




Report to:	People Committee	Date:	6 December 2018
Report title:	Pupil Place Planning Update		
Report from:	Nick Ireland - Acting Strategic Director People Services		
Ward/Areas affected:	Borough Wide		
Chair of Committee/Lead Member:	Councillor Marian James		
Author(s)/Contact Number(s):	Kieran Holliday, Head of Pupil Based Commissioning, 020 8770 6553		
Corporate Plan Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Open Council • A Fair Council • A Smart Council 		
Open/Exempt:	Open		
Signed:		Date:	26 November 2018

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report provides an update on (i) the projections for school places in the borough, (ii) an update on the plans that are in place to ensure a sufficiency of school places are provided in the borough, (iii) an update on the latest round of applications for secondary school places in the borough for September 2019.

2. Recommendations

The People Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the update provided on the primary and secondary projections, updates provided on the provision of additional secondary school places in the borough as well as the secondary applications made for a Year 7 place in the borough for September 2019.

3. Background

- 3.1. School place planning is principally concerned with planning for the 'intake' years at reception (year R) in primary schools and for year 7 places in secondary schools to ensure that the

Council can deliver on its statutory responsibilities to provide sufficient school places for the population of the borough.

- 3.2. Regular reports have been provided to the Children, Families and Education Committee (now People Committee) on the admissions rounds each year as well as seeking authority to spend the Council's Basic Need Grant to prepare to meet the demand for school places in the borough - principally through the Council's primary and secondary expansion programme.

2019 Primary Place Planning

- 3.3. Officers reported to the People Committee in June 2018, that there had been a drop in primary applications in the Borough for the 2018 intake year with 2,457 first preference applications for a reception place at one of Sutton's Primary schools this year (September 2018 intake) - a reduction in first preference applications of 82 on last year (2017). The total reception capacity in Sutton for reception places in September 2018 was 2572.
- 3.4. Based on these figures, officers reported that the total number on roll in reception classes in Sutton's primary schools in 2018/19 was likely to be lower than the previous years forecasts indicated they would be, and as a result there was likely to be a higher number of unfilled places in comparison to previous years. Decisions were taken to cap the admissions number of places available in 2018/19 at Rushy Meadow and Wallington Primary Academy to avoid a situation where schools have overly low cohort sizes which are financially unviable/inefficient. This reduced the number of places that were offered in reception in the borough from 2572 to 2512 excluding the expansion of Hackbridge Primary school which is not scheduled to complete until January 2019.
- 3.5. Projections, which are inherently trend based, have been revised downwards as reported to the Committee in June 2018 with a further iteration made following Office of National Statistics (ONS) publication of borough wide calendar births in 2017. The table below provides ONS births in the borough, the historical and projected transition rates between births and reception forecasts and the Published Admission Number (PAN) capacity - e.g the total number of available places at Sutton's primary schools taking into account capping identified above.

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Births	2729	2724	2655	2711	2760	2749	2649	2719	2706
Year	(10/11)	(11/12)	(12/13)	(13/14)	(14/15)	(15/16)	(16/17)	(17/18)	(18/19)
TR	93.2%	95.4%	94.3%	89.1%	91.9%	91.4%	91.1%	91.3%	91.3%
Yr R	2544	2599	2504	2415	2536	2511	2415	2484	2470
PAN	2602	2632	2572	2512	2602	2602	2602	2602	2602

- 3.6. Whilst the October 2018 school census data is not expected to be published until the middle/end of December 2018 the latest position for reception places as reported by the admissions service is that there is circa 2415 pupils on roll against 2512 available places when aggregated across the borough - a vacancy rate of 3.9% against places available and 6.1% against total capacity in the borough (which was 2572 but excluding Hackbridge primary expansion which completes



January 2019). The table below shows the position as at October 2018 by each of the primary planning areas in the borough.

Planning Area	Sept 2018 Reception Capacity	2018 No Reception Places	2018 1st prefs	Numbers on Roll reception*	Reception Vacancies on No of places	% Vacancies on No places
CENTRAL	540	540	643	540	0	0%
EAST	750	720	677	682	38	5.3%
NORTH	682	652	614	643	9	2%
WEST	600	600	515	550	50	8.2%
TOTAL	2572	2512	2449	2415	97	3.9%

* Based on admissions figures provided in October 2018 which are subject to change

