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## **Appendix 1**

### **COMPETITION TIMELINE AND PROCESS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>
23 February 2010	Cabinet approved the recommendation for the establishment of a new primary school in Cambridge and the specification for the school.
	<b>Invitation to Bid</b>
26 February 2010	Publication date for the statutory public notice, launching the competition. The publication date started the four-month period available to potential promoters to produce and submit their bids.
11 March 2010	Seminar for potential promoters at the Cambridge Professional Development Centre.
	<b>Submission Deadline</b>
28 June 2010	All bids needed to be submitted to the County Council by this date.
	<b>Public Meeting and Consultation Period</b>
9 July 2010	The County Council published the submitted bids by this date and published a second notice inviting the public to a meeting.
15 July 2010	Date of public meeting at which promoters were asked to present their bids. This meeting was also held at the Cambridge Professional Development Centre.
	<b>End of Consultation Period</b>
20 August 2010	The six-week consultation period for representations ended on this date.
	<b>Decision-Making</b>
28 September 2010	County Council's Cabinet to make final decision at this meeting.

### **Cambridge new primary school competition**

#### **Notes from public meeting (produced by Deloitte)**

**15 July 2010, 6.00 – 8.00pm**

On 15 July 2010, Deloitte and Cambridgeshire County Council held a public meeting at Cambridge Professional Development Centre. The purpose of the meeting was to give members of the community the opportunity to hear about the proposals to establish the new primary school in Cambridge and to ask questions. Over 120 people attended the meeting.

#### **Agenda**

Introduction	Richard Lindley <i>Deloitte</i>
Update on the school	Hazel Belchamber <i>Cambridgeshire County Council</i>
Proposer's presentation	Caroline Peet <i>Queen Edith Community Federation Group</i>
Proposer's presentation	Paul Rossi <i>Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia</i>
Break	
Questions	Chair: Richard Lindley Panel: Representatives of The Queen Edith Community Federation Group Representatives of The Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia
Next steps and close	Richard Lindley

### **1 Introduction**

Richard Lindley welcomed participants and thanked them for their interest in the competition. He ran through the agenda and introduced the proposers and members of Cambridgeshire County Council.

### **2 Update on the school**

Hazel Belchamber thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She gave an update on the competition so far and on the next steps. Hazel explained that the council is in the process of applying for planning permission for the new school and that the site should be cleared in August with the demolition of the existing buildings. As the new school plans are already being finalised there will be limited opportunity for the winning proposer to contribute to the design. The council's cabinet will meet on 28 September to decide the competition. Because of the proposers' different approaches to admissions the council will not resolve the catchment issue until the outcome of the competition is known.

### **3 The proposals**

#### **Queen Edith Community Federation Group**

Caroline Peet presented a summary of the Queen Edith Community Federation Group (QECFG) proposal.

## **Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia**

Paul Rossi presented a summary of the Roman Catholic diocese of East Anglia proposal.

### **4 Questions and discussion**

**Q1** (Parent governor of Queen Edith School)

**The travel situation around the new school is hectic. The new school is at the end of a dead end street, and the route is shared with Queen Edith School, which is potentially dangerous. I am worried because the Catholic bid proposes that the new school will serve a wide catchment area, resulting in more children being driven to school. How does the diocese plan to solve the traffic problems resulting from serving a wide catchment area?**

**Q2** (Gunhild Way resident)

**I am aware of the Netherhall School traffic on Gunhild Way, although as it is a secondary school most children are not driven to school so the traffic is not a great problem. I am concerned that the new primary school will generate more traffic, especially if children are travelling longer distances to school. Could the diocese expand on their travel plan?**

**Q3** (Queen Edith parent)

**How can the travel issues that have been raised be reconciled with the council's green transport plan?**

**Q4** (Queen Edith parent and parent of 2 pre-school children)

**I walk my children to school via Gunhild Way. Crossing the road is already difficult but it could get worse when the new school opens. How do the proposers plan to address my concerns about the safety of my children?**

**Q5** (Queen Edith parent)

**I live in the area around the new school where the lack of parking restrictions leads to difficulties for local residents. The situation will get worse with the increase in traffic coming to the new school. Has the council discussed the introduction of parking restrictions?**

**Q6** (Queen Edith parent)

**I agree with the concerns already expressed about travel. If children are coming from all over South Cambridge to a Catholic school with a wide catchment area, it is possible that there will not be enough places freed up for local children. Might this lead to local children being denied a place in a local school and having to travel further to school?**

**Q7** (local resident)

**Is it possible to see an exact figure from each proposer of the average distance that they expect children to travel to the new school?**

#### **Answers to travel questions**

**A** (Hazel Belchamber, Cambridgeshire County Council)

The application for planning permission includes highways issues. We are liaising with the highways agency and will submit a detailed travel plan as part of the planning application.

**A** (Darren Coult, QECFG)

We will address the traffic problem by creating a local school for local children. Figures from Queen Edith show that two thirds of our children cycle or walk to school already. This is possible because we don't have children coming from further away.

**A** (Caroline Peet, QECFG)

Our travel plan at Queen Edith is highly successful and we have just been accepted onto the Safer Routes to School program.

**A** (Paul Rossi, RC diocese)

We have not yet written a travel plan for the new school but similar schools, for example St. Albans primary, do not have traffic problems. The council must decide how important the traffic issue is and balance this with other issues such as the need for Catholic places in the area.

**A** (Joe McCrossan, St Albans RC Primary School)

St Albans has a travel plan recognised by Safer Routes to School. Although our children do come from further away we have walk to school buses and a lot of children cycle to school. St Albans was one of the first schools to trial the bikeability scheme. At St Albans we have successfully dealt with difficult roads before. And the diocese bid has the same catchment area for the new school as the Queen Edith bid.

**Comment** (Darren Coult)

I would like to clarify that the RC diocese's proposed catchment area is not the same as ours - their catchment area is much wider.

**Q8** (local parent)

**The diocese team claims that their solution will be a “win win” for South Cambridge, providing school places for Catholic children and also for local non-Catholic children. But the results of a questionnaire included in the diocese bid indicate that of the 60 reception places to be provided by the new school in 2011, 56 places are likely to be taken by Catholics. So is the “win win” solution about providing just four places to local non-Catholic children?**

**A** (Paul Rossi)

The questionnaire was intended to show that there is a need for a school with a religious nature. It was a questionnaire handed out after church to give a feel for the situation. Although the results show that 56 places might be taken by Catholics in the first year, it is quite possible that there will not be full take up of these places. The questionnaire also showed that the need for Catholic places will drop after the first year to 53 in 2012 and 39 in 2013, providing more places for non-Catholic children who we will be delighted to accept into the school.

**Comment** (local parent and Catholic)

The diocese is offering parents a choice about the way their children are educated. In return for that choice parents must decide whether to send their children to their local school or to go further to get the school that they want. That's what parental choice is about.

**Q9** (local parent)

**If the diocese bid were to win, where would children from the Catholic primary school go to secondary school?**

**A** (Paul Rossi)

It would depend on the admissions policy of the secondary schools and on what parents choose. St Bede's gives priority to children from faith schools, but the school we propose is not tied to any particular secondary school.

**Comment** (Chair of governors, St Albans School)

Two thirds of St Albans children go on to St Bede's and I expect that the new school would be similar.

**Q10** (local parent of three children)

**The greatest need for places is expected to be in the Ridgefield catchment area. The issue of parental choice was mentioned earlier, but what choice will a non-Catholic**

**Ridgefield parent have if the diocese bid wins? It seems that some parents will be denied any choice at all. Is that fair?**

**A** (Darren Coult)

There are many vulnerable families in the Ridgefield area and a great need for school places. It is staggering that the diocese says they are offering parents a choice when in fact children from Ridgefield, the area with the greatest need, will not get into the new school under their proposal. The Queen Edith proposal offers those families first choice.

**A** (Joe McCrossan)

What is important in the long term is ensuring stability in the South of the city. The number of Catholics taking places at the new school will peak in the first one or two years and will then tail off. We can bring stability into the area in the long term. There will also be increased provision of school places in the area, with schools such as Ridgefield, Cherry Hinton and Fawcett expanding to meet the need for more places.

**Comment** (Darren Coult)

It is not true that Ridgefield school will expand. There will be expansion at Fawcett and Cherry Hinton, but those are not the areas with the greatest need. Ridgefield has the greatest need but will not be expanding.

**Comment** (Hazel Belchamber)

The council uses figures, for example the number of children being born, to predict the number of school places required. The birth figures show that across the city there will be an increased need for school places up to 2013-2014, but we can't see beyond 2014 at the moment.

**Q11** (Queen Edith parent and member of QECFG faith and community group)

**I am in no doubt that Catholic schools offer a good education, but this local area is one of the city's most multi-cultural. For example, there are 400 children at Queen Edith School and over 40 different languages are spoken. What advantage does a Roman Catholic school have to offer such a diverse community? Can different faiths not live and learn together?**

**A** (Paul Rossi)

Catholics are multi-cultural – there are Catholics of many nationalities all over the world. But we are committed to care for all children, whatever their faith and background. For example, in one of our schools in Peterborough one third of the pupils are Muslim.

**A** (Caroline Peet)

Queen Edith is a global village and it is a privilege to work there in such a diverse community.

**Q12** (Queen Edith parent)

**Cambridge has more than double the national average of families of no faith. I believe the figures are that Catholics make up 13% of the population while people of no faith make up 54%. Is there a need for a Catholic school in this community?**

**A** (Paul Rossi)

Our faith motivates us in what we are doing, but we believe that all children – regardless of their faith or background – are creatures of God. We will ensure that we give all children the help, dignity and respect that they deserve.

**Q13** (Queen Edith parent and teacher at Swavesey Village College)

**Swavesey Village College recently went through the school competition process. One of the advantages to our bid was that we proposed a hard federation allowing us to save money. How much money will the Queen Edith Group save through federating Queen Edith School and the new school? Are there equivalent savings that the Catholic team can make?**

**A** (Caroline Peet)

We have spoken to financial advisers and the LA has helped us to look through our bid and think about how more money can go to provision for the children. For example we can make savings by extending the hours of our office and finance staff and allowing them to work across the two schools.

**A (Joe McCrossan)**

St Albans governors will discuss next week whether St Albans would form a federation with the new school. If this goes ahead there are economies of scale involved with a federation.

**Q14 (Prospective parent)**

**How will the Queen Edith federation avoid the two schools becoming one big split site school?**

**A (Caroline Peet)**

Although we will share staff and resources to make savings, the children will not feel like it is one school across two sites. Queen Edith and the new school would be sister schools, with the new school as a little sister that will grow into a bigger sister.

**Q15 (Catholic and parent of one year old child with SEN)**

**My son has Downs Syndrome. What would the two proposers be able to offer my son?**

**A (Joe McCrossan)**

At St Albans we have children with a range of SEN, including children with Downs Syndrome. SEN children flourish at our school and we have the expertise to support them and ensure that they feel safe at school.

**A (Caroline Peet)**

Queen Edith has a very good reputation for SEN and we are delighted to welcome anyone to our school. Our children all feel valued and their contribution is recognised. There is a letter at the back of our bid recommending Queen Edith for special needs children.

**Q16 (Queen Edith teacher)**

**It is known that parents play a central role in the education of a child. Can the two proposers comment on how they would draw parental support into the life of the school?**

**Q17 (Local parent and Councillor)**

**We have heard about how Queen Edith School interacts with, and is embedded in, the local community. How will the Catholic diocese make those community links?**

**A (Darren Coult)**

Parents are fundamental to life at Queen Edith, as is shown by the number of parents here. In the new school we would implement programmes of parents and teachers working together and employ a family worker to help parents to develop their skills. We would have learning Saturdays providing family learning opportunities. Queen Edith has a range of extended services for the whole community, for example we host a Filipino church, a Hindu group and a Muslim group. The new school would allow us to continue to expand the range of provision across the two sites.

**A (Paul Rossi)**

There is a wide range of local groups who use facilities at our schools. Our schools work in partnership with many community groups and enjoy the opportunity to get involved locally.

**A (Joe McCrossan)**

The diocese is offering the same range of extended services and community involvement as Queen Edith. At St Albans we have worked tirelessly to get a community together, with evening and weekend activities, and we will work hard to meet the challenges at the new school if there is a federation with St Albans. (The governing body will meet next week to discuss whether St Albans would form a hard or soft federation with the new school).

## **5 Next steps**

Comments on the proposals should be submitted to Cambridgeshire County Council by 5pm on

Friday 20 August 2010. The Council will decide the competition, taking account of everyone's comments and guidance published by the Secretary of State. The council intends to make a decision on 28 September 2010.

**Vicki Hiller**



**WRITTEN RESPONSES RECEIVED DURING THE SIX-WEEK REPRESENTATION PERIOD**

A summary of the two proposals received to run the new primary school was published on 9 July 2010, and a public meeting was held on 15 July 2010.

The Council was then required to collect comments and objections over a further six-week representation period. This period ended on 20 August 2010.

This appendix summarises and analyses the written representations received. It is divided into four sections.

- **Section One:** includes an analysis and summary of the 132 written responses received by the closing date.
- **Section Two:** reports on a further 370 responses from supporters of the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia, handed in by the closing date.
- **Sections Three and Four:** include statements submitted with petitions from supporters of each bid. (The petitions will be the subject of a separate agenda item at the Cabinet meeting on 28 September 2010.

**Section One: Analysis and Summary of the Written Responses Received**

132 written responses were received. 93 representations by email and letter in favour of the bid made by the Queen Edith Community Federation Group, and 37 representations by email and letter in favour of the bid made by the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia. Two responses contained a set of observations and comments on both bids but did not give a clear indication of a preference. This overarching analysis is set out in tabular format below.

<b>ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES</b>	
<b>Competition Bid</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>
<b>The Queen Edith Community Federation Group</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>The Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>

The detailed written comments received are summarised in the table below. This table is based on the categories used in the decision-making framework for the competition.

It needs to be emphasised that the summary outlines the views of the respondents, not of the County Council, and are not necessarily accurate. Where there is an obvious inaccuracy, this is highlighted.



## Section One, continued : Summary of Written Responses Received

	GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	QUEEN EDITH COMMUNITY FEDERATION GROUP	RC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA
A.	EFFECT ON STANDARDS AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT		
A1.	<b>A System Shaped by Parents</b>		
	<p>The Government's aim is to create a schools system shaped by parents which delivers excellence and equity</p>	<p>19 of the 93 responses outlined the strength of the bid from the Queen Edith Community Federation Group as an existing school, and the ethos of the school. Examples of comments are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I have three children happily settled at Queen Edith and find it to be an excellent, caring school, ably led by Mrs Peet and her very talented staff. (response 4)</li> <li>• I was very impressed with the amount of preparation and research that had gone into the Queen Edith bid and presentation. (response 28)</li> <li>• My son is at Queen Edith since the spring term. He has quickly assimilated himself into a friendship group. He is happy at school. School is like a big family for him. (response 64)</li> </ul>	<p>8 of the 37 responses outlined the strength of the bid from the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia, and the work it undertakes in supporting schools in the eastern region. Examples of comments are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I support the proposal of the Roman Catholic Diocese, with their Christian ethos, recognition of the uniqueness and dignity of each child and the education of the whole child being a tenet of Catholic education. The Catholic Church provides schools to contribute to the creation of a society which is highly educated, skilled and cultured. (response 47)</li> <li>• Catholic schools have an excellent reputation and governments of all colours have repeatedly confirmed their support for them. In recent inspections both the Catholic primary schools in Cambridge were judged to be good overall and the Inter-Church secondary school St Bede's to be good with outstanding features. (response 70)</li> </ul>

	GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	QUEEN EDITH COMMUNITY FEDERATION GROUP	RC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of East Anglia has experience of running over 25 schools in East Anglia and has significant resources, which would be required to support a new school particularly during the formation process. (response 125)</li> </ul>
<b>A2.</b>	<b>School Competitions</b>		
	Decision-makers should decide which proposal best meets the criteria for a new school <u>overall</u> and best meets the <u>specific</u> requirements for a new school for the area in question.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
<b>A3.</b>	<b>Standards</b>		
	The Government wishes to encourage change which will boost standards and opportunities, while matching school-place supply as closely as possible to pupils' and parents' needs and wishes.	<p>38 of the 93 responses outlined the high standards achieved at Queen Edith Primary School and the strength of the bid from the Queen Edith Community Federation Group. Examples of comments are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Queen Edith is a school which is going from strength to strength academically and has moved up the Cambridgeshire league tables in recent years. (response 3)</li> <li>Very pleased with the overall quality of education, ethos and the cultural diversity of the school.....I have observed how the</li> </ul>	<p>15 of the 37 responses outlined the high standards achieved at Catholic schools and the strength of the bid from the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia. Examples of comments are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Catholic schools get consistently better Ofsted reports. (response 95)</li> <li>Research has demonstrated that on average faith schools perform better than their secular counterparts and in many instances the ethos and atmosphere of Catholic schools have</li> </ul>

	GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	QUEEN EDITH COMMUNITY FEDERATION GROUP	RC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA
		<p>staff succeed in stretching and challenging the most able children while supporting the less able and those with special needs. I have also been impressed by the way in which pupils are involved in making decisions about the school, for example, through participation in the school council. (response 15)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The quality of the Queen Edith management team is excellent! They achieve not only very good Ofsted reports in an area for which that may not be so obvious, with the local council estate and a lot of children coming from abroad who don't speak any English to start with. They do an excellent job in terms of academic achievement, but they do an even better job when it comes to values. Respect for others is such a basic value at Queen Edith that you almost take it for granted, but considering the incredibly diverse background of the local children it is a huge, huge achievement. (response 17)</li> <li>Caroline Peet runs a highly professional and well-thought out team and should be given the opportunity to expand provision for more local children. (response 19)</li> </ul>	<p>been praised. (response 100)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excellent levels of teaching, enrichment, care, guidance, support, and behaviour are recognised characteristics of Catholic schools. These high standards have been recorded after recent Ofsted visits to both St Alban's and St Laurence's Catholic schools (response 101)</li> <li>The ethos of a Catholic school encapsulates my beliefs as a teacher in educating the whole child to fulfil their potential as a human being, and to recognise their own worth in society and that of others. I feel it is essential to provide children with moral guidance if they are to grow up into adults who can shape their world into a fair and decent society, and I believe that this can be achieved excellently through the framework provided by a Catholic school. (response 121)</li> </ul>
<b>A4.</b>	<b>Diversity</b>		
	The Government wishes a more diverse school system, offering excellence and	14 of the 93 responses outlined the need for a school serving the local community. Examples of	27 of the 37 responses outlined the need for Catholic school places in the south of the City.

	GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	QUEEN EDITH COMMUNITY FEDERATION GROUP	RC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA
	choice, where each school has a strong ethos and acts as a centre of excellence.	<p>comments are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am supporting the Queen Edith Community Federation Group, because this area needs a school for the whole community, not only for children from Catholic parents. (response 6)</li> <li>• The most important thing for me is that every child should have access to a good local authority school close to their home. (response 58)</li> </ul>	<p>Examples of comments are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a general under-provision of faith-based schools in the area, especially when one considers that a large proportion of the incoming population (e.g. from Poland, Philippines etc – who can attend the local Roman Catholic church) are Catholic and desire a faith-based school. (response 48)</li> <li>• We believe the new proposed school will benefit and be supportive of the local community alongside existing schools and services in the area whilst offering parents a wider choice in terms of primary education. (response 91)</li> <li>• This proposal addresses, in my opinion, a specific need in addition to the overall lack of school places, namely that of a lack of Catholic school places (which make up a lower percentage of places in Cambridge than nationally). There is substantial support for this within the local Catholic community, which currently has its children scattered amongst the other local primary schools. (response 100)</li> </ul>

	GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	QUEEN EDITH COMMUNITY FEDERATION GROUP	RC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA
<b>A5.</b>	<b>Every Child Matters</b>		
	<p>The five principles underpinning Every Child Matters (ECM) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be healthy;</li> <li>• stay safe;</li> <li>• enjoy and achieve;</li> <li>• make a positive contribution to the community and society; and</li> <li>• achieve economic well-being.</li> </ul>	<p>1 of the 93 responses made reference to Every Child Matters (ECM).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Queen Edith Primary School has in place excellent community links (as highlighted by extensive support from local stakeholders for the QECF bid) and has an ethos to readily make its facilities available to the local community. The QECF will also be excellently placed to meet the five underpinning principles of Every Child Matters. This is reflected by the recent Ofsted report for their current school. In this they were graded as outstanding in both 'Personal development and well-being' and also 'Care, guidance and support'. (response 122)</li> </ul>	
<b>B.</b>	<b>TYPES OF SCHOOL</b>		
<b>B1.</b>	<b>The Importance of Partnership</b>		
	<p>The Government wants schools to become self-governing and to form relationships with external partners.</p>	<p>The Queen Edith Community Federation Group includes partnership working with parent and community groups, education charities, voluntary groups, including church and faith communities and existing schools as part of their bid. 10 of the 93 responses outlined partnership working. Examples of comments are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The very strong links that exist with</li> </ul>	<p>The Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia includes partnership working with parent and community groups, voluntary groups, including church communities and existing schools as part of their bid. One response outlined partnership working. Examples of comments are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Roman Catholic bid has many</li> </ul>

	GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	QUEEN EDITH COMMUNITY FEDERATION GROUP	RC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA
		<p>Netherhall and the other local primary schools would further add to the value of this Federation. My girls are very happy with their school and I believe that if Queen Edith Community Federation Group ran the new school on Gunhild Way you would have an equally successful school with school places available to local children of all backgrounds. (response 7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our experience of Queen Edith has been marked by the excellence of the teaching staff, the inclusive ethos, the real partnership and continuing dialogue between school and parents and the fantastic leadership team. (response 9)</li> <li>• The Queen Edith Group bid is supported by key community partners in education and community provision in Cambridge (including Cambridge University, Addenbrookes Hospital, Parkside Federation, Netherhall, a variety of faith groups and community groups) - evidence that the bid is popular and supported across a broad spectrum. (response 22)</li> <li>• The Queen Edith proposal has clearly been well researched and documented with a wealth of support from both secondary and primary schools and local churches. The school has experience of providing a good</li> </ul>	<p>factors to commend it, not least, it has the support from two existing schools (St Alban's and St Bede's). (response 115)</p>



	GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	QUEEN EDITH COMMUNITY FEDERATION GROUP	RC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA
		education already at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Their bid supports community cohesion and is a natural feeder school to Netherhall, Parkside (Coleridge) and St Bedes, by its nature Queen Edith is inclusive, with many races attending. (response 30)	
<b>C.</b>	<b>SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS</b>		
<b>C1.</b>	<b>Proposed Admission Arrangements</b>		
	The proposed admission arrangements <u>must</u> comply with the provisions of the School Admissions Code.	<p>11 of the 93 responses outlined admissions as a strength of the bid from the Queen Edith Community Federation Group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The admissions policy seems to be fair, and does not discriminate against anybody on the grounds of religion. The emphasis is on inclusion and offering high quality education to all. (response 12)</li> <li>• The admissions criteria which are open and support equality and diversity in the local community. (response 20)</li> <li>• The Queen Edith proposal states that children from the local community will have priority for admission. This seems to address perfectly the future demographic pressure highlighted by the Local Authority. (response 62)</li> </ul>	<p>5 of the 37 responses outlined admissions as a strength of the bid from the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The strong reputation of Catholic schools means that they are attractive to all sections of the community; 25% of places are taken up by non-Catholics, children of other faiths, or by those of no faith.** (response 101)</li> <li>• It is important to highlight the fact that the Catholic Schools we do have in the city enjoy glowing Ofsted reports. They also have an admissions policy which allows for a quarter of the children applying to come from non-Catholic backgrounds: be they members of a Christian denomination, others faith or no faith.** Statistics will show that in our Catholic schools nationwide many</li> </ul>

	GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	QUEEN EDITH COMMUNITY FEDERATION GROUP	RC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA
			<p>members of other faiths prefer to send their children to a Catholic school. (response 119)</p> <p>**It should be noted that the admissions criteria published in the bid from the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia do not make a specific allowance for 25% of places at the new school to be offered to non-Catholics, children of other faiths, or by those of no faith. The availability of places to non-Catholics, children of other faiths, or by those of no faith, will only occur if the school is undersubscribed by Catholic children. The figure of 25% is the national average for the number of non-Catholics, children of other faiths, or by those of no faith, in attendance at a Catholic primary school.</p>
<b>C2.</b>	<b>National Curriculum</b>		
	All maintained schools <u>must</u> follow the National Curriculum, unless they have secured an exemption.	<p>One response made particular reference to the strength of the bid from the Queen Edith Community Federation Group in this area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Queen Edith's response to the National Curriculum in its early years: It was clear that this was not going to be totally right for the nature and mix of the children at Queen Edith's, so the school was one of the few that applied to vary the curriculum. This won praise from those responsible for ensuring that the curriculum remained</li> </ul>	There were no specific responses with regard to the National Curriculum in support of the bid from the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia. Instead several responses alluded to the focus on the Catholic education philosophy of educating the whole-child.

	GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	QUEEN EDITH COMMUNITY FEDERATION GROUP	RC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA
		within the bounds of legality, and I believe was responsible for the development of the staff and school alike, as all had to play a part in ensuring that the curriculum worked for all its children. (response 45)	
<b>C3.</b>	<b>Specialist Schools</b>		
	<i>As a primary school, the school will not be expected to have a particular, formal specialism.</i>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
<b>C4.</b>	<b>Extended Schools</b>		
	As part of the ECM agenda to improve outcomes for all children, the Government wants all schools to provide <u>access to</u> a core offer of extended services.	<p>2 of the 93 responses made reference to the ECM agenda and access to a core offer of extended services. The comments are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have first hand knowledge of this wonderful school, having had two children pass through from nursery to year 6. All pupils are nurtured and cared for as individuals, both academically and pastorally, with a fine staff led by a very competent and caring head and deputy. (response 71)</li> <li>The Queen Edith bid ..... will enable rapid movement towards the Government aim of schools providing access to a core offer of extended services. (response 122)</li> </ul>	<p>2 of the 37 responses made reference to the ECM agenda and access to a core offer of extended services. The comments are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia proposes a school with a clear Christian ethos a range of afterschool clubs and holiday clubs. (response 59)</li> <li>We would like to express our support for the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia's proposal to establish a voluntary aided primary school with early year's provision on site and extended school activities. (response 91)</li> </ul>
<b>C5.</b>	<b>Federations</b>		
	The Government encourages schools to	11 of the 93 responses commented on the	One of the 37 responses commented on a

	GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	QUEEN EDITH COMMUNITY FEDERATION GROUP	RC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA
	work together. This can include a statutory federation.	<p>federation approach. Examples of comments are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be economy of scale when Queen Edith runs the new school, which must appeal to the Council in a time of economic hardship. (response 17)</li> <li>• The potential for enhanced teaching and learning provision for pupils based on the greater teacher base available to the federation: a model which appears to be working well for secondary education in Cambridge. (response 20)</li> <li>• The other issue particularly in times of financial hardship is the need to make sure that resources are used as wisely as possible, as well as in as low a risk way as possible. The Queen Edith bid to me seems to be low risk - based on a highly successful model already operating at Queen Edith and with the opportunity of shared costs and resources across the two sites. The Queen Edith bid is also "high gain" - with proven leadership, as well as a wonderfully diverse and accomplished range of partners, which gives the potential for something really special and in line with developing trends towards federation models. (response 42)</li> </ul>	<p>federation approach regarding the bid from the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia. The possibility of federation was mentioned as part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia bid documentation, and was raised again during the presentation at the public meeting. The bid document indicated that the new school would be strongly supported by the two existing Catholic primary schools in the City, and by St Bede's Inter-church Secondary School.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To have another faith school in the south of the city under the federation of St Alban's, or even independent of it, there would be another high quality education school which would I am sure, also be oversubscribed in no time – and would not require a change in catchment areas in/after 2014 when the birth rate/number of children entering the school will fall, but the number of Catholics in the area is rising. (response 89)</li> </ul>

	GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	QUEEN EDITH COMMUNITY FEDERATION GROUP	RC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Queen Edith's project is not stand-alone, and provides a clear educational path for children in the community, through support from the local secondary school and 6<sup>th</sup> form College, The Netherhall School. This provides for enhanced collaboration between the Federation and the secondary schools to build an education continuum. (response 62)</li> </ul>	
<b>C6.</b>	<b>Equal Opportunity Issues</b>		
	There needs to be a commitment to provide access to a range of opportunities which reflect the ethnic and cultural mix of the area, and consider whether there are any sex, race and/or disability discrimination issues that arise from the proposals	<p>3 of the 93 responses commented on the range of equal opportunities. Examples of comments are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I think that the Queen Edith School is an excellent school that takes great care for all its children, many of which with very diverse backgrounds. I am extremely pleased that my daughter is in class with almost twenty different nationalities and a wide range of ethnic and religious (and non-religious) backgrounds. There is also a wide range of social backgrounds, with parents with a minimal income, to parents who are high level scientists. To my opinion the Queen Edith Community Federation Group is therefore very suitable to start the new school and is sure to do well and able to attract children from the whole community. (response 11)</li> </ul>	<p>One of the 37 responses commented on the range of equal opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In general I have found that faith schools are over-subscribed and there is great demand for places, not just among those of the Christian faith but also in the wider community. This is presumably due to the role such schools play in bringing communities together, often being more multicultural than non-faith schools, and also their better all-round achievement according to Ofsted reports. Indeed, this is what I would like to see in my local school – a set of values and an excellent standard of all-round education which encourage my son to reach his academic and social potential, alongside others of the same or different faiths. (response 121)</li> </ul>

	GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	QUEEN EDITH COMMUNITY FEDERATION GROUP	RC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over the years, I have experienced the changing nature of the school's intake. The school now draws pupils from many cultures and faith groups and this brings richness to the curriculum and helps to develop children's understanding and respect for others. It is a very special community, which celebrates diversity, and the harmony between children from different cultures and faiths was highly praised by Ofsted. It is also a school which deals well with supporting the ever increasing number of vulnerable families in this community. (response 106)</li> </ul>	In addition 98 of 370 respondents to the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia form, ticked the box relating to proposal for after school activities with a Christian ethos, near to home.
<b>D.</b>	<b>NEED FOR PLACES</b>		
<b>D1.</b>	<b>Creating Additional Places</b>		
	General requirements which have to be met to show that a new school is needed.	<p>31 of the 93 responses outlined the need for the creation of additional school places locally. Examples of comments are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the reason why a new school is being built is because of the very large increase in the local population then I think that you can only choose a provider that serves that community. I believe that the Queen Edith bid fulfils this admirably. (response 10)</li> <li>Based on what I understand about the</li> </ul>	<p>21 of the 37 responses outlined the need for the creation of additional school places for Catholic children in the south of the City. Examples of comments are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since the council must recognise the need for an additional Catholic primary school in the coming years, then the Gunhild Way location is an obvious one; close to the Catholic parish church of south Cambridge, close to St. Bede's Secondary School and central to the</li> </ul>

	GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	QUEEN EDITH COMMUNITY FEDERATION GROUP	RC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA
		<p>current shortfall in places for primary school children in the local area if the Catholic bid was successful this would hardly be addressed and would still be a problem. This would mean the Queen Edith would be forced to take these children when there is not the space to do this and has the possibility of ruining what is a fantastic school just so that a selective school can operate around the corner. (response 13)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I strongly feel that it would not be right to single out one section of the community to have their school needs met, when this section (Roman Catholics) is such a minority in the local area and the needs of the local area for school places is so urgent and pressing. (response 17)</li> </ul>	<p>catchment areas and community it will serve. If this primary school is not granted to the diocesan bid, then any subsequent location (should another opportunity arise) would undoubtedly be less suitable. (response 79)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a real shortage of Catholic school places in South Cambridgeshire. There is a huge concentration of Catholic families living here who would love to send their child to Catholic school. (response 84)</li> <li>One of the things which our new parishioners value for their children but have found impossible to obtain here is a Catholic education. St Alban's School, the primary school in the city centre is always over-subscribed and St Laurence's School in Chesterton equally so. Thus, those who are living on this side of the city have no choice but to send their children to one of the local schools. (response 119)</li> </ul>
<b>E.</b>	<b>IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY AND TRAVEL</b>		
<b>E1.</b>	<b>Community Cohesion and Race Equality</b>		
	How will the school tackle religious, social, racial and cultural division, and meet the	47 of the 93 responses outlined community cohesion and equality as a strength of the bid.	9 of the 37 responses outlined community cohesion and equality as a strength of the bid.

	GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	QUEEN EDITH COMMUNITY FEDERATION GROUP	RC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA
	statutory duties to promote community cohesion and well-being.	<p>Examples of comments are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school serves the very mixed local community very well. Pupils are encouraged to be respectful of all children regardless of background, ethnicity or religion and they are justifiably very proud of their happy, positive, multi-cultural school environment. That Mrs Peet and her superb management team wish to run the new school must be a huge advantage to the County Council; the team is composed of people who really understand the community they are working for and are sympathetic to the needs of local people. (response 3)</li> <li>Despite it being in a diverse catchment area in terms of ethnicity, religion and wealth, the school has a very strong sense of community and I believe its inclusive nature to be a major attraction for parents. (response 4)</li> </ul>	<p>Examples of comments are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St. Alban's and St. Laurence's are over subscribed, which in itself, points to the importance of such schools to parents. In addition both these schools seek to accommodate non-catholic children since there is a recognition that the ethos of Catholic education is so important to parents. (response 92)</li> <li>Mullti-cultural, diverse and builds community. Inclusive bid as a quarter of places will be taken by non-Catholics. (response 127)</li> </ul>
<b>E2.</b>	<b>Travel and Accessibility for All</b>		
	How will proposals support and contribute to the duty to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport to school.	<p>30 of the 93 responses outlined sustainable travel as a strength of the bid. Examples of comments are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A local school will allow pupils to walk or cycle to school: the council have just</li> </ul>	<p>2 of the 37 responses commented upon sustainable travel. Examples of comments are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oversubscription also means that other families wishing to access a school with</li> </ul>



	GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	QUEEN EDITH COMMUNITY FEDERATION GROUP	RC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA
		<p>introduced speed restrictions to the area which is already becoming congested with cars. (response 20)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I feel that a local school should be for local children, not only to make them feel part of their community, but to prevent traffic congestion, of which Cambridge is notorious. It would also encourage children to get to school by other means such as walking or cycling, which is particularly important with the increasing health concern of childhood obesity. (response 21)</li> <li>As cyclists and concerned environmentalists we support this bid as it would serve a local population who will use more sustainable methods of transport (walking, cycling) to get to school and reduce congestion in the city as a whole. Gunhild Way is a narrow street and cul-de-sac and we are concerned that a school that encouraged a population from across the city will encourage parents to drive their children, making it more congested and dangerous locally, as well as increasing traffic on Cherry Hinton Road, Hills Road Bridge and Queen Edith's Way. (response 25)</li> </ul>	<p>a distinctive Christian ethos are not able to do so. The parish of St Philip Howard has large Polish and Philippino communities for whom this is particularly important. Although in recent times more families are living closer to the school; we still have families who need to get to school by transport. This has an impact on the environment, as parents struggle to find parking spaces around the school and have to travel on the congested roads. A school closer to home will free up spaces for families in the centre of the city. (response 40)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diverting the traffic to the Gunhild Way site need not prove to be a problem. Firstly, the existing Diocesan schools have well-developed and successful travel plans, best practice will be the basis of the school's plan, focussed on the local context. The large majority of pupils will walk with, or be dropped off by, parents/carers. Safer Routes, Walking, Bus, and safe drop-off access will be investigated. In later years, older pupils may and will be encouraged to cycle if safe cycle routes can be developed. Secondly, the Parish Priest of St Philip Howard Catholic Church has offered the facility for children to be dropped off and picked up at the</li> </ul>

	GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	QUEEN EDITH COMMUNITY FEDERATION GROUP	RC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA
			church's extensive car park in Walpole Road. The walking distance from the church to the school is one quarter of a mile. (response 130).
<b>F.</b>	<b>SPECIFIC AGE PROVISION ISSUES</b>		
<b>F1.</b>	<b>Early Years Provision</b>		
	Will the proposals integrate pre-school education with childcare services, and with other services for young children and their families, and lead to the development of sustainable partnerships that allow flexible, responsive provision, in accordance with the needs of parents and families.	See extended services	See extended services
<b>G.</b>	<b>FUNDING AND LAND</b>		
G1.	Does the proposal include elements that would exceed the capital allocation made by the local authority, and the facilities that this will deliver for the new school building  For a proposed VA school, a statement signed by the promoters to the effect that they would be able to meet the financial responsibility for future building work.	Not Applicable	The Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia is proposing a VA school, and have provided a statement signed by the promoters to the effect that they would be able to meet the financial responsibility for future building work.
<b>H.</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS</b>		
H1.	Additional comments that do not form part of the Government requirement	14 of the 93 responses outlined the impact on the Queen Edith Primary School if their bid was not	11 of the 37 responses outlined the strength of the bid from the Roman Catholic Diocese of East

	GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	QUEEN EDITH COMMUNITY FEDERATION GROUP	RC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA
		<p>successful. Examples of comments are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lastly, what will the effect be on the existing Queen Edith School if the bid goes to the Catholic school? Already Queen Edith has been asked to take on a third Reception class, which means mobile classrooms for Year 4 to accommodate this extra class. Queen Edith's building was designed for two-form entry, and to increase this to three-form entry creates a risk of overcrowding and makeshift solutions which can only be detrimental to this excellent school (which already has to make the best of an old building). (response 4)</li> <li>• If the Catholic bid was successful then I believe the minority would be benefitting from and ruining a perfectly good situation for the majority – hardly an inclusive solution to a current and well understood problem. (response 13)</li> <li>• Projected admission numbers suggest that Queen Edith School will need to expand to accommodate three form entry in the near future, therefore, if the policies of the present government go ahead there will be no additional building programme, and as a result, pupils will need to be accommodated</li> </ul>	<p>Anglia, in relation to the financial assistance that would be forthcoming.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Diocese of East Anglia will contribute 10% of the capital expenditure for the new school, effectively releasing hundreds of thousands of pounds that the Council could spend on other needs within the county.* (response 101)</li> <li>• In accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 3 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended by The Regulatory Reform (Voluntary Aided Schools Liabilities and Funding) (England) Order 2002, the RC Diocese has made this statement, "The Governors' 10% of capital costs will be met by the governors and/or the diocese, in negotiation. The diocesan schools are advised by a Project Manager, employed by the diocese. The system has worked very successfully across the diocese for many years." This means that 10% of all future capital expenditure and development will <i>not</i> be borne by the County Council, and could be redeployed to other areas of need in the county. (response 130)</li> </ul> <p><b>*Clarification:</b> If successful, the Diocese would only be contributing 10% of <u>future</u> building costs.</p>

	GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS	QUEEN EDITH COMMUNITY FEDERATION GROUP	RC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA
		<p>in a village of porta-cabins. (response 23)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Queen Edith as it operates today appears to be an excellent Primary School with the correct ratio of children to classrooms. It would be a great shame to see the playground covered with mobile classrooms and the ethos of the school changed. (response 25)</li> </ul>	

## **Section Two: Analysis of 370 Roman Catholic Responses presented to the County Council**

On Wednesday 18 August 2010, a box file containing 370 letters was presented to the Council. The letters were response forms that had been pre-printed for supporters of the bid from the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia. These contained seven statements and tick-boxes (see below). The totals in the table below represent the views expressed as ticks on these forms.

<b>Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia Responses</b>	
<b>Statement</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>I support the RC Diocese of East Anglia's proposal for a Catholic School on the site at Gunhild Way</b>	<b>353</b>
<b>I have children who will reach school entry age in the years 2011-2014, and wish to have them educated at a Catholic school. Because the existing Catholic school (St Alban's) is over subscribed, this will not be possible unless the new school is Catholic.</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>I want a Christian ethos education for my child(ren). Unless the new school is run by the Catholic Diocese, my only option will be to send my child(ren) to a non-religious school.</b>	<b>167</b>
<b>Because existing Catholic schools are substantially over subscribed, we desperately need a Christian school in the south of Cambridge city.</b>	<b>317</b>
<b>I am from an ethnic minority group within the catholic community. I welcome the 'whole-child' approach taken by Catholic schools, and its ability to welcome children from all communities and social/cultural backgrounds.</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>I am a shift worker for the Health Service and I welcome the Catholic Diocese's proposal for after school activities with a Christian ethos, near to my home.</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Other Comments.</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Total Number of Responses</b>	<b>370</b>

### **Section Three: Statement submitted with a Petition from 417 Supporters of the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia**

On Wednesday 18 August 2010, a petition containing 417 signatures was presented to the Council. The petition, in support of the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia bid, will be the subject of a separate agenda item at the Cabinet meeting on 28 September 2010.

#### **Petition:**

"We, the undersigned, parishioners and friends of Saint Philip Howard Catholic Church, Cambridge, wish to support the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia's proposal for a Catholic primary school on the site at Gunhild Way. Our reasons are as follows:

- A new Catholic primary school would provide something substantially different for the area, increasing diversity, and significantly increasing parental choice
- For many years there has been a shortage of places in the area for families wishing to access a Catholic primary school
- The Diocese of East Anglia and/or the school will contribute 10% of future capital repair and development costs. This effectively releases capital that the Council could spend on other needs within the county.
- Pressure on places at the one school in the south of the city (St Alban's) is such that the effective radius of its catchment continues to dwindle and is now less than 1 mile
- St Alban's school is unable to offer places to any pupil who does not already have a sibling at the school; this denies a high proportion of Catholic parents any choice of accessing a Catholic education for their children
- The proposed Catholic school will embrace the international nature of the local Catholic population, with children coming from many diverse ethnic backgrounds and countries. There are over 52 nationalities represented within the parish of Saint Philip Howard
- Within the parish of Saint Philip Howard, there are large numbers of young Filipino and Kerala families. The Catholic faith is extremely important to these families, and many would welcome the opportunity to send their children to a Catholic school. The current situation means there will be no places for this growing number of Catholic children
- Over 3000 children currently in the proposed catchment area have been denied the choice of attending such a school
- The proposed Catholic school would release places in other local primary schools, thus increasing parental choice across all sections of the community, as demand continues to grow
- The proposed Catholic school will adhere strongly to the Christian ethos of inclusivity, which stresses the value and potential of every individual child
- Excellent levels of teaching, enrichment, care, guidance, support, and behaviour are recognised characteristics of Catholic schools
- These high standards have been recorded after recent Ofsted visits to St Alban's and St Laurence's Catholic schools

Direct quotes from Ofsted Reports for St Alban's (May 2010) and St Laurence's (March 2009)

- “Pupils make good progress to attain above average standards in English, Mathematics, and Science by the end of Year 6
- In 2008, standards in English were exceptionally high and well above average in both mathematics and science
- Teaching is consistently good, and there is some outstanding teaching; links across subjects are good
- There are outstanding elements to the curriculum
- Outstanding enrichment, through visits, visitors and clubs, makes a significant contribution to pupils' good personal development
- Good progress in all areas of learning and quickly gain language, social and independent learning skills within a stimulating and exciting learning environment.
- The school is successful in supporting an increasing number who have English as an additional language
- Those who have English as an additional language also make good progress because there are well supported by their teachers and teaching assistants
- Standards in writing, particularly for boys, are rising because the school has enriched opportunities for pupils to widen their use of language
- The school has an outstanding curriculum
- The school provides an excellent range of activities to help pupils to learn
- Pupils achieve well throughout the school
- Attendance that is above average, behaviour is outstanding
- Gives pupils a wide range of experience that boosts their confidence and enjoyment of school
- Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities make good progress because they are well-supported by an effective team of teaching assistants
- Activities are exceptionally well matched to the school's range of ability and to the diversity of cultural background represented in its community
- Families in the school community experience a wide range of social and economic circumstances
- The school adopts very positive approaches to inclusion
- Pupils' spiritual, moral, and social development is good as they uphold the school's Christian values
- The school provides extremely well for pupils who may be vulnerable, offering excellent pastoral support and making very effective use of outside agencies
- Thorough procedures to support pupils who find learning difficult; care, guidance, and support are outstanding
- Pupils' personal development is outstanding”

These results show that the standard of education, enrichment, personal development, support, guidance, inclusion, special needs provision, spiritual, moral, and social development are excellent at the existing Catholic schools in Cambridge. These are well-recognised characteristics of all Catholic schools. For example, St Alban's and St Benedict's Schools, both in Suffolk, are rated “outstanding” by the Ofsted inspectors; as is the St John Rigby School in Bedfordshire. Such is the reputation of Catholic schools that they are attractive to all sections of the community; 25% of their places are taken up by non-Catholics, children of

other faiths, or by those of no faith. A new Catholic primary school in Cambridge would offer the opportunity of this high quality education to more parents in the local area, as well as releasing places in other local primary schools that also provide a high standard of education. Parental choice will be increased significantly, for those who desire a Christian education for their children, and for those who do not.”

#### **Section Four: Statement submitted with a Petition from 362 Supporters of the Queen Edith Community Federation Group**

On Monday 28 June 2010, a petition containing 362 signatures was presented to the Council. The petition, in support of the Queen Edith Community Federation Group bid, will be the subject of a separate agenda item at the Cabinet meeting on 28 September 2010.

