



**Consultation document on the proposal to  
merge Monks' Dyke Technology College,  
Louth and Tennyson High School,  
Mablethorpe**

**1 December 2011**



## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This proposal being consulted on by Lincolnshire County Council is at the request of the governing body of the federated Monks' Dyke Technology College, Louth and Tennyson High School, Mablethorpe. This document has been produced by Lincolnshire County Council on behalf of, and in association with, the governing body. This consultation is the first part of the statutory process with parents, the local community and other interested parties. The Council considers that the proposal is in the best interests of children, parents, the local communities and staff of both schools. Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 the LA is the decision maker for the proposal and has agreed to facilitate the statutory process before making a decision at the end of the final stage of the process in June 2012. This document sets out the stages of the process and reasons why this proposal is being made.
- 1.2 Monks' Dyke Technology College and Tennyson High School have been working together in a formal Federation since February 2010. Before that the two schools have worked in partnership since September 2008. Merging the two schools is the final step in the original long-term plan agreed by the governing bodies at the time. The proposal is to merge Monks' Dyke Technology College and Tennyson High School with effect from 1 September 2012. The technical process required to achieve this merger is two related proposals where one cannot happen without the other. The two proposals are the closure of Tennyson High School on 31 August 2012, and the expansion of Monks' Dyke Technology College onto the Tennyson High School site on 1 September 2012. Secondary education will therefore continue on the two existing sites under one LA maintained educational establishment. This proposal will retain the number of school places in the secondary sector in Mablethorpe and Louth whilst at the same time providing the opportunity to improve educational standards and opportunities for the young people in the area.

## **2. Why is this proposal being made?**

- 2.1 The educational challenges faced by Tennyson High School are not temporary in nature; they are features of the size and nature of the school and the context within which it operates. Progress has been made in addressing standards by drawing on the strengths of both schools. Importantly, the collaboration has also brought new opportunities to Mablethorpe students: a broader curriculum and a wider range of extra-curricular activities which could not have been supported by a smaller school on its own. The governing body is convinced that merging the schools will only add to this richness and help to ensure equality of opportunities for students of all abilities in both Louth and Mablethorpe.
- 2.2 The number of pupils entering secondary education in both areas has begun to fall as the low numbers from primary schools in recent years has started to feed through into the secondary sector. This is a trend experienced by many secondary schools across the county and these low numbers are set to continue for a number of years in East Lindsey. Such low numbers put significant pressures on schools to remain educationally and financial sustainable. This proposed model would provide a better opportunity than at present to provide a sustainable solution to enable the continued provision of secondary education across both sites.
- 2.3 The government (DfE – Department for Education) has made it clear that unless a structural solution can be found that will improve standards further, then it will impose its own solution outside of the control of the schools and the Local Authority. This proposal being consulted on is viewed by the LA and the school governors as an opportunity to build on the excellent progress in recent years made through the federation. It will help ensure that secondary education continues on both sites whilst providing the structure to improve the quality of education provided to the children of both communities.

2.4 There are a number of reasons for the proposed merger as below:-

**2.4.1 Current and future standards of pupil attainment**

- Recent results at both schools show some fluctuations but overall a pattern of improvement
- The recent fluctuations in attainment for pupils at Key Stage 4 at Tennyson should become more consistent with an improving upward trend towards 2015
- The predictions for the results for a combined school indicate an upward trend over the next two years, towards the government's floor target of 50% for 2015
- The recent post 16 provision at Tennyson will be significantly enhanced by the merger

**2.4.2 Breadth of curriculum**

- Both schools will benefit from the potential curriculum expertise that will be on offer at each school
- The potential to provide a much broader curriculum offer to all students at Key Stages 3, 4 and 5 will benefit all pupils
- A level expertise at Key Stage 5 in Louth will benefit the Tennyson pupils with a greater breadth of subjects and courses available to all
- The existing provision of the English Baccalaureate will be secured for all pupils on both sites

**2.4.3 Retaining and recruiting high quality teaching staff**

Most secondary schools on Lincolnshire's east coast experience difficulties from time to time in recruiting qualified teaching staff with appropriate subject specialisms. One larger organisation across the two sites will offer greater career opportunities to existing staff and to potential applicants when seeking to recruit high quality teaching staff.

**2.4.4 Financial sustainability**

The future number on roll looks set to fall over the next few years as y7 intakes feed through from low Key Stage 2 numbers in the primary sector. As the majority of school funding is calculated according to the number of pupils on roll this will have a negative impact on the level of funding received as numbers fall. These financial pressures require careful planning to ensure that sustainable curriculum and staffing models are in place. This proposal will help provide a degree of financial stability.

**3. What are the advantages of this proposal?**

3.1 The Council would not be actively participating in this process if it did not see significant advantages for children and young people, their parents/carers and the local communities in the Louth and Mablethorpe areas. The proposal helps sustain local provision and will enhance the quality of provision.

