
**Manchester City Council
Report for Resolution**

Report to: Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee - 5 September 2017

Subject: School Place Planning and Admissions

Report of: Interim Director of Education

Summary

This report provides an update on school place allocations for the intake of reception and year 7 pupils in 2017/18 academic year. The report also outlines the future need for additional places and the approach to securing them.

Recommendations

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee are asked to:

1. Note the data relating to September 2017 admissions
 2. Note the pupil forecasts submitted to the DfE during summer 2017
 3. Note the response to securing sufficient places across the school system
 4. Comment on the contents of the report
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Wards Affected: All

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

1. Report to Executive – 6 October 2015
2. Report to Young People and Children Scrutiny Committee – 29 September 2015
3. Report to Young People and Children Scrutiny Committee – 26 May 2015
4. Report to Young People and Children Scrutiny Committee – 13 January 2015
5. Report to Young People and Children’s Scrutiny Committee – 8 July 2014
6. Report to Young People and Children’s Scrutiny Committee - 8 January 2013
7. Report to Executive 16 January 2013 - School Organisation and Capital Investment Strategy
8. Report to Young People and Children’s Scrutiny Committee – 21 May 2013
9. Report to Executive Committee – 29 May 2013
10. Report to Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 6 September 2016

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1. The Manchester Strategy 2016 “Our Manchester” provides the following key commitments to children and young people:
- Ensure that all children and young people have access to high quality learning, suited to their individual needs. All children should attend and be ready to learn and have the opportunities to develop skills, knowledge and abilities. It is our ambition that all schools in Manchester are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted.
 - Celebrate the diversity and talent of Manchester’s children and young people. We value the range of backgrounds, heritage, and experiences of our children and young people and will strive to ensure that this is recognised and that they are supported to achieve their aspirations, however diverse.
 - Ensure that all children and young people are prepared for life and citizenship and have the necessary skills for employment. To support this priority we will ensure that young people from disadvantaged backgrounds have opportunities for training and employment.
 - Build children and young people’s confidence, resilience, social skills, communication skills and social capital to support success from the earliest years of a child’s life.
- 1.2. Ensuring that residents have access to high quality schools within their local area is central to achieving this strategy. Achieving a sufficiency of high quality school places to meet need continues to require considerable investment, strategic planning and partnership with schools and school providers across the City, as the primary, secondary and special school pupil populations continue to increase year on year and, increasingly, throughout each year.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 This report has been prepared to provide an update on the progress to date in meeting the demand on school places since the last report submitted in September 2016.

3.0 School Admission Applications 2017/18

- 3.1 7151 applications have been received for the cohort of children who started primary school in September 2017 and it is expected that further children requiring a school place will arrive during the academic year
- 3.2 All children who applied for a reception place for September 2017 before the end of the summer term have received an offer of a place, with 89% being allocated a place at their 1st preference school on national offer day.
- 3.3 Applications for a 2017 year 7 secondary place in Manchester peaked at 7280 during the summer term with further demand anticipated throughout the year as families continue to arrive in the city. At the time of writing this report all

children who applied for a year 7 place have received an offer with 75% being allocated a place at their 1st preference school on national offer day.

- 3.4 Manchester's statistics for both national offer days are published on the Council's website and are attached as an appendix to this report.
- 3.5 For families applying for a place for children in all other year groups, outside of the normal admissions rounds for reception and year 7, the number of applications received continues to increase. There were over 13,141 in-year applications received throughout the 2016/17 academic year with 4,079 of those being from new arrivals to the city. As in previous years, a significant number of applications are anticipated from new arrivals over summer 2017 who will require a school place in the coming academic year.

4.0 School Population Forecast

- 4.1 Manchester's population has continued to grow to well over 500,000 people and is expected to continue, making Manchester the fastest growing city in the UK. If the City's economic growth is to be sustained over the next ten to fifteen years then new employment opportunities will need to be balanced with the provision of more new homes in the City to support this population growth. Ensuring a sufficient supply of high quality school places is a critical component of the Council's work in improving outcomes for Manchester residents and delivering the ambitions outlined in Our Manchester.
- 4.2 The range of factors which have given rise to the recent increased demand for school places is extensive and complex. It includes increased birth rate, migration to and movement around the City, the impact of welfare reforms, new housing developments, tenure change, and changing patterns of parental preference for schools, restrictions on the supply of school places outside the City, changing economic circumstances and successful regeneration.
- 4.3 The City Council has an extensive and ambitious regeneration agenda, a crucial element of which is major housing development. Accurately assessing pupil numbers arising from new housing is an important aspect of pupil number forecasting. Getting this right will help school planning complement and drive regeneration activity rather than responding to it.
- 4.4 New housing is not the only factor which gives rise to an increase in the demand for school places. The way in which the existing housing stock is being used is a more significant contributory factor but is also more difficult to predict. Levels of housing occupation vary making it challenging to predict future saturation levels.
- 4.5 The school census (PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census) is a statutory data return to the Department for Education which takes place during the autumn, spring, and summer terms and collects information about individual pupils. The annual school census completed in January 2017 showed 73,406 pupils attending Manchester Schools compared to 71,000

pupils in January 2016 – this snapshot shows growth of 2,406 pupils across the mainstream primary and secondary phases within a year.

- 4.6 Although the total number of children on PLASC continues to grow each academic year, the rate of growth has reduced slightly from 4.19% between January 2015 and 2016 to 3.38% between January 2016 and 2017. The impact of growth fluctuations on forecasts for future academic years is described in point 4.8.
- 4.7 As part of the annual School Capacity survey (SCAP) the Department for Education (DfE) requires that local authorities provide full academic year projections of the overall capacity required within the school system. The forecast data provided in the table below demonstrates the larger primary cohorts which have been presenting at Manchester schools in recent years and are now working their way through to the secondary sector.

Forecast	Y0	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Sep-17	7343	7274	7400	7308	7177	6948	6803
Sep-18	7526	7512	7460	7580	7479	7343	7081
Sep-19	7713	7694	7697	7640	7751	7645	7476

Forecast	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
Sep-17	6397	5555	5406	5092	4801
Sep-18	6795	6519	5673	5501	5121
Sep-19	7151	6916	6632	5767	5526

- 4.8 The projections submitted for SCAP 2017 represent a slight reduction from 2016 figures. The reason for this is a reduction in the PLASC numbers recorded in January 2017 compared to projections meaning a lower starting point for forecasts and, fewer reception children reaching October census. During the academic year and by the May census point, the number of children on roll at a Manchester school had increased from the January count. Pupil numbers will be monitored over the 2017/18 academic year and projections updated for SCAP 2018 as required. Even with a reduction in submitted forecasts for 2017, there remains a significant basic need challenge to be addressed in future academic years.

5.0 Response to School Place Demand

- 5.1 In response to the increasing demand for primary places the Council continues to work with its partners to develop additional places in targeted areas, utilising capital funding (referred to as Basic Need funding) provided by the Government to the Council for this purpose, as well as through access to some additional sources of funding where possible and the development of free schools. A number of primary school expansions have recently been

completed or are due to complete during this academic year and will provide much needed additional capacity in areas of high demand.

School Name	Scheme Completion	Reception Places Created
Crossacres Primary Academy	Summer 2017	30 (Temps)
Peel Hall Primary School	Summer 2017	30 (Temps)
Ringway Primary School	Summer 2017	30 (Temps)
St James CofE Primary School Gorton	Summer 2017	30 (Temps)
St Margaret's CofE Primary School	Summer 2017	15 (Permanent)
	Total	135

5.2 As previously noted in this report, the larger primary cohorts are beginning to feed through to secondary schools. In response to this demand an additional 420 places were commissioned as planned during 2016 across existing secondary schools and through the opening a new secondary school, Manchester Enterprise Academy Central in Rusholme, which will admit its first year 7 cohort in September 2017. These additional places have been provided through the use of the Council's basic need allocation, and will be available to future pupil cohorts as they are phased in from 2017.

5.3 In addition to the 420 places created during 2016, further capacity totalling 120 year 7 places has been commissioned in readiness for 2017 to accommodate those applying late or arriving over summer and during the course of the academic year. The 120 places being made up of two 30 place bulge classes and one 60 place permanent expansion.

School Name	Scheme Completion	Y7 Places Created
Manchester Enterprise Academy Central	Summer 2017	30 (Bulge class)
Parrs Wood High School	Summer 2017	30 (Bulge class)
St Matthews RC High School	Summer 2017	60 (Permanent)
	Total	120

6.0 Planning for future demand

6.1 In planning for future demand, several factors need to be taken into account, including: capital funding availability (Basic Need Grant from Department for Education); possibility of additional resources for the City through DfE-funded free schools; the feasibility and desirability of expanding existing schools; the

availability of sites for new schools; the affordability and value for money of projects, including site acquisition, remediation and build costs; and the longer term role for schools at the heart of growth and reform in the City.

- 6.2 All of the Council’s Basic Need Grant for the period up to 2018/19 is already committed to the programme of expansions and new schools which is underway. For places needed from September 2019, £48m of Basic Need Grant has been allocated to Manchester with a further allocation for 2020/21 due to be announced in February 2018. Whilst this is a significant sum of money, it is important to note several important factors relating to the use of this funding,
- The DfE’s allocations of Basic Need Grant assume build costs that cannot be matched in practice in urban environments, due to the need to remediate and, in some cases, acquire land and the substantial additional costs associated with some projects relating to highways and other environmental issues.
 - The creation of new secondary school provision is complex, and often cannot be achieved by incremental expansion and growth of existing schools; the need for specialist accommodation and the funding needed to build a full school when funding is provided on an incremental basis.
 - Building cost inflation is substantial, and is not factored into DfE’s grant allocations.

- 6.3 The DfE, through its centrally funded Free Schools programme, provides additional funding for schools proposed by approved sponsors, with an emphasis on areas where places are needed. This has been a successful route for creating capacity in Manchester (with five primary free schools and one secondary special school now open), given the challenges in delivering all the required capacity in Manchester with the allocated grant funding, DfE-funded free schools will continue to be an important route for achieving additional places . In wave 11 of free school applications 4 sponsors received approval to establish schools in Manchester as follows:

School	Sponsor	Phase	Location	Places	Opening
Didsbury High School	Cheadle Hulme High School	Secondary 11-16	Didsbury West	210	2019/20
Eden Boys Leadership Academy	Tauheedul Education Trust	Secondary 11-16	Cheetham	120	2017/18
Eden Girls Leadership Academy	Tauheedul Education Trust	Secondary 11-16	Cheetham	120	2017/18
Pioneer House Special School	Piper Hill Learning Trust	Secondary 11-16 (SEN)	Northenden	100	2016/17

Gorton Primary School	SS Simon and Jude Church of England Academy Trust	Primary 4-11	Gorton	60	2018/19
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- 6.4 Further to the schools approved in wave 11 of the Free School process, the Council worked with academy trusts, already established within the city, to submit applications into wave 12 of the free school process to secure further high quality provision for 2018 onwards. Successful wave 12 applications were announced earlier this year with Manchester securing further free school capital investment as noted in the table below. The Council is working in close partnership with the DfE to secure delivery of approved free schools.

School	Sponsor	Phase	Location	Places	Opening
Chorlton High School 2	Chorlton High School	Secondary 11-16	Central / South	240	TBC
Dean Trust / UK Fast	The Dean Trust	Secondary 11-16	Central / South	240	TBC
Olive Primary School	Tauheedul Education Trust	Primary 4-11	Cheetham	90	TBC

- 6.5 In addition to those schools being delivered through the centrally funded free school programme, a new secondary school has been commissioned by the Council to meet anticipated basic need for places. In December 2016 Executive agreed that the Council should begin consulting to gather local views on the plans to develop a new secondary school in the city. Progress on the proposed development of this new secondary school for the City is detailed in another report to this Scrutiny Committee.
- 6.6 As mainstream cohorts have increased year-on-year, the number of children requiring alternative and special school provision has also increased. In recognition of this, the DfE launched a competition to secure additional special school capacity through the centrally funded free school presumption process and a site in north Manchester has been identified to develop new provision.
- 6.7 Organisations ranging from successful Multi-Academy Trusts to specialist charitable organisations can now apply to operate the school, setting out how they will be able to meet the specification for each project. Manchester's specification has been developed by the local authority, in conjunction with the Department for Education, to ensure it meets the needs of the local community and provides much needed places for SEND pupils.
- 6.8 Manchester was also successful in securing £2.4m of special school capital which will be invested into existing provision, to create additional special

school places, pending a review of the special school estate and the outcome of the wider strategic review of SEND services.

- 6.9 To secure additional capacity in the alternative provision sector – which provides education to those children who are at risk of or have been excluded - the Council has commissioned the refurbishment of the former Plymouth Grove Primary School building in Ardwick. Upon completion, the project will deliver an upgraded facility for children already attending primary phase alternative provision and create additional places to alleviate existing pressures on places of this type.
- 6.10 In order to secure sufficient capacity in both secondary and primary sectors over the coming years, it is also important that sites for new schools are identified and reserved as part of the Council's spatial planning processes alongside other types of development; this will be done on an ongoing basis.
- 6.11 Site availability and suitability in Manchester, particularly for secondary schools, is limited. Where sites are available, or expansions can be put in place, opportunities will be taken to create as many places as is practical: this will, in places, lead to larger schools. Whilst recognising that school size can play a part in the experience pupils have of school, good schools are able to create a personalised learning experience within small or large pupil cohorts; and with growing financial pressures on schools, there are efficiency benefits in operating at larger sizes to ensure that as much funding as possible is devoted to the teaching and learning experience of pupils. In general, larger projects are also more efficient in the capital spend required per place created.
- 6.12 Restrictions on the availability of sites for expansion and new schools will also impact on the travel to school patterns across the City. It is likely that, whilst it is always the strategic intent to provide schools in areas of the City local to their pupils, providing places for the City's growing population will see some pupils travelling further to school. The City's transport infrastructure will support this, and the Council will meet its statutory obligation to provide free travel to school (in Manchester, this is in the form of a travel pass) in accordance with the agreed policy.
- 6.13 The quality and nature of new provision in the City is of paramount importance. Under the umbrella of the Manchester Schools' Alliance, the City's headteachers work in strong partnership to deliver a cohesive school system of increasing quality and improving outcomes. To sustain this, the City Council's priority is to work with existing and future school providers in the City (within the maintained or academy sector) who are committed to the key principles set out by the Council in 2012 and who have a track record of providing good quality places. Where a new school is to be opened under the Free School Presumption process, the Council is able to recommend to the DfE its preferred provider, although the final decision rests with the DfE's Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC); where the DfE are funding Free Schools, the Secretary of State is again the decision maker. It is, however, important that the Council develops and sustains positive and robust relationships with providers in the City and neighbouring areas, including

securing their involvement in expansions and new school developments. This approach has been successful to date, with most recent expansions and new schools undertaken by such providers. The Council will continue to develop such partnerships to secure future provision in the City.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 In February 2017 the Department for Education notified the Council that it had been awarded £48m in Basic Need funding which will be available from the 2019/20 financial year. This resource will be used for the next wave of projects to deliver the required number of school places to support the City's growth ambitions.
- 7.2 The financial plan to support the school places strategy is constantly being developed and revised through an appraisal of the options being proposed to provide a sufficiency of good quality education places to meet demand in neighbourhoods, within appropriate timescales and within identified revenue and capital resources.
- 7.3 Proposals will need to include opportunities to attract investment from outside Council resources, most likely to be funding for Free Schools from the DfE.
- 7.4 The Basic Need grant funding the Council receives from Government is provided in the year in which places are required. In order to build permanent solutions, some elements of the grant funding may need to be brought forward by the Council into prior financial years to accommodate the required build time, and then repaid when the grant is received. Such cash flowing of the funds does create risk for the City Council, as it cannot occur indefinitely.
- 7.5 Where capital funding is not available or a permanent accommodation solution is not appropriate or cannot be delivered within timescale, temporary accommodation can be funded from the DSG. Councils with the agreement of Schools Forum are permitted to retain DSG to form a specific schools contingency to support those schools that, with the prior agreement of the Council, are expanding. This contingency is known as the "Growth Fund". Schools Forum agreed the 2017/18 Growth Fund in September 2016. Manchester's 2017/18 Growth Fund amounts to £6.7m, at this stage it is expected that this level of fund will be needed in 2017/18. The Growth fund also needs to meet revenue costs associated with pre-opening, diseconomy and reorganisation costs of new and expanding basic needs schools.
- 7.6 Day-to-day running costs of a new school or expanding schools are met from the DSG formula budgets. Budget allocations are currently based on local authority formula funding. The Local Authority passes on funding to Local Authority maintained schools. Academies are maintained by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. The ESFA calculates academies and free school shares of the individual schools budget using the local funding formula, and recoups this from local authorities. The recouped funding is then paid to academy trusts by the ESFA.

8.0 Conclusion

- 8.1 Forecasts, demographic modelling and school census data continue to demonstrate growth in the City's school age population driving demand for school places in a number of areas. Capital funding has been committed to the creation of additional places and it is expected that the growth of Manchester schools to meet place demand will continue for the foreseeable future.

9.0 Recommendations

- 9.1 The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee are asked to:
1. Note the data relating to September 2017 admissions;
 2. Note the pupil forecasts submitted to the DfE during summer 2017;
 3. Note the response to securing sufficient places across the school system.
 4. Comment on the contents of the report

Reception Offer Day statistics	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total Manchester Applicants	6675	6799	7060	6937	7151
Online Applicants	4215	4103	4975	5279	5412
Online Applicants (%)	63%	60%	70%	76%	76%
Offered Preference 1	5723	5977	6166	6130	6377
Offered Preference 1 (%)	86%	88%	87%	88%	89%
Offered Preferences 1-3	6303	6484	6752	6644	6900
Offered Preferences 1-3 (%)	94%	95%	96%	96%	96%
Alternative offer	316	306	264	251	197
Manchester residents offered a Manchester school	6340	6485	6713	6614	6824
Manchester residents offered a Manchester school (%)	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%
Other authority residents offered a Manchester School	100	190	158	197	170
Manchester residents offered other authority school	335	346	347	323	327
Manchester residents offered other authority school (%)	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Year 7 Offer Day Statistics	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total Manchester Applicants	4640	5089	5428	5819	6362
Online Applicants	3573	3857	4476	5063	5448
Online Applicants (%)	77%	76%	82%	87%	86%
Offered Preference 1	3773	3871	4063	4448	4751
Offered Preference 1 (%)	81%	76%	75%	76%	75%
Offered Preferences 1-3	4403	4660	4929	5345	5729
Offered Preferences 1-3 (%)	95%	92%	91%	92%	90%
Alternative offer	181	334	434	390	519
Manchester residents offered a Manchester school	3932	4350	4758	4971	5548
Manchester residents offered a Manchester school (%)	85%	85%	88%	85%	87%
Other authority residents offered a Manchester School	374	338	359	377	440
Manchester residents offered other authority school	708	739	670	848	814
Manchester residents offered other authority school (%)	15%	15%	12%	15%	13%