

Notice of Meeting

Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement Decisions

**Date & time**

Tuesday, 17
January 2017 at
3.30 pm

Place

Mess Conference
Room, County Hall,
Kingston upon
Thames, KT1 2DN

Contact

Andrew Baird or Joss
Butler
Room 122, County Hall
Tel 020 8541 7609 or 020
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Chief Executive

David McNulty

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This meeting will be held in public. If you would like to attend and you have any special requirements, please contact Andrew Baird or Joss Butler on 020 8541 7609 or 020 8541 9702

Elected Members
Mrs Linda Kemeny

AGENDA

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members present are required to declare, at this point in the meeting or as soon as possible thereafter

- (i) Any disclosable pecuniary interests and / or
- (ii) Other interests arising under the Code of Conduct in respect of any item(s) of business being considered at this meeting

NOTES:

- Members are reminded that they must not participate in any item where they have a disclosable pecuniary interest
- As well as an interest of the Member, this includes any interest, of which the Member is aware, that relates to the Member's spouse or civil partner (or any person with whom the Member is living as a spouse or civil partner)
- Members with a significant personal interest may participate in the discussion and vote on that matter unless that interest could be reasonably regarded as prejudicial.

2 PROCEDURAL ITEMS

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

The deadline for Members' questions is 12pm four working days before the meeting (11/01/2017).

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The deadline for public questions is seven days before the meeting (10/01/2017)

PETITIONS

Notice of Petition

Received from Gemma Davies, 119 signatures

As current parents of year 2 children, in schools that are converting next year to Primary's, we are very concerned about the one form entry intake at Danetree. When we applied for our original school places, the schools were infants and our intentions were always to move our children to Danetree. We understand that SCC have authorised a one form, 30 pupil entry into Danetree in 2017 and that siblings will be considered for these places first. As there are more siblings than places on offer this is a major concern and gives parents extremely limited choice in terms of their child's ongoing education. It also puts parents with children of Year 3 entry age and Reception age in an impossible position if they wish both children to be in Danetree as places are so limited for year 3. The pressure on the

converting schools is high and distributing this pressure out by offering more year 3 places at Danetree would seem sensible. Parents want the security of knowing there is a 2 form intake if demand for those places is there.

A response will be tabled at the meeting.

3 TULK TRUST FOR SCHOOL SPORTS FACILITIES (Pages 1 - 16)

To decide on the use of the accumulated income from the Tulk Trust which is a registered charity for which the Cabinet of Surrey County Council is the trustee. The Cabinet Member is asked to determine which bids receive should be funded.

4 PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF DOWNS WAY SCHOOL AND ST. MARY'S C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL (Pages 17 - 36)

Surrey County Council (SCC), in partnership with the Governing Body of St. Mary's Church of England (C of E) Junior School and the Diocese of Southwark, has undertaken informal consultation on a proposal to amalgamate Downs Way School and St. Mary's C of E Junior School, with a view to creating a new all-through primary school from September 2018. It is also proposed to expand Key Stage 2 provision at the school from this date. The consultation was conducted between 1 November 2016 and 13 December 2016.

The Cabinet Member is asked to review the education rationale for the project and summary of the consultation process/feedback provided within this report and associated Annexes and, on that basis, decide whether to proceed with publishing the associated Statutory Notice, which represents the next stage of the process for the implementation of this proposal.

David McNulty
Chief Executive

Published: Monday, 9 January 2017

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Thank you for your co-operation

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS, SKILLS AND
EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT****DATE: 17 JANUARY 2016****LEAD OFFICER: GARATH SYMONDS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,
COMMISSIONING AND PREVENTION****SUBJECT: TULK TRUST FOR SCHOOL SPORTS FACILITIES****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

To decide on the use of the accumulated income from the Tulk Trust which is a registered charity for which the Cabinet of Surrey County Council is the trustee. The Cabinet Member is asked to determine which bids receive should be funded.

The Tulk Trust for School Sports Facilities (registered charity 312006) was set up in 1952 with a bequest of £10,000 from the will of Mr. J.A. Tulk to provide playing fields for secondary schools in Surrey. The sole trustee of this Trust is Surrey County Council. Approximately £180,000 of the Trust remains unallocated.

As of 20 September 2016 the object of the charity is 'to provide recreational facilities and advance education by providing or assisting in the provision or improvement of outdoor sports facilities (not including equipment) for maintained secondary schools and secondary academies in Surrey'.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement:

- i. decides who to distribute the remaining funds from the Tulk Trust from the 20 bids attached as Appendix 3 to this report.
- ii. allocates the remaining capital within the Tulk Trust to support the bidders thereby closing the Tulk Trust fund permanently.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To distribute the accumulated Trusts of the Tulk Trust in accordance with Cabinet's responsibilities as sole trustee.

To spend the remaining capital within the Tulk Trust to close the trust permanently.

DETAILS:

1. The Tulk Trust is a registered charity. The Trust was originally set up in 1952, with a bequest of £10,000 from the will of Mr. J.A. Tulk, a chairman of governors for a Surrey school, and Chairman of the County Council from 1944-47, to provide playing fields for secondary schools in Surrey.
2. Awards for the Trust were last granted in October 2009. In April 2016, Cabinet agreed to request an alteration of the object of the charity in order to allow secondary academies to apply. The object of the charity is 'to provide recreational facilities and advance education by providing or assisting in the provision or improvement of outdoor sports facilities (not including equipment) for maintained secondary schools and secondary academies in Surrey'
3. The accumulated income amounts to £335,950. The Trust has an existing commitment to a project supporting changing facilities at Winston Churchill School of £157,000 for which funding has not yet been paid. Therefore, the residual uncommitted value of the Tulk bequest is £178,950. This includes the permanent endowment. The Council is currently seeking clarification with the Charity Commission on the intention to use the permanent endowment (currently valued at approx £16,000) essentially closing the Tulk Trust permanently.
4. In October 2016 the Council issued a request for bids to the Trust. Bidding schools were asked to complete an application form and to demonstrate how their bid meets or support the objectives of the Tulk Trust. Key criteria set were value for money, impact on supporting education and supporting areas of deprivation. Bids also had to be for physical sporting facilities not equipment.
5. This bidding window closed on 7 November 2016 and 20 bids were received. The value of the bids amounts to £673,778.
6. On 18 November, as part of the Council's commitment to the Children's Commissioners 'Takeover Day Challenge', nine young people reviewed the 20 bids received (results in Appendix 1). All bids were anonymised; therefore, students were unaware which schools were bidding. Officers and two youth workers were on hand to support the young people to assess the bids professionally and to ensure fairness. The bids were evaluated against the following criteria (plain English used for young people's benefits):
 1. Is this bid worth the amount of money being asked?
 2. Does the bid meet a need for sports facilities?
 3. Will it make a difference in supporting education or addressing deprivation?
 4. Can they complete the work within the next two years?
7. Criteria 3 included an assessment of how bids will support addressing deprivation. Officers recommend considering the percentage of free school meals as a consistent measure (see Appendix 2).
8. Officers recognise that the young peoples panel's awareness of deprivation was down to their personal experience as the data in Appendix 2 was not available to them.

