

Appendix A – Executive Report – Commissioning New School Places for implementation from September 2015.

Meeting: Executive

Date: 14 May 2013

Subject: Commissioning New School Places for implementation from September 2015.

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

Summary: This report outlines seven 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 2015.

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: Ampthill, Stotfold and Langford, Arlesey, Shefford, Silsoe and Shillington, Houghton Conquest and Haynes, Northill, Cranfield and Marston, Biggleswade North, Biggleswade South

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 seven proposals outlined in this report are contained within the Council’s New School Places Programme 2013/14 – 2017/18 and are capital funded as outlined in Appendix A to this report through Basic Need Grant and S106 contributions. The whole programme represents a total investment of £104M in New School Places, whereas the projects outlined in this report account for £21.8M of expenditure. As reported to the Council’s Executive in March 2013 the level of DfE Basic Need Grant allocated to the Council for 2013/14 and 2014/15 represents a significant increase on previous years although the allocations beyond this period will not be known until late 2014/15. The Council’s Executive approved the New School Places Programme 2013/14 – 2017/18 in March 2013 and acknowledged that 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.

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Capital expenditure within the New School Places Programme 2013/14 – 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 Sec 4.10.7 of the Council's constitution.

Legal:

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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, two of which are set out in this report relating to the proposed expansion of St Andrews CofE VC Lower School, Biggleswade and of Russell Lower School in Ampthill.
8. 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 proposal to expand Etonbury Middle School and to change its age range to provide additional places for the upper school age range on its site has been required to follow this process. Likewise the proposals to expand Cranfield CofE Academy and the Academy of Holywell Middle in Cranfield will require this process to be followed as a result of the proposed increases in additional places, in comparison with the existing schools capacity.
9. The proposals to expand St Marys Lower in Stotfold and Robert Bloomfield Middle in Shefford 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:

10. The seven 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.
11. 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 Section106 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 seven 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.

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 to time and on budget, 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. Each business case is subject of evaluation against these Principles and the results are considered as part of the final Executive approval of any proposal and before approval to commence expenditure is given. A separate detailed capital business case will be provided for each project to accompany any Executive recommendation to give final approval and to commence expenditure.

Overview and Scrutiny:

24. The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee will consider this report on 23 April 2013 and the Committee's views will be reported to the Executive in May.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Executive is asked to:

1. **Approve the commencement of informal consultation and the publication of statutory notices for the proposal to expand Russell Lower School, Amptill from its current capacity of 300 places to provide a total of 450 places with an implementation date of September 2015. The school will also be invited to prepare a business case, the outcome of which will be subject to approval by the Council's Executive in its final determination in December 2013.**

2. Support the commencement of informal consultation and the publication of statutory notices by the School's Governing Body for the proposal to expand St Andrews CofE VC Lower, Biggleswade from its current capacity of 450 places to provide a total of 750 places across two sites with an implementation date of September 2015. The school will also be invited to prepare a business case, the outcome of which will be subject to approval by the Council's Executive in its final determination in December 2013.
3. Invite the Academy of Holywell Middle School to prepare a business case, the outcome of which will be subject to approval by the Council's Executive in December 2013 and to undertake consultation and approval processes required as an Academy by the Education Funding Agency to expand from its current capacity of 544 places to provide 720 places with an implementation date of September 2015.
4. Invite the Academy of Cranfield Lower School to prepare a business case, the outcome of which will be subject to approval by the Council's Executive in December 2013 and to undertake consultation and approval processes required as an Academy by the Education Funding Agency to expand from its current capacity of 300 places to provide 450 places with an implementation date of September 2015.
5. Invite the Academy of St Marys Lower School to prepare a business case, the outcome of which will be subject to approval by the Council's Executive in December 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 225 places to provide 300 places with an implementation date of September 2015.
6. Approve the detailed capital business case attached at Appendix B, and the proposals of Bedfordshire East Multi Academy Trust to:
 - a) expand the Academy of Robert Bloomfield Middle School to provide 840 permanent places with an implementation date of September 2015, and
 - b) expand Etonbury Academy from its current capacity of 480 places to provide a total of 600 middle school places and a further 300 places to serve the upper school age range with an implementation date of September 2015.

Thereby approving the commencement of the projects and related expenditure, subject to Education Funding Agency approval of the Etonbury Academy proposal and the granting of relevant Planning permissions.

Reason for Recommendations:

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 the proposals set out in recommendations 1-5 will be determined by the Council's Executive in December 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.

Executive Summary

25. This report outlines seven 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 2015. 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.
26. 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.
27. Five of these proposals relate to the expansion of Academies and two relate to the proposed expansion of Council maintained schools. The Council is decision maker for proposals to expand Council maintained schools, whereas the Council can only invite and not direct Academies to expand and proposals are subject to the Secretary of State's approval and may require amendments to funding agreements and other of the Academy's legal documents.
28. 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 for the Secretary of State.
29. 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 subject to evaluation against these Principles and the results are considered as part of the final Executive approval of any proposal and before approval to commence expenditure is given. A separate detailed capital business case will be provided for each project to accompany any Executive recommendation to give final approval and to commence expenditure.
30. The proposals to expand Etonbury Academy and Robert Bloomfield Academy, both members of the Bedfordshire East Multi Academy Trust, are set out in recommendation 6 and Sections 81 to 91 of this report and are supported by a detailed capital business case attached to this report at Appendix B. The outcome of an evaluation of the business case submitted by the Trust is reflected in the main report.
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 asks the Executive to consider the proposals to provide new school places in Biggleswade, Stotfold, Arlesey, Ampthill, Shefford and Cranfield and it seeks Executive approval to:
 - Commence consultation on the proposal to expand Russell Lower School, Ampthill
 - Support the proposal of the Governing Body of St Andrews CofE VC Lower School, Biggleswade to commence consultation on its proposal to expand the school.
 - Invite the Academies of Cranfield Lower School and Holywell Middle School, Cranfield to expand and to seek DfE approval.
 - Invite the Academy of St Marys Lower to expand.

33. The report also invites the Executive to consider and to approve the detailed capital business case for the proposals of Bedfordshire East Multi Academy Trust to expand both Etonbury Academy and Robert Bloomfield Middle, thereby approving commencement of the project and commencement of expenditure.

34. A report will subsequently be made to the Council's Executive in December 2013 to

Consider the outcome of the consultations and determine the proposals to expand Russell Lower School, Ampthill and St Andrews CofE VC Lower School, Biggleswade

Note the outcome of the DfE determination of the proposals to expand Cranfield Academy and Holywell Academy

Consider the outcomes of the business cases submitted by each of these schools and by the Academy of St Marys Lower, and

Approve each project and commencement of the required capital expenditure.

Legal process for proposals to enlarge Council maintained schools and Academies

35. 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.

36. 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.

37. 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;

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.

38. The process that the Academy must follow with its proposal commences with an initial approach to the 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 37 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.
39. 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.
40. The outcome of the informal and statutory consultation process for the Council maintained schools of Russell Lower, Ampthill and St Andrews CofE VC Lower, Biggleswade will be reported to the Council's Executive as final decision maker in December 2013 along with a report on the DfE determination of the proposals made in relation to the Academies.
41. 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.
42. 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 and agreement will also be established between the school and the Council to ensure that the funding is allocated in a timely and appropriate manner and to secure the long-term retention of the additional places.
43. Each business case will be evaluated against the Council's Policy Principles for Pupil Place Planning in Schools and the outcome will be considered as part of the final Executive approval of each project in December 2013. Each project will also be supported by a detailed capital business case as required by the Council's constitution, to support an Executive recommendation for approval to commence expenditure.

Russell Lower, Ampthill

44. As set out previously in the report to the Council's March Executive, 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 and Church Street. Under the adopted Local Development Framework for North Central Bedfordshire 410 dwellings at Land West of Abbey Lane, Ampthill are also proposed.

45. New pupils from current developments underway in Amptill have already reduced previous surplus places in both Lower Schools serving the immediate area, requiring Russell Lower to bring temporary accommodation back into use. Further developments in Amptill represent a requirement of more than 100 additional Lower School places which equates to an extra one form of entry in the period to 2021.
46. Amptill is currently served by two 2 form entry (300 place) Lower Schools and both of these schools have been engaged in an options appraisal which was commissioned to identify the most appropriate school for expansion given that there is no site available for a new school.
47. Consideration was given to splitting the required additional places across both schools but the schools felt this would be detrimental to the organisation of both resulting in the potential for mixed age classes across various age ranges. This option was therefore discounted as unfeasible by the schools.
48. Expanding just one of the existing schools would also enable it to more effectively build capacity in its leadership, management and governance in response to the gradual increases in pupil numbers from the new developments.
49. The options appraisal was commissioned to consider a range of criteria which included;
- each site and its capacity for expansion
 - access, transport and proximity to the new Abbey Lane development
 - build costs
 - the resulting configuration of accommodation and its suitability to deliver against DfE Building Bulletin guidance for Primary schools
50. The criteria were subject to weighting and were scored to provide an objective outcome which was discussed and shared with the schools. The exercise concluded that the preferred option was the expansion of Russell Lower School, a Community School which was rated by Ofsted as Good with Outstanding features at its last inspection in November 2011. The school has welcomed the outcome of the options appraisal and the opportunity to expand and is therefore preparing a business case for the Council.
51. This proposal was discussed in December 2012 with schools and Academies who work in partnership in the Redborne education planning area and all supported the need for additional Lower School places in Amptill.
52. The report from the school's last Ofsted inspection stated that it works very effectively in partnership with other schools and wider agencies. It has instigated very useful links with local schools so that head teachers offer each other support and advice. Part of this partnership is focused on the monitoring of standards and practice in each other's schools and this is very useful in enabling the school to self-evaluate and action plan with the benefit of a wider range of professional views and experience. Partnerships with other agencies are strong in supporting outstanding care for pupils. Partnerships with other agencies are exceptionally well used in providing high-quality support for potentially vulnerable pupils, so they thrive.
53. The recommendation is therefore to expand Russell Lower School from its current capacity as a 2 form entry (300 place) school to become a 3 form entry (450 place) school on its existing site. If this recommendation is approved, the proposal will be subject to consultation and a further report will be made to the Council's Executive in December 2013 to determine the outcome of statutory processes and to consider the outcome of an evaluation of the school's business case.

St Andrews CofE VC Lower, Biggleswade

54. As set out previously in the report to the Council's March Executive, the Land East of Biggleswade development will require new school places to be secured to serve the growing population. In addition to the existing schools, this will require additional accommodation for Lower School places in the Kings Reach area on a site which has been secured under a S106 legal agreement.
55. This new development represents a requirement of an additional 300 Lower School places. The transfer to the Council of the land at Kings Reach is now imminent and the Council is now in a position to commission a provider for these additional lower school places.
56. As part of its ongoing liaison with schools and academies in each of its planning areas the Council has been working with schools in the Biggleswade area that collectively comprise Biggleswade Community Union of Schools (BCUS). Within the scope of these discussions has been the need to consider and plan for the impact of demographic change across the area over the next five years and beyond, particularly the impact of the land east of Biggleswade development.
57. The pressure on existing provision and the need for more places across lower schools in the Biggleswade area has been at the forefront of many of the discussions with this partnership of schools, who have been actively engaged in identifying management options for their own schools and for the Council's commissioning of new provision. The partnership has considered the range of options available to the Council for configuring provision on new sites, as set out in previous reports and within the Council's Policy Principles approved by Executive in February 2013.
58. The option to promote a new school under a new Academy sponsor gave rise to concern from local schools that a new sponsor may not integrate or add value within what is felt to be an effective 0-19 local partnership of schools. As an alternative option, the Council is able to propose and is the decision maker for expansions to existing community, voluntary controlled, voluntary aided, foundation and trust schools.
59. The expansion of an existing school, effectively creating an annexe to an existing school site would mirror federation arrangements elsewhere in Central Bedfordshire where schools are similarly managed and governed across two or more sites. This would also retain a 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 is fulfilled.
60. In consultation with local schools this is recommended to be a more favourable option providing an opportunity for a local school with an established record in terms of standards to expand. The Council, as decision maker, would then be able to confirm a preferred provider for the new site in a shorter timeframe than would be possible if a new Academy sponsor was sought, enabling the design, construction and implementation process to be as short as possible and the impact of the immediate development on other local schools and the partnership to be minimised.
61. This option will also enable the Council to work with an existing school to bring forward additional temporary measures if they are necessary, on its existing site ahead of the new accommodation being ready. This provides an opportunity for an existing school to also grow its leadership and management capacity alongside the expanding school population, ensuring an effective transition to combine the new site in due course.
62. In discussion with BCUS a proposal has now come forward from St Andrews CofE VC Lower School, in conjunction with Edward Peake CofE VC Middle School, to expand the Lower School across both its existing and the new Kings Reach site. Whilst the

partnership arrangements between the two schools have yet to be formalised it is anticipated that this will take the form of a soft federation between the two schools with St Andrews Lower School as the named provider. This proposed partnership also has the support of the St Albans Diocese.

