

CABINET

13 July 2021

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| Title: Review of School Places and Capital Investment – Update | |
| Report of the Cabinet Member for Educational Attainment and School Improvement | |
| Open Report | For Decision |
| Wards Affected: All Wards | Key Decision: Yes |
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| Accountable Commissioning Director: Jane Hargreaves, Commissioning Director Education | |
| Accountable Strategic Director: Elaine Allegretti, Strategic Director, Children and Adults | |
| Summary This report provides an update on the latest information regarding forecast demand for education places across the Borough's schools. It also provides an update on some specific projects which are necessary to respond to place demand and new capital grant from the Department for Education (DfE) for the financial years 2021/22 and 2022/23. Additional school places have been made available from September 2021 at the following schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Secondary – Robert Clack 60 additional places at Yr7○ Primary – Robert Clack 30 additional places at YrR New DfE funding has been announced to secure investment in the Borough's schools for 2021/22 to support condition and suitability improvements which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ £568,817 Devolved Formula Capital Allocation – maintained LA Schools○ £5,225,469 School Condition Capital Allocation – maintained LA Schools A further amount of funding to help create additional school places up to September 2023 of £6,614,242 in the financial year 2022/23 has also been awarded. The DfE have also made £2,159,813 available to support the provision of capital grant for SEND places, or improvement to SEND places. | |
| Recommendation(s) The Cabinet is recommended to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Approve the inclusion in the Capital Programme of the DfE grant allocations for 2021/22 and 2022/23, as detailed in sections 5, 6 and 7 of the report; | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">(ii) Approve the proposed allocation of funding as set out in section 8 and in particular at 8.15 of the report, to support the provision of new school places and improvements, some of which will need to be ready for September 2021;(iii) Delegate authority to the Strategic Director, Children and Adults, acting on advice from the Procurement Board, to approve the final procurement strategies for projects noted in the report; and(iv) Delegate authority to the Strategic Director, Children and Adults, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education Attainment and School Improvement, the Managing Director and the Strategic Director, Law and Governance, to conduct the procurements and award the respective project contracts. |
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Reason(s)

The decision will assist the Council in fulfilling its statutory obligations to provide a school place for every child and support the intention of the Council's Vision and Priorities, including encouraging civic pride, enabling social responsibility, and growing the Borough, and delivering the ambition for excellence in education set out in our Education Strategy.

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 It has been the practice since 2010 to report regularly to Cabinet on the issue of the forecast for pupil numbers. These reports have also covered a programme of proposed works necessary to ensure that children in the Borough have the opportunity to attend school and to have a safe suitable environment. The last report presented to Cabinet on this subject was on 22 September 2020, Minute 24 refers.
- 1.2 This report provides an update and sets out the most up to date information on the projected demand for education places for September 2021. Further, the report seeks approval to include capital funding grant in the Council's Capital Programme in order to progress projects to improve school provision.

2. Update on Pupil Numbers and Capacity for September 2021

- 2.1 Cabinet has received regular reports about the continuing demand for school places and the need to develop additional high-quality provision. It is worth noting that providing sufficient school places is a national issue and, in particular, regional to London due to rising population which is now causing pressures in the secondary sector. For Barking and Dagenham, it has been a major priority for investment since 2007. Further to the demand for mainstream school places along with a number of local authorities, Barking and Dagenham is seeing the numbers of pupils requiring additional specialist support rising above the level of growth of the mainstream school population. Consequently additional places to support pupils with identified additional needs are being provided as a priority.
- 2.2 When looking at the forecast in growth of the pupil population several factors are taken into consideration as follows:
 - Numbers of pupils currently in the borough;

- Birth figures;
- New housing proposals, as advised in the Local Plan Review;
- Historical data e.g. pupils living in borough but choosing out borough schools;
- Internal knowledge of recent population fluctuations in particular the impact of population movements into and out of the Borough;

