

7th November 2018

Children, Education and Communities Policy & Scrutiny Committee

Report of the Corporate Director Children, Education & Communities

Academisation, School Organisation and Place Planning Summary

1. This paper provides the members of the policy and scrutiny committee with an update on academisation in York and provides an update on the council's work on school place planning.

Background

2. The introduction of the Academies Act in 2010 enabled more schools to become academies by opening the status to good and outstanding schools. The introduction of the Education and Adoption Act (March 2016) has refocused academisation on tackling under-performance with the introduction of the requirement for schools in an Ofsted category of concern to convert to academy status as a sponsored academy within a multi-academy trust. Under the terms of the act the LA has a statutory duty to facilitate the academisation of schools causing concern.
3. Whilst the mandatory timeline to achieve a fully academised system by 2022 has been abandoned it is still the intention that all schools should consider conversion to academy status. In line with the changes taking place nationally an increasing number of schools in the York are now exploring academy status and are interested in forming or joining locally led multi-academy trusts.
4. The council has a statutory responsibility to ensure sufficiency of school places in its area in order to fulfil this duty the local authority is developing a strategic framework to manage the supply of and demand for school places over the next 15 years. The work of the school place planning team focuses on projecting where and when additional school places will be required, and involves working with

central government and the school community to provide places in good or outstanding schools.

Academisation in York

5. As of 1st November 2018, 30 York schools have converted to academy status. The majority of these schools are convertor academies, with 5 being sponsored academies. Apart from one single academy trust (Huntington Primary Academy), York's academies are part of locally constituted multi-academy trusts (MATs). There are currently five of these, Ebor, Hope, Pathfinder, South Bank and South York.
6. The table below shows the schools currently in each of the York MATs:

Multi Academy Trust (MAT)	York schools in the MAT
Ebor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haxby Road Primary • Hob Moor Oaks • Hob Moor Primary • Lakeside Primary • Osbaldwick Primary • Park Grove Primary • Robert Wilkinson Primary
Hope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burton Green Primary • Manor CE Academy • Poppleton Ousebank Primary • Vale of York Academy
Pathfinder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acomb Primary • Archbishop Holgate's CE School • Badger Hill Primary • Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary • Hempland Primary • Heworth Primary • New Earswick Primary • St Lawrence's CE Primary • Tang Hall Primary
South Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knavesmire Primary • Millthorpe School • Scarcroft Primary • Woodthorpe Primary

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • York High School
South York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archbishop of York Junior • Dunnington CE Primary • Fulford School • Wheldrake with Thorganby CE Primary

7. In addition to these schools there is a planned programme of academy conversions which will be taking place over the 2018/19 academic year, based on schools that have received an Academy Order from the Regional Schools Commissioner. Of the schools in the conversion pipeline all are convertor academies.

The current programme of conversions is as follows:

Feb 2019: Carr Junior
 March 2019: Danesgate Community and Rufforth Primary
 April 2019: Skelton Primary

8. A new Roman Catholic (RC) MAT is in the process of being established, St. Margaret Clitherow RC MAT, for RC schools in the Middlesbrough Diocesan area. The proposals are that one York secondary school (All Saint's RC School) and four York primary schools (Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, St. Aelred's, St George's, and St Wilfrid's), will join this MAT along with other schools from East Riding and North Yorkshire local authorities. It is planned that these conversions will take place in the 2019/20 academic year.
9. The LA retains strong working relationships with all academies/multi-academy trusts in the city and further developing its future strategic working relationship with the chief executives of the multi-academy trusts is crucially important as more schools leave the maintained sector over the next few years. This has led to the development of the York Schools and Academies Board which is providing a structure for academies and maintained schools working together to address improvement priorities in individual schools.

School Place Planning

10. The need to provide for a sufficient number of school places for current and future residents is an important statutory duty of the City of

York Council and central to this is building an educational infrastructure for the city by forecasting likely demand and supply of school places over the medium term and longer term.

11. This paper provides an update on the progress of the school place planning team over the last 12 months, including the work on the 'Provision of School Places' project, which is one of the Council's 16 major projects. As part of this major project, monthly highlight reports are submitted and published on the council website.
12. The council is provided with 'Basic Need' funding from central government for this purpose, a total of £40,214,374 has been committed since 2011, and the council needs to ensure that this and other sources of funding are used to best effect in those areas of greatest need, and to ensure that all educational provision is sustainable in the longer term, working with the school community.
13. There is currently a balance of £20 million of Basic Need funding that has been provided to meet the school sufficiency duty. Several projects that have been funded from Basic Need in the 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years have been completed or are currently towards the end of the delivery phase.
14. These projects include the expansion of Scarcroft Primary School from 45 to 60 pupils per year - where all internal works are now complete and the associated external Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) that is now in the planning process - and recent work at St Mary's CE Primary School where classrooms have been increased in size in order to accommodate significantly larger pupil numbers in some year groups, driven by growth of children from within a rural catchment area.
15. In March 2018 the council's Executive agreed to the virement of £2 million from basic need to support the capital maintenance budget. As the number of schools converting to academy status has grown this has resulted in a reduction in the capital maintenance grant received by the local authority which has placed restrictions on the number of schemes that can be funded from within the capital maintenance grant. The virement of these monies have allowed urgent maintenance issues at community and voluntary controlled schools to

be addressed, and for those schools to continue to be able to use all spaces as flexibly as possible when accommodating additional pupil numbers in all year groups.

