

## CABINET

10 November 2015

<b>Title:</b> Review of School Places and Capital Investment - Update November 2015	
<b>Report of the Cabinet Member for Education and Schools</b>	
<b>Open Report</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> All Wards	<b>Key Decision:</b> Yes
<b>Report Author:</b> Mike Freeman, Group Manager School Estate and Admissions	<b>Contact Details:</b> Tel: 020 8227 3492 E-mail: mike.freeman@lbbd.gov.uk
<b>Accountable Divisional Director:</b> Jane Hargreaves, Divisional Director Education, Youth and Childcare.	
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Helen Jenner, Corporate Director Children's Services	
<b>Summary</b> <p>This report sets out the latest information regarding forecast demand for education places across the Borough's schools, together with a Future Planning Programme to meet Basic Need (including SEN and 2 year old places) 2015 to 2021.</p> <p>The report provides Cabinet with an update on some specific projects which have previously been approved but also, in particular, seeks approval to make variations to budget provision and set aside funding for future use.</p> <p>The following information is provided for Cabinet Members as there are some important aspects of the development of school places which influence demand and cost. Three very important points are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Local Plan Review sets out the aspirations to create new and additional homes, with that comes some infrastructure requirements and in particular for Children's Services the provision of school places;</li><li>• When providing school places in the past for each form of entry we have worked on £2m for primary and £3m for secondary based on historical build costs. However, we have benefitted from doing more straight forward schemes – the new ones will be more complex and the recalculation of costs are showing that on average we should be using £3m for primary and £4m for secondary;</li><li>• Additionally the need to provide new sites as the limit to expanding existing schools is fast approaching, and developing new sites brings with it not only additional costs as sites are generally more confined and are likely to have significant costs plus building inflation which is currently running at 1% per month, but also the potential process of competitions for school operators.</li></ul> <p>Also detailed is information regarding funding available to support a programme of</p>	

investment which is required to 2017 based on the forecast demand for pupil places, together with a schedule of planned projects (**Appendix A**) for 2015 to 2021.

### **Recommendation(s)**

The Cabinet is recommended to:

- (i) Approve the Future Planning Programme to meet Basic Need (including SEN places) 2015 to 2021 as set out in section 2 of the report and Appendix A;
- (ii) Agree the inclusion of £1,000,000 in the Capital Programme to support the provision of nursery places for 2 year olds in accordance with the DfE approval as detailed in section 3 of the report;
- (iii) Approve the inclusion of £2,457,290 of capital grant from the EFA in order to carry out works at Eastbury Community School as part of Priority Schools Building Programme as set out in section 5 of the report. This funding will secure works through the PFI contractor who has a legal interest in the property and to increase this amount by up to £1.5m if the school wish to see other works commissioned which they would pay for;
- (iv) Approve the increase in budget to support the redevelopment of the Eastbrook School through the Priority Schools Building Programme, setting aside an additional allocation of £400,000 from the basic need allocation as set out in sections 6 and 10.2 of the report;
- (v) Approve the budget for Riverside Free Schools of £45,195,736, as set out in section 7 of the report, which will be provided to the Council from the Education Funding Agency to support the provision of the school, and include this fund in the capital programme;
- (vi) Approve the intention to support the procurement of the new Greatfields School as set out in section 8 of the report, subject to the EFA settling all allocations and agreeing a funding agreement. The LA to provide knowledge and access to the procurement route which the EFA would like to be utilised;
- (vii) Approve the setting aside of £8,000,000 from the basic need grant to support the development of a new primary school in central Barking as set out in sections 9 and 10.2 of the report;
- (viii) Agree the procurement principles as set out in section 15.2 of the report and that all projects over £100,000 will be submitted to the Procurement Board where a route to market will be recommended and approved or an alternative route agreed;
- (ix) Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Schools, the Chief Financial Officer and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to award the respective project contracts; and
- (x) Indicate whether Cabinet wishes to be further informed or consulted on the progress of the various procurement processes and award of the contracts for the projects.

## **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.

It is part of the mitigation of Corporate Risk 31 – Inability to Provide School Places.

## **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. The last report presented to Cabinet on this subject was on 24 March 2015, Minute 117 refers.
- 1.2 This report provides an update and sets out the most up to date information on the projected demand for education places to 2021. Further, the report covers a number of initiatives which build on existing arrangements to develop the use of accommodation.
- 1.3 The third aspect of the report is to provide an updated Programme of School Development through to 2021 to support the forecast pupil demand.
- 1.4 The following information is provided for Cabinet Members as there are some important aspects of the development of school places which influence demand and cost. Three very important points are:
  - The Local Plan Review sets out the aspirations to create new and additional homes, with that comes some infrastructure requirements and in particular for Children's Services the provision of school places;
  - When providing school places in the past for each form of entry we have worked on £2m for primary and £3m for secondary based on historical build costs. However, we have benefitted from doing more straight forward schemes – the new ones will be more complex and the recalculation of costs are showing that on average we should be using £3m for primary and £4m for secondary;
  - Additionally the need to provide new sites as the limit to expanding existing schools is fast approaching, and developing new sites brings with it not only additional costs but the potential process of competitions for school operators.

## **2. Update on Pupil Numbers and Capacity**

- 2.1 Cabinet has received regular reports about the continuing demand for school places and the need to develop additional provision. It is worth noting that providing sufficient school places is a national issue and in particular regional to London due

to rising population. For Barking and Dagenham it has been a major priority for investment since 2007. Cabinet Members will be aware that the GLA Education Panel discussed the impact of increasing pupil numbers on the 16 September 2015 and Cllr Evelyn Carpenter (Cabinet Member for Education and Schools) and Cllr John White (Chair of the Children's Services Select Committee) were able to make a significant contribution to the debate and the impact in Barking and Dagenham.

2.2 When looking at the forecast in growth of the pupil population a number of 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;

2.3. The most recent set of pupil forecast figures have been reviewed over the last 3-4 months in order to provide to Central Government evidence about the local changes and forecast changes to the pupil population. This data when put together with all other Council's forecast data is then used by the DfE to measure at national level the growth in pupil demand. This data is then used by the DfE to allocate resources for meeting school place basic need at local level. The forecasts indicate:

- the primary School population across the Borough will increase from its present levels of 23,583 at January 2015 to 29,071 for the school year 2021/2022.
- the secondary school population across the Borough will increase from its present levels of 13,457 to 21,150 for the school year 2021/2022.

*[Note: these figures allow for the growth of the borough and projected increases to population allowing for published house building; there may be fluctuations owing to other demographic changes.]*

2.4 These figures are slightly lower than previous projections as the birth rate projections are slightly lower, and the most significant change has been the reduction in recent house building completions and revised forecasts for 2015/16-2017/18. It is a factor that the projected house building has a significant impact on the Council's ability to attract funding from Central Government to support the provision of new or additional school places. The review of the Council's Local Plan has begun and this anticipates that housing delivery will accelerate significantly beyond 2017/18.

### **Primary Provision**

2.5 As previously indicated the primary population growth to 2021 is expected to increase by around 5,500 pupils based on current housing development plans, but does not include any element of future planned expansion beyond current published figures. The current capacity for Reception is 3,751 places at September 2015, and the number on roll at October 2015 is 3,612, giving spare capacity or vacancies of 139 places across the Borough. Current forecast is being managed down to ensure

we do not over provide in the Borough but having regard to longer term need for places. This has been analysed further by reception place demand as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Yr R Number Forecast</b>	<b>Increase</b>
2015-16	3,815[Jan 15 Actual 3580]	
2016-17	3,877	62
2017-18	3,968	91
2018-19	4,140	172
2019-20	4,161	21
2020-21	4,245	84
2021-22	4,272	27

- 2.6 This extra demand of at least 692 places is equivalent to 23 forms of entry at YrR (Reception). The pace of this demand is directly affected by changes in rates of house building, which makes predicting exactly when children will need school places, and in which year groups, extremely challenging. Details about how these places are planned to be provided are set out on the Appendix A of this report which acts as a master plan of proposed developments through to 2021. This is reviewed on a monthly basis and brought to Cabinet 6 monthly to enable a flexible response to changing population information, whilst maintaining our strategic approach to creating an excellent education service.
- 2.7 Experience has proven that we need to provide above the minimum level forecast to manage the high number of in year admissions and to give parents the opportunity to express a preference. Our aim is to meet the DfE minimum recommended 3% spare capacity. These forecasts are kept under review on an annual basis to maximise investment opportunities when they arise.

