

Report to: Schools Forum

Subject: Ensuring there are sufficient Primary School Places
2013-2016

Date of meeting: 13 February 2013

Report by: Mike Stoneman, Strategic Commissioning Manager

1. Summary

- 1.1 This paper, *Ensuring there are Sufficient Primary School Places 2013-2016*, sets out the background to the acute shortage in school places in the primary sector in Portsmouth as a result of the growing child population, and the plans that are recommended to address the shortfall.
- 1.2 Due to the fact the forecasts show that pupil numbers will remain high for the foreseeable future, temporary accommodation is not regarded as an appropriate or sustainable solution. The majority of the proposals are therefore seeking a permanent increase in pupil places. This is largely being achieved by making use of existing space in schools with some limited new build.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Schools Forum endorses the need to expand Primary School places and note the investment of circa £5M that the Council will make over the next three years to address the shortfall.

3. Background: pupil forecasting

- 3.1 In the past the Small Area Population Forecasts (SAPF) provided by Hampshire County Council forecasting model has been highly accurate, at a time when there has been significant surplus capacity within the system to meet the level of demand. These are modified within Portsmouth City Council Geographical Information System (GIS) to reflect primary school catchment areas. Information on new/demolished buildings is obtained from the City Planning Department when forecasting numbers for individual primary school catchments. Actual and forecast numbers of pupils from the primary forecasts are fed into the secondary forecasts. Since 2010 the forecasts have not been as accurate as they should be due to the impact of increased birth rates both nationally and locally and a number of other

economic and social factors that the current forecasting model has not been able to predict accurately.

- 3.5 A 'Social / Economic allowance factor' has been built into the forecasting methodology to make an allowance for the increased demand against forecast that has been seen in both 2011 and 2012 pupil numbers. The factor applied is based upon a 3 year weighted average of the difference between original forecasts and Actual Year R pupil numbers. This will be continuously reviewed to ensure future pupil numbers are adequately planned for.

4. Background: Primary forecasts – Year Reception pupil numbers

- 4.1 Year R future pupil number forecasts across the City are as follows. This builds in the additional capacity that has been secured for 2012/13.

Pupil numbers for R Year

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<i>Year R Numbers</i>	2123	2261	2299	2338	2282	2216	2256	2259
<i>Year R Admission Limits</i>	2235	2280	2354	2280	2280	2280	2280	2280
<i>Surplus/Deficit</i>	112	19	55	-58	-2	64	24	21
<i>% difference</i>	5.3%	0.8%	2.4%	-2.5%	-0.1%	2.9%	1.1%	0.9%

- 4.2 The forecast shows that additional capacity will be required in 2013/14 and 2014/15 in order to meet demand and to ensure the Local Authority meets its statutory obligation of providing a place within two miles of the family home. The forecast shows that the numbers will remain high for the foreseeable future.

5. Background: primary forecasts – Year 3 pupil numbers

- 5.1 Year 3 future pupil number forecasts across the city are as follows:

Pupil numbers for Year 3

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<i>Year 3 Numbers</i>	1860	1961	2038	2060	2202	2239	2277	2222
<i>Year 3 Admission Limits</i>	2168	2153	2153	2153	2153	2183	2153	2153

<i>Surplus/Deficit</i>	308	192	115	93	-49	-56	-124	-69
<i>% difference</i>	16.6%	9.8%	5.6%	4.5%	- 2.2%	-2.5%	-5.4%	-3.1%

5.2 The forecasts highlight the fact there is not sufficient capacity to meet demand from 2014/15 onwards. Additional capacity will be required to address the deficit which will peak in 2016/17. The forecast shows that the numbers will remain high for the foreseeable future.

6. Plans to address sufficiency issues in the Primary phase

6.1 Work required to secure places for September 2013 proposals include:

- **Cottage Grove Primary School** – increase from 1.5 to 2 form entry raising its Planned Admission Number (PAN) from 45 to 60. This would provide an additional 15 places for both Year R and Year 3 in September 2013 and overall an additional 105 places across the school.
- **Portsmouth Primary School** – increase from 1.5 to 2 form entry raising its PAN from 45 to 60. This would provide an additional 15 places for both Year R and Year 3 in September 2013 and overall an additional 105 places across the school.

6.2 Expansion of school places in 2013 but which will require capital resources to secure the on-going provision by 2014:

- **Westover Primary School** - increase from 1.5 to 2 form entry raising its PAN from 45 to 60. This would provide an additional 15 places for both Year R and Year 3 in September 2014 and overall an additional 105 places across the school.
- **Somers Park Primary School** - increase from 1.5 to 2 form entry raising its PAN from 45 to 60. This would provide an additional 15 places for both Year R and Year 3 in September 2014 and overall an additional 105 places across the school.

6.3 School places required for 2014 which require early agreement to progress the necessary works:

- **Mayfield Secondary School: Primary Phase provision** – Phase 1 (infant school) and Phase 2 (junior) of a proposed 2 form entry Primary School that would provide an additional 60 places for Year R in September 2014 and 420 places overall.
- **Highbury Primary School** - increase from 1.5 to 2 form entry raising its PAN from 45 to 60. This would provide an additional 15 places for both Year R and Year 3 in September 2014 and overall an additional 105 places across the school.

- **Stamshaw Junior School** – increase from 2 to 3 form entry raising its PAN from 60 to 90 in order to meet future demand and ensure alignment with Stamshaw Infant School which has a PAN of 90.
- **Moorings Way Infant School** – increase PAN from 40 to 45 providing an additional 5 places in Year R from September 2014.
- **Contingency** –a contingency is built into the plans to allow for the purchase of two mobile temporary units should they be needed in September 2013 or in future years.