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Cabinet

13<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills – Councillor K Maton

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Director of Education and Skills

**Ward(s) affected:**

All

**Title: Coventry One Strategic Plan for Education – Phase 2 of Secondary School Expansions**

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**Is this a key decision?**

Yes - the proposals will significantly affect all wards of the city.

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**Executive Summary:**

Under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996, Coventry City Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places and fair, appropriate access to education. It is the Council's role to plan, commission and organise school places in a way that raises standards, manages supply and demand and creates a diverse infrastructure.

The Coventry One Strategic Plan for Education, first presented to Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 and again on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020, sets out pupil forecasts for special, primary and secondary schools across education planning areas in response to rising or falling pupil cohorts across the city. It outlined the strategy proposed by the Local Authority and the Coventry Headteacher Partnership to meet the additional places required in provision from 2019 – 2024.

A phase 1 of secondary expansions has previously been agreed by Cabinet in the both 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 and 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020 reports. The strategy presented to Cabinet also outlined a provisional programme as to secondary school expansions that would be required, considering rising pupil numbers, between September 2022 and September 2024, a phase 2 of proposed secondary school expansions.

This report is not intended to provide a full update on the One Strategic Plan for Education, which is likely to be presented before Cabinet in July 2021, but instead to focus on the phase 2 works required for secondary expansion. This report will give specific details regarding schools recommended for inclusion and how this proposed programme of work will be funded.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been established to ensure partnership commitment between the Council and secondary schools. These partnerships signify a commitment and cooperation between the Council, governing bodies and school leadership teams to meet the educational needs of children and young people in Coventry, ensure the sustainability of Coventry schools, and to enable the City Council to meet its statutory obligations.

This partnership commitment signifies a statement of intent to collaborate and work in partnership to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people in Coventry, ensure the sustainability of Coventry schools, and to enable the City Council to meet its statutory obligations. As part of this process, varying options have been discussed at both Secondary Headteacher Partnership meetings, and the Secondary Headteacher Executive. The recommended option presented below has been agreed by the Education Service, the Secondary Executive, and the Partnership, as being the best valid option keeping in line with our statutory requirement as outlined by the DfE to:

- i. Spend capital funding efficiently
- ii. Safeguard the quality of places in the system
- iii. Manage down spare capacity in the estate where it exists.

**Recommendations:**

Cabinet is requested:

- 1) To authorise the recommended programme of work outlined within this report on Secondary School expansions for September 2022 – September 2024.
- 2) To delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive to agree the most appropriate procurement route for the works to be delivered and awarded.

**List of Appendices included:**

N/A

**Background papers:**

None

**Other useful documents**

**Coventry One Strategic Plan and Education Capital Programme**

Cabinet Report – 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018

<https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/documents/s41346/Coventry%20One%20Strategic%20Plan%20and%20Education%20Capital%20Programme.pdf>

Cabinet Report – 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020

<https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/documents/s46514/Coventry%20One%20Strategic%20Plan%20and%20Education%20Capital%20Programme.pdf>

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

**Title: Coventry One Strategic Plan and Education Capital Programme**

**1. Context (or background)**

- 1.1. Overall, numbers in secondary schools have grown from September 2019 as larger cohorts transfer from primary schools. This will reach a peak in September 2023 entry to secondary school with a forecast Year 7 intake being 4482 pupils from a baseline figure of 4201 pupils in September 2020.
- 1.2. From September 2019, additional capacity has been added in Secondary schools to mitigate these larger cohorts. This is being provided through a model of both permanent and temporary expansions to ensure sufficiency of places, viability for schools, and cost - efficiency. Temporary expansions are for a single year of Year 7 increase, and that increase then moves through the school as that cohort reaches Year 11. Adopting this mixed economy model of permanent and temporary expansions has enabled a more flexible approach to increasing and reducing capacity.
- 1.3. Phase one covering the years (2019-2021) was presented to Cabinet in October 2018 and February 2020 and outlined the planned temporary and permanent increases up to 2021. Coventry City Council have worked closely with the schools identified as part of phase 1, to understand the needs and requirements of each school to accommodate the additional pupils. Due to the success of this approach in identifying the additional classrooms and ancillary space for each school, this partnership approach will be similarly followed for phase 2.
- 1.4. To address the further forecast shortfall of places between 2022 and 2024, there has been a commitment between the Local Authority and the Coventry Secondary Headteachers that Phase Two expansions will be delivered internally within the existing school estate to provide the additional places. Due the declining pupil numbers post 2024 it is envisaged that the programme of work for phase 2 will largely temporary expansions in nature, this will help ensure the long-term viability of the school estate in response to the long-term declining pupil numbers.

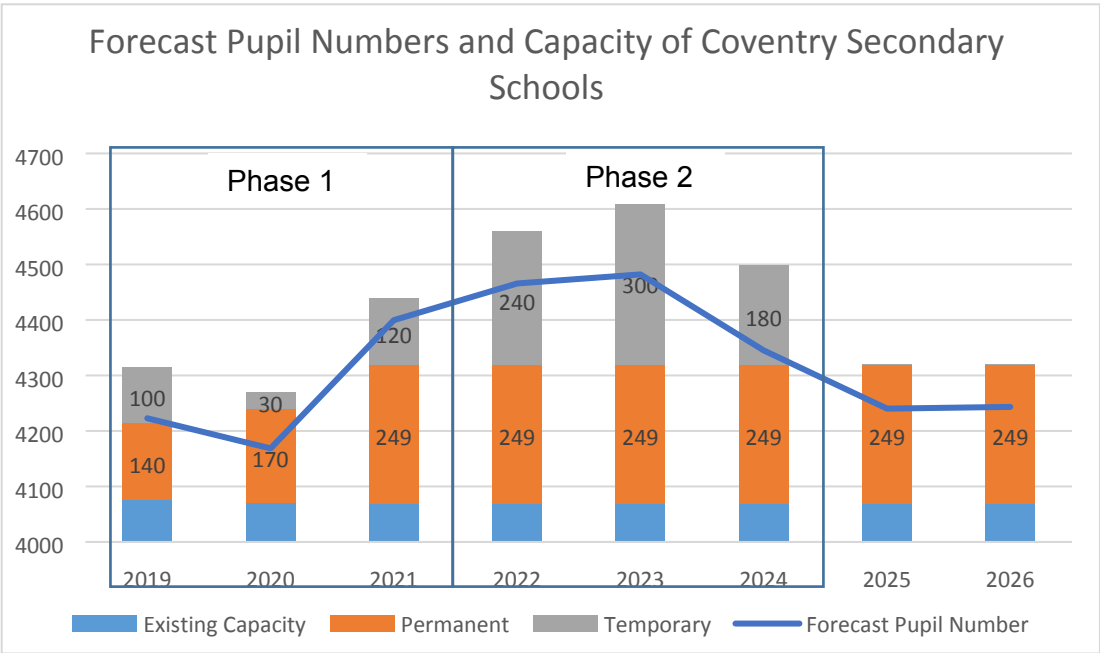
**2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

2.1. The below options are the outcomes of the conversations between the Council, governing bodies and school leadership teams, and list the schools which would be able to accommodate additional pupils and the number of additional pupils they would take.

**2.2. Secondary School options and recommended proposal**

<b>Recommended Option</b>			
	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24
Schools for Expansion and additional pupils as part of Expansion	Ernesford Grange (30)	Blue Coat (30)	Cardinal Wiseman (30)
	Finham Park (30)	Cardinal Wiseman (30)	Finham Park 2 (30)
	Blue Coat (30)	Finham Park 2 (30)	Foxford (30)
	Bishop Ullathorne (30)	Foxford (30)	Stoke Park (30)
	Lyng Hall (30)	Stoke Park (30)	Lyng Hall (30)
	Sidney Stringer (30)	Bishop Ullathorne (30)	Sidney Stringer (30)
	Westwood (30)	Lyng Hall (30)	
		Sidney Stringer (30)	
		Westwood (30)	
		<i>1 further secondary school to be identified</i>	<i>1 further secondary school to be identified</i>

- 2.2.1. Education will monitor the forecast number of pupils annually, and depending upon levels on demand, an additional form of entry (30 pupils) may be required at a Coventry secondary schools. If it is determined that additional capacity is required, Education will work in partnership with all Coventry schools, to understand which schools may benefit from inclusion in the expansion programme.
- 2.2.2. This recommended option presents good value for money one of the key Department for Education criteria, as well as ensuring that the capital funding received is spread as equally as possible across the Secondary School estate. With the funding being utilised in as many areas of the city as possible where the school places are required. It was agreed at Secondary Executive that this proposal fulfilled the principles on providing high quality school places at Ofsted rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' schools.
- 2.2.3. The recommended option will detail the school capacity against forecast demand as follows.



