

Meeting: Executive
Date: 18 March 2013
Subject: Commissioning New School Places for Implementation from September 2014

Report of: Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services

Summary: This report outlines five projects within the New School Places Programme 2013/14 – 2017/18 where local pressures of demographic growth require new school places to be provided from September 2014.

Advising Officer: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive/ Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Pete Dudley, Assistant Director for Learning, Commissioning and Partnerships

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: Biggleswade North, Biggleswade South, Northill, Pottton, Ampthill, Flitwick, Cranfield & Marston, Leighton Buzzard North, Leighton Buzzard South, Aspley & Woburn, Heath & Reach

Function of: Executive

Key Decision Yes

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The report supports Central Bedfordshire's Medium Term Plan: *Delivering your priorities – Our Plan for Central Bedfordshire 2012- 2016* and the specific priority of Improved Educational Attainment.

Financial:

1. The five proposals outlined in this report are contained with the New School Places Programme 2011/12 – 2017/18 which is largely capital funded as outlined in Appendix A to this report through Basic Need Grant (actual and assumed) and S106 contributions.
2. The Department for Education (DfE) announced its allocations of Basic Need grant for 2013/14 to 2014/15 on the 1March 2013. For Central Bedfordshire this represents an increase in previous year's allocations and is reflected in the updated programme and cash flow attached at Appendix A which now updates the previous forecasts of income and expenditure to the programme, as set out in the Council's capital programme. Figures for 2015/16 onwards are based on an assumption of Basic Need Grant at similar levels to 2013/14 and 2014/15.

3. The programme now reflects a significantly reduced capital contribution, on current planning assumptions, that the Council may be required to provide from its own resources of approximately £1M in 2015/16 (Previously £12.87M across 2015/16 and 2016/17).
4. The day to day running costs of school provision is met through revenue funding which is made available to each school as part of the dedicated schools grant and is based primarily on the numbers of pupils attending, which will increase accordingly in an expanded school.
5. Where necessary, additional revenue support for relevant costs can be accessed on application through the Growth Fund established by the Schools Forum, for Schools and Academies that are undertaking significant expansion on commission from the Council.
6. Capital expenditure within the New School Places Programme 2011/12 – 2017/18 is subject to the Council's Code of Financial Governance and expenditure to commission feasibility studies and design work required for projects within this rolling programme has been approved by the Executive Member for Children's Services, in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services as per Section 4.10.7 of the Council's Constitution.

Legal:

7. Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on Councils to secure sufficient and suitable school places to provide for 5 – 16 year old statutory aged children in its area. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 gives Councils a strategic role as commissioners, but not providers, of school places to promote parental choice, diversity, high standards, the fulfilment of every child's educational potential and fair access to educational opportunity.
8. The main legislation governing school organisation is found in sections 7-32 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) (England Regulations 2007 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Mainstream Schools) (England) Regulations 2007.
9. DfE regulations outline the requirements and process for proposals to expand Council maintained schools and these include full public consultation, the publication of statutory proposals and the decision making process. The Council is decision maker for proposals relating to maintained schools, one of which is set out in this report and relates to the proposed expansion of Church End Lower School, Marston.
10. The DfE has also produced guidance for Academies wishing to make significant changes including proposals to enlarge premises by a significant proportion. The process, which is overseen by the Education Funding Agency on behalf of the DfE requires consultation and subsequent submission by the Academy of a report for determination by the Secretary of State. The proposals to expand Stratton Upper, and Redborne Upper will be required to follow this process. The proposals to expand Vandyke Upper and Alameda Middle as set out in this report will not be required to follow this process as the proposed increases in capacity do not reach the trigger point set out in the DfE guidance.

Risk Management:

11. The five proposals to commission new school places and to allocate related capital investment outlined in this report implements the identified need to manage demographic growth in the previously published school organisation plan and mitigates the risk on the Council of failing in its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places.

Key risks include:

Failure to discharge legal and statutory duties/guidance.

