



Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee

18 September 2017

Title	Planning for new school places 2018/19 to 2022/23
Report of	Strategic Director for Children and Young People
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Summary

This report provides an annual update on the council's commissioning strategy for school places to ensure that the council meets its duty to provide sufficient places for children and young people in Barnet. It provides information on the projected demand for school places for the next five years from 2018/19 through to 2022/23 and sets out activity that is currently underway or being planned to provide additional primary, secondary and special school places to meet this need.

Recommendations

- 1. That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee note the projected future requirements for school places up to 2022/23.**
- 2. That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee note the progress in delivering new primary, secondary and special school places to date.**
- 3. That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee note the school expansions that are underway and the free school proposals that are in development as part of the government's free school programme that will contribute to meeting future need.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Since 2009, over 9,000 additional permanent school places have been established in Barnet as a result of council and central government investment. This investment has been shaped by the commissioning strategy for school places, a strategy that is annually reviewed by the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee (CELS) each September.
- 1.2 This year's annual report provides an update on the council's approach in ensuring there are sufficient school places in Barnet. It sets out the projected demand for new school places for a five year period from 2018/19 through to 2022/23 based on the latest pupil projections (summer 2017) provided by the Greater London Authority (GLA). It sets out the plans that are in place and plans that are in progress to meet this demand.
- 1.3 The report focuses on the provision of additional primary and secondary school places, including places to meet the needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities. Meeting the need for additional early years places is driven by the Early Years strategy which promotes and champions new provision across the private, voluntary and independent providers sectors as well as in the school sector. However, where appropriate, additional early years places are provided as part of the growth in primary school places covered in this report.

Context

- 1.4 Barnet is now London's most populous borough and the borough has ambitious plans to grow further through the regeneration of areas such as Brent Cross, Colindale and West Hendon. Information in relation to housing growth helps inform the GLA's pupil projections together with underlying demographic shifts. Planning for investment in new school places is complex and requires flexibility to respond to a range of influences and some examples of this include:

- changes to migration patterns both within the country and between countries as a result of national or global events;
- role of the housing market and the local cost of housing in determining whether families remain in, or leave, London as children reach school age;
- shifts in parental demand and choice of schools as new provision is opened;
- site availability and planning consent for free schools scheduled to open in the borough to help meet demand and
- changing governance arrangements of schools.

- 1.5 Whilst the statutory duty to ensure a sufficient supply of school places falls to the local authority, the ability to directly control supply is impacted by the growth in Academies and free schools. For example, the council has no jurisdiction with respect to the decision making process that leads an Academy to expand and all newly commissioned schools in the borough are free schools (Academies). Within this complexity, the council needs to take a measured and balanced approach to the level of investment required to ensure that its statutory duty is met.

Education Strategy

- 1.6 The local strategic context for the commissioning and delivery of new school places in the borough is contained within Barnet's Education Strategy, developed in partnership with schools and approved by the Children's, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee on the 18th July 2017. This strategy sets out the shared strategic vision for education in Barnet:

'Resilient schools – resilient communities: We want Barnet to be the most successful place for high quality education where excellent school standards result in all children achieving their best, being safe and happy and able to progress to become successful adults.'

- 1.7 In order to achieve this, the strategy sets out the shared mission to ensure that every child attends a good or outstanding school; the attainment and progress of children in Barnet schools is within the top 10% nationally and that the progress of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils is accelerated in order to close the gap between them and their peers.
- 1.8 Along with the need to focus on the attainment and progress of all pupils, to deliver the strategy, there needs to be sufficient provision in the borough for all children and young people and the provision needs to be of the highest quality.

New school places

- 1.9 New primary and secondary school places can primarily be provided through:

- expanding existing state maintained schools – primary, secondary and special schools, including Academies.
- inviting proposals for new Academy schools.
- Free schools commissioned directly by the Department for Education (DfE).

1.10 *Expanding existing schools:* the majority of the new places at primary level in Barnet have so far been provided through working with headteachers and governing bodies to expand successful primary schools. The potential to do this reduces once schools on larger sites have been expanded.

1.11 *New schools (including free schools):* There are two main routes to establish a new school. Firstly where the local authority wishes to commission a new school, it must seek proposals for the establishment of an Academy. This is becoming a less common route in the light of the increasing number of free schools being established across the country.

