

Cabinet

14 March 2018



Proposal to Change the Age Range of Wingate Infant School from 4-7 to 4-11 from 1 September 2018 to create a Primary School and to Close Wingate Junior School as a Registered School on 31 August 2018

Key Decision CYP5/04/17

Report of Margaret Whellans, Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services and Councillor Olwyn Gunn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To seek Cabinet approval to change the age range of Wingate Infant School from 4-7 to 4-11 from 1 September 2018 to create a Primary School and to close Wingate Junior School as a registered school on 31 August 2018, taking account of the Local Authority's duties as prescribed in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to secure sufficient places, and to ensure good outcomes for all children and young people in the local area.

Background

- 2 In December 2016, Cabinet approved its overarching strategy for school organisation and the pattern and provision of schools across County Durham. One of the principles underlying the strategy is where practicable to do so, to move towards a pattern of 'all through' primary schools rather than separate infant and junior schools. In November 2017, Cabinet also approved a strategic review of school provision in County Durham to ensure the financial sustainability of schools. The outcome of this review aims to ensure that County Durham has an appropriate mix and the right number of high performing, financially sustainable schools. One of the options to be utilised to meet this aim is the amalgamation of schools.
- 3 Officers within the Council believe that children and their families will benefit from continuity of education provision from age 4-11 in a single primary school, rather than two separate schools. The proposal to amalgamate Wingate Infant and Junior Schools into a single primary school is in accordance with the council's strategy of moving towards a model of all through primary schools instead of separate, Nursery, Infant and Junior Schools.
- 4 The proposal will result in a larger, more sustainable school running across the existing site of Wingate Infant and Junior Schools that can deliver education for the community of Wingate for the long term.

Consultation

- 5 Using delegated powers, the Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services approved the start of consultation on the proposal to change the age range of Wingate Infant School from 4-7 to 4-11 from 1 September 2018 to create a primary school and to close Wingate Junior School as a registered school on 31 August 2018. The delegated decision report is included in Appendix 2.
- 6 A public consultation was undertaken between 13 November 2017 and 22 December 2017. This consultation included meetings with Governors and staff on 16, 21 and 22 November 2017 and an information sharing meeting for parents, pupils and the local community on 23 November 2017, so that their views could be shared with the Local Authority. Details of the consultation and a full summary of the consultation responses is included in the delegated decision report attached as Appendix 2.
- 7 When considering responses to the consultation, the council has referred to the Department for Education (DfE) guidance - "Statutory guidance for decision-makers deciding prescribed alteration and establishment and discontinuance proposals". This guidance states that the decision-maker (in this case the Local Authority) should consider the views of those affected by the proposal or who have an interest in it, including cross-LA border interests. The decision-maker should not simply take account of the numbers of people expressing a particular view. Instead they should give the greatest weight to those responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal, especially parents of children at the affected school(s).
- 8 The responses to the consultation were received and considered by officers in the County Council. Of the 73 responses received, 38 were in support of the proposal and 35 were not in support of it. Some of the responses received that were not in support of the proposal felt that the proposal was a money saving exercise and that an amalgamation should not be considered until there was funding available for a new build. Others not in support of the proposal felt that links could be established between the two schools without an amalgamation and that some of the benefits of primary education that were stated in the consultation document were flawed. Some of the responses in support of the proposal were of the view that primary schools provide consistency that separate infant and junior schools do not and that this would be beneficial for pupils. Although there were mixed views about the proposal the council has been able to respond to concerns that were raised during the consultation period. A summary of the responses is provided in the delegated decision report dated 3 January 2018 which is included in Appendix 2.

Decision to Issue a Statutory Notice

- 9 After full consideration of all the responses to the consultation, the Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services used delegated powers to agree to publish proposals to change the age range of Wingate Infant School from 4-7 to 4-11 from 1 September 2018 to create a Primary School and to close Wingate Junior School as a registered school on 31 August 2018. The

proposed Primary School would run across the existing sites of Wingate Infant and Junior Schools. A statutory notice was therefore published on 11 January 2018 (attached as Appendix 3).

- 10 Once the proposal is published there follows a statutory 4 week representation period during which comments on the proposal can be made. These must be sent to the Local Authority. Any person can submit representations, which can be objections as well as expressions of support for the proposal. The representation period is the final opportunity for people and organisations to express their views about the proposal. Once the representation period has closed, a decision on the proposal must be made by the decision-maker (in this case the council's Cabinet) within 2 months i.e. by 4 April 2018.

Responses to the Proposal Published on 11 January 2018

The Statutory Notice Period

- 11 9 responses were received by the end of the 4 week statutory notice period. 8 of the 9 responses were received in the last 3 days of the statutory notice period and were submitted after a meeting of Wingate Parish Council that was held on 5 February 2018 specifically to discuss the proposal to amalgamate Wingate Infant and Junior Schools. All of the 8 responses, including a response from the Parish Council, stated that insufficient information had been provided during the consultation and consequently they were requesting that the proposal be held in abeyance until further information is provided. In particular the responses felt that insufficient information had been provided on how additional pupils from housing developments would be accommodated in the existing schools and what the impact of the proposed amalgamation would be on children and staff.
- 12 Officers had previously explained at the meetings held in the initial six week consultation the process for appointing staff to the proposed primary school and that the council had secured money from housing developers to expand school buildings in the future to respond to additional pupils from the housing developments in Wingate. There is no reason therefore for the proposed amalgamation to be held in abeyance for further information to be provided.
- 13 Furthermore the statutory guidance issued by the DfE states that the decision-maker (in this case the council's Cabinet) must make a decision within 2 months of the expiry date of the Statutory Public Notice i.e. by 4 April 2018. Holding the proposal in abeyance therefore would result in Cabinet not deciding the proposal by 4 April 2018.
14. The central theme of the proposal was seeking the views of establishing a single 'all through' Primary School rather than having separate Infant and Junior Schools. Issues such as housing, staffing structures and appointments, whilst related to the proposal are not key aspects. The focus of the proposal is to create a Primary School by amalgamating the current Wingate Infant and Junior Schools.

Decision-Making Process

Factors to be Considered by Cabinet

(a) Related Proposals

- 15 Any proposal that is 'related' to another proposal must be considered together. A proposal should be regarded as 'related' if its implementation (or non-implementation) would prevent or undermine the effective implementation of another proposal. Decisions for 'related' proposals should be compatible.
- 16 The proposal to change the age range of Wingate Infant School from 4-7 to 4-11 from 1 September 2018 to create a Primary School and to close Wingate Junior School as a registered school on 31 August 2018 are 'related' therefore they must be considered together.

(b) Consideration of Consultation and Representation Period

- 17 Cabinet needs to be satisfied that the appropriate fair and open local consultation and representation period have been carried out and that the proposer (in this case the Local Authority) has given full consideration to all the responses received. If the proposer has failed to meet the statutory requirements, this proposal may be deemed invalid and therefore should be rejected. Consultation was carried out in accordance with Department for Education (DfE) guidance.
- 18 Cabinet must consider all of the views submitted, including all support for, and objection to and comments on the proposal. Details of the consultation are included in paragraphs 5-8. The statutory notice published on 11 January 2018 and which expired on 8 February 2018 (the representation period) is attached as Appendix 3. Officers prepared the notice as set out in the regulations and complied with statutory requirements.
- 19 The report attached as Appendix 2 provides full details of the responses received during the consultation period from 13 November - 22 December 2017. In summary, 75 responses were received, 38 in support of the proposal and 35 not in support of the proposal.

