

TITLE	Primary School Planning Strategy
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	The Executive on 28 January 2016
WARD	None specific
DIRECTOR	Judith Ramsden, Director of Children's Services
LEAD MEMBER	Charlotte Haitham-Taylor, Executive Member for Children's Services

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

That there are sufficient school places to meet statutory need.

That these schools places are created in the communities that need them so children can attend schools near their homes.

That future new school and school expansion projects take account of the wider range of council and community needs, including the provision of leisure facilities.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Primary School Planning Strategy, as attached to the report, be approved.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The strategy establishes the need for new primary school places over the period 2016 to 2018. Three areas are identified where capacity is required for 2016 – in Earley, Woodley and Shinfield.

In Earley the additional capacity is required to meet demand generated by a changing house occupation pattern. Households without younger dependent children have been replaced by new households with dependent children.

In Woodley is also thought to be experiencing similar pressures. These are exacerbated though by new house building across the area (which will add around 1,000 new predominantly family homes to the area).

In the south west (Shinfield) area the challenge is to ensure an adequate supply of places until the new SDL schools can open. These schools will have capacity to expand to deliver additional places, but their opening dates will be determined by the progress of the linked housing development schemes.

Other new schools will follow in the Strategic Development Locations. There are seven of these schools, one of which (Montague Park) will open in 2016, with other schools possibly following on from 2017.

Background

The council has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient primary school places. Demand has risen steadily over the past 5 years so that additional capacity has been created in a number of school across the borough.

The strategy is the successor to the primary place provision strategy 2013 to 2016. This strategy identified three “hot spots” (the north, Wokingham Town and the South West). Three new schools were built by Wokingham in Charvil, Woosehill and Winnersh (a fourth (Ewendons) opened as a Free School and two schools have been expanded (in the Shinfield Parish area).

These areas either have no further identified need or have other schemes in progress to address future needs, with the exception of the south west (Shinfield). Otherwise where need is expected to rise new needs are expected to be met by SDL schools.

New schools will open as Academies or Free Schools (generally they will be badged Free Schools).

Analysis of Issues

The full analysis is set out in the strategy document itself. Current analysis indicates the following number of additional places will be required for September 2016:

Earley – 60 places (split 30 Year R and 30 Year 1)

Woodley – 15 places (Year R)

South West – 30 places (Year R)

In all cases the expansions will lead over a 7 year period to the full expansion of the schools (210 places in Earley, 105 places in Woodley and at least 210 places in Shinfield (although the new school is likely to offer 60 places per year / 420 places overall).

Additional capacity will be required in Woodley as the impact of new housing development is seen. An additional 30 places per year / 210 places will be required form 2017.

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.

All figures are £,000s.

General Fund

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	Nil	N/A	Revenue (General Fund)

Next Financial Year (Year 2)	Nil	N/A	Revenue (General Fund)
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	Nil	N/A	Revenue (General Fund)

NB – Current Year is 2015/16

Dedicated Schools Grant

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£0	£0	Revenue (DSG)
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£601	£0	Revenue (DSG)
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£555	£0	Revenue (DSG)

Note that the funding is dependent on agreement with the Schools Forum to the 2016/17 budget.

Capital

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£0	£0	Capital
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£3,160	£0	Capital
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£3,290	£0	Capital

Note the funding is dependent on agreement to the MTFP.

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

Revenue costs will be met from the Dedicated Schools Grant.

The table below sets out Revenue (Dedicated Schools Grant) commitments that will extend beyond the next three years. WBC will be responsible for all start-up costs, while DfE will be responsible for lagged formulaic funding.

These figures are indicative at this stage as the new school start-up costs will be negotiated individually based on the particular circumstances of the successful provider.

Revenue	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019+	Total
Woodley	£-	£26	£79	£79	£289	£473
Early	£-	£158	£79	£79	£289	£604
South West	£-	£418	£398	£340	£1,823	£2,978
Total	£-	£601	£555	£498	£2,400	£4,054

CS and Operational Property officers are working with Finance to quantify capital costs and to identify how these will be met. These costs are though the province of the related

implementation paper.

Capital costs will be met through a mixture of S106 contributions and WBC held funds (including DfE awarded Basic Need allocations).

Full details are set out in the related report "Primary Strategy Implementation Plan".

The table below sets out capital commitments that will extend beyond the next three years.

Area	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019+	Total by scheme
Woodley	0	£1,610	£1,920	£20	£80	£3,630
Earley	0	£855	£1,320	£520	£100	£2,795
South West	0	£650	£50	£50	£188	£938
Total by year	0	£3,115	£3,290	£590	£368	£7,363

Cross-Council Implications

Schemes stemming from this strategy are expected to support a wide range of WBC service and community objectives.

List of Background Papers

None

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