Alternatively, new schools can be established through the government's free schools programme. At the time of writing, the Government has not yet confirmed the arrangements and timetable for the next round of free school applications. However, successful free school applications already announced in Barnet are:

- Saracens High School Trust
- Ark Pioneer
- The Compton Free School
- The Windmill
- Kisharon Free School

1.12 *Independent schools becoming maintained:* Independent schools becoming voluntary aided (state maintained) can provide additional places if the school expands on entering the state maintained sector to take additional places over and above places already provided or if the catchment area of the school shifts to focus more on in-borough pupils.

Activity to date

1.13 Large scale investment in new school places in Barnet has seen over 9,000 new permanent school places created since 2009. The tables below set out the investment programme to date.

Table 1. New permanent primary school places in Barnet since 2009

Year of permanent capacity	Primary School	No of new reception places	Type of project	Estimated no of additional places when full
2009	St Catherine's	15	Expansion	105
	Parkfield	15	Re-provision and expansion	105
2010	Colindale	30	Expansion	210
2011	Beit Schvidler	30	Entering VA sector	-
	Etz Chaim	30	New Free School	210

2012	Broadfield	30	Expansion	210
	Rimon	30	Free School	210
2013	Alma	30	Free School	210
	Blessed Dominic	30	Expansion	210
	Brunswick Park	30	Expansion	210
	Martin	30	Expansion	210
	Menorah Foundation	28	Expansion	196
	Sacks Morasha	30	Entering VA sector	-
	Moss Hall	30	Expansion	210
	Orion	30	Re-provision & Expansion	210
	St Mary's & St John's	30	Expansion	210
2014	Beis Yaakov	28	Expansion	196
	Millbrook Park	60	New School	420
	Orion	30	Expansion	210
2015	London Academy	60	New primary provision	420
	Wren Academy	60	New primary provision	420
	Monkfrith	30	Expansion	210
	St Joseph's RC	30	Expansion	210
	Watling Park	60	Free School	420
2016	Ashmole Primary	60	Free School	420
2017	Child's Hill	15	Expansion	105

Table 2: New permanent secondary school places in Barnet since 2010

Year of perm capacity	School	No of new Year 7 places	Type of project	Estimated no of additional places when full (excl 6th form)
2010	East Barnet	10	Re-build & expansion	50
	JCoSS	150	Entering the VA sector	750
2011	JCoSS	30	Expansion	150
	Wren Academy	18	Expansion	90
2012	The Compton	30	Expansion	150
2013	Archer Academy	150	New Free School	750
	Christ College	30	Expansion	150
	St Andrew the Apostle	150	New Free School	750
2014	Ashmole	8	Expansion	40
	Hasmonean High	20	Expansion	100
	St Mary's & St John's	120	All through	600
2015	Copthall School	30	Expansion	150
	Finchley Catholic	30	Expansion	150
2017	St Mary's & St John's	60	Expansion	300
	St James Catholic High	30	Expansion	150

Future need for school places

- 1.14 The council subscribes to the Greater London Authority's school roll projection service which provides projections for the majority of London boroughs. GLA population projections take account of births, trends in population (migration, fertility trends etc) and housing development. Each year the council's planning service provides information on the number of housing units projected to be built in each of Barnet's wards for the next ten years to inform the model. To sense check these projections, the council also analyses births by postcode area (ONS) and GP registrations.
- 1.15 Historically, the council has used a 3% margin to accommodate changes in pupil numbers due to in-year admissions. However, for the primary phase, we have moved to a 1% margin of error to better reflect actual numbers and the lower numbers experienced in September 2017. Due to the primary bulges feeding through to the secondary phase, we have retained a 3% margin of error in the secondary phase.

Primary phase:

- 1.16 The latest GLA projections suggest the rate of growth in primary pupils over the next few years will be slightly slower than previously projected. This reflects the experience of the September 2017 admissions round when both in Barnet and across London, fewer than expected applications were received for entry into the Reception year. The number of on-time applications for reception places in 2017/18 fell by 3.3% across London, the first fall in over a decade. Conclusions on the reason for this fall are not sensibly reached on one year's data and London boroughs will need to retain the maximum flexibility to respond to any further significant slowing in the projected primary pupil growth.
- 1.17 Overall, taking account of the latest projections and planned activity described below, there will be sufficient capacity in the primary sector through to 2022/23. However, there are some localised areas of potential pressure described below. For the purposes of meeting the localised projected need for new school places, the borough is split into six planning areas. Planning areas 1, 2 and 3 broadly cover the west of the borough and planning areas 4, 5 and 6 cover the east.
- 1.18 **Planning Area 1: Colindale, West Hendon, Burnt Oak & Hendon:** The investment in Colindale, Orion, Blessed Dominic, St Mary and St Johns, Menorah Foundation, St Joseph's and the Watling Park free school is meeting current demand. However, the latest GLA update projects that a shortfall is likely to again emerge from 2018/19 onwards as new housing is completed in the Colindale area.

To help meet this need, plans are progressing for the development of a new three form entry primary school on the Peel Centre site. The Saracen's primary free school has been approved by central government to open on this site, estimated to be opening in 2019 or 2020. An education site has also

been earmarked within the later phases of the West Hendon regeneration scheme (post 2019/20) for a new school.

In the meantime, schools in the adjacent planning area (planning area 2) will help to meet the needs of families in planning area 1. This will be closely monitored and if required, additional capacity within planning area 1 will be commissioned before 2022/23.

- 1.19 **Planning Area 2: Hale, Mill Hill, Edgware & Totteridge:** Additional places have been provided within this planning area at Broadfields, Beit Schvidler, Etz Chaim, Millbrook Park and London Academy which is helping to release places to assist in meeting pressure in neighbouring planning area 1. It is projected that once all three classes at Millbrook Park are utilised each year, the provision in this area will be sufficient through to 2022/23.
- 1.20 **Planning Area 3: Childs Hill, Garden Suburb & Golders Green:** The additional places created through the expansion of Child's Hill and the planned expansion at St Agnes enables provision across this planning area to meet current demand. Additional demand will emerge post 2025 as the Brent Cross regeneration scheme starts to impact on demand for school places and in the longer term, proposals to provide more school places will be delivered through the regeneration scheme itself. The original planning for Brent Cross redevelopment was undertaken at a time when there was some surplus capacity within the primary sector. Given that this surplus is now fully utilised, plans for primary provision within the development are being reviewed. The current Brent Cross regeneration master plan allows for the rebuilding and expansion of Claremont primary school.
- 1.21 **Planning Area 4: Coppetts, West Finchley, Woodhouse, East Finchley & Finchley Church End:** Additional places have been provided in this planning area through the expansion of Martin and Moss Hall and new provision has been added by Alma and Wren primary schools. It is projected that there is now sufficient overall permanent provision in this area through to 2022/23. However, although GLA projections indicate that the number of children requiring a school place will reduce in the longer term in this planning area, recent experience has required the provision of bulge classes and this may continue in the short term until this longer term trend begins to impact.
- 1.22 **Planning Area 5: Underhill & High Barnet:** the updated GLA projections indicate that there is sufficient provision in this area but again, recent experience has required the provision of bulge classes in this planning area and this may continue in the short term. Again, GLA projections will be kept under review and if required, additional permanent provision will be commissioned.
- 1.23 **Planning Area 6: East Barnet, Brunswick Park & Oakleigh:** Additional places have been provided within this planning area at Brunswick Park, Monkfrith and the new primary school at Ashmole. Current projections indicate that there is sufficient provision in this area up to 2022/23.

Secondary phase

- 1.24 The primary pressure is now feeding through to the secondary phase. The expansion of the Compton, Christ's College and Copthall Academies along with the Archer Academy and St Andrew's the Apostle Greek Orthodox school is helping to ensure that this growing need is currently being met. In addition, St Mary's and St John's (Church of England) school has also been offering new secondary provision since September 2014 and from 2016/17 has expanded its permanent offer by 2 forms of entry as a result of a £13m capital investment by the council. Menorah High School for Girls, having joined the state maintained sector in April 2016 is now offering places each September as part of Barnet's secondary school offer.
- 1.25 For September 2017, a number of Barnet secondary schools also each offered a 'bulge' class: Ashmole, St James Catholic High, JCoSS, Mill Hill and East Barnet. All of this activity ensured that there were sufficient school places available for pupils starting year 7 in September 2017 with some spare capacity concentrated in a small number of schools.
- 1.26 For September 2018/19 through to 2022/23, assuming no further new provision is commissioned or provided, the following table demonstrates the projected shortfall that will occur in the secondary phase.

