

Council

18 July 2017

Education and Learning Sufficiency Strategy 2016-2021

Recommendation from Cabinet

That Council approves the Education and Learning Sufficiency Strategy.

1.0 Key Issues

- 1.1 Warwickshire County Council has a statutory responsibility to secure and ensure there are sufficient school places across the county.
- 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. These have been addressed either by extensions to existing schools, new schools or reorganisations.
- 1.3 An addition to this year's strategy, recommendation to amalgamate infant and junior schools has been presented as a more robust option, when extensions are required and where the buildings allow. Thus, avoiding duplications of building requirements and ensuring sustainable sized schools.
- 1.4 Primary cohorts are moving through to Secondary and this will require further expansions at secondary schools and new schools to meet housing demands. To ensure viability of all of our schools, there is need to invest in buildings for our smaller schools in areas of demand such as Campion and Kineton.
- 1.5 Additional expansions are required to meet the demands of new housing developments across the county. There is a commitment to ensure we achieve 4% surplus of places across planning areas to enable movement and midyear in-migration to the county.
- 1.6 Funding for the capital programme is reliant upon securing adequate S106/CIL contributions from housing developers and basic need allocations. This process has been improved with the reduction of planning areas, update of forecasting processes in order to maximise income to the council.
- 1.7 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. New policy on implementation of the growth funding for bulge classes has been agreed at Schools Forum to help schools maintain healthy budgets when accepting bulge classes.

- 1.8 Redefined planning areas have been approved by Education Funding Agency (EFA) to better highlight need. In particular, reducing the size of planning areas helps to avoid giving a misleading impression of surplus (especially in rural areas).
- 1.9 Ongoing working relationships with Free Schools and EFA are required to ensure demand is met and over capacity is kept to a minimum.

2.0 The Proposals

- 2.1 Any specific school expansions or school organisation changes will be subject to a further cabinet report.
- 2.2 All capital bids and bids for improvements are subject to scrutiny by three stages. The first being capital working group, second capital board and the last being presentation for approval by cabinet.

3.0 Consultation

- 3.1 Consultation on the sufficiency strategy and subsequent delivery of school places in Warwickshire ran from 27th March to 2nd May 2017. In addition to requesting feedback via the 'Ask Warwickshire' webpages, 6 consultation events were held across Warwickshire covering; Nuneaton, Warwick, Stratford, Rugby and Polesworth. Each of the events was attended by approximately 10-25 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, and secondary schools, Church of England and Catholic Diocese and all County Councillors.
- 3.3 A summary of responses is available in appendix B.
- 3.4 Following the feedback around concerns over lack of capacity in secondary provision in Rugby, amendments have been made to page 39 in the sufficiency strategy. These changes are to ensure plans for increasing education provision in Rugby are communicated clearly.

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 can be met by a mixture of expanding existing schools and opening new schools.
- 4.2 See secondary forecasts below. Red indicates capacity below 4% target. Full break down by education planning area is included in the sufficiency strategy.

Secondary North Warwickshire

Planning Area	Year	Year 7 NOR	PAN	Available Capacity	Total NOR	Overall Capacity	Available Capacity
Total	2017/18	630	669	6%	3388	3250	-4%
	2018/19	628	669	6%	3438	3250	-6%
	2019/20	649	669	3%	3460	3250	-6%
	2020/21	633	669	5%	3392	3250	-4%
	2021/22	654	669	2%	3267	3250	-1%

- 4.3 Current forecasts for North Warwickshire show that in contrast to the primary, the majority of secondary planning areas are predicted to be over capacity. The Coleshill Secondary planning area is expected to be overcapacity, for both Year 7 and overall, although the Year 7 intake is expected to drop in 2019/2020 to be in line with published admission number. Polesworth planning area is similar in that Year 7 intake fluctuates between being over capacity and at capacity. However the overall capacity is expected to be continually oversubscribed. In contrast to this, Kingsbury planning area is expected to be over capacity in some years reaching as high as 12% over total capacity but the Year 7 is expected to have excess of 4% available surplus.

