

# **North Somerset Council**

## **REPORT TO THE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY & SCRUTINY PANEL**

**DATE OF MEETING: THURSDAY 24 JANUARY 2019**

**SUBJECT OF REPORT: EDUCATION COMMISSIONING STRATEGY – REVIEW OF ACTIONS FROM THE 2015-18 STRATEGY**

**TOWN OR PARISH: ALL**

**OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: SHEILA SMITH, DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES**

**KEY DECISION: NO**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

To receive and comment on the outcomes of the Education Provision in North Somerset ~ A Commissioning Strategy 2015 - 2018

#### **1. SUMMARY OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The Education Provision in North Somerset ~ A Commissioning Strategy is the Council's Education Delivery Plan. It sets out how the Council will work with existing and new partners to commission and deliver the right numbers of school and pre-school places in the right locations to meet Basic Need. This report reviews and provides a summary update of the actions recommended in the plan during the period 2015 – 2018.
- 1.2 The latest Education Provision in North Somerset ~ A Commissioning Strategy 2018 – 2021 was approved by the Executive on 4 September 2018 and is available for review at <http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Education-Provision-in-North-Somerset-a-commissioning-strategy.pdf>

#### **2. POLICY**

- 1.2 Whilst there is no statutory duty on Council's to consult and publish their pupil place strategies, the Education Provision in North Somerset – A Commissioning Strategy ~ 2015 – 2018 was produced and approved following consultation to enable the needs

of the district to be strategically planned. The Council aspires to meet the school and pre-school place needs and to act in the interest of local children and young people.

### 3. DETAILS

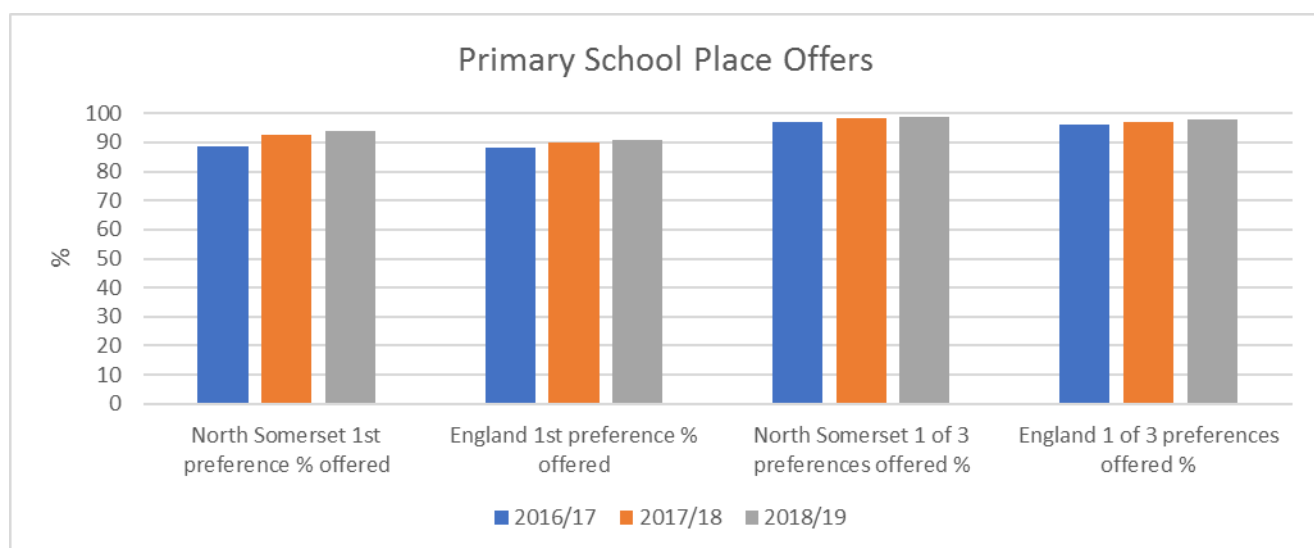
- 3.1 During the period 2015 – 2018 there were sufficient numbers of school places for all children that required a mainstream primary or secondary school place.

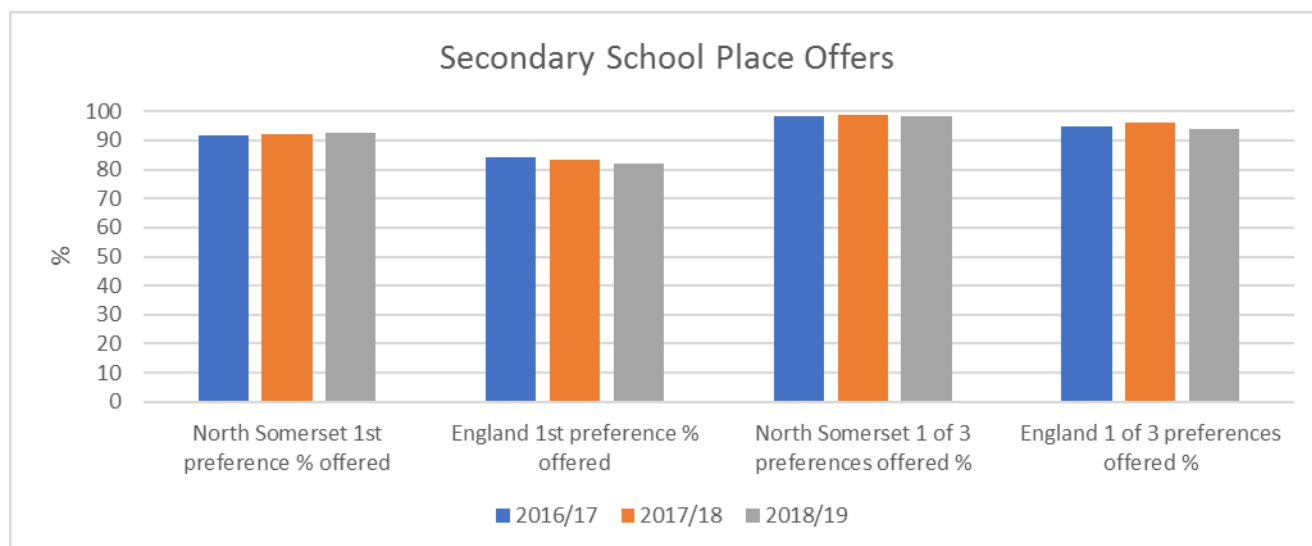
There were also sufficient numbers of early years places for all those requiring pre-school provision.

- 3.2 The numbers of pupils securing a preference school place on National Offer Day during the period were as follows:

	North Somerset 1 <sup>st</sup> preference		North Somerset one of preferred preferences %		England benchmark – 1 <sup>st</sup> preference %		England benchmark – one of 3 preferences %	
	%							
Year	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
2016/17	88.6	91.8	96.9	98.4	88.4	84.1	96.3	95
2017/18	92.8	92.3	98.5	98.6	90	83.5	97.2	96.1
2018/19	93.9	92.7	98.7	98.4	91	82.1	97.7	93.8

Source: [DfE Statistics: School Applications](#)





- 3.3 As at January 2015, of the 75 schools in North Somerset, 14 were academies. By September 2018 there are 78 schools, 56 of which are academies.
- 3.4 The strategy listed the actions to be progressed within each school place planning cluster area. The actions and overall success measure for each of these projects is listed below:

