

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
22 SEPTEMBER 2014	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor John Holdich OBE – Lead Member for Education, Skills and the University	
Contact Officer(s):	Jonathan Lewis – Assistant Director – Education, Resources and Corporate Property	Tel. 01733 863912

SCHOOL ORGANISATIONAL PLAN 2014 – 2019 – 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 (Appendix A) 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 outline to Cabinet the proposal around meeting the statutory requirement for school places in Peterborough. The School Organisation Plan draws together the latest demographic data, the capital programme and identifies the need for further school places. It also acts to support the growth agenda of the council, including delivery of the ambitions set out in the Peterborough Local Plan.
- 2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.3 'to take a leading role in promoting the economic, environmental and social well-being of the area'.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	No	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	
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4. STRATEGY FOR MANAGING SCHOOL PLACES

- 4.1 The School Organisation Plan (SOP) used to be a statutory requirement for Local Authorities to produce 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 has been revived to support the planning, funding arrangements and transparency of school places in Peterborough.
- 4.2 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 will support delivery of the growth targets in the Peterborough Local Plan, be an essential piece of evidence in the process of securing developer contributions and will inform the Council's medium term financial strategy.

4.3 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.

4.4 **Appendix A** outlines the final version of the school organisation plan for 2014-19.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 The SOP was taken to the 'Creating Opportunities, Tackling Inequalities' scrutiny panel in 14th July and the Committee endorsed the report and requested that the position on school places be reported to the Committee on a regular basis. They also 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 That Cabinet will approve the School Organisational Plan.

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 negotiations with developers 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.