Summary of Responses

- 20 The following information provides a summary of the 73 responses received to the consultation:
- Stakeholders felt that the proposal would be a positive change and benefit children's futures;
 - Stakeholders felt that the proposal would enable staff to liaise more easily with work and pupil issues;
 - Stakeholders felt that the proposal would lead to a more streamlined education;

- Stakeholders not in support of the proposal felt that it was a money saving exercise and that an amalgamation should not be considered until there was funding available for a new build;
- Stakeholders felt that an amalgamation would divide the community;
- Stakeholders felt that the distance between the two sites (0.3 miles) would mean that in reality they would still be viewed as separate schools and that it will be awkward and time consuming for staff and pupils to move between the two sites.

(c) Education Standards and Diversity of Provision

21 The council believes that educationally the proposal to change the age range of Wingate Infant School from 4-7 to 4-11 from 1 September 2018 to create a Primary School and to close Wingate Junior School as a registered school on 31 August 2018 is in the best interests of pupils and their families. Evidence gathered over a number of years shows that Primary Schools (instead of separate Infant and Junior Schools) have many benefits for children including:

- (a) continuity and progress of learning between aged 4-11; this would also mean that families only apply for a place in Reception and no longer need to apply again at the end of Year 2;
- (b) unified leadership and management of the curriculum, teaching and social development; this would mean that children had one consistent approach towards all aspects of their primary school life;
- (c) access to a curriculum planned and accessed across the whole primary range; this would enable staff to help children make progress from exactly where they left off at the end of the previous year, rather than cover learning which has already taken place.

22 Wingate Junior School was inspected and judged to be 'Good' by Ofsted in October 2014. Expectations of what pupils achieve at the school are high and the school is very well organised to enable pupils to learn effectively. Wingate Infant School was inspected and judged to be 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in September 2013. It was designated as a National Support School in March 2013 and a Teaching School in March 2014.

23 The proposal for a single primary school will build on those strengths and officers believe that learning and progress will be improved further if the two schools are amalgamated into a single primary school.

(d) Demand v Need

24 In assessing the demand for new school places, Cabinet should consider any projected increase in pupil population such as planned housing developments. There are two significant housing developments planned for Wingate that the council is aware of and contributions via section 106 agreements have been agreed with the developers to help provide additional teaching accommodation of up to 4 classrooms at Wingate in the future.

(e) Proposed Admission Arrangements

- 25 The proposed admission arrangements will be the same as those for all community and voluntary controlled schools in County Durham and these are compliant with the DfE's School Admission Code. The proposed number of pupils to be admitted to Reception of the proposed Primary School in September 2018 will be 51.

(f) National Curriculum

- 26 All maintained schools must follow the National Curriculum unless they have secured an exemption for groups of pupils or the school community. The proposed Primary School will follow the National Curriculum.

(g) Equal Opportunities and Community Cohesion

- 27 Cabinet must have regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) of LAs/Governing Bodies, which requires them to have 'due regard' to the need to:

- (a) eliminate discrimination;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity; and
- (c) foster good relations.

- 28 An equality impact assessment (part of Appendix 2) has been carried out on this proposal. There are no potential impacts in relation to age, gender, disability, sexual orientation or ethnicity for pupils and parents/carers. The current schools provide education for boys and girls aged between 4-11 years and the proposed Primary School will continue to provide education for boys and girls across the same age range.

(h) Travel and Accessibility

- 29 The proposed Primary School will be on the sites of the existing Wingate Infant and Junior Schools. Consequently there will be no increases to travel time.

(i) Funding

- 30 Cabinet must be satisfied that the necessary funding required to implement the proposal will be available. If the proposal is agreed, capital funding from the DfE Capital Maintenance Grant will be utilised to change signage and upgrade IT systems. No other capital work will be required as a direct result of the proposal being agreed. The expansion of the school buildings to respond to the housing developments in Wingate will be required whether the proposed amalgamation is agreed or not. This will be funded by contributions from housing developers via Section 106 agreements and Basic Need Funding from DfE.

(j) School Premises and Playing Fields

- 31 Under the School Premises Regulations all schools are required to provide suitable outdoor space to enable physical education to be provided to pupils in accordance with the school curriculum; and for pupils to play outside safely. The sites of the existing Wingate Infant and Junior Schools have suitable outdoor spaces.

Recommendations and Reasons

- 32 Officers believe that proceeding with the proposal will enhance education provision in Wingate. Amalgamating Wingate Infant and Junior Schools into one Primary School will provide a more viable establishment for the long term and will provide educational benefits that separate Infant and Junior Schools do not.
- 33 In the view of the council, amalgamating Infant and Junior Schools is in the best interests of children and their families. Primary Schools have more opportunity, through daily contact, for those working within the school to work together in the best interests of the pupils. They benefit from the consistency that working under the leadership of one Head Teacher and one Governing Body brings. A single Primary School can reduce the potential for disruption, which some children experience, when they transfer from Infant to Junior School.
- 32 Cabinet is recommended to agree:
- (a) that the age range of Wingate Infant School should be changed from 4-7 to 4-11 from 1 September 2018 to create a primary school across the existing sites of Wingate Infant and Junior Schools; and
 - (b) that Wingate Junior School should close as a registered school on 31 August 2018 but that the school buildings become part of the single primary school.

Background Papers

Appendix 2 - Delegated Decision Report
Appendix 3 - Statutory Notice

Contact: Sheila Palmerley

Tel: 03000 265 731

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Capital funding from the DfE Capital Maintenance Grant will be utilised to change signage and upgrade IT systems if the proposal is agreed.

Staffing

Staff from Wingate Infant and Junior School would be ring-fenced for posts in the single primary school.

Risk

The risk of not proceeding with the proposal is that the opportunities of continuity of education in a single primary school are missed.

Equality and Diversity

The proposal to amalgamate Wingate Infant and Junior School into an 'all through' single Primary School will bring about a more viable and sustainable establishment for the long term. Evidence gathered over a number of years shows that primary schools have many benefits for children, parents and staff. The focus on improved educational outcomes for children in 'all through' primary provision leads to smoother and more effective transition in their education. This is seen as a positive experience in a child's education and development and ensures that children who are protected under the Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty can maximise their potential. The main groups affected by this proposal are pupils attending Wingate Infant and Junior Schools, their families and staff. It is not expected that pupils and their families will be adversely affected as amalgamation into a single 'all through' primary school will enhance provision in the area and will lead to a larger, more viable establishment for the long term that will bring about educational improvement and continue to provide equal access for all. An equality Impact Assessment is attached as part of Appendix 2.

Accommodation

The proposed primary school would be established using the existing accommodation in Wingate Infant and Junior Schools.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Human Rights

Will not be affected.

Consultation

Consultation was carried out in accordance with DfE Statutory guidance.

Procurement

Any capital works to the school will be procured in accordance with the County Council's procurement arrangements.

