



Decision maker	Cabinet Member for Education
Subject:	Secondary School Place Strategy 2017-2023
Date of meeting:	15 February 2018
Report from:	Alison Jeffery Director of Children, Families and Education
Report by:	Caroline Corcoran Head of Sufficiency, Participation and Resources - Education Service
Wards affected:	All Wards
Key decision (over £250k):	No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Secondary School Place Strategy 2017-2023, highlighting future secondary school place pressures and the potential solutions to address the projected deficit in school place capacity.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Cabinet Member approves the Secondary School Place Strategy 2017-2023.**
- 2.2 **It is recommended that the four schemes identified in the Strategy are endorsed as the basis for delivering the required additional places (subject to the identification of funding) and would generate an additional 910 secondary school places.**

3. Background

- 3.1 Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 requires Portsmouth City Council to ensure that there are sufficient school places for resident children. This duty requires the Council to forecast future pupil populations so that it can ensure that sufficient places are provided.
- 3.2 Over the last five years, there has been an unprecedented rise in pupil numbers at primary level. In order to meet the demand for school places and ensure the Local Authority meets its statutory duty to provide every resident child with a school place, an additional 1,600 primary school places have been created in Portsmouth since 2012 through two phases of primary expansion. This has been achieved by working with both LA maintained schools and academies, expanding existing primary schools and establishing an all through 4-16 school at Mayfield School.



- 3.3 Despite this investment, a surplus of less than 2% at Year R (Reception intake) has been achieved. These places are scattered across the city and whilst the birth rate has now stabilised, the pressure on primary places continues to be a challenge due to the limited surplus that is available.
- 3.4 The additional primary pupils flowing through the primary sector are starting to approach secondary age. Attention has now turned to secondary school places.
- 3.5 Between 2008 and 2012, secondary school numbers were falling. However, the secondary numbers have stabilised in recent years, and are predicted to rise significantly. Forecasts on future secondary numbers show that an upward trend from 2017/18 will continue and have a significant impact from 2019/20 onwards.
- 3.6 By working with LA maintained schools, academies and Multi Academy Trusts and using a strategy of expanding existing schools, the Council can ensure there are enough secondary school places in Portsmouth.
- 3.8 The Secondary School Place Strategy 2017-2023 outlines the immediate and medium-term pressures on secondary school places. The Strategy and the feasibility studies have informed recommendations to address future sufficiency of school place issues.

4. Forecasting Pupil Numbers

- 4.1 Detailed analysis and forecasting confirms that the Council will not be able to meet its statutory duty by September 2020, as the number of pupils requiring secondary school places will exceed available capacity.
- 4.2 The key findings of the forecasting and place planning review were:
 - By 2020/21, there will be a shortfall of 40 secondary school places, and action is required to ensure that additional places are available by September 2020.
 - The shortfall increases in future years, and is estimated at 181 places by 2023/24.
 - It is likely that the demand for secondary school places will continue after 2023/24, but this cannot yet be reliably estimated. Future pressures will be reviewed on an annual basis.
 - Feasibility studies have been undertaken to identify secondary school expansion schemes which could address the deficit of places which has been identified.
 - There is a lead-in time for expansion schemes due to the time required for capital building works, and therefore urgent action is required.



5. Feasibility Studies

- 5.1 Feasibility studies have been undertaken to explore the potential for expansion at The Portsmouth Academy, Admiral Lord Nelson School and Charter Academy. The feasibility reports for the 3 sites are complete. A minor works proposal at Trafalgar School has also been considered to increase the number of places.
- 5.2 Due to the rise in pupil numbers nationally, the Government is now using an assumption of 2% surplus for both primary and secondary as the basis for basic need allocations to Local Authorities. In light of this and the acute pressures facing Portsmouth, the Council uses a minimum level of surplus of 2% for planning purposes.
- 5.3 It should be noted that, even with these four schemes, the surplus would be 1.31% by 2023/2024, and therefore, the schemes represent the minimum intervention that is required to meet the Council's statutory duty.

6. Funding

- 6.1 An over-arching risk to the secondary sufficiency programme is the identification of sufficient funding over time to support the individual schemes.
- 6.2 Funding for the scheme at The Portsmouth Academy is already in place.
- 6.3 Financial modelling based on the government's formula and the annual school capacity return to the Department for Education indicates that government allocations for future years should support the delivery of the secondary sufficiency schemes. The allocations for future years beyond 2019/20 have not been announced.
- 6.4 Capital funding to support the development of the schemes is being sought.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 The Council continues to have the statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for resident children and is committed to working with schools, academies and Multi Academy Trusts for the benefit of children and young people in Portsmouth.
- 7.2 Detailed analysis and forecasting confirms that the Council will not be able to meet its statutory duty by September 2020, as the number of pupils requiring secondary school places will exceed available capacity.
- 7.3 Four capital building schemes have been identified which could address the projected deficit in secondary school places.



8. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1 An equality impact assessment is not required for the Secondary School Place Strategy as it is not possible to assess the protected characteristics reasonably, as described in the Equality Act 2010, across such a diverse range of capital works.
- 8.2 The implementation of the sufficiency schemes to increase the capacity of school places will not have a negative impact on any of the equality groups. The schemes will improve access to schools for all equality groups, particularly with regard to those pupils who have special education needs and / or disabilities.
- 8.3 Each individual capital scheme includes an equalities impact assessment.

9. Legal implications

- 9.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide sufficient schools for primary and secondary education in its area in accordance with section 14 of the Education Act 1996. The schools must be sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education. Local Authorities must also promote diversity and parental preference
- 9.2 The procurement process for the contracts for the works will need to be undertaken in accordance with the City Council's Contract Procedure Rules, at Part 3A of the constitution.
- 9.3 Under Part 2, Section 3, of the City Council's constitution the Cabinet Member for Education has the authority to approve the recommendations set out in this report.

10. Finance comments

- 10.1 Basic need capital funding allocations are added to the 'single capital pot' which is used to contribute towards the funding of the authority's overall capital programme. In approving the capital programme in February the Council will give due consideration to the likely future income streams and spending proposals that are incorporated within the secondary school place strategy document.
- 10.2 The implementation of the proposals contained within the document will be dependent on the funding made available through the approved capital programme.

Signed by:
Alison Jeffery, Director of Children, Families and Education

Appendix A: Secondary School Place Strategy 2017-2023



Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

.....
Signed by: