

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Education
Date:	19 June 2017
Title:	Amalgamation of Fort Hill Community School and Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College, Basingstoke including the Fort Hill Special Educational Needs resourced provision
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Brian Pope – Assistant Director, Children's Services

Tel: 02392 441471

Email: brian.pope@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. On 20 March 2017 the Executive Member for Education decided to publish a statutory Public Notice (Appendix 1) in accordance with sections 15 and 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The Notice set out the County Council's intention to discontinue Fort Hill Community School and resourced provision with effect from 31 August 2017, and to establish a new Specific Learning Difficulties resource provision at Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College (CBEC). The report for that decision set out the history and context behind the proposal alongside the findings of the initial consultation with parents, pupils and other interested parties. This further report sets out the context leading to that decision and reports back on the representations received during the statutory Public Notice period.
- 1.2. The report also sets out and comments upon the statutory guidance for decision makers on factors that need to be considered when deciding on proposals to close and expand schools.
- 1.3. The report recommends that Fort Hill Community School and resourced provision be closed with effect from 31 August 2017 and that Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College accommodate pupils from the school, with effect from 1 September 2017.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. Parental preference for Fort Hill Community School has significantly reduced over the past five years with only 39 first preference applications received for admission to Year 7 in September 2017. On the national notification date, a total of 72 offers were made 26 of which were from parents that had not selected Fort Hill as their preference. Due to some parents declining their offer of a place and securing places elsewhere, only 44 offers remain. Pupil numbers have declined to such an extent that the

school's ability to provide a wide-ranging curriculum offer will become severely limited. The financial impact of reducing numbers also means the school will be faced with a substantial deficit budget from the beginning of the 2018/19 financial year.

- 2.2. Following discussion and a written request from the school's governing body the County Council undertook a public consultation between 19 January and 2 March 2017. The County Council's preferred option was to amalgamate Fort Hill Community School and Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College (CBEC), Basingstoke including the Fort Hill Special Educational Needs Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) resourced provision. The outcome of the consultation strongly favoured keeping Fort Hill School open. Following consideration of the responses received, including alternate proposals, the Executive Member for Education agreed to the publication of a Public Notice on the amalgamation.
- 2.3. GCSE results at Fort Hill over the past five years have been consistently poor, despite the best efforts of all those involved. The table below sets out the school's GCSE performance using the Government's preferred measure of the proportion of pupils being awarded five or more good GCSEs including English and mathematics at grades A* to C (%5A*-C English + maths) against the national figures for the four year period 2012 to 2015.

	%5A*-C(English + maths) Fort Hill	%5A*-C(English + maths) National
2015	39%	57%
2014	44%	57%
2013	42%	61%
2012	42%	59%

- 2.4. Pupils' progress has also been poor over this time. The preferred government measure used up to 2015 was based on the proportion of pupils that make three levels of progress in English over the five years of attending a school, and three levels of progress in mathematics. These figures are given below against the national averages.

3LP English Fort Hill		3 LP English National	3 LP mathematics Fort Hill	3 LP mathematics National
2015	61%	71%	46%	67%
2014	61%	72%	53%	66%
2013	51%	71%	66%	71%
2012	50%	68%	59%	69%

- 2.5. In 2016 the Government's preferred measures of secondary school performance changed. Schools are now judged against the proportion of pupils reaching "the basics" (an A* to C grade in both English and mathematics), the proportion of pupils being awarded the English baccalaureate (%EBacc – the equivalent of 5A*-C GCSEs but in a tightly defined range of subjects), Attainment 8 (A8 – pupils' average performance