Disability Issues

N/A

Legal Implications

Covered in the body of the report.

REF No.

DECISION RECORD (Version August 2014)*Please complete all sections***DECISION MAKER**

Margaret Whellans
Corporate Director
Children and Young People's Services

**AUTHORITY BY REFERENCE TO
SCHEME OF DELEGATION/COMMITTEE
REPORT**

2. Table 5
Paragraph 1.4

SUBJECT

3. To seek approval from the Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services to issue a statutory notice proposing to change the age range of Wingate Infant School from 4-7 to 4-11 from 1 September 2018 and to close Wingate Junior School as a registered school on 31 August 2018.

DECISION

4. CYPS/04/17 – Proposed date for Cabinet – March 2018

ELECTORAL DIVISION/S

5. Wingate.

CONSULTATION – CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER, OTHER MEMBERS & DATE

6. The Cabinet Portfolio Holder and Local Member were consulted on 3rd January 2018.

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED BY AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER

7. None.

**A NOTE OF DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE IN
RELATION TO THE ABOVE CONFLICT**

8. N/A.

ACCESS TO THE REPORT

Is the report open to the public (Part A)

Yes

9. Is the report exempt (Part B) – if so please specify the exemption paragraph and the reason for exemption applying the Public Interest Test

CONTACT PERSON

Sheila Palmerley

CONTACT No.

03000 265731

AUTHORISED SIGNATORY

10 Margaret W. Whelan

DATE

11. 3/1/18

This form must be sent electronically to delegations@durham.gov.uk within 24 hours of the decision being made.

NOTES

1. The reference No. will be assigned by Democratic Services.
2. The relevant paragraph within the decision makers delegated powers should be identified.
3. A brief heading should be inserted.
4. Brief details of the decision should be inserted. This note must set out the substance of the decisions, options considered and the reasons for the chosen option. Take care not to divulge any commercially sensitive information. If it's a Key Decision insert the No.
5. List the electoral division/s that will be affected by the decision.
6. Set out the consultation you have undertaken with Cabinet portfolio holder and others.
7. See Guidance "Consultation with Portfolio Holder".
8. **See Guidance "Consultation with Portfolio Holder".**
9. Please refer to the Access to Information Requirements that came into force from 1 March 2006 and the internal guidance that has been issued in this respect.
10. Person authorised to make the decision. When sent to democratic services, this will be an electronic signature.
11. Enter the date the decision was made.

Delegated Decision

3 January 2018



Outcome of Consultation on a Proposal to Change the Age Range of Wingate Infant School from 4-7 to 4-11 from 1 September 2018 to create a single Primary School and to close Wingate Junior School as a separate school on 31 August 2018

Report of Margaret Whellans, Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide details on the outcome of consultation which was undertaken between 13 November 2017 and 22 December 2017 proposing to amalgamate Wingate Infant and Junior Schools into a single primary school in existing premises from 1 September 2018 and to seek approval to move to the next stage in the process which is to issue a statutory notice.

Background

- 2 In a report dated 22 September 2017 (attached as Appendix 2) the Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services approved consultation could begin on a proposal to amalgamate Wingate Infant and Junior Schools into a single primary school in the existing premises.
- 3 The amalgamation would be achieved by changing the age range of Wingate Infant School from 4-7 to 4-11 from September 2018 to create a single primary school and by closing Wingate Junior School as a registered school on 31 August 2018. This would be the proposal on the statutory notice should permission be given to issue it.
- 4 Consultation documents (attached as Appendix 3) were distributed widely (distribution list attached as Appendix 4) and meetings were held between 16-23 November 2017 with the Governing Bodies and staff of both schools and parents and members of the local community at an Information Sharing meeting.

Issues raised at Consultation Meetings

- 5 At the meetings held between 16-23 November 2017 officers explained the reasons for the proposal and invited those present to express views and ask questions. The key issues discussed at the meetings can be summarised as follows:
 - Questions were asked as to why the proposed single primary school could not be in a new build so that the school would not have to run across two sites. Officers explained that it is everybody's aspiration for a new building but it is dependent on capital funding being available and that the council has to allocate funding to the highest priority projects.

Unfortunately, a new build is not able to be provided at this stage because the council does not have the funding available. However there are examples both nationally and in County Durham of primary schools running across two sites effectively and successfully.

- Concerns were expressed that the proposal was a cost saving exercise and would not be beneficial to children. Officers explained that a larger single primary school is usually more financially sustainable than separate infant and junior schools. Some evidence also suggests that primary schools (instead of separate infant and junior schools) have many benefits for children, parents and staff including continuity and progress of learning between ages 4 and 11; unified leadership and management of the curriculum, teaching and learning; access to a curriculum planned and assessed across the whole primary range; tracking pupil progress is easier in a primary school than in separate infant and junior schools. Officers also explained that the proposal is not a money saving exercise as school funding is dedicated to schools and pupils. The amount of funding the council receives for funding schools is based on the number of pupils, not the number of schools and this is ring-fenced therefore there is no saving to the council.
- Questions were asked as to how the Head Teacher would be appointed and whether there would be any redundancies. Officers explained that a joint committee could be established comprising current Governors of Wingate Infant and Junior Schools. The first responsibility of the joint committee would be to appoint a Head Teacher designate to the proposed primary school. As there is currently one substantive Head Teacher only, the post of Head Teacher designate would be ring-fenced to that person. Once the Head Teacher designate is appointed, a proposed staffing structure would be produced for consultation with staff and Trade Unions. This is the role of the Head Teacher designate and joint committee, not the council and the structure proposed would need to meet the requirements of the proposed single primary school. In previous amalgamations there have been very few compulsory redundancies.
- Concerns were raised that as the substantive Head Teacher is the Head Teacher of two schools currently that person may not have the capacity to effectively lead the proposed single primary school across two sites. It was also felt that the working relationship between Wingate Infant and Junior Schools was improving and that more time should be given for it to develop further before amalgamating the two schools.
- Concerns were expressed that if Cabinet agreed to amalgamate the two schools in March 2018, it did not leave much time for the staffing structure to be agreed and appointments made in advance of September 2018.
- Concerns were raised as to how impartial Governors would be during the appointments process and it was stated that staff from Wingate Junior School felt undervalued.
- Questions were asked that if support staff were appointed to lower graded posts in the proposed primary school, would they receive any salary protection. Officers explained that salary protection only existed for teaching staff, not support staff in schools.

