CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON C O U N C I L

# **Cabinet Meeting**

29 November 2017

Appendices for Merger of Springdale Infant School and Springdale Junior School



# Informal Consultation - Stakeholder list

Agenda Item No: 13

- Governing Board Springdale Infant School
- Governing Board Springdale Junior School
- Staff Springdale Infant School
- Staff Springdale Junior School
- Parents/Carers Springdale Infant School
- Parents/Carers of pupils allocated a Reception place for September 2017 at Springdale Infant School
- Parents/Carers of pupils on the waiting list for a Reception place for September 2017 at Springdale Infant School
- Parents/Carers who have expressed an interest in a nursery place at Springdale Infant School
- Parents/Carers Springdale Junior School
- Pupils at Springdale Infant School (via School Council)
- Pupils at Springdale Junior School (via School Council)
- Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of Primary Schools in the Merry Hill Ward; St Michael's Catholic Primary and Uplands Junior
- Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of Primary Schools in the Penn Ward; St Bartholomew's CE Primary, Warstones Primary, Woodfield Infant and Woodfield Junior
- Diocesan Authorities; Archdiocese of Birmingham and Lichfield Diocese
- Members of West Midlands School Organisation Group
- South Staffordshire Council
- Shropshire Council
- Walsall Council
- Trade Unions; ASCL, ATL, GMB, NAHT, NASUWT, NUT, UNITE, UNISON
- Ward Councillors Merry Hill and Penn Wards
- Directors of ConnectEd
- Members of Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel
- Headteachers of all schools in Wolverhampton (via the weekly e-Bulletin).



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	Other (Please s	tate)		Springdale Junior School
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1	5 MAY 2017		*/	
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		Springdale	Juni	or School
Are v	ou a: (Please tic	ck as appropriate)		
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V		of a pupil at Springdale		Parent/Carer of a pupil at Springdale
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1 5 MAY 2017	6
CONSULTATION	RESPONSE FORM
Consultation on the Proposed Mer	ger of Springdale Infant School with Junior School
Are you a: (Please tick as appropriate)	
Pupil at Springdale Infant School	Pupil at Springdale Junior School
Parent/Carer of a pupil at Springdale Infant School	Parent/Carer of a pupil at Springdale Junior School
Member of Staff at Springdale Infant School	Member of Staff at Springdale Junior School
Member of the Governing Body at Springdale Infant School	Member of the Governing Body at Springdale Junior School
Other (Please state)	
Do you agree with the proposal to merge Springd with effect from 1 January 2018? (please tick as appropriate)	lale Infant School with Springdale Junior School
YES NO	DON'T KNOW
Please add comments here and overleaf:	
The school needs con	sistency and strong
leadership. There have	been too mary
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The deadline for receipt of responses is 25 June 2017.	,
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	Pupil at Springdale Junior School
Parent/Carer of a pupil at Springdale Infant School Member of Staff at Springdale Infant	Parent/Carer of a pupil at Springdale Junior School
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Do you agree with the proposal to merge Springo with effect from 1 January 2018? (please tick as appropriate)	dale Infant School with Springdale Junior School
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Please add comments here and overleaf:  - Positive move for the Positive Impact	re School So far since
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16th May 2017

# Re: The Future of Springdale Infant School and Springdale Junior School, Warstones Drive, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV4 4NJ

Thank you for your recent consultation on the proposed merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School, to create a primary school with effect from 1 January 2018.

As the proposed admission numbers will be remaining the same there are no concerns that this would impact on schools in Staffordshire therefore we have no objections to the proposed merger.

Yours Sincerely

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Are you a: (Please tick as Pupil at Springda	: appropriate)		
	ale Infant School	Dupil of Springdala I	
D Parent/Caror of a	a pupil at Springdale	Pupil at Springdale Junior School	
Infant School		Parent/Carer of a pupil at Springdale Junior School	
School		Member of Staff at Springdale Junior School	•
Member of the G Springdale Infant	overning Body at School	Member of the Governing Body at Springdale Junior School	
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1 9 MAY 2017 CONSULTATION	RESPONSE FORM
Consultation on the Proposed Me	rger of Springdale Infant School with
Springdale	Junior School
Are you a: (Please tick as appropriate)	
Pupil at Springdale Infant School	Pupil at Springdale Junior School
Parent/Carer of a pupil at Springdale Infant School	Parent/Carer of a pupil at Springdale Junior School
Member of Staff at Springdale Infant School	Member of Staff at Springdale Junior School
Member of the Governing Body at Springdale Infant School	Member of the Governing Body at Springdale Junior School
Other (Please state)	59,160
Do you agree with the proposal to merge Spring with effect from 1 January 2018? (please tick as appropriate)	idale Infant School with Springdale Junior School
YES NO	DON'T KNOW
Please add comments here and overleaf:	
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The deadline for receipt of responses is 25 June 2017.	, and the state of
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	Pupil at Springdale Junior School
Parent/Carer of a pupil at Springdale Infant School	Parent/Carer of a pupil at Springdale Junior School
Member of Staff at Springdale Infant School	Member of Staff at Springdale Junior School
Member of the Governing Body at Springdale Infant School	Member of the Governing Body at Springdale Junior School
Other (Please state)	
Do you agree with the proposal to merge Spring with effect from 1 January 2018? (please tick as appropriate)	idale Infant School with Springdale Junior School
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	Other (Please	state)	
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Are yo	ou a: (Please tick as ap	propriate)			
	Pupil at Springdale			Pupil at Springdale Junior School	1
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	Member of Staff at S School	Springdale Infant	Ø	Member of Staff at Springdale Ju School	ınior
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1 8 MAY 2017 CONSULTATION	RESPONSE FORM
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Springdale J	Junior School
Are you a: (Please tick as appropriate)	
Pupil at Springdale Infant School	Pupil at Springdale Junior School
Parent/Carer of a pupil at Springdale Infant School	Parent/care of a pupil at Springdale Junior School
Member of Staff at Springdale Infant School	Member of Staff at Springdale Junior School
Member of the Governing Body at Springdale Infant School	Member of the Governing Body at Springdale Junior School
Other (Please state)	
Do you agree with the proposal to merge Spring with effect from 1 January 2018? (please tick as appropriate)	dale Infant School with Springdale Junior School
YES NO	DON'T KNOW
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AND LEADERSHIP THAT IS R	ETRESENTATIVE OF BOTH PTO
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Completed Consultation Response Forms should be sent to Education Department, City of Wolverhampton Council, 1 <sup>st</sup> F WV1 1RL.	the following address – The School Organisation Team, loor, Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton,
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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL Data Protection: The information you provide on this form is subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998. Where applicable information entered will be forwarded to the relevant officers and Councillors for action or for a reply to be given. Information contained within this response will inform reports to Cabinet Members, and will be anonymous so that no individual can be identified. Information provided will not be used for any other purpose and will be stored securely in accordance with the Council's records retention policy and schedule.

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Consultation on the P	roposed Mei	rger of Springdale Infant School with	
	Springdale	Junior School	
Are you a: (Please tick as appl	ropriate)		_
Pupil at Springdale In	fant School	Pupil at Springdale Junior School	-
Parent/Carer of a pup Infant School		Parent/Garer of a pupil at Springdale Junior School	-
Member of Staff at Sp School		Member of Staff at Springdale Junior School	
Member of the Govern Springdale Infant Scho		Member of the Governing Body at Springdale Junior School	
Other (Please state)			1
			J
Do you agree with the proposal with effect from 1 January 2018 (please tick as appropriate)	to merge Spring ?	gdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School	
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The deadline for receipt of responses	is 25 June 2017.		
Please note all comments received will		contact details are provided.	
Thank you for taking the time to comple			
CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	and Councillors for action inform reports to Cabinet Information provided will	information you provide on this form is subject to the provisions of the Data there applicable information entered will be forwarded to the relevant officers on or for a reply to be given. Information contained within this response will be the themselves, and will be anonymous so that no individual can be identified. Inot be used for any other purpose and will be stored securely in uncil's records retention policy and schedule.	×

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Informal Consultation on the Proposed Merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School

# COMPLETE

Started:

Wednesday, May 10, 2017 5:19:54 PM

Last Modified:

Wednesday, May 10, 2017 5:37:24 PM

Page 2

Q1 Are you a: (Please tick as appropriate)

Member of staff at Springdale Junior

School

**Q2** Do you agree with the proposal to merge Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School with effect from 1st January 2018?

