

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Improving Places Committee
2.	Date:	Wednesday 16th October 2013
3.	Title:	School Place Planning
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary

Pupil numbers are increasing within the Borough and creating a shortage of places available in certain areas. There is increasing pressure on school places due to the numbers of pupils and it is necessary to increase the number of school places available to meet demand. This report outlines the recent and future projects being undertaken to increase place availability within the Borough.

6. Recommendation:

It is recommended that the content of the report be accepted as an overview of the current position and future direction of travel.

7. Proposals and Details

Pupil numbers are increasing in the Borough and there is increasing pressure on school places particularly in Key Stage 1 and it is necessary to increase the number of primary school places available in certain areas of the Borough.

The information below provides details of work carried out to date and planned to provide additional school places.

Recently Completed Consultations to increase Published Admission Numbers (PAN) include:

Expansion of Thornhill Primary (30 – 45) – 4 additional classrooms

Expansion of Flanderwell Primary (30 – 45) – 4 additional classrooms and SEN unit

Expansion of Aston Hall J & I (30 – 45) - 4 additional classrooms

Expansion of Herringthorpe Infant and Junior schools (70 – 90) – 5 additional classrooms (2 Infant and 3 Junior)

Increase in Admission numbers at:

Treeton Primary School (37 – 45) by addition of additional classrooms

Catcliffe Primary School (25 – 30) by addition of additional classrooms

Sunnyside Infant and Junior Schools (80 – 90)

Bramley Grange Primary School (40 – 45)

Kilnhurst Primary School (28 – 30)

Total number of eventual permanent through school places created = 665

September 2013 Admissions – Potential Pressure Points and Action:

Central (South and East)

Admissions for 2012/13 and 2013/14 have been to present capacity and this trend looks to be continued. There are also steadily increasing numbers with new arrivals to the borough. Birth statistics show an increase of 58 births for entry in 2014/15.

Current proposals to cater for the increase in pupil population in the Central and surrounding area are shown below:

Herringthorpe Infant and Junior Schools (70 – 90)

Construction commenced Easter 2013 to be completed for August 2013 for Infant classes and October 2013 for Junior classes. The estimated cost is £1 million to provide 5 additional teaching and learning areas.

Listerdale J & I School (30 to 45 = 105 eventual through School places)

Statutory consultation has commenced on proposals to expand the school on a permanent basis by the provision of 4 additional classrooms at a cost of approximately £800K in total and will be completed at the latest by August 2014 subject to approval.

Broom Valley Community Primary School (Temporary increase from 60 to 75)

Approval granted by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Family Services following positive negotiations with the governing body on proposals to temporarily increase the admission number from 60 to 75 in FS2 and Y1 from September 2013 and subsequent FS2 year groups thereafter until 31st August 2016. In the first instance 2 temporary classrooms will be located on site at an estimated cost of £150K. Should the school be expanded on a permanent basis beyond this period a consultation will need to be undertaken to make a prescribed alteration to the school. An additional 4 permanent classrooms will cost approximately £800K.

Targeted basic need funding

The CYPS Capital Projects Team have submitted a funding bid to DfE to provide funding for the provision of a new Centrally based Primary School. Under new DfE guidance there is an Academy / Free School presumption in relation to the control of the new school. Confirmation was received from DfE in August 2013 that RMBC had been successful in relation to this bid. Work is ongoing with the DfE and Elected Members to appoint a sponsor and move the project forward for a September 2015 opening.

Rawmarsh Learning Community

There is the usual pressure on FS2 places at Rawmarsh Ashwood but in this Learning Community overall there is sufficient space at present, although this is diminishing year on year. House building is located in the Monkwood catchment area. Rawmarsh Ashwood site is too confined to expand at its current location.

Monkwood Primary School / Thorogate J & I (105 eventual through School places)

Monkwood Primary has two empty classrooms following amalgamation and there is a Section 106 Education contribution agreement in place for the local area. Expansion would require 4 additional classrooms in total. The installation of the classrooms will need to be timed to utilise the S106 funding agreement. The School already has an admission number of 60 and School Organisation and the Capital Projects Team will need to undertake further analysis of whether to further expand this already large School or to focus an approach towards the Governing Body at Thorogate J & I in relation to a proposal to expand that School given that its current admission number is 30.

CYPS School Organisation and Asset Management Service are also considering other alternatives at this present time.