Secondary phase			
AY	GLA Pupil Projections +3% margin	Current permanent capacity (as at September 2017)	Shortfall in forms of entry
2018-19	4600	4334	-8.9
2019-20	4763	4334	-14.3
2020-21	4740	4334	-13.5
2021-22	4874	4334	-18.0
2022-23	5014	4334	-22.7

- 1.27 To meet this shortfall, further activity currently underway to provide additional permanent secondary school places include:

- **St James Catholic High:** Working in partnership with the Catholic Diocese, the development of a Catholic education hub in Colindale through expanding St James by 2 forms of entry and the relocation and rebuilding of Blessed Dominic primary school on the St James site is progressing. Initial enabling works have taken place to prepare for the main contract which is scheduled to start construction on site in early 2018 (subject to planning consent). The new Blessed Dominic building and the expansion and refurbishment works at St James are due for completion to be ready for occupation in September 2019.

The construction project will be delivered by the council's construction partner Grahams LC. The overall project is estimated to cost in the

region of £25m to £27m allowing for a risk contingency, funded by the council's education capital programme.

- **The Saracens High School:** The Saracens High School, a new secondary free school, is due to open in Colindale in September 2018. The school will be located across two sites. The main school site (subject to planning consent) is part of the Trinity Square development on Grahame Park Way. This site will become available in September 2019 and in the meantime, the school will open in the former home of the Orion school on Lanacre Avenue. Once the school moves into the new premises at Trinity Square (and Blessed Dominic has re-located to St James site), the Lanacre avenue site will made available to the school for sporting and other facilities. The proposal is for the council to transfer both sites to the school under an Academy lease arrangement.
- **Ark Pioneer Free school:** The proposal to open the Ark Pioneer all-through school in Underhill was refused planning consent by the council's planning committee in January 2017. A new planning application has now been submitted, for a secondary school only, on the same site. If successful, this will provide a new six form entry secondary school in Barnet.
- **The Compton Free School:** The Compton School has been approved to open a new six-form entry secondary free school in Barnet. At the present time, no permanent site has been identified by the Department for Education. The council has been working, and will continue to work closely with the DfE in its site search.
- **Hasmonean High School:** The school has an ambition to relocate and expand by 2 forms of entry subject to securing planning consent. If the proposal proceeds, as the expansion will help to meet the basic need for new school places, a council contribution from central government basic need grant funding would be considered within the council's education capital programme towards the cost of the additional places.
- **Henrietta Barnett:** The school is a fully selective Academy school for girls aged 11-18 and is considering a potential expansion to contribute towards helping to meet the need for more school places. A permanent expansion of the school would provide up to 30 additional places for girls each year from across London.
- **Christ's College:** this boys schools (with mixed sixth form) has recently completed consultation on moving to a co-educational school from September 2018 onwards. The council is contributing capital investment in the region of £250k towards the cost of preparing the school to admit girls starting from year 7.
- **Whitefield School:** Located within the Brent Cross regeneration area, there are long term plans to re-locate and re-provide this school as part of the wholesale regeneration of the Brent Cross area.

- 1.28 Based on GLA projections to date, these projects will provide overall sufficient new provision to meet the projected need through to 2021 and therefore there are no further plans to invest council funds in secondary school places at present. However, the challenges in finding sites for new schools cannot be underestimated and if new free school provision is not successfully established, expansion projects at existing secondary schools will need to be considered. This may also become necessary to meet a short term need whilst the new free schools are under construction. However, as noted above, local authorities have no formal levers to direct Academies to expand.

Alternative Provision

- 1.29 The council has been continuing to work with the Education and Skills Funding Agency to progress the delivery of a project to re-build the Pavilion Pupil Referral Unit on its current site. The project is complex and challenging due to the restricted access of the current site and significant additional funding is required to overcome this challenge. The project has experienced a significant delay whilst a cost effective and viable solution to the access arrangements is found. Temporary accommodation will also be required during the building programme and the changing facilities currently available for sports clubs will be re-provided elsewhere on the site. Capital funding is being provided through the Government's Priority Schools Building Programme supplemented by council funding. Council funding will provide additional facilities to extend the current Pavilion offer and will re-provide community sports changing facilities on the Chandos Avenue site to enable the development to proceed. The overall project is likely to cost in the region of £13m depending on the solution for resolving the access and temporary accommodation arrangements.
- 1.30 On 1st May 2017, Oak Hill School was established as a special Academy following the de-merger of the Oak Hill provision from the Mill Hill Academy Trust. The new Oak Hill school is part of the newly established AP Barnet Multi-Academy Trust and the longer term intention is for the Pavilion Pupil Referral Unit and Northgate school to become part of this Multi-Academy Trust.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision

- 1.31 Pupil projections indicate that over the coming years there will be additional need for places for children with SEND at both the primary and secondary phases. This arises from the need to:
- reduce the number of pupils placed in out borough provision both to minimise costs and to improve the experience of the pupils
 - accommodate the effect of the current bulge in the primary phase moving into the secondary phase;
 - maintain more Education, Health and Care Plans for young people between the ages of 16 and 25 as required by legislation
 - respond to the increasing numbers of pupils in mainstream schools that require more specialist provision at the secondary phase.

- 1.32 The government recognises the need to provide more school places for children with SEND and is making some capital investment funding available, about £3m across 2018/19 to 2020/21 (£1m each year). The local strategy for meeting the needs identified above and for deploying the central government grant funding will be set out in more detail in the SEND strategy which will be considered by the CELS committee in November 2017
- 1.33 In the meantime, there are several projects in progress or in the pipeline that help to meet this need:
- The expansion of Oak Lodge Special School was completed in July 2017 at a cost of £8.2m providing additional capacity for up to an additional 40 children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
 - Oak Lodge converted to an Academy on 1 January 2017 and its application to open a new special Academy free school (The Windmill) for up to 90 children and young people with an autism spectrum condition (ASC) has now been approved by central government and the council is working with the Department for Education to identify a site.
 - In February 2017, Kisharon School, an independent all-through special school with a Jewish ethos, was granted planning consent to proceed with the construction of a new school on its current site. This will enable the school to expand its provision.
 - For September 2017, new provision was commissioned from Oak Lodge school and located on its current site for children with ASC working at a higher level than the majority of pupils at the main school therefore requiring a specialist and tailored curriculum at a cost of £450k.
 - Coppetts Wood additional resourced provision (ARP) which is currently designated to cater for children with speech and language needs, is being re-commissioned to focus on the needs of children with ASC.
 - Additional places for young people with learning difficulties (LDD) and/or disabilities are being created at Barnet and Southgate College in their LDD provision at the Southgate campus helping to meet the rise in this cohort of young people.

The current regeneration proposals for Brent Cross include the re-building of Mapledown Special School.

Post 16 provision

- 1.34 With the addition to sixth form provision in recent years at the Wren Academy, Compton and JCoSS, there is currently sufficient school-based sixth form provision offering academic pathways, including the provision at Woodhouse College. This is supplemented by A level provision at Barnet and Southgate College, which also provides a broader offer of technical and vocational courses. In the longer term, demographic data shows there will be an increase in the number of pupils aged 16 to 18 and more provision will be required. However, existing provision together with the planned sixth form places in new free schools (Saracens High School, Ark Pioneer and The

Compton free school) should meet the need for sixth-form places offering mainly academic pathways.

- 1.35 Whilst there is a wide choice of general further education, technical and vocational courses at Barnet and Southgate College and other colleges in neighbouring authorities, there is relatively little provision of this nature in Barnet schools. The council will continue to encourage schools to extend their post-16 offer into this area where this can be done on a financially viable basis, including through the development of partnerships and a joint offering across institutions.