63. The resulting school would have a capacity to provide for an extra 300 places in addition to those on its existing site (450). Whilst the existing school would need to grow its Leadership, Management and Governance capacity it is already well placed to do so as a relatively large single site lower school. In June 2011 the school received an Ofsted rating of Good with Outstanding features and the Inspection report stated that the experienced head teacher provides good leadership and educational direction and is supported well by other senior and key leaders. A productive partnership had been established with parents and carers, who were pleased with the care and education provided for their children. Very strong partnerships with other agencies promote pupils' learning and development.
64. The proposed size of the new school will comply with the guidelines set out in the Council's overall Policy Principles in relation to school size being based on two sites. The school is currently seeking advice on the potential need for additional SEN provision based within a mainstream school setting for local vulnerable learners and this may also form part of the school's business case.
65. The recommendation is therefore to support the School's Governing Body and their intention to commence consultation to expand St Andrew's CofE VC Lower School from its current capacity as a 3 form entry (450 place) school to become a 5 form entry (750 place) school across two sites. As a Voluntary School, the Governing Body is able to bring forward this proposal and a further report will be made to the Council's Executive in December 2013 to determine the outcomes of statutory processes and of an evaluation of the school's business case.

Cranfield Lower School, Cranfield

66. Cranfield has been identified as a growth area within Central Bedfordshire both within the previously approved development framework (notably a development known as Home Farm which has current permission for development with approximately 400 homes still to be built) and the current framework with an allocation of about 130 new homes on land to the rear of Central Garage.
67. The area is served by Cranfield Lower School which is in the immediate proximity of the new developments and therefore ideally placed to cater for the growing local population.
68. When considering the Home Farm development, it was recognised that there would be a need to expand school provision to cater for the new housing. Through a S106 agreement Bedfordshire County Council secured an area of off-site playing field within the Development but some distance from the school, to potentially enable Cranfield Lower School to expand on its existing site through the release of its existing playing field land and use of the off-site area. This proposal was not fully supported by the school at that time but was enshrined within the S106.
69. Subsequently, the development to the rear of Central Garage for some 130 homes was allocated and an opportunity arose to review the previously proposed method of expanding the lower school to then consider its expansion over a second site i.e. within the development land to the rear of Central Garage. A site has now been allocated within the development to either provide a new school, or the expansion of the existing school across two sites.
70. A Development Brief for the site has now been approved to include the new school provision and Children's Services has been working closely with Planning and

Highways colleagues to address concerns over the additional traffic that could be anticipated if/when the school site is brought forward. Further work will continue with colleagues as part of the planning processes that run in parallel with those dictated by education law.

71. A number of options have been discussed with the school, which is now an Academy, and the St.Albans Diocese (as Trustees) over how future provision could be arranged given the various constraints and the likely funding envelope which would be available. The Governors appointed consultants through the St.Albans Diocese to support them in assessing the feasibility of each of the options in terms of buildings and cost, so that they can decide which would be their preferred solution. As a result, the development of the school over two sites, either with 2 forms of entry on one site and 1 form of entry on the other, or split key stages over the two sites, has emerged as the school's preferred option.
72. The recommendation is therefore to invite the Academy of Cranfield Lower School to expand from its current capacity as a 2 form entry (300 place) school to become a 3 form entry (450 place) school across two sites.
73. The Academy, which was rated as Good with Outstanding features by Ofsted at its last inspection in June 2010, is aware that if this Executive recommendation is approved it will be required to undertake public consultation and seek EFA approval, in addition to the preparation of a business case for evaluation, the outcome of which will be considered in the final decision which will be made by the Council's Executive in December 2013 to enable implementation by September 2015.

Holywell Middle School, Cranfield

74. In addition to the housing development in the Cranfield area outlined in the section above, and the required additional capacity to provide new school places for the lower school age range, additional middle school places are also required.
75. The Academy of Holywell Middle School in Cranfield serves the immediate area and is also catchment school for a new housing development of 670 properties being built in Wootton in Bedford Borough. A total of 720 middle school places are required to serve the growing local population in the catchment area. The school, which was rated as Good by Ofsted in its most recent inspection in July 2011 currently has a net capacity able to accommodate 544 children.
76. The recommendation is therefore to invite the Academy of Holywell Middle School to expand from its current capacity to become a 5 form entry (720 place) school. The proposed enlargement of the Academy will trigger the process that requires public consultation and EFA approval, in addition to the preparation of a business case for evaluation, the outcome of which will be considered in the final decision which will be made by the Council's Executive in December 2013 to enable implementation by September 2015.

St. Marys CofE Academy, Stotfold

77. Significant housing development in the Stotfold area has already required the Council to provide an additional 150 lower school places through the enlargement and relocation of Roecroft Lower School, completed in 2012. However, further pressure on places in the catchments of Gothic Mede Lower, Arlesey and Fairfield Lower School, Stotfold has removed any flexibility locally to manage increases in pupil numbers across the local area and now requires additional permanent provision to be provided to serve Stotfold itself.
78. Stotfold is served by two Lower Schools, Roecroft Lower which is now a 2 form entry

(300 place) school on its new site on the land south of Stotfold development, and St Marys CofE Academy, a 1 ½ form entry (225 place) school. Pupil forecasts in the area indicate a sustained requirement for approximately a further ½ form of entry (75 places) of lower school provision.

79. St Marys CofE Academy was rated as Outstanding by Ofsted in its last inspection.
80. The recommendation is therefore to invite St Marys CofE Academy to expand from its current capacity as a 1 ½ form entry (225 place) school to provide a 2 form entry (300 place) school from September 2015. If this recommendation is approved a further report will be made to the Council's Executive in December 2013 to consider the outcome of an evaluation of the school's business case and to approve the project.

Bedfordshire East Multi Academy Trust

81. In response to the identified demographic growth outlined in the Council's New School Places Programme and the Council's previously published School Organisation Plan, Bedfordshire East Multi Academy Trust has submitted a business case to the Council detailing its proposals for providing the additional Middle School places required in Shefford and Arlesey and the additional Upper School places required in the catchment of Samuel Whitbread Academy. The Trust currently comprises Samuel Whitbread Academy, Robert Bloomfield Academy and Etonbury Academy.

82. These requirements are as a result of housing allocations of approximately 1,506 new dwellings for the period up to 2017 for the Samuel Whitbread area (Shefford, Stotfold, Arlesey and surrounds). This includes the 290 dwellings being provided at the site currently under construction at Land South of Stotfold, 300 dwellings in the North-East of Arlesey, 102 in Clifton, 63 in Stondon, 68 in Meppershall, 24 in Shillington, 231 in the rest of Shefford and 310 in Stotfold. The remaining 118 dwellings will be provided at smaller sites across Arlesey, Henlow, Shefford, Stotfold and the surrounding areas.

83. The additional need for places generated by these developments are expected to be met through use of existing capacity supplemented where necessary by the expansion of existing schools.

