
To: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)

Date: 7th January 2016

Subject: School Place Planning and Admissions

1 Purpose of the Note

To provide an update to the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) on admissions to schools and the current/future provision of school places in Coventry.

2 Recommendations

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) are recommended to note and comment on the Council's approach to school place planning and specifically the challenges faced through changing Government policy.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 Local Authorities are under a statutory duty section 14 of the 1996 Education Act to secure sufficient education provision within their areas and to promote higher standards of attainment. In its strategic role as commissioner of school places, the City Council must respond to changes in demand over time by increasing or removing capacity. This can be achieved in a number of ways, including:
- commissioning new schools with the approval of the Secretary of State for Education;
 - extending existing school;
 - reducing places at existing schools;
 - reorganisation, including amalgamating, relocating or closing schools, changing the age range or range of special needs of the school; and
 - catchment area reviews.
- 3.2 The range of educational provision for children and young people is now both broad and complex in terms of the number of providers involved, and also their roles. Indeed the City Council, has parallel responsibilities as both direct provider (in maintained or voluntary controlled schools) and also as commissioner of other providers.
- 3.3 The city's demographic information has been collected for many years and then projected to enable forecasts to plan for future infrastructure requirements. As well as city wide projections, groupings of schools are also used to forecast where places are required. More detailed individual school projections are also produced.
- 3.4 Funding for the provision of additional school places, or removal of surplus places, in community and voluntary controlled schools is included in the City Council's Capital Programme. The Capital Programme is determined annually by the City Council, which gives the highest priority to meeting basic need through Primary and Special School Basic Need and Secondary Schools' Basic Need allocations. Under the coalition Government's or Voluntary Aided schools legislation, brand new schools must be opened as free schools or academies and, only if no free

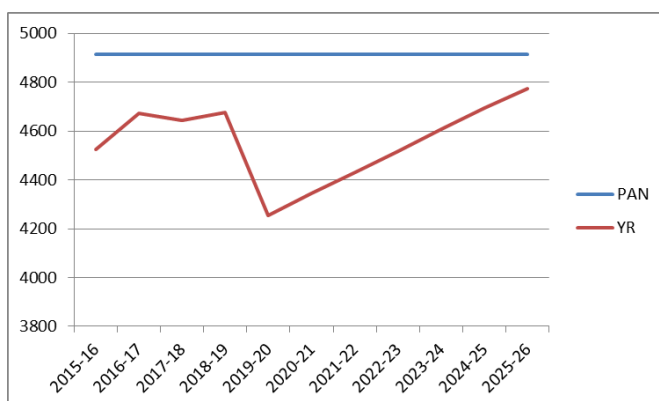
school sponsor can be found, opened as Local Authority maintained school. In this instance, funding is made available from the Department for Education (DfE). Academy funding comes direct from central government, from the Education Funding Agency (EFA).

- 3.5 The allocation of the funding for each local authority is based on information each local authority supplies to DfE in an annual return called the SCAP (School Capacity Survey). Where additional places are directly as a result of new development the DfE anticipates that the Local Authority will seek planning obligations, either through S106 or a CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy). The Council has not been allocated any basic need funding to 2017/18.
- 3.6 The local education landscape is changing – over half of Coventry secondary schools (12 out of 19) are now academies. Other providers are also establishing new facilities – University Technical College, Studio Schools and Free Schools.
- 3.7 Central Government policy is to increase the number of academies/free schools AND expand successful and popular schools. The City Council's formal policy (December 2011 amended February 2013) is against any school in Coventry being forced by the Government to become a sponsored Academy but where there is no other option for a school eligible to intervention that the DfE will approve, the City Council will work with the Governors and DfE to identify an Academy Sponsor that is local to the City and is committed to working in strong partnership with Coventry and its schools.
- 3.8 The policy also commits to continue to maintain strong and effective partnership working between the Local Authority and schools that have converted to Academies and continue to promote and facilitate structures that enable strong school to school collaboration. This will support the City Council delivering its statutory responsibilities as an advocate and champion for all children and young people across the city, enable the Local Authority to strategically plan and manage education provision and deliver the City's Educational Improvement Strategy.
- 3.9 Population growth in Coventry has seen a significant growth in cohort size, with an increased and increasing birth rate between 2004 and 2014. As these children have got older, extra provision has been required. The Councils preferred strategy has been to expand existing schools, but where there have been concerns over the condition of existing buildings, schools have been rebuilt at larger sizes. Specific Government programmes such as the Priority Schools Building Programme have assisted in funding some of the additional requirement, but selection is based upon competitive bidding and there is therefore no guarantee of future funding

4 Primary School Places

- 4.1 There are currently 86 primary schools in the city comprising 56 Local Authority (LA) maintained schools, 12 Voluntary Aided (VA) schools, 16 academies and 2 free schools (one of which is all through – primary and secondary). In September 2015 these provided a total of 4,900 reception places based upon current Published Admission Numbers (PAN's). In September 2016 the total number of reception places will increase to 4,915 as a result of Templars increasing their PAN from 75 to 90. Since 2008 a total of 7,840 additional YR to Y6 primary school places have been created across 38 schools
- 4.2 There were 29,586 Year R to 6 pupils on roll in Coventry primary schools in September 2015. Forecasts indicate that numbers will rise over the next three years and level out at approximately 32,000 in 2018 to the end of the projection period (Refer to Appendix 1). The projections only include an allowance for housing developments for which planning consent has been secured. At a citywide level therefore there are sufficient primary school places throughout the projection period as shown in graph 1 below:

Graph 1: Comparison of Forecast Citywide Year R Numbers on Roll against PAN



- 4.3 It is therefore not intended at this stage to bring forward proposals for the creation of any additional primary places, although the position within different part of the city is being carefully monitored. The city is divided into 13 discrete planning areas; in some there is currently overprovision and some a shortfall of places.
- 4.4 With the proposed expansion of the city, there will be increased pressure on the education infrastructure which may well indeed require additional capacity in some parts of the city. The Council has secured two sites through S106 agreements for new primary schools - Bannerbrook and New Century Park. At present there is insufficient demand to warrant development of either of these two sites but future pressures may mean that these will need to be reconsidered (Bannerbrook is located within the Limbrick Wood catchment area and New Century Park within the Richard Lee catchment area). Under the terms of the respective S106 Agreements the Council will however need to decide whether to exercise an option on either of these two sites – Bannerbrook by 2018 and New Century Park by 2020. If the Council decides not to exercise the option to build a new primary school on either site, then the land would revert back to the developer who is then likely to build further houses.

Primary Admissions

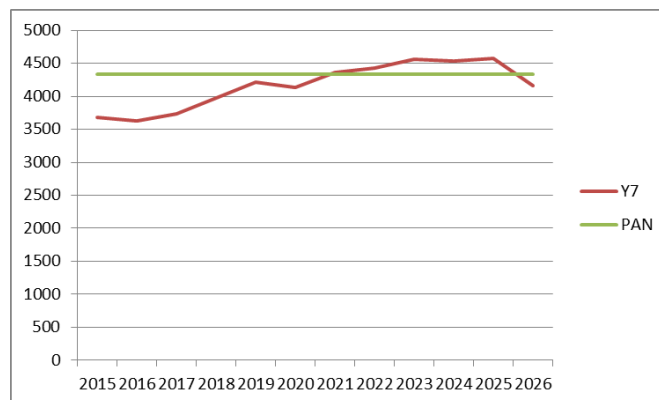
- 4.5 Appendix 2 gives a key comparative statistics for September 2014 and 2015 Year R admissions. Between September 2014 and 2015, there was a small reduction in the number of Year R applications from 4,475 to 4,460 a reduction of 17(0.4%); the number of first preferences met increased over the same period from 89.5% to 90%.
- 4.6 The number of schools where it was not possible to allocate catchment area applications fell from four to one between 2014 and 2015; in September 2015 Willenhall was the only school in the city where it was not possible to meet all catchment area requests. The number of schools for which it was not possible to allocate siblings fell between 2014 and 2015 from six to four.

5 Secondary School Places

- 5.1 Coventry currently has 21 secondary schools – 3 trust schools, 14 academies, 2 voluntary aided schools and 3 free Schools. Planning of secondary school places is currently based on five discrete planning areas (see appendix 2). All secondary (including academies, trust, Free and VA) schools have their own individual catchment areas, which are generally co-terminus with the city boundary. Blue Coat Academy has a citywide catchment area, but also admits from neighbouring Warwickshire and Solihull. The WMG Academy for Young Engineers opened in September 2014 catering for 14-19 year olds with a PAN of 160. The academy admits students from Year 10. It is acknowledged that this will impact on the supply of school places in Year 10 and above.

5.2 There are 4,330 Year 7 places available in the city based upon current PAN's. In September 2015 there were 3,676 Year 7 students on roll i.e. 654 (15% unfilled places). Year 7 numbers are forecast to increase over the planning period to 4,575 by 2025 an increase of 899(24%). This leaves a shortfall of some 245 Year 7 places; allowing for a 5% planning margin this would increase the deficit to 460 places. A comparison of forecast NOR against PAN for Year 7 is shown in the graph 2 below:

Graph 2: Comparison of Forecast Citywide Year 7 Numbers on Roll against PAN



5.3 There are therefore sufficient Year 7 places either currently available to accommodate citywide forecast pupils to September 2020. Beyond 2020 we need to plan for a minimum of a further 240 Year 7 places. This however does mask area variances between the five planning areas, where some of these additional places may be required earlier, particularly in the central, north-west and south-east. The only area of the city which will not require additional secondary places (based on current projections) is the south-west.

5.4 Again this target will need to be kept under review in the context of the council's plans to grow the city and potential further free school developments. A feasibility study into expanding existing secondary schools was carried out in 2014. This took into account the opportunities to expand at each school site. The feasibility study identified that there were sufficient opportunities to accommodate the known growth in the majority of the planning areas, although in the central area for example, where an additional five forms of entry will be required, there are limited options for securing these. Furthermore the recent establishment of new free schools in the city, has added additional capacity to the city's stock of places but not necessarily in areas where there is an identified need. This makes school place planning extremely challenging as the local authority has limited opportunity to shape provision with the DfE.

6 Special School Places

6.1 The growth of the city has also seen the increase in the numbers of pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN). The local authority has a statutory duty to provide appropriate education provision for children and young people with Special Educational needs and Disabilities (SEND). The Council aims to deliver support for children and young people with SEND in the maintained sector where possible, and within their community, to enable them to enjoy the same range of experiences and opportunities as children with no additional needs.

6.2 In July 2005, following a report back on the outcomes of the consultation on the Inclusion and SEN Strategy, Cabinet approved the recommendation to identify school sites for the creation of co-located broad-spectrum special schools. To date, two such schools have been established – Castlewood Primary (co-located with Moat House) and Riverbank Secondary (formerly Alice Stevens – co-located with Ernesford Grange Secondary). A second primary SEN broad spectrum school is now proposed, co-located with Whitley Abbey Primary School, through the redesignation, change in size and transfer of site of Tiverton School.

6.3 The creation of the new school will require a formal statutory proposal to be brought forward by the Council in line with the requirements of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013. This includes a requirement to consult with key stakeholders, which will be undertaken in January 2016.

7 Conclusions

- 7.1 The Council has been proactive in ensuring that there is sufficient primary school capacity citywide over coming years through delivering an extensive primary expansion programme since 2008. Demand in some parts of the city is being monitored to ensure there continues to be local provision and that wherever possible parental preference is maximised.
- 7.2 Although there are currently sufficient secondary school places, numbers are increasing and it is forecast that by 2025, a further 8 forms of entry will need to be provided citywide. The Council has historically applied a 5% planning margin which would effectively increase the additional places required to 15 forms of entry. Some of these places will need to be phased in from as early as 2018/19 in certain areas of the city – central, north-west and south-east.
- 7.3 Plans to grow the city could further increase the demand for places beyond those already set out in this report. Some of this additional requirement may be able to be delivered through the expansion of existing schools, but some new schools may be required.
- 7.4 Further academisation and opening of new free schools may impact on the target number of additional places required.

