

School Place Planning

SUMMARY

- 1.1 There has been an unprecedented national increase in pupil numbers being experienced by most Local Authorities, including Derby. In line with national trends, pupil numbers in Derby are also increasing and therefore strategies have been developed to ensure there are sufficient school places to deal with the high pupil numbers, as set out in this report.
- 1.2 Current primary pupil projections show that Derby City are projected an increase of approximately 2,778 primary aged pupils over the next five years, taking the city wide total to around 23,561 primary aged pupils by September 2017. Secondary pupil projections show a projected increase of approximately 1,452 secondary aged pupils over the next seven years, taking the city wide total to 16,429 secondary aged pupils by September 2019.
- 1.3 To ensure the Council meets its legal duty in ensuring there are sufficient school places available for children resident in the City, the proposal is to permanently expand a number of schools from September 2014. Some of these schools were temporarily expanded from September 2013. Details of the expansions are set out in this report and in Appendix 2.
- 1.4 The School Organisation and Provision Team Admissions Section has ensured that all Admission Authorities within the City have admissions criteria, arrangements and processes that fully comply with The School Admissions Code, other relevant legislation and requirements; that they are objective, fair and equitable and do not allow for admission authorities to consider the subjective, personal social and domestic circumstances of individual families when allocating school places; and do not disadvantage other families in their decisions on how school places are allocated.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the plans in place to ensure sufficient primary school places in Derby.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure the Council meets its legal duty in ensuring there are sufficient school places.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Current pupil projections show that Derby City could experience an increase of approximately 2,778 primary aged pupils over the next five years, excluding proposed new housing, taking the city wide total to around 23,561 primary aged pupils.
- 4.2 To ensure there are sufficient school places available, the Council submitted a bid to the Department for Education (DfE) in April 2013 through their Targeted Basic Need Programme, which is aimed at providing additional basic need funding to those local authorities which are experiencing the most pressure.
- 4.3 In August 2013, the DfE announced that Derby City Council has been successful in securing £5.1m of additional basic need funding to permanently expand 7 schools within the City, as set out in Appendix 2, to create an additional 595 primary school places. The Council has temporarily expanded these schools for the September 2013 intake, which has created an additional 125 primary school places for this academic year.
- 4.4 In addition to this, the Council temporarily expanded an additional 21 schools, as set out in Appendix 2, to create an additional 380 primary school places for the reception intake, September 2013.
- 4.5 As a long term strategy, the proposal is to expand 25 primary schools (including those schools already approved through the DfE's Targeted Bid Programme) within the city to create 2,905 additional primary school places which will be implemented on a gradual basis, until reaching all year groups. If these expansions take place, the City will have the following level of surplus places available between 2014 and 2019:

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Projected Figure	22182	22685	23179	23561	23779	23793
Places Available	23615	24090	24565	25030	25480	25480
Surplus/Shortfall	1433	1405	1386	1469	1701	1687
Surplus/Shortfall %	6%	6%	6%	6%	7%	7%

Note that all projects set out in this report *are* factored into the table set out in point 4.6 below, which shows the projected level of surplus/shortfall over the next six years.

- 4.6 The Council is continuing to monitor *actual* pupil data and primary school projections, and to work closely with schools to identify which schools that have temporarily expanded, will be made permanent from September 2014, to ensure there are sufficient school places available to accommodate increasing pupil numbers.
- 4.7 A major innovative project is proposed at The Bemrose School to extend the age range from September 2014, to create an additional 26 nursery places and 315 primary school places. These additional school places will not only ensure that there are sufficient school places across the City, but that there is additional capacity in that area of the City where is pressure for places. The Council has committed £4,000,000 of the Schools Capital Funding towards this exciting project.
- 4.8 In addition to the proposals for 2013/14 and 2014/15, the Council approved a capital project in 2011, to permanently expand Homefields Primary School from 210 places to 315 places, an increase of 105 places gradually from September 2012. Capital funding of £1,600,000 was approved for this major project which is now complete.
- 4.9 A major project at Arboretum Primary School was also previously approved by Council Cabinet in 2011. The school will be permanently expanded from 315 places to 525 places from September 2014, an increase of 210 places. This expansion will meet the increase in need for primary pupil places in the Arboretum and Normanton areas of the City. Capital funding of £3,000,000 was approved for this major project. This capital project is underway and additional places will be available from September 2014. Temporary accommodation was also provided to ensure additional pupils could be admitted for September 2012 and September 2013.
- 4.10 In addition to expansions at Homefields Primary School and Arboretum Primary School, the Council previously approved a proposal to meet the increasing demand for school places in the Alvaston area of the City. The proposal is to expand Lakeside Community Primary School from 350 places to 630 places, an increase of 280 places. The budget cost of this expansion is £2,500,000, which has been funded from the Council's Schools Capital Programme. These places will be available for September 2014.
- 4.11 As a result of the proposed expansions set out in this paper, 3,633 primary school places have been available for those children that were due to start school in September 2013. To date, 3,302 offers have been made meaning that Derby City currently have 331 places remaining for any applications made over the academic year.
- 4.12 From September 2013, the School Organisation Team's Admission Section introduced an e-form application facility for parents wishing to submit in-year applications. This has been very successful.

- 4.13 Secondary pupil projections also continue to show an increase in the number of children requiring secondary school places over the coming years. At present, Derby City has a total of 18,049 secondary schools places available. Secondary pupil projections, excluding proposed housing, is projecting an increase of approximately 1,452 children over the next seven years.
- 4.14 Based on the number of secondary school places available and the secondary pupil projections, there is likely to be around 18% surplus from 2016, decreasing to around 8% by 2021. Note that these figures include the proposed numbers for additional Year 10 and Year 11 students at Derby College's University Technical College (UTC) which is due to open in September 2014 – Derby Manufacturing UTC. The Council will continue to monitor pupil projections.
- 4.15 In addition to the major sites with planning permission, over 30,000 houses are proposed as part of the Core Housing Strategy over the next 15-20 years. Approximately, 7,900 houses are proposed around the southern edge of the City. The likely impact on secondary school places is currently being considered. Discussions are currently underway between Planners and other neighbouring authorities. Based on this information, additional secondary school capacity will be required in the future to ensure there are sufficient secondary school places.
- 4.16 There is also increasing pressure on special school places in Derby City. There has been an increase in the number of young children attending school with very complex medical needs requiring a high level of medical intervention and an increase in the number of children diagnosed with complex Autistic Spectrum Disorder requiring specialist placements. Special school places are continuing to be monitored and reviewed.
- 4.17 To deal with the existing pressures in relation to special school places, the Council is proposing to expand St Giles Special School to create an additional 24 additional school places from September 2014. £780,000 is committed to this project from the Council's Corporate Funding to expand the school.
- 4.18 The School Organisation Team Admissions Section also continues to process home to school transport applications, in line with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy.
- 4.19 When processing applications, the 'main criteria' is looked at which will decide if a child is eligible for a free school bus pass:
- Walking distance from home to school
 - Child's age
 - If child is entitled to free school meals and if parent is entitled to the maximum level of working tax credit
- 4.20 When determining the walking distance from home to school, an accurate measurement is taken of a suitable walking route. This is a route where a child can walk safely from traffic to and from school, **with** a parent or another responsible adult.

- 4.21 The only involvement that the School Organisation and Provision Team have the 'routes to school' is the processing of home to school transport applications.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 If plans are not put in place now to provide additional provision, it is inevitable that there will be a shortfall of school places for the future.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	N/A
Financial officer	N/A
Human Resources officer	N/A
Estates/Property officer	N/A
Service Director(s)	Frank McGhee, Director for Commissioning
Other(s)	N/A

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Proposed School Expansions

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 Details of proposed funding for school expansions and funding already approved and committed to previous projects are outlined in the main body of this report.

Legal

- 2.1 The Council has a legal duty to ensure sufficient school places are available for children resident in Derby City.

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 Where permanent school expansions are proposed, work will be planned to meet relevant building regulations. Part L of the building regulation generally requires new components to be more environmentally friendly and efficient.

Risk Management

- 8.1 There is a risk that the Council will not meet its legal duty in ensuring there are sufficient school places, if the proposed strategies are not implemented.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 All people in Derby City will enjoy achieving their learning potential.

2

Temporary Expansions – September 2013

The schools listed below were temporarily expanded for the September 2013 reception intake. Development work currently is underway to consider making these expansions permanent, subject to consultation with schools, the continuing close monitoring of pupil numbers.

School	Previous PAN	Proposed PAN	Additional Places (Reception intake)
Borrow Wood Primary School*	60	75	15
Breadsall Hill Top Infant School*	60	90	30
Breadsall Hill Top Junior School*	60	90	30
Portway Infant School*	80	90	10
Portway Junior School*	80	90	10
Village Primary School*	75	90	15
Walter Evans CE Primary School*	45	60	15
Allenton Community Primary School	52	75	23
Ashcroft Primary School	40	60	20
Ashgate Primary School	45	75	30
Brackensdale Infant School	60	90	30
Brackensdale Junior School	60	90	30
Redwood Primary School	75	90	15
Beaufort Primary School	45	60	15
Chaddesden Park Primary School	45	60	15
Cherry Tree Hill Primary School	65	90	25
Derwent Primary School	30	45	15
Firs Estate Primary School	45	60	15
Lawn Primary School	60	75	15
Markeaton Primary School	45	60	15
Meadow Farm Community Primary School	30	50	20
Mickleover Primary School	55	60	5
Osmaston Primary School	60	90	30
Reigate Primary School	60	75	15
Roe Farm Primary School	45	60	15
Silverhill Primary School	52	60	8
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	51	60	9

Wyndham Primary Academy	45	60	15
			505

* These schools have been approved through the DfE's Targeted Bid Programme. These expansions will be made permanent from September 2014.