Executive Summary

1. This report presents information on the Secondary School Place Planning in the Rochdale Township for 2018 to 2027 for Secondary Year 7 places to Cabinet.

Recommendation

2. To approve proposals to meet the additional demand for Year 7 places in 2018 at Matthew Moss Secondary School in Rochdale Township.

Reason for Recommendation

3. Rochdale Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure there are enough school places for children in its area who want them; to make arrangements for parents to apply for school places and to ensure every parent in the borough receives the offer of a school place. The Council exercises this duty by planning for enough school places.

Key Points for Consideration

4. Secondary provision has been hugely expanded over the last few years with an extra 250 places having already been provided or currently being built. Building work has provided extra places at Holy Family, Cardinal Langley and Hollingworth Secondary since September 2016. Extra places will be in place for September 2017 at Kingsway Park and Falinge Park. Middleton Technology School has a major restructure in 2013/14 to accommodate an extra 60 children per year group. The plans currently in place at Matthew Moss Secondary currently add 30 extra places in year 7 (150 in total) for September 2018.

4.1 The following table gives a summary of year 7 places needed from September 2018 up to 2027/28 and includes the extra 30 places at Matthew Moss that have already been consulted upon and agreed in the Cabinet meeting on the
In October 2016 cabinet was asked to approve proposals to meet the additional demand for Year 7 places with a permanent expansion of Matthew Moss from a PAN 210-240 from 2018 with an extra 30 places. This was subsequently found to be in error and a correction was reported to update this as an increase of PAN from 180 to 210.

This report asks cabinet to approve an additional permanent expansion of Matthew Moss Secondary School from 210 to 240 with an extra 30 year 7 places (150 places in total) on top of the extra places already agreed. Matthew Moss Secondary would then grow from 180 to 240 to meet the deficit in places currently forecast in September 2018. This would increase Matthew Moss by 60 year 7 places and 300 total places. This would meet the additional need identified in the table above and create extra spaces that will be needed from 2018 onwards.

Building work at the school has not been started and with council's approval current plans will be modified for the extra capacity.

**Alternatives Considered**

If extra capacity cannot be added at Matthew Moss Secondary and with every other Secondary school in the borough due to be full to capacity, either temporary classroom accommodation would need to be put in place or the authority would need to offer places out of borough.
5. The costs associated with co-ordinating admission arrangements are met from the Dedicated Schools Grant.

5.1 The costs for refurbishment or new build accommodation at schools which are providing additional pupil places is funded by the EFA annual allocations of Basic Need capital budget.

5.2 Where applicable, schools offering additional pupil places to meet the LA’s statutory need, may also be eligible for revenue funding from the Council’s Growth Fund, which is approved by Schools Forum.

6. The application of pupil place planning arrangements contributes to the Council Business Plan in ensuring an effective allocation process for school place planning. Failure by the council to comply with its statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places for children who live in the borough could result in a risk of judicial review of the council’s exercise of its policy in relation to the provision of school places.

6.1 There are no other known HR or Legal implications from this particular report. The Financial implications are dealt with in section 5 of this report.

7. Feedback of the original consultation on the Matthew Moss expansion are contained in the 31st October Cabinet Report in section 7.3, with details in Appendix 1 of the report. Governors and the Headteacher at Matthew Moss Secondary have agreed to the extra capacity being built for 2018. In April 2017 a meeting of the Secondary Place Planning working group was presented with forecast data for 2018 onwards, and the issue of Secondary place demand also taken to the Pioneer Trust meeting. The primary concern for both these two forums was the significant lack of places forecasted for 2024.

8. There are no background papers

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