

Core Strategy and School Place Planning

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Derby City Council shares a Housing Market Area (HMA) with Amber Valley Borough Council and South Derbyshire District Council. The proposals across the three Authorities will include 35,354 houses across the HMA, with 19,175 of these properties being located within Derby or on the edge of the City, known as the Derby Urban Area (DUA). The figure for the DUA is made up of 12,500 homes located in Derby with the remainder in South Derbyshire (6,145) and Amber Valley (530). A diagram showing the proposed sites within the Core Strategy is attached as Appendix 2 to this report. The housing will be developed gradually over a 15 year period. To ensure sufficient school places, it is important for the Council to develop a strategy to provide significant additional school places. The Core Strategy will allocate land for new housing and include policies to secure funds through Section 106 contributions towards school place provision.
- 1.2 This 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 will continue to work closely together on school place planning to help shape and develop proposals. This is complex as the proposed new housing developments straddle both the City / County boundaries. Appendix 3 sets out the proposed housing sites around the edge of the City and the estimated primary and secondary pupil numbers that are likely to be generated. It should be noted that although this is where the majority of development is concentrated, there are other sites within the City and County that will also need consideration.
- 1.3 In order to respond to the significant increase in pupil numbers, it is inevitable that new schools will be required. It is likely that 5 or 6 new primary schools and 1 or 2 new secondary schools will be required, either within the City or County, to deal with the growth in housing numbers. New education provision on this scale raises a number of issues around funding, timing, impact on existing provision and so on. This report provides an overview of the key challenges in developing an education strategy and progress to date. Further update reports will continue to be provided as part of the complex development process for school place planning, including Member approvals.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the requirement to expand primary and secondary education in the areas affected by proposed housing development, including the need for new schools.
- 2.2 To note that any new schools are likely to be free schools or academies and will require the relevant Local Authority to run a competition process to identify a sponsor.
- 2.3 To note that feasibility studies and informal consultation with schools will be progressed in order to develop a primary and secondary education strategy.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure that the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Board is aware that school place planning options are being developed in order to deal with pupil growth arising from Core Strategy proposals. Member decisions will be required in due course.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Derby City Council shares a Housing Market Area (HMA) with Amber Valley Borough Council and South Derbyshire District Council. The proposals across the three Authorities will include 35,354 houses across the HMA, with 19,175 of these properties being located within Derby or on the edge of the City, known as the Derby Urban Area (DUA). The figure for the DUA is made up of 12,500 homes located in Derby with the remainder in South Derbyshire (6,145) and Amber Valley (530). The housing will be developed gradually over a 15 year period, but it is important to have a strategy in place for dealing with school place requirements.
- 4.2 The Council's Core Strategy will need to demonstrate to a Planning Inspector that there is a workable strategy for school place planning being developed. Education provision has the potential to impact on the ability to demonstrate the 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 will continue to work closely together on school place planning, in close consultation with schools to help shape and develop proposals. This is complex as the proposed new housing developments straddle both the City / County boundaries.

- 4.4 The table below sets out an overview of proposed housing numbers and estimated additional primary and secondary (11-16) aged pupil numbers within Boulton Moor, Chellaston, Mickleover, Sinfin and on the edge of South Derbyshire where an education solution needs to be developed.

Area	Local Authority	Proposed number of dwellings	Estimated secondary school pupil numbers	Estimated primary school pupil numbers
Chellaston / Boulton Moor	Derby City	1,777	355	498
	Derbyshire	2,598	520	727
	Chellaston & Boulton total	4,375	875	1,225
Mickleover	Derby City	870	174	244
	Derbyshire	290	58	81
	Mickleover total	1,160	232	325
Sinfin	Derby City	1,067	213	299
	Derbyshire	2533	507	709
	Sinfin total	3,600	720	1,008
Edge of South Derbyshire		2562	459	631
Overall total		11,697	2,286	3,189

It should be noted that although the majority of development is concentrated in the areas above, there is further development proposed within the City and County and school place planning strategies will also need to be developed in relation to these.

- 4.5 In terms of the national picture, primary and secondary pupils are forecasted to increase between 2011/12 academic year and 2016/17 academic year. 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.

4.6 Primary School Provision

As a result of the proposed new housing straddling the City / County border, around 3,189 additional primary pupils will be generated. ***It is likely that 5 or 6 new primary schools will be required.*** 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 a primary school. Below this level, it is normally appropriate to expand existing schools. However, if existing primary schools are unable to expand, new schools may still be required.

- 4.7 Careful consideration will need to be given to the size and phasing of any new school(s) to ensure an appropriate balance of school places. In developing proposals for new schools to meet housing demand, we are, of course, working within a number of constraints including acquiring suitable sites, the pooling of Section 106 funding contributions from different developers, and not having definitive timescales for when the developments will commence.

4.8 Secondary School Provision

Given the significant numbers of additional anticipated pupils, existing schools will not be able to expand to accommodate all of the pupils that are likely to be generated by the new housing. There is a need to explore ways in which additional secondary school places can be provided to deal with housing growth. ***Due to the level of proposed new housing, and the spread of sites across the West and Southern edge of the city, it is likely that one or two new secondary schools will be required.*** There will, of course, be sensitivities to any potential changes to catchment areas that will need to be carefully considered in due course.

- 4.9 At this point in time, no firm site or sites have been considered for where any new secondary school(s) could be located, though they could be either within the City or in South Derbyshire. The first requirement is to identify possible sites. The possibility of securing secondary sites is being explored with the developers. The aim would be to identify a number of options with a good geographical split across the main area of housing growth on the edge of Derby City. Once it is established which site options are feasible, and what the implications of each option would be, Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council will need to consider a preferred option. Where a new school is needed, the Authority is required by the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to seek proposals for the establishment of an Academy or Free School.

- 4.10 In addition to the scenario of a new secondary school(s), some existing school expansion is also likely to be considered subject to further analysis and funding being available. All of this will be considered as options are developed and Member decisions will be required. Schools would also need to 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.
- 4.11 Regular meetings and a Project Group is 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, are met.
- 4.12 Further update reports will be provided and Member decisions will be required in due course.

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:

Legal officer	Robin Constable, Solicitor, Legal Services
Financial officer	None
Human Resources officer	None
Estates/Property officer	None
Service Director(s)	Frank McGhee, Director of Commissioning
Other(s)	Lynda Poole, Director for Learning

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Core Strategy Map – Proposed Sites Appendix 3 – Proposed housing sites around edge of City and estimated pupil numbers

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 There will be significant financial issues for consideration once a preferred option for providing school places has been developed. 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 pooling developer contribution 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.
- 1.2 In the future, if the Council chooses to pursue a Community Infrastructure Levy, it is possible that funding for a secondary school will be provided through this mechanism instead of Section 106. It should be born in mind, however, that through either route, developers alone may not provide enough funding to deliver the entire secondary school strategy. Derby City 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 new guidance issued by the Department for Education in January this year and advice it issued last year.

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 None arising from this report.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None arising from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None arising from this report.

Property and Asset Management

7.1 None arising from this report.

Risk Management

8.1 None arising from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

9.1 This briefing paper supports the Corporate Priority of building ambition, aspiration and achievement in the city's young people.