

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
25 NOVEMBER 2015	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor John Holdich OBE – Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and the University	
Contact Officer(s):	Terry Reynolds – Assistant Director – Education	Tel. 01733 863743

SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2015-2020 – DELIVERING LOCAL PLACES FOR LOCAL CHILDREN

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : Lead Member for Education, Skills and the University	Deadline date : N/A
For Cabinet to approve the School Organisation Plan in light of the pressures on school places and in terms of planning growth in the city.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following a referral from Councillor John Holdich – Lead Member for Education, Skills and the University

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on proposals to meet the statutory requirement for school places in Peterborough. The School Organisation Plan draws together the latest demographic data and the capital programme to identify the need for further school places. It also acts as a supplementary planning document to the Core Strategy document.
- 2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.4 ‘to promote the Council’s corporate and key strategies and Peterborough Community Strategy and approve strategies and cross-cutting programmes not included within the Council’s Major Policy Framework’.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO
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4. STRATEGY FOR MANAGING SCHOOL PLACES

- 4.1 The School Organisation Plan (SOP) was formerly a statutory requirement for Local Authorities to outline how they meet their statutory requirement to provide school places. Given the high profile nature of meeting this requirement in Peterborough, this document was revived in 2014 to support the planning, funding arrangements and transparency of school places in Peterborough.
- 4.2 The updated School Organisation Plan for 2015 sets out the City Council’s strategy for managing the school estate and delivering school places for the next five years. It will be a Supplementary Planning Document to the adopted Core Strategy and will support the process of developer contributions and the Council’s medium term financial strategy.

- 4.3 Supplementary Planning Documents are statutory documents that provide a greater level of detail, guidance or good practice to supplement a policy (or policies) in a Development Plan Document (DPD).
- 4.4 The document will form the basis of appealing to the government for further funding. Peterborough will receive no funding for growth in pupil numbers (basic need funding) in 2015/16 and 2016/17 under the Department for Education current funding assumptions. As the figures suggest, this is the time we will need to increase capacity especially around secondary schools.
- 4.5 The final version of the School Organisation Plan for 2015-20 is outlined at **Appendix A**.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The School Organisation Plan was taken to the 'Creating Opportunities, Tackling Inequalities' Scrutiny Committee on 14 September 2015 following the request in 2014 that the position on school places be reported to the Committee on a regular basis. The Committee noted the pressure the city was under demographically but were satisfied that planning was in place to ensure every child could access a school place.
- 5.2 A copy of the document was sent to schools with positive feedback around producing the document and identifying the spatial impact of growth in birth rates and migration was having upon Peterborough.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 6.1 Cabinet's approval of the document will place the SOP within the adopted Core Strategy of the Council.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The report is for Cabinet to approve. Appropriate action is being undertaken to deliver the statutory requirement for school places.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The alternative option is not to adopt this strategy. However, the impact will be a lack of co-ordination around new housing development and a lack of clarity for the public around the council's intentions around school place planning.

9. IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Financial – the SOP works within the financial parameters established within the medium term financial plan. This will be updated annually as the budgets change and demographic needs become updated.
- 9.2 Property – the document outlines the proposed impact on existing school sites and the requirements for further schools. The requirements will need to be included in the Asset Management Plan (AMP).
- 9.3 Procurement – separate decision notices will be issued as capital expenditure is procured using the variety of procurement vehicles open to PCC.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

None