

**Bracknell Forest Council  
Record of Decision**

<b>Work Programme Reference</b>	<b>I077932</b>
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1. **TITLE:** Amalgamation of Holly Spring Infant and Junior Schools
2. **SERVICE AREA:** Children, Young People and Learning
3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**  
  
To consult and, if desirable, agree to amalgamate Holly Spring Infant and Junior Schools into a new Primary School with effect from 1 September 2019.
4. **IS KEY DECISION** Yes
5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Executive Member for Children, Young People & Learning
6. **DECISION:**  
  
The consultation on the possible amalgamation of Holly Spring Infant and Junior Schools should proceed.
7. **REASON FOR DECISION**
  - i) If an opportunity is presented to amalgamate Infant and Junior Schools then the Council seeks the views of all stakeholders with the intention of achieving this outcome.
  - ii) An example would be when the Headteacher of one of the schools leaves or retires, as is the situation at Holly Spring Junior School where Trisha Donkin retired at Easter 2018.
  - iii) Junior schools in the Borough are currently presenting challenges with their pupil outcomes and one way to generate and sustain improvement is through an amalgamation process as it creates a stronger, larger primary school. The Council promotes school amalgamations for these reasons.
  - iv) If the two schools amalgamate into a primary school there are opportunities for better educational outcomes for children through a consistent approach through the primary phase and other benefits.
  - v) The governing bodies of both schools have agreed to support a consultation on amalgamation.
8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**
  - i) The option of federation was investigated. Although in the short-term there would financial benefits in this approach, in the long term a primary school would be more robust. Also if one of the schools in a federation received a poor inspection outcome then it would lead all of the federated schools vulnerable to the same judgement.
  - ii) Not to progress with amalgamation proposals, meaning that both current schools

continue as separate organisations and the possible benefits are not realised.

9. **PRINCIPAL GROUPS CONSULTED:** Parents, children, staff, governors and the wider community
10. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Director of Children, Young People & Learning.
11. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None

<b>Date Decision Made</b>	<b>Final Day of Call-in Period</b>
31 July 2018	7 August 2018