Secondary Nuneaton and Bedworth

Planning Area	Year	Year 7 NOR	PAN	Available Capacity	Total NOR	Overall Capacity	Available Capacity
Total	2017/18	1608	1602	0%	7102	8310	15%
	2018/19	1653	1602	-3%	7421	8310	11%
	2019/20	1609	1602	0%	7681	8310	8%
	2020/21	1732	1602	-8%	7979	8310	4%
	2021/22	1790	1602	-12%	8344	8310	0%

- 4.4 There are currently 8 Secondary schools in this area, two in Bedworth and six in Nuneaton, all schools are located within the towns. Parental preference in recent years in this area has led to a division between oversubscribed school and schools with significant capacity.
- 4.5 The Bedworth planning area contains Ash Green School and Nicholas Chamberlaine Technology College, is currently predicted to be under capacity in both Year 7 and overall, the 4% surplus the Council expects will also be maintained throughout the period until 2020/2021 when the surplus falls to 1%. Both Hartshill and Nuneaton however are either already or predicted to be soon overcapacity both in terms of Year 7 intake and overall. This situation will get progressively worse due to housing growth with Hartshill expected to be 28% overcapacity in Year 7 intake by September 2020.

Secondary East Warwickshire

Planning Area	Year	Year 7 NOR	PAN	Available Capacity	Total NOR	Overall Capacity	Available Capacity
Total	2017/18	1227	1306	6%	5731	5900	3%
	2018/19	1259	1306	4%	6052	6080	0%
	2019/20	1377	1306	-5%	6443	6260	-3%
	2020/21	1350	1306	-3%	6736	6440	-5%
	2021/22	1458	1306	-12%	6886	6440	-7%

- 4.6 In order to meet the forecast demand for secondary school places as a result of existing and permitted developments in Rugby both Rugby Free Secondary School and the newly approved Free School sponsored by Ashlawn School will be required to secure sufficient secondary provision.

Secondary Central Warwickshire

Planning Area	Year	Year 7 NOR	PAN	Available Capacity	Total NOR	Overall Capacity	Available Capacity
Total	2017/18	1507	1626	7%	7368	8130	9%
	2018/19	1653	1626	-2%	7819	8130	4%
	2019/20	1652	1626	-2%	8192	8130	-1%
	2020/21	1719	1626	-6%	8471	8130	-4%
	2021/22	1751	1626	-8%	8673	8130	-7%

- 4.7 In some years the schools are suggested to be over capacity by 15% of total pupils. Although Warwick and Leamington currently (September 2017) have a healthy surplus this is soon going to disappear due to ongoing housing developments.
- 4.8 Proposals are currently being drawn up to expand Champion School by 1FE and are forecast to take these additional pupils from September 2018, increasing capacity by an additional 150 places across the school over the next 5 years.

Secondary South Warwickshire

Planning Area	Year	Year 7 NOR	PAN	Available Capacity	Total NOR	Overall Capacity	Available Capacity
Total	2017/18	1407	1454	3%	6649	7270	9%
	2018/19	1444	1454	1%	6954	7270	4%
	2019/20	1469	1454	-1%	7258	7270	0%
	2020/21	1435	1454	1%	7391	7270	-2%
	2021/22	1474	1454	-1%	7458	7270	-3%

- 4.9 With the exception of Studley and Alcester schools, all the planning areas in the South are predicted to either go above capacity or fluctuate around the

capacity mark. Shipston is currently the planning area which is going to experience the most pressure on places and is expected to be 150 pupils over capacity across all year groups by September 2021. Details regarding proposed future expansion projects are included in the sufficiency strategy.

- 4.10 See primary forecasts below. Red indicates capacity below 4% target. Full break down by education planning area is included in the sufficiency strategy.

Primary North Warwickshire

Planning Area	Year	Reception NOR	PAN	Available Capacity	Total NOR	Overall Capacity	Available Capacity
Total	2017/18	624	726	14%	4527	5181	13%
	2018/19	637	726	12%	4618	5181	11%
	2019/20	593	726	18%	4605	5181	11%

- 4.11 Coleshill C of E Primary took a bulge class for Reception 2016 to accommodate increased demand within the area. Numbers are expected to drop back down to allow all pupils to be accommodated within the local schools from September 2017. This area is experiencing increased in year pressure, particularly within Coleshill Town as a result of a small amount of housing development and movement of pupils within the County.

Primary Nuneaton and Bedworth

Planning Area	Year	Reception NOR	PAN	Available Capacity	Total NOR	Overall Capacity	Available Capacity
Total	2017/18	1859	1900	2%	13124	13489	3%
	2018/19	1874	1900	1%	13284	13489	2%
	2019/20	1902	1900	0%	13419	13489	1%

- 4.12 Current pupil forecasts for Nuneaton and Bedworth show overall the district is predicted to have surplus capacity less than the 4% target. However the planning areas of Nuneaton North West, Nuneaton North East and Nuneaton East are all forecast to have no surplus or a deficit of reception places each year from September 2017.

East Warwickshire

Planning Area	Year	Reception NOR	PAN	Available Capacity	Total NOR	Overall Capacity	Available Capacity
Total	2017/18	1248	1412	12%	9015	9484	5%
	2018/19	1388	1442	4%	9394	9544	2%
	2019/20	1360	1442	6%	9723	9604	-1%

- 4.13 Pressure on primary places in recent years has seen the expansion of a number of schools across Rugby town and several bulge classes being added as well as the opening of Rugby Free Primary School in September 2015 to accommodate increasing pupil numbers within the town. The more rural areas

of East Warwickshire have not seen the same level of pressure and the existing schools have until now accommodated the existing pupil numbers.

Central Warwickshire

Planning Area	Year	Reception NOR	PAN	Available Capacity	Total NOR	Overall Capacity	Available Capacity
Total	2017/18	1620	1760	8%	11039	12714	13%
	2018/19	1675	1760	5%	11445	12002	5%
	2019/20	1700	1760	3%	11707	12032	3%

- 4.14 The pupil forecasts for the Warwick area look very good in terms of both overall capacity and reception entry. The exception to this is the Leamington area which is facing significant pressure over the coming years. By 2020 it is expected that South Leamington will be a form of entry over capacity. The more rural areas of Central Warwickshire with their smaller school sizes can be more accurately reflected with these new planning areas which show the schools to have a healthy surplus.

South Warwickshire

Planning Area	Year	Reception NOR	PAN	Available Capacity	Total NOR	Overall Capacity	Available Capacity
Total	2017/18	830	857	3%	6111	6665	8%
	2018/19	839	857	2%	6205	6665	7%
	2019/20	813	857	5%	6216	6665	7%

- 4.15 With the splitting up of these planning areas into more distinct localities it is possible to make more accurate assessments of where the areas of pressure will be. With the larger planning areas of Alcester, Stratford and Henley-in-Arden varying in terms of how close or over capacity they are. Stratford has a small surplus in each year but not as high as the 4% the Council wishes for, whereas Alcester is repeatedly over capacity. Henley in contrast has a very high surplus.

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

- 4.17 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 circa 9% in that time. Details of proposals to increase SEND provision are included in the sufficiency strategy. Approval to proceed with the plans as outlined would be subject to inclusion in the schools capital programme report which would require cabinet approval.

5.0 Timescales Associated with Next Steps

Following ratification by full council the strategy will be made available on Warwickshire County Council webpage.

Background papers

None

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Appendices

Appendix A – Draft Sufficiency Strategy 2016-2021

Appendix B – Consultation responses

Appendix C - EQIA

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Cllr Colin Hayfield (Education and Learning)

Previous Council administration Chair and Spokespersons for Children and Young People: Councillors Dave Parsons, Julie Jackson, Clive Rickhards and Chris Williams