- Concerns were raised that the existing schools were not large enough to accommodate pupils from new housing developments and pupils would have to be transported to other schools. Officers explained that the council had an approved methodology for seeking financial contributions from housing developers for additional teaching accommodation if there was insufficient capacity in existing schools. The council had negotiated a contribution at Martindale Road that had recently been approved. The council was also negotiating a financial contribution for additional teaching accommodation at both Wingate Infant and Junior Schools in respect of a proposed development at Stewart Drive. There is no intention to transport children living in Wingate to primary schools in other villages
- Concerns were raised that there was nothing in the consultation document about class sizes, staff redundancies or how the proposal would improve education. Previously the community had been told that split site schools were not in the best interests of children. How will an amalgamation now benefit children if there are no resources for a new build. Officers explained that the aspirations would be for a new build but currently the council does not have the resources. However, there are some very high achieving split site schools both nationally and in County Durham.
- Comments were made that parents already have the option to send their children to a primary school but may have chosen the current schools as they prefer to send them to separate infant and junior schools.
- Comments were made that staff would be expected to take on more responsibility to help with the management of the proposed primary school as there will only be one Head Teacher across the two sites. This would have a negative impact on learning which would not be beneficial to children.
- Questions were asked about whether the proposed amalgamation would be agreed if everyone replied to say they were against it, and if it did go ahead how could an objection be made against the decision. Officers explained that the decision is not made on how many 'for' and 'against' responses are received. Respondents are encouraged to provide reasons as to why they either support or do not support a proposal so that Cabinet are aware of the views being expressed. All responses are made available for Cabinet to view. There is a statutory process relating to school re-organisation that Local Authorities must adhere to. If that process is not followed, objections could be made, but objections cannot be made merely because the decision is not what some people may have wished for.

Responses to the Consultation

- 6 Stakeholders were also invited to respond in a variety of ways e.g. written responses using the response form attached to the consultation document, letter, email, or completing the response form online via the council's website.
- 7
- 43 responded in writing using the response form, letters and email.
 - 30 responded using the online response form (DCC website).
 - 39 people attended the Information Sharing Evening at Wingate Community Centre.

- 14 Governors (7 from each school) attended the joint Governing Body meeting.
- 26 members of staff attended the staff meeting at Wingate Infant School.
- 22 members of staff attended the staff meeting at Wingate Junior School.

Summary of Responses

8 The following information provides a summary of the 73 responses received to the consultation in writing or using the online response form:

- 38 respondents support the proposal.
- 35 respondents do not support the proposal.
- Some comments received in the written responses were similar to those highlighted at the consultation meetings. A number of respondents viewed the proposal as positive as it will provide continuity for children and it will improve transition from Key Stage 1 into Key Stage 2 which some parents felt has been an issue for the village.
- Some parents felt that the amalgamation would be a positive change and benefit children's futures.
- Some parents felt that the proposal would enable staff to liaise more easily with work and pupil issues.
- Some parents supported the proposal as it would lead to a more streamlined education.
- A number of respondents felt that the proposal was a money saving exercise and that an amalgamation should not be considered until there was funding available for a new build.
- A number of respondents expressed concerns that the likely Head Teacher could not commit sufficient time to ensure the proposed amalgamation was effectively implemented due to being a Head Teacher at more than one school. This would increase the pressure on other members of staff which in turn would reduce their time to effectively teach children.
- Parents expressed concern over possible changes to school uniform and opening and closing times.
- A number of respondents felt that links could be established between the two schools without an amalgamation.
- Some respondents felt that the distance between the two sites (0.3 miles) would mean that in reality they would still be viewed as separate schools and that it will be awkward and time consuming for staff and pupils to move between the two sites.
- Some respondents felt that an amalgamation would divide the community.
- Some respondents felt that the benefits of primary education that were stated in the consultation document were flawed arguments. For example, the two schools different approaches to education benefits those who find a more structured routine enhances their ability to learn. 'The unified leadership and management leading to a consistent approach' reason is flawed as the leader of the school would be working across four sites.

Analysis of Consultation Responses

- 9 Some of the responses received during the consultation supported the proposal. Respondents were of the opinion that primary schools provide consistency that separate infant and junior schools do not and that this would be beneficial for pupils. Some views expressed during the consultation also supported an amalgamation although they would prefer the primary school to be in a new building.
- 10 A number of respondents stated that the proposal was a money saving exercise rather than being beneficial to children and that the proposed amalgamation should only proceed if the primary school was in a new build.
- 11 A number of respondents were of the view that the amalgamation would divide the community, and that it would not bring about the educational benefits stated in the consultation document.

Recommendation and Reasons

- 11 Although there are mixed views about the proposal the council has been able to respond to concerns that were raised during the consultation period. After full consideration of all responses to the consultation, the Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services is recommended to give approval for officers to issue a statutory notice proposing to change the age range of Wingate Infant School from 4-7 to 4-11 from 1 September 2018, and to close Wingate Junior School as a registered school on 31 August 2018.

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Capital funding from the DfE Capital Maintenance Grant will be utilised to change signage and upgrade IT systems if the proposal is agreed.

Staffing

Staff from Wingate Infant and Junior School would be ring-fenced for posts in the single primary school.

Risk

The risk of not proceeding with the proposal is that the opportunities of continuity of education in a single primary school are missed.

Equality and Diversity

The proposal to amalgamate Wingate Infant and Junior School into an 'all through' single Primary School will bring about a more viable and sustainable establishment for the long term. Evidence gathered over a number of years shows that primary schools have many benefits for children, parents and staff. The focus on improved educational outcomes for children in 'all through' primary provision leads to smoother and more effective transition in their education. This is seen as a positive experience in a child's education and development and ensures that children who are protected under the Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty can maximise their potential. The main groups affected by this proposal are pupils attending Wingate Infant and Junior Schools, their families and staff. It is not expected that pupils and their families will be adversely affected as amalgamation into a single 'all through' primary school will enhance provision in the area and will lead to a larger, more viable establishment for the long term that will bring about educational improvement and continue to provide equal access for all. An Equality Impact Assessment is included in Appendix 2.

Accommodation

The proposed primary school would be established using the existing accommodation in Wingate Infant and Junior Schools.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Human Rights

Will not be affected.

Consultation

Consultation has been carried out in accordance with DfE statutory guidance.

Procurement

Any capital works to the school will be procured in accordance with the County Council's procurement arrangements.

Disability Issues

N/A

Legal Implications

Covered in the body of the report.

REF No.

DECISION RECORD (Version August 2014)

Please complete all sections

DECISION MAKER

Margaret Whellans
Corporate Director
Children and Young People's Services

**AUTHORITY BY REFERENCE TO
SCHEME OF DELEGATION/COMMITTEE
REPORT**

2. Table 5
Paragraph 1.4

SUBJECT

3. To seek approval from the Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services to agree that consultation be carried out on a proposal to amalgamate Wingate Infant and Junior schools from 1st September 2018.

DECISION

4. **Key Decision Insert No.**
Key Decision when Cabinet meets to decide on the proposal.

ELECTORAL DIVISION/S

5. Wingate.

CONSULTATION – CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER, OTHER MEMBERS & DATE

6. The Cabinet Portfolio Holder and Local Member were consulted on 12 September 2017.

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED BY AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER

7. None.

**A NOTE OF DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE IN
RELATION TO THE ABOVE CONFLICT**

8. N/A.

ACCESS TO THE REPORT

| |
|--|
| Is the report open to the public (Part A) |
| Yes |
| 9. Is the report exempt (Part B) – if so please specify the exemption paragraph and the reason for exemption applying the Public Interest Test |

CONTACT PERSON

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|------------------|
| Sheila Palmerley |
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CONTACT No.

| |
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| 03000 265731 |
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AUTHORISED SIGNATORY

| |
|-------------------------|
| 10 Margaret W. Whellams |
|-------------------------|

DATE

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| 11. 26/9/17 |
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This form must be sent electronically to delegations@durham.gov.uk within 24 hours of the decision being made.

