

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Education
Date:	24 October 2013
Title:	Additional primary provision in Park Prewett, Basingstoke
Reference:	5155
Report From:	The Director of Children's Services

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to report on the outcome of local consultations on a strategy for the provision of additional primary phase places at Park Prewett, Rooksdown, Basingstoke in relation to new housing development in the area.
- 1.2. The paper sets out the background to the consultations, discusses responses to the consultations, assesses the options for providing additional primary school places, and recommends the next steps to be taken.
- 1.3. The recommended strategy to provide the additional primary places is to provide primary provision, up to 420 places, as part of Castle Hill Junior School on the school site reserved on the Park Prewett development. This will require Castle Hill Junior School's age range to change from 7-11 to 4-11 for which Statutory Public Notices are required to make this prescribed alteration.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. The Park Prewett area has seen significant new housing development in recent years with 1,300 dwellings coming to completion shortly. Other housing sites in the locality could see a further 1,000 dwellings being built subject to planning permission being obtained. A planning application for development of up to 585 dwellings on the former golf course site has recently been submitted to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. A primary school site of 2 hectares was reserved as part of the original

planning approval for development enabling up to 420 new primary school places to be provided.

- 2.2. It is proposed that additional primary school places be provided to meet the expected demand by constructing new primary provision on the school site reserved on the Park Prewett development. The consultation undertaken was predicated upon the need for new primary places and not about the provision itself, but about the school organisation structures and governance under which places will be provided.

3. The options for consultation

- 3.1. The consultation highlighted four options and invited viable proposals for a further option.

Option A: Primary provision as part of Castle Hill Junior School

This would create new primary places (up to 420) on the new school site with the provision governed and managed by the Governing Body and Headteacher of the existing Castle Hill Junior School. This would require the age range of the school to change 7-11 to 4-11 so that it caters for the full range of primary age pupils. This option would require the publication of statutory notices proposing a change in Castle Hill Junior School's age range.

Option B: The creation of a new stand alone primary school

This would be subject to the Department for Education (DfE) guidance on establishing a new school, which states that an academy sponsor should be sought to manage and run the new school.

Option C: Primary provision as part of Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College

This would create new primary places (up to 420) on the reserved school site with the new primary provision being managed by the Headteacher and Governing Body of the existing Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College. This option would require the publication of statutory notices proposing a change in Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College's age range from 11-16 to 4-16.

Option D: Alternative proposals

Consultees were invited to suggest proposals for viable alternative options.

Option E: Primary provision as part of Winklebury Infant and Junior Schools

This would create new primary places (up to 420) on the new school site with the provision being managed by the Headteacher and Governing Body of the existing federation of Winklebury Infant and Junior School.

4. Consultations

- 4.1. Consultations commenced on 10 June 2013 with a closing date for comments of 12 August based around a dedicated website (address below) setting out details of the consultation and including a response form <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/parkprewettprimaryplaces>
- 4.2. A consultation meeting was held on 24 June at Fort Hill Community School from 3 pm to 6 pm attended by approximately 40 people.
- 4.3. A briefing meeting was held with Basingstoke Town headteachers on 10 June 2013 to alert them to the impending consultation exercise and answer any questions. Officers also attended a governors meeting of Winklebury Infant and Junior Schools on 10 June, Cranbourne Business and Enterprise Governors on 11 July.
- 4.4. A list of consultees is set out in Appendix C to this report. This included the governing bodies, staff and parents at Castle Hill Junior School, Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College and Winklebury Infant and Junior Schools, headteachers and governors of all schools in Basingstoke Town and local County and District Councillors, MP and the dioceses.
- 4.5. As well as inviting detailed comments, consultees were encouraged to complete an electronic response form.

5. Consultation responses

- 5.1. A total of 39 responses were received which expressed a preference for one of the options and one response that did not express a preference for a particular option but did not support Option C. Written responses were received from the headteacher of Saxon Wood Special School, the Chair of Governors of Oakley Junior School, the Chair of Governors of Maple Ridge Special School and the Chair of Governors of Fort Hill Community School.
- 5.2. Of the 38 responses received that expressed a preference for an option, 24 were in favour of Option A, 11 for Option B, 1 for Option C, 1 for Option D and 2 for Option E.
- 5.3. A response was received from the Planning Department of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council in support of Option B, and from the National Union of Teachers which preferred options A or E but were not in support of Option C and felt Option B was acceptable as it was under the control of Hampshire County Council.
- 5.4. Copies of consultation responses are available in the Members Room.

6. Option A – consultees responses

- 6.1. Twenty-three responses were in favour of Option A. Six consultees commented that they considered that Castle Hill Junior School provided a very good education.

7. Option B – consultee responses

- 7.1. Eleven responses were in favour of Option B. One consultee supported this option as they had concern on the logistics of a running a school on two sites, spreading management expertise too thinly.
- 7.2. The development at Rooksdown has always required a new infrastructure such as a school and shops etc. Catchment areas ought to be redefined to allow those living in Rooksdown to attend their own local school and that the developer should pay for the construction of the new school.
- 7.3. A new school is needed to avoid difficulties in achieving a local school place and ensuring that families with more than one child have the opportunity for their children to attend the same school.
- 7.4. The Homes and Community Agency responded in favour of Option B, commenting that the need for a new primary school was identified prior to 1997 as part of the Masterplan for the development. A primary school site was reserved for this purpose. With the additional housing proposed on the Golf Course site this reinforces the need for a new school to be provided. The HCA support a new school being built and supports the option which most reflects the wishes of parents.

8. Option C – Consultees responses

- 8.1. One response was received in support of Option C.

9. Option D – Consultee responses

- 9.1. One response was received in favour of Fort Hill Community School running the new primary provision stating that this school is located closer to the development.

10. Option E – Consultee responses

- 10.1. Two responses were received in favour of Option E. One consultee felt that the school has developed fantastically and is supportive of the local community.
- 10.2. A further comment was that the new provision should be run by a school with expertise in teaching infant age children

11. Views of the local County Councillors

- 11.1. Councillor Reid made the following points :

- Rooksdown is a community that is surrounded by busy and wide roads and needs its own primary school
- Space has been reserved for a school close to the community centre and the doctor's surgery
- There is considerable local pressure for a school The community has been considering the free school option, not so much as a point of principle but as a means of hastening the provision. Timescales are tight.
- Consultation has highlighted options, my instinct is to have a free-standing governing body rather than linking the school to Castle Hill or the Winklebury schools. The Castle Hill link has an immediate attraction because of the high regard attached to it, but this is not guaranteed for the future.
- Rooksdown is a defined community with its own Parish Council and is building its own community identity.
- Rooksdown as a free standing community would probably prefer a free standing school and governing body.

12. Consultee response received (R) and local authority comment (C)

12.1. R – If an academy school was provided this could be sponsored by any organisation in the country that would be unlikely to have knowledge of the local community and therefore issues facing children in the local catchment area.

C – An assessment would be undertaken of any potential sponsors to ensure that they were able to demonstrate an understanding of local community needs and how the school would be organised to meet the needs of the local community.

12.2. R – If the new school only opens with spaces in year R this may disadvantage parents who have older primary age children creating difficulties if children have to attend different schools.

C – An assessment will be undertaken as to whether places will be made available in other year groups. However it is important not to provide too many places in the initial stages of the new housing development so places are available for new families.

12.3. R – Absolute opposition to a free school and a refusal to send a child to a school that does not have fully qualified teachers and experienced staff. A child's safety, wellbeing and happiness would not be achieved at a free school.

C – All free school proposers would be subject to a rigorous vetting process by the local authority to assess their suitability and would have to have been approved as a provider by the Department for Education.

