

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**MONDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 2.00PM**

**ADDITIONAL SCHOOL PLACES - INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEXT PRIMARY EXPANSION PROGRAMME; APPROVALS TO THE NEXT SECONDARY EXPANSION PROGRAMME (IN ST. ALBANS; STEVENAGE AND FOR HATFIELD); ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION SCHEMES; S106 FUNDS; AND FOR PROJECTS IN BISHOPS STORTFORD**

*Report of the Director of Children's Services*

Report Author: Pauline Davis, Head of School Planning  
Tel: 01992 555865  
Simon Newland, Director of Operations (Education)  
Tel: 01992 588755  
Dick Bowler, Estates Manager  
Tel: 01992 556223

Executive Member: Terry Douris (Education, Libraries & Localism)

Local members: Stephen Boulton (Hatfield Rural), Eric Buckmaster (Sawbridgeworth), Ken Crofton (Hertford Rural), Susie Gordon (Hatfield East), John Hale (Colney Heath & Marshalswick), Michael Hearn (Shepall), Charlotte Hogg (St. Albans North), Tina Howard (Hemel Hempstead South East), Graham McAndrew (Bishop's Stortford Rural), Robin Parker (Chells), Nigel Quinton (Handside & Peartree), Anthony Rowlands (St. Albans East), Colin Woodward (Bishop's Stortford West), Sandy Walkington (St. Albans South), John Wyllie (Bishop's Stortford East), Paul Zukowskyj (Hatfield South).

**Purpose of report**

1.1 To update Members on a number of issues related to primary and secondary school additional school place proposals.

**2. Summary**

2.1 The proposed primary expansion requirements for September 2019 and 2020 (PEP8), which are currently subject to consultation, are set out in this report. Approval is sought for the proposed third secondary expansion programme (SEC3), for two additional accommodation schemes, for funding for temporary accommodation for September

2018 and the application of S106 funds to support school expansion projects.

- 2.2 Approval is also sought to commence with a compulsory purchase order process to secure unfettered ownership of a leasehold site in Stevenage.
- 2.3 Updates are also provided on school proposals in Bishop's Stortford (both north and south) and funding approvals sought, some of the details of which are contained in the accompanying Part II report.

### **3. Recommendations**

3.1 The Education, Libraries & Localism Cabinet Panel considered a report on this item of business at its meeting on 6 February 2018. The Panel noted:

- (i) that the Director of Children's Services is consulting on the proposed permanent school expansion by 1.0 f.e. of Belswains, Hemel Hempsted from September 2019 and St. Peter's, St. Albans, from September 2020;
- (ii) the overall scale of the current estimated cost of that primary expansion programme;
- (iii) the latest position on developments in Bishop's Stortford;

3.2 and recommended to Cabinet that Cabinet approves:

- (iv) the Council entering into funding agreements with the secondary schools identified in paragraph 5.3 of the report and the accompanying Part II report; the terms of such funding agreements to be agreed by the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Executive Member for Education, Libraries and Localism;
- (v) the Council entering into a funding agreement with Samuel Ryder Academy, St Albans for additional accommodation as identified in the accompanying Part II report; the terms of such funding agreement to be agreed by the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Executive Member for Education, Libraries and Localism.
- (vi) the Council entering into a funding agreement with Tewin Cowper Primary school, Tewin for a contribution of £0.31m towards its additional accommodation scheme; the terms of such funding agreement to be agreed by the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Executive Member for Education, Libraries and Localism.

- (vii) the use of £2.0m additional funds for temporary expansions for September 2019, where required.
- (viii) the application of S106 funds identified in Appendix E subject to town planning approvals where appropriate.
- (ix) the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order for the acquisition of the freehold interest in all of the land demised under the 1564 lease, and now comprising the former East site of Barnwell School, Stevenage and the site of Ashtree Primary School, Stevenage and the costs outlined in the Part II report, and delegates to the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council (as responsible for Resources, Property and the Economy) and the Executive Member for Education, Libraries and Localism authority to agree the detail of and to issue the Compulsory Purchase Order.
- (x) the revision to the agreed capital budget for the Bishops Stortford North schools schemes as mentioned in the report;
- (xi) the addition of the scheme for relocation and expansion of The Bishops Stortford High School within the terms set out in Part II of this report.
- (xii) a further contribution of £1.4m to The Herts & Essex High School towards its expansion.

#### **4. Background**

##### **Primary**

- 4.1 This report informs the Panel of the next programme of primary school expansions and the Director of Children's Services consultation on the expansion of school premises at four schools by 2019 and 2020.

##### Primary Expansion Programme for September 2019 & 2020 (PEP8)

- 4.2 Work has been undertaken to identify where expansions are required for 2019. The demand for primary school places county-wide is forecast to have reached its peak and therefore the requirement for permanent expansion continues to be lower than in previous years. For 2019 and 2020 permanent expansion is considered for two areas, necessary in Hemel Hempsted and desirable in St. Albans. Options within each area have been assessed using the Director of Children's Services' four tests:

- does it provide the right number of places in the right location?
- does it support and not undermine school effectiveness?
- are the implications for buildings, environment and cost feasible and affordable?
- transitional implications.

- 4.3 Having considered the above four tests the Director of Children's Services had decided to consult on proposals to expand the following schools, all of which require statutory process.

Area	School name	Expansion by form of entry (FE)	Increase in admission number	Year
Hemel Hempstead	Belswains	1.0 f.e. (1 to 2 f.e.)	30	2019
St. Albans	St. Peter's	1.0 f.e. (1 to 2 f.e.)	30	2020

- 4.4 Copies of the consultation letters, containing relevant information on the need and rationale for the places, are attached as appendices A and B.

Next steps

- 4.5 The Director of Children's Services' is consulting on the expansion of Belswains, and St. Peter's primary schools, which forms the first stage of any statutory processes for the permanent expansion of the school premises. The schools are aware of their potential inclusion in the proposed programme. The Local Members have also been informed and offered involvement in the formulation of specific proposals.
- 4.6 The timetable of future action in relation to proposals on which the County Council is consulting would be:

Public consultation	23 Jan – 13 Mar (Belswains) 29 Jan – 19 Mar (St. Peter's)
Panel (to receive the outcome of the consultation)	17 April
Cabinet (to approve the publication of statutory notices and capital projects)	23 April
Statutory Notice period	w/c 30 April -27 May
Cabinet (for final approval if objections received)	9 July
Implementation	September 2019 (Belswains) September 2020 (St. Peter's)

- 4.7 Planning permission will also be required and in some cases, may present challenges. Should any proposal reach final approval stage it will be conditional upon the receipt of town planning permission.

## 5. Secondary

### Secondary Expansion Programme (SEC3)

- 5.1 The growth in demand for places continues into the secondary sector and it is necessary to secure additional places in several areas of the county from 2019 onwards. The Panel is asked to recommend to Cabinet on 19 February 2018 that the Authority be authorised to enter into funding agreements for the expansion of secondary schools outlined in para. 5.3 below.
- 5.2 The need for additional places has been identified for three areas of the county.
- 5.3 Negotiations with four schools have reached a conclusion as to the number of additional places to be made available and the amount of additional accommodation required to support them.

School name	Status	Area	Date of expansion	Increase in admission number
Sandringham	Academy	St. Albans	2019	30
St. Albans Girls'	Academy	St. Albans	2019	30
Stanborough	Academy	Welwyn Hatfield	2019	30
Chancellors	Foundation	Welwyn Hatfield	2019	30

### St. Albans

- 5.4 A shortage of places of at least two forms of entry (2 f.e.) is forecast for St. Albans from 2019 onwards.

	SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2017	2015/16 ACTUAL	2016/17 ACTUAL	2017/18 FORECAST	2018/19 FORECAST	2019/20 FORECAST	2020/21 FORECAST
Actual Number on Roll		1488	1547				
Number of Year 7 Places Available	1716			1716	1740	1698	1698
Demand				1623	1626	1755	1765
Surplus/Shortage				93	114	-57	-67
% Surplus/Shortage				5.4%	6.6%	-3.4%	-3.9%
No of FE				3.1	3.8	-1.9	-2.2

- 5.5 In St Albans, pupil numbers have risen significantly in the last ten years. At the primary phase, an additional 9.3FE has been created since 2008 to meet rising demand. These larger cohorts are now moving into the secondary phase. An additional 4FE secondary school places have already been made available through expansions at Beaumont, Marlborough, St Albans Girls School, Sandringham and Verulam. A further 2FE secondary school places are needed to ensure sufficient capacity is available for September 2019 onwards.

## Welwyn/Hatfield

- 5.6 Forecasts for Hatfield indicate a need for additional secondary school places of over 3FE by 2019.

	SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2017	2015/16 ACTUAL	2016/17 ACTUAL	2017/18 FORECAST	2018/19 FORECAST	2019/20 FORECAST	2020/21 FORECAST
Actual Number on Roll		294	313				
Number of Year 7 Places Available	330			330	300	300	300
Demand				337	338	398	394
Surplus/Shortage				-7	-38	-98	-94
% Surplus/Shortage				-2.1%	-12.7%	-32.7%	-31.3%
No of FE				-0.2	-1.3	-3.3	-3.1

- 5.7 Significant additional primary capacity has been created in Hatfield to meet demand for reception places (4FE in 2011), along with a number of additional temporary 'bulge' classes in order to meet demand. These enlarged primary cohorts are working their way through to secondary school. The two secondary schools in Hatfield are full to their current Published Admission Numbers (PANs) and for the last two years, Onslow St. Audrey's School has offered additional places to ensure every child could access a local school place. Onslow is seeking to increase its PAN by 30 (1 f.e.) permanently and is awaiting approval from the Regional Schools Commissioner to its proposal. Both schools will then be at their maximum capacity and cannot expand further. There would then be a need for a further 2FE from 2019. This excludes any demand arising from pupil yield from proposed new housing.
- 5.8 In order to meet this demand negotiations have been held with the next nearest schools, Stanborough in Welwyn Garden City, conditional upon a change in the schools' admissions criteria to ensure the additional 30 places offered are prioritised to Hatfield applicants, and Chancellors in Brookman's Park, to ensure that 25 of the 30 places are prioritised for Hatfield applicants.
- 5.9 In the longer term, the County Council is seeking a secondary school site allocation in the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan, capable of up to 10FE, to accommodate a new secondary school to serve the Hatfield settlement. Once this new school is established, Chancellors and Stanborough's admissions rules will revert and no longer specifically prioritise Hatfield applicants. It is anticipated that, by this point, the additional capacity created at these two schools will be required to meet the rising needs in their own areas.

## **6. Other requirements**

- 6.1 In addition to the proposed expansions above, additional accommodation is required at one primary and one secondary school in order for them to retain their PANs (without which expansion would need to be made and funded elsewhere).

Samuel Ryder (secondary), St. Albans

- 6.2 Samuel Ryder school was established as an all-through school in 2012 following this authority's proposal to help to provide additional primary school places in St Albans to meet demand. The school became an academy as part of that process. The County Council delivered additional primary accommodation, which resulted in a loss of secondary accommodation. At the time the school was admitting significantly less secondary pupils than its Published Admission Number (PAN). There was also a surplus of places within St. Albans and this was therefore not a pressing issue; the priority was to re-establish the school. Since then, however, both the popularity of the school and demand for secondary school places across St Albans has significantly increased. As indicated in paragraph 5.4, a shortage of places is now forecast, and the level of deficit relies on all existing schools to fill to their published PANs. Additional accommodation is therefore required to enable it to do so, without which it would need to reduce its PAN (and the authority needing to find even more additional places in other schools).
- 6.3 The estimated cost is contained within the Part II report. The school is an academy and will deliver the project itself. Authority is therefore sought to enter into a funding agreement with the Academy.

Tewin Cowper Primary, Tewin

- 6.4 Tewin Cowper is the only school in the Tewin village. In recent years the school's reception intake has been close to its PAN of 25, and over (27) in 2016.
- 6.5 The current forecast across this wider area made up of separate villages suggests a deficit of places in 2019/20, with demand closely matching the number of places for other forecast years.

	SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2017	2015/2016 ACTUAL	2016/2017 ACTUAL	2017/18 FORECAST	2018/19 FORECAST	2019/20 FORECAST	2020/21 FORECAST
Actual Number on Roll		73	70				
Number of Reception Places Available	75			75	75	75	75
Demand				64	71	77	70
Surplus/Shortage				11	4	-2	5
% Surplus/Shortage				14.7%	5.3%	-2.7%	6.7%
No of FE				0.4	0.1	-0.1	0.2

- 6.6 Historically, Tewin Cowper school's pupil numbers were lower which has meant that it has been able to run mixed year group classes across Key Stage 2. A rise in pupil numbers in recent years means that this will no longer be possible and an additional class will be needed from September 2018.
- 6.7 The contribution is £0.31m. This is a voluntary aided school and the work will be undertaken by the school via the St. Alban's Diocesan framework. Authorisation is therefore sought for officers to enter into a funding agreement with the school/Diocese.

