


CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY BOARD

08 January 2018

Subject:	School Place Planning
Cabinet Portfolio:	Councillor Simon Hackett - Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Director:	Director of Children's Services - Jim Leivers Director – Education, Skills and Employment – Chris Ward
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
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DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board:

1. Considers the council's actions with regards to school place planning and provision since 2010 and future plans for how the council intends to meet the challenges of demand for school places in the secondary sector from 2018 and makes any recommendations and or comments as necessary.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To explain how the council has continued to undertake its statutory responsibilities with regards to meeting the increased demand for school places particularly in the primary sector since 2010 and;
- 1.2 To outline the requirements for new places in the secondary sector from 2018 and the current plans in place to meet this demand.

2 IMPLICATIONS FOR SANDWELL'S VISION

- 2.1 The recommendation in this report supports the desire of the council to focus resources on the specific needs and aspirations of the community. This contributes to the Council's Vision 2030 Ambition 1 – Raising aspirations and resilience, Ambition 3 – Young people to have skills for the future, Ambition 4 – Raising the quality of schools.

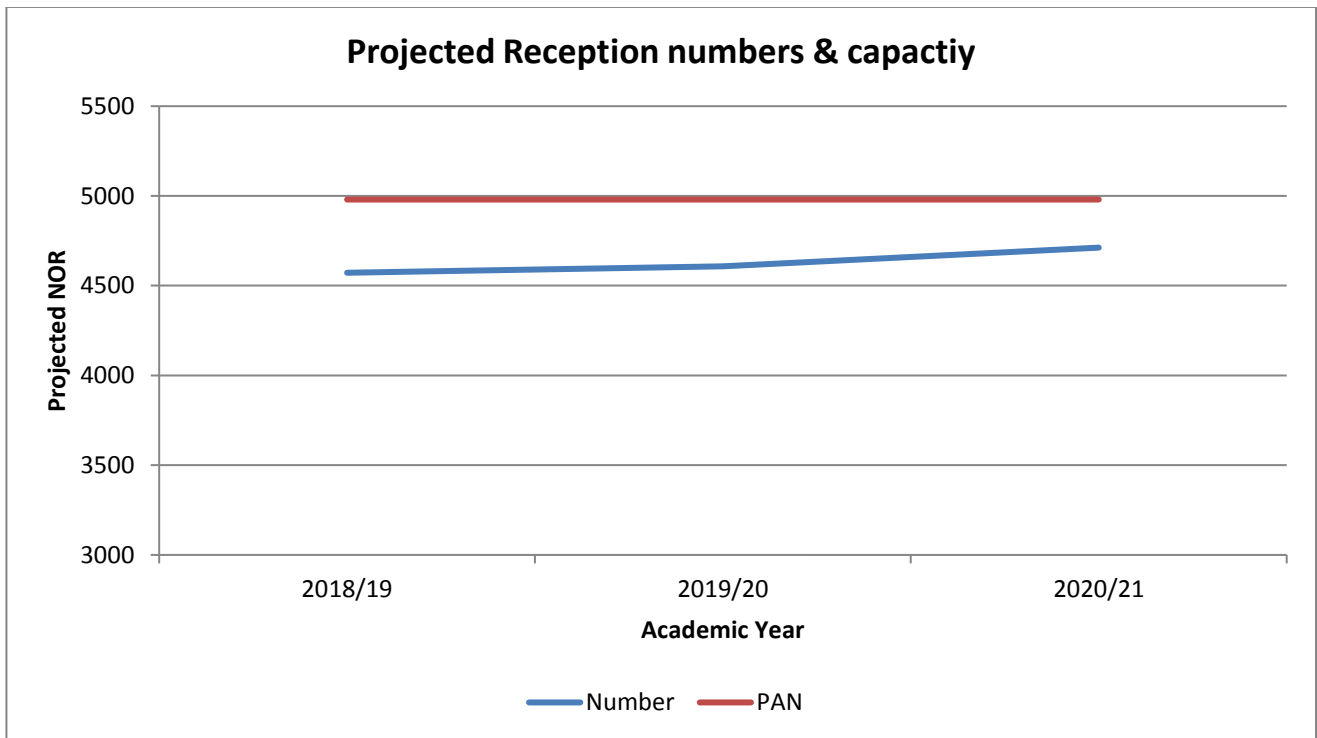
3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Primary

- There has been a 26% increase in Sandwell births from 3727 (2001/2) to 5058 (2012/13);
- The birth rate has since gone down and is now fluctuating between 4600 and 4800;
- There have been 37 expansions of existing primary schools, including 11 “bulge” expansions;
- 5200 new primary places have been provided including 390 “bulge” places;
- Reception capacity has increased by 834 in 7 years (from 4236 (in 2010) to 5070 (in 2017)). These new places are phased into schools as the cohorts move through;
- The LA is also responding to a significant increase in inward migration and retention - 33% increase of “new to UK” applications in 2 years. As a result, midyear places have increased by 220 over the last 4 years.
- LA expansion policy is to prioritise schools that are rated “good or outstanding”, are easy to expand and are in areas of projected high demand.

3.2 Reception projections and capacity across Sandwell

Academic Year	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Number	4572	4608	4712
PAN	4980	4980	4980



3.3 Reception projections and capacity by town*

	Academic Year	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Oldbury	PAN	900	900	900
	Projected	813	851	867
	Surplus	87	49	33
Rowley Regis	PAN	660	660	660
	Projected	607	625	626
	Surplus	53	35	34
Smethwick	PAN	990	990	990
	Projected	915	910	916
	Surplus	75	80	74
Tipton	PAN	690	690	690
	Projected	611	624	627
	Surplus	79	66	63
Wednesbury	PAN	570	570	570
	Projected	540	489	531
	Surplus	30	81	39
West Bromwich	PAN	1170	1170	1170
	Projected	1086	1109	1145
	Surplus	84	61	25

*This assumes no further increase in capacity from 4980. Surplus places are now evenly distributed across the towns in reception. The birth rate has decreased since peaking at 5063 in 2012 and the places provided in primary schools are now sufficient in number to provide adequate surpluses in reception. More pressure is placed on schools because of inward migration as cohorts move through. It is anticipated that based on existing trends, reception cohorts could increase by as much as 4% (200 pupils) by the time that cohort reaches Year 6. A further 420 primary places will be delivered for September 2019 in Smethwick with the opening of Shireland High Tech Primary Free School and this will assist with providing more places for children moving into the area.

4 THE CURRENT POSITION

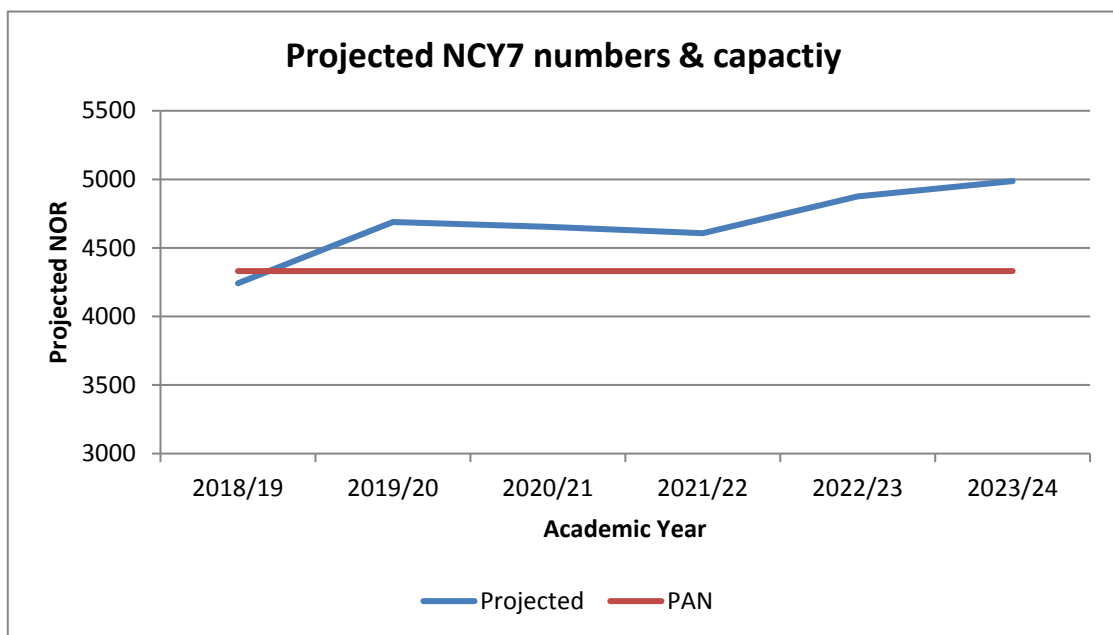
4.1 Secondary

- The increase in demand for secondary school places will occur from 2018 as higher primary numbers move through;
- 480 new secondary places have been delivered across 3 schools since 2016 with a further 2400 planned for September 2019. This will include a new school on Kelvin Way, West Bromwich which will provide 750 new places;
- A number of secondary schools have agreed to take extra pupils in 2019 to assist the council in managing the delay of a second new school to be delivered by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, which will now open in September 2020;
- Schemes are already approved for expansion in 2019 at the following secondary schools:
 - a) George Salter Academy (250 new places)
 - b) Shireland Academy (275 new places);
- Future new provision is also planned at Bristnall Hall Academy, Holly Lodge High, Wood Green Academy, Q3 Academy Great Barr and an exciting Free School proposal involving the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

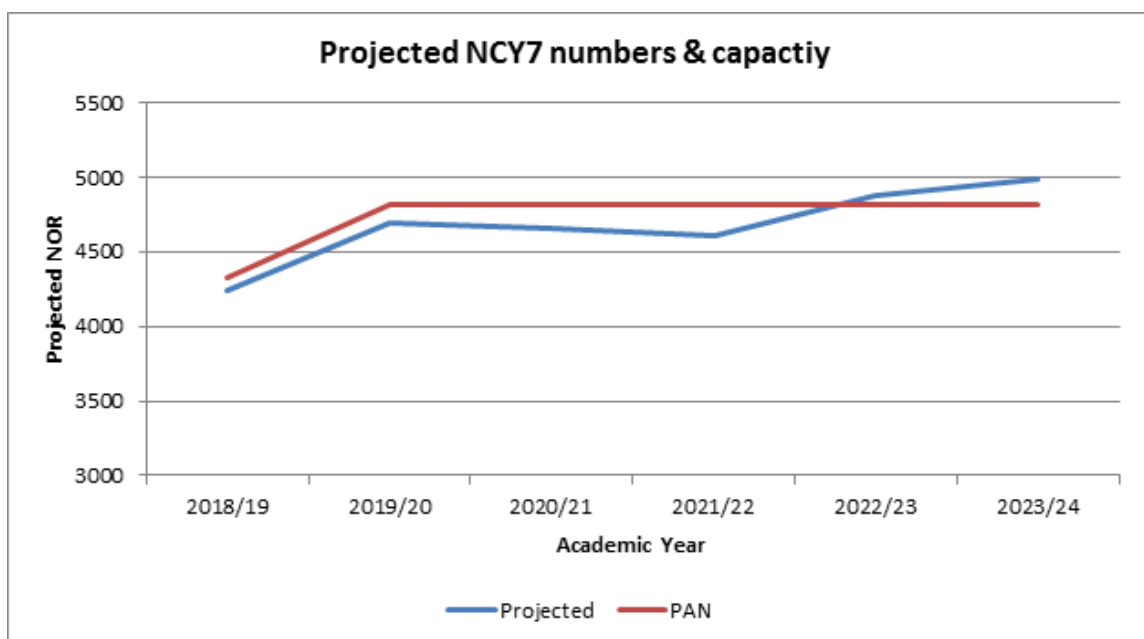
4.2 Year 7 projections and capacity across Sandwell*

Academic Year	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Projected	4242	4689	4653	4607	4875	4987
PAN	4331	4331	4331	4331	4331	4331

*This reflects existing capacity of 4331 and the graph below demonstrates the difference between pupil projections and capacity if this does not change. However, plans are in place for capacity to increase to 4811 in 2019/20.



The graph below takes account of the planned expansions from 2019 and the effect this has on the PAN capacity. Further new provision will need to be in place by 2022 as pupil projections increase again.



5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

- 5.1 The necessary statutory consultation takes place for maintained schools that permanently expand; Academies are obliged to consult as part of their proposals to expand.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 There are no alternative options.

7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Funding for new school provision comes from the council's basic need allocation from central government.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 There are no direct legal and governance considerations as a result of these recommendations. In accordance with the Education Act 1996 the council has a statutory duty to ensure there are a sufficient number of school places available for the children of Sandwell. The council is required to follow a prescribed statutory process when making a permanent expansion to a maintained school. Academies are also required to undertake a consultation exercise as part of any expansion proposal. Such proposals are considered and decided by the Regional Schools Commissioner.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 All groups are potentially affected by the policy of expansion. This report demonstrates that this is uniformly applied in response to where pupil demand is expected although size and type of expansion is restrictive as it is dependent on the availability of government capital funding.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 There are no data protection implications in this report.

11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

- 11.1 There are no crime and disorder issues relevant to the recommendation in this report.

- 11.1 In so far as risk is concerned, the council's strategic risk register currently includes an amber risk around school place planning: SR040 - If the LA is unable to exert sufficient strategic control over school place planning and the direction of capital investment, then it will be unable to deliver on its statutory duties. An appropriate project management structure is in place, and the School Organisation Programme Board meets on a regular basis.

12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

- 12.1 Plans for future school provision are only sustainable with continuing government funding directly to the LA through basic need or through the provision of new places via the government's free school programme.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

- 13.1 A sufficient level of school places in local areas where there is demand is of benefit to the local community. Enhanced community provision is often included when schools expand their facilities.

14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

- 14.1 There is no direct impact in the recommendation on any council managed property or land.

15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15.1 The report outlines the council's past actions and future plans with regard to school place provision. Consequentially the recommendation is to note the report.

16 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 16.1 None

17 APPENDICES:

None

Director of Children's Services - Jim Leivers

Director – Education, Skills and Employment – Chris Ward