

Cabinet

10 November 2022

Annual Sufficiency Update 2022

1. Recommendation

That Cabinet endorses the Annual Education Sufficiency Update 2022 (attached at Appendix 1) and notes the proposed schemes to ensure sufficiency of school places in Warwickshire.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Council has a duty under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to ensure that sufficient school places are available for their area to provide primary and secondary education. The Annual Education Sufficiency Update, attached as Appendix A, outlines pupil number forecasts from September 2022 covering a 5 year period for primary phase and a 7 year period for secondary phase and also provides details of any pressures expected during that period. Early Years, Post-16 and Special Educational Needs sufficiency are also addressed.
- 2.2 Pupil forecasts have been updated for 2022 using the most recent school census, resident-population and new housing approvals data and have a similar pattern to those published in the 2021 Update. New approvals of housing developments since 2021 in Rugby, Nuneaton & Bedworth and Warwick District have had an impact on pupil forecasts for those areas for this year.
- 2.3 Demand for primary places in all year groups can be accommodated in existing schools in most planning areas. Areas of high housing development including Nuneaton, Rugby, Kineton, Kenilworth and South of Leamington are forecasting a need for additional primary school places and this is addressed in the Update.

Forecast surplus primary school places summarised by area:

	North Warwickshire	Nuneaton & Bedworth	East Warwickshire	South Warwickshire	Central Warwickshire
2022	556	973	357	1048	663
2023	612	781	284	943	554
2024	696	705	289	804	417
2025	766	623	451	732	447
2026	809	575	561	623	517

Nb. while the above indicates that there is a surplus of primary school places in all areas, this is not the case for each individual planning area or year group. More information at that level of detail is provided in the Update.

- 2.4 There is more demand for additional places at secondary level, as the impact of several years of primary cohort growth moves to those age groups. Despite significant investment in expansions of existing secondary schools in recent years, further additional secondary school places are forecast to be necessary to meet demand across Warwickshire.

Forecast surplus secondary school places summarised by area:

	North Warwickshire	Nuneaton & Bedworth	East Warwickshire	South Warwickshire	Central Warwickshire
2022	23	367	522	226	320
2023	56	107	227	39	157
2024	30	-39	-29	-16	99
2025	9	-246	-237	-163	61
2026	25	-345	-313	-375	-15
2027	53	-478	-349	-468	-62
2028	87	-517	-292	-392	10

Nb. while the above indicates that there is a surplus of secondary school places in all areas for 2022 and 2023, this is not the case for each individual planning area or year group. More information at that level of detail is provided in the Update.

- 2.5 Details of proposed projects to meet expected pressures are outlined in each section of the Update. All projects are subject to change in response to relevant changes in housing developments in the area and the impact on expected need for places.

2.6 School capacities used in forecasting have also been updated for 2022 to include all recently completed or approved school expansion projects:

Planning Area		School	Project	Date of delivery*
Atherstone	Sec	The Queen Elizabeth Academy	PAN increase - additional 30 Year 7 places	Sep-23
Rugby South	Sec	Houlton School	New School - additional 180 Year 7 places	Sep-21
Kenilworth	Sec	Kenilworth School**	Expansion by school and PAN increase - additional 60 Year 7 places initially	Sep-23
Nuneaton North & East	Pri	Lower Farm Academy	PAN increase - additional 30 Reception places	Sep-23
Quinton	Pri	Tudor Grange Meon Vale	Expansion to 2 FE - additional 30 Reception places	Sep-23
South Leamington	Pri	Oakley Grove School (Primary phase)	New School - additional 60 Reception places***	Sep-24
Rugby	Pri	The Griffin School	New School - additional 30 Reception places	Sep-23
Warwick and Leamington	Sec	Oakley Grove School (Secondary phase)	New School - additional 180 Year 7 places	Sep-23
Nuneaton	Sec	Etone College	Expansion by 150 places	Sep-24
South Leamington	Pri	Myton Gardens Primary School	New School - additional 30 Reception places	Sep-24
Stratford	Sec	Stratford upon Avon School	Expansion - additional 60 places per year group	Sep-24
Stratford	Sec	Shipston High School	Expansion - additional 30 places per year group	Sep-24

2.7 There have been changes made to a number of the planning areas since the 2021 Update, to allow more meaningful pupil place planning (in accordance with Department for Education (DfE) methodologies).

2.8 The pupil forecasting methodology follows that recommended by the DfE and has recently been independently assessed as part of several area based reviews.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 The full extent of the future financial implications are yet to be quantified and detailed costing will be provided once design and feasibility work has been undertaken for each individual project outlined in this update.

3.2 Initial cost estimates relating to additional provision, particularly new schools, have been produced utilising national benchmarking data. Work is ongoing to

identify the expected capital requirements and funding profile for all future Education Capital projects over the short to medium term.

