

CABINET

18 February 2020

PUPIL PLACE PLANNING

Report of the Strategic Director for People

Strategic Aim:	Safeguarding	
Key Decision: No	Forward Plan Reference:	
Reason for Urgency:	N/A	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Mr D Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Lifelong Learning, Early Years, SEND, Inclusion, Safeguarding Children & Young People	
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Ward Councillors	All	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the update on pupil place planning for Rutland.
2. Endorses the actions taken to address pupil place planning for Rutland.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on the current assessment for primary and secondary pupil place planning and future projections in line with proposed housing developments.
- 1.2 To inform Cabinet of actions taken to address any identified pressures both now and in the future.

2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 Under the Education Act 1996 Section 14 the Local Authority has a statutory functions in respect of provision of primary and secondary schools. These include:
A local authority shall secure that sufficient schools for providing primary education and secondary education are available for their area;
A local authority in England shall exercise their functions under this section with a view to
 - (a) securing diversity in the provision of schools, and*
 - (b) increasing opportunities for parental choice.*

The law requires the Local Authority to admit pupils irrespective of the Local Authority in which they live which means that preference cannot be made for Rutland residents, with admission to schools reflecting their own admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria.

- 2.2 All schools have admission criteria to decide which children get places if the school is oversubscribed. The local authority sets these for maintained community schools and voluntary controlled LA maintained church schools; at the time of the report there is one school for whom the LA is the Admissions Authority (Oakham C of E Primary School). The governing bodies of voluntary aided church schools, academies and free schools set the admissions criteria for their individual school(s). Consequently, different schools may give priority to those who live closer to the school, whilst another may prioritise children who attended a particular primary school.
- 2.3 Some local authorities cluster their schools into formal planning areas. These are areas within the local authority which are used by that authority for the purposes of assessing current and future pupil demand. In Rutland there is currently just one planning area for primary schools and one for secondary.
- 2.4 In Rutland, forecasting pupil numbers is based on a number of factors, such as birth data, census information and actual numbers of children attending schools and living in localities, and on anticipated future housing numbers. Our projections are refreshed annually for each school in Rutland through the 5 year School Capacity Survey. It is on the basis of this information that needs for future provision are identified although parents also have a choice over which school they can choose for their child and this cannot be predicted through the capacity assessment. Parental choice is a significant factor in Rutland, particularly in the secondary sector. This is due to the quality of secondary school provision and is particularly evident at Uppingham and Casterton where parents from neighbouring authorities choose these schools due to their good reputations and outcomes for children.
- 2.5 It is important to note also that when we talk about 'capacity', this is across Rutland as a whole and does not always mean the school which is closest to the home.

3 CURRENT CAPACITY PROJECTIONS

- 3.1 Current 5 year projections show that the general trend in Rutland primary schools is one of slowly increasing demand, without threatening overall capacity. If we expand the projections to 10 years to include the Stamford North and St George's proposed developments, this still shows there is minimal impact on overall county primary school capacity, helped by new primary schools being part of the developments. There is some variation within the three clusters (Oakham, Casterton and Uppingham) and some primary schools are forecast to be close to capacity. However, capacity across the County is maintained for primary pupils (Appendix A).
- 3.2 There is significant pressure at secondary level both now and in the future. All three secondary schools are at, or exceeding, capacity and there are specific in year pressures at Years 8 and 10. For two of our secondary schools, Uppingham Community College and Casterton College, between 60 and 70% of pupils are from outside of Rutland. This means that children moving into Rutland at secondary school age in those areas cannot be guaranteed a place at a Rutland secondary school.
- 3.3 The 10 year projections for secondary school places show there will be additional pressure on these places due to the probable number of secondary school age pupils from the St George's development starting to filter through between 2027 and 2029 on top of the pressure already identified and potential pressure from the Stamford North proposed development (Appendix B).

4 ACTIONS TAKEN TO ADDRESS CAPACITY

- 4.1 In order to address the identified pressures at secondary level, the Council has commissioned a secondary school expansion feasibility study which will be delivered in two phases.
- 4.2 Phase 1 will give an understanding of:
- i) Location and condition of all three secondary sites/buildings and the extent to which pupil growth can be accommodated either through expansion of existing and/or a need for demolition and rebuild. The condition element should be by way of a visual inspection only at this stage
 - ii) The current operation status of the schools in terms of class room sizes, specialist provision, pupil welfare, catering provision, communal circulation and external spaces.
 - iii) The potential for school expansion and ideas for best use of current resources.
 - iv) A high level cost summary of the options which separates direct expansion costs and any additional costs associated with making changes to existing provision to ensure the optimum welfare of children.

- 4.3 Phase 2, the more detailed feasibility study, should then build on the outputs from the phase 1 work. This will include and give a detailed understanding of:
- i. A review of available information
 - ii. Comparison with the Education and Skills Funding Agency schedule of accommodation and identification of any shortfall in spaces
 - iii. Developing architectural sketch proposals for the expansion options
 - iv. Provision of a wider understanding of the overall condition of the asset.
 - v. Developing strategies for mechanical & electrical, structural and sustainability approaches with particular regard to prevailing climatic, traffic and environmental issues.
 - vi. Analysis of site constraints and opportunities
 - vii. Cost estimates for the expansion options
 - viii. Identification of key risks including planning risk and potential implications for project performance
 - ix. Analysis of external areas in accordance with current guidelines
 - x. Developing procurement strategy and programme

4.4 It is anticipated that Phase 1 will be completed by end of February and will give us an accurate understanding of the most appropriate site for potential expansion to meet need within the secondary school phase, and the level of funding required to deliver the associated pupil place planning requirements. This will then lead on to Phase 2 which will build on the phase 1 work in more detail for a particular site. It is anticipated that increased pupil numbers will come on line in the academic year 2021/22.

4.5 In addition to the feasibility study, the pupil place planning board will oversee all pupil place planning across primary and secondary provision. This will oversee the Rutland pupil place planning strategy and ensure that any changes to development proposals or new information can be assessed and acted upon quickly to ensure Rutland school capacity is maintained.

5 CONSULTATION

5.1 This report is for information only.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

6.1 Not applicable.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The cost of the feasibility study is funded from capital monies and agreed by the Chief Executive through their delegated powers.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Cabinet report 191/2016 gives delegated authority to the Chief Executive and relevant Portfolio Holder to add small schemes (less than £50k) to the capital programme on the condition that all decisions are reported in the Quarterly Finance report.

9 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed.

10 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been completed as it is not deemed relevant to this report.

11 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

12 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 None identified.

13 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 It is recommended that Cabinet note the update on pupil place planning and endorses the actions taken to address pupil place planning for Rutland.

14 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 14.1 No additional papers

15 APPENDICES

- 15.1 Appendix A – Primary School Capacity Forecast Dec 2019
15.2 Appendix B – Secondary School Capacity Forecast Dec 2019

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.