Capital funding

- 1.36 The government makes capital grant funding available for the 'basic need' for school places through an annual allocation and has, in previous years, made available several one-off funding opportunities in view of the severe pressure for school places in some parts of the country. Basic need funding is given to local authorities for investment in all types of schools, including Academies. For some housing developments, monies from developers can also be allocated towards meeting the cost of educational infrastructure. As with many London boroughs, the council has also had to borrow capital to enable sufficient investment in both temporary and permanent school places to meet the unprecedented demand for school places.
- 1.37 As part of the council's current medium term financial strategy, the council's capital requirement is set out up to 2019/20. The capital requirement for pupil places is driven by the need to:
- Implement a programme to provide sufficient primary capacity
 - Ensure that there will be sufficient secondary school places available as the primary pressure feeds through.
 - Ensure there is appropriate and sufficient provision for vulnerable children and young people, who may need specialist provision or alternative provision to school.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The council has a duty to ensure sufficient school places are available. The proposals for the expansion of schools and the development of new free schools described in this report will enable the council to fulfil this duty through to 2022/23. It also helps to maintain the diversity of Barnet's current educational offer. However, due to the complexities outlined in the report, the programme of activity and its associated capital requirements will need to be kept under review.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 The council uses pupil projections provided by the Greater London Authority. The council has a statutory duty to provide a school place and the options in

providing new places is limited to expanding existing schools or building new schools. Site availability for new schools is severely restricted in London. Like all London boroughs, the council's approach is to adopt a mix of strategies, assessing all opportunities and retaining a flexible and adaptable approach.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Capital requirements to provide school places are considered by the council's Policy and Resources Committee in the council's annual medium term financial strategy.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 Ensuring a sufficient supply of good quality school places supports the council's ambition for Barnet to create the right environment to promote responsible growth, development and success. The reputation and quality of Barnet's schools makes Barnet an attractive place to live and is key to the satisfaction of many residents in the borough. With the borough's population set to grow, the investment programme set out in this report will sustain the good quality education offer within areas of growth. It will also ensure that the growing number of children with special educational needs will have increased access to good quality local provision within the Barnet partnership of schools.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 The council receives an annual capital allocation from central government as a contribution towards meeting the 'basic need' for new school places. Basic need allocations are made to local authorities to support the capital requirement for providing new pupil places by expanding existing maintained schools, free schools or academies, and by establishing new schools. Between 2011 and 2017 the council received £86m in basic need grant, including an element of 'targeted' basic need grant. The council will receive a further £25m by 2020. In addition in 2017, the Government announced additional funding for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (£1m for Barnet for each of the three years 2018/19 to 2020/21 totalling £3m). Central government grant is allocated to the commissioning of school places as described in this report.
- 5.2.2 The council's current medium term financial strategy sets out the council's overall capital allocation for school places to be funded through the basic need central government grant, the additional grant for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities, council borrowing and developer contributions. This capital allocation has been reviewed and assuming that a proportion of places will be delivered through free schools (see paragraph 5.5.2) no increase in the capital funding allocated to school places over and above the current allocation is recommended. However, in preparing for the 2018/19 budget, the profiling of anticipated spend within the capital resources available between the period of the medium term financial strategy will be

reviewed.

5.2.3 It is important to note that, as set out in last year's annual report, the requirements are calculated using a number of estimates and assumptions:

- That a proportion of school places will be provided by free schools
- That building costs reflect the current market costs
- That the council continues to receive basic need capital grant from central government at a level similar to the current level
- That the council will receive grant funding towards the cost of alternative provision through the government's Priority School Building Programme
- The developer contributions from major housing development are deployed to support the programme.

5.2.4 If any of the assumptions in relation to free school places, government grant funding or in relation to developer contributions are not realised, further funding would be required to deliver the programme. This will be taken into account as part of the council's current work programme to develop a medium term financial strategy for the period post 2020.

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 The delivery of a large capital programme offers an opportunity to require contractors to play their part in increasing local employment opportunities for residents, particularly young people seeking a career in the construction industry through offering apprenticeships and other training. The procurement process will pursue these opportunities as set out in the council's Supplementary Planning Guidance *Delivering Skills, Employment, Enterprise and Training from Development through S106* (<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/planning-conservation-and-building-control/supplementary-planning-documents/draft-skills-employment-enterprise-and-training-seet-from-development-through-s106/spd-on-delivering-skills-employment-enterprise-and-training-seet.html>)

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 Under the Council's Constitution, functions within the Terms of Reference for the Children's Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee responsibility include:

- planning the adequate provision of school places in the Borough
- investment in educational infrastructure to meet the needs of the Borough's learners
- to be responsible for those powers, duties and functions of the Council in relation to Children's Services (including schools)
- to be responsible for those powers, duties and functions of the Council in relation to Children's Services (including schools).

