

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Early Years, Children and Youth Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel
MEETING DATE:	19th March 2012
TITLE:	Primary and Secondary School Organisation Plan 2011-2015
WARD:	ALL

AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

List of attachments to this report:

Appendix 1 Primary and Secondary School Organisation Plan 2011 – 2015 Including Longer Term Place Planning up to 2026

Appendix 2 Equalities Impact Assessment

THE ISSUE

1.1 The Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for every child resident in the Local Authority who requires a place. The Primary and Secondary School Organisation Plan 2011 – 2015 at Appendix 1 outlines the current level of primary and secondary provision in the Authority, detailed projected pupil numbers over the next four years up to admissions in September 2015 based on births and resident population data and outline pupil numbers up to 2026 as a consequence of the future planned housing development in the Authority. Estimates for the number of school places likely to be required as a result and how and where these might be provided are also included.

RECOMMENDATION

The Early Years, Children and Youth Policy, Development and Scrutiny Panel is asked to agree:

2.1 The proposed strategy for the provision of school places within the 2011 – 2015 plan period.

2.2 To note the proposed strategy for the provision of school places over the longer term up to 2026.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Revenue funding for pupil places will be provided by the Department for Education (DfE) through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) on a per pupil basis.

3.2 Where pupils generated from new housing developments cannot be accommodated within existing provision, contributions in the form of capital and where appropriate land, will be sought from developers in order to provide the necessary school places. The Council is expecting to receive significant

Developer Contributions in order to expand Castle Primary school as a result of the planned 'K2' housing development in South West Keynsham and also to expand Paulton Infant and Paulton Junior schools as a result of the planned housing development on the former Polestar Purnell site. Also in the form of a new primary school provided by the developer on the Crest Bath Western Riverside development site. This is in addition to smaller Developer Contributions for numerous smaller scale developments across the Authority where additional places are required.

- 3.3 The pupils generated as a result of the Crest Bath Western Riverside development will need to be accommodated between now and when the new on site primary school is provided in approximately 2022/2023. The potential capital implications for the Council are being considered.
- 3.4 The DfE currently allocate Basic Need capital funding to local authorities in order to provide additional school places where pupils are projected to exceed the number of places available and where the increase is occurring as a result of population growth other than from housing developments supported by Developer Contributions. The level of Basic Need Funding provided is calculated on the basis of the Local Authority pupil forecast data submitted to the DfE, which outlines the number of existing places in the Authority, the current number of pupils on roll and a projection of future pupil numbers expected, excluding any pupils supported by Developer Contributions.
- 3.5 Total funding of £2.9m has been received for Basic Need for years 2011-12 and 2012-13 for the provision of additional school places. This sum is expected to be fully committed against the Basic Need schemes that we are currently developing to ensure that the places projected to be required over this two year period can be provided. The DfE has not announced funding levels beyond this date.

THE REPORT

- 4.1 Appendix 1 to this report contains all the information that The Panel should require in order to be able to assess the proposed strategy. A summary of the key issues impacting on pupil place planning is set out below.
- 4.2 Despite significant recent changes to the provision of school places with some schools becoming Academies and the Local Authority moving to becoming a commissioner of school places rather than a direct provider via maintained Community schools, the Local Authority still retains the legal responsibility for pupil place planning in its area.
- 4.3 In general, existing secondary school provision is expected to be sufficient for future pupil numbers arising from underlying population growth and future house building. Secondary pupil numbers are expected to be lower over the next few years as the smaller numbers of pupils in the older year groups of primary school reach secondary school age and then to pick up again with admissions into Year 7 in 2018 onwards when the current younger primary age pupils who entered Reception in 2011 reach secondary school age.
- 4.4 However, should a future proposed new housing development in a particular area be projected to result in a shortfall of secondary school places, the Authority will seek contributions from developers to provide additional places. This is highly

likely to be delivered via the expansion of existing schools rather than by building new schools.