- 12.4. R - Catchment areas ought to be redefined to allow those living in Rooksdown to attend their own local school and that the developer should pay for the construction of the new school
- C – A review of catchment areas will be undertaken. Developer contributions are being sought towards the cost of the new primary provision.
- 12.5. R – It is time for a new school to be built to provide more school places to allow children from the same family to attend school together and not have to attend different schools.
- C – The need for new primary school places has been established to serve an area of increasing demand.
- 12.6. C - The additional housing developments in Rooksdown will generate further primary age children thus supporting the establishment of a new primary school as originally identified as part of the master plan for the new housing development. The HCA wishes to support the LA and local residents in ensuring the new school is a success.
- R - The need for new primary school places has been established and will provide more places in an area of demand The support offered by HCA, as landowner in the area, is welcomed.
- 12.7. C – A full primary age range facility needs to be provided for the Rooksdown community that can cope with the influx of new housing in the wider area including those adjacent to Everest College. The current catchment areas have caused much upset and debate in the community in recent years, and the new provision should be intended for the Rooksdown catchment area.
- R – Additional primary school places are being provided at Merton Infant and Junior Schools to serve the new housing at Merton Rise, adjacent to Everest Community Academy. A review of primary school catchment areas in relation to the new primary provision will be undertaken.
- 12.8. C – Fort Hill Community School should become a 4-16 school and run the new primary provision. The school is a lot closer than Cranbourne and concerns exist about the knock on effect on primary and secondary catchment areas
- R – The school were not made aware of the opportunity to put themselves forward to become a 4-16 school in advance of the receipt of the consultation document. Whilst the scope remained for the school to do so, in the event no request was received from the governing body of Fort Hill Community School to be considered to run the primary provision.
- 12.9. C – With the growth in primary places in the area it is likely that a similar demand will exist for SEN placements. The requirement for additional places should be considered now by adding places to existing special schools or building new provision.

R – The availability of special school or resourced provision places in Basingstoke is sufficient to meet demand. The position will be kept under review as part of the wider school place planning strategy.

- 12.10.C – Concern was expressed by Oakley Junior School on the impact on school catchment areas and whether other schools had expressed an interest in running the primary provision.

R – Whilst a review of catchment areas will be required this will be centered around the location of the new primary provision and is unlikely to affect Oakley Junior School. No other schools came forward expressing an interest in running the new primary provision.

- 12.11.C – The drop-in session held at Fort Hill Community School from 3pm to 6pm restricted opportunities for parents to attend as they were picking up children. There was no information available from those schools that were being considered to run the new primary provision on how they would do so. This reduced the ability for consultees to make an informed decision.

R – Whilst only one drop-in session was held this followed the standard practice for consultation events for such proposals. Opportunities existed to contact officers about the proposals and to complete the consultation response form. Following the drop in session further information was provided on the website from each school on their proposals for the new primary provision.

- 12.12.C – The significant level of new housing at Park Prewett already provided, and new developments, make the provision of new primary provision fundamental to support the need of new residents and avoid children having to travel a long distance to school.

R – The provision of 420 new primary places at Park Prewett reflects the demand expected due to the new housing provision in the area.

- 12.13.C – Consideration needs to be given to the wider impact on local special schools particularly Saxon Wood being a small special school catering for primary age children with physical difficulties.

R – The position will be kept under review as part of the wider school place planning strategy

13. Capital strategy

- 13.1. It is proposed that the new primary provision is built in two phases, initially providing 210 places, with a further expansion by 210 places in due course to match demand for places from the new housing development. The project has been included in the Children's Services Capital Programme which was approved on 23 January 2013, with an indicative cost of £8m in the 2014/15 Programme. Negotiations are underway with the developer regarding a Section 106 legal agreement for capital contributions towards additional primary places which will likely lead to a revision of the indicative cost.

14. Assessing proposers for running new primary provision

- 14.1. In order to assess the suitability of existing schools to run new provision it is important that any potential proposer has the ability to establish new primary provision that provides the best outcomes for pupils. It is expected that any existing school seeking to manage new primary provision would have a strong record in providing high quality education as judged by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted).

15. Assessing the options

- 15.1. There is a fundamental need to provide additional primary schools places at Park Prewett to serve the new housing development. Four options were proposed with an invitation to propose alternative viable options.
- 15.2. The only alternative option (Option D) received from a member of the public was that Fort Hill Community School should become a 4-16 school and run the primary provision at Park Prewett (para' 12.8 refers).
- 15.3. Each of the three schools identified within the options in the consultation document produced supporting statements setting out the rationale for their proposal and their vision for the new primary provision (see Appendix D).
- 15.4. In considering Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College's submission to govern and manage the new primary provision at Rooksdown, it is clear that the headteacher, the school's leadership team and the governing body are supportive of "all through" schooling, recognising some of the benefits which a 4-16 school can bring. Since joining the school in 2006 the headteacher, with the support of staff, governors, pupils and parents has moved the school from a grade 3 "satisfactory" Ofsted judgement in November 2008 to to a grade 2 "good" across the board judgement in February 2012.
- 15.5. Whilst there are many factors which would support Cranbourne becoming a 4-16 school and managing the Rooksdown Primary provision, it is the case that the two school sites are on opposite sides of Basingstoke Town and in excess of two miles apart. This, together with the fact that the Rooksdown primary provision will sit within another secondary school's catchment area, coupled with the Cranbourne headteacher's strong belief in schools providing for their local communities, and that parents should choose the secondary school in town which best meets their child's needs, would tend to negate one of the major benefits associated with all-through schooling, that of minimising the disruption at transition from primary to secondary school at age 11
- 15.6. Winklebury Infant and Winklebury Junior schools are federated and under the leadership of a single headteacher. It is clear from the schools' submission to take on responsibility for the governance and leadership of the new Rooksdown primary provision that there is much merit in the proposal. The current headteacher has moved the junior school from a grade 3 "satisfactory" Ofsted judgement in 2010 to a grade 2 "good" across the board when the school was last inspected in 2012. The infant