Yes,

Please add comments

below:

I provide Spanish lessons to both schools as a part time teacher, and I consider the merge a positive move. I believe the transition from KS1 to KS2 will be smoother, less stressful for pupils and better communication among staff, enabling leadership and teachers to provide continuity of

teaching, learning and achievement.



Informal Consultation on the Proposed Merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School

### COMPLETE

Started:

Thursday, May 11, 2017 12:58:22 PM

Last Modified:

Thursday, May 11, 2017 1:14:17 PM

Time Spent:

00:15:55

Page 2

Q1 Are you a: (Please tick as appropriate)

Parent/ Carer of a pupil at Springdale Junior School

**Q2** Do you agree with the proposal to merge Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School with effect from 1st January 2018?

#### Don't know,

Please add comments

below:

The schools have been separate for many years and have both seemed to do well up until the latest Ofsted inspection in Infants. The teaching is so different in Juniors compared to Infants (in terms of how approachable teaching staff are for example) and I am not sure how much of an impact the merger will have until I hear further details at the meetings. Having children in both Infants and Juniors, it is a worry to see how many changes have already occurred (particularly staff changes) and it is not in a positive way for Infants. I was extremely happy with my child's education and the Infants school prior to the inspection but am not as happy at the moment. It is hard to know how the Juniors school is performing as they haven't had an Ofsted inspection since 2014. If the merger means that there will be positive impacts for the Infants school I will fully support it but if it means the Infants will become more like the Juniors I will be reluctant to support it. I have heard from sources at St Barts that their school is going to take over the running of Springdale and it will become an academy and am worried that this merger is the first step in this happening. We need to be told of all the plans for the schools. There is currently too much speculation.



Informal Consultation on the Proposed Merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School

# COMPLETE

Started:

Thursday, May 11, 2017 6:33:21 PM

Last Modified:

Thursday, May 11, 2017 6:58:27 PM

Page 2

Q1 Are you a: (Please tick as appropriate)

Member of staff at Springdale Junior

School

Q2 Do you agree with the proposal to merge Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School with effect from 1st January 2018?

Yes,

Please add comments

below:

I agree to the proposed merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School because there would be consistency of learning between the two schools thus there would be less 'back tracking and filling the gaps' and more building on pupil's existing knowledge in Key Stage 2. There would be better communication between the two schools especially identifying earlier, pupil's with specific learning difficulties.



Informal Consultation on the Proposed Merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School

# INCOMPLETE

Started:

Sunday, May 14, 2017 7:22:51 PM

Last Modified:

Sunday, May 14, 2017 7:23:50 PM

Page 2

Q1 Are you a: (Please tick as appropriate)

Member of staff at Springdale Junior

School

**Q2** Do you agree with the proposal to merge Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School with effect from 1st January 2018?

Yes



Informal Consultation on the Proposed Merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School

# COMPLETE

Started:

Friday, May 19, 2017 2:23:52 PM

Last Modified:

Fridav. May 19, 2017 2:34:01 PM

Page 2

Q1 Are you a: (Please tick as appropriate)

Member of staff at Springdale Infant

School

**Q2** Do you agree with the proposal to merge Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School with effect from 1st January 2018?

Don't know,

Please add comments

below:

As a primary it would be beneficial as there won't be transitions like it has been from infant to juniors. But how would this make things better! As a lunchtime Supervisor would we still be doing what we are doing now. We would Still be using the infant hall and playground.



Informal Consultation on the Proposed Merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School

COMPLETE

Started: Last Modified: Friday, May 19, 2017 2:24:10 PM Friday, May 19, 2017 2:25:39 PM

Page 2

Q1 Are you a: (Please tick as appropriate)

Parent/ Carer of a pupil at Springdale Infant

Schoo

**Q2** Do you agree with the proposal to merge Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School with effect from 1st January 2018?

Yes



Informal Consultation on the Proposed Merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School

COMPLETE

Started:

Friday, May 19, 2017 2:23:50 PM

Last Modified:

Friday, May 19, 2017 2:25:02 PM

Page 2

Q1 Are you a: (Please tick as appropriate)

Parent/ Carer of a pupil at Springdale Infant

School

Q2 Do you agree with the proposal to merge Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School with effect

from 1st January 2018?



Informal Consultation on the Proposed Merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School

COMPLETE

Started:

Friday, May 19, 2017 2:36:19 PM

**Last Modified:** 

Friday, May 19, 2017 2:38:01 PM

Page 2

Q1 Are you a: (Please tick as appropriate)

Parent/ Carer of a pupil at Springdale Junior

School

Q2 Do you agree with the proposal to merge Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School with effect from 1st January 2018?

Don't know

1/1



Informal Consultation on the Proposed Merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School

#### COMPLETE

Started:

Friday, May 19, 2017 3:12:47 PM

**Last Modified:** 

Friday, May 19, 2017 3:15:49 PM

Page 2

Q1 Are you a: (Please tick as appropriate)

Parent/ Carer of a pupil at Springdale Infant

School

**Q2** Do you agree with the proposal to merge Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School with effect from 1st January 2018?

Yes,

Please add comments

below:

Springdale infants needs to be given structure. My son is currently on reception here and has had 3 teachers since September. This would be hard for anyone to deal with and we are expecting 4/5 year olds to cope. I would love for it to

be looked in to as to why the staff turn over is high



Informal Consultation on the Proposed Merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School

#### COMPLETE

Started:

Friday, May 19, 2017 4:49:30 PM

Last Modified:

Friday, May 19, 2017 4:51:01 PM

Page 2

Q1 Are you a: (Please tick as appropriate)

Parent/ Carer of a pupil at Springdale Infant

School

**Q2** Do you agree with the proposal to merge Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School with effect from 1st January 2018?

Yes,

Please add comments

below:

If it improves the staff turnover within the school then I'm all for it

1/1



Informal Consultation on the Proposed Merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School

#### COMPLETE

Started:

Saturday, May 20, 2017 12:21:23 AM

Last Modified:

Saturday, May 20, 2017 12:22:38 AM

Page 2

Q1 Are you a: (Please tick as appropriate)

Parent/ Carer of a pupil at Springdale Infant

School

**Q2** Do you agree with the proposal to merge Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School with effect from 1st January 2018?

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Don't know

Page 3



Informal Consultation on the Proposed Merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School

#### COMPLETE

Started: Last Modified: Thursday, June 01, 2017 3:19:32 PM Thursday, June 01, 2017 3:29:58 PM

Page 2

Q1 Are you a: (Please tick as appropriate)

Parent/ Carer of a pupil at Springdale Infant School

**Q2** Do you agree with the proposal to merge Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School with effect from 1st January 2018?

Yes,

Please add comments

below:

I feel the merger makes sense in terms of supporting 2 smaller schools that are so closely connected to both do well and for a well managed transition from infant to junior. However, I also feel this has to be done in the interest of both schools and not primarily as a reaction to the recent infant OFSTED. The merger needs to conside the needs of both schools and maintain the needs of infants pupils. The Head role shoould not be given as a matter of course to the current junior head (there is strong feeling that this is a fogone conclusion). I feel strongly that a member of the senior leadership team for infants should be on the new SLT for the new school. The new school should be seen as that and not an assimilation for infants into juniors. This is a merger not a take over. My daughter is due to finish Juniors this year and has done really well in the school, but we need to remember that Infant pupil have different needs and the new SLTeam should include staff that understand the needs of infant pupils. This will help pupils like my son who are still in infants.



Informal Consultation on the Proposed Merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School

#### COMPLETE

Started: Last Modified: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 1:25:12 PM Tuesday, June 06, 2017 1:27:43 PM

Page 2

Q1 Are you a: (Please tick as appropriate)

Parent/ Carer of a pupil at Springdale Infant School

**Q2** Do you agree with the proposal to merge Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School with effect from 1st January 2018?

Yes, Please add comments

below:

It should ensure a more uniform education for the children.

1/1



Informal Consultation on the Proposed Merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School

#### COMPLETE

Started:

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 11:33:49 AM

Last Modified:

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 1:22:56 PM

Page 2

Q1 Are you a: (Please tick as appropriate)

Member of staff at Springdale Junior School

**Q2** Do you agree with the proposal to merge Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School with effect from 1st January 2018?

Yes,

Please add comments

below:

Have felt for many years that a merger of the two schools would benefit pupils. A merger would ensure consistency across both schools, consistency in curriculum, expectations and standards. The physical building will mean very few changes will have to take place, so very little disruption to pupils. The Infant and Junior School have been working very closely together since the Infant OFSTED in January. This closer working has benefitted both schools and ensured that changes have been swift. A decision not to merge may slow down this change. A merger will have many benefits, shared budget costs, staff opportunities with movement between key stages, raised standards and opportunities to share good practice. Springdale Junior School is currently rated Good by OFSTED and I do feel that the main barrier to it becoming outstanding over the years has been the inconsistency with Springdale Infant School.



Informal Consultation on the Proposed Merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School

#### COMPLETE

Started:

Sunday, June 25, 2017 2:01:46 PM

Last Modified:

Sunday, June 25, 2017 2:33:48 PM

Page 2

Q1 Are you a: (Please tick as appropriate)

Parent/ Carer of a pupil at Springdale Infant

School

**Q2** Do you agree with the proposal to merge Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School with effect from 1st January 2018?

Informal Consultation on the Proposed Merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School

Yes.

Please add comments

below:

We support the proposal to merge Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School, under a new name Springdale Primary School, as a positive and sensible response to the recent advice from Ofsted that the Infant School has been found lacking in some key areas. Clearly the Junior school has strengths that could help here. We would like to clarify that our experience through our son's own progress through Reception and Year 1 at the Infant school has been good, with him making solid progress in all taught areas. Our son is stimulated to learn both at school and outside school, and loves his school thanks to his positive experience! His teachers and TAs have been excellent, and we were somewhat surprised by some of the Ofsted findings. We have had concerns, especially since he started year 1, in areas of school administration and communication. Frequency and timing of information to parents is variable, and methods of delivery could be significantly improved to ensure that there are no 'surprises' or last minute arrangements to be made. Email of key newsletters was a good idea but has been poor in practise, and we are still at the mercy of whether the newsletter makes it into the school bag at the end of the day. To date, neither my husband nor I, who both signed up to receive email news, have received any! This goes back almost 2 years. I do receive text messages, but these do not reflect the richness of regular newsletter content. A recent issue was the sudden, unnotified removal of year 1 and 2 afternoon playtime, apparently in response to the Ofsted rating, which has caused our son (who has hyperactivity and sensory issues) real challenges. It also seemed as though the children were being 'punished' by the removal of playtime! Some were quite upset by it. We have had ongoing concerns about bullying at the Infant School - our son has been a victim of repetitive bullying and unkind behaviour since Reception. His class teacher has been great at dealing with incidents raised by him or by us, and preventing further in the classroom, but this is not necessarily the case over lunch and playtimes with different staffing, in our experience. Therefore, it would be good to see a Primary school formed and run with good, regular communications (through reliable channels) with parents, solid education opportunities for all children and a balanced approach to promoting and celebrating the 'softer' aspects such as values, appropriate behaviour, tolerance, and diversity. These children are the future, and it is critical these qualities, as well as receiving good education opportunities, are demonstrated and encouraged early.

2/3



Consultation – Governing Body Meeting Summary				
Nature of Consultation:	Springdale Junior School - Governing Body			
Date:	8 May 2017			
Time:	4.00pm			
Location:	Springdale Junior School			
Officers in Attendance:	Dawn Long (School Organisation Officer) Lisa Johnson (School Organisation Officer) Amanda Newbold (Senior School Improvement Adviser) Charlotte Harding (School Governance & Workforce Co-Ordinator) Marie Marenda (Human Resources Business Partner)			
Number of Governors in attendance:	8			

- Introduction of Local Authority Officers in attendance
- The purpose of the meeting was explained
- The proposal was explained

The following questions and comments were raised by Governors:

- Will staff at the Infant School be subject to TUPE arrangements?
- Economies of scale regarding merger mean one allocated budget rather than two, so not in effect better off.
- How many responses do you usually receive during consultation?

Consultation – Governing Body Meeting Summary		
Nature of Consultation:	Springdale Infant School - Governing Body	
Date:	9 May 2017	
Time:	5.30pm	
Location:	Springdale Infant School	
	Dawn Long	
Officers in Attendance:	Lisa Johnson	
	Amanda Newbold	
	Marie Marenda	
	Charlotte Harding	
Number of Governors in attendance:	8	

- Introduction of Local Authority Officers in attendance
- The purpose of the meeting was explained
- The proposal was explained

The following questions and comments were raised by Governors:

- Why do the Diocesan Authorities have a right of appeal when these are not church schools?
- Would it be appropriate for Governors to be in attendance at the Parents consultation meeting?

Consultation – Staff Meeting Summary		
Nature of Consultation:	Springdale Infant School - Staff	
Date:	15 May 2017	
Time:	3.45pm	
Location:	Springdale Infant School	
Officers in Attendance:	Dawn Long Lisa Johnson Marie Marenda Amanda Newbold Charlotte Harding	
Number of staff in attendance:	22	
Others in attendance:	Unison (2) NUT (1) NASUWT (1) S4S (1)	

- Introduction of Local Authority Officers in attendance
- The purpose of the meeting was explained
- The proposal was explained

The following questions and comments were raised:

- Will we have new contracts that need signing?
- Has the new governing board discussed academisation? (raised by Trade Union Representative)
- Are there any plans to change working hours/location? (raised by Trade Union Representative)
- Can financial budgets for both schools be shared? (raised by Trade Union Representative)
- Do all the finances transfer from the Infant School to the Primary School, including any surplus balances? (raised by Trade Union Representative)

- What happens to the Ofsted result of the two schools and when would the primary be inspected?
- Will there be redundancies or opportunities to change hours, e.g. part time?

Consultation – Staff Meeting Summary			
Nature of Consultation:	Springdale Junior School - Staff		
Date:	16 May 2017		
Time:	3.30pm		
Location:	Springdale Junior School		
Officers in Attendance:	Dawn Long Lisa Johnson Amanda Newbold Marie Marenda Charlotte Harding		
Number of staff in attendance:	28		
Others in attendance:	Unison (2) NUT (1) NASUWT (1) S4S (1)		

- Introduction of Local Authority Officers in attendance
- The purpose of the meeting was explained
- The proposal was explained

The following questions and comments were raised:

- Will the Ofsted rating of Good remain?
- How about job security as it doesn't specifically state the junior staff would be secure?
- Will the two budgets be put together and will there be any contribution from the LA for finance?
- What happens if we have too many staff after the merger and the budgets are combined?
- Will there be a restructure from the 1st January?
- What will happen in regards of office and support staff?

- Can we talk to the governors about our staffing concerns?
- What happens about the children's data from KS1 to KS2?
- Can we be accountable for children's results and accuracy of assessment prior to the merger?

Consultation – Parents/Carers Meeting Summary			
Nature of Consultation:	Springdale Infant School - Parents/Carers		
Date:	17 May 2017		
Time:	6.30pm		
Location:	Springdale Infant School		
Officers in Attendance:	Dawn Long Lisa Johnson Amanda Newbold Charlotte Harding		
Number of parents/carers in attendance:	18		
Others in attendance:	Governors (2) Staff (2)		

- Introduction of Local Authority Officers in attendance
- The purpose of the meeting was explained
- The proposal was explained

The following questions and comments were raised by parents/carers:

- Who will become the Head of the Primary School?
- Will there be a date set for the appointment of the Headteacher?
- If the Infants Head comes back from sick leave will both Heads be able to apply for that role?
- As the Ofsted judged Requires Improvement, is merger the process of improvement?
- Who instigated the merger proposal, was it the Council or Governing Body?
- Has the council merged schools before and what was the result?
- What are the other options available?