- 2.2.4.
- 2.2.5. This proposal, in addition, to the previously agreed phase 1, will provide Coventry with sufficient school places across the city, enabling it to fulfil its statutory duty of providing school places, and ensuring all children have access to high quality education. It is anticipated that this programme of work will facilitate a surplus places planning margin of 3-4%, these surplus places will enable any additional pupils arising from new housing to secure a school place and also enable parental preferences trends to be more fully accommodated.
- 2.2.6. The forecast accuracy for year 7 places since 2018 to September 2020, has been 99.56%, giving a level of security that these additional places will be required.
- 2.2.7. Alternative options considered

<b>Alternative option 1</b>			
	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24
Schools for Expansion and additional pupils as part of	Ernesford Grange (30)	Blue Coat (30)	Cardinal Wiseman (30)
	Blue Coat (30)	Cardinal Wiseman (30)	Finham Park 2 (30)
	Bishop Ullathorne (30)	Finham Park 2 (30)	Foxford (30)
	Finham Park (30)	Bishop Ullathorne (30)	Stoke Park (30)

Expansion	Lyng Hall (30)	Finham Park (30)	Lyng Hall (30)
	Sidney Stringer (30)	Foxford (30)	Sidney Stringer (30)
	Westwood (30)	Lyng Hall (30)	
		Sidney Stringer (30)	
		Stoke Park (30)	

<b>Alternative option 2</b>			
	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24
Schools for Expansion and additional pupils as part of Expansion	Ernesford Grange (30)	Blue Coat (30)	Cardinal Wiseman (30)
	Blue Coat (30)	Cardinal Wiseman (30)	Finham Park 2 (30)
	Bishop Ullathorne (30)	Westwood (30)	Foxford (30)
	Finham Park (30)	Bishop Ullathorne (30)	Stoke Park (30)
	Lyng Hall (30)	Finham Park (30)	Lyng Hall (30)
	Sidney Stringer (30)	Foxford (30)	Sidney Stringer (30)
	Westwood (30)	Lyng Hall (30)	
		Sidney Stringer (30)	
		Stoke Park (30)	

2.2.8. These alternative options have been discussed in collaboration with the Secondary Partnership and Executive, whilst closely related to the recommended option, these options and how they will be managed from a school organisation perspective contain considerable site constraints along with limiting the amount of schools included in the Secondary expansion proposals. The site constraints associated with these two alternative options would likely result in a less cost-efficient option.

### 2.3. Finance

2.3.1. Capital allocations, often referred to as basic need allocations, to meet projected shortfalls in provision are provided by the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to all Local Authorities based on the data submitted in the annual School Capacity return (SCAP). This return informs the ESFA of the expected change in pupil numbers over the next few years, the current capacity of schools to meet those numbers and the planned changes to that capacity.

2.3.2. In May 2020, a capital allocation was announced which granted Coventry with £23.7 million, based off the SCAP return, to provide additional school places. This amount was the 6<sup>th</sup> highest allocation in the country, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in the West Midlands after Warwickshire.

2.3.3. Capital allocations have been announced up until 2021/2022 financial year.

Received Funding	£18,578,047
2020/21 Allocation	£6,237,000 <sup>1</sup>
2021/22 Allocation	£23,733,503.95
Total Funding	£48,548,550.95

<sup>1</sup> Please note this is being paid in instalments by the ESFA, with to date £4,317,382 having been received, the remainder will be paid over the current financial year.

2.3.4. There is an anticipated budget of £11,900,000 set aside for this phase 2 secondary expansion works. It is envisaged that the recent capital allocation announcement will fund this programme of work, with the remainder of the capital allocation towards a proposed use for long term planning for the SEN, Primary, and Secondary estates. There will be a proportion of funding set aside within this £23 million for use within the SEN estate, this is likely to be used for expanding and improving secondary special schools. The proposed details on this will be submitted in the next iteration of the One Strategic Plan.

### **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

3.1. As academies, the schools included in the secondary recommended option are required to consult for their expansion as part of the Significant Change process and inform the Department of Education of this consultation. As academies, the schools are required to conduct this consultation, rather than the Council.

### **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

The timescale for the phase 2 of secondary expansions is set out in the following table:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Approximate Timing</b>
Consultation with Secondary Headteacher Partnership and Executive	November 2019 – June 2020
Secondary Headteacher Partnership and Executive agree to proposals	July 2020
Cabinet Report to confirm proposals	October 2020
Start to work with the schools included in the approved option to look at requirements to accommodate the additional pupils	November 2020

### **5. Comments from the Director of Finance and the Director of Law and Governance**

#### **5.1. Financial implications**

5.1.1. All financial implications are covered in sections 2.2 and 6.2 of the report.

#### **5.2. Legal implications**

5.2.1. Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 places the Local Authority under a duty to promote high standards and fair access to education. S14 of the Education Act 1996 sets out the Local Authority's duty to secure sufficient schools in their area, and to consider the need to secure provision for children with SEN. This includes a duty to respond to parents' representations about school provision.

