

**CABINET MEMBER CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES  
15 JULY 2014**

**2014 PUPIL PLACE PLAN FOR OXFORDSHIRE**

**Report by Director for Childrens' Services**

**Introduction**

1. The Pupil Place Plan shows local communities, and those interested in their development, how we expect school provision to change over the next few years. It brings together information from a range of sources and sets out the issues the county council will face in meeting its statutory duties for providing school places up to 2018 and beyond.
2. The plan includes present and predicted future pupil numbers on roll, together with information about birth rates, school capacity, and new housing. The plan sets out proposed changes in the number of school places available over the next year and it suggests where other changes may be necessary in the future. The plan also sets out our policies on school organisation and the statutory framework for making changes such as opening, closing or enlarging schools.
3. It is our intention to update this plan each year to take into account data on housing, population and school capacity. The plan is then published on the county council's website.

**Background**

4. Although there has been no statutory requirement to publish a School Organisation Plan since 2004, it is considered good practice to produce a plan related to pupil place planning to clearly set out the framework for, and approach towards, the provision of places.
5. Oxfordshire has been producing Pupil Place Plans since February 2011; the version submitted for approval will be the fourth edition.
6. The Plan includes information about:
  - Models of school organisation in Oxfordshire
  - Factors affecting demand for school places in Oxfordshire
  - National and local policies and legislation affecting school organisation
  - Forecasts of demand for school places in each area of the county
  - Current school capacity and pupil numbers.

## **Development of Plan**

7. The process of revising the Plan has included:
  - The Plan is published on the Oxfordshire County Council website.
  - Comments received about the Plan throughout the year are collated and used to improve and update its content.
  - Data on pupil numbers has been updated from the Pupil Census (PLASC), and that on school capacity from records of Net Capacity or academy funding agreements.
  - New pupil forecasts for each planning area have been calculated based on School Census data, housing-led population forecasts, and recent patterns of parental choice.
  - Information about school organisation context, policies and legislation has been updated.
  - The data section has been circulated to headteachers for comments.
  - The revised Plan has been circulated to the School Organisation Stakeholders Group for comment
8. There may be some comments as a result of the circulation of the Draft Plan received after the submission of this report, in which case any late amendments will be reported at the Cabinet Member's meeting.
9. Inevitably, a document such as this represents a snapshot at one point in time. In particular, housing proposals are always changing, and the forecasts included in the Plan are based on the housing data submitted by district councils to inform the county's demographic projections in autumn 2013. The forecasts in the Plan must therefore be seen as a baseline against which to assess the impact of any changes in housing plans.

## **Key information**

10. The number on roll at Oxfordshire's primary schools rose by 1143, or 2.4%, between the academic years 2012/13 and 2013/14, a faster rate of growth than the previous year. This was despite a dip in Reception intake of 5.3%, the first fall in Reception numbers since 2006. Demographic data shows clearly that this was a short-term dip, with primary intakes expected to continue to grow strongly. Our current pupil projections show a 14% increase in primary pupil numbers from 48,831 (Reception – Year 6) in 2013/14 to 55,610 in 2018/19, with population growth in this age range continuing until 2021.
11. After a period of decline, the number on roll at Oxfordshire secondary schools has started to grow, and is predicted to continue doing so as new housing is built and the rising primary population feeds through. For secondary school pupils there is a 12% predicted rise from 35,910 in 2013/14 to 40,138 in 2018/19, with population growth in the secondary age range continuing until 2027.

12. The special school population has been growing since 2008, and is predicted to continue growing due to the overall rise in pupil numbers.
13. Three new schools have recently opened in Oxfordshire: Europa School in 2012 and Tyndale Community School and Heyford Park Free School in 2013. Up to 26 other new schools are currently expected to open in Oxfordshire in the next decade or so, including :
  - 2014 Macintyre Academy, 11-19, SEN severe learning disabilities and/or autism  
Science Studio School, Banbury 300 places for 14-19 year olds
  - 2015 Primary school on Great Western Park, Didcot  
University Technical College on Great Western Park, Didcot  
Primary School for Barton development, Oxford  
Primary School for North West Bicester development
  - 2016 Primary School for Longford Park development, Banbury  
Studio School, Bicester (subject to DfE final approval)
  - 2017 Primary school on Great Western Park, Didcot  
Secondary school on Great Western Park, Didcot
14. The timetable of other expected schools is set out in the Plan, but is subject to revision as it is dependent on the progress of housing developments.
15. In addition to new schools, there will be a number of ongoing and future school expansions, which are detailed in the Plan.

### **Financial and Staff Implications**

16. There are none arising directly from this report.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

17. **The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to approve the publication of the 2014 Oxfordshire Pupil Place Plan.**

### **JIM LEIVERS**

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