

Councillor Victoria Cusworth – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

Email: victoria.cusworth@rotherham.gov.uk

Email the Council for **free** @ your local library

Our ref
VC/LH

Please Contact
Councillor Victoria Cusworth

Direct Line
07824895314

27th July 2022

Clerk
Waverley Community Council

Via email: clerk@waverley-cc.gov.uk

Dear Clerk

Question to Council – 20th July 2022

Thank you for submitting the following question to Council on Wednesday 20th July:

The WCC would like to know how RMBC will update its monitoring demographics going forward as the current calculations did not foresee the current demand?

I can advise that the Local Authority like all Local Authorities works in line with Department for Education (DfE) requirements and methodology of modelling the number of houses built and occupied and the pupil yield generated against a national formula. The demographic profiles are reported to the Department for Education (DfE) annually. DfE has made its position clear that school places should be planned for across a local school planning area and the statutory requirement is that there is a sufficiency of school places across the local planning area to ensure that a 'reasonable offer' of a school place can be made in line with the DfE definition of a 'reasonable offer'.

To further increase capacity at Waverley Junior Academy will require Regional Schools Commissioner approval prior to any work commencing. DfE have made the

position clear, that regardless of demographic growth at Waverley, there is a sufficiency of school places across the local planning area (neighbouring schools) and therefor surplus capacity in neighbouring schools must be used up prior to any further capacity being added at Waverley.

We continue to work with DfE and the Principal Developer to bring about a longer-term solution that meets the desire of Waverley parents to have their children educated at Waverley Junior Academy. However, until the Local Authority can satisfy DfE that neighbouring schools will not be negatively impacted by any further capacity being added at Waverley Junior Academy, DfE would not be in a position to approve any additional classrooms being added to the school either on a temporary basis or permanently.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victoria Cusworth', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Victoria Cusworth
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People