adverse impacts arising from the proposal.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

- 7.1 The initial public consultation demonstrated significant support for the amalgamation.
- 7.2 No objections or representations have been received in relation to the recent publication of public notice confirming the LA's intention to proceed with the amalgamation.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the cabinet member approves the implementation of the proposal outlined in the public notice of 16 January 2014 and amalgamate Broughton Infant School and Broughton Junior School with effect from 1st September 2014.

DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE

Hewson House
Station Road
Brigg
North Lincolnshire
DN20 8XJ

Author: Steve Piper

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

- a. Notice of proposal to close Broughton Junior School
- b. Notice of proposal to Expand the age range of Broughton Infant School
- c. Proposal to amalgamate Broughton Infant School and Broughton Junior School to create a through-primary school
- d. Consultation feedback analysis
- e. Making Changes to a Mainstream School: A Guide for Local Authorities and Governing Bodies

Previous Cabinet Member papers

- Amalgamation of Broughton Infant School and Broughton Junior School (30th July 2013)