

BARNSELEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has been included in the relevant Forward Plan

Report of the Executive Director (People)
to Cabinet

(22nd February 2017)

Options Appraisal to Address Primary and Secondary School Pupil Place Planning Challenges

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report sets out a range of options to be considered to enable the council to meet the demand for more school places.
- 1.2 Over recent years additional primary places have been created to accommodate a population bulge. These pupils will soon enter the secondary phase. There will be considerable pressure in the secondary school system from September 2017. The demand for places will peak in 2022, to a projected need for an additional 938 places (equivalent to a small secondary school) after which demand may begin to reduce. However the projected numbers indicate that, over the period of the bulge, a new secondary school will be needed to accommodate the additional pupils. The pressure on places will be particularly acute in the town centre area and western part of the borough. A lack of secondary school places in these areas will initially lead to fewer children getting their first preference school, and travelling longer distances to school.
- 1.3 In addition to the need for more secondary school places, housing targets in the adopted Core Strategy and the emerging Local Plan, indicates a primary school will be required as part of a mixed-use development adjacent to Barugh Green/Higham (known as MU 1).
- 1.4 Due to the run-in time required for commissioning and delivering a new school, or for expanding existing schools, a decision needs to be made now in order to provide sufficient school places in the timescale required. In the shorter term bulge numbers are being planned for some schools already to meet growing demand in the next two years, but this approach will not meet demand beyond that period.
- 1.5 The council has a statutory responsibility to ensure there are sufficient school places. It can expand existing schools but it cannot open a new local-authority maintained school. All new schools must be opened as academies or free schools, and councils must go out to competition and seek bids from other organisations to open a new school. The role of the council is to broker and mediate rather than directly plan and deliver new schools. Key stakeholders in this new process are The Office of the Regional Schools' Commissioner (RSC), the Department for Education (DfE), local schools and local and national Multi Academy Trusts. A new school sponsor or proposer can only open a school with the approval and agreement of The Regional Schools Commissioner and the DfE.

- 1.6 The approach the council takes to securing additional schools is a factor in determining the source of capital funding. For example, if a Free School proposer applies to the DfE to open a school in Barnsley, and this is approved, the capital funding is provided by the Education Funding Agency (EFA). If the council opts to meet the additional demand by expanding existing maintained schools it has to meet the capital costs, and, in some circumstances, may have to fund expansions in academies. If it commissions a new Free School through competition it has to meet capital and project costs.
- 1.7 This report sets out a range of approaches and options for meeting the Council's sufficiency duty, including the relevant source of capital costs which would be required to implement each option.
- 1.8 The report includes interdependent options, particularly in relation to the secondary school places. Section 5 of the report sets out the following:
- The options for creating additional secondary places
 - The options for procuring suitable accommodation, in the event that the decision is that a new school is needed.
 - The two routes the council can take to securing a new school
 - The options for securing a proposer (i.e. a provider) to run a new school
 - The issues and options relating to providing a new primary school.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 **Cabinet is recommended to review the options considered below and to support the further development of feasibility work on the preferred option(s).**

A two-phase approach to the issues outlined is recommended with the more urgent secondary issues addressed as Phase 1 and the primary issues as Phase 2

Phase 1

- **Working in collaboration with a potential town-centre based Secondary Multi Academy Trust (MAT) to establish a new secondary free school as part of the Town Centre Regeneration project which will accommodate additional pupils entering secondary from the primary phase**
- **Working in collaboration with a potential new west of town Secondary MAT to accommodate the remainder of additional pupils entering secondary from the primary phase**

Phase 2

- **Working in collaboration with a potential new west of town MAT to potentially accommodate additional primary pupils on the mixed-use site (MU 1) should the site be allocated in the Local Plan.**

3.0 Introduction

- 3.1 In referring to the purpose of the report, a consultation and scoping exercise was jointly commissioned by Education, Early Start and Prevention, and Asset Management Services. Discussions have been held with school leaders, chairs of

governors, BMBC officers from Asset Management; Economic Development and Finance services to shape options to address the challenge of:

- *The urgent need for additional secondary school places for year 7 pupils entering secondary now and over the next ten years, in the central and western areas of the borough.*
- *The need for additional primary places, as a result of housing targets in the Core Strategy and emerging local plan.*
- *The commensurate need for additional specialist places proportionate to increased primary and secondary places. This is likely to equate to approximately a further 75 specialist places and potentially 20 additional alternative provision places. This issue is being addressed separately through the development of a SEND placement sufficiency strategy.*

4.0 Consideration of Alternative Approaches

- 4.1 Background research and analysis has been completed and schools and key stakeholders have been consulted on the implications for their own schools and the schools system as a whole.
- 4.2 The approach has been to explore as many options as possible and to recommend those which offer the solution which meets the greatest number of needs, and views of stakeholders, who would need to act as partners in delivering the proposal. Schools, in particular, as autonomous bodies, cannot have particular solutions imposed on them. However, consultations have indicated a direction of travel, on the part of some schools, with regard to developing academy trusts that would support the proposed options.
- 4.3 Within the appraisal, options that are likely to be rejected by the Regional Schools Commissioner/DfE have not been included, for example the expansion of a school rated less than good.
- 4.4 The balance of risks and benefits will need to be reviewed on an on-going basis as options are developed in more detail. There is, however an urgent need to address the pupil place planning challenges in the secondary phase, therefore a protracted planning phase is not recommended.
- 4.5 The preferred option will also need to address future challenges e.g. the possibility of a school closing in years to come due to falling birth rates. There is a national tendency for pupil numbers to increase then decrease over a regular timescale and according to a regular pattern. This means that schools are built and then closed or moth-balled on an approximately 25-year cycle. A potential solution to this reversal in birth rates is also offered within this report.
- 4.6 The recommended options below support the principles set out in Barnsley Alliance Strategy which states that:
'Fundamental to the work of The Alliance is our belief that working together is the best way to ensure that we are providing education that is inclusive, and puts

children and young people at the heart of what we do. We know that we are operating at a time of change in terms of national policy and within an environment of economic constraint and as the traditional role of the council in the school improvement process is changing, it is only by embracing a sector-led model that we will achieve success.'

5.0 Options

5.1 Phase 1 (Secondary School Places) Options

5.2 Addressing the urgent need for additional places for pupils entering into Year 7

5.3 Pupil place planning projections for secondary pupils at Appendix 2 show there is a 'bulge' of pupils coming through from primary phase. This bulge began in September 2015 and will continue for at least 10 years. The birth rate appears to be slowing and therefore beyond the ten-year point the trend may reverse although this will have to be assessed on an ongoing basis as demographics change over time. This data however masks the scale of the challenge; the position is highlighted more starkly at Appendix 2 where the projected year 7 numbers and places available at the relevant schools are compared.

5.4 The schools that are affected are those in the central and western areas: Darton College, Barnsley Academy, Horizon and Penistone Grammar School. In the central area, the maximum predicted shortfall in secondary places occurs in 2022, based on birth data and amounts to a 753-place deficit. For Penistone Grammar School, the maximum predicted shortfall occurs in 2024, based on birth data and amounts to a 244-place deficit. Appendix 2 shows data for the Barnsley-wide Year 7 cohort and demonstrates the need for whole year group space rather than generic space that might be available across all year-groups within the town's secondary schools.

5.5 Data on year 6 transfers out of the borough indicate that there is also a small but significant number of parents deciding to send their children out of Barnsley for their secondary education. On average over the last 10 years approximately 7% of Year 6 transfer age have travelled out of Barnsley to secondary schools elsewhere. As Barnsley schools improve over time it is possible that these numbers may reduce as parents decide to apply for a good local school and this may add a further small number to the deficits indicated above.

