

**TO: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PANEL**  
**DATE: 4 MARCH 2015**

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**SCHOOL PLACES PLAN 2014 – 2019**  
**Chief Officer, Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To brief the Panel on the process for producing the School Places Plan, the key trends arising from the 2014-19 Plan and actions for the 2015-20 Plan.

**2 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 To note the report.

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 4.1 So that the Panel is satisfied that the process and outcomes are valid and robust.

**4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 Other options are outlined in the body of the report.

**5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

5.1 Process

1. The provision of school places remains an essential part of the Council's organisation and planning process and enables the Council to meet its statutory duties in relation to school places.
2. The School Places Plan is produced as a result of an annual review of future housing plans, numbers on roll and demographic data.
3. The development of our forecasting model is ongoing and has been further improved this year. Increased scrutiny has been given to input data, the model and the assumptions taken in response to various factors in the model. These improvements can enhance the Council's confidence in the forecasts.
4. The process went smoothly. The Pupil Place Planning Board, which includes the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning, were engaged in the scrutiny of data, assumptions, implications and agreement to the local intelligence to be included in the model. Forecasts were submitted to the DfE by the deadline of 25 July. Subsequently there were clarifications and consistency checks requested by DfE (e.g. on interpretation of guidelines) but no significant changes were made to forecasts. The School Places Plan was published, following approval by the Executive, on 26 November.
5. Overview and Scrutiny undertook 'A Review of School Places', published in June 2014, led by Robin Briscoe.

5.2 Key Trends

1. In summary, the trend of increasing pupil numbers and pressure on the intake year in primary schools that has been seen in recent years continues.

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2. In total a further 4,090 pupils will be seeking a school place by 2019, a 25% increase.
3. This year's primary age forecasts indicate a total of 11,669 places will be needed by 2019. This represents an additional 2,208 additional pupils, or a 23% increase.
4. This year's secondary age forecasts indicate a total of 8,458 places will be needed by 2019. This represents an additional 1,882 pupils or a 29% increase.
5. Last year's forecasts for 2014 were within 1% of the actual numbers on roll demonstrating confidence in data and methodologies.
6. A school place continues to be available for every child in the Borough who wants one.
7. The Council's 2012-based forecasts were successful in securing £7.8M of Department for Education grant for targeted basic needs to build school places.
8. On 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015 we were notified that Brakenhale and Edgbarrow had been selected for inclusion under the DfE's Priority Schools Building Programme, PSBP2, intended to undertake major rebuilding and refurbishment projects in those schools in the very worst condition. This is unexpected because we had been unsuccessful when we bid under the previous PSBP1 in 2012. The amount of funding to be awarded has not yet been made known.

### 5.3 Actions

1. A similar process is proposed, to a similar timeframe.
2. A re-write of the spreadsheet system will be used. This work was completed in 2014 and a parallel run undertaken to the existing model, with the same outputs produced.
3. No significant changes to the model or assumptions are proposed.
4. More thought is to be given to data on 0 – 5 year olds. Data trends indicate a downward shift in numbers from those previously included in model.

## **6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 Noted in paper to the Executive.

### Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 Noted in paper to the Executive.

### Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 Noted in paper to the Executive.

### Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 Noted in paper to the Executive.

### Other Officers

- 6.5 Noted in paper to the Executive.

## **7 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 Consultation forms part of the process. It is detailed in the Executive report.

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Background Papers

Paper to the Executive, 18 November 2014, 'School Places Plan 2014-19'

School Places Plan 2014-19

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/school-places-plan-2014-to-2019.pdf>

Contacts for further information

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