



Date of Meeting  
Portfolio

MeetingDateLegal  
Cabinet Member for  
Children's Services  
Fay Davies

Report Author  
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## Need for Extra Year 7 places 2019-2028

### Executive Summary

- 1.1 Secondary school intakes for September 2019 and 2020 are going to be challenging, but current estimates suggest that with additional capacity being sought, places will be available for all pupils living in the borough.
- 1.2 An update on the progress for the two new schools needed in the borough is given.

### Recommendation

2. That Members consider the report and take note of measures still in development to limit the possibility of a shortage of year 7 places.

### Reason for Recommendation

3. The council has a statutory duty to provide education and school places to all school aged children living in the borough and consequently has a duty to plan adequately for predicted pupil numbers.

### Key Points for Consideration

4. The Borough has seen consistent growth in the school cohorts. In October 2005 there were 2138 pupils in the year 7 cohort and this year are predicted to be up to 2916 pupils; which is a 36% increase.
  - 4.1 Since 2012 Secondary schools in Rochdale have been expanded and/or taken more children creating another 330 places per year group, or a total of 1650 additional school places. Building extensions are currently underway at Matthew Moss High School and Siddal Moor Sports College. This means there are currently 2880 year 7 places available in Rochdale schools with no further opportunities available for expansion.
  - 4.2 Previous reports to Cabinet (31/10/2016) noted the need for 2 new secondary

schools in the borough. This continues to be the case, with a shortage of school places now forecast for every year from September 2019.

### New School Progress

- 4.3 Last May (2018) the government opened its Wave 13 centrally funded new school bidding process. Under government legislation new schools must be delivered as Academy schools by Academy trusts and independent of the local authority. The Wave 13 bidding round was extended and closed on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018.
- 4.4 The council have been informed from the DfE that 4 bids were submitted for new Secondary schools in Rochdale. Details of these bids have been published on the government website and can be found at;- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/free-schools-application-information-for-wave-13/wave-13-free-school-applications>
- 4.5 The four bids are from the Altus Education Partnership (Rochdale Sixth form college), Great Schools Trust, Wardle Academy Trust and Star Leadership Academy Trust. They are all bids for age 11-16 mainstream and non-faith schools.
- 4.6 Currently the government statement on when notification of successful bids will be made is Spring 2019. Given any new school building will need to go through the full planning process and then be built, an estimation of when a new school could be open is September 2021. However the DfE has increasingly opened new schools in temporary accommodation, either refurbished existing buildings or modular units, when and where needed. The creation of new school buildings, temporary or permanent, is entirely managed by central government.
- 4.7 As part of the submission process, all bids for Wave 13 were instructed to evidence “engagement with parents and the local community”. Being part of the family of Rochdale schools and/or the Pioneers Trust (the group of Secondary and College Headteachers), both the Altus Education Trust and Wardle Academy Trust, did take part in discussions with the local community. Altus also held an open evening to discuss the new school with prospective Middleton parents. Representatives from Star Leadership and the Great Schools Trust met with the Director of Children’s services and other council officers to discuss the need for a new school in Rochdale.
- 4.8 As part of the submission process, all bids for Wave 13 also needed to give details of a suitable site for the new school. The Cabinet meeting on 30/10/2018 approved “to lease the land for the new schools to the winners of either the Wave 13 bidding process or the winners of a Free School Presumption competition (in the event that a presumption process is run), with the preference noted in section 2.2. The lease will be based on the statutory Academy Template...”. The section 2.2 stipulation noted the Cabinet “preference for a local provider for the needed two new secondary schools”.
- 4.9 Cabinet on the 30/10/2018 also approved provision of a Letter of Comfort to

the DfE in relation to the proposed leases as requested by the property department of the DfE.

### September 2019 and 2020

- 4.10 The deadline for year 7 school place applications for September 2019 has now closed but the school admissions team continue to process late applications up to the start of the new school year. Table 1 shows on time applications and shows first preference applications for 2019 are only slightly higher than last year, which would indicate that there are sufficient year 7 places for 2019.

**Table 1: Summary of on time applications for 2019 and 2018**

	<b>Pupil Numbers</b>
1st Preferences applications for 2019	2755
PAN places for 2019	2880
1st Preferences applications for 2018	2740
Total Offers made on offer day	2774
2018 children nominated a place	131
2018 children nominated a place more than 3 miles	37
Secondary Preference Demand Met 2018	88.3%

- 4.11 Current applications by township are shown in table 2. For applications for places in 2018 there were 510 places in year 7 in Pennines area and 634 first preference applications. This resulted in 70 appeals and 10 Pennines children being nominated for places in Rochdale. First preference applications for Pennines for this September are 680; which is 46 higher than last year.

**Table 2: Summary of on time application's by township.**

<b>Township</b>	<b>PAN</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Pref</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Pref</b>
Heywood	420	350	133
Middleton	630	640	297
Pennines	510	680	358
Rochdale	1320	1085	567

- 4.12 Table 2 also shows first preference applications are also above current PAN (Pupil Admission Numbers) places in Middleton by 10 pupils.
- 4.13 The schools team is currently in discussions with secondary Headteachers from all schools about possible extra places for September 2019, which is primarily focused on creating additional places in both Pennines and Middleton. From the October 2018 census, after the September 2018 intake, Wardle Academy agreed to take an additional 16 pupils, Cardinal Langley an additional 8 pupils, Holy Family an additional 4 pupils and St Cuthbert's an additional 6 pupils. Some of these places were allocated through the appeals process.
- 4.14 Borough-wide current year 5 cohort numbers estimate that an additional 50 pupils will need places in September 2020. These additional children are again concentrated in the Middleton and Pennines townships. A meeting was held with council officers and the Pupil Place team from the DfE in December 2018 to highlight the significant issues in both Pennines and Middleton. The

council is in the position that all schools in these areas are their own admissions authorities and it has no authority to compel them to create additional places. That said the council is working very closely with the schools and the dialogue is ongoing. The schools are in the situation that they already feel that their buildings are over capacity, cannot and will not put in jeopardy the education of the children they currently have.

### **Alternatives Considered**

- 4.15 Discussions with both borough schools and the DfE are ongoing. More year 7 places are needed and the schools team is considering all available options to create the needed places.

### **Costs and Budget Summary**

- 5.1 The costs associated with co-ordinating admission arrangements are met from the Dedicated Schools Grant.
- 5.2 The costs associated with any new schools will be met by the Department for Education and the Education and Skills Funding Agency.
- 5.3 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.

### **Risk and Policy Implications**

- 6.1 The application of pupil place planning arrangements contributes to the Council Business Plan in ensuring an effective allocation process for school admissions. The council has a statutory duty to offer a school place to every child living in the borough and must manage the schools estate where it is possible to do so to meet the predicted need.
- 6.2 Admissions policies for academy schools are overseen directly by the DfE through the Regional Schools Commissioners Office.
- 6.3 For any new school needed the Council does not have under its direct control the legal mechanisms to create new schools and must, under the Academies Act 2010 and Education Act 2011, seek Department for Education approved academy trust providers to provide the schools.
- 6.4 Paragraphs 6.2 and 6.3 determine that the council has no regulatory control over capacity of spaces in areas where the schools are their own admission authorities and/or where new schools are needed.

### **Consultation**

7. No consultations are being considered currently.

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>
8.	
<b>For Further Information Contact:</b>	Fay Davies, , fay.davies@rochdale.gov.uk