

**11 February 2019****Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS****BASIC NEED PROGRAMME OF SCHOOL EXPANSION 2019/20****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report seeks approval to take the list of schools identified in **Appendix 1** forward to feasibility with the Council's Departmental Services.

**Information**

2. Nottinghamshire County Council has a statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places for children resident in the County.
3. 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 return (SCAP) informs the Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) allocation of the level of 'Basic Need' grant for new school places in the County due to population growth.
4. The assessment of Basic Need for the period 2019/20, as determined by the ESFA through the agency of the SCAP return, was £8,600,000. This, together with a small underspend from previous years, takes the total amount available to allocate to projects this year to £8,978,000.
5. Basic Need funding is not ring fenced and comes with no recommendations as to which schools or planning areas should be allocated capital funding. It must be deployed to address capital issues and cannot be used to address revenue issues.
6. Officers in 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.
7. In the past the Council has been required to organise mobile classrooms to meet urgent teaching requirements with temporary planning permissions. On a predictable basis these come to the end of their permission or to the end of their viable life. The Basic Need allocation has been used over the years to replace these with permanent classrooms where data indicates that places are still required.

8. In the period 2013-16 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 of Basic Need funding. This spending led to the creation of over 5,500 additional permanent primary places.
9. 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 and 2018, with this set to increase over the coming years.
10. Rushcliffe was the first district of Nottinghamshire to experience an increased demand for secondary school places, which cannot be met from within the existing school estate; the secondary bulge in 2018 is now visible in Gedling secondary schools.
11. Project feasibility studies will establish the risks associated with all the proposals identified in **Appendix 1**. The outcomes of feasibility will inform Elected Members as to where proposed projects are undeliverable, poor value for money or appropriate and meet service needs.

### **Other Options Considered**

12. 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**

13. 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**

14. 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**

15. Where the feasibility works result in a capital project, the costs of the feasibility will be funded from the approved Basic Need 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 and Families Services revenue budget.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That Committee gives approval for the list of schools identified in **Appendix 1** to be taken forward to feasibility with the Council's Departmental Services.

**Marion Clay**  
**Service Director, Education, Learning and Skills**

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### **Constitutional Comments (KK 02/01/19)**

16. The proposal in this report is within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee.

### **Financial Comments (SAS 02/01/19)**

17. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraph 15 above.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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