

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES CABINET MEMBER

SCHOOL PLACES AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To provide line of sight to members on the statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places as per Education Act 1996, Section 14.
- 1.2 To provide details of sources of funding and delivery of projects to ensure sufficient school places.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The demand for existing and future school places is reviewed annually and includes:
 - Health data on the home address registered at GP practices for children
 - Capacity of local schools to accommodate pupils
 - Migration trends both within and in/out of North Lincolnshire
 - Preferences for places and allocations as at National Offer Day
- 2.2 School capacity and projections (SCAP) data is submitted to the DfE on an annual basis in July together with a commentary providing local context and proposals/planned investment to ensure sufficient places are provided in a timely manner. The SCAP data does not currently include Special Schools but the DfE have announced that they will be included in the 2023 return.
- 2.3 The capital Basic Need grant from the DfE is calculated based on the demand for additional places determined by the SCAP return. The actual and indicative allocations of basic need grant for North Lincolnshire are: 2022/23 - £1,373,466, 2023/24 - £503,636, 2024/25 - £0 based on the 2021 SCAP data. This grant funding sits within the School Investment Plan on the council's capital programme.

- 2.4 The DfE expect local authorities to secure developer contributions (s106) for expanding or delivering new schools as a direct consequence of housing development. The current Spatial Planning Guidance 8 document details when and how s106 contributions will be sought. The emerging Supplementary Planning Document, currently in draft format, updates this information.
- 2.5 The capacity of community, voluntary controlled and voluntary aided schools is determined by the DfE net capacity. Historically the capacity of academies has been determined by the DfE funding agreement rather than the physical capacity of the buildings. The DfE has undertaken to review the capacity of academies, so that both schools and academies have capacities that reflect the physical space within the school.
- 2.6 For the purposes of school place planning, North Lincolnshire has been subdivided into school place planning areas as shown in the maps in Appendix 1.
- 2.7 The summer 2022 data update and review showed that the demand for **primary places** is projected to fall - this aligns to health data, birth rates and ONS information. The health data shows that the current year 6 population is 2176 and the current number of 1-year olds is 1646. The National Offer Day allocations evidence that popular schools in urban areas continue to be oversubscribed at the detriment of other schools.

As at National Offer Day the net cross boundary movement for the reception cohort is negligible – the net difference for the last 5 years has been between 4 and 10 pupils distributed over several schools.

In **Scunthorpe North** the size of the reception intake cohort is anticipated to fall by 12% between 2022 and 2026. This equates to a 22% reduction over a period of 10 years. Two schools in this area admitted significantly under their Planned Admission Number (PAN) for September 2022. The council submitted a bid to replace the Scunthorpe CE Primary school under the school rebuilding programme – we are awaiting the outcome of this bid.

The **Scunthorpe South West** area has significant approved housing development and also incorporates the earlier phases of the Lincolnshire Lakes development. Any spare capacity, as a result of the falling birth rate, needs to be retained to support interim arrangements for future housing development pupil yield. The council submitted a bid to replace Enderby Road Infant school under the school rebuilding programme – we are awaiting the outcome of this bid.

In **Scunthorpe South East** area, 4 popular schools were full to PAN in reception on National Offer Day. These schools are also the closest schools to ongoing housing development, which prevents children

moving into the new houses being offered a place at their catchment school. A number of these schools are full in other years groups too.

The **North Isle** area had a low intake cohort for September 2022 according to health data (76 compared to 86 in 2021 and 97 in 2023). The number on roll (NOR) in this planning area is anticipated to fall from 620 in 2022/23 to 563 in 2026/27, a 9% decrease. However, there is a bulge cohort of children for the 2023 intake in the Crowle area. The mobile classroom at Luddington & Garthorpe school was removed over the Summer 2022 and plans are in development to replace this with a permanent building. In the interim, the school are using the hall as a classroom.

In **South Isle** the numbers are projected to decline. The raw health data shows 170 11-year olds residing in the area compared to 98 1 year-olds. It is anticipated that the spare capacity will be distributed across all the schools in this planning area with no school in a position to reduce the PAN. Given the rural nature of the area, the assumption against closure of rural schools and the potential for numbers to fluctuate, it is not anticipated that the capacity or PANs will change in this area. It is anticipated that the spare capacity in this planning area will be 23% by 2026/27.

The **Barton Town** projections show a small intake in 2023/24 preceding a spike for the 2024/25 intake, before numbers fall for the following years. The fall in birth rate is offset in part by the yield of pupils from ongoing housing development.

The **Barton District** area also has a projected fall in NOR from 812 in 2022/23 to 673 in 2026/27 – a 17% decrease. There is approved housing development planned for the villages of Barrow, Goxhill and Ulceby.

The **Brigg & District** area NOR is projected to fall from 2138 in 2021/22 to 2035 in 2026/27. The spare capacity in this area is anticipated to be 16% in 2026/27, including 2 schools with spare capacity in excess of 30%.

In **Burton & Winterton** area the projections show a fall from 735 in 2021/22 to 649 by 2026/27 despite planned housing in Winterton being factored into the projections.

