

2006 Shirley Infants School becomes Shirley Community Nursery & Primary School

The Shirley school opened as an Infants School on 19 September 1932 in Green End Road, Chesterton, Cambridge. It took children from the Infants section of St Andrew's C of E School (established 1844) in High Street Chesterton, which then became a Junior School

It was relocated to its current site on Nuffield Road following an Authority review of education in East Chesterton. In July 2005 St Andrew's had been placed in 'special measures' by OFSTED for the second time. The Authority review recommended the closure of St Andrew's Church of England Junior School in 2006 and the extension of age range of Shirley Nursery and Infant School.

The extended age range formed Shirley Community Nursery & Primary School in September 2006 on both the original Infant School site in Green End Road and the former Junior School site in Nuffield Road. A new development on the Nuffield Road Site allowed the school to move to a single site in Sept 2011.

It was a complex legal move for the Authority to undertake given the ownership of the Nuffield Road site and the lease arrangements with the Scouts on the Green End Road site, which the Authority intended to sell. The County Council had previously given the ownership of the land to the Churches (Old Schools of Cambridge Trust) when St Andrews had moved to Nuffield Road from the original site in High Street Chesterton in 1981. However, the Trust received legal advice that they were under no obligation to sell the site back to the Local Authority and if they were to sell, they should seek to secure full market value for the site. Details are given in the papers of the County Council

Following an increase in the number of primary age children in the Chesterton area, the original Shirley Infants site in Green End Road was not sold by the Authority and opened as Chesterton Primary School, an ALT Academy, in September 2013. Note: Legislation required new school to be Academies, CCC could not open a school.

The history of the 'Shirley School' is recorded in seven documents, this being the final one. Much of the previous recording has been done using the Cambridgeshire Archive, the Cambridgeshire Collection, a Log Book (1911-1960) and Manager's Meetings (1932-1991). T

The more recent history given here is from experience as a Governor of the school from 1986-2013. I was also a pupil there from Nov 1953 – July 1958

2006 Shirley Infants School becomes Shirley Primary School

In July 2005 an OFSTED carried out inspection of St Andrew's CoE Junior School. The outcome of this inspection was to place the school in 'special measures' for the second time. No other school in Cambridgeshire have ever received a second 'special measures' designation.

Prior to this inspection, the Authority's officers had held separate exploratory discussions with the Director of Education and Training for the Ely Diocese, the governors of St Andrew's Junior School, and the headteacher and governors of Shirley Infant School over a possible review of provision with a view to securing educational improvements in the short, medium and longer term.

The following documents of Cambridge County Council meetings provide the details of the review process that lead the Authority to recommend the closure of St Andrew's and the extension of the age range of Shirley to become an all through Primary School.

Appendix 1.

Cambridgeshire Local Education Authority School Organisation and Planning
Submission to School Organisation Committee for alteration in the Upper Age Limit
of a school (Shirley) March 15 2006

Appendix 2.

CCC Local Children's Service Authority School Organisation and Planning
Submission to School Organisation Committee for the closure of a school. (St
Andrew's) March 15 2006

Appendix 3.

Meeting of Cabinet 28 February 2006 Agenda Item
REVIEW OF PRIMARY EDUCATIONAL PROVISION IN EAST CHESTERTON –
SHIRLEY COMMUNITY INFANT SCHOOL AND ST ANDREW'S CHURCH OF
ENGLAND AIDED JUNIOR SCHOOL

Appendix 4.

Meeting of Cabinet 23 May 2006 Agenda item
REVIEW OF PRIMARY EDUCATIONAL PROVISION IN EAST CHESTERTON –
SHIRLEY COMMUNITY INFANT SCHOOL AND ST ANDREW'S CHURCH OF
ENGLAND AIDED JUNIOR SCHOOL

Appendix 5.

Cambridgeshire School Organisation Committee Minutes 25 May 2006

Appendix 1

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CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY SCHOOL ORGANISATION AND PLANNING

SUBMISSION TO SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE for AN ALTERATION IN THE UPPER AGE LIMIT OF A SCHOOL (2006 edition)

PRESCRIBED INFORMATION PRESENTED AS STATEMENT OF CASE

| | | |
|----|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | School Name | SHIRLEY NURSERY AND INFANT SCHOOL |
| 2. | DFEE number | 873 2115 |
| 3. | Local Education Authority area | CAMBRIDGESHIRE |
| 4. | Diocese (if applicable) | not applicable |
| 5. | Proposals published by | CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL |
| 6. | Date Proposals published | 15 th MARCH 2006 |
| 7. | Proposed implementation date | 1 st SEPTEMBER 2006 |

Not all the required information can be provided on the face of this pro-forma; copies of consultation documents, list of schools, a map of the location of schools etc. will also be required, as detailed within.

This information is to be regarded as in the public domain and may be shown to interested parties without further notification.

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION (typewritten):

1. What are the objectives of the proposal?

The Cambridgeshire Local Authority has proposed the closure of the St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School and the extension of age range of the Shirley Nursery and Infant School, thereby creating a Primary School.

The proposed closure, on 31st August 2006, would be followed immediately on 1st September 2006, by the operation of the extended age range at the Shirley School.

The proposals both for closure and extension of age range are therefore linked. A separate Statement of Case has been prepared for the proposed closure of St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School.

Cambridgeshire County Council (the Authority) maintains both schools. Shirley Nursery and Infant School serves children in the 3-7 age range. It has a 52-place (part-time) nursery class and space for 270 children aged 5-7. St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School serves children in the 7-11 age range. It has space for 360 children.

Shirley and St Andrew's serve one of the most challenging areas in Cambridgeshire. St Andrew's has experienced exceptionally protracted difficulties in recent years, which have included recruitment and retention problems at headteacher level. The school is currently being managed and led by an acting headteacher, employed directly by the Local Authority.

OfSTED undertook an inspection of St Andrew's Junior School in July 2005. The outcome of this inspection was to place the school in "special measures" for the second time. No other school in Cambridgeshire has ever received a second "special measures" designation.

There has been a very negative impact on the school's roll and that of Shirley Nursery and Infant School.

The prime objective of the Authority's proposals is to improve educational provision for the children of East Chesterton, one of the most deprived areas of the county. The Authority feels that this can best be achieved by closing St Andrew's Junior School and extending the age range of its partner Infant School, Shirley, to provide for the full primary age range. This is in line with the Authority's long-held policy preference for all-through primary schools.

The advantages of all-through primary schools are seen as:

- (i) promoting the continuity and coherence of children's educational experience within the context of the National Curriculum and generally accepted good educational practice;
- (ii) enabling more efficient and flexible management units in respect of finance and accommodation;
- (iii) providing a wider range of professional opportunities for staff;
- (iv) enabling continuity in the ethos of schools and in partnerships with parents and the community;

Achieving a pattern of local provision that would achieve this educational continuity has been a key target of the Authority.

2. Does the proposal entail additional sixth form provision?

Not applicable.

3. *Please give further background details and details of what consultation has taken place. Please provide relevant papers produced during the consultation period, and indicate representations and formal objections received during the Representation Period. (Promoters' observations on any formal objections should also be provided).*

Full chronological detail of the progress and nature of the consultation undertaken with regard to the proposed future of Shirley Infant School is set out in paragraph 2 of the parallel Statement of Case for closure of St Andrew's Church of England (Aided) Junior School. It is important to emphasise that the Authority had commenced discussions with the two schools in respect of a potential review of provision in advance of the OfSTED inspection of St Andrew's Junior School which led to the school being placed in "special measures".

The course of the Representation Period brought one formal objection to the proposed closure of St Andrew's Junior School. This is attached to the Statement of Case for the closure of St Andrew's Junior School. The objector expresses dissatisfaction that the proposal envisages an extension of age range at Shirley Infant School rather than a closure of both schools and a fresh beginning with a new school name.

