

Central Bedfordshire Council

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee 18 August 2015

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16

Report of Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Education and Skills
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This report relates to a Key Decision

Purpose of this report

1. This report seeks approval to commence capital expenditure on projects to provide specialist provision for hearing impaired pupils at Parkfields Middle and Toddington St George Church of England School, and for pupils requiring social, emotional and mental health provision at Oak Bank School. The schools and specialist provisions referred to within the report serve all Wards in Central Bedfordshire.

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 proposals, project governance arrangements and allocation of related capital investment outlined in this report for the commissioning of the new school places at Oak Bank School implements the identified need to manage demographic growth and mitigates the risk on the Council of failing in its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places.
9. The proposals, project governance arrangements and allocation of related capital investment outlined in this report for the specialist provision for Hearing Impairment at Toddington St George Church of England School and Parkfields Middle School ensures that children

who are deaf or have significant hearing impairments who require specialist provision continue to have their needs met in Central Bedfordshire, thus mitigating the risk of out of authority placements.

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 the potential for overspend on any project within the programme

Appendices

Appendix A – Executive Report 6 October 2015 – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Capital Programme 2015/16