

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Forum Capital Group
Meeting date:	20 November 2017
Subject/Report Title:	UPDATE ON THE SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN
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Schools affected:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Schools <input type="checkbox"/> All Primary <input type="checkbox"/> All Secondary <input type="checkbox"/> All Special <input type="checkbox"/> All Primary and Secondary <input type="checkbox"/> Maintained Schools Only <input type="checkbox"/> Academy Schools Only <input type="checkbox"/> PVI Settings <input type="checkbox"/> PRUs <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)
Type of Report	For information
Forum Voting	Not a voting matter - for information
Public/Private report:	Public
Exempt by virtue of Paragraph:	N/A

1. Purpose of Report	
1.1	To update the Capital Work Group on the School Organisation Plan and the work required to create mainstream and high needs places.
2. Decision(s) Recommended	
2.1	For Information
3. Background	
3.1	The data within the school Organisation Plan 2016 has now been updated to reflect the most recent pupil counts, health data and admissions data and a new version dated 2017/18 is attached.
3.2	The revised plan was considered and approved by Cabinet Member on 5 September 2017 and pulls together the progress on delivering additional school places and future requirements.
3.3	Over the next 5 years primary school places are forecast to rise by a further 6% to just over 20,000 pupils. These forecasts do not include the impact of the Draft Local Plan.
3.4	By September 2018, over 1300 primary school places will have been added or be in

the process of being added. The latest expansions include 210 places at Tidbury Green Primary School and 120 places across Sharmans Cross and Shirley Heath Junior Schools. The individual proposals to deliver these places have been considered by Cabinet Member as they have progressed through the statutory process.

- 3.5 The Blythe Valley development received outline planning permission for 750 dwellings earlier this year. A S106 agreement has been put in place to secure funding for additional school places to meet the needs of this development as it comes on stream. It is proposed that the additional primary places required be added at Cheswick Green Primary School which will need to be expanded from 210 places to 420 places. This expansion will also meet the needs of the housing development at Tanworth Lane that also sits within the catchment area for Cheswick Green Primary. A consultation process on this proposal will be required and any implementation will be directly linked to the provision of the housing development.
- 3.6 At October 2016, just under 1300 (8%) of secondary school places were empty this is a drop of 264 (1%) on October 2015. In addition 35% of pupils on roll at Solihull secondary schools live outside of Solihull.
- 3.7 Over the next 8 years secondary schools rolls are forecast to rise by 12% to just over 17,000 pupils. A significant proportion of this growth can be accommodated within existing schools reducing the levels on empty places year on year and reducing the numbers of pupils from outside of Solihull accessing a place. However, in order to accommodate localised growth linked to significant housing developments 750 secondary school places will be required.
- 3.8 300 Secondary school places have already been added at Arden Secondary School. A further 150 (1FE) are proposed at Tudor Grange Academy Solihull and the plans for these are well advanced. Feasibility work is currently underway at St Peter's Catholic School and Alderbrook School to seek to provide a further 150 places at each school.
- 3.9 Tudor Grange, Alderbrook and St Peter's Schools all sit within the Central & West Planning area which is subject to significant housing development around Cheswick Green, Tidbury Green and the Blythe Valley areas. The expansion of places at these three schools will meet the needs of these housing developments.
- 3.10 Appendix D of the updated School Organisation Plan gives an initial response to the impact on school places of the proposals for significant housing development outlined within the Draft Solihull Local Plan. However it is important to note that until the Draft Local Plan is approved these initial findings will be subject to change.
- 3.11 In addition to mainstream pupil data the School Organisation Plan includes data and forecasts on pupils being educated through the High Needs Block.
- 3.12 As part of the high needs national funding formula launched in Autumn 2016, the Government requires the Council to carry out a review of its high needs provision. The guidance envisages three key outcomes emerging from this review:
 - A strategic plan for high needs provision that makes sure there is an attractive offer for parents and young people which will meet the needs of future cohorts, at a cost that is sustainable.
 - More effective collaboration between local authorities.
 - Better value for money in special schools and other specialist institutions.
- 3.13 In order to facilitate this work the Government has provided additional funding support to local authorities. For Solihull this has resulted in a grant of circa £90,000.

3.14	Using this grant the Council has employed a company to review special school and PRU provision across the Borough and develop a SEND forecasting model for Solihull. The model will forecast future SEND demand by need as well as incorporating the travel patterns of existing SEND pupils. Once established the model will be able to be updated for on going pupil forecasts.
3.15	In addition to the forecasting model, detailed work into the sufficiency of our special school and PRU sites and buildings has been undertaken so that clear data is available to assist with the planning of future provision.
3.16	This data is consistent with our neighbouring authorities, so a further outcome of this work will be that closer collaboration between authorities when planning specialist provision will be possible.
3.17	The key findings of this review suggest that the number of pupils requiring statements and Education & Health Care Plans will continue to increase. The projections show an on going trend for pupils requiring places outside of a mainstream school and within specialist provision. Unless additional provision is created within Solihull then the numbers of pupils being placed in provision outside of Solihull will continue to increase.
3.18	In addition the projections show the on going rise in numbers of pupils with ASD and SEMH needs across all settings.
3.19	Further work is required, in partnership with Schools and parents, to look at ways of creating additional specialist provision within Solihull to meet the forecast growing demand for specialist provision and reduce the number of pupils having to travel outside of Solihull.
4. For consideration / Evaluation of Alternative Option(s)	
4.1	The evaluation of options will be considered when determining how and where additional mainstream or specialist school places will be located.
5. Reasons for Recommending Preferred Option	
5.1	The Plan will be used as a basis for working with schools to identify the most appropriate way to add school places and where appropriate review or expand specialist provision within the Borough.
6. Consultation / Scrutiny already taken place / to take place	
6.1	The School Organisation Plan was considered by Education Scrutiny Board on 12 September 2017.
7. Key Implications for Schools & Settings	
7.1	<p>Delivery of the Council's Priorities</p> <p>The options/proposals in this report will contribute to the delivery of the following Council Priority(ies):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve Health and Wellbeing – the provision of sufficient mainstream and specialist school place in good and outstanding schools is a key school place planning requirement. • Managed Growth – the supply of school places responding to controlled housing development and migration growth is a vital contributor to the economic future of the Borough.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build Stronger Communities – the supply of school places is intended to enable pupils to attend good and outstanding schools in their area. • Deliver Value – where additional school places are required they will be commissioned in a way that delivers best value using appropriate funding streams.
7.2	Policy/Strategy Implications – The School Organisation Plan is consistent with the Council's policy to promote high standards in the area.
7.3	Meeting the duty to involve - The School Organisation Plan will be used as a basis for working with schools and other stakeholders to identify the most appropriate way to add and review mainstream and specialist school places.
7.4	Financial Implications
7.5	There are no financial implications as a direct consequence of this report; however where school expansions are required then there will be capital and revenue implications. The DfE has allocated capital of circa £20M to the Council for the period 2015 to 2020 to enable additional school places to be added. This investment has been incorporated into the Asset Management Plan as an overarching capital strategy. In addition officers will continue to seek S106 monies from housing developments where appropriate.
7.6	The Government has allocated a grant to Local Authorities to support the expansion of specialist provision. For Solihull the grant equates to £800,000 over a 3 year period.
7.7	In addition School Forum has approved growth criteria to identify additional revenue funding for those schools experiencing growth in pupil numbers. The growth criteria are included as an appendix within the School Organisation Plan.
7.8	Legal implications – The Local Authority has a legal duty to ensure there are sufficient school places to meet the needs of Solihull children.
7.9	Risk Implications – The key risks are that the additional school places cannot be added in time to meet the growth in demand from Solihull children and that the proposed costs of individual expansion projects exceed the resources available.
7.10	Statutory Equality Duty - None as a result of this report.
7.11	Carbon Management/Environmental – The distances children travel will be considered in determining the location of additional school places. As far as possible school places should be within walking distance of where children live.
7.12	Partner Organisations – The views of all key stakeholders will be sort as part of consultation processes for individual proposals.
7.13	Safeguarding/Corporate Parenting Implications – None as a result of this report.
7.14	Customer Impact – Consultations on specific proposals will seek to identify any customer impact.
7.15	Other implications - None
8.	List of Appendices Referred to
8.1	School Organisation Plan 2017
9.	Background Papers and Web Links Used to Compile this Report
9.1	None

10. List of Other Relevant Documents
10.1 None