Some of the new places required to serve the Lower School age range are already in place, have been approved or are currently planned. In particular these include the enlargement of:

Roecroft Lower School, Stotfold
Fairfield Lower School, Stotfold
Shefford Lower School, Shefford

84. The impact of this scale of housing development in required additional middle school provision in the Shefford area justifies permanent provision of 840 places, currently provided by Robert Bloomfield Academy utilising some temporary accommodation. The proposed capital investment of £1.4M will enable the replacement of the temporary accommodation with permanent provision on the school's Shefford site.
85. Robert Bloomfield Academy was rated Outstanding by Ofsted at its last inspection.
86. The impact of the scale of housing development in the Stotfold and Arlesey area requires an additional form of entry (120 places) of middle school provision. Etonbury Academy caters for the Middle School age range in this catchment and was rated Good by Ofsted in its recent inspection in October 2012. The school currently provides 480 Middle School places and the required enlargement will increase this capacity to 600 places with the potential to expand further in the longer term with planned housing development north of Arlesey.

87. Additional capacity required in the Upper School age range totals 300 places across the catchment of Samuel Whitbread Academy, although a significant majority of these places will be required as a result of the developments in the Arlesey and Stotfold area.

88. The proposal made by Bedfordshire East Multi Academy Trust is to:

permanently expand Robert Bloomfield Academy to provide the required middle school places in the Shefford area, and

to expand Etonbury Academy and change its age range to provide the additional middle school places required in its catchment area and the additional upper school places required

89. The Trust's business case has been evaluated against the Council's Policy Principles for Pupil Place Planning in Schools and the proposals comply.

In summary:

- Local schools for local children

Both projects seek to provide new school places required by demographic growth within the catchments of Robert Bloomfield Middle and Etonbury Middle. The Etonbury proposal will reduce the need for school transport costs for those children in Stotfold and Arlesey who choose to access the future 13-19 curriculum offer at Etonbury that would otherwise be accommodated within the provision of places for 13-19 year olds at the Samuel Whitbread Academy campus.

- Financially and educationally viable schools (size)

The proposal to replace temporary accommodation with permanent provision at Robert Bloomfield Middle does not represent an overall increase in the capacity of the school but will retain it at 840 places at the upper limit of the Council's guideline size for middle schools. The Council's guidelines for the optimum size of single site schools are not relevant in relation to the expansion of Etonbury Middle which will provide 900 places serving the 9-19 age range as one of three key sites of the multi academy trust which will collectively provide a broad curricular offer.

90.

- Expansion of local popular and successful schools or to link expanding schools with popular and successful schools

Robert Bloomfield Academy and Etonbury Academy are rated as Ofsted Outstanding and Good respectively. Samuel Whitbread Academy was graded as 'requires improvement' with some good elements, including its Sixth Form rated as 'good' throughout by Ofsted in its last inspection in October 2012. With support and governance provided by the Bedfordshire East Multi Academy Trust (BEMAT) Board of Directors the Academy aims to achieve a 'Good' standard within the academic year 2012 /2013.

- The potential to further promote and support robust partnerships and learning communities

Bedfordshire East Multi Academy Trust and Bedfordshire East Schools Trust will utilise this opportunity of significant capital investment as a catalyst for the Trust's delivery of its Vision and improvements in educational standards across its sites and with other schools in the local learning communities, a number of which are also undergoing significant enlargement including Fairfield Lower, Shefford Lower and Roecroft Lower.

91.
 - The ambition to achieve a single phase of education 0 -19 and reduce school transfer points

A key aim of the Multi Academy Trust is to reduce the potential risks associated with transition and transfer between phases. The proposal to change the age range of Etonbury Academy will remove a transfer point for a significant number of children who will choose to stay on the campus throughout key stage 3 and 4. As part of Bedfordshire Multi Academy Trust, children on each of the three sites will receive their education under one umbrella and will benefit from the consistent focus on teaching and learning irrespective of their physical location. Transition planning within one organisation will be enhanced.

- The need to support the Raising of the Participation Age (RPA)

The Trust is developing a curriculum at post 16 which makes excellent use of its partnerships with University of Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Cambridge and especially Bedford College at their Shuttleworth campus. Foundation, pre-apprenticeship, vocational and applied courses will provide the platform from which these young people will engage and take full advantage of this opportunity, with planned and implemented work placements to foster employment and enterprise skills. This offer will be implemented and enhanced by the proposed investment in the Etonbury Academy campus providing specialist facilities planned by the multi academy trust.

92.
 - To seek opportunities to create inspirational learning environments for the school and to maximise community use

Both sites have been subject to suitability surveys to determine current deficiencies in provision. This information has been further enhanced by an analysis of the curriculum intended to be taught on each site. These issues will be considered as part of the eventual design process. A full planning application will need to consider issues of potential development on playing fields and local highway capacities. To inform these and other issues a full suite of pre-design surveys have been carried out, these involve acoustic, archaeology, environment, ecology, flood, geotechnical, topographic, traffic, travel and utility surveys. The potential to increase community use at Etonbury is being developed in partnership with the Football Association, Sport England and the Council's Leisure Services who are looking at a number of opportunities on the site, as part of the proposed redevelopment.

- To promote the diversity of provision offered in Central Bedfordshire to increase opportunities for parental choice

The proposal to change the age range of Etonbury Academy to cater for the 9-19 year old age range has received significant support from the local community, parents, carers and children at the school. This will clearly add to the diversity of provision in the area and increase options for those living locally, particularly in the Arlesey and Stotfold area.

93.
 - To support vulnerable learners and integrate appropriate Special Educational Needs provision within mainstream schools

A significant benefit of the project will be the opportunities for developing the new provision for SEN and high achieving students which with enhanced provision, more seamless transition and access to a broader range of curriculum choices will enable the Trust to support students more effectively. The proposed 14-19 provision on the Etonbury campus will provide for Special Education Needs and Disabilities students far

more effectively than the Trust is currently able to do. Across BEMAT these projects and the forecast growth in pupil numbers will also enable the development of a single point of contact Children and Family Services Team and a single Special Educational Needs support structure. Children and their families will be supported by these teams throughout their 9-19 journeys by enhanced pastoral support.

94. The proposed expansion of Robert Bloomfield Academy does not require EFA approval whereas the proposal relating to Etonbury Academy represents a significant change in legislative terms and requires consultation and EFA approval, an 8 week process which commenced on the 1st February 2013 and has attracted significant support from parents, carers and stakeholders. The outcome of the consultation and the Multi Academy Trust's report to the EFA is expected to enable an EFA decision in May 2013, although indications from early engagement with the EFA were positive and approval is strongly anticipated.

95. The procurement and construction programme for both of these projects is challenging as outlined in the milestones set out in the detailed capital business case attached at Appendix B and Executive is therefore asked to approve these projects to enable expenditure against the indicated budget immediately upon EFA approval, with commencement of works subject to the granting of relevant Planning permissions.

