

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND EARLY HELP SERVICES

TO:	ADUTL SOCIAL CARE, CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	12 JULY 2017	AGENDA ITEM:	9
TITLE:	EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME, EXPANSION OF MOORLANDS SCHOOL		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR JONES	PORTFOLIO:	EDUCATION
SERVICE:	EDUCATION	WARDS:	TILEHURST
LEAD OFFICER:	CHRIS KIERNAN	TEL:	0118 9374665
JOB TITLE:	HEAD OF EDUCATION	E-MAIL:	<a href="mailto:chris.kiernan@reading.gov.uk">chris.kiernan@reading.gov.uk</a>

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 As part of the capital programme, Moorlands school has been identified for expansion from 420 to 630 pupils. In order to do this the council is required to undertake a formal statutory consultation in accordance with the process laid out under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 and Education Act 2011.)

2. Recommended action

- 2.1 That the proposal to hold a formal expansion consultation of Moorlands primary school be approved.
- 2.1 That publication of the statutory proposals to expand Moorlands School be delegated to the Director of Education and Children's Services in consultation with the lead member for Education and Children's Services following consideration of the outcome of the consultation.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 For the purposes of pupil place planning in Reading, the Borough is split into 5 zones or planning areas as required by the Department for Education (DFE). The forecast demand for pupil places compared to existing School capacity is shown in Table 1. It indicates that the planning areas with the greatest shortfall of available places are Central followed by South and East. The majority of the housing new development will be in the Central and West Planning Areas. The table indicates across Reading an ongoing rise in demand for pupil places in 2017/18 and 2018/19 - with estimated shortfalls of 81 places in Sept 2017 and 32 places in Sept 2018.

### 3.2 The forecast figures included in Table 1 include adjustments for:

- Estimated number of places derived when we include the impact of planned housing developments identified in the RBC Infrastructure Delivery Plan until 2036.
- Cross border Import and Export of pupils to other Local Authorities over the last 3 years
- Number of pupils who do not take up their allocation in September
- Anticipated In year admissions in year R.
- Adjustment is made within the capacity figure in each year for bulge classes as they are freed up at the end of their 7 year cycle.

**Table1**

Year R		FORECAST (scap) inc Housing yield	CAPACITY (scap)	Balance of Places	FORECAST (scap) inc Housing yield	CAPACITY (scap)	Balance of Places	FORECAST (scap) inc Housing yield	CAPACITY (scap)	Balance of Places	FORECAST (scap) inc Housing yield	CAPACITY (scap)	Balance of Places
Planning Area	Planning Area	2017/18			2018/19			2019/20			2020/21		
8700001	North	450	470	20	452	470	18	444	530	86	447	470	23
8700002	East	407	330	-77	405	330	-75	383	330	-53	372	330	-42
8700003	South	443	405	-38	479	405	-74	473	405	-68	471	405	-66
8700004	Central	600	470	-130	591	500	-91	576	500	-76	576	470	-106
8700005	West	476	465	-11	460	495	35	457	495	38	465	465	0
Balance of places Forecast / capacity		2376	2140	-236	2387	2200	-187	2333	2260	-73	2331	2140	-191
<b>Final balance of places with Admissions adjustments</b>				<b>-81</b>			<b>-32</b>			<b>82</b>			<b>-36</b>
Admissions adjustments													
Average no. of places freed by pupils exported to other LA's last 3 years = 216													
Average no. of places filled by pupils imported from other LA's last 3 years = 36													
Average no. of places not taken up in Sept =125													
Average no. of places filled by in year admissions last 3 years = 150													

## 4 WORK IN PROGRESS

4.1 There is planned development in south and north planning zones to develop additional primary capacity. In the south the Council currently has a Section 106 agreement in place with a housing developer to build a 1 FE Primary school, however given the levels of development going ahead (by others) and planned the school capacity will need to expand to 2 FE, for which the Council would be expected to pay for the 2<sup>nd</sup> form of entry. A much neater solution will involve the Council in no cost, and the development of the 2FE Free School, commissioned by the Education Funding Agency (EFA). Discussions are now underway with the EFA, the developer, and an Academy sponsor to make this a reality.

4.2 In the north the Education Funding Agency is committed to developing a 2 FE Primary Free school, and has developed temporary capacity for 200 of the 350 pupils envisaged by the sponsor. The permanent site at Mapledurham has been identified by the EFA, but has yet to secure approval. The uncertainty around the site presents a serious risk to the future of this school, and 150 primary pupil places from September 2018. Contingency planning is in place to provide

capacity at community schools in North Reading were this proposal to fail. The anomalous school capacity of 350 would be addressed on completion of the new school, when capacity will move to 420 places.

## **5 OPTIONS**

5.1 Do nothing - This is not a viable option as the Council will continue to run short of Primary school places.

5.2 Do minimum - rely on the 2 planned Free Schools - The Heights (which can add an additional 10 places per year group above and beyond the 50 pupils per annum they currently take) in the North Planning Area and the Green Park School (2FE) in the South Planning Area to accommodate the additional places required.

5.3 Provide extra places through a school expansion. The criteria we have used to identify Moorlands School as a suitable site to ensure the most economical approach are as follows:

- on an existing School site
- a School which is either Ofsted rated Good or Outstanding
- Avoiding designated open space.
- Where there is sufficient space to develop the extra capacity required.
- Where there would be minimal disruption to the existing school and avoiding the necessity to decant children from existing classrooms.
- Within a 2 mile walking radius of the pupil growth areas.

5.4 Having looked at existing provision across the Planning Areas the proposal was to expand Moorlands Primary School. At an early stage in 2016 the head and Chair of School governors were approached to gauge their reaction to the school being expanded. The response was very positive, and Client team meetings have been held with the school to develop the detailed proposal.

5.5 Given the forecast demand for primary aged pupil places, additional places will be required by September 2019. The probable need to expand a West Reading primary school was identified within the Education Capital Programme options report presented to Policy Committee on 2 November 2015.

## **6 CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS**

6.1 The proposal to expand Moorlands school will help provide sufficient pupil places in the locality of the School and ensures that the council complies with its statutory obligation to provide them.

## **7 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION**

7.1 There is a statutory requirement to consult the local community and other admission authorities and neighbouring local authorities on the expansion of schools.

## **8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 8.1 Not required at this stage as the council are looking to provide school capacity to meet overall population forecasts. Individual options may require EIA to take place when looking at how the detailed option will meet the needs of the local community

## **9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The council has a statutory duty to comply with the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 and Education Act 2011.)

## **9 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Assumption underlying consultation is that we have funds to undertake the expansion described in the consultation. The funding is contained in the Education Capital Programme approved by Policy Committee in February 2017

## **10 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 10.1 Policy Committee Report February 2017