

## **Cabinet Report**

Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting – 11 July 2016

### **Title**

Proposal to increase secondary school capacity across the Borough to meet future increased demand.

### **Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

Yes

### **Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Ian Thomas, Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services (CYPS)

### **Report author:**

Dean Fenton (Service Lead – School Planning, Admissions and Appeals)

### **Ward(s) Affected**

All

### **Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places and satisfy parental first preferences as far as is possible.
- 1.2 Following the expansion of several primary schools within the Borough, additional primary phase pupils will eventually add additional pressure to secondary school capacity.
- 1.3 As such, this report seeks approval for a programme of secondary school expansion projects to increase capacity to meet future rising cohort numbers.

### **Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approve:
  - In principle proposals to increase the capacity at the secondary schools outlined in this report on a rolling programme to meet future rising cohort demand;
  - Receipt of further, more detailed reports regarding the specific proposals related to each school in due course.

### **List of Appendices Included**

- Appendix 1 – Projects that have been completed since 2011

## **Background Papers**

### Reports to Cabinet Member – Children, Young People and Family Services:

- 24.4.2012 – Approval to increase capacity at Catcliffe Primary School
- 6.2.2013 – Approval to increase capacity at Brinsworth Howarth on a temporary basis to serve as a temporary catchment area to the Waverley estate
- 24.7.2013 / 5.3.2014 / 21.5.2014 – Prescribed alteration reports to expand Cortonwood Infant School and Brampton the Ellis C of E Primary School
- 20.12.2011 / 24.4.2012 / 4.7.2012 – Prescribed alteration reports to expand Flanderwell Primary School
- 7.11.2012 / 6.2.2013 / 24.4.2013 – Prescribed alteration reports to expand Herringthorpe Infant and Junior Schools
- 4.7.2012 / 7.11.2012 / 16.1.2013 - Prescribed alteration reports to expand Aston Hall Junior and Infant School
- 24.7.2013 / 13.11.2013 / 15.1.2014 - Prescribed alteration reports to expand Thurcroft Infant School
- 7.9.2011 / 9.11.2011 / 17.1.2012 - Prescribed alteration reports to expand Thornhill Primary School

### Reports to Cabinet:

- 22.5.2013 / 24.7.2013 / 27.11.2013 - Prescribed alteration reports to expand Listerdale Primary School
- 16.10.2013 – Report seeking approval of preferred sponsor for Eastwood Village Primary School

### **Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

No

### **Council Approval Required**

No

### **Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

**Title :** Proposal to increase secondary school capacity across the Borough to meet future increased demand.

## **1. Recommendations**

1.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approve:

1.1.1 In principle proposals to increase the capacity at the secondary schools outlined in this report on a rolling programme to meet future rising cohort demand;

1.1.2 Receipt of further, more detailed reports regarding the specific proposals related to each school in due course.

## **2. Background**

2.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 to ensure a sufficiency of school places and satisfy parental first preferences as far as is possible. The duty also extends to the requirement to ensure new school places are delivered in 'successful and popular' schools.

2.2 Following the recent programme to expand several primary schools across the borough to accommodate rising cohort numbers, there will be an impact on secondary schools and academies in future years. Due to current and future pupil numbers and projections (currently verified by the Department for Education (DfE) as 13% pupil population increase since 2010) several secondary schools are full, close to full capacity or regularly oversubscribed. As such some are already or will in future be refusing places in line with the requirements of the DfE Admission to School Code of Practice 2014, as the school has exceeded its published admission number (PAN) or already has more pupils than capacity allows.

2.3 Appendix one outlines the projects that have been completed since 2011 to increase the number of primary phased school places across the borough.

## **3. Key Issues**

3.1 The additional primary phase pupils referred to in section 2 and Appendix one will eventually add to the Year 6-7 (aged 10 – 11 pupils transferring from primary to secondary education) transfer group numbers adding additional pressure to secondary school capacity. As such there is a need to increase current capacity within secondary schools to accommodate expected rising demand in future years. Table one (below) outlines the schools and academies which are proposed to provide increased capacity due to being at or close to full capacity or regularly oversubscribed. The table outlines current capacity, pupil population expected in September 2016 and the proposed project and cost to create additional capacity.