### Stevenage land acquisition/Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)

- 6.8 In light of the scale of anticipated future housing growth, within Stevenage, to the north of Stevenage within North Herts and to the east within East Herts, there will be a need for additional school places including new school provision via local plan allocations and other existing sites. The timing of that provision will depend on the rate of building in and around the town. The need for that provision could be as early as 2021 or 2022.
- 6.9 There is a site on which there is a former secondary school building (Collenswood – and more recently occupied by Barnwell school before it centralised on sites in the south of the town), an Education Support Centre (ESC), and an existing primary school (Ashtree).
- 6.10 The site is a leasehold and is shown on the plan attached as appendix C outlined blue. It was acquired in 1961 via assignment of a lease dated 1564 for 500 years. At the time of assignment the Landlord was unknown and subsequent enquiries/searches etc. have failed to identify the details of any current Freeholder. There are only 47 years remaining on the original lease.
- 6.11 Consideration has been given, and legal opinion sought, on how the County Council's interest could be consolidated. The advice received is that the only achievable option would be to instigate a Compulsory Purchase Order to acquire the freehold interest. The need to do this is because any new school would be an academy and there would be a requirement by central government that ownership or the availability of a 125 year lease is available before approving both investment in and establishment of a new school. Also, the existing primary school is seeking transfer to Academy status and the County Council will be required to establish the same lease terms. The ESC could remain on site.
- 6.12 In July 2014, Cabinet provided authority to authorise the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order for the acquisition of the freehold interest in of all of the land demised under the 1564 lease, see: <https://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/153/Committee/8/Default.aspx> Item 12. With the educational need case for a new secondary school in Stevenage now clear, and the impending academisation of the primary school, Cabinet is asked to reconsider the request, to agree the capital funding and to give approval to proceed.

### Temporary accommodation requirements for 2018

- 6.13 Additional funding is likely to be required to meet a number of primary and secondary temporary expansions for September 2018, based on



latest forecasts, where the need for permanent expansion cannot be evidenced.

### Bishop's Stortford

- 6.14 An update on school provision in Bishops Stortford in both the North (BSN) and South (BSS) of the town, with the latest estimated financial positions is provided and either the inclusion of, or revisions to previously agreed, capital budgets is requested.

### North Development Area (BSN)

- 6.15 The achievement of a preferred pattern of schools to serve the BSN development area has been a particularly complex and challenging process.
- 6.16 The starting point was that the planning permissions granted to BSN developers included three primary schools: a 1FE school in the west neighbourhood, a 2/3FE school in the east neighbourhood (i.e. with additional land attached to the 2FE sufficient to accommodate a 3<sup>rd</sup> FE to cater for peak demand) and a 1FE school at the farthest east part of the BSN area, known as ASR5 area. No secondary school was included in the development area, as the developers identified the County Council's existing site at Hadham Road, outside of the BSN area.
- 6.17 The County Council's preferred pattern of provision is for fewer larger primary schools and the negotiations have been to secure this alternative.
- 6.18 The process for this is coming to the end and it is necessary to review the capital provision for the schemes in the light of the progress that has been made and the information that is now available. It is anticipated commencement of projects will be required in 2018/19 and that they will run over several years.
- 6.19 Cabinet has previously received a number of reports and has given approval to a range of activities relating to and including: the acquisition and disposal of land; seeking sponsorship for an operator of the new schools; the overall budget for the schemes; and procurement of school buildings. A full list of those reports/approvals are attached as appendix D.
- 6.20 The current position is that:
- planning permissions have been granted for the secondary school, the western neighbourhood 2FE primary school and for a 3FE primary school at the Bishops Stortford Town Council (BSTC) site at Farnham Road;

- the ASR5 area developer has commenced development, there is a live s106 agreement, and that includes provision for the County Council to 'swap out' of that site, and it be sold at housing land value;
  - the consortium of developers of the west and east neighbourhood has commenced development and a variation of the s106 agreement for that scheme has been agreed that will enable the western site to be at 2FE capacity and the eastern site also to be 'swapped out' and it be sold at housing land value;
  - terms have been agreed for acquisition of the BSTC site and once acquired the County Council will be able to serve the notices in respect of the swap out sites. In principle the capital receipts from the sale of those two sites will be used to pay for the BSTC site via a 'pass-porting' process in the agreement with the BSTC.
- 6.21 Officers are now in a position to update Panel on the capital costs of the overall BSN schools projects. Approval to land costs and to the self-financing aspects for use of the capital receipts from the corresponding disposal site values is also sought. Details are contained in the accompanying Part II report.
- 6.22 The County Council intends to launch a competition process to identify a sponsor to operate the BSN new school provision later this term. At the end of this process, the final decision will lie with the Regional Schools Commissioner on behalf of the Secretary of State.

#### South Development Area (BSS)

- 6.23 The achievement of a project to enable the expansion of the Herts & Essex High School (H&EHS) and the relocation and expansion of The Bishops Stortford High School (TBSHS) has been a particularly complex and challenging process.
- 6.24 The starting point for each scheme was the availability of farm land near-by that would allow the H&EHS to have detached playing fields and free up existing its sites for additional school buildings and that would allow TBSHS to have a new site within the Bishops Stortford South (BSS) development area.
- 6.25 A contract for the additional land for H&EHS has been secured and planning permissions granted for its scheme. Once external capital funding discussions have been concluded H&EHS will be able to commence its scheme.