9. If the full value of the Trust including the permanent endowment is awarded, then this will effectively wind up the Trust. Due to the relatively low remaining value of the Trust it is recommended that the full value of the Trust be awarded.

Reasons for the proposal

10. Cabinet agreed on 26 April to updating the object of the Tulk Trust and to offer this funding to schools (with secondary pupils) across Surrey. The bids recommended will improve outcomes for children, young people and communities and supports the articles of the Tulk Trust.

Planning and capital considerations

11. All bidding schools have been asked to ensure the funding is used within 48 months. If all the bids recommended are awarded, then the Council will spend the remaining endowment in full and the Trust will be permanently closed. The Council is still awaiting final confirmation from the Charity Commission to close the Trust permanently.

CONSULTATION:

12. The Council has consulted and received agreement from the Charity Commission to amend the objects of the Tulk Trust and they are considering the Council's request to spend the schemes capital to close the trust fund.
13. All schools with secondary phase pupils (Mainstream and SEND) were consulted and invited to submit bids for funding support.
14. Young people, through the Council's participation in the 'Takeover Challenge', have reviewed the bids received.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

15. The schools will be required to manage their own projects and will be responsible for any cost over-run. They will be required to confirm that they will deliver over time the full project suggested in their bids. All these schools have experience of project managing significant projects and none of the projects would appear beyond their skills and experience. Therefore, there would be no risk to the County in these proposals.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

16. The Trust is invested in stock market funds, which will need to be sold in order to make grants from the Trust. The timing of the sale decision will affect the value realised and therefore the amount available for grant payments.
17. These proposal allows for sports facilities to be improved at no cost to public funds in schools where currently improvement is desirable. The competitive bidding process has ensured that those projects of greatest benefit are those which receive funding.
18. All bidders had to demonstrate that they could fully fund their proposals. Bidders are aware there is no further funding from the council or the Tulk Trust. Any overruns are to be met solely by the school.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

1. The successful bids will be funded from the Tulk Trust Fund. The Cabinet Member needs to be reassured that the rationale for choosing the successful bids is robust and equitable.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

2. The County Council's Cabinet is the sole Trustee of this charity. Decisions on awarding funding from the Tulk Trust has been delegated to the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement.

Equalities and Diversity

3. The proposal would mean that all secondary schools in Surrey would have the opportunity to benefit from the Tulk Trust. No group with any protected characteristics under Equalities legislation will be disadvantaged by this proposal. As a result, no Equalities Impact Assessment has been produced.
4. The Tulk funding is aimed at supporting schools in communities/catchment areas of higher than average deprivation to support improving outcomes for these children and young people.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

5. This proposal would provide the potential for improvements to secondary school provision across Surrey which would be of benefit to the community served by the school. Therefore, this would also be of benefit to Looked After Children attending a Surrey school. The admission of Looked After Children is a priority within school admission arrangements.

Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

6. Safeguarding vulnerable children is a high priority in Surrey. Schools have considerable expertise in safeguarding vulnerable children and adhere to robust procedures. Any school applying for Tulk funding would continue to apply good practice in the area of safeguarding. Safeguarding is monitored when Ofsted carries out inspections of schools.

Public Health implications

7. The provision of improved sporting facilities at any Surrey school will improve public health in the locality. The ability for community groups to use facilities provided by schools will also promote good public health and increase levels of activity by providing local and affordable access to high quality sporting facilities.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

8. No significant implications

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

9. Successful schools will be informed of their school's success to secure funding from the Tulk Trust and Funding agreements will be circulated.
10. If/when the Charity Commission approve spending the full endowment this will be actioned and the Trust will be closed.

Contact Officer:

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Young People's Panel Bid Scores

Appendix 2 – Free School Meals Hierarchy Ranking

Appendix 3 – Bids received for The Tulk Trust for Outdoor Sports Facilities in order of Free School Meal ranking

Sources/ background papers

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Young People's Panel Bid Scores

The young people's panel scored all the bids as follows:

Bidding School	Total Score
Glyn School	71.6
Glebelands School	66.45
The Beacon School	65.53
Heathside School	64.9
Woking High School	64.86
Farnham Heath End School	64.75
Fullbrook School	64.4
Collingwood College	64.1
The Winston Churchill School	63.86
Rydens Enterprise School and Sixth Form	63.5
Thomas Knyvett College	62.53
Gosden House (SEND School)	62.15
Tomlinscote School and Sixth Form	61.4
Broadwater School	60.35
Hinchley Wood	58.6
St Peters Catholic School	58.13
Kings College of the Arts and Technology	57.65
Ash Manor School	57.25
Blenheim High School	54
St John the Baptist Catholic School	45.2

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Free School Meals Hierarchy Ranking

The table below ranks the 20 bidding schools by free school meal hierarchy:

Bidding School	Free School Meal % (Oct 15)
Gosden House (SEND School)	24%
Thomas Knyvett College	20.40%
Kings College of the Arts and Technology	18.51%
Rydens	14.96%
Ash Manor School	12.34%
Broadwater School	10.94%
The Beacon School	9.39%
Farnham Heath End School	8.67%
Woking High	7.69%
Blenheim High School	6.51%
The Winston Churchill School	6.26%
Fullbrook School	6.07%
Glebelands School	5.53%
Collingwood College	4.48%
Heathside School	4.34%
St John the Baptist Catholic School	3.66%
Glyn Technology School	3.58%
Hinchley Wood School and Sixth Form Centre	3.28%
Tomlinscote School and Sixth Form College	2.93%
St Peter's Catholic School	1.89%

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Bids received for The Tulk Trust for Outdoor Sports Facilities in order of Free School Meal ranking

School	Amount applied for	Estimated Total Project cost	Young People Panel Rank	Proposal	Funding Flexibility	Estimated project completion date and Officer Comments
Gosden House School (Special School)	Full amount (£25,000-30,000)	£25,000-£30,000	13/20	Playground/Sports Fencing Project – 8ft high sports mesh fence with one point of access – have already raised sufficient Trusts to resurface but need to fence in to make it secure for children with learning disabilities.	There are no other sources of funding planned.	Project expected to be completed ASAP in 2017. The area is no longer usable as a sports facility.
Thomas Knyvett College	£25,200	£24,000	11/20	Remedial works to sports fields on the school site to enable safe use by students and the local community – costs include first 3 years scarification and repair.	No alternative funds available.	Project expected to be completed by Summer/Autumn 2017.
Kings College	£57,228	£227,228	17/20	Resurfacing of existing artificial turf pitch (ATP)– a University Technical College is being built on the Kings College site (to be completed by Sept 2018) and as part of this scheme, changing facilities will be provided so that the community and school use of the ATP can be maximised. The additional Funding requested would enable the pitch to be made suitable for competitive sports as it would meet the performance standards set out by FIFA and the International Hockey Federation.	A contribution of £100k has been secured from the Education Funding Agency towards the external sports provision for the UTC. A further £120k contribution has been committed by Guildford Borough Council.	Project expected to be completed by March 2018.
Rydens Enterprise School and Sixth Form College	£38,580	£77,160	10/20	Floodlighting for sports pitches and MUGA as part of school	The additional funding will be available from the	Project expected to be completed by April 2017.

Appendix 3

				redevelopment project to enable maximum benefit of these resources to all stakeholders. The current school is being rebuilt and once this has happened the old school will be demolished and the land used for housing.	Project Trust ie the sale of the housing built.	Without the floodlighting the use of the pitches will be restricted in the winter months.
Ash Manor School	£40,000	£49,898	18/20	Cricket Nets - Provision of 4 wicket all weather Cricket Nets using part of the school playing field not used for sporting activities.	School will make up the difference in Funding.	Project expected to be completed by April 2017. There are currently no cricket nets at the school so students do not get the opportunity to practice batting and bowling with a hard cricket ball.
Broadwater School	£50,000	£120,000	15/20	Installation of a 3G Football/Rugby Training Pitch.	£70,000 has already been secured from school funds.	Project expected to be completed by Summer 2017. It is estimated that it would increase the amount of football and sport played by Broadwater by 50% and enable the school to build upon existing links with local clubs.
The Beacon School	£5,000	£5,000	3/20	Permanent Ping-Pong – then installation of 3 concrete table tennis tables. The Beacon School do not have playing fields on site and only minimal sports facilities. The school have a licence from Reigate and Banstead Borough Council to use the adjacent recreation ground. It is the only secondary school in Surrey without a sports	If the fund were unable to contribute £5,000 the project the school would be happy to make up the difference.	Project expected to be completed by April 2017.

				hall and struggles to provide sufficient sporting opportunities to meet the needs of students.		
Farnham Heath End School	£63,230	£64,680 plus VAT including a contingency Trust of £1500	6/20	Refurbishment of Netball/Tennis courts – 3 netball courts and 4 tennis courts	There are no other sources of funding planned.	Project expected to be completed by June 2017. Current courts do not comply with statutory requirements to provide hard service games courts in addition to playground areas.
Woking High School	£34,845	£39,245	5/20	Refurbishment of Dilapidated Tennis and Netball Courts	Not clear where additional funding would be from.	Project expected to be completed by end of summer 2017.
Blenheim High School	£70,000	£74,136	19/20	Multi Sports Courts Refurbishment – resurface 2 out of 5 sports courts and installing floodlighting with Multi Play tarmacadam and the remaining three with medium tarmacadam. Floodlighting for 2 courts and fitting of tennis court and netball court lockable sockets.	Sports UK have agreed to fit the tennis court sockets free of charge if the floodlight work proceeds (discount of £4000) If the full amount of Funding is not available the floodlighting would be put on hold and the school would fund raise internally or seek Funding from another trust fund.	Project expected to be completed by May 2017. The current surfaces are unusable during wet weather resulting in 50% of classes or 780 students per fortnight that cannot receive the correct and planned lessons.
The Winston Churchill School	£50,000	£80,000	9/20	Relaying of Outside Sports Surface -	£50,000 could be reduced if necessary.	Project expected to be completed by August 2017. The current surface poses some health and safety concerns. Winston Churchill were awarded £157,200 in 2009 towards the provision of outdoor

Appendix 3

						changing facilities, new triple and long jump run ups and pit refurbishment and a covered netball and tennis court facility.
Fullbrook School	£20,000	£63,522	7/20	3G pitch carpet replacement and acoustic fencing – the carpet needs replacing due to a manufacturing fault and due to the pitches popularity the school is at risk of a noise abatement order from Runnymede Council and needs to replace the fencing.	The school has the rest of the funding in their contingency Trust.	Project expected to be completed by Summer 2017.
Glebelands School	£22,545	£22,545	2/20	Resurfacing of south tennis court and communal sports area.	Would consider making a contribution from capital trusts if the full amount of funding could not be awarded.	Project expected to be completed by 7 April 2017. A risk assessment carried out by the Governors' Health and Safety committee identified that in order to control the risks it may be necessary to restrict sporting activities in this area.
Collingwood College	£21,475	£28,475	8/20	Resurfacing of the Sports Ground Area	The balance of funding is already secured from parental donations.	Project expected to be completed by 28 th April 2017. The school has been unable to use an outdoor area of approximately 1400m ² due to poor surface and significant health and safety concerns. Collingwood were

						awarded £30,000 in 2009 towards the resurfacing of the College netball courts.
Heathside School	£12,800	£12,800	2/20	Artificial Cricket Wicket – do not have a cricket pitch to play competitive cricket on and all hard ball practices have to be completed at other venues across the county	No	Project expected to be completed by 18 th April 2017. Weybridge Cricket club are keen to use the wicket in order to increase the number of young people they can coach on Sunday mornings. The club has a thriving Colt's Academy catering for 8-17 year olds which provides professional coaching and encouragement for young people from all sections of the community.
St John The Baptist School	£25,000	£40,931.62	20/20	Building Fitness and Resilience – installation of military style obstacles on a currently unused boggy area of the school field.	£16,000 already available through fundraising.	Project expected to be completed by Feb 2017.
Glyn School	£28,495	£73,495	1/20	Glyn School MUGA Facility – currently the school only has a 20 year old hard court/playground which is in need of refurbishment.	The project has 3 other sources of funding: School PTA -£30,000 School Trust - £10,000 School Budget - £5,000	Project expected to be completed by Feb 2017. The astro turf surface would enable all PE to be delivered on the school site as the school currently has to use

						Priest Hill playing fields 0.8 miles away.
Hinchley Wood	£21,500	£31,577	16/20	New multi-use games court – resurfacing of an existing tarmacadam to create a third multi-use court for tennis, netball and basketball. This would increase the provision of multi- use games courts from 2 to 3.	School can provide £10,077.	Project expected to be completed by May 2017. A third multi-use court would breach a critical threshold in terms of facilities provision that would permit the school to host official tennis tournaments. Hinchley Wood were awarded £114,000 in 2009 towards the provision of a new multi- usage sports area on existing playing fields.
Tomlinscote School and Sixth Form College	£49,880	£49,880	14/20	Floodlit Multi Use Games Area – resurfacing of astroturf area and refurbishment of floodlights and backboards as the area now presents a number of health and safety issues during the winter months, at times forcing its closure.	The school is using its capital to fund essential drainage works and engage help to identify ways to address its undersupply of outdoor sports provision.	Project expected to be completed by Dec 2017.
St Peter's Catholic School	£8,000	£8,000	16/20	Long Jump Construction – move the long jump to the sports field and upgrade to rubberised material run-ups, removable take off boards and a protective cover.	No	Project expected to be completed to the deadline the school agrees with them.

Total Funding requested £673,778

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS, SKILLS AND EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT****DATE: 17 JANUARY 2017****LEAD OFFICER: JULIE FISHER, DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE****SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF DOWNS WAY SCHOOL AND ST. MARY'S C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Surrey County Council (SCC), in partnership with the Governing Body of St. Mary's Church of England (C of E) Junior School and the Diocese of Southwark, has undertaken informal consultation on a proposal to amalgamate Downs Way School and St. Mary's C of E Junior School, with a view to creating a new all-through primary school from September 2018. It is also proposed to expand Key Stage 2 provision at the school from this date. The consultation was conducted between 1 November 2016 and 13 December 2016.

The Cabinet Member is asked to review the education rationale for the project and summary of the consultation process/feedback provided within this report and associated Annexes and, on that basis, decide whether to proceed with publishing the associated Statutory Notice, which represents the next stage of the process for the implementation of this proposal.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement approves the publication of a statutory notice to close Downs Way School, as an integral element of the proposed amalgamation of this school with St. Mary's C of E Junior School, inclusive of the expansion of Key Stage 2 provision, effective from 1 September 2018.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The schools serve the same geographic area and are on adjacent sites. The proposal will formalise existing partnership working; augment the cohesiveness of the school community; provide for more streamlined transitions between key stages; and allow for the most efficient allocation of resources. The proposal to expand the school is in response to the local demand for junior school places at this school and a basic need for more school places in the Oxted & Limpsfield area. In particular, as infant provision in the area has recently been expanded, through the enlargement of Downs Way, this amalgamation provides an appropriate opportunity to expand what would become corresponding junior provision in an amalgamated all-through primary school.

In line with this, Surrey County Council has undertaken the requisite first stage of informal consultation to inform the decision making process and a significant majority of respondents confirmed their agreement with the proposed alterations. For these reasons, it is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement approves the publication of a Statutory Notice (appended

to this report as Annex 1), formally proposing the closure of Downs Way School, as an integral element of the proposed amalgamation of this school with St. Mary's C of E Junior School.

DETAILS:

The Proposal

1. At present, the two schools that are the subject of this consultation comprise two distinct institutions, formulated as follows:
 - Downs Way School – a two form entry (2FE) Community Infant School, which accommodates children from Year R to Year 2. The school has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 60 and admits up to this number each year, into its Year R, giving an overall capacity of 180 places for mainstream pupils.
 - St. Mary's C of E Junior School – a three form entry (3FE) Voluntary Aided Junior School, which accommodates children from Year 3 to Year 6. The school has a PAN of 90 and admits up to this number each year, into its Year 3, giving an overall capacity of 360 places for mainstream pupils.
2. On 1 November 2016, Surrey County Council (SCC), in partnership with the Governing Body of St. Mary's C of E Junior School and the Diocese of Southwark, initiated an informal consultation on a proposal to amalgamate the two schools into a single institution, as well as expand junior provision therein, from September 2018. Specifically, it is proposed to:
 - Close Downs Way Infant School, effective from 31 August 2018.
 - Alter the lower age limit of St. Mary's C of E Junior School, in order that the age range broadens from 7-11 to 4-11, effective from 1 September 2018.
 - Rebrand this newly expanded school as a Primary School, effective from 1 September 2018.
 - Enlarge the Key Stage 2 (KS2) provision at this Primary School from 3FE to 4FE, effective from 1 September 2018.
3. The consequence of this proposal would be to create a new, amalgamated Voluntary Aided Primary School from 1 September 2018 accommodating pupils from Year R to Year 6. The school would have a PAN of 60 in Key Stage1 (KS1) and an *additional* 60 in KS2 giving an overall capacity of 660 places for mainstream pupils, as shown in the below table:

Year	Capacity
YR	60
Y1	60
Y2	60
Y3	120
Y4	120
Y5	120
Y6	120
Total	660

4. The school would expand its KS2 provision incrementally year-on-year eventually reaching its full capacity in 2021 as detailed in the below table:

Year	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
2018/19	60	60	60	120	90	90	90	570
2019/20	60	60	60	120	120	90	90	600
2020/21	60	60	60	120	120	120	90	630
2021/22	60	60	60	120	120	120	120	660

Reasons for the Proposal

5. The combination of the schools' proximity and the current arrangement of sharing a Headteacher both make this proposal the next logical step in the development of the educational offer at these schools. The closer working brought about by the shared Headteacher function has already had benefits across both schools and it is felt that these will be augmented under the current proposal. In particular, it is expected that an amalgamated school will enhance the cohesiveness of the school community and provide for more streamlined transitions between key stages thereby improving the educational experience. Additionally, it is anticipated that the new school will, by virtue of its scale, be significantly more cost-effective to operate than two distinct institutions (e.g. with respect to shared procurement/contracts etc.) and this, in turn, will make the school more sustainable in the long-term.
6. St Mary's has been chosen as the institution to retain for a number of reasons principal amongst which was the fact that it was felt that it was necessary to retain Diocesan provision in the locality, in order to ensure a diversity of provision, especially at KS2 (Oxted will continue to be well served by the area's other Community Schools). In addition, St. Mary's 'Outstanding' Ofsted judgement will be retained by the new institution which will add significant value in terms of the future development of the school.
7. The expansion of the school's KS2 provision is underpinned by a steady increase in the demand for schools places in Oxted & Limpsfield. Within this area, there is presently provision for 150 places per year in Year 3, composed of the following:
 - Holland Junior School (offering 60 Year 3 places per annum); and
 - St. Mary's C of E Junior School (offering 90 Year 3 places per annum).
8. Projections of future demand for school places in this area are presented in the below table:

Year	Jun. PAN	Jun. Projection	Surplus
2017/18	150	141	9
2018/19	150	161	- 11
2019/20	150	171	- 21
2020/21	150	163	- 13
2021/22	150	170	- 20
2022/23	150	159	- 9
2023/24	150	157	- 7
2024/25	150	160	- 10
2025/26	150	162	- 12

9. As can be seen from the above, there is a sustained need for additional junior places in the area. This is also a relatively popular area for admissions

applications and, even in years where a projected surplus has existed, placing all children with a preference in the area has proved difficult. The proposed expansion of the new school by a Form of Entry at Year 3 would reduce all of the above projected deficits by 30 places and add surplus in other years, thereby augmenting the scope for parental preference.

School Building Requirements

10. The St. Mary's school site has sufficient capacity to enable the expansion of its KS2 provision in its existing location. Naturally, though, a building programme will be required to provide the permanent facilities to allow for the increase in pupil intake. To this end, SCC has allowed for an appropriate capital sum for this project within the Basic Need Capital Programme element of its Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).
11. Should the decision be taken to proceed with the expansion, design workshops will be undertaken in partnership with the school to develop the building proposal on the basis of which a planning application will be submitted and consulted upon separately.

CONSULTATION:

12. SCC, in partnership with St. Mary's C of E Junior School and the Diocese of Southwark, conducted an informal consultation on the proposals between 1 November 2016 and 13 December 2016. A consultation document was produced and made available on both the school's and SCC's website. All key stakeholders were made aware of this process, inclusive of parents/carers of children attending both St. Mary's C of E Junior School and Downs Way School; employees and Governors of the schools; the Diocese of Southwark; relevant unions; local residents; other local schools; local borough and county councillors; and the School Admissions Forum. In addition, two distinct public meetings were held (one at each school) on 16 November 2016, to which all interested parties were invited. A summary of the feedback from the consultation process is appended to this report as Annex 2.
13. The feedback to the consultation was largely positive and in support of the proposed change in age range; in total over 93% of respondents expressed support for the proposal. On this basis, the Governing Body of St. Mary's C of E School has formally decided to proceed with the publication of statutory notices, contingent upon the corresponding decision being made by the Cabinet Member. The feedback raised multiple issues, all of which were factored into the decision-making process undertaken by the Governing Body of the school. In particular, three core themes emerged and have been/are being addressed as follows:
 - **Admissions** – a number of respondents were concerned about the potential impact that the amalgamation could have on admissions to the new school. With respect to infant entry, the overarching concern was that the implementation of faith-based criteria may have the potential to exclude non-church-going families from attending. The Governing Body of St. Mary's C of E Junior School are aware of this concern and, in response, are proposing that the admission criteria for Year R have the added stipulation that faith-based admission criteria will only apply to those pupils *for whom the new school is the nearest Church of England school*, as measured from their place of residence. This will ensure that

the new school continues to serve its local community. In relation to junior entry, a concern was that, by automatically granting transition to 2FE worth of infant provision, the amalgamation would restrict the number of places available to pupils from other infant schools. As the large majority of Downs Way pupils gain place at St. Mary's Junior School under the current arrangements and, further, since the overall junior capacity was proposed to increase, this was not felt to be a relevant concern in practice.

- **Alternative Options** – a number of respondents queried whether an expansion of the other junior provision in the area (Holland Junior School) had been considered. This option has been actively considered by SCC and both expansion schemes have been evaluated against one another in a Balanced Scorecard exercise. Ultimately, it was decided to proceed with proposing St. Mary's C of E Junior for expansion, principally on the grounds that the infant provision at Downs Way had recently been expanded and the natural transition for this increased cohort was into St. Mary's, especially in view of the proposed amalgamation.
- **Traffic and Parking** – there was a common concern expressed about the implications of the proposed expansion at KS2 in relation to the potential for this to increase traffic movements at peak drop-off and pick-up times. The respondents also offered a number of potential solutions targeted at ameliorating this issue, including a park and ride scheme, a walking bus and amendments to traffic regulations at certain times of the day. If it was decided to proceed with the proposed amalgamation and expansion, these concerns and potential solutions could be fed into the design process and reformulation of the School Travel Plan. In advance of that, and as a direct result of the consultation feedback, St. Mary's C of E Junior School has worked with a group of parents to start a walking bus scheme. It is hoped that this will serve to ameliorate some of the identified issues, as well as act as a starting point for the development of more sustainable travel patterns to and from school.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

14. There are naturally risks associated with the building project required to facilitate the expansion associated with this amalgamation. Ultimately, these are, in large part, related to cost and programme, i.e. the capacity to deliver the requisite project within the defined financial parameters, in line with the timeline for increased demand. A Risk Register will be maintained and updated on a regular basis by the Project Manager of the scheme and this should serve to both mitigate risk (in part) and to provide early foresight of any issues as they materialise. A contingency allowance appropriate to the scheme will be included within the project budget to mitigate for potential identified risks.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

15. The building project associated with this proposal is included in SCC's Basic Need Capital Programme element of its 2016-21 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). A scheme of works will be developed and agreed by Property Services and this will subsequently go to Cabinet for approval. All schemes

are expected to remain within the funding that has been allocated to them in the MTFP.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

16. The basic need expansion scheme for this school is included in the school basic need programme of works and has a funding allocation in the 2016-21 MTFP.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

Pre-consultation

17. There is a clear expectation in public law that the Council should carry out a consultation process whenever it is considering making significant changes to service provision particularly including the closure of any of its resources. There is a statutory requirement for consultation in this context as set out in the School Organisation Maintained Schools Guidance for Proposers and Decision Makers dated April 2016 and the School Admissions Code 2014.
18. As it is proposed that Downs Way School be closed, the statutory procedure described in The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 will be followed.
19. As it is proposed to alter the lower age limit of St. Mary's C of E Junior School, the statutory procedure described in The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 will be followed.

Post-consultation

20. In considering this report, the Cabinet Member must give due regard to the results of the consultation, as set out above and in Annex 2, and the response of the Service to the consultation comments and conscientiously take these matters into account when making its final decision.

Best Value Duty

21. The best value duty is contained in s3 of the Local Government Act 1999 as a result of which the Council is under a duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The relevant guidance states that Councils should consider overall value, including economic, environmental and social value when reviewing service provision.

School Expansion

22. Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 places a general duty on the Council to secure that efficient primary and secondary education is available to meet the needs of the population in its area. In doing so, the Council is required to contribute to the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community. Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on the Council to secure that sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available in its area. There is a legal duty on the Council

therefore to secure the availability of efficient education in its area and sufficient schools to enable this.

23. This report sets out how the Authority will meet its duties in response to increasing demand for school places in Oxted & Limpsfield, in line with the general increase across the whole of Tandridge District.
24. As it is proposed that the amalgamated school's junior capacity and published admission number will be increased, a consultation and publication of notices is required. Responses to the consultation were considered carefully and the School Organisation Guidance and Admissions Code 2014 were duly followed.

Equalities and Diversity

25. The amalgamation of the schools and expansion of the newly created all through primary school will not create any issues that would require the production of an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA), as no group with protected characteristics will be adversely affected as a consequence of its approval, or otherwise.
26. The school building will comply with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations.
27. Under the proposed amalgamation admission to Year 3 would continue to be based on the current admission arrangements for St. Mary's C of E Junior School. Admission to Year R would be amended to reflect the St. Mary's Admissions Policy with the additional stipulation that faith-based admission criteria will only apply to those pupils *for whom the new school is the nearest Church of England school*, as measured from their place of residence. This will ensure that local pupils from non-church-going families will not be excluded from obtaining a place at the school. The admissions arrangements give the highest priority to Looked After Children thus supporting provision for the county's most vulnerable children. Priority is then given (in order) to those who regularly attend an Anglican church and live within a specified parish; those who regularly attend another Christian church and live within a specified parish; those who live within a specified parish and are siblings of current pupils; those who live within a specified parish; those who are siblings of current pupils and children of members of teaching staff. Remaining applicants are then sorted on the basis of distance from home to school. These admissions criteria are fully compliant with the Schools Admissions Code.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

28. This proposal would increase the provision of junior places in the area which would be of benefit to the community served by the school. This would therefore also be of benefit to any Looked After Children who have the opportunity of attending the school, with this grouping of children receiving the highest priority ranking within the school's admission arrangements.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

29. The design philosophy is to create buildings that will support low energy consumption, reduce solar gain and promote natural ventilation. Any

expansion would be built to the local planning authority's adopted core planning strategy. In addition, the provision of additional school places to meet local demand is likely to have a positive impact on reducing journey times (and therefore carbon emissions), relative to the scenario of not so doing.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

30. Subject to Cabinet Member approval of this report's recommendations, the next steps are:
- To publish statutory notices formally proposing the amalgamation of Downs Way School and St. Mary's C of E Junior School, inclusive of the expansion of KS2 provision.
 - To run a 4-week 'Representation' period within which any further comments will be invited on the proposal from key stakeholders and the general public.
 - To bring a paper to the Leader of the Council for a decision with respect to whether to determine the proposal to close Downs Way School as an integral element of the proposed amalgamation of this school with St. Mary's C of E Junior School. Should the Governing Body of St. Mary's C of E Junior School decide to proceed with the proposed expansion of KS2 provision, ratification of this decision will also be sought within this paper.

Contact Officer:

Oliver Gill, School Commissioning Officer, Tel: 020 8541 7383

Consulted:

St. Mary's C of E Junior School Governing Body
Downs Way School Governing Body
Diocese of Southwark
Parents of pupils attending the school
Local residents
Local Schools
Liz Mills, Assistant Director for Schools and Learning
Nicholas Skellett, Local County Council Member for Oxted
Tandridge Council
Unions (NUT, ATL, NASUWT, GMB)
School Admissions Forum

Annexes:

Annex 1 – Downs Way School Statutory Notice (Full)
Annex 2 – Summary of Consultation Feedback

Sources/background papers:

- Downs Way and St. Mary's Consultation Document
-

Amalgamation of Downs Way School (Community) with St. Mary's C of E Junior School (Voluntary Aided)

Statutory proposal for the closure of Downs Way School (Community)

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, as amended by the Education Act 2011, that Surrey County Council, in cooperation with the Governing Body of St. Mary's C of E Junior School and the Diocese of Southwark, intends to discontinue **Downs Way School**, with effect from 31 August 2018. This proposal is related to the proposal to extend the age range at St. Mary's C of E junior School. The closure of Downs Way School reflects one half of the process of amalgamating the two schools, with the extension of the lower age range of St. Mary's C of E Junior reflecting the other essential step in this respect.

Contact details

Name and address of Local Authority publishing the proposal:

Surrey County Council, County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 2DN

Name, address and category of school proposed to be discontinued:

Downs Way School (Community), Downs Way, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 0NZ

Contact details during statutory representation period:

This is a four week consultation, which begins on Wednesday 25 January 2017 and concludes at midday on Wednesday 22 February 2017. Any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending representations to:

Oliver Gill, Surrey County Council, Room 326, County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames KT1 2DN

Email: schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk

Web: www.surreysays.co.uk

Implementation

Date on which it is proposed to close the school:

31 August 2018

Reason for closure

Surrey County Council, in partnership with the Governing Body of St. Mary's C of E Junior School and the Diocese of Southwark, is proposing that Downs Way School and St. Mary's C of E Junior School amalgamate to become one primary school from 1 September 2018, admitting pupils from 4 to 11 years of age. The amalgamated school would have an intake of 60 pupil places in Year R, in line with the intake of Downs Way School.

It is proposed to implement the amalgamation through the closure of Downs Way School and a prescribed alteration to extend the lower age range of St. Mary's C of E Junior School from 7-11 (Junior) to 4-11 (Primary), so that it becomes a Primary School from this date. The schools serve the same geographic area and are on adjacent sites. The proposal will formalise existing partnership working; augment the cohesiveness of the school community; provide for more streamlined transitions between key stages and allow for the most efficient allocation of resources.

All children on roll at either school as of 1 September 2018 will automatically continue to have a place at the amalgamated school.

Pupil numbers and admissions

The numbers for whom provision is currently made at the school:

Downs Way School currently provides for 146 pupils from Year R to Year 2, with capacity for 60 places in each year group. The school is coeducational and does not presently provide dedicated specialist facilities for pupils with Special Educational Needs.

Displaced pupils

This proposal forms part of an amalgamation and, as such, no pupils at the school will be displaced. The decision on the closure of Downs Way School will be linked to the decision to extend the lower age range of St. Mary's C of E Junior School. If the latter decision is not approved, this proposed closure will not proceed. Should both proposals be approved by the relevant body, from 1 September 2018, pupils currently at Downs Way School will have places at St. Mary's C of E Junior School, which will have been rebranded as a Primary School by that stage.

Overall, it is proposed that capacity will be enlarged, relative to the current situation. Presently, Downs Way is a 180-place Infant School, providing 60 places per year from Reception to Year 2, and St. Mary's C of E Junior School is a 360-place Junior School, providing 90 places per year from Year 3 to Year 6. The current format of the two schools is shown in the below tables:

Downs Way School:

Year	Capacity
YR	60
Y1	60
Y2	60
Total	180

St. Mary's C of E Junior School:

Year	Capacity
Y3	90
Y4	90
Y5	90
Y6	90
Total	360

Combined Total	540
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These schools will be amalgamated into a new 660-place Primary School, providing 60 places per year from Reception to Year 2 and an additional intake of 60 pupils at Year 3, giving 120 places in total from Year 3 to Year 6. Consequently, there is no scope for pupils to be displaced through these proposals. The final proposed format of the new, amalgamated school is shown in the below table:

New Primary School:

Year	Capacity
YR	60
Y1	60
Y2	60
Y3	120
Y4	120

Y5	120
Y6	120
Total	660

From September 2019, the Year 3 PAN at St. Mary's C of E Junior School will be reduced from four Forms of Entry (120 places) to two Forms of Entry (60 places), to reflect the fact that pupils in Year 2 will automatically transition to Year 3 in the new primary school.

Impact on the community

Downs School and St. Mary's C of E Junior School serve the same geographic area and are adjacent to each other. The proposal will provide certainty of progression to junior phase and offer a cohesive all through primary education. Consequently, it is not anticipated that there will be an adverse impact on the local community.

Travel

Should the proposal to close Downs Way School be approved, this would be related to the decision to extend the lower age range of St. Mary's C of E Junior School and the effective amalgamation of the two schools into a single Primary School. As such, no pupils would be displaced as a function of this closure and there is no anticipated impact on travel patterns.

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Proposal to amalgamate Downs Way School and St. Mary's C of E Junior School

Summary of Consultation

The consultation process ran from 1 November 2016 to 13 December 2016. On 16 November 2016, two distinct consultation meetings were held in sequence, one at each of Downs Way School and St. Mary's C of E Junior School. At the meeting, the following issues were raised and discussed:

- Admissions (i) – a general query was raised regarding how admissions would work in the new school. It was confirmed that the proposal would be to retain the current admissions policy for Year 3. For Year R, this would be adapted to mirror the criteria for Year 3, with the added stipulation that faith-based admission criteria will only apply to those pupils *for whom the new school is the nearest Church of England school*, as measured from their place of residence, thus ensuring that the new school continues to serve its local community. Amalgamation of the schools would mean that pupils entering at Year R would be guaranteed a place through to Year 6.
- Admissions (ii) – a specific query was raised with respect to what would happen to pupils entering the school at Year R, whose family subsequently moved out of the local area. It was confirmed that such pupils would continue to hold a place at the school; this is required by the relevant legislation.
- Admissions (iii) – a specific query was raised with respect to whether the proposed alternations to admissions arrangements for Year R would affect the eligibility of non-church-goers to attend the new primary school. It was explained that the intention of the added requirement for the new school to be the nearest Church of England school for faith-based criteria to apply should ensure that admission is secured to provide for local need.
- Admissions (iv) – the question was raised as to which Downs Way year group would be the first to benefit from automatic transition to Year 3 in the new school. It was confirmed that this would be for pupils presently in Year R.
- Levels of Demand – it was asked whether there would be County funding for empty places if classes were not filled as a consequence of the proposed expansion at Year 3. It was confirmed that the primary school would be expected to function as any other and that, as such, vacant spaces would naturally arise at times, which could not be covered by vacant place funding by the County, as this would not be in line with the overall policy. It was explained that the County Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient pupil places to serve local demand and that this necessitated a certain amount of surplus being built into the system to accommodate spikes in demand, parental preference and in-year admissions. Furthermore, although a small amount of surplus places are forecast, it should be noted that this does not take account of the additional houses projected to be built under the Tandridge Local Plan that is currently

being consulted upon. As such, any forecast surpluses are only likely to reduce in future. A related query was made with respect to whether this increased demand might lead to a future expansion of St. Mary's. It was confirmed that there are too many variables at this stage to predict what might happen in terms of future expansion proposals, although there were natural limits on how much any individual school could be expanded within the confines of its existing site.

- Other Church of England Schools – a common query was raised with respect to whether other Church of England infant schools in the area would be disadvantaged by the proposed changes, with respect to the fact that the fact of automatic transition to Year 3 would incentivise applications to the new primary school and disincentivise applications to nearby infant schools. It was explained that requirement for the new school to be the nearest Church of England school for faith-based criteria to apply at Year R was added, in part, to protect the intakes of other Church of England schools. In addition, the expansion of St. Mary's at Year 3 will reduce the pressure on entry at this point and, therefore, rates of oversubscription. This should serve to allay some of the concern regarding the perceived advantage of entering the new primary school at Year R.
- School Ethos – concern was raised about the potential for the new school to lose some of the nurturing elements of a smaller school. It was confirmed that the principle of community and all teachers knowing all pupils, with a view to nurturing confident and secure pupils, would remain at the core of the new school's ethos. Work is already underway in considering examples of how other schools have successfully managed this in a larger school environment.
- Teams – concern was raised about the potential for pupils missing out on opportunities to participate in teams, with the additional competition for places that would be brought about by a larger school. It was responded that a larger school would provide more opportunities for pupils, in terms of the fact that it would be able to sustain a greater number of teams and, indeed, augment the viability of further clubs and societies being established. It would also enhance the scope for intra-school competition.
- New Build (i) – a general query was raised with respect to whether consideration had yet been given to the form that any new building would take. It was confirmed that this had yet to be considered and that it was standard procedure for the education consultation to be decided prior to significant expenditure/commitment being made towards a built solution, as this would be seen to be pre-empting the outcome of the consultation process. It was confirmed that the built solution would be the subject of a separate statutory consultation process, within which all interested stakeholders would be provided with the opportunity to have input. Whilst no guarantees could be provided about the building being granted planning permission, Surrey County Council has an excellent track record of delivering workable solutions on school sites that are sensitive to the needs of the local area and thereby secure planning permission.

- New Build (ii) – a specific query was raised with respect to the health & safety of pupils during the build process, as well as the arrangements for adherence to fire regulations. It was confirmed that the project team that is ultimately charged with delivering any project at the school will have had experience of delivering similar schemes before and will be conversant with the need to provide for the health & safety of pupils onsite, both during the build period and in terms of the design/layout of any new buildings.
- New Build (iii) – a question was raised as to whether there would be a contingency plan, should the building project overrun. It was confirmed that, if the proposal were to proceed, sufficient accommodation to provide for an increased intake in 2018 would certainly be provided, whether that be in the form of the final new build agreed, or of a temporary building located onsite for the duration of the build period.
- Traffic and Parking – concern was raised about traffic and parking around the school during peak pick-up and drop-off times and the potential for this situation to be exacerbated as a consequence of the proposed expansion of junior provision. It was confirmed that the School Travel Plan would be updated as part of any planning process for expanded provision, with a focus improving the delivery of Golden Boot Weeks and consideration of the potential for a walking bus. The school also does work with a parent group, with a view to improving driving and parking practices around the school.

In addition, interested parties were invited to return responses to the consultation via a formal Consultation Response Form, included at the end of the Consultation Document, as well as in an online form. In total, 100 such formal responses were received. The breakdown of category of respondents is provided below¹:

Respondent Category	No.
Parent of child attending Downs Way	56
Parent of child attending St. Mary's	32
Member of staff at either school	21
Local resident	21
Parent of a child that may attend either school in future	14
Parent of a child attending another school	3
Governor at either school	2
Other	5

Of the responses received, 93 agreed with the proposal, 3 disagreed with the proposal and 4 classified themselves as “don't know” in this respect. There were no discernible patterns in terms of the category of respondents that typically

¹ It should be noted that a number of respondents fitted more than one category, making the overall number greater than the 100 distinct respondents.

agreed/disagreed with the proposal, except for the fact that all current members of staff and governors at the schools agreed with the proposal.

Among the responses that agreed with the proposal, there was a general consensus that the amalgamation “made sense” and was a “natural progression”, due to the proximity of the schools; their cohesive ethos; and the existing partnership arrangements, from which respondents could see clear benefits emerging. Furthermore, these respondents were clear that the proposed amalgamation had the potential to bring mutual benefits to both organisations, such as effective/efficient use of resources; encouraging good staff to stay; and the sharing of knowledge. A number of respondents also mentioned the direct benefit to families, in terms of smoothing the transition between key stages and eliminating the need for an application process at entry to junior, for those pupils starting at the school in advance of that. There was also general support for the proposed expansion of Key Stage 2 provision, with the perception being that this would help in ensuring that local families could secure a place at the school, in the context of local population growth.

However, it should be noted that, even amongst those who supported the proposal, there was still a common concern about the implications of the proposed expansion at Key Stage 2 in relation to the potential for this to increase traffic movements at peak drop-off and pick-up times. Road safety and issues with parking were identified as particular issues in this respect and these concerns were echoed by all three of the respondents who disagreed with the proposal. Potential solutions offered within the responses included:

- The provision of a dedicated school shuttle bus;
- A park and ride scheme;
- A walking bus scheme;
- The provision of a school crossing patrol officer;
- A dedicated parent car park; and
- Traffic regulations stipulating a one-way road system around the school at peak drop-off and pick-up times.

One respondent did, though, point out that traffic issues may be ameliorated by the amalgamation, as it had the potential to reduce the number of local parents travelling outside of the immediate area for infant provision. Whilst parking and traffic are not strictly relevant concerns in relation to the evaluation of this education consultation, the above concerns and potential solutions could be fed into the design process and reformulation of the School Travel Plan, if it was decided to proceed with the proposed amalgamation and expansion. Certainly, any design process would involve a Highways Assessment to determine the impact of traffic movements and potential means of amelioration. As a consequence of the above feedback, St. Mary’s C of E Junior School has worked with a group of parents to start a walking bus scheme. It is

hoped that this will serve to ameliorate some of the identified issues, as well as act as a starting point for the development of more sustainable travel patterns to and from school.

Within the responses that agreed with the proposals, the following areas of concern were also highlighted:

- School Ethos – a number of respondents were keen to stress that they would not want the infant provision to lose the nurturing ethos currently provided by Downs Way School. As stated above, this is something that the school is actively looking at, with respect to the consideration of other successful examples. In addition, one respondent wished to stress the importance of the amalgamation not leading to a fall in the standard of teaching at St. Mary's. It is not felt that this will be an issue. Conversely, it is believed that the greater opportunities for the sharing of resources and knowledge will enable the effectiveness of education to be improved even further in a fully integrated school.
- Admissions (i) – one respondent stated that they would prefer for there to be automatic transition into Year 3 for pupils currently in Year 1 at Downs Way. Unfortunately, this is not legally possible, as under the current proposal, the schools would not be amalgamated at the point at which applications for Year 3 in 2018 were being taken. Automatic transition between Year 2 and Year 3 would only be possible from 2019.
- Admissions (ii) – one respondent was also concerned about the potential for non-church-going families to be prevented from attending the infant provision, with the amended admission criteria. The respondent understood that the added requirement for the new school to be the nearest Church of England school for faith-based criteria to apply should safeguard against this. However, they were keen to stress that the school should be mindful of maintaining this safeguard, in view of future demographic and policy-related changes.

Of those who classified themselves as “don't know” in respect of the proposals, the following distinct concerns were raised:

- Admissions (i) – one respondent was concerned that pupils presently attending Downs Way, but who are residing outside of the Oxted area would receive an automatic place in the junior provision at an amalgamated school. This concern was also echoed by one of the respondents who disagreed with the proposal. As confirmed above, the offer of automatic transition for such pupils (starting with those pupils currently in Year R) is a requirement of the relevant legislation.
- Admissions (ii) – one respondent queried why the current Admissions Policy of St. Mary's C of E Junior (which would be retained for junior admission under the amalgamation proposal) included the parish of Hurst Green as an applicable area for Criterion 2 (faith-based admission), but not for Criterion 4 (sibling-based admission). It was felt that there was no justification for this imbalance and that consideration should be given to including Hurst Green under Criterion 4 within

any review of the admissions procedures. The Governing Body of St. Mary's discussed this matter, although it was ultimately decided not to amend Criterion 4, on the basis that there are infant and junior schools within this parish. These schools do not offer faith-based education, meaning that the inclusion of this parish within Criterion 2 was still relevant.

- Admissions (iii) – one respondent, acting on behalf of a local infant school, requested that consideration be given to providing this school with feeder status to the junior phase at any new primary school. The perception outlined in the response and the associated letter was that the proposed amalgamation had the potential to disadvantage pupils attending this infant school, relative to pupils in the infant portion of the new primary school, with respect to the latter group having assurance of junior transition. It was felt that this could result in some parents choosing to send their children to the all through primary in preference to the infant school, even if the latter were to be their preferred choice for Key Stage 1 provision. The respondent therefore requested that feeder status be considered for their school, with a view to retaining parity of access to junior provision for pupils at this infant school, relative to those pupils who would form the infant provision within the amalgamated primary school. The Governing Body of St. Mary's discussed this matter, although it was ultimately decided not to change the admissions criteria to include any feeder schools. The proposed expansion of junior provision would serve to align Oxted's junior and infant PAN, thereby ensuring that all pupils currently in infant school will be able to secure a junior place in the Oxted area. Additionally, it was felt important to maintain parity of access to junior entry for pupils attending the other infant schools in the Oxted area.
- Alternative Options – one respondent was concerned that Holland Junior School had not been considered as an alternative for expansion of Key Stage 2 provision in the area. The preference for the expansion of Holland Junior was also echoed by one of the respondents who disagreed with the proposal. In fact, this option has been actively considered by Surrey County Council and both expansion schemes have been evaluated against one another in a Balanced Scorecard exercise. Ultimately, it was decided to proceed with proposing St. Mary's C of E Junior for expansion, principally on the grounds that the infant provision at Downs Way had recently been expanded and the natural transition for this increased cohort was into St. Mary's, especially in view of the proposed amalgamation.

Among those who disagreed with the proposals, the following distinct concerns were raised:

- Educational Capacity – one respondent felt that, whilst St. Mary's was strong at providing for pupils at the higher and lower end of the academic spectrum, the needs of those in the middle were overlooked. The respondent was concerned that if the proposals were to go ahead and a single, larger school were created, this could exacerbate this issue. However, there is no statistical basis for the

single view expressed here. RAISEonline has consistently shown that St. Mary's pupils in all groups perform better than their peers nationally. The school's Ofsted report in 2015 confirmed the high quality of teaching and support for children of all abilities. The school's recent SIAMS inspection emphasises how every child feels known and supported. Consequently, the school is confident that its professional approach and school ethos – which is to help each individual reach their full potential and have access to the widest possible range of experience – would continue whatever the size of school.

- Building Capacity – one respondent raised concerns regarding the perception that the existing hall and catering facilities were not large enough to accommodate the proposed expansion. Naturally, there will be a building project associated with the expansion of Key Stage 2 provision, which will not only consider classroom space, but also ancillary facilities such as catering and dining space, with these being measured against the national guidelines set out in Building Bulletin 103.
- New Build (i) – one respondent felt that the planning process for the new build should be run alongside the school expansion consultation and that agreement to expand the school in education terms should not be agreed in advance of planning approval for the new build being approved. As set out above, it is standard procedure for the education consultation to be decided prior to significant expenditure/commitment being made towards a built solution, as if the Council were to incur the significant expense of developing the scheme design to the planning stage, there would be reasonable grounds for assuming that the Council had a vested interest in approving the education expansion, making consultation effectively meaningless. This is a situation that the existing process avoids. Moreover, if a scheme were not realisable through the planning process, there is always scope to revoke any school organisation decision, should that be the position agreed amongst the parties concerned.
- New Build (ii) – one respondent felt that a new build would be unrealisable in time for the proposed expansion of the school in 2018 and, further, that temporary buildings would be disruptive to the operation of the school. At the present time, in the absence of survey data and an agreed design, it is impossible to comment on the achievability of 2018 for the delivery of new, permanent buildings. However, the County Council has extensive experience of the successful deployment of temporary accommodation and, if this should be required, there are no grounds for concern that this would be disruptive to the education of pupils onsite.
- Alternative Options – one respondent, acting on behalf of a local junior school, agreed with the overarching proposal to amalgamate the schools, but objected to the proposal to expand Key Stage 2 provision. The primary concern was that this expansion would result in surplus junior places being created in the area, which would result in vacant places that would affect the funding position of the schools concerned. As set out above, the County Council has a statutory duty to provide

sufficient pupil places to serve local demand and, when working in terms of 30-place classes it is impossible to precisely align the number of available places with the pupil place demand. In line with this statutory duty, it is always necessary to over-provide, rather than under-provide and, since the proposed over-provision is projected to be less than 30-places within the forecast horizon (to 2025/26), it is felt that this proposed expansion is entirely justified.