<b>Backwell Cluster</b>				
<b>Action</b>		<b>Deadline for delivery</b>	<b>Success measure</b>	<b>Overall outcome</b>
1	In response to demand for primary places in and around Long Ashton, to increase the physical capacity of Flax Bourton C of E Primary School to enable the school to accommodate a breach class from September 2015	September 2015	Up to 30 places to be available for new reception-aged pupils wishing to start at the school in the 2015/16 school year	Complete – extra places offered for September 2015
2	Formally double the size of Flax Bourton C of E Primary School from a 105 to a 210- place school	Extra places would be available from September 2016 onwards	The change in PAN* is in place formally from September 2019 (the year following the completion of	The expansion of the school is complete and a PAN* for 2019 of 30 places per cohort is in place. Up to 30 pupils have been admitted into

			expansion building works)	the reception classes from September 2016
3	Change the admission arrangements at Northleaze C of E Primary School to resolve an inequality in securing sibling places for Long Ashton residents where they don't attend their closest village school – Long Ashton is the only village with two primary schools	September 2016 admissions	Long Ashton children with siblings at the school would be treated equally regardless of whether or not Northleaze was their closest school	Admission changes made from the September 2016 new intake
4	Demand for extra primary places as a result of new developments in Yatton to be kept under review. A new school would need to include early years places	Dependant on the progress of new developments	New school competition is progressed if needed	Approval to run a competition for a 210-place primary school with a nursery class was granted on 5 April 2018. A sponsor should be announced in late January 2019
5	Demand for extra secondary places as a result of new developments in Yatton to be kept under review	Dependant on the progress of new developments	Measures to be progressed if demand shows a need	Review has shown places were not needed during this plan
6	Demand for extra primary and secondary places as a result of new developments in Backwell to be kept under review	Dependant on the progress of new developments	Measures to be progressed if demand shows a need	Review has shown places were not needed during this plan
7	Demand for extra primary and secondary places as a result of new developments in	Dependant on the progress of new developments	Measures to be progressed if demand shows a need	Review has shown places were not needed during this plan

	Long Ashton to be kept under review			
8	School partnership arrangements that could include schools joining MATs** are progressed	School-led timescales	Council facilitates a transfer to a MAT or supports the creation of a federation	<p>Backwell School, Backwell C of E Junior School, Northleaze C of E Primary and West Leigh Infant School all joined the Lighthouse Schools Partnership on 1 February 2018</p> <p>Yatton Infant and Yatton C of E Junior School joined the Lighthouse Schools Partnership on 1 March 2018</p> <p>Court de Wyck joined the Bath &amp; Wells Diocesan Academies Trust on 1 December 2015</p>

\* PAN – Planned Admission Number

\*\* MAT – Multi-Academy Trust

Churchill Cluster				
	Action	Deadline for delivery	Success measure	Overall outcome
1	A new sponsor to be found for Dundry C of E Primary School	By September 2015	A sponsor is found	The Dove Family Academy Trust sponsored the school from 1 September 2015. The school is now a member of the Midsomer Norton Partnership Trust
2	In response to demand for primary places in and around Winford, to increase the	By September 2016	The school can take extra pupils from September 2016	The expansion of the school is complete and a PAN of 30 places was in place

	physical capacity of Winford C of E Primary School from 140 to 210 places			from September 2016
3	Demand for extra primary places as a result of new developments in Sandford to be kept under review	Dependant on the progress of new developments	Measures to be progressed if demand shows a need	Review has shown places were not needed during the life of this plan
4	Demand for extra primary and secondary places as a result of new developments in Banwell to be kept under review	Dependant on the progress of new developments	Measures to be progressed if demand shows a need	Review has shown places were not needed during the life of this plan
5	School partnership arrangements that could include schools joining MATs** are progressed	School-led timescales	Council facilitates a transfer to a MAT or supports the creation of a federation	Burrington C of E Primary School federated with Wrington C of E Primary School in 2018

Clevedon Cluster				
	Action	Deadline for delivery	Success measure	Overall outcome
1	To refurbish and expand All Saints C of E Primary School	By September 2018	The school can remain open and expand from 117 to 140 places	Complete – extra places offered from September 2018
2	In response to increased pupil demand, expand St Nicholas Chantry C of E Primary School from a 315 to a 420-place school	By September 2015	The school can offer local places	Expansion was completed for September 2015 and the school's PAN has been increased to 60 places per cohort
3	To support a breach class at Yeo Moor Primary to support excess demand	By September 2016	All local pupils can be offered a new school	Complete – extra places were provided from September 2016

			place in Clevedon	
4	School partnership arrangements that could include schools joining MATs** are progressed	School-led timescales	Council facilitates a transfer to a MAT or supports the creation of a federation	<p>St John the Evangelist Primary School joined the Bath &amp; Wells Diocesan Academies Trust on 1 July 2016.</p> <p>Mary Elton Primary joined the Clevedon Learning Trust (CLT) on 1 April 2017. St Nicholas Chantry joined the CLT on 1 February 2018</p>

<b>Gordano/Pill Cluster</b>				
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Deadline for delivery</b>	<b>Success measure</b>	<b>Overall outcome</b>
1	In response to demand for primary places in Portishead, to increase the physical capacity of High Down Infant School to enable the school to accommodate a breach class from September 2015, and High Down Junior School to have a breach class from September 2018	By September 2015 and September 2018 respectively	Up to 30 extra places to be available for new reception-aged pupils wishing to start at the school in the 2015/16 school year and 60 places at the junior school when two breaches in admission in YR are of junior school age	Complete – extra places offered for September 2015 and 2018 and the two schools were able to accommodate the 3 breach classes
2	To work with Gordano School to increase its admission level to meet future demand for places	By 2017 or when demand dictates. (Demand exceeded previous supply from	The school can offer local places	Expansion was completed for September 2018 and the academy's PAN has been increased to 336

		September 2018)		
3	To change the First Geographical Area (FGA) of St Katherine's School to include Portbury and nearby villages	By September 2017	The FGA was amended for September 2017 admissions	Complete
4	School partnership arrangements that could include schools joining MATs** are progressed	School-led timescales	Council facilitates a transfer to a MAT or supports the creation of a federation	<p>Trinity Anglican Methodist Primary School joined the Bath &amp; Wells Diocesan Academies Trust on 1 March 2016</p> <p>Crockerne C of E Primary and St Katherine's Secondary Schools joined the Inspirational Future's Trust on 1 June and 1 September 2016. St Katherine's Secondary joined the Cathedral Schools Trust on 1 January 2019.</p> <p>High Down Infant and Junior Schools, Portishead Primary, St Mary's C of E Primary and St Peter's C of E Primary joined the Lighthouse Schools Partnership on 1 March 2018</p>

Nailsea Cluster				
	Action	Deadline for delivery	Success measure	Overall outcome
1	To progress accommodation changes at Hannah More Infant and	By December 2015	The schools can operate as a primary school	Complete in 2015

	Grove Junior Schools to support their federation and enable the schools to work more closely together			
2	To review the capacities of primary schools in Nailsea to better match local demand	Ongoing	The schools do not have excessive surplus places	Hannah More and Grove Schools have phased a reduction in their intakes and now support up to 420 pupils across the two school sites
3	Demand for extra primary and secondary places as a result of new developments in Nailsea to be kept under review	Dependant on the progress of new developments	Measures to be progressed if demand shows a need	Review has shown places were not needed during the life of this plan
4	School partnership arrangements that could include schools joining MATs** are progressed	School-led timescales	Council facilitates a transfer to a MAT or supports the creation of a federation	Hannah More Infant and Grove Junior Schools joined the Lighthouse Schools Partnership on 1 March 2018

Weston Cluster				
	Action	Deadline for delivery	Success measure	Overall outcome
1	In response to demand for primary places, deliver a new 420-place primary with pre-school ~ Haywood Village Primary~ to meet the needs of this new development	By September 2016	New school opens in September 2016	Complete – school opened in 2016 and had 130 pupils on roll by July 2018
2	Assist the governors and senior leaders of St	Ongoing	The school can offer local places	The school had 311 pupils on roll across the two sites with 122 years

	Anne's C of E Primary School to grow their school community over 2 school sites		across its two sites	R – 3 pupils at the West Wick and 189 years R – 6 pupils attending its Hewish site by July 2018
3	Upgrade and remodel Mendip Green Primary School to enable it to offer appropriate classrooms and group spaces for its 630 pupils plus learning hub and a 2017/18 breach class (22 + hub in 2017/18)	By September 2016	The school will have appropriate facilities to accommodate 22 classes in 2017	Complete – the school was able to accommodate all pupils as the final phase of its transition from a first to a primary school
4	Create breach classes to meet interim demand	As required	Sufficient new school places for pupils starting school for the first time	No breach classes were needed
5	Create a 2-year old provision at Becket primary School to meet early years demand	By September 2016	New places will be available for 2- year-olds following a remodelling of the site and the completion of a statutory process	Complete for September 2016
6	To keep under review the demand for extra secondary places as a result of new developments	Ongoing and by September 2018	There are sufficient places in Weston to meet local demand	An expansion of Priory Community School ~ An Academy Trust from 1200 to 1500 places was completed by September 2018. There was sufficient capacity for all local applicants
7	To progress plans to seek a sponsor for a 2 <sup>nd</sup> new primary school in Weston super	By 2016/17, depending on demand	A sponsor is identified by January 2016	Educate Together were approved as the sponsor for the new school in January 2016. Parklands Educate Together Primary

	Mare (Locking Parklands)			opened in September 2018. There are currently 20 pupils attending the school
8	To replace 5 class bases and refurbish the remaining 2 at Hutton Primary School	By September 2017	The redundant temporary accommodation is removed, and new provision secured	The new and refurbished buildings were available from September 2017
9	To support the creation of the North Somerset Enterprise Technology College (NSETC) with a £3.7m contribution towards its build and fixtures and fittings costs	By September 2015	The new school opens and through a phased opening, is available to years 10 – 13 pupils	Complete
10	School partnership arrangements that could include schools joining MATs** are progressed	School-led timescales	Council facilitates a transfer to a MAT or supports the creation of a federation	<p>St George's Church Primary School joined the Bath &amp; Wells Diocesan Academies Trust on 1 September 2016</p> <p>The Extend Learning Academies Network (ELAN) was formed in October 2017. It consisted of Bournville, Locking, Milton Park, Oldmixon, Walliscote and Windwhistle Primary Schools. Mead Vale Primary joined this Trust on 1 February 2017.</p> <p>Heron's Moor Primary joined the Inspirational Future's Trust on 1 April</p>

				<p>2015. It joined the Cabot Learning Federation on 1 January 2019. The NSETC became part of Inspirational Future's Trust on 1 June 2015.</p> <p>The Kaleidoscope MAT was formed on 1 September 2017. It comprises of Ashcombe, Becket, Christchurch C of E, St Martin's C of E and Worle Village Primary Schools. Hutton C of E joined this trust on a September 2018.</p> <p>Worle Community School joined the Priory Learning Trust on 1 March 2017. It was joined by Castle Batch and St Anne's C of E Primary Schools in April 2018.</p>
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Catholic Cluster				
	Action	Deadline for delivery	Success measure	Overall outcome
1	Work with the Diocese of Clifton to review Catholic provision in Weston super Mare to meet demand	Dependant on demand	There are sufficient school places to meet the needs of the Catholic community	There are sufficient places for the Catholic community

3.4 The Council's review of Specialist and Alternative Provision commenced in the autumn 2017. The review looked at the Council's:

- Specialist Provision – referred to educational placements made via an Education Health & Care Plan (previously a Statement of Special Educational Need) at an establishment which is not a mainstream primary or secondary school. This included special schools operated by the Local Authority and provision purchased directly from other education providers.
- Alternative Provision – referred to education provided when children are otherwise out of school. This included pupil referral units, hospital school or other forms of provision accessed via the local authority or directly by schools to deliver the statutory duty to provide education for such pupils.

The review carefully considered the specific needs of these groups of pupils, noting that for many students their specialist environments can be local but may also be outside of North Somerset. The review centred on the view that children and young people's needs are almost invariably best met by provision which is close to their home and part of their wider community.

The review has been an ambitious and is an ongoing piece of work which provided a clear audit of the provision in use at present – including pupil and parents' experiences and perspectives of what works well.

The review is ongoing and will continue to:

- consider the potential future need for such provision, based on robust population projections and evidence of need generated by new housing developments and changes in pupil needs;
- look at the nature and type of facilities which may be required to meet the changing needs of these cohorts, considering the spaces and locations which would best provide for these;
- work to develop and agree a final strategic option for assuring access to high quality, local provision which supports a range of needs as locally as possible.

The Education Provision in North Somerset ~ A Commissioning Strategy 2018 – 2021 has 18 actions that includes the relocation of parts of Baytree School to provide new facilities for existing and future pupils with Severe and Profound Learning Difficulties; the submission of a bid in October 2018 for a new Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) School (outcome expected in January/February 2019); support for foundation- stage education on the Westhaven Special School site; the creation of two forms of Hubs attached to mainstream schools to support pupils with Autism and those with complex behavioural needs, and the creation of extra places for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties. It also highlights and supports a successful outcome to the currently live review of SEND revenue Top-Up Funding.

The Specialist and Alternative Provision Review undertaken during the 2015 – 2018 strategy period is informing the actions from September 2018 onwards of the latest strategy to create local places for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) where practically and financially possible.

3.5 In May 2018 the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) was visited by Ofsted as part of a Local Joint Area Review (LJAR). The findings of the review mirrored the Council's self-evaluation and actions are already underway to address

issues raised in terms of capacity, strategic planning, co-commissioning and co-production. Further details can be found at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/north-somerset> A LJAR Action Plan will be published by 15 October 2018. At the end of the SEND and Alternative Provision (AP) Review, expected around Spring 2019, the Council will be better-placed to support further developments of specialist and alternative provision in North Somerset, and to work closely with partners and parents/carers to deliver on its commissioning of places strategy for this specialist form of provision.

Some of North Somerset's Special Schools had considered joining the Inspirational Future's Trust. The Council had agreed to work with the Inspiration Futures Trust to submit a Free School bid for a replacement Baytree Special School. Baytree Special School was to convert to academy status. The Trust is being disbanded but the need for an expanded Baytree Special School is now critical. The Council will need to cover cost of the expansion to meet the demand for existing and new pupils with the most complex of needs. This new provision, that will provide fit for purpose facilities for new pupils and help, over time, to reduce the need for expensive 'out of district' placements will need to be funded locally now that the opportunity for alternative government assistance is no longer available. The current Baytree Special School site will be retained and used to provide the extra places needed for pupils with more moderate learning needs, helping to meet the demand from North Somerset's growing population.

3.6 The Early Years Team produces and publishes an annual sufficiency report identifying any gaps in sufficiency to meet the Councils' statutory responsibilities. It works with schools and current and new Early Years providers, seeking solutions to ensure there is sufficient, high quality Early Years provision to meet demand. During 2015 – 2018:

- There has been no significant change in the overall supply of childcare across North Somerset. There had been some movement in terms of the opening and closure of some Early Years provisions, with no complaints around any lack of childcare places.
- There has been an increase in the number of school nursery classes as a direct result of this commissioning strategy.
- There has been a significant decrease in the number of childminders.
- The numbers of nurseries and preschools has remained consistent.

3.7 In 2018 the government funded childcare offer, dependent on eligibility, included;

- 15 hours of funded childcare per week for approximately 40% of 2-year olds
- 15 hours of funded childcare per week for all 3 and 4-year olds
- An additional 15 hours per week for 3 and 4-year olds with working parents, taking the entitlement up to 30 hours per week for many children.

The large majority of providers across North Somerset have agreed to the offer the Government's 30 hours of funded childcare. This includes nurseries, childminders, preschools, out of school and holiday club providers. At any one time not every provider will have children funded for the full 30 hours. Parents may choose to split the 30 hours between two different providers which demonstrates local willingness to work in partnership with the Local Authority and other establishments. Many

providers have extended their services, hours and sessions to accommodate the 30 hours demand.

