

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive  
Forward Plan  
Reference

**E3225**

**Bath and North East Somerset Council School Organisation Plan 2019 – 2025**

<b>Decision maker/s</b>	Cllr Kevin Guy, Cabinet Member for Children's Services
<b>The Issue</b>	<p>The Council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient schools are available for their area to provide primary and secondary education. The School Organisation Plan 2019 – 2025 at Appendix 1 (the Plan) covers the current level of primary and secondary school provision in the Authority and projected pupil numbers up to admissions in September 2023 for primary and 2025 for secondary, based on births and resident population data.</p> <p>Estimated pupil numbers and places likely to be required as a consequence of future planned housing development expected to be delivered within the Adopted Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan period up to 2029 are also outlined.</p> <p>The Local Authority (LA) has also undertaken significant planning around providing educational provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), both in Special Schools and in Mainstream schools and in Alternative Education Provision. This population of pupils has also grown in recent years but is not included in this iteration of the Plan due to different methodology around school place planning.</p>
<b>Decision Date</b>	Not before 26 August 2020
<b>The decision</b>	<p>The Cabinet Member agrees that:</p> <p>The proposed strategy for the provision of school places within the 2019 – 2025 Plan period is approved.</p> <p>The LA has undertaken significant planning and investment for increasing capacity for children with SEND. These developments can be viewed via links in the Plan document. Future iterations of the LA's Plan will include planning for children with SEND, but the Cabinet Member can be reassured that significant planning and delivery for children with SEND in Bath and North East Somerset has been undertaken.</p>
<b>Rationale for decision</b>	<p>The LA retains responsibility for pupil place planning in its area. In order to do this effectively the LA 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 Section 106 (S106) Developer Contributions or Community</p>

Infrastructure Levy (CIL) as a result of new housing developments.

There is projected to be a future shortfall in school places in some areas and the LA 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 to inform discussions with Developers concerning S106 Developer Contributions, including land.

The Plan Appendix 1 to this report contains all the information that the Cabinet Member 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.

Despite significant changes to the educational landscape with the majority of 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.

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 2023 and housing development allocated in the Core Strategy period.

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.

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.

In most areas, existing secondary school provision is expected to be sufficient for future pupil numbers arising from underlying population growth up to 2025 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.

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 S106 Developer Contributions to provide additional school places. These places are likely to be delivered via the expansion of existing schools.

Officers will continue to work closely with colleagues in Planning Policy to ensure that any land requirements for school expansions or

	<p>the provision of new schools are reflected in the Local Plan.</p>
<p><b>Financial and budget implications</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Where pupils generated by Strategic Development Sites and Locations cannot be accommodated within existing provision, 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The DfE has confirmed the Council's future Basic Need allocations as £6,578,665.00 for 2020/21 and £4,852,297.00 for 2021/22. A number of future Basic Need schemes have been identified for mainstream and Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision. Beyond 2021/22 the Council has no indication of what capital grant might be received for Basic Need.</p>
<p><b>Issues considered</b></p>	<p>The Council's statutory duty to secure sufficient schools are available for their area to provide primary and secondary education; Children; Equality; Planning.</p>

<b>Consultation undertaken</b>	Cabinet Member for Children’s Services; Council Leader; Children, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel; Ward Councillors; School Standards Board; Corporate Management Team; S151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer; Chief Executive; Strategic Director for People and Communities; Director of Education, Inclusion and Childrens Safeguarding; Catholic Diocese; Church of England Diocese; Primary, Secondary, Studio and SEND School Headteachers and Governing Body Chairs; Multi Academy Trust CEOs; Neighbouring Local Authorities; School Advisers; Admissions and Transport; Education Finance; SEND; Schools Capital; Early Years; Planning Policy.
<b>How consultation was carried out</b>	<p>All schools are consulted annually and provided with pupil projection data when Published 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 2019 for 2021 PANs.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>Other options considered</b>	None
<b>Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision:</b>	None
<b>Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:</b>	None

<b>Name and Signature of Decision Maker/s</b>	Cllr Kevin Guy
<b>Date of Signature</b>	26.08.2020

**Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision**

