

REPORT TO:	Cabinet – 18 October 2017
SUBJECT:	Delivering New School Places
LEAD OFFICER:	Barbara Peacock - Executive Director
CABINET MEMBER:	Cllr Flemming, Children, Young People and Learning
WARDS:	All

CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/ AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON

The recommendations in this report contribute to achieving priority 3 of the independence strategy to provide people with the best opportunity to maximise their life chances and have a good quality of life through the provision of high quality universal services, including an excellent learning offer.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The overall cost of the Education Capital Programme is estimated at £101.7m over the period 2017/18 to 2020/21. Appendix 1 provides a detailed breakdown of the scheme costs and funding.

FORWARD PLAN KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO.: 1317CAB - this is a key decision as defined in the Council’s Constitution. The decision may be implemented from 1300 hours on the 5th working day after it is made, unless the decision is referred to the Scrutiny & Strategic Overview Committee by the requisite number of Councillors

The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations below.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is recommended:

School Place Planning

- 1.1 to agree Croydon’s School Place Supply Strategy (tables 1, 2 & 3) for the next 3 academic years – 2017/18 to 2019/20 - and the funding (where applicable) to deliver these additional places. The funding is set out in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 to note that following Croydon’s successful bid to the Department for Education to deliver a new free special school, and that we will be inviting expressions of interest until midday on 24 November.

School Maintenance

1.3 to approve the proposed two year Schools' Maintenance Plan for 2017/18 and 2018/19, attached in Appendix 2 (printed separately).

1.4 to agree that this Plan will be reviewed annually.

School Admissions

1.5 to agree that consultation on the published admission arrangements for community schools, including the proposed temporary reduction in published admission numbers for the 2019/20 academic year take place between 30 October and 11 December 2017.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

School Place Planning

2.1 Croydon Council has a statutory duty to ensure every child resident in the borough has access to a school place. This report sets out plans to ensure that there are sufficient primary, secondary mainstream and special educational needs places for every child in the borough.

School Maintenance Plan

2.2 The Council is responsible for larger condition and maintenance works in maintained schools. A two year maintenance plan for community schools was agreed by Cabinet in January 2017. This report provides an update to this plan, further to the latest school condition funding allocation.

School Admissions

2.3 The Council is the Admissions Authority for community schools within the borough.

2.4 This means that the Council has the responsibility to set and apply the admission arrangements for all community schools.

2.5 The School Admissions Code 2014 (School Admissions Code) sets out that Admission Authorities must consult on any proposed changes to admission arrangements or consult on admission arrangements at least once every 7 years. The Council must consult if reduction in Published Admission Numbers (PANs) are proposed.

2.6 There are no proposed changes to the admissions criteria for 2019/20. The proposed reduction in the published admission number at a small number of community schools is set out in Appendix 4 and further detail about the specific proposed changes is given from paragraph 3.51.

Co-ordinated scheme

- 2.7 The Council also has a duty to formulate a co-ordinated scheme which sets out how all schools and academies in the borough will work together to ensure that all applications receive one offer of a school place on the prescribed national offer days for Reception and Secondary Transfer. This scheme runs until 31 August in any given admission year. This will be formulated and published with the determined admission arrangements in January 2018.

Proposed consultation 2019/20

- 2.8 According to the provisions set out in the School Admissions Code, consultation must take place for a minimum of 6 weeks and the period of consultation must take place between 1 October and 31 January in the year before the arrangements are to come into effect. Therefore consultation must conclude by 31 January 2018.
- 2.9 It is proposed that the Admissions Arrangements consultation (for Community Schools) takes place between 30 October and 11 December 2017.

3. DETAIL

SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING

Projecting the demand for school places

- 3.1 Every year the Council projects the number of pupils requiring school places in the borough over the coming years (pupil demand). A projection methodology is used which takes into consideration factors such as birth rates and the number of children expected to be living in new local housing developments. Throughout the year, the demand for additional school places is reviewed as soon as new local information and data becomes available. For example, school census and admissions application information. This intelligence then informs the following July's yearly projections. In turn the projections inform the number of places delivered in future years, or the number of places that should be reduced in an area.
- 3.2 The Council submits pupil projections to the Department for Education (DfE) in late July each year. These projections are then verified and finalised by the DfE, usually by the end of the calendar year. Once finalised, the projections are used to inform the Basic Need funding which the Council receives from the Education, Skills and Funding Agency.
- 3.3 Based on the information provided to the DfE in July 2016, in 2017 the Council was allocated £6,833,299 Basic Need funding for places to be delivered in September 2020. This funding will support projects which are set out in our place planning supply strategy (set out in tables 1,2 & 3) and will reduce the borrowing that was planned to fund these schemes.

Providing sufficient school places

- 3.4 To ensure the Council has a sufficient supply of school places to meet demand, the Council plans across six planning areas of the borough – Central, East, North West, South, South East, and South West - for primary places; and 2 planning areas – North and South - for secondary places. When the Council calculates the pupil projections, the number of additional places that will be needed in each of the defined pupil planning areas is determined. Maps setting out the boundaries for each planning area are illustrated in Background papers 1a and 1b. These map include the ward boundaries for information.
- 3.5 To plan for demand for specialist places for children with complex Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), the Council has a database of all existing placements that is updated annually to project future place requirements by category of need. This is cross referenced with data trends held by the Council on types of SEND for pupils with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans and to similar data submitted by schools to the Department for Education (DfE) on pupils with SEN supported through the graduated response (formerly School Action and School Action Plus). A comprehensive needs assessment for Special Educational Needs places is currently being undertaken and the outcome of this piece of work will be reported to Cabinet in a future Education Estates Report.
- 3.6 Based on current pupil projections, the total number of additional school places that will be provided across the borough in the next three years is set out below. Our plans to deliver these places are set out in our supply strategy in Tables 1, 2 & 3.
- 3.7 As reported in previous Education Estates Reports, it is essential that we do not have a deficit of school places and that there are some available school places in every planning area for those who move in to the borough. However, a significant surplus of places has serious consequences.
- 3.8 A significant proportion of funding received by schools is directly related to the number of pupils attending the school. Vacancies in schools mean that schools will not receive the maximum revenue possible. Therefore a very careful balance is required to ensure that the council retains some vacancies for those who move into the borough, without creating an excess of places which could seriously challenge the viability of individual schools. This issue is likely to become even more pronounced with the proposed move to a national funding formula for schools.
- 3.9 There are areas where additional places are required and this information is set out from paragraph 3.11. However, we have seen a decrease in the birth rate which in some areas has meant we need to decrease the number of available places in the borough. It is proposed that consultation should take place on the temporary reduction in admission numbers at a small number of community schools. The schools identified for a proposed reduction in PAN will form part of the school admissions consultation, details of which are given from paragraph 3.51. Where it is recommended that numbers be reduced at Academies, we will work with those academy trusts.

3.10 In addition to this we have been working with a number of schools and Academies across the borough to reduce numbers for September 2017. There has been a proposed temporary reduction of 330 school places. This is to ensure that the surplus of places is not beyond what will be required for those who move in to the borough.

Meeting demand for school places

3.11 Where additional places are required, there are broadly three different ways to deliver new school places. These are set out below and are used in tables 1,2 & 3 to show how additional places will be delivered.

- Fixed term expansions (one or two new classes) for one or two academic years only;
- Permanent expansions (permanent increase in the size of the school in every year group);
- New schools (current legislation sets out that all new schools are presumed to be free schools).

Meeting demand for primary school places

3.12 Table 1 sets out the new primary places to be delivered in the borough. This includes the Collegiate Trust Free School which on 12 April 2017 was announced to open by the Department for Education. It is due to open in the South Planning Area (Primary).

