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## Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

10 March 2020

### Bedfordshire Schools Trust (BEST) Statement

The Bedfordshire Schools Trust (BEST) is proud of the fact that over 60% of all pupils in the Shefford and Stotfold Cluster attend a BEST school. There are over 6000 pupils and families to whom we have a responsibility to provide the very best education that we can.

As a Trust we decided not to take part in CBC's public consultation, believing that the option presented was not justified by pupil place requirements and that a range of options should have been offered. Consequently, we have had to think long and hard about the proposals contained.

Following discussions with CBC officers firm commitments have been given, securing:

1. Five form Primary provision, as part of the all-through 0-18 school
2. Provision for pupils from Robert Bloomfield Academy's traditional feeder schools to gain entry to the Secondary provision, of the all-through 0-18 school
3. Campton Lower school - as a new member of BEST - becoming a new build 2 form entry Primary school, in line with CBC's draft plan
4. Additional 6<sup>th</sup> Form Provision on the Samuel Whitbread and Etonbury/Pix Brook sites, providing an extensive and diverse range of courses for all those wanting them
5. Developing a joint solution to all PFI-related issues on the Samuel Whitbread site.

These commitments mean that we are now in a position to support CBC's plan and strongly believe that it has the potential to transform educational provision across Shefford and Stotfold for future generations.

Dr Alan Lee  
Chief Executive Officer

Mrs Ilona Bond  
Chair of Trustees

