

Education Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 26 September 2017

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

School Place Provision Strategy 2017/18- 2019/20

(Appendices 'A' to 'C' refer)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

The School Place Provision Strategy 2017/18 to 2019/20, as set out at Appendix 'A', replaces the Strategy for the Provision of School Places and Schools' Capital Investment 2015/16 to 2017/18, which was last published in 2015.

The Strategy, which was approved by Cabinet on 10 August 2017 sets out the framework for delivery of new places and school capital investment priorities. Further reports will be presented to Cabinet on individual projects and their associated costs as set out within the Capital Strategy for Schools 2017/18 – 2019/20, which was the subject of a separate report to Cabinet.

Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1) Note the School Place Provision Strategy 2017/18 – 2019/20 as set out at Appendix 'A'; and
- 2) Note that supporting data, as presented in Appendix 'B' will be updated within the timescale of the Strategy to reflect changes on an annual basis; and
- 3) Consider the challenges to providing school places contained within Section 6 of the Strategy, and offer any recommendations which may help the County Council as Education Authority to meet these challenges.

Background and Advice

The Strategy outlines the authority's statutory duties in relation to mainstream school place commissioning. This report should be read in conjunction with the report agreed by the Cabinet on 10 August 2017 (and attached as Appendix 'C'), specifically relating to Capital Strategy for Schools 2017/18 to 2019/20, which explains the authority's role in the appropriate allocation of capital resources to schools.

Since the last update of the Strategy, a Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) for Lancashire and West Yorkshire has been appointed, who will support the establishment of new free schools across the region. The County Council remains the commissioner for school places in Lancashire, and will work with the RSC where need is identified for a new school in an area. This Strategy will provide a basis for those discussions.

Consultations

The School Development Group comprises representatives from a range of services within Lancashire County Council, and has input to the various aspects relating to the provision and quality of school places.

The draft School Place Provision Strategy was then circulated for feedback to schools and relevant partners before School Development Group set out the final version submitted to Cabinet for approval.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Lancashire County Council's statutory obligations in relation to school place commissioning are set out in the School Place Provision Strategy which will inform the future planning of school places and set a framework for discussions with schools and other interested parties.

Financial

This document, in conjunction with the Capital Strategy for Schools 2017/18 to 2019/20 outlines the priorities for determining Capital Projects in the 2017/18 to 2019/20 period. Separate reports will be prepared for Cabinet in connection with specific projects to be delivered.

Equality and Cohesion

An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced as part of the original report to Cabinet and will be reviewed regularly.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
Strategy for the Provision of School Places and Schools' Capital Investment 2015/16 – 2017/18	04/12/2014	School Planning Team Tel (01772) 536289

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A