- across eight tightly defined subjects) and Progress 8 (P8 – a measure of pupils' progress in these eight subject areas).
- 2.6. Fort Hill has performed poorly across these measures. 47% of pupils were awarded the basics against 63% nationally, 9% achieved the EBacc against 25% nationally, A8 was 44 versus 50 nationally, P8 was – 0.55. This means that pupils at the school made half a GCSE grade less progress on average than pupils nationally in the same subjects.
 - 2.7. In 2016, the definition of the floor standard was changed so that it is now solely based on the P8 progress measure. Fort Hill falls below this new standard.
 - 2.8. The authority has to evaluate the impact of the number of children in the catchment area of Fort Hill who have chosen to attend the school, against the numbers who have not and go elsewhere to be educated. This must be considered alongside the school's performance over recent years and the significant work undertaken over this time to raise educational standards which, have not been realised. Since the consultation was launched to amalgamate Fort Hill Community School with CBEC on 19 January 2017 as described below, 138 children across Years 7 -10 have left Fort Hill Community School, having applied for and secured places at other local schools. Of those, 49 have started at CBEC. The total number of children currently on roll at Fort Hill Community School is 325.
 - 2.9. GCSE results in the maintained schools close to Fort Hill are all higher than in Fort Hill. Progress rates are better. Pupils would do better if they attended other local secondary schools.
 - 2.10. In general, larger secondary schools are more successful than smaller schools. This is because they have more resources available to them and it is consequently easier to build up a critical mass of good teaching within the school. Setting up one larger school would be to the benefit of pupils and staff in both schools. Not only would it enable a much wider and varied curriculum offer, it would also provide a far stronger platform to support continuing professional development for staff. Larger schools can offer a wider choice of curricular pathways and therefore all students, including those that are more vulnerable, can access more bespoke educational opportunities.
 - 2.11. The County Council believes that amalgamating Fort Hill with CBEC on the CBEC site offers the best potential for success for both schools.
 - 2.12. Alternative options or other proposals as to how the required improvement of Fort Hill could be achieved were invited as part of the consultation process. Having reviewed these options it was concluded that amalgamation of the two schools on the CBEC site provides the best opportunity for school improvement.

3. Statutory guidance for decision makers regarding school closure and amalgamations

- 3.1. The Department for Education has issued statutory guidance for decision makers on factors that need to be considered when deciding on proposals to amalgamate schools. There are a number of factors to be considered:

- Any proposal that is 'related' to another proposal must be considered together, do the published notices comply with statutory requirements?
- That an appropriate, fair and open local consultation and representation period (to the Public Notice) has been carried out and full consideration has been given to all the responses received.
- Consideration is given to the quality and diversity of schools in the relevant area and whether the proposal will meet or affect needs of parents, raise local standards and narrow attainment gaps
- Whether there are any sex, race or disability discrimination issues that arise from the changes being proposed.
- The impact on community cohesion.
- That accessibility planning has been properly taken into account and the proposed changes should not adversely impact on disadvantaged groups.
- The impact on special educational needs provision.
- There is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils from a school closure.
- That guidance on schools causing concern (intervention in failing, underperforming and coasting schools) has been followed.

4. Representations to the Public Notice

- 4.1. The Public Notice was published on 24 March for a period of four weeks; the closing date for comments was 21 April 2017.
- 4.2. Nine representations were received during the Public Notice consultation period. These have been made available to the Executive Member for Education and all Hampshire County Councillors.
- 4.3. In addition a number of representations were received between the Executive Member for Education decision on 20 March and the publication of the Public Notice on 24 March. The comments made during this period are summarised below and for the sake of consistency and fairness have been considered within this report;
 - That the number of first preferences used as the comparison for demand did not reflect the actual year 7 offers made which were higher.
 - That safeguarding issues at Cranbourne and distance between the schools and the difficulties this will cause parents were not considered sufficiently.
 - Concern about what will happen to the Fort Hill site if it left empty.
 - Additional support should be provided to Fort Hill in order for them to improve, with greater support being secured from the local community.
 - The negative impact on pupils from the disruption this proposal will cause.

- Concern over the safety of the walking routes between the two schools was not fully taken into account.
- That parent and others views were not taken into account during the first consultation exercise.
- The consideration of other options including using space in alternative schools to Cranbourne was not fully considered.

4.4. The majority of representations received sought clarification on a range of subjects related to the proposal and these are listed below;

- No mention was made of the request for the Fort Hill site to remain available for year 10 and 11 pupils from September 2017.
- Arrangements for some form of pupil transport between the schools.
- What arrangements are there for those pupils who must walk the distance between the schools? There is significant concern amongst families of the safety of the walking routes between the schools.
- Is there any arrangement to support families in buying new school uniforms?
- What will be the new catchment area for the school and what strategy will be put in place to support pupils travelling to the school?
- Concerns about the impact on pupils in the resourced provision and for those pupils with more general special educational needs.
- That the consultation was not undertaken correctly and not all views were represented in the minutes of the public meetings, and that online consultation responses were not acknowledged.
- That the consultation following the publication of the Public Notice was poorly advertised.
- Nothing was mentioned in the report to the Executive Member for Education about free schools.
- Why was CBEC chosen for amalgamation compared to other schools in the local area?
- Manydown is due to be built shortly so shouldn't Fort Hill stay open to meet the need for additional school places?
- Who benefits from the closure as it's not the local community?
- Who supports those children affected by the closure?
- What will happen with current year 10 pupils at Fort Hill?
- Concern that the County Council will not allow the Fort Hill site to remain open for year 10 and 11 pupils.
- CBEC has low pupil numbers and is unpopular so why is the County Council trying to save Cranbourne and being anti Fort Hill?
- Fort Hill, which requires improvement, is being closed and the County Council expects its pupils to attend a school that is rated inadequate by OFSTED.

5. Responses to representations made

- 5.1 The majority of representations made during the Public Notice period mirrored those raised during the initial consultation process and were addressed in the report submitted to the Executive Member for Education on 20 March 2017. These issues are addressed in section 6 detailing the information as a response to the statutory guidance for decision makers.

6. Responses to statutory guidance for decision makers regarding school amalgamation

- 6.1 The relevant factors to be considered in relation to this decision are detailed below, which address equally the representations made during the Public Notice consultation period.

Related proposals

- 6.2 The proposal on the amalgamation of Fort Hill Community School and Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College included the related proposal to establish resourced provision for up to 16 pupils with a Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD) at CBEC with effect from 1 September 2017. The detail in relation to this related proposal forms part of this report.

Consideration of consultation and representation period

- 6.3 Details on the outcome of the initial public consultation were detailed in the report to the Executive Member for Education of 20 March 2017. This consultation provided a range of opportunities for consultees to submit their responses which were fully considered as part of the above mentioned report. The Public Notice was published and displayed as required in the relevant statutory guidance. Representations made during the Public Notice period are summarised and addressed in this report and representations have been made available as required to all County Councillors.

Education standards and diversity of provision

- 6.4 Any proposal relating to a school closure should be based upon the fact that the closure will contribute to raising local standards of education and new alternate provision will lead to improved attainment for pupils. GCSE results at Fort Hill over the past five years have been consistently poor and the school's performance has been below the national headline figures year on year over this period. Additionally, pupils' progress over this time has been poor and again below the national average.
- 6.5 Over the five year period from 2012 to 2016 the standards at CBEC, as indicated by the government's attainment and progress measures, have been consistently above those at Fort Hill apart from in 2012. CBEC received an inadequate Ofsted judgement in December 2015 – this was as a result of an issue related to a safeguarding procedure, not educational performance. This was immediately addressed by the school and subsequently checked by education advisers who confirmed the issue had been effectively dealt with.
- 6.6 The authority has to evaluate the impact of the number of children in the catchment area of Fort Hill who have chosen to attend the school, against the large majority who have not and go elsewhere to be educated. This has

to be considered against the track record of performance and the significant steps that have been taken to improve the school to little avail.

- 6.7 The increase in pupil numbers through the amalgamation of Fort Hill and CBEC would increase CBEC's budget and therefore the breadth of the educational offer. In general, larger schools are more successful than smaller schools. This is because they have more resources available to them and it is consequently easier to build up a critical mass of good teaching within the school. So setting up one larger school would be in the interests of pupils currently in both schools.
- 6.8 The County Council believes that the amalgamation of Fort Hill with CBEC on the CBEC site offers the best potential for creating high quality educational provision with better outcomes for students.

