

**Meeting date:** 26 September 2018  
**Report to:** Cabinet Portfolio Holder Children,  
Education and Skills  
**Subject/report  
title:** School Organisation Plan 2018  
**Report from:** Director of Children's Services and Skills  
**Report  
author/lead  
contact officer:** Ann Pearson



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**Wards affected:**

All Wards |  Bickenhill |  Blythe |  Castle Bromwich |  Chelmsley Wood |  
 Dorridge/Hockley Heath |  Elmdon |  Kingshurst/Fordbridge |  Knowle |  
 Lyndon |  Meriden |  Olton |  Shirley East |  Shirley South |  
 Shirley West |  Silhill |  Smith's Wood |  St Alphege

**Public/private  
report:** Public

**Exempt by virtue  
of paragraph:** N/A

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**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 To update the Cabinet Member on demographic issues in Solihull and seek approval for the updated School Organisation Plan 2018.

**2. Decision(s) recommended**

2.1 Approve the updated School Organisation Plan 2018.

**3. What is the issue?**

3.1 The School Organisation Plan provides a detailed analysis of pupil numbers and sets out the forecasting methodology and housing developments for the Borough. The plan outlines the areas within the Borough that require additional school places and a process for working in partnership with schools and academies to deliver the additional school places.

3.2 The data within the School Organisation Plan 2018 has been updated to reflect the most recent pupil census, health data and admissions data and a new version of the Plan is attached at Appendix A. The revised plan pulls together the progress on delivering additional school places and future requirements.

3.3 By September 2018, 1,244 permanent primary school places have been added with a

further 525 planned by 2020 to meet an increasing demand for Catholic School places and the additional places planned to meet the housing development at Blythe Valley.

- 3.4 In addition to the permanent expansion of primary school places the use of bulge classes enables the Council to meet adhoc increases in cohorts for particular schools for one year. Bulge class are expansions of one class in a particularly year group to meet a specific demand and are not required year on year. Future birth data suggests that the use of bulge classes will be required in future years rather than further permanent primary school expansions.
- 3.5 There continues to be pressure on primary places, particularly at Key Stage 1, as families move into the Borough outside of the normal admissions round and vacancies are limited. Accommodating families in schools close to home with siblings in the same school is a challenge.
- 3.6 At January 2018, over 1200 (7%) secondary school places were empty and 35% of the pupils on roll live outside of Solihull. The empty places are located across schools and year groups. Secondary School rolls are forecast to rise by 11% to just over 17,000 over the next 8 years as the larger year groups in primary schools feed through to the secondary phase. A significant proportion of this growth can be accommodated within existing schools reducing the levels of empty places year on year and reducing the numbers of pupils from outside of Solihull accessing a place.
- 3.7 However in order to accommodate localised growth linked to housing developments 750 secondary school places will be required.
- 3.8 300 places have already been added at Arden Secondary School. A further 150 places (1FE) have been added at Tudor Grange Secondary School from September 2018. Feasibility work has been carried out at St Peter's Catholic School and Alderbrook School to seek to provide a further 150 places at each school.
- 3.9 Tudor Grange, Alderbrook and St Peter's Schools all sit within the Central & West Planning area which is subject to significant housing development around Cheswick Green, Tidbury Green and Blythe Valley areas.
- 3.10 In addition, Appendix D of the updated School Organisation Plan gives an initial response to the impact on school places of the proposals for significant housing development outlined with the Draft Local Plan. These initial findings will be subject to change once the outcome of the review of the Local Plan is determined.

#### **4. What options have been considered and what is the evidence telling us about them?**

- 4.1 The evaluation of options will be considered when determining how and where additional mainstream places will be located.

#### **5. Reasons for recommending preferred option**

- 5.1 If approved the Plan will be used as a basis for working with schools to identify the most appropriate way to add school places.

## 6. Implications and Considerations

### 6.1 Delivery of key themes in the Council Plan:

How will the options/proposals in this report contribute to the delivery of the key themes in the Council Plan? *(select which themes apply and briefly state how the options / proposals in this report contribute to their delivery):*

- Improve Health and Wellbeing -
- Managed Growth -
- Build Stronger Communities -
- Deliver Value -

### 6.2 Implications for children and young people, vulnerable groups and particular communities:

6.2.1 The School Organisation Plan aims to deliver sufficient school places in good and outstanding schools to meet the needs of Solihull families. Delivering those places local to a child's home is a key school place planning consideration.

### 6.3 Consultation and Scrutiny:

6.3.1 No report has been considered by Scrutiny

### 6.4 Financial implications:

6.4.1 There are no financial implications as a direct consequence of this report; however where school expansions are required then there will be capital and revenue implications. The DfE allocates basic need capital to the Council to enable additional school places to be added. The investment has been incorporated into the Asset Management Plan as an overarching capital strategy. In addition, officers will continue to seek S106 monies from housing developments where appropriate.

6.4.2 School Forum has approved growth criteria to identify additional revenue funding for those schools experiencing growth in pupil numbers. The growth criteria are included as an appendix within the School Organisation Plan. The revenue cost of additional pupils is funded entirely from increases in Dedicated Schools Grant (Schools Block).

### 6.5 Legal implications:

6.5.1 The Local Authority has a legal duty to ensure there are sufficient school places to meet the needs of Solihull children.

### 6.6 Risk implications:

6.6.1 The key risk is that additional school places cannot be added in time to meet the growth in demand from Solihull children. This will be properly assessed as part of the proposals for each school identified as requiring additional school places. There are

other risks such as the proposed costs of individual expansion projects exceeding the resources available.

6.7 Statutory Equality Duty:

6.7.1 None as a result of this report.

**7. List of appendices referred to**

7.1 Appendix A – School Organisation Plan 2018

**8. Background papers used to compile this report**

8.1 None

**9. List of other relevant documents**

9.1 None