96. The following are contained in the recommendations:

the proposed expansion of the Academy of Robert Bloomfield Middle School to provide 840 permanent places with an implementation date of September 2015, and

the proposed expansion of Etonbury Academy from its current capacity of 480 places to provide a total of 600 middle school places and a further 300 places to serve the upper school age range with an implementation date of September 2015

the commencement of the projects and related expenditure, subject to Education Funding Agency approval of the Etonbury Academy proposal and the granting of relevant Planning permissions.

Conclusion

97. The proposals to expand Russell Lower School and St Andrews CofE VC Lower School, in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006, constitutes a significant expansion of the existing schools which requires both informal consultation and the publication of Statutory Proposals before the Council can finally determine the proposals.

Therefore, it is recommended that Executive approve the commencement of informal and statutory consultation on the proposal to expand the community school of Russell Lower and also indicates its support for the commencement of consultation by the Governing Body of the voluntary controlled school of St Andrews CofE Lower School to provide additional places as outlined within the report.

98. Likewise the proposals to expand the Academies of Cranfield Lower School and Holywell Middle School represents a significant enlargement of each and it is recommended that Executive invite the Academies to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Education.

99. The proposal to expand the Academy of St Marys Lower School will add required additional places to the system and while it is not a 'significant' enlargement in legislative terms, it 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 the Academy, along with the other schools in this report, to prepare a business case for final approval at the Executive's meeting in December 2013.

100. The proposal to expand the Academy of Etonbury Middle School, which has been the subject of consultation and a report now submitted to the Education Funding Agency, is outlined in the business case now provided to the Council by Bedfordshire East Multi Academy Trust. Approval of the Education Funding Agency is anticipated to be received in June 2013 and in order to progress this significant project to its procurement phase the Executive is asked to approve it, subject to the Education Funding Agency approval and the granting of relevant Planning permissions.
101. The proposal to expand the permanent capacity of Robert Bloomfield Middle is also outlined in the business case now provided to the Council by Bedfordshire East Multi Academy Trust at Appendix B. The proposal does not reflect a 'significant' enlargement in legislative terms and has not therefore had to follow the process required by the Education Funding Agency.
102. If the remaining recommendations in this report are approved, and in order to ensure that the schemes can be ready for September 2015, 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 2013/14 – 2017/18 – Projects for September 2015 implementation

Appendix B – Capital Detailed Business Case

Appendix A to the 14th May Executive report

	Target implementation date	Gross Cost	Funding	
			S106 Total	Basic Need
<u>Sandy and Biggleswade Area</u>				
Extension to St Andrews Lower School from 450 to 750 places at Kings Reach, Biggleswade	September 2015	5,002,502	2,637,408	2,365,094
<u>Redbourne Area</u>				
Extension to Russell Lower School from 300 to 450 places, Ampthill	September 2015	3,123,799	1,040,889	2,082,910
<u>Samuel Whitbread Area</u>				
Extension to St Marys Lower School from 225 to 300 places, Stotfold	September 2015	1,219,776	282,374	937,402
Extension to Etonbury Middle School from 480 to 600 places, Arlesey	September 2015	2,881,542	2,346,446	535,097
Expansion of Upper School catchment places from 1750 to 2050, Etonbury, Arlesey	September 2015	4,498,371	1,118,678	3,379,693
Extension to Robert Bloomfield Middle School from 720 to 840 permanent places, Shefford	September 2015	1,427,926	609,126	818,800
<u>Wootton Area</u>				
Extension to Holywell Middle School to provide 720 places, Cranfield	September 2015	1,383,405	835,288	548,117
Extension to Cranfield Academy from 300 to 450 places, Cranfield	September 2015	2,253,187	833,218	1,419,969

Appendix A to the 14th May Executive report

New School Places Programme funding requirements

Financial year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Gross Expenditure	75,519	5,198,631	15,776,306	21,776,387	27,400,532	16,965,595	13,210,838	3,449,265
'In year' programme funding balance	8,379,782	12,805,896	13,864,505	7,054,347	-999,901	412,766	14,350,547	22,990,538

Detailed Business Case

Detailed Business Case

a. Title

Project Name	Bedfordshire East Schools Trust New School Places
Project location	Robert Bloomfield Academy, Shefford Etonbury Academy, Arlesey
Project Sponsor	Rob Parsons Head of School Organisation, Admissions & Capital Planning
Directorate	Children's Services
Type of scheme	Capital Project - over £60k
Funding	External

b. Project Information

Project Purpose/ Outline Description	<p>This project aims to meet the demand for new school places as a result of demographic growth in the catchment areas of Robert Bloomfield Academy, Etonbury Academy and Samuel Whitbread Academy, as identified in the Council's New School Places programme and School Organisation Plan.</p> <p>These schools comprise Bedfordshire East Multi Academy Trust and collectively they have brought forward a proposal which the Council's Executive, as commissioner of new school places, is to consider for approval on the 14th May 2013, to provide these new places with an implementation date of September 2015.</p> <p>The main objective of the project is to provide these new places and therefore ensure that the Council continues to comply with its statutory responsibility to ensure sufficient school places are provided for these growing communities.</p> <p>If approved, the project will entail the procurement and delivery of the capital projects by Bedfordshire East Multi Academy Trust to implement the new school places. The project is considered by the Trust to be a key enabler for the delivery of its vision and improved educational standards across the local area, not simply a building programme.</p>
Activities in Scope	The project will include the project management, procurement and delivery of the capital schemes on both the Etonbury and Robert Bloomfield Academy sites.
Out of scope/ exclusions	<p>A separate application is being made to the DfE for additional capital grant for the expansion of Post 16 provision which if successful will be delivered in parallel with the proposed project on the Etonbury campus and will supplement the budget outlined in this business case.</p> <p>The Trust has made successful applications to the Academies Capital Maintenance Fund and have initiated a refurbishment programme at both Etonbury Academy and Robert Bloomfield Academy. The freeholder of the site, Bedfordshire East Schools Trust (BEST), will continue to apply to the Academies Capital Maintenance Fund twice annually to upgrade and refurbish the existing buildings and infrastructure. The total secured in the current round is £466,476.00.</p> <p>BEST is working with the Football Association and with the Council's Leisure Services to develop sports and leisure facilities on the Etonbury Academy site through the potential provision of a 3G floodlit football pitch and sports hall with associated fitness, dance and micro gym rooms. If approved, these proposals will be delivered in parallel with the proposed new school places project on the Etonbury campus.</p>

