

Strategic School Place Planning and School Admissions

**Presentation to Children and Young
People Scrutiny Review Board:
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Background

- Local authorities have a legal duty to ensure that sufficient school places exist for all children and young people residing within their boundary.
- The Council very carefully monitors pupil numbers and trends and develops school place planning proposals in response to:
 - a. Population changes;
 - b. Housing growth, linked to Core Housing Strategies.

Natural Population Changes / Birth Rates: School Place Planning

- City-wide primary pupil numbers increased significantly over previous years.
- Pupil numbers moving into reception are now beginning to gradually decline and the higher pupil numbers are now moving from primary education to secondary education.
- As a result of increasing secondary pupil numbers, secondary school expansions were implemented in September 2018 and September 2019, to meet the increasing demand for places.

Natural Population Changes: School Place Planning

- Based on projections, City-wide Year 7 pupil numbers will peak in 2023-24.
- A school expansion project is proposed at Landau Forte College, as part of the Council's forward planning to ensure sufficient school places over future years.
- Total estimated cost of the project is £11.936m. Capital funding approved by Council Cabinet on 10 November 2021.
- An additional 520 school places across years 7-11.
- Pupil numbers will continue to be closely monitored and reviewed

Core Housing Strategies: School Place Planning

- Derby City Council has been working closely with partners in Amber Valley Borough and South Derbyshire District Councils to prepare separate but aligned Housing Local Plans.
- Proposals for around 18,000 properties within Derby or on the edge of the City, known as the Derby Urban Area (DUA).
- Sites of over 750 new homes usually require a new primary school on site

Core Housing Strategies: School Place Planning

- In Derby City, due to their scale, 4 of the largest local plan housing allocations require a new primary school to be provided (two of which have already been delivered), as follows:

Site	No. of Dwellings
Castleward (plus DRI site): Primary School opened in Sept 2021	800
Rykneld Road, Littleover: Timescales for opening new primary school not yet confirmed.	900
Hackwood Farm: Primary school opened in Sept 2019	400*
Boulton Moor /Snelsmoor Grange: Proposal to open new primary school in September 2023.	800

*Cross-boundary site at Hackwood Farm, Mickleover, comprises 400 new homes in Derby and 290 in South Derbyshire.

School Admissions and Appeals

- The number of applications for the main rounds, reception intake and secondary transfer, reflect the current trend in both pupil numbers and projections across Derby City.
- Derby has positively continued to sustain a high percentage of first preference and top 3 preference offers.
- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, school admission appeals had been adapted in accordance with DfE temporary guidance and have been heard virtually since April 2020, returning to face-to-face hearings October 2021 after the decision not to extend the temporary guidance passed 30th September 2021.
- The Council has successfully adapted to this new way of working and is continuing to provide fairness and transparency to families and schools.