

Report subject	St Aldhelm's - Capital Investment to Maintain Capacity
Meeting date	13 January 2020
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>St Aldhelm's Secondary Academy in Poole has a Published Admissions Number (PAN) of 180 pupils, this being the number of pupils that can be admitted into each year group. Until recent years this number was not fully utilised, and the school had unfilled places. However, the school is now filling to capacity. In addition, forecasts show pressure on Secondary School places in BCP over the short to medium term.</p> <p>Following a significant investment in the school infrastructure by the Department for Education (DfE) to support a change of Academy sponsor and to drive improvement, the school buildings are fit for purpose but will not support 180 pupils in all year groups.</p> <p>Delegated Powers were used to agree an investment of £390k in May 2020 that enabled additional capacity to be created to allow 180 pupils to be admitted in September 2020.</p> <p>A further investment of £610k is now required to allow the PAN of 180 to be maintained permanently. This can be funded from existing DfE Basic Needs capital grant. Cabinet were presented with an initial cost range for this of £460k to £610k at the May 2020 meeting; this report further refines this budget and provides up-to-date evidence supporting the Basic Need requirement for these places.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>Cabinet approve the allocation of £610k of Basic Need capital grant to support the delivery of five additional classrooms and ancillary spaces at St Aldhelm's Academy to allow the school to continue to admit 180 pupils per year.</p>
Reason for recommendations	To enable the creation of additional capacity to reflect demand for places at the school and to ensure the council can meet its requirement to provide sufficient mainstream secondary places for BCP children and young people.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Nicola Greene, Portfolio Holder for Covid

	Resilience, Schools and Skills
Corporate Director	Elaine Redding - Interim Corporate Director Children's Services
Report Authors	Neil Goddard; Service Director, Quality and Commissioning
Wards	All
Classification	For Update and Decision

Background

1. Ambitions Academy Trust has been successful in supporting St Aldhelm's Academy to achieve an Ofsted "Good" rating which was awarded in 2016. Alongside this, the popularity of the school has increased. Although numbers remain low in the upper school, admission numbers have increased in the last 3 years.
2. As the overall numbers increase the lack of teaching spaces has become evident and is now unsustainable at the current admissions number of 180. An up-to-date Net Capacity Assessment (NCA) of the school shows that the school has available workplaces to accommodate between 723 and 804 full-time pupils, whereas in order to operate a PAN of 180 in all year groups a capacity of 900 is required.
3. The Trust, as the admissions authority for the school, have confirmed that without capital works to expand the school, they will have to pursue a reduction to their admission number for September 2021 to 120 a reduction of 60 places.
4. By September 2021 there is forecast to be pressure on secondary school places across the BCP area. The BCP school place planning strategy response to this is based on the delivery a new Free School, Livingstone Academy, for September 2021, which will provide an additional 5 Forms of Entry (FE). This will create the capacity required within the area and offer parents a choice of provision.
5. However, this is based on all existing schools maintaining their admission numbers. Any reduction, such as that which would be required at St Aldhelm's, would further increase pressure and require the identification of new or expanded provision elsewhere.
6. This pressure on places is forecast to continue for at least 3 years until academic year 2024/25. Beyond this, numbers are forecast to reduce slightly and settle at a level which continues to support the proposed places.

Investment in St Aldhelm's

7. Delegated Powers were used to agree an investment of £390k at St Aldhelm's to allow the admission number of 180 to continue to be offered in September 2020. At this time the potential need for further investment to deliver a permanent increase was identified, dependent on feasibility work with the Trust. Cabinet had been presented with an initial cost range of £460k to £610k at the May 2020 meeting.
8. The feasibility work has now been completed and the work to deliver a permanent maintenance of admission number at the school has been agreed. The value of this work is £610k including an appropriate level of contingency. This can be funded from existing DfE Basic Needs Capital allocation, which is provided to ensure sufficiency of school places.
9. The school occupies a very constrained site and the opportunity for development is limited. In recognition of this, the proposed scheme will provide additional accommodation through the installation of a modular block providing a further 5 classrooms with ancillary spaces as follows:
 - a) 5 classrooms
 - b) Small office
 - c) Toilet block
 - d) Stair well
 - e) Entrance foyer and access
10. The project will need to be completed by September 2021 to ensure places are available for the new year 7. This time pressure is a risk to the project, but this has been factored into the feasibility work that has been undertaken and the overall cost of the scheme.

Summary of financial implications

11. The capital resources required to deliver this project can be released from existing allocations of DfE Basic Needs Grant. The scheme will be delivered in partnership with the Academy Trust using existing project management resources.
12. The revenue implications of providing school places are met through the Dedicated Schools Grant and so will not impact on the Council's revenue budget.
13. Should these places not be provided pupils may need to be redirected to other schools in BCP. The closest schools that are anticipated to have surplus capacity are Oak Academy and Carter Community School, which may result in additional transportation costs to the council for eligible children.

Summary of legal implications

14. Councils have a statutory duty to ensure that there is a school place available for every child. The Children and Families Act 2014 requires councils to keep the provision for children and young people with SEN and disabilities under review (including its sufficiency).
15. Councils have a statutory duty to make transport arrangements for all eligible children including for all children who cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school because of their mobility problems or because of associated health and safety issues related to their special educational needs (SEN) or disability.

Summary of human resources implications

16. None

Summary of sustainability impact

17. Through ensuring additional appropriate provision is available to meet needs closer to where children and young people live there will be a reduction in the distances travelled to get to school and an increase in the numbers being educated within their own communities.

Summary of public health implications

18. None

Summary of equality implications

19. The proposed projects will enable appropriate provision is available to meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. An assessment of equality impacts will be carried out for each project.

Background papers

20. NA

Appendices

Appendix A - Place Planning Summary

Appendix A

The number of surplus (green) and deficit (orange) Y7 places to the nearest half FE* by planning area

Current forecast - low growth

Secondary planning area	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Central Poole	0 FE	1 FE	-3 FE	-2 FE	-3.5 FE	3 FE	1 FE	1.5 FE	1.5 FE	2.5 FE	3 FE
North West Poole	1 FE	1 FE	1 FE	1 FE	1 FE	1 FE	1 FE	1 FE	1 FE	1 FE	1 FE
Bournemouth	8 FE	6.5 FE	7 FE	3 FE	5 FE	4 FE	6 FE	6 FE	6.5 FE	8 FE	12.5 FE
Christchurch	0 FE	0.5 FE	0 FE	-1.5 FE	-1.5 FE	-1.5 FE	0.5 FE	0.5 FE	0.5 FE	2 FE	1.5 FE
Parkfield	0.5 FE	0.5 FE	1 FE	0 FE	0 FE	1.5 FE	2 FE	2 FE	1.5 FE	1.5 FE	1.5 FE
BCP OVERALL	9.5 FE	9.5 FE	6 FE	0.5 FE	1 FE	7.5 FE	10 FE	11.5 FE	10 FE	15 FE	20 FE

High growth scenario

Secondary planning area	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2028/30
BCP OVERALL	9.5 FE	4.5 FE	0.5 FE	-4.5 FE	-4 FE	2.5 FE	4.5 FE	6 FE	4.5 FE	9.5 FE	15 FE

Note totals for BCP may not match totals for planning zones exactly due to rounding. *1FE (1 form of entry) = 30 places
These levels of surplus are in addition to the 2% spare capacity required within the system