

Central Bedfordshire Council

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee 15 June 2015

Commissioning of New Middle School Places in Leighton Buzzard

Report of Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services
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This report relates to a Key Decision

Purpose of this report

1. The attached report to 7 July 2015 Executive seeks support for the proposed consultation to provide new Middle School places in Leighton Buzzard from September 2016. The school referred to within the report serves the Wards of Leighton Buzzard South, Leighton Buzzard North, Linslade, Eaton Bray, Heath and Reach.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. **Consider the Executive report attached as Appendix A and indicate support for the recommendation set out within it.**

Council Priorities

2. 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.

Corporate Implications

Legal Implications

3. As set out in the Legal Implications section of the report attached as Appendix A.

Public Health

4. Extended Services around School and Early Years settings will be further developed as a result of growing school populations. 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.

Extended Services around School and Early Years settings will be further developed as a result of growing school populations.

Sustainability

5. 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.

Financial Implications

6. As set out in the Financial Implications section of the report attached as Appendix A.

Equalities Implications

7. As set out in the Equalities Implications section of the report attached as Appendix A.

Risk Management

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

Key risks include:

- Failure to discharge legal and statutory duties/guidance.
- Failure to deliver the Council's strategic priorities

- Reputational risks associated with the non delivery of required school places.
- Inability of schools to recruit suitable additional staff
- Failure to secure planning consents
- 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

Appendices

Appendix A – Executive Report (and Appendix 1 to that report) to Executive 7
July 2015 - Commissioning of New Middle School Places in Leighton Buzzard