2.3. The position for the reception year classes for September 2021 is that we are anticipating that there will be a surplus of places as with last year above the operating spare capacity we are aiming for. We aim to have 3% - 4% spare capacity for fluctuations across the Borough and for parents to express a preference. There is surplus above the operating spare capacity for September 2021 due to a number of reasons (Covid, Brexit, births). However, these are expected to recover over the short term. For information, the birth data was as follows:

| Birth Year | Birth Numbers | Reception Year |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2012/13 | 3,808 | 2017/18 |
| 2013/14 | 3,834 | 2018/19 |
| 2014/15 | 3,697 | 2019/20 |
| 2015/16 | 3,747 | 2020/21 |
| 2016/17 | 3,980 | 2021/22 |

2.4 To manage this dip in place demand, the Admissions Team are in discussion with some schools to temporarily reduce the Pupil Admission Number at a few schools in the Borough and to manage a reduction aiming to minimise financial hardship to the schools affected. This practice has been used in the last 4 years. The figures show that these numbers are recovering, and we are anticipating a further rise in September 2022.

2.5 Things are changing in the borough and the last two of these reports did indicate that the impact of growth in the primary school phase is starting to affect secondary level. It was reported to Cabinet in September 2020 that a new facility at Robert Clack had been developed and the school started to offer 120 additional places in year 7 from September 2020 and is increasing this for year 7 to 180 from September 2021. There is also a new Robert Clack primary phase school building opening its doors from September 2021, with just 30 pupils in YrR, this school will gradually grow each year, the provision of this school is to comply with planning requirements. The next increase at secondary level will be Greatfields Secondary which will be offering an additional 120 places at year 7 from September 2023. There will also be a new Greatfields Primary School located in Barking on the adjoining site to Greatfields Secondary School. We are anticipating that Greatfields Primary will be opening its doors to new pupils, in a modest way, perhaps 30 or 60 pupils from September 2022. This latter project and the timing is subject to a funding agreement and legal documentation being provided by the appropriate authority at the DfE.

2.6 Over the summer/autumn of 2020 a couple of significant projects were undertaken to explore the needs and impacts of the council's proposal to develop a number of sites in the borough over the next 15 years.

- 2.7 The first of these projects was to undertake a forecast of the likely impact of significant housing over the next 15 years. Secondly, to explore the impact or the need to provide new schools to support the likely rise in place demand.
- 2.8 The background to the need to carry out these reviews was the development of the Councils Local Plan which was in consultation at the time of preparing this report. Further, the Housing Trajectory and specific policies identified in the Local Plan to develop 7 areas in the borough and referenced in the local plan as Policy SPP1 to SPP7.
- 2.9 The impact on education demands and place need are explored in the next section of this report.

3. Local Plan and Potential Impact on Education Provision

- 3.1. The Local Plan at the time of compiling this report is being consulted upon and as indicated in Section 2 above will have an impact in the demand for school places across pre-school, primary, secondary, and special needs. Further work to identify need now that we have more up to date information is set out below.
- 3.2 As you would expect such development could significantly change the outlook for the Borough with new employment opportunities, venues for shopping and a significant increase in residential development 35,000 to 40,000 new homes. Such an increase would raise the number of pupils requiring schooling from 44,625 (October 2020 School Census) to an estimated 75,260 by July 2036, this represents a 60% increase.
- 3.3 The second aspect would be that we now need to plan where additional school places can be provided to satisfy need. There is limited scope or opportunity to expand established schools on existing sites as since 2007 we have adopted a process to manage this. Adopting this strategy has supported the provision of new school places across the Borough and delivered value for money in place provision supporting additional school places to accommodate the rising school population from 2007 of 31,421 to 2020 where the population was 46,250. Consequently 76.3% have been expanded, 11.9% have taken 'blip' classes to help with particular bulge in a year group, but not expanded usually because they do not have space or were outside of the areas of local growth need, and 11.9% are new schools over that 13-year period, of the original school stock from 2007 88.2% have increased capacity.
- 3.4 To put the numbers into perspective a growth of 60% for school places would mean the additional provision of 27 (3fe) primary schools and 9 (10fe) secondary schools across the Borough strategically placed to meet local need particularly for primary aged pupils. In addition, it is estimated that 4 further special schools would be needed across the Borough. In cost terms this would be in excess of £600m, at current prices, plus land cost.