NOTES

1. The reference No. will be assigned by Democratic Services.
2. The relevant paragraph within the decision makers delegated powers should be identified.
3. A brief heading should be inserted.
4. Brief details of the decision should be inserted. This note must set out the substance of the decisions, options considered and the reasons for the chosen option. Take care not to divulge any commercially sensitive information. If it's a Key Decision insert the No.
5. List the electoral division's that will be affected by the decision.
6. Set out the consultation you have undertaken with Cabinet portfolio holder and others.
7. See Guidance "Consultation with Portfolio Holder".
8. See Guidance "Consultation with Portfolio Holder".
9. Please refer to the Access to Information Requirements that came into force from 1 March 2006 and the internal guidance that has been issued in this respect.
10. Person authorised to make the decision. When sent to democratic services, this will be an electronic signature.
11. Enter the date the decision was made.

Delegated Decision

22 September 2017



Proposal to Amalgamate Wingate Infant and Wingate Junior Schools into a Single Primary School from 1 September 2018

Report of Margaret Whellans, Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To seek approval from the Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services to begin consultation on a proposal to amalgamate Wingate Infant and Junior Schools into a single primary school on the existing sites. This would be achieved by closing Wingate Junior School as a separate school (by name only) and extending the age range of Wingate Infant School from 4-7 to 4-11 so that it becomes a primary school. The proposed single primary would retain the DfE number of the Infant School.

Background

- 2 In December 2016, Cabinet approved the council's overarching strategy for school organisation and the pattern and provision of schools across County Durham. One of the principles underlying the strategy is where practicable to do so, to move towards a pattern of 'all through' primary schools rather than separate Infant and Junior schools.
- 3 Wingate Infant and Junior Schools are located in the village of Wingate and are just under 500 metres apart. The Head Teacher of Wingate Junior School has retired and there is an Acting Headteacher in place until 31 December 2017.
- 4 The most recent Ofsted Inspections judged Wingate Infant School to be 'Outstanding' and Wingate Junior School as 'Good'. Ofsted commented that the Head Teacher of Wingate Infant School 'provides inspirational leadership and successfully drives continuous improvement, to which all school leaders, including governors are fully committed. This has ensured the school has consistently sustained high levels of performance'.
- 5 As the Headteacher of Wingate Infant School is the only substantive Headteacher across the two schools, she would be ringfenced for the post of Headteacher in the single Primary School. She is an enthusiastic and influential leader on the active group of schools in the Peterlee Teaching Alliance, involved in the delivery of training and support to other schools including carrying out peer reviews. Wingate Infant School was designated as a teaching school in 2014. She is also the Headteacher at St Joseph's RCVA Primary School in Blackhall which was inspected by Ofsted in March this year and was judged as 'Good'. This demonstrates that she has

experience of successfully managing a primary school and has already indicated her interest in becoming Headteacher of the proposed single primary school in Wingate.

Pupil Numbers

- 6 Wingate Infant School currently has 169 pupils on roll and Wingate Junior School has 190 on roll. Over the next 5 years the numbers at Wingate Infant School are expected to reduce to approximately 150 pupils and the pupil roll at Wingate Junior School is expected to increase to approximately 195. The Department for Education (DfE) is of the view that the minimum size of primary school to be financially viable is 420 pupils although the Council's view is that a primary school with 201 pupils should have sufficient funding to be viable. Amalgamating Wingate Infant and Junior Schools into a single primary school would result in a school for 360 pupils thus making it a viable establishment for the long term.

The Benefits of Primary Education

- 7 Evidence gathered over a number of years shows that Primary Schools (instead of separate Infant and Junior Schools) have many benefits for children, parents and staff. Some of these include:
- Continuity and progress of learning between age 4 and 11;
 - Unified Leadership and management of the curriculum, teaching and learning and social development;
 - Access to a curriculum planned and assessed across the full primary range;
 - Increased opportunities for professional development of staff, which should lead to improved outcomes for children;
 - School Inspectors will be able to make judgements more accurately about the education children receive when they can see 'the whole picture' within a single primary school rather than in separate schools.

The Process for Amalgamating Schools

- 8 Department for Education guidance (April 2016) "Making prescribed alterations to maintained schools" states that a statutory process must be followed.
- 9 The statutory process involves an initial consultation period with relevant stakeholders including parents, Governors, staff and the wider community. This would usually last for six weeks and it is advised that major school holidays are avoided when consulting.
- 10 The Local Member who is Chair of Governors at both schools has spoken to senior officers in the council and is supportive of the proposal to begin consultation on establishing a primary school.
- 11 If it was agreed, following consultation, that the LA wished to proceed with the proposal to establish a Primary School across the two existing sites, the next stage would be to publish a statutory public notice which would be valid for four weeks. Within two months of the expiry date of the public notice, the LA

would make the final decision on the proposal. The aim would be for Cabinet to make a decision at its meeting in March 2018. If this was not achieved, the proposal would need to be referred to the Schools Adjudicator.

- 12 Taking account of the statutory process to be followed, the most realistic date to implement the proposal to amalgamate the two schools into a single primary school, would be 1 September 2018. This would allow time for the statutory process to be completed and to appoint staff and Governors to the new school prior to it opening in September 2018.

Recommendations and Reasons

- 13 Officers believe that amalgamating Wingate Infant and Junior Schools into a single 'all through' primary school will enhance education provision in the area and will also lead to a larger, more sustainable establishment for the long term.
- 14 Creating a single primary school will enable a more efficient use of resources. The single primary school will only have the costs of one Head Teacher and one senior leadership team. A staffing structure will be established which will be appropriate for a 360 place primary school rather than separate Infant and Junior schools. This should enable efficiencies to be made, particularly in management and business support posts within the single school. There is also the potential for savings in various Service Level Agreements that currently are in place in both schools.
- 16 The Corporate Director, Children and Young people's Services is recommended:
 - (a) to agree that consultation be carried out on a proposal to amalgamate Wingate Infant and Junior Schools into a single primary school on the existing sites from 1st September 2018.

Contact: Sheila Palmerley

Tel: 03000 265 731

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Capital funding from the DfE Capital Maintenance Grant will be utilised to change signage and upgrade IT systems if the proposal is agreed. Costs for this would be in the region of £30,000.

Staffing

Staff from Wingate Infant and Junior School would be ring-fenced for posts in the single primary school.

Risk

The risk of not proceeding with the proposal is that the opportunities of continuity of education in a single primary school are missed.

Equality and Diversity

The proposal to amalgamate Wingate Infant and Junior schools into an 'all through' single primary school will lead to a more viable and sustainable establishment for the long term. Evidence gathered over a number of years, shows that primary schools have many benefits for children, parents and staff. The focus on improved educational outcomes for children in 'all through' primary provision leads to smoother and more effective transition in their education. This is seen as a positive experience in a child's education and ensures that children who are protected under the Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty can maximise their potential. The main groups affected by this proposal are pupils attending Wingate Infant and Junior Schools, their families and staff. It is not expected that pupils and their families will be adversely affected as amalgamation into a single 'all through' primary school will enhance education provision in the area and will lead to a larger, more sustainable establishment for the long term that will bring about educational improvement and continue to provide equal access for all. A new staffing structure will be established for the amalgamated school. This should enable efficiencies to be made, particularly in the management and business support posts within the single school. Change management processes will be followed to ensure fair treatment of any affected staff.

