

Appendix F – 19 August 2014 Executive

Business Case for proposed school and academy expansions for September 2016 implementation. –

Edward Peake CofE VC Middle School

Central Bedfordshire Council's Policy Principles for Pupil Place Planning

Please provide details of how you believe the proposed expansion of your school will meet each of the 9 principles below. As a guide, please consider and delete the explanatory grey text provided in each before inserted your text –

1	The need to provide local schools for local children, ensuring a sense of community belonging and also promoting sustainable modes of travel.
	<p>Edward Peake C of E (VC) Middle School draws from a wide catchment area but the new developments completed and planned in Biggleswade are very close to the school. This will mean that more children will be able to walk to school, reducing the need for travel in cars, minimising additional school transport and ensuring the safety of our pupils as they journey to and from school. Currently, 62% of our pupils walk to school, 20% travel on a school bus and the remainder travel by car or cycle although we do not encourage the latter as the roads around the school are very busy and potentially dangerous. By ensuring there are enough local places, the need for car journeys will be reduced as will the demand for the LA to provide transport to and from school.</p> <p>New housing developments are the start of new communities within Biggleswade and as such Edward Peake would be at the heart of these communities and the school will be in a position to serve and build strong links with the community. Education provided within a local school is an important factor which contributes to children fostering a sense of belonging within the community. Section 38 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a duty on governing bodies of maintained schools to promote community cohesion. Expanding Edward Peake C of E (VC) Middle School will mean that children living locally will all be able to attend this school which will foster a coherent community identity.</p> <p>The projected figures for September 2016 are 600, meaning a 5 form intake. The school was originally built to accommodate 480.</p> <p>An expansion to the school will mean improved facilities. Edward Peake C of E (VC) Middle School would be able to accommodate more external clubs thus using the school facilities more efficiently by the local community. A larger school will mean more variety of staff with extended skill sets to offer more before and after school clubs for the local community.</p> <p>We have a strong relationship with many local churches, which points to wider community engagement. The school building is used by the 'New</p>

	Life' church every Sunday for their weekly worship. The congregation is made up of people from the local community in the main.
2	The need to create schools that are of sufficient size to be financially and educationally viable.
	<p>The number of pupils requiring places in year 5 will continue to grow both as a result of new housing developments and an increased birth rate. In order to meet the needs of the local community the school will need to expand. It is important that whilst being financially viable, the school does not lose its distinctive ethos. Although the expansion will result in an increased intake, it will still be below the recommended number of 720. The expansion will make the school building fit for purpose and more able to meet the needs of pupils, staff and the curriculum.</p> <p>The leadership team are conscious that careful consideration will need to be given to practical issues associated with creating a functional 5 class per year units in a school building design where classes are currently organised in hubs of 4. This will be particularly applicable in Years 5 & 6 where a substantial proportion of the teaching is primary based. Similarly, adequate specialist areas must be available to support high quality KS2 and KS3 teaching.</p> <p>As the school grows so does the need for more facilities. We need to continue to deliver KS2 Maths and English by experienced staff. We need to also continue to maintain the upward trend in results that we are presently achieving. No expansion will mean our ability to attract competent staff will be compromised.</p> <p>Expansion will mean that the budget will enable us to attract high calibre, experienced leaders - whether in curriculum areas or leadership roles. We need to have a budget to attract and retain experienced teachers. We will need to improve our specialist areas and this will be a perfect opportunity to improve tired areas in school which need to be able to deliver a curriculum of the future.</p> <p>The proposed expansion will be an opportunity to increase efficiency and reduce costs across the school. With increased numbers comes increased income. Existing capital resources will be improved and future proofed through physical expansion. Better use of space and resources will reduce costs. Increasing energy costs can be offset by using energy efficient materials and construction techniques. This is also an opportunity to address staffing in a more creative and cost effective way. E.g split timetabling with larger numbers of staff.</p>
3	The ability to support the expansion of local popular and successful schools or to link expanding schools with popular and successful schools.
	The school has become more popular since new leadership has made changes. The recent Ofsted report has helped being rated good and having an Outstanding grade for Behaviour and Safety. The SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) report also

	<p>graded the school as a good school with outstanding Leadership and Management. Being a C of E school is also a factor which appeals to many parents. We have had almost 20 pupils transfer to our school from local schools since September.</p> <p>The position of the school within the local community has improved greatly within the last few years. This is reflected in the percentage of cohort that the school has attracted over the last two years. The expansion will support this upward trend in both of results and community status.</p> <p>We understand and endorse the importance of local partnerships by working closely with other local schools via BCUS (Biggleswade Community Union of Schools). We also work closely with other schools in this area through our commitment to a Values based education and also with the Diocese of St Albans to enhance our status as a Voluntary Controlled Church school.</p> <p>We believe that this is a good proposal for the provision of high quality education in this area of Biggleswade because it builds on the existing success of Edward Peake C of E (VC) Middle School.</p>
4	<p>The potential to further promote and support robust partnerships and learning communities</p>
	<p>In September 2012, Edward Peake C of E (VC) Middle School entered into a soft Governance Federation with Northill Lower School. Since September 2013, the Head teacher became the Federation Head teacher and has lead both schools towards further improvement. Both governing bodies are currently considering forming a hard governance federation. The expansion of the building at Edward Peake would mean that facilities would be able to be used by pupils from this small rural lower school with increasing effectiveness.</p> <p>We enjoy very strong links with all schools in Biggleswade via the BCUS (Biggleswade Community Union of Schools) group. The Head teacher has been key in supporting the Head teacher of St Andrews Lower School which is to expand over the additional site at Kings Reach development. This development is assigned to increase the catchment of Edward Peake and so the two Headteachers consider it important to work closely together to ensure a seam free transfer at the end of Year 4.</p> <p>As part of BCUS we regularly work with other local schools to improve our provision for pupils. Staff at all levels meet regularly with other staff from the community of schools. Partnership work ranges from curriculum planning to strategic planning, sharing of resources and training.</p> <p>As a church school, we enjoy very strong relationships with St Andrews Church and the Biggleswade community of churches. Expanding our facilities will enable us to support the work of the church further and therefore build on our values education and Christian ethos.</p>