Wath Learning Community

There is substantial house building in the area and Section 106 education contributions agreements in place, which will help fund the expansions set out below:

Wath C of E Primary (30 to 45 = 105 eventual through School places)

consultation to make a prescribed alteration to the school is currently in progress. The permanent expansion to provide an additional 4 classrooms will cost approximately £1M and will be completed at the latest by August 2014. Funding for the project will be from basic need funding and Section 106 funding.

Brampton the Ellis Junior School (70 to 80 to 90 = 80 eventual through School places) – *Linked Proposal to Cortonwood Infant School*

The 2 feeder infant schools (Ellis and Cortonwood) have a combined admission number of 80 which is greater than that of the Junior School – currently 70. Positive negotiations have been completed with the school's Governing Body to address this and to increase the admission number of the Junior School to 80 then 90, which would require additional accommodation. The estimated cost of expanding Ellis Junior School is £400k and funding will be from a combination of basic need funding and Section 106 funding subject to trigger points being reached.

A full consultation will be undertaken commencing September 2013 to make a prescribed alteration to the school with a final completion date of August 2017.

Brampton Cortonwood Infant School (40 to 50 = 30 eventual through School places) – *Linked Proposal to Ellis Junior School*

Positive negotiations with the Governing Body have been completed to expand the School from an admission number of 40 to 50 at an estimated cost of £250K to provide additional teaching and learning space. This expansion has a completion date of August 2017. Funding for the project will be from a combination of Basic Need Funding and Section 106 funding, subject to trigger points being reached. A full consultation will be undertaken commencing September 2013 to make a prescribed alteration to the School.

West Melton J & I

Initial positive discussions have taken place with the Headteacher in relation to a longer term expansion of the School. This expansion will be timed to utilise recently agreed Section 106 funding agreements for education and as the demand for places increases in line with development sites. An additional classroom has been installed at the school to increase the current NET Capacity.

Wickersley/Bramley Learning Community

The measures that have been put in place in 2012/13, expansion of Flanderwell, Sunnyside and Bramley Grange to create an additional 30 places per year group have alleviated pressure in this area. The proposed expansion of Listerdale which sits in the Wickersley Learning Community is also expected to have a positive

impact on the supply of School places in this and the surrounding area. The Learning Community will remain on a watching brief.

Wickersley School and Sports College

Initial positive discussions have taken place with the Headteacher in relation to a future increase in admission number at the school and installation of additional classrooms to accommodate the increasing future demand for places at the school from within the catchment area. A targeted basic need funding bid has been submitted to DfE in relation to this expansion. Confirmation was received from DfE in August 2013 that RMBC had been successful in relation to this bid. Work has commenced with the schools Headteacher and Governing Body in relation to the expansion.

Aston Learning Community

The expansion of Aston Hall J and I from September 2013 in all KS1 classes has created an additional 15 places per year group. Treeton C of E primary has a larger application number than admission number for 2013/14 admissions. The school cannot be expanded further than its current Published Admission Number (PAN) of 45, however there is sufficient space in surrounding schools. The birth rate hits its peak with this year's intake.

The distance from Treeton C of E Primary School to the nearest Primary Schools is as follows:

Aughton Primary = 2.3 KM

Catcliffe Primary = 1.5 KM

Brinsworth Howarth Primary = 2 KM

Waverley Estate (proposed new schools) = 1.42 KM to the central point between the school sites

Brinsworth Learning Community

Brinsworth Howarth J & I (30 to 45 = 105 eventual through School places on a temporary basis until the First Waverley Primary School is constructed)

Numbers are rising in this area and there will be additional pressure with the onset of the Waverley development. Following successful negotiations with the Governing Body the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Family Services has approved a proposal to expand Brinsworth Howarth from an admission number of 30 to 45, on a temporary basis. The school will require a further 4 temporary teaching and learning spaces to accommodate the additional pupils. The estimated cost is £350K.

There is a significant Section 106 agreement in place to create new primary school provision on the Waverley Estate. The trigger point for the release of the funding for the school is dictated by the occupation of dwellings on the estate. There is a DfE Academy / Free School presumption for the new schools. A deed of variation to the original Section 106 agreement is currently being drafted for legal consideration. A report has been submitted to the Cabinet Member for Children,

Young People and Family Services outlining the details of the variation from the original agreement.

