

For General Release

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| REPORT TO: | CABINET 24 JANUARY 2022 |
| SUBJECT: | Education Estates Strategy |
| LEAD OFFICER: | Debbie Jones - Interim Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education Shelley Davies – Director, Education and Youth Engagement Denise Bushay – Head of Service, School Place Planning, Admissions and Early Years |
| CABINET MEMBER: | Cllr Flemming, Children, Young People and Learning |
| WARDS: | All |
| COUNCIL PRIORITIES The recommendations in this report are in line with the new corporate priorities and new Ways for renewing Croydon: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- We will live within our means, balance the books and provide value for money for our residents.- We will focus on tackling ingrained inequality and poverty in the borough.- We will focus on providing the best quality core service we can afford. <p>This report sets out the draft education estates strategy for the three year period 2021-2024. The strategy aims to minimise council borrowing to an absolute minimum.</p> <p>Appendix D - Administration Priorities for the Croydon Renewal Plan</p> | |
| FINANCIAL IMPACT The overall cost of the Education Capital Programme is estimated at £18,741m over the period 2022/23 – 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 3. | |
| FORWARD PLAN KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO.: 0121CAB The notice of the decision will specify that the decision may not be implemented until after 13.00 hours on the 6th working day following the day on which the decision was taken unless referred to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee. | |

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 to

For approval

School Admission

- 1.1 agree to recommend to full Council that it determine the proposed community schools' Admission Arrangements for the 2023/24 academic year (Appendix 1);
- 1.2 approve the continued adoption of the proposed Pan London scheme for co-ordination of admissions to Reception and Junior schools – Appendix 1a; and adoption of the proposed Pan London scheme for co-ordination of admissions to secondary schools – Appendix 1b.

School Place Planning

- 1.3 approve the Capital Programme Budget summary (Appendix 3).

School Maintenance and Compliance

- 1.4 approve the proposed Schools' Maintenance Plan (Appendix 4) for 2022/23 with an overall budget cost of £3.7m
- 1.5 Delegate authority to the Interim Corporate Director – Children, Young People and Education to vary the proposed Schools' Maintenance Plan to reflect actual prices and new urgent issues that may arise, including authorising spend against the allowance for emergency and reactive works. The Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Education shall report back to members in respect of any exercise of such authority.

For information

School Place Planning

- 1.6 note comparison between the available School Places vs 2021 School Capacity (SCAP) Projections Pupil Projections Appendices 2 (primary) and 2a (secondary).
- 1.7 Academy conversion
note the change of status of Kenley Primary School to an academy.
- 1.8 Early Years
note the 2021 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment report – Appendix 5.

Special Educational Needs and Disability(SEND)

- 1.9 note that the SEND Estates strategies are contributing positively to the development of local provision maintaining some of our most challenging and vulnerable children and young people with SEND within their families and communities.

Alternative Provision / Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)

- 1.10 note information on Alternative Provision / PRU.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report outlines the Council's Education Estates Strategy for three stages of education: Early Years, Primary and Secondary, including Pupil Referral Unit

and Special Educational Needs and Disability. It covers: School Place Planning; School Admissions; and Schools' Maintenance and Compliance.

2.2 Key Points

- We are not proposing any changes to the previously agreed admission arrangements for community schools.
- There is sufficiency of school places to meet demand at primary and secondary education phases.
- There has been a decline in birth rate resulting in a high level of unfilled places in some schools, especially in the North West of the Borough.
- The new Addington Valley Academy Special School opened in September 2021.
- The review of the Special Educational Needs estate conditions surveys have been completed.
- There is sufficiency of early years provision.

2.3 **School Admission**

Admission authorities, including local authorities, are responsible for admissions and must act in accordance with the School Admission Code, and the School Admission Appeals Code. All admission authorities must determine (i.e. formally agree) admission arrangements every year, by 28 February. As part of determining their admission arrangements, all admission authorities must set an admission number for each 'relevant age group'. The Council is also responsible for having in place a scheme for coordinating admission arrangements. The admission arrangements are part of the policy framework and are therefore reserved to full Council for decision. There are no proposed change to the admission arrangements that have been previously determined in January 2021 that requires consultation.

2.4 All schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places at the school. Academies, foundation schools and voluntary aided schools are their own admission authority.

2.5 In-Year Admission

Croydon School Admissions manage the in-year admissions for the majority of primary schools in Croydon either because they are a community school or on behalf of the governing body of an academy, Voluntary Aided, Foundation or Free school.

