

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 10 August 2017

Report of the Director of Corporate Commissioning

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
All

School Place Provision Strategy 2017/18 to 2019/20

(Appendices 'A' to 'E' refer)

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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 sets out the framework for delivery of new places and school capital investment priorities. If approved by Cabinet, the Strategy will be formally adopted and published on the Lancashire County Council website. 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 is the subject of a separate report.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order No. 25 have been complied with.

Recommendation

The Cabinet is recommended to approve the School Place Provision Strategy 2017/18 – 2019/20 as set out at Appendix 'A'.

Background and Advice

The School Place Provision Strategy 2017/18 to 2019/20 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 outlines the authority's statutory duties in relation to mainstream school place commissioning. This report should be read in conjunction with the report to the

Cabinet 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

School Place Provision Strategy Appendices is included with this report as Appendix 'B'.

An Equality Analysis is included with this report at Appendix 'C'.

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. A list of these partners is attached at Appendix 'D'. Nineteen responses were received. The summary of responses and suggested amendments were considered and agreed by School Development Group on 15 May 2017. A summary of the feedback from consultees is attached to this report at Appendix 'E'.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Legal

Lancashire County Council's statutory obligations in relation to school place commissioning are set out in the School Place Provision Strategy. An agreed School Place Provision Strategy 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.

List of Background Papers

| Paper | Date | Contact/Tel |
|--|------------|--|
| Strategy for School Places and Schools' Capital Investment 2015/16-2017/18 | 04/12/2014 | Schoolplanning@lancashire.gov.uk Tel 01772 536289 |

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A