5	<p>The ambition to achieve a single phase of education 0 -19 and reduce school transfer points</p>
	<p>There is potential to extend the federation with Northill Lower School to protect small lower schools from closing. In order to do this, we would require sufficient resources in school - including leadership - and flexible staffing to allow free time to move between schools.</p> <p>We work very closely with all our link school at both ends of transfer. We are introducing the Inspire Curriculum which will help to provide a seamless education from lower school to middle school. We have regular meetings at KS3 to further develop the links between middle and upper. This has led to more sharing of information making the transition a smoother process.</p>
6	<p>The need to support the Raising of the Participation Age (RPA).</p>
	<p>With increased numbers and improved facilities, Edward Peake C of E (VC) Middle School would be in a position to support post 16 provision by offering work experience placements for students from Stratton Upper School, thus further establishing strong links with our local Upper School, this being the school to which most of our pupils transfer at the end of Year 8.</p> <p>Effective middle phase education is a step towards delivering the Coalition Government policy of ensuring that all young people are in either education, training or work related education up to the age of 18. Pupils need to enjoy their learning therefore, and at Edward Peake C of E (VC) Middle School we ensure that pupils have the skills and desires to engage in further education and training by fully developing the keys skills of reading, writing and maths. We have a comprehensive intervention programme in place in order to achieve this and an outstanding SEN department which supports pupils with additional needs and helps them to overcome their difficulties and develop a resolute approach to their learning.</p>
7	<p>To seek opportunities to create inspirational learning environments for the school and to maximise community use.</p>
	<p>The school building is currently used out of school hours as a venue for religious, sports and recreational groups. A larger, re-designed school would enhance its attractiveness to the people of Biggleswade. With the new housing close by it would be the perfect venue for many community groups to meet. They could walk or cycle with ease.</p> <p>The school building as it exists at present does not meet our needs and current inadequacies will worsen as numbers continue to increase. For example it will become almost impossible for the whole school to assemble (an important consideration for a church school where collective worship is key). There will not be large enough specialist teaching space or the space will not conform to new requirements. We are fortunate to have such large grounds but the building itself it quickly becoming</p>

	<p>outdated. The building and the outside space could be much more attractive and as such would attract more members of the community to use the available facilities. The site has the space to expand, but needs careful re-planning to ensure continued excellent and inclusive provision.</p> <p>In order for the school to be a community hub it needs to be accessible, vibrant and welcoming to all. Improving the transport access and the public image of the building will encourage parents and community residents to engage with the school more regularly.</p> <p>Improving the learning environment by creating 21st Century multifunctional spaces will make the school a more vibrant and inspiring place in which to learn.</p>
8	<p>To promote the diversity of provision offered in Central Bedfordshire to increase opportunities for parental choice</p>
	<p>As a Church of England school we have a clear, strong and distinctive Christian ethos. Our work towards becoming a values school has made us popular with parents who wish their children to continue with the values philosophy they have received at lower school. Our numbers continue to increase showing that more parents are choosing to send their child to Edward Peake. This choice is frequently attributed to the fact that we are a faith school.</p> <p>The expansion will enable us to build on our distinctive ethos and the unique learning experience we offer within the community. It will offer us the opportunity to increase our status/standing even further through improved and new facilities.</p> <p>The school has a strong values based ethos and is proud of its denominational foundation. It is a voluntary controlled Church of England middle school and it works in close partnership with the churches of Biggleswade (Churches Together) and the Diocese of St Albans.</p>
9	<p>To support vulnerable learners in Area Special Schools and integrate appropriate Special Educational Needs provision within mainstream schools</p>
	<p>The school has a very strong and effective pastoral system which is reflected in our 'outstanding' grading for Behaviour and Safety (Ofsted July 2013). We employ a Family Support Worker who liaises closely with struggling families within our school community.</p> <p>At Edward Peake we have a higher than average number of pupils with Special Educational Needs (21%) but ensure that the needs of these pupils are met within mainstream education. This has meant that these pupils often make better than expected progress.</p> <p>Our Learning Support Unit (The Peake) will be at the heart of any expansion plans. It will offer an opportunity to provide access for those with disabilities. It will be located in a central position either in the existing building or as part of the new build.</p>

--	--

	Capacity to Deliver the proposed expansion.
	For schools/academies that would like to procure design and construction works directly and manage the project to completion, please set out below the project management approach that you intend to take, including governance arrangements. Please ensure that you are clear of the professional support that you intend to engage and of the experience of the School and its Governing Body in successfully delivering significant capital projects.