

Decision Maker: EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Date: For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Children, Education & Families PDS Committee on 15 June 2021

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING REPORT 2021

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Chief Officer: Director of Education

Ward: All

1. Reason for report

This report asks the Education, Children and Families Portfolio Holder to consider the Council's School Place Planning Report 2021 that sets out how the Council's plans to meet the forecast need for primary and secondary places and seeks agreement to the recommendations of the School Places Working Party held on 27 April 2021.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 That the Education, Children and Families Portfolio Holder considers the comments of the School Places Working Group following its meeting on 27 April 2020, in particular its resolutions that:

That pupil roll projections and other trend data set out in the report be noted;

2. That a planning margin of 5% above the GLA school roll projections is continued to be sought to provide for local variations in need and to meet parental preferences;
3. That whilst there are, at the moment, sufficient places available or planned to meet current and projected demand for school places, the Council will work with schools to safeguard the existing supply of school places as required
4. That there is specific pressures for placements for pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and that the Council works with local schools, trusts and the DfE to bring proposals forward to increase capacity and improve provision where necessary;

5. That discussions be undertaken with schools, multi academy trusts and the DfE, as outlined in this report, to ensure a sufficient supply of mainstream school places in the Borough, including through expansions and opening new schools;
6. That the potential delay to Harris Kent House free school opening is noted and that it is recommended that the Council engages in conversation with Harris Federation and other academy trusts operating in the borough to ensure that there are sufficient school places until the school open;
7. Where expansion is agreed, to implement through the education capital programme (subject to the availability of funds);
8. That the direction of travel for the increase in local SEND provision be endorsed.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: The recommendations support vulnerable children through ensuring that there are sufficient school places available
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Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost
 2. Ongoing costs: n/a
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Education Capital Programme
 4. Total current budget for this head: £93,130k
 5. Source of funding: DfE Basic Need Capital, DfE Send Capital Grant
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Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional):
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement
 2. Call-in: Applicable
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Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: There are no procurement implications arising from this report. The Procurement Strategy for schemes within the Basic Need Programme have been set out in previous reports
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): 55,000 children and their families
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The Council has a statutory duty for ensuring that there are sufficient school places locally to meet need in the borough. The attached School Place Planning Report 2021 (Appendix 2) sets out the Council's proposals to meet this duty.
- 3.2 On 27 April 2021 the Council's School Place Working Group, a sub-group of the Council's Education, Children and Families Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee, met to consider the Report and make recommendations to the Education, Children and Families Portfolio Holder. Minutes of the meeting are attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.3. The strategy focusses on the period 2021/22-2034/35. The strategy reviews the projections of the future need for school places and other relevant demographic information in order to inform planning for school places. Information sources include:
- 2020 GLA School Roll Projections
 - DfE School Census
 - GLA population projections
 - ONS data on live births and migration
- 3.4 In common with most London local authorities, Bromley uses the School Roll Projections produced by the GLA as the primary source for informing its planning for school places. These are based on the latest ONS population data, and take into account information on school rolls and dwelling stock changes.
- 3.5 For the purposes of planning for primary school places, the projections in Bromley are split into 9 school place planning areas. For secondary planning there is a single planning area that covers the whole borough. This reflects that children can reasonably travel further distances to access a secondary school place and at secondary age approximately a fifth of children cross the borough boundary. The planning areas are agreed with the Department for Education (DfE) and are used by Government to calculate Basic Need capital allocations.
- 3.6 The School Place Planning Report provides analysis of the need for school places in Bromley at both at a borough-wide level and based on the 9 primary school place planning areas. The local analysis includes projections of the future need for school places, details of school developments and Free Schools that have been delivered and future proposals for school expansions and new schools.
- 3.7 Whilst over recent years the Council's main focus has been on meeting primary aged need, the focus of need have now changed and priorities are now ensuring that there are sufficient secondary school places and meeting the growing need for places for children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
- 3.9 In Bromley, providing additional school capacity has been delivered through a range of options; opening bulge classes, permanently expanding existing schools and the creation of new Free Schools. Whereas in the primary sector capacity was mainly added through the extension of existing schools, the provision of additional secondary capacity has primarily been delivered through the creation of Free Schools.
- 3.10 Two secondary Free Schools have opened in Bromley, Eden Park High School and Bullers Wood School for Boys. A further Free School is proposed by the DfE to open in Bromley; Harris Kent House.
- 3.11 The requirement for places will continue to be kept under review and further reports will be made on a regular basis with an update of forecasts, actual rolls, financing and decisions

about the opening and enlargement of schools. In this way it is hoped not only to secure sufficient places but to meet parental preferences so far as is possible.

4 IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

- 4.1 The strategy supports vulnerable children by ensuring that sufficient school places are available to meet local need. Schools offer educational support to children, their parents and carers and can be the first port of call/point of identification when they need additional help and support.

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Bromley Council has an established policy for the review and strategic planning of school places and related school organisation. The need to ensure sufficient school places, the quality of those places and their efficient organisation is a priority within the Council's strategy 'Building a Better Bromley' and contributes to the strategy to achieve the status of An Excellent Council. This policy also contributes to key targets within the Education, Children and Families Portfolio Plan.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient school places to meet demand in its area under the Education Act 1996. This report details how the Council plans to address need.
- 8.2 Local authorities are responsible for all children and young people with SEN in their area under Part 3 of Children and Families Act 2014.

Non-Applicable Sections:	PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS FINANCIAL IMPLICATION PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	[Title of document and date]