

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Education
Date of Decision:	18 March 2016
Decision Title:	Amalgamation of Crestwood and Quilley Secondary Schools
Decision Reference:	7296
Report From:	Interim Director of Children's Services

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. On 20 January 2016 the Executive Member for Education decided to publish a statutory notice (Appendix A) in accordance with sections 15 and 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, setting out the County Council's intention to amalgamate Crestwood and Quilley Secondary Schools through the closure of Quilley and the expansion of Crestwood to form a single secondary school located across both schools' sites. The report for that decision sets out the history and context behind the proposal alongside the findings of the initial consultation with parents, pupils and other interested parties. This report further sets out the context leading to that decision and reports back on the representations received to the statutory notice.
- 1.2. The report 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 Quilley Secondary School be closed with effect from 31 August 2016 and that Crestwood Secondary School be expanded, through the utilisation of Quilley School's site and buildings, with effect from 1 September 2016.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. The Department for Education's (DfE) preferred measures of both attainment and progress show that Quilley has been performing poorly on academic measures for the past three years despite significant attempts to improve the school's performance. In each of the last three years over 60% of pupils attending Quilley have left the school without 5 good GCSE's. Over the past two years Quilley's governing body has been diligent in its pursuit of improved performance in an attempt to drive up standards. However,

improvements have not materialised and governors recognise that another approach is now needed in order to ensure that present and future pupils have a high quality educational offer.

- 2.2. Currently there are 653 pupils at Crestwood and 335 at Quilley. Crestwood has capacity for 700 pupils, Quilley has capacity for 730. Over the next few years the demand for secondary school places across Eastleigh will rise due to the number of pupils in primary schools in the area who will move through into secondary education. The area served by Crestwood and Quilley will be no exception and there will not be sufficient capacity on either school site to accommodate all the projected future pupils in the area, so both school sites will be needed in the future.
- 2.3. The governing bodies of both Quilley and Crestwood secondary schools have met to discuss the situation with Hampshire County Council officers to consider taking a new approach to secondary education in the part of Eastleigh which the schools serve. Both governing bodies are of the view that the interests of pupils in their area will be best served by a single secondary school based on the two current sites. As such the decision was taken to consult with the schools' communities and other interested parties on the proposal to amalgamate the schools. A list of consultees is attached at Appendix B.
- 2.4. Pending the outcome of the proposal to amalgamate Crestwood and Quilley schools, and with effect from 4 January 2016, the headteacher of Crestwood became executive headteacher of Quilley. She is now working across both sites driving the strategic priorities of both schools, working closely with the senior leadership teams of both Crestwood and Quilley. Pending the outcome of the amalgamation proposal the previous deputy headteacher of Quilley who was deputising for the headteacher will continue to oversee day to day operational responsibilities in the running of Quilley under the title of Head of School.
- 2.5. The outcome of the consultation did not reveal a clear consensus either for or against the proposal. Online responses indicated that, on balance, parents of pupils at Quilley and parents of pupils at Crestwood agreed with the proposal to amalgamate the schools, albeit by a relatively small margin in each case. Quilley pupils' online responses (286 in total) indicated that the majority were in favour of the proposal, Crestwood pupils online responses (66 in total) indicated that the majority were against the proposal. As stated in 2.3 above both schools' governing bodies support the proposal.

3. Representations to the Public Notice

- 3.1 There were no representations.

4. Statutory guidance for decision makers regarding school closure and the expansion of a school

- 4.1 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 four key questions that must be answered before considering the relevant factors and merits of statutory proposals, viz:

- do the published notices comply with statutory requirements?
- has the statutory consultation been carried out prior to the publication of the notice?
- are the proposals related to other published proposals?
- is the decision maker satisfied that they have all the information needed to make a decision?

4.2 Before publication the Public Notice was checked against the Department for Education guidance to confirm that it did comply with statutory guidance.

4.3 A full consultation exercise was undertaken in line with statutory guidance.

4.4. The proposal to amalgamate Crestwood and Quilley secondary schools is not related to any other published proposals.

4.5. The relevant factors (as identified in the statutory guidance) to be considered in this case are:

Education standards and diversity of provision

4.6. Any proposal relating to a school closure should be based upon the fact that the closure will contribute to raising local standards of education provision and will lead to improved attainment for pupils. Quilley Secondary School has been performing poorly on academic measures for the past three years. Crestwood Secondary School's academic performance over the same period has been at or above the national average and the school has been judged "good" by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) in its last three inspections

4.7. The establishment of an expanded secondary school across both the present schools' sites will retain the diversity of secondary provision in the area.

