

Title of paper:	Place planning for Nottingham's secondary schools	
Report to:	Children's Partnership Board	
Date:	19 December 2018	
Relevant Director:	Nick Lee / John Dexter	Wards affected: All
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Relevant Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) priority or priorities:		
Safeguarding and supporting children and families: Children, young people and families will benefit from early and effective support and protection to empower them to overcome difficulties and provide a safe environment in which to thrive.		
Promoting the health and wellbeing of babies, children and young people: From pregnancy and throughout life, babies, children, young people and families will be healthier, more emotionally resilient and better able to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing.		
Supporting achievement and academic attainment: All children and young people will leave school with the best skills and qualifications they can achieve and will be ready for independence, work or further learning.		X
Empowering families to be strong and achieve economic wellbeing: More families will be empowered and able to deal with family issues and child poverty will be significantly reduced.		
Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):		
School place provision remains a statutory duty of Local Authorities. As commissioners of education working with a range of providers, we are striving to deliver this in a way that promotes parental choice, diversity and enabling children to access good schools close to home, with a view to ultimately improving achievement and attainment.		
Recommendations:		
1	That the Partnership Board note the secondary school place planning requirements, context, challenges, strategy and solutions.	
2	That the Partnership Board note that the LA is striving to meet school place needs in a way that promotes parental choice, diversity and enabling children to access good schools close to home.	

1. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

(Explanatory detail and background to the recommendations)

- 1.1 The primary phase demand has seen the Council deliver an additional 5,000 primary school places (once all year groups are full), through a capital programme of approx. £40m. This has been successfully achieved through a combination of adding capacity to existing buildings, refurbishment of mothballed premises and delivery of three new build school sites. The delivery of the required secondary capacity is potentially far more challenging, complex and costly.
- 1.2 Nottingham's city secondary schools have historically run with some surplus capacity. However, the growth in both birth rate and new arrivals to the city has resulted in a significant increase in demand, which is now moving through from the primary to secondary phase. Since the considerable increase in secondary demand in 2017, some additional secondary capacity has already been implemented (as explained in 3,3) but further solutions are required.
- 1.3 Pupil projections measured against current school Pupil Admission Numbers (PANs) show a shortfall of Year 7 places from 2019. The anticipated shortfall in 2018 has only been met by negotiating extra places with a number of schools to admit over their existing PANs. While this has been possible in some schools as a temporary measure, due to having some capacity in the higher years groups (until the larger cohorts move through), it is usually only realistic to utilise this if it is part of a broader expansion plan, or the schools will very quickly run out of space.
- 1.4 The minimal remaining capacity is in only two city academies (Farnborough and Nottingham Academy) which are in geographical extremes of the city, so not helpful when allocating places for whom they are inaccessible. Projections demonstrate that this current small surplus capacity in only two schools will very soon be filled.

2. Requirements

- 2.1 Ensuring that the supply of school places meets demand is, and remains, a statutory duty of Local Authorities, even though LAs are no longer able to open new schools. As commissioners of education working with a range of providers, Nottingham City is striving to meet school place needs in a way that promotes parental choice, diversity and enabling access to good or outstanding schools close to home. However, the requirement for strategic place planning within the context of a fragmented education system and limited financial resources is hugely challenging. Forecasting projections based upon the numbers of pupils currently in the city primary system suggest that there is still a need for the city to provide a minimum of 7-9 new forms of entry. As shown in Table 1 below, Year 7 demand is projected to peak in 2022, with overall capacity pressure set to peak in 2027 as the larger cohorts move through.
- 2.2 The number of additional pupils generated by the number and scale of housing developments in the city over the next five to ten years will add extra pressure on place provision.

The estimated city-wide secondary pupil yield for known and anticipated developments for the period up to 2025 is up to 190 pupils per year group (6-7 forms of entry), as detailed below. However, it is not known how many of these will be existing city families or new to the city. Although we are doing all we can to maximise S106 funding from developers, the scope for investing this is often limited by insufficient funds generated to deliver additional capacity, as well as issues around the viability and size of existing sites. This also has to be balanced with the Council's plans for social housing and regeneration.

- 2.3 Another consideration when forecasting pupil growth is the potential impact of demands on capacity in academies located in the county council areas of the conurbation. The % loss of city pupils to county schools has already reduced over the last five years from 17% to 14.5%. As pressure on capacity in county schools is also mounting, it is highly probable that over the projection period, this trend will continue. Whilst this is not modelled in our projections data, unless there is an increase in capacity in these county schools the additional demand needs to be factored into to growth forecasting.
- 2.4 In terms of parental choice, we aim to maximise the number of pupils securing their preferred school. For September 2018 secondary school admissions, in the face of increasing demand, nearly 89% of pupils were offered their first or second choice secondary school. However, with the increasing pressure on capacity in existing secondaries, this has reduced from 92% in 2016. The Local Authority's ambition strives to ensure that all pupils in Nottingham attend a good school, close to home. More secondary places are required across the city to achieve this goal and the % of successful preferences, by expanding popular, high performing schools in the right locations.
- 2.5 We are ideally aiming for a working surplus of 5% capacity to manage the significant mobility in the city and allow for the high number of in year applications, which is a huge issue in some city schools. This would help to manage the high level of migration into the city and to support siblings being located in the same schools, which is currently a challenge with many large, multi-sibling families moving in throughout the school year.
- 2.6 The projections in Table 1 below show the pupil numbers moving through from existing primary schools. In reality, the actual pupil numbers are highly likely to be higher once we factor in inward migration, the pupil yield from housing developments and the accelerating reduction in the numbers of Nottingham City pupils attending Nottinghamshire County schools, as explained above.