Failure to deliver the Council's strategic priorities

Reputational risks associated with the non delivery of required school places.

Financial risks, including;

Non realisation of anticipated Section 106 monies and anticipated levels of government grant.

Potential for overspend on any project within the programme.

Inability of schools to recruit suitable additional staff.

12. Without the formal process of strategic planning and implementation of required projects in place there is a risk that the DfE will not approve future allocations of Basic Need Funding to the Council. There is also a risk that Section 106 monies will not be able to be properly planned or achieve the spend of funds in an appropriate and timely manner. This reinforces the importance of the Council adopting a new Development Strategy and Community Infrastructure Levy in 2014 to ensure that well designed appropriately located housing is supported by educational infrastructure.
13. The commissioning of each of the five projects in this report will include risk assessment and management criteria to ensure these and the proposed procurement route are clear to decision makers. Contract and construction risks will be overseen through the project management of the agreed projects which may be led by the schools, with appropriate safeguards in place as set out in the Procurement section below.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

14. Staff and Trades Unions will be consulted on the proposals to expand the schools in this report as part of the informal and statutory consultation process required by regulations and DfE guidance.
15. Schools will have the support of their commissioned HR Providers where any proposals require changes in school staff structures or to terms and conditions of employment. The Council's Schools Statutory HR Team will monitor restructures to ensure redundancy charges to the Council are minimised and justified.
16. Each expanding school will need to increase the numbers of teaching and non-teaching staff to support the increase in pupil numbers. This will be funded through the school's Dedicated School Grant budget and the increased share which the school will receive.

Equalities/Human Rights:

17. The consultation and decision making process set out in regulation for proposals to expand Academies and Council maintained schools requires an evaluation on a project by project basis of any equalities and human rights issues that might arise. These will be reported to the Council's Executive in August 2013 when a final decision and approval to commence expenditure will be required.

Public Health:

18. Extended Services around School and Early Years settings will be further developed as a result of the growing school population.
19. The range of extended services that may be provided in schools includes:
 - Parenting and family support officers.
 - Transition support for pupils, schools and families.
 - Combined clubs and after school activities.
 - Holiday activities.
 - Support for vulnerable pupils and families i.e. siblings group and young carers.

Community Safety:

20. Schools have an important role in working alongside a range of other agencies to ensure safety in their local communities. The potential to further promote and support robust partnerships is one of the principles by which options for new school places are evaluated.

Sustainability:

21. Whilst there may be additional costs in order to meet sustainability objectives for new build and/or expansion of existing schools, these will be contained within the costs identified for each individual project within the programme. These measures would contribute to reduced running costs through better energy and resource efficiency, alongside creating a better learning environment for the pupils.

Procurement:

22. The tendering and approval process for awarding construction contracts will be in accordance with the Council's Code of Procurement Guidance and the thresholds indicated in section 5.1 of the Council's Constitution. Where Schools or Academies are able to provide significant reassurance of their ability and capacity to procure and project manage the delivery of the required construction works, the Council will support this arrangement with appropriate oversight and governance in place.
23. Each proposal in the New School Places Programme is required by the Council's Policy Principles on Pupil Place Planning in Schools to be supported by a business case that establishes a guarantee of the quality of the new places being added to the system. This business case is considered as part of the final Executive approval of any proposal and before approval to commence expenditure is given.

24. Where the school or Academy that is subject to an expansion proposal is also intended to procure and deliver the capital project with the support of the Council, the business case will require assurances of the capability and capacity of the school to deliver the proposal to time and on budget, based on their expertise and experience.