2.6 **School Place Planning**

In accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 ("EIA") the Council has a statutory duty to "secure that sufficient schools for providing— (a) primary education, and (b) secondary education are available for their area" as well as to "secure diversity and increase opportunities for parental choice when planning the provision of school places" in the borough. The Council also has statutory duty to manage a potential surplus of schools places. A report which will outline the council's strategy for managing surplus school places will be submitted to cabinet in Spring.

2.7 School Maintenance and Compliance

The Council is the employer for community schools, community special schools, maintained nursery schools and pupil referral units and is responsible for larger condition and maintenance works. It has a duty to ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place to monitor and review any preventative and protective measures that have been implemented. The Schools' Maintenance Plan (Appendix 4) contains the planned repairs and maintenance programme for 2022/23.

2.8 Special Educational Needs and Disability

The SEND Estates strategies are contributing positively to the development of local provision maintaining some of our most challenging and vulnerable children and young people with SEND within their families and communities. In turn, this contributes to the High Need Fund Recovery Plan as agreed previously by Cabinet. These include:

2.9 Addington Valley Academy for severe and complex children with Autism Spectrum Conditions is completed and opened September 2021.

2.10 St. Nicholas Special School was completed and the school moved in over the last academic year. This has supported the increase of provision by additional 15 places for September 2021. Further scheduled growth is planned for 20 places in September 2022 and September 2023.

2.11 Croydon College Coulsdon Pathways provision for students with SEND aged 19-25 is now in its fourth year. The partnership with Waddon is proving successful and in demand.

2.12 The review of the SEND estate – Red Gates / St. Giles / Priory - in terms of its quality, safeguarding and feasibility as approved by Cabinet in January 2020 is underway. Conditions surveys have been undertaken.

2.13 Mainstream / Community / Voluntary Aided Schools

Feasibility is being undertaken at Gresham Primary to see if a permanent bulge class is practical and achievable for 2022/23 due to projected increase in demand for school places in the South of the borough. Currently, there is no other plan to create additional school places, however, we are reviewing our strategy following consultation and a decision on the Local Plan in order to assess the likely number of pupils that new housing developments will generate and the number of additional school places that may be required.

2.14 Kenley Primary school changed its status to an academy, and it is now part of The Collegiate Trust, effective 1st September 2021.

2.15 Virgo Fidelis Convent Senior School, a Roman Catholic voluntary aided secondary school for girls aged 11–18 that was located in Upper Norwood, formally closed on 31st August 2021.

2.16 Early Years

Local Authorities are required to report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare, and make this report available and accessible to parents. Croydon's Childcare Sufficiency

Assessment 2021 report indicates that there are sufficient early years and childcare places for families. The Sufficiency Assessment report is attached as Appendix 5.

2.17 Alternative Provision / Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)

The Council has a duty to make arrangements for the provision of suitable education at school or otherwise for each child of school age who for reasons of illness, exclusion or otherwise would not receive it unless such arrangements were made.

3. **DETAIL**

3.1 **School Admissions**

Croydon is the Admission Authority for Community schools and is therefore responsible for determining the Admission Arrangements for these schools. Where the admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years. Croydon is not proposing any changes to the previously agreed admission arrangements

3.2 Admission authorities must determine admission arrangements for entry in September 2023 by 28 February 2021. The proposed Admission Arrangements for Community schools include the criteria by which schools places are allocated when a school receives more applications than places. The council is not proposing any significant changes to the previously agreed admission arrangements, barring additional information relating to looked-after children added from the DfE guidance which do not require consultation:

- This includes children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
- A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.
- If an application is made under the 'looked-after' criterion, it must be supported by:
 - a letter from the relevant local authority children's services department and/or relevant documents or
 - evidence which demonstrates that a child was in state care outside of England and left that care as a result of being adopted.

3.3 The Council is also responsible for having in place a scheme for coordinating admission arrangements. Croydon has participated in a Pan London

arrangement for the Co-ordinated Admissions rounds for both primary and secondary applications for several years.

3.4 The annual school admissions arrangements are part of the Council's policy framework and as such require determination by the full Council. The Council is required by statute and regulations to approve its admissions policies for the schools it is responsible for the 2023/24 academic year (including Published Admissions Numbers – PANs). Accordingly Cabinet is requested to recommend to full Council that it determine the proposed Admission Arrangements for Croydon's community schools for the 2023/24 academic year (Appendix 1) and adoption of the proposed Pan London co-ordination arrangements (Appendix 1a & Appendix1b).

