

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Cabinet	
MEETING DATE:	12th September 2012	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2468
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 Within the Core Strategy Plan Period		
Appendix 2 Equalities Impact Assessment		

1 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 projected pupil numbers as a consequence of future expected 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.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet agrees that:

2.1 The Primary and Secondary School Organisation Plan 2011- 2015 is approved.

2.2 The proposed strategy for the provision of school places within the plan period up to 2015 and over the longer term within the Core Strategy Plan period should be implemented.

3 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 as a result of new housing developments cannot be accommodated within existing school 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 Bovis 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 various 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, which is currently estimated to be 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 pupil numbers 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 yet announced funding levels beyond this date.
- 3.6 This report identifies the areas within the Authority where additional places are expected to be required and outlines the number of places that are estimated to be needed and when they will need to be provided. Specific capital projects arising from this plan will be identified in the Education Capital Programme to allow resources to be allocated to each project.

4 CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone
- Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 Appendix 1 to this report contains all the information that The Cabinet 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.
- 5.2 In general, current forecasts indicate that existing secondary school and sixth form provision is expected to be sufficient for future pupil numbers arising from underlying population growth and future house building. In some areas of the Authority, mainly the areas served by Norton Hill, Somervale and Writhlington schools, pupil numbers are increasing and it is possible that they could start to meet or exceed available capacity by approximately 2018 or 2017. Secondary pupil numbers are generally 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.
- 5.3 Should a future proposed new housing development in a particular area be projected to result in a shortfall of secondary school and/or sixth form 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.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 In other areas where growth is expected to be greater and take place more rapidly and options for delivery of additional places are limited as existing local schools cannot be expanded, for example because the sites they occupy are not large enough, the impact is likely to be much more pronounced and immediate. In these cases, additional places would need to be created early on and most likely via the provision of whole new schools which will also require land to be provided. This is the case with the three Ministry of Defence (MoD) sites that are due to be actively marketed for residential development. The report on the MoD Concept Statements (to be considered at this meeting) proposes a course of action to secure new primary schools on each of the MoD sites to meet the identified need for additional places.
- 5.7 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
- 5.8 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.

5.9 We cannot say for certain 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. The complete births data relating to the next cohort of pupils who will enter Reception in 2016 is expected to be available in September 2012.

5.10 During the recent public consultation exercise concerning the development of the three MoD sites in Bath carried out by Planning Policy officers, submissions were made by Combe Down C of E Primary School and Bathwick St Mary C of E Primary School proposing that the additional pupil places generated by those sites could be provided by the expansion of those schools. This has identified the need to formalise a strategy for the provision of new school places and options evaluation criteria against which options, including bids received from existing schools, can be assessed. This will identify the most appropriate educational solution i.e. expansion/relocation/new school. When assessing the most appropriate educational solution, issues such as educational standards, proximity to development site or area of underlying population growth, admission policies and patterns, balance of church and non - church school places will be taken into account. The proposed strategy and evaluation criteria is included in the School Organisation Plan (page 27).

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 The report author and Lead Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance. Significant risks identified are:

6.2 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.

6.3 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 assessment of the place planning process has been undertaken by an independent consultant to ensure that forecasting is as accurate as possible. The findings will be incorporated into on going future place planning. Where there are opportunities and within the limitations of the space and funding available, some additional extra places may be provided to give flexibility.

6.4 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.

6.5 Insufficient land available in the right area on which to build new school accommodation where existing school sites cannot be expanded 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 the Council's major infrastructure delivery plans and the Council's forthcoming Placemaking Plan, to secure Developer Contributions and appropriate site allocations. An initial assessment of the availability of alternative school sites within the vicinity of the MoD Warminster Road site has been undertaken by Property Services.

6.6 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.

6.7 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.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed. No adverse or other significant issues were found. The report is attached at Appendix 2 to this report.

8 RATIONALE

8.1 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.

8.2 In order to do this effectively the Local Authority must identify where new school places will be required as a result of underlying population growth or pupils generated from new housing development, how much additional provision is required and when. This additional provision might be provided via Basic Need funding from the Government or Developer Contributions as a result of new housing developments.

8.3 There is currently already pressure on primary school places in some parts of the Authority and also projected to be a shortfall in places in some areas in the future and the Authority must plan for the additional provision that is needed. The Plan will serve as a useful planning tool to identify areas and levels of need, when investment in places will be needed and also to inform discussions with Developers.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 Ward Councillors; Cabinet Member; Policy, Development and Scrutiny Panel; Other B&NES Services; Stakeholders/Partners; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer

10.2 Prior to the report being considered by the Early Years, Children and Youth Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel in March 2012, a copy of the original 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 for information and for comment. The Section 151 Finance Officer, the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Executive and Planning Policy have also been consulted.

10.3 Pupil place planning issues and the implications for the provision of additional places and new schools were discussed at a recent Diocesan Board of Education meeting with both the Catholic and Church of England Diocese. Those schools that are expected to be most affected by increases in child population as a result of underlying population growth in the short term or proposed new housing developments have been consulted at length, often involving several meetings with the school Leadership and Governing Bodies. When a new housing development is proposed that is likely to have an impact on a school or schools, the possible impact of this is discussed with the relevant school or schools. All schools are consulted annually when Planned Admission Numbers (PANs) are discussed for the next academic year two years ahead, providing an opportunity to discuss any future projected impact on the school prior to setting the PAN.

10.4 Legal Services have been consulted on the content of the Strategy for Provision of New School Places and Options Evaluation Criteria section of Appendix 1.

11 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

11.1 Human Resources; Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Property; Young People; Corporate; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations

12 ADVICE SOUGHT

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.

Contact person	Helen Hoynes 01225 395169
Sponsoring Cabinet Member	Councillor Paul Crossley
Background papers	<p>Early Years, Children and Youth Policy, Development and Scrutiny Panel Report Primary and Secondary School Organisation Plan 2011-2015 (19th March 2012)</p> <p>Primary and Secondary School Organisation Plan 2011 – 2015 Including Longer Term Place Planning up to 2026 (Appendix to above report)</p>
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