Proposed number of additional places to be provided in the Primary phase

- 2017/18 academic year, an additional 3 FE (90 reception places)
- 2018/19 academic year, an additional 1 FE (30 reception places)
- 2019/20 academic year, an additional 5 FE (150 reception places)

Table 1 – Primary School Supply Strategy

Planning area	Academic Year 2017/18	Academic Year 2018/19	Academic year 2019/20
North West			New School: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3FE Free School - Ark Bayes
Central	Existing Schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Krishna Avanti Free School – 1FE (30 additional reception places) ¹ 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harris Primary Academy Purley Way – 1FE (30 additional reception places) ² 		
East	The Crescent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2FE in year bulge³ 		Existing school: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Robert Fitzroy Academy 1FE (30 additional reception places)⁴
South			New School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2FE Free school - Collegiate Free Primary School
South East			
South West	Permanent expansion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1FE Woodcote 	Permanent expansion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1FE Smitham 	

Update

The proposed 2 FE new free school (Collegiate Free Primary School) for the 2019/20 academic year has been approved by the Department for Education.

Meeting demand for Secondary mainstream places

3.13 Table 2 sets out the detail of the new secondary school places that will be delivered in the borough.

Proposed number of additional places to be provided in the Secondary phase to meet demand

- 2017/18 academic year, an additional 2.3 FE (70 Year 7 places)
- 2018/19 academic year, an additional 6 FE (180 Year 7 places)

¹ Total of 60 reception places available (This is the planned number of places)

² Total of 90 reception places available (This is the planned number of places)

³ Bulge classes to accommodate 60 additional pupils admitted in 2011/12

⁴ Revert back to their original higher PAN of 120 reception places available

- 2019/20 academic year, an additional 6FE (180 Year 7 places)

Table 2 – Secondary School Supply Strategy

Planning area	Academic Year 2017/18	Academic Year 2018/19	Academic Year 2019/20
North	Existing school: 2.3FE expansion of The Archbishop Lanfranc through Priority School Building Programme.		New School: 6FE Ark Blake, Morland Road.
South		New School: 6FE Coombe Wood School (Proposed site – Coombe Lane Playing Fields)	

3.14 As set out in previous Education Estates reports, the Council has been working with Crescent Primary who led a bid for a new free school in Thornton Heath (the Crescent Secondary School). This bid was made in partnership with the Brit School, GLF Schools and the Crystal Palace Football Club Foundation. The free school bid was submitted by the consortium in September 2016 and has not been approved to open at this time by the Department for Education (the decision maker). The unsuccessful outcome of the bid is attributed to the fact there is currently no projected unmet demand for secondary school places. The Council believes this to be a strong scheme with successful and committed partners. Should demand for school places in the planning area change, the Council would support a resubmission of this bid.

3.15 As reported in January 2017, the Department for Education has agreed to open a further secondary free school in Croydon. This project is to be delivered by Harris Federation and the Council will continue to work with the Department for Education and Education, Skills and Funding Agency to provide pupil demand information so that when additional demand is evidenced, plans can begin to develop to deliver this proposed school. There is currently no proposed site or planned year of delivery.

Other new free schools agreed to open in Croydon

3.16 Work continues by the Education, Skills and Funding Agency to progress plans for the Harris Professional Skills Sixth Form to open in 2018 on the site of the old South Norwood Police Station.

Proposed number of additional places to be provided in Special Educational Needs to meet demand:

- 2018/19 academic year, an additional 1FE (approximately 8 places) at St Nicholas Primary School for children with SLCN/ASD/MLD
- 2018/19 - 2019/20 academic year, additional post 16 places in local FE college 30 places including post 19 transition year for those young people with complex needs to provide pathways to independence and supported employment
- 2020/21 academic year, an additional 150 places for young people with autism and learning difficulties. Three year phased opening.

Table 3 - Proposed 3 year SEND school places supply strategy (Further detail given from paragraph 3.17)

Planning Area	Academic Year 2017/18	Academic Year 2018/19	Academic Year 2019/20
North			
South Additional SEN provision	<p>Existing schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2FE⁵ permanent expansion of St Nicholas Special School (age 4-11) • Nurture provision in 2 primary schools for pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs – 24 places TBC (age 4-11) • 2FE proposed temporary expansion of Red Gates Special School (age 4-11) <p>Beckmead Family of schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chaffinch Brook School – increase to include Year 9 class. • Beckmead 	<p>Existing schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1FE proposed permanent expansion of St Nicholas Special School (age 4-11) ⁶ • Post 16 SEN provision to be developed in liaison with FE College Sector and special schools. 	<p>Proposed new Free Special School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 120-150 places for boys and girls with Autism and Learning Difficulties (age 2-19) – proposed site Lodge Lane, New Addington <p>Visit www.croydon.gov.uk/freeschool</p>

	<p>School increase of 14 places (social, emotional, mental health and/or anxiety, stress, phobia related learning difficulties).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beckmead College – 12 places for young people age 14-19 years. KS5 vocational offer (working towards filling 50 places) – new building to open Jan 2017 • Enhanced Learning Provision at Oasis Coulsdon and Arena increasing by 5 and 3 places respectively. 		
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⁵ 1FE (form of entry) for Special schools usually equates to one class of 8 pupils

⁶ This proposed additional 1FE permanent expansion would be further to the 1FE 2017/18 permanent expansion which was approved at January 2016 Cabinet (therefore it is proposed that the school would ultimately grow by a total of 2FE from the current numbers).

Meeting demand for SEN places

3.17 In December 2017 the DfE announced funding for High Needs Strategic Planning. The London Borough of Croydon has been allocated £180K to undertake a review of the need for 'High Needs Funded Places' to support medium to long-term planning.

3.18 The review will engage early years providers, schools, FE and HE Colleges, short breaks providers, parents and young people with SEN and employers in planning a future sustainable local education, health and care pathway. This will enable young people to receive education closer to home and to avoid out of Borough placements. The review will be undertaken over a four month period from July-October 2017.

3.19 The outcome will be a five year strategic plan which is based on careful analysis of data and the views of stakeholders. The plan will inform future education place planning and short breaks commissioning. The aim is to ensure that investment is focused on development of a coherent pathway that leads to increased numbers of young people with SEN engaged in employment and/or living independently with support in or near their local community.

Special Provision Fund Allocation

3.20 In March 2017 the Government announced the allocation of a special provision fund for Local Authorities to support capital investment in provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. The funding will be allocated on an annual basis over a three year period 2018-2021.

3.21 The fund is to be used to create new places and make improvements to facilities and can be applied to mainstream, special school, nurseries, colleges and other education provision. The use of the fund needs to be consistent with the strategic plan that is drawn up for children with high needs and must address the Local Authority's statutory duty under the Children & Families Act 2014 to keep education provision for children with SEN under review including its' sufficiency. It will complement the high quality places that have already been delivered including Beckmead College which opens in September 2017.

3.22 Croydon's allocated special education provision fund is £968,855 annually; with a total of £2,906,565 being allocated by 2020/21. The allocation is based on projected population growth.

3.23 Key areas for prioritisation for funding will be set out in the Five Year Strategic Plan. Initial analysis indicates the following areas for targeting investment as including:

- **Local Post 16 specialist FE College** provision with clear pathways and support for long-term and sustainable employment of young people with SEN and disabilities. Current estimates indicate 30 specialist places alongside Croydon FE mainstream college are needed to provide a local pathway that meets needs
- **Improvement to some Enhanced Learning Provision and special school facilities** – in particular to support increased numbers of children with ASD access mainstream education with specialist support and children with ASD, learning difficulties and challenging behaviours have their needs met in local special schools
- **Improve accessibility of all existing provision** and including enhancing access to augmentative communication technologies and improving facilities for those young people with sensory impairment.
- **Improve facilities for integrated health, care and education needs**

3.24 Croydon's Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block was overspent at the end of the financial year 2016/17 by £5.7m attributable to increase in numbers of children with an EHC Plan and an over-reliance on independent school sector placements. The latter being principally due to insufficient local specialist education places. A key focus of the approach to application of the special provision fund will be invest to save.

Social Emotional Mental Health – confirmed new places

- 3.25 SEN demand data shows an increasing need for specialist places for pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder ASD and also bespoke provision for young people with Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) or ASD.

Autistic Spectrum Disorder – confirmed new places

New Free School

- 3.26 Current specialist provision for ASD includes 3 enhanced learning provisions in primary schools (58 places) and 3 in secondary schools (58 places). Pupils with ASD with behaviors that challenge and limit learning are educated at Chaffinch Brook, an ASD specialist provision (56 places) within the Beckmead Family of schools.
- 3.27 Since ASD is often associated with learning difficulties, pupils are also often placed in a Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) or Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) school adding to the pressure on places at these schools while a significant number attend specialist ASD schools in the independent sector outside the borough representing 30% of all independent sector placements.
- 3.28 In October 2016, Croydon Council was given the opportunity to bid for Free School funding to deliver a new Special Needs free school in the borough. An expression of interest was submitted and the Department for Education announced the bid was successful 12 April 2017. An open completion for a provider for the school will be led in partnership with Croydon Council and the DfE. The application process for potential providers is now open and will close at 12pm on 24 November 2017. Further information is available at www.croydon.gov.uk/freeschool

Red Gates School - Additional places for children with severe learning difficulties, profound and multiple learning difficulties and autism

- 3.29 In 2015 Croydon Council undertook early engagement on the proposed permanent expansion of Red Gates Primary.
- 3.30 A number of significant issues were raised relating to an additional 56 places on such a constrained site. Red Gates School is co-located with Gilbert Scott, a one form entry (30 places in every year group) mainstream primary school. As well as spacial constraints, concerns were raised relating to the safety of the additional pupils when travelling to the site by transport.
- 3.31 Further consideration was undertaken, including with key school stakeholders, relating to the possible options for delivering new places, bearing in mind the previous feedback provided through engagement on the full expansion of the school.
- 3.32 This feedback was also balanced with the demand for additional places in Croydon.

3.33 It was agreed that a fixed term expansion will be delivered at Red Gates, delivering 8 additional places in September 2017 and 8 additional places in September 2018, however with demand for places increasing for this September, both new classes will be delivered in September 2017.

St Nicolas School - Additional places for children with moderate learning difficulties, speech and communication disorders and autism

3.34 In January 2017 Cabinet agreed that consultation could take place on the permanent expansion of St Nicholas School by one form of entry. This was further a one form entry expansion that had already been agreed to be implemented in 2017.

3.35 Following public consultation, The Leader of the Council agreed in May to agree the proposal to expand the school by an additional form of entry. These additional places will be offered for September 2018.

Funding the supply strategy

3.36 In seeking high quality, value for money places, in areas of high demand, the Council has funded the delivery of the supply strategy through:

- Basic Need Funding;
- Targeted Basic Need funding for specific projects;
- CIL/Section 106;
- The Priority School Building Programme;
- Council Borrowing;
- Free Schools

3.37 Please refer to Appendix 1 which sets out the budget for delivering this supply strategy from 2017/18 to 2019/20. Further funding will be allocated each year from S106 and CIL which will reduce the Council's borrowing requirement.

Risks funding the supply strategy

3.38 As set out in the previous Education Estates report, the Council will seek to meet its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places by maximising funding provided by central government using the free schools programme, in the absence of additional Basic Need Funding. Where projected pupil numbers determine that new schools are required, the Council will seek to attract the best providers to Croydon to provide residents with high quality school places.

3.39 However, this process relies on partnership working with central government and Academy providers to ensure that the best provision is delivered in areas of demand at the right time. Ultimately, the Department for Education is responsible for making the decision to open a new school in Croydon and this can create challenges of both - over and under supply - if additional places provided do not meet the projected demand for new places.

- 3.40 Should demand for places increase at short notice, particularly 'in year', the free school process does not provide the flexibility for places at immediate notice.
- 3.41 Therefore it is important that there is capacity across the borough to ensure all pupils can be offered a place. Where capacity exists in Academies, we must rely on strong relationships with providers to ensure places can be made available when they are needed. This will ensure that, as a Council we are able to meet our statutory duty to provide every child resident in Croydon a school place by accessing a full range of places, not just those in Community, Voluntary Aided and Foundation schools.

SCHOOLS MAINTENANCE

- 3.42 The Council is responsible for larger condition and maintenance works in maintained schools.
- 3.43 The two year plan is based on information provided by the condition surveys commissioned by the Council through Faithful and Gould. These surveys are comprehensive and identify costed items across each school rated from A (good condition) to D (poor condition) as well as assessing the urgency of each (on a scale of 1 to 4, with 1 being the most urgent). The Council, under the current scheme for financing schools, is responsible for items valued at over £10,000 for primary schools and £25,000 for secondary schools.
- 3.44 At the time of writing, based on these surveys as uploaded onto the Council's Asset Management database, (TF Cloud) there are D items over these limits to a total value of £4.367m awaiting attention of which £2.65m are in the most urgent category. Accordingly, given a limited budget, those works which actually reach the programme will inevitably be those which are likely to lead to school closure if not addressed. They include items such as heating, roofing and windows replacement.

Proposed 2 year maintenance plan

- 3.45 Using TF Cloud, the works have been programmed according to the following criteria:
- D1 needs identification through condition surveys or further inspection
 - Urgent health and safety issues
 - Items which could lead to school closure (predominantly roofing and heating works)
- 3.46 The resulting 2017/18 and 2018/19 programme is set out in Appendix 2. The programme is set at the level of the base budget of £2m per year from 2017 based on the valuation of identified works. The Central Government published the School's Condition Allocation for 2017/18-2018/19 was £3,771.786). The allocated funding will be added to next year's school's maintenance budget and the programme of works will be presented to the Cabinet for approval...
- 3.47 In reviewing this programme we have increased the proportion of the budget (£400,000) to emergency and reactive works and included the slippages and

retention of £650,000 from last year's work. We proposed to commission a full survey of all the fire doors in community schools and offer a buy-service to academy schools, this proposed work will be addressed under this budget. .

- 3.48 Plans will be put in place to use any of the provisions for emergency and reactive works that may be unspent in the final months of the financial year on smaller projects from the programme.
- 3.49 As in previous years, the programmes set out in this report are based on estimated costs and not tendered prices. The Executive Director, People, should retain the delegated authority to vary the programme to reflect actual prices and new urgent issues that may arise, including authorising spend against the allowance for emergency and reactive works.

Procurement

- 3.50 Once the updated programme has been agreed, the relevant schools concerned will be engaged in detail on the works in advance of final procurement. The procurement strategy will be set for each scheme ensuring best value for money.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

- 3.51 The Council is the Admission Authority for Community schools and is therefore responsible for consulting on, determining and applying the admission arrangements for community schools. The Council is therefore also responsible for consulting on the reduction of admission numbers, where relevant.
- 3.52 The Governing Body or Academy Trust is the admission authority for Foundation, Voluntary Aided schools and Academies. All schools which are their own admission authority are responsible for consulting, determining and applying their own admission arrangements and criteria. Details of any consultation on these admission arrangements will be found on each school's website.
- 3.53 The Council retains the co-ordinating role for reception, junior and secondary transfer. This means that all offers are made by the Council and that every child should receive one offer only. Admission Authorities, including Local Authorities are responsible for ensuring that admission arrangements are compliant with the School Admissions Code 2014.
- 3.54 This includes consulting on any proposed changes to admission arrangements annually or at least every 7 years where there have been no changes. In addition, Admission Authorities are required to determine their admission arrangements on an annual basis.

Co-ordinated scheme

- 3.55 All local authorities must formulate and publish on their website a scheme to co-ordinate admissions arrangements for the relevant admissions year, by 1

January every year for all publicly funded schools within their area. Where the scheme is substantially different from the scheme adopted for the previous academic year, the Council must consult the other admission authorities in the area and any other local authorities it determines necessary.

- 3.56 Croydon has participated in a Pan London arrangement for the Co-ordinated Admissions rounds for both primary and secondary applications for several years. This arrangement allows all boroughs to exchange data and facilitate choice for parents by offering places across borough boundaries within the same parameters and timetable. However as well as agreeing to a core set of admissions principles across London, the Council has the ability (within the confines of the School Admissions Code) to add provisions to the scheme which will best serve the residents of Croydon.
- 3.57 Where the scheme has not changed from the previous year, there is no requirement to consult. However, the Council must consult on the scheme at least once every seven years, even if there have been no changes during that period. As the scheme was consulted on last year and there are no proposed changes to the scheme, there are no plans to consult on the co-ordinated schemes.

Consultation on the admission arrangements

- 3.58 For the 2019/20 academic year, Admission Authorities are required to consult on their admission arrangements for a minimum of 6 weeks between 01 October 2017 and 31 January 2018, with arrangements determined by 28 February 2018.
- 3.59 Consultation must take places when there are proposed changes, including the proposed reduction in admission numbers.
- 3.60 It is planned that consultation will take place on the admission arrangements, including the proposed reduction of a number of published admission numbers between 30 October and 11 December 2017. Please see Appendix 4 for further information.

4 FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Revenue and Capital consequences of report recommendations

	Current year	Medium Term Financial Strategy – 3 year forecast		
	2017/18 Forecast Outturn £'000	2018/19 Budget £'000	2019/20 Budget £'000	2020/21 Budget £'000
<u>Capital Budget available</u>				
Expenditure	54,493	28,160	18,099	969
Effect of decision from report				
Primary permanent expansions	37,050	10,743	898	0
Secondary school Places	374	0	0	0
Delivery of SEN places	6,421	14,479	8,368	969
Major maintenance Other education schemes	3,501 7,146	2,243 694	2,000 6,833	0 0
Total expenditure	54,943	28,160	18,099	969
Remaining budget	0	0	0	0
<u>Funding Sources</u>				
Basic Needs School Condition	6,026		6,806	
Major maintenance funding	3,501	2,243	2,000	
EFA other funding		969	969	969
Borrowing	44,671	24,948	8,324	
S106 Funding	745			
Total Funding	54,943	28,160	18,099	969

4.2 The effect of the decision

Education Capital Programme

This report commits the Council to the delivery of an Education capital programme worth £101.7m in total over the next four years to 2020/21 (with more detail included at Appendix 1). The use of free schools to provide school places within the borough continues to reduce the requirements from the future capital programme.

The Council has not been granted any Government funding for the delivery of school places beyond 2016/17. The only new Government funding available in 2017/18 and 2018/19 is the school conditions maintenance grant (although some residual Basic Needs condition funding is available from previous years). The majority of the funding from 2017/18 onwards (a total of £77.8m, equating to 76% of the remaining education programme) will therefore be provided via Council borrowing. The updated Capital Programme will be approved in July 2017 as part of the July Financial Review.

4.3 Risks

If the proposed spending plans included in this report are not approved, there is likely to be a shortage of school places for the academic years 2017/18 to 2019/20, resulting in the Council not fulfilling its statutory duty.

