

Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	School Place Plan 2010
Report to be considered by:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	13 January 2011
Forward Plan Ref:	ID2202

Purpose of Report: To report on the LA's duty to provide enough places for pupils resident in its area

Recommended Action: To approve the School Place Plan

Reason for decision to be taken: The Plan outlines how the LA will meet its statutory duty with regard to school places for pupils resident in its area

Statutory: **Non-Statutory:**

Other options considered:

Key background documentation:

Portfolio Member Details	
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Implications

Policy:	The School Place Plan includes the key principles which underpin strategic school place planning decision-making.
Financial:	None
Personnel:	None
Legal/Procurement:	None
Environmental:	None
Partnering:	None
Property:	School Place Planning and Asset Management are inter-related and the teams work closely together to ensure that any proposals for change can be accommodated and are cost effective.
Risk Management:	None
Community Safety:	None
Equalities:	The Plan outlines how school place planning takes account of the diverse nature of schools, pupils and communities.

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council: Graham Jones

Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman: Brian Bedwell

Select Committee Chairman: Irene Neill

Ward Members: N/A

Opposition Spokesperson: Alan Macro

Local Stakeholders: Consultation with schools will take place through a programme of refresh meetings on an Area by Area basis.

Officers Consulted: Margaret Goldie, Ian Pearson

Trade Union: N/A

Is this item subject to call-in.	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval		<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council		<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position		<input type="checkbox"/>
Considered or reviewed by OSC or associated Task Groups within preceding 6 months		<input type="checkbox"/>
Item is Urgent Key Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>

Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 West Berkshire Council's aim is "to enable all children and young people to maximise their potential while intervening positively to ensure that the most vulnerable have an equal opportunity to succeed". To achieve this the Council provides high quality education through a diverse provision of school types giving a wide selection of school places in order to maximise meeting parental preferences as much as possible.
- 1.2 The Local Authority (LA) has a duty to provide enough places for pupils resident in its area. The duty extends to managing those school places by controlling both over and under supply of places, as well as ensuring diversity in the type of places provided. In addition, the LA has a strategic planning role for the provision of sufficient places over time. The planning of school places therefore aims to achieve a workable balance between the number of places available in the LA and the number of pupils for whom the LA will need places. To meet this duty, the LA monitors the number of places and pupils through forward planning. Whilst it is no longer a statutory requirement to produce a School Organisation Plan, the School Place Plan summarises the position with regard to school place planning.
- 1.3 The Plan sets out the basis on which school places are provided and managed within the LA and the context for the future organisation of required places. The Plan will be reviewed (at least) annually, being updated in line with changes in the factors that influence the demand for places the area, e.g. new housing or changing demographic profile. The Plan assesses the need to remove or add places within schools and describes the policies and strategies employed when managing the number of places and where they are geographically located. It also sets out the strategic framework for the provision of school places and the setting for the future organisation of school places in West Berkshire.
- 1.4 The Plan is not a static document, but a constantly evolving picture of school places within West Berkshire. It is the subject of regular review and is part of the Council's rolling refresh of school place planning information on an Area by Area basis, which includes consultation with schools.

Appendices

Appendix A – School Place Plan 2010