

Option Assessment – Option 3

Advantages

- Recognises and provides an opportunity to build on the quality of the teaching and learning being delivered by the First School
- Provides for continuity of education for children of primary school age (4-11 – Foundation, Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2) in line with rest of Cambridgeshire
- Removes one transition point and aligns the one remaining point of transition with end of Key Stage 2/start of Key Stage 3
- Provides students access to post-16 learning opportunities in the Cambridge area
- This option provides a link to Comberton Village College, a very successful, popular and over-subscribed school. Comberton will start to offer post-16 learning from September 2011

Disadvantages and Risks

- The earliest changes could be in place would be for September 2013 as the new secondary school in Cambourne will not be open before this date
- The Secretary of State for Education might not consider this option to be delivering the rate and pace of change necessary – he can impose closure
- Any decision to name the Cambourne secondary school as the designated catchment for Gamlingay would have an impact on the design and building plans for the new school. These are already well-advanced and any changes to these plans would have a direct impact on the Council's ability to secure planning permission within the timescale needed to ensure the school will be available to open in September 2013. There would also be an associated impact on the Council's capital investment programme.
- Young people who wished to continue their education post-16 would need to transfer to an alternative provider as the new secondary school at Cambourne will serve the 11-16 age range and will not, therefore, have its own sixth form
- Only four responses have been received in support of this Option