- What strategies will be put in place to minimise distribution if the schools are merged?
- Will there be a staffing restructure?
- Will there be more changes for the children with regard to classrooms, halls etc.?
- What support was provided by the LA prior to Ofsted?
- There has been a lot of changes and staff turnover, this doesn't give the Headteacher a chance
- What is the council doing to support staff and reduce turnover and will the school be at a disadvantage?
- Will the children notice any difference except for perhaps, the name of the school?
- Will the uniform change?
- Assuming the merger goes ahead, how soon will the benefits be seen, particularly as the primary is proposed to come into effect half-way through the academic year?
- Are there any specific examples of what you want to see improved?
- Would there be a re-inspection within a year?
- So there could be a merger and potentially an Ofsted visit within the next 8 months?
- What if Ofsted judge the Junior School to not be good, what would happen?
- Why wasn't the merger suggested when the previous Infant Headteacher retired?
- As the merger is proposed for January, will the current Year 2 pupils get additional help to go into Year 3?
- What happens if the proposal does not get accepted by Cabinet?
- What was the feedback from the children from other schools that have merged?
- How are the children's opinions and thoughts presented to parents?
- Do you just meet with the children once?
- When are the children being made aware and how do you pitch it to them?
- Will it mean additional workload for staff?
- How different is it between Infants and Junior especially when the children transfer?
- Does the Headteacher find it very difficult being the Acting Head?
- Will the amount of parent involvement that currently happens in the Infant school continue?
- Will we see better communication with parents as we haven't been told of changes and find out from the children? We want to understand why things have changed.

Consultation – Parents/Carers Meeting Summary			
Nature of Consultation:	Springdale Junior School - Parents/Carers		
Date:	18 May 2017		
Time:	6.30pm		
Location:	Springdale Junior School		
Officers in Attendance:	Dawn Long Lisa Johnson Amanda Newbold Charlotte Harding		
Number of parents/carers in attendance:	7		
Others in attendance:	Staff (1) Governor (1 – also a parent)		

- Introduction of Local Authority Officers in attendance
- The purpose of the meeting was explained
- The proposal was explained

The following questions and comments were raised by parents/carers:

- Did not realise how separate the schools are.
- How will it affect the numbers of staff?
- How will it affect the quality of teaching in the infant school?
- Will the Ofsted happen before or after the merger?
- Will there be any funding available to make school improvements to help with the new identity?
- Will the nursery continue?
- What impact is there on the senior leadership team as there may be some duplication in positions?
- How do you ensure that teaching in the junior school continue to be good?
- When will the leadership have to be in place?
- What happens if there is an overwhelming feeling from parents that they don't want the merger to go ahead?
- How does it affect the overall budget?

Consultation - School Council Meeting Summary			
Nature of Consultation:	Springdale Infant School - Pupil Consultation		
Date:	19 May 2017		
Time:	1.00pm		
Location:	Springdale Infant School		
Officers in Attendance:	Dawn Long Lisa Johnson		
Number of pupils in attendance:	9 (Years 1 and 2)		

- Introduction of Local Authority Officers in attendance
- The purpose of the meeting was explained
- The proposal was explained
- Mrs Hopkins (Interim Headteacher) was in attendance
- Pupils discussed proposals in groups and then reported their opinions

The following questions and comments were raised by pupils:

- Would be able to combine the schools for 'Beat the Street'
- Could work with brothers and sisters
- The whole school can work together
- The lunchtime buddies would be able to walk straight through the door as it will already be open
- I think it is a good idea
- Will we get extra playtime?
- We will have more work in the afternoon when we get into Year 3
- We will be able to learn new things
- I would like more equipment on the playground, one school would have more play equipment
- We will be able to work together
- We will be able to play with each other
- Most schools are primary schools now
- Will it be called Springdale Primary?
- We would need a new sign.

The pupils were asked to vote to show whether they supported the proposal. 9 pupils voted in favour of the proposal.

Consultation – School Council Meeting Summary		
Nature of Consultation:	Springdale Junior - Pupil Consultation	
Date:	19 May 2017	
Time:	1.30pm	
Location:	Springdale Junior School	
	Dawn Long	
Officers in Attendance:	Lisa Johnson	
Number of pupils in attendance:	8 (Years 3-6)	

#### **Summary of Meeting**

- Introduction of Local Authority Officers in attendance
- The purpose of the meeting was explained
- The proposal was explained
- Mrs Cook (Assistant Headteacher) was in attendance
- Pupils discussed proposals in pairs and then reported their opinions

The following questions and comments were raised by pupils:

- It's a really good idea, can share money as one big primary school. Could use the warning system in the Infant school across the whole primary school and house points too.
- It's interesting but prefer two separate schools as staff like their jobs. Would people lose their jobs?
- It would be nice as we would see younger kids more often including brothers and sisters
- Year 6 would be able to help out lower year groups
- Good idea and the parents and children in Year 2 won't have to worry about getting a place at the Juniors
- The afternoon play in the Infants was stopped to help them concentrate but I do not think that it is a good idea and I don't agree with it
- Parents have been stopped going into assembly which is not good
- Birthday assembly on Friday have stopped, I don't agree with that
- Some classmates reported that they don't get excited going from one school to the other

- 'Merit Awards' and the 'Golden Book' should be used in the Infants if a Primary School. Parents want to see your achievements
- Children need more fresh air so they should have afternoon play
- Really good idea, Juniors are a good school and the Infants is low
- Will we be sharing halls?
- Will we all do the same lessons, RE etc?
- I am worried about teachers swapping year groups as they may not cope
- Would be good to do things togethers (class response)
- It is difficult for the Headteacher as Mrs Foley is ill. It would upset the Infant kids if she doesn't come back
- Children will miss their teachers
- It would be easier to make friends
- If we are to share a hall would it be made bigger?
- Sharing playgrounds, would they be bigger?
- Good experience for the Infants, would make new friends and see my sister across the school
- Would we eat in each others' halls? The big blue doors are shut and we can't get through at the moment to see each other
- We can help younger children, explain to them if they are doing things wrong.

The pupils were asked to vote to show whether they supported the proposal. 4 pupils voted in favour of the proposal, 3 voted against the proposal and 1 was undecided.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

## CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL PROPOSAL TO MERGE SPRINGDALE INFANT SCHOOL WITH SPRINGDALE JUNIOR SCHOOL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Sections 15(1), 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 as amended by the Education Act 2011 and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, that the City of Wolverhampton Council (Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RL) intends to alter educational provision as detailed below in order to merge Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School to create a primary school with effect from 1 January 2018.

The proposals as detailed in Parts One and Two of this notice are related proposals.

#### PART ONE - DISCONTINUANCE OF SPRINGDALE INFANT SCHOOL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that the City of Wolverhampton Council, being the Local Authority for the area, intends to discontinue the following community school with effect from 31 December 2017:

Springdale Infant School, Warstones Drive, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV4 4NJ

#### PART TWO - PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS TO SPRINGDALE JUNIOR SCHOOL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that the City of Wolverhampton Council, being the Local Authority for the area, intends to make prescribed alterations to the following community school with effect from 1 January 2018:

Springdale Junior School, Warstones Drive, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV4 4NJ
The prescribed alterations are to:

- lower the age range of Springdale Junior School from 7-11 years to 3-11 years
- enlarge the school premises of Springdale Junior School to accommodate infant pupils.

#### REPRESENTATION

This notice is an extract from the complete proposals. Copies of the complete proposals can be obtained from: Mr T Knott, School Organisation Manager, City of Wolverhampton Council, 1st Floor Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RL, by visiting the consultation page at <a href="www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/consultations">www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/consultations</a> or by request by emailing <a href="mailto:school.organisation@wolverhampton.gov.uk">school.organisation@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>.

