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|  | **Proposal to make prescribed alterations to 10 maintained schools within the Shefford and Stotfold area of Central Bedfordshire** |

Notice is given in accordance with section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers ‘Making significant changes (‘prescribed alterations’) to maintained schools, October 2018, that Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Beds SG17 5TQ intends to make prescribed alterations to 10 maintained schools within the Shefford and Stotfold area of Central Bedfordshire.

**This statutory consultation invites interested parties to respond to the proposed prescribed alterations to the 10 maintained schools listed below.**

**Please see page 12 of this document for guidance regarding how to respond to this formal consultation**

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| 2 June 2020 | **Notice date:** |
| * Campton Lower School, Campton * Derwent Lower School, Henlow * Fairfield Park Lower School*,* Stotfold * Haynes Lower School, Haynes * Roecroft Lower School, Shefford * Shefford Lower School, Shefford * Shillington Lower School, Shillington * Southill Lower School, Southill * St Mary’s Church of England Voluntary Aided Lower School, Clophill * Stondon Lower, Stondon | **School:** |
| Children’s Services,  Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Chicksands, Shefford, Beds,  SG17 5TQ | **Proposer:** |

**Description of prescribed alteration**

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| Central Bedfordshire Council proposes to change the educational landscape for schools within the Shefford and Stotfold area of Central Bedfordshire in response to the anticipated growth in pupil numbers in the area and the move towards a primary/secondary model of schooling.  This proposed prescribed alteration from 3 tier to 2 tier for the 10 Council maintained schools within the Shefford and Stotfold area is to be achieved by –   * a change of age range * a change to the published admission number where necessary * an increase in capacity, including an expansion to school premises where necessary * a relocation where necessary   **The prescribed alterations proposed for each of the 10 maintained schools are as listed below.**  Feasibility studies are to be carried out to determine whether an expansion to the school premises is required in order to accommodate the proposed change(s). |

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|  | **School -** | **Proposed prescribed alterations -** | **Either all prescribed alterations, or initial phase(s), to be ready from -** |
| 1 | Campton Lower  \* | * Change of age range from 5 to 9 (lower) to 5 to 11 (primary) * Increase in published admission number from 26 to 60 * Increase in capacity * Relocation to a new site on Hitchin Road, Shefford | September 2023 |
| 2 | Derwent Lower, Henlow | * Change of age range from 3 to 9 (lower) to 3 to 11 (primary) * Increase in published admission number from 30 to 60, dependent upon growth * Increase in capacity via expansion to premises if required | September 2021 |
| 3 | Fairfield Park Lower, Stotfold  (dual site school), | * Change of age range from 3 to 9 (lower) to 3 to 11 (primary) * Increase in published admission number from 90 to 120 * Increase in capacity via expansion to premises at either one or both sites if required | September 2023 |
| 4 | Haynes Lower | * Change of age range from 2 to 9 (lower) to 2 to 11 (primary) * Increase in published admission number from 24 to 30 * Increase in capacity via expansion to premises if required | September 2023 |
| 5 | Roecroft Lower, Shefford | * Change of age range from 5 to 9 (lower) to 5 to 11 (primary) * Reduction in published admission number from 90 to 60 * Expansion to premises if required | September 2023 |
| 6 | Shefford Lower | * Change of age range from 3 to 9 (lower) to 3 to 11 (primary) * Reduction in published admission number from 90 to 60 * Expansion to premises if required | September 2023 |
| 7 | Shillington Lower | * Change of age range from 2 to 9 (lower) to 2 to 11 (primary) * Published admission number to remain at 30 * Increase in capacity via expansion to premises if required | September 2023 |
| 8 | Southill Lower | * Change of age range from 2 to 9 (lower) to 2 to 11 (primary) * Published admission number to remain at 15 * Increase in capacity via expansion to premises if required | September 2023 |
| 9 | St Mary’s  Church of England Voluntary Aided Lower ,Clophill | * Change of age range from 2 to 9 (lower) to 2 to 11 (primary) * Published admission number to remain at 30 * Increase in capacity via expansion to premises if required | September 2023 |
| 10 | Stondon Lower | * Change of age range from 5 to 9 (lower) to 5 to 11 (primary) * Published admission number to remain at 30 * Increase in capacity via expansion to premises if required | September 2023 |

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| \*. Campton Lower School has applied to the Department for Education to be a member of the Bedfordshire Schools Trust Limited (BEST). If this academisation within BEST is approved by the Regional Schools Commissioner, any determined changes by the Council will be considered by and, if agreed, will be actioned by BEST. |