- 3.8 In North Somerset in 2018 over 79% of 2 years olds eligible for 2-year-old funding took up the offer. This compared with 72% nationally. 97% of 3 and 4-year olds accessed their 15 hours of funded childcare compared with 94% nationally.
- 3.9 In 2017 the Early Years Team made a successful bid to the Department for Education under its Delivery Support Fund (DSF) to support an increase in the number of places available for the 30 hours, 3 and 4-year old offer and to encourage parents to benefit from this provision. This included developing a marketing strategy and providing more places for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Minor capital works at Castle Batch Children's Centre enabled Springboard Opportunity Playgroup to offer an additional 12 places with a focus on children with autistic tendencies. The DSF enabled an innovative SEND childminder development project, resulting in supporting a group of specially trained childminders by April 2018.
- 3.10 An announcement was also made on 3 January 2017 in relation to Early Years funding where the following North Somerset projects were allocated funding at 75% of the cost of delivery:
- Birdwell Primary School – a c £450k project delivering 26 30-hour places
  - Rydal Day Nursery – a c£180k project delivering 26 30-hour places
  - North Somerset pre-school at St Anne's C of E Primary School West Wick – a c£775k project delivering 26 30-hour places

All projects were delivered by September 2017.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 The Education Provision in North Somerset ~ Commissioning Strategies are shared with the Children & Young Peoples Services (CYPS) Policy & Scrutiny School Organisation Task and Finish Groups, internal officer groups and the following external bodies prior to public consultation:
- Secondary Heads of North Somerset (SHINS)
  - Primary Heads of North Somerset (PHANS)
  - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Group (SENDS)
  - Education Excellence Partnership Board (EEPB)

Once reviewed, an updated draft Education Provision in North Somerset – A Commissioning Strategy is published on e.consult and made available to the following groups:

- Schools/Partners/Governors (including parent governors)
- Members via the CYPS Policy and Scrutiny Panel and members Briefing Sheet
- Strategic Schools Forum
- Primary Heads' Association of North Somerset/Secondary Heads in North Somerset/ Heads' Association of North Somerset/Special Heads of North Somerset/School Cluster Groups

- The Education Excellence Partnership Board
- Heads and Chairs Briefing Forum
- Governors Association of North Somerset (GANS)
- Regional Schools' Commissioner
- Council's Corporate Management Team
- D&E Directorate's SLT
- Diocese of Bath and Wells, Diocese of Clifton and the Methodist Group
- Academy Partners via their MAT Trust Boards
- Early Years Partners
- Springboard
- Local Further and Higher Education Partners
- All members of the public and other stakeholders via e.consult
- Town and Parish Councils

When forming the 2015 – 2018 strategy, public information events were advertised for schools, governors and other stakeholders to attend.

- 4.2 The Education Provision in North Somerset ~ A Commissioning Strategy 2015 – 2018 was approved for use by the Executive Member for Children & Young People's Services on 25 August 2015.
- 4.3 Following the end of the strategy period, the outcomes are submitted for review to this Panel. The same consultation process has been followed for the 2018-2021 strategy which was adopted in September 2018.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 All capital expenditure resulting from this plan were subject to approval in accordance with the appropriate Financial Regulations.

### **Costs**

- 5.2 There are no direct financial implications as a result of the creation of the plan.

### **Funding**

- 5.3 The delivery of new school places is dependent on the provision of sufficient land and capital allocations appropriate to new place needs. Securing new school sites of sufficient size for a proposed new school and clear of physical constraints is complex.
- 5.4 The capital funds needed to progress all schemes contained within the commissioning strategy are not always in place. Officers continue to work to secure capital allocations from developers and through external funding sources as available.
- 5.5 Capital allocations come to the Council from a range of sources including: Basic Need; Targeted Basic Need; s106 contributions/Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Free School Bids. The Department for Education (DfE) may also allocate bespoke funding for priority areas as national priorities dictate.

- 5.6 Basic Need Capital Allocations between 2011/12 – 2019/20 have totalled £63,268,316. The Council has reported £47,450,271 of spend with £15,818.145 of funding remaining. During the period 2016 – 2019 there is an expectation the Council will provide 1,506 primary and 1,531 secondary new school places. The Council has delivered 1,498 primary and 480 secondary places to date. The basic need allocation for 2020/21 is £0.