- 6.26 A contract for the new site for TBSHS is well advanced as is the progress of the Draft District Local Plan which will remove the BSS development area from the green belt and allocate it for 750 dwellings, a primary school, a secondary school, a local centre and employment. Potentially the new Local Plan will be adopted in mid-2018, and planning permissions for the overall development and for the relocated secondary scheme will be agreed in the second half of 2018.
- 6.27 The current position is that:
- once H&EHS has completed its funding discussions, it will decide to implement its planning permissions and that will trigger the completion of the acquisition of the additional land by the County Council. The cash flow of the existing capital programme provision will then become fully clear. Currently it is expected to occur in 2017/18;
  - for the scheme for TBSHS, as soon as the contract of the new site has been exchanged it will be appropriate to have capital programme provision for that scheme, with the provision to be in line with the estimates set out in the Part II report of 11 July 2016, updated with the latest information from the Education and Skills Funding Agency and consultants. Given that planning permission for the new school premises could be achieved by mid-2018, and that would trigger acquisition of the new site, there could be established and contemporaneous contracts for the forward sale of the existing school site and for the new school premises by the summer of 2019, and completion of the new premises by Autumn 2020, and completion of sale of the existing site immediately thereafter.
- 6.28 This report is accompanied by a Part II report that provides an updated set of costs and values in respect of the scheme that will be available for relocation and expansion of TBSHS by 0.5FE, to 6FE capacity.

#### Herts & Essex High School

- 6.29 In February 2016 Cabinet approved the provision of £600,000 of capital funding to Herts & Essex School to provide match funding to a bid made to central government via the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) for funds to allow the provision of a school sports hall and the expansion of the school's capacity by 0.5FE by adaptation of its current gym and ancillary buildings. The bid was successful and £2.4m was allocated to the project by the ESFA. Additional funding was secured via East Herts District Council to enhance the sports provision to support community use of the new facilities.
- 6.30 Whilst permanent additional school places were not required at that time, it did meet the county's temporary need and the project set the scene for a more-substantial future expansion of the school. To ensure that, in due course, the school would be able to expand to 8FE from its current 5.5FE, Cabinet in July 2016 approved the acquisition of land

adjoining the school's current playing fields. These current playing fields are the location of the proposed sports hall.

- 6.31 The school has reported that through the scheme development process additional costs have been identified to the core facilities, without which the scheme cannot proceed. It has requested an additional £1.4m support to achieve its aims. Failure of the scheme at this point would mean that the benefit to the school and community of these new facilities would be lost and the significant funding secured from other parties may not be available in the future. At the point of any later significant expansion the cost to the County Council of the core facilities would therefore be greater. On that basis, Panel is asked to recommend that cabinet approve the additional funds to support the scheme.

## **7. Financial implications**

### **Revenue funding**

- 7.1 Revenue funding has been made available to support the feasibility work for the primary school expansion programme.

### **Capital funding**

#### Primary expansions

- 7.2 The total estimated cost of the proposed PEP8 permanent expansion programme at this stage is £8.2m. The early cost estimates for the primary programme are based on the value engineered tender costs within the most recent expansion programmes and reflect the anticipated market position. Acknowledgement only of the scale of the permanent primary proposals is sought at this point. Specific scheme and capital approval for the specific primary projects will be sought in April 2018 when Cabinet is asked to consider the outcome of public consultation on the statutory proposals and decide whether or not to approve the publication of statutory notice for them. During that time scheme designs and estimates will have progressed further.

#### Secondary expansions, additional and temporary accommodation and S106

- 7.3 Approval is sought for £20.25m for the SEC3 programme and the additional accommodation scheme at Samuel Ryder; the contribution to the Tewin Cowper scheme at £0.13m; and £2.0m for any temporary accommodation which may be required for September 2019.
- 7.4 Additional funds are available to support the provision of new school places in relation to the pupil yield from new housing, via developers' contributions under S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended. Approval to apply funds able to support the proposed PEP8 schemes will be sought in April 2018, alongside budget

approvals. Funds able to be applied to previous school expansion projects and the proposed SEC3 schemes at a total of c£2.8m are included in Appendix E. Included are funds to support Leventhorpe's expansion project: Cabinet on 20 February 2017 ([CMIS > Calendar of council meetings](#)) approved applying £712,081.71 as a contribution to the school's project, conditional upon it securing a Capital Improvent Fund allocation from central government. It failed to achieve that but has since secured replacement funding and is now asking again for s106 funds (which have since grown marginally). Approval is therefore sought to the application of s106 funds identified in Appendix E is requested.

Bishop's Stortford North (BSN)

- 7.5 In setting the current agreed budget Cabinet in 2014 noted, in light of the on-going and complex negotiations at that time around land and school buildings to support the preferred pattern of provision to serve the new homes, the uncertainties surrounding this figure.
- 7.6 This report is accompanied by a Part II report that provides a fully updated set of costs and values in respect of the scheme now available for a 6FE secondary school, and 2FE and 3FE primary schools.
- 7.7 The construction costs and funding sources are set out separately from the land costs and values. A revised construction budget is proposed, founded and funded at set out in the Part II report.
- 7.8 Approval to land costs and to the self-financing aspects for use of the capital receipts from the corresponding disposal site values is also sought.