The Authority indicates that it has throughout the consultations fully acknowledged the positive elements of St Andrew's Junior School, but has considered it appropriate to respond to the strongly-expressed wish of the local community that the thread of educational continuity be retained, and future provision built upon the existing good practice at Shirley Infant School.

The Authority has also received an expression of support from the local County Councillor and this has been attached to the Statement of Case for the proposed closure of St Andrew's Junior School.

A Powerpoint summary of consultation responses is attached to this Statement of Case (APPENDIX 1).

4. Please give details of the accommodation, including temporary, of the school named in the public notice, before and after implementation as follows:

- a) *Location and nett capacity (plus nursery places)*

Shirley Nursery and Infant School occupies a site in Green End Road in East Chesterton in Cambridge City. There is currently a double mobile on the school site. The school has permanent accommodation for 270. With the mobile, the school has accommodation for a total of 360 children.

The Authority intends to increase the size of the school to provide for 420 places for children aged 4-11. The school would continue to provide 52 part-time nursery places. It is proposed to relocate the school to the site of the current St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School. The school sites are 0.28 miles apart.

- b) *single or split site*

Shirley Community Nursery and Infant School operates on a single site. However, it would be necessary for the school to operate across its existing site and that of St Andrew's Junior School on a temporary basis should the proposals be approved. This split-site arrangement would enable necessary refurbishment and extension work to be undertaken on the St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School site to provide for an extended services 3-11 nursery and primary school. Following completion of the building works, the resulting Nursery and Primary School would occupy the Nuffield Road site in East Chesterton, and the site on Green End Road would be declared surplus to educational requirements.

A major building and refurbishment programme would be required to provide for a 3-11 extended services 420-place school on the current St Andrew's Junior School site. The order of cost is estimated at £4 million. It is important to note that to achieve the alternative option on which views were sought as part of the consultation process, that of creating an all-through primary school by closing both schools and creating a Church of England voluntary-controlled primary school on the St Andrew's junior School site, would require the same level of investment.

c) *accessibility*

Both schools are single-storey. The proposed Nursery and Primary School would also be single-storey and compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act.

5. *Please provide below a list of schools within 2 miles (primary), together with the following information in respect of each such school for the current school year:*

- a. *the capacity of the school; and*
- b. *the number of pupils at the school*
- c. *a forecast of the number on roll expected five years hence.*

| CAMBRIDGE CITY | Capacity | Number on roll January 2006 | Number forecast for roll January 2011 |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Arbury CP | 420 | 337 | 372 |
| Grove CP | 246 | 184 | 198 |
| Kings Hedges CP | 420 | 371 | 392 |
| Mayfield CP | 420 | 384 | 417 |
| Milton Road P | 469 | 472 | 420 |
| Shirley I | 270 | 191 | 177 |
| St Andrew's CE(A) J | 257 | 175 | 120 |
| St Laurence RC(A) P | 240 | 218 | 200 |
| St Luke's CE(A) P | 294 | 193 | 218 |
| TOTAL: | 3036 | 2525 | 2514 |

CHANGE IN UPPER AGE LIMIT OF SCHOOL

6. Please provide the following information:

- (i) *the current age range of the school* 3-7 years
- (ii) *the proposed age range of the school* 3-11 years
- (iii) *any necessary changes to the accommodation of the school*

It is proposed that the Shirley School be located on the site of the closing St Andrew's Church of England Junior School, with permanent buildings extended as appropriate.

(iv) *proposed admission arrangements*

The published Reception intake of the Primary School would be 60 from September 2006, with the school operating to a maximum of 420 places. The Admission Authority of the school would be the Local Authority.

The admission criteria for the school would be the same as those which apply to Shirley Nursery and Infant School.

7. *In considering the proposals the School Organisation Committee will consider the **educational** merits, as well as financial and organisational factors. Please provide a commentary on this aspect, indicating in particular how the proposals would contribute to enhancing the choice, diversity and quality of education in the area.*

As indicated above, the prime objective of the Authority's proposals is to improve educational provision for the children of East Chesterton, one of the most deprived areas of the County.

It feels that it can best address the serious and persistent concerns about educational standards at St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School, a school which is in "special measures" for the second time, by closing the school and extending the age range of its partner Infant School, Shirley, to provide for the full primary age range. This is in line with the Authority's long-held policy preference for all-through primary schools, and the following key points to arise from the consultation process:

- The lack of positive support for retention of a church school
- The importance placed on having a school which represented the diverse community that is East Chesterton.

East Chesterton has been identified as a priority area for a Children's Centre providing integrated early years and childcare, information and advice to parents and families on health needs, employment and training, etc. The Authority would wish to establish the Children's Centre as part of the integrated development of the St Andrew's School site.

Please also see the parallel Statement of Case for the closure of St Andrew's Junior School.

FINANCE

8. a) The gross capital costs of the proposals

£ 4 million (approx.)

b) *Estimated amount of associated capital receipts?*

As indicated above, the Shirley Nursery and Infant School site in Green End Road, Cambridge, would be declared surplus to educational requirements. The proceeds from the sale of the site are expected to make a significant contribution to the overall capital costs of the project.

10. *Please give estimates of recurrent savings (if applicable):*

a) *to aggregated schools' budget (eg premises and small schools factors) in the case of LEA-maintained schools or to annual maintenance grant in the case of Foundation schools*

The Authority is currently investing a significant amount of time and financial resource to supporting the St Andrew's Governing Body to meet the commitments set out in its OfSTED action plan. The overall cost of implementing this plan in 2006/07, taking account of Inspectorate and other professional input, is in the order of £300,000.

There are also on-going revenue savings that would result from the closure of the St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School. These include a Headteacher salary and certain maintenance costs associated with the Shirley Infant School site, such as caretaking, catering and cleaning costs. See also the parallel Statement of Case for the proposed closure of St Andrew's Junior School.

b) *on transport and other LEA recurrent costs*

Not applicable

11. *If funding is required to meet this/these proposals, what options have been considered, including PFI (Private Finance Initiative) and other forms of Private/Public Partnerships?*

The Authority intends to fund the proposals through a combination of capital receipts from sale of assets and use of its capital programme. There will also be a contribution from the Children's Centre capital allocation in recognition of the Authority's decision to establish a Children's centre to serve children aged 0-5 and their families.

IMPLEMENTATION

12. *Are the proposals to be implemented solely by the Local Authority or by the Local Authority acting together with other Promoters?*

The Local Authority is the sole Promoter of both proposals, but will be seeking to continue to work with other key partners to ensure their success. This will particularly involve the Church

of England Diocese of Ely, the Trustees who own the St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School site, and related partners.

PLANNING PERMISSION

13. *What progress is being made with regard to planning permission?*

The developments proposed for the St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School site would require planning permission. Plans are at a very preliminary stage and would only be taken forward to the design stage and for planning permission should the Authority be given approval to proceed with implementation.

GEOGRAPHY

Please provide maps indicating:-

(a) the school named in the notice;

Attached as APPENDIX 2

(b) all other community, voluntary and Foundation schools within a 2 mile (primary) or 3 mile (secondary) radius of the school;

These are attached as APPENDIX 2

15. *(If applicable) what arrangements will be made for school transport?*

Not applicable. It would be expected that children would continue to attend their local school by pedestrian access.

CURRICULUM

16. *Please indicate any changes to be made to the existing curriculum. If changes are to be made, will any transitional arrangements apply in respect of children currently attending the school?*

The primary school would offer the full National Curriculum. Until all building work is completed, pupils would continue to be educated on the present Shirley School site and on the permanent site, being the present Junior School premises.

17. *Please give details of the school's policy under section 317 of the Education Act 1996, towards pupils with special educational needs (including physical or sensory disabilities) as defined under section 312 of the Act, whether or not they have statements.*

Pupils would be admitted into the Shirley Nursery and Primary School without reference to ability or aptitude. The Primary School would, as now, have access to a wide range of support services from the Authority to help it meet the needs of individual children. Where the needs of an individual child could not be met by the School, the Authority would arrange for suitable alternative provision.

The seven years of continuous primary education in one establishment would provide the most advantageous opportunity to support children with special educational needs. These could include:

- More flexible use of education psychologist time to support early intervention.
- Continuity of liaison with parents and outside agencies through an integrated approach to Special Needs.
- More flexible and efficient deployment of learning support staff and the opportunity to retain staff with specific expertise on longer term contracts to provide continuity of provision for individual pupils.
- Rationalisation of learning resources and the sharing of specific expertise and specialist facilities.

COMMUNITY COHESION

18. *Please provide a description of what the expansion proposals are intended to deliver in terms of community cohesion.*

Community cohesion is a key component of the published proposals. Parents/carers of children attending Shirley Infant School submitted during the consultation period a petition against the closure of their school. This, together with the comments made at consultation meetings, serve to indicate clearly the very high regard in which the school is held. It is on this factor that the Authority now wishes to build in its proposals for all-through primary education.

The proposed development of a Children's Centre, as indicated in paragraph 7 above, would materially also assist the growth in community cohesion desired.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

19. *What objectives are intended to be set to further the aims of inclusiveness and partnership working?*

The expanded school would serve the whole local community, and would work in close co-operation with statutory, voluntary and private partners in the service of local children. A key partner in the development of Children's Centre services will be the local Primary Care Trust.

What activities are planned to achieve the above objectives?

The County Council, through the Primary School's governing body, would seek out new opportunities for developing long-term links with all in the local community, and would work with the City Council in this regard.

What measures are proposed to ensure that the governing body, teachers, pupils and parents are aware of their role in contributing to inclusiveness and partnership working?

An all-through 3-11 school would have the resources to develop opportunities to promote inclusiveness. An Internet web-site would be developed. The School Development Plan would detail Extended School and Children's Centre provision, which would include the establishment of a Parents' Forum.

Governor training facilities would support and encourage the development of agreed governor statements on the ethos and values of the school. The school's prospectus would make clear reference to the intended role of the school in this regard.

The Scouts' Association Trust Corporation has a building on the Shirley Infant School

site which is covered by a 125 year lease. This facility would also need to be relocated to the Junior School site. Close partnership working with the Scouts' Association is envisaged to continue. The governing body and the Authority would also work closely with the City Council to develop local services.

SHIRLEY SCHOOL INSPECTION REPORT

20. a) *Has the school received a section 10 inspection in the past three years?*
- b) *If YES, what was the date of the inspection and what was the outcome (for example, did the school perform well, were there any serious weaknesses identified or special measures required)?*

A copy of the summary of the OfSTED Inspection held in January 2003 is attached to this Statement of Case. The report judged Shirley to be a good school, with very good and excellent features. (See APPENDIX 3)

OWNERSHIP AND USE OF PROPOSED SITE

21. *Is the freehold interest in the existing school site and the proposed new site held by the Authority? If not, please give details of ownership.*

The present Shirley Nursery and Infant School site is wholly owned by the County Council. The whole of the St Andrew's Junior School site, including the playing fields, was transferred to the Old Schools of Cambridge Trust in the 1980s by the County Council. The Authority has secured the Trust's agreement to a proposal that in exchange for the St Andrew's site the Council would, within a five-year period, replace the Trust's interest in St Andrew's School with an interest in a new primary school in Cambridge. If this were not possible, then at the end of the period, the Council would purchase the St Andrew's site from the Trustees. A rental payment to be negotiated would be paid whilst the St Andrew's site remained in the ownership of the Trustees. A separate lease agreement would be entered into for the playing fields.

Submitted on behalf of CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

DATE MAY 2006

Appendix 2

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CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
LOCAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES AUTHORITY
SCHOOL ORGANISATION AND PLANNING

SUBMISSION TO SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

FOR CLOSURE OF A SCHOOL

**(2006 edition includes Education Act 2002 provisions
as indicated in updated 2005 School Organisation Regulations)**

PRESCRIBED INFORMATION

AS STATEMENT OF CASE

1. School Name: ST ANDREW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND COMMUNITY
(VOLUNTARY AIDED) JUNIOR SCHOOL, CAMBRIDGE
2. DFES number: 873 3381
3. Local Authority area: CAMBRIDGESHIRE
4. Diocese DIOCESE OF ELY
5. Proposals published by CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
6. Date proposals published 15th MARCH 2006
7. Proposed implementation date 31st AUGUST 2006

1. This form should be read in conjunction with the separate application for an extension to the age range at Shirley Nursery and Infant School.
2. Not all the required information can be provided on the face of this pro-forma; copies of consultation documents, list of schools, a map of the location of schools etc. will also be required, as detailed within.
3. This information is to be regarded as in the public domain and may be shown to interested parties without further notification.

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION (typewritten):

1. *What are the objectives of the proposal?*

The Cambridgeshire Local Authority has proposed the closure of the St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School and the extension of age range of the Shirley Nursery and Infant School, thereby creating a Primary School.

The proposed closure, on 31st August 2006, would be followed immediately on 1st September 2006, by the operation of the extended age range at the Shirley School.

The proposals both for closure and extension of age range are therefore linked. A separate Statement of Case has been prepared for the proposed closure of St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School.

Cambridgeshire County Council (the Authority) maintains both schools. Shirley Nursery and Infant School serves children in the 3-7 age range. It has a 52-place (part-time) nursery class and space for 270 children aged 5-7. St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School serves children in the 7-11 age range. It has assessed capacity for 257 children.

Shirley and St Andrew's serve one of the most challenging areas in Cambridgeshire. St Andrew's has experienced exceptionally protracted difficulties in recent years, which have included recruitment and retention problems at headteacher level. The school is currently being managed and led by an acting headteacher, employed directly by the Authority.

OfSTED undertook an inspection of St Andrew's Junior School in July 2005. The outcome of this inspection was to place the school in "special measures" for the second time. No other school in Cambridgeshire has ever received a second "special measures" designation.

There has been a very negative impact on the school's roll and that of Shirley Nursery and Infant School.

The prime objective of the Authority's proposals is to improve educational provision for the children of East Chesterton, one of the most deprived areas of the county. The Authority feels that this can best be achieved by closing St Andrew's Junior School and extending the age range of its partner Infant School, Shirley, to provide for the full primary age range. This is in line with the Authority's long-held policy preference for all-through primary schools. The main advantage is that children do not have to change schools at age 7, ensuring them stability and continuity in their primary educational experience. Achieving a pattern of local provision that would achieve this educational continuity has been a key target of the Authority.

The educational case now being pursued by the Authority is set out in more detail below and in the accompanying paper giving the County Council's Prescribed Information relating to the extension of age range at Shirley Infant School.

The linked proposals have been tested against the statutory criteria set out for consideration of cases by the School Organisation Committee. As set out in detail below and in the associated Statement of Case for an extension to age range, the County Council is satisfied that all the criteria have been met. These relate to

Standards of provision

Need for places

Finance

Views of interested parties

Statutory consultation and publication procedures

2. *Please give further background details and details of what consultation has taken place. Please provide relevant papers produced during the consultation period, and indicate representations and formal objections received during the Representation Period. (Promoters' observations on any formal objections should also be provided).*

Prior to the **July 2005** OfSTED Inspection, the Authority's officers held separate exploratory discussions with the Diocesan Director for the Ely Diocese, the governors of St Andrew's Junior School, and the headteacher and governors of Shirley Infant School over a possible review of provision with a view to securing educational improvements in the short, medium and longer term. These discussions took on even greater urgency once the results of the July 2005 Inspection were released.

