

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION - 14 NOVEMBER 2016**

### **REPORT ON THE 2016-2020 OXFORDSHIRE PUPIL PLACE PLAN**

#### **Report by Director for Children's Services**

#### **Introduction**

1. This report seeks approval for the revised Oxfordshire Pupil Place Plan, covering the period 2016/17 – 2020/21.
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.

#### **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 more new schools opened within significant housing developments, following the opening of GEMS Didcot primary Academy in September 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.

### **Equality and Inclusion Implications**

7. 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**

8. 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**

9. **The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to approve the Oxfordshire 2016-2020 Pupil Place Plan.**

#### **JIM LEIVERS**

Director for Children's Services

Annex: Oxfordshire County Council Pupil Place Plan 2016-2020

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