

TITLE Wokingham Borough Draft Primary Strategy 2018 to 2028

FOR CONSIDERATION BY School Admissions Forum on 6 June 2018

WARD (All Wards);

DIRECTOR Director of Corporate Services - Graham Ebers

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

That there will be sufficient primary school places in Wokingham Borough to meet statutory need.

RECOMMENDATION

That Forum note the contents of this report and comment as they see fit.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The draft strategy recommends

- (a) that the planned Strategic Development Location (SDL) schools in Wokingham, Shinfield and Arborfield are the appropriate provision for those areas,
- (b) that additional short (and possibly long) term capacity is required in Woodley, reflecting the impact of new housing in that area.

Other areas of the borough do not need additional capacity.

There the Council's agreed infrastructure plan (based arounds the SDLs) has proved to be robust and has meant the council has appropriate plans for new provision for housing related growth.

The impact of new homes is critical to the viability of new schools and neither the number of new homes or the number of children who will live in them can be known when the decision to let building contracts is given. Therefore the Council must have plans both for managing schools that are built to early or if additional capacity is required.

The draft Strategy is on track to be considered by Wokingham's Executive on 28th June 2018.

Background

The Primary School Places Strategy succeeds the version approved in 2016. The greatest differences between the two documents are (a) that Earley is no longer seen as an area of concern and (b) that additional capacity may be required in Woodley.

Analysis of Issues

Further analysis is provided in the draft strategy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

| | How much will it Cost/ (Save) | Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall | Revenue or Capital? |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Current Financial Year (Year 1) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Next Financial Year (Year 2) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Following Financial Year (Year 3) | N/A | N/A | N/A |

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None

Financial implications are dealt with in the final report to Wokingham's Executive.

Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services, including properties and priorities?)

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

List of Background Papers

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