



Date of Meeting	6 <sup>th</sup> December 2017
Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Report Author	Fay Davies
Public/Private Document	Public

## The Need for Extra Primary School Places 2017- 2020

### Executive Summary

1. There is a need to keep under review the need for extra class places in each Township. The purpose of this report is to set out proposals to address the need for extra Reception and Year 1-6 places up to September 2020.
- 1.1 Pupil place planning seeks to ensure Townships are aware of school spaces and pupil numbers within their area and aids local government decision making processes.

### Recommendation

2. To consider proposals to increase capacity at Schools within the Township based on expected future requirements.

### Reason for Recommendation

3. Each Local Authority has a statutory duty to secure a sufficient number of school places in each of their regions.

### Key Points for Consideration

4. The Borough has seen consistent growth in the Primary school cohorts. In 2005 Reception numbers were 2450 and this year are predicted to be over 3100. This is the equivalent of 19 additional Reception classes. Growth in cohort numbers has not been limited to Reception numbers but has occurred in all year groups with many families being new to the Borough. The equivalent of 5 additional classes of children has arrived in higher year groups to start schools this September. Full details are set out in **Appendix One**.
- 4.1 The following tables give a summary of available Reception year spaces and plans have been put in place to suggest ways forward where needed.
- 4.2 **Heywood Township:** Heywood saw a peak in its birth rate that caused large

cohorts in 2015/16. However although the birth rate has since fallen, numbers in Reception cohorts continued to rise in 2016/17. Current predictions show birth rates increasing in the area causing a possible shortage of spaces in 2019/20. Full details for Heywood are set out in **Appendix Two**.

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Extra Places Needed	20 spare	21 spare	1 spare	11 places needed
Plans were	St Lukes extra 30 (2015 – 2017) St Josephs expanded (PAN 45 to 60)	Woodland expanding (PAN 60 to 90)		
Possible Ways Forward	Consult on St Lukes moving permanently PAN 30 to 60			

- 4.3 **Middleton Township:** Middleton has seen significant growth in Reception year pupil numbers over previous years and extra capacity building is still in progress. Current capacity is forecasted to be sufficient until 2020/21 but spare capacity is too low in 2018/19 to manage and bulge class is needed. Full details for Middleton are set out in **Appendix Three**.

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Extra Places Needed	57 spare	13 spare	76 spare	56 spare
Plans were	Boarshaw extra 30 Bowlee expanded (PAN 90 to 120) in 2016	Boarshaw expanding (PAN 30 to 60)		
Possible Ways Forward	n/a	Consult on Little Heaton (+30) bulge year	n/a	n/a

- 4.4 **Pennines Township:** Pennines saw a peak in its birth rate that caused large cohorts in 2016/17. Although the birth rate has since fallen, numbers in Reception cohorts will continue to rise in 2017/18 before reducing. Current capacity is forecasted to be sufficient until 2020/21. The split between south and north Pennines regions shows limited spare capacity in south Pennines from 2018-2020. Full details for Pennines are set out in **Appendix Four**.

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Extra Places Needed	35 spare	53 spare	55 spare	49 spare
Plans were	Moorhouse extra 30 for 2017/18 Newhey extra 10 permanently (PAN 30 to 40) Littleborough extra 30 for 1 years (2017-2020)	Littleborough extra 15 for 2 more years (2018-2020)		
Possible Ways Forward	n/a	South Pennines: Consult on Moorhouse (+15) bulgewith PAN to 45 for 3 years	n/a	n/a

- 4.5 **Rochdale Township:** Rochdale township has had a rise in the number of

births of 90 within a two year period that sees a predicted 2017/18 cohort peak at 1462 pupils before dropping again to 1385 in 2018/19. Plans were put in place to enlarge two schools permanently, but this is still insufficient. From 2019 extra capacity is needed in Rochdale Township. Full details for Rochdale are set out in **Appendix Five**.

