

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
16 JANUARY 2018
SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING
REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To review the Council's approach to planning school places, to ensure that there are sufficient places available to meet demand across the City.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to review the effectiveness of the Council's approach to school place planning.

3 Background information

- 3.1 The Council has responsibility for the strategic planning of school places and ensuring that sufficient school places are available.
- 3.2 In December 2017, the Committee spoke with the Portfolio Holder for Business, Education and Skills about the Council Plan priority to guarantee a choice of places for every child at a local primary school. The Committee heard that in 2017 94% of pupils obtained their first or second choice of primary school. However, during discussion specific challenges around meeting first choice of primary school for 'in-year' school admissions was highlighted. The Committee wanted to understand more about what these challenges were, why they existed and what was being done to address them.
- 3.2 While the Committee welcomed the work done over recent years to create additional places at primary schools in the City, councillors wanted to review school place planning at secondary school level, particularly now that the cohort of children accommodated in the additional places created at primary school level would be reaching secondary school age.
- 3.3 The Head of Access and Inclusion will be attending the meeting to discuss the Council's approach to school place planning and how the school admissions process is managed.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 'Secondary phase place planning' paper

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

5.1 None

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

6.1 Minutes of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 19 December 2017.

7 Wards affected

7.1 All

8 Contact information

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