

Report of:	Rob Brown – Director of Education, Prevention and Partnerships Cllr Mieka Smiles – Executive Member for Communities and Education
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Submitted to:	Executive – 24 November 2020
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Subject:	Place Planning Strategy Update and Action Plan
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Summary

Proposed decision(s)
No decision is being asked for. Executive is recommended to note the contents of the report including the update on pupil demand and the appended action plan.

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent?¹
Information	No	The report is not confidential	Non- urgent

Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan		
People	Place	Business
We will ensure that Middlesbrough has the very best schools, working with local providers to increase educational and vocational attainment for children and adults and creating a workforce that meets the need of current and future employers	The strategy provides the basis for the provision of school places to support the delivery of new homes and a growing school-age population.	

Ward(s) affected
The Place Planning Strategy covers the whole of Middlesbrough and all schools including academies and free schools. Members will be consulted over any plans to significantly alter the pattern of school provision within their ward.

What is the purpose of this report?

1. The purpose of the report is to provide members with an update on progress made against the Place Planning Strategy 2020-25 and provide a brief update on recent changes to demographic trends which impact on demand for school places.

Why does this report require a Member decision?

2. The report is for information only.

Report Background

3. On 21 January 2020 Executive approved the school Place Planning Strategy. The strategy sets out the Council's approach to ensuring the efficient and effective supply of school places over the next five years.
4. The Strategy identifies 16 priorities which require addressing to ensure that all pupils can have timely access to an age-appropriate school place suitable to their learning needs.
5. A high-level action plan flowing from these priorities, setting out broad timescales, anticipated costs and funding sources is included at Appendix A. Short term actions are more developed, while actions towards to end of the planning period allow more flexibility to develop as trends are confirmed.
6. The plan also provides an update on progress since the strategy was approved. Significant developments include:
 - The provision of 151 additional primary school places in the centre of town at two primary schools;
 - Outwood Academy Riverside, a new secondary Free school, opened in September and is offering 150 Year 7 places in its first year of operation rising to 210 by year four - total capacity 1,050;
 - Eight additional places for pupils with Severe Learning Difficulties made available at Priory Woods;
 - A new base for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder opened at Acklam Grange School and admitting its first pupils.
7. In order to keep the action plan current it has been reviewed to take into consideration changes to the demographic trends underpinning projections of future school roll numbers. In July 2020 the primary and secondary school roll projections were updated to take into account the newest data from school admissions, birth rates and migration trends. The following key changes have been identified:
 - The actual number of births during the 2018/19 academic year were 100 lower than the estimate used to produce the 2019 10-year projections. Estimates of future births have therefore been revised downwards, which in turn has reduced the projected primary school roll. The effect is cumulative, producing projection for 2029/30 650 pupils lower than last year's and increasing estimates of surplus capacity from 11% to 17%.
 - The number of pupils allocated a Year 7 place in Middlesbrough increased again in 2020, however the increase was smaller than expected based on last year's significant upturn. The transfer rate on between Middlesbrough's primary and secondary schools on National Offer Day was approximately 2.4 percentage points lower in 2020 at 93.7%. This has reduced the projections of

secondary roll numbers. Rolls are still expected to peak in 2025/26 but by almost 400 pupils fewer.

8. The new projections do not differ significantly enough from last year's to change the priorities of the strategy but do impact on the actions flowing from it. Where necessary this has been taken into account in the plan.
9. Given the recent fluctuations in trends, roll projections will need to be monitored closely, especially where sectors or localities are close to capacity. The action plan will continue to be a working document that changes dynamically in-line with prevailing trends and forecast demands.

What decision(s) are being asked for?

10. No decision is being asked for. Executive is recommended to note the contents of the report including the update on pupil demand and the appended action plan.

Why is this being recommended?

11. Middlesbrough Council has a statutory obligation to ensure that there are sufficient school places to meet demand. The Place Planning Strategy action plan will ensure that the Council complies with this duty.
12. The plan will contribute to the social regeneration of Middlesbrough: providing more local school places, ensuring that young people can get the right education, learning experiences and qualifications they need to achieve their potential.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

13. No other options have been considered. The place planning strategy sets the priorities to ensure that the council fulfils its statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places. The action plan sets out the steps to be taken to address these priorities.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

14. The Place Planning Strategy and associated action plan assists the Council in meeting its duty, under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996, to provide sufficient school places to meet demand.

Policy Framework

15. No Policy Framework implications have been identified.

Equality and Diversity

16. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and was submitted alongside the Place Planning Strategy in January 2020.

Risk

17. The recommendations included in the report would help to address the following risks included in the Children's Services risk register:

04-014 - If the Council is not able to secure funding for schools from developers or Council funding grants and if Middlesbrough schools continue to do well whilst schools in neighbouring LA's fair less well, influencing parental choice then this will put pressure on corporate capital resources or the Council will fail in its duty to secure sufficient school places.

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

18. The plan will continue to be developed as implementation and monitoring take place over the next five years.

Appendices

Appendix A – Place Planning Strategy Action Plan

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Executive	School Place Planning Strategy 2020-25	21 January 2020

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