

Significant capital investment that delivers additional capacity in schools across Uttlesford

Ongoing capital investment in Uttlesford will deliver multiple school expansion projects, not only meeting the growing demand for places across the area, but also greatly enhancing the educational offer that is available to local parents.

Essex County Council set out its long-term strategy for delivering school places within its document *Meeting the demand for school places in Essex 2018 – 2027*. This ten-year planning period will see an additional 1,631 primary and 1,930 secondary places created in Uttlesford schools. To address immediate demand within this growing District, the Council has earmarked over £11.4million for four local schools, with future investment already identified.

Elsenham CE Primary School will grow by 210 primary places (on a phased basis), which doubles its size. Originally dating back to 1863, rated 'Good' by Ofsted and consistently popular with parents, this village school will benefit from a multi-million pound scheme that delivers a modern learning environment and replaces existing temporary accommodation with permanent build, thereby enriching the educational experience of its pupils for many years to come.

Magna Carta Primary Academy in Stansted Mountfitchet has moved from its temporary home within the Peter Kirk Centre into brand new buildings next door, delivered by Essex County Council on the site of the former St Mary's CE Primary School.

Helena Romanes School has undergone a refurbishment project that allowed it to raise its Published Admission Number from 240 to 270 places. This extra capacity accommodates forecast growth in Great Dunmow over the coming years, allowing secondary-aged pupils moving in to either of the town's two major housing developments to attend a local school.

Radwinter CE Primary School has recently received an additional classbase, allowing a larger-than-usual cohort of pupils to travel through the school from the current Academic Year and thereby manage a spike in demand for places within its local area.

Cllr. Ray Gooding, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Education, said: "Uttlesford continues to be one of the fastest growing areas in Essex and the demand for school places is expected to continue to rise in the coming years."

"We have already earmarked over £11.4million for school projects in Uttlesford that will mitigate the immediate pressure on primary and secondary places caused by the District's growth, and are committed to ensuring that appropriate investment continues in the years to come."

"I am very pleased that work is already underway to ensure that Uttlesford children continue to be able to access high quality provision near to where they live, and that adding value to the local educational offer is at the heart of our ambition to deliver both current and future projects."

“The new places created will be crucial in helping us ensure that the vast majority of pupils continue to get a place at one of their parents’ preferred schools.”