

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 7
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Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services

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SCHOOL DEVELOPMENTS ACROSS PETERBOROUGH

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To highlight the steps being taken to address the shortfall of school places across Peterborough

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the projects already underway and the number of places being created, whilst also noting that increased pressures are predicted in our demographics and more school places will be required which will require further investment from the Council over and above any grant money received from the Government.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 The statutory requirement to provide school places links with the Sustainable Community Strategy priority of Creating Opportunities – Tackling Inequalities.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At the meeting Jonathan Lewis will present a power-point presentation on School Admissions and School Place Planning, detailing the following:

- The Local Authority's responsibilities
- Admission processes
- Size of schools and legal issues (Infant Class Size legislation)
- Types of schools
- Pressures
- Demography
- Current projects underway
- Future projects

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 The Committee is requested to note the current position of a shortage of school places across the city and that this position is likely to get worse and will require investment in order for the Council to meet its statutory obligations of providing sufficient school places.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – there are inevitable financial implications of investment in school places over and above the government funding.
Legal – some funding may come from Section 106 contributions

The whole city is affected by this situation but there are pockets of shortages especially in PE1 and Hampton.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 Individual consultations happen where new schools are proposed

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 Children's Services are preparing a School Organisation Plan which will inform all school place planning and link to the Council's strategic growth planning.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

9.1 The School Admission Code
Demographic forecasts
Surplus Place Return