

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER

AMALGAMATION OF GRANGE LANE INFANT AND GRANGE LANE JUNIOR SCHOOLS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Cabinet Member of the School Adjudicator's decision to approve the council's proposal to merge Grange Lane Infant School and Grange Lane Junior School to create a through-primary school.
- 1.2 To advise the Cabinet Member on the implementation plan to set up future governance and leadership arrangements for the new school.
- 1.3 To update Cabinet Member on the proposed timelines for the new school under the Priority Schools Building Programme.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 During October 2011, North Lincolnshire Council successfully applied to the Department for Education (DfE) for funding to create a new-build primary school to replace Grange Lane Infant School and Grange Lane Junior School. This funding is part of the DfE's national 'Priority School Building programme' (PSBP) initiative. The DfE estimated the new build would be completed by 2016.
- 2.2 The funding for the building work was approved on the condition that it will be used to build a through-primary school by merging Grange Lane Infant School and Grange Lane Junior School together onto a single site.
- 2.3 In view of the above, the LA sought the views of key stakeholders to determine their level of support to create a single primary school. A thorough consultation was undertaken from 18 June 2012 to 10 August 2012 which identified that 93% of the respondents agreed with the amalgamation proposals.

- 2.4 Following the consultation a formal public notice was published that confirmed the exact details of the proposal. No comments were received as a result of the public notice and, therefore, an application was made to the Schools Adjudicator to seek final approval to merge the schools together.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Approval to establish a new community primary school was issued by the School Adjudicator on 19th June 2013.
- 3.2 The LA is required to implement the proposal to open the new 'Grange Lane' Primary School on 1st September 2014.
- 3.3 Confirmation has been received from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) that the project for the new school will commence in September 2013. The LA is a key stakeholder in the project and will work with the EFA to deliver the new school.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The School Adjudicator's decision is final and must be implemented in line with the proposal.
- 4.2 The School Adjudicator concluded that: "the proposal is likely to contribute to the raising of standards, and that it secures the provision of needed school places for which appropriate premises will be available. Parents and the relevant bodies of both schools favour the proposal."
- 4.3 An instrument of government for the temporary governing body can now be created and approved. In anticipation of the creation of the temporary governing body, governors of Grange Lane Infant and Grange Lane Junior have been asked to express an interest in serving on the temporary governing body of the new school.
- 4.4 The Cabinet member will appoint the authority, community and parent governors of the temporary body.
- 4.5 The first meeting of the temporary governing body is scheduled for 10 September 2013. The temporary governing body will appoint the staff governors.
- 4.6 The role of the temporary governing body will be to agree the name, vision and ethos for the school and they will need to establish the role of head teacher for the new school and make arrangements for recruiting and selecting for the post.

4.7 The temporary governing body will work with the LA and EFA throughout the project with the first task being to produce the education vision that will inform the design brief for the new school.

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

5.1 **Staffing:** The temporary governing body will approve the new staffing arrangements for the amalgamated school. The council will offer professional advice and support to governors.

5.2 **Finance:** The costs associated with school organisation will be met from within existing budgets. PSBP is funded directly by the EFA and does not form part of the council's capital programme.

5.3 **Statutory:** In writing this report, regard has been given to: "The School Governance (New Schools) England Regulations 2007"

6. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

6.1 An impact assessment has previously been completed in respect of the possibility of amalgamating Grange Lane Infant School and Grange Lane Junior School.

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

7.1 There are no conflicts of interest associated with the amalgamation.

7.2 With regard to the consultation process undertaken by the LA, the School Adjudicator made the following comments:

- "The consultation document provided helpful information and a clear means for responses to be made."
- "185 parents, 33 members of staff and 10 Governors responded, and all these groups were strongly supportive of the proposals."

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That the Cabinet Member notes the position to date regarding the amalgamation of Grange Lane Infant and Grange Lane Junior School.

DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None