REALIGNMENT OF FIVE SCHOOLS’ CATCHMENT AREAS
CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

1.1 To inform the Cabinet Member of the results of the public consultation regarding the realignment of five school catchment areas.

1.2 To seek approval to implement the proposal to realign the catchment areas.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Catchments areas are used as a criterion for allocating school places when schools become oversubscribed. Periodically, it is necessary to review the effectiveness of catchment areas.

2.2 It is normal practice for ‘paired’ infant and junior schools to share the same catchment areas; and for primary schools to have their own single catchment area. However, for historic reasons the following schools have multiple-overlapping catchment areas:

- Willoughby Road Primary School (previously Riddings Infant and Riddings Junior School)
- Enderby Road Infant School
- Leys Farm Junior School and
- Bottesford Infants School

Appendix 1 shows a map of the current catchment arrangements.

2.3 Following the creation of Willoughby Road Primary School, it became necessary to review its ‘inherited’ infant and junior school catchment areas to assess their suitability for the new primary school arrangement. However, in order to review Willoughby Road Primary School’s catchment area, it was necessary to consider the catchment areas of nearby schools, namely Enderby Road Infants, Leys Farm Junior and Bottesford Infant schools.
2.4 Therefore, this led to detailed discussions with relevant schools’ leaders and ward members to agree a proposal to reduce the overall number of catchment areas from six to three. A public consultation took place from 2 January to 28 February 2012 seeking key stakeholders views on the proposal.

2.5 Any changes relating to catchment areas would be implemented with effect from 1 September 2013.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

There are two options for consideration:

3.1 **Option 1:** To realign the catchment areas, as shown in appendix 2, which will create:

- A single catchment area for Willoughby Road Primary School
- A single coterminous catchment for Bottesford Infant School and Bottesford Junior School and
- A single coterminous catchment for Enderby Road Infant School and Leys Farm Junior School.

3.2 **Option 2:** To maintain the status quo, as shown in appendix 1.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 **Analysis of Option 1:**

4.1.1 Associated infant schools and junior schools tend to work closely together, so it is good practice to create a catchment area that ‘links’ the relevant schools.

4.1.2 The propose arrangements are much easier to understand. Reducing the number of catchment areas from six to three will help simplify the admissions process.

4.1.3 As Willoughby Road Primary School has replaced an infant and junior school, it is appropriate that the school has its own designated catchment area and the former schools’ catchments are deleted.

4.1.4 As the majority of pupils attending Enderby Road Infant School transfer to Leys Farm Junior School, and the majority of pupils attending Bottesford Infant School transfer to Bottesford Junior School, it is evident that these ‘paired’ schools should share the same coterminous catchments.

4.1.5 The proposed arrangements take into account the areas where pupils live and the schools they tend to apply for admission. Therefore the proposed catchments areas reflect the overall current admission / migration arrangements.
4.1.6 The vast majority of consultees have confirmed their support for this proposal.

4.2 **Analysis of Option 2:**

4.2.1 The current arrangements are not easy to understand. For example, children admitted to one of the infant schools, because they were ‘in catchment’, may subsequently be refused a place at their ‘linked’ junior school because they were not ‘in catchment’.

4.2.2 Willoughby Road Primary School would have to use the inherited catchment areas from its predecessor school, which would be impractical.

4.2.3 Only a small minority of consultees have expressed support to maintain the status quo.

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

5.1 **Finance** - Nil

5.2 **Staffing** - Nil

5.3 **Property** - Nil

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

6.1 **Statutory** – Catchment areas form part of the admission criteria for the five schools. Therefore any amendments needs to be considered in line with regulations regarding the determination of admission arrangement (SI 2008, No 3089, The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2008.)

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

7.1 A thorough consultation exercise was undertaken. A total of 1650 questionnaires were dispatched to :

- Bottesford Infant School – All staff, parents and governors
- Bottesford Junior School – All staff, parents and governors
- Enderby Road Infant School - All staff, parents and governors
- Leys Farm Junior School – All staff, parents and governors
- Willoughby Road Primary School – All staff, parents and governors
- Childcare providers in the affected area, for distribution to parents

7.2 A total of 85 questionnaires were returned. However many of the respondents represented a number of key groups. For example, a respondent could be both a governor and a parent. Therefore, in total, 109 representative views were received.
7.3 The consultation feedback below shows that the vast majority of representative views supported the proposal:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral / no response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I think the proposed catchment areas are easier to understand.</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I support the proposal to change the catchment areas.</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I think it is a good idea for Enderby Road Infant School and Leys Farm Junior School to have a single joint catchment area.</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I think it is a good idea for Bottesford Infant School and Bottesford Junior School to have a single joint catchment area.</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I think it is a good idea that the newly created Willoughby Road Primary School has its own catchment area.</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Cabinet Member approves option 1 to realign the catchment areas to be incorporated into the admission arrangements for September 2013

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S SERVICE

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

- Public Catchment consultation proposal: January 2012
- Realignment of Catchment Areas: Cabinet Member Report, February 24th 2011
- Consultation feedback