

Minute Extract

21/19 Strategic School Place Planning

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director of Peoples Services which gave an update on school-place planning. The report was presented by the Director of Commissioning.

The Board noted that local authorities have a legal duty to ensure that sufficient school places exist for all children and young people living within their boundary. The Council carefully monitors pupil numbers and trends and develops school place planning proposals in response to population changes, as well as housing growth linked to Core Housing Strategies.

The officer reported that City-wide primary pupil numbers have significantly increased between 2012/13 and 2016/17 and 18 primary school expansions were carried out to accommodate the growth. Following high level growth in the primary sector, projections are now showing a significant increase in secondary pupil numbers. In addition significant housing developments are proposed in and around the City.

The Council works closely with Amber Valley Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council and South Derbyshire District Council to plan for increases in pupil numbers due to housing growth and have prepared separate but aligned Core Strategies.

The proposals across all 3 Authorities include around 33,000 houses in the Housing Market Area of which approximately 18,000 properties are located in Derby or on the edge of the City, known as the Derby Urban Area (DUA). Across the whole of the DUA there was a proposal for the provision of 8 or 9 new primary schools within the City and County in the medium to long term.

The Board noted that from September 2019, a new one form of entry (210 places) primary school with nursery provision, opened in Mickleover to serve the Hackwood Farm development. The development comprised of 700 houses and is on the Derby City/Derbyshire County Council border.

The Board also noted that a new primary school was proposed on the Castleward site to serve pupils from the new housing developments at both this site and the former DRI site.

The Officer reported that it is likely that a new secondary school would be needed in the County to deal with the growth in housing numbers around the City/County border. Further school expansion proposals may also be needed to deal with other developments in the DUA. For the majority of other housing developments

in the City it was proposed that existing catchment area secondary schools would accommodate the rise in pupil numbers.

Members queried whether the impact on the surrounding area due to increased traffic at school drop off and pick up times been considered. The officer confirmed that this had been considered as part of planning approval and more sustainable methods of travel are also encouraged for pupils.

Members noted that, under the legal implications of the report. 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. They queried what planning was in place to ensure there was sufficient capacity for children with special needs. The officer confirmed that there was in total £7.4m capital funding available to create additional provision for pupils with special needs. The local authority does not factor in this additional provision with Housing Growth but do look at SEND provision separately. Decisions on SEND provision are reported to this Committee. Members were concerned that planning provision should be in place for children with SEND. They recommended that Cabinet ensure the Council was reviewing school place planning for SEND provision alongside school place planning for mainstream provision to meet the needs of the local area.

The Board resolved

- 1. To note the strategic school place planning proposals relating to:**
 - a. Population changes and ;**
 - b. The proposed long-term housing growth arising from the Housing Core Strategies**
- 2. That Cabinet ensure that Derby City Council was reviewing school place planning for SEND provision alongside school place planning for mainstream provision to meet the needs of the local area.**