Shortly before the end of the **summer term 2005**, agreement was reached between the two schools' governing bodies that the then year 2 children at Shirley School who had been allocated Year 3 places at St Andrew's for September 2005 entry would remain at Shirley for the 2005/6 school year. The children are on roll at St Andrew's Junior School, with their educational provision on the Shirley site being commissioned by the Governing Body of St Andrew's Junior School.

In **November 2005**, the Authority published a consultation document setting out the viable options for a longer-term solution that would seek to better serve the local children. The document is attached to this Statement of Case (APPENDIX 1)

In **January 2006**, Members of the Authority considered the results of the public consultation and addressed in particular the key issues raised by those consulted. The key findings were:

- the high level of concern and anxiety about the future, especially over the prospect of Shirley Infant School closing.
- the lack of positive support for retention of a church school
- the importance placed on having a school which represented the diverse community that is East Chesterton.

Parents/carers of children attending Shirley Infant School had also submitted a petition against the closure of their school.

The report presented to Members in January detailed seven options:

1. Maintain the status quo
2. Close St Andrew's Junior and retain Shirley as a Nursery and Community Infant School
3. Close St Andrew's Junior School, open a 'Fresh Start' Junior School in its place, and retain Shirley Infant as a separate school
4. Create two smaller, 210 place (1 form entry) primary schools, one on the Shirley Infant site and one on the St Andrew's Junior school site
5. Close St Andrew's Church of England Junior School and extend the age range of Shirley Infant School to provide a 210-place primary school with nursery on the Shirley site
6. Close St Andrew's Church of England Junior School and extend the age range of Shirley Infant School and relocate this to the St Andrew's School site to provide a 420-place primary with nursery
7. Close both schools and create a 420-place 3-11 nursery and voluntary controlled primary school on the St Andrew's Junior School site

Members confirmed that their preferred option was to close St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School, to extend the age range of Shirley Community Infant School and to relocate the school to the St Andrew's Junior School site, as an extended services

Community Primary School with nursery class provision. It was accepted that there were significant affordability issues to be overcome in respect of this option given the ownership of the site by the Old Schools of Cambridge Trust.

In **February 2006**, a report was presented to the County Council's Cabinet that set out the results of the public consultation and Members' preferred option for change. The full report to Cabinet is attached to this Statement of Case. The preferred option for change was accepted and a statutory Public Notice published on **15 March 2006**. This Notice is also attached to this Statement of Case. (APPENDIX 2)

The course of the Representation Period brought one formal objection to the proposed closure of St Andrew's Junior School. This is attached to the Statement of Case (APPENDIX 3).

The objector expresses dissatisfaction that the proposal envisages an extension of age range at Shirley Infant School rather than a closure of both schools and a fresh beginning with a new school name.

The Authority indicates that it has throughout the consultations fully acknowledged the positive elements of St Andrew's Junior School, but has considered it appropriate to respond to the strongly-expressed wish of the local community that the thread of educational continuity be retained, and future provision built upon the existing good practice at Shirley Infant School.

The Authority has also received an expression of support for its proposals from the local County Councillor. This is attached to this Statement of Case (APPENDIX 4).

3. *Please provide a map showing the location of the school and all other community, voluntary and foundation schools within the relevant radius of the school (two miles for primary schools)*

Attached to the Statement of Case for Shirley School change of age range.

4. *Please provide below a list of schools within 2 miles (primary), together with the following information in respect of each such school for the current school year:*
 - a. *the capacity of the school; and*
 - b. *the number of pupils at the school*
 - c. *a forecast of the number on roll expected five years hence.*

| CAMBRIDGE CITY | Capacity | Number on roll January 2006 | Number forecast for roll January 2011 |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|--|
| | | | |
| Arbury CP | 420 | 337 | 372 |
| Grove CP | 246 | 184 | 198 |
| Kings Hedges CP | 420 | 371 | 392 |
| Mayfield CP | 420 | 384 | 417 |
| Milton Road P | 469 | 472 | 420 |
| Shirley I | 270 | 191 | 177 |
| St Andrew's CE(A) J | 257 | 175 | 120 |
| St Laurence RC(A) P | 240 | 218 | 200 |
| St Luke's CE(A) P | 294 | 193 | 218 |
| TOTAL: | 3036 | 2525 | 2514 |

5. *Please provide the following information relating to the school named in this proposal for the current school year and (except for the information specified in sub-paragraph d.) the previous school year:*

| | | | |
|----|---|---------------|---------------|
| a. | the admission number for each relevant age group; | <u>2004/5</u> | <u>2005/6</u> |
| | | 90 | 90 |
| b. | the number of year groups; | 4 | 4 |
| c. | the capacity of the school; | 257 | 257 |
| d. | the number of pupils at the school. | 191 | 175 |

6. *Please provide the following information relating to the accommodation at the school:*

a. *the location of the accommodation*

An indication of the site location is attached, to the Statement of Case for Shirley School extension of age range.

b. *whether the school occupies a single or split site;*

The school occupies a single site.

c. *general description of accommodation at present school.*

St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School occupies a site in Nuffield Road in East Chesterton in Cambridge City. The school has accommodation for 257 pupils. The location of the school is indicated on the maps provided with the Statement of Case for the extension of age range at Shirley School.

7. *Please provide details of proposals for pupils who are currently at the school to transfer to other schools together with any appropriate transitional provisions.*

It is expected that all the pupils at the school who are attending at the time of closure and who will be of primary school age on 1 September 2006 will transfer directly to the roll of the primary school formed from the extension in age range of the Shirley Infant School. Please refer also to the parallel Statement of Case for the Shirley School.

QUALITY OF EDUCATIONAL PROVISION

8. *Please provide an assessment of the quality of any schools to which it is proposed that such pupils may transfer.*

The proposals envisage the transfer of all current pupils to the extended Shirley Infant School. A copy of the summary of the OfSTED report for Shirley Infant and Nursery School dated January 2003 is attached to the parallel Statement of Case.

9. *(a) Please provide a statement as to whether the school proposed for closure has been inspected under section 10 of the School Inspections Act 1996 during the last two years and if so, the date of the inspection and details of the outcome.*

St Andrew's Junior School June 2005 summary attached (APPENDIX 5)

(b) Is the proposal to close the school linked to its performances in the inspections?

Yes. There is a direct connection between the June 2005 report on educational effectiveness set out in the Inspection Report, (and that of September 2001 which also indicated the need for "Special Measures") and the published proposal of the Authority to close the school.

10. *Net number of spare places to be removed (if any)*

The present school buildings can cater for up to 257 junior-aged children. It is the intention of the Authority to provide, via a major building and refurbishment programme, for a 3-11 age-range extended services 420-place primary school to be built on the site. As 270 places would then no longer be required on the present Shirley Infant School site, a nett reduction of 107 school places, no longer needed, would be achieved. This reduction would serve to lower the total number of unfilled primary-age range places provided in the northern part of Cambridge City.

11. *How will any shortfall of places at the school listed at 8 above be made up if the proposals are implemented?*

See answer to question 10 above.

CURRICULUM

12. *Please indicate how the provision at the receiving school will meet the requirements of the basic curriculum (National Curriculum plus Religious Education), separated according to phase (e.g. 5-11, 11-16). Will any transitional arrangements be necessary in respect of children currently attending the school to be closed?*

The primary school would offer the full National Curriculum. Until all building work is completed, pupils would continue to be educated on the present Shirley School site and on the permanent site, being the present Junior School premises.

13. *Is there a youth and community element in existing provision?*

There is a community wing operated by the City Council. The City Council may determine that the provision may continue, and the Authority will continue to work closely with the City Council in this regard.

The Scouts' Association Trust Corporation has a building on the adjacent Shirley Infant School site which is covered by a 125 year lease. This facility would also need to be relocated to the Junior School site.

East Chesterton has been identified as a priority area for a Children's Centre providing integrated early years and childcare, information and advice to parents and families on health needs, employment and training, etc. The Authority would wish to establish the Children's Centre as part of the integrated development of the St Andrew's School site.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

14. *Does the school proposed for closure have a separate unit for children with special educational needs?*

No.