4.4 Future savings/efficiencies

If additional free school providers are interested in opening schools in Croydon, the cost to the Council could be reduced further in the future years. Also, the Council borrowing requirement (and associated costs) may also be reduced if any further funding is allocated by the Department for Education.

Approved by: Lisa Taylor, Assistant Director of Finance, Deputy S151 Officer

5. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

- 5.1 The Solicitor to the Council comments that the Council, as an admissions authority must set ('determine') admission arrangements annually. Under paragraph 1.42 of the School Admission Code 2014, where a local authority proposes changes to their admission arrangements, they must consult on the proposed admission arrangements. Local authorities have a general duty to consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years, even if no changes are proposed. The proposed consultation process for the school admission arrangements for 2019/20 is set out fully in the body of the report.
- 5.2 Section 14(1) of the Education Act 1996 provides that a local authority has a duty to secure that there are sufficient schools for providing education in their area.

(Approved by Jacqueline Harris-Baker Director of Law and Monitoring Officer)

6. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 6.1 There are no direct HR implications arising from this report. Any resultant future increases or changes in staffing will be handled by schools' governing bodies in accordance with the appropriate school/council policy and procedures.

(Approved by: Deborah Calliste, HR Business Partner, on behalf of the Director of Human Resources)

(Approved by: Deborah Calliste, HR Business Partner, on behalf of the Director of Human Resources)

7. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 7.1 An equality analysis has been undertaken for the January 2017 cabinet report to help us to understand whether people with protected characteristics, as defined by the Equality Act 2010, will be disproportionately affected by the proposed changes in the Education Estates Strategy report. The analysis undertaken for the January 2017 report is relevant for this update. An initial analysis has been undertaken for the proposed changes and a full equality analysis will be done for the main cabinet report in January 2018.
- 7.2 The proposed changes in this update report will help the Council meet its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for protected and non-protected groups. Croydon schools provide diverse educational provision in terms of type/category, size and educational sponsors. These include special schools, enhanced learning provision at mainstream schools; pupil referral units and Academies /Free Schools. Pupils are allocated a school place based on admissions criteria which aim to promote fair access to schools and are compliant with the Admissions Code.
- 7.3 The proposed strategy is in line with the Council's Equality and Inclusion Policy and will enable the delivery of the following priorities:
- Make Croydon a place of opportunity and fairness by tackling inequality, disadvantage and exclusion.
 - Close gaps in educational attainment by working with local businesses and community groups to enable people of all ages to reach their full potential through access to quality schools and learning.
 - Work in partnership to lift people out of poverty by increasing employment opportunities across the borough ensuring local people have a pathway into employment, education and training.
- 7.4 The proposed strategy is consistent with the Council's general equality duty to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010; to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 N/A

9. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

9.1 N/A

10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations of this report are set out to:

- ensure that action can be taken to consult on new school places thus ensuring every child has access to a school place,
- agree an update to the maintenance plan to ensure that the limited budget provided to maintain community schools is distributed transparently to areas of greatest need,
- ensure the admission arrangements are consulted upon and agreed before they are determined by Full Council in 2018.

11. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

School Place Planning

11.1 Detailed consideration has been given to how additional school places should be proposed for delivery. Projection information has been used to inform the council of the geographical areas where places should be delivered. Previous Education Estates Report have set out the new schemes to deliver new school places through the free school route.

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Appendices printed separately:

Appendix 1 – Detailed programme budget 2017/18 to 2020/21

Appendix 2 – School Maintenance Plan (including assigned budgets)

Appendix 3 – Proposed Admission Arrangements 2019/20

Appendix 4 - Proposed Reduction in Admission Numbers 2019/20

Background documents provided as link on website agenda

1. a. School Place Planning Areas (Mainstream Primary)
b. School Place Planning Areas (Mainstream Secondary)
2. Equality Analysis Form