

**REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE'S SERVICES****SUTTON NURSERY CENTRE AND CARSIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, SUTTON-
IN-ASHFIELD - OUTCOME OF PUBLISHED SECTIONS 10 AND 15 NOTICE:
SCHOOLS ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report informs Cabinet of the approval by the Schools Adjudicator (SA) to amalgamate the above-named schools in their existing premises to form a single 3-11 years primary school, inclusive of early years provision, with effect from 1 September 2012.

Information and Advice

2. It is a current statutory requirement that local authorities intending to propose the establishment of a new school, have to seek permission from the Secretary of State if proposals are required to be published outside of competition regulations. This permission was granted in a letter dated 29 July 2011 from the Department for Education.
3. A formal proposal was agreed to be published by Cabinet at its meeting on 8 June 2011, pending the above-mentioned approval by the Secretary of State. In accordance with the provisions of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006), the County Council is required to publish a Sections 10 and 15 Notice. An appropriate notice was subsequently published on 7 September 2011 which provided details of the proposal referred to in paragraph 1 of this report. It is however brought to Members' attention that due to the lateness of receiving a formal consent to publish the proposal, the intended implementation date of April 2012 had to be revised.
4. There is a six week period following the publication of notices during which objections and comments can be made. During the representation period which expired on 19 October 2011, no representations were received.
5. In accordance with the current statutory regulations under the EIA 2006, proposals promoting new schools fall to independent Schools Adjudicators to decide the outcome of such proposals.

6. The formal decision of the Schools Adjudicator to approve the amalgamation of Sutton Nursery Centre and Carsic Primary school was notified in a letter dated 16 December 2011 from the Office of the SA.

Other Options Considered

7. Two other possible options for the future of these two schools were considered:
- both schools to remain independent but form a federation
 - both schools remain as separate nursery and primary schools
8. The particular benefits of amalgamation include:
- making more efficient use of the available accommodation on the site to benefit not only the two schools, but also the local community as a whole;
 - a larger, single primary school will benefit from a combined budget and be a more viable provision of educational places for the community it will serve.

Reasons for Recommendation

9. Under the current provisions of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, proposals promoting new schools fall to independent Schools Adjudicators to decide the outcome of such proposals.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of service users, finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

11. When the proposal is implemented, pupils on roll at the nursery centre and primary school at the time of closure will automatically transfer to the new school as appropriate.

Financial implications

12. If the nursery centre and primary were amalgamated the budget for a new school would be calculated on the same basis as other primary schools of a similar size. This means that if amalgamation were approved there would be a projected revenue saving of approximately £20,000 per annum.
13. The arrangements will be that the new school will retain 100% of the identified savings in the first year, 60% in the second year, 40% in the third year and 20% in the fourth year. This gradual reduction will provide the new school with resources that will help enable a smooth transition to a single primary school.

14. It is the intention that the new primary school will operate from the existing buildings. In advance of this, the Local Authority would wish to work with the new school's governing body, headteacher and staff to determine, in the best interests of the children, the most appropriate way of utilising the existing accommodation.

Equalities Implications

15. Equal opportunities issues for staff will be addressed within an agreed enabling document and which will follow an agreed standard format.

Human Resources Implications

16. The governors of the new school will be supported by County Council officers to ensure that decisions about staffing in the school are made in accordance with employment law and the Local Authority's previously determined policies.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That Cabinet note the decision by the Schools Adjudicator to approve the County Council's proposal to amalgamate Sutton Nursery Centre and Carsic Primary School in their existing premises to form a single 3-11 primary school, including provision for early years education places, with effect from 1 September 2012.

Councillor Philip Owen

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services

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Constitutional Comments (LM 28/12/11)

17. The report is for noting only.

Financial Comments (NDR 03/01/12)

18. The financial implications are set out in paragraphs 12 and 13 of the report.

Background Papers

Report to Cabinet on 8 June 2011 'Sutton Nursery Centre and Carsic Primary School, Sutton-in-Ashfield – possible amalgamation' (previously published)

Letter from the DfE confirming consent for NCC to publish its proposal (dated 29 July 2011)

Letter from the Office of the Schools Adjudicator confirming the SA's decision (dated 16 December 2011)

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Sutton-in-Ashfield Central: Coun Michelle Gent

M19C2945