15. *How will the receiving schools meet the needs of pupils who have special educational needs (including physical or sensory disabilities) as defined under section 156 of the Education Act 1996? Reference should be made to the SEN policies established or proposed by the receiving schools.*

Pupils would be admitted into the proposed Primary School without reference to ability or aptitude. Shirley Infant School currently provides for the full ability range. This is planned to continue. The Primary School would have access to a wide range of support services to help it meet the needs of individual children. Where the needs of an individual child could not be met by the new Primary School, the Local Authority would arrange for suitable alternative provision.

The seven years of continuous primary education in one establishment would provide the most advantageous opportunity to support children with special educational needs. These can include:

- More flexible use of education psychologist time to support early intervention.
- Continuity of liaison with parents and outside agencies through an integrated approach to Special Needs.
- More flexible and efficient deployment of learning support staff and the opportunity to retain staff with specific expertise on longer term contracts to provide continuity of provision for individual pupils.
- Rationalisation of learning resources and the sharing of specific expertise and specialist facilities.

FINANCE OF CLOSURE AND REFURBISHMENT

Please provide the following information:

16.
(a) *The gross capital costs of the proposals* £ 4 million (approx)

(information provided in this Statement relates both to the costs of closing the Junior School and extending the age range at the Infant School. Identical total information is provided in the parallel Statement of Case)

- (b) *Estimated amount of associated capital receipts?* £.

The Shirley Nursery and Infant School site in Green End Road, Cambridge, would be declared surplus to educational requirements. The proceeds from the sale of the site are expected to make a significant contribution to the overall capital costs of the project.

- (c) *Please give estimates of recurrent savings (for example) on transport and other LEA recurrent costs* £..

The Authority will only need to meet regular expenses relating to one school. Other costs are not quantifiable at this stage, and will be dependent on future management decisions

18. *If funding is required to meet this/these proposals, what options have been considered, including PFI (Private Finance Initiative) and other forms of Private/Public Partnerships?*

The Authority intends to fund the proposals through a combination of capital receipts and its capital programme. There will also be a contribution from the Children's Centre capital allocation in recognition of the Authority's decision to establish a Children's centre to serve children aged 0-5 and their families.

Submitted on behalf of CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

DATE May 2006

**REVIEW OF PRIMARY EDUCATIONAL PROVISION IN EAST CHESTERTON
– SHIRLEY COMMUNITY INFANT SCHOOL AND ST ANDREW’S CHURCH
OF ENGLAND AIDED JUNIOR SCHOOL**

To: CABINET

Date: 28 February 2006

From: Head of Infrastructure, OCYPS

*Electoral
division(s):* East Chesterton

Forward Plan 2006/023 Key Yes

Purpose:

- i) To advise Cabinet of the response of the St Andrew’s Junior School site’s owners, the Old Schools of Cambridge Trust, to the Authority’s preferred option, and the issues and associated risks this raises for the County Council;
- ii) seek Cabinet:
 - authorisation for the Children’s Services Lead Member to be granted reserve powers to conclude negotiations with the Old Schools of Cambridge Trust with a view to securing the Authority’s preferred outcome on terms which Cabinet consider represent value for money.
 - approval to proceed with the publication of statutory notices for the Authority’s preferred option;
 - approval for alternative options to continue to be explored should it not prove possible to secure the

- Recommendation:* **Cabinet is requested to:**
- i) Support the proposal that the Children’s Services Lead Member in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive be granted reserve powers to conclude negotiations with the owners of the St Andrew’s Junior School site with a view to securing the Authority’s preferred outcome on terms which Cabinet consider represent value for money.**
 - ii) Approve the publication of statutory public notices proposing the closure of St Andrew’s Church of England Aided Junior School on 31 August 2006, the extension of Shirley Community Infant School’s age range to provide for children aged 3-11 with effect from 1 September 2006 and the relocation of the resulting Shirley Community Primary and Nursery School to the site of the former St Andrew’s Junior School;**
 - iii) Support the proposal that alternative options should**

| <i>Officer contact:</i> | <i>Member contact</i> |
|---|--|
| Name: Hazel Belchamber | Councillor Shona Johnstone |
| Post: Head of Infrastructure, OCYPS | Lead Member, Children’s Services |
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| Tel: 01223 717394 | |

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Shirley and St Andrew’s are partner infant and junior schools that serve one of the most challenging areas in Cambridgeshire. Shirley Infant is a community school with maintained nursery class provision. St Andrew’s Junior is a Church of England Voluntary Aided school. The schools operate from different sites, 0.28 miles apart in East Chesterton. There is no playing field provision at Shirley and part of the site is occupied by the Scout Association Trust Corporation on a 125 year lease. The ownership of the St Andrew’s site, including the playing fields, was transferred from the County Council to the Church of England in 1999.
- 1.2 St Andrew’s has experienced exceptionally protracted difficulties in recent years, previously receiving a ‘special measures’ designation, and continues to experience recruitment and retention problems, including at headteacher level. These difficulties have had a negative impact on its own pupil roll and that of Shirley Infant. The school is currently being managed and led by an

- 1.3 The Office for Standards in Education (OfSTED) undertook an inspection of St Andrew's Junior School in July 2005. The outcome of this inspection was to place the school in 'special measures' for the second time. No other school in Cambridgeshire have ever received a second 'special measures' ..
- 1.4 Prior to this inspection, the Authority's officers had held separate exploratory discussions with the Director of Education and Training for the Ely Diocese, the governors of St Andrew's Junior School, and the headteacher and governors of Shirley Infant School over a possible review of provision with a view to securing educational improvements in the short, medium and longer ..

2.0 Consultation

- 2.1 In December 2005, the Authority consulted staff, parents/carers and the governors of the two schools on two possible options for changing the current pattern of provision:
1. Close St Andrew's Junior School, extend the age range of Shirley Infant to create a 420-place 3-11 extended services nursery and community primary school on the St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School site.
 2. Close both schools and create a 420-place 3-11 extended services ..
- 2.2 A joint staff consultation meeting was held on 6 December 2005 at St Andrew's Junior School. A significant majority of the staff present were from Shirley Infant School.
- 2.3 Open surgeries were held for parents/carers over the course of two days, 7 and 8 December 2005, one at each school. Around 120 parents/carers attended one of the surgeries.
- 2.4 As part of the consultation process, written comments were also invited. Parents/carers of children attending Shirley Infant School subsequently submitted a petition against the closure of the school which was presented to the Planning and Development SDG on 12 January 2006.
- 2.5 Shirley Community Infant School's Governing Body was unanimous in recommending and supporting the option of a community primary school created by closing St Andrew's Junior School and extending the age range of Shirley Infant School to provide for the 3-11 age range.

2.6 St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School's Governing Body warmly welcomed the proposal for a 420-place all-through primary school with nursery, community and extended schools provision, to begin in September 2006. A significant majority of governors recommended and supported the option of establishing a voluntary controlled Church of

3.0 The Preferred Option for Change

3.1 The Planning and Development Service Development Group (SDG) met on 12 January 2006 to consider the feedback from the consultation and advise on the next steps in the review process. The Local Member was present.

3.2 Members' attention was drawn to the following key points:

- The number of parents/carers who took the time to attend one or more of the open surgery events, and the level of interest in, and desire to influence, the outcome of the review process this demonstrated.
- The high level of concern and anxiety about the future, especially over the prospect of Shirley Infant School closing.
- The lack of positive support for retention of a church school.
- The importance placed on having a school which represented the diverse community that is East Chesterton.

