

Council

17 May 2016

Education and Learning Schools Sufficiency Strategy 2015-2019

Recommendation from Cabinet

That Council approves the Schools Sufficiency Strategy as set out at Appendix A.

1.0 Key Issues

- 1.1 Warwickshire County Council has a statutory responsibility to secure sufficient school places. Cabinet considered this report and draft strategy at its meeting on 14 April and agreed to recommend the strategy (Appendix A) for approval by Council.
- 1.2 Large areas of Warwickshire have seen a significant increase in the birth rate over recent years and this has resulted in pressure on existing primary school places. Although the birth rate has levelled off, Primary cohorts are moving through to Secondary and this will require further expansion.
- 1.3 Alongside this additional expansion is required to meet the demands of new housing developments across the county. We are also committed to ensuring we achieve 4% surplus of places to enable movement and midyear in-migration to the county. We maintain a database of housing developments based on information provided by the District/Borough Councils in Warwickshire. Funding for the capital programme is reliant upon securing S106/CIL contributions from housing developers.
- 1.4 Where there is forecast to be more pupils than school places for a short period, it is proposed to add temporary classrooms and introduce a "bulge" class. This is a sustainable way to tackle short periods of growth.
- 1.5 In March 2016 the Government issued an education white paper "Educational Excellence Everywhere" which requires all schools to become academies by 2022 and two complementary consultation papers on the introduction of a national funding formula for schools and a revised approach (and formula) to high needs funding. Collectively, if introduced, these proposals will fundamentally change the relationship between local authorities and schools in their area. The Government intends to review the responsibilities of local authorities in relation to children, although responsibility for ensuring every child has a school place, ensuring the needs of vulnerable learners are met and the provision of school transport are expected to remain. Any implications

for the proposals in this report that may arise as further details of these future proposals emerge will be brought back to Elected Members.

2.0 The Proposals

- 2.1 Any specific school expansions or school organisation changes will be subject to a further cabinet report.

3.0 Consultation(s)

- 3.1 Consultation on the delivery of school places in Warwickshire ran from Friday 9th October 2015 to Friday 27th November 2015. In addition to requesting feedback via the 'Ask Warwickshire' webpages, seven consultation events were held across Warwickshire covering; Nuneaton, Coventry, Leamington Spa, Stratford, Rugby and Polesworth. Each of the events was attended by approximately 15-25 persons per meeting with attendance from Private, Voluntary and Independent settings within the Early Years sector, representatives from Primary and Secondary schools, post 16 providers, and Councillors.
- 3.2 The Sufficiency Strategy was sent to all early years settings, primary schools, secondary schools, Church of England and Catholic Diocese and all County Councillors.
- 3.3 A summary of responses is available at Appendix B. There were no amendments to the sufficiency strategy following consultation.

4.0 Summary

- 4.1 Forecasts show a need to provide additional places in areas of Warwickshire in both primary and secondary schools. These additional places are a mixture of temporary and permanent places.
- 4.2 See secondary forecasts below

Planning Area	Sep-16		Sep-17		Sep-18		Total	
	Whole New FE	New In-Year Class	Whole New FE	New In-Year Class	Whole New FE	New In-Year Class	Whole New FE	New In-Year Class
East Area Total	4	0	2	0	2	0	8	0
North Area Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Area Total	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	0
Central Area Total	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Nun & Bed. Total	0	0	1	0	3	0	4	0
Total	7		4		6		17	

4.3 See primary forecasts below

Planning Area	Sep-16		Sep-17		Sep-18		Total	
	Whole New FE	New In-Year Class	Whole New FE	New In-Year Class	Whole New FE	New In-Year Class	Whole New FE	New In-Year Class
East Area Total	1	12	3	1	0	2	4	15
North Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nun & Bed. Total	0	0	1	0	3	0	4	0
South Area Total	0	1	0	2	0	4	0	7
Central Area Total	2	7	0	1	0	5	2	13
Total	3	20	4	4	3	11	10	35

4.3 Early Years are tackling the forthcoming introduction of 30 hours free childcare and ensuring sufficiency across Warwickshire

4.4 Using a basic assumption that the prevalence of Special Educational Needs will remain fairly static up to September 2018, the number of pupils requiring additional support is expected to grow by around 9% in that time.

5.0 Equality Impact Assessment

The Equality Impact Assessment is set out at Appendix C.

Background papers

Responses to consultation

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication for the Cabinet meeting held on 14 April:

Cllr Les Caborn
Cllr Colin Hayfield
Cllr Dave Parsons
Cllr Julie Jackson
Cllr Clive Rickhards
Cllr Chris Williams