- 3.7. The unforecast reduction in reception demand in 2018 represents a change in recent pupil planning patterns in the borough - mainly in the transition rates from births to actual demand 4-5 years later. The table above in para 3.4 shows how the transition rate for the 2018 planning round has reduced quite significantly this year.
- 3.8. Should the reduction in demand in 2018 continue in future years then it is likely that this will create an oversupply of primary school places in future years albeit there are a number of reasons to be cautious at this stage. (i) Comparatively, Sutton has fewer unfilled places than many other Local Authority areas - in 2017/18 Sutton's schools had on aggregate vacancy rate (across Years R-6) of 1.3%. Based on School Capacity and Projections returns to Government by 2019/20 this is expected to increase to 2.3% but well below the London average of 10.9% and national average of 9%.
- 3.9. It is important that there is some spare capacity in any system to allow for parental choice, to allow for in year applications and to guard against any fluctuations in demand. There is no right answer to the number of unfilled places that is 'optimum' in any system. A recent survey of Local Authorities (LA) suggests that many LAs plan for about 5% unfilled capacity in order to support parental choice, in year admissions and natural fluctuations in demand. Sutton has no specific policy in this regard, but has erred on the side of 2% being a more 'acceptable figure' given that the borough is relatively small and that unfilled places more easily concentrate in a handful of schools with lower preferences than available places, rather than evenly across the borough. The recent downward trend in applications, if continued into 2019 and beyond represents a concern and actions may be necessary to bring the number of places in the borough down in future years.



- 3.10. Applications for primary places in 2019 will not be known until February 2019, however officers have discussed with primary schools the likelihood that demand will remain lower than previous years such that some schools may wish to cap numbers below their Published Admission Numbers to avoid a situation where schools have very low class sizes. Officers will discuss this with Primary schools with a view to making any decisions no later than February/March next year.
- 3.11. Whilst officers are not recommending any formal actions at this stage, the Council may need to gauge and consider the need for any future reorganisation of primary provision in the future should falling rolls start to impact on the financial viability of schools.

2019 Secondary Place Planning Round

- 3.12. The recent drop in primary applications will not significantly change the projections for secondary school places until September 2025 (all things being equal) and therefore the demand for secondary school places is expected to increase throughout this period.
- 3.13. Projections for secondary school places have stayed largely the same as previously reported to the Committee as per the table below however the table has been extended to 2026/27 in order to understand the impact of reducing primary cohorts that start in 2025. The second row in the table below indicates the number of year 6 pupils coming through the borough's primary schools the year previously, the third row the year 7 projection (allowing for cross border movements), the fourth row is the collective Published Admission Number of the secondary schools in the borough including the new school opening in 2018 and the fifth row the expected deficit of places in the future. Shaded columns represent actual data, with projections thereafter.

Year	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27
Yr 6	2023	2100	2284	2419	2549	2567	2570	2629	2519	2430	2551
Yr 7	3098	3162	3338	3479	3615	3633	3637	3698	3583	3490	3617
Proj PAN	3099	3099	3314	3314	3314	3314	3314	3314	3314	3314	3314
+ / -	1	-63	-24	-165	-301	-321	-323	-384	-269	-176	-303

- 3.14. Based on admissions data in September 2018, there were 3302 pupils on roll in Sutton's secondary schools against a projected figure of 3338. As such secondary projections remain relatively accurate with little reason at this stage to adjust the expected demand profile set out above.
- 3.15. There are no confirmed additional secondary school places commissioned for September 2019. Admissions data for the September 2019 has now been collated and the following headlines can be reported.



- There are 3719 first preference applications for 3314 available year 7 places
- The total number of first preference applications have increased by 52 over last year but there are 145 more in-Borough first preference applications for a Sutton school than last year (93 less applications coming from out of the borough)
- There were 112 extra Sutton resident applicants for a year 7 place than last year - broadly in line with the additional Year 6 cohort coming through primary schools.

3.16. Officers will be meeting with secondary schools at the end of November to decide what actions may be necessary to ensure a sufficiency of school places in the borough next year. A verbal update will be provided to the Committee on the evening given that this meeting had not taken place at the time of writing/publishing this report.

Harris Academy Sutton / new secondary school former Sutton Hospital Site

3.17. Based on the projections above, the Council has been planning new school provision in the borough to meet the expected demand for secondary school places. Harris Academy Sutton opened in temporary accommodation - 'Cumbrian House' on the former Sutton Hospital site in September 2018 with a full intake of approximately 190-195 pupils made up of approximately 90% Sutton resident pupils.

3.18. Construction is proceeding well on the new school, with completion of the building now anticipated to be on 24 June 2019. The structure should be complete, with all roofs waterproofed, by December 2018. Internal works commenced summer 2018 and will continue through to summer 2019.

3.19. The DfE commenced their capital funding of the project in August 2018, and this will continue quarterly.

Sutton Free School 1 and 2 - Greenshaw Learning Trust

3.20. The Greenshaw Learning Trust have approval to open a new secondary school (Sutton Free School 1) with specialist ASD provision (Sutton Free School 2) in the borough which is expected to provide sufficient secondary school places in the borough for the foreseeable future. As part of the Local Planning process, the disused all weather pitch site in Rosehill has been identified as the preferred site with the Council agreeing, subject to planning permission being granted, to transfer the site to the Department for Education (DfE, previously the Education Skills and Funding Agency - ESFA) in order to provide a new school.

3.21. The project is being managed by the DfE. The latest position on the project can be summarised as follows:

- DfE capital approval for the project was provided at the end of July 2018
- Lease arrangements for the land are in the process of being finalised with legal agreements expected to exchange shortly.
- The DfE are seeking to conclude the procurement of a contractor by January 2019
- Pre planning preparation will take place from November/December and, pending liaison with the contractor, a planning submission will be expected later in the spring term.

- 3.22. Without an appointed contractor the DfE are not in a position to commit to a delivery date for the new school(s), however based on the above update it is clear that the school will not be built until the September 2021 intake at the earliest. Officers are in the process of working with the DfE and with the Greenshaw Learning Trust to identify the options available for opening the school in temporary accommodation in 2020 ahead of the expected 2021 delivery of the new school.

4. Issues

- 4.1 There are no significant issues to the recommendations that are not covered by the above.

5. Impacts and Implications

Financial – Capital

- 5.1 The capital position has not changed significantly since last reported. Confirmed funding to the end of March 2021 totals £173.561m. Total budgeted expenditure on school expansions stands at £168.869m, made up of Primary Expansions of £77.628m, SEN projects of £9.96m, and Secondary Expansions of £81.281m (Phase 1 & 2 projects totalling £28.318m and £52.963m for the new Harris Academy).
- 5.2 The table below shows the cashflow position for the overall school expansion programme, which currently stands at a surplus of just over £4.7m.

	actual to end 2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
	<i>£'000</i>	<i>£'000</i>	<i>£'000</i>	<i>£'000</i>	<i>£'000</i>
Spend	121,711	30,366	15,130	1,662	168,869
Funding	-132,088	-24,902	-15,954	-617	-173,561
Funding (surplus)/gap	- 10,377	5,464	- 824	1,045	- 4,692
Cumulative (surplus)/gap	- 10,377	- 4,913	- 5,737	- 4,692	

- 5.3 The Basic Need allocations for 2020-21 were announced by the DfE earlier this summer and as expected, Sutton didn't receive any further grant. This is due to adjustments within the funding calculations to include Free School places provided at Harris Academy and for places already funded through previous year's Basic Need grant. It is not anticipated that any further Basic Need grant will be awarded to the Local Authority.
- 5.4 As highlighted in the table above there is currently an unallocated remaining balance of basic need funding of £4.692m. This includes £699K remaining to be allocated from the Special Provision Fund grant for SEN projects.



Financial – Revenue

- 5.5 All mainstream schools are funded from the Schools block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Sutton's Schools block allocation for 2018/19, based on October 2017 census data, was £147.339m. There are 195 funded places at Harris Academy Sutton, from September 2018, included in Sutton's 2018/19 local funding formula. However due to lagged funding this has not been included in the LA's DSG allocation for 2018/19, which has created a circa £600k pressure.

Legal

- 5.6 The council has a duty under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to secure that sufficient schools are available for its area to provide the opportunity of appropriate education for all pupils. It must exercise this function with a view to securing diversity in the provision of schools, and increasing opportunities for parental choice.
- 5.7 There is a statutory presumption that new publicly-funded schools should be academies. The DfE has confirmed that all new provision academies are now classified as "free schools". Such schools may be established following the publication of a notice by the local authority under section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, or through the DfE's free school programme. If the council thinks that a new school needs to be established in its area, it must seek proposals for the establishment of an academy (free school) and specify a date by which proposals must be submitted. However, in considering the need for a new school, the council can take account of any other free school projects that the DfE has approved and are due to open.
- 5.8 Where proposals are invited under section 6A, the council would be responsible for providing the site for the new school and meeting all associated capital costs. The capital cost of free schools established under the DfE's free school programme are funded by the DfE.
- 5.9 In view of the council's duty under section 14 of the Education Act to secure sufficient schools for its area, the council has power to assist in the establishment of a new free school which meets basic need under section 16 of the Education Act 1996. This provides that for the purpose of fulfilling its functions under the Act, a local authority may establish and maintain schools and may assist any primary or secondary school which is not maintained by them. The Council is therefore empowered to assist in the establishment of the new Harris Academy (Sutton).



6. Appendices and Background Documents

Appendix	None
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Background documents
None

Audit Trail		
Version	Final	26 November 2018
Consultation with other officers		
Finance	Yes	Sue Holmes
Legal	Yes	Sarah Willis
Equality Impact Assessment	No	N/A