

Title of meeting:	Education Decision Meeting
Decision maker	Cabinet Member for Education
Subject:	School Organisation suite of documents
Date of meeting:	16 January 2019
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
Full Council decision:	No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the School Organisation suite of documents for approval.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet Member approves the suite of School Organisation documents, which underpin the council's approach to ensuring sufficient school places in the city.**

3. Sufficiency of School Places

- 3.1 Under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996, the council has a 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. This duty requires the council to forecast future pupil populations so that it can ensure that sufficient places are provided. Through this forecasting work, the council considers the capacity in Portsmouth schools, and determines whether action needs to be taken to meet anticipated future demand for school places by Portsmouth resident children.

- 3.2 Portsmouth City Council's approach is documented in a suite of four key documents:
- School Organisation Policy
 - Primary School Place Strategy
 - Secondary School Place Strategy
 - SEND Provision Place Strategy
- 3.3 Each of the three strategy documents covers a 6-year period, but also looks forward to the longer term demand for places. This ensures that prompt action can be taken in a timely way if a future shortfall is identified.
- 3.4 These documents bring together information from a range of sources and set out the issues and solutions to ensure that the council can meet its statutory duties for providing school places for the period 2018 - 2024 and beyond.
- 3.5 The over-arching purpose of the four documents is to:
- Commission additional school places to meet increasing demand
 - Prioritise the capital investment that is required to address sufficiency (basic need)
 - Ensure the council meets its statutory duty of providing sufficient local school places for every child of school age whose parents / carers wish them to have one
 - Set out the council's policy on managing school organisation
- 3.6 The strategy documents include present and predicted future pupil numbers on roll, together with information about birth rates, school capacity, pupil mobility, pupil ethnicity and new housing developments that will impact on school places. There is an analysis of the changes in the number of school places available over recent years and forecasts about future places and the changes that are likely to occur.
- 3.7 The strategy documents also set out priorities for capital investment to address sufficiency of school places.
- 3.8 The policy document sets out how the council will work in partnership with maintained schools and academies on school organisation matters.
- 3.9 The four documents will be reviewed on an annual basis to take account of refreshed forecast data and new or emerging intelligence.
- 3.10 The council works in partnership with schools, academies and Multi-Academy Trusts when making decisions about priorities for capital investment on school premises. School organisation and pupil forecasting information is shared and regular dialogue ensures that informed decisions are made about future investment on school sites. This fair and transparent process supports decision making on how the demand for school places is achieved and the council's education capital funding priorities. It also provides assurance that capital projects are soundly based and represent good value for money.

- 3.11 26 schools are maintained by the council (known as the Local Authority), and 38 schools are academies within a Multi Academy Trust (as at September 2018). There are currently 12 Multi Academy Trusts operating within the city and one standalone Academy Trust (UTC Portsmouth).
- 3.12 In July 2018, the Education and Skills Funding Agency highlighted Portsmouth in the top 20 Local Authorities for the efficient delivery of value for money education capital projects. This supports the assertion that school expansions in Portsmouth offer value for money.

4. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required for the overarching documents 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.
- 4.2 The approach will improve access to schools for all equality groups, particularly with regard to those pupils who have learning difficulties and / or a disability.
- 4.3 Each individual capital project/scheme includes an equalities impact assessment.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 The suite of documents outlines the council's response to its statutory powers and duties. The council 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 exercise their functions under section 14 with a view to securing diversity in the provision of schools and increasing opportunities for parental choice.

6. Finance comments

- 6.1 The policy and strategic documents, which are reviewed annually, inform the planning of school places and underpin any bid for capital resources required to deliver sufficient school places in future years. Capital bids are invited on an annual basis and are reviewed as part of the Council's overall budget setting process, along with the available resources.

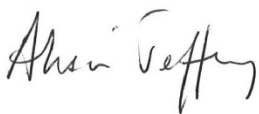
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Signed by:
Alison Jeffery
Director of Children, Families and Education

Appendix A: School Organisation Policy
Appendix B: Primary School Place Strategy
Appendix C: Secondary School Place Strategy
Appendix D: SEND Provision Place Strategy

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

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

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



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