


REPORT TO EDUCATION SCRUTINY BOARD

22 October 2018

Subject:	School Place Planning
Cabinet Portfolio:	Councillor Simon Hackett - Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Director:	Director of Children's Services – Lesley Hagger Director – Education, Skills and Employment – Chris Ward
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Contact Officer(s):	Sue Moore, Group Head, Education Support Services, sue_moore@sandwell.gov.uk Paul Hayward, Team Manager – School Organisation and Development paul_hayward@sandwell.gov.uk

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board:

1. Considers the council's actions with regards to school place planning and how it proposes to continue to deliver new secondary places in the light of a £nil basic need allocation for 2021/22 from the Department for Education (DfE).
2. Makes any comments and recommendations as necessary.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on how the council continues to undertake its statutory responsibilities with regard to meeting the increased demand for school places particularly in the secondary sector.
- 1.2 To outline the impact of a £nil basic need allocation for 2020/21 and estimated allocations for future years.

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**

- There has been a 26% increase in Sandwell births from 3727 (2001/2) to 5058 (2012/13);
- The birth rate has since reduced and is now fluctuating between 4600 and 4800;
- 5200 new primary places have been provided including 390 “bulge” places;
- The LA continues to respond 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.
- Shireland Technology Primary, a new free school will open in September 2019 providing an additional 420 places in Smethwick.

4 **THE CURRENT POSITION**

4.1 **Secondary**

- Work has begun to deliver the additional 485 new year 7 places that are needed for September 2019, to accommodate the first significant increase in projected pupil numbers;
- Projects include a second new secondary school delivered by the council through the presumption route: West Bromwich Collegiate Academy on Kelvin Way, West Bromwich will provide 150 Year 7 places each year. For September 2019, the Academy will admit 175 students to assist with meeting the anticipated demand in the area;

- Expansions of George Salter and Shireland Collegiate Academies, providing an additional 105 new year 7 places;
- A number of secondary schools have agreed to take extra pupils in 2019 to assist the council in managing the delay of a new school to be delivered by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, who have yet to confirm an opening date;
- 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 Basic Need Funding

- The Council received a £nil basic need allocation for 2020/21;
- By applying the methodology used by the DfE, we have estimated another £nil allocation for 2021/22;
- Undertaking the same exercise for a further two years identifies a tentative allocation of approximately £7m for 2022/23 and £15m for 2023/24, however this doesn't take into account any changes to the DfE model or the future provision of capacity through the delivery of a free school;
- The implications for the Council are that unless funding is identified it will be at significant risk of failing in its statutory duty of ensuring a sufficient supply of school places. The council is continuing to discuss the implications of the nil basic need capital allocation with the DfE;
- The completion of Q3 Langley and West Bromwich Collegiate Academies will be delayed by a further 3 years (funding required circa £19m);
- The expansion of a further 4 secondary schools needed for 2020-22 will be delayed by at least 4 years (circa £20m);
- The cost of delivering a temporary solution in the interim;
- The DfE have confirmed an additional £2.5m towards the cost of delivering West Bromwich Collegiate Academy in the form of a targeted "one off" free school grant. Sandwell is one of 20 Councils identified and is one of 7 who received a £nil allocation.

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

- 5.1 The necessary statutory consultation process 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 a red risk around school place planning: SOPB 2 - 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 – Lesley Hagger

Director – Education, Skills and Employment – Chris Ward