

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Improving Lives Select Commission
2.	Date:	18th December, 2013
3.	Title:	School Organisation report
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 provides Committee Members with an update of progress since the previous report to the Improving Lives Committee of 24th October 2012.

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 continue to increase in the Borough and there is corresponding pressure on school places particularly in the Primary Phase. It is, therefore, necessary to increase the number of primary school places available in certain areas of the Borough. The information below provides details of activity carried out to date and planned to provide additional school places.

- The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to maintained schools) (England) Regulations 2007 and the DfE's Guidance 'Expanding a maintained mainstream school by enlargement or adding a 6th form', states that 'it is the Local Authorities duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places, promote diversity and increase parental choice'. There should be a system where all parents feel they have the same opportunities to apply for the schools they want for their child. The aim is to provide quality provision for all children that is responsive to the needs of parents and children.
- DfE advise that proposals to expand successful and popular schools should be approved. The existence of surplus capacity in neighbouring schools should not in itself be sufficient to prevent expansion.
- Given the limited amount of Basic Need funds available, modular buildings are sometimes considered to be the most efficient approach to providing quality, affordable additional capacity within schools.

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

Previous 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 a mainstream attached Special Educational Needs resource for Y4-6 children with Autism Spectrum Condition and a statement of SEN
- 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**

2013/14 Academic Year – Potential Pressure Points and Action taken:

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

Herringthorpe Infant and Junior Schools

Permanent increase in admission number from 70 – 90 creating **140 through school places**. The cost of this project is £1.6 million to provide 5 additional classrooms planned for completion by Christmas 2013.

Listerdale J & I School

Proposals to expand the school from an admission number of 30 to 45 creating an additional **105 through School places** by the provision of 4 additional classrooms at a cost of approximately £900K and will be completed at the latest by August 2014, the project was approved by Cabinet on 27th November 2013 subject to a successful planning application.

Broom Valley Community Primary School

A temporary increase has been implemented in admission number from 60 to 90 in Y1/2 for 2013/14 and FS2 for 2014/15 creating **60 temporary places**. The additional pupils are to be accommodated by the installation of 2 temporary classrooms which will be located on site at an estimated cost of £150K. by December 2013. Places have been allocated for the start of the Spring term.

Targeted basic need funding

The CYPS Capital Projects Team submitted a funding bid to DfE to provide funding for the provision of a new centrally based Primary School close to the Eastwood area. 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, a sponsor has been approved by Cabinet for the school and work is on-going to move the project forward for a September 2015 opening. This will create an additional **315 through school places** once completed.

Rawmarsh Learning Community

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

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

CYPS School Organisation and Asset Management Service are considering options at this present time. The outcome will be dependent on the Cabinet decision in relation to the proposal to close the Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD) unit at Thorogate. Longer term plans are to create an additional **105 through School places**.

Wath Learning Community

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

Wath C of E Primary

A proposal has been approved by the Cabinet Member to expand the school from an admission number of 30 to 45 **creating 105 through School places**. The permanent expansion to provide an additional 4 classrooms will cost approximately £1M and will be completed by August 2014. Funding for the project will be from Basic Need Funding and Section 106 funding and the expansion will be implemented on a phased basis.

Brampton the Ellis Junior 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 which is currently 70. Pre statutory consultation is currently being undertaken in relation to proposals to expand the school to an eventual admission number of 90. The estimated cost of expanding Ellis Junior School is £500k and funding will be from a combination of basic need funding and Section 106 funding subject to trigger points being reached. The completion date for this proposal is August 2017. This project will create an additional **80 junior school places**.

Brampton Cortonwood Infant School

Pre statutory consultation has commenced on proposals 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. This project will create an additional **30 infant school places**.

West Melton J & I

An additional classroom has been installed at the school to increase the current NET Capacity to accommodate rising pupil numbers. The NET Capacity will be re-evaluated and amended as part of the annual review by Building Managers.

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

Confirmation was received from DfE in August 2013 that RMBC had been successful in relation to a bid to expand this successful and popular school. Work has commenced with the School's Head teacher and Governing Body in relation to the expansion. A project is currently in progress to install 17 additional classrooms to accommodate the increasing future demand for places at the school from within the catchment area. There are also discussions around expanding special educational needs provision at the school for pupils with difficulties under the Communication and Interaction overarching type of need.

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

The Cabinet Member has approved a proposal to expand Brinsworth Howarth from an admission number of 30 to 45 on a phased temporary basis. A new Foundation Unit has been installed at the school and some internal modifications have been made to the main school building to accommodate the additional pupils. The cost is £350K funded from Basic Need Funding and Section 106 funding. This project will create **105 through School places on a temporary basis** until the First Waverley Primary School is constructed. Should the expansion be made permanent, a full consultation will need to be undertaken to make the prescribed alteration.

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 control of the new schools.

Wales and Thurcroft Learning Community

Indications from admissions and birth 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

The Cabinet Member has approved the temporary increase in admission number from 30 to 45 in FS2 for 2 years from 2014/15 onwards. A full consultation will need to be undertaken to make a prescribed alteration to the school on a permanent basis. The temporary increase will create **30 temporary through School places**

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

Consultation is currently being undertaken to expand the School from its current admission number of 60 to 75 with effect from September 2014. The cost of the expansion is estimated at £200k to provide additional teaching and learning space funded from Basic Need Funding and Section 106 funding.

Other Learning Communities

Other Learning Communities, including 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 an existing primary school. An expansion to Wingfield School will be necessary for Secondary provision.

NB: Should all the above projects be approved and completed the combined total of permanent Primary School places to be created will be **945** with an additional **195** temporary places created.

Section 106 Developer Education Contributions Policy

The Education – Developer Section 106 Contributions policy was updated and approved by Cabinet on 24th July 2013. (**Appendix 1**)

Academy Converting Schools

Below is a list of Schools in Rotherham converted / in the process of conversion (position as of end November 2013):

School	Conversion date
Maltby Academy	January 2010
Brinsworth Comprehensive	October 2010
Wales High	October 2010
Aston Academy	May 2011
St Bernard's High	July 2012
Thurcroft Junior	July 2012
Coleridge Primary	April 2013
East Dene Primary	April 2013
St Bedes Primary	July 2013
St Gerrard's Primary	July 2013
St Mary's Primary (Maltby)	July 2013
St Mary's Primary (Herringthorpe)	July 2013
Wingfield Academy	August 2013
Canklow Woods Primary	September 2013
Whiston J & I	September 2013
Whiston Worrygoose J & I	September 2013
Thrybergh Academy	October 2013

Sandhill Academy	December 2013
Oakwood Academy	December 2013
Brookfield Academy	January 2014
Maltby Redwood Primary	January 2014
St Joseph's Primary (Dinnington)	February 2014
Wath Victoria J & I	February 2014
Wickersley Academy	February 2014
Rawmarsh Comprehensive	April 2014
Rawmarsh Ashwood	April 2014

SEN Provision

Statutory consultation has commenced on proposals to expand Newman Special School to create an additional 30 permanent places including 2 assessment places.

Statutory consultation has commenced in relation to the Governing Body's request at Thorogate Primary School to close the current SEBD unit on the site. Alternative provision will be established elsewhere following the outcome of the 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, 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.

The LA has secured temporary external funding and has appointed an EU Migrant Community Engagement Officer. This post-holder is to support:

- Timely applications for a school place
- Tracking children not in education
- Translation in admission appeals
- Community engagement activities including developing English language skills
- Parents to provide their views as part of the SEN statutory process

Admissions - number of applications processed:

Transfer groups (13/14 academic year):

- Primary: 3,250 (FS2) / 823 (Y2/3)
- Secondary: 3,215 (Y6/7)
- TOTAL = 7,293
- 100% of Y2/3 preferences met
- Y6/7: 3 schools oversubscribed: approximately 600 spare places
- 51 children for whom an FS2 1st, 2nd or 3rd preference could not be met (next nearest school with places was offered)
- 3 schools were unable to accommodate children from their catchment area where a preference had been made

4 schools were unable to accommodate children who had an older sibling

42 Schools were full or oversubscribed in FS2 for the academic year 2013/14 compared to 53 in 2012/13

In Year Transfers: (2012/13 full academic year)

- Primary: 2,889
- Secondary: 922
- TOTAL = 3,811

CUMULATIVE TOTAL = 11,104

Fair Access Protocol

The Local Authority's Fair Access Protocol was revised following the publication and full implementation of the DfE's February 2012 Admissions Code. Consultation took place with all schools and the Local Admissions Forum. The new Protocol is published in the Admission to Primary and to Secondary Schools 2014/15 since the 2013/14 Booklets were already in circulation. As part of the revised Protocol, separate In year Fair Access Panels for Primary and Secondary phase have been established since September 2013. The panels have a majority of senior school leaders and are

facilitated by lead officers in Admissions and Education Welfare Services. The Panels meet every 3 weeks unless there are no applications for consideration. Application of the Protocol and the operation of the Panels are designed a) to ensure the fair distribution of children with challenging behaviour and others who may be hard to place and b) to support more timely placement of children who are within a defined vulnerable group and c) to reduce the number of admission appeals over time. Feedback and participation from school leaders has been positive and children are being placed regularly through this process.

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.

For the 2013/14 financial year RMBC received £1.45M Basic Need Funding and £3.2M Capital Funding for essential projects such as keeping schools safe, dry and warm. For the 2014/15 financial year RMBC has already been allocated the sum of £1.45M for Basic Need as part of a 2 year agreement.

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.

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