HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

| Decision Maker: | Executive Lead Member for Children's Services | | |
|-----------------|--|--|--|
| Date: | 6 December 2012 | | |
| Title: | School Places : framework and analysis 2012-16 | | |
| Reference: | 4440 | | |
| Report From: | The Director of Children's Services | | |

Contact name: Chris Holt, Head of School Organisation

Ian Lawson, School Organisation Officer

Tel: Chris.holt@hants.gov.uk

01962 846350 lan.lawson@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval to a framework and process for the planning of and consultation on school places in Hampshire, and approval for the publication of the School Places: framework and analysis 2012-16..

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. Up to 2003 the County Council had a statutory duty to publish a School Organisation Plan, setting out the context for changes in school organisation and the provision of school places, and measures proposed to meet future needs. In 2003 the government removed that statutory duty. Although no longer statutory, the County Council has continued to produce a similar document as a useful overview of school place planning strategies in Hampshire. The document is also useful in providing the context for decisions and for negotiations with developers, and has formed part of the evidence base for Borough and District Councils when preparing their Local Development Frameworks.
- 2.2. A draft School Places Plan 2011-15 was agreed for publication and consultation by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services on 7 December 2011. The format of this plan reflected a significant change from previous documents whose emphasis had been on surplus school places in the primary sector.
- 2.3. The most notable change related to numbers in primary schools, with particular pressure on places for admission into Year R. Hampshire, in keeping with the national picture, has experienced a significant rise in births

- over the past 10 years. This, together with housing development and inmigration in several parts of the county, has increased pressure on primary school places, although this impact is not uniform across the county with its complex demography. The patterns of growth have tested previously reliable forecasting models.
- 2.4. Against this background, the School Places Plan 2011-15 focused on pupil number forecasts, which are arrived at through an analysis of past and present uptake of pupils, together with birth and housing data. The Plan gave a breakdown on past data and future trends for each of the eleven districts and boroughs in the county, and commented on future proposals to meet identified needs.
- 2.5. Following approval by the Executive lead Member for Children's Services the 2011-2015 Plan was published on the County Council's website. All district and borough councils and national park authorities in the county, diocesan authorities, county councillors and neighbouring authorities were advised and comments sought. Comments were also sought from headteachers and governing bodies through a Schools Communication.
- 2.6. As part of the consultation, presentations were made to the Primary and Secondary Resources Standing Committees, Schools Forum and Governor Forums. In addition consultation meetings were held with governing body representatives and headteachers in all the areas where the Plan identified pressure on primary school places.
- 2.7. Comments were also received from parents and members of the public in Winchester where the consultation was unfortunately misunderstood as a detailed consultation on Winchester school places. The subsequent detailed consultation for Winchester was undertaken in the spring of 2012 the outcome of which was reported to the Executive Member in July 2012.
- 2.8. The consultation on the Plan proved difficult because it is intended as a high level planning document, not a detailed plan for each local area. As a result some local communities found the Plan frustrating as it did not give them the local detail they expected. It is therefore proposed that a different framework and process are adopted for the future.
- 2.9. All comments received have been carefully considered and, where appropriate, are reflected in the School Places: framework and analysis 2012-16 which is appended to this report.

3. Proposed future arrangements

3.1 It is proposed that the School Places; framework and analysis 2012-16 is published as an overarching framework with facts and figures for school places planning which are regularly updated as part of the ongoing dialogue with a range of partners including district and borough councils, national park authorities in the county, diocesan authorities, county councillors, neighbouring authorities and schools. This document would be a reference document for schools, developers, local planning authorities and other interested parties and would not be subject to consultation.

3.2.Underneath the umbrella of the School Places; framework and analysis would be the detailed planning needed to effect school organisation decisions in local areas. It is this level of planning and decision that would be the subject of local consultation as needed, with the extent and detail of each consultation being determined by the local circumstances.

4 Finance

4.1 The School Places document does not, in itself, commit expenditure but informs the allocation of resources through the capital programme.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 That the Executive Member agree the proposed future framework for school places planning as set out in section 3.
- 5.2That the Executive Member approves the publication of the School Places : framework and analysis 2012-16.

no

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:

| Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate): | | | | |
|--|----------|------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Maximising well-being: | | yes | | |
| Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate): | | | | |
| Enhancing our quality of place: | | yes | | |
| Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate): | | | | |
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| Other Significant Links | | | | |
| Links to previous Member decisions: | | | | |
| Title School Places Plan 2011-15 Reference 3364 | | | <u>Date</u> 7 December 2011 | |
| Direct links to specific legislation or Go | vernment | Directives | <u> </u> | |
| Title None | | | <u>Date</u> | |
| | | | | |
| Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents | | | | |
| The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.) | | | | |
| <u>Document</u> <u>Location</u> | | | | |
| Responses to consultation on 2011-15 Children's Services Department plan | | | | |

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

- 1. Equalities Impact Assessment:
- 1.1 No adverse impact has been identified
- 2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:
- 2.1 No issues have been identified
- 3. Climate Change:
- 3.1 How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?
- 4. How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

Both factors will be taken into account in the development of proposals to meet the needs identified in the plan.