- 4.5 The future need for primary school places is expected to be affected by levels of underlying population growth coupled with pupils generated from new housing developments. The impact of this will vary from area to area across the Authority depending on where the population growth is taking place.
- 4.6 In some areas the impact is likely to be less severe and be felt more gradually as the number of places required will be fewer in number and will build up gradually and there will be more options available for delivery of any additional places that might be required, possibly via the expansion of existing local schools.
- 4.7 In other areas where growth is expected to be greater and faster and options for delivery of additional places is limited as existing local schools cannot be expanded because the sites they occupy are not large enough, the impact is likely to be much more pronounced and immediate, requiring additional places to be created early on and most likely via the provision of whole new schools which will require land to be provided.
- 4.8 The Authority will need to consider the timing of the delivery of any additional places that might be required, particularly where the need for places is created by more than a single development and where Developer Contributions might need to be pooled or where a Developer Contribution from a single development is received in several staged payments
- 4.9 It is likely that Developer Contributions could be received over an extended period of time which makes planning building work very challenging. Where additional places are required as a result of underlying population growth as well as new housing development, Basic Need funding could be combined with Developer Contributions where possible to achieve the most cost effective solution. However it will be a challenge to achieve this level of co-ordination whilst at the same time ensuring that the additional places are made available when required.
- 4.10 We cannot say what will happen to the population beyond the latest 2010-2011 births data – numbers could level off, fall dramatically or gradually or continue to rise steeply or gradually and therefore it is difficult to forecast how many places will be required beyond admissions into Reception in 2015 and into Year 7 in 2023. This is particularly challenging for primary school place planning, as one can only plan four years ahead with any degree of certainty.

RISK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance. Significant risks identified are:
- 5.2 The Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places and failure to ensure this will result in the Council being at risk of breaching its responsibility. This Plan sets out a strategy for delivery of sufficient school places in the right areas across the Authority.
- 5.3 The actual eventual need for places is less or greater than projected. Use of Primary and Secondary Planning Areas allows a good understanding of where

places are likely to be required as a result of population growth. An independent assessment of the place planning process has been undertaken to ensure forecasting is as accurate as possible. Where there are opportunities and within the limitations of the space and funding available, some additional extra places may be provided to give flexibility.

- 5.4 The pupils generated by the Crest housing development as part of Bath Western Riverside will require school places prior to the new primary school on the Crest site being delivered by the developer in approximately 2022/2023. An assessment of options for provision of additional places at suitable existing school(s) between now and when the new school is delivered and how this is to be funded is being undertaken.
- 5.5 Insufficient land available in the right area on which to build new school accommodation where existing school sites cannot sustain any further expansion and where new sites will need to be provided. Work to identify where sites will be required for new school provision and feed these requirements into Council's major infrastructure delivery plans to secure Developer Contributions.
- 5.6 New house building spread over a long period of time and therefore Developer Contributions received over an extended period will make the timing of the delivery of new school places challenging, particularly where land is also required. Need to plan the delivery of new school accommodation via stages and through phasing and via the pooling of Developer Contributions. Explore the possibility of combining Basic Need Funding with Developer Contributions where possible.
- 5.7 Available capital either through Basic Need funding or Developer Contributions not sufficient to cover cost of building work to provide additional accommodation. Planned building work delivered as cost effectively as possible through effective project planning including utilising existing accommodation where possible to make best use of available resources.

6 EQUALITIES

- 6.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed using corporate guidelines. No adverse or other significant issues were found. The report is attached at Appendix 2 to this report.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Ward Councillor; Cabinet Member; Policy, Development and Scrutiny Panel; Other B&NES Services; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer
- 7.2 A copy of the Appendix 1 report was sent to colleagues in School Improvement and School Advisers, Admissions and Transport, Education Finance and Asset Management, to the Catholic Diocese and the Church of England Diocese, all Local Councillors, the Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children and Youth, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Early Years, Children and Youth Policy, Development and Scrutiny Panel, the Section 151 Finance Officer, the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Executive for information and for comment.

8 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

8.1 Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Property; Young People; Corporate; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations

9 ADVICE SOUGHT

9.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

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Background papers	Bath and North East Somerset Draft Core Strategy
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	