

Briefing on new schools

Children & Young People Policy
Development & Scrutiny Panel
September 2015

Introduction:

The LA has an ongoing statutory duty (s14 Ed Act 1996) to ensure sufficient school places when and where needed

Population growth and housing developments require a substantial programme of school expansions and creation of new schools

New processes and increasingly challenging!

Context:

Academies, Free Schools, Studio Schools

New Schools – Free School presumption -
process to identify a proposer

Community Infrastructure Levy

More than 85% of primary pupils attend
schools which are good or outstanding

Nearly 92% get a place at 1st preference
school; over 93% secure one of 3 preferences

Place Planning:

School Organisation Plan details current and projected pupil numbers in each area

Uses current pupil numbers/trends, birth data, knowledge of planned housing developments, formulae for pupil yield

Consider feasibility of expanding intake of local schools by remodelling/building

Use 'bulge' classes where appropriate

Funding:

Revenue:

- Direct Schools Grant (formula)
- Short-term support

Capital:

- DfE Basic Need Grant
- Developer contributions
 - Section 106
 - CIL

The scale of expansion:

1,580 extra primary places created at 29 schools

1,925 more needed at 10 schools

4-6 new schools 2017-2029 for new housing developments

Opportunities to expand/build are limited

Working with Developers:

eg Somerdale, Foxhill/Mulberry Park –
Single developer builds school

eg Ensleigh – Multiple developers plus
underlying growth, LA builds school

Free School route – can gain approval
independently and identify premises or
seek DfE capital

Who will run new schools?

Free Schools, with prescribed process for appointment of new school operators/sponsors

LA invites expressions of interest and may identify a preferred bidder to DfE

Secretary of State for Education decides and informs successful bidder

Applicants must demonstrate:

- an ambitious vision of educational excellence for all children
- high quality leadership and management
- strong, effective and dynamic governance
- leadership capacity and high quality professional standards to sustain improvement
- welfare and safeguarding of children are paramount
- robust and effective financial management

Timeline:-

Launch of process:	10 July
Open event:	18 Sept
Closing date:	16 Oct
Interviews:	Nov
DfE decision	Feb 16?
School open	Sep 17