Bishop's Stortford South (BSS)

- 7.9 It is appropriate to consider the capital provision for the schemes in the light of the progress, the information that is now available, and as it is anticipated commencement of TBSHS project is now expected in 2018/19 and it will run over several years. The inclusion of a capital budget for the scheme for TBSHS is sought.

Summary position

- 7.10 The updated summary financial position, reviewing funds available from grants received to date, approved section 106, less existing commitments, and the proposed primary proposals above is:

Funds currently available up to 2019/20:	£63.7 m
S106 funds to be approved	£2.802m

**Sub total:** **£66.502m**

Less

proposed cost of SEC3/Samuel Ryder/CPO and Bishops Stortford North proposals:	£30.767
Contribution to Tewin Cowper additional accommodation scheme:	£0.31m
Cost of temporary accommodation for 2018	£2.0m
Contribution to The Herts & Essex High school Project	£1.4m
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>£34.477m</b>
<b>Allocation remaining</b>	<b>£32.025m</b>

- 7.11 The allocation remaining will be required for PEP8 and any newly emerging primary needs for 2020/21 and secondary needs from 2021 onwards.
- 7.12 The allocation remaining is likely to change with any further basic need allocation for 2020/21 (which is due in early 2018) and any future approvals to the application of S106 funds.
- 7.13 Costs have been assessed on the current market conditions.

## **8. Equalities**

- 8.1 When considering proposals placed before Members it is important that they are fully aware of, and have themselves rigorously considered the Equality implications of the decision that they are making.
- 8.2 Rigorous consideration will ensure that proper appreciation of any potential impact of that decision on the County Council's statutory obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. As a minimum this requires decision makers to read and carefully consider the content of any Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) produced by officers.
- 8.3 The Equality Act 2010 requires the County Council when exercising its functions to have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant

protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.

- 8.4 Equalities Impact Assessments (EqIAs) have been carried out and updated where necessary on all proposed school expansions contained within this report ([Appendix F<sup>1</sup>](#)). They will be made available in the Members' Lounge prior to, and at the Cabinet meeting in order that Members are fully aware of any equality issues arising from the proposals. The EqIAs will be reviewed and updated as part of any future public consultation. Consideration has been given to the likely impact of the proposals, and current assessments conclude that it is not anticipated that people with protected characteristics will be affected disproportionately.
- 8.5 The Local Authority is bound by the Admissions Code and Regulations and this does not allow for any discrimination in this respect.
- 8.6 The expansion of school premises will enable additional school places to be made available as close as possible to the demand for them. In that way they will improve access to school places to all sectors of the communities in which they are located, and avoid very young children having to travel longer distances to access education.
- 8.7 The expansion of existing schools provides for enhanced education opportunities and an enriched curriculum offer which has a positive impact on the whole school community.
- 8.8 School expansion schemes provide positive impacts, offering the opportunity for improved facilities for disabled access in new buildings.

### Background Information

*Appendices A-F as attached.*



**Hertfordshire County Council  
County Hall  
Hertford  
SG13 8DF**

**Tel:** 0300 123 4043

**My ref:** School Planning

**Date:** 23 January 2018

Dear Consultee

**Consultation on the proposal to enlarge the premises of Belswains Primary School, Barnfield, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP3 9QJ**

We are consulting you on the following proposal:

**The enlargement of the premises of Belswains Primary School, Barnfield, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP3 9QJ by 30 places (1 form of entry<sup>2</sup>) from September 2019.**

The proposal will support a permanent increase in the size of this school by 30 places (1 f.e.). This means the school will then have the capacity to admit 60 reception aged children in September 2019 and in each subsequent year thereafter, growing to a full 2 f.e. school (with 420 places available) by September 2025. The current capacity of the school is 210 and the eventual capacity will be 420 pupils (excluding Nursery pupils).

The school does not currently have enough classrooms to accommodate the extra children. It is therefore proposed to provide additional accommodation and associated external play space to support the increased number of children.

**Why is this being proposed?**

In line with recent national trends we are seeing an increase in the demand for reception class places in parts of Hertfordshire. The county council considers it important to ensure that there are sufficient places available for very young children as near as possible to their homes. There is more information on

---

<sup>2</sup> 1 form of entry (f.e.) is 30 pupils per year group.  
Agenda Pack 16 of 23



how we plan to meet the demand for school places and our methods for forecasting pupil demand at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolplaces](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolplaces).