4 Review of Forecast for Pupils with Identified Additional Needs

- 4.1 It was reported to Cabinet 21 January 2020 that, within Education Commissioning, some work was being undertaken to explore improved forecasting and hence

planning for increased provision for children and young adults who need to have additional support. Minute 94 refers.

- 4.2 A review has been undertaken to examine the work previously undertaken against the outcomes in terms of numbers of pupils who are currently in our schools or are the financial responsibility of Barking and Dagenham. This has revealed that as an average over a 3 year period the proportion of the school aged population with an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) is around 3%. What has become apparent through the review and having more accurate data is that the growth in SEND pupils requiring additional specialist support is rising above the level of growth of the mainstream school population.
- 4.3 In order to project forward utilising the 3% model forecast data has been used based on the GLA population projections which sets out the demographic projections by age range. The numbers used need to cover the age ranges between 4 and 25 years, as for pupils with a need for additional support the Council has a responsibility to provide such support between those ages.
- 4.4 Utilising this information, it is possible to project forward based on the numbers in the 4 to 25 year ages range that 3% will mean over the next 5 years there will be an **additional** 249 pupils with EHCP which identifies the support an individual pupil needs over and above what the school would usually provide.
- 4.5 This breaks down into the following, based on the current make-up of provision, over the next 5 years.

| Over the next 5 years: 2021 to 2026 | | 3% (Proportion of Forecast 4-25 year olds) |
|--|-----|---|
| Additional pupils | | 249 |
| Special Schools | 26% | 65 |
| Additional Resource Provision | 15% | 37 |
| Mainstream Schools | 29% | 72 |
| Out of Borough Mainstream Placements | 12% | 30 |
| Specialist Placements | 18% | 45 |

- 4.6 The effects of a delay in the provision of promised facilities which the DfE have previously approved, see Section 8.6 and 8.7 later in the report, does mean that because the Council is responsible for planning and providing places for pupils' resident within its borders there are obligations which the Council has difficulty in fulfilling. This is because the Council is currently relying on the DfE to provide the financial resources in some instances, and in other circumstances is dependent on a new school being provided following a DfE competition.
- 4.7 In reality we have an issue which Council officers are steadfastly trying to manage without the resources from Central Government. Some pupils may not be in the best school placement because of availability and we need to do something to address this. Proposals are set out in Section 8 of this report.

5. New DfE Grant Allocations 2021

5.1. New advice has been received from the DfE about funding being made available to support capital projects for improvement or repair in 2021/22.

5.2 Devolved Formula Capital 2021/22 (DFC) £568,817

5.2.1 This is a fund of money from the Government which has been allocated for a number of years (since 2006/7) and is designed to be passed to all maintained schools in the Borough. Academy and free schools receive a separate allocation direct through their own funding allocation by the DfE.

5.2.2 The fund of £568,817 for LA schools which has been advised needs to be passported directly through the School's Finance Team under the direction of the Council Financial Director to the Borough's schools. This sum of £568,817 would need to be shown in the Council's Capital Programme. In respect of Voluntary Aided Bodies, they are advised directly by the DfE of their share of DFC.

5.3 School Condition Capital 2021/22 (SCC) £5,225,469

5.3.1 The DfE have released information about the capital allocations being made to local authorities for the maintenance, or to improve suitability, of existing maintained school buildings. The allocation for LBBB schools for 2021/22 is £5,225,469. A plan to utilise this funding will be assembled derived from technical advice, the content of the School Estate Asset Management Plan Database, and information collated from the DfE school condition survey data. The overall investment programme will be approved by the Commissioning Director Education in the manner traditionally adopted.

6 Capital for Basic Need 2022/23

6.1 The DfE have advised the council on the 25th of February 2021 that for the financial year 2022/23 an allocation of £6,614,243 will be made available to support provision of additional places in the Borough ahead of the intake for September 2023.

6.2 It is to be remembered that the council has benefited from the establishment of a number of academies/free schools in the borough and as such this has affected the funding which the Council receives for this activity. A schedule of proposed new schools, still to be provided, is detailed in section 8.5 of this report. These school will contribute towards the provision of additional places which will be necessary.

7. Section 31 Grant Determination for the High Needs Provision Capital Allocations

7.1 On the 25 February 2021 the DfE advised of the intention to allocate £300 million for new school places for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

7.2 This has now been confirmed by communication from the DfE dated 9 April 2021 that LBBB will receive £2,159,813 as its share of the funding allocated. This grant which is much needed and will support projects which are listed below in section 8.

8. Available Capital for meeting Basic Need

8.1 Set out below is the current funding identified by colleagues in Finance which is currently available to support the provision of new school places.

| | |
|---|------------|
| Allocation of funding not set against specific projects (includes Basic Need Funding 2020/21 financial year) | £2,223,558 |
| New Basic Need allocation 2021/22 | £ 443,356 |
| Balance held for future provision of school places. | £2,666,914 |

8.2 At the time of preparing the report for September Cabinet 2020 there was an active review process of the budget availability being conducted by colleagues in the Finance Team. It was felt appropriate to hold the balance of funding to be used for investing in new school places until the review had been concluded as there were competing investment needs which required assessment.

8.3 The review about funding has now been concluded and the projects which need investment have been assessed. The following paragraphs set out a proposal for Cabinet to adopt and recommend to the Council to progress.

8.4 It is now possible to provide cabinet members with a much more accurate set of figures following a recalculation by the Finance Team, in particular taking into account any underspending on projects that have been completed, reimbursement from external sources (insurance) for projects that have been completed and work undertaken by council officers on behalf of DfE to provide academy and free schools. As a consequence, after current commitments are taken into account the revised level of available funding is as follows:

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Allocation of Funding not set against specific projects (includes Basic Need funding 2020\21 financial year) (Section 8.1 above refers) | £2,223,558 |
| Funding for School Condition or Basic Need projects identified by finance review - Part 1 | £1,786,532 |
| Funding for School Condition or Basic Need Projects identified by Finance review - Part 2 | £1,624,735 |
| | |
| DfE Basic Need Grant 21\22 Financial Year (Cabinet 22 September 2020 (Minute 24)) | £443,356 |
| DfE Basic Need Grant 22\23 Financial Year (section 6 this report) | £6,614,243 |
| DfE High Needs Capital Allocation Financial Year 21\22 (section 7 this report) | £2,159,813 |
| Total Funding Available | £14,852,237 |

8.5 The following projects have been previously advised to the Council by DfE for new academy and free schools to be provided as follows:

Ford View Primary to be located at Beam Park,
630 place school plus 39 FTE nursery

Approved 16/9/2016

Likely Delivery September 2023

Mallard Primary to be located at Barking Riverside 630 place school plus 399 FTE nursery.

Approved 16/9/2016

Likely Delivery September 2025

Beam High – Secondary to be located at former Ford Stamping Plant, 1800 place secondary school including 300 6th form places.

Approved 16/9/2016

Likely Delivery September 2025

Greatfields Primary - to be located in the Gascoigne regeneration area, next to Greatfields Secondary School

Approved 16/9/2016

Likely Delivery September 2022

Pathways SEND Provision – 90 place SEMH School

Approved 20/9/2016

Likely Delivery September 2024

Note: this provision has been operational since September 2019 in a temporary location which the council is facilitating because of the real need to find placements for children in the borough.

Beam Bridge special school (now proposed Oxlow Bridge School) 176 place SLD\PMLD school

Approved 20/9/2016

The DFA have responsibility for providing the building to their preferred operator.

In reality the DfE and its partner organisation have not been able to identify a site or secure sufficient space in the Borough to commence this project. Officers of the Council managing education property have worked closely with colleagues who manage corporate property to broker a deal for the use of the Pondfield Depot site to construct a 90 place PMLD school

Likely Delivery September 2024

This will mean that for this provision about half of the required identified need will be provided and this does raise an issue for the Council in having sufficient in Borough places to support local children and their specific needs.

