

Report to Cabinet



Date of Meeting	19 th December 2017
Portfolio	Councillor Donna Martin 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 requirement 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 Year1-6 places up to September 2020, and
 - a. Report on the feedback from the consultation
 - b. Based on the feedback and further analysis, set out proposals to address the need for extra Reception and Year 1-6 class places for the period up to 2020.
 - c. To seek approval for proposed expenditure for the schemes in accordance with the Council's financial Regulation.

Recommendation

2. Approve proposals to meet the additional demand for Reception class places as follows (NB the timing of all proposals is subject to detailed feasibility)
 - **Heywood**
 - Permanent expansion of St Luke's CE Primary from a PAN of 30 to 60 places from 2019.
 - **Middleton**
 - Temporary bulge class at Hollin Primary for 2018/19, taking the PAN from 30 to 60 for one year only
 - **Pennines**
 - Permanent increase at Newhey Community Primary from a PAN of 40 to 45 with immediate effect.
 - **Rochdale**
 - Permanent expansion of Lowerplace Primary from 60 to 90 places from 2018.
 - Permanent expansion of Belfield Community School from 45 to

60 from 2018.

- Authorise feasibility studies which will facilitate completion of detailed designs, firmer costings and submission of planning applications
- Approve expenditure on the proposed final programmes detailed within this report (Appendix 1), for invitations to tender to be issued and accepted and for the supporting contracts, PFI deeds of variation (where necessary) and any incidental and ancillary documentation, to be signed in order to deliver the development schemes outlined in the appendices, in accordance with Financial Regulations.
- Additional Basic Need Programme spend estimated at £2,300,000 as set out in Appendix 1

Reason for Recommendation

3. The Borough has seen consistent growth in the Primary school cohorts. In 2005 Reception numbers were 2450 and for 2018 are predicted to be over 3100. For 2018 – 2020 ONS birth data trends suggests extra places will be needed in Rochdale and Heywood Townships. These two areas are also seeing large numbers of children arriving in-year. The birth data suggests Pennines and Middleton Township births are decreasing slightly from 2019-2020, although Middleton has peak for 2018 Reception class cohort and is seeing increasing numbers of new housing going forward.

Key Points for Consideration

4. Borough-wide and Township birth rates, census, PAN and forecasts were presented previously to Cabinet on the 24th October 2017.
 - 4.1 In the Cabinet report dated 24/10/2017 suggestions put forward as follows:-
 - **Heywood**
 - Consult on St Lukes CE Primary moving permanently from a PAN of 30 to 60 – A meeting with the Head teacher and business manager went ahead to discuss details and timing. The Headteacher was asked to feedback in the consultation, and was very positive.
 - **Middleton**
 - Consult on Little Heaton CE Primary taking a bulge class (PAN+30) for 1 year in 2018 – A meeting with the Headteacher and Deputy went ahead. The Headteachers response was that it would not be welcomed nor easy to facilitate due to the lack of

space.

- **Pennines**

- Consult on Moorhouse Primary taking 3 years of bulge classes going from a PAN of 30 to 45 – A meeting with the Headteacher and Deputy went ahead. The school has already had 3 years of bulge classes with an extra 30 pupils in 2015, 2016 and 2017. The schools preferred choice would be to remain at a PAN of 60 and highlighted the difficulty of the mixed year teaching that would be required for a PAN of 45.

- **Rochdale**

- Consult on Belfield Community School moving permanently from a PAN of 45 to 60 – A meeting with the Headteacher and business manager/Deputy went ahead and the school agreed to increase the PAN to 60.
- Consult on Lowerplace Primary moving from a PAN of 60 to 90 permanently – A meeting with the Headteacher and Deputy went ahead. The Headteacher agreed to increase the PAN from 60 to 90.

4.2 A consultation was opened on 11th October 2017 and closed on 8th November 2017 detailing the Need for Extra Primary Places in the Borough and by Township.

4.3 Appendix 2 lists the responses to the consultation on Extra Primary Need in detail. On the whole the responses were positive on needing to meet the perceived deficit in Primary Places moving forward.

4.4 **Heywood and Middleton Summary**

Two Townships that have seen the largest rises in pupil numbers consistently over the last few years are Heywood and Middleton. Both these two Townships need extra capacity (as identified previously) and both have had several of their Primary schools expanded in the last few years. This does cause a pattern of extra capacity being created, empty spaces causing difficulty for some schools before pupils arriving to fill the places. In the consultation feedback Headteachers in both Middleton and Heywood have stated that any extra capacity has and does cause them difficulties and are not happy with extra capacity being created.

4.5 In particular the consultation documents and the reports to Cabinet detailed above also highlighted that extra capacity was required in years 1 to 6, in certain Township areas and in certain year groups. Creating extra classes in higher year groups is not done without a high certainty that the extra capacity is needed. Class size legislation needs to be adhered to at Key stage 1 (Reception, year 1 and year 2) which says a class must not have above 30

pupils per teacher unless extra-ordinary circumstances can be cited. Again extra capacity created in higher year groups can destabilize surrounding schools and these difficulties have been raised in the Middleton Township with extra capacity that has been created in year 2 at Bowlee Park Community Primary. Middleton Township, has for the last few years, and will continue for the foreseeable future see a large increase in its housing stock. Children moving into the area arriving in all year groups need school places and the council is required to create the extra spaces where spare capacity does not already exist in a timely manner.

4.6 The Headteacher and Chair of Governors of St Gabriel's CE have both identified that East Middleton has also seen an increasing in housing in the area without any extra capacity being created in the local schools there.

4.7 Hollin Primary Headteacher has written into the consultation to put forward Hollin as an option for a bulge class (PAN from 30 to 60) for 1 year only in 2018.

4.8 **Pennines and Rochdale Summary**

Extra capacity in Rochdale is supported by some of the respondents of the consultation. Central Rochdale has been under considerable pressure through this academic year with zero spare capacity in both year 4 and year 6. Extra capacity has been created in year 4. Extra temporary capacity was also created at the start of the academic year in Greenbank Primary and Castleton Primary in consultation with the Schools and Governors. St Mary's CE Primary has written in to suggest increasing their PAN from 30 to 45 if building works were offered for the extra accommodation needed, but the Diocese would have to be in favour.

4.9 One respondent supported the need to create extra capacity in Pennines. No other responses were received.

4.10 Township Committee Chairs were sent the consultation documentation and emailed personally to ask for their views to be put forward in the 11th October to 8th November consultation. No responses were received. The Township Committee's views are also being sought in the November-December 2017 season of Township Committee Meetings.

4.11 **Alternatives Considered**

Rochdale Borough Reception cohorts continue to grow and all suggestions from Headteachers and Governing boards have been and will continue to be considered where appropriate.

Costs and Budget Summary

5. Detailed costs for the projects going forward are shown in Appendix 1.

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.

There are no other known implications from this particular report ie Personnel, Equalities or Financial

Consultation

7. All school expansions recommended by Cabinet will be taken forward through a formal consultation process.

Background Papers	Place of Inspection
8. Appendix 1: Financial Details Statement Appendix 2: Primary Consultation Feedback	

For Further Information Contact:

Fay Davies, fay.davies@rochdale.gov.uk