

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
<b>Date:</b>	10 November 2021
<b>Title:</b>	The Future of Hatherden Church of England Primary School
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

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### 1. The decision:

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approve the commencement of a consultation to consider the closure of the school with effect from 31 August 2022.

### 2 Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1 The financial position of the school severely compromises the capacity of leaders to achieve further improvement and sustain improvements already made in the quality of education for all pupils.
- 2.2 The ongoing use of external sources of support, from Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service (HIAS), the Diocese and the interventions funded by the Office of the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) to increase leadership capacity is not sustainable indefinitely.
- 2.3 The falling pupil numbers and an increasing financial deficit means closure of the school should be considered.

### 3 Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1 The current support package being provided through HIAS, Diocese and RSC be maintained.

**4 Conflicts of interest:** N/A

**5 Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel:** N/A

**6 Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent:** N/A

**7 Statement from the decision maker:**

- 7.1 The school has had two inadequate Ofsted inspections and the most recent judged the school to have serious weaknesses following the section 5 inspection that took place in July 2019. Since then, monitoring has identified effective actions and improvement in the quality of education and safeguarding for all pupils. However, these changes have been secured using intensive, and largely funded, support from Hampshire Inspection & Advisory Service. Further support has also been provided through the Diocese and DfE funded school to school support through a Teaching School.
- 7.2 The numbers of pupils attending the school have fallen significantly and do not provide an adequate financial basis for the sustaining of effective leadership, staffing and other costs. This will risk compromising the quality of education for pupils and this is not an acceptable position.
- 7.3 The current levels of external resource needed to increase capacity within the school is financially unsustainable. It is also counter to the expectation that such intensive support be withdrawn over time so that the school can demonstrate its own effectiveness and the serious weaknesses designation be removed in a future Ofsted inspection.

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

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**Cllr Roz Chadd**  
**Executive Lead Member for Childrens Services**

**10 November 2021**