

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES - 13 JULY 2015

OXFORDSHIRE PUPIL PLACE PLAN 2015-2019

Report by Director for Children's Services

Introduction

1. This report seeks approval for the revised Oxfordshire Pupil Place Plan, covering the period 2015/16 – 2019/20.
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. The Pupil Place Plan does not itself propose service changes, but collates proposals which have been made, or are expected.
3. The Pupil Place Plan is updated annually, based on revised data and comments from schools. It was considered by the School Organisation Stakeholder Group at their meeting on 23 June 2015. Should there be any late amendments, these will be reported to the meeting.

Summary

4. Demand for school places in Oxfordshire continues to rise, with the higher birth rate of the last decade now starting to affect secondary schools. In addition, the significant housing growth planned across Oxfordshire will further increase the pupil population. Although much work has already been done to increase primary school capacity, further increases in capacity will be needed, and expansion of secondary school capacity has now also commenced. The Pupil Place Plan sets out changes planned over the next five years, and also includes the current programme of proposed new schools, many of which will open beyond the time period covered by this Plan.
5. Current data indicate that the number of births in Oxfordshire peaked in 2010 and 2011, which corresponds broadly to the very high demand for Reception places for 2015. Demand for Reception places is expected to fall in most areas over the next few years, before again rising as a result of planned housing growth. Total primary pupil numbers will, however, continue to grow, as the older, smaller, cohorts leave primary school. In many areas the increases in capacity provided in recent years will be sufficient to meet the demand of the period covered by the Pupil Place Plan, but there will be some

further expansions of schools, particularly in areas of housing growth. There will also be new schools opened within significant housing developments; the first of these will open in 2016.

6. Steady growth in secondary school numbers is now expected. As this follows a period of falling numbers, in many cases secondary schools have sufficient capacity to meet the population growth expected over the period covered by the Pupil Place Plan. Where schools are expected to need to expand, options for doing so are being explored. In some cases new schools (including University Technical Colleges or Studio Schools) will be required, usually related to areas of significant housing growth.
7. Changes to the Pupil Place Plan this year include:
 - More information is included about the sufficiency of early years places.
 - The sections on special educational needs provision have been updated and expanded.
 - Information about housing development has been updated to reflect progress with Local Plans.
 - A map has been included showing areas of major housing development and planned new schools.

Financial and Staff Implications

8. There are no direct financial consequences arising from this report.

Equality and Inclusion Implications

9. Effective planning for school places, of which the Pupil Place Plan is a key component, contributes towards increasing equality of access to education and social inclusion.

Decision

27. The Decision Maker can decide to:
 - Approve the revised Pupil Place Plan;
 - Require amendments to the Pupil Place Plan;
 - Reject the revised Pupil Place Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

28. **The Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families is RECOMMENDED to approve the Oxfordshire Pupil Place Plan 2015-2019.**

JIM LEIVERS

Director for Children's Services

Annex: Oxfordshire County Council Pupil Place Plan 2015-2019

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