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| Significant changes are also proposed to the 12 academies within the Shefford and Stotfold area. These proposed changes are included within this document in order to provide an overview of all the changes that are being proposed across the Shefford and Stotfold area.  Academies are not under the control of the Council and any proposed significant changes are not subject to section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers ‘Making significant changes (‘prescribed alterations’) to maintained schools, October 2018.  Academies and multi academy trusts are required to seek approval from the Regional Schools Commissioner for the proposed changes in order to move from 3 tier to 2 tier.  **This statutory consultation is therefore not able to invite interested parties to respond to the proposed significant changes to the 12 academies listed below.**  **Comments regarding the proposed significant changes to the academies listed should be submitted to the academy concerned.** |

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|  | **Academy -** | **Proposed significant changes – subject to approval from the Regional Schools Commissioner** | **Either all changes, or initial phase, to be ready from -** |
| 1 | Clifton All Saints, Shefford | * Change of age range from 5 to 9 (lower) to 5 to 11 (primary) * Published admission number to remain at 30 * Increase in capacity via expansion to premises if required | September 2021 |
| 2 | Etonbury, Arlesey  \*\* | * Change of age range from 9 to 19 (extended middle) to 11 – 19 (secondary) * Initial decrease in published admission number from 180 to 150 with subsequent increase to 240 through growth * Potential for a 6th form to be located either here or at Pix Brook | September 2023 |
| 3 | Gothic Mede, Arlesey  \*\* | * Change of age range from 3 to 9 (lower) to 3 to 11 (primary) * Increase in published admission number from 60 to 90 * Increase in capacity * Relocation to a new site east of Arlesey | September 2023 |
| 4 | Gravenhurst  \*\* | * Change of age range from 5 to 9 (lower) to 5 to 11 (primary) * Published admission number to remain at 15 * Increase in capacity via expansion to premises if required | September 2023 |
| 5 | Henlow  Church of England | * Change of age range from 9 to 13 (middle) to 11 to 16 (secondary) * Increase in published admission number from 140 to 150 * Increase in capacity via expansion to premises | September 2021 |
| 6 | Langford Village  \*\* | * Change of age range from 5 to 9 (lower) to 5 to 11 (primary) * Decrease in published admission number from 45 to 30 * Expansion to premises if required | September 2021 |
| 7 | Meppershall Church of England | * Change of age range from 4 to 9 (lower) to 4 to 11 (primary) * Published admission number to remain at 30 * Increase in capacity via expansion to premises if required | September 2021 |
| 8 | Pix Brook, Arlesey  \*\* | * Relocation from temporary site at Etonbury Academy, Arlesey to new permanent site on Stotfold Road, Arlesey * Change of age range from 9 to 16 (extended secondary) to 9 to 19 (secondary) * Initial decrease in published admission number from 180 to 150 with subsequent increase to 240 through growth * Potential for a 6th form to be located either here or at Etonbury | September 2020  September 2023 |
| 9 | Raynsford  Church of England, Henlow | * Change of age range from 2 to 9 (lower) to 2 to 11 (primary) * Published admission number to remain at 30 * Increase in capacity via expansion to premises if required | September 2021 |
| 10 | Robert Bloomfield, Shefford  \*\*  Samuel Whitbread, Clifton  \*\* | * Creation of a 0-18 All Through school * Nursery provision based on identified need * Primary school with a 150 pupil admission number * Secondary school with a 210 pupil admission number, with capacity to expand to accommodate tradtional RBA children * Sixth form provision | September 2023 |
| 11 | St Mary’s  Church of England, Stotfold | * Change of age range from 5 to 9 (lower) to 5 to 11 (primary) * Published admission number to remain at 60 * Increase in capacity via expansion to premises if required | September 2023 |
| 12 | New primary | * New school for Chase Farm development Arlesey | September 2024 |
| 13 | New primary | * New school for development East of Arlesey | September 2028 |

\*\* These academies are members of the Bedfordshire Schools Trust Limited (BEST).

The other academies listed above are single academy trusts.

**Evidence of demand for proposed changes**

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| According to the Local Plan, Central Bedfordshire is an area that will grow, with up to 43,000 new homes expected by 2035. The expected growth has significant implications with regard to pupil place planning as the Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places for children residing in Central Bedfordshire. Current forecasts suggest there will be an additional 24,672 children attending school by 2035 in Central Bedfordshire for which we have to ensure that we have sufficient places.  Schools for the Future is an ambitious programme of work taking place to raise educational standards and to understand school place provision required across Central Bedfordshire in line with our Local Plan. Through the programme, consideration is being given to pupil place provision over the longer term. Importantly, a strategic and coordinated approach is required to ensure change is planned and managed effectively and that we have the right schools, in the right places, delivering the best education.  The objectives of the programme are to :   * Ensure sufficient places (appropriately located) to best meet demand from housing growth. * Improve educational outcomes at all key stages * Shape the future educational landscape - to provide clear educational pathways and reduce the number of transitions * Deliver best value – to ensure viability * Facilitate more school-based SEND (Special Educational Needs) provision, early years provision on school sites and school based sixth form provision.   Historically, Central Bedfordshire has offered a three-tier system comprising lower, middle and upper schools. Following the introduction of academisation, schools have had more control to change the age range they cater for. This has resulted in a mixed landscape of schools in Central Bedfordshire that now also includes primary and secondary schools as well as some hybrid models. This is confusing for parents and where changes occur to the age ranges of schools without coordination there is a negative impact on the viability of other schools in the area.  The Schools for the Future programme was considered by the Council’s Executive on 7 August 2018 and a decision was taken to –  To support schools and clusters that want to work towards a primary and secondary model, considering that:  • the appropriate resources are in place to do so;  • change is coordinated; and  • change supports improvements in educational outcomes.  To actively promote that any new schools that will be built will be primary or secondary.  This decision will align Central Bedfordshire with the rest of the country and help improve educational attainment, recruitment and retention of the teaching workforce, school viability and provide a clearer pathway for parents.  Schools in Central Bedfordshire meet in a number of local clusters (8 in total) to consider how they can work together to provide the best education for children. These local clusters in the main mirror our local planning areas. As part of the Schools for the Future Programme, officers have been working with clusters to model future school place requirements in each of these areas, in line with our expected housing trajectory.  The first cluster proposal was for the Shefford and Stotfold Cluster area. All 22 schools and academies in the Shefford and Stotfold Cluster have provided agreement, in principle, to the primary and secondary model. |

**Results of preliminary consultation**

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| A consultation was launched by Central Bedfordshire Council on 29 October 2019 which invited stakeholders to ‘have your say’ regarding -   * the importance of schools and the Council developing a long-term plan for meeting the increased demand for new school places * the importance of schools in the area working together to coordinate change across the locality * the proposals for change across the schools and academies within the Shefford and Stotfold cluster. * the proposed changes for each of the schools * the approach being taken * and the overall proposed plan   The consultation was widely publicised to staff, governors, parents and the wider community. It ran for 12 weeks and closed on 20 January 2020.  A total of **1,467** responses were received to the consultation and of these –   * **95%** agreed that it was either important or very important for schools and the Council to develop a long-term plan for meeting the increased demand for new school places * and **91%** agreed that it was either important or very important for the schools in the area to work together to coordinate change across the locality   518 responses included comments regarding the approach being taken and 602 comments were received to the overall plan for the area.  To summarise, there is very high support for the principles of the plan, with 95% support developing a long-term plan for meeting the demand for school places, and 91% support working together to co-ordinate change.  There were many who were specifically supportive of moving to two-tier, although there were others were not supportive and were concerned about disruption to education and some wanted to retain the three-tier model.  There were mixed opinions about the proposed timing of the changes. Some respondents were in agreement that the changes should be staggered, they thought this was the best approach for resourcing the change and reduced the risks. Others felt the changes should all happen together to reduce confusion for parents.  A number of comments were received about choice and variety of provision for parents. This theme played into comments about BEST and Henlow Academy.    More generally across the other schools, there were concerns, particularly for the smaller village schools that their existing sites might not be able to accommodate larger numbers and questions about where any extensions for classrooms might fit. There were also a number of requests to ensure that schools remained on one site so that they do not lose the feeling of being one school.  Responses to a number of proposals raised concerns about transport and access for schools, and the need to ensure there are options for more sustainable transport – particularly for the proposed secondary schools.  There were a number of comments against different schools relating to making sure SEND provision is taken into account and the relationship with Ivel Valley provision. There were also some questions about sixth form provision in the area and wanting more detail on this.  Most of the individual schools received majority support for their proposals, with just Campton Lower and Haynes Lower schools receiving more disagreement than support.  For Campton Lower School, the main concerns were about losing a village school, and trying to understand why it would need to be moved away from the village. There were also comments querying how the students would get to the school and increases in traffic levels that it would cause.  For Haynes Lower School, the main concerns were around access issues, with many stating there are problems already with parents parking in a narrow residential road and that increasing admission numbers would only compound the problem. Many respondents (mainly residents in the area) suggested moving the school to enable expansion without the associated issues.  For the new primary school at Chase Farm, respondents found it difficult to come to a clear view due to a lack of detailed information. Respondents also questioned if all of the school places were required.  Following the closure of the consultation, the proposal for the schools and academies within the Shefford and Stotfold Cluster has been revised in light of the feedback received. The proposed changes are now as listed on pages 2 to 6.  A full report detailing the results of the consultation is available on the Central Bedfordshire Council website at <https://www.schoolsforthefuture.co.uk/plans/shefford-stotfold/overview> |