- 8.6 The impact of slow delivery for some of these new facilities means that for the Council children who have additional needs are not always being placed in the school provision for which they would be best suited, as places are not always

available. Additional revenue costs can be higher, for example if children have to be placed in a private provision, as we are competing for scarce places.

- 8.7 As set out earlier in the report under Section 4 which covers pupils who have additional needs the number of pupils which this impacts on is growing at a greater rate than the mainstream school population. We need to take some action to address this imbalance and the proposals in the next paragraphs will assist in this.
- 8.8 Some projects to increase or improve additional resource provision have been identified and positive work is being done to use existing approved grant funding for special needs places in Additional Resource Provisions in mainstream schools, discussions are continuing and improvement works are being identified to manage increased provision from September 2021.
- 8.9 We need to create additional special needs places at Trinity School again utilising previously approved DfE capital for special needs, some of this work is already underway.
- 8.10 To develop an extension to an existing special needs provision in a dedicated building to provide at least 90 new places, subject to discussion with interested parties and availability of a land resource. We need to carry out further discussions and investigative works including some design and costing and seek to set aside some funding to achieve this. This will be a good investment to keep pupils in the Borough rather than seeking high cost out Borough placements.
- 8.11 Since September 2016 Monteagle Primary has been utilising spare classrooms to expand their ARP and house an additional 24 pupils. This has been a very welcome provision to help manage places, however, as the school population is rising those classrooms need to be brought back into use, we need to continue the provision of the ARP at the school and need to carry out discussions with the school and some feasibility work to identify costs for this work.
- 8.12 We need to continue to develop additional ARP places in mainstream schools and whilst there are no firm appraisal proposals that can be identified at this time if Cabinet Members could agree to designate funding as indicated below this would enable officers to move quickly to secure these new places which may be needed for September 2021.
- 8.13 There have been additional demands put on Maybrook Park School – an alternative provision for pupils who cannot settle at a mainstream school. It is proposed to increase capacity at this School by providing a double classroom unit. This will be an interim measure whilst the long-term proposal can be developed and funding to support it can be secured. A sum of £250k to be set aside.
- 8.14 There are some schools where they have agreed to expand to take additional pupils and we need to support some specific specialist provision or there has been an identified need due to Covid.
- 8.15 For the reasons set out above a programme of works are now provided for Cabinet Members to consider as set out below:

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Budget indicated at 8.4 above | £14,852,237 |
| Conduct discussions and design investigations to assess the feasibility of expanding an existing special school. As identified at 8.10 above. | £100,000 |
| Provision of a new ARP building at Monteagle Primary. As identified at 8.11 above. | £1,500,000 |
| Develop ARP provision at a number of mainstream schools. As identified at 8.12 above. | £1,000,000 |
| Cost of Additional Classroom space at Mayesbrook School as identified at 8.13 | £300,000 |
| Cost of Continuing to provide improvements to mainstream schools to support the curriculum especially where schools have been previously expanded, or where the implications of Covid have caused particular issues. As identified 8.14 above | £2,000,000 |
| Retained basic need funding held as a contingency | £9,952,237 |
| Total | £14,852,237 |

9 Options Appraisal

- 9.1 The agreed investment strategy (see Future Planning Programme to meet Basic Need [including SEN places] 2019 to 2027 Cabinet 21 January 2020) is firstly to expand provision on existing school sites as far as practicable to meet local demand on a forward looking basis (i.e. to seek value for money solutions which have longevity); secondly to seek and build on sites in areas of demand in Council or other public ownership that are suitable for development as a school and which also offer value for money and longevity; then subsequently to support those external providers that have access to further capital funding and are capable and willing to provide high quality inclusive education places that comply with the Council's Admissions Policies.
- 9.2 The variables that influence the delivery of this strategy are: demand fluctuations; the willingness of governing bodies to accede to expansion plans; funding limitations; cost variances – specific to sites and timescales to achieve cost efficient / competitive prices often in short timescales.
- 9.3 Options exist for any specific scheme and are explored to ensure that the overall strategic outcomes sought are achieved in the most beneficial way being economic and appropriate for the school. Other overall strategies e.g. to rely on outside providers to meet the prospective short fall of school places would not be effective on their own: timescales and speed of reaction are too short.

10. Consultation

- 10.1 These proposals are not Ward specific. There has been consultation with a range of officers throughout the Council in order that appropriate matters are considered including financial, legal, procurement and others mentioned in section 12 of this report.

11. Procurement Implications

Implications completed by: Euan Beales – Head of Procurement and Accounts Payable

- 11.1 The spend detailed in the report will be procured in line with legislation at the time of the procurement and in line with the Council's Contract Rules

12. Financial Implications

Implications completed by: Alison Gebbett – Capital Accountant

- 12.1 This report provides an update on projected pupil numbers and planned place provision for the upcoming year but also longer term projections, along with the known resources available to support this provision. There will be increasing numbers of school pupils in the borough over the next 15 years due to housing developments. The report also highlights the demand for special educational needs and sets out the options that are being reviewed.
- 12.2 A review of prior year grant funding has now completed to establish if there are further unallocated resources that can be used to allocate to capital schemes to increase the number of pupil places. The results of this review are set out at 8.4 above. Along with current and future year allocations, the available resources to fund additional Basic Need schemes total £14,852,237, including new DfE grant allocations for Basic Need (£443,356 in 2021/22 and £6,614,242 in 2022/23) and High Needs provision (£2,159,813 in 2021/22). It should be noted that this funding assumes future receipt of funds of £2,176,600 relating to an insurance claim.
- 12.3 Of the £14,852,237 available, schemes have been put forward for approval for £4,900,000 as set out in 8.15 above, leaving £9,952,237 set aside for contingency (assuming the insurance pay-out is received).
- 12.4 This report also sets out capital programme funding allocations for 2021/22 of £556,817 Devolved Formula Capital which will be passported directly to schools and £5,225,469 Schools Condition Capital. Cabinet approval is requested to also add this to the capital programme.
- 12.5 These allocations are fully grant funded and will have no additional financial implications for the Council. Any major risks, issues or overspending that becomes apparent will be monitored, managed, and reported on as part of the Council's normal quarterly capital monitoring process.

13. Legal Implications

Implications completed by: Lindsey Marks Deputy Head of Law and Kayleigh Eaton, Senior Contracts and Procurement Solicitor

- 13.1 The Council as an education authority has a duty to promote high standards of education and fair access to education. Sections 13, 13A and 14 Education Act 1996 requires local authorities to: ensure that efficient primary, secondary and further education is available to meet the needs of their population; ensure that their education functions are exercised with a view to promoting high standards ensuring fair access to opportunity for education and learning, and promote the fulfilment of learning potential; and secure that sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available for their area.
- 13.2 Sections 13 and 14 Education Act 1996 provide that local authorities have a legal duty to identify and assess the special educational needs of children and young people for whom they are responsible. Once a local authority becomes aware that the child/young person in their area has or may have special educational needs, the local authority must ensure that those children/young people receive support to help them in “achieving the best possible educational and other outcomes”.
- 13.3 Where the Council carries out any procurements it must do so in accordance with the Council’s Contract Rules and where the contract has a value which is in excess of the EU thresholds then the procurement must be carried out in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- 13.4 Each project specified must be the subject of its own procurement strategy report and considered by the Procurement Board once officers are in a position to start the process. Legal services will be on hand to advise and assist in relation to each project as they arise.
- 13.5 In line with Contract Rule 50.15, Cabinet can indicate whether it is content for the Chief Officer to award contracts following the procurement process with the approval of Corporate Finance.

14. Other Implications

14.1 Risk Management

- 14.1.1 Risk that funding levels will not be sufficient to meet demand to create new education places needed.

This risk is high impact (4) and medium (3) probability = 12 red. This risk is being managed by purchasing the most affordable accommodation which is system build where possible. Post control the risk is high impact (4) and low (2) probability = 8 amber.

- 14.1.2 Risk that funding levels will not be sufficient to create suitable new school places. This risk is high impact (4) and high (4) probability = 16 red. This risk is being managed by purchasing the most affordable accommodation, which is system build, and blending it with site specific proposals. Post control the risk is high impact (4) and low (2) probability = 8 amber.

- 14.1.3 Primary and Secondary schools: risk that site availability would prevent delivery of school places in the areas where demand is highest.
This risk is high impact (4) and medium (3) probability = 12 red. This risk is being mitigated, as far as practicable, by expanding all available sites in high demand areas, and reviewing other buildings for potential school use. Post control the risk is still high impact (4) and medium (3) probability = 12 red.
- 14.1.4 Risk that the cost of the rate of deterioration of the school estate will outrun the funding available to maintain it.
This risk is high impact (4) and high (4) probability = 16 red. This risk is being mitigated as far as practicable by lobbying DfE for improvements in funding. Post control the risk is high impact (4) and medium (3) probability = 12 red.
- 14.1.5 The provision of school places is a matter which is directly identified in the Corporate Risk Register and listed at Corporate Risks 31 – Provision of School Places.
- 14.1.6 Risk that final costs will be higher than estimate costs.
This risk is high impact (4) and high (4) probability = 16 red. This risk is managed through monthly finance meetings and initial planning figures that architects and schools are asked to work within being set below the highest estimate to allow for unforeseen challenges.
- 14.2 **Contractual and Procurement Issues** - It is anticipated that projects will be procured through options related either to the Local Education Partnership or through the Council's Framework of Contractors or other national or local frameworks which are accessible to the Council to secure value for money. It is a requirement of the grant funding to achieve value for money and demonstrate that all procurement options have been evaluated.
- 14.2.1 Legal, procurement and other professional advice will be sought regarding the appropriate procurement routes and contractual agreements to procure and secure the individual projects. All procurement activity will be conducted in compliance with the Council's Contract Rules and EU Legislation. The procurement routes will be approved at Procurement Board which will consider a report from Education Commissioning about a procurement strategy based on a project basis. This will ensure that Value for Money is tested.
- 14.2.2 Projects will be subject to the Capital Appraisal Process and the agreement of the Procurement Board to progress schemes.
- 14.3 **Staffing Issues** - There are no specific staffing issues although the growing demand for school places will create additional opportunities in schools for both teaching and non-teaching staff.
- 14.4 **Corporate Policy and Equality Impact** - The decision will assist the Council in fulfilling its statutory obligations to provide a school place for every child and support the intention of the Council's Vision and Priorities, including encouraging civic pride, enabling social responsibility, and growing the Borough. It is part of the mitigation of Corporate Risk 31 – Inability to Provide School Places.

The short-term impact of the recommendations for the coming year would be positive for customers on all counts of: race, equality, gender, disability, sexuality, faith, age and community cohesion. The longer-term outlook is unlikely to be positive on the proposed funding levels as it will be difficult to address need on current budget levels.

- 14.5 **Safeguarding Adults and Children** - Adoption of the recommendations in the short term would contribute to the Council's objectives to improve the wellbeing of children in the borough, reduce inequalities and ensure children's facilities are provided in an integrated manner, having regard to guidance issued under the Childcare Act 2006 in relation to the provision of services to children, parents, prospective parents, and young people.
- 14.6 **Health Issues** - The health and wellbeing board and JSNA highlight the importance of investing in early intervention and education to support children's and young people's long-term wellbeing. The evidence and analysis set out in Fair Society, Healthy Lives (Marmot Review) has been developed and strengthened by the report of the Independent Review on Poverty and Life Chances. The reports draw attention to the impact of family background, parental education, good parenting and school-based education, as what matters most in preventing poor children becoming poor adults. The relationship between health and educational attainment is an integral part of our Health and Wellbeing Strategy. At this point there is no need to change the focus of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy as a result of this report. Healthy Schools funding is to be welcomed.
- 14.7 **Crime and Disorder Issues** - Appropriate consideration of the development of individual projects will take into account the need to design out potential crime problems and to protect users of the building facilities.
- 14.8 **Property / Asset Issues** - This proposed decision would facilitate the improvement and renewal of Council assets.

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report: None

List of Appendices: None