Appendix B to the 14th May Executive report

c. Deliverables / outputs	
Deliverables:	
Deliverable	Date Due
120 additional middle school places serving the catchment of Etonbury Middle School, Arlesey	Sept 2015
300 additional upper school places serving the catchment of Samuel Whitbread Academy on the site of Etonbury Academy, Arlesey	Sept 2015
The replacement of existing temporary accommodation to provide 840 permanent middle school places serving the catchment of Robert Bloomfield Academy, Shefford	Sept 2015

d. Options Appraisal	
Options	<p>The proposals to expand both Etonbury Academy and Robert Bloomfield Academy to provide the required additional middle school places have not been subject of an options appraisal. Both proposals aim to provide for growth from within their own catchments and in all other relevant respects are aligned with the Council's Policy Principles for Pupil Place Planning in Schools.</p> <p>The requirement to provide 300 additional upper school places serving the catchment of Samuel Whitbread Academy has however been subject of an options appraisal undertaken with Council support by Bedfordshire East Multi Academy Trust.</p> <p>A summary of the key elements of the options appraisal follows: The current site of Samuel Whitbread Academy was re-developed and expanded through the Bedfordshire Education Partnership PFI scheme. This increased the capacity of the school to 1758 places. Presently, the Sixth Form has more than 450 students on roll and each of the school's year groups are between 400 to 450 students in size.</p> <p>The academy was graded as 'requires improvement' with some good elements, including the Sixth Form rated as 'good' throughout by Ofsted in its last inspection in October 2012. The Academy proposes to achieve a 'Good' standard with support of a new Executive Principal for Teaching and Learning, and Governance structure provided by the Bedfordshire East Multi Academy Trust (BEMAT) Board of Directors, within the academic year 2012 / 2013.</p> <p>As the Upper school serving the catchments that are undergoing significant demographic growth, demand for additional places for 13-19 year-olds would normally be accommodated within a redevelopment of the campus. However BEMAT has declared that accommodating the required expansion from 1758 places to 2058 places on the Samuel Whitbread campus would not be its automatic choice for a number of valid reasons, including the following statements made by the Multi Academy Trust for inclusion within this business case.</p> <p>Logistical Issues in Size: BEMAT has made significant improvements at KS4 in the past two years, taking the GCSE 5A*- C including Maths and English from 47% to 67% [currently 62%] and significantly improving outcomes at 16+. However, it is felt that increasing the size of year groups to almost 500, coupled with the expected expansion of the Sixth Form as a result of increased staying on</p>

Appendix B to the 14th May Executive report

	<p>rates will potentially hinder BEMAT's drive to deliver outstanding education across the board on the Samuel Whitbread site. The resulting size of the Samuel Whitbread campus would place it above the Council's own guidelines for the optimum size of Upper Schools, outlined in its Policy Principles for Pupil Place Planning in Schools.</p> <p>Issues with Community Disconnect & Transport: At present approximately 80% of children are transported by bus to the Samuel Whitbread campus, many from Stotfold, Arlesey and the surrounding villages. It could be argued that this creates a 'community disconnect', hindering the development of positive relationships with children, families, and the community and to the detriment of sustainable extra-curricular and community projects. The 'remoteness' of the Samuel Whitbread campus to some of the communities within its catchment that are giving rise to the need for the identified new school places is not only a potential obstacle to improving standards further, but will also add to the Home-School transport costs and is in conflict with both the Trust's and Council's obligations to promote sustainable school transport. It would also be at odds with BEMAT's aim 'to advance education and community cohesion'.</p> <p>Issues in relation to school premises (BB98): Based upon the guidelines set out in Building Bulletin 98 for Secondary Schools, a total of 4,000m² of space would be required to accommodate 300 additional 13-19 places and 120 9-13 places in the Etonbury catchment. An analysis of the Samuel Whitbread site indicates that the 300 13-19 places would require 2,000m² of new build, with the 120 9-13 places being accommodated elsewhere in the authority area. As the Samuel Whitbread Academy is already under sized, a development for a further 300 students would exacerbate this and create a site that is c.11,000m² smaller than the recommended area for buildings and outdoor space.</p> <p>An expansion of the Etonbury Academy to accommodate an additional 300 13-19 places and 120 9-13 places would require 4,000m² of new and remodelled space. As Etonbury Academy is already well within the area guidance for school sites this development could be achieved within the existing site, if adjustments were also made to the configuration of outside sports provision.</p> <p>Issues in Relation to Value for Money: The project's financial viability would also be in question if any development was carried out at the Samuel Whitbread campus as any works would have to be brought forward through the school's existing PFI arrangement. An indicative analysis of likely construction costs (based on an estimate of 2,000m² of new build for 300 13-19 places) demonstrates an annual increase in the unitary charge of c. £300,000. With a 25 year payback period this equates to a build cost of £7.5m at today's price, which would result in a per square metre cost of £3,750. This is well above current market prices.</p> <p>To this end and for the reasons stated above by BEMAT, the option of increasing numbers on the Samuel Whitbread campus was discounted, in favour of the preferred option to provide both the required increase in middle and upper school places on the Etonbury Academy Campus.</p>
<p>Implications of "do nothing"</p>	<p>The Council would fail in its statutory responsibility (Section 14 of the Education Act 1996) which 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. If the project is not approved to go ahead, the council will not be able to provide sufficient [9-13] and [14-19] pupil places in the Stotfold and Arlesey area by September 2015.</p>

Appendix B to the 14th May Executive report

Project Delivery / Project Approach	<p>This project is intended to be delivered by Bedfordshire East Multi Academy Trust, with support from the Council and external project management resources which will be capitalised from the project's core budget.</p> <p>Bedfordshire East Schools Trust, the freeholder of the school sites, has engaged the services of a specialist project management company to assist with the delivery of the programme. The project management company has engaged feasibility architects and quantity surveyors to assess the suitability of the proposed work and has undertaken a full suite of pre-design surveys. Once procurement is underway a full range of specialist technical services (including CDMC) will be provided to assess the quality of any submissions. On appointment of a contractor the project management company will be further supported by a Clerk of Works to review the quality of all building work.</p> <p>The project will be governed by a project board, with Council representation, which is already in place and which has overseen the development of the proposal outlined in this business case and the feasibility studies that have been undertaken to date. The board has also overseen the public consultation exercise required by the Education Funding Agency of Academies seeking to make significant changes to their capacity and/or age range.</p> <p>The project management and governance structures that have been put in place by Bedfordshire East Multi Academy Trust mirror those used successfully in Central Bedfordshire to deliver the major capital projects at All Saints Academy, University Technical College and the Alternative Provision Free School which is currently underway.</p> <p>Bedfordshire East Multi Academy Trust intend to deliver both of these capital projects in partnership with the Council and the board of Bedfordshire East Schools Trust (BEST) to reduce the need for operating licences and other legal agreements, which would be necessary if the Council were to take the project forward. BEST has a strong and recent track record of delivering capital projects and managing its school estates. Delivery through this partnership approach will achieve improved value for money through simultaneous procurement of both of the required capital projects at Etonbury and Robert Bloomfield resulting in a more attractive package of works to the market, driving competitive design and commercial solutions. In addition, the elements that are not to be procured through a building contract, furniture and ICT, will be delivered through BEST's framework agreements that achieve savings through bulk purchasing.</p>
Dependencies	<p>The proposed expansion of Etonbury Academy constitutes a significant enlargement in Department for Education guidance and approval has therefore been sought by Bedfordshire East Multi Academy Trust (BEMAT) from the Education Funding Agency (EFA). The business case submitted by BEMAT to the EFA is expected to be approved in May 2013.</p> <p>The delivery of the project is dependant on securing the necessary planning approvals and the timely procurement and delivery of the capital works.</p>
Constraints	<p>The additional places are required by September 2015.</p> <p>The original indicative budgets for the provision of the new school places have been tested through a feasibility study accompanied by a cost plan that has demonstrated the broad affordability of the scheme.</p> <p>The Council's requirements for robust financial management of the projects will be subject of an agreement established between the Council and BEMAT.</p> <p>The main constraints of developing on the Etonbury Academy site involve the modification of existing facilities and the need to develop additional sporting facilities. Etonbury Academy is a middle school capable of accommodating 480</p>

Appendix B to the 14th May Executive report

	students on roll and is currently laid out accordingly. For the school to develop upper school provision many of the current spaces will need to be re-designated and/or reconfigured and this project will need to ensure that the school is laid out appropriately. The school currently has relatively limited diversity of sports provision. This project will address this by developing an All Weather Pitch to ensure that a full sports curriculum will be achievable and the Academy's objective of wider community use can be furthered.
Assumptions	There are no assumptions being made in the development of this project, which will be subject of appropriate risk management strategies.
Procurement route / options	Alternatives for the procurement route for this project have been considered with options including the Education Funding Agency Contractors Framework, the Innovation and Efficiency South East Framework, the London Housing Consortium and the SCAPE framework. The Education Funding Agency Framework has been identified as the preferred route given a number of criteria including the time to deliver the scheme, the need to retain cost certainty and the overall m2 capital costs that can be achieved.
Assessment of preferred option	
Expected Benefits (opportunities) of this project	<p>This project is being undertaken to ensure the Council can continue to comply with its statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places for children in the growing communities of Arlesey, Stotfold and Shefford.</p> <p>By September 2015 the project will have provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 120 additional middle school places serving the catchment of Etonbury Middle School, Arlesey • 300 additional upper school places serving the catchment of Samuel Whitbread Academy on the site of Etonbury Academy, Arlesey • The replacement of existing temporary accommodation to provide 840 permanent middle school places serving the catchment of Robert Bloomfield Academy, Shefford <p>The projects comply with the Council's Policy Principles on Pupil Place Planning in Schools and support the expansion of popular and successful schools and the need to provide local school places for local children.</p> <p>The proposal would allow BEMAT to deliver a broad range of curriculum choice for its entire learning community across its three current sites. This will also support the Multi Academy's drive to improve the quality of teaching and learning at KS4 which is being led by the multi academy trust. BEMAT intends to move all of its academies to 'Outstanding' by September 2015.</p> <p>The proposed expansion of the facilities at Etonbury Academy provides opportunities which are being developed in partnership with the Football Association, the Council's Leisure Services, Sport England, BEMAT and BEST to further enhance the range of dual use facilities available on the site.</p> <p>New build on both Etonbury and Robert Bloomfield sites will also reduce maintenance costs and improve energy efficiency of the existing buildings, minimizing the funding that each Academy currently has to divert from resourcing core teaching and learning activity.</p>
Disadvantages (threats) of this	Threats and risks associated with this project will be managed by the Project Board and overseen by the Governance structure outlined within this business

Appendix B to the 14th May Executive report

project	case.																												
Impact Assessment of preferred option																													
Employee implications	Staff and Trades Unions will be consulted on the proposals to expand the schools in this report as part of the consultation process required by regulations and DfE guidance. 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. 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 Issues	<p>The consultation and decision making process set out in regulation and guidance for proposals to expand Academies requires an evaluation on a project by project basis of any equalities and human rights issues that might arise.</p> <p>A significant benefit of the project will be the opportunities for developing the new provision for SEN and high achieving students which with enhanced provision, more seamless transition and access to a broader range of curriculum choices will enable the Trust to support students more effectively.</p> <p>The proposed 14-19 provision on the Etonbury campus will provide for Special Education Needs and Disabilities students far more effectively than the Trust is currently able to do. Across BEMAT these projects and the forecast growth in pupil numbers will also enable the development of a single point of contact Children and Family Services Team and a single SENCO structure. Children and their families will be supported by these teams throughout their 9-19 journeys by enhanced pastoral support.</p>																												
Strategic Assessment of preferred option																													
Statutory Duty & any legal implications	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.																												
KPIs and key targets from MTP	The project supports Central Bedfordshire's Medium Term Plan: <i>Delivering your priorities – Our Plan for Central Bedfordshire 2012- 2016</i> and the specific priority of Improved Educational Attainment.																												
Impact on the MTP – delivering your priorities	<p>The Multi Academy Trust has committed to the following KS4 targets which will have a direct impact on the Council's MTP priority.</p> <p>BEMAT KS4 Results 5 A* to C not including both English and Maths</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2010</th> <th>2011</th> <th>2012</th> <th>2013</th> <th>2014</th> <th>2015</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BEMAT</td> <td>57.00 %</td> <td>63.00 %</td> <td>61.00 %</td> <td>70.20 %</td> <td>73.50 %</td> <td>73.60 %</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>BEMAT KS4 5 A* - C GCSE grades including Maths and English</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2015</th> <th>2014</th> <th>2013</th> <th>2012</th> <th>2011</th> <th>2010</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BEMAT</td> <td>74%</td> <td>68%</td> <td>67%</td> <td>61%</td> <td>63%</td> <td>57%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	BEMAT	57.00 %	63.00 %	61.00 %	70.20 %	73.50 %	73.60 %		2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	BEMAT	74%	68%	67%	61%	63%	57%
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015																							
BEMAT	57.00 %	63.00 %	61.00 %	70.20 %	73.50 %	73.60 %																							
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010																							
BEMAT	74%	68%	67%	61%	63%	57%																							
Key risks																													
Risks	<p>Affordability</p> <p>The project will be procured through a Design and Build contract, which will ensure the project is delivered on budget. The scheme's affordability will be ensured through the progression of feasibility studies, the holding of a contingency sum and the preparedness to conduct Value Engineering of the scheme if necessary.</p> <p>Planning</p>																												

