

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER**

**PRIORY LANE INFANT SCHOOL AND  
PRIORY LANE JUNIOR SCHOOL AMALGAMATION**

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

- 1.1 The local authority published a public notice on 3 May 2012 confirming its intention to merge Priory Lane Infant School and Priory Lane Junior School to create a through-primary school.
- 1.2 The object of this report is to seek the Cabinet Member's approval to implement the amalgamation proposal.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 On 25 April 2012 approval was granted for a public consultation to be undertaken regarding the proposal to merge Priory Lane Infant School and Priory Lane Junior School to create a through-primary school. The consultation ran from 10 February 2012 to 21 March 2012 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 3 May 2012 and was open for a six week period. This was the final opportunity for any interested party 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 proposals outlined in the Public Notice of 3 May 2012 and amalgamate Priory Lane Infant School and Priory Lane Junior School with effect from 1 September 2012.
- 3.2 **Option 2:** To refuse the proposal to amalgamate Priory Lane Infant School and Priory Lane 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 Public Notice has been published in accordance with the relevant regulations. As no comments or objections have been received, this provides the rationale to implement the proposal.

##### 4.3 Option 2: Not to amalgamate schools

4.3.1 Feedback from the initial consultation demonstrates support for the proposal. There has been no subsequent feedback from the public notice to indicate a change of public opinion.

#### 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:** There are no financial implications for the council.

#### 6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

6.1 **Statutory:** 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.

6.1.1 The Cabinet Member, as the decision maker, will have regard to paragraphs 4.15 to 4.69 of the document "Making Changes to Maintained Mainstream School" which describes the factors which should be taken into account prior to making a final decision.

#### 7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 The initial public consultation demonstrated significant support for the amalgamation.

- 7.2 Most recently, the LA published a Public Notice formally confirming its intention to merge Priory Lane Infant School and Priory Lane Junior School. No objections or representations have been received in relation to the proposal.

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the cabinet member approves option 1 to merge Priory Lane Infant School and Priory Lane Junior School together to create a through-primary school with effect from 1 September 2012 .

DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE

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### **Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

- Notice of proposal to close Priory Lane Junior School
- Notice of proposal to Expand the age range of Priory Lane Infant School
- Proposal to amalgamate Priory Lane Infant School and Priory Lane Junior School to create a through-primary school
- Consultation feedback analysis
- Notes of the public meeting
- Making Changes to a Mainstream School: A Guide for Local Authorities and Governing Bodies

(the above are accessible from: <http://www.northlincs.gov.uk/councilanddemocracy/consultation/current-consultations/proposal-to-merge-priory-lane-infant-and-junior-schools/>)

### **Previous Cabinet Member papers**

- Amalgamation of Priory Lane Infant School and Priory Lane Junior School (18th April 2012)
- Amalgamation of Priory Lane Infant School and Priory Lane Junior School (1st February July 2012)