



meeting	CABINET	
date	10 January 2007	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

Ladybrook Primary and New Rose Primary and Nursery Schools, Mansfield – Section 28 and 29 Notice

Purpose of report

1. This report seeks the approval of Cabinet for the implementation of the proposal to amalgamate the above-mentioned schools in one or both of their existing premises to form a single primary school, inclusive of early years places, with effect from 1 September 2007.
2. This proposal is a key decision as defined by the category 'Opening, merging or closing schools' in the Constitution and was first published in the Forward Plan in September 2006.

Information and advice

Background

3. A formal proposal was agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on 8 November 2006 and under the provisions of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the LA is required to publish a Section 28 and 29 Notice. An appropriate Notice was subsequently published on 22 November 2006 which proposed that a new school be established in one or both of the existing premises of the schools from September 2007.
4. There is a six week period following the publication of Notices during which objections and comments can be made.
5. The Notice expired on 3 January 2007 and no representations were received. The decision on the above proposal now falls to Cabinet to determine.

Statutory and policy implications

6. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder

and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report. Attention is, however, drawn to the following:-

Personnel implications

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

Financial implications

8. If the schools 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 an eventual projected saving of approximately £102,300 per annum.
9. 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 enable a smooth transition to a single primary school.
10. It is the intention that funding will be sought to provide a new purpose built school on the campus to replace the existing accommodation that is coming to the end of its natural life.
11. In advance of a new building becoming available, the 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.

Equal opportunities implications

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

Implications for service users

13. If the recommendation is accepted, pupils on roll at the Ladybrook and New Rose Primary Schools at the time of closure will automatically transfer to the new school as appropriate.

Resources (Property Division) implications (TS)

14. Should the proposed amalgamation be implemented, then the new Primary School will initially operate out of existing accommodation on the Ladybrook and New Rose campus. Subject to funding, the accommodation will be replaced with new build which could be achieved using the existing accommodation of one site whilst the other is demolished and rebuilt.

15. It will be necessary for the two school sites to be considered holistically by both the Children and Young People's Services staff in conjunction with Resources (Property Division) staff with regard to both this proposal and any subsequent availability of surplus land for development.

RECOMMENDATION

16. That the proposal contained in paragraph one of this report for the proposal to amalgamate the above named schools to form a single primary school, with early years places, in existing accommodation on the Ladybrook and New Rose campus from September 2007, be approved by Cabinet.

COUNCILLOR JOYCE BOSNJAK

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services

Reasons for recommendation

17. There is support from staff, governors and parents of both schools for an amalgamation to be implemented in September 2007. This is perceived as being in the best interests of both schools and the community.

Other options considered

18. These were previously reported to Cabinet on 8 November 2006. The proposal contained within this report is the preferred option.

Legal Services' comments (LM/6.12.2006)

19. Cabinet has the delegated authority to approve the recommendations in the report in order to discharge the County Council's functions as Local Education Authority.

Strategic Director of Resources' comments (NDR)

20. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background papers available for inspection

Nil.

Electoral division affected

West Mansfield

M19C1700