school was last inspected by Ofsted in November 2011 when the school was judged to be grade 3 “satisfactory”. It is the case that in the 2012/13 academic year 65 primary age children living in Rooksdown were on the roll of the Winklebury Schools.

- 15.7. Castle Hill Junior School's submission places a strong emphasis on positive engagement with parents and the school's community. It is the case that in the 2012/13 academic year 68 children living in Rooksdown were on the roll of Castle Hill Junior School with a further 99 on the roll of Castle Hill Infant. The school's latest inspection in November 2010 judged Castle Hill Junior to be a grade 1 “outstanding” school.
- 15.8. As stated in paragraph 7.1, eleven responses received were in favour of a standalone academy/free school. Whilst the majority of respondents did not cite any specific reason for their preference, those that did were of the view that Rooksdown should have its own primary school.

16. Future direction

- 16.1. There is a requirement to provide additional primary places to serve the new housing at Park Prewett. Given no viable alternative options were identified during the consultation exercise, four options remain.
- 16.2. With regard to the proposal from Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College to govern and manage the new Rooksdown primary provision whilst the school is in a relatively strong position to do so this option was not well supported by consultees. It is recognised that Cranbourne is not the secondary catchment school for the Rooksdown area. The distance and complex journey between the two school sites and Cranbourne College and Rooksdown in general does not lend itself to one, all-through 4-16 school.
- 16.3. Winklebury Infant and Winklebury Junior schools, in their federated state under the leadership and governance of one headteacher and one governing body, continue to go from strength to strength in terms of the quality of education offered to children attending the schools. Notwithstanding the fact that the schools already have established links with the Rooksdown community by virtue of the Rooksdown children who attend the Winklebury schools, officers are of the view that there remains work to be done in moving the schools on even further and that the governing body and headteacher need to continue to focus on the existing federation without the distraction and additional work associated with taking on the governance and leadership of the new Rooksdown primary provision.
- 16.4. Of the five options Castle Hill Junior School taking on responsibility for the new primary provision at Rooksdown was the most favoured from consultee responses (24 in favour). Like the Winklebury schools Castle Hill Junior School already has strong links with the Rooksdown community by virtue of the children living in Rooksdown who attend the school. The school's most recent Ofsted inspection judged Castle Hill Junior to be “outstanding” in terms of its overall effectiveness and its

capacity for sustained improvement. The governing body and headteacher of the school are keen to apply and adapt the policies and strategies which have led to this outcome to children who will attend the new Rooksdown primary provision. Officers are of the view that this option represents the best opportunity to deliver high quality educational outcomes for the children who will attend the new Rooksdown primary provision.

16.5. A standalone primary school at Rooksdown was favoured by a number of consultees (11 in favour). This would be achieved by inviting potential sponsors to submit proposals to establish and run the new school. Submissions would be considered by Hampshire County Council and all those received would be forwarded to the Secretary of State for Education with an identified preferred bidder for his consideration and final decision. The successful proposer would then work with the County Council to deliver the new primary school.

16.6. The creation of a catchment area for the new primary provision will be required.

17. Recommendation :

17.1. That public notices be published, in accordance with Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, to make prescribed alterations to Castle Hill Junior School, Basingstoke, by altering the lower age limit of the school from 7 years to 4 years and enlarging the premises of the school on a split site by 210 places , in the first instance, with effect from 1 September 2015.

