



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE MEETING
21 SEPTEMBER 2009**

ITEM 7

Report of the Corporate Director for Children
and Young People

PROPOSED SCHOOLS FEDERATION

RECOMMENDATION

1. To note the outcome of the consultation on the proposed federation of Pear Tree Infant School (PI) and Walbrook Nursery (WN).

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The proposed federation was subject to wide consultation, followed by a decision by each school's governing body. This report formally records the outcome of this process.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The opportunity to consider federation of the two schools arose when the headteacher of WN resigned. The Children and Young People's Department worked closely with the governors of each school to support their consideration of federation.
- 3.2 It was agreed to consult on joining the two schools within a hard federation, whereby they would be governed by a single governing body under the statutory framework of Department for Children, Schools and Families Federation Regulations.
- 3.3 Under hard federation schools work together for the benefit of all pupils and their school communities. Schools in federations continue to be individual schools, and admission to each school continues to be determined by the appropriate admission authority. Federation often entails the sharing of resources under a single headteacher. The sharing of staff expertise and resources can be beneficial to all schools, avoiding duplication of roles and resources.
- 3.4 In accordance with statutory guidance proposals for federation are made by governing bodies. Each school consulted with a range of stakeholders including parents, staff, other city schools, trade unions and local centres of worship. The results of this consultation were reported to the governors of both schools to inform their decision around federation.

- 3.5 The governing bodies met separately in July 2009 to consider the consultation responses and both voted in favour of federation. The Children and Young People's Department will now work with the governors to establish a single governing body which will signal the completion of the federation process. This will be complete by November 2009.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4. The option not to consult on federation was considered but, given the advantages of federation, was not chosen.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 Under federation the schools' individual budgets can be pooled, giving rise to economies of scale in staffing and resources.
- 1.2 The decision not to federate has a neutral effect on overall school budgets.

Legal

- 2.1 Under federation schools are bound by Department for Children, Schools and Families Federation Regulations.
- 2.2 The decision not to federate has no legal implications.

Personnel

- 3. The Headteacher at PI will become the executive Headteacher of PI and WN. There are no other personnel implications as a direct and immediate result of federation.

Equalities impact

- 4. The decision not to federate has no direct equalities impact.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5. The proposal relates to the Corporate Plan priority of supporting everyone in learning and achieving, focusing on the outcome of providing learning opportunities to raise skills levels for all.