

Central Bedfordshire Council

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny
Committee

22 January 2019

Schools for the Future – commissioning new school places in the ward of Leighton Buzzard North through the expansion of Gilbert Inglefield Academy and Vandyke Upper School for September 2020

Report of: Cllr Steven Dixon, Executive Member for Families, Education and Children
(steven.dixon@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Responsible Director(s): Sue Harrison, Director of Children's Services
(sue.harrison@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

This report relates to a decision that is Key

Purpose of this report

1. This report seeks the recommendation to Executive for the capital expenditure at Gilbert Inglefield Academy and Vandyke Upper Schools in Leighton Buzzard to expand by 2 forms of entry (30 places in each school year group) by September 2020 to meet a forecast deficit of school places. This recommendation is in line with CBC's developing Schools for the Future Strategy.
2. To provide the Committee with the outcome of the consultation undertaken by the governing body of Gilbert Inglefield Academy regarding the proposal to expand the school by 2 forms of entry (60 places in each year group) by September 2020.
3. To provide the Committee with the outcome of the consultation undertaken by the governing body of Vandyke Upper School (academy) regarding the proposal to expand the school by 2 forms of entry (60 places in each year group) by September 2020.
4. To seek support for the approval for the proposed expansions and commitment to the required capital expenditure, subject to approval also by the Department for Education for both expansions.
5. The schools referred to within the report are in the ward of Leighton Buzzard North.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider the Executive report attached as Appendix 1 and support the recommendation set out within it.
2. Recommend to Executive support for the proposed capital expenditure at Gilbert Inglefield Academy and Vandyke Upper, Leighton Buzzard

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. If recommended, the schools will launch the proposed programme for the new build and submit a business case for the expansion. The academy will also seek the DfE approval to expand.

Appendices

The following appendices are attached:

Appendix 1 – Executive Report, Schools for the Future – commissioning new school places in the ward of Leighton Buzzard North through the expansion of Gilbert Inglefield Academy and Vandyke Upper School for September 2020.

Appendix A – Gilbert Inglefield governors support letter

Appendix B – Vandyke governors support letter