16. As future expansions and projects are required to be funded from the remaining Basic Need funding, the remaining funding has been loosely committed alongside project work to review of the current capacity and forecast pupil numbers until 2024/25. As forecast pupil numbers show that the pressure on places in the largest cohorts will peak for secondary schools in 2022/23, although there are no immediate place pressures or new schools required, there will need to be some investment in longer term capacity in the coming years.
17. A strategic framework is underway between the Council and local schools and academy trusts, overseen by the York School and Academies Board. This framework will deliver robust Action Plans for each of the 17 primary and 4 secondary planning areas, that will include those expressions of interests of schools to expand to meet future need.
18. Although the greatest need for additional places remains in the secondary phase, there will still need to be some primary capacity created to manage localised supply pressures.

Capacity

19. School capacity across all existing schools has now been thoroughly assessed, where officers conducted site visits to assess the size of each school building, and from these visits, recalculated and revised data held by the council about the capacity of existing school buildings.
20. The result of this exercise is that the Council now has a true indication of the existing capacity of all schools, including academies. This in turn has meant some forecast deficits of places have been reduced, delayed to a later school year, or eliminated entirely. Any future expansions may now be of a smaller magnitude, and therefore existing Basic Need funding may better provide for sufficiency for new school places at primary, secondary and special schools.

Forecasting

21. Forecast data is provided annually to the Education and Skills Funding Agency regarding forecasts at primary and secondary level. Current forecasts, which are undertaken in 4 secondary and 17 primary planning areas (areas made up of school catchment areas in which travel to school distances are reasonable), show the greatest level of future need in the secondary phase, with some localised need in the primary phase.

Planning Area Action Plans detail predicted future housing as well as current approvals, and so include the latest data on predicted dwellings and associated pupil numbers from strategic housing sites, including all those in the draft Local Plan.

22. As there also is a need to factor in planning for the needs of those children requiring differentiated provision because of their special educational needs, and Inclusion Review is ongoing, and in the last 12 months, this work has progressed to recommend approval in November 2018 for a number of schemes. These include at Hob Moor Oaks special school, Danesgate and other works including for post-16 and enhanced resource centres at mainstream schools.

Primary phase

23. At primary level, there remains a city wide surplus of places, and this surplus capacity across all primary year groups is predicted to increase from 1187 places to 1241 places over the next 5 years. For the first year of primary school a city wide surplus will reduce from 216 to 171 places. These increases in city-wide surplus are on the basis of existing households and those that have already received planning permission. These surpluses have increased from earlier forecasts in part due to increased capacity, as well as lower births and expected migration. Within the city, there are some localized pressures, such as around Wheldrake, where a feasibility study has been instructed to look at options for future expansion that may be necessary. In some areas, particularly villages and where only one school exists within an area, there has been significant additional pressure on places and committed basic need money will be required to address this.
24. It is anticipated that there will be continued in-year pressures particularly within key stage 1 classes which are restricted to 30 pupils. Some semi rural and rural schools may continue to see classes rise

across all year groups in some areas due to inward migration of families.

Secondary phase

25. The latest projections indicate future pressure for places in the South East (Fulford), East (Archbishop Holgate's) and West (York High, Manor CE, Millthorpe and All Saint's RC). However the work now completed on school net capacity figures has, as anticipated, reduced the forecasts downwards in most areas, although some additional places will be required in these areas.
26. The South and East of the city, will in the coming years be a priority for additional school places as secondary pupil numbers continue to rise. The West of the city also requires some additional places, but following the capacity recalculations, this is now a much smaller amount.

Future outlook – next few months

27. The strategic framework continues in the form of the major project approach with milestones including annual publication of forecast data in the New Year, and action plans for each planning area following later in the year. These annual processes continue to examine the many variables and highlight where additional places are required by planning area and year of first need. Schools and academies have started to, and will continue to be asked to express their interest in expanding to meet future needs, and we expect more such expressions in the coming months.
28. As above, there will be additional work that is required in the coming months regarding what additional school places may be required as a result of future housing need across the Local Authority area, though these conversations between planners and education officers are now well established. In addition, school place planning officers collaborate with other related project offices through the Major Project Interface Group on a monthly basis.

Recommendations

29. The members of the Children, Education & Communities Policy & Scrutiny Committee are recommended not only to note the content of

this report and associated developments in school place planning over the previous twelve months, but to schedule an annual update on this work stream in another twelve months time. In particular, it is recommended to review this work alongside the emerging Local Plan when adopted.

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**Report
Approved**



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For further information please contact the author of the report

Abbreviations

CE- Church of England
LA- Local Authority
MATs -Multi-academy trusts
MUGA -Multi Use Games Area
RC- Roman Catholic