

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

BY CABINET

ITEM:	Education Sufficiency Annual Update
Cabinet Members Present:	Councillors Marcus Hart (Chairman), Marc Bayliss, Adrian Hardman, Adam Kent, Steve Mackay, Karen May, Richard Morris, Tracey Onslow, and Mike Rouse.
Date of Decision:	28 March 2024
Purpose:	To consider the Education Sufficiency Annual Update.
DECISION:	Cabinet: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Noted the updated annual sufficiency information for Mainstream school age and Specialist SEND education provision in line with the Cabinet decision in December 2018;b) Noted the pressure on Mainstream and Specialist SEND educational provision and places, the Sufficiency duties highlighted in the reports and the indicative actions plans to address these pressures;c) Noted the current and forecast education capital allocations and the financial pressure on the education capital programme to fund all the demands for additional provision and places, ahead of any further income from the Department for Education grants or Section 106 housing developer contributions;d) Noted the work being undertaken to assess Early Years and Childcare sufficiency in light of the national expansion programme of childcare entitlements starting in April 2024 and noted a further report to Cabinet in Summer 2024 to detail sufficiency

	<p>assessment and the actions being taken to respond to areas of sufficiency need;</p> <p>e) Noted the progress to date on the Pershore Review, the next steps and noted a further report to Cabinet in 2024;</p> <p>f) Approved the publication of the 2023/24 Mainstream and Specialist SEND Sufficiency reports as updates to the School Organisation Plan 2019 - 2024;</p> <p>g) Approved the publication of the 2024/25 Education Capital Investment Plan, that details how capital investment will be prioritised to meet education sufficiency needs;</p> <p>h) Approved (as detailed in paragraphs 51 – 72 of the report) to proceed with the delivery of the new Worcester City Secondary School including the revised timescales and that the Capital programme be amended for the increased costs to be funded by basic need grant with a recommendation to full Council. Other mitigations continue to be found within the Education Capital programme with further updates on progress included in future Resources Reports to Cabinet;</p> <p>i) Noted the development of a new Education Provision Strategy (formally School Organisation Plan) for 2025 – 2029 (date TBC); and</p> <p>j) Noted a further Cabinet report in 2024 to update the Education Provision Planning Obligations Policy to ensure it reflects the Worcestershire position with regards recent pupil yields from new housing developments, the latest forecasting methodology adopted in Worcestershire and updated DfE guidance.</p>
Reason(s) for the Decision:	As set out in the report. To ensure the Council meets its statutory duty, as well as its strategic aims, to provide a sufficiency of school places for children in Worcestershire.
Alternative Options Considered:	The approaches taken to addressing changes in the demand for school places were set out in the report.

Conflict of Interest (any declared by a consulted Cabinet Member/any dispensation granted)	None.
Date the decision is due to take effect:	8 April 2024

HAZEL BEST, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE