

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

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| Subject: | Plan for Education in Plymouth to 2020 'Achieving Excellence for all' |
| Committee: | Cabinet |
| Date: | 16 January 2018 |
| Cabinet Member: | Cllr Beer, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People |
| CMT Member: | Carole Burgoyne, Strategic Director for People |
| Author: | Judith Harwood, Assistant Director Education, Participation and Skills |
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| Ref: | JAH.JEG (CAB) 11 (07/12/2017) |
| Key Decision: | No |
| Part: | I |

Purpose of the report:

The Council has set out a clear and persuasive case for the importance of education within the Plymouth Plan. Government policy over recent years has radically impacted on the role of local authorities in respect of education, with more schools moving to academies.

The Plan for Education guides the strategic ambition and direction for the City Council in respect of education. The purpose of this document is to set out the options for the future shape of the Education, Participation and Skills Department in light of government policy, Council strategy and the statutory requirements placed on the Department.

Educational standards over recent years in Plymouth have shown some variation. However, in general, attainment has been below average for at all key stages and by the end of KS4, results remain below the national average in terms of attainment and progress. At Post-16 the percentage of pupils achieving three or more 'A' Levels grades A*-E is also below the national average. The new arrangements would secure the long-term commitment to schools and to support the work of the Plymouth Education Board in raising aspiration and attainment in the city.

The Plan on a Page (attached) clearly sets out the key plans and expands on the policy areas in the Plymouth Plan and Joint Local Plan.

The 5 areas are:

- Attainment/standards. Aspiration is a priority for the Children's System Design Group (Children's Partnership) and delivered through the Plymouth Education Board.
- Planning for pupil growth – a plan to develop capital need
- SEND – developing an improved, integrated system¹
- Skills/STEM – how are we educating and preparing the workforce of the future?
- Creating a strong system through partnership.

¹ SEND transformation is set out in the SEND Strategy

As a suite of plans the Plan for Education outlines how, alongside partners, we will champion better outcomes for children, commission the right support to meet the additional or special needs of children and convene partnerships to create sustainable and effective systems leadership. It is a plan that is supportive of agendas concerned with people and place: improving educational outcomes is a critical element of the city's growth agenda and the health and well-being of residents. The Plan necessarily includes a section on the physical infrastructure required to underpin our ambition. Behind this strategic plan sits a self-evaluation statement and a more detailed operational plan that guide the work of individual teams.

The Council Corporate Plan 2016/19:

Growing

- Provides sufficient education facilities for the growing number of young people in Plymouth to improve their education and employment opportunities.
- Provides the appropriate support for young people with SEND as an integral part of the city's top performing education system.

Caring

- Provides improved facilities that ensure children and young people are safe and confident in their communities, narrowing the gap in equality of access, helping them take control of their lives and communities.

Plymouth Plan

- Supports the growth and development of the city by ensuring we have sufficient school places available in the City.

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications, Including finance, human, IT and land:

All financial commitments would be met from within the Education, Participation and Skills revenue budget, the Dedicated Schools Grant or from schools buying back services which support their future progress.

Other Implications e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management:

Sufficiency of early education and school places in more disadvantaged neighbourhoods are a particular focus to ensure that families experiencing poverty can access high quality places close to their home.

This will then enable access to high quality provision to improve their education and employment opportunities.

This meets the priority in the Child Poverty Action Plan of narrowing the attainment gap.

Equality and Diversity:

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? Yes

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

That Cabinet approve the attached report and endorse the Plan on a Page to enable the further work to continue with schools and partners.

That Cabinet endorse that educational attainment is a priority area for the Council and support the development of a robust plan by the Plymouth Education Board alongside the DFE.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The Council could be failing in its statutory duty to provide sufficient places in schools for parents and pupils within the city if it chose not to work with schools and partners on pupil place planning across the city.

The Regional Schools Commissioner has an expectation that the Local Authority will understand progress and attainment of all schools in the city and the work of the new Plymouth Education Board is a priority for the City. In addition, the LA will continue to have the ability to issue warning notices to maintained schools as necessary as will the Regional Schools Commissioner for all schools.

Published work / information:**Background papers:**

| Title | Part I | Part II | Exemption Paragraph Number | | | | | | | |
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Sign off:

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| Fin | djn 17 18.15 2 | Leg | lt/29 588/ 1312 17 | Mon Off | lt/dvs/2 9588 | HR | N/A | Assets | N /A | IT | N/A | Strat Proc | N/A |
| Originating SMT Member: Judith Harwood | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the content of the report? Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | |