

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Education
Date:	26 March 2014
Title:	School Place Planning Framework 2013-2018
Reference:	5667
Report from:	John Coughlan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services

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1. Executive Summary

This report sets out the actions being taken over the next five years to fulfil Hampshire County Council's statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places and an appropriate balance locally between supply and demand (see Appendix 1).

- 1.1. The focus is predominantly on primary school place provision, reflecting the increase in the number of births across Hampshire together with ongoing housing development and in-migration

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. It is the role of the County Council to plan, organise and commission places for all maintained schools in Hampshire in a way that raises standards, manages rising and declining pupil numbers and creates a diverse community of schools. The County Council seeks to exercise this function in partnership with dioceses, governing bodies of schools, headteachers, local communities and other key stakeholders.
- 2.2. The need for school places changes in response to population movements and birth rate variations. Increases in demand can lead to the creation of a new school or the expansion of existing schools by adding permanent or temporary accommodation. Surplus places can also mean the reduction of school provision in an area through reduced admission arrangements or the rationalisation of school provision. Any reviews of school provision undertaken by the County Council (e.g. the opening, closing, federating, amalgamating, expanding or contracting of schools) will, in large part, be prompted by forecast pupil numbers.

- 2.3. Predicting school place demand is a complex task. Where children go to school involves a range of different factors such as housing growth, inward and outward migration and parental preference. As a result, planning for school places is based on probabilities and not certainties and while pupil forecasts may be derived from sound methodology, they come without guarantees. Furthermore, the practice of school organisation must take into account a number of different, and at times conflicting, factors. This includes the need to respond to local need, to raise standards, to promote diversity, to respond to government policy, to respond to external and internal findings on the quality of schools and the need to ensure that scarce resources are used efficiently.
- 2.4. The rolls of all schools are kept under review as part of the County Council's role in ensuring that there are sufficient school places in appropriate locations. A number of schools have been expanded in recent years in response to rising demand for places. The established practice is to support sustainable expansion. Decisions on expansion take account of factors including the availability of resources for new buildings, the infrastructure of the school (halls, specialist facilities and services such as gas and electricity supply capacity), and the size of the site and transport implications. The quality of education and its sustainability are key considerations. Other important strategic factors are the availability of places locally, set in the context of the likely pattern of future demand.
- 2.5. Not all unfilled places in a school are surplus places; some margin of capacity is necessary to allow parents to exercise a preference, given that there will be volatility in preference from one year to the next, and to allow for differences in the size of individual cohorts.
- 2.6. The decline in secondary age pupils which Hampshire has experienced over the past seven years will bottom out in 2016. Thereafter the increased numbers of children in the primary sector will begin to feed through. Modelling is underway to determine where and when additional secondary school places will be needed for children presently in the system. In addition to the need for increased secondary capacity for existing children, major housing development in areas of the county will require new secondary schools.

3. Finance

- 3.1. The source and distribution of the capital funding to provide the planned 8000+ additional school places is set out in the Children's Services Capital Programme 2014/2015 to 2016/2017 report which was presented to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services at his Decision Meeting on 22 January 2014.
- 3.2. Up until now developer contributions toward the provision of new school places have been secured through agreements under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act. The introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulations will restrict the County Council's ability to directly secure infrastructure contributions from new developments. Only districts, boroughs and unitary authorities will be able to implement a CIL. Although Section 106 Agreements will continue alongside CIL, they will be on a limited basis. In

many cases, therefore, the County Council will have to rely on the local planning authorities' willingness to pass over CIL funding. A further cause for concern is that where larger developments would usually be expected to provide land and funding for the construction of a new school, the land value can be included in the CIL calculation. As such there is a significant risk that the current levels of funding raised through Section 106 agreements for the provision of additional school places will not be achieved through CIL.

- 3.3. Revenue funding to support the additional staffing necessary to meet the growth in pupil numbers is provided through Hampshire's Growth Fund, a fund created from the Dedicated Schools Grant in advance of allocating school budget shares. Growth Fund expenditure in 2013/14 totals £2.66m, the 2014/15 growth fund is set at £3.25m.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1. That the report be noted and future similar reports, setting out the actions being taken over a five year period to ensure an appropriate balance between the supply and demand of school places, be produced on an annual basis.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes/no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Children's Services Capital Programme 2014/15 to 2016/17	5444	22 January 2014
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

An impact assessment has been undertaken. This has not identified any adverse impact on equalities.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

The proposals have no impact on crime and disorder.

3. Climate Change:

How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

Any new permanent accommodation will be built according to the County Council's sustainability and carbon reduction standards. By seeking to provide primary places in as close a fit as possible to the homes of pupils the impact of vehicular transport and associated emissions is minimised.

How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

No specific measures have been identified.