Within four weeks of the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to, support, or comment on, the proposals by sending them to Mr T Knott at the above address or by email to <a href="mailto:school.organisation@wolverhamoton.gov.uk">school.organisation@wolverhamoton.gov.uk</a> and should be received no later than 8 October 2017.

Dated 11 September 2017

Kevin O'Keefe Director of Governance and Solicitor to the Council CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL



#### **COMPLETE PROPOSAL**

#### SECTION 1: DISCONTINUANCE OF SPRINGDALE INFANT SCHOOL

#### **Community School and Local Authority Details**

School Details: Springdale Infant School, Warstones Drive, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV4 4NJ.

LA Details: City of Wolverhampton Council

(Contact: School Organisation Team, 1st Floor, Civic Centre, St Peter's Square,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1RL).

#### **Reason for Closure**

Springdale Infant School was inspected by Ofsted in January and February 2017 and was judged to be a school which 'Requires Improvement'. The current school inspection dashboard lists weaknesses in progress and attainment for all children including disadvantaged groups in Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1.

The Local Authority has been supporting the school to improve standards of education and the outcomes for pupils. In addition, the Local Authority brokered arrangements for the Headteacher of Springdale Junior School to support Springdale Infant School as the Interim Headteacher.

The Council has a strategy for the organisation and development of primary schools called the Primary School Organisation Strategy 2016-2018. The strategy highlights that the Council will consider proposing solutions such as mergers in order to improve standards in underperforming schools.

The proposal to discontinue Springdale Infant School has related proposals as detailed within this complete proposal which are interdependent and should not be considered in isolation of one another. Springdale Infant School is located on the same site as Springdale Junior School. The related proposals are to lower the age range and increase the capacity of Springdale Junior School to create a primary school for pupils aged between 3 and 11 years, in order to accommodate pupils currently attending Springdale Infant School (please see Section 2).

#### **Pupil Numbers and Admissions**

Springdale Infant School is a mixed Community school that caters for children aged between 3 and 7 years. The school operates a special educational needs resource base for pupils with language and communication difficulties. There are no boarding arrangements at the School.

Year Group	Compulsory/Non- Compulsory	Current Admission Limits	Current Number on Roll (as at 5 September 2017)
Nursery	Non - compulsory	60	39
Reception		60	60
Year 1	Compulsory	60	50
Year 2	-	75	71

Gender of Pupils (Reception to Year 2):

Male - 94 (51.9%)

Female -87 - (48.1%)

#### **Displaced pupils**

Springdale Infant school is located in the Merry Hill Ward; the proposal does not affect the number of places in this Ward. The closure of the infant school is to enable the junior and infant school to merge to create a primary school. All pupils on roll at Springdale Infant School on 31 December 2017 would automatically transfer to the primary school on 1 January 2018 and therefore there would be no displacement of pupils. However, should any pupil not wish to take up a place at the primary school they would have the opportunity to apply for a place at other schools where places are available.

#### Impact on the community

Bringing infant and junior schools together offers a number of advantages, including:

- · Reducing the number of major transitions that pupils face
- Reducing the likelihood of lost learning at the beginning of Key Stage 2
- Increasing the opportunity for specialist teachers to work with a wider range of pupils
- Providing the opportunity for a consistent approach to the curriculum to be adopted
- Ensuring the continuity of teaching, learning and achievement
- Cost savings through economies of scale.

It is not envisaged that there would be any adverse impact on the community as the number of school places in the area will not be reduced and the primary school would continue to serve the local community as the separate infant and junior schools currently do.

#### Special educational needs provision

The special educational needs resource base for pupils with language and communication difficulties at Springdale Infant would transfer to the proposed primary school. Springdale Junior School has an Ofsted rating of Good and 'those pupils supported within the school's resource base, make good progress'. (Source: Ofsted June 2014)

#### **Travel**

All pupils at Springdale Infant School would automatically transfer to the newly created primary school so no pupils will be displaced as part of the proposal. The Infant and Junior Schools occupy the same site and therefore journeys and travel time of pupils will not be affected.

#### Implementation

The proposed date of closure is 31 December 2017.

#### **Consultation Responses**

Formal Consultation (Representation) commenced on 11 September 2017 and ends on 8 October 2017.

Any person may object to, support or comment on the proposal by writing to:

Mr T Knott School Organisation Manager City of Wolverhampton Council 1st Floor Civic Centre St Peter's Square Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

Or email: <a href="mailto:school.organisation@wolverhampton.gov.uk">school.organisation@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>.

The closing date for responses is 8 October 2017.

## SECTION 2: PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS TO SPRINGDALE JUNIOR SCHOOL

#### **Community School and Local Authority Details**

School Details: Springdale Junior School, Warstones Drive, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV4 4NJ.

LA Details: City of Wolverhampton Council (Contact: School Organisation Team, 1st Floor, Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RL).

#### **Description of Alteration and Evidence of Demand**

The prescribed alterations are as follows:

- Lower the age range of Springdale Junior School from 7-11 years to 3–11 years
- To enlarge the premises of Springdale Junior School to accommodate infant pupils.

The proposals to lower the age range and increase the capacity of Springdale Junior School to create a primary school are related to the aforementioned closure of Springdale Infant School and are interdependent and should not be considered in isolation of one another. Springdale Junior School is located on the same site as Springdale Infant School. The related proposal is to discontinue Springdale Infant School and transfer the pupils to the proposed primary school (please see Section 1). The proposal does not affect the number of places available. Figure 1 summarises the proposed changes.

Figure 1: Proposed Changes

Current Age Range	Proposed Age Range	Current Net Capacity	Proposed Current Net Admission Capacity*		Proposed Admission Limit
7-11	3-11	358	568	60	60

<sup>\*</sup> Please note the proposed net capacity is based on the current individual assessments of Springdale Infant School (210 net capacity) and Springdale Junior School (358 net capacity). Subject to approval of the proposal to merge the schools the net capacity of the primary school would be assessed.

## Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)

The objectives of the proposal are to both modify the age range of Springdale Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 and to enlarge the premises in order to accommodate pupils currently attending Springdale Infant School. The merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School would create a primary school which would be located on the current sites of the two schools.

The merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School would increase educational standards for pupils as the Junior School has been independently judged by Ofsted as providing a good education.

Bringing infant and junior schools together offers a number of advantages, including:

- Reducing the number of major transitions that pupils face
- Reducing the likelihood of lost learning at the beginning of Key Stage 2
- Increasing the opportunity for specialist teachers to work with a wider range of pupils
- Providing the opportunity for a consistent approach to the curriculum to be adopted
- Ensuring the continuity of teaching, learning and achievement
- Cost savings through economies of scale.

The number of school places available in the area is not being reduced as part of the proposal therefore parental choice for a school place will not be affected, however, there will be a reduction in the number of infant schools across the city.

#### The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

There will be no impact on educational establishments within the area as the number of school places available is not being changed as part of the proposal.

## Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved

The proposed merger of the schools would provide opportunities for efficiency savings and maximise the use of school resources.

The Local Authority schools funding formula includes a lump sum payment of £125,000 per school so the proposed merger would eventually release £125,000 of the Dedicated Schools Grant which would be available for allocation across the remaining schools in the city. In the year of conversion, the primary school would retain the full allocations originally made to the separate schools. A transitional year then follows, where the primary school would receive a proportion of the lump sum that would equate to £87,500, in addition to its own £125,000 lump sum.

It is recognised that there would be a need to invest in ICT to consolidate the infrastructure and server/backup environment and to merge the SIMS databases from Springdale Infant School and Springdale Junior Schools into one database. It is anticipated that this cost would need to be met by the primary school utilising a proportion of the aforementioned lump sum allocation.

#### Implementation

The proposed date for implementation is 1 January 2018.

#### **Consultation Responses**

Formal Consultation (Representation) commenced on 11 September 2017 and ends on 8 October 2017.

Any person may object to, support or comment on the proposal by writing to:

Mr T Knott School Organisation Manager City of Wolverhampton Council 1st Floor Civic Centre St Peter's Square Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

Or email: school.organisation@wolverhampton.gov.uk

The closing date for responses is 8 October 2017.



#### Formal Consultation (Representation) - Stakeholder list

- Federated Governing Body Springdale Infant and Springdale Junior School
- Secretary of State
- Diocesan Authorities; Archdiocese of Birmingham and Lichfield Diocese
- Members of Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel
- Trade Unions; ASCL, ATL, GMB, NAHT, NASUWT, NUT, UNITE, UNISON
- Ward Councillors Merry Hill and Penn Wards
- Members of West Midlands School Organisation Group
- Members of Parliament for Wolverhampton constituencies
- South Staffordshire Council
- Shropshire Council
- Walsall Council
- Headteachers of all schools in Wolverhampton (via the weekly e-Bulletin).



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#### **Equality Analysis**

Directorate: Education	Lead Officer: Tom Knott
Service Area: School Planning and Resources	Date completed: October 2017
Service / Function / Policy / Procedure to be assessed: The proposed merger of Springdale Infant School with Spring	gdale Junior School.
Is this:  New / Proposed  Existing/Review  Changing  □	Review date: Summer 2018
(Please tick appropriate box)	

Part A – Initial Equality Analysis to determine if a full Equality Analysis is required.

#### What are the aims and objectives/purpose of this service, function, policy or procedure?

The City of Wolverhampton proposes to merge Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School with effect from 1 January 2018.

Springdale Infant School is a mixed Community school that caters for children aged between 3 and 7 years, co-located with Springdale Junior School in Warstones Drive, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV4 4NJ. The School currently offers 60 places in Reception and Year 2, operates a bulge class of 75 places in Year 1 and has a 60 place nursery. The school operates a Resource Base for pupils with language and communication difficulties.

Springdale Junior School is a mixed Community school that caters for children aged between 7 and 11 years, co-located with Springdale Infant School in Warstones Drive, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV4 4NJ. The School offers 60 places per year group in Years 3 - 6 (240 places in total). The school operates a Resource Base for pupils with language and communication difficulties.

The Council's Primary School Organisation Strategy 2016-2018 (PSOS) outlines a number of advantages of bringing infant and junior schools together, including:

- "Reducing the number of major transitions that pupils face
- Reducing the likelihood of lost learning at the beginning of Key Stage 2
- Increasing the opportunity for specialist teachers to work with a wider range of pupils
- Providing the opportunity for a consistent approach to the curriculum to be adopted
- Ensuring the continuity of teaching, learning and achievement
- Cost savings through economies of scale" (PSOS 2016).

The PSOS explains that, "The 'merger' of infant and junior schools is the process of joining the schools together by discontinuing one establishment and expanding and altering the age range of the other." (PSOS 2016).

The PSOS explains that where intervention is required, "The Council will consider proposing the adoption of structural solutions (including both federation and sponsored academy status) in order to improve standards in underperforming schools" (PSOS 2016).

Springdale Infant School was inspected by Ofsted in January and February 2017 and was judged to be a school which 'Requires Improvement'. The current school inspection dashboard lists weaknesses in progress and attainment for all children including disadvantaged groups in Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. The School was categorised as B1 in September 2016 and moved from B1 to B2 at the end of the Autumn Term 2016. A pre-warning letter and re-categorisation to a C was issued following a Local Authority review of the school in early February 2017.

Springdale Junior School is judged 'Good' by Ofsted in June 2014 and is an LA Category A school. Representatives of the Education Department have brokered arrangements for the Headteacher of Springdale Junior School to support Springdale Infant School as the Interim Headteacher.

When proposing to merge schools, Local Authorities must follow statutory processes and timescales as outlined in The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools (England) Regulations 2013 and The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013.

Cabinet approved the commencement of Informal Consultation on the proposal to merge Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School to create a Primary School for children aged 3 to 11 years with effect from 1 January 2018. To enable the proposed merger;

- Springdale Infant School would be discontinued on 31 December 2017.
- The age range of Springdale Junior School would be altered from 7 to 11 years to 3 to 11 years with effect from 1 January 2018.
- The recorded capacity of Springdale Junior School would be expanded to include the physical capacity of Springdale Infant School's buildings with effect from 1 January 2018.

Informal Consultation commenced on 8 May 2017 and concluded on 25 June 2017. In July 2017, the Cabinet Member for Education in consultation with the Assistant Director School Standards reviewed the outcome of Informal Consultation and approved progression to Formal Consultation (Representation). Formal Consultation commenced on 11 September 2017 and concluded on 8 October 2017.

Please note that a final decision on the proposed merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School will be taken by the City of Wolverhampton Council's Cabinet on 29 November 2017.

#### Please indicate its relevance to any of the equality duties (below) by selecting Yes or No?

	Yes	No
	1	✓
Eliminating unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment		
	✓	
Advancing equality of opportunity		
	✓	
Fostering good community relations		

If not relevant to any of the three equality duties and this is agreed by your Head of Service, the Equality Analysis is now complete - please send a copy to the Equality & Diversity Team. If any of the three equality duties are relevant, a Full Equality Analysis will need to be undertaken (PART B below).

#### **PART B: Full Equality Analysis.**

#### Step 1 – Identifying outcomes and delivery mechanisms (in relation to what you are assessing)

What outcomes are sought and for whom?	To merge Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School to create a primary school to help raise standards for pupils in the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 as outlined in Part A.
Are there any associated policies, functions, services or procedures?	Relevant Legislation

	Primary School Organisation Strategy 2016 – 2018
If partners (including external partners) are involved in delivering the service, who are they?	Springdale Infant School and Springdale Junior School

#### Step 2 – What does the information you have collected, or that you have available, tell you?

What evidence/data already exists about the service and its users? (in terms of its impact on the 'equality strands', i.e. race, disability, gender, gender re-assignment, age, religion or belief, sexual orientation, maternity/pregnancy, marriage/civil partnership and other socially excluded communities or groups) and what does the data tell you? e.g. are there any significant gaps?

#### Age:

In January 2017, there were 26,727 nursery and primary aged pupils in state schools within Wolverhampton. The proportion of these pupils identified as having Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND) was 14.3%.

The Resource Base at Springdale Infant school caters for children in Reception – Year 2 who have language and communication difficulties. In January 2017, there were 245 pupils on roll at the Infant School (Nursery – Year 2).

The Resource Base at Springdale Junior School caters for children in Year 3 - 6 who have language and communication difficulties. In January 2017, there were 259 pupils on roll at the Junior School.

(Source: School Census Spring 2017)

#### Disability:

The proportion of pupils with disabilities varies significantly between primary establishments. Levels of SEND in individual establishments are influenced by a wide range of factors including specialist provision attached to primary schools e.g. Sensory Resource Bases.

In January 2017, there were 75 primary aged pupils across the city, with a Statement/ Education and Health Care Plan (with a primary need identified as language and communication difficulties), 76% were being catered for within mainstream settings and 24% were within special schools (Source: ONE January 2017).

In Springdale Infant School in January 2017, 13.8% of the cohort were identified with SEND, of these 2.8% had a primary need of language and communication difficulties (Source: School Census Spring 2017).

In Springdale Junior School in January 2017, 21.2% of the cohort were identified with SEND, of these 7.7% had a primary need of language and communication difficulties (Source: School Census Spring 2017).

#### Gender:

In January 2017, 48.9% of the City's primary school population were girls and 51.1% were boys. Of these, 14.3% were identified as having SEND; of which 34% were girls and 66% were boys. 17% of pupils with SEND, were identified with Language and Communication Difficulties.

In January 2017, Springdale Infant School had 245 pupils on roll; 48.6 % girls and 51.4% boys. Of the 34 pupils identified as having SEND 20.6% were girls and 79.4% of boys.

In January 2017, Springdale Junior School had 259 pupils on roll; 47.5% girls and 52.5% boys. Of the 55 pupils identified as having SEND 27.3% were girls and 72.7% of boys.

