

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Education
Date:	11 November 2016
Title:	Amalgamation of The Connaught Secondary School, Newport Junior School and Belle Vue Infant School
Reference:	7540
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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1. The decision:

That public notices be published in accordance with Sections 15 and 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to:

- a) Discontinue The Connaught Secondary School with effect from 9 April 2017.
- b) Discontinue Newport Junior School with effect from 9 April 2017.
- c) Establish a community all-through 4 – 16 school by enlarging Belle Vue Infant School through the utilisation of Newport Junior School and The Connaught Secondary School sites and buildings and, extension of Belle Vue age range from 4 – 7 to 4 – 16 with effect from 10 April 2017.

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

- 2.1. The Connaught has a track record of relatively weak educational performance over a number of years and there are insufficient indications that rapid and sustainable improvement is likely.
- 2.2. The issues facing the school are complex and interrelated. The number on roll has been low for several years in comparison to capacity and this is having a significant negative impact on their budget.
- 2.3. The County Council's preferred option to merge Belle Vue Infant School, Newport Junior School and The Connaught School is wholly supported by the governing body of Belle Vue Infant and Newport Junior Federation and reservedly supported by the governing body of The Connaught. It is also supported by Rushmoor Borough Council Members.
- 2.4. Consultation with the schools' communities did not provide a clear consensus for any single option. Those attending The Connaught meeting had a

preference for no change however, parents of children not currently linked to the school were more open to the County Council's preferred option.

- 2.5. The significant challenges facing The Connaught of year on year poor performance coupled with low pupil numbers and, a restricted budget position means major change is now needed. The creation of an all-through school represents an emerging new approach to education that is demonstrating real success across the country.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Maintain the current position; make no change
- 3.2. Find a strong academy sponsor to improve outcomes at the school
- 3.3. Merge The Connaught with The Wavell

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: None.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable. Not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by: ----- Executive Member for Education Councillor Peter Edgar	Date: 11 November 2016
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