**Objectives - including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice**

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| The objectives of the Schools for the Future programme are to -   * ensure sufficient places (appropriately located) to best meet demand from housing growth * improve educational outcomes at all key stages * shape the future educational landscape - to provide clear educational pathways and reduce the number of transitions * deliver best value – to ensure viability * facilitate more school-based SEND (Special Educational Needs) provision, early years provision on school sites and school based sixth form provision. |

**The effect on other educational institutions within the area**

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| Schools and academies in Central Bedfordshire meet in a number of local clusters (8 in total) to consider how they can work together to provide the best education for children. These local clusters in the main mirror the Council’s local planning areas.  As part of the Schools for the Future Programme, officers have been working with clusters to model future school place requirements in each of these areas, in line with the expected housing trajectory.  The proposals within the Schools for the Future programme for the Shefford and Stotfold cluster have been developed collaboratively with the schools and academies in the area and all have provided agreement, in principle, to a primary / secondary model. |

**Project costs and how these would be met, including how long-term value for money will be achieved**

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| The Schools for the Future Programme will be funded by a combination of –   * developer contributions secured via Section 106 agreements * Basic Need Grant from the Department for Education * additional funding from the Department for Education * capital receipts from the disposal of Council owned assets * the Council’s own resources from additional borrowing * and other funding sources, some of which are still to be identified.   The day to day running costs of school provision for maintained schools are met through revenue funding which is made available to each school, from the Council, as part of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and is based primarily on the numbers of pupils attending each school. This increases accordingly within an enlarged school and would fund the additional staff and resources that would be required.  Academies receive revenue funding for their running costs from the Education and Skills Funding Agency.  Where necessary and where schools and academies are undertaking significant expansion on commission from the Council, additional revenue support for relevant costs is accessed through the Council’s Growth Fund, reviewed annually by the Council’s Schools Forum*.*  Capital expenditure within the New School Places Programme is subject to the Council’s Code of Financial Governance.  By working with the cluster of schools and academies within the Shefford and Stotfold area to model future school place requirements, in line with the expected housing trajectory, the Council is ensuring that the changes proposed will deliver long-term value for money. |

**Implementation plan**

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| The proposed prescribed alterations for the 10 maintained schools, as listed in the table on pages 2 and 3, are due to be implemented between September 2021 and September 2023.  The proposed significant changes for the 10 academies, as listed in the table on pages 4 and 5, are due to be ready from between September 2020 and September 2023.  The two new primary academies that are required for Arlesey, for the Chase Farm development and for the development on land east of the town, are subject to housing growth but it is estimated that they will be required for September 2024 and September 2028 respectively. |

**How to respond to this formal consultation**

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| This statutory consultation for the prescribed alterations to 10 maintained schools within the Shefford and Stotfold area of Central Bedfordshire commences on 2 June 2020 and closes on 30 June 2020.  You can respond to this statutory consultation, expressing your support, objections and providing any comments, **via the online form** which is available on the Council’s website [here](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/27/about_your_council/278/latest_public_and_statutory_notices) – <https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/27/about_your_council/278/latest_public_and_statutory_notices>  Or you can complete the response form on pages 13 and 14 and return it to the FREEPOST address provided at the end of the form. Both on line responses and completed forms should be returned by **5 pm on 30 June 2020.**  Following the close of the consultation, the Council’s Executive will be asked to consider the responses received and determine the proposed prescribed alterations to the 10 maintained schools.  The proposed significant changes to the 12 academies will be determined by the Regional Schools Commissioner.  All of the proposed prescribed alterations to the maintained schools and proposed significant changes to the academies as detailed within this document are related: each proposal relies upon all of the other proposals to be approved.  This statutory consultation is not able to invite interested parties to respond to the proposed significant changes to the 12 academies as listed in this document. Comments regarding the proposed changes to the academies listed should be submitted to the academy concerned. |

*Response form to be added*