5.6 The options to address this challenge are:

1. Expand some existing secondary schools
2. Utilise space currently in all secondary schools across Barnsley
3. Build a new secondary school
4. Refurbish an existing public building and use for a fixed term to accommodate a new secondary school

5.7 Pros and cons of each of these options are:

	Option	Pros	Cons
1	Expand some existing secondary schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional space could be provided specifically in the schools where it is needed. • A school accommodation review by Gleeds and Halliday Meecham Architects has already reviewed 3 schools where expansion might be possible, Horizon, Holy Trinity and Penistone Grammar • Gleeds have suggested that Penistone Grammar and Horizon could accommodate some of the additional pupils' needs via three-storey extensions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The capital expenditure required would need to be found by BMBC • Under the exclusivity terms in the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) contract, expansion work would have to be directed through the Local Education Partnership (LEP) • The time taken to complete further feasibility studies recommended by Gleeds and the contractual necessities with the LEP and the build works would mean that there will be a significant shortfall of places and no immediate and probably no medium-term solution • If Horizon were to be expanded this would create an extremely large secondary school (2532 pupils in 2023) and additional traffic associated with the expansion may be difficult to accommodate on the highway network without significant mitigation. • There is a down-turn in the birth rate evidenced now so the additional space created by the extensions at Horizon and Penistone Grammar may be defunct within 15-20 years although this could be partially offset by housing growth in the town. Holy Trinity would no longer be deemed suitable for expansion on education grounds due to its Ofsted rating
2	Utilise space currently in all secondary schools across Barnsley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is the option that is favoured by some secondary head-teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The available space is not uniform and does not accommodate whole year groups • There may be an impact on curriculum or wellbeing offer

			<p>as a result of changing use of available space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This option would necessitate secondary pupils travelling larger distances and increase the number of car journeys and potential traffic congestion • There would be a reduction in parental first-preferences and any-preferences through the Council's co-ordinated admissions process • Would require some capital expenditure to remodel spaces, which would have to be funded by the council
3	Build a new secondary School as part of the Free School programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The building can be designed specifically for the projected numbers of pupils • If a Free School Proposer comes forward capital is provided by the EFA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The time taken to negotiate with DfE/EFA (Education Funding Agency), negotiate with a MAT, procure, design and build a new school is prohibitive. • It may occur that this school will have to be closed and moth-balled within 25 years as the birth rate falls impact on the town's secondary schools, although this could be partially offset by housing growth in the town. • If the Council commissions the school it will have to meet the capital costs
4	Refurbish an existing building and establish a new school to accommodate secondary pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a building can be identified and agreed this can done relatively quickly • If a building can be identified and agreed this can done relatively cheaply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The time taken to negotiate with DfE/EFA, negotiate with a MAT, procure, re-design and re-model the building may be prohibitive

5.8 For the reasons outlined above, **the recommended option is Option 4**

5.9 Procuring Suitable Accommodation

5.10 In the event that Option 4 is supported the next task would be to identify a suitable location and building.

5.11 As part of the background research into options, potential town-centre sites have been investigated, in principle, for conversion through re-modelling into a secondary school suitable to accommodate approximately 750 pupils.

5.12 The following site options have been explored in principle:

- Former college sixth form buildings, Regent Street, Barnsley
- Berneslei Close, former Council buildings
- Springfield House
- Various Primary School sites

5.13 Pros and cons of these options are:

	Option	Pros	Cons
1	Former College Sixth form buildings, Regent Street Barnsley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely to be less costly and take less time to re-model • Offers opportunity for partnership working with the nearby college for delivery of vocational curriculum • Offers potential further use after accommodation no longer needed for a school (in long term) eg Additional Learning Needs Centre • Contributes to the Town Centre regeneration scheme • Is centrally located and near to the transport interchange – aiding use of public transport to/from school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is in the ownership of a third party (Barnsley College) and will require negotiations over procurement/lease arrangements • If the new free school is to be proposed/sponsored by a MAT, will rely on the MAT taking forward this option • There are no sports fields attached to the building (NB If Horizon were to sponsor this free school their nearby sports and PE facilities could be used on a timetabled basis however transport would be needed for pupils in the school day) • Highways / infrastructure impacts • Could not be refurbished in time to meet demand immediately
2	Berneslei Close former Council buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town-centre locality • BMBC-owned • Surplus to Councils operational requirements • Immediately available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is likely to be more costly and take more time to re-model. Huge refurbishment costs due to previous non-education uses. • Fabric of the building requires major investment in new roof / heating and M&E • The site is located within the Conservation Area and there are therefore limits on what could be demolished. • Additional traffic could cause problems on the gyratory at the junction of Old Mill Lane, Huddersfield Road and Victoria Road.