Overview and Scrutiny:

25. The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report on 26 February 2013 and the Committee endorsed the proposals outlined within the report for consideration by the Executive.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Executive is asked to:

1. **recommend to Council that the externally funded rolling Capital Programme for New School Places to 2014/15 as set out in Appendix A to this report be approved, noting the required amendments to the Council's approved Capital Programme which will be required beyond 2014/15;**
2. **approve the commencement of informal consultation and the publication of statutory notices for the proposal to expand Church End Lower School, Marston from its current capacity of 270 places to provide a total of 450 places across two sites with an implementation date of September 2014. The school will also be invited to prepare a business case for approval by the Council's Executive in its final determination in August 2013;**
3. **invite the Academy of Redborne Upper School, to prepare a business case for approval by the Council's Executive in August 2013 and to undertake consultation and approval processes required as an Academy by the Education Funding Agency to expand from its current capacity of 1450 places to provide 1650 places with an implementation date of September 2014;**
4. **invite the Academy of Stratton Upper School, to prepare a business case for approval by the Council's Executive in August 2013 and to undertake consultation and approval processes required as an Academy by the Education Funding Agency to expand from its current capacity of 1250 places to provide 1650 places with an implementation date of September 2014;**
5. **invite the Academy of Alameda Middle School to prepare a business case for approval by the Council's Executive in August 2013 for commencement of the proposed expenditure as outlined in the New School Places Programme attached at Appendix A to expand from its current capacity of 600 places to provide 720 places with an implementation date of September 2014; and**
6. **invite the Academy of Vandyke Upper School to prepare a business case for approval by the Council's Executive in August 2013 for commencement of the proposed expenditure as outlined in the New School Places Programme attached at Appendix A.**

<i>Reason for Recommendations:</i>	<i>To ensure the Council continues to meet its statutory obligations to provide sufficient school places and also to meet the legal requirements placed on the Council by the Education and Inspections Act 2006 regarding proposals to expand maintained schools. Commitment to expenditure and final approval of each of these proposals will be determined by the Council's Executive in August 2013, informed by the outcome of the consultation exercises, Education Funding Agency approvals where relevant, and business cases which are to be prepared by each School or Academy.</i>
------------------------------------	---

Executive Summary

26. This report outlines five projects within the Council's New School Places Programme where local pressures of demographic growth within each school's existing catchment area require additional school places to be provided by September 2014. All of the projects in this report relate to proposals to expand existing provision and no new Schools or Academies are created as a result.
27. Each of the proposals has been developed with support of the Governing Bodies or Board of the relevant school or Academy and each is aligned as set out in the report with the Council's Policy Principles for Pupil Place Planning in Schools as approved by the Council's Executive in February 2013.
28. Four of these proposals relate to the expansion of Academies and one relates to the proposed expansion of a Council maintained Foundation school. The Council is decision maker for proposals to expand Council maintained schools, whereas the Council can invite Academies to expand but proposals are subject to the Secretary of State's approval.
29. Proposals to enlarge schools and Academies by a significant proportion require consultation to be undertaken, with Academies also required to submit a detailed report to the Education Funding Agency as part of their approval process.
30. Each proposal in the New School Places Programme is required by the Council's Policy Principles on Pupil Place Planning in Schools to be supported by a business case in a format set by the Council that establishes a guarantee of the quality of the new places being added to the system. Each business case is considered as part of the final Executive approval of any proposal and before approval to commence expenditure is given.
31. In all instances where new school places are required and proposals are approved the Council is responsible for committing the relevant capital funding to implement required expansions and new build.
32. This report therefore seeks Executive approval to:

consider the proposals to provide new school places in Marston, Ampthill, Biggleswade and Leighton Buzzard;

commence consultation on the proposal to expand Church End Lower School, Marston;

invite Stratton Upper School and Redborne Upper School to expand, to seek DfE approval and to prepare a business case for subsequent consideration by the Council's Executive; and

invite Vandyke Upper School and Alameda Middle School to prepare a business case for subsequent consideration by the Council's Executive.

33. A report will subsequently be made to the Council's Executive in August 2013 to:
- consider the outcome of the consultation and determine the proposal to expand Church End Lower School, Marston;
 - note the outcome of the DfE determination of the Academy expansion proposals;
 - consider the business cases submitted by each school; and
 - approve each project and commit to the required capital expenditure.

2013/14 Refresh of the New School Places Programme

34. As reported to the Council's Executive on the 5 February 2013 the New School Places Programme was initially approved in March 2012 and its annual refresh has included a review of a range of assumptions including:
- The potential timing of commencement of development on current LDF sites i.e North Houghton Regis, as indicated in the Council's Draft Development Strategy.
 - The rate of housing development in many areas, therefore the required date for the additional or new provision and the trigger points for Section 106 income.
 - The need to integrate new schools with the existing pattern of provision, therefore the reference to new lower, middle, primary or secondary schools.
 - The project costs, which are based on the additional/new floor areas required for the planned provision, including inflation, fees, furniture and equipment.
35. The continued level of Basic Need allocations as income to the Council has also been reassessed following the DfE announcement of a two year allocation of Basic Need Grant, one of three main funding sources for the New School Places Programme. This and the reprofiling of anticipated Section 106 funding against each project in the programme has enabled a review of forecast income.
36. Feasibility studies have also been carried out on a number of projects within the programme in order to be satisfied that the increase in numbers can be accommodated within existing school sites and to fine tune the indicative costs set out within the programme.
37. The New School Places Programme attached at Appendix A therefore sets out the programme's anticipated cashflow although this will itself be further reviewed and reported to the Council's Executive in early 2014.

Legal Process for Proposals to Enlarge Council Maintained Schools and Academies

38. In accordance with the Education and Inspections Act (EIA) 2006 DfE regulations outline the requirements and process for proposals to significantly enlarge Council maintained schools and these include full public consultation, the publication of statutory proposals and the decision making process. The Council is decision maker for proposals to enlarge maintained schools.
39. Proposals to significantly enlarge Academies are dealt with by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) which is responsible for operational work in relation to Academies. The definition of the enlargement of premises by a significant proportion is given in EFA guidance which sets out the process that must be followed by Academies seeking to make such changes.
40. The Secretary of State retains responsibility for the decision to make any significant changes to an Academy even though EFA does the operational work. The Secretary of State needs information on the following to make a decision:
- the educational benefits and value for money;
 - the degree of Council support;
 - the effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the Council area;
 - whether the Academy has the capacity to deal with the change and in particular, whether the Academy's leadership and governance has the capacity and the expertise to be able to take-on such a significant transition without being deflected from its primary purpose of schooling. (This would also include consideration of the Academy's financial position);
 - whether changes may be needed to the way the Academy is governed and whether any changes to the school's admission arrangements are being proposed;
 - community support – the degree of support for the proposals that exists in the local community and whether any consultation has been undertaken;
 - whether any issues have been identified around the existing school site: for example whether there are any foreseen proposed adaptations, additions, refurbishments or land transfers that are needed; and
 - whether the proposal is cost-effective both in terms of capital and recurrent funding. The proposal should include some indicative costings and a proposal as to how these might be met.

41. The process that the Academy must follow with its proposal commences with an initial approach to Education Funding Agency (EFA) with details of the change requested. An 8 week consultation period follows with stakeholders, including parents and other schools. The Academy then submits a report to the EFA providing the information set out in Section 40 above (to include consultation responses and the Academy's response to consultation) and the EFA analyses the business case and makes a recommendation to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State determines the proposal and EFA notifies the Academy of the decision and any changes required to the Academy's legal agreements and articles.
42. The Council will support Academies in this process and early engagement has already been undertaken between Council officers and EFA staff to ensure visibility of the proposals contained within this report and of others that may be forthcoming in future years.
43. The outcome of the informal and statutory consultation process for the Council maintained school Church End Lower, Marston will be reported to the Council's Executive as final decision maker in August 2013 along with a report on the DfE determination of the proposals made in relation to the Academies.
44. Each proposal will be supported by a business case drafted in a format set by the Council that establishes a guarantee of the quality of the new places being added to the system based on the school's vision and educational plan. In addition to its Ofsted rating, the business case will also require the school to outline its performance in terms of results and improvement over time in key stage assessments, in terms of value added and in comparison with other schools in similar circumstances. The business case will require the school to set out its improvement targets.
45. Where the school or Academy that is subject to an expansion proposal is also intended to procure and deliver the capital project with the support of the Council, the business case will require assurances of the capability and capacity of the school to deliver the proposal to time and on budget, based on their expertise and experience. A formal payment mechanism will also need to be put into place to ensure that the funding is allocated in a timely and appropriate manner and to secure the long-term retention of the additional places.
46. Each business case will be considered as part of the final Executive approval of each project in August 2013, before approval to commence expenditure on works is given.

Church End Lower School, Marston

47. New lower school places are required in Marston as a result of significant housing development in the area which has included 480 dwellings being provided on Land East of Bedford Road in Marston Moretaine. This development includes a site for additional Lower School provision to serve the Village and has also provided capital contributions towards the cost of new provision. A further 125 dwellings are proposed on Land at Moreteyne Farm which will similarly be required to make a capital contribution.

48. Pupils transfer from Marston to Middle and Upper schools within Bedford Borough and contributions have also been secured to support additional provision which may be required at those schools.
49. Collectively these new developments represent a requirement of an additional 24/25 lower school pupils/age group requiring an additional 1 Form of Entry of provision to be made.
50. Church End Lower School is the only school currently serving the lower school age range in Marston. The proposal to expand the existing school will enable the phased growth in local population to be accommodated across the school's sites and within the existing leadership and management structure of the school.
51. The current school has a capacity of 2 Forms of Entry and the proposal is to increase this to 3 Forms of Entry across two sites. The Council's Policy Principles for Pupil Place Planning in Schools establish guidance for the optimum size of schools but these apply to single site schools and Church End Lower School will be required to set out its proposed organisational arrangements in the public consultation and in the detailed business case that will be presented to Executive in August.
52. The school was rated as Good by Ofsted in 2012 and in the September 2012 admissions round the school received 93% of its Published Admission Number in first preference applications, making it both popular and successful. The school is currently full and local catchment children are having to be accommodated and transported in neighbouring towns/villages which are also now at or nearing capacity.
53. The school is a member of the Vale of Marston Schools Trust working actively within the local (Wooton) pyramid. Church End is one of three Central Bedfordshire schools that are likely in due course to be considered for expansion (Holywell Middle and Cranfield Lower being others), in addition to a number of Bedford Borough schools.
54. The school currently accommodates a Pre School and the local Children's Centre on its existing site. The school's work with the Children's Centre ensures an active focus on vulnerable learners and families. The proposal to expand the existing school will ensure continuity of this close working relationship into the future across the two sites. The proposed expansion will provide new standalone accommodation on a second site, which will also enable the current school to broaden its community offer.
55. The proposal does not add to the diversion of provision but parental demand from within the immediate area is not currently able to be met and the level of demand will be determined through the consultation exercise.

Redborne Upper School and Alameda Middle School

56. New Upper and Middle school places are required in Ampthill as a result of significant housing development in the area which has included sites to the west of Ampthill, and in the vicinity of Dunstable Road, Church Street and at a number of smaller sites across the catchment area of Redborne Upper.

57. Under the adopted Local Development Framework for North Central Bedfordshire 410 dwellings at Land West of Abbey Lane, Ampthill and 400 in Flitwick are also proposed. These developments will also be expected to contribute towards new infrastructure.
- The Ampthill developments represent a requirement of an additional 200 Upper School places and a further 120 Middle School places in the period to 2017.
58. Alameda Middle serves the immediate Ampthill and Maulden areas. The proposal to expand the school will ensure that it can continue to serve the local community and immediate housing developments. The proposal increases the school from 600 places to the guideline ideal size for middle school provision of 720 places.
59. The school was rated as Good in its last Ofsted inspection in 2009 and in the September 2012 admissions round the school received 92% of its Published Admission Number in first preference applications making it both popular and successful. The school has filled to its capacity with no surplus places.
60. Alameda works closely and actively with other schools in the Redborne pyramid and is one of three local schools proposed to expand as a result of local development (Redborne Upper and an Ampthill Lower school).
61. The planned expansion will remove some temporary accommodation and will enable existing accommodation to be converted to address deficiencies in suitability, particularly in the teaching of technology. Existing deficiencies in accommodation that will be addressed by the planned expansion also includes specialist areas, small withdrawal spaces for SEN teaching and small group work.
62. The proposal does not add to the diversity of provision but parental demand will be determined through the consultation process. It is assumed to be significant given the popularity of provision throughout the pyramid.
63. Redborne Upper is the Upper school that currently serves the local community in this area. The additional Upper school places are required as a direct result of additional demand from the new housing developments in the Ampthill area. The proposed expansion of the school from its existing 1450 places will result in a new capacity of 1650 places. The detailed business case that will be presented to the Council's Executive in August 2013 will set out any changes proposed to the school's intended organisation.
64. The school was rated Outstanding by Ofsted in its last inspection in 2008 and in the September 2012 admissions round the school received 110% of its PAN in first preference applications. Based on first preference data the school is the most popular Upper School in Central Bedfordshire.
65. As with Alameda Middle, Redborne Upper works closely and actively with other schools in the pyramid and is one of three local schools proposed to expand as a result of local development (Alameda Middle and an Ampthill Lower school). The school is also leading the development of the alternative provision free school in Central Bedfordshire.

66. The proposed expansion will address significant suitability issues in design technology and science and will provide expansions to the main hall and to kitchen/dining facilities in the school in addition to general teaching areas. The school's Governing Body has already committed £850k of its own resources to address deficiencies in design technology and art. The planned investment will also provide additional post 16 places and enhanced infrastructure for specialist sixth form curriculum.
67. The proposal does not add to or reduce diversity of provision in the local area. Parental demand will be determined through the consultation process but is assumed to be significant given the popularity of the school itself and of provision throughout the pyramid.

Stratton Upper School

68. New Upper school places are required in Biggleswade as a result of significant housing development in the area for the period up to 2017 including 550 dwellings which will be provided as part of the Land East of Biggleswade development and a further 627 dwellings which will be provided through other existing commitments and allocated sites in the Town.
69. Collectively these new developments represent a requirement of an additional 400 Upper School places.
70. The most significant development of 2500 new homes on Land East of Biggleswade is immediately east of the Stratton Upper school site. The school has a current capacity of 1250. The proposed size of the enlarged school is 1650, marginally above the guideline size but the School will be required to set out its proposed organisational arrangements for the EFA and in the detailed business case that will be presented to the Council's Executive in August.
71. The school was rated as Good in its last Ofsted inspection in 2009 and in the September 2012 admissions round it received 93% of its Published Admissions in first preference applications. Based on first preference data the school was the 4th most popular Upper School in Central Bedfordshire.
72. Stratton Upper is a member of the Biggleswade Community Union of Schools (BCUS) and is also sponsor of Gamlingay Village College in Cambridgeshire. It is actively engaged in partnership with other local schools in BCUS to improve transition and curriculum planning across phases. The school currently caters for some of the upper age range of Ivel Valley students who will also benefit from improvements in infrastructure. The school is also represented on the upper school heads group which is currently developing the alternative provision free school.
73. The proposal for additional places reflect the school's broader master plan for development of the whole site which also addresses significant existing condition and suitability issues, particularly in provision for the teaching of science. The school has specifically identified the need for an improvement in outcomes in science, for which current facilities are poor and outdated. The school has a current sixth form of more than 300 students and the planned expansion includes additional sixth form capacity.

74. The school currently manages the Stratton Leisure Centre (former Biggleswade recreation centre) and also provides for community use which will be enhanced through this proposed investment in existing facilities which include a 6 badminton court indoor sports hall also used for football and netball, a floodlit tennis and netball courts that are both available for community use and will benefit indirectly from the funding for the additional places. Gymnastic and martial arts groups are also catered for as are theatre and local dance groups in the school's dance and drama studios.
75. The proposal does not add to or reduce diversity of provision in the local area. Parental demand will be determined through the school's consultation process.

Vandyke Upper School

76. There is a housing allocation of approximately 2,190 new dwellings for the period up to 2017 for the Leighton Buzzard & Linslade area. 600 of these dwellings will be provided as part of the proposed East Leighton Linslade Urban Extension and a further 1,590 will be provided through existing commitments and allocated sites across the wider Leighton & Linslade area.
77. The additional need for places generated by the existing commitments and allocated sites will, for the most part, be expected to be met through use of existing capacity at Middle School level supplemented where necessary by the expansion of provision at other schools, including the need for new lower school provision to serve the southern part of Leighton Buzzard for which Council have approved a 300 place extension (second site) to the existing Greenleas Lower School with effect from September 2013.
78. The proposed East Leighton Buzzard extension will require new school provision to be secured as part of the development. Overall, this will be expected to generate a requirement for an additional approx 4 forms of entry (100+ extra pupil places per age group) to meet the demand from the whole 2,500 dwellings over the period to 2026. This is the equivalent of 2 new lower schools, 1 new Middle School and the likely expansion of the neighbouring Vandyke Upper School and site, although the exact timing and final form of provision will need to be subject to further analysis in order to match the anticipated rate of development.
79. The proposed Phase 1 expansion of Vandyke Upper and the funding that has already been secured through Section 106, is in relation to current housing developments underway in Leighton Buzzard. Phase 1 is based on the school's overall master plan for its potential future expansion from its current capacity of 1003 places to provide 1500 places as a result of the proposed East Leighton Buzzard extension. Phase 1, which is also funded by significant investment by the school, increases the school's capacity slightly but also addresses significant deficiencies in general teaching and changing accommodation.
80. The school recently addressed deficiencies in SEN provision by converting significantly undersized general teaching rooms, thereby reducing the school's capacity. Phase 1 re-provides some of the lost capacity for the school and will increase the school's current capacity slightly from 1003 places. The majority of the new accommodation will address an existing shortfall in general teaching spaces for which the school is contributing just over £500k.

81. The school was rated as Good by Ofsted in 2010 and in the September 2012 admissions round the school received 76% of its PAN in first preference applications. It is an active partner in Learning Community 2, the formal learning partnership of schools that covers the Leighton and Linslade area with the stated aim "to work together to promote quality teaching and learning across all our schools".
82. The school currently provides for Post 16 pupils and the proposed increased capacity will also provide additional sixth form accommodation. The school hosts a number of community-based activities particularly related to sports, and hosts an artificial turf pitch to promote hockey across the area and is the base of the local Hockey club. The additional changing accommodation will also help support these community activities.

Conclusion

83. The proposal to expand Church End Lower School, in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006, constitutes a significant expansion of an existing school which requires both informal consultation and the publication of Statutory Proposals before the Council can finally determine the proposal. Therefore, it is recommended that Executive approve the commencement of informal and statutory consultation on the proposal to expand the school to provide additional places as outlined within the report.
84. Likewise the proposals to expand Redborne Upper and Stratton Upper schools represent significant enlargements to each Academy and it is recommended that Executive invite each Academy to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Education.
85. The proposals to expand Alameda Middle School and Vandyke Upper School will add required additional places to the system and while they are not 'significant' enlargements in legislative terms, they will nevertheless require the Council eventually to commit to expenditure from the New School Places Programme. For that reason the Executive is asked to invite these Academies, along with the other schools in this report, to prepare a business case for final approval at the Executive's meeting in August 2013.
86. If the recommendations in this report are approved, and in order to ensure that the schemes can be ready for September 2014, further more detailed design work will be commissioned to progress to the next Royal Institute of Building Architects (RIBA) work stage of development and to seek the necessary planning consents.

Appendices:

Appendix A - New School Places Programme 2011/12 – 2017/18