

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	<b>Children and Young People Policy Development &amp; Scrutiny Panel</b>	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	<b>18 September 2018</b>	
TITLE:	<b>Update on Secondary School Place Sufficiency in the Greater Bath Consortium Planning Area</b>	
WARD:	Abbey, Bathavon North, Bathavon South, Bathavon West, Bathwick, Combe Down, Kingsmead, Lambridge, Lansdown, Lyncombe, Newbridge, Odd Down, Oldfield, Southdown, Twerton, Walcot, Westmoreland, Weston, Widcombe.	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report: None</b>		

### 1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 An update on actions taken by Officers to ensure an effective strategy, that has been agreed with all Bath secondary schools and academies (schools), to secure sufficiency of secondary school places in the Greater Bath Consortium (GBC) Planning Area for the future.

### 2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Note the actions taken by Officers to secure sufficiency of secondary school places in Bath.
- 2.2 Note the secondary school places and pupil projection figures for Years 7 to 11 for the GBC Planning Area from 2018 up to 2024.

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

- 3.1 The Council receives Basic Need (BN) grant funding from the Department for Education (DfE) to support the delivery of additional school places. It has been identified in the Schools Capital Programme for a number of years that capital investment will be required to support the provision of additional secondary school places in Bath.
- 3.2 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding of £500k has been identified for Bath secondary school provision in the 2018/19 CIL allocations.
- 3.3 The first phase of projects to be delivered at Bath secondary schools will cost approximately £2.35m. This will be funded by BN grant (already received) and CIL. There are no revenue implications.

## **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.
- 4.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed. No adverse or other significant issues were found.

## **5 THE REPORT**

- 5.1 During 2018 as the school admissions process progressed it became clear that a number of additional secondary school places would be required for the GBC Planning Area for Year 7 admissions in September 2018.
- 5.2 The projected pupil numbers indicated there were sufficient places for all Bath residents, however as some of these places were able to be taken up by pupils from outside of the Bath area, there were insufficient places for Bath children.
- 5.3 The Council introduced a new admissions process for September 2018 Year 7 admissions onwards which allowed parents to name five school preferences on their application form, sufficient to name all schools in Bath. The majority of Bath parents chose not to indicate five preferences, which contributed to pupils from outside of Bath being able to obtain a place. The legal framework for school admissions means that the Council cannot prevent this from happening.
- 5.4 Officers from the People and Communities Department consulted with the Bath Education Trust (BET) and met with the Headteachers or their representatives, from all of the Bath secondary schools within the GBC Planning Area to agree the provision of additional places for September 2018 admissions.
- 5.5 Schools were also invited to submit proposals to support the provision of future additional places in the medium to longer term from 2019 onwards to meet the future projected increase in demand based on the pattern of applications for places seen in 2018.
- 5.6 As a result of the discussions with schools, some additional places have been created for Year 7 admissions in 2018 and further additional places will be created for admissions in 2019 onwards. A total of 118 places per year group are planned to be provided, for admissions in 2020 onwards.
- 5.7 The table below shows projected pupil numbers compared to places that will be available in the secondary schools within the GBC Planning Area once the agreed proposals have been implemented, from September 2018 up to the 2024-25 academic year. Any very small deficits of places would be expected to be managed via minor breaches to admission numbers, spread across all of the schools in the area.

The Year 7 column shows the number of pupils projected for secondary intake compared to the number of places available by academic year.

<b>Academic Year</b>		<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Year 11</b>
<b>2018-19</b>	Projected number of pupils	1112	1054	1084	1048	1015
	Number of places available	1121	1104	1098	1104	1008
	Surplus or deficit of places	9	50	14	56	-7
<b>2019-20</b>	Projected number of pupils	1031	1117	1059	1089	1053
	Number of places available	1042	1121	1104	1138	1104
	Surplus or deficit of places	11	4	45	49	51
<b>2020-21</b>	Projected number of pupils	1087	1036	1122	1064	1094
	Number of places available	1126	1042	1121	1144	1138
	Surplus or deficit of places	39	6	-1	80	44
<b>2021-22</b>	Projected number of pupils	1141	1092	1041	1127	1069
	Number of places available	1144	1126	1042	1161	1144
	Surplus or deficit of places	3	34	1	34	75
<b>2022-23</b>	Projected number of pupils	1129	1146	1097	1046	1132
	Number of places available	1144	1144	1126	1082	1161
	Surplus or deficit of places	15	-2	29	36	29
<b>2023-24</b>	Projected number of pupils	1148	1134	1151	1102	1051
	Number of places available	1144	1144	1144	1166	1082
	Surplus or deficit of places	-4	10	-7	64	31
<b>2024-25</b>	Projected number of pupils	1052	1153	1139	1156	1107
	Number of places available	1144	1144	1144	1184	1166
	Surplus or deficit of places	92	-9	5	28	59

5.8 Monitoring of pupil numbers and discussions with BET are ongoing to ensure sufficiency of places for Bath pupils for the future.

## **6 RATIONALE**

6.1 The 2018 secondary Year 7 intake was a particularly large pupil cohort and numbers are expected to drop slightly for the next two years before increasing again beyond 2021, up to 2024.

6.2 The number of additional places required are not sufficient to justify the provision of a whole new secondary school as the school would not be of sufficiently large enough size to be viable.

6.3 Providing additional places at the existing schools within the GBC will serve to provide more places in OFSTED Good or Outstanding schools and will contribute to the future viability of these successful schools.

## **7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

7.1 None

## 8 CONSULTATION

8.1 Cabinet Member for Children and Young People; Corporate Director; Education Finance; Admissions and Transport; Schools Capital and Organisation.

## 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 there are sufficient places will result in the Council being at risk of breaching its responsibility.* Implementing the proposals for the provision of additional school places as per this paper is expected to provide sufficient places for the projected need.

<b>Contact person</b>	<i>Margaret Simmons-Bird 01225 394240</i>
<b>Background papers</b>	<i>Primary and Secondary School Organisation Plan 2017 – 2021</i> <a href="http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/siteimages/Schools-and-Learning/School-Strategies-Policies-Planning/sop_2017-2021_and_beyond_-_final.pdf">http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/siteimages/Schools-and-Learning/School-Strategies-Policies-Planning/sop_2017-2021_and_beyond_-_final.pdf</a>
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