

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting17th October 2019

1. Title of Item/Report

School Organisation Plan 2019

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on the School Organisation Plan 2019.

Although the statutory requirement to publish an annual School Organisation Plan was abolished in 2004, the Council had continued to publish an updated plan to inform schools, parents and the general public. The Plan gave information about the number, types and sizes of schools maintained by the Council, Academies and Free Schools. It recorded the number of places available in those schools and it included forecasts of pupil numbers over the next five years. This information was an important resource to support the Council in carrying out its statutory duty to ensure a sufficient supply of school places to meet the needs of children and young people in the borough.

When taken together with documents relating to the condition of school buildings and their suitability for purpose, the information in this plan may help to inform decisions about capital investment in existing or new school buildings.

The 'School Organisation Plan 2019' described three specific issues to be confronted over the next five years:

- Rising numbers of four-year-olds starting school;
- The beginning of the end of falling numbers in our secondary schools;
- Uncertainty over the impact of Academies and possible Free Schools.

The draft plan was attached to the report.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The information in the draft plan be noted.

2. The pressure in demand for secondary school places be noted.
3. The School Organisation Plan 2019 be published on the Council website and made available to partner organisations.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The Council as Local Education Authority is under a statutory duty to ensure a sufficient supply of primary and secondary school places to meet the needs of children and young people resident in the borough. The School Organisation Plan brings together relevant information about the number, types and sizes of schools in the borough, the number of pupils on roll and projections of future pupil numbers. The projections can point out trends that may lead to a need to increase or reduce the pupil capacity of schools in particular areas of the borough.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Jim Beall declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 14 - School Organisation Plan 2019 as he was a governor at Rosebrook School.

Councillor Bob Cook declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 14 - School Organisation Plan 2019 as he was a governor at Norton Primary School and Billingham South Primary School.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight, 25 October 2019.

Proper Officer
21 October 2019