

Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee
Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 1 November 2023

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Delivering better services;
Caring for the vulnerable;
Protecting our environment;
Supporting economic growth

School Place Planning Annual Update
(Appendices 'A' - 'C' refers)

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Brief Summary

This report provides an annual update on school place planning in Lancashire against the School Place Planning Strategy 2022-25, the School Place Delivery Programme 2023-25, and an update on academy conversion.

Recommendation

The Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee is asked to reflect on the annual report attached at Appendix 'A' and consider ways to further support work in this area.

Detail

School place planning in Lancashire continues to perform well in terms of sufficiency of places, quality of places, and the number of place preferences allocated to pupils. This can be seen in the Department for Education (DfE) annual scorecard published in June 2023. However, the focus on performance at a county level masks some local areas where demand for places is greatest. This Annual Report (attached at Appendix 'A') provides an update on the School Place Planning Strategy 2022-25, the School Place Delivery Programme 2023-25 update is at Appendix 'C' and an update on academy conversions at Appendix 'B'.



Appendices

Appendices 'A' - 'C' are attached to this report. For clarification they are summarised below and referenced at relevant points within this report.

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	School Place Planning Annual Report 2023
Appendix 'B'	Academy Conversions
Appendix 'C'	School Place Delivery Programme 2023-25 update

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

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

Providing additional places increases the overall capacity in the area and, if projected pupil numbers fail to materialise as expected, there may be surplus places created by the proposals. In these circumstances, the authority proposes to work with the group of schools within the School Planning Area to ensure that there is a strategic approach to managing the sufficiency of school places available.

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

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
N/A	N/A	N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

