

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive
Forward Plan
Reference

E 2670

Statutory Notice Proposing to Amalgamate Southdown Infant and Junior Schools into a Primary School

Decision maker/s	<p>Cllr Paul Crossley, Leader of the Council</p> <p>Cllr Dine Romero, Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children and Youth</p>
The Issue	<p>Approval of the statutory notice proposing the amalgamation of Southdown Infant and Junior schools into a primary school.</p>
Decision Date	<p>29 October 2014</p>
The decision	<p>The Cabinet Members approve the statutory notice proposing the amalgamation of Southdown Infant and Junior schools, to be achieved via the closure of the Junior school and the expansion and change in upper age range of the Infant school in order to create an all through 420 place primary school.</p> <p>Whilst both decision makers are ward councillors for Southdown ward, this decision is of a wider interest to the Community as places at this school could serve children who live outside of Southdown ward.</p>
Rationale for decision	<p>The two schools were federated on 1 January 2014. Federation is a formal arrangement whereby schools share a single governing body but retain their own legal status, character, budget, performance tables and OFSTED inspections. As a result, they are already led and managed by a single Headteacher and Governing Body, in the same way as the primary school would be. The Headteacher and Governing Body have expressed a wish for the two schools to be fully amalgamated into an all through primary school. There would be several benefits in becoming a primary school:</p> <p>It would provide children with a seamless journey through school from age 4 – 11, removing the need for Infant school children to apply for a Year 3 junior school place as now.</p> <p>It would support and enhance the delivery of the new 2014 curriculum and would enable better continuity and progression of children's learning, particularly between Key Stage One and Key Stage Two.</p> <p>It would promote high educational standards and ensure high quality, good teaching.</p> <p>It would allow consistency of approach to learning policies, behaviour</p>

	<p>management, Special Education Needs (SEN) provision and better use of educational resources including teaching and non-teaching staff.</p> <p>It would provide opportunities to increase the range of expertise and experience of teaching staff and provide opportunities for improvements in the deployment and development of teachers.</p> <p>The 11 consultation responses that were received from parents, parent governors, staff, unions and other interested parties between 12 May to 22 June were all in support of the proposal.</p> <p>No representation responses were received during the Representation Period running from 11 September to 9 October 2014</p>
<p>Financial and budget implications</p>	<p>Any revenue implications relating to the amalgamation will be supported by the schools budget which is funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) from the Department for Education (DfE). The only exception to this would be if a redundancy was to be required which is formally the responsibility of the Local Authority, in which case this would be funded through the People and Communities Department schools redundancy budget. It is anticipated that possible redundancies at either of the two existing schools would be minimal as one Headteacher is currently already supporting both schools.</p> <p>Some additional accommodation will need to be added to enable the proposed primary school to have a Planned Admission Number (PAN) of 60 to admit more pupils. This will be funded from the Council's Basic Need capital allocation from the DfE, and capital costs taken through the normal capital approval process later in this financial year. £150,000 was approved at July 2014 Cabinet from the £500,000 earmarked for school improvements for Phase 1 of capital works for worst condition elements and to enable amalgamation. A second phase of capital work is required to improve access and organisational issues at an estimated £150,000-£200,000 also to be funded from the school improvement capital pot.</p>
<p>Issues considered</p>	<p>Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Human Resources; Property; Young People; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation); Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations</p>
<p>Consultation undertaken</p>	<p>Ward Councillor; Cabinet colleagues; Trades Unions; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Stakeholders/Partners; Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer</p>
<p>How consultation was carried out</p>	<p>Copies of the printed consultation document were given to the schools for distribution to every Governing Body member, the Headteacher and all staff at both schools and for all parents of all children at the schools including early years age children in the nursery.</p> <p>A meeting for parents was held at the school on 17 June. A meeting for staff was held at the school on the same day and additional staff</p>

	<p>consultation has been carried out by Human Resources. The schools carried out consultation activities with pupils at the schools.</p> <p>The consultation document was emailed to trade unions representing staff at the school, the local Church of England Diocese, the local Catholic Diocese, the MP for Bath, all Bath Ward Councillors and Councillors in Bathavon North, Bathavon South and Bathavon West wards, the Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children and Youth, council officers including those in School Improvement, Admissions and Transport, Human Resources, Education Finance, Schools Capital and Early Years. It was also emailed to all other primary schools in Bath, all secondary schools in Bath and to the two special schools in Bath.</p> <p>The consultation document was published on the Consultation section of the Bath and North East Somerset Council website for public access and on the Junior school website.</p> <p>The statutory notice was posted up at all of the entrances to the school sites, in a prominent place on each school site and published in The Bath Chronicle on 11 September 2014. The statutory notice and the Complete Proposal were published on the Council website on the same day.</p>
<p>Other options considered</p>	<p>To continue to run the Infant and Junior schools as separate schools as at present. This option was rejected as this would not achieve any of the benefits as outlined. Also the schools are already federated and the Governing Body and Headteacher wish to be fully amalgamated into an all through primary school.</p>
<p>Signatures of Decision Makers</p>	
<p>Date of Signature</p>	
<p>Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision</p>	