

9 December 2013**Agenda Item: 12****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS AND
INCLUSION****ANNIE HOLGATE COMMUNITY INFANT & NURSERY AND ANNIE HOLGATE
COMMUNITY JUNIOR SCHOOLS, HUCKNALL - OUTCOME OF PUBLISHED
SECTIONS 11 AND 15 NOTICE: SCHOOLS ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report informs Members 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 2014.

Information and Advice

2. A formal proposal was agreed to be published by this Committee at its meeting on 10 June 2013. In accordance with the provisions of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006), the County Council is required to publish a Sections 11 and 15 Notice. An appropriate notice was subsequently published on 14 June 2013 which provided details of the proposal referred to in paragraph 1 of this report.
3. 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 26 July 2013, no representations were received.
4. 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.
5. The formal decision of the Schools Adjudicator to approve the amalgamation of Annie Holgate Infant and Nursery and Annie Holgate Junior Schools in existing premises was notified in a letter dated 6 November 2013 from the Office of the SA.
6. The DfE's Education Funding Agency is currently working with the County Council and the Annie Holgate Infant and Junior Schools to develop their proposal to replace the existing buildings with a new primary through the Government's Priority Schools Building Programme.

Other Options Considered

7. One other possible option for the future of these two schools was considered:
 - both schools remain as separate infant and junior schools
8. The particular benefits of amalgamation include:
 - making more efficient use of available on-site accommodation 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.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. Under the current provisions of the EIA 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 finance, the public sector equality duty, 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 Annie Holgate Infant and Junior Schools at the time of closure will automatically transfer to the new school as appropriate.

Financial Implications

12. As a result of the changes all local authorities have been required to make to school funding from April 2013, upon amalgamation, the new school will receive a single budget allocation based on the agreed local funding formula for schools of a similar size. However, for the first full financial year, the new school will receive transitional protection through the payment of a lump sum equal to 85% of the two lump sums that the schools would have received if they had not merged. As the new school will not be created until September 2014, the first full financial year of operation will be the 2015-16 financial year. The new school would therefore expect the lump sum element of their budget to be as follows:
 - 2014-15 (7/12 financial year) £116,667 (£100,000 x 2 schools x 7/12)
 - 2015-16 (full financial year) £170,000 (£100,000 x 2 schools x 85%)
 - 2016-17 (full financial year) £100,000 - school reverts to a single lump sum

Public Sector Equality Duty Implications

13. Equal opportunities issues for staff will be addressed within an agreed enabling document which will follow an agreed standard format.
14. An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is available as a background paper.

Crime and Disorder Implications

15. Appropriate consideration has been given to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It is the view of the County Council that this proposed amalgamation does not pose a significant risk to increasing criminal activity within the locality of the two schools.

Human Rights Implications

16. Parental preference will continue to be facilitated.

Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Implications

17. Any new build scheme will take account of safeguarding needs and requirements.

Human Resources Implications

18. 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.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

19. Any new build project will require planning approval and will meet Building Regulations which reflect sustainability and environmental targets.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That Committee notes the decision by the Schools Adjudicator to approve the County Council's proposal to amalgamate Annie Holgate Infant & Nursery and Annie Holgate Junior Schools in their existing premises to form a single 3-11 primary school, including provision for early years education places, with effect from 1 September 2014.

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Constitutional Comments

20. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (KLA 13/11/13)

21. The financial implications of the report are set out in paragraph 12 above, & are contained with the school's budget.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- 1) Annie Holgate Community Infant & Nursery & Annie Holgate Community Junior Schools, Hucknall - possible amalgamation - report to Children and Young People's Committee on 10 June 2013 (previously published)
- 2) Sections 11 and 15 Notice (published on 14 June 2013)
- 3) Proposal determination letter from the Office of the Schools Adjudicator confirming the SA's decision (dated 6 November 2013)
- 4) Equality Impact Assessment

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

Hucknall: Councillors Alice Grice, John Wilkinson and John Wilmott

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