## The position in Hemel Hempstead

The latest forecast indicates that there is a deficit of places in South East Hemel Hempstead from 2018/19 onwards.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD SOUTH EAST		2017/18 SUMMER INTERIM FORECAST					
	SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2017	2015/2016 ACTUAL	2016/2017 ACTUAL	2017/18 FORECAST	2018/19 FORECAST	2019/20 FORECAST	2020/21 FORECAST
Actual Number on Roll		355	386				
Number of Reception Places Available	360			360	360	360	360
Demand				353	382	379	401
Surplus/Shortage				7	-22	-19	-41
% Surplus/Shortage				1.9%	-6.1%	-5.3%	-11.4%
No of FE				0.2	-0.7	-0.6	-1.4

Placing children in schools in the wider area is an unsustainable option as the forecast for the whole of Hemel Hempstead Town indicates a deficit of places from 2019/20 onwards. Some housing developments in the area have yet to be completed, the yield from which is not fully accounted for in the forecasts. Coupled with further new housing planned for within Dacorum Borough Council's Local Plan, the enlargement of Belswains School is the first proposal to meet rising demand for school places. A new school in the locality may also be required in the medium to long term.

## Why this school has been chosen for enlargement

The proposal to enlarge this school has been assessed against, and is considered to meet, the county council's *Four Tests*. These are:

- Does it provide the right number of places in the right location?
- Does it support and not undermine school effectiveness?
- Are the implications for buildings, environment and cost, feasible and affordable?
- What are the transitional implications?

Belswains Primary School has been selected as it is located close to the area of demand. Initial feasibility work concludes that the site is capable of accommodating an enlargement, subject to further design work and town planning permission. An increase of 1 f.e. will mean the school becoming a 2 f.e. school permanently, which is the county council's preferred size, offering a broad curriculum and enhanced opportunities for staff development.

For further information on the possible options that were considered, please see [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolplaces](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolplaces).

### **The alterations required for enlargement**

If a decision is made to enlarge this school, the county council would work closely with the school to provide the additional accommodation required. We would work hard to make sure that the accommodation supports pupils' needs whilst also ensuring that good value for money is achieved in the context of restrictions on public sector finance. The work would be managed by the county council using contractors who would ensure a safe environment for pupils and staff, and minimise the impact of any building works at the school.

### **Have your say**

The county council believes that the enlargement of Belswains Primary School would have a positive impact for its existing pupils, staff and local community by improving access to school places, providing for enhanced education opportunities and providing improved facilities in new buildings.

You have until 12 March 2018 to let us know your views. The easiest way you can do this is by completing the online response form on our website at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/consultations). You can tell us if you agree or disagree with the proposal and leave your comments.

If you do not have access to the internet you can visit your local library where free access is available to all Hertfordshire residents. Should you wish to request a hard copy of the response form or need help understanding this information you can email [contact@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:contact@hertfordshire.gov.uk) or alternatively please call us on 0300 123 4043. An interpreting service is available for those who need it.

Your comments must be received by 12 March 2018. We will not be able to acknowledge or respond individually to your comments but they will be taken into account, as explained below.

### **How the decision will be taken**

This is a consultation and no decision has been made yet. All comments received will be made available to elected members who make the final decision. All responses may be made available in public reports, although personal details will be removed to respect individual privacy.

The following timetable outlines the decision-making process. Please note that meetings marked with \* will be open to the public. Although it will not be possible to inform everyone individually of the decisions made, you will be able to access this information throughout the process at:

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/committees](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/committees).

<b>Process</b>	<b>Date</b>
Public consultation	23 January – 12 March 2018
Education Panel*	17 April 2018
Cabinet*	23 April 2018
Statutory notice period (4 weeks)	Week commencing 30 April 2018
Cabinet * (for final approval if objections received)	9 July 2018
Implementation	September 2019

Yours faithfully

**Jenny Coles**  
**Director of Children's Services**



**Hertfordshire County Council  
County Hall  
Hertford  
SG13 8DF**

**Tel:** 0300 123 4043

**My ref:** School Planning

**Date:** 29 January 2018

Dear Consultee

**Consultation on the proposal to enlarge the premises of St Peter's School, Cottonmill Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 1HL**

We are consulting you on the following proposal:

**The enlargement of the premises of St Peter's School, Cottonmill Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 1HL by 30 places (1 form of entry<sup>3</sup>) from September 2020.**

The proposal will support a permanent increase in the size of this school by 30 places (1 f.e.). This means the school will then have the capacity to admit 60 reception aged children in September 2020 and in each subsequent year thereafter, growing to a full 2 f.e. school (with 420 places) by September 2026. The current capacity of the school is 210 and the eventual capacity will be 420 pupils (excluding Nursery pupils).