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

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u> None	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u> None	<u>Date</u>	

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>
Copies of consultation responses	Children's Services Department

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

An impact assessment has been undertaken. This has not identified any adverse impact on equalities.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

The proposals have no impact on crime and disorder

3. Climate Change:

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

Any new permanent accommodation will be built according to the County Council's sustainability and carbon reduction standards. By seeking to provide primary places in as close a fit as possible to the homes of pupils the impact of vehicular transport and associated emissions is minimised. No other impacts have been identified during the consultation process.

B. 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.

LIST OF CONSULTEES:

Headteachers and staff at local schools
Aldworth Science College
Ashwood Education Centre
Bishop Challoner Secondary School
Brighton Hill Secondary School
Castle Hill Infant School
Castle Hill Junior School
Chalk Ridge Primary School
Chiltern Primary School
Cliddesden Primary School
Costello Secondary School
Cranbourne Secondary School
Dove House Special School
Everest Academy College
Fairfields Primary School
Fort Hill Secondary School
Four Lanes Community Junior School
Four Lanes Infant School
Grangside Special School
Great Binfields Primary School
Hatch Warren Infant School
Hatch Warren Junior School
Kempshott Infant School
Kempshott Junior School
Kings Furlong Infant School And Nursery
Kings Furlong Junior School
Limington House Special School
Manor Field Infant School
Manor Field Junior School
Maple Ridge Special School
Marnel Community Infant School
Marnel Community Junior School
Merton Infant School
Merton Junior School
Oakley Church Of England Junior School
Oakley Infant School
Oakridge Infant School
Oakridge Junior School
Old Basing Infant School
Park View Infant School
Park View Junior School
Rucstall Primary School
Saxon Wood Special School
Sherborne St John Church Of England Primary School
South View Infant School
South View Junior School
St Anne's Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School
St Bede's Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School
St John's Church Of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

St Mark's Church Of England Primary School
St Mary's Church Of England Junior School, Old Basing
The Vyne Secondary School
Winklebury Infant School
Winklebury Junior School
Governing bodies at neighbouring schools
Aldworth Science College
Ashwood Education Centre
Bishop Challoner Secondary School
Brighton Hill Secondary School
Castle Hill Infant School
Castle Hill Junior School
Chalk Ridge Primary School
Chiltern Primary School
Cliddesden Primary School
Costello Secondary School
Cranbourne Secondary School
Dove House Special School
Everest Academy College
Fairfields Primary School
Fort Hill Secondary School
Four Lanes Community Junior School
Four Lanes Infant School
Grangside Special School
Great Binfields Primary School
Hatch Warren Infant School
Hatch Warren Junior School
Kempshott Infant School
Kempshott Junior School
Kings Furlong Infant School And Nursery
Kings Furlong Junior School
Limington House Special School
Manor Field Infant School
Manor Field Junior School
Maple Ridge Special School
Marnel Community Infant School
Marnel Community Junior School
Merton Infant School
Merton Junior School
Oakley Church Of England Junior School
Oakley Infant School
Oakridge Infant School
Oakridge Junior School
Old Basing Infant School
Park View Infant School
Park View Junior School
Rucstall Primary School
Saxon Wood Special School
Sherborne St John Church Of England Primary School
South View Infant School

South View Junior School
St Anne's Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School
St Bede's Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School
St John's Church Of England Voluntary Aided Primary School
St Mark's Church Of England Primary School
St Mary's Church Of England Junior School, Old Basing
The Vyne Secondary School
Winklebury Infant School
Winklebury Junior School

Trade Union Representatives
TLP
GMB
Unison
Unite
Local Dioceses
Portsmouth CE Diocese
Portsmouth RC Diocese
County Councillors
Basingstoke Central
Basingstoke North
Basingstoke North West
Basingstoke South East
Basingstoke South West
Calleva and Kingsclere
Candovers
Loddon
Tadley and Baughurst
Whitchurch and Clere
Early Years Partnership
Rushmoor Borough Council Chief Executive

Cranbourne Business & Enterprise College

Wessex Close, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 3NP

Telephone: 01256 868600

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Email: gen.enquiries@cranbourne.hants.sch.uk

Headteacher: Betty Elkins

July 2013

To whom it may concern

When the Local Authority wrote to schools in Basingstoke earlier this year about the need to build a new primary school at Park Prewett, Cranbourne expressed an interest in becoming involved in this new development. The concept of 'all through' schooling is a genuine belief of mine and one which I find truly exciting. Fortunately this is a view which is shared by all of the leadership team at Cranbourne as well as the Governors.

