

Chairman's Announcements

Subject:	School Place Planning and Commissioning
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Summary of announcement:

Wiltshire Council has a statutory duty to plan the provision of school places and to ensure that there are sufficient places for all 4 to 16 year old young people in the County. The **Wiltshire School Places Strategy 2015-2020 (draft)** sets out the need to add and where appropriate remove primary and secondary school places in response to changing demographic trends in Wiltshire.

The strategy pulls together the information required to form a strategic view of the need for places across Wiltshire and provides a policy framework for considering statutory proposals including opening, closing and defining the size of schools; implementing new school competition arrangements and supporting the development of academies, UTCs and where appropriate Free Schools.

Through the commissioning of school places, as outlined in this Strategy, the aim is to produce an effective match between pupils and places by providing an infrastructure of high quality school buildings and facilities, where all schools, regardless of status, are of an appropriate size and standard to deliver the curriculum effectively.

The Strategy contains an Implementation Plan setting out the short, medium and long term proposals for primary and secondary school provision and covers the period 2015-2020. The detailed area assessments and Implementation Plan proposals will be reviewed and updated every two years and will inform the Schools Capital Investment Programme in future years.

The Wiltshire School Places Strategy and Executive Summary can be viewed at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schoolseducationandlearning/schoolplacesstrategydraft.htm>

It is proposed that the Strategy and associated Implementation Plan will be considered for approval by the Cabinet in November 2015. If you have any questions, comments or further information on the draft document that you would like to be considered, **please send an email to SchoolOrganisation@wiltshire.gov.uk no later than Friday 1 October 2015.**

Information workshop/drop-in sessions are being planned during September to explain the Strategy in more detail, for anyone who wishes to find out further information or wishes to provide any feedback.

School Place Planning Information Workshops / Drop In Sessions

Chippenham – Weds 9th September, 10.00am - 1.00pm (Abbeyfield School)

Trowbridge – Weds 16th September, 10.00am – 1.00pm (St Johns Parish Centre)

Salisbury – Weds 30th September, 10.30am – 1.30pm (Red Lion Hotel)

To book a place at one of the Workshop/Drop-in Sessions please contact Sara Derrick at sara.derrick@wiltshire.gov.uk or 01225 713804