Table 1

Nottingham City									
Pupil Age	11	12	13	14	15				
Year	7	8	9	10	11	Total	Capacity	PAN	
2017/18	2956	2806	2836	2821	2602	14021	15960	3285	
2018/19	3220	2956	2806	2961	2821	14764	16125	3275	
2019/20	3294	3220	2956	2926	2961	15357	16150	3225	
2020/21	3430	3294	3220	3076	2926	15946	16240	3315	
2021/22	3482	3430	3294	3220	3076	16502	16330	3315	
2022/23	3601	3482	3430	3294	3220	17027	16470	3325	
2023/24	3576	3601	3482	3430	3294	17383	16560	3325	
2024/25	3464	3576	3601	3482	3430	17553	16650	3325	

3. Solutions secured and further options identified for delivery of additional capacity

- 3.1 The LA has received a capital / basic need allocation, but this is insufficient to deliver all the required secondary capacity. The 2019/20 Basic Need allocation which was announced in 2017, resulted in an allocation of only £3.8m, which was still required to deliver the remainder of our primary expansion programme. In June 2018, a further allocation of £7.85m for Basic Need up to 2021 was announced. This falls well short of enabling all the identified secondary need to be met, therefore the LA Free School Presumption route is one we do not have the available capital resource to generate.
- 3.2 We have been developing strong relationships with a range of providers to explore strategies and solutions to deliver additional good and outstanding provision. However, in the challenging context of a fragmented education system and limited resource, we are relying largely on direct bids from Multi Academy Trusts to deliver the required capacity. Those schools and trusts who are positively engaging with us, we are working with collaboratively to develop proposals.
- 3.3 To date the following solutions to deliver additional secondary capacity have been secured:
- Trinity school has added 1 additional form of entry from September 2017 following rebuilding work.
 - The LA has supported the proposal to alter the age range of NUAAT from 14 -19 to 11-19, to deliver an additional 4 forms of entry from September 2018.
 - The LA has supported Fernwood Academy to secure a successful bid for expansion capital funding to add 3 additional forms of entry from September 2020.

3.4 Further options for additional capacity are being identified and discussed. Where current capacity can be utilised without additional capital expenditure being required, good and outstanding schools have been encouraged to expand provision. If capital works are required, the Local Authority will explore with academies how this may be supported.

3.5 We are actively supporting a proposal for a new secondary school, which has been submitted as a direct bid to the DfE by the Archway Learning Trust. Crucial to the success of this bid is likely to be the ability of the LA to acquire a suitable site, which we are actively pursuing, in the hope then that the DfE will provide the capital to fund the construction of a new school. The application for a new 8-form entry (1200 place) secondary school was submitted as part of the Wave 13 Free School application process. This would provide an ideal solution to meet most or all of the remaining basic need in the city.

3.6 The Archway Learning Trust has a strong track record of providing a high standard of education for pupils aged 3 to 19 through its five Nottingham schools, which are all Ofsted rated good or outstanding. We value the contribution they make to Nottingham's educational offer, working in collaboration with the LA and on closing the gap for disadvantaged pupils. They are highly committed to inclusion in terms of both their excellence in supporting mainstream pupils with SEN (particularly ASD) and also their policy on exclusions. They trialled the "no permanent exclusions policy pilot" between 2016/18, leading to no permanent exclusions across all of the Bluecoat schools. They have been at the forefront of leading the new LA Service Level Agreement to commit to reducing permanent exclusions across the city; to which all of their academies have signed up.

4 RISKS

(Risk to the CYPP, risk involved in undertaking the activity and risk involved in not undertaking the activity)

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None for the Partnership Board

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None for the Partnership Board

7 CLIENT GROUP

(Groups of children, young people or carers who are being discussed in the report)

Children and young people attending City settings and schools aged 4-19.

8 IMPACT ON EQUALITIES ISSUES

(A brief description on how many minority groups are being engaged in the proposal and how their needs are being met: This section includes traveller and refugee families. The themes of the Shadow Boards – children and young people; parents and carers; equalities issues and the voluntary and community sector should be considered here.)

All city pupils are affected.

9 OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES AFFECTED
(Briefly state which of the CYPP priorities will be addressed)

Supporting achievement and attainment of children and young people.

10 CONTACT DETAILS

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