3.5 The governing bodies of voluntary aided, foundation schools and academies are their own admission authorities and therefore responsible for determining their own admission arrangements.

3.6 In-year admissions

An in-year admission is when parents/carers apply to a school outside the normal admissions round and at a time when their child should already be attending school. In-year admissions generally arise when a parent/carer wants their child to transfer between schools or when a child moves into the area.

3.7 Local authorities must, on request, provide information to prospective parents about the places still available in all schools within their area. To enable them to do this, the admission authorities for all schools in the area must provide the local authority with details of the number of places available at their schools whenever this information is requested, to assist a parent/carer in seeking a school place.

3.8 The council is not required to co-ordinate in-year applications for schools for which they are not the admission authority. However, Croydon School Admissions manage the in-year admissions for the majority of primary schools in Croydon either because they are a community school or on behalf of the governing body of an academy, Voluntary Aided, Foundation or Free school.

4. **School Place Planning**

Under section 14 of the Education Act 1996, every local authority (LA) has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for all pupils in its area. This includes the planning and reviewing of school places, securing diversity and increasing opportunities for parental choice to ensure the needs of the community are met, as well as managing surplus places.

4.1 Pupil Projections for SCAP 2021

Like most London Boroughs, Croydon commissions the Greater London Authority (GLA) School Roll Projection (SRP) service to forecast future demand for school places. The GLA methodology generally has provided a more accurate and credible set of pupil projection numbers to support better pupil places planning for Croydon. The projections are also used to complete the council's annual statutory School Capacity (SCAP) return to the Department for Education.

- 4.2 The projections are designed to give a strategic-level indication of where additional demand may arise in future. It is not intended that the projections be considered as definitive evidence that additional provision is required in a particular planning area. We apply local knowledge to ensure that local factors are taken into account to enhance the robustness of the projected figures.
- 4.3 Currently, there are more places than pupils at both primary and secondary levels, but the balance between the two varies across the borough, within educational planning areas and particularly school-by-school.
- 4.4 Shortages of places at popular schools can exist alongside surplus places at others. And over the next three years, the expected growth in pupil numbers varies widely: in some places, numbers are expected to increase due to pupil yield from planned housing developments; in others, particularly in the primary phase, they are expected to be a decrease due to fall in birth rates.
- 4.5 Pupil projection indicates sufficiency of mainstream school places for both primary and secondary schools for the next 3 years. There is the potential for some schools across the borough, both primary and secondary, to have higher levels of unfilled places. Appendices 2 (primary) and 3 (secondary) contain a table that shows a comparison between the Available School Places vs 2021 School Capacity (SCAP) Projections Pupil Projections.

4.6 Changes in demand

Across London, local authorities are trying to manage a high level of unfilled places which in part is due to a drop in birth rate. Between 2012-13 and 2018-19, the number of live births across London decreased by 10%. The number of births in an area will have a direct effect on the number of children on roll four years later. Anecdotal evidence in relation to the potential effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on future birth rates suggests that the pandemic may lead to an acceleration in the decline of the birth rate in the UK.

Surplus Places

- 4.7 In 2012, there was unprecedented increase in demand for school places in Croydon with these children starting school in either 2016/17 or 2017/18 academic years. However, not all children attend school in their borough of residence. Since 2013, there has been a fall in birth rate nationally and locally which has resulted in a drop in demand for school places, and a high level of surplus school places in some schools across the borough. This can have a negative impact on schools finance as schools are funded on a per pupil basis and unfilled places mean that schools will get less funding which could affect the quality of education as schools might have to reduce staff and resource.
- 4.8 To allow for unexpected in-year growth in demand and parental choice, and provide some leeway in case the projections underestimate the actual level of demand, the Council aim to allow approximately 5% surplus places across the borough.
- 4.9 The school place planning team has been and will be in contact with affected schools to discuss / agree potential solutions for the drop in demand for school places, including proposed reduction of published admission number and alternative use of empty classrooms. Some of the surplus places will be taken

up by asylum seeking children and child yield from planned housing developments across the borough. It is important to note that the council has already taken steps to remove some of the surplus places, mainly through the reduction of affected schools' Published Admission Number. A report outlining the council's strategy for managing surplus school places will be submitted to cabinet in Spring. This will include:

- the use of up to date and accurate data to inform the school organisation process and to enable accommodation to be used to the best effect
- school roll projection for future demand of school places
- ensuring that admission arrangements are applied effectively

However, it is important to highlight that it is not realistic and possibly undesirable to aim for a perfect match of pupils and places at each school as not all unfilled places are surplus and not all surplus places can be removed in a cost-effective way.

