

**DECISION-MAKER:** OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
**SUBJECT:** SCHOOL ORGANISATION: SCHOOL PLACES PLANNING  
**DATE OF DECISION:** 13 SEPTEMBER 2012  
**REPORT OF:** CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES & LEARNING

**STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

None

**BRIEF SUMMARY**

This report has been requested by the Chair of the OSMC. It summarises the demand for mainstream and special school places in Southampton as well as proposals to cope with the predicted shortfall of places. It also provides brief detail on CSL's future plans for SEN provision in the city.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (i) That the Committee considers the report and provides feedback.

**REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. To assist the Committee in understanding the council's approach to school places planning in the city (both in mainstream and special schools).

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

- 2. None.

**DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)**

**3. Mainstream Places**

**Primary:**

As is the case nationally, and in London and the South East in particular, Southampton is experiencing a significant increase in demand for primary school places. This is principally driven by an underlying increase in the birth rate in the local area since 2008, but also affected by other factors such as: recent inward migration (e.g., from the accession states of the European Union; higher 'retention' levels – i.e., more parents entitled to a place in the city taking up that place; less housing market movement from within the city to properties outside the city; improved educational standards overall in the city, particularly at the early years and primary phase key stages).

In 2008/9 the LA needed to ensure that a total of 2,480 Year R places were available for children in the city. By 2011/12 this had increased to 2,805. Based on current forecasts we expect that the LA will need to provide a total of 3,240 Year R places to meet demand in 2015/16. This represents a 30% increase in primary places provision over the period 2008/9 – 2015/16. This is amongst the sharpest increases, nationally.

The table below provides details of how many children we expect to enter Year R (the first year of school) over the period 2012/13 – 2016/17:

Academic Year	Year R PAN	Year R forecast	Surplus / Deficit
2012/2013	3,030	2,963	67
2013/2014	3,030	2,912	118
2014/2015	3,030	3,040	-10
2015/2016	3,030	3,240	-210
2016/2017	3,030	3,141	-111

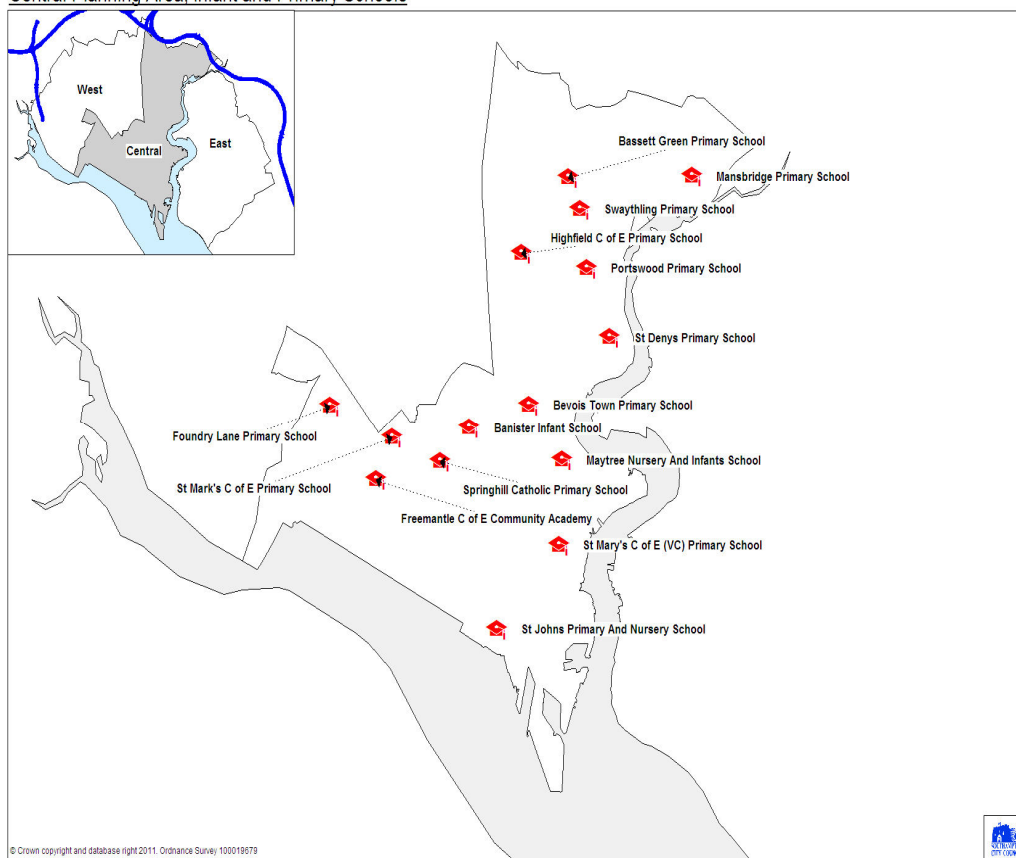
The Published Admission Number (PAN - 2<sup>nd</sup> column from the left) shows the number of places the LA can currently offer as a result of the proposals that cabinet has approved to date. The final column indicates whether there is a surplus or deficit of places. It should be noted that a significant deficit will accrue unless further projects to provide additional places are commissioned.