Equal opportunity issues

- 6.9 Consideration must be given as to whether there are any sex, race or disability discrimination issues that arise from the changes being proposed. Whilst it is proposed that Fort Hill Community School is closed, the Local Authority will make available the Fort Hill site to the governing body of CBEC so that they can continue to offer education on the Fort Hill site for year 10 and 11 pupils from September 2017 should they wish to do so. Support with travel between the Fort Hill and CBEC sites at the beginning and end of the school day will be offered to current Fort Hill pupils in years 8 and 9 from September 2017 for a fixed period of two years. This offer would be extended to pupils in years 10 and 11 if at anytime during this period a decision is taken by the governing body to cease the offer of education on the Fort Hill site. This support would be available for any pupil on roll of Fort Hill at the time of the Executive Member's Decision day on 20 March 2017.
- 6.10 The policies of the County Council and CBEC in relation to equal opportunities and eliminating discrimination will continue to apply should the amalgamation be approved.
- 6.11 County Council officers will work with the headteacher and governing body of CBEC to assess the opportunities that exist to provide financial support to those families in most need with regard to any additional costs incurred from having to buy a new school uniform. The arrangements will need to be clarified by the governing body should the decision be made to proceed with the amalgamation.

Community cohesion

- 6.12 The significant decline in pupil numbers at Fort Hill over the past five years and linked impact on the school's financial position leading to a reduced curriculum offer has brought the school's future viability into question. Should the amalgamation proposal be approved the County Council would be keen, in conjunction with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and the local community, to look at how the site could be used to support future public infrastructure opportunities.

Travel and accessibility

- 6.13 Support to travel between the Fort Hill and CBEC sites at the beginning and end of the school day would be offered to Fort Hill pupils in years 8 and 9

from September 2017 for a period of two years. This offer would be extended to pupils in years 10 and 11 if at anytime during this period a decision is taken by the governing body to cease the offer of education on the Fort Hill site. In order to access this offer all families would need to apply to the County Council in due course. This support would be available for any pupil on roll of Fort Hill at the time of the Executive Member's Decision day on 20 March 2017.

6.14 Should the proposal be approved the County Council's School Travel Plan team would work with the school community to identify sustainable methods of travel to school. Work has been undertaken to assess exiting walking routes and further work would include but not limited to:

- Assessing the existing transport infrastructure
- Mapping of infrastructure, walking/cycling zones, bus routes, and postcode/mode of travel (pupils and where available, staff). Other mapping where relevant e.g. to indicate dispersal of parking with the inclusion of an additional entrance or plan showing suggested measures/improvements.
- Consultation with relevant stakeholders (parents, staff, pupils, residents, governors and others the schools wish to engage with)
- Development of a Travel Action plan consisting of appropriate aims and objectives, 'SMART' targets, suitable measures (soft and hard), possible actions which are allocated to suggested roles/bodies and within approximate timescales.
- Monitoring strategy with appropriate timescales to undertake a full survey and review the travel plan based on the new school population and community.

Changes to special educational needs provision

6.15 Fort Hill Community School has a resourced provision for children with Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD). The proposal is to re-establish this provision on the CBEC site. The importance of this provision is recognised and, if the school is amalgamated with CBEC, pupils placed in the resourced provision would continue to receive the same level of support that is currently available to them, including access to a suitably qualified teacher and other support as required within a mainstream setting to meet their individual needs. Support would continue to be provided to reflect the provision as specified within the pupils' Education, Health and Care Plans, and/or their individual education plans.

Sufficient capacity exists in the local area to accommodate displaced pupils

6.16 Fort Hill School has a capacity of 731 places and Cranbourne a capacity of 1,182 places. The number on roll of both schools at January 2017 census was 1,100. Cranbourne prior to 2011 had a PAN of 260 (currently 180) and a capacity of 1,300 places. Based on current numbers on roll the total of pupils from both schools can be accommodated on the Cranbourne site. This number could not be accommodated within the available buildings and space on the Fort Hill site.

- 6.17 With regard to the response made during the Public Notice period relating to the new housing proposed at Manydown, should this receive planning permission, it is not expected that new homes will be occupied until 2018/19, at the earliest. New primary provision is unlikely to be provided until 2020/21 and the requirement for any new secondary school places is not anticipated until the mid 2020s. The intention is to provide new school places to meet the demand from the Manydown development when needed. Keeping Fort Hill open beyond September this year in expectation of future demand from Manydown will cause significant financial issues due to the large funding deficit that will exist and does nothing to address the quality of education currently on offer to pupils. Therefore, keeping the school open because of future development on Manydown is not a viable option.