Wales and Thurcroft Learning Community

Indications from admissions data shows that the number of school places is very near to capacity. The number of births is also rising for admission to schools in 2014/15 onwards.

Wales Primary School (30 to 45 = 105 eventual through School places)

Negotiations have taken place with the Governing Body of the school regarding the possible expansion from 30 to 45 in FS2 and subsequent year groups thereafter from 2014 onwards, on a temporary basis initially. A full consultation will need to be undertaken to make a prescribed alteration to the school on a permanent basis.

Thurcroft Infant School (60 to 75 = 45 eventual through School places)

Projections indicate that applications for places will be greater than the admission number in 2014. To expand the School from its current admission number of 60 to 75 will require 1 additional classroom. Negotiations have been undertaken with the Headteacher with regard to an expansion of the school. A full consultation will need to be undertaken to make a prescribed alteration to the school on a permanent basis commencing September 2013.

Other Learning Communities

Other learning communities such as Dinnington, Swinton, Wingfield and Maltby remain on a watching brief at present.

Given the size of the Bassingthorpe Farm development there will be significant education provision requirements. This will be met by the provision of a new Bassingthorpe primary school (Academy / Free School presumption applies) and expansion of Greasbrough Primary School subject to successful negotiations with the Governing Body. An expansion to Wingfield School will be necessary for Secondary provision.

SEN Provision

Pre statutory consultation has commenced on proposals to expand Newman Special School to create an additional 30 permanent places and 2 assessment places.

Pre statutory consultation has commenced in relation to the Governing Bodies request at Thorogate Primary School to close the current EBD unit on the site. Alternative provision will be established elsewhere following consultation.

New Arrivals to the Borough during Academic Year

2007/08: 347 of which 220 admitted to school

2008/09:	375 of which 250 admitted to school
2009/10:	475 of which 287 admitted to school
2010/11:	445 of which 334 admitted to school
2011/12:	463 of which 303 admitted to school
2012/13:	data unavailable at this current time

It should be noted that the discrepancy between the number of new arrivals figure and the admitted to school figure shows the mobility rate of the families involved. Between the application being received and the admission date, the families have moved out of the area. Admissions Officers work closely with the Education Welfare Service to track the whereabouts of the children either in Borough or extra district.

Number of Schools full or over subscribed in FS2

53 Schools were full or over subscribed in FS2 for the academic year 2012/13

42 Schools were full or oversubscribed in FS2 for the academic year 2013/14

There are currently 98 Primary aged Schools, 16 Secondary aged Schools and 6 Special Schools in the Borough.

8. Finance

The capital cost of the building projects is currently met from 'Basic Need' funding allocated to the Authority from the DfE. Basic needs funding is provided for the provision of sufficient school places.

Section 106 agreements are also in place for some current and future developments and this funding requested for the provision of school places will be utilised to contribute to the provision of school places in future projects where applicable. Section 106 agreements are contracted to be activated at set points eg at 50% completion of a development etc.

Where Schools are expanded there is also often a need to request assistance from Schools' Forum to provide interim financial support to bridge the gap between 1st September to 31st March. This is because funding is allocated to schools following the October census day and additional pupils are not on roll to trigger funding for the following financial year.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There are always risks and uncertainties when school place provision is considered since future pupil numbers are based on estimations. Over provision at one school could influence pupil numbers at other schools. Local Authorities are obliged, however, to provide sufficient places, promote diversity and increase parental preference.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The major theme supported by the forward planning and provision of school places is 'to ensure that everyone has access to skills, knowledge and information to enable them to play their part in society'. The expansion of schools would enable more parents to access their first preference school for their child and, therefore, increase that performance indicator.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Reports to Cabinet and the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Family Services in relation to:

Annual Admissions Consultations, proposals to temporarily increase admission numbers and make prescribed alterations to schools.

12 Contact Names

Helen Barre (Service Lead – School Admissions, Organisation and SEN Assessment Service – SAO SENAS)
Tel: 01709 254831
Email: Helen.barre@rotherham.gov.uk

Dean Fenton (Principal Officer School Organisation)
Tel: 01709 254821
Email: dean.fenton@rotherham.gov.uk

Robert Holsey (CYPS Capital Projects Manager)
Tel: 01709 823723
Email: Robert.holsey@rotherham.gov.uk

Andrew Parry (CYPS Capital Projects Co-ordinator)
Tel: 01709 822559
Email: Andrew.parry@rotherham.gov.uk