## **6. LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 sets out how Local Authorities should exercise their statutory duties to secure primary and secondary education to meet the needs of the population in their area. The Education and Inspection Act 2006 enhanced the role of Local Authorities, making them strategic commissioners of services with a mandate to promote high standards for all and greater choice and diversity.
- 6.2 The Education Act (EA) 1996 Section 14A, added by Section 3 of Education and Inspections Act (EIA) 2006 requires Local authorities to consider and respond appropriately to parental representations about school provision in relation to local authorities' functions under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996. Local Authorities must reasonably consider parental representations regarding the provision of schools and respond accordingly, including outlining any proposed action or, where it is considered action is not needed, to explain the reasons for this.
- 6.3 The Education Act 2011 maintains the role of Local Authorities as the strategic commissioner of services but provides greater autonomy of education provision by the encouragement of the establishment of academies, free schools, studio schools and Enterprise Colleges that are independent of the Local Authority. The Act gives Local Authorities '*a critical new role as strengthened champions of choice, securing a wide range of education options for parents and families, ensuring there are sufficient high-quality school places, co-ordinating fair admissions, promoting social justice by supporting vulnerable children, and challenging schools which fail to improve.*'
- 6.4 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 Sections 6A, 7, 9, 10 and 11, amended by Education Act 2011 section 37 and the secondary legislation - The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 provides guidance on the statutory process local authorities must follow when considering inviting proposals / considering proposals to establish new schools. This legislation requires local authorities to give precedence to academy proposals when they consider there is a need for a new school in their area.
- 6.5 The Childcare Act 2016, section 2 allows the Secretary of State for Education to discharge his duty to secure free childcare for qualifying pupils on English local authorities. A failure to provide pre-school places means the Council would be in breach of this duty.
- 6.6 There is a current Government expectation that within the schools' system, academy status will become the norm, although a requirement for all schools to become an academy is no longer being progressed. Where there is a need for a new school, the first choice will be a new academy or free school.

## **7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 There was no requirement to produce a strategic school place delivery plan between the period 2015 - 2018. It is important, however, that the strategic plans and commissioning strategies the Council wishes to pursue in relation to its education provision planning should be shared with schools and other partners. By consulting on proposed strategies, the risk of not providing the right forms of education in the future was mitigated.
- 7.2 In expanding schools, the Council must be mindful not to compromise the facilities available to pupils prior to the expansion. This is to ensure that the accommodation available to pupils is not unduly affected and that infrastructure upgrades such as utilities and adequate group spaces are appropriate to the future needs of the school after development. Such changes require significant capital resources. All of the projects delivered between 2015 – 2018 considered the needs of existing and new pupils. This meant that in some cases the cost of changes per pupil for new provision exceeded the national benchmarking average costs.
- 7.3 There was a risk that the capital funds needed to progress all the schemes contained within the commissioning strategy would not be found. Officers worked to secure capital allocations from developers and through external funding sources as available to ensure that places were provided to meet the district's needs.

## **8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

[Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? Yes/No] No

- 8.1 The strategies within the Education Provision in North Somerset ~ A Commissioning Strategy 2015 – 2018 document considered the need within North Somerset to providing genuine learning experiences for **all** children and young people 0 – 25 (pre-schools; schools/academies/post-16/vulnerable learners).

Individual EIAs are undertaken for projects at the time of implementation.

## **9. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The Education Provision in North Somerset ~ A Commissioning Strategy 2015 – 2018 was the People and Communities policy base for schools and pre-school strategic place decisions. The Council has a duty to undertake a review of provision to ensure that the best possible long-term educational outcomes can be achieved for children and young people and that local resources are used effectively across the whole district.

## **10. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 10.1 To not have plan and rely on meeting reactive needs across the district.

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Education Provision in North Somerset ~ A Commissioning Strategy 2015 – 2018 – see <http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/education-commissioning-strategy.pdf>