

Central Bedfordshire Council

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 30 October 2017

Commissioning new school places in the ward of Arlesey through the temporary expansion of Henlow Church of England Academy

Report of Cllr Steven Dixon, Executive Member for Education and Skills,
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Advising Officer: Sue Harrison, Director of Children's Services,
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This report relates to a decision that is Key

Purpose of this report

1. To seek comments from the Committee for the increased capital cost for the expansion of Henlow Church of England Academy (middle school), Arlesey, to accommodate the additional school places admitted in September 2017 and the school places by September 2018.
2. The additional costs are due to market increases in construction costs, town planning requirements for the position and design of the new sports hall and Sports England conditions including a new block for a changing room facility at the school.
3. The school referred to within the report serves the Ward of Arlesey.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to:

- 1. Support the approval of the additional basic need funding set out in paragraph 34 of the Executive report (appendix 1) to temporarily expand Henlow Church of England Academy to accommodate the 2017 additional cohorts and up to 70 school places by September 2018.**

Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations

1. Overview and Scrutiny are asked to comment to the Director of Children's Services the decision made by Executive on the 10 October to authorise the

approval for the additional basic need funding set out in paragraph 34 of the Executive report (appendix 1) to temporarily expand Henlow Church of England Academy to accommodate the 2017 additional cohorts and up to 70 school places by September 2018.

Reason/s for decision

2. The programme for delivering the school places for September 2018 is very tight. A construction programme will need 10 months for completion of the classrooms for handover in August 2018 to the school. A delayed start to the programme is likely to impact on the ability of the school to accommodate the additional children. The new hall is envisaged not to be completed until the end of September 2018.

Reason for urgency

3. An urgent report was tabled at Executive for the 10th October 2017. The programme for delivering the school places for September 2018 at Henlow Church of England Academy required a decision on the level of increased funds needed to enable the school expansion.
4. The increased costs of the school expansion are set out in paragraph 13 -17 of Appendix 1.
5. The Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny was consulted at short notice and the Executive has sought that Overview and Scrutiny comment on the report and inform the Director of Children's Services before approving the funding.

Council Priorities

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

Legal Implications

7. As set out in the Legal Implications section of the report attached as Appendix 1.

Financial and Risk Implications

8. As set out in the Financial Implications section of the report attached as Appendix 1.

Equalities Implications

9. As set out in the Equality Implications section of the report attached as Appendix 1.

Conclusion and next Steps

10. The Director of Children's Services to take into account the comments of Overview and Scrutiny before considering authorising the additional basic need in consultation with the Executive Member for Education and Skills and the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resource.
11. Subject to comments and authorisation, Henlow Church of England Academy will, through its education capital consultant, select a preferred contractor to start the construction of the new builds for handover at the start of the autumn term.

Appendices

Appendix 1 is attached.

Background Papers

None

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