That guidance on schools causing concern (intervention in failing, underperforming and coasting schools) has been followed

- 6.18 Since 2012 Fort Hill Community School and local authority have worked closely together and considerable activity has taken place with the aim of bringing about improvement in standards, progress and the overall quality of the school. As well as using other sources of school support, this has included work from local authority subject inspectors to support and challenge the leadership and management, in particular subject areas in the school; support and help to develop teaching; support to develop the subject knowledge of teachers who are working outside their subject specialisms and support and challenge for the school's senior leadership.
- 6.19 Despite this work, standards have remained stubbornly low, as have rates of progress. A situation further compounded by the levels of staff turnover during this period. In the professional judgement of Hampshire's Inspection and Advisory Service, if Ofsted was to inspect the school currently, it is highly likely to be rated as 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate'.
- 6.20 The Local Authority has followed the relevant guidance regarding intervention and feels amalgamation with CBEC presents the best opportunity to improve educational outcomes for pupils currently at Fort Hill.
- 6.21 Free school proposals are only considered where there is a need for a new school in an area to meet a clearly identified basic need pressure or, widen parental choice. In this instance this is not the case, therefore the development of a free school on the Fort Hill site is not required.

7 Consultation and Equalities

- 7.1 The County Council has undertaken the consultation and the publication of the Public Notice process in line with all relevant Departments for Education statutory guidance. Relevant documents were also published in the Hampshire Independent, on the County Councils website and at the school's.
- 7.2 Details of the consultation process and responses were reported to the Executive Member for Education on 20 March 2017 and this report details those representations received during the publication of the Public Notice.
- 7.3 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken and it is acknowledged there is likely to be an impact in relation to age, disability and

poverty. For age this could be an impact due to the additional distance pupils will have to travel to attend CBEC; for disability it relates to the closure of the SpLD resourced provision at Fort Hill and establishment of this provision at CBEC and for poverty in relation to possible additional travel costs and that of providing a new school uniform.

- 7.4 It is felt that suitable mitigation will be put in place to lessen the impacts. To support pupils who may have a longer journey to school it is proposed that support is offered, to those pupils currently on the roll of Fort Hill Community School in years 7 and 8 who will transfer to CBEC in September 2017, with travel between the two schools at the beginning and end of the school day. This support is to be offered for a maximum of 2 years from 1 September 2017. This offer would be extended to pupils in years 10 and 11 if at anytime during this period a decision is taken by the governing body to cease the offer of education on the Fort Hill site. This support would be available for any pupil on roll of Fort Hill at the time of the Executive Member's Decision day on 20 March 2017. The Local Authority will make available the Fort Hill site to the governing body of CBEC so that they can continue to offer education on the Fort Hill site for year 10 and 11 pupils from September 2017 should they wish to do so.
- 7.5 The importance of the resourced provision is recognised and, if the school is amalgamated with CBEC, pupils placed in the resourced provision would continue to receive the same level of support that is currently available to them. This would include access to a suitably qualified teacher and other support as required within a mainstream setting to meet their individual needs. Support would continue to be provided to reflect the provision as specified within the pupils' Education, Health and Care Plans, and/or their individual education plans. The SpLD resourced provision will be provided at CBEC. Provisional planning has commenced to support the smooth transition of students should a decision be taken to amalgamate the two schools.
- 7.6 County Council officers will work with the headteacher and governing body of CBEC to assess the opportunities that exist to provide financial support to those families in most need with regard to any additional costs incurred from having to buy a new school uniform. The arrangements will need to be clarified by the governing body should the decision be made to proceed with the amalgamation.

