

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 4 March 2021

Report of the Head of Service - Asset Management

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
Burnley Central East; Burnley
Central West; Burnley North
East; Burnley Rural; Burnley
South West;

Provision of Secondary School Places in Burnley

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Mark Sarjent, Tel: (01772) 531681, School Provision Planning Principal,
mark.sarjent@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

Lancashire County Council has a statutory duty to ensure that a primary or secondary school place is available for every child of statutory school age living in Lancashire who requests one.

As a result of the loss of places from the closure of Hameldon Community College, and large primary school year groups moving through to secondary schools, additional secondary school places are required in Burnley for admission in the 2021/22 academic year.

Recommendation

In order to allow an increase in the year 7 intake for September 2021, as detailed in the report, Cabinet is asked to:

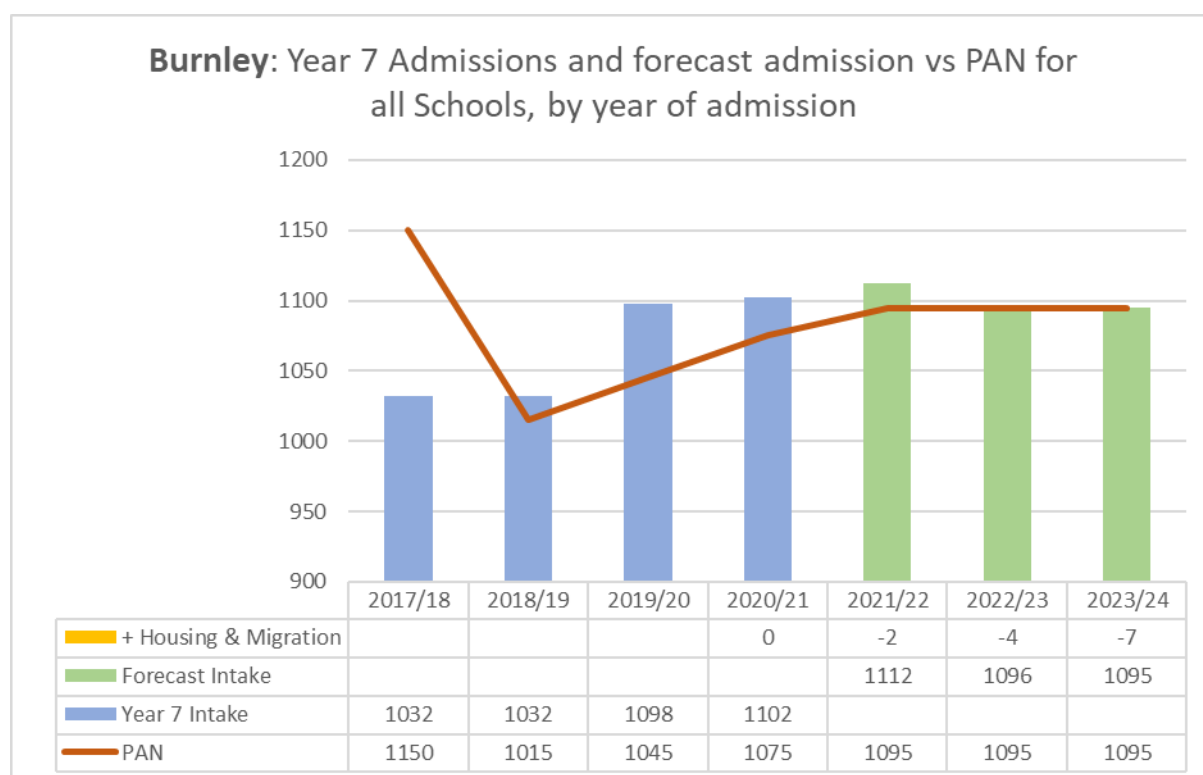
- i. Approve a temporary increase, for one year only, in the admission number of:
 - a. Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic College School - from 250 to 280 places;
 - b. Burnley High School - from 120 to 130 places.
- ii. Approve the capital expenditure detailed in Appendix 'A' to:
 - a. Deliver an ICT room refurbishment and ICT equipment provision for Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic College to facilitate the increased admission numbers for 2021;
 - b. Deliver internal works at Burnley High School to provide additional classrooms and enclose open plan classrooms to facilitate an increased admission number for 2021.

Background and Advice

Need for places in Burnley Secondary Schools

Following the closure of Hameldon Community College in August 2019, there has been a forecast shortfall of places for a number of year groups. Additional places have been provided temporarily at Shuttleworth College in 2020, and permanently at Unity College from 2020.

For 2021, the school place provision forecasts are showing an expected intake of 1112 pupils, and there are currently 1095 places available leading to a 17 place shortfall. However, inward migration into Burnley is expected to increase this shortfall:



Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic College

The academy school has agreed to admit an additional 30 pupils to Year 7 in 2021, for one year only, on the provision of an additional ICT teaching room allowing the school to adjust the curriculum to appropriately teach the additional cohort of pupils as they move through school. Officers have assessed and proposed a scheme to convert one classroom into an ICT room, and to provide additional ICT equipment. Details of the scheme and costs are provided within Appendix 'A'.

Burnley High School

Following the decision taken by Burnley High School, after consultation, not to open their sixth form and revert the age range of the school to 11-16, the original building capacity of 650 would not be reached with the school's admission number of 90. For

the 2019 intake, Burnley High School raised its admission number to 120, utilising 600 places of the 650-capacity building.

Burnley High School has agreed to increase its admission number to 130 for one year only for 2021. However, an area of the school building is currently set up as sixth form seminar rooms with open plan learning which is not appropriate for mainstream class teaching.

Officers have therefore proposed a scheme to convert the seminar rooms into mainstream classrooms, and to provide partition walls to enclose current open plan classrooms. In total, 5 class spaces will be renovated, creating three new mainstream classrooms and enclosing two existing open plan classrooms. Details of the scheme and costs are provided within Appendix 'A'.

Consultations

Neither proposal meets the guidelines of a significant enlargement which would require statutory consultation, so no consultation is required.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

If additional secondary school places are not created, there is a risk that the Authority could fail in its statutory responsibility to make sure that a maintained school place is available to all Lancashire children of the appropriate age range that want one.

Providing additional places increases the overall capacity in the area and, if primary school pupils do not move into the secondary school as forecast for the 2021 intake, or there is an increased level of outward migration of families from this area, then there may be surplus places.

Financial

Should the temporary expansion of Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic College School and Burnley High School be approved, then both schools would receive revenue funding assistance for one year, to reflect the fact that pupils would begin three terms, before the increased numbers were reflected in the school budget. This funding will be provided through the Growth Funding, in accordance with the rules agreed by the Lancashire Schools Forum. This will ensure that neither school is financially disadvantaged by the expansion.

The capital works required will be funded by the Basic Needs grant in 2021/22. Further financial implications are set out at Appendix 'A' and are deemed to be Part II for the reason set out below:

This section of the report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:

Appendix 'A' is not for publication - Exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. The report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). It is considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information