

Report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services to the meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 5th August 2020

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Subject:

School Organisation, including; School Expansion Programme, Education Capital Funding, and Academy Conversions

Summary statement:

This report updates the committee on a number of key areas related to school organisation in the Bradford District.

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:
Children Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report updates the committee on a number of key areas related to school organisation in the Bradford District.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The population growth in Bradford over the last decade increased pressure on primary school places, resulting in a large-scale expansion programme to meet the growth in demand. When current projects are completed, 9,300 additional primary school places will have been added across the District since 2010.
- 2.2 Increased pupil numbers at secondary level increased the pressure on secondary schools as higher numbers of pupils move through the system. When current projects are completed, 7,120 additional secondary school places will have been added across the District since 2011.
- 2.3 These have been delivered as the opening of Free Schools' increases in published admission numbers (PAN); school expansions being carried out; and existing spaces being reconfigured as a result of sixth forms provisions closing.
- 2.4 The monthly data received from the Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust shows that the numbers of younger children living in the Bradford District is reducing. These reductions in the numbers of younger children are District wide and as such will have an effect on schools across the District. In some areas, schools have already experienced significant reductions in pupil numbers and have begun to make organisational changes and/or PAN reductions.
- 2.5 This reduction in numbers of younger children is not unique to the Bradford District. Local Authorities across the Yorkshire and Humber region, and nationally, are experiencing these changes. Data published by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) in August 2019 shows that the number of live births in England and Wales in 2018 were the lowest level recorded for the second year running, and were the fewest since 2005.
- 2.6 The Council is also undertaking a programme of School Academy conversions in line with the requirements of the Academies Act 2010. To date, the Council has converted 105 schools to academy status, a further 9 conversions are currently in progress. In addition, there are currently 10 Free Schools operating within the Bradford District, including the two new secondary Free Schools which opened in September 2019; Bronte Girls' Academy and Eden Boys Leadership Academy.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 It is a requirement of the DfE that each Local Authority produces forecasts for primary and secondary schools.
- 3.2 The District is divided into planning areas: primary places are planned in 26 areas and secondary in 8 areas. Reception forecasts are based on calculations made between the health data and the numbers on roll recorded by schools in the statutory census returns. Allocation trends are calculated and applied to the number

of younger children in each area to predict the number of school places required in each of the next five years.

- 3.3 Forecasts for year 7 are based on the allocation trends from each primary school, and the calculated percentage is applied to the number of pupils in each year group at each primary school to predict the number of school places required in each of the next seven years.
- 3.4 For all other year groups, a 'retention rate' using weightings over the previous three years is used to calculate the percentage in-year changes. This is applied to each actual cohort using census data for each school. Additional pupils who may come to live in approved housing developments are also included on individual school forecasts, although this can be risky as development timescales are often unknown.
- 3.5 Forecast information is used to inform decisions about the need for changes to the provision available; this includes responding to applications to the DfE for Free Schools, increasing or decreasing the number of places, changing the age range of schools and the possibility of introducing specialist provision in a mainstream school.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

4.1 School Expansions

The following school expansion projects are currently being delivered.

The list below updates the status of schemes reported to this Committee in April 2019. All these schemes individually are valued at over £2million.

Table 1: School Expansion over £2million

| School | Stage | Current Status | Description | School Capacity Before Expansion | Places Created |
|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Immanuel College | Stage 1 of 1 | In Construction | Expansion | 1,421 | 300 |
| Ilkley All Saints Primary | Stage 1 of 1 | In Construction | Expansion | 315 | 105 |
| Silsden Primary School | Stage 1 of 1 | In Construction | Expansion – new enlarged school building for Silsden Primary School – currently operating on a split site | 568 | 60 |
| Poplars Farm Primary | Stage 1 | Complete | Expansion | 210 | 210 |
| Ilkley Grammar School | Stage 1 | Complete | Expansion | 1,558 | 195 |
| Stocks Lane | Stage 2 | Complete | Expansion | 105 | 105 |
| Barkerend Primary | Stage 3 | Complete | Expansion | 412 | 300 |

4.2 School Condition Allocations

Since 2008, the School Condition Allocation (SCA) allocated to the Council for major repairs has been as follows:

Table 2: School Condition Allocation

| Year | DfE SCA Allocation | Annual % Change |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 2008-09 | £5,392,740 | |
| 2009-10 | £5,818,955 | 7.9% |
| 2010-11 | £5,818,955 | 0.0% |
| 2011-12 | £7,884,044 | 35.5% |
| 2012-13 | £6,351,482 | -19.4% |
| 2013-14 | £6,137,430 | -3.4% |
| 2014-15 | £5,614,808 | -8.5% |
| 2015-16 | £5,877,114 | 4.7% |
| 2016-17 | £5,856,472 | -0.04% |
| 2017-18 | £3,718,970 | -36% |
| 2018-19 | £3,428,127 | -7.82% |
| 2019-20 | £3,004,603 | -12.35% |
| 2020-21 | £2,804,799 | -6.6% |
| Total | | |

The Council's Building & Technical Services Team undertake projects such as window replacements, new boilers, roof renewals, electrical and structural works with the SCA.