3.3 In light of the fact that it had not been possible to achieve a consensus view on the route for achieving the preferred outcome of an all-through extended primary school on the St Andrew's Junior School site, Members took the opportunity to consider the following range of options:

7. Maintain the status quo
8. Close St Andrew's Junior and retain Shirley as a Nursery and Community Infant School
9. Close St Andrew's Junior School, open a 'Fresh Start' Junior School in its place, and retain Shirley Infant as a separate school
10. Create two smaller, 210 place (1 form entry) primary schools, one on the Shirley Infant site and one on the St Andrew's Junior school site
11. Close St Andrew's Church of England Junior School and extend the age range of Shirley Infant School to provide a 210-place primary school with nursery on the Shirley site
12. Close St Andrew's Church of England Junior School and extend the age range of Shirley Infant School and relocate this to the St Andrew's School site to provide a 420-place primary with nursery
13. Close both schools and create a 420-place 3-11 nursery and voluntary controlled primary school on the St Andrew's Junior School

3.4 The SDG was informed that, in view of serious and persistent concerns about educational standards at St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School, officers were unable to support the option of maintaining the status

3.5 The SDG confirmed that its preferred option was to close St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School, to extend the age range of Shirley Community Infant School and to relocate the school to the St Andrew's Junior School site, as an extended services Community Primary and Nursery School. It was accepted that there were significant affordability issues to be overcome in respect of this option given the ownership of the

3.6 Whilst the SDG did not rule out any of the other options for future provision, it was stressed that these should only be considered with extreme reluctance in the event that it proved impossible to secure implementation

3.7 In terms of timescale, the SDG recognised the importance of maintaining the review's momentum, and the need for conclusions to be reached as quickly as possible to resolve uncertainties about the future. It has advised, therefore, that St Andrew's Junior School should close on 31 August 2006, and that Shirley should operate as an all-through primary with effect from 1

4.0 Capital Investment Costs

- 4.1 A desk top study has been undertaken to identify the capital investment costs of providing the accommodation required to establish a 420-place extended services primary school with nursery class provision on the St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School site.
- 4.2 The total build requirement is substantial (over 1000 square metres). In addition, major internal remodelling/improvement is needed to address existing suitability issues which are deemed to have an adverse impact on
- 4.3 The Scout's Association Trust Corporation has a building on the Shirley Infant School site which is covered by a 125 year lease. This facility would also need to be relocated to the Junior School site if full value of the Shirley site is to be secured. Even so, the likely sale proceeds from the Shirley site would be insufficient to meet the costs of the build and refurbishment
- 4.4 A scheme of this size suggests a programme in excess of two years to deliver a design and tender phase of approximately 13 months and a construction period of 15 months. It should be noted that to achieve the alternative option on which views were sought as part of the consultation process, that of creating an all-through primary school by closing both schools and creating a Church of England voluntary controlled primary school on the St Andrew's Junior School site, would require the same level

5.0 Issues associated with the Old Schools of Cambridge Trust's ownership of the St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School

- 5.1 The Old Schools of Cambridge Trustees have received legal advice to the effect that they are under no obligation to sell the site back to the Local Authority and if they were to sell, they should seek to secure full market value for the site. To do anything other than this would be to act in
- 5.2 The result of independent site valuations (based on existing use) commissioned by property officers is that, of the two sites, the St Andrew's Junior School site would be of equal or greater value to that of the Shirley

5.3 The Director of Education and Training for the Ely Diocese recently met the Executive of the Trustees of the Church Schools of Cambridge to discuss the way forward. Attached as Appendix 1 is the response of the Executive of the Trustees of the Church Schools. In summary:

- The Trust's clear preference is for a straight sale of the school and its land to the Authority.
- The Trust is willing to consider entering into a 'deferred purchase' arrangement by which the Authority would, for an agreed rent, take possession of the premises of the school [St Andrew's] when it closes, but with a binding undertaking to purchase the property from the Trust

5.4 This information has been shared with the Council's Head of Legal Services, who has confirmed that the Authority's options are extremely

5.5 Officers have concluded that the option of a 'deferred purchase' agreement would:

- Provide security for parents/carers, staff, governors of Shirley School, and the Authority in the knowledge that the site would revert to County Council ownership on expiry of the time-limited lease.
- Provide the flexibility to plan the purchase as part of the capital programme without the hugely detrimental impact that immediate purchase would have upon the capital projects already programmed.

5.6 In addition to the 'deferred purchase' cost, a major building and refurbishment programme would be required to provide for a 3-11 extended services 420-place school on the current St Andrew's Junior School site. The desk-top analysis undertaken by officers indicates that not only would the County Council need to use all of the potential proceeds from the sale of the Shirley site, but would have a shortfall to cover in order to meet the refurbishment and building costs and the disposal costs of the existing school site. The order of cost is estimated at £3m. To fund this project from within the existing capital programme would require other projects to

5.7 Taking the above in account, officers would recommend that any negotiations in respect of a 'deferred purchase' agreement should be on the basis of the value of the site in its current use as a school, and not on the basis of its full market value. In addition, it is recommended that the amount paid by the Authority to rent the site in the lead up to purchase

5.8 Cabinet is asked to advise on the suggested parameters for further negotiations with the Old Schools of Cambridge Trust in respect of the

6.0 Revenue costs associated with maintaining St Andrew's Junior School

6.1 Balanced against the capital investment costs are the costs of supporting St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School's governors and staff to meet the commitments set out in its OfSTED action plan. The overall cost of implementing this plan for this year alone, taking account of Inspectorate and other professional input, is in the order of £300,000. This does not take into account the cost of mobile provision at Shirley Infant

6.2 This funding is being used to support a school which the Authority's officers consider has very limited capacity to improve.

6.3 In addition, the Authority's officers do not consider St Andrew's Junior School to be financially viable as it will be unable to maintain appropriate educational provision without submitting a deficit budget for 2006/7.

7.0 Risk Management Implications

7.1 Members are advised of the following **key** risk management implications arising from this report. These risk issues have been identified using a risk management process carried out in accordance with the Council's risk management strategy.

- a) A delay in the publication of statutory notices for any reason would result in the Authority being unable to secure implementation of the preferred option in time for September 2006;
- b) Negotiations with the Old Schools of Cambridge Trust lead Cabinet to conclude that the terms of a 'deferred purchase' agreement do not represent value for money for the County Council;
- c) The Authority is required to re-consider one of the alternative options for change, and to seek agreement to this from all the parties concerned;
- d) The Authority is required to consider the option of maintaining the status quo which would mean securing a new headteacher for St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School for September 2006 (the current acting headteacher's contract expires on 31 August 2006 and there is no possibility of him continuing beyond this date), and would have significant revenue implications;

7.2 In order to manage these issues a number of mitigating actions are to be taken in accordance with the management action plans prepared by the identified risk owners. Examples of key actions are illustrated below for Members' reference:

- a) The decision-making timetable produced by officers provides sufficient time for the necessary statutory processes to be completed and for implementation of the preferred option to be achieved by 1 September 2006. It should be noted that publication of notices does not commit the Authority to proceed with implementation, this point is only reached when a decision is taken either by Cabinet or the School Organisation Committee for Cambridgeshire to approve the proposals set out in the public notices.
- b) Officers have identified the need for the Children's Services Lead Member to be awarded reserve powers to conclude negotiations with the Old Schools of Cambridge Trust, within parameters determined by Cabinet. This negotiation to be undertaken in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive for the Office of Children and Young People's Services (OCYPS).
- c) Officers have identified the need to continue to explore alternative options should it not prove possible to secure the preferred outcome of an all-through Community Primary School on the St Andrew's Junior School site on terms which Cabinet would consider represented value for money.
- d) Officers have identified the need for a further report be presented to