The greatest demand for additional places over the period 2012/13 – 2016/17 is in schools in the central spine of the City. This is illustrated in the table below:

	East	Central	West	Total
PAN 2012/2013 less Forecast Year R NOR	46	-45	66	67
PAN 2013/2014 less Forecast Year R NOR	100	-71	89	118
PAN 2014/2015 less Forecast Year R NOR	28	-113	75	-10
PAN 2015/2016 less Forecast Year R NOR	-87	-160	37	-210
PAN 2016/2017 less Forecast Year R NOR	-47	-128	64	-111

The schools / areas most affected in the central area are illustrated in the map below:

Central Planning Area; Infant and Primary Schools



The expansion projects that have been commissioned to date are consistent with this pattern of demand and have been focussed primarily on schools within the central area. Similarly the proposals that are due to be presented to Cabinet in September regarding the expansion of Basset Green, Bevois Town and St John's, are also consistent with this pattern of demand.

If Cabinet approves the recommendation to add additional places at these schools then the overall deficit will be reduced, although not eliminated. This is illustrated in the following table :

	East	Central	West	Total
PAN 2012/2013 less Forecast Year R NOR	46	15	36	97
PAN 2013/2014 less Forecast Year R NOR	100	-11	89	178
PAN 2014/2015 less Forecast Year R NOR	28	-23	75	80
PAN 2015/2016 less Forecast Year R NOR	-87	-70	37	-120
PAN 2016/2017 less Forecast Year R NOR	-47	-38	64	-21

*\*PAN figures include delay of Fairisle Infant expansion until Sept 2014 (originally planned for September 2012) and implementation of Bassett Green & Bevois town from September 2012 and St John's from September 2014.*

The CSL Infrastructure Team is currently developing proposals for the further management of this deficit.

All expansion projects commissioned to date have been based on extensive consultation, including a minimum of 4 weeks formal pre-statutory consultation and 4 weeks statutory consultation. Where significant building work is required then further additional pre-statutory and statutory consultation is conducted in line with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning Act. In addition, proposals are also discussed thoroughly on an informal basis with head teachers and governors prior to their being recommended to Cabinet. Finally, the pupil place planning data and forecasts are regularly shared with schools and were most recently discussed at the Primary Schools Forum in July.

All projects have been funded by capital provided by the Department for Education (DFE) and have been delivered via a combination of minor and major refurbishment of existing accommodation, the provision of additional modular accommodation on site, and in some cases, the provision of additional or replacement new-build accommodation on existing sites.

## Secondary

There is currently a significant surplus of secondary school age places in Southampton. This is a function of the low cohort of children that entered Southampton primary schools in the early part of the 2000s. However, we expect that this surplus will consistently decrease over the next decade as the current increased primary cohort moves into the secondary phase. Based on current forecast data, we expect that the city's existing capacity for secondary age places will be exceeded by 2018/19, and that a significant deficit of places will exist by 2020. This is illustrated in the table below:

Academic Year	Year 7 PAN	Year 7 forecast	Surplus / Deficit
2012/2013	2290	1900	390
2013/2014	2290	1937	353
2014/2015	2290	2020	270
2015/2016	2290	1996	294
2016/2017	2290	2140	150
2017/2018	2290	2227	63
2018/2019	2290	2309	-19
2019/2020	2290	2573	-283
2020/2021	2290	2488	-198
2021/2022	2290	2623	-333

As with primary schools, the city centre is likely to have the greatest demand for secondary school places with there being a deficit of Year 7 places as early as 2016/2017. This is illustrated in the following table:

	East	Central	West	Total
Total PAN	1050	700	540	2290
PAN 2012/2013 less Forecast Year 7 NOR	240	52	98	390
PAN 2013/2014 less Forecast Year 7 NOR	219	40	94	353
PAN 2014/2015 less Forecast Year 7 NOR	163	17	90	270
PAN 2015/2016 less Forecast Year 7 NOR	153	34	107	294
PAN 2016/2017 less Forecast Year 7 NOR	183	-107	74	150
PAN 2017/2018 less Forecast Year 7 NOR	100	-81	44	63
PAN 2018/2019 less Forecast Year 7 NOR	65	-110	26	-19
PAN 2019/2020 less Forecast Year 7 NOR	-47	-203	-33	-283
PAN 2020/2021 less Forecast Year 7 NOR	-11	-172	-15	-198
PAN 2021/2022 less Forecast Year 7 NOR	-68	-220	-45	-333