Appendix B to the 14th May Executive report

	<p>On-going dialogue will be conducted with CB planners to ensure that any application is received favourably. During the planning review period this relationship will be maintained to provide all necessary information to planners and to understand the implication of any conditions.</p> <p>Site conditions A full suite of pre-design surveys have been carried out so that any issues regarding the site can be addressed during detailed design.</p> <p>Programme During the delivery of the project the programme will be closely monitored to ensure that milestones are achieved or where any delays are likely these can be minimised by deploying alternate strategies.</p> <p>Integration of other associated works To ensure that the installation of ICT and furniture is fully integrated with the construction project a Strategic Integration Group will be established to develop joint programmes and monitor the overlapping priorities and risks.</p> <p>Risk Register A full risk register will be developed as the project progresses, using a recognised risk assessment methodology which will be reviewed regularly by the Project Board.</p> <p>Throughout the delivery of this programme BEST will maintain a robust risk management strategy. Risk workshops covering both educational and construction elements have been held in November 2012. Thereafter, the risk logs will be updated quarterly by the Project Manager. On appointment of a building contractor a further workshop will be held to refresh the risk log. The project's approach to risk management will be realistic and proactive. Only genuine risks will be tracked and the parties responsible for managing each will be expected to provide monthly updates on the likelihood and contingency plans for each risk.</p>
--	--

e. Stakeholders involvement – required to deliver or project will impact (please list with names of individuals and ensure that those who will be required to input or deliver the project are aware)

Directorates	Rob Parsons, Head of School Organisation, Admissions & Capital Planning, Children's Services
Members	
Public if applicable	

f. Timescales – key milestones

Milestone	Date
EFA significant changes consultation	February 2013
Feasibility scheme completed	March 2013
Executive approval	May 2013
EFA/Secretary of State approval	May 2013
Preliminary tendering complete	July 2013
Preferred bidder chosen	December 2013
Detailed design complete	February 2014
Planning permission granted	April 2014
Start building works	June 2014
Complete building works	June 2015
Project completion (End of Defects Liability Period)	June 2016

Appendix B to the 14th May Executive report

g. Project Governance

Please provide details of how it is proposed that this project should be governed, this should as far as possible be within existing governance structures.

Project Sponsor	Rob Parsons Head of School Organisation, Admissions & Capital Planning, Children's Services
Project Manager	Ian Kite, Chief Executive, Bedfordshire East Schools Trust
Project Board	Project Steering Group – Directors of Bedfordshire East Multi Academy Trust, Council Officers supported by a Project Manager who has significant experience working within the DfE Academies framework and on predecessor BSF schemes.
Project Team/s by work stream.	Main design user group ICT Design user group Planning & Highways Commercial risk and legal Energy and carbon reduction Finishes FF&E

Appendix B to the 14th May Executive report

h. Costs

Project Managers must not commit expenditure until they are certain that the budgets for that project have been approved in compliance with the Council's Constitution.

1. Financial Case Summary

Expenditure Type	£'000					Total
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	
Total Gross Capital Costs	0	85	7,230	1,485	0	8,800
Total Gross Revenue Costs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Costs	0	85	7,230	1,485	0	8,800

Projected Gross Benefits	0	0	0	0	0	0
---------------------------------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------

Net Impact to CBC	0	0	0	0	0	0
--------------------------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------

2. Capital Costs

A Expenditure Type	£'000						Est. Type *
	0 Year 1	0 Year 2	0 Year 3	0 Year 4	0 Year 5	Total	
Capital Costs							
Land Acquisition						0	
Building Acquisition						0	
Construction/ Conversion			6,565	1,330		7,895	D
Professional Fees		85	65	31		181	D
Vehicles						0	
Plant & Equipment						0	
Furniture			600	124		724	D
IT Hardware						0	
Software & Licences						0	
Capital Grant to 3rd Parties						0	
Credit Arrangements						0	
Capitalisation of Internal Salaries						0	
Other (Specify)						0	
Total Capital Costs	0	85	7,230	1,485	0	8,800	

* S= Spot Estimate, D= Detailed Estimate, T= Tender Price.

B Sources of Funding	£'000					
	0 Year 1	0 Year 2	0 Year 3	0 Year 4	0 Year 5	Total
External Funding						
Government Grant (Basic Need)			5,019	629	-914	4,734
Section 106	81	225	1,990	855	923	4,074
Section 278						0
Lottery/ Heritage						0
Other Sources (Specify)						0
Total External Funding	81	225	7,009	1,484	9	8,808

Internal Funding						
Direct Revenue Financing						0
Capital Receipts						0
Borrowing						0
Total Internal Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Funding	81	225	7,009	1,484	9	8,808

3. Revenue Costs

Expenditure Type	£'000					
	0 Year 1	0 Year 2	0 Year 3	0 Year 4	0 Year 5	Total
a.One - Off Revenue Costs						
(Specify)						0
(Specify)						0
(Specify)						0
Total One- Off Revenue Costs	0	0	0	0	0	0

b.Ongoing Revenue Costs						
(Specify)						0
(Specify)						0
(Specify)						0
Total Ongoing Revenue Costs	0	0	0	0	0	0

c.Projected Gross Revenue Benefits/Savings						
Savings						0
Income						0
Total Gross Revenue Benefits	0	0	0	0	0	0

d. MRP and Interest						
MRP	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interest	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total MRP & Interest Impact	0	0	0	0	0	0

Net Impact to CBC	0	0	0	0	0	0
--------------------------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------

Provide a detailed explanation of how the Savings and Income are Derived. Include details of how these have been calculated.

4. Cost/ Benefit Analysis

Additional Information	Value
Net Present Value	0
Return on Investment	-100%
Payback Period (years)	#DIV/0!
Capital Costs to Benefits Ratio	#DIV/0!
Revenue Costs to Benefits Ratio	#DIV/0!
Total Costs to Benefits Ratio	#DIV/0!

3.5% Present Value Factor (£'000)

5. VAT Implications

Please state whether VAT implications have been considered for this scheme

6. Additional Financial

Include any additional financial information which may be relevant such as ;hyperlinks to grant conditions and details regarding funding sources.

j. Detailed Business Case Sign off (circle, sign and date)		
Project proposal validated by:	Name and signature	Date
Project Manager	Ian Kite Chief Executive Bedfordshire East Schools Trust	4/4/13
Project Sponsor	Rob Parsons Head of School Organisation, Admissions & Capital Planning	4/4/13
GUIDANCE: The Project Manager is responsible for progressing the sign off process. For capital projects, the business case must be signed by the Portfolio Holder to enable release of funds.		
Approved	Director - Name & Signature	Date
Approved	Portfolio Holder for service- Name & Signature	Date
Approved	Senior Finance Manager – Name & Signature	Date
Approved	Chief Finance Officer- Name & Signature	Date
Approved	Deputy Leader – Name & Signature	Date