4.10 Primary Schools

Following London's rapid population growth, in 2013, Croydon experienced an unexpected drop in birth rate. In Croydon, the birth rate dropped by 5% which later impacted the 2017/18 Reception intake. Between 2014 and 2016, Croydon's birth rate recovered however, since 2017, the rate has consistently fallen each year. This is expected to affect the 2021/22 – 2023/24 Reception cohorts

4.11 Croydon has six educational planning areas – North West, East, Central, South East, South, South West - for the primary phase pupil of place planning; each with its own distinct demographic profile and migration patterns. A significant number of schools in the North West planning area have experienced the biggest fall in the demand resulting in the highest number of surplus places. To date, 1260 places have been removed, across primary year groups (Reception – Year 6). Most of these unfilled places, were in the North West and East planning area.

4.12 For the 2021/22 academic year - the percentage of first preference offers is up by 1% this year to 85%. The percentage of parents/carers receiving one of their first three preference schools is 96.5% (96% last year). There also has been a decrease of 7.12% in the number of primary applications received on-time with 4472 pupils applied for primary school places, compared to 4815 in 2020.

4.13 The demand for places in Croydon's primary phase is not restricted to the rising 5's, nor does the on-time admissions round adequately provide an accurate picture of the number of places that will be required during the following education year. 'In year' applications create an all year pressure to find additional places, and since families who make these applications characteristically have young families with primary aged children, there is a continued pressure across the whole primary estate.

4.14 Secondary Schools

There are two secondary educational phase planning areas, North and South, which reflect home to school journeys tend to travel further to school independently due to good transport links.

4.15 The majority of the additional primary aged pupils have now moved through the year groups and transitioned into the secondary phase. Within three years, the bulge will have fully transitioned and the drop in demand that was seen by primary schools will be felt in the secondary phase. Between 2014 and 2019, Croydon's transition rate fell from 90% to 84%. For the 221/22 academic year, 60% of applicants received their first preference school and 84% one of their first three preference schools – this is a decrease in comparison to the previous year. The contributory factors for the decrease in the percentage of parents receiving a place at their first preference could be that parents/carers were not able to attend open events in person and based their decision when selecting school preferences on Ofsted reports. There has been an increase by 2.1% in the number of secondary applications received for the 2021 intake (compared to 2020). 4667 pupils applied for secondary school places in 2021, compared to 4571 in 2020. Across the secondary school estate, 180 Year 7 additional places were created through a new free secondary school in the North for 2020/21.

4.16 Mainstream / Community schools

A mainstream school is a maintained school or academy which is not a special school. A Community School is a school that is controlled and run by the Local Authority (LA). The LA owns the land/building and determines the admission arrangements. Croydon has a total of 87 mainstream primary schools of which 22 are maintained / community schools. None of Croydon's 23 secondary schools are maintained by the Local Authority.

4.17 Academy Conversion

Academies and free schools are state-funded, non-fee-paying schools in England, independent of local authorities. They operate in accordance with their funding agreements with the Secretary of State. Where the Secretary of State makes an Academy Order under the Academies Act 2010, the local authority (LA) is obliged to cease to maintain the school following conversion. The council is legally obliged to transfer the school to the relevant Academy under a 125 year lease with an associated Commercial Transfer Agreement (CTA).

4.18 Kenley Primary school has changed its status to an academy, and it is now part of The Collegiate Trust, effective 1st September 2021. The lease and CTA for Kenley has been agreed between the Council's in-house legal team and the solicitors acting for The Collegiate Trust.

4.19 School Maintenance

Local Authorities have responsibility to maintain school buildings so that they are safe, warm and weather tight and provide a suitable learning environment, including dealing with emergencies promptly and effectively and managing and procuring maintenance works efficiently. The Council is responsible for the larger condition and maintenance works in maintained schools.

