



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE MEETING

Tuesday 15 January 2008

Report of the Corporate Director for Children & Young People

Proposed schools federation

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To note the outcome of the consultation on the proposed federation of St James' Church of England (Aided) Junior School (SJJ), St James' Church of England (Aided) Infant and Nursery School (SJI), and Rosehill Infant and Nursery School (RI).

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 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 three schools arose when the head teachers of SJI and RI resigned. The Children and Young People's Department worked closely with the Church of England Diocesan Director of Education to support school governors in their consideration of federation.
- 3.2 It was agreed to consult on joining the three 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 head teacher. 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 all three schools to

inform their decision around federation.

- 3.5 Each governing body met on Monday 10 December 2007. The governors of SJJ and SJI both voted in favour of federation. The governors of RI voted against federation. As the original proposal was for a federation of all three schools the overall outcome was, therefore, not to proceed with federation.
- 3.6 The respective governing bodies of SJI and SJJ will meet in early January 2008 in order to decide whether to re-consult on a two-way federation between their two schools. If this is the case the schools will need to conduct a new consultation which will conclude in March 2008.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 The option not to consult on federation was considered but, given the advantages of federation, was not taken.

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

- 3.1 Having voted against federation, RI will make arrangements for acting headship and the subsequent appointment of a new headteacher. SJI will also make arrangements for acting headship but these will be dependent on any decision to re-consult on federation.

Equalities impact

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

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 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.