

Report to Cabinet



Date of Meeting	30 th July 2019
Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Report Author	Fay Davies
Public/Private Document	Public

Extra School Places - Determination of Statutory Proposals for Enlargements and SEN Resourced Provision, and Additional Capacity.

Executive Summary

- 1.1 To present the responses to the published proposals for the enlargement of the following Rochdale Schools and to ask for Cabinet to determine those proposals: Castleton Primary and Crossgates Primary
- 1.2 To present the responses to the published proposals for the creation of an Autism resourced provision at Shawclough Primary and ask Cabinet to determine on the proposal.
- 1.3 To seek approval for expenditure on Primary school additional places in the south Rochdale Township.
- 1.4 To seek approval for expenditure in the borough Secondary Schools for extra capacity for 2020 September intake.

Recommendation

2. Cabinet is asked to consider the responses submitted to the published statutory proposals and taking account of the statutory guidance for Decision Makers to:
 - 2.1 Approve the enlargement of Castleton Primary School by providing an additional 30 places in each new admission year group. The enlargement would make permanent an admission number of 60 from September 2019.
 - 2.2 Note the rejection of the enlargement of Crossgates Primary School and retain the admission number at 45 places per year group.
 - 2.3 Approve the creation of an autism Resourced Provision at Shawclough Primary school to provide an additional 12 places for children with an EHCP for autism.

- 2.4 Approve expenditure for the implementation of an expansion at St Johns Thornham; for invitations to tender to be issued and accepted and for the supporting contracts, and any incidental and ancillary documentation, to be signed in order to deliver the scheme in accordance with Financial Regulations.
- 2.5 Approve expenditure for additional funds for the implementation of the plan to deliver up to 120 extra secondary school places within the boroughs existing schools for the 2020 intake year to meet the predicted need.
- 2.6 Approve additional Basic Need Programme spend for the projects named in 2.4 and 2.5 above at £2,185,000 as set out in Appendix 1.

Reason for Recommendation

- 3.1 The need for extra primary school places was detailed in the report to Cabinet on the 26/02/2019.
- 3.2 Each local authority has a statutory duty to secure a sufficient number of places in each of their areas.

Key Points for Consideration

- 4.1 Extra primary school capacity is needed permanently in South-west Rochdale Township with Castleton Primary school already having taken temporary admission number increases in the intake year for 2016 and 2017 and in 2017 in their year 3 group. Increases in birth rates, and additional house building in the area of Castleton, Balderstone and Kirkholt, require the expansion in Castleton Primary. There was one response from the consultation in favour of the expansion (Appendix 2).
- 4.2 Too much spare capacity has been an issue previously in the south Pennines (Milnrow and Newhey ward). Spare places previously provided at Moorhouse did not get taken up which is difficult for the school to manage and costly for the council. The area sees little net movement of pupils and historically sees a net loss of numbers between birth and children attending school. Since the council does have facilities for temporary spare capacity in the area the expansion of Crossgates Primary School is being rejected at this time. There were 14 responses from the consultation on Crossgates; 13 against and 1 for expansion (Appendix 2).
- 4.3 Rates of EHCP's for autism in the borough are rising and the council has, outside its special school sector, no capacity to meet the need for this type of specialist support. The Resourced Provision at Shawclough Primary school will provide a much needed extra resource in this area of need. There were 2 responses from the consultation, both in favour of the provision. Cabinet to note expenditure for Shawclough Primary was provided through the DfE funded SEN Capital Fund and expenditure approved by Cabinet on 24/07/2018.
- 4.4 The consultation on the primary school expansion proposals was discussed by

the Children's Council and feedback given. The children were obviously well informed and did pick up most of the issues we do consider when looking at possible impacts. A summary of the images and flip charts used to record the children's views is attached at Appendix 3.

- 4.5 St John's Primary in Thornham is a very small but popular school. It has for years delivered classes in 2 classrooms with a capacity of approximately 70 children. With the growth in housing in both Castleton and Middleton the school has supported the authority by taking additional children and increasing its admission number. It currently has 91 children on roll. The need for extra primary school capacity in Castleton has dictated that the school be supported in its requirement for additional classroom spaces and this will allow the school to move to a published admission (PAN) number of 15 for 2020. The design of the additional accommodation will take into account, if the need arises, the ability of the school to move to a 30 PAN intake in the future. The school, as a Voluntary Aided school, ran their own consultation exercise on this expansion. Funding required for the first phase of this extension to take the school from an admission number of 12 to 15 in 2020 is noted in Appendix 1.
- 4.6 The report to Cabinet on Capital Investment in Schools on the 18/03/2019 noted expenditure on possible extra secondary school places for 2020, and the Secondary School places 2019 and 2020 intake report to Cabinet in 26/02/2019 noted a need for temporary or modular accommodation for the 2020 intake at a cost of £500,000. Additional funding to meet the required 120 extra places is needed and this is noted in Appendix 1.

Alternatives Considered

- 4.7 The School Organisation and Development Team within Early Help and Schools looks to listen to suggestions from the consultations it runs on extra capacity in both its primary and secondary school estates. The consultation held with stakeholders in the area of Crossgates Primary school was difficult and the decision to currently reject the expansion at Crossgates Primary for 2021 may have to be revisited in the future.

Costs and Budget Summary

- 5.1 The costs associated with co-ordinating admission arrangements are met from the Dedicated Schools Grant.
- 5.2 A cost of £2,185,000 to increase for the secondary capacity for 2020 (4.6) and for the extra expansion proposal mentioned in paragraph 4.5 will be funded by the EFA annual allocations of Basic Need capital budget (appendix 1).
- 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 part of the Dedicated Schools Grant and is approved by Schools Forum.

Risk and Policy Implications

- 6.1 The Council has a statutory duty under the Education Act 1996 (“the 1996 Act”) to ensure the provision of sufficient schools for primary and secondary education in their area. Under s.14 of the 1996 Act, a local authority shall secure that sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available in their area.
- 6.2 In addition under Section 14A of the 1996 Act it is necessary for a local authority to consider parental representations about the exercise of their functions in relation to the provision of primary and secondary education under Section 14 of the 1996 Act.
- 6.3 The application of pupil place planning arrangements contributes to the Council Business Plan in ensuring an effective allocation process for school admissions.
- 6.4 There are no other known implications from this particular report ie Personnel, Equalities or Financial.

Consultation

- 7. Responses from the consultations on Castleton Primary, Crossgates Primary and Shawclough Primary are contained in Appendix 2.

Background Papers	Place of Inspection
8. None	

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