

**Proposal to expand Greenleas Community Lower School to provide new school places for children in the south of Leighton Buzzard**

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Central Bedfordshire Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Greenleas Community Lower School, Derwent Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 2AB from 1 September 2013.

The proposal is to expand Greenleas Community Lower School from a 300 place lower school for pupils aged 4+ to 9 to a 600 place lower school for pupils aged 4+ to 9 through the creation of a new second campus at Pratts Quarry, off Kestrel Way, Leighton Buzzard. The second campus will provide an additional 2 forms of entry (300 places) at Pratts Quarry, off Kestrel Way, Leighton Buzzard in new buildings.

The current capacity of the school is approx 300. Following implementation the proposed capacity will be 300 for the current campus and 300 for the second campus. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 281.

The admission number for the current school is 57 for each year group and the proposed admission number will be 60 for each year group at the Derwent Road site plus an additional 60 pupils for each year group at the new Kestrel Way site.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: The Information Manager, Central Bedfordshire Council, Room DC2, Watling House, High Street North, Dunstable, Beds, LU6 1LF. It can also be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/public-statutory-notice/public-statutory-notice.aspx>

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to the Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services, Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Chicksands, Shefford, Beds, SG17 5TQ.

Signed: Edwina Grant

Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services

Publication Date: 11 June 2012

**Explanatory notes:**

The proposal is in response to the growing number of pupils seeking school places in Leighton Buzzard. The school has recently admitted pupils in excess of their permanent capacity and further temporary measures are proposed for admissions in 2012 ahead of the permanent new buildings on the Kestrel Way site school which will be completed in 2013. Admissions to the existing school site in 2013 will be in accordance with the published criteria. For admission to the new Kestrel Way site in 2013 it is proposed that this should be in line with the following criteria: all looked after children, pupils with siblings at the school, "very exceptional" medical grounds, children attending Greenleas Nursery Unit, children attending Willows pre-school and children who live nearest the school determined by straight line distance from the Greenleas (Pratt's Quarry) site to the pupils home address. This will be reviewed for admissions in September 2014.

## PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS: Information to be included in a complete proposal

### **Extract of Part 1 of Schedule 3 and Part 1 of Schedule 5 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended):**

#### **In respect of a Governing Body Proposal: School and governing body's details**

1. The name, address and category of the school for which the governing body are publishing the proposals.

N/A

#### **In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority details**

1. The name, address and category of the school.

Greenleas Community Lower School  
Derwent Road  
Leighton Buzzard  
Beds  
LU7 2AB

#### **Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation**

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

01 September 2013.

#### **Objections and comments**

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including —
- (a) the date prescribed in accordance with paragraph 29 of Schedule 3 (GB proposals)/Schedule 5 (LA proposals) of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and

- (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals (i.e. by 09 July 2012), any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to the Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services, Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Chicksands, Shefford, Beds, SG17 5TQ.

#### **Alteration description**

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

The proposal is to enlarge the school by providing an additional 300 lower school places in new buildings as a second campus to the main school on a site currently known as Pratts Quarry, off Kestrel Way in south Leighton Buzzard. This will retain the school's existing site and capacity ensuring that the needs of the existing Greenleas community will continue to be met on that site, but will also ensure that more local provision is made to meet the needs of the growing Sandhills community in south Leighton Buzzard. It is planned that the new permanent accommodation at the Pratts Quarry site should be ready for occupation for the 2013/14 school year.

#### **School capacity**

- 5.—(1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 8, 9 and 12-14 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), the proposals must also include —

- (a) details of the current capacity of the school and, where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

The current capacity of the school is 285. Following implementation the proposed capacity will be 300 for the Derwent Road school campus and 300 places at the new Kestrel Way campus.

- (b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

Currently there are 57 pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age. Following implementation, this will be 60 for the existing Greenleas, Derwent Road site, plus a further 60 at the new Kestrel Way campus.

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

N/A

- (d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

N/A

(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals) /paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 and 19 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

The current number of pupils registered at the school is 281.

### Implementation

6. Where the proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary controlled school a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the governing body, and, if the proposals are to be implemented by both, a statement as to the extent to which they are to be implemented by each body.

N/A

### Additional Site

7.—(1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

A second campus is to be built on a new site at Kestrel Way, on the Pratts Quarry development in south Leighton Buzzard; hence the school will occupy both the existing Derwent Road site and the new Kestrel Way site.

(2) Where proposals relate to a foundation or voluntary school a statement as to who will provide any additional site required, together with details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease.

N/A

### Changes in boarding arrangements

8.—(1) Where the proposals are for the introduction or removal of boarding provision, or the alteration of existing boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

- (a) the number of pupils for whom it is intended that boarding provision will be made if the proposals are approved;

N/A

- (b) the arrangements for safeguarding the welfare of children at the school;

N/A

- (c) the current number of pupils for whom boarding provision can be made and a description of the boarding provision; and

N/A

- (d) except where the proposals are to introduce boarding provision, a description of the existing boarding provision.

N/A

(2) Where the proposals are for the removal of boarding provisions or an alteration to reduce boarding provision such as is mentioned in paragraph 8 or 21 of Schedule 2 (GB proposals)/7 or 14 of Schedule 4 (LA proposals) to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) —

- (a) the number of pupils for whom boarding provision will be removed if the proposals are approved; and

N/A

- (b) a statement as to the use to which the former boarding accommodation will be put if the proposals are approved.

N/A

### **Transfer to new site**

9. Where the proposals are to transfer a school to a new site the following information—

- (a) the location of the proposed site (including details of whether the school is to occupy a single or split site), and including where appropriate the postal address;

Greenleas Lower school will continue to occupy the existing school site at Derwent Road but will also occupy the new accommodation which is to be built on the site off Kestrel Way, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 4AX.

- (b) the distance between the proposed and current site;

The two sites are approximately 4.4 miles apart.

- (c) the reason for the choice of proposed site;

Significant new housing has been built in the south of Leighton Buzzard in recent years with more new dwellings still to be provided. As part of the overall development, land was secured via a S106 Planning agreement for additional lower school provision to be provided in the immediate locality. This site is now being brought forward. The site also has outline planning consent via a consent for the wider development.

Until recently, the pupils moving into the new developments have been catered for by the existing schools in the area utilising spare capacity. However in September 2011 and in particular for initial admission at 4+, there was a shortage of places in areas where parents wanted them and some schools were required to admit in excess of their published admission numbers.

Set against a total of 548 overall places for admissions across the area at 4+, a total of 538 pupils were admitted resulting in most schools being at or above capacity. Area Health Authority figures indicate the continuation of this trend over the coming years with further pressure from the new housing developments which are either underway or have yet to start.

The Council has been working with schools in the area to review places and plan for the impact of demographic changes across the area over the next five years

and beyond. The pressure on existing provision and the need for more places across lower schools in the Leighton Buzzard and Linslade area is clear and the Council is now bringing forward proposals to develop this additional site.

(d) the accessibility of the proposed site or sites;

The proposed site of the new campus is within the Pratts Quarry development and therefore is ideally placed to accommodate the children from this development.

(e) the proposed arrangements for transport of pupils to the school on its new site; and

N/A as the additional site is within walking distance of the development.

(f) a statement about other sustainable transport alternatives where pupils are not using transport provided, and how car use in the school area will be discouraged.

N/A as the children live on the development.

## Objectives

10. The objectives of the proposals.

In order to provide additional places in an area of growth, the Council is proposing to provide an extra 300 lower school places by building new accommodation on the site currently known as Pratts Quarry, off Kestrel Way in south Leighton Buzzard as an expansion of, and second campus to, the existing successful Greenleas Lower School.

The expansion of an existing school, effectively through the creation of a second campus to the existing school site, mirrors federation arrangements elsewhere in Central Bedfordshire where schools are managed in a similar way and governed across two or more sites. This would also retain the school's existing site ensuring that the need to provide local schools for local children, ensuring a sense of community belonging and also promoting sustainable modes of travel, are fulfilled. This provides an excellent opportunity for the existing school to also grow its leadership and management capacity across the two sites.

This plan is for new permanent accommodation at the Pratts Quarry site to be ready for the 2013/14 school year. The admission arrangements for the new site for September 2013 will be in accordance with the following criteria:

1. All 'looked after' children or children who were previously 'looked after'
2. Pupils with siblings at the school
3. 'Very exceptional' medical grounds

4. Children attending Greenleas Nursery Unit
5. Children attending Willows Pre-School on the Greenleas School site
6. Children who live nearest to the school determined by straight line distance from the Greenleas Lower School - Sandhills site, to the pupil's home address.

## **Definitions**

### 1. 'Looked after' children

A 'looked after' child is a child who is (a) in the care of the local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

### Previously 'looked after' children

A previously 'looked after' child is one who immediately after being 'looked after' became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order. An 'adoption order' is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A 'residence order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

### 2. Sibling

A sibling refers to a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister or the child of the parent / carer's partner, and in every case, the child should be living at the same address. The sibling must be in the school at the time of application and be likely to remain in the school at the proposed date of admission.

### 3. 'Very Exceptional' Medical Grounds

'Very exceptional' medical grounds refers to cases where there are exceptional medical reasons which make it essential that a child should attend a particular school and where the preferred school is the only school locally that could meet the child's needs. A medical report from the child's doctor or consultant must be submitted with the application form, setting out valid medical reasons why it is essential for the child to be admitted to the school in question and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school. The Local Authority reserves the right to seek further information in order to determine whether it is essential for a child to be admitted to the preferred school on medical grounds. Admission on medical grounds cannot be considered where the medical condition relates to that of a parent / carer, brother or sister or other relative/childminder.

This criteria will be further reviewed for admissions in September 2014 to ensure that priority will primarily be based on distance criteria thereby ensuring that it serves the immediate community in which it is located.

## **Consultation**

11. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—
  - (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
  - (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;



- (c) the views of the persons consulted;
- (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
- (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

a) The consultees were all parents/carers, staff, governors of the school, Central Bedfordshire ward councillors, Leighton Buzzard Town Council, MPs, Children's Trust Board, neighbouring councils, key local voluntary groups and the general public.

b) Notes of the meetings held with staff, governors and trade union representatives and of the public consultation meetings are appended at Appendix A.

c) The views of the persons consulted are contained within the report appended at Appendix B, sections 48 - 61.

d) All of the applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with.

e) A copy of the consultation document is appended to this document at Appendix C. This consultation document was supplied to all parents/carers, staff and governors of Greenleas Lower School. Copies were available to the public via Leighton Buzzard Library and Leighton Linlade Town Council. A link to the consultation document on the Council's website was circulated to all head teachers and ward councillors throughout Central Bedfordshire. A copy of the consultation document was forwarded to the local Members of Parliament, neighbouring Education Authorities, key local voluntary sector organisations and members of the local Children's Trust Board. Copies were also provided to the 'Community House', which is situated on the on the Pratts Quarry development. (The Community House hosts a number of local community groups and their events and also produces a newsletter (House 2 House) which is circulated to all properties on the development). A press release regarding the consultation also appeared in the local press.

### **Project costs**

**12.** A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

The total capital cost of the project is currently estimated at just over £4.7m and this will be funded in full by the Council. The land required for the new campus was transferred to Central Bedfordshire Council in early 2012.

**13.** A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

On 27 March 2012 the Council's Executive recommended to Full Council the rolling Capital Programme for New School Places as set out in the Executive report, noting the required amendments to the Council's approved Capital Programme 2012/13 to 2015/16. (minute E/11/144)

On 14 April 2012 Central Bedfordshire's Full Council approved the rolling Capital Programme for New School Places as set out in the Executive report, noting the required amendments to the Council's approved Capital Programme 2012/13 to 2015/16. (minute C/12/9)

### Age range

14. Where the proposals relate to a change in age range, the current age range for the school.

N/A

### Early years provision

15. Where the proposals are to alter the lower age limit of a mainstream school so that it provides for pupils aged between 2 and 5—

- (a) details of the early years provision, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;

N/A

- (b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services and how the proposals are consistent with the integration of early years provision for childcare;

N/A

- (c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;

N/A

- (d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools and in establishments other than schools who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school; and

N/A

(e) reasons why such schools and establishments who have spare capacity cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the number of such provision.

N/A

**Changes to sixth form provision**

**16. (a)** Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school provides sixth form education or additional sixth form education, a statement of how the proposals will—

- (i) improve the educational or training achievements;
- (ii) increase participation in education or training; and
- (iii) expand the range of educational or training opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the area;

N/A

(b) A statement as to how the new places will fit within the 16-19 organisation in an area;

N/A

(c) Evidence —

- (i) of the local collaboration in drawing up the proposals; and
- (ii) that the proposals are likely to lead to higher standards and better progression at the school;

N/A

(d) The proposed number of sixth form places to be provided.

N/A

17. Where the proposals are to alter the upper age limit of the school so that the school ceases to provide sixth form education, a statement of the effect on the supply of 16-19 places in the area.

N/A

**Special educational needs**

18. Where the proposals are to establish or change provision for special educational needs—

- (a) a description of the proposed types of learning difficulties in respect of which education will be provided and, where provision for special educational needs already exists, the current type of provision;

N/A

- (b) any additional specialist features will be provided;

N/A

- (c) the proposed numbers of pupils for which the provision is to be made;

N/A

- (d) details of how the provision will be funded;

N/A

- (e) a statement as to whether the education will be provided for children with special educational needs who are not registered pupils at the school to which the proposals relate;

N/A

- (f) a statement as to whether the expenses of the provision will be met from the school's delegated budget;

N/A

- (g) the location of the provision if it is not to be established on the existing site of the school;

N/A

- (h) where the provision will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs, a statement as to how the local education authority believes that the new provision is likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children; and

N/A

- (i) the number of places reserved for children with special educational needs, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of such places.

N/A

**19. Where the proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs—**

- (a) details of alternative provision for pupils for whom the provision is currently made;

N/A

- (b) details of the number of pupils for whom provision is made that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs during each of the 4 school years preceding the current school year;

N/A

- (c) details of provision made outside the area of the local education authority for pupils whose needs will not be able to be met in the area of the authority as a result of the discontinuance of the provision; and

N/A

- (d) a statement as to how the proposer believes that the proposals are likely to lead to improvement in the standard, quality and range of the educational provision for such children.

N/A

**20.** Where the proposals will lead to alternative provision for children with special educational needs, as a result of the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of existing provision, the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of—

- (a) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local education authority's Accessibility Strategy;
- (b) improved access to specialist staff, both educational and other professionals, including any external support and outreach services;
- (c) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
- (d) improved supply of suitable places.

N/A

### **Sex of pupils**

**21.** Where the proposals are to make an alteration to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of one sex only becomes an establishment which admits pupils of both sexes—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single sex-education in the area;

N/A

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education; and

N/A

- (c) details of any transitional period which the body making the proposals wishes specified in a transitional exemption order (within the meaning of section 27 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975).

N/A

**22.** Where the proposals are to make an alteration to a school to provide that a school which was an establishment which admitted pupils of both sexes becomes an establishment which admits pupils of one sex only—

- (a) details of the likely effect which the alteration will have on the balance of the provision of single-sex education in the area; and

N/A

- (b) evidence of local demand for single-sex education.

N/A

### **Extended services**

**23.** If the proposed alterations affect the provision of the school's extended services, details of the current extended services the school is offering and details of any proposed change as a result of the alterations.

The extended services currently provided by the school at the Derwent Road site will be unchanged. The school also proposes to work with the local community to develop relevant extra curricular and extended school activities at the new Kestrel Way site in respond to local need.

### **Need or demand for additional places**

**24.** If the proposals involve adding places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

Significant new housing has been built in the south of Leighton Buzzard in recent years with more new dwellings still to be provided. Until recently, the pupils moving into the new developments have been catered for by the existing schools in the area utilising spare capacity. However in September 2011, and in particular for initial admission at 4+, there was a shortage of places in areas where parents wanted them and some schools were required to admit in

excess of their published admission numbers.  
Set against a total of 548 overall places for admissions across the area at 4+, a total of 538 pupils were admitted resulting in most schools being at or above capacity. Area Health Authority figures indicate the continuation of this trend over the coming years with further pressure from the new housing developments which are either underway or have yet to start.  
The Council has been working with schools in the area to review places and plan for the impact of demographic changes across the area over the next five years and beyond. The pressure on existing provision and the need for more places across lower schools in the Leighton Buzzard and Linslade area is clear.

- (b) where the school has a religious character, a statement and supporting evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion or religious denomination;

N/A

- (c) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

N/A

**25. If the proposals involve removing places—**

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the reasons for the removal, including an assessment of the impact on parental choice; and

N/A

- (b) a statement on the local capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

N/A

**Expansion of successful and popular schools**

**25A.** (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this.



(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to expansion proposals in respect of primary and secondary schools, (except for grammar schools), i.e. falling within:

(a) (for proposals published by the governing body) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 2 or paragraph 12 of Part 2 to Schedule 2;

(b) (for proposals published by the LA) paragraph 1 of Part 1 to Schedule 4 or 18 of Part 4 to Schedule 4

of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

Whilst not applicable, the Council has wished to ensure that any additional provision is built upon an existing successful and popular school.