- 2.8 Numbers are rising in the **secondary sector** in line with projected larger cohorts moving through from the primary sector. The LA worked with schools to ensure there were sufficient school places for the September 2022 Y7 intake. Work was completed to expand Baysgarth school from 6FE (180 PAN) to 7FE (210 PAN) in all year groups. Alterations to existing buildings were funded from the Basic Need Grant at Melior (to admit a bulge year group of up to 30 pupils) and St Lawrence (who increased their PAN by 15 to accommodate larger cohorts).

There is a long-term risk associated with the financial security of schools reliant on attracting pupils from “out of catchment/out of county”. There are four small secondary academies that have intakes below 4FE (120 PAN) – the DfE minimum size for a new secondary school. Two of these academies are reliant on attracting pupils from other LAs to boost their numbers.

A net gain of 39 pupils residing in other LAs, against pupils selecting mainly Grammar schools and catchment to Oasis Immingham, was experienced for the September 2022 intake. This is similar to the outcome of allocations in previous years, with some of our popular schools unable to accommodate all the preferences from out of county pupils.

The **Scunthorpe** area showed the peak cohort move into Y7 in September 2022. There were some pupils who expressed a preference for, but were not allocated a place at their catchment school on National Offer Day. Despite this, all young people residing in Scunthorpe were offered a place at a Scunthorpe school (unless they were offered a higher preference school outside of Scunthorpe). High cohorts are projected to continue over the next few years and early indications from the admissions team suggest that there is a reduction in preferences for Grammar schools outside of North Lincolnshire. Officers will continue to negotiate with schools to admit additional pupils when needed and use Basic Need funding to expand schools accordingly.

In the **South Axholme** and **North Axholme** areas the secondary provision is oversubscribed by pupils from outside of North Lincolnshire. The projections show that there is sufficient capacity to accommodate future cohorts residing in North Lincolnshire. Continuing cooperation of the academies to admit pupils who move into the catchment area, outside of the normal allocation rounds, is essential. If the next nearest school with an available place is more than 3 miles away from the home address, then the Council will need to provide home to school transport.

The **Brigg** area is projected to peak for the 2023/24 Y7 intake. There is a small risk that if parents do not express a preference for both schools, they risk not being offered a place at either school if their highest preference is not successful. In theory, pupils from outside the catchment area will be least likely to gain a place. Three blocks at Sir John Nelthorpe school were nominated for replacement under the DfE school rebuilding programme – we are awaiting a DfE announcement on the outcome of this nomination.

In **Barton** we have worked with the school to admit more pupils as the larger cohorts and/or increase in popularity from the catchment area has produced a greater demand for places at the school. On National Offer Day we have been able to offer places to all the young people residing in the catchment area who have expressed a preference for this school. There are no spare places in some year groups at this school and some

pupils moving into the area, outside of the normal allocation rounds, have been offered alternative places at Winterton or Brigg with transport provided as appropriate. The Y7 projection for 2023/24 is very close to PAN and the 2024/25 projection exceeds the PAN – further discussions will take place with the school on how all catchment pupils can be offered a place on National Offer Day

A bulge year group will feed up into Y7 in the **Winterton** area in September 2023. Numbers in other preceding year groups are low and are projected to continue to be low after September 2023 despite housing development in Winterton.

Secondary numbers in the **Kirton** area are low. Huntcliff is unique in North Lincolnshire, in that most of the catchment area is actually in Lincolnshire. On National Offer Day 60% of the places allocated were for pupils residing outside North Lincolnshire.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 To note the position in respect of school places and investment.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 To provide line of sight to members on the statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places as per Education Act 1996, Section 14; and to provide details of sources of funding and delivery of projects to ensure sufficient school places.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

5.1 Basic Need Grant and s106 developer contributions will continue to be used to finance building expansions to ensure sufficient school places.

5.2 The Growth and Falling Roll policy will be applied to provide short term revenue support to schools that meet the set criteria. This is funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

6.1 Environmental implications for construction of schools will be addressed through the planning and building control process. Consideration will be given to the “secure by design” protocols to reduce and/or design out opportunities for crime and disorder.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 The Education Act 1996 states that schools available for an area should be sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education. Appropriate education offers

such variety of instruction and training as may be desirable in view of: the pupils' different ages, abilities; and the different periods for which they may be expected to remain at school, including practical instruction and raining appropriate to their different needs.

7.2 The purpose of the annual SCAP is to review the demand for places against the school places available and take appropriate action to expand and/or reduce the number of places available without destabilising the sustainability of existing schools.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 Officers consult with existing providers and follow statutory guidance in respect of opening, closing and expanding schools to meet the Council's duties under the Education Act 1996.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 To note the overall position in relation to school populations: year 7 is the peak year groups and numbers will fall in the primary sector initially followed by the secondary sector in the longer term.

9.2 To note that popular schools will continue to thrive in terms of number on roll (NOR) but some schools will be facing significant reductions in NOR and this will impact on their budgets.

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Date: 3 November 2022

