

Schools Forum

October 17th 2014

Schools Sufficiency Strategy

This report relates to all maintained schools and academies

Recommendation:

Schools Forum is recommended to:

1. Consider the information in the attached draft schools sufficiency strategy;
2. Provide comments for consideration by the Council's Cabinet in November when the strategy will be adopted.

1.0 Introduction

At its meeting in May 2014, Schools Forum received a report on the County's criteria for expanding schools and ways of expanding schools. Forum members agreed to receive a report on the draft Sufficiency Strategy when this was produced. The latest version of the Strategy is attached at Appendix A.

2.0 Draft schools sufficiency strategy

- 2.1 The Strategy is set out in three parts. The first sets out the background and context and the principles underpinning school organisation in Warwickshire, including the way we will work with all partners. It sets out the main options for effecting reorganisation.
- 2.2 The second part sets out the current and forecast position in each of the school planning areas within the county. Planning areas are those agreed between the Council and the Education Funding Agency (EFA) to reflect patterns of access to schools and parental preferences. These areas are used by EFA when they allocate capital resources. Current and projected pupil numbers at each school are set against their capacity and admission number to demonstrate supply and demand. An estimate of anticipated housing development across each area is included. This section also indicates priority areas for review, based on the pressure on places in certain areas. Areas of Rugby, Nuneaton and Bedworth have been highlighted for early review to resolve the mismatch between supply and demand. This section will be the

basis for the school place planning service work programme and will guide decision making on capital allocations. The evidence base will be refreshed on an annual basis according to the timetable in the capital planning cycle when pupil forecasts are updated and housing allocations are known. It will also take into account any actions taken to resolve mismatch between supply and demand.

- 2.3. The third part of the Strategy sets out an overview of the review and decision making process. These are consistent with the DfE's Guidance for Decision Makers (January 2014) which all those making decisions on proposals must follow. This part will guide the Council's internal processes but will be communicated to schools.
- 2.4 Consultation runs until **Friday 24th October 2014**. At the end of the consultation period, any comments will be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 13 November 2014, and then the strategy will be adopted. It will be published with colour coded maps to indicate priority areas for review.

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