

Secondary Demand update

Recap and latest position for September 2019 intake

- The available Pupil Admission Number across the 14 mainstream high schools for Yr7 prior to offer day was **2515**.
- The number of on time applications received for Salford schools was **2185** (Salford residents). A number of Salford residents applied for schools in neighbouring LAs.
- The co-ordinated offer process across all LAs is only finalised in mid- February. Therefore until that time it is very difficult to know exactly how many children will be offered a Salford school place. As well as significant numbers of late applications (mixture of both late and new families new to the city), just prior to February half term, Salford received notification from neighbouring LAs, particularly Wigan and Bolton of Salford residents who couldn't be placed in their schools.
- It is outlined in our strategy that, where possible and obviously taking into account parental preference, the LA will place pupils within a reasonable travelling distance of their school, mindful of pupils attending schools within their communities and the significant traffic congestion that happens in many areas of the city in the rush hours.
- Due to the late demand, it became apparent very quickly that there would be a need to create additional capacity. An extra 108 Yr7 places have been created in the form of temporary bulge classes across 4 schools. This this allow the LA to offer within a reasonable travelling distance (under 3 miles) and ensure a suitable surplus was being carried to support all areas of the city.

For secondary purposes schools have been split into 3 main planning areas:

Planning Area	Location	Schools
101	Little Hulton, Swinton and Walkden	Moorside Academy Walkden Academy Harrop Fold Community The Swinton Academy St Ambrose Barlow RC
102	Eccles, Irlam and Cadishead	Irlam and Cadishead Academy Ellesmere Park Academy St Patricks RC Salford City Academy
103	Central and Border Area	The Albion Academy Beis Yaakov Academy Buile Hill Academy All Hallows RC Oasis Academy

Current Position as of 05/06/19

School planning area	PAN availability for Sept 2019 intake	Pupils Allocated	Vacancies (as of 05/06)
101	1175	1136	39
102	690	629	61
103	763	740	21

As the growth that's been experienced across the primary sector is only just beginning to feed into secondary, we are, at present carrying a higher level of surplus capacity across the upper year groups (approx. 12.8% across Yr7-11). This level of surplus will reduce year on year as the increased cohort of primary pupils begin to feed into secondary.

In terms of capacity being carried across Yr7 intake for Sept 2019. Using the latest position in the above table, we are currently carrying 4.6 % surplus, albeit, the majority being carried across one school (Irlam and Cadishead). Whilst DfE guidance does not prescribe the level of surplus to be carried they deem anywhere between 2-5% acceptable. Across the city over the last 3 years we have seen very little in year movement.

Based on this trend data and taking into consideration that we are currently carrying capacity across all 3 planning areas, and across all year groups there are no plans to create any further capacity for the 2019 academic year. There does however remain a level of surplus capacity within the overall secondary estate that could be used to manage the risk should we begin to experience further in year growth.

Challenges around Pupil Place forecasting

The LA does not have any control over parental preference or cross border movement. Therefore until the co-ordination process is completed, we cannot give any certainty on the offers for on time applications.

The same can be said for appeals. These are independent and beyond the control of the LA or any individual school, therefore even though additional capacity may be put in place, the personal arguments put forward by parents may lead the panel to uphold the appeal resulting in the child being allocated at their preferred school.

Our strategy manages the risk position based on forecast demand and look at options and plans how to best meet demand across each planning area.

Projected Pupil Forecast and Strategy - 2020 -2025

The departure of the permanent post holder in Oct 2018, left the position vacant until the end of March 2019. Whilst the post has now been filled, further development is required to ensure the post-holder has the necessary knowledge and skills for the technical elements of the role.

At present the ability to meet statutory reporting responsibilities, and to support planning of statutory functions, remains a risk. To mitigate this, development plans are being incorporated and the capacity of the team as a whole to meet SCC's statutory obligations is being reviewed.

In terms of the Pupil forecast data, this is reviewed on annual basis. The next review is scheduled to take place in late July, in line with the LA's annual capacity survey return (SCAP). A full review and update of the current strategic plan is to also be undertaken at the same time. The Plan will forecast the predicted pressure going forward based on pupils already in the system and further projected growth that could derive from new housing. Along with setting out a clear framework for and approach towards the provision of places, including the capital and Revenue Funding to support Growth.

Next steps

1. Information sharing with Headteachers

Due to the timeframes for allocating places there will always remain a risk around accuracy of numbers, especially prior to allocations day. With that in mind and in order to identify the risk position as soon as possible the LA intend to share data available on a regular basis (the proposal is as a standing item at the monthly In Year Fair Access Panel) starting as soon as application process opens. The data to be shared will include:

- Planned Admission Number (PAN) available across each planning area
 - Number of applications received per planning area
 - Number of Salford applicants applying outside Salford per planning area
 - Number of cross border pupils applying for Salford place
 - Late applications (children known and yet to apply)
- Risk position based on demand and actuals

2. Intelligence gathering from neighbouring LAs

We will open earlier discussions with neighbouring LAs to ascertain their pressures and the level of capacity being carried, including any options they may be considering to create additional capacity i.e. expansion/academy free school.

3. Taking forward options to meet demand

Options will be developed in conjunction and commitment from the Diocese, Governing Boards and Multi academy Trusts who are willing to increase their PAN based on the data available at a point in time. This will include agreeing to the funding available as agreed by School Forum.

Options for permanent expansions will be developed in line with the LA's adopted strategy and will include:

- Physical capacity and options for uplift on existing sites – this may include adjacent land/site required to allow for further uplift
- Location - dot map data of pupil residency to identify most central location that would meet demand within a planning area. Consideration relating to any new major housing developments would also be factored in
- Parental Preference - LAs have a statutory duty to comply with parental preference and are measured on the level of preference being met annually. If there is more than one option available across a planning area, then preferences would be included as part of the decision making process, although will not necessarily be the deciding factor.
- Growth and demand across various sectors .i.e. faith schools.
- Affordability – funding availability and associated costs will play a part in determining preferred schemes if there is more than one option.
- Current government legislation - The LA would avoid permanent expansion of schools that do not have an overall rating of good or outstanding, unless there was no other option and there was a strong case that expansion would help raise standards.
- Willingness and buy in from Schools, GB and Multi Academy Trusts