

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Education and Public Health Services
2.	Date:	15th July 2014
3.	Title:	School Place Planning update
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young Peoples Services

5. Summary

This report provides an update to the Cabinet Member in relation to School Place Planning activity and outcomes.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member notes the report and current position in relation to School Place Planning.

7. Proposals and Details

2014/15 Academic Year Allocation day summary:

School Place Planning Summary FS2:

Total number of applications = 3280 (3119 in 2013)

98% of applicants were allocated one of their preferences
(91.5% 1st preference, 5% 2nd preference, 1.5% 3rd preference)

*2013/14 = 98.5% were allocated one of their preferences
(92.4% 1st preference, 4.93% 2nd preference, 0.99% 3rd preference)*

Key points:

1 school was unable to accommodate catchment area children (Canklow Woods x 3 Children)

4 schools were unable to accommodate siblings (8 Children)
Aston Fence x 4, Maltby Craggs x 1, Swallownest x 1 and Wentworth C of E x 2

40 schools are unable to accommodate children on distance category (398 Children)

School Place Planning Summary Y7:

Total number of applications = 3157

99% of applicants were allocated one of their preferences
(95.5% 1st preference, 3% 2nd preference, 0.5% 3rd preference)

This is a similar profile to 2013/14.

DfE Basic Need Scorecard:

The DfE have this year introduced a Local Authority Scorecard on School Place Planning and the use of Basic Need funding:

(Basic Need funding from DfE to address school place shortages – current allocation for 2014/15 is £1.45M).

Quantity:	Increase in pupil numbers between 2009 and 2016	= 10%
	Total Basic Need allocated 2011 to 2017	= £18M
	2013 to 2016 places to deliver	= 1,090
	2016 onwards places to deliver	= 360 +

plus new housing pupil yields as a result of the Local Plan implementation (Section 106 / CIL funding subject to trigger points)

Quality:

84% of new places delivered in good / outstanding schools – compared to the National average of 79%

Proportion of new school places delivered in below average schools = 7% (22% National average) - based on Key Stage 2 outcomes

Cost:

Cost of expansions in Rotherham is 14% below the National average

Rotherham is in the lowest 40% cost banding nationally for delivering new school places

School Expansions from January 2011 to July 2014:

Thornhill Primary (30–45)	(105 places) basic need
Flanderwell Primary (30–45)	(105 places) basic need
Aston Hall J & I (30 – 45)	(105 places) basic need
Herringthorpe I and J (70 – 90)	(140 places) basic need
Treeton Primary (37 – 45)	(56 places) basic need
Catcliffe Primary (25 – 30)	(35 places) basic need
Sunnyside I and J (80 – 90)	(70 places) section 106
Bramley Grange Primary (40 – 45)	(35 places)
Kilnhurst Primary (28 – 30)	(14 places)
Listerdale J & I (30-45)	(105 places) basic need
Wath CE Primary (30-45)	(105 places) basic need / section 106
Thurcroft Infant (60-75)	(45 places) basic need / section 106

Total FS2 places = 140 / Through School places = 920 places + 20 eventual KS2 at Thurcroft Jnr (the school has existing capacity to accommodate the pupil increase in future years).

Temporary increases:

Broom Valley FS2 X 30, Y1 x 15, Y2 x 15 (basic need)

Brinsworth Howarth phased 45 admission number until Waverley 1 school constructed (section 106)

Wales Primary 45 admission number for 14/15 and 15/16 in FS2 (basic need)

Future School Places (2014 to 2017):

Central Primary – 45 admission number (315 places) Targetted basic need

Cortonwood Infant (40-50) (30 places) Section 106

Ellis Junior (70-80-90) (80 places) Basic need / Section 106

Wickersley SSC (300-330) (150 places) Targetted basic need

Currently in discussions with the governing Body at Thorogate J & I to create an FS2 bulge year for 2016/17 academic year by utilising £150k Section 106 funding from the 'Wickets' development at Upper Haugh.

Currently in discussions with the Executive Headteacher and Trustees at Sandhill Primary School in relation to working in partnership to increase future capacity at the School WEF September 2015. (basic need / possible future Section 106)

Future projects will be determined by:

The outcome of the Local Plan and confirmed brought forward sites for development.

Future pupil number projections eg birth statistics, movement, migration, Ofsted profiles of schools etc

Potential new Schools:

Waverley £11m Section 106 agreement in place to create 2 x 2 form entry Primary Schools – subject to trigger points being realised.

Bassingthorpe Farm – should this development come forward there will need to be a Section 106 agreement in place to create a new Primary School.

NB: There is an Academy / Free School presumption in place under current Government legislation in relation to the control of all new schools.

Admissions Appeals:

Wath Comprehensive School currently has a waiting list of 96 children for entry into Y7, there were 28 applications received for appeal. The Authority for the first time trialled a group appeal where on Monday 12th May the school and Local Authority presented its case for refusal of places to the parents of the affected pupils and a question and answer session followed.

The Independent Panel then decided that the Admissions Authority had acted in accordance with regulatory requirements and moved the Appeals forward to the second stage which was individual cases of appellants. Cases were heard all day Tuesday 13th May and up to mid afternoon on Wednesday 14th May.

Feedback from the Independent Panel Members and the overwhelming view of appellants was that the group appeal process was extremely positive. The group appeal reduced the staffing implications from 4 full days of appeals to 2 full days equivalent.

The group appeal process was also scrutinised by the Schools Adjudicator in relation to an objection received from an appellant in response to the panels decision in relation to an individual case. The resultant view of the Adjudicator being that Rotherham had conducted the appeals in line with the Appeals code of practice.

8. Finance

Funding for the school expansion projects is from:

Basic Need Funding – Allocated to Local Authorities to address school place shortages (funding is allocated following DfE analysis of the annual SCAP submission).

Section 106 developer Education impact contributions (the LA is currently consulting on CIL levy in to the future). Section 106 contributions are subject to the Local Authority being able to 'meet the test' in evidencing that a development will create a pupil place deficit in school places in the local area and is subject to trigger points and time limited allocation and spend.

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. (CYD0015/018 - Corporate risk register).

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The major theme supported by the proposal is 'to ensure that everyone has access to skills, knowledge and information to enable them to play their part in society'. The delivery of timely additional school expansions will enable more parents to access their first preference school for their child and, therefore, increase that performance indicator.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

The Local Plan abnd sites brought forward for development by planning application..

The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013

The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013

School Organisation (Maintained Schools) guidance for proposers and decision makers (January 2014)

Consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Reports to Cabinet / Cabinet Member in relation to proposals.

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