

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 7
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Report of the Corporate Director, People and Communities

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DRAFT SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2015/20 – DELIVERING LOCAL PLACES FOR LOCAL CHILDREN

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline to the scrutiny committee the ongoing strategy for meeting the statutory requirement for school places in Peterborough. The report draws together the latest demographic data, the capital programme and identifies the need for further school places. It is the third iteration of the School Organisation Plan with the previous version being considered by the committee in April 2013 and July 2014.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The committee is asked to consider the draft plan, ask for any further information or clarification and recommend the strategy to take forward to Cabinet for agreement.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 Single Delivery Plan - Programme 1 – Creating jobs through growth and improved skills and education.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The production of a School Organisation Plan was previously a statutory requirement for Local Authorities to produce to outline how they meet their legal requirement to provide school places. Given the high profile nature of meeting this requirement in Peterborough, this document was revived to support the planning and transparency of school places in Peterborough. In February 2013, Ofsted noted in its inspection of School Improvement that *'The local authority is proactive and effectively plans to anticipate future challenges. For example, it has ensured that sufficient school places are available to match the significant rise of the school-age population. Officers check that schools have the capacity and expertise to meet the specific needs of newly arrived pupils'*.
- 4.2 This plan helps create profile on the challenge of school places, enables schools to plan for future changes and give clear intention on its areas for expenditure in the coming year.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 The updated school organisation plan is outlined in appendix 1. The emerging pressure for the authority is now in the Secondary sector where increases in pupil numbers from primary schools are beginning to work their way through into the secondary sector. Plans are in place for dealing with increases but given the timescale in commissioning new secondary provision decisions have a long lead in time.

- 5.2 Another key pressure is around funding. PCC will receive no government funding for the 2015/16 and 2016/17 financial year. A revised return has been sent to the Education Funding Agency in July and we hope this situation will change. A bid will be put forward as part of the 2016/17 budget proposals to support our ongoing needs for school places.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The School Organisation Plan will outline the application of the capital programme for schools to meet growth. Individual decisions on schemes will be covered through the cabinet member decision notice. The School Organisation Plan sets out the City Council's strategy for managing the school estate and delivering school places for the next five years. It also acts to support the growth agenda of the council, including delivery of the ambitions set out in the Peterborough Local Plan.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The document is a fluid document which is updated when new information is forthcoming. Alongside the committee, schools will also be consulted on the proposals before being finalised. However, the document will continue to be updated annually to reflect how the pressures are being met.

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 Following feedback from the committee and schools, a final response document will be produced to outline the detailed changes proposed. This will be taken to Cabinet for final agreement.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 9.1 None

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 Appendix 1 – School Organisation Plan 2015-2020