- 3.3 All proposed education capital projects are considered against independently published third-party data to benchmark the cost to the County Council of providing school places and ensuring effective allocation of resources.
- 3.4 Recent increases in the rate of inflation will inevitably affect the costs of capital projects. While efforts are made to anticipate such fluctuations, due to the long timeframes of large projects, cost increases may occur subsequent to initial funding approvals.
- 3.5 There is the likelihood that the consideration of any Carbon Neutral build methods will increase overall costs beyond the existing benchmarks.
- 3.6 Basic Need grant funding is provided by the DfE to deliver the expected requirement for mainstream places across the 4-16 age range. This grant is calculated on a per pupil basis for mainstream places and excludes those places as a result of housing growth which are expected to be funded via developer contributions.
- 3.7 Developer contributions will continue to be sought to provide the new provision needed as a result of housing growth and funds secured relevant to each individual scheme will be utilised where appropriate to deliver the schemes proposed.
- 3.8 The need to forward fund education infrastructure before receipt of developer contributions together with competing demands to utilise Basic Need capital resources for education provision such as Early Years sufficiency, SEND provision and condition of the school estate will put significant pressure on the funding available to provide sufficient school places.
- 3.9 Any funding gap which cannot be met by future developer contributions would require additional borrowing via the Capital Investment Fund (CIF).
- 3.10 The initial revenue costs for the new schools and additional classes at existing schools will need to be met utilising Pupil Growth Funding, which is allocated from the Dedicated Schools Grant.

4. Environmental Implications

- 4.1 Following the County Council's declaration of a Climate Change Emergency the design brief for all Education Capital projects will require the consideration of Carbon Neutral build methods to ensure the environmental impacts of delivering and operating the new provision are minimised where possible.
- 4.2 Environmental risk assessments together with mitigation statements to reduce any potential environmental impacts are required for each capital project. Where a risk of environmental damage is identified, measures will be required

to ensure these risks remain at a minimum throughout the construction process.

- 4.3 The Education Sufficiency Strategy 2018/2023 outlines 'Local Schools for Local Children' as a key strategic priority. Where possible this approach will design in sustainable transport opportunities and reductions in home to school transport requirements for all new schools and expansions, while remaining conscious of the carbon requirements associated with the construction process and the opportunities for future reductions in emissions associated with home to school transport.

5. Supporting Information

- 5.1 Housing growth in line with current housing trajectories across the County is expected to increase the long-term demand for school places as new families move into the County. This is by far the biggest challenge in ensuring sufficiency of school places and the expected impact of this housing growth is included in the pupil forecast data presented. However as new families move into Warwickshire over the next academic year the level of short-term demand for places will vary depending on the age of the children and availability of places in the relevant year groups at local schools.
- 5.2 There can often be pressure for school places when families apply late or part way through the academic year and schools are already at capacity, particularly as a result of attracting pupils who live in other local authority areas. Maintaining a level of surplus capacity to manage in year applications will be difficult and likely challenged by schools needing to maintain a sustainable budget and the capital funding and practical limitations of adding further places for the sole purpose of creating surplus capacity. The Admissions Code prevents the holding or reserving of places for in catchment area or in year applications, if a school has space, they are required to admit a pupil with a valid application. The ongoing engagement with schools is key to ensuring the sufficiency of school places in Warwickshire.
- 5.3 Warwickshire schools attract pupils who live in other local authority areas. At the October 2021 school census, 12% of secondary pupils (4041, of which 25% attend grammar schools) and 4% of primary pupils (1852) live in other local authority areas. Main bordering local authority areas that are sources of Warwickshire pupils include: Staffordshire, Leicestershire, Coventry, Worcestershire and Solihull. Some Warwickshire residents attend schools in other local authorities but on a much smaller scale than are "imported".

6. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 6.1 Following endorsement by Cabinet, the Sufficiency Update will be shared with elected members to update them regarding sufficiency issues and proposed projects. The Update will also be published on the WCC website.
- 6.2 Engagement with schools regarding education sufficiency and place pressures will continue through one to one discussions and consortia/area network meetings.
- 6.3 Proposed schemes outlined in the sufficiency update will be worked up through the initial feasibility stages including due diligence from colleagues in Finance, Infrastructure Delivery, Strategic Asset Management, Design & Major Projects and other stakeholders as required.
- 6.4 Following confirmation of the availability of funding, the appropriate consultations, and feasibility studies all projects require agreement by the Education Capital Access and Organisation Board.
- 6.5 Once agreed by the Board all capital projects outlined will be subject to future reports to Cabinet, and Council as necessary, usually as part of a programme of works for funding approval.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Annual Education Sufficiency Update 2022.

Background Papers

1. Education Sufficiency Strategy 2018-2023 [Link](#)
2. Formulation of the Education Sufficiency Strategy (Children & Young People O&S Committee report approved 23/02/2021) [Link](#)

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

Other members: Councillors Jerry Roodhouse, John Holland, Jonathan Chilvers, Yousef Dahmash and Barbara Brown.