4.3 School Devolved Formula Capital (DFC)

In addition to the SCA, Schools also receive a DFC allocation. This money is now passed directly to schools.

Table 3: Annual School Devolved Formula Grant

| Year | School DFC Allocation | Annual % Change |
|---------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 2008-09 | £8,282,303 | |
| 2009-10 | £8,116,273 | -2.0% |
| 2010-11 | £7,531,530 | -7.2% |
| 2011-12 | £1,567,639 | -79.2% |
| 2012-13 | £1,488,626 | -5.0% |
| 2013-14 | £1,453,034 | -2.4% |
| 2014-15 | £1,317,713 | -9.3% |
| 2015-16 | £1,310,363 | -0.6% |
| 2016-17 | £1,315,559 | 0.4% |
| 2017-18 | £914,000 | -31% |
| 2018-19 | £867,542 | -5.08% |
| 2019-20 | £744,382 | -14.2% |
| 2020-21 | £684,546 | -8.0% |

4.4 One-Off Additional School Capital Funding

In the 2018 Budget, the Government announced an extra £400 million additional capital funding for schools in England for 2018-19.

Bradford received £1,494,260 on the 7th February 2019 which was passed onto schools directly by the DfE. A separate allocation was made to VA schools.

4.5 Basic Need Funding Allocation

Basic Need is allocated by the Department for Education based on the annual SCAP (DfE School Capacity Survey) return, which the Council completes each year. Funding is allocated 2 years in advance and fluctuates based on demand for numbers and previous allocations made in relation to that demand. The figure of £23m was previously allocated mainly to deal with secondary expansion pressures.

In 2017 £4million of the Basic Need grant was allocated to SEND development. Further discussions are on-going regarding the need for a further allocation, to enable the capital works to meet the growing need for specialist places across the District.

Table 4: Basic Need Funding

| Year | Basic Need Allocation | Annual % Change |
|---------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 2010-11 | £11,009,000 | |
| 2011-12 | £17,729,194 | 61.0% |
| 2012-13 | £19,611,561 | 10.6% |
| 2013-14 | £7,644,753 | -61.0% |
| 2014-15 | £7,644,753 | 0.0% |
| 2015-16 | £9,223,125 | 20.6% |
| 2016-17 | £9,684,281 | 5.0% |
| 2017-18 | £727,005 | -92.5% |
| 2018-19 | £23,839,673 | 3,179% |
| 2019-20 | £1,117,248 | -95.3% |
| 2020-21 | £0 | 100% |
| 2021-22 | £2,857,066 | 100% |

4.6 School Academy Conversions

The SCA that the Council receives (detailed in Table 2), reduces each year to reflect the number of schools which have converted to academy status, as building condition for these schools is then funded directly by the Department for Education.

Since the last report in April 2019, the below schools have converted to academy school status:

- Carlton Bolling
- Oldfield Primary School
- Co-op Academy Delius

- Co-op Academy Princeville
- St Anthony's Catholic Primary – Clayton
- St Anthony's Catholic Primary – Shipley
- St Cuthbert & The First Martyr's Catholic Primary
- St Francis' Catholic Primary
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary – Bingley.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 The Council requires the SCA to fund major school repairs.
- 5.2 Lack of Capital funding, increases the risks to SEND place development; which could lead to more children being placed out of authority in costly placements and away from their families and local communities.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 There are no legal issues arising from this report.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

The Local Authority must not discriminate directly or indirectly against any group or individual. The schools and any proposed new provision will continue to cater for the needs of all children and serve its community. As part of the proposed SEND expansion programme, an Equalities Impact Assessment will be carried out.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

All school improvement projects and school expansion schemes are carried out to current building standards. Energy efficient boilers, LED lighting and high levels of insulation are used wherever possible.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

None.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

None.

7.6 TRADE UNION

None.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

Section 3 shows the list of schools expansions which are being undertaken and planned in different wards across the District.

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

None.

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

None

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

8.1 None.

9. OPTIONS

9.1 None.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That the Committee notes the report.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 None.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

12.1 Report to Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 9th April 2019.