

30th November 2020

Agenda Item: 10

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND
SKILLS**

**MANNERS SUTTON PRIMARY SCHOOL, AVERHAM, NEWARK – OUTCOME
OF INITIAL CONSULTATION**

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Committee of the responses received to the stage one consultation seeking views on the future of Manners Sutton Primary School.
2. To agree the proposal and timeline for the formal consultation regarding the future of Manners Sutton Primary School.

Information

3. Manners Sutton Primary School is a small school with a published admission number of eight serving the village of Averham in the Newark District. The school is maintained by Nottinghamshire County Council. The last Ofsted inspection of the school (January 2018) rated the school as 'good'.
4. In recent years there have been significant concerns about declining pupil numbers at Manners Sutton Primary School. Over the recent past, this small rural school has experienced a decline in pupil numbers. At the time of the most recent Ofsted inspection in January 2018, 34 pupils were on the school's roll. By the time of the last statutory school census, undertaken by the school in January 2020, there were 23 pupils on roll.
5. In September 2020 Nottinghamshire County Council was informed by the Headteacher of Manners Sutton Primary School that the school had opened for the 2020/21 academic year with zero pupils on roll.
6. On 21st September 2020, the Children and Young People's Committee approved the undertaking of an initial statutory consultation to explore options for Manners Sutton Primary School including possible closure.
7. The consultation period opened on 5th October 2020 and closed on 15th November 2020.
8. During the consultation period four responses were received. Three recommended the closure of the Manners Sutton Primary School and one recommended that the school

amalgamate with another school. Further details of the consultation responses can be seen at **Appendix 1**.

Other Options Considered

9. The stage one consultation asks interested parties to state their preference on which of the following options should be adopted for the future of Manners Sutton Primary School:
- Continue with no change
 - Academisation
 - Federation
 - Amalgamation
 - Closure.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. Following analysis of the responses received to the stage one consultation and due to serious concerns of officers regarding the viability of Manners Sutton Primary School in the future, it is recommended that the Council consults on closing Manners Sutton Primary School from September 2021. The published timeline is attached as **Appendix 2**.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

12. It is anticipated that there will not be any costs for the consultation, but if there are, they will be minimal and contained within the service's allocated budget and centrally via the Council's Communications team.

Human Resources Implications

13. The following posts will potentially be impacted by the proposed closure:
- 1 Assistant Head Teacher
 - 1 Administrator
 - 2 Teaching Assistant
 - 1 Mid-day Supervisor
 - 1 Supply Support Assistant.
14. Work is being undertaken with the Governing Body to address the various contractual issues which will arise if the school closes using the existing agreed policies and procedures

around redundancy and redeployment with appropriate consultation and involving the recognised trade unions.

Implications for Service Users

15. There are currently no pupils on roll at Manners Sutton Primary School.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That Committee gives approval for a formal consultation on the closure of Manners Sutton Primary School to begin in January 2021, as detailed in **Appendix 2**.

Marion Clay
Service Director, Education, Learning and Skills

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (AK 13/11/20)

16. The report falls within the remit of Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SAS 17/11/20)

17. It is anticipated that there will not be any costs for the consultation, but if there are, they will be minimal and contained within the service's allocated budget and centrally via the Council's Communications team.

HR Comments (AW 16/11/20)

18. The staffing implications are contained within the body of the report and discussions have already been held with the staff affected as part of the current consultation process. Appropriate consultation will continue with the staff and recognised trade unions in line with the agreed redundancy and redeployment procedures.

Background Papers and Published Documents

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.

[Manners Sutton Primary School, Averham, Newark – proposed consultation regarding closure – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 21st September 2020](#)

Department for Education (DfE) Guidance 'Opening and closing maintained schools; Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers', November 2019

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Farndon and Trent Division

Councillor Sue Saddington

C1409