8 Financial impact

- 8.1 Fort Hill Community School ended 31 March 2017 with a carry forward surplus balance of £278,306, a reduction of £161,158 from the previous year. The school's current three year financial plan projects a deficit of £1.7m in three years based on current pupil numbers.
- 8.2 As outlined in the previous report considered by the Executive Member for Education in March, a significant deficit is still forecast. With a continuing decline in pupil numbers forecast, there will be further impact on the level of funding the school will receive.
- 8.3 In the event of Fort Hill Community School closing and amalgamating with CBEC, both schools would receive a pro-rata budget share for the period 1

April to 31 August 2017 for five months of funding. From 1 September 2017, CBEC would be issued with a revised budget share that incorporates the pupils from Fort Hill School at point of closure. A significant financial impact would be the loss of the Fort Hill School's lump sum, which is £160,000 per school for 2017/18. However, as a protection for amalgamating schools and to acknowledge the loss of the lump sum, CBEC would continue to receive two lump sums for the remainder of 2017/18 and for 2018/19 would receive equivalent to 85% of the two combined lump sums.

- 8.4 While the amalgamated school continues to operate across the two school sites, the school will be eligible for additional split site funding as detailed within the Hampshire School Funding Policy Pack.
- 8.5 Additional items incurred by the re-organisation would be funded via the re-organisation fund from within the growth fund, details of which can also be found within the Policy Pack.

9 Personnel implications

- 9.1 Should a decision be taken to close Fort Hill and amalgamate it with CBEC the County Council will work with all affected staff, their professional associations and any future academy sponsor to ensure the interests of all staff are fully considered.
- 9.2 Early provisional engagement with staff at Fort Hill and CBEC has commenced in parallel to the statutory consultation period. This is required to ensure that should a decision be taken to amalgamate the two schools the required staffing actions can be concluded in line with the proposals.

10 Admissions

- 10.1 In the event that a decision is taken to close Fort Hill Community School, any families holding an offer of a place at Fort Hill for Year 7 in September 2017 will be notified that their offer becomes an offer of a place at CBEC. Parents who do not wish to send their child to CBEC may apply to other schools if they wish and their preference will be met wherever possible, depending on availability of places. The Admissions Team can advise which schools have availability and assist with the application process. Parents who are unable to gain a place at their preferred school because it is full can add their child's name to the waiting list. They also have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel. The same rights apply to parents of current Fort Hill pupils seeking to secure a place elsewhere.
- 10.2 The admission arrangements for Cranbourne for both 2017/18 and 2018/19 have already been determined. If the decision is taken to amalgamate Fort Hill with CBEC, the local authority will seek approval from the Schools Adjudicator to vary the admission arrangements for CBEC to include an extension of the catchment area to incorporate the existing Fort Hill catchment area and the addition of Castle Hill Primary School, Chiltern Primary School and Winklebury Junior School as named linked schools.

- 10.3 On conversion to Academy status, the Academy would adopt the admission arrangements determined by the local authority (varied or otherwise) for 2017/18 and 2018/19. The Academy would determine its own admission arrangements for 2019/20 onwards.

11 Future direction

- 11.1 The Local Authority has met the statutory guidance to enable a decision to be made regarding the amalgamation of Fort Hill Community School and Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College. In addition that resourced provision be created at Cranbourne for up to 16 pupils with a Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD).
- 11.2 The Public Notice resulted in nine representations, which have been considered by the Executive Member for Education and made available to all Hampshire County Councillors and are summarised in this report.
- 11.3 There are significant challenges facing Fort Hill relating to poor educational performance and low pupil numbers, which together contribute to the fact that significant change is needed. The amalgamation of Fort Hill and CBEC present the best opportunity for providing sufficient, quality secondary school places enabling one shared vision for pupils in the area with the aim of providing consistent, high aspirations and expectations and a drive for excellence.

