

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LEARNING
CABINET MEMBER**

**SCHOOL GOVERNORS - INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNMENT
THE BRIDGE FEDERATION**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To consider approving the instrument of government for The Bridge Federation to be effective from 1 September 2017.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 As the partnership arrangements between South Ferriby Primary School and Winteringham Primary School have been working effectively, consideration has subsequently been given to the possibility of formalising the collaborative arrangements between both schools (i.e. a hard federation). Furthermore, the need to explore this option in detail has become more apparent following the recent retirement decision of South Ferriby Primary School's Headteacher.
- 2.2 The governing boards of South Ferriby Primary School and Winteringham Primary School agreed at a special meeting on 25 April 2017 to consider forming a hard federation of the two schools.
- 2.3 A formal proposal was subsequently produced by the governing boards confirming the nature of the hard federation. This led to a statutory consultation being undertaken to seek stakeholders' views regarding the proposal.
- 2.4 On 10 July 2017 South Ferriby Primary School and Winteringham Primary School governing boards considered the consultation responses and agreed to form a hard federation of the two schools from 1 September 2017.
- 2.5 In order for the federated governing board to be formed a new instrument of government is required confirming the constitution. A draft instrument of government has been developed by the governing board, and has been submitted to the local authority for approval in Appendix 1.

- 2.6 If the local authority is not content with the draft instrument of government it must advise the two boards of governors and give reasons. If it is not possible for the local authority and the board to agree on a revised draft the local authority will produce a final draft for the school as they think fit, having regard to the category of school to which the school belongs.
- 2.7 The regulations give the governing boards more flexibility with their constitution and state that governing boards should be no bigger than they need to be to carry out their statutory duties. The regulations stipulate the categories and number of governors for maintained schools as follows:
- 2 parent governors (minimum)
 - 1 local authority governor (maximum)
 - 1 staff governor (maximum)
 - 1 head teacher
 - As many co-opted governors as necessary to fulfil the skills requirements. Up to a maximum of one third of governors can be staff members.
- 2.8 Appendix 1 of this report sets out the constitution of the board of governors in the form of an instrument of government, as requested by the governors of South Ferriby Primary School and Winteringham Primary School.

3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 **Option 1:** To approve the new instrument of government for The Bridge Federation. This would allow the federation to commence on 1 September 2017 and the instrument complies with statutory regulations and with the recommendations of the governing boards.
- 3.2 **Option 2:** Not to approve the new instrument of government for The Bridge Federation. This decision would go against the recommendations of the governing boards, and mean that the federation could not commence and the schools would continue as two separate boards.

4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 **Option 1:**

- 4.1.1 The proposed instrument of government, shown in Appendix 1, meets the requirements of relevant legislation, sets out their requirements and has been developed by the governing boards.
- 4.1.2 Approving the instrument of government will allow for the federation to comply with statutory regulations and for the federation to commence on 1 September 2017.

4.2 **Option 2**

4.2.1 If the new instrument of government was not approved alternative arrangements would need to be put in place which would delay the federation process.

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

5.1 None

6. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

6.1 An integrated impact assessment has not been undertaken in respect of this decision. The change of instrument is required by statutory legislation.

6.2 The School Governance (Federations) (England) Regulations 2012 sets out the framework for the schools proposing to federate and the process of making instruments of government. The instrument of government proposed in Appendix 1 of this report complies with those regulations.

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

7.1 The governing boards published proposals for the federation and used a questionnaire to consult with the following stakeholder groups:

- the local authority
- all staff paid to work at the two schools
- every person known to them to be a parent of a registered pupil at the two schools (consultation drop in sessions were provided at both schools)

7.2 There were 48 questionnaires received showing 88% support for the hard federation.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 It is recommended that the new Instrument of Government (Appendix 1) is approved and implemented from 1 September 2017.

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING, SKILLS AND CULTURE

Civic Centre
Ashby Road
Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire
DN16 1AB

Authors: Nadine Dunthorne / Tina Page

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

- 1 The School Governance (Federations) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 2 The School Governance (Constitution and Federations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014
- 3 The School Governance (Constitution and Federations) (England) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2014
- 4 The joint federation proposal April 2017
- 5 The joint consultation document May 2017

INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNMENT

FOR THE SOUTH FERRIBY AND WINTERINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOLS' FEDERATION

- 1 The name of the federation is "The Bridge Federation"
- 2 The names and categories of the schools in the federation are:
 - South Ferriby Primary School (Community School)
 - Winteringham Primary School (Community School)
- 3 The name of the governing body is "The Bridge Federation Governing Board"
- 4 The governing body shall consist of the following:
 - 2 Parent governors (1 from each school)
 - 1 Staff governor
 - 1 Head Teacher
 - 1 Local Authority governor
 - 14 Co-opted governors (max.no. from staff is 4;)
- 5 Total number of governors 19
- 6 This Instrument of Government comes into effect on 1 September 2017
- 7 This Instrument was made by order of North Lincolnshire Council Local Authority on
- 8 A copy of the instrument must be supplied to every member of the governing body (and the head teacher if not a governor)