

**Report to Schools' Forum 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015**  
**From Mark Patton (Assistant Director – Education)**

**Item 4: School Place Planning / Basic Need Funding**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report sets out proposals to use Basic Need funding to increase pupil capacity at two schools within the North of the town.
- 1.2 The primary admissions round for 2015 highlighted that there were insufficient places available in the north of the town to meet the demand for places due to parental preference. Additional pupil places, 'bulge classes', for Reception in September 2015 were agreed with Clavering, Barnard Grove, West View and St Helen's, a total of 20 places. These 'bulge classes' are a temporary measure only for this year group and the places were offered in accordance with the published admissions policy.
- 1.3 Over the next two years the pupil projections indicate that there will be 2,862 pupils requiring places at schools located in the North of the town, with places available for 2,947 pupils, a surplus of 85 for all year groups. However, the projections do not take into account parental preference or the change made to the admissions criteria regarding sibling links which was introduced in 2013. As highlighted by the primary admissions round this year, these two factors had a significant impact on the places available in Reception classes in the north of the town.
- 1.4 Pupil projections are currently carried out by Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU). In the past the figures produced by TVU have been within 0.2% - 1.0% accurate, however, future projections may not be as reliable as parental preference and sibling links do not form part of the calculations.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In previous years, Hartlepool's primary schools have had surplus capacity across the town and the need for additional places was not considered to be an issue. In 2012 the town was split into three geographical planning areas for funding purposes; North West, Central & East and South West. This helped secure Basic Need funding from the Department for Education.
- 2.2 In February 2015, the Council's Early Years and School Infrastructure Plan was approved by Children's Services Committee. This plan provides a strategy for future education developments and the need to access funding from all available sources to ensure that the Council has sufficient school places across the town.

- 2.3 Basic Need funding allocations are made to local authorities (LA's) to support the capital requirement for providing new pupil places by expanding existing maintained schools, free schools or academies, and by establishing new schools.
- 2.4 Basic Need is based principally on data collected from School Capacity Surveys (SCAP) and the LA has the responsibility for determining how this funding should be invested in schools across our area.

### **3. PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 There has been pressure on primary school places in the north of the town for the 2015/16 academic year and it is expected that the pressure for places will also be an issue for the 2016/17 academic year. This is a combination of significant planned developments in the North of the town and increasing popularity of schools in that area.
- 4.2 The LA has identified two schools in the North of the town where capacity can be increased without deviating from the principles set out in the Child & Adult Services Department, Early Years and Schools Infrastructure Plan. The plan outlines the principle that no primary school will be larger than a 2 form of entry i.e. a Published Admission Number (PAN) above 60 which is 420 places and a secondary school no bigger than 1250 pupil places which is 250 per year group.
- 4.3 The identified schools are Clavering and Hart. The intention is to increase capacity at both of these schools, which eventually, will create a total of 56 places across all year groups. However, building works will be required to accommodate these extra places.
- 4.4 A report will be submitted to Children's Services Committee which will provide details of the proposals to increase capacity at Clavering and Hart Primary Schools.

### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 Schools' Forum is asked to note the contents of this report.