An Equality Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 2.

Accommodation

The proposed primary school would be established using the existing accommodation in Wingate Infant and Junior Schools.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Human Rights

Will not be affected.

Consultation

Consultation will be carried out in accordance with DfE Statutory guidance.

Procurement

Any capital works to the school will be procured in accordance with the County Council's procurement arrangements.

Disability Issues

N/A

Legal Implications

Covered in the body of the report.

Appendix 2: Equality Impact Assessment

Durham County Council Equality Impact Assessment

NB: The Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010) requires Durham County Council to have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people from different groups. Assessing impact on equality and recording this is one of the key ways in which we can show due regard.

Section One: Description and Screening

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Service/Team or Section | Education, School Places & Admissions |
| Lead Officer | Sheila Palmerley |
| MTFP Reference (if relevant) | N/A |
| Cabinet Date (if relevant) | December 2017/January 2018 |
| Start Date | September 2017 |
| Review Date | December 2017/January 2018 |

Subject of the Impact Assessment

| |
|--|
| Please give a brief description of the policy, proposal or practice as appropriate (a copy of the subject can be attached or insert a web-link): |
| Proposal to amalgamate Wingate Infant and Junior Schools into one Primary School on the existing sites from 1 September 2018. This would be achieved by changing the age range of Wingate Infant School from 4 – 7 to 4 – 11 from 1 September 2018 and by closing Wingate Junior School as a separate school (by name only) on 31 August 2018. |

| |
|---|
| Who are the main stakeholders? (e.g. general public, staff, members, specific clients/service users): |
| General Public, Governors, Staff, pupils attending Wingate Infant and Junior Schools, providers of Early Years Education, Elected Members, MPs, Neighbouring Schools, Trade Unions, Diocese, Department for Education, Community Groups, Parish Councils, Residents' Associations, AAP Board, DYPS/DCC Staff. |

Screening

| Is there any actual or potential negative or positive impact on the following protected characteristics? | | |
|--|--|--|
| Protected Characteristic | Negative Impact Indicate: Y = Yes, N = No, ? = unsure | Positive Impact Indicate: Y = Yes, N = No, ? = unsure |
| Age | N | Y Children of Primary School age in Wingate will have wider educational opportunities if they are educated in a single school. |
| Disability | N | The school is accessible for staff and pupils with a disability. |
| Marriage and civic partnership (workplace only) | N | Staff needs will be met in the single school. |
| Pregnancy and maternity | N | Staff needs will be met in the single school. |
| Race (ethnicity) | N | The single school will meet the needs of all children and staff. |
| Religion or Belief | N | The single school will meet the needs of all children and staff. |
| Sex (gender) | N | This single school will meet the needs of all children and staff. |
| Sexual orientation | N | The single school will meet the needs of all children and staff. |
| Transgender | N | The single school will meet the needs of all children and staff. |

Please provide brief details of any potential to cause adverse impact. Record full details and analysis in the following section of this assessment.

The main groups affected by this proposal are pupils attending Wingate Infant and Junior Schools, their families and staff. It is not expected that pupils and their families will be adversely affected. A new staffing structure will be established for the amalgamated school. This should enable efficiencies to be made, particularly in the management and business support posts within the single school. Change management processes will be followed to ensure fair treatment of any affected staff. There are currently 35 members of staff employed at Wingate Infant School. 31 are female and 4 are male. 10 of the staff are aged between 16-24; 3 between 25-34; 10 between 35-44; 6 between 45-54; 5 between 55-64 and 1 aged over 65.

There are currently 21 members of staff employed at Wingate Junior School. 17 are female and 4 are male. 2 of the staff are aged between 16-24; 3 between 25-34; 7 between 35-44; 3 between 45-54 and 6 aged between 55-64.

How will this policy/proposal practice promote our commitment to our legal responsibilities under the public sector equality duty to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation,
- advance equality of opportunity, and
- foster good relations between people from different groups?

Amalgamation of Wingate Infant and Junior Schools into a single 'all through' primary school will enhance education provision in the areas and will lead to a larger, more sustainable establishment for the long term and that will bring about educational improvement and will continue to provide equal access for all. Furthermore, creating a single primary school, will enable more efficient use of resources with one headteacher and one senior leadership team and open up the potential for savings in various service level agreements currently in place for both schools.

A 6 week consultation is proposed from October 2017. Consultation documents will be distributed widely and meetings will be held with governors and Staff of Wingate Infant and Junior Schools, parents, and members of the local community at an Information Sharing Evening. Stakeholders will be invited to respond in a variety of ways: written responses using the response form attached to the consultation document, letter, email or completing the response form online via the County Council's website. Alternative formats will be available on request.

73 responses were received to the consultation. 38 were in support of the proposal and 35 were not in support of the proposal. None of the responses stated that the proposal would have a negative impact on those children and adults who are protected under the Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty.

Evidence

What evidence do you have to support your findings?

Please outline your data sets and/or proposed evidence sources, highlight any gaps and say whether or not you propose to carry out consultation. Record greater detail and analysis in the following section of this assessment.

In September 2017, Wingate Infant School will have 167 pupils on roll and Wingate Junior School will have 182 pupils on roll. Over the next 5 years the numbers at Wingate Infant School are expected to reduce to approximately 150 pupils and the pupil roll at Wingate Junior School is expected to increase to approximately 198. The Department for Education (DFE) is of the view that the minimum size of a primary school to be financially viable is 420 pupils although the Council's view is that a primary school with 210 pupils should have sufficient funding to be viable. Amalgamating Wingate Infant and Junior Schools into a single primary school would result in a school for 360 pupils thus making it a viable establishment for the long term.

Evidence shows that primary schools have many benefits for children, parents, and staff. The focus on improved educational outcomes for children in 'all through' primary school.

Sign Off

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Lead officer sign off: <i>S. Palmerley</i> | Date: 22.02.18 |
| Service equality representative sign off: | Date: |

Please return this completed form to your service equality representative and forward a copy to equalities@durham.gov.uk



**Proposal to Amalgamate Wingate Infant
and Junior Schools into a Single
Primary School on the existing sites
from 1 September 2018**



Introduction

Durham County Council recognises that the primary phase of education (age 0-11) is a critical part in developing children, as it is the foundation of future learning and growth. The council aims to move towards a model of all through Primary Schools instead of separate Infant and Junior Schools where it is practicable to do so. All schools must be viable and sustainable for the long term as well as being able to respond to 'growth'.

The council realises that school reorganisation can be an area of concern as local communities often see a school as being at the heart of the community and sometimes cannot immediately agree with the need for change. Taking this into account, the council must continue to have a system of education which will continue to bring about the highest possible standards of education for the children of County Durham for the short, medium and long term and in some cases 'keeping things as they are' may not achieve that in this rapidly changing educational landscape.

In line with that strategic objective, the council is consulting on a proposal to amalgamate Wingate Infant and Junior Schools into one Primary School (age 4-11) on the existing sites from 1 September 2018. The Department for Education (DfE) official school number for Wingate Infant School would be the school number for the proposed single primary school. Wingate Junior School would close as a registered school.