(Source: School Census Spring 2017)

Please note: School Census information relating to the characteristics of pupils in Primary Schools in Wolverhampton are monitored on a termly basis.

#### Race:

In January 2017, 54.7% of Wolverhampton's primary pupils' ethnic origin was other than White British. The ethnic origin of individual primary school populations varies significantly (Goldthorn Park Primary School and St Luke's Primary Schools'

populations are 4.5% White British, whilst Oak Meadow Primary School population is 80.4% White British). This is a consequence of schools typically reflecting the composition of local communities. As illustrated by both Census data and published Ward Profiles (available at <a href="https://www.wolverhamptoninprofile.org.uk">www.wolverhamptoninprofile.org.uk</a>) the ethnic composition of communities varies significantly across the City. It should be noted that the ethnic makeup of communities in Wolverhampton is dynamic, analysis of Census information suggests that the proportion of White British residents of the City fell by 10 percentage points between 2001 and 2011. In contrast, the proportion of Asian, Black, Mixed and Other ethnic groups increased.

One of Wolverhampton's most remarkable characteristics is its superdiversity and this is another factor that can influence demand for school places. It is estimated that in recent years the number of non-UK born residents in Wolverhampton has increased (Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics (ONS)) and in 2016, 31.6% of births to Wolverhampton residents were to non-UK born mothers (ONS 2016). As stated by the ONS, 'over a quarter (28.2%) of live births in England and Wales in 2016 were to women born outside the UK, the highest level on record'. Also 'Despite an overall decline in the number of live births in England and Wales between 2015 and 2016, births to women born outside the UK increased by 2.1%' (ONS 2016).

An exercise has been undertaken which compares, at ward level, the ethnic group of mothers (aged 15 to 44) who gave birth at New Cross Hospital between 2010 and 2012 with the ethnic group of female residents (aged 15 to 44) from the 2011 Census. This analysis emphasises the significant variation in the ethnic composition of individual wards' populations and also highlights the strong correlation between the ethnicity of female residents and the ethnic group of mothers. Despite the general strength of this correlation, there are a number of discrepancies that highlight underrepresentation of the Black and Mixed ethnic groups in the proportion of mothers who gave birth between 2010 and 2012.

In Springdale Infant School, 69.7% of the pupils attending were White British, 8.6% were Mixed White and Black Caribbean and the remaining 21.6% were from 9 other ethnicities (and also includes those who refused to provide the information or information has not yet been obtained).

In Springdale Junior School, 62.9% of the pupils attending were White British, 10.4% were Asian or Asian British - Indian and the remaining 26.6% were from 12 other ethnicities (and also includes those who refused to provide the information or information has not yet been obtained).

In January 2017, in Springdale Infant School, the ethnic origin of the pupils with Language and Communication Difficulties was; 57.1% White British and the remaining 42.9% were from other ethnicities.

In January 2017, in Springdale Junior School, the ethnic origin of the pupils with Language and Communication Difficulties was; 65% White British and the remaining 35% were from other ethnicities.

(Source: School Census Spring 2017)

## Religion:

The primary estate across Wolverhampton comprises of 75 schools including 14 Church of England Schools (19%), 10 Catholic Schools (14%) and 1 Sikh Faith School (1%). Springdale Infant School and Springdale Junior School are community schools not faith schools.

Has there been any consultation with, or input from, customers / service users or other stakeholders? If so, with whom, how were they consulted and what did they say? If you haven't consulted yet and are intending to do so, please list which specific groups or communities you are going to consult with and when.

When proposing to merge schools, Local Authorities must follow statutory processes and timescales as outlined in The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools (England) Regulations 2013 and The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 - Statutory Guidance for proposers and Decision Makers' (DfE April 2016).

## **Consultation and Decision Making Timeline**

#### 8 May 2017 - 25 June 2017 (Stage 1 - Informal Consultation)

Informal Consultation with stakeholders including pupils, parents, staff and Governors.

#### July 2017 - Individual Executive Decision Notice

Consideration given to the responses to Initial Consultation and a decision made whether or not to proceed to Stage 1 of the statutory process.

## 11 September 2017 (Stage 2 – Publication)

The statutory proposal and public notice published.

## 11 September 2017 – 8 October 2017 (Stage 3 – Representation)

Representation Period (Formal Consultation) – offers stakeholders a formal opportunity to submit comments on the proposal.

## 29 November 2017 (Stage 4 – Decision)

Cabinet consider the outcome of consultation and make a final decision on the proposal in line with published decision makers' guidance.

### 1 January 2018 (Stage 5 – Implementation)

If approved, the proposal would be implemented.

#### **Informal Consultation**

Informal Consultation commenced on 8 May 2017 and concluded on 25 June 2017. The following stakeholders were consulted; parents/carers of pupils attending Springdale Infant School and Springdale Junior School, members of staff at Springdale Infant School and Springdale Junior School, members of Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel, Trade Union representatives, Merry Hill and Penn Ward Councillors, local diocesan authorities, members of the West Midlands School Organisation Group and headteachers in Wolverhampton. At the start of consultation, over 770 consultation documents was distributed via email or hard copy. In addition, the consultation featured in the School Bulletin on 5 May 2017 (this is the principal weekly communication mechanism between the Council and schools' leadership across the City).

During the Informal Consultation period, 33 written consultation responses had been received by the City of Wolverhampton Council regarding the proposed merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School. These were completed by a range of stakeholders including Governors, staff and parents/carers of pupils.

Number of responses received	Respondents in favour of the proposal	Respondents against the proposal	Respondents who 'Don't know'	Not Stated
33	27 (82%)	1 (3%)	4 (12%)	1 (3%)

A number of supportive comments regarding the proposal were received during Informal Consultation including:

- "A primary school will have the best possible outcomes for all pupils." (Response 1 Member of the Governing Body at Springdale Junior School).
- "Both schools working together under one Headteacher so if we have a child in each school their school plays etc won't be at the same time and other school stuff." (Response 2 Parent/ Carer of a pupil at Springdale Infant School).
- "The school needs consistency and strong leadership. There have been too many new initiatives and the merger with the juniors seems to be the best solution." (Response 6 Member of staff at Springdale Infant School).
- "Positive move for the school Positive impact so far since recent inspection." (Response 8 Member of staff at Springdale Infant School).
- "As the proposed admission numbers will be remaining the same there are no concerns that this would impact on schools in Staffordshire therefore we have no objections to the proposed merger." (Response 9 Staffordshire County Council).
- "The proposed merger will certainly enhance the learning of the children currently in both schools. The levels of continuity, consistency and progression will be maximised by the schools becoming a unified primary school. The clear leadership shown by the Headteacher of the Junior school will not only, benefit the outcomes of the pupils, but will also guarantee a high level of professional development and clear guidance for all staff. The financial benefits for the school will also be enhanced by the economies of scale. Transition for pupils will quickly become less of an issue and stalling in learning will be reduced." (Response 11 Member of staff at Springdale Junior School).
- "I agree to the proposed merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School because there would be consistency of learning between the two schools thus there would be less 'back tracking and filling the gaps' and more building on pupil's existing knowledge in Key Stage 2. There would be better communication between the two schools especially identifying earlier, pupils with specific learning difficulties." (Response 21 Member of staff at Springdale Junior School).

