

**Children and Families Select Committee  
Review Scope – Secondary School Pupil Place Planning**

<p><b>Purpose of the Review</b></p>	<p>For the members of the Children and Families Select Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To understand the Council’s statutory responsibilities for the provision of sufficient secondary school places across Nottinghamshire.</li> <li>• To consider the methodology used to predict the future requirements for secondary school places, what options are available to meet changing demand and how additional places are identified, funded and delivered.</li> <li>• To establish what organisational processes, structures and capacity are in place at the Council so that the requirements for secondary school places identified by the Children and Families department are then delivered by the Place department.</li> <li>• To make appropriate recommendations as to how the processes for the Council’s assessment and delivery of sufficient secondary school places across Nottinghamshire could operate most effectively to ensure that the best outcomes are achieved for children, young people and families.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Anticipated outcomes</b></p>	<p>That a report is presented to the Children and Families Select Committee to make recommendations on how the Council’s services could be improved to best fulfil its statutory duties regarding the assessment and delivery of the required number of secondary school places, for submission to Cabinet.</p>
<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>At its meeting on 20 March 2023, the Children and Families Select Committee considered a report on <a href="#">Secondary School Place Planning</a>. This report set out the current position of secondary school place planning in Nottinghamshire in relation to both the overall sufficiency of school places and in terms of specific year group place pressures, to enable the Select Committee to monitor the Council’s discharge of its statutory duty in this area.</p> <p>As part of their discussions, members noted that the Council’s Children and Families department was responsible for assessing the future school place requirements, while the delivery of the needed places was then carried out by the Place department. Members considered that it was vital for the Children and Families and Place departments to work together closely for the effective delivery of the needed school places within the required timeframe and resolved that a task and finish review should be established to explore how the two departments worked together in delivering school place sufficiency.</p>	

<p><b>Key lines of enquiry</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To review the methodology used by the Council to project the future demand for secondary school places across Nottinghamshire.</li> <li>• To review how the potential delivery options are appraised when a need for additional secondary school places has been identified.</li> <li>• To review how the current organisational processes, structure and capacity at the Council are used to deliver additional secondary school places.</li> <li>• To review how the potential funding options are considered and utilised to ensure that the additional secondary school places delivered are sustainable and in the right places.</li> <li>• To review how the Council engages with the Department for Education, academies and other key partners in the effective delivery of additional secondary school places.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key questions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What factors are taken into account when projecting the future demand for secondary school places across Nottinghamshire, and are the projections proving to be accurate?</li> <li>• How are the options for supplying additional secondary school places assessed?</li> <li>• How are school extension, re-build and new-build projects planned for and funded, and is the delivery of these projects meeting the need effectively?</li> <li>• What methodology is used to consider whether a given school should be extended or rebuilt to supply more places, or whether a completely new school is required, and how far ahead are the place requirements projected to inform these decisions?</li> <li>• Is it generally more economically efficient to provide a large number of new school places at once by building a new school, or by seeking to renovate and extend existing schools?</li> <li>• Is there a proactive approach taken to identifying and assessing a range of possible sites across Nottinghamshire that have the potential to be developed as a new school in the future?</li> <li>• What steps are taken to ensure that new secondary school places delivered are sustainable, and that they are provided within the communities that need them most (i.e., are experiencing, or are likely to experience, a particular local pressure for places)?</li> </ul>

## Appendix 2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is engagement carried out with the Department for Education, academies and other key partners to achieve the delivery of the required secondary school places, and is the Council achieving good outcomes in these negotiations?</li> </ul>
<b>Links to the Council's Corporate Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ambition 2: Supporting communities and families</li> <li>• Ambition 3: Keeping children, vulnerable adults and communities safe</li> <li>• Ambition 4: Building skills that help people get good jobs</li> <li>• Ambition 6: Making Nottinghamshire somewhere people love to live, work and visit</li> </ul>
<b>Methodology</b>	In undertaking the review, members will carry out evidence-gathering sessions with the Cabinet Members for Children and Families and for Economic Development and Asset Management, the Service Directors for Education, Learning and Inclusion and for Green Growth, Investment and Assets, and other senior officers involved in the planning and delivery of school place sufficiency.
<b>Key background papers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Education Act 1996</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">School Admissions Code</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Report to the Children and Families Select Committee Meeting (20 March 2023) - Secondary School Place Planning</a></li> </ul>
<b>Evidence to be provided by</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Cabinet Member for Children and Families</li> <li>• The Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management</li> <li>• The Service Director for Education, Learning and Inclusion</li> <li>• The Service Director for Green Growth, Investment and Assets</li> </ul>
<b>Timetable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>November/December 2023:</b> Members to hold evidence-gathering sessions with officers on how the Children and Families and Place departments work together to deliver school place sufficiency.</li> <li>• <b>4 April 2024:</b> The review report to be completed.</li> <li>• <b>15 April 2024:</b> The review report and its recommendations to be considered by the Children and Families Select Committee for presentation to Cabinet.</li> </ul>
<b>Reporting mechanism</b>	The report and its recommendations will be considered by the Children and Families Select Committee on 15 April 2024, in advance of being submitted to Cabinet.