At present St Anne's Catholic College is the only secondary school in the city centre. It is possible that surplus spaces in the east and west of the city may offset some of the deficits in the city centre in the short term, although is not likely to be a tenable solution for more than one or two years. In 2019/2020 the city could be short of nearly 300 Year 7 places (compared with the number currently available).

The cumulative affects of these deficits could leave the city with a deficit number of places equivalent to an average sized secondary school (approximately 800 places) by 2021/2022.

#### 4. Special School Places

As the number of children in the city increases, it is also anticipated that the number of children requiring a place at a Special School will also increase.

Academic Year	Total SEN Forecast (age 4-15)	No. Places	Deficit/Surplus
2012/2013	320	344	24
2013/2014	325	344	19
2014/2015	333	344	11
2015/2016	348	344	-4
2016/2017	354	344	-10

Forecasting special school places is more complex than for mainstream places and the forecast above is based on the assumption that the proportion of all children currently requiring a special school place, will remain at a similar level in the future, and that the breakdown of types of special school place will remain similar. The actual numbers of children requiring special school places could change as a result of a number of factors that are largely unpredictable; e.g., the number of children with SEN moving into the city; changes to the timing and the way children are assessed; an uneven spread of particular types of SEN; the relative success or otherwise of mainstream provision for SEN. Given the complexity of the needs of some children it is very difficult to accurately predict what the specific needs may be, where they could be best supported and, crucially, what choices parents choose to make against the backdrop of their statutory entitlements. A further complication is that special schools do not have a formal Published Admission Number (PAN) in the same way that mainstream schools do – they have a total number of places available and the number of children they admit is based on the number of pupils

that left the previous year. This was exemplified by the necessary recent decision to add eight additional places at Springwell School; whilst the forecast above does not indicate a shortage, it became apparent at the SEN placement meeting in May 2012 that there were 8 children who could not be placed at the school if its capacity were not increased.

A revised Special Educational Needs Strategy is currently being developed and is scheduled to be published for consultation in November 2012. The main objective of the SEN strategy is to ensure that all children and young people in Southampton receive high quality support that enables them to thrive and prosper as individuals. This will be achieved through:

- Working together with parents, carers and across professional disciplines to deliver high quality multi-agency assessments to identify strengths and needs.
- Delivering flexible, personalised support through high quality provision for SEN in both mainstream, special schools and pupil referral units
- Making sure the balance of provision reflects as closely as possible the anticipated needs in the city
- Minimising the extent to which it is necessary to purchase special school places from independent provision (inside or outside the city) unless demanded by an assessed complexity of need that cannot otherwise be met

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Capital/Revenue**

5. If the proposals to expand Basset Green, Bevois Town and St John's are taken forward (after consultation and cabinet approvals) it is anticipated that the expansion projects would be funded via the Basic Need Capital Grant, which the council receives from the DfE to provide extra school places in the city.

This batch of grant funding would also be used for the short term expansion of Springwell school.

### **Property/Other**

6. It is proposed that Bassett Green would be expanded with an extension to the existing school, Bevois Town by a combination of extension and refurbishment and St John's by either an extension or the refurbishment of existing council owned space. As we are in the very early stages of the process (the consultation is not due to start until the end of September) it has not yet been confirmed exactly how each capital project would be taken forward (if approved). To have final plans in place prior to consultation and cabinet decisions would be to pre-determine the outcomes of these processes and thus inappropriate.

The expansion of Springwell will be achieved initially via the rental of a modular building, which is planned to be on site for November 2012. Plans for this are already in place given that the additional places are required for the 2012/13 academic year. This will be treated as a revenue cost and funded from the Schools Intervention Fund. It is proposed that a two classroom extension will be built at the school to make the expansion more permanent (at least in terms of admitting additional year R children).

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:**

7. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

### **Other Legal Implications:**

8. None.

## **POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

9. None.

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**KEY DECISION?** N/A

**WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:** None directly as a result of this report.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Non-confidential appendices are in the Members' Rooms and can be accessed on-line**

### **Appendices**

1. None

### **Documents In Members' Rooms**

None

### **Integrated Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to be carried out. No

### **Other Background Documents**

**Integrated Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:**

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
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