You may have some questions to ask. This document attempts to answer some of those questions and explains how you can let the County Council know what you think about the proposal.

1. Why is the Council proposing to amalgamate Wingate Infant and Junior Schools?

The proposal reflects the work being done across County Durham to bring separate Infant and Junior schools together where appropriate and over time, to form primary schools so children can benefit from primary education in one school rather than changing schools at age 7. An amalgamation would lead to a larger and more viable school being established. If the proposal to amalgamate the two schools is approved, the Local Authority would work closely with staff and Governors of the schools to provide support with governance, finance, personnel and curriculum issues.

2. What are the benefits of primary education?

Evidence gathered over a number of years shows that Primary Schools (instead of separate Infant and Junior Schools) have many benefits for children, parents and staff. Some of these include:

- Continuity and progress of learning between ages 4 and 11; this would also mean that families only apply for a place for Reception and no longer need to apply again at the end of Year 2.
- Unified leadership and management of the curriculum, teaching and learning and social development; this would mean that children had one consistent approach towards all aspects of their primary school life.

- Access to a curriculum planned and assessed across the whole primary range; this would enable staff to help children make progress from exactly where they left off at the end of the previous year rather than cover learning which has already taken place – continuity of learning and accurate measure of each child's progress would be easier.
- Increased opportunities for more professional development of staff which should lead to improved outcomes for children; staff would all know the children better and the school would be able to train all staff to meet their needs more effectively.
- Staff would be able to work together to train and learn from each other; capacity of the larger school would give more opportunities for accessing training.
- School inspectors and school leaders would be able to make judgements more accurately about the education children receive when they can see 'the whole picture' within a single primary school rather than in separate schools.
- One school would enable staff to bring more of the village together.
- Children would not have the worry of moving to a new school when they are still young.
- Bringing the schools together would help all staff to continue to keep children safe and look after their well-being continuously from 4 to 11 years of age.

In summary, it is believed that Primary Schools have more opportunity, through daily contact, for those working within the school to work together in the best interest of the pupils. They benefit from the consistency that working under the leadership of one Head Teacher and one Governing Body brings. It is also recognised that transition between schools can interrupt and slow down children's progress therefore creating a primary school would build upon the existing good procedures in place at both schools currently.

3. Will both school sites remain open?

Although the proposal is to amalgamate Wingate Infant and Junior Schools, there is no intention to discontinue the use of either site. If the proposal is agreed, the single amalgamated school would make use of the accommodation on both sites to enhance curriculum provision. The relative proximity of the two schools (0.3 miles apart) will ensure that senior leaders can be responsive to urgent matters that arise on either site.

4. Will the standard of education that the two schools currently provide be affected if they become one school?

Wingate Junior School was inspected and judged to be "Good" by Ofsted in October 2014. Expectations of what pupils achieve at the school are high and the school is very well organised to enable pupils to learn effectively. Wingate Infant School was inspected and judged to be 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in September 2013. It was designated as a National Support School in March 2013 and a Teaching School in March 2014. Peterlee Partnership Teaching School Alliance is currently led by Wingate Infant School.

The two schools already work together for the benefit of all pupils and will continue to do this whether or not the proposed amalgamation takes place. The council believes that learning and progress will be improved further if the two schools are amalgamated to become a single 'all through' primary school. It is therefore believed that the proposal will not have any negative impact on the standard of education provided.

5. What other options have been considered for Primary education across Wingate?

- (a) The two schools could remain as they are now. However, the benefits of primary education which are indicated in section 2 of this document would not materialise.
- (b) The preferred option of the council is for a single primary school to run across the two existing sites.

6. Is it not possible to build a new school for all the primary age pupils in Wingate?

The council does not currently have sufficient funding to build a new primary school. If funding does become available in the future, a new build primary school could be considered.

7. How many pupils are there likely to be in the proposed single primary school?

There are currently 361 pupils on roll across the two schools. This is likely to remain the position in the short term. The council is aware of housing developments in the area that would lead to an additional 420 houses in Wingate. The school sites would be expanded when appropriate to meet this demand. This would be determined by the date when house building starts and how many houses are planned to be built per year.

8. What is the timescale for the process?

The table below sets out the expected timescales for the process.

| Date | Stage |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| November/December 2017 (6 weeks) | Consultation All responses received by the closing date will be considered and included in a report for the council to consider and decide whether to take the proposal forward. |
| January/February 2018 (4 weeks) | Statutory Public Notice If the council decides to proceed with the proposal, statutory notices would be published in the local newspaper, posted on school gates and on the DCC website. These notices would provide an opportunity for comments or objections to be made. |

| Date | Stage |
|-----------------------------|--|
| March 2018 | Decision Making Durham County Council's Cabinet would consider responses to the statutory notice and make the final decision whether to agree the proposal or not. |
| March 2018 - September 2018 | Preparation for the single school opening, if the proposal is approved. This includes establishing a Governing Body, appointing a Head Teacher, consulting on a proposed new staffing structure, deciding on opening and closing times, deciding on any changes to school uniform. |
| 1 September 2018 | Single school opens across existing sites. |

9. How do you respond to this consultation?

We would like to hear what you think about the proposal. To help you do that we are holding an Information Sharing Evening on:

- **Thursday 23 November 2017 at 6.00 pm at Wingate Community Centre**

Officers from the County Council will be present to answer any questions you have and listen to your views.

You can respond in one of the following ways:

- (i) Send in the attached response form or write to: Adam Williams, School Places and Admissions Team, Children and Young People's Services, Business Reply Service, Licence No DU63 (Freepost), Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5BR by **22 December 2017**.
- (ii) Email your views to schoolorganisation@durham.gov.uk or complete the response form online via the Current Consultation Section of the County Council's website www.durham.gov.uk by **22 December 2017**.

RESPONSE FORM

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO AMALGAMATE WINGATE INFANT AND WINGATE JUNIOR SCHOOLS INTO ONE PRIMARY SCHOOL ON EXISTING SITES FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2018

1. Please tick **one** box from the list below to let us know if you are responding to this consultation **mainly** as a:

Parent/Carer of a pupil(s) at

Wingate Infant School

Wingate Junior School

* Other School

*Please state which school:

OR a Pupil at

Wingate Infant School

Wingate Junior School

* Other School

*Please state which school:

OR a Governor/Member of Staff (circle to indicate which) at

Wingate Infant School

Wingate Junior School

* Other School

*Please state which school:

OR a

Resident

Councillor

Trade Union Representative

Parish/Town Council Representative

Community Group

Diocese

Neighbouring Authority

MP

Other (please state):

2. Looking at the information in this document do you support the proposal to amalgamate Wingate Infant and Junior Schools into one primary school on existing sites?

Yes No

3. Do you have any comments on this proposal including any impact the changes would have on you?

Please return this form by 22 December 2017 to:

Mr Adam Williams, School Places and Admissions Team, Children and Young People's Services, Business Reply Service Licence No DU63 (Freepost), Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham DH1 5BR

(The information that you send may need to be passed to colleagues or shared with partners. It may also be published in a summary of responses received to this consultation but results will not contain your name or anything that could identify you. If you require an acknowledgement to your response, please provide details below.)

Name:

Address:

Signed: **Date:**

Appendix 4

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION LIST
November 2017

| School | Govs | Staff | Pupils | Total | How Delivered | Date Delivered |
|------------------------|------|-------|--------|-------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Wingate Nursery | N/A | 15 | 30 | 60 | AW ¹ | 13/11/17 |
| Wingate Infant | 11* | 25 | 175 | 220 | AW ¹ | |
| Wingate Junior | 11* | 25 | 200 | 240 | AW ¹ | |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----|--|--|-----------|-----------------|
| Blackhall Primary | | N/A | | | AW E-mail | 13/11/17 |
| Cassop Primary | | N/A | | | AW E-mail | |
| Hesleden Primary | | N/A | | | AW E-mail | |
| Hutton Henry CE Primary | | N/A | | | AW E-mail | |
| St. Godric's RCVA Primary, Thornley | | N/A | | | AW E-mail | |
| St. Joseph's RCVA Primary, Blackhall | | N/A | | | AW E-mail | |
| St. Mary's RCVA Primary, Wingate | | N/A | | | AW E-mail | |
| Thornley Primary | | N/A | | | AW E-mail | |
| Wheatley Hill Primary | | N/A | | | AW E-mail | |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|-----|--|--|-----------|-----------------|
| Wellfield Community School | | N/A | | | AW E-mail | 13/11/17 |
|----------------------------|--|-----|--|--|-----------|-----------------|

*Governors consultation document posted (10/11/17). Govs emailed on 09/11/17 with details of GB consultation meeting
AW¹ – delivered by hand

**TOTAL number of hard copies of consultation documents distributed = 650
and also the consultation document was placed on the DCC website (13/11/17)**

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Elected DCC Members | |
| Simon Henig, Olwyn Gunn, Leo Taylor | Emailed 13/11/17 |
| MPs | |
| Phil Wilson MP phil.wilson.mp@parliament.uk | Emailed 13/11/17 |
| INTERNAL | |
| CYPS SLT (Margaret Whellans, Phil Hodgson, Helen Fergusson, Carole Payne), Julian Wilson, Barry Piercy, Gerard Darby, School Places & Admissions Team, Julie Arnett, Joanne Walt, Paul Cooper, Linda Bailey, Chris Young, David Shirer, Adrian White, Sheila Palmerley, Sarah Armstrong, Jill Huntington, Janet Bennett, Kath Allison, David Grimes, Jennifer Morris, Vanessa Glover, Julie Cassidy, Anna Wills, Barbara Brown, Mark Kirkup, Donna Caterer, Zoey Ridley, Eve Rutherford, Simon Day, Angela Pearson | Emailed 13/11/17 |
| RC and CE Diocese and DfE | |
| RC Diocese Director education@diocesehn.org.uk | Emailed 13/11/17 |
| CE Diocese Director paul.rickeard@drmnnewcanglican.org | |
| DfE SchoolOrganisation.NOTIFICATIONS@education.gsi.gov.uk | |
| Trade Unions | |
| gmb@durham.gov.uk (GMB) h.metcalfe@unison.co.uk unison@durham.gov.uk (UNISON) mike.routledge@unitetheunion.com (UNITE) rc-northeast@mail.nasuwt.org.uk (NASUWT) john.kesterton@ascl.org.uk (ASCL) kiaraclegg@voicetheunion.org.uk (VOICE) p.lonsdale100@denehouse-pri.durham.sch.uk (NAHT) ken.smith@neu.org.uk (NEU – formerly ATL) secretary@durham.nut.org.uk (NEU – formerly NUT) | Emailed 13/11/17 |
| Directors of CYPS of Neighbouring LAs | |
| Simon Marshall SUNDERLAND simon.marshall@sunderland.gov.uk | Emailed 13/11/17 |
| Children's Centres (15 copies) | |
| Wingate Community Childcare Ltd , Wingate Children's Centre, Partridge Terrace, Wingate, TS28 5BD (55 Capacity) | Posted 13/11/17 |
| Community Centres (10 each) | |
| Wingate Community Association , 55 Front Street, Wingate, TS28 5AA | AW¹ 13/11/17 |
| Wingate & Station Town Family Centre , Partridge Terrace, Wingate, TS28 5BD posted | |
| Libraries (10 each) | |
| Wingate Library , Front Street, Wingate, County Durham, TS28 5AA (<i>left with Community Association as Library was closed</i>) | AW¹ 13/11/17 |
| Parish Councils (JB passing on to Parish Councils/Community Groups in Wingate area) | |
| Jane Bellis jane.bellis@durham.gov.uk | E-Mail 13/11/17 |

FLYER/POSTER (advertising Information Sharing Evening)

Wingate Nursery/Wingate Community Childcare Ltd/Wingate & Station Town Family Centre
Lamppost outside of Wingate Nursery
Wingate Infant (window and gates)
Wingate Junior (window and gates)
Wingate Community Association
Wingate Library
Caradoc Practice
The Medical Centre
Bus Stop outside of Wedding Shop
McColl's Newsagents
Salon & Go
Wingate Stores Newsagents
Co-op

AW1
14/11/17



PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposal to change the age range of Wingate Infant School from 4-7 to 4-11 from 1 September 2018 to create a Primary School and to close Wingate Junior School as a Registered School on 31 August 2018.

Notice is given in accordance with Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Durham County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Wingate Infant School (Community), Church Street, Wingate, TS28 5AQ and to close Wingate Junior School (Community), Wellfield House, Moor Lane, Wingate, TS28 5BA.

It is proposed to amalgamate Wingate Infant and Junior Schools into a single primary school across the existing sites of Wingate Infant and Junior Schools from 1 September 2018. This will be achieved by changing the age range of Wingate Infant School from 4-7 to 4-11 from 1 September 2018 to create a primary school from that date and by closing Wingate Junior School as a registered school on 31 August 2018.

The proposal reflects the work being done across County Durham to bring separate Infant and Junior Schools together where appropriate to form primary schools so children can benefit from primary education in one school rather than changing schools at age 7. Amalgamating the schools will lead to a larger and more viable education establishment to enhance education provision in the community of Wingate for the long term.

The current capacity of Wingate Infant School is for 155 pupils. The current capacity of Wingate Junior School is for 204 pupils. The capacity of the proposed primary school will be for 359 pupils. The proposed admission number for the proposed primary school will be 51.

At present Wingate Infant School is judged as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted and Wingate Junior is judged as 'Good'. The council believes that amalgamating the two schools will lead to a model of education that benefits children and their families and the proposal will therefore not have any negative impact on the standard of education provided to children in these schools.

All services from the existing schools for the local community will continue to be provided if the schools become a primary school.

This Notice is an extract from the full proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Mr Graeme Plews, School Places and Admissions Team, Children and Young People's Services, Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UJ. It is also available on the County Council's website at www.durham.gov.uk/consultations.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Mr Adam Williams, School Places and Admissions Team, Children and Young People's Services, Business Reply Service, Licence No. DU63 (Freepost), Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5BR. Objections and comments can also be e-mailed to schoolorganisation@durham.gov.uk.

Signed:

Margaret W. Whellans

Margaret Whellans
Corporate Director
Children and Young People's Services

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