

18th December 2017

Agenda Item: 8

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS

PROPOSED BASIC NEED PROGRAMME OF SCHOOL EXPANSIONS 2018/19

Purpose of the Report

1. This report seeks approval to take the list of schools and planning areas forward (attached as **Appendix 1**) to feasibility with the Council's Departmental Services.

Information and Advice

2. The Council has a statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places for children resident in the County.
3. The feasibility process establishes whether there are any transport, environmental or cost risks which would mean that a particular project to secure sufficient school places cannot be delivered or does not represent good value for money.
4. On an annual basis the Council makes a statutory return to the Department for Education (DfE) outlining the net capacity and levels of occupation in its schools. This School Capacity report (SCAP) informs the Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) of the level of 'Basic Need' for new school places in the County, due to population growth.
5. The assessment of Basic Need for the period 2018/19, as determined by the ESFA through the agency of the SCAP return, was £20,467,135.
6. Basic Need funding is not ring fenced and comes with no recommendations as to which schools or planning areas should be allocated capital funding.
7. Basic Need must be deployed to address capital issues and cannot be used to address revenue issues.
8. Officers of Pupil Place Planning work in close conjunction with partner services in School Admissions, Place, and Information and Systems to further interrogate all available data in respect of projected demand for places to identify where the most pressing and appropriate sites for expansion sit.
9. In the period 2013 – 2016 the Council noted a significant growth in pupil numbers in the primary school phase, resulting in the allocation to the Council of approximately £70

million Basic Need funding, which has led to the creation of over 5,500 additional permanent primary places.

10. Projections data indicates that the primary “bulge”, first noted in 2013, is beginning to be felt in terms of higher numbers of applications for secondary school places in 2017, with this set to increase over the coming years.
11. Rushcliffe is the first district of Nottinghamshire to experience an increased demand for secondary school places, which cannot be met from within the existing school estate.
12. Project feasibility studies will establish the risks associated with all the proposals in **Appendix 1** and will identify where they are undeliverable, poor value for money or are appropriate and meet service needs, in order to determine which will be the most appropriate option(s) for Committee to approve.

Other Options Considered

13. Projects could proceed to planning without feasibility, but this would not then allow risks to be identified and is therefore not considered to be a viable option.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

14. Feasibility costs represent good value for money when compared with the costs associated with abortive planning and design costs which would be incurred without prior feasibility establishing the suitability of proposals.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

16. Where the feasibility works result in a capital project, the costs of the feasibility will be funded from the approved School Places capital programme. Where a capital project does not ensue, the cost of the feasibility works are not able to be funded from capital resources. As such, these costs will need to be met from within the Children, Families and Cultural Services revenue budget.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That Committee agrees to take the list of schools and planning areas forward to feasibility with the Council’s Departmental Services

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Constitutional Comments (SMG 06/12/17)

17. The Children and Young People's Committee has responsibility for the functions and powers conferred on or exercisable by the County Council in relation to educational matters. The proposals outlined in this report fall within the remit of this Committee.

Financial Comments (SAS 07/12/17)

18. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraph 16 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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