

CABINET
30 JANUARY 2020**ANNUAL UPDATE TO THE SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN**
2019

Relevant Cabinet Member

Mr M J Hart

Relevant Officer

Director of Children's Services

Recommendation

- 1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Skills recommends that Cabinet:**
 - (a) in line with the Cabinet decision in December 2018, notes the updated annual sufficiency information for all areas of education, added to the five-year School Organisation Plan 2019-24;**
 - (b) notes the pressure on mainstream and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) places, the need for more flexible childcare, and the work being undertaken to support post-16 provision, highlighted in the reports;**
 - (c) approves the 2019 update of place sufficiency information as part of the School Organisation Plan; and**
 - (d) receives an annual report to approve future iterations of the School Organisation Plan including place sufficiency information.**

Background

2. The five-year strategic School Organisation Plan "Good education places for all Worcestershire children" was approved by Cabinet in December 2018.
3. It provides the strategic focus for the work of the Sufficiency and Place Planning Service, now part of Worcestershire Children First.
4. The Plan links directly to Worcestershire's Education and Skills Strategy, ensuring a good education for every child in Worcestershire 2019-24, approved by Cabinet in September 2019.
5. Objective 3 of the Plan – 'More education in good or outstanding provision' highlights the need for a clarity of forecasting as part of a five-year rolling programme.

2019 Update to the School Organisation Plan

6. The five-year strategic plan is a static plan designed to provide an overview of school place planning from 2019-2024. The plan is revised annually by updating the four sufficiency reports associated with the plan that provide the operational direction for the overall strategy. These cover:

- Early Years sufficiency (see Appendix 1)
- Mainstream school sufficiency (see Appendix 2)
- SEND sufficiency (see Appendix 3)
- Post-16 sufficiency (see Appendix 4).

The five-year School Organisation Plan 2019-2024 is included at Appendix 5.

7. The reports are updated for the autumn term and are based on information from the September and January schools' census, known children data shared by the NHS, and other data sources.

8. The forecasts from the reports are used to plan for education provision requirements, shared with schools and other education settings, and form the basis of the School Capacity Report to the DfE that is used to allocate basic need grant.

9. The forecasts are also used when planning future provision needs as a result of housing plans and in requesting s106 contributions.

10. The 2019 updates for mainstream and SEND sufficiency show that we have a sufficiency of places to meet our statutory responsibilities.

11. However, pressure on places is forecast in certain areas and phases of education in mainstream schools and that this will continue for the life time of the Plan. We will use this information to further develop plans for future provision.

12. SEND provision remains under pressure and the need to create additional places in special schools or mainstream provision is identified. This will be used to support the work being undertaken on the High Needs Recovery Plan.

13. Early Years and post-16 provision are often outside the control of the Council, with provision provided by the independent, private and voluntary sectors. The sufficiency reports aid the Council and its partners in identifying need and where additional places need to be commissioned.

14. The 2019 update for early years shows a sufficiency of places but recognises the need for more flexible childcare to support working parents. The information will be shared with colleagues in early years and childcare providers in Worcestershire.

15. The post-16 update further develops this new area of sufficiency work. It recognises a sufficiency of places at this time, but provision will come under pressure as numbers in secondary schools rise. This will be monitored by the service and mitigation identified as required.

16. Cabinet is recommended to note the work undertaken on the 2019 update to the Plan, the pressures on the education system identified and formally approve the 2019 iteration of the Plan.

Approval for future iterations of the School Organisation Plan

17. The School Organisation Plan 2019-24 will continue to be revised with place sufficiency information on an annual basis.

18. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Skills is regularly briefed by the Director for Education and Early Help on school organisational matters including sufficiency issues as they are identified. Decisions needed to plan for and address place sufficiency issues will be presented to Cabinet via the Cabinet Member as they arise.

19. Given the oversight of this area it is recommended that Cabinet receives future updates to the School Organisation Plan including changes to place sufficiency information.

Legal, Financial and HR Implications

20. There are no legal or HR implications as a result of this report. There are likely to be financial implications from the sufficiency updates of the report in respect of new provision to meet demand for places. These will be raised as part of the annual capital programme reported annually to Council.

Privacy and Public Health Impact Assessments

21. There are no privacy or public health implications from this report.

Risk Implications

22. The update to the Plan identifies sufficiency needs across the education sector moving forward. The Sufficiency and Place Planning Service will identify additional provision requirements as part of the Capital Programme as identified in paragraph 20 above.

Equality and Diversity Implications

23. An Equality Relevance Screening has been completed in respect of these recommendations. The screening did not identify any potential Equality considerations requiring further consideration during implementation.

Supporting Information – available electronically only

- Appendix 1 – Early Years sufficiency report 2019
http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/11725/wcc_ey_sufficiency_report_2019.pdf
- Appendix 2 – Mainstream school sufficiency report 2019
http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/10056/2017_mainstream_education_sufficiency_report

- Appendix 3 – SEND sufficiency report 2019
http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/10057/2017_send_sufficiency_report
- Appendix 4 – Post-16 sufficiency report 2019
http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/10055/2015_post_16_further_education_sufficiency_report
- Appendix 5 – Worcestershire County Council School Organisation Plan 2019-24
http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/10780/worcestershire_county_council_school_organisation_plan_2019.pdf

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

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Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Children's Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Worcestershire's Education and Skills Strategy, ensuring a good education for every child in Worcester4shire 2019-24

<https://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=2644&Ver=4>

Agendas for the meetings of Cabinet held on 13 December 2018 and 26 September 2019