• "Have felt for many years that a merger of the two schools would benefit pupils. A merger would ensure consistency across both schools, consistency in curriculum, expectations and standards. The physical building will mean very few changes will have to take place, so very little disruption to pupils...." (Response 32 – Member of staff at Springdale Junior School)

A number of concerns and considerations regarding the proposal were also identified during Informal Consultation including:

- ".... I believe the school doesn't have to merge to improve. There's obviously a lack of communication between the two schools when there shouldn't be there are in same building. I think the education bored should look at more productive ways to improve staff teachers knowledge giving teachers knowledge giving teachers the real skills needed. There's a skill gap between "no longer there experienced staff" and today's modern staff. Fill the skill gap to improve leadership, organisation and performance. More regular reviews of performance is needed..." (response 7 Parent/Carer of a pupil at Springdale Infant School).
- "On the premise that the best interest of both schools are catered for e.g. proper levels of staffing are upheld for the Infant School
  and leadership that is representative of both schools are put into place. This process requires transparency for parents so that they
  are fully informed of all changes and allowed a voice. This should not mean that Infant School activities such as break times, clubs,
  plays, etc are ceased. Both schools when merged need a shared ethos and commitment to all." (Response 15 Parent of a pupil
  at Springdale Junior School).
- "The Governing Body and the City of Wolverhampton Council need to make a clear statement of intent that this proposal will not only keep the SL Resource bases but will use the merger to successfully enhance this facility for the children by guaranteeing specialist teaching and the appropriate resources are available across the primary school age range. This opportunity should look at how the merger can ensure stability and continuity for children from age 4-11." (Response 16 Parent/Carer of a pupil at Springdale Junior School).
- "I feel the merger makes sense in terms of supporting 2 smaller schools that are so closely connected to both do well and for a well managed transition from infant to junior. However, I also feel this has to be done in the interest of both schools and not primarily as a reaction to the recent infant OFSTED. The merger needs to consider the needs of both schools and maintain the needs of infants' pupils." (response 30 Parent/Carer of a pupil at Springdale Infant School).

Consultation meetings also took place during the Informal Consultation period. Representatives from the Education Department outlined the proposal and stakeholders were offered the opportunity to ask raise queries or offer comments. A summary of these meetings is available to decision-makers.

Stakeholder Group	Date of Meeting	Number of Attendees
Springdale Junior School Governing Body	8 May 2017	8
Springdale Infant School Governing Body	9 May 2017	8
Springdale Infant School staff	15 May 2017	22
Springdale Junior School Staff	16 May 2017	28
Springdale Infant parents/carers	17 May 2017	18
Springdale Junior parents/carers	18 May 2017	7
Springdale Infant pupils (School Council)	19 May 2017	9
Springdale Junior pupils (School Council)	19 May 2017	8

Formal Consultation commenced on 11 September 2017 and concluded on 8 October 2017. The following stakeholders were consulted;

The Federated Governing Body of Springdale Infant School and Springdale Junior School, members of Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel, Trade Union representatives, Merry Hill and Penn Ward Councillors, local diocesan authorities, Members of Parliament for Wolverhampton constituencies, Shropshire Council, Walsall Council, Staffordshire County Council and members of the West Midlands School Organisation Group. A copy of the Public Notice was published in the Express and Star on 11 September 2017, displayed at both schools and consultation documents were published on the Council website in accordance with School Organisation Regulations.

The Council received two responses to Formal Consultation, one from Staffordshire County Council and Birmingham City Council. Neither responses raised any concerns regarding the proposed merger.

Are there any complaints, compliments, satisfaction surveys or customer feedback that could help inform this assessment? If yes, what do these tell you?

As previously identified there were 33 responses to Informal Consultation and a range of information was received from consultees.

Response 16 stated "The governing body and the City of Wolverhampton Council need to make a clear statement of intent that this proposal will not only keep the SL Resource bases but will use the merger to successfully enhance this facility for the children by guaranteeing specialist teaching and the appropriate resources are available across the primary school age range..." (Parent/Carer of a pupil at Springdale Junior School).

In response to the above, no specific changes to the resource bases at Springdale Infant School or Springdale Junior School were proposed as part the proposal. Budgets reflect the additional cost of supporting pupils with additional needs and schools are responsible for ensuring staffing and resources are appropriate.

Response 21 stated "I agree to the proposed merger of Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School because there would be consistency of learning between the two school thus there would be less 'back tracking and filling the gaps' and more building on pupils existing knowledge in Key Stage 2. There would be better communication between the two schools especially identifying earlier, pupil's with specific learning difficulties." (Member of Staff Springdale Junior School).

In response the above, the advantages of a merger can reduce the likelihood of lost learning at the beginning of Key Stage 2, increase the opportunity for specialist teachers to work with a wider range of pupils and also providing the opportunity for a consistent approach that will benefit all pupils.

Response 33 stated "We support the proposal to merge Springdale Infant School with Springdale Junior School...as a positive and sensible to the recent advice from Ofsted that the Infant school has been found lacking in some key areas. ....We had concerns especially since he started Year 1 in areas of school administration and communication. A recent issue was the sudden, unnotified removal of year 1 and 2 afternoon playtime, apparently in response to the Ofsted rating, which has caused our son (who has hyperactivity and sensory issues) real challenges..." (Parent/Carer at Springdale Infant School).

In response to the above, the Council acknowledge the concerns raised, however, it is the responsibility of the governors and senior leadership team to plan the school day and communicate any changes with parents/carers.

In addition, Council representatives would like to highlight that the Council is currently undertaking a Citywide SEND Review in order to develop well-planned and forward-looking provision that enables all children and young people to access local educational provision in order to meet their needs. The outcomes of pupils with SEND and specifically those with language and communication difficulties, will continue to be monitored and analysed to ensure that support provided is sufficient to meet their needs.

## **Step 3 – Identifying the negative impact.**

a. Is there any negative impact on individuals or groups in the community?

#### **Barriers:**

What are the potential or known barriers/impacts for the different 'equality strands' set out below? Consider:

- Where you provide your service, e.g. the facilities/premises;
- Who provides it, e.g. are staff trained and representative of the local population/users?
- **How** it is provided, e.g. do people come to you or do you go to them? Do any rules or requirements prevent certain people accessing the service?
- When it is provided, e.g. opening hours?
- What is provided, e.g. does the service meet everyone's needs? How do you know?

## **Solutions:**

What can be done to minimise or remove these barriers to make sure everyone has equal access to the service or to reduce adverse impact? Consider:

- Other arrangements that can be made to ensure people's diverse needs are met;
- How your actions might help to promote good relations between communities;
- How you might prevent any unintentional future discrimination.

<sup>\*</sup> Some barriers are justified, e.g. for health or safety reasons, or might actually be designed to promote equality, e.g. single sex swimming/exercise sessions, or cannot be removed without excessive cost. If you believe any of the barriers identified to be justified then please indicate which they are and why.

Equality Themes	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts identified	Solutions (ways in which you could mitigate the negative impact)
<b>Age</b> (including children, young people and older people)	N/A. The age equality strand does not apply to children under the age of 18.	N/A. The age equality strand does not apply to children under the age of 18.	N/A. The age equality strand does not apply to children under the age of 18.
<b>Disability</b> (including carers)	The proposal aims to support Springdale Infant School and Springdale Junior School to improve outcomes for all children regardless of disability.	N/A	N/A
Gender (men and women)	The proposal aims to support Springdale Infant School and Springdale Junior School to improve outcomes for all children regardless of gender.	N/A	N/A
Race (including Gypsies &Travellers and Asylum Seekers)	The proposal aims to support Springdale Infant School and Springdale Junior School to improve outcomes for all children regardless of race.	N/A	N/A
Religion or belief (including people of no religion or belief)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gender Re-assignment (those that are going or have gone through a transition: male to female or female to male)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pregnancy and Maternity	N/A	N/A	N/A

N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A
	N/A	N/A N/A

## Step 4 – Changes or mitigating actions proposed or adopted

Having undertaken the assessment are there any changes necessary to the existing service, policy, function or procedure? What changes or mitigating actions are proposed?

There are no proposed changes necessary. The identified benefits to both schools stand (please refer to Part A – Initial Equality Analysis).

## **Step 5 – Monitoring**

How are you going to monitor the existing service, function, policy or procedure?

School Census information relating to the characteristics of pupils in Primary Schools in Wolverhampton are monitored on a termly basis along with the undertaking of established School Standards monitoring practices.

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## Part C - Action Plan

Barrier/s or improvement/s identified	Action Required	Lead Officer	Timescale
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

## **Equality Analysis approved by:**

Head of Service: Bill Hague	Date: October 2017

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