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**Appendix 1
Primary Projections (Based upon September 2015 Actuals)**

Year	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	YR-Y6
September 2015 (2015-16)	4525	4517	4313	4377	4154	3899	3801	29586
September 2016 (2016-17)	4671	4583	4540	4289	4394	4150	3914	30541
September 2017 (2017-18)	4643	4730	4605	4525	4312	4388	4168	31371
September 2018 (2018-19)	4676	4703	4755	4592	4552	4317	4407	32002
September 2019 (2019-20)	4254	4740	4726	4735	4616	4549	4337	31957
September 2020 (2020-21)	4344	4306	4761	4706	4764	4613	4572	32066
September 2021 (2021-22)	4431	4398	4327	4743	4734	4762	4632	32027
September 2022 (2022-23)	4518	4488	4416	4317	4770	4732	4782	32023
September 2023 (2023-24)	4607	4578	4508	4404	4339	4768	4753	31957
September 2024 (2024-25)	4695	4665	4598	4495	4429	4337	4789	32008
September 2025 (2025-26)	4774	4757	4689	4580	4518	4425	4359	32102

Secondary Projections (Based upon September 2015 Actuals)

Year	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y7-Y11	Y12	Y13+	Y12-Y13+	Total
September 2015 (2015-16)	3676	3533	3311	3412	3464	17396	1765	1659	3424	20820
September 2016 (2016-17)	3622	3698	3552	3347	3434	17653	180	1636	1816	19469
September 2017 (2017-18)	3737	3643	3715	3592	3371	18058	1719	1634	3353	21411
September 2018 (2018-19)	3979	3760	3664	3758	3614	18775	1691	1604	3295	22070
September 2019 (2019-20)	4208	4004	3775	3707	3784	19478	1758	1578	3336	22814
September 2020 (2020-21)	4139	4236	4027	3821	3731	19954	1782	1649	3431	23385
September 2021 (2021-22)	4363	4167	4254	4072	3849	20705	1750	1673	3423	24128
September 2022 (2022-23)	4424	4391	4186	4303	4099	21403	1795	1643	3438	24841
September 2023 (2023-24)	4565	4450	4409	4234	4335	21993	1877	1686	3563	25556
September 2024 (2024-25)	4539	4598	4470	4462	4262	22331	1959	1768	3727	26058
September 2025 (2025-26)	4575	4568	4617	4524	4492	22776	1932	1845	3777	26553
September 2026 (2026-27)	4161	4601	4591	4673	4556	22582	1973	1820	3793	26375

Appendix 2: Comparative Information on primary allocation for September 2014 & 2015

Coventry applicants	2014	2015
Number 1 st preference offer	4004	4014
% 1 st preference offer	89.5%	90%
Second preferences	296	291
Third preferences	64	68
Number any preference offer	4364	4373
% any preference offer	97.5%	98%
No offer	0 (111 alternative allocations)	0 (87 alternative allocations)
Total places available (PAN)	4710	4840
Vacancies across city	277 (note St. John Fisher is 1 over)	407
Total number applications	4475	4460
Number full schools	53	52
Schools couldn't offer catchment	Howes, Willenhall, Longford Park, Stoke Heath	Willenhall
Schools couldn't offer siblings	Ernesford Grange, Howes, Longford Park, Stoke Heath, Willenhall, Manor Park. VA = Holy Family unable to offer to all Catholic sibs not in the parish or non-Catholic sibs. Christ the King, Good Shepherd, Sacred Heart, St. John Fisher, St. John Vianney unable to offer to all non-Catholic sibs	Templars, Stoke Heath, Willenhall VA = Holy Family, Sacred Heart, unable to offer to all Catholic sibs All Souls', Christ the King, Good shepherd, St. John Fisher, St Osburg's, unable to offer to all non-Catholic sibs
% online applications	58.8% (2639)	61.3% (2735)
Late apps on offer date	92	67
Most oversubscribed school – how many apps for how many places	Longford Park (58 1 st pref apps for 30 places. Most 1 st pref requests = Frederick Bird (113)	St Elizabeth's (52 1 st pref apps for 30 places) Most 1 st pref requests = Frederick Bird (113)

Notes:

1. Data excludes Sidney Stringer Primary School which was not part of the Councils co-ordinated admission arrangements for September 2015 admissions
2. 2014 Seva free school due to open did not take part in the co-ordinated scheme but offered 50 places.
3. The primary school most oversubscribed for all preferences is Mount Nod with 169 applications for 45 places