8.0 **Timescale and decision-making process**

- 8.1 28 February 2006 Report to Cabinet seeking approval to publish statutory notices
- 1 March 2006 Parents/carers, staff and governor advised of outcome of Cabinet meeting
- 9 March 2006 Notices published
- 4 May 2006 Notices expire (provides for extension of the 6 week statutory notice period to take account of the two week Easter school break)
- May 2006 **Subject to agreement being reached with the Old Schools of Cambridge Trust, and receipt of objections, the decision is taken to seek approval from either Cabinet or the School Organisation Committee for Cambridgeshire to implement the proposals**
- 31 August 2006 St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School closes.
- 1 September 2006 Shirley Infant School becomes Shirley Community Primary School.
- The Authority begins to rent the former St Andrew's Junior School site from the Old Schools of Cambridge Trust as part of the 'deferred purchase' agreement.
- The school operates on two sites whilst building work is undertaken.
- 1 September 2008 Completion of build programme and full occupation of the former St Andrew's Junior School site.

| Source Documents | Location |
|---|---------------------------|
| Reports to and notes of Planning and Development SDG meetings Consultation document Letters, comments and petition received in response to consultation | Room B202 Castle Court |

Agenda Item No

**REVIEW OF PRIMARY EDUCATIONAL PROVISION IN EAST CHESTERTON –
SHIRLEY COMMUNITY INFANT SCHOOL AND ST ANDREW’S CHURCH OF
ENGLAND AIDED JUNIOR SCHOOL**

To: CABINET

Date: 23 May 2006

From: Director of Planning and Development, OCYPS

*Electoral
division(s):* East Chesterton

*Forward Plan
ref:* 2006/023

*Key
decision:*

**Ye
s**

Purpose: ii) To advise Cabinet on the outcome of negotiations with the Old Schools of Cambridge Trust concerning the purchase of the site of St Andrew’s Church of England Aided Junior School

iii) To seek Cabinet:

- a. Approval for the development of a legal agreement with the Old Schools of Cambridge Trust reflecting the agreed outcome of discussions with the Trustees as described in this paper.
- b. Agreement for the proceeds from the sale of the site of Shirley Community Infant School to be used to contribute towards the cost of developing the school

Recommendation: Cabinet is requested to:

- iv) **Agree the development of a legal agreement in accordance with the agreement in principle negotiated with the Trustees of the Old School of Cambridge Trust as described in this report.**
- v) **Approve the application of the capital receipt to be generated through the sale of the site of Shirley Community Infant School to the costs of the development of the site currently occupied by St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School**

| <i>Officer contact:</i> | <i>Member contact</i> |
|---|--|
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1.0 **PURPOSE**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 28th February 2006, Cabinet considered a report on the options available for reviewing primary education provision in East Chesterton following the placement of St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School in 'special measures' in July 2005. Cabinet requested that a further report on the outcome of negotiations with identified funding requirements for the preferred option be presented at its next meeting.

2.0 **BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Cabinet agreed on 28th February that statutory notices should be published for the closure of St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School and the extension of the Shirley Community Infant and Nursery School's age range to provide for the 3-11 age range. Cabinet also approved the proposal that the resulting primary school should relocate to the St Andrew's Junior School site.
- 2.2 St Andrew's school is in special measures for the second time, the only school in Cambridgeshire to be in such a position. Together with its partner Infant School, Shirley, it serves an area of relatively high deprivation in north Cambridge. The school has had a considerable turnover of headteachers over the last few years and it is considered that closure of the school and its replacement through extending Shirley Community Infant and Nursery school represents the best long term educational option for the school.
- 2.3 The St Andrew's Junior School site is owned by the Old Schools of Cambridge Trust. The Children's Services lead member, in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive, was granted reserve powers to conclude negotiations with the owners of the St Andrew's Junior School site with a view to securing the Authority's preferred outcome on terms which Cabinet consider represent value for money.

3.0 **NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE OLD SCHOOLS OF CAMBRIDGE TRUST**

- 3.1 The County Council and Trust have conducted detailed discussions on future of the St Andrew's site. It is recognised that under charitable law the Trustees are obliged to obtain best consideration for the site.

- 3.2 Discussions with the Trust have concluded that the preferred option would be to replace the Trust's interest in St Andrew's school with a similar interest in another school in Cambridge. This would have the advantage of representing best consideration and maintaining the Trust's role in education in Cambridge. The proposal would also maintain the diversity of school provision within the Cambridge. The need to provide new primary schools in Cambridge to meet the demands of new housing developments provides an opportunity to secure an alternative school site for the Trust through the establishment of a voluntary aided school.
- 3.3 An agreement in principle has been reached with the Trustees that in exchange for the St Andrew's site the Council will, within a five-year period, replace the Trust's interest in St Andrew's school with an interest in a new primary school in Cambridge.
- 3.4 Planning timescales mean that it will not be possible to guarantee a new school site for the Trustees until some time in the future. There is an immediate need to establish the extended Shirley Infant school in September 2006, subject to the approval of the School Organisation Committee.
- 3.5 The Trustees therefore require an assurance that the Council will purchase the St Andrew's site from them should it not be possible to provide a new school site. An agreement in principle has been reached that should it not be possible to provide a new school site for the Trustees then the Council will pay to the Trustees a sum equivalent to the current open market value for the "brown field" area of the school, occupied by the school buildings.
- 3.6 The Trustees also own the school playing fields. It has been agreed in principle that the Council will take a 50-year lease on the playing fields, paying a market rent of similar value to other playing fields leased by the Council. It has been agreed with the Trustees that this income would be used to fund a development worker to support children's and young people's activities in the Cambridge area. The Council would be consulted on the deployment of this post.

- 3.7 It should be reiterated that the preference of both the Trustees and the Council is the replacement of the Trust's interest in St Andrew's with an equivalent interest in a new school in the Cambridge area. Whilst this interest is secured it has been agreed that the Council will pay the Trustees a rental for use of the St Andrew's site. This will allow the Trustees to meet their obligations under charitable law. Once the replacement of the Trust's interest is confirmed, ownership of the St Andrew's site, including the playing fields, would revert to the Council.

4.0 **CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

- 4.1 A review of the likely costs has been completed to identify the capital investment costs of providing the accommodation required to establish a 420-place primary school with nursery class provision offering extended services on the St Andrew's site. The cost of the scheme has been identified as in the order of £4m.
- 4.2 Cabinet approval to apply the capital receipt from the eventual sale of the Shirley Infant's site to the cost of developing the St Andrew's site is sought.
- 4.3 It is unlikely that the capital receipt from the sale of Shirley Infant School would be sufficient to fund the full £4m cost of developing St Andrew's. In order that funding is available to meet the cost of this scheme a review of the capital programme has been required. It is proposed to defer replacement school schemes for Great Gidding and Burrough Green schools. In both instances identifying a new site for the schools is extremely problematic and it is likely that the two schemes will be delayed as a result. Both schemes would be re prioritised when developing the capital programme for 2007/08-2009/10.
- 4.4 The costs of the scheme do not assume that it will be necessary to purchase the St Andrew's site from the Old School Trust. It is considered highly probable that the Trustee's interest can be replaced through a new school. If this were not possible then a further review of the capital programme would be required before the end of the five-year rental period agreed within the capital programme. It is considered that the interim rental commitments can be found from within existing resources.

5.0 **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 An agreement in principle has been reached with the Trustees. This needs to be developed in to a full legal agreement between the Council and the Trustees. Similarly the proposal to close St Andrew's Junior School and extend the age range of Shirley Community Infant school has not yet received the approval of the School Organisation Committee. Should it not be possible to progress either the legal agreement, or secure the approval of the School Organisation Committee, then the Council would need to reconsider options for the provision of primary school education in the East Chesterton area.
- 5.2 Both the Council and the Trustees have reached the agreement in principle set out in this paper as being the most appropriate way of ensuring that the obligations of the Council and the Trustees are met, whilst securing the preferred educational provision of an all-through primary school providing extended services on the St Andrew's site. The Council is exposed to the risk of purchasing the site from the Trust should it not be possible to secure an equivalent interest in a new school for the Trust. However, the scale of housing development in the Cambridge area and the need to provide schools to meet the needs of this development will mean that there is expected to be considerable opportunity to maintain the diversity of school provision.