#### **Petition:**

This document accompanies the bid by the Queen Edith Community Federation Group to establish the planned new primary school on Gunhild Way. It was made up of two parts:

1) Signatures from Queen Edith Staff Supporters

All 62 members of staff at Queen Edith Community Primary School have voluntarily signed in support of the proposal. This includes all senior leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, and administrative, catering and support staff. This strong support and sense of ownership by the whole staff team of Queen Edith is a key component in our capacity to establish the new primary school.

2) Signatures from Parents and Local Residents

At the time of going to print, 300 people had signed in support of the proposal by the Queen Edith Community Federation Group. This includes 210 Queen Edith parents and over 70 local residents from the area which the new school will serve. This indicates the depth of relationships and level of trust which the Federation Group have within the local community



**COMPETITION FOR NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL, GUNHILD WAY  
MEETINGS WITH INDIVIDUAL PROMOTERS – 16 JULY 2010**

**PRESENT:**

**Councillors:**

- David Harty, Cabinet Lead Member for Learning, representing the Conservative Group
- Geoffrey Heathcock, Liberal Democrat Local Member for Queen Edith, the electoral Division in which the new school is located
- Tariq Sadiq, representing the Labour Group
- The Liberal Democrat Group was not formally represented.

**Officers from Children and Young People's Services:**

- Hazel Belchamber, Head of Infrastructure
- Sian Phillips, Education Officer
- Sue Wilson, Head of Standards and Effectiveness (3-11)

Individual meetings were held with the two groups of promoters.

**11.30 am – 12.15 pm: EAST ANGLIA ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE**

Represented by:

- Andrew Firth, Diocesan School Buildings Adviser
- Joe McCrossan, Headteacher, St Alban's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School
- Paul Rossi, Deputy Director of the Diocesan Schools' Service
- Apologies were presented on behalf of Julie O'Connor, the Director of the Diocesan Schools' Services, as she was unwell.

A summary of the main points made during this session is set out below.

**Question asked by Sian Phillips on behalf of the Manager of the Cambridgeshire Race Equality and Diversity Service:**

**How would a Roman Catholic (RC) school promote community cohesion and encourage local families who are members of religious communities that are not Catholic or Christian, or who are non-religious, to feel part of the school community, particularly as it is stated on page 4 of the bid that "We expect our schools to exhibit the following characteristics: Give due consideration to spiritual, moral and social education in order to prepare young people for their lives as Christians in the community"?**

The Catholic Church is not a multi-faith organisation, but it is a multi-cultural one. Most RC schools have a high proportion of non-Catholic children in them. These children feel very much a part of RC schools. The Catholic Church believes that all children are creatures of God. RC schools, therefore, treat all children the same, regardless of faith or culture.

RC schools do not proselytise; they provide an opportunity for children, including Muslims, to celebrate other faiths. Part of the teaching is the recognition of other faiths.

The evidence is there in how St Alban's Primary School is run. It is an RC Voluntary Aided Primary School which embraces all faiths. The head also takes a leading role in the local

extended schools cluster and in the Schools South of the River Group, to ensure that there is close working with all other schools.

### **Questions from Cllr Sadiq:**

#### **How is a Religious Education (RE) lesson constructed in an RC School?**

RC schools do follow a specific RE curriculum, but the RE lesson is only one part of the approach. Schools recognise the religious background of individual children and tailor the input to meet individual needs. However, faith is not only taught in RE lessons, and community issues are covered across the curriculum.

#### **What is the approach of RC schools to Creationism?**

RC Diocesan schools do not take the Bible literally, or adopt a fundamentalist approach. They also teach Darwinism.

#### **Could you clarify the proposed admissions criteria for the new school outlined in the RC Diocese's bid?**

Reference was made to page 5 of the bid document, where the admissions criteria were set out in detail. It was confirmed that the admissions criteria proposed for the new school were not the same as for other RC VA schools; they are designed to meet the demographic pressures in the south of Cambridge.

### **Questions from Sue Wilson:**

#### **At the public meeting the previous evening, mention had been made by the Diocese of the possibility of the new school federating with St Alban's. This was not included in the bid, so could some more information be provided?**

St Laurence's RC VA School, which is located in the north of Cambridge, is not interested in federating with the new school because of the geographical distance, but it will be happy to support the new school in the RC family of schools.

However, the possibility of forming a federation with the new school would be considered formally by the St Alban's governing body during the last week of term. It was not clear yet whether this should be a hard or a soft federation, but it was confirmed that there would be two headteachers – one at each school. The headteacher recruitment arrangements would be determined after the decision on federation had been made.

### **Question from Cllr Heathcock:**

#### **What will be the arrangements for children's safety in the new school?**

The new school's practice will be based on St Alban's current practice, as this is recognised as being extremely good. The school is involved in the Safer Routes to School and the Bikeability projects; walking and cycling are encouraged, wherever possible, whilst parents are discouraged from transporting their children to school by car. Walking buses are used, and, in general, the distance walked by pupils from home to school is no more than one mile.

**Question asked by Sian Phillips on behalf of the Director for Enhanced and Preventative Services:**

**How would the bidders envisage themselves working in collaboration with the Locality Team and other professionals, such as specialist teachers, with a view to promoting inclusion and protecting the most vulnerable, or those who are likely to become vulnerable?**

There would be no difficulty in adopting a collaborative approach. Again, the new school's practice would be based on that adopted by St Alban's, where the headteacher takes a key role in working with the relevant professionals and in fostering collaborative working between schools and members of the Locality Team.

\* \* \*

**1.30 – 2.15 pm : QUEEN EDITH COMMUNITY FEDERATION GROUP**

Represented by:

- Darren Coult, Assistant Headteacher, Queen Edith Community Primary School and member of the Federation Group
- Sean Lang, member of Queen Edith governing body and of the Federation Group
- Pam Jones, Chair of the Queen Edith governing body and member of the Federation Group
- Caroline Peet, Headteacher of Queen Edith and member of the Federation Group.

A summary of the main points made during this session is set out below.

**Questions asked by Sian Phillips on behalf of the Director for Enhanced and Preventative Services:**

**There is reference in the bid document to developing a base for children with autism on the new school site and becoming a centre of excellence in such provision. The letters in support imply that some discussion about this has already taken place. Could you provide some more information about this?**

It was confirmed that there had been no formal discussions with the local authority. However, if the Queen Edith Community Federation Group's bid was successful, they would be pleased to consider the possible development of local specialist provision, as there would, initially, be a number of empty classrooms in the school which could be used for this purpose.

What had been explored, so far, were possible developments at the new school involving Romsey Mill and the Cambridge Family Mediation Service. These developments would enable those organisations to expand their family support services in the school's catchment area, including support for families of children with autism in the case of Romsey Mill, in the form of the Aspire Club.

Reference was made to the information provided on page 31 of the bid which contained proposals relating to the possible use of the new school buildings. It was confirmed, however, that there was no intention of using the building as additional classroom accommodation for children from Queen Edith School.

**How would the bidders envisage themselves working in collaboration with the Locality Team and other professionals, such as specialist teachers, with a view to promoting**

## **inclusion and protecting the most vulnerable, or those who are likely to become vulnerable?**

Queen Edith School had always worked closely with the local authority, and the headteacher was a long-standing member of the Cambridgeshire Primary Heads' Steering Group on Inclusion. As it was not clear whether the funding for local authority-employed Parent Support Advisers would continue, a Family Worker, funded from the school's own extended schools funding, would also focus on support for families in the school's catchment area. The new school would work closely with the authority on all of these issues.

There were already close links between the local authority's specialist teachers and Queen Edith's own specialist teachers, which would continue and be built on if the bid was successful.

Reference was also made to page 28 of the bid, which described Queen Edith's work on the 'Extra Mile Project' since 2008. The school had been invited to participate in this project by the local authority. It is focused on narrowing the achievement gap for vulnerable children in the community.

### **Question asked by Sian Phillips:**

**There is a good deal of focus in the bid on the practice of the current Queen Edith School and on the Queen Edith community, but the new school will be drawing children from a much wider area. Does the Federation Group have the necessary knowledge and representation to enable the school to serve this wider area successfully?**

This had been the reason for inviting organisations such as Romsey Mill to become members of the Federation Group. They are based in the Ridgefield Primary School catchment area, and know that community well, so would be able to bring that knowledge to the Federation Group to inform its management of the new school.

It was emphasised that the Queen Edith school community had not always been as cohesive as it is at present, and, therefore, the lessons learned there would also be drawn on in the running of the new school, if the bid was successful.

### **Questions asked by Sue Wilson:**

**What would the relationship be between the two schools?**

They would be two separate schools, but there would be a close partnership between them. This would be made easier by the fact that the schools would only be a short distance apart. The relationship might best be described as a sibling one, with the new school as the younger sibling, particularly as it would only have Reception-aged pupils initially.

**The bid appears to lean heavily on the skill and reputation of the current headteacher of Queen Edith School. How would the Federation Group ensure continuity if there were a change of headteacher, for whatever reason?**

Members of the group emphasised that:

- the strong ethos of training and succession planning present at Queen Edith School would be extended to the new school;

- there was a strong governing body;
- the bid had the support of the whole Queen Edith school community, not just the headteacher, the senior management team and the governors: all teachers and teaching assistants supported the bid;
- recruitment to the staff from the new school would be undertaken nationally; there would not simply be promotion from within.

**Clarification was sought on the content of the implementation plan, on page 36.**

The implementation plan was explained in detail. This would develop over five years, and the new appointments that would be made each year were highlighted in bold typeface. It was clarified that there would be one overall headteacher (the headteacher of the current Queen Edith Primary School), with one Head of Teaching and Learning at each school by 2013/14. The full structure would be in place by 2015/16. There would be one senior leadership group over the two schools, and there would be administrative staff on both sites.

The proposed structure had been discussed in detail with Queen Edith's School Financial Adviser, and it had been confirmed that the proposals were affordable.

It was also highlighted that there was a strong likelihood of Queen Edith becoming a foundation school, in order to facilitate the joint working.

**Question from Cllr Sadiq:**

**There is only one specific Muslim group included in the support documentation. Should there not be a wider link with the Muslim community?**

This was acknowledged, together with the need to include links with the Roman Catholic community, which had not been possible as yet.

Reference was made to page 51 of the bid, which outlined the Faith and Community Group's intention to "Make links with members of other faith groups represented in the school and invite them to join the group and broaden its scope." It was confirmed that this would be done in relation to Queen Edith, even if the bid to run the new school was not successful.

**Question from Sue Wilson:**

**The Faculty of Education are members of the Federation Group. How would the transmission of knowledge from and to the Faculty be undertaken?**

The Faculty has a limit of ten federations in which they can be involved, and had, therefore, been very interested in being part of a primary federation. If the bid was successful, the Queen Edith Community Federation Group would be able to draw on the Faculty's experience with other federations and the Faculty would be able to draw on the Federation Group's experience of setting up a new primary school in partnership with an existing primary school.

It was also indicated that there had been discussion of the possibility of the Faculty of Education being involved in a government review of primary education. If this did take place, there would be a real opportunity to influence developments in the future.

**NB: APPENDICES 5a) and b) are attached separately.**

**Number of children born in each primary school's catchment area in Cambridge compared with Published Admission Numbers (PANs): January 2010**

<b>Child Health Register Data</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>PAN</b>
<b>Schools</b>						
<b><u>South of City</u></b>						
Abbey Meadows (CP)	104	108	129	130	126	60
Cherry Hinton Infants CE (VC)	59	58	71	75	74	60
Colville (CP)	40	54	64	50	59	30
Fawcett (CP)	47	45	47	58	39	30
Morley Memorial (CP)	81	85	98	86	73	60
Newnham Croft (CP)	48	57	57	42	71	34
Park Street CE (VA)	15	8	16	18	17	18
Queen Edith (CP)	73	89	90	84	67	60
Ridgefield (Foundation with Trust)	65	63	68	98	88	30
Spinney (CP)	25	37	28	41	38	30
St Alban's RC (VA)						30
St Matthew's (CP)	74	72	101	104	125	60
St Paul's CE (VA)	46	47	55	47	45	30
St Philip's CE (VA)	70	62	76	97	97	45
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>577</b>
<b>83% (5-year average)</b>	620	651	747	772	763	
<b>Children/PAN +/-</b>		-74 (3FE)	-170 (6FE)	-195 (7FE)	-186 (6FE)	
<b><u>North of City</u></b>						
Arbury (CP)	64	59	73	87	86	60
Grove (CP)	46	56	39	72	71	30
King's Hedges (CP)	81	64	69	71	80	60
Mayfield (CP)	55	34	60	60	50	60
Milton Road (CP)	78	83	92	75	90	60
Orchard Park (CP)	16	20	29	30	21	15
Shirley(CP)	101	91	108	117	138	60
St Laurence's RC (VA)						35
St Luke's CE (VA)	42	49	61	60	68	37
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>417</b>
<b>83% (5-year average)</b>	401	378	441	475	501	
<b>Children/PAN +/-</b>		+39	- 24 (1FE)	-58 (2FE)	-84 (3FE)	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1230</b>	<b>1241</b>	<b>1431</b>	<b>1502</b>	<b>1523</b>	<b>994</b>
<b>83% (5-year average)</b>	1020	1030	1187	1246	1264	

## **Appendix 7**

### **MEASURES AGREED TO TACKLE INCREASING DEMAND FOR PRIMARY PLACES**

#### **North of Cambridge**

In order to meet the demand for additional primary school places in the north of Cambridge, the following action is being taken, in conjunction with the relevant governing bodies and the Authority's Admissions Team, as appropriate:

- The Grove County Primary School : increase the admission limit from 1 form of entry (FE) to 2FE from September 2011.
- Orchard Park County Primary School : increase the admission limit from 0.5 FE to 1 FE from September 2011.
- St Laurence's Roman Catholic (RC) Voluntary Aided School:  
Following discussions with the RC Diocese and the St Laurence's School governing body, agreement has been reached to the expansion of the school from 1 to 1.5FE from September 2012. A contribution from the Council's capital programme to the building work necessary to enable this expansion has also been agreed. (NB: St Laurence's, as an RC school, does not have a specific catchment area, and any expansion would aim to serve a broader area than the north of the City.)

#### **South of Cambridge**

The proposals agreed by the County Council's Cabinet on 23 February 2010 were that:

- Abbey Meadows Primary School should be extended to provide an additional 30 places for children entering Reception from September 2010, increasing its overall capacity from 420 to 630 pupils.
- Colville Primary School in Cherry Hinton should be extended to provide an additional 30 places for children entering Reception from September 2010, increasing its overall capacity from 210 pupils to 420.
- Queen Edith Primary School should be extended on a temporary basis by 30 Reception places for the 2010/11 academic year only.
- Cherry Hinton Infant and Junior Schools should be extended and their age ranges changed to enable them both to operate as all-through primary schools, providing for children aged 4-11, from September 2011. This will provide an additional 30 Reception places. (Statutory notices still to be published.)
- A new primary school should be established in Gunhild Way, Cambridge, to open in September 2011.

There is also a report on the agenda for the 28 September Cabinet meeting in relation to St Matthew's Community Primary School in Cambridge.







