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**Decision Maker:** PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES

**Date:** For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Children, Education and Families PDS Committee on 4 October 2022

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

**Title:** SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING REPORT 2022-26

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**Chief Officer:** Director of Education

**Ward:** All Wards

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1. Reason for decision/report and options

This report asks the Children, Education and Families Portfolio Holder to consider the Council's School Place Planning Report 2022-26 that sets out how the Council's plans to meet the forecast need for primary and secondary place and seeks agreement to the recommendations of the School Places Working Party held on 27 July 2022.

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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 That the Children, Education and Families Portfolio Holder considers the comments of the School Places Working Group following its meeting on 27 July 2022, in particular its resolutions that:

1. That pupil roll projections and other trend data set out in the report be noted.
2. That Members note the continued increase in the number of children and young people with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), above demographic trends.
3. That a planning margin of 5% above the GLA school roll projections continues to be implemented to provide for local variations in need and to meet parental preferences.
4. That Members note the projections indicating a potential future reduction in the need for primary places.
5. That whilst there are, currently, sufficient primary 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.
6. That there are specific pressures for placements for pupils with an Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and that the Council works with local schools, trusts and

the DfE to bring proposals forward to increase capacity and improve provision where necessary.

7. 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.
  8. That whilst there has been progress in the delivery of both Harris Kent House and Redwood Academy free schools that there remains a potential delay to both projects and that it is recommended that the Council engages in conversation with both trusts to ensure that there are sufficient school places available until each school opens.
  9. That Members note the SEN strategic estates review that will be developing options to enable the delivery of additional specialist capacity when needed.
  10. That the Council should actively seek to increase the capacity of in-Borough specialist provision.
  11. Where expansion is agreed, to implement through the education capital programme (subject to the availability of funds).
  12. That officers enter dialogue with the DfE on amending the primary and secondary planning areas.
- 2.2 That the Children, Education and Families Portfolio Holder agrees the Bromley School Places Plan 2022-26
- 2.3 That the Children, Education and Families Portfolio Holder notes the ongoing work of officers with the Department for Education to amend the Borough's school place planning areas, moving to two planning areas for secondary place planning and to amend the primary planning areas to reflect the 2022 changes in ward boundaries and retain the principle of planning areas being co-terminus with ward boundaries.

## 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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## Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
  2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority (delete as appropriate):  
(1) For children and young People to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.
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## Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost
  2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
  3. Budget head/performance centre: Education Capital Programme
  4. Total current budget for this head: £96,562k
  5. Source of funding: DfE Basic Need Capital, DfE High Needs Provision Capital
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## Personnel

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

## Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement
  2. Call-in: Applicable: Portfolio Holder Decision
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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 Education Capital Programme have been set out in previous reports
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## Property

1. Summary of Property Implications: There are no property implications arising from this report. The property implications of schemes within the Education Capital Programme have been set out in previous reports
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## Carbon Reduction and Social Value

1. There are no carbon reduction and social value implications arising from this report. The carbon reduction and social value implications will be set out in reports relating to scheme within Education Capital Programme.
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## Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users or customers (current and projected): This report impacts on the approximately 55,000 children in state funded schools in Bromley 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 Bromley School Places Plan 2022-26 (Appendix 2) sets out the Council's proposals to meet this duty.
- 3.2 On 27 July 2022 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 2022-26 but includes analysis beyond that date. 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 GLA 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 housing development.
- 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. 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 focus has been on meeting primary aged need, need has changed with priorities now being 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. In addition, a special free school, Redwood Academy is in the pre-opening phase.
- 3.1 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. TRANSFORMATION IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Through reviewing the future need for SEN places the strategy supports the Children's Services and Education Workstream of the Council's Transformation Programme.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. The financial implications of providing additional school places is set out in the reports to the Executive on the Council's Basic Need Programme.

#### **7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 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 Making Bromley Even Better 2021-31; 'For children and young people to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.' In seeking best value in the delivery of school places this proposal will be the priority; 'To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.' The proposals contained within this report also contribute to key targets within the Children, Education and Families Portfolio Plan

#### **8. 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.

8.3 The Secretary of State rather than the Council's has powers to direct academy schools to admit pupils under the School Standard Framework Act 1998.

<b>Non-Applicable Headings:</b>	CARBON REDUCTION/SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS CUSTOMER IMPACT WARD COUNCILLOR VIEWS
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Basic Need Programme Update, Executive, Wednesday 30 March 2022