3	Springfield House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available For sale or To Let via Third Party • Large building which could be re-furnished relatively quickly from current office space • Close linkages to Horizon CC • Unused since 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not within the ownership of BMBC • Additional traffic could cause problems at Townend Roundabout and add to existing congestion on Dodworth Road. • Current access off Springfield Street is poor • Residential area – impacts • Change of use • Refurbishment costs
4	Various primary School sites' survey Only feasible options are: Keresforth Close and Forest Academy	Already configured as schools	Keresforth Close - SCR grant funding bid approved and looking to masterplan the entire mixed use site with preference for housing and relocation of fire station Forest Academy - large site could accommodate a new primary school only

5.14 For the reasons outlined above, **the recommended option is Option 1**

5.15 In the future (after 10 years) the proposed additional town centre school located in the former college sixth form building may not be needed as pupil numbers fall, however its proximity to Barnsley College would make it an attractive site as a multi-use vocational centre for all the borough's schools and linked closely and in partnership with the College. It could also provide a base for alternative and/or PRU provision and if this was included as part of the initial planning this would possibly assuage the concerns from other secondary schools in the borough that when/if in the future secondary numbers start to fall, their schools are at risk of closing if they are still not popular and are still not as strong as they would wish to be.

5.16 The fact that all the borough's secondary schools have recently been built under the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme with all of them under Private Finance Initiative (PFI) terms is a further assurance for secondary school heads and governing bodies as it is unlikely that the decision will be made in the foreseeable future for this investment to be lost through closing of a school building. As set out in legislation, all schools will remain under pressure to be judged as good or outstanding by Ofsted and to maintain high standards of teaching, learning and leadership and this will be a pressure that all schools will have to manage over the coming years. Decisions will be made by the Council and/or the Regional Schools Commissioner's office as judgements are passed and progress monitored on an ongoing basis.

5.17 Commissioning a new school

5.18 The DfE Guidance for Free School Presumption
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/501328/Free_school_presumption_guidance_18_february.pdf
 details how proposed new school provision is now progressed.

5.19 There are two routes available:

1. New provision can be commissioned by the Council through a competitive process. In this case the Council is responsible for all capital and pre- and post-opening costs.
2. New provision can be delivered by third parties under the auspices of the DfE and working closely with the Council where the capital and pre- and post-opening costs do not fall to the Council but are funded by the DfE

5.20 Pros and cons of each of these options are:

	Option	Pros	Cons
1	Under the auspices of the Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council controls and runs a mini-competition for proposers and decides on the best proposer and sponsor for the new school • The Council is in direct control of the timescales for delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has to find any capital costs and the pre- and post-opening project management revenue costs approximately (£300k)
2	Under the auspices of the DfE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council does not need to find capital or revenue funds • The Council can influence the eventual choice of proposer/sponsor and the process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council is not able to directly control the process or the eventual choice of proposer/sponsor • The Council cannot directly control the timescales for delivery

For the reasons outlined above, **the recommended option is Option 2**

5.21 Securing an appropriate proposer (provider) of a new school

5.22 Any new school must be run by an Academy Trust Current policy is that schools converting to academy status do so as part of a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) rather than a stand-alone trust with a single school. MATs, once established, can expand the number of schools within the Trust, including through sponsoring underperforming schools. They can also propose and sponsor new Free Schools,

5.23 Any established MAT, either currently operating in Barnsley or with ambitions to operate in Barnsley could also propose and eventually sponsor a new town-centre-based free school.

5.24 Maintained schools that are good and outstanding can convert to academies, taking the lead in establishing MATs with other schools subject to due process and the approval of the Regional Commissioner.

- 5.25 Of the schools most affected by the increased need for places, Horizon and Penistone Grammar School (PGS) have high Ofsted ratings and so are in the position to establish MATs and if they want, to propose and sponsor a new free school.
- 5.26 Through consultation with both Horizon and PGS, it has become clear that the governor and leaders these schools are considering establishing MATs and have been in discussion with other local schools and the DfE about this.
- 5.27 As indicated above, pupil projection data shows that in the central region of Barnsley there is a predicted highest shortfall of places of 753 in 2023. This is a small secondary school sized free school. The numbers for the Penistone area show a predicted highest shortfall of places of 244 in 2024. This could be addressed by including these numbers with those above ($244 + 753 = 997$), and this would be a medium-sized free school. However the places needed to meet demand in Penistone would be located in the town centre. An alternative would be to increase places in Penistone Grammar, which would strengthen its viability in establishing a MAT.
- 5.28 Pros and cons of each of these options are:

	Option	Pros	Cons
1	Already established MAT proposing and sponsoring a new free school to provide all of the additional places needed (900+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision-making and planning does not require as much Council or Barnsley schools' capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nature of the proposer/sponsor's ambitions is unknown and this may create uncertainty in 'the system' Relies on third party corporate decision-making and timescales The opportunity to develop a 'Barnsley solution to a Barnsley challenge' may be lost
2	Existing maintained school becoming a MAT and proposing/sponsoring a new town centre free school providing all of the additional places needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are high performing local schools, Ofsted-rated Good with recent experience of establishing and building a new school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a medium-sized school and the chance of finding a large enough single property in the town-centre to re-model is less likely Many of the pupils in the free school are likely to be from the west of the borough increasing transport time, costs and additional and longer journeys to and from the school (particularly if the school is in the town centre): environmental impact Relies on maintained school becoming a MAT

			within reasonable timescales
3	Existing MAT or maintained school becoming a MAT and sponsoring a new, small secondary free school (700-800 places) to meet town centre demand, PLUS increasing number of places available in Penistone by approx. 250 places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choice of MATs already in Barnsley, plus a high performing maintained schools in right location w experience of establishing and building a new school High performing local school in Penistone (PGS) suitable for expansion to meet demand in that area Would make Penistone school more financially viable as either a maintained school or as part of a new MAT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A town-centre site would need to be identified and procured/leased and re-modelled within the right timescales to provide accommodation PGS would need to provide extra accommodation for at least an additional 244 pupils which would require capital investment by the council Some of the additional places could be taken by pupils from the Sheffield area, based on PGS current intake radius

5.29 For the reasons outlined above, **the recommended option is Option 3**

5.30 Phase 2: Addressing the medium-term need for additional primary places in the Barugh Green/Higham district

5.31 The adopted Core Strategy already identifies Urban Barnsley as the housing growth area in the borough and in the emerging Local Plan, there is a mixed-use site (MU 1) proposed adjacent to Higham and Barugh Green. The examination of the plan will take place in 2017 with a decision currently expected in late summer/autumn. If the Local Plan is deemed to be sound following examination, the indicative phasing plan provided by the developer suggests that houses will come forward in the following phases:

Phase	Dates	No. dwellings	No. Primary pupils	No. Secondary pupils
Phase 1	2018-2023	487 dwellings	104	74
Phase 2	2023-2028	598 dwellings	126	91
Phase 3	2028-2033	615 dwellings	131	93
TOTALS		1700	361	258

5.32 In order to cater for the additional school pupils that would be housed through this development a 1.5 form-entry primary school would be needed in the area. It is advantageous for all parties if the school is built as part of the first phase of the development as a new-build local primary school assists with the early sale of homes in order to meet identified housing need. It would also be advantageous to Barnsley as it would provide additional primary school places in a locality where places are

currently under pressure. The capital budget for the new school will be provided in part only by the Section 106 funds levied on the developer.

- 5.33 The probable timescales for the development and the school build are outlined below:

Local Plan Inspector's Decision	Summer/Autumn 2017
Developers take control of land	January 2018
Procurement of school developer	February – June 2018
Site available for new school build	Summer 2018
School open	September 2019

A survey of sites for potential primary school building is included at Appendix 3.

