

## **Update for September from Borough Councillor Alison Foster For Harrold and Carlton**

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### **Harrold Lower School and Schools Investment**

Harrold Lower School has its new permanent classrooms in place ready for the start of the new term – the first in a programme to replace every temporary classroom across the Borough with permanent buildings. The funding for these classrooms is part of the ‘Removal of Temporary Classrooms Fund’ which is financed for the year 2014/2015 from the following Government sources:

- £3.928m Schools Maintenance Grant
- £0.025m Basic Needs Grant
- £0.855m Dedicated Schools Grant (contribution to capital)

The removal of temporary classrooms is just one aspect of almost £47m investment in the Borough’s schools during the period 2013/2014 – 2016/2107. A vast majority of this funding is coming from Government grants (£31m) while there are also contributions of around £10m from local developers, known as s.106 agreements and just over £5.7m has been allocated by the Council.

### **Bedford Hospital**

The Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (the BCCG), the body responsible for organising healthcare in the area, is set to receive at its Board meeting in late September a report that will be the subject of a public consultation on the future of healthcare services in Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes. This is set to include the potential re-design of services at Bedford Hospital and Milton Keynes Hospital and proposals on changing service provision so that services are brought closer to people’s homes.

The BCCG has said that it expects the report to outline 3 options for services at the respective Hospitals. It has also stated that it is a certainty that services such as A & E, maternity, paediatrics and inpatient beds will remain at Bedford Hospital. Despite this, it has also been noted that decisions will have to be made on exactly how services will look going forwards given the need for both Hospitals to meet financial challenges and to meet the current and future needs of patients.

### **Highways Funding**

Last month the Council accepted 2 highways grants from the Government. Firstly, a sum of £289k has been provided for repairs to roads damaged during the winter. Secondly, a grant of £511k has been received to repair potholes.

### **Ward Fund**

As a reminder, if you have any suggestions for schemes which you feel could benefit from Council Ward Funds then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

**Cllr Alison Foster**