

Option Assessment – Option 2

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 would secure access to Bassingbourn Village College for children from age 11. Bassingbourn is a good and improving school
- Bassingbourn Village College's A*-C GCSE exam performance at 69% exceeds that achieved by Stratton Upper, St Neots Community College and Longsands College
- There are established and increasingly close links between the First School and the schools in the Bassingbourn cluster
- Changes could be in place for September 2012 but there is also the opportunity for transitional arrangements to be in place earlier
- This follows DfE policy on schools in Special Measures by taking fast and decisive action to secure educational provision of a high standard
- Secretary of State is likely to approve of pace of change and early access to quality provision
- Has the support of some parents and community members
- Bassingbourn is the closest secondary school for children living in East Hatley and Hatley St George and a contract bus service will operate between these villages and Bassingbourn Village College with effect from September 2011

Disadvantages and Risks

- Many parents/carers have expressed significant concerns over the travel distance to Bassingbourn (11 miles), the safety of the travel route (Croydon Hill) and the fact that there are no service buses operating between Gamlingay and Bassingbourn
- Bassingbourn Parish Council and the Local Member for Bassingbourn have expressed concerns over highways impact of additional school buses travelling through Bassingbourn
- Changes at Bassingbourn Barracks could lead to greater demand for secondary school places
- Young people who wished to continue their education post-16 would need to transfer to an alternative provider as Bassingbourn does not have its own sixth form
- Many parents/carers and members of the community have commented that they feel no connection with Bassingbourn