We would want to work closely with the County to appoint specialist teachers to lead the primary provision at Rooksdown as currently our main area of expertise is with the secondary sector, although I originally trained as a primary school teacher! We envisage that the headteacher of the new primary school would then be a member of our leadership team and thus benefit from working with a successful secondary school judged by OFSTED as good in all categories. We strongly believe in schools providing for their local community and as such would want to work closely with parents of Rooksdown children to build a school that suits their needs and aspirations. Given the range of schools which Rooksdown children currently attend this in itself is a challenge but one we feel confident to meet. We would certainly want representatives from Rooksdown parents to join our Governing Body. Our preferred option would not be to change catchment areas, but with children having the opportunity to choose the secondary school in the town which best meets their needs.

Since joining Cranbourne in 2006, I have worked hard alongside my primary colleagues to secure good relationships and opportunities between our cluster of feeder schools. I do believe that all the schools in the Cranbourne cluster work together exceptionally well for the benefit of the students.

Staff across the cluster share resources, INSET opportunities, moderation opportunities and share staff, particularly Kathy Gare, our Parent Support Advisor. This opportunity allows for more strategic planning across schools in a structured and cohesive way.

Effective links with primaries has been, and will continue to be, a priority for Cranbourne in order for children to be happy and make exceptional progress. I believe that one of the opportunities of working together across phases, enables staff to see where children have come from and are going to, which can only improve transition and curriculum progression. The opportunities afforded to the students are also many and varied ranging from taster days and student council conference to sports activities, after school clubs, gifted and talented master classes, specialised subject lessons, use of Cranbourne facilities and much, much more. If the new primary provision becomes linked to Cranbourne I only see the relationships between our current feeder schools improving as CBEC staff understand more about the strains and stresses of life from 4 years of age and we can develop more fun and innovative projects to do together!

Cranbourne is rightly proud of the best practice we offer in terms of our transition between KS2 and KS3 and our collaboration with our linked primary schools. Each year children arrive from at least 20 different primary schools and are quickly included into the CBEC ethos. Even so

transition is still a challenge for many pupils. 'All through' schooling affords the opportunity for much greater curriculum continuity. Younger pupils will be able to receive specialist teaching in subjects such as languages and PE, whilst some of the independent learning shown by Year 6 pupils would more likely be sustained into Year 7. The 'all through' model gives superb opportunities to develop further some of the work we already do with children of different ages working together, tracking pupil progress, intervention work, literacy across the curriculum - the list is endless.

The new proposal represents a really exciting opportunity for our college to work alongside the community of Rooksdown, and we are highly motivated by it. We would like to extend a welcome to anyone interested in visiting our college to see and hear more about us.

Yours faithfully
Betty Elkins
Headteacher

Park Prewett Partnership Statement from Castle Hill Junior School

Perhaps the best way for any resident of the Park Prewett-Rooksdown development to get to know Castle Hill Junior School is to come and visit us. We have an open door invitation policy and you would find us doing what we do every day and that is aiming to provide a world class education for every pupil in our care. Castle Hill is a multi-award winning junior school with an outstanding local, national and indeed international reputation. Visitors from other countries regularly come to see the school in operation as do national leaders, MPs and Ministers of State.

'Castle Hill Junior School is a shining example.' Mr Nick Gibb, School's Minister 2012.

Perhaps the best way to capture feedback on the school's current performance is to cite the last Ofsted report from December 2010.

'Overall effectiveness: how good is the school?'	Grade 1
The school's capacity for sustained improvement.	Grade 1

'Castle Hill Junior School is an outstanding school. The inspirational headteacher's determination that the school will offer the best to its pupils so that they can fully capitalise on their strengths and talents is shared by the whole school community. The motto 'Aiming for Excellence' is embedded exceptionally well in all the school's work. Extremely thorough and accurate self evaluation continually drives forward improvement very successfully. Leaders and managers at all levels are excellent. The deputy head teacher's outstanding skill in monitoring and tracking pupil's progress ensures that subject and year leaders have an excellent awareness of where improvement is needed. The governing body supports the school equally well in important aspects such as partnerships and engagement with parents and carers, helping to achieve excellence in these areas.'