Community cohesion

4.8. The retention of secondary education on the present schools' sites will cement present community cohesion. The establishment of a single secondary school with a single ethos, vision and set of values will serve to enhance it.

5. Conclusion

5.1. The Local Authority has met the statutory guidance to enable a decision to be made regarding the amalgamation of Crestwood and Quilley secondary schools.

5.2. The Public Notice has resulted in no representations.

5.3. There are some significant challenges facing secondary education in the areas served by both Crestwood and Quilley secondary schools. These

challenges relate to the educational performance of Quilley and the need to secure sufficient, quality secondary school places in the medium term to match the current growth in demand for primary school places in this part of Eastleigh.

- 5.4. The issues facing Quilley are two-fold, poor educational performance and low pupil numbers, which together form something of a vicious circle. As such significant change is needed. Both Quilley's and Crestwood's governing bodies have carefully considered the proposed amalgamation and support it, recognising that amalgamation offers the opportunity to create one shared vision for secondary age pupils in the area of Eastleigh which the schools serve, with the aim of providing consistency, high aspirations and expectations and a drive for excellence.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1. 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 2006 to:

- (a) Discontinue Quilley Secondary School with effect from 31 August 2016**
- (b) Enlarge Crestwood Secondary School through the utilisation of Quilley Secondary School's site and buildings, with effect from 1 September 2016.**

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

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

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u> Amalgamation of Crestwood Secondary and Quilley Secondary Schools	<u>Reference</u> 7118	<u>Date</u> 20/1/2016
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u> Education and Inspections Act 2006		<u>Date</u> 8/11/2006

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>
School Organisation-Maintained Schools Guidance for proposers and decision makers	Department for Education website

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

Equalities have been considered and no adverse impact identified

- **Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

The recommendations will have no impact on crime and disorder

- **Climate Change:**

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

No impact has been identified

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

Appendix A



Amalgamation of Crestwood Secondary and Quilley Secondary Schools, Eastleigh.

Notice is given in accordance with section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8UG intends to discontinue Quilley Secondary School, Cherbourg Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 5EL on 31 August 2016.

Places will be available for pupils affected by the closure of this school (including those with special educational needs) at an expanded Crestwood Secondary School, Shakespeare Road, Eastleigh, SO50 4FZ, proposed to be established in September 2016 in accordance with the related proposal set out below. There will be no alteration to transport arrangements for pupils currently attending the schools.

Notice is also given that Hampshire County Council intends to enlarge Crestwood Secondary School under section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 through the utilisation of Quilley Secondary School's site and buildings. It is proposed that Crestwood Secondary School be expanded with effect from 1 September 2016.

Crestwood Secondary School will cater for pupils between the ages of 11 and 16 and ultimately provide places for 1,430 pupils across two sites. The school will admit up to 286 pupils at the age of 11+ for the 2016/17 school year.

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to these proposals have been complied with.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposals. Copies of the complete proposals can be obtained from Chris Holt, Programme Manager, Children's Services Department, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG (e-mail: chris.holt@hants.gov.uk).

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 Chris Holt, Programme Manager, Children's Services Department, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG (email: chris.holt@hants.gov.uk).

John Coughlan, Chief Executive, Hampshire County Council

Publication date: 29 January 2016

Appendix B

Crestwood and Quilley Consultees

Cllr for Eastleigh East
Parents, staff and governors of
Crestwood and Quilley Secondary
Schools
NUT representative
Bishopstoke PC
Cllr for Eastleigh West
AEP representative
CYWU representative
UNISON representatives
Fair Oak and Horton Heath PC
ASCL representative
Cherbourg Primary School
Crescent Primary School
Crestwood Primary School
Fryern Infant & Junior Schools
Chief Executive Eastleigh BC
Voice representative
GMB representative
Leader Eastleigh Borough council
RCN representative
West Meon Primary School
ATL representatives
UNITE representative
Prospect representative
Director of Education, Portsmouth
and Winchester Diocese
Interim Director of Schools,
Portsmouth Catholic Diocese
Wyvern Secondary School
Toynbee Secondary School
Thornden Secondary School
St Francis Primary School
MP for Eastleigh
Shakespeare Infant & Junior schools
Chandler's Ford Infant School
Scantabout Primary School
Otterbourne Primary School
Norwood Primary School
Nightingale Primary School
Merdon Junior School
Hiltingbury Infant School
Hiltingbury Junior School
Knightwood Primary School
Scantabout primary School
Shakespeare Infant School
Shakespeare Junior School