

**FUTURE EDUCATIONAL PROVISION GAMLINGAY**

**To:** Children & Young People's Committee

**Meeting Date:** 14 March 2017

**From:** Wendi Ogle-Welbourn Interim Executive Director:  
Children, Families and Adults Services

**Electoral division(s):** Gamlingay, Hardwick, Bourn

**Forward Plan ref:** n/a **Key decision:** No

**Purpose:**

**To:**

- a) Advise the Committee of the outcome of the consultation undertaken jointly by CAM Academy Trust and Stratton Educational Trust on options for the future of educational provision in Gamlingay;
- b) Seek the Committee's agreement to bring forward in the Council's capital programme a project to expand and adapt the current Gamlingay Village College to become an all through primary school serving the 4-11 age range.

**Recommendation:** The Committee is recommended to:

- a) Note the outcome of the consultation on future educational provision in Gamlingay;
- b) Endorse the case for bringing forward the capital project to adapt and expand the current Gamlingay Village College site to deliver all through primary education for 4-11 year olds.

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## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

**1.1** In October and November 2016 the CAM Academy Trust which runs Gamlingay First School (GFS) and the Stratton Educational Trust (SET) which runs Gamlingay Village College (GVC), carried out a consultation regarding the future of educational provision in Gamlingay. Consequently, CAM Academy Trust has put the following proposals to the Regional Schools' Commissioner for decision:

- Gamlingay FS to become an all through primary school serving the 4-11 age range with effect from September 2017, as part of the CAM Academy Trust and a feeder school to Comberton VC
- to transfer Gamlingay VC from SET to CAM Academy Trust followed by closure of Gamlingay VC by summer 2018 after the 2017/18 Year 8 cohort have left the school
- as soon as possible after 2017, the primary school should be located on the site of the current Gamlingay VC

## **2.0 CAPITAL PROJECT TO SUPPORT THE EXPANSION OF SCHOOL PLACES IN GAMLINGAY ON THE GROUNDS OF BASIC NEED**

**2.1** Before the consultation outlined above took place, the business case had been made to expand the first school to 2 forms of entry which would increase the number of places in each year group from 48 to 60. This was in response to the demand for extra places which would be created by two approved housing developments planned for Gamlingay. The two developments are forecast to provide a combined total of approximately 280 new homes which would yield between 70 and 98 children of primary school age. A Pupil Admission Number of 60 would also allow for better class organisation and curriculum delivery.

**2.2** Consequently, a four classroom extension project to address the basic need outlined in 2.1 above was included in the Council's capital programme to commence in 2020/21 and £3m identified to deliver the project.

**2.3** As a result of the outcome of the consultation exercise described in section 1 above, the project which features in the capital programme is no longer appropriate in terms of scope and timing.

**2.4** The capital programme now needs to reflect the fact that the project will be required to adapt the Gamlingay VC site in order to deliver education for the 4 to 11 age range with on-site early years provision, whereas to date, as a middle school it had been designed, as a middle school, to accommodate the 10 to 13 age range. The project needs to start on site in 2017/18.

**2.5** Under policy changes recently approved by the Council's Assets and Investment Committee up to 50% of the profit from the sale of the First School, should this asset be realised, would be available to support the proposal in addition to the £3m already identified in the capital programme

### **3.0 ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

#### **3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all**

Providing access to local and high quality education and associated children's services will enhance the skills of the local workforce and provide essential childcare services for working parents or those seeking to return to work. The school and early years and childcare services are providers of local employment.

#### **3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives**

If pupils have access to local schools and associated children's services, they are likely to attend them by either cycling or walking rather than through local authority-provided transport or car. They will also be able to readily access out of school activities such as sport and homework clubs and develop friendship groups within their own community. This contributes to the development of both healthy and independent lifestyles.

#### **3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people**

The presence of a local school ensures that services can be accessed by families in greatest need within its designated area.

### **4.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

#### **4.1 Resource Implications**

##### **4.1.1** The report above sets out details of significant implications in paragraphs 2.4 and 2.5

#### **4.2 Statutory, Legal and Risk**

##### **4.2.1** When the First School became an Academy the site was leased to CAM Academy Trust on an academy 125 year lease. When the Trust re-locates the school to the Gamlingay VC site and vacates the First School site, the lease will be surrendered and the site will revert to the Council however this might be subject to secretary of state approval for any uses they wish to impose on the site. If so, and it is approved, the Council will have freehold ownership of the site without any encumbrances apart from the Scout Hall and will either identify another educational use for it or apply to declare it surplus to requirements.

#### **4.3 Equality and Diversity**

##### **4.3.1** The Council is committed to ensuring that children with special educational needs and disabilities are able to attend their local mainstream school where possible, with only those with the most complex and challenging needs requiring places at specialist provision.

##### **4.3.2** Accommodation provided at the new all through primary school for delivery of early years and childcare and primary education will fully comply with the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty and current Council standards.

#### **4.4 Engagement and Communications**

- 4.4.1** The decision to move to delivering primary education in Gamlingay through an all through 4-11 primary school as a feeder school to Comberton Village College has been taken (subject to final approval by the Secretary of State for Education) following extensive local consultation. The Council responded to the consultation as a statutory consultee.

#### **4.5 Localism and Local Member Involvement**

- 4.5.1** The local Member has been fully involved and consulted throughout the process.
- 4.5.2** Gamlingay Parish Council has formally nominated the playing fields at the First School for inclusion on the South Cambridgeshire District Council's register of Assets of community value. The playing fields are heavily used by the community in a variety of forms. They also represent the only major area of green space within this area of the village, and as such, have been used by the surrounding land owners / developers, as reasons for not including significant informal community space as part of the housing developments. In light of these factors, it would appear reasonable to anticipate that the application is likely to be supported and the playing fields listed and that if there were to be an application or appeal against the listing by the landowner it would not be successful. Once listed, if the County Council wishes to sell or lease the site or part, there is a process that needs to be followed triggered by the County Council of its intention to sell or dispose. If the Parish Council are interested in the site, there is a six month moratorium whereby the County Council and Parish have the ability to negotiate the sale but the County Council are under no obligation to accept the bid from the Parish Council.

#### **4.6 Public Health**

- 4.6.1** Gamlingay Leisure, the community sports facilities which currently operate from the Gamlingay VC site will continue to operate when the CAM Academy Trust takes over the site and runs the proposed all through primary school there.

Implications	Officer Clearance
<b>Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?</b>	Yes Name of Financial Officer: M Wade (CYP)
<b>Has the impact on Statutory, Legal and Risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?</b>	No response received Name of Legal Officer: Lynne Owen
<b>Are there any Equality and Diversity implications?</b>	No Name of Officer: CFA Service Director
<b>Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?</b>	No response received Name of Officer: Simon Cobby
<b>Are there any Localism and Local Member involvement issues?</b>	Yes, as described in paragraph 4.5 Name of Officer: CFA Service Director
<b>Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health</b>	Yes or No Name of Officer: Tess Campbell

Source Documents	Location
CAM Academy and Stratton Education Trusts' joint Consultation document of September 2016 <i>The Proposed Future for Schooling in Gamlingay</i> and outcome documents are all available to view on the school's website:	<a href="http://www.gamlingayfirst.com/consultations">http://www.gamlingayfirst.com/consultations</a>