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Extra Places Needed	57 spare	44 spare	7 spare	5 spaces needed
Plans were	Sandbrook enlarged Permanently (PAN 60 to 90) from 2016 Whittaker Moss enlarged Permanently (PAN 45 to 60) from 2017			
Possible Ways Forward	Bulge classes created at Greenbank (+30), Castleton (+15)	n/a	Consult on Belfield moving to permanent PAN of 60 (+15) and Lowerplace moving to 3FE (90 PAN)	

- 4.6 Traditionally places have been created in Reception and capacity has been adequate for all year groups through the primary years. We now find in-year transfers are so high that in some 1-6 year groups that there is no spare capacity and extra capacity, particularly in higher year groups is needed. **Appendix 1** shows details of how many in-year admissions we have had over the last year with a breakdown of where the children have come from for the last 3 months. We currently have over-PAN classes in all year groups but there has been significant extra pressure in the current year 4 and 6 cohorts. Extra classes have been created in the central Rochdale Township for year 4 at two schools. For the year 6 children moving into the borough a decision has been made to exceed the PAN where and when needed. This is not favoured by primary Headteachers

The following table shows the current spaces by Township and highlights the Townships where extra classes are being requested.

Spaces Available (Sept 2017)							
	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Heywood	20	5	14	4	14	3	20
Middleton	57	55	2	7	6	39	12
Pennines (South)	18	29	27	2	2	8	10
Pennines (North)	17	4	2	2	3	8	14
Rochdale (NE) & Pennine (Central)	35	10	25	38	3	26	0
Rochdale (NW)	9	2	1	6	8	4	8
Rochdale S South/Central	13	14	16	10	10	11	2
Total	169	119	87	69	46	99	66
Percentage	5%	4%	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%

The following table shows the current number of children in classes that are over PAN.

Over PAN Capacity (Sept 2017)								
	<i>Rec</i>	<i>Year 1</i>	<i>Year 2</i>	<i>Year 3</i>	<i>Year 4</i>	<i>Year 5</i>	<i>Year 6</i>	<i>No. of Schools in area</i>
<i>Heywood</i>	2	2	1	2	3	2	0	10
<i>Middleton</i>	0	6	2	2	5	6	2	14
<i>Pennines (South)</i>	3	0	2	4	3	3	3	7
<i>Pennines (North)</i>	3	0	2	2	3	2	4	5
<i>Rochdale (NE) &amp; Pennine (Central)</i>	2	0	0	4	6	3	11	9
<i>Rochdale (NW)</i>	0	2	1	2	1	2	1	7
<i>Rochdale S South/central</i>	0	5	4	4	5	8	8	17
<i>Total</i>	10	15	12	20	26	26	29	69

### **Alternatives Considered**

- 4.7 In the last few years 24 of the 69 Primary Schools have taken bulge years or increased their PAN. The majority of these have had either internal restructuring or major building carried out. All extra classes are being discussed with Head teachers and Governing boards.

### **Costs and Budget Summary**

5. The costs associated with co-ordinating admission arrangements are met from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

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.

Where a school and the LA agree to increase the school's PAN to meet the LA's statutory need a school receives additional funding from the growth fund. The growth fund is funded by DSG and the current policy has been agreed by Schools Forum.

### **Risk and Policy Implications**

6. The Council has a statutory duty under the Education Act 1996 to ensure the provision of sufficient schools for primary and secondary education in their area. Under s.14 of the Education Act 1996, a local authority shall secure that sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available in their area. Sufficient means sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education. In meeting this duty, a local authority must do so with a view to securing diversity in the provision of schools and increasing opportunities for parental choice.

The application of pupil place planning arrangements contributes to the Council Business Plan in ensuring an effective allocation process for school admissions.

<b>Consultation</b>
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7. All school expansions recommended by Cabinet will be taken forward through a formal consultation process.

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>
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| 8. Consultation responses are held within the Schools Service | 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Number One Riverside, Rochdale |
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