



Partnership commitment between the City Council and Coventry Secondary Schools to support the development of a strategic plan for the delivery of additional school places 2018/19 to 2022/23.

Between: Coventry City Council and(insert name of School/Academy)

This partnership commitment signifies a statement of intent to collaborate and work in partnership to ensure the best possible outcomes for children and young people in Coventry and to enable the City Council to meet its statutory obligations under Section 14 of the 1996 Education Act to provide sufficient school places. The Council has identified a need to create a minimum of 14 additional forms of entry by 2022-23 (2,100 Year 7 to 11 places).

1. The council and all Coventry schools have a shared interest in ensuring all pupils have access to good quality local provision.
2. School organisation issues rarely affect schools in isolation; therefore strong LA/ school partnerships are important to understanding the impact of school organisation decisions.
3. A partnership approach is therefore required to create the strategic plan based on a set of agreed partnership principles:
 - collective moral purpose & accountability;
 - openness & transparency;
 - expansion & investment of existing schools where possible and relevant – against agreed criteria;
 - working with current partners; and
 - Never knowingly undermining another school.

These principles will underpin the way we work together and how we create the plan.

4. A basic requirement of this strategy is that it ensures the right number of school places to meet pupils needs, in the right locations, at the time they are needed. Commissioning additional school places at existing schools will therefore be assessed against the following criteria:
 - **Net Capacity.** We will wherever possible seek to expand schools in whole forms of entry;
 - **Current performance of school** – LA or OfSTED categorisation. Guidance on school organisation is clear that outcomes should lead to school improvement and increased attainment levels;
 - **The location of the school relative to the expected pupil need.** It is desirable for schools to be at the heart of the community that they serve in order to provide easy access to their facilities by children, young people and their families, and the resident community;

- **Current size of school** – maximum 10 forms of entry and minimum 7 forms of entry where possible;
- **Popularity of the school.** We will seek to commission additional places, when needed, at schools with high levels of parental preference in the locality, looking closely at first choices and those schools that are oversubscribed;
- **Physical ability of school to expand** including any site or potential planning constraints;
- **Cost of expansion.** It will be important to ensure that any proposals represent good value for money and are in keeping with available capital funds. All school buildings and estates in the City should be of the highest quality within the resources available;
- **Diversity of provision.** Coventry has a broad variety of provision, with both voluntary-aided, trust schools, in addition to a large number of academies of various types. The LA seeks to maintain or increase levels of diversity and choice for parents wherever possible. In considering school planning, the aim will be to maintain the balance of denominational provision, unless parental preferences via the admissions process provide evidence that change is required. In considering places at voluntary aided schools the LA has a strong relationship with the appropriate Diocesan and Church Authorities, and we regard this partnership working as implicit to good planning;
- **SEN/ Inclusion.** Wherever possible any school changes should seek to promote greater inclusion for those pupils having SEN and/or disabilities, by providing specialist provision within /linked to mainstream schools or academies. The benefits of this approach are that it; maximises the opportunity for children and young people to be included within their local community, minimises journey times to and from school and makes the optimal use of the revenue funding available to support such individuals or groups.
- **Governing Body/ Trustees support.** Proposals will normally require careful negotiation with schools and their governors to align aspirations for development. Where proposals are subject to statutory notice processes we will ensure that all prescribed consultees have the opportunity to have their say before any decisions are taken by the LA.

5. It is therefore intended to develop through this agreement, a spirit of co-operation between the Council, governing bodies and school leadership teams that will help all parties to achieve a fair and open way forward to meet the education needs of local families and their children.

Signed: on behalf of Coventry City Council

Date:

Signed:on behalf ofSchool/Academy

Date.....