



WOKING JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: 20 June 2018
LEAD OFFICER: Nicholas Smith, School Commissioning Officer

SUBJECT: School Provision in Woking

AREA: WOKING

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

Surrey County Council has a statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places for all pupils whose parent/guardian request a maintained school place and are resident within Surrey.

To enable the Council to meet this statutory duty it undertakes extensive analysis and forecasting of future demand patterns and works with partner agencies, including Borough and District Councils, to understand future need and take account of many variables including future house building and migration.

This work feeds in to capital planning in relation to any need to provide additional school places. Surrey and Woking have a history of working together to ensure that there is a sufficiency of school places.

This paper outlines the historic action taken within Woking and highlights the current forecasts of pupil demand

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Woking Joint Committee is asked to note:

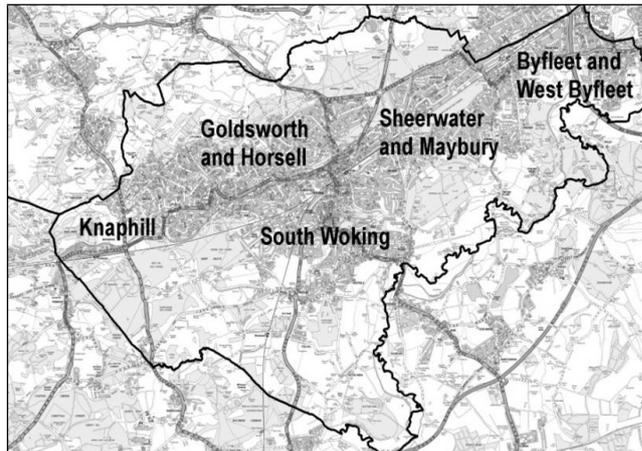
- (i) Action taken by the Council to meet basic need pupil demand with Woking
- (ii) Current Pupil level of forecasts for school place demand

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Council retains the statutory duty to maintain sufficiency. The approach to meeting that duty needs to be informed by appropriate consultation with partner agencies. Individual proposals to alter existing provision would be subject to independent consultation procedures and decision making.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 There are 25 primary age schools located in the borough of Woking, nine of which have nursery provision. There are five secondary schools, one with post-16 provision. Woking College also provides sixth form provision to the local and surrounding area.

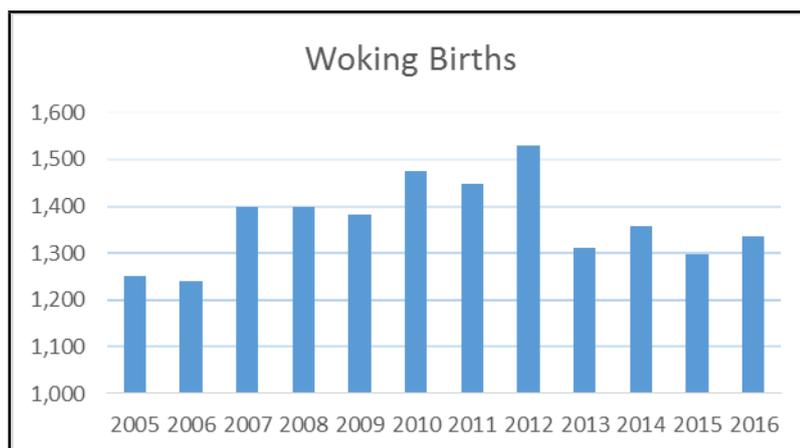


- 1.2 Two primary schools and one secondary school host specialist centres that support students with a range of special educational needs within a mainstream environment. In addition, there are two Special Schools - one providing education for children and young people with complex social communication needs, and the other for pupils with learning and additional needs. There is one short-stay Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) operating over two sites in the borough.
- 1.3 Woking is made up of five individual primary planning areas as shown in the map above. Each primary age school is allocated to one of these planning areas. Woking is a single secondary planning area so demand for secondary places is estimated across the whole Borough.
- 1.4 Planning areas are 'border-blind' so do not take into account the borough boundary, but are formed by the location of the schools. There is one school located outside of the borough which is considered in a Woking school place planning area: Pirbright Primary School (Guildford) is in the Knaphill planning area.

2. ANALYSIS:

Births

- 2.1 Births are the primary indicator of future demand patterns, added to this is trend data relating to migration and yield from future house building. Births Peaked in 2012 22% above their 2005 levels, there has been a noticeable decline in following years.



Primary

- 2.2 As a direct response to the increasing demography, since 2012 the Council has provided 1590 (circa 230 places per year group) permanent school places within Woking Borough across 10 schools with a total capital outlay in excess of £30m.
- 2.3 There are an additional 210 places within the current Medium Term Financial Plan. In addition a number of temporary expansions have been accommodated within schools to meet a peak of demand experienced in the Borough in 2014, 2015 and 2016.
- 2.4 The future demand forecasts are displayed below, there are currently 1,290 places available.

Year	Forecast Demand
2017-18	1,262
2018-19	1,189
2019-20	1,204
2020-21	1,192
2021-22	1,201
2022-23	1,192
2023-24	1,188
2024-25	1,187

- 2.5 The total population of pupils within maintained primary schools has increased from 7268 to 8872 between 2012 and 2018 (22.07%).

Secondary

- 2.6 Pupils transfer from Primary to Secondary Schools between year 6 and year 7. In 2014 there were 1019 pupils in the combined year 6 cohort within the borough, in 2018 that figure is 1218. In following years the existing numbers within cohorts are; in 2019, 1239, in 2020, 1196, in 2021, 1303 and in 2022, 1331. It is recognised that not all pupils transfer to year 7 from the year 6 cohort. The Council predicts future intake numbers on the basis of historic trends that account for this movement coupled with any additional pupils anticipated from future housing developments. The current forecasts for the Woking area are indicated below.

Year	Forecast Demand
2017-18	994
2018-19	1,122
2019-20	1,153
2020-21	1,118
2021-22	1,244
2022-23	1,258
2023-24	1,280
2024-25	1,208

- 2.7 Since 2016 the Council has provided 600 permanent places (120 places per year group) within Woking Borough across 2 schools with a total capital outlay in excess of £10.5m. St John the Baptist Secondary School has been supported via capital works to increase from 180 places per year to 240 places per year, with the School admitting 240 places in 2018. Bishop David Brown has been expanded from 150 to 180 places per year from 2016.
- 2.8 In addition 600 permanent places have been provided by the EFSA and Woking Borough Council as part of the Free School Programme.
- 2.9 In total by September 2019 there will be an additional 1200 school places within Woking.
- 2.10 For admission in to year 7 in September 2018 the Council has coordinated 1,145 offers of school places and is anticipating numbers on roll in September 2018 to 1,080.
- 2.11 Current forecasts of Secondary Demand, which include the Councils understanding of future housing demand indicate the need to provide additional further places from 2021.

Special

- 2.12 The increase in mainstream population has had a consequent increase in the number of pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan. The pattern of

provision in the Special Sector is more diverse. The Council has supported the expansion of one special school within Woking Borough and is currently developing a discreet capital programme for further expansions in the Special Sector. Alongside this the Council has supported 2 special free school applications that have been approved and are in the planning stage.

Housing

2.13 The forecast figures are informed by our understanding of future housing, the data for which we collect from our partner Districts and Boroughs. Estimations of yield from new housing take, where information is available, housing type into account. The current forecasts attribute between 6.8% and 7.5% of total figures to additional housing.

