



Derby City Council

COUNCIL CABINET **21 January 2015**

ITEM 13

Report of the Cabinet Member for Children and
Young People

Core Strategy – School Place Planning Update

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Amber Valley Borough Council, Derby City Council and South Derbyshire District Council share a Housing Market Area (HMA). The three planning authorities are working together to agree strategies for deciding where future housing and other development should take place between 2011- 2028. The proposals across the three Authorities will include around 33,388 houses across the HMA, with around 18,000 of these properties being located within Derby or on the edge of the City, known as the Derby Urban Area (DUA).
- 1.2 The Core Strategies for the three planning authorities have been developed in an aligned manner, but are at different stages as follows:
 - Amber Valley submitted their plan for examination in December 2013 and initial hearings commenced in Spring 2014. Following these hearings, further examination has been suspended until early 2015 to allow further work to be undertaken.
 - South Derbyshire submitted their plan in August 2014 and hearings are expected to commence in November 2014. It should be noted that the Inspector appointed to examine the plan has specifically requested joint hearing sessions with Amber Valley and Derby City to discuss overall housing numbers in the HMA.
 - Derby City will be carrying out consultation on the 'Pre-Submission' version of their plan which will then be submitted for examination in Spring 2015.
- 1.3 The housing growth will have a significant impact on infrastructure. Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council are legally responsible for providing education for those pupils residing within their own administrative boundaries. The two local authorities continue to work closely together on school place planning to shape and develop proposals. This is complex as some of the proposed new housing developments straddle both the City / County boundaries.
- 1.4 A map showing the proposed housing sites within the DUA is attached as Appendix 2 to this report. It is estimated that 3,458 primary school pupils and 2,883 secondary school pupils will be generated by the new housing proposed in the DUA. It should be

noted that there are other sites within the City and County that will contribute towards the overall housing provision targets and will need to be taken into account.

- 1.5 To ensure sufficient school places, it is important for the Council to develop a strategy to provide significant additional school places. The Core Strategies will need to demonstrate to a Planning Inspector that there is a realistic strategy for school place planning being developed. Education provision has the potential to impact on the ability to demonstrate the overall deliverability of the Council's Core Strategy.
- 1.6 In relation to primary school provision, based on housing proposals within the Core Strategy, around 3,458 additional primary pupils will be generated in the period 2011 to 2028. The policy position for Derby City Council is that, for any development with more than 750 houses, the developer will need to provide both land and funding for an on-site primary school. Below this level, it is normally appropriate to consider expanding existing schools. In order to meet this significant growth in pupil numbers, initial thinking is that 8 or 9 new primary schools will be required across the City and County in the medium to long term to meet the needs of the proposed housing growth over the next fifteen years.
- 1.7 A report was considered by Council Cabinet on 19 March 2014 which outlined that it was likely that one or two new secondary schools would be required to deal with the growth in housing numbers around the City / County boundary. The report outlined that feasibility studies and informal consultation with schools would be progressed in order to assist in the development of an education strategy. Further work has now taken place on developing emerging strategic school place planning proposals, including detailed feasibility studies to understand the expansion capability of two Derby City secondary schools, Murray Park School and City of Derby Academy. The schools provide the most sustainable school place planning solutions. In close consultation with both schools, feasibility studies have taken place at these schools as the geographic locations relate well to the distribution of new housing growth proposed to the West and South of the City. There is agreement in principle from both governing bodies to consider expansion proposals in the medium to long term.
- 1.8 This report provides an update on the emerging proposals for the delivery of school places in relation to a secondary school strategy which includes medium to long term proposals to expand Murray Park School and City of Derby Academy. City of Derby Academy and Murray Park School have both given their support, in principle, to potential expansions which will be subject to consultation and approval if they move forward. The timescales for implementing any proposed expansions will need to link to the new housing and could be a number of years away. However, it is important to have a strategy in place to ensure that the Council is able to continue to meet its statutory duty for the provision of sufficient school places.
- 1.9 If the proposal is to develop the school place planning strategy which includes the medium to long term expansions of City of Derby Academy and Murray Park School, this is likely to result in a strategy consisting of one new secondary school plus school expansions as opposed to two new secondary schools. A strategy of providing one secondary school will remain subject to review and continuing development work as it is possible that a new secondary school may not be required, depending on actual housing growth, timing of new housing, and pupil projections. The City Council is

working very closely Derbyshire County Council, and the County Council is intending to consult on possible site locations in relation to major housing developments in the County, close to the City boundary.

- 1.10 It is possible that further secondary school expansion proposals may be required to deal with other housing developments within the DUA. For the majority of the other developments within Derby City, initial thinking is to consider the possibility of using existing secondary schools to accommodate pupil numbers from new housing, where possible, either through the use of existing surplus or school expansions where necessary. There will, of course, need to be continuing engagement and consultation with local schools to consider options.
- 1.11 As a result of the housing proposed in the Core Strategies, new education provision on this scale raises a number of issues around funding, timing, impact on existing provision and so on. Further update reports will continue to be provided as part of the complex development process for school place planning, including Cabinet consideration and approval.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve, in principle, an emerging sustainable secondary school strategy consisting of medium to long term expansions at Murray Park School and City of Derby Academy for new housing to the West and South of the City.
- 2.2 To note that, subject to continuing development work and review, it is likely that one new secondary school may be required in the County and Derbyshire County Council is intending to consult on possible site locations.
- 2.3 To note that further update reports will continue to be provided to Council Cabinet for consideration.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The report seeks approval, in principle, to a secondary school strategy which consists of the medium to long term expansions of Murray Park School and City of Derby Academy to deal with a large proportion of the of the housing growth proposed through the draft Core Strategies. As part of the overall strategy, based on current housing proposals and pupil projections, there may be a need for one new secondary school in the County. A strategy of providing one secondary school will be subject to review and continuing development work and it is possible that a new secondary school may not be required, depending on actual housing growth and pupil projections. Derbyshire County Council is intending to consult on possible site locations as part of the process of ensuring that a school could be delivered.
- 3.2 For the majority of the other developments within Derby City, the proposal is to consider using existing secondary schools to accommodate pupil numbers from new housing, where possible, either through the use of existing surplus or school expansions where necessary. This will be in consultation with schools.

- 3.3 Further updates will continue to be provided for Council Cabinet consideration.



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21 January 2015

Report of the Strategic Director for Children and Young People

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Amber Valley Borough Council, Derby City Council and South Derbyshire District Council share a Housing Market Area (HMA). The three planning authorities are working together to agree strategies for deciding where future housing and other development should take place between 2011 and 2028. The proposals across the three Authorities will include around 33,388 houses across the HMA, with around 18,000 of these properties being located within Derby or on the edge of the City, known as the Derby Urban Area (DUA).
- 4.2 To ensure sufficient school places, it is important for the Council to develop a strategy to provide significant additional school places. The Core Strategies will allocate land for new housing and include policies to secure funds through Section 106 contributions towards school place provision. The Core Strategies will need to demonstrate to a Planning Inspector that there is a realistic strategy for school place planning being developed. Education provision has the potential to impact on the ability to demonstrate the overall deliverability of the Council's Core Strategy.
- 4.3 Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council are responsible for providing education for those pupils residing within their own administrative boundaries. The two local authorities are working very closely together on school place planning, in close consultation with schools to shape and develop a school place planning strategy. This is, of course, complex as the proposed new housing developments straddle both the City / County boundaries.
- 4.4 The general context of pupil numbers across primary and secondary phases is similar in Derby City and Derbyshire County Council to that in the rest of the Country. Pupil numbers at secondary level have fallen sharply over recent years. However, there has been an unprecedented increase in primary numbers in Derby City which will, of course, feed into secondary schools in the coming years. Pupil projections have been taken into account in developing the emerging school place planning proposals and will continue to be monitored and reviewed.

Primary School Provision

- 4.5 As a result of the proposed new housing within the DUA, around 3,458 additional primary pupils will be generated in the period 2011 to 2028. The City and the County use different thresholds for the requirement of a new primary school on a site which is in line with different pupil yield calculations. Sites of over 750 new dwellings in the City are likely to require a new one form entry primary school whereas sites of over 1,000 dwellings in the County would be likely to trigger the same requirement.

- 4.6 The policy position for Derby City Council is that, for any development with more than 750 houses, the developer will need to provide both land and funding for an on-site primary school. Below this level, it is normally appropriate to consider expanding existing schools. However, if existing primary schools are unable to expand, new schools may still be required.
- 4.7 Derby has seen an unprecedented increase in school place applications; this will need to be carefully considered when analysing the impact of the proposed housing developments. This scale of growth proposed across the DUA cannot be addressed by extensions to existing primary schools alone, therefore new primary schools are likely to be required.
- 4.8 Across the whole of the DUA, proposals include the provision of 8 or 9 new primary schools within the City and County in the medium to long term.

Secondary School Provision

- 4.9 It is estimated that 2,883 secondary school pupils will be generated in the DUA in the period 2011 to 2028. Given the significant number of additional anticipated pupils, it is unlikely that existing schools will be able to expand sufficiently to accommodate all of the pupils that are likely to be generated by the new housing. A report was considered by Council Cabinet on 19 March 2014 which outlined that 1 or 2 new secondary schools may be required, either within the City or County, to deal with the growth in housing numbers around the City / County boundary. That report also outlined that, in consultation with schools, feasibility studies would be carried out at some schools to consider expansion options.
- 4.10 Development work has taken place on the emerging strategic school place planning proposals, including detailed feasibility studies to understand the expansion capability of two Derby City Schools. The level of expansion possible at City of Derby Academy gives an option for all of the proposed housing at Wragley Way to feed into the school's catchment area, and an expansion at Murray Park School could accommodate all of the development at Hackwood Farm. However, some of the development is outside of the City boundary and discussions are continuing with Derbyshire County Council to consider how school places are provided. Around 1,000 additional 11-16 places could potentially be provided across the two schools. Both Authorities will continue to work together very closely on developing school place planning proposals.
- 4.11 In relation to considering expanding City of Derby Academy and Murray Park School, both schools have given their support, in principle, to the potential medium to long term expansions which will be subject to consultation and approval at the point at which they move forward. The proposal is to consider expanding these schools as geographically they are located close to the new housing, providing the most sustainable school place planning solution. In view of emerging thinking to consider the medium to long term expansion of City of Derby Academy and Murray Park School, this is likely to result in a secondary school strategy consisting of one new secondary school plus school expansions as opposed to two new secondary schools.

- 4.12 The timescales for implementing any proposed expansions will need to link with timescales for the new housing, which is likely to be in the medium to long term. However, it is important to have a strategy in place to ensure that the Council is able to continue to meet its statutory duty for the provision of sufficient school places and to demonstrate the deliverability of the Council's Core Strategy.
- 4.13 Further school expansion proposals may also be required to deal with other housing developments within the DUA. For the majority of the other developments within Derby City, the proposal is for existing catchment area secondary schools to accommodate pupil numbers from new housing, where possible, either through the use of existing surplus or school expansions where necessary. Development work is continuing to assess options. Any proposals will be developed in consultation with schools.
- 4.14 As part of the overall school place planning strategy, based on current housing proposals and pupil projections, a new secondary school may be required in the County. Derbyshire County Council is intending to consult on possible site locations. The City will, of course, respond to that consultation.
- 4.15 As the proposed strategy moves forward, further consultation and Member decisions will be required. Schools will, of course, be part of the consultation process, including Academies. Initial consultation with schools has taken place in relation to the Core Strategy and School Place Planning implications. Regular meetings are taking place with Headteachers.
- 4.16 Regular meetings and a Project Group is also in place between Planning Officers of the three Councils and City and County Education Officers. It is the City and County's legal responsibility ultimately to ensure that the education needs of pupils, including those arising out of new housing, continue to be met.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Options are continuing to be developed with regard to the provision of school places in line with Core Strategy numbers.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

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| Legal officer | Emily Feenan, Solicitor, Legal Services |
| Financial officer | Alison Parkin, Head of Finance |
| Human Resources officer | None |
| Estates/Property officer | None |
| Service Director(s) | Frank McGhee, Director of Commissioning |
| Other(s) | |

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| For more information contact: | Gurmail Nizzer 01332 642720 gurmail.nizzer@derby.gov.uk |
| Background papers: | None |
| List of appendices: | Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Map showing developments proposed within the DUA |

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| IMPLICATIONS |
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Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 There will be significant financial issues for consideration in delivering the proposed school place planning strategy. Detailed financial modelling continues to be worked on and developed.
- 1.2 Section 106 funding will be sought from developers to provide the school places required. However, there may be issues with timescales for accessing the funding and the restrictions on pooling developer contributions from April 2015 which will require careful consideration. Land acquisition for any new schools, particularly secondary schools, could be challenging. Developers can only be asked for funding to mitigate the impact of their development and not to address any existing issues with schools places.
- 1.3 In the future, if the Council chooses to pursue a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), it is possible that funding for a secondary school could be provided through this mechanism instead of Section 106. Whilst adoption of CIL could enable the Council to receive contributions from more sites, it should be born in mind, that through either route, developer contributions alone are unlikely to provide sufficient funding to deliver the entire secondary school strategy. Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council will continue to seek any opportunity available to release any funding from the Department for Education.

Legal

- 2.1 Each local authority with responsibility for education has to secure sufficient primary and secondary education to meet the needs of the population of their area, under s.13 Education Act 1996. Proposals to expand existing schools require statutory consultation. Where new schools are proposed, a competition process will be required and any new schools are likely to be Free Schools or Academies, as a result of guidance issued by the Department for Education in January 2014.

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising from this report.

IT

- 4.1 None arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 None arising from this report.

Health and Safety

6.1 None arising from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

7.1 None arising from this report.

Property and Asset Management

8.1 None arising from this report.

Risk Management

9.1 None arising from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

10.1 This report supports the Corporate Priority of building ambition, aspiration and achievement in the city's young people.

Appendix 2 – Map showing housing developments within the DUA

[Please see map circulated separately]