



City of Westminster

# Cabinet

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>29 June 2015</b>
<b>Classification:</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>School Organisation and Investment Strategy 2015</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Financial Summary:</b>	<b>Capital expenditure is funded by external grant and s106 planning contributions</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Director of Schools</b>

## **1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The City Council has up-dated the School Organisation and Investment Strategy based on projected pupil numbers and opportunities for providing new school places.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That approval is given to the School Organisation and Investment Strategy 2015 contained in Appendix B and the recommendations contained therein.

## **3. Reasons for Decision**

- 3.1 The School Organisation and Investment Strategy sets out the Council's plans for complying with its statutory duty of providing sufficient school places for every child who needs one.

## **4. Background**

- 4.1 In Westminster, detailed projections of pupil numbers over the next 10 years are provided by the GLA School Roll Projection Service. There are additional factors which the Council needs to take into consideration when planning school provision, e.g. residential developments which are not yet formally approved, school preferences and admissions policies, and the mixed provision of places through academies, free schools and the faith sector.

- 4.2 The school population is projected to increase from 10,945 to 11,792 at primary level (excluding nursery), and from 7,765 to 9,258 at secondary level (excluding sixth form) between 2015 and 2025.
- 4.3 At primary level, 26 of the 41 schools are VA schools, of which 5 are academies or free schools. At secondary level, there are 11 schools, 10 of which are academies and one is a free school. In addition there are two special schools, one special free school, and one alternative provision academy.
- 4.4 Although there is a sufficiency of primary school places, there is a need for more secondary school places. This is a national issue as well as affecting London. In Westminster there are two main reasons for this:
- I. The expansion of primary school provision during period 2010 to 2014 to meet projected need identified at the time, where pupils are now moving up the system.
  - II. Secondary schools are performing strongly, and Westminster is a net 'importer' of over 2,000 secondary age pupils.
- 4.5 The Council has limited policy control over the allocation of places to pupils resident in other boroughs. The School Admissions Code (the 'Code') applies to admissions to all maintained schools in England. This Code imposes mandatory requirements and includes guidelines setting out aims, objectives and other matters in relation to the discharge of functions relating to admissions. As the majority of schools are now their own admissions authorities, the Council has no control over how they decide to allocate places. The Council is only responsible for ensuring that they are compliant with the Code.
- 4.6 The Council calculates that there is a need to provide about 400 new secondary school places during the next 10 years, having taken into account the new Marylebone Boys School. This is less than a whole new school (typically at least 600 pupils plus sixth form) but is a city-wide issue, and therefore all existing schools were invited to express an interest in expansion. Four schools (ARK King Solomon Academy, St George's RC School, Westminster City School, and Pimlico Academy) have been selected and work is underway to prepare detailed appraisals and business cases. A separate report will be submitted seeking approval in principle to proceed with these schemes.
- 4.7 Although some of the proposed new places will be filled by pupils who are not resident in Westminster, it is estimated that about half of the places will be taken by resident pupils, based on the current profile of the selected schools. The capital cost of this provision will be met by external Basic Need funding and S106 contributions.

New permanent places from these expansions are not expected to be ready until 2017. In the meantime, it has been agreed to create a further 15 places per year at Quintin Kynaston School in September 2015.

- 4.8 There is also a need to provide additional Alternative Provision places at primary level. Westminster does not currently have dedicated provision for primary age AP pupils, unlike other Tri-Borough councils. It is proposed to deliver 12 places at the Beachcroft AP School.
- 4.9 In addition, the Council may need to make a modest contribution to capital costs associated with the permanent site for the St Marylebone Bridge Special School, which is in temporary accommodation but is expected to re-locate within Westminster in a scheme managed by the Education Funding Agency in partnership with the GLA.

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 All capital costs for new school provision will be met from Basic Need grant and s106 contributions.
- 5.2 Revenue costs will be met from Dedicated Schools Grant and will be agreed by Schools Forum.

## **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

## **7. Consultation**

- 7.1 Informal discussion with the two Diocesan authorities has taken place in the development of the Strategy.

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers please contact: Alan Wharton, tel: 020 7641 2911, email: [awharton@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:awharton@westminster.gov.uk)**

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

none

## **APPENDICES**

- B. School Organisation and Investment Strategy 2015

## **Appendix A**

### **Other Implications**

- 1. Resources Implications – separate reports will be prepared for specific proposals**
- 2. Business Plan Implications – the strategy conforms to the Business Plan**
- 3. Risk Management Implications - none**
- 4. Health and Wellbeing Impact Assessment including Health and Safety Implications - none**
- 5. Crime and Disorder Implications - none**
- 6. Impact on the Environment - none**
- 7. Equalities Implications - none**
- 8. Staffing Implications – none**
- 9. Human Rights Implications – none**
- 10. Energy Measure Implications – none**
- 11. Communications Implications - none**