3. OPTIONS:

3.1 Current forecasts indicate a need to increase year 7 places from 2021. At this stage government central 'basic need' grants have not been made for this period. Additionally current forecasts do not, at this stage, indicate a sustained need for additional places. Surrey County Council has to consider in detail with stakeholders how best to respond to this need to ensure the sustainability existing pattern of school provision. The County Council has to ensure the quality and robustness of current forecasts especially in response to additional housing within the Borough.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 The Council produces a School Organisation Plan. This comprehensive document, reviewed and consulted on annually, sets out the forecasts and the forecast methodology of pupil demand over a ten-year period. In addition it details the existing provision and indicates where changes in future demand will cause the council to alter the number of school places offered, either by increasing or rationalising school provision.
- 4.2 Individual proposals relating to changes at existing schools or the provision of new schools are subject to individual statutory consultations. The structure of these consultations differ dependant on the status of the individual school, whether it is an Academy, faith aided or community provision.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The County Council is facing a very serious financial situation, whereby there are substantial savings to be identified and delivered to achieve a balanced budget in the current year and a sustainable budget plan for future years.
- 5.2 The financial commitment in relation to future capital expansion of schools is significant. All capital projects will have to go through the relevant procurement procedure to ensure best value.
- 5.3 The source and proportions of future long-term capital funding, whether it be through local borrowing or grant funding from the DfE is unknown at this

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stage. However, the implications of the funding source are crucial for local authorities in their corporate and financial planning.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT:

- 6.1 The service will need to moderate its approach to stakeholders with regard to the changing status of schools as they respond to national policy development. This relates specifically to School Organisation proposals in the context of greater freedoms for individual schools through Academy Status, and the links to central government in providing future capital and local services.
- 6.2 There are risks associated with any resultant capital project. Project risk registers has are compiled and regularly updated. All capital projects contain a contingency allowance appropriate to the scheme to mitigate for potential risks
- 6.3 There is a risk that forecasting is inaccurate or that significant unanticipated change takes place. The Council has invested heavily in updating its forecast systems, these are assessed and validated through School Census (SCAP) returns to the Department for Education. The Council annually reviews the performance of forecasting and alters its approach as appropriate.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 Provision of school places is a universal service affecting all areas within Surrey. The change in demographics is however not felt uniformly and there is a requirement to engage extensively with those communities that are most acutely impacted by changes in provision, this will have particular impact for those areas subject to significant increases in housing. There is a requirement on relevant public bodies to engage in appropriate local consultation when making changes to school provision.

8. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 The provision of sufficient school places, accessible to all, is a statutory duty for all authorities. Providing appropriate education for all is of specific importance for those most vulnerable within our communities.

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report.
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	Set out below.
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	Set out below.
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	Set out below.

Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report.
Human Resource/Training and Development	No significant implications arising from this report.

9.1 Sustainability implications

Surrey County Council aims to provide school places close to pupils' addresses to reduce the need for additional car journeys. The County Council has an agreed design philosophy to create school buildings that will support low energy consumption, reduce solar gain and promote natural ventilation.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on a Local Authority (with responsibility for education) to ensure sufficient primary and secondary education provision is available to meet the needs of the population in its area. The Council retains this responsibility for all pupils within its care, including those placed outside of Council boundaries.

9.2 Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

The council has a duty to promote and improve educational outcomes for all children, particularly those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged. Ensuring children access to high quality local school places are essential in achieving this duty.

10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

10.1 Woking Borough has seen an acute increase in the demand for school places that has been met by a significant increase in permanent school places within the area impacting on a significant number of schools and communities. Significant additional housing is anticipated in the area that will impact on demand patterns.

10.2 Whilst birth numbers have declined from the 2012 peak by approximately 13% current forecasts indicate a need to provide additional school places from 2021 specifically within the Secondary Sector. Officers will need to continue to monitor and revise pupil level forecasting to ensure that both statutory duties are met and that any changes in demand patterns are responded to appropriately.

10.3 Officers of the County Council continue to work with the Borough Council relating to the implications of future house building on future demand patterns.

10.4 That the local Committee continues to have an overview of the Councils School Planning Function.

11. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

11.1 Surrey County Council reviews both its Medium Term Financial Plan and School Organisation Plan Annually, taking account of changes in forecast, the
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availability of capital. Strategic direction and the indication of future plans are reported within these documents. The local committee will be a strategic consultee in the review of the school organisation plan. The Borough Council, County and Borough Councillors will be consulted with regard to any specific proposals at local schools.

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Sources/background papers:

School Organisation Plan 2018 -2027
