

Report of the Strategic Director of Children Services to the meeting of the Executive to be held on 10th March 2015.

BO

Subject:

The provision of primary and secondary school places across the Wharfe Valley.

Summary statement:

This report summarises the overall provision of both primary and secondary school places across the Wharfe Valley and is in response to a petition to actively seek Government funding to ensure adequate secondary provision in Wharfedale to meet current and future demand and to be proactive working closely with neighbouring authorities to provide sustainable secondary and primary education provision in the area which was presented to Full Council in October 2014.

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:
Children's Services



1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report summarises the overall provision of both primary and secondary school places across the Wharfe Valley and is in response to a petition asking the Council to actively seek government funding to ensure adequate secondary provision in Wharfedale to meet current and future demand and to be proactive working closely with neighbouring authorities to provide sustainable secondary and primary education provision in the area which was which was presented to Full Council in October 2014

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Petition

The following petition was presented to Full Council in October 2014:

“School places at Ilkley Grammar School are oversubscribed each year. Wharfedale is a great place to live and new housing developments will encourage more families into the area. We ask Bradford Council to actively seek government funding to ensure adequate secondary provision in Wharfedale to meet current and future demand. We ask you to be proactive on our behalf, working closely with neighbouring authorities, to provide sustainable secondary and primary education provision in our area.”

2.2 Primary Schools provision

- 2.2.1 Parents in the Wharfe Valley rely on local primary schools to provide for school places. The schools in this area are:

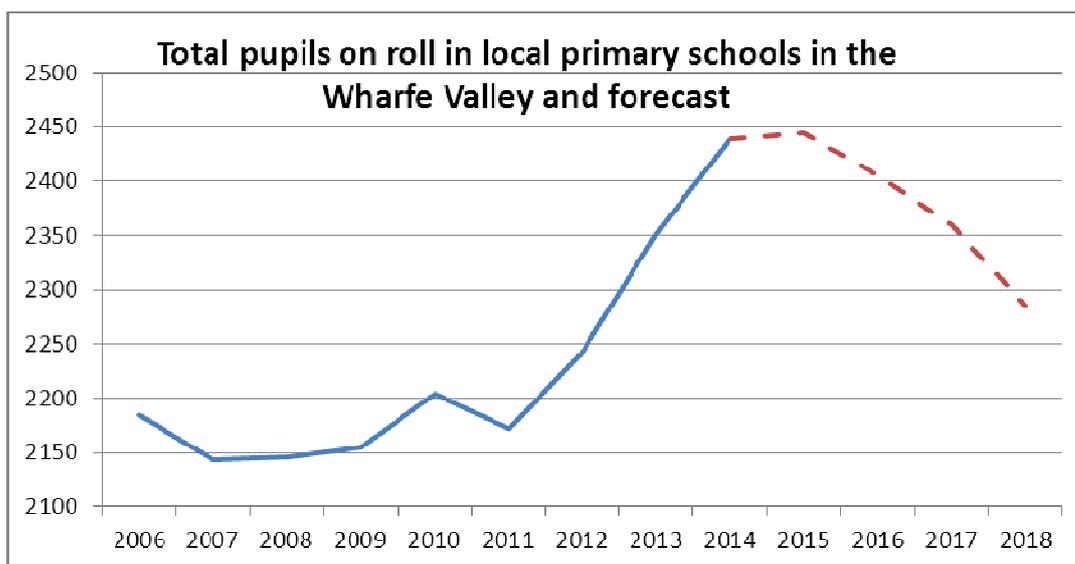
Primary Schools		
Ashlands Primary School	Ilkley	
All Saints CE Primary School	Ilkley	
Ben Rhydding Primary School	Ilkley	
The Sacred Heart Catholic Primary Academy	Ilkley	
Addingham Primary School	Addingham	
Burley & Woodhead Primary School	Burley	
Burley Oaks Primary School	Burley	
Menston Primary School	Menston	

- 2.2.2 Like other parts of the district, the Wharfe Valley has seen a year-on-year fluctuation in the need for primary school places. This upward trend, however, is forecast to stabilise over the next 2 years, followed by a subsequent reduction in the total number of places required from 2016 onwards.



Forecast Wharfe planning area	4+:YR	5+:Y1	6+:Y2	7+:Y3	8+:Y4	9+:Y5	10+:Y6	Total Excl. Nursery	Net Capacity
2013/14	337	341	370	323	347	325	307	2,350	2,346
2014/15	359	347	349	378	328	348	330	2,439	2,415
2015/16	286	372	356	358	387	331	355	2,445	2,415
2016/17	275	295	382	364	364	388	336	2,405	2,415
2017/18	254	284	302	390	371	366	395	2,360	2,415
2018/19	290	261	290	307	395	371	371	2,285	2,415

Source: School Organisation Plan, Education Client services, 2014



Source: School censuses and forecast, Education Client services, 2014

2.2.3 To reflect local pressures on primary school places and following the statutory consultation process, the official Pupil Admission Number (PAN) of some local schools have been increased:

Ashlands Primary School	Increase from 45 to 60 places in each school year
Burley Oaks Primary School	Increase from 45 to 60 places in each school year
Menston Primary School	Increase from 45 to 60 places in each school year

2.2.4 Following refurbishment and extension works to these schools, the total net capacity (or total number of places available) in the primary school estate across the Wharfe valley reached **2,415 places** in 2014.

2.2.5 Despite the expansion programme in the above schools, primary schools across the Wharfe Valley are still forecast to have a slight shortfall of places until 2017. To meet this need, the decision was made to set up, on a temporary basis, a bulge class at Menston Primary school. A temporary classroom was installed at the school in the summer of 2014.

2.2.6 The latest forecast based upon the 2