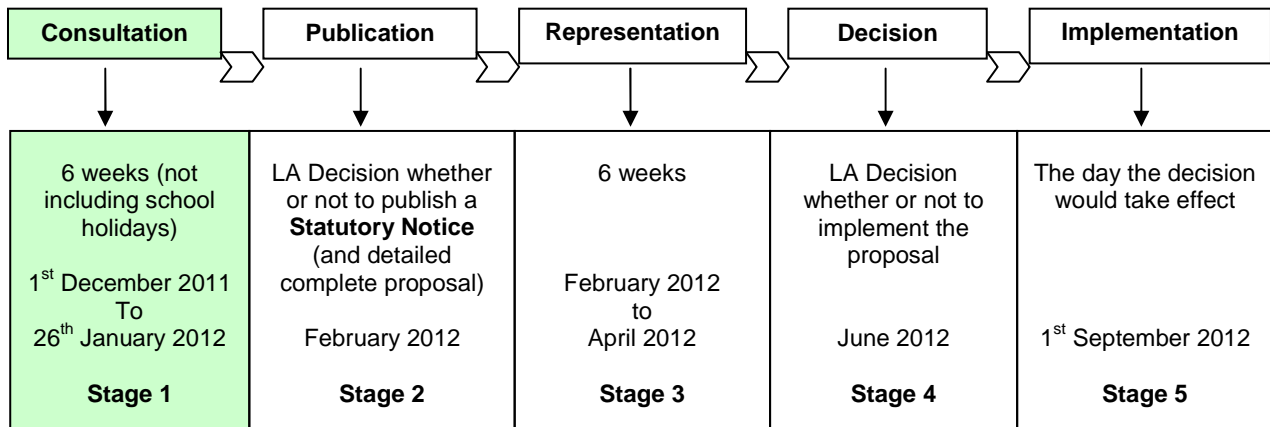
3.2 There are several advantages to this proposal and these are summarised as:-

- Greater curriculum choice including wider access to specialist facilities across the federation creating a broad and rich opportunity for young people in the Louth and Mablethorpe areas to achieve their maximum potential
- Access to a comprehensive menu of study support activities throughout the year
- Providing a better opportunity for long term, sustainable, high quality secondary education for the young people of Louth and Mablethorpe

- Wider development opportunities for all staff to help maintain stability and provision of high quality teaching and learning whilst securing the quality of staffing
- Greater focus on the development of senior and middle leaders so increasing leadership capacity

#### 4. What will happen now?

4.1 Consultation is the first stage of a five part statutory process set out in the diagram below.



4.2 The consultation period regarding this proposal will run for six school weeks from Thursday 1st December to Thursday 26th of January 2012. This consultation period is the first stage of the process leading up to a final decision in June 2012. Any feedback received will be carefully considered when making any decisions on whether the proposal should proceed to a statutory notice being published. If the decision is to publish a statutory notice then a period of representation will follow giving all interested parties the opportunity to respond to the detailed full proposal which would include content informed by the consultation.

4.3 Public consultation meetings have been set up to allow all those who have an interest in this proposal to be able to gather information, ask questions and get involved in the process. A timeline for the consultation process is shown below. For those unable to attend the meetings a question and answers document will be published on the website [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/provisionplanning](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/provisionplanning) and made available in hard copy on request:

- 1 December 2011 - Publication of documents commencing consultation
- 12 December 2011 – Public consultation meeting at 6pm at Tennyson High School
- 12 December 2011 – Public consultation meeting at 7.30pm at Monks' Dyke Technology College
- 26 January 2012 - Consultation (this document) ends – End of Stage 1

4.4 The questionnaire at the back of this document can be completed and returned as indicated. All such responses will be collated and analysed and a report will be written and presented to the Children's Services Executive for a decision in February 2012.

4.5 If the Executive approves the decision to proceed to the publication of a Statutory Notice for this proposal then a 6 week representation period would be expected to start at the end of February 2012.

4.6 At the close of the Statutory Notice period (6 weeks) responses will be collated and analysed and a second report will be presented to the Executive for a final decision in June 2012. If this process approves this proposal then it will take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012.

## Consultation Feedback Form on the proposal to merge Monks' Dyke Technology College and The Tennyson High School

<b>Please note that if you do not provide your name and address your views will not be counted as legitimate responses to this consultation. Names and contact details will remain confidential.</b>			
Name:		Email (optional):	
Postal Address:			
Parent Carer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Teacher/School Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Employer/Business	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	:	
Which school (if any) do you represent?			

Having read the proposal please indicate your view below by ticking one of the boxes		
I am in favour of proposal	<input type="checkbox"/>	I am against proposal <input type="checkbox"/>
		I am neither for nor against the proposal <input type="checkbox"/>
Why have you decided this is your view? Tell us about it below.		
Is there anything else you want us to consider?		

Please return the completed form by 26<sup>th</sup> January 2012 to: Property & Technology Management, Children's Services, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ or email [provisionplanning@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:provisionplanning@lincolnshire.gov.uk) or fax 01522 553257