- 5.34 A high-level options appraisal has already been completed by BMBC in June 2016 with the following options considered:

Option1 – New school built on new site at Barugh Green

Option 2 - Expansion of the existing Barugh Green School

Option 3 - Expansion of the existing Gawber School

Option 4 – Expansion of Existing Wilthorpe School

Option 5 - New school built on alternative new site

- 5.35 This options appraisal concluded that **Option 1** was the most deliverable option however this did not take account of any changes in governance which may occur in the relevant schools ie conversion to a MAT may change the preferred option as capital funds may be made available through the EFA.

- 5.36 All of the considerations described above for the establishment of a new secondary free school also apply to the establishment of a new primary free school. The options available for this new school are therefore:

Option 1 – Already established MAT proposing and sponsoring a new free school

Option 2 – A new MAT for Barugh Green Primary sponsoring the new primary free school (a two school MAT initially)

Option 3 - A new MAT for Gawber Primary School sponsoring the new primary free school (a two school MAT initially)

Option 4 - A new MAT with both the local primary schools sponsoring the new primary free school (a three school MAT initially)

Option 5 – A new MAT with a secondary and a primary/several primaries sponsoring the new primary free school

Option 6 - A local secondary school changing its designation to become an all-through school

- 5.37 As a consequence of earlier national policy statements good and outstanding Barnsley primary and secondary schools have been actively considering choices about their future status and looking at options for forming or joining a MAT.

Throughout this consultation it is clear that both Gawber Primary School and Barugh Green are considering carefully the benefits and risks of establishing themselves as a MAT. Given the timescales and subject to due process and governing body decisions about their schools, if either of these schools led on the establishment of a MAT they could apply to sponsor a Free School. Equally if a secondary school governing body determined that it would like their school to become an all-through school, this could be planned and delivered within the timescales needed.

5.38 Summary Of Recommended Options

5.39 A summary of the recommended options is outlined below, for Cabinet's ease of reference:

Phase 1

- For addressing additional demand for pupil places entering Year 7 – Option 4 (Refurbishment of an existing building and to establish a new school to accommodate secondary pupils)
- Subject to approving Option 4, the recommended option for procuring suitable accommodation is – Option 1 (Former 6th Form College Building, Regent St)
- Commissioning of a new school – Option 2 (Commissioned under the auspices of the DfE)
- Securing an appropriate proposer/provider – Option 3 (An existing MAT or a maintained school becoming a MAT which will sponsor a new, smaller secondary free school to meet demand from the Town Centre and to increase the number of available places in Penistone by approximately 250 places)

Phase 2

- For addressing the medium term need for additional primary school places in the Barugh Green/Higham areas – Option 1* (New school to be built on a new site at Barugh Green)

*(*based on the considerations outlined in Paragraphs 5.35 – 5.37)*

6.0 Proposal and Justification

6.1 As described above, the Council has no direct control over the proposed solutions which rely on individual schools' determinations and actions. If the above recommended options are deemed favourable to be taken forward into the next stage of development, the Council will need to have cognisance of the progress of individual school projects in order to satisfy itself that sufficient places will be available. There are also actions for different departments of the Council eg the Surveyor teams so a central co-ordinating role for the Council is envisaged. Schools will need to assemble a project team to work with the various stakeholders, including the Council as a key stakeholder and to work up a detailed delivery plan. As indicated above, there is particular urgency to move the approved option for the new secondary school into a delivery phase. The timescales for the new primary provision are less critical at this stage.

7.0 Implications for Local People and Service Users

- 7.1 There is an urgent need for additional secondary school places in the central and western parts of the borough. The options above offer a short-term transitional solution as well as a more permanent solution to the challenge. Failure to address the challenge will mean that local parents will not be able to find a place for their children in the town's secondary schools at transfer from primary to secondary phase education.

