

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL
PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMISSION
7TH SEPTEMBER

Report of: *John Readman; Strategic Director – People*

Title: *Integrated Education and Capital Strategy*

Ward: *Citywide*

Officer Presenting Report: *Paul Jacobs – Service Director, Education & Skills*

Contact Telephone Number: *0117 9224836*

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. To offer feedback on the strategy and make recommendations for improvements as part of a process of consultation*
- 2. To endorse the aims and objectives of the strategy and sanction the decision pathway (attached)*
- 3. To sanction a further period of consultation to strengthen and improve the strategic aims and objectives*

Summary

1. *To develop a new education and capital strategy, integrated across education phases and sectors.*
2. *To meet the Council's statutory duty to ensure sufficient education provision in the City.*
3. *To develop an integrated approach across the phases and types of education as part of the vision for Bristol as a Learning City.*
4. *To ensure high levels of coherence across education and non-education sectors.*
5. *To develop a strategy that can address sufficiency and also the condition and suitability of the education estate.*
6. *To engage City leadership in developing first class education.*

The strategy has been developed alongside key strategic partners, including school leaders. It establishes a framework for the future development of capital schemes which will seek to ensure sufficiency of places and the quality of condition and suitability of provision.

The significant issues in the report are:

1. *The growth in birth rates in Bristol has had a significant impact on the need for additional school places.*
2. *There has been a strong response to this with an additional 10,000 primary school places added over recent years.*
3. *The growth in birth rates has slowed, but the existing increased numbers of children are set to impact on secondary school provision.*
4. *Additional secondary school places are therefore required by 2020.*
5. *Additional early years and SEN places are also required by 2020 to respond to growing statutory pressures.*
6. *The condition and suitability of some educational provision requires investment to ensure it can continue to offer the highest quality environments.*
7. *Improvements to the learning estate will significantly strengthen Bristol's status as a Learning City.*

Policy

1. *The Council is responsible for ensuring statutory educational policy is met, in particular the sufficiency of school places.*

Consultation

2. Internal

Stakeholder engagement with School Leaders, Strategy Managers and the portfolio holder has enabled the strategy to be developed to this stage. Further consultation of the document and its contents is required to ensure it can be fully endorsed.

3. External

There has been a series of open consultation events to engage partners and key stakeholders. The strategy will need to enter a further period of external consultation.

Context

4. *See attached strategy*

Proposal

5. *To seek comments and views and endorsements of the contents of the strategy document and decision pathway.*

Other Options Considered

6. *N/A*

Risk Assessment

The process to develop the strategy has highlighted a number of key risks to delivery including:

- a. Ensuring a cohesive, ratified strategy
- b. Ensuring internal delivery capacity
- c. Responding to changing policy and funding regimes
- d. Responding to changing pupil projections
- e. Managing a tight approvals timeline for essential schemes
- f. Managing a challenging programme of projects

Risks will be managed through tight programme and project management in the delivery programme. This will be monitored and over-seen through the revised governance structure and high quality political and partner leadership.

Public Sector Equality Duties

- 8a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:
 - i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
 - ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --

- remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
- take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
- encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

- iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
- tackle prejudice; and
 - promote understanding.

- 8b) Due consideration has been made to the need to ensure equality of opportunity and provision across the education sector. The strategy reinforces this throughout and has “inclusion and equality of access” as one of its four key objectives.

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

As schemes are developed a number of legal issues will require legal advice and guidance, including the impacts on a. existing Pfls; b. Academy/ Free School applications; c. Land and registry issues; d. statutory consultation and notices etc.

Financial

(a) Revenue

None

(b) Capital

There has been regular engagement with Capital Finance to ensure an integrated approach to the development of the strategy. The People Directorate Finance Business Partner is engaged and will assist in the development of the Business Case to outline the funding options for future schemes to address sufficiency, condition and suitability issues.

Land

Not applicable at this stage.

Personnel

Not applicable at this stage

Appendices:

Integrated Education and Capital Programme and Decision Pathway

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
Background Papers:

None