

Central Bedfordshire Council

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee 15 March 2016

Commissioning of New School Places in Biggleswade and Arlesey for September 2017

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. The attached report to 5 April 2016 Executive seeks support for proposed consultations by Biggleswade Academy Trust and the Governing Body of St Andrews Church of England VC Lower School, Biggleswade, each to expand by one form of entry (30 places in each lower school year group) by September 2017.
2. The report also seeks the support of the Council's Executive for the consultation by Etonbury Academy, Arlesey, to expand by one form of entry (30 places in Year groups 5-8 and 80 places in Year groups 9-11) by September 2017.
3. The schools referred to within the report serve the Wards of Arlesey, Stotfold and Langford, Biggleswade North and Biggleswade South.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to:

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

Council Priorities

4. The report supports Central Bedfordshire's Five Year Plan 2015- 2020 and the specific priority of Improving Education and Skills.

Legal Implications

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

Public Health

6. 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.

Sustainability

7. 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

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

Equalities Implications

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

Risk Management

10. The proposal to commission new lower, middle and upper 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.
- 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 Appendices 1 – 4 to that report) to Executive 5 April 2016 - Commissioning of New School Places in Biggleswade and Arlesey for September 2017