The school never stands still and we believe that by having a new school site in Park Prewett presents a once in a lifetime opportunity: to share our passion by creating two world class schools that work as one.

We will:

- share the very best of practise and expertise in both schools, always learning from what works
- raise and develop the aspirations of all the pupils in our care
- develop the all *round child*, including an insistence on the highest standards of behaviour, where exceptional manners are the norm and a strong belief in a caring and competitive environment are at the heart of what we do!

Parental engagement is high at Castle Hill Junior School and we regularly seek feedback from our stakeholders. We have excellent relationships with local

businesses and well established relationships with local colleges and universities in particular, The University of Winchester. We have a strong track record of supporting other schools that were in challenging circumstances. Such support could not have been given without an exceptional staff.

Latest Parental feedback stated that:

100% felt the education is good

100% thought their child felt safe at school

100% thought the school has a positive image in the local community

100% felt teaching is good with 99% feeling their child was making good progress

100% felt staff ensured their child is mature and independent

We already have an excellent relationship with many Park Prewett parents and residents, who we hope hold the school in high esteem. We would see the new school as an extension of this model and deepening of this partnership for the benefit of each and every child. Streamlining resources benefiting from economies of scale and maximising not only value for money but also simple clear governance that reflects all stakeholders.

We are fortunate to have many good schools in Basingstoke and want to make it clear that if the case for not expanding these schools cannot be sustained then as a result of this demographic we do feel we can bring a great deal to the table. It is over to the community, but as we said at the start of this statement come and see us in action!

**Expression of interest by the governing body of The Federation of Winklebury
Infant and Junior
Schools to govern the new primary provision in Rooksdown, Basingstoke**

As many people in the local community will know, Winklebury Infant and Junior Schools have been through a period of significant change:

- The two schools became federated in September 2009.
- Mrs Christine Clayton was appointed to lead the Federation in September 2010 and has led the rapid and successful development of the Federation to ensure continuity of learning experiences for the children as they move from Early Years (reception year), through Key Stage 1 (infants) and into Key Stage 2 (juniors).
- A new Chair and Vice Chair of Governors were appointed in January 2011, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience from previous roles. Other new governors appointed bring diverse interests and expertise and all members of the governing body are pro-active, visible and committed and demonstrate resolve and determination in continuing school improvement.
- The junior school is currently graded 'good' by Ofsted having been 'satisfactory' in June 2010.
- The infant school is currently awaiting an Ofsted inspection and has self-evaluated itself as a 'good' school, an improvement on the 'satisfactory' grade from Ofsted November 2011.
- The Local Authority have moved both schools to a position of being 'low priority' for support and challenge, the juniors having been 'high priority' 2012 and the infant school 'medium priority' 2012.
- Between September 2010 and September 2012 a new leadership team was established across the Federation which has provided a secure model for the strategic development of both schools.

The stable governing body and leadership team now provide extensive experience, competence and flexibility in the strategic leadership of the Federation and provide the capacity to assimilate the governance and leadership of the new provision at Rooksdown within current organisational structures. The junior school Ofsted inspection September 2012 reported:

'The very strong leadership and management of the headteacher and governors have been the main reason for the rapid, but secure, improvement in teaching and achievement'.

In putting the Federation forward to take on responsibility for the governance and leadership of the new provision in Rooksdown, the governing body of the federation believes it can offer:

- a commitment and firm belief that this model of governance would be successful;
- organisational structures and models in place (due to already operating within a federation) that could be extended to include the additional provision at Rooksdown;
- together with leaders at all levels within the Federation, the experience and skills to lead provision across a split site;
- expertise across the whole primary phase at governing body level and across the teaching and support staff;
- staff in posts at all levels with the skills required to operate successfully across a split site including teaching, premises and admin staff;

- a good working knowledge and understanding of the needs of the Rooksdown community as a significant number of the children at the Federation currently come from that community.

The vision for the governance and leadership of the new provision at Rooksdown is that the provision would be assimilated into an already established organisation that has a proven record of school improvement and, in the words of the Federation's mission statement, serves to ensure that the whole school community is:

'Working and learning together within the community to ensure success and opportunity for every child'.