12 Recommendations

- 12.1 It is recommended that approval be given to the proposal published by the Local Authority, in accordance with sections 15 and 19 of the Education and Inspections Act and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2013 to
- (a) Discontinue Fort Hill Community School (including resourced provision), Kenilworth Road, Basingstoke RG23 8JQ from 31 August 2017.**
 - (b) Establish resourced provision for up to 16 pupils with a Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD) at Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College (Community School), with effect from 1 September 2017.**
- 12.2 That the Local Authority make available the Fort Hill site to the governing body of CBEC so that they can continue to offer education on the Fort Hill site for year 10 and 11 pupils from September 2017 should they wish to do so.
- 12.3 That support is offered, to those pupils currently on the roll of Fort Hill Community School in years 7 and 8 who will transfer to CBEC in September 2017, with travel between the two schools at the beginning and end of the school day. This support to be offered for a maximum of two years from 1 September 2017. This offer would be extended to pupils in years 10 and 11 if at anytime during this period a decision is taken by the governing body to cease the offer of education on the Fort Hill site. This support would be available for any pupil on roll of Fort Hill at the time of the Executive Member's Decision day on 20 March 2017.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	No
Maximising well-being:	yes
Enhancing our quality of place:	No
OR	
This proposal does not link to the Corporate Strategy but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u> Amalgamation of Fort Hill Community School and Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College, Basingstoke including the Fort Hill Special Educational Needs resourced provision	<u>Date</u> 20/3/17
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u> Education and Inspections Act School Organisation-Maintained Schools – Guidance for decision makers	<u>Date</u> 8/11/2016 April 2016

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
Representations to the Public Notice	Children's Services Department, Hampshire County Council, Winchester

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

12.4 The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

12.4.1 The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;

12.4.2 Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;

12.4.3 Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

12.5 Equalities Impact Assessment:

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken and it is acknowledged there is likely to be an impact in relation to age, disability and poverty. For age this could be an impact due to the additional distance pupils will have to travel to attend CBEC; for disability it relates to the closure of the SpLD resourced provision at Fort Hill and establishment of this provision at CBEC and for poverty in relation to possible additional travel costs and that of providing a new uniform.

It is felt that suitable mitigation will be put in place to lessen the impacts. To support pupils who may have a longer journey to school it is proposed that support is offered, to those pupils currently on the roll of Fort Hill Community School in years 7 and 8 who will transfer to CBEC in September 2017, with travel between the two schools at the beginning and end of the school day. This support to be offered for a maximum of 2 years from 1 September 2017. In addition, the Local Authority will work with the governing body of CBEC to support the continued provision of education on the Fort Hill site for year's 10 and 11 pupils from September 2017.

The importance of the resourced provision is recognised and, if the school is amalgamated with CBEC, pupils placed in the resourced provision would continue to receive the same level of support that is currently available to them, including access to a suitably qualified teacher and other support as

required within a mainstream setting to meet their individual needs. Support would continue to be provided to reflect the provision as specified within the pupils' Education, Health and Care Plans, and/or their individual education plans. The SpLD resourced provision will be provided at CBEC.

The Local Authority will work with the governing on a strategy to support eligible parents with any additional school uniform costs.

13 Impact on Crime and Disorder:

13.1 The recommendations will have no impact on crime and disorder.

14 Climate Change:

14.1.1 How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

No impact has been identified

14.1.2 How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

No specific measures have been identified



AMALGAMATION OF FORT HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL AND CRANBOURNE BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE COLLEGE, BASINGSTOKE

1. **Notice is given** in accordance with S15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 that Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG intends to discontinue Fort Hill Community School (including resourced provision), Kenilworth Road, Basingstoke RG23 8JQ from 31 August 2017.
2. **Notice is also given** in accordance with S19 Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that Hampshire County Council intends to establish resourced provision for up to 16 pupils with a Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD) at Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College (Community School), Wessex Close, Basingstoke RG21 3NP. It is proposed that the resourced provision will open on 1 September 2017.
3. The closure of Fort Hill Community School is being proposed due to reducing pupil numbers. Places will be available for all pupils affected by the closure of Fort Hill school (including those with special educational needs) at Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College.
4. Transport will be provided for any pupils who qualify under the authority's published policy:
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schooltransport>
5. This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal which contains the reason for the decision. A copy of the complete proposal can be viewed on the following website <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/publicnotices.htm> or obtained from Glenn Parkinson, Strategic Development Office, Children's Services Department, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG (email: strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk)
6. Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending them to Glenn Parkinson, Strategic Development Office, Children's Services Department, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG (email: strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk)

John Coughlan, Chief Executive, Hampshire County Council
Publication date: 24th March 2017