

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cabinet	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	11 April 2018	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 3037
TITLE:	Primary and Secondary School Organisation Plan 2017 – 2021	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Appendix 1		
Primary and Secondary School Organisation Plan 2017 – 2021 Including Longer Term School Place Planning Within the Local Plan Period (2016 – 2036)		

## **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 The Council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient schools are available for their area to provide primary and secondary education. The Primary and Secondary School Organisation Plan 2017 – 2021 at Appendix 1 (the Plan) covers in detail the current level of primary and secondary school provision in the Authority and detailed projected pupil numbers over the next four years up to admissions in September 2021 based on births and resident population data.
- 1.2 Estimated pupil numbers as a consequence of the future planned housing development expected to be delivered within the Adopted Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan period up to 2029 and the emerging Local Plan period up to 2036 are also outlined. Estimates for the number of school places likely to be required as a result and proposals as to how and where these might be provided are also included.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

The Cabinet is asked to:

- 2.1 Approve the proposed strategy for the provision of school places within the 2017 – 2021 plan period.
- 2.2 Approve the proposed strategy for the provision of school places over the longer term within the Core Strategy period and agree the emerging approach for the Local Plan period.

### **3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

- 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 by Strategic Development Sites and Locations cannot be accommodated within existing provision, Section 106 (S106) Developer Contributions in the form of capital and where appropriate land, will be sought from developers in order to provide the necessary school places. To date, the Council is in receipt of some S106 Developer Contributions with further contributions currently pending.
- 3.3 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) would be considered for the provision of other school places arising from new housing development outside of Strategic Development Sites and Locations where S106 Developer Contributions are not available.
- 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 S106 Developer Contributions or CIL. 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 S106 Developer Contributions or CIL.
- 3.5 Basic Need funding of £3,038,937 was received in 2017/18 and is committed against Basic Need schemes that are currently under development to ensure that places projected to be required for 2019/20 can be provided.
- 3.6 The DfE has identified the Council's future Basic Need allocations as £5,758,730 for 2018/19 and £2,148,258 for 2019/20. A number of Basic Need schemes have been approved as part of the Council's budget report. Beyond 2019/20 the Council has no indication of what capital will be received for Basic Need.

### **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL**

- 4.1 Relevant considerations: The Council's statutory duty to secure sufficient schools are available for their area to provide primary and secondary education; Children; Equalities; Planning.
- 4.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed. No adverse or other significant issues were found.

### **5 THE REPORT**

- 5.1 The Plan 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 Despite significant changes to the educational landscape with some schools becoming Academies and free schools being established, the Local Authority still retains the responsibility for pupil place planning in its area and for ensuring there are sufficient schools available.
- 5.3 Due to the delivery of new schools and school expansions over recent years and to further expansions and new schools under construction and planned, primary school provision is expected to be sufficient for future pupil numbers arising from underlying population growth up to 2021 and housing development allocated in the Core Strategy period.
- 5.4 Should future proposed new housing development identified in the Local Plan in a particular area be projected to result in a shortfall of primary school places, the Authority will apply CIL funding or seek S106 Developer Contributions to provide additional school places. These places are likely to be delivered via the expansion of existing schools, with the exception of proposed new housing in Keynsham and Whitchurch where whole new schools will be required.
- 5.5 In those areas where options for delivery of additional places via the expansion of existing schools is limited because the schools cannot be expanded as the sites they occupy are not large enough, any future housing allocation in these areas would require whole new schools to be provided.
- 5.6 In most areas, existing secondary school provision is expected to be sufficient for future pupil numbers arising from underlying population growth up to 2021 and housing development allocated in the Core Strategy period. Additional capacity is expected to be required in the Greater Bath Consortium Planning area and the Norton Hill Planning area.
- 5.7 Should a shortfall of secondary school places be projected as a result of future proposed new housing development identified in the Local Plan, the Authority will apply CIL funding or seek Developer Contributions to provide additional school places. These places are likely to be delivered via the expansion of existing schools, with the exception of proposed new housing in Whitchurch where a new school is projected to be required.
- 5.8 Officers will continue to work closely with colleagues in Planning Policy to ensure that any land requirements for school expansions or the provision of new schools are reflected in the emerging Local Plan.

## **6 RATIONALE**

- 6.1 The Local Authority retains responsibility for pupil place planning in its area. 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 and 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 S106 Developer Contributions or CIL as a result of new housing developments.
- 6.2 There is projected to be a future shortfall in school places in some areas 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 concerning S106 Developer Contributions and land.

## **7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

7.1 None

## **8 CONSULTATION**

8.1 Cabinet Member for Children and Young People; Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel Chair; Ward Councillors; Catholic Diocese; Church of England Diocese; Primary, Secondary and Studio School Headteachers, Governing Body Chairs and Multi Academy Trust CEOs; Neighbouring Local Authorities; Strategic Director for People and Communities; Planning Policy; School Advisers; Admissions and Transport; Education Finance.

8.2 All schools are consulted annually and provided with pupil projection data 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. The last consultation took place over September and October 2017 for 2019 PANs.

8.3 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 will be consulted at greater length. Some specific discussions have taken place with Headteachers and Governing Body and Multi Academy Trust representatives at a number of schools to discuss additional places being added to their school and to identify the possible schools to be expanded in the longer term.

## **9 RISK MANAGEMENT**

9.1 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:

9.2 *The Council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient schools are available for their area to provide primary and secondary education 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.

9.3 *The actual eventual need for places is greater than projected.* Use of Primary and Secondary School Planning Areas allows a good understanding of where places are likely to be required as a result of population growth. Where there are opportunities and within the limitations of the space and funding available, some additional extra places may be provided to give flexibility.

9.4 *Insufficient land available in the right area to provide new school accommodation if existing school sites cannot be expanded and where new sites will need to be provided.* Officers will identify where land will be required for new school provision and feed these requirements into the Council's infrastructure delivery planning via the Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan

and emerging Local Plan to secure S106 Developer Contributions in the form of appropriate site allocations.

- 9.5 *New house building spread over a long period of time and therefore S106 Developer Contributions/CIL received over an extended period could make the timing of the delivery of new school places challenging.* Plan the delivery of new school accommodation via stages and through phasing and via the pooling of S106 Developer Contributions/CIL. Explore the possibility of combining Basic Need Funding with S106 Developer Contributions/CIL where possible.
- 9.6 *Available capital either through Basic Need funding or S106 Developer Contributions/CIL not sufficient to cover cost total of building work to provide the 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. Liaise with Planning Policy to secure CIL allocations. Ensure any potential shortfalls that may require Council funding are identified at an early stage and included in the Council's financial planning if sufficient additional funding cannot be secured.
- 9.7 *Schools or academies not agreeing to expansion to create additional places where they are required.* Work with schools and academies to explain the need for places and to agree deliverable schemes.
- 9.8 *As the delivery and timescales of new Free Schools are not within the Council's control, delays in opening new Free Schools could result in the need for the Council to provide additional places elsewhere.* Work with the DfE and Free School promoters to support the delivery of Free Schools where and when required by the Council.

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<b>Background papers</b>	None
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	