The school does not currently have enough classrooms to accommodate the extra children. It is therefore proposed to provide additional accommodation and associated external play space to support the increased number of children.

**Why is this being proposed?**

In line with recent national trends we are seeing an increase in the demand for reception class places in parts of Hertfordshire. The county council considers it important to ensure that there are sufficient places available for very young

---

<sup>3</sup> 1 form of entry (f.e.) is 30 pupils per year group  
Agenda Pack 20 of 23

children as near as possible to their homes. There is more information on how we plan to meet the demand for school places and our methods for forecasting pupil demand at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolplaces](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolplaces).

## The position in St Albans

Whilst there are sufficient primary school places across the whole St Albans City area, there continues to be a high concentration of demand within the city centre, particularly in light of new housing development in the city centre and around London Road. The current forecast for these central areas indicates that from 2019/20 onwards there is minimal surplus available, which does not provide flexibility for any future increase in demand and/or in-year admissions.

ST ALBANS CENTRAL, SOUTHWEST & WEST (13.3, 13.8 & 13.12)	SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2017	2017/18 SUMMER INTERIM FORECAST					
		2015/2016 ACTUAL	2016/2017 ACTUAL	2017/18 FORECAST	2018/19 FORECAST	2019/20 FORECAST	2020/21 FORECAST
Actual Number on Roll		479	517				
Number of Reception Places Available	487			487	487	487	487
Demand				500	477	486	486
Surplus/Shortage				-13	10	1	1
% Surplus/Shortage				-2.7%	2.1%	0.2%	0.2%
No of FE				-0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0

In addition, birth registration data indicates that there are significantly more children resident in the area than places available. A key area of pressure is around St Peter's School. By necessity, children in the area have been placed in schools located some distance away, at schools which are usually not within typical walking distance.

The county council wishes to ensure that, as far as is practicable, parents have access to good, local schools for their children.

## Why this school has been chosen for enlargement

The proposal to enlarge this school has been assessed against, and is considered to meet, the county council's *Four Tests*. These are:

- Does it provide the right number of places in the right location?
- Does it support and not undermine school effectiveness?
- Are the implications for buildings, environment and cost, feasible and affordable?
- What are the transitional implications?

St Peter's School has been selected as it is located close to the area of demand. Initial feasibility work concludes that the site is capable of

accommodating an enlargement, subject to further design work and town planning permission. An increase of 1 f.e. will mean the school becoming a 2 f.e. school permanently, which is the county council's preferred size, offering a broad curriculum and enhanced opportunities for staff development.

For further information on the possible options that were considered, please see [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolplaces](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolplaces).

### **The alterations required for enlargement**

If a decision is made to enlarge this school, the county council would work closely with the school to provide the additional accommodation required. We would work hard to make sure that the accommodation supports pupils' needs whilst also ensuring that good value for money is achieved in the context of restrictions on public sector finance. The work would be managed by the county council using contractors who would ensure a safe environment for pupils and staff, and minimise the impact of any building works at the school.

Planning permission will be necessary and any specific town planning matters associated with this school site would need to be addressed as part of the planning application, including highways, parking, flood risk and conservation area issues.

### **Have your say**

The county council believes that the enlargement of St Peter's School would have a positive impact for its existing pupils, staff and local community by improving access to school places, providing for enhanced education opportunities and providing improved facilities in new buildings.

You have until 19 March 2018 to let us know your views. The easiest way you can do this is by completing the online response form on our website at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/consultations). You can tell us if you agree or disagree with the proposal and leave your comments.

If you do not have access to the internet you can visit your local library where free access is available to all Hertfordshire residents. Should you wish to request a hard copy of the response form or need help understanding this information you can email [contact@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:contact@hertfordshire.gov.uk) or alternatively please call us on 0300 123 4043. An interpreting service is available for those who need it.

Your comments must be received by 19 March 2018. We will not be able to acknowledge or respond individually to your comments but they will be taken into account, as explained below.

## How the decision will be taken

This is a consultation and no decision has been made yet. All comments received will be made available to elected members who make the final decision. All responses may be made available in public reports, although personal details will be removed to respect individual privacy.

The following timetable outlines the decision-making process. Please note that meetings marked with \* will be open to the public. Although it will not be possible to inform everyone individually of the decisions made, you will be able to access this information throughout the process at:

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/committees](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/committees).

<b>Process</b>	<b>Date</b>
Public consultation	29 January –19 March 2018
Education Panel*	17 April 2018
Cabinet*	23 April 2018
Statutory notice period (4 weeks)	Week commencing 30 April 2018
Cabinet * (for final approval if objections received)	9 July 2018
Implementation	September 2020

Yours faithfully

**Jenny Coles**  
**Director of Children's Services**