4.20 As part of the schools planned maintenance programme (which includes electrical, mechanical and general build works) a certain reduction in CO2 emissions is achieved as a result of replacing electrical/mechanical equipment which is at the end of its lifetime with new efficient equipment. During last year's programme, the Council took the initiative of completing feasibility studies and

heat decarbonisation plans at four schools in the borough to explore suitable low carbon heating systems such as Ground source heat pumps, Air source heat pumps, the installation of photovoltaic panels and improving the fabric of the schools' buildings. A number of suitable options have been proposed as part of the feasibility studies, however the challenge continues to be that adopting such measures requires additional funding and forward planning.

- 4.21 There are a number of funding schemes that are available to fund heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency measures (provided that the criteria is met); last year we were successful in obtaining funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to aid with the installation of LED lighting in 3 schools. The next steps would be to carry out further feasibility studies, following the review of the schools condition surveys which were completed in 2021, to establish in which schools energy efficiency measures can be adopted (which meet the criteria of the public sector decarbonisation funding schemes) to enable the Council to apply for further funding to supplement the planned maintenance programme's budget to deliver such measures.
- 4.22 The condition of some of the education estate has improved due to investment in the refurbishment of the building fabric and maintenance / replacement of electrical and mechanical equipment. However, as school buildings age, they present age related issues and the cost of maintaining them is increasing steadily. In addition, some of the buildings are nearing the end of their lives and structural issues are beginning to emerge.
- 4.23 The 2022/23 annual maintenance capital budget (Appendix 4) currently stands at £3.7m which is sufficient to only undertake the highest ranked projects; those categorised as the worst defects and designated D1 in the condition survey report. The council retains a percentage of its annual maintenance capital budget to address unexpected and urgent works in schools.
- 4.24 The School's Maintenance plan (Appendix 4) has been developed using information from condition surveys commissioned by the Council. 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). School Condition surveys have been undertaken in 2021, they will be reviewed and validated to inform the 5 next years school maintenance programme.
- 4.25 Asbestos Management in Community Schools
Where asbestos is present, the council will take the following steps to manage the asbestos in our schools ensuring they have the following:
- a) Management survey of asbestos-containing materials (ACMs)
 - b) Assess the risks associated with ACMs.
 - c) A plan for managing asbestos.
 - d) Ensure staff and visitors know the risks and precautions they need to take.
 - e) Keep the management of asbestos under continuous review
- 4.26 Statutory compliance Inspections
Both the Council and maintained schools are required to ensure school buildings are meeting the statutory standards by regularly undertaking statutory

tests which includes Legionella Risk Assessment, Gas Safety Checks, Fire Alarm tests, NICEIC 5 Year Periodic Inspections, NICEIC Emergency Lighting, Fire Risk Assessment and Asbestos Management. The Council ensures that the policies and the condition of the school estate are compliant with appropriate legislation by requesting and checking the relevant certification.

4.27 Fire Safety

Cabinet approved an additional £3m from 2018/19 through to 2019/20, extended to 2020/21 to undertake fire safety remedial works at schools for which it is the responsible body. This works programme will now conclude in 2022/23 due to challenges that have arisen in delivering the works on-site. The works are progressing well across the estate with significant progress made in 2020/21. The remaining works are currently being reviewed against other planned / agreed works to ensure the works are coordinated and minimise disruption to teaching and learning.

4.28 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

The new Addington Valley Academy Special School opened in September 2021. It provides a school and setting of high quality and currently supports 80 children and young people across Reception and Key Stages 1 – 3. In addition, OHCAT also supports Post 16 students on a 2 year programme within the school. The school will expand to 120 places for Croydon children and young people from September 2022.

4.29 The new St Nicholas school provides outstanding facilities for the school population and has extended place numbers for September 2021 by 15. There is further growth planned of 20 places for September 2022 and 2023.

4.30 Croydon College Coulsdon Pathways provision for students with SEND aged 19-25 is now in its fourth year and has been a great success. The accommodation to support the delivery of this programme is in place until September 2022 to allow time for provision options to be further explored.

4.31 Development of St. Giles to become a 2-19 aged provision has progressed with relevant staff TUPE processes completed. The Early Years specialist nursery is now housed in the modular build which provides a high quality environment at the heart of the school.

4.32 The review of the SEND estate – Red Gates / St. Giles / Priory - in terms of its quality, safeguarding and feasibility as approved by Cabinet in January 2020 is underway. A conditions survey has been undertaken and the report is now under consideration.

4.33 All of the aforementioned SEND Estates strategies are contributing positively to the development of local provision maintaining some of our most challenging and vulnerable children and young people with SEND within their families and communities. In turn, this contributes to the High Need Fund Recovery Plan as agreed previously by Cabinet.

4.34 Early Years

Under the Childcare Act 2006 local authorities have a statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare for the needs of working parents/carers in their area. The

Council's duties around inclusion birth to five are detailed in the Children and Families Act 2014, (section 2 Childcare Act 2016).

4.35 For the purposes of this assessment the supply of formal childcare includes private day nurseries, pre-schools, schools with nursery provision, childminders (funded childminders are accredited to deliver the free entitlement on behalf of the local authority), out of school clubs and holiday clubs. In total, there are 739 childcare providers in our local authority, offering 14,667 childcare places.

4.36 In Croydon there are an estimated 17 childcare places per 100 children based on 86,290 children aged 0 to 14 years. Ofsted's national figures as at 31.8.20 state that the proportion of childcare providers on the Early Years Register judged to be good or outstanding was 96%.

4.37 Alternative Provision / Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)

Under Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 the Local Authority has a statutory duty to make arrangements for the provision of suitable full time education to those pupils who are unable to attend a mainstream school due to illness, exclusion or otherwise.

4.38 In this context, Alternative Provision in Croydon is provided by separate specialist providers for each of the Primary and Secondary settings, a Medical Tuition Service and the London Borough of Croydon supplement this with provision commissioned from the independent sector as required. The number of commissioned places from the Independent Sector varies according to need. All of this place funded provision is good or outstanding. The number of places available at each setting is:

- Medical 90 places
- Primary 48 places
- Secondary 190 places

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 Where the admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years, even if there have been no changes during that period.

6. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

6.1 This report will go to a Scrutiny meeting.

7 FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 **Revenue and Capital consequences of report recommendations**

| | Budget | Medium Term Financial Strategy – 3 year forecast | | |
|---|------------------|--|------------------|------------------|
| | 2021/22 £'000 | 2022/23 £'000 | 2023/24 £'000 | 2024/25 £'000 |
| Capital Budgets | | | | |
| Permanent expansions | 425 | 44 | 0 | 0 |
| FTE / Bulges | 69 | 3,243 | 0 | 0 |
| SEN provision | 11,109 | 2,226 | 506 | 0 |
| Major Maintenance | 2657 | 9,261 | 2,558 | 0 |
| Fire Safety Works | 450 | 902 | 0 | 0 |
| Other schemes | 454 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Effect of decision from report (Total) | 15,164 | 15,676 | 3,065 | 0 |
| Funding sources | | | | |
| School Condition Allocation | 3,107 | 10,163 | 2,558 | 0 |
| Special Provision Capital Funding | 1,833 | 1,689 | 147 | 0 |
| Basic Need Funding | 949 | 3,287 | 0 | 0 |
| ESFA | 5,934 | 210 | 0 | 0 |
| S106 | 240 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Borrowing | 2,801 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CIL | 300 | 327 | 360 | 0 |
| Total | 15,164 | 15,676 | 3,065 | 0 |

- 7.1.1 The table above details the Education Capital Programme for the current and future three financial years and the associated funding sources. The spend in the 2022/23 and 2023/24 may increase dependent on the outcome of the following:
- a) The completion of the Condition Surveys across all of our community schools. This will determine the required level of funding over the coming years to ensure that our schools are compliant and safe.
 - b) Conclusion of the viability study of the SEN estate; Red Gates, Priory and St Giles.
 - c) The outcomes of the Croydon Local Plan Consultation.
- 7.1.2 A detailed breakdown of the projects can be found in Appendix 4 to this report. With a further detailed breakdown of the Schools' Maintenance Programme in Appendix 3.
- 7.1.3 The ESFA have commissioned Croydon to lead on the delivery of the new

special free school - Addington Valley Academy (on Timebridge site). This project is predominately funded by the ESFA. Both the expenditure and funding for this project is detailed in the table above and the project is listed in Appendix 3.

7.2 The effect of the decision

7.2.1 The use of the free schools route to provide new school places within the borough in the future will result in a reduction in the requirements for future capital funding from the council as this will be funded by central government.

7.3 Risks

7.3.1 Due to the nature of this programme there is a risk that projects may overspend and regular monitoring of all projects and the programme will be undertaken and reported to this Cabinet as part of the quarterly financial monitoring reports.

7.4 Future savings/efficiencies

7.4.1 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's borrowing requirement may also be reduced if any further funding is allocated by the Department for Education. The fall in birth rate and associated demand for school places would however result in reduced demand and this would be monitored closely to make future savings.

7.4.2 The provision of more school places within the borough will result in a reduction in the need for young people to travel outside of the borough, which will result in financial savings to the SEND budget.

Approved by: Phil Herd, Interim Head of Finance, CYPE

8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 School place planning duties (s13-14 Education Act 1996).

8.2 The Council as an education authority has a duty to promote high standards of education and fair access to education. It also has a general duty to secure sufficient schools in their area, and to consider the need to secure provision for children with SEN. This should be sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education. This includes a duty to respond to parents' representations about school provision. These are referred to as the school place planning duties.

Approved by: Petrena Sharpe, Interim Head of Social Care & Education Law, on behalf of Interim Director of Legal Services & Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer.

9. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

9.1 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: Gillian Bevan, Head of HR – Resources and Assistant Chief Executives

10. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 10.1 An equality analysis has been undertaken as part of the January 2022 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 and recommendations in the Education Estates Strategy report.
- 10.2 The proposed changes in this 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 provisions at mainstream schools; and Academies /Free Schools. Pupils are allocated a school place based on the admissions criteria which aims to promote fair access to schools and are compliant with the School Admissions Code.
- 10.3 The proposed strategy supports the Council's Equality and Inclusion Policy by extending the existing provision to accommodate students with an SEND need. This will support Croydon's aspiration to:
- Make Croydon a place of opportunity and fairness by tackling inequality, disadvantage and exclusion.
 - Promote provisions that 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 greater opportunity to 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.
- 10.4 The proposed strategy supports 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.
- 10.5 The equality analysis indicates that the proposed changes and recommendations will not negatively impact on any groups that share protected characteristics and that no major change is required as the strategy meets the general and specific equality duties as required by the Equality Act. An Equality Analysis Impact is attached at Appendix 6. Furthermore there is a written commitment in the Equality Analysis to continue to keep the strategy under review and make changes as appropriate should the need arise.

Approved by: Denise McCausland, Equality Programme Manager

11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 11.1 Through the delivery of the Education Capital Programme of works the Council will strive to deliver energy efficient solutions through design and construction methodologies with the intention to reduce energy use and associated carbon emissions in our schools.
- 11.2 The Council will work with schools to monitor the energy performance post works so that this can be captured in lessons learnt for future projects

12. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

- 12.1 Children being in school will help prevent criminal and anti-social behaviour or being victim of such behavior and reduce the number of children and young people in the criminal justice system.

13. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION

- 13.1 The recommendations of this report are set out to ensure that the Council is compliant with its statutory duties as an education authority:
- School Place Planning (s13-14 Education Act 1996) to promote high standards of education and fair access to education; secure sufficient primary and secondary education, including SEN to meet the needs of the population of its area
 - School Admissions (School Admission Code 2014) to determine the Admission Arrangements for its community schools annually
 - School Maintenance - school buildings meet the minimum standard and premises are maintained so that they provide a suitable learning environment.

14. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 14.1 In relation to mainstream schools, there are no confirmed plans to deliver any new/additional mainstream school places. A review of demand will be undertaken following consultation and decision on the Local Plan to ensure that any potential increase in demand is included in future pupil place projections. Future demand for new schools will be delivered through the free school route.

15. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1 **WILL THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT INVOLVE THE PROCESSING OF 'PERSONAL DATA'?**

No.

- 15.2 **HAS A DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT (DPIA) BEEN COMPLETED?**

No.

This report does not include any personal data.

The Director of Education comments that this report is an overview of education estates and does not contain any personal data.

Approved by: Shelley Davies, Director of Education, Children Families and Education

CONTACT OFFICER:

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APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

Appendix 1 – Community Schools Admission Arrangements
Appendix 1a – Pan London Co-ordination – Reception and Junior
Appendix 1b – Pan London Co-ordination – Secondary
Appendix 2 – Available Primary School Places vs SCAP 2021 Pupil Projections
Appendix 2a - Available Secondary School Places vs SCAP 2021 Pupil Projections
Appendix 3 – Capital Programme Budget Summary
Appendix 4 - Schools Maintenance Plan
Appendix 5 – Early Years Childcare Sufficiency Assessment report
Appendix 6 – Equality Impact Assessment

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None