**Table 1: Proposed future increases in secondary school capacity**

<b>School</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Expected pupil numbers on roll (Sept 2016)</b>	<b>Expansion project and estimated cost to accommodate up to an eventual additional 30 pupils per statutory aged Year group (x5)</b>
Wales High	1520	1610	5 classrooms £1.1m
St Bernard's	700	712	5 classrooms £1.1m
Wath Comp (PFI)	1800	1887	5 classrooms £1.3m
St. Pius	665	644	5 classrooms £1.1m
Oakwood High	1050	1034	5 classrooms £1.1m
Aston Academy	1650	1728	5 classrooms £1.1m

3.2 There is a statutory duty under the requirements of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 'to ensure the sufficiency of school places in their area'. The expansions would enable more parents to access their first preference school for their child and, therefore maintain / increase performance against that indicator on national offer day for entry to secondary education.

#### **4. Options considered and recommended proposal**

4.1 Option a: Wait until existing surplus capacity across the Borough is exhausted then commence a program to expand Secondary schools at a later date. This risks insufficient time to implement increased capacity and is therefore not recommended.

4.2 Option b: Increase the net capacity at a number of secondary schools on a rolling programme within basic need funding parameters to meet current and future rising cohort demand. This is the recommended option, to ensure that additional capacity at the identified schools is provided in a timely and coordinated manner.

#### **5. Consultation**

5.1 The Local Authority has had preliminary discussions with the Head Teachers at some of the identified schools. Further consultation will be required with Governors, parents and carers and staff in relation to the proposed building work and potential health and safety implications on site and how they would be managed.

5.2 Further consultation will be required with all relevant stakeholders as individual projects are brought forward as formal proposals.

## **6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

6.1 Following Cabinet approval of the in principle proposals, accurate timelines for projects will be confirmed and reported to Cabinet, in line with actual funding allocations being confirmed by the DfE to ensure capital projects remain within funding allocation parameters.

## **7. Financial and Procurement Implications**

7.1 The estimated cost of the individual projects to increase teaching and learning space in the schools /academies is indicated in Section 3.1 of this report. Funding for the individual projects will be from basic need allocation and where applicable any Section 106 agreements in place.

7.2 As basic need allocations are only known two years in advance, the projects will be scheduled accordingly to ensure the proposed expansion projects stay within the financial parameters of annual allocations.

7.3 Individual projects will need to be approved by Cabinet due to the value of the construction projects. Separate reports will be submitted in due course as formal proposals are brought forward.

## **8. Legal Implications**

8.1 The Local Authority has a duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places in areas of current and future need, provided in successful and popular schools.

8.2 The Local Authority is a net importer of extra district pupils (pupils from neighbouring authorities accessing their education in Rotherham far exceeds the number of pupils residing in Rotherham accessing their education in a neighbouring authority school). Under the terms of the Admission to School Code of Practice 2014 extra district applications must be treated in an equitable way to in borough applications in regard to distance category and other ranking under admissions arrangements for individual schools and academies.

## **9. Human Resources Implications**

9.1 The increases in capacity would lead to more pupils being admitted to the schools in future years. The future pupil number increases would generate additional pupil linked funding for the schools and may lead to further staffing and resource requirements however, this would be for individual governing bodies to determine as the additional pupils on roll generate the additional funding.

## **10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

10.1 The proposals would lead to more parents and carers being able to access their first preference school, maintaining or further improving the Secondary School National Offer Day first preference and combined three preference profile within the Borough.

## **11. Equalities and Human Rights Implications**

11.1 The proposals would lead to more parents and carers being able to access their first preference school, maintaining or further improving the Secondary School National Offer Day first preference and combined three preference profile within the Borough.

## **12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates**

12.1 The proposal to implement the increases in capacity by extension of the school buildings will have a minimal impact on neighbouring schools and pupil numbers as future secondary cohort numbers are set to increase.

12.2 A program of works will need to be implemented by the CYPS Capital Projects Team, Design and Projects Team and planning permission sought and approved.

## **13. Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 There are risks associated with increasing the number of school places available at one school, as this could have an adverse impact on numbers at another school. The verified increase in pupil numbers is currently 13% and existing capacity will be insufficient to accommodate future cohort numbers. The Local Authority is obliged to provide a sufficiency of places in areas of need to meet demand within funding allocation parameters.

13.2 The costs of the expansions indicated in section 3.1 of this report are currently indicative estimates as no detailed feasibility study has been undertaken.

## **14. Accountable Officer(s)**

Karen Borthwick (Assistant Director – Education and Skills)

Approvals Obtained from:

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services: Named officer  
Joanne Robertson (Finance Manager CYPS - 18.4.2016)

Director of Legal Services: Named officer - Neil Concannon (Solicitor) – 21.4.2016

Head of Procurement: - Helen Chambers (Principal Officer) 7.6.2016

This report is published on the Council's website or can be found at:-

<http://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?Categories=>