Appendix 5 Note: Item 6 of this meeting is in regard of Shirley School and St Andrew's School

CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: 25 May 2006

Time: 14.00h – 15.25h

Place: Kreis Viersen Room, Shire Hall, Cambridge

Present: Local Authority Group

Councillors: R Pegram, S Johnstone, A Kent, V Lucas, J Tuck, M Williamson

Schools Group

C Blair, M Hope, P Stanton

Church of England Group

W Bebbington, Canon T Elbourne (Chairman)

Roman Catholic Church Group

Revd Dr G Cook

Also in attendance:

H Belchamber (Head of Infrastructure)

S Cobby (Press Officer)

P Goringe (Independent Secretary)

M Irons (Organisation & Planning Officer)

P Overton (General Inspector)

K Sharma (Democratic Services Officer)

C Bruce

S Cobby (Press Officer)

Revd Dr J Gardom (Chair of Governors, St Andrew's CE (Aided) Junior School)

K Grenz (Chair of Governors, Shirley Infant & Nursery School)

Mr & Mrs T.A. Homes

Cllr M Holness

N Morland

1. APOLOGIES

Sue Anderson, Bernard Miller, Andrew Pallant and Janet Perrett

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cannon Elbourne declared an interest in item 6, as the Diocesan Director of Education he had been involved in facilitating discussion between the two schools. He would relinquish the Chair for this item.

Vice Chair, Cllr Johnstone declared an interest in item 6, as Cabinet Member for Children & Young People's Services (CYPS) she had played a role in completing negotiations with the Executive of the Old Church Schools of Cambridge Trust. She also felt it inappropriate to Chair the meeting for this item. Therefore Dr Cook agreed to Chair the meeting for item 6, in Canon Elbourne and Cllr Johnstone's place.

Walter Bebbington declared an interest in item 6, as a member of the Diocesan Board of Education.

Polly Stanton declared an interest in item 6, as a member of the Diocesan Board of Education.

Claire Blair declared an interest in item 6, living in close proximity to both schools and as a parent of a child using the cub scout facilities.

Cllr Williamson declared an interest in item 6, because a small number of pupils from his division attended the schools in question.

3. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendment in Minute 2:

'Cllr Lucas declared an interest at the Local Member for Warboys & Upwood.'

was changed to :

'Cllr Lucas declared an interest as...'

4. **ENLARGEMENT OF PENDRAGON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, PAPWORTH EVERARD**

The Organisation & Planning Officer informed the Committee of the Local Authority's (LA's) proposal to enlarge the premises of Pendragon Community Primary School from a capacity of 210, to 300 pupils, by providing three new permanent classrooms. The enlargement would take effect from 1 September 2007. The proposal reflected the need to provide sufficient places for a growing population, following large-scale housing construction. No objections had been received, but because the County Council had not determined the proposal within four months of the publication of notice (issued on 11 January 2006), it had passed to the School Organisation Committee for a decision. Due to their similarity, the Committee agreed to have a single discussion on Pendragon and Caldecote (item 5), whilst determining each separately.

The following points arose from the discussion:

- The Organisation and Planning Officer confirmed that funding was available to enlarge both schools through the LA's capital works programme.
- The LA was anxious not to provide surplus places, particularly when school rolls were falling across the county.
- It was queried whether vertical grouping provided the same educational advantages as non-vertical grouping. The Cabinet Member (CYPS) felt that there were many examples of schools with vertical grouping working well.
- Caldecote and Pendragon were the feeder schools for Comberton Village College and Swavesey Village College respectively. Both village colleges had sufficient places for the forecasted extra pupils.

The Groups voted as follows:

Local Authority: approved
Schools Group: approved
Church of England Group: approved
Roman Catholic Group: approved

5. ENLARGEMENT OF CALDECOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Organisation & Planning Officer informed the Committee of the County Council's proposal to enlarge the premises of Caldecote Primary School from a capacity of 150, to 210 pupils by providing two new permanent classrooms. The enlargement would take effect from 1 September 2006. The proposal reflected the need to provide additional school places for the expanding population of the village, following recent housing development. No objections had been received to the proposal, but because the County Council had not made a determination within four months of the publication of notice (on 11 January 2006), it had passed to the School Organisation Committee for a decision.

The following points were raised:

- The Cabinet Member (Resources & Planning) queried whether it was feasible for the enlargement to be completed by 1 September 2006. The Chair recommended that the proposal's implementation date be delayed, allowing for earlier completion if possible.

The Groups voted as follows:

Local Authority: approved with modification

Schools Group: approved with modification

Church of England Group: approved with modification

Roman Catholic Group: approved with modification

The School Organisation Committee approved a modified proposal to enlarge the premises of Caldecote Primary School from a capacity of 150, to 210 pupils by providing two new permanent classrooms, to **take effect from 1 January 2007**.

Revd Dr Geoffrey Cook in the Chair

6. **PROPOSED 'AMALGAMATION' OF SHIRLEY INFANT & NURSERY SCHOOL AND ST ANDREW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND AIDED JUNIOR**

The Head of Infrastructure outlined the Local Authority's proposal to change the pattern of primary provision in East Chesterton, Cambridge from 1 September 2006. This comprised closing St Andrew's Church of England Aided Junior School and extending the age range of Shirley Community Infant & Nursery School, from 3 -11 years. Initially both sites would be needed, but it was anticipated that by September 2008 St Andrew's buildings would have been modified to house the whole school with a capacity of 420 primary and 52 part-time nursery places. The Local Authority's consultation exercise, in November 2005, had revealed a lack of parental confidence in St Andrew's and a high level of support for Shirley. Two petitions to the County Council in January and February 2006, urging the Authority not to close the infant school, further evidenced community engagement with Shirley. A Public Notice was issued on 8 March 2006 and one objection and two expressions of support had been received in response to the proposal. The Committee was advised to consider the DfES Statutory Guidance for Decision Makers when considering the closure and establishment of a school.

The proposal had the unanimous support of the County Council's Cabinet, which believed that robust and decisive action was imperative. St Andrew's had been experiencing recruitment and retention of staff problems for some time, to the extent that Year 3 was currently being taught at Shirley. The school had been placed in Special Measures twice and the Authority had appointed an Acting Head Teacher, Malcolm Stevenson, to foster stability. In the most recent OfSTED visit, St Andrew's had been judged to be making good progress and the Local Authority was committed to retaining and building upon this good practice.

St Andrew's was owned by a charitable trust called The Old Church Schools of Cambridge. The Local Authority had agreed to replace the Trust's interests in another school – yet to be built – on a site in one of the development areas planned for the urban fringes of Cambridge. Practically, this could be understood as a 'land swap,' and the Authority would be working in partnership with the Diocesan Board of Education to assist the promotion of a new Voluntary Aided school elsewhere. In the meantime, the Local Authority would rent the St Andrew's site from the Trust. If the County Council were not able to transfer the Trust's interests to another school within five years, they would purchase St Andrew's site at a price already agreed.

The following points were made in discussion:

- The Local Authority did not amalgamate schools. Technically, the proposal consisted of the closure of one school and the extension of another. However this was a proposal of a different order than others recently considered by the Committee – Wheatfields Infant and Junior Schools for example - where both schools had been closed and a new school established.

Canon Tim Elbourne in the Chair

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 20 July at 10am in Kreis Viersen Room, Shire Hall, Cambridge.

The Chair asked the Committee to reserve this date in their diary, though at present there was no business for it to decide. The Education Bill proposed to abolish School Organisation Committees transferring decision-making powers back to the Local Authority. However, if the Bill became law it would probably not come into effect before 2007. He therefore asked the Committee to note the future dates of meetings.

8. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

Thursday 14 September – 10am

Thursday 7 December – 10am

Chairman