9.0 Financial Implications

- 9.1 The capital cost of providing new school places is funded by the DfE through the 'Basic Need' capital grant. This capital grant is used by local authorities to support the capital requirement for expanding existing maintained schools, free schools or academies, and by establishing new schools.
- 9.2 Basic need funding is allocated on the basis of a comparison of forecast pupil numbers with school capacity, with shortfalls in capacity attracting funding. The allocations for the financial years up to 2018-19 have been confirmed by the Government (and are based upon the projected need for new places by September 2019). The confirmed allocations for Barnsley are as follows:

2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	3 year Total
3,062,602	3,116,146	137,735	6,316,483

- 9.3 It should be noted that basic need funding for 2016/17 and 2017/18 is fully committed to funding a number of expansion schemes (and additional places) in primary schools (including academies) across the borough. The funding confirmed for 2018/19 £0.137m is significantly less than the amount for previous years, also with no funding confirmed beyond 2018/19. As it currently stands the basic need funding confirmed beyond 2017/18 is significantly inadequate to meet the medium term need for additional school places in the Barugh Green/Higham district and for pupils entering into Year 7 (secondary schools).
- 9.4 It should be noted that in addition to DfE basic need capital allocation, S106 funding (from local housing development) is another useful source of funding and contribution towards the capital requirement of new school places. If the Local Plan is considered to be sound and MU 1 is allocated as currently proposed it is envisaged that there would be a Section 106 contribution of £2.5 million available for additional secondary school provision and £2.5 million for primary provision.
- 9.5 The above identified s106 funding will create the 'seed' money for any additional capital that might be needed to convert the old sixth form building and to build the new school. The EFA could provide additional capital monies for the build as part of the 500 new Free School commitments for example.
- 9.6 There has been no survey yet of the old sixth form building and therefore no estimate of the cost to convert or the time it will take to do this. A full feasibility of the building for the proposed new use would be required as a priority action on any project delivery plan.

- 9.7 The funds needed to expand places in existing primary and secondary schools to meet demand in the shorter term have not been costed or identified as part of this report.

10.0 Employee Implications

- 10.1 None.

11.0 Communications Implications

- 11.1 The consultation carried out so far has been an open and transparent process with consultees having the opportunity to contribute to the shaping of the option. It is recommended to continue this approach into the project development phase and to establish a stakeholder reference groups which could also involve parents and young people.

12.0 Consultations

- 12.1 The informal consultation process undertaken so far has resulted in the formulation of this report. It is recommended to continue this informal consultation as described above. In addition, as part of the establishment of new MATs and free schools there will be a statutory Section 10 consultation process to be completed.

13.0 The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework

- 13.1 The proposals are relevant to the corporate priority relating to People Achieving their Potential, specifically the objective that every child is in a good school.

14.0 Promoting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 14.1 Consideration of the need for additional special school places is given the same priority as the need for additional mainstream places.

15.0 Tackling the Impact of Poverty

- 15.1 None directly.

16.0 Tackling Health Inequalities

- 16.1 None directly.

17.0 Reduction of Crime and Disorder

- 17.1 None directly.

18.0 Risk Management Issues

- 18.1 Consideration of the options and support to proceed into an active project phase will mitigate the reputational risk to BMBC associated with having too few secondary place for pupils transitioning from primary to secondary in the coming years and having too few special school places.

19.0 Health, Safety and Emergency Resilience Issues

- 19.1 None.

20.0 Compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights

20.1 None directly.

21.0 Conservation of Biodiversity

21.1 None.

22.0 Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

22.1 None, applicable.

23.0 List of Appendices

23.1 Appendix 1: List of Consultees

Appendix 2: Pupil Place Panning data – Secondary NOR 2015-27 by area

Appendix 3: Analysis of potential new primary school sites at Barugh
Green/Higham

24.0 Details of Background Papers

24.1 The free school presumption - Departmental advice for local authorities and new school proposers February 2016. All background papers used in the production of this report may be viewed by contacting Maggie Francis, People Directorate, Barnsley MBC, PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 9GG

Officer Contact: Margaret Libreri

Tel. No. 773211 or margaretlibreri@barnsley.gov.uk

Financial Implications/
Consultation
<i>(to be signed by senior Financial Services Officer where no financial implications</i>