### **Secondary Provision**

- 2.8 In order to address the shortfall of places efficiently Children's Services have looked at solutions based on an increase in secondary school provision at year 7 [Yr7] going forward. Rather than looking at specific areas of the Borough, planning has been across the Borough because of the demand for places and the need to expand provision across the whole sphere of existing secondary schools, as well as developing some new schools in the borough. Such new schools will be secured as indicated in the report to Cabinet 2 June 2015, Review of School Paces and Capital Investment – Update June 2015, minute 4 refers.
- 2.9 As previously indicated the secondary population growth to 2021 is expected to increase by around 7,800 pupils based on current housing development plans, but does not include any element of future planned expansion beyond current published figures. This has been analysed further by year 7 place demand as follows:

Year	YR7 Capacity 2015	YR7 Number Forecast	Increase
2015-16	2550	2,593 [actual Jan 15 2,409]	184
2016-17		2,807	214
2017-18		3,022	215
2018-19		3,577	555
2019-20		3,696	119
2020-21		3,753	57
2021-22		3,819	66

- 2.10 This extra demand of at least 1,410 places is equivalent to 47 forms of entry at Yr7. Details about how these places are planned to be provided are set out on the Appendix A of this report which acts as a master plan of proposed developments through to 2021.
- 2.11 In order to provide for demand of 47 classes of YR7 pupils in the years up to 2021 the plan has been updated to provide 1,410 YR7 places by expanding existing sites or creating new secondary schools. The current plan creates a small surplus necessary if we are to manage parental preference. Further, any review of demand also takes into account other opportunities such as vacant places in neighbouring boroughs.
- 2.12 Whilst there are currently opportunities for parents to secure out borough places, in mainly Havering and Redbridge, this is likely to reduce as our near neighbours are also experiencing higher demand for school places in their primary schools which ultimately will lead to increased demand for secondary places, from within their own boundary.

### **Primary and Secondary School Demand**

- 2.13 In the last year the impact of local migration to Barking and Dagenham has been a feature on the place demand required. The flexibility of the development programme to provide places based primarily on birth rate and the growth of school provision from the younger age group to the older has been under pressure. We are experiencing particular pressures in years 1 to 3, year 6 and in secondary schools years 8 and 9. This change in demand pattern does mean that we need to review how we secure projects or new schools with some provision in the project development principles that the school or expansion will take pupils into year groups as needed which might include opening new classes in year groups other than only the youngest. In practice a number of schools are and have worked with the local authority to meet this requirement but it will in future be included in the discussion with schools.

## **3. Conversion of Early Years Revenue to Capital**

- 3.1 An application has been made to the Education Funding Agency to disapply the financial regulations covering revenue grant to support the provision of childcare

places for 2 year children in the Borough. A sum of £1m has been identified from the revenue grant which might be used to support the development of new places which is a capital cost. Such approval was subject to the Secretary of State authorising the request. By letter of 26 June 2015 this consent has been granted.

- 3.2 Cabinet are asked to approve the changes and for the sum of £1,000,000 to be included in the capital programme. This fund will support additional 2 year old places being developed.
- 3.3 Capacity is fully utilised across the sector at present, and there is currently no spare capacity in the market to deliver further 2 year old places. Investment through capital to create new places is therefore essential.

#### **4. Available Capital for meeting Basic Need**

- 4.1 The last report to Cabinet about this subject in March 2015, and previously referred to, identified a figure of £5,742,246 as a balancing sum being held for allocation against future projects. This figure has been balanced off against some existing commitments after consultation with the Chief Finance Officer staff and the balance has been reduced to a figure of £4,337,056. This means with other allocations due this year, and in 2016 to 2018 the following position is set out:

Balance	£4,337,056
Basic Need 2015/16	£ 2,414,236
Basic Need 2016/17	£2,534,947
Basic Need 2017/18	£17,865,375
Barking Riverside Loan	£5,500,000 return expected 2018

**Total Basic Need to 2018 £32,651,614**

- 4.2 This sum needs to be viewed against the current project list included in the capital programme and the balancing need for new places identified in Section 2 above to 2021. The estimate of additional resources needed based on £3m per form of primary places and £4m for secondary after taking off the existing commitments would be as follows:

We need 23 forms of entry for primary, 14 are already planned as set out below with funding to 2016/17:

- Riverside Primary 3fe
- Gascoigne Primary expansion 2fe
- Sydney Russell Primary 3fe
- Eastbrook Primary 3fe
- Lymington Primary 3fe

We need 47 forms of entry for secondary, 29 are already planned as set out below with funding to 2017/18:

- Riverside School 6fe [balance]
- Eldonwald site 6fe
- United Learning 4fe
- Eastbrook 2fe [expansion]

- Greatfields School 10fe [Gascoigne Regeneration Project]
- Dagenham Park 1fe [expansion]

This would mean the balance of what we need to provide to 2021 is 9 forms of entry primary and 18 forms of secondary at a cost of £80-100m plus land costs of circa £25 to 30m. We therefore need to generate further investment for school places between 2018 and 2021 of £130m. This projection remains in line with our earlier indicator of between £40m to £45m per year.

- 4.3 It is worth noting that with the projects which have been completed and are operational represented the quicker gains and meant that we have expanded existing schools with agreement, or new schools have been established outside of existing provision. Looking forward the projects we would like to do become more complex with a need to ensure that schools can manage such expansion. Also there is a need to develop new schools with the difficulties of identifying and securing new school sites which are difficult to obtain, often on brown field sites that need decontamination and may have in addition costs of site acquisition. These factors could well add to the development costs mentioned above.

## **5. Eastbury Community School - Priority Schools Building Programme**

- 5.1 Included in the Cabinet report 24 March was a reference to funding being allocated through the Priority Schools Building Programme to carry out building maintenance improvements to Eastbury Community School existing buildings. It was reported that a sum of £3m approximately would be allocated to the Council for this work by way of a grant. This figure has now been clarified as £2,457,290 which needs to be included in the Capital Programme in order that we might carry out the works identified by the EFA. Such works will be undertaken through the existing PFI contractor who has a presence on site. Using this route will mean that we can avoid any complex and expensive legal variations, and because the PFI contractor has a legal interest in the site for existing facilities it will mean that costs are minimised.
- 5.2 Additionally Cabinet is asked to approve extending the scope of work by up to £1.5m if the School are prepared to meet costs and request additional works to benefit the School.

## **6. Eastbrook School – Priority Schools Building Programme**

- 6.1 The project approved by the EFA at Eastbrook replaces the existing building and expands the secondary school by 2 forms of entry, but also gives a 3fe primary school on site. At Cabinet on 30 June 2014 a sum of £600,000 was approved to be included in the Capital Programme to support larger more flexible teaching spaces in the new primary school building. The Council were also advised that the EFA were not able to set aside money from their budget to meet boundary cost changes, highway or transport improvements. Now that the design has been agreed and planning consent approved details about additional costs which the Council will need to meet have been clarified to include these costs which will increase the budget from £600k to £1m. This cost represents a good investment in a building which will generate some £42m of investment. The additional burden on the Basic Need budget is included in the section dealing with specific projects.



## 7. Riverside Free Schools

- 7.1 Included in the Cabinet report 30 June 2014 were details indicated by the Education Funding agency about the resources they would be allocating to the Council for the cost of construction, fees, and fitting out in the sum of £34m for the Riverside Free Schools. The EFA have now written formally to the Council setting down revised funding taking into account inflation for the 3 school buildings as follows:

Primary School	6,664,137
Special School	9,927,823
Secondary School	28,603,776
<b>Total</b>	<b>£45,195,736</b>

This sum now needs to be provided for in the capital programme.

## 8. Greatfields Free School

- 8.1 The report to Cabinet on 2 June 2015 included information that the DfE had approved the creation of a new free school on the Gascoigne regeneration project which would be funded by the EFA. There have been some discussions with the EFA who having commissioned the Council's Children's Services School Estate Team to act as their agent for the Riverside Schools complex, as they would like to benefit from a similar arrangement with the Greatfields School. This would mean utilising the Council's LEP as the procurement route subject to securing value for money arguments. The benefit to the Council will be representatives from Children's Services will be able to influence the design and secure educational objectives i.e. spaces for teaching similar to those available to children elsewhere in the Borough.
- 8.2 The Council's own internal appraisal process through the Procurement Board has approved the procurement route through the LEP.

## 9 New Primary School – Central Barking

- 9.1 The report to Cabinet 30 June 2014 identified a desire to provide some school facilities to the west of Barking town centre and a potential site is in the process of being identified as suitable subject to discussion with any owner. A sum of £2m was set aside for site acquisition. As this project becomes more real it is appropriate to show a commitment for the project by reserving a further sum of £8m to support the development of the scheme.

## 10 Support for Specific Projects

- 10.1 Turning now to the need to set aside some of the funding for specific projects. In section 4.1 above the following values of basic need grant were identified as available currently and for 2016 17, as follows:

Balance	£4,337,056
Basic Need 2015/16	£ 2,414,236
Basic Need 2016/17	£2,534,947
<b>Total</b>	<b>£9,286,239</b>

10.2 There are two projects which need to be supported at this stage from this fund as follows:

- Eastbrook – increase the current budget by £400,000 as set out in 6 above.
- Barking Primary – increase the current budget by £8,000,000 as set out in 8 above
- Balance – the sum of £886,239 to be held as the balancing figure for unforeseen additional numbers.

## **11. Options Appraisal**

- 11.1 Current strategy is formulated against a backdrop on the demand side of continuing increase in demand for school places for the foreseeable future; short run surges of demand for school places e.g. over the summer period and on the supply side: limited funding on short time horizons; shortage of sites in areas of high demand; and timescales for new providers e.g. timescales for Free Schools to be established may be two years.
- 11.2 The agreed investment strategy (see Future Planning Programme to meet Basic Need [including SEN places] 2015 to 2021 which is attached to this report) is first, 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); then subsequently 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; 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.
- 11.3 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; timescales to achieve cost efficient/ competitive prices in short timescales.
- 11.4 The proposed delivery of the strategy is set out in the report appended (Strategy for Ensuring School Places and School Modernisation). As part of the strategy the document encompasses a further document entitled Future Planning Programme to meet Basic Need [including SEN places] 2015 to 2021. This document sets out proposed projects. Specific projects may be subject to change for the reasons set above, and other projects substituted. The overall strategy is robust and remains the same: individual project specifics may change but will remain in the overall strategic framework.
- 11.5 Options exist for any specific scheme and are explored to ensure that the overall strategic outcomes sought are achieved. 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.

## **12. Consultation**

- 12.1 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, risk management and others mentioned in section 14 of this report.

## **13. Financial Implications**

Implications completed by: Carl Tomlinson Group Finance Manager

- 13.1 This report informs Members of the Council's Strategy of ensuring sufficient school places. The report seeks approval for the increase in the budget allocation for Eastbrook from £600k to £1.0m and reserve a further £8m of capital funding for a new primary school in Barking. There is sufficient funding available for these two projects from the basic need funding. A full capital appraisal, including any revenue implications will need to be undertaken before the start of these projects.
- 13.2 The report also requests the inclusion of a contribution from the DSG of £1m to support the provision of childcare places for 2 year olds. This funding is available within the DSG and has been approved by the Schools Forum. The DfE have agreed to disapply the financial regulations covering revenue grant to support the provision of childcare places for 2 year children in the Borough.
- 13.3 This report also requests the inclusion of maintenance works for Eastbury Community School in the capital programme. Funding of £2,457,290 has been made available by the EFA to undertake these works.
- 13.4 In addition the report seeks the inclusion of funding totalling £45,195,736 in the capital programme supported through EFA grant for the provision new school facilities at Riverside Free School.
- 13.5 Any major risks/financial impact identified through the appraisal process will be notified to Members through subsequent Cabinet reports.
- 13.6 There are ongoing discussions with procurement on the schemes to ensure value for money and that procurement is appropriate, and this is in line with the legal implications set out below.

## **14. Legal Implications**

Implications completed by: Lucinda Bell, Education Lawyer

- 14.1 The Council has a duty under s14 of the Education Act 1996 to ensure the provision of "sufficient schools" for the provision of primary and secondary education in their area. Para 6 of this section requires the Council to have regard to the need to secure that special education provision is made for pupils who have special educational needs. The Children and Families Act 2014 requires at s27 that the Council keeps under review the educational provision, training provision and social care provision made in its area for children and young people who have special education needs or a disability, and also keeps under review the same provisions

for the same groups of children and young people for whom it is responsible made outside its area.

14.2 Legal advice must be obtained in relation to the planned procurement.

## **15. Other Implications**

### **15.1 Risk Management**

15.1.1 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.

15.1.2 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.

15.1.3 Primary 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.

15.1.4 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.

15.1.5 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.

15.1.6 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 CPMO 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.

15.2 **Contractual 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. It will also be necessary to explore other specialist providers where there is value for money and a clear support from the Government or its agents to secure projects in this way for schemes which they are funding directly.

Legal, procurement and other professional advice will be sought regarding the appropriate procurement routes and contractual agreements to procure and secure the individual projects which fall within the second phase, consisting of the secondary and primary school schemes.

Projects will be subject to the Capital Appraisal Process and the agreement of the Procurement Board to progress schemes. However the Cabinet is asked to approve procurement principles as set out to avoid the need to report back to Cabinet as these procurements are either beyond our control or need to happen quickly within pressing timescales because pupils need to be accommodated.

- 15.3 **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. There has been a consultation process regarding the changes at Castle Green.
- 15.4 **Corporate Policy and Customer 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.

- 15.5 **Safeguarding 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 Children Act 2006 in relation to the provision of services to children, parents, prospective parents and young people.
- 15.6 **Health Issues** - The health and well being board and JSNA highlight the importance of investing in early intervention and education to support children's and young people's long term well being. 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.
- 15.7 **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.

- 15.8 **Property / Asset Issues** - This proposed decision would facilitate the improvement and renewal of Council assets. The specific proposal for JRCS/Castle Green will provide improved management opportunities at the centre to enhance the use of accommodation and other resources for pupils and the wider community.

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

**List of appendices:**

- **Appendix A** - Future Planning Programme to meet Basic Need (including SEN places) 2015 to 2021.