5.2.2. All the schools identified within this expansion proposal are academy schools, academy schools are responsible for conducting their own consultation process as set out in the 'Making significant changes to an open academy and closure by mutual agreement.' The Local Authority offers guidance to schools on completing this process, and remains a statutory consultee in the process, but the academy trust is directly responsible for its completion and submission where applicable to the Secretary of State.

5.2.3. The School Admissions Code 2014 (SAC) provides that when changes are proposed to admission arrangements, all admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements (including any supplementary information form) that will apply for admission applications the following school year. Where the admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years, even if there have been no changes during that period. Community

and Voluntary Controlled schools have the right to object to the Schools' Adjudicator if the PAN proposed is lower than they would wish.

## 6. Other implications

### 6.1. How will this contribute to the Council Plan ([www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/))

- 6.1.1. These proposals will support and synergise with the Councils Policies as set out below:
- Making the most of our Assets – utilising existing estate to maximum potential and ensuring value for money.
  - Improving Educational Outcomes – by providing additional school places in 'Good' or 'Outstanding' schools.
  - Raising the Profile of Coventry - by providing additional school places in 'Good' or 'Outstanding' schools.
  - Creating the Infrastructure – Aiding in schools to be self-sufficient.
  - Rationalising our property portfolio – Enabling schools to reach their potential.

### 6.2. How is risk being managed?

- 6.2.1. Monitoring is carried out through a number of different processes. This programme will be monitored through a project management team and will be subject to scrutiny and regular assessment on progress towards identified milestones. Further monitoring will be carried out through progress reports to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, and quarterly budgetary control monitoring.
- 6.2.2. Of the £48,548,550 identified in the Education Capital Basic Need, only £22,895,429 has been received. The further resources of the remainder of the £6,237,000 and the full allocation of £23,733,503 are payable in due course. However, the Council are not anticipating any reduction in its Basic Need Allocations.

Received Funding	£18,578,047
2020/21 Allocation	£6,237,000 <sup>2</sup>
2021/22 Allocation	£23,733,503.95
Total Funding	£48,548,550.95

### 6.3. What is the impact on the organisation?

- 6.3.1. There are no specific impacts on the organisation.

### 6.4. Equalities /EIA

- 6.4.1. Children and young people with SEN often experience greater discrimination and have fewer opportunities than children without such difficulties. The proposal aims to ensure that all Coventry children have access to education in accordance with their needs. Any revised accommodation changes and admission arrangements take into account the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 in the context of their possible impact on equal opportunities.
- 6.4.2. Public authority decision makers are under a duty to have due regard to 1) the need to eliminate discrimination, 2) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not 3) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not (public sector equality duty - s 149(1) Equality Act 2010). The applicable protected characteristics are disability, gender reassignment; race, religion or belief, sex; sexual orientation, pregnancy or maternity.

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<sup>2</sup> Please note this is being paid in instalments by the ESFA, with to date £4,317,382 having been received, the remainder will be paid over the current financial year.

6.4.3. Decision makers must be consciously thinking about these three aims as part of their decision-making process with rigour and with an open mind. The duty is to have “due regard”, not to achieve a result but to have due regard to the need to achieve these goals. Consideration being given to the potential adverse impacts and the measures needed to minimise any discriminatory effects.

6.4.4. Each school has been assessed thoroughly in line with the Disability Discrimination Act 2004’ and meet the requirements of the Building Regulations and relevant British Standards including BS 8300 2009. Specific provisions of inclusion for wheelchair users; hard of hearing and visually impaired have been included in the designs. An access statement is provided for each school to act as an on-going live document. It documents the initial building approach and becomes an effective building management tool for the users to ensuring long term accessibility.

#### **6.5. Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment**

6.5.1. Coventry's schools currently account for 28% of the City's carbon footprint and this scheme will support the reduction of that level through replacing old school buildings with modern, energy efficient facilities. The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme as amended is a mandatory carbon emissions tax covering non-energy intensive users in both public and private sectors and is a central part of the UK's strategy to deliver the emission reduction targets set in the Climate Change Act 2008. Emissions from schools (including PFI Schools) are to be included in the total reported carbon emissions for their participating Local Authority. The new school buildings would also be designed to mitigate the effects of climate change fluctuations and to help reduce surface water run off as a result of flash or extreme weather events, reducing any negative effects on the local community and environmental infrastructure.

#### **6.6. Implications for partner organisations?**

6.6.1. Planning for additional places requires close partnership with the PCT, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust, Social Care and Private/Voluntary Organisations and will enable multi-agency support and provision for vulnerable children.



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Councillor K Maton	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills	-	07/09/2020	07/09/2020
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