5.4.2 The Council has a statutory duty under the Education Act 1996 to ensure the

provision of sufficient schools for primary and secondary education in their area. Under s.14 of the Education Act 1996, a local authority shall secure that sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available in their area. Sufficient means sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education. In meeting this duty, a local authority must do so with a view to securing diversity in the provision of schools and increasing opportunities for parental choice.

- 5.4.3 State funded schools are split into schools maintained by the Local Authority and those directly funded by Central Government. The former are split into a number of categories, including foundation, community and voluntary aided schools. The latter encompass Academies and free schools (which are Academies which did not convert from a maintained school). For maintained schools, there are prescribed requirements in order to make specific alterations. This includes expanding existing schools to add additional form groups. The requirements are set out in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and associated regulations. Academies do not have to follow the same requirements in order to expand, but are expected to seek the approval of the Secretary of State. Section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires that local authorities seek proposals for the establishment of an academy if they think that a new school is required in their area. There are only limited circumstances when a local authority will be able to publish proposals to establish a new maintained school.

5.5 Risk Management

- 5.5.1 The report assumes that some school and special school places will be funded by central government through the free school programme. Should this not occur, the council will need to identify further resources.
- 5.5.2 The delivery of the free school secondary places is critical to ensuring the sufficiency of secondary school places in Barnet. There is a risk that the free school places are not provided or there is a delay in the free school programme for one or more of the three free school secondary projects set out in this report. If all three schools are not successfully established and to the anticipated timescale, there will be a need to provide additional expansion projects at existing secondary schools, either commissioned as a permanent expansion or as a 'bulge' class. However, as noted above, local authorities have no formal levers to direct Academies to expand; all but one of Barnet's co-educational non-selective schools are Academies.
- 5.5.2 With rising costs of construction, some council-funded project budgets may come under pressure. There is a contingency assumed within the capital programme which is kept under review as the programme is delivered.
- 5.5.3 It is assumed that there will be land available to accommodate school expansions and new schools and that the council will not need to purchase additional land.

- 5.5.4 Significant school construction projects usually require planning consent. There is a risk that planning consent is refused. If planning consent is refused for any given project, an alternative project will need to be developed and where the project refused is a central government funded free school, any alternative project may potentially need to be funded by the council.
- 5.5.5 All pupil place planning is based on pupil projections and there is a risk that the projections are inaccurate. The council utilises projections produced by the Greater London Authority and regularly reviews the accuracy of the projections to inform future planning.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.6.1 Ensuring a high quality education offer supports the progress of all children and young people including those with additional needs or at risk of underachievement, for example, children with additional learning needs, young people with poor mental health or those at economic disadvantage. By expanding successful schools, investing in new provision for children with special educational needs and aiming to retain Barnet's diverse educational offer, the council is investing to ensure that Barnet remains a popular place for families to live and study.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.7.1 Schools are engaged with the strategic approach to planning school places through the School Organisation and Place planning board, attended by the council, Cambridge Education and headteacher representatives. In addition, briefings are provided through the termly director's meetings with headteachers and chairs of governors. For individual projects that involve the expansion of an existing school or the establishment of a new school, there is a statutory requirement to consult.

5.8 Insight

- 5.8.1 The council sources data from the Greater London Authority's (GLA) school roll projection service which provides projections for the majority of London boroughs. Projections are based on pupil numbers on roll at the January Census. The projections use the GLA population projections which incorporate actual births, trends in population (migration, fertility trends etc.) and housing development. Each year, the council provides to the GLA the number of housing units projected to be built in each of Barnet's wards for the next ten years, which are then incorporated into the model. To sense check these projections, the council also analyses births by postcode area (data from ONS) and nursery data.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Cabinet, 18 June 2013 - *An Education Strategy for Barnet 2013/14 – 2015/16*

Children's Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee *Planning for new school places 2016/17 to 2019/20, 15th September 2015*

Children's Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, *Planning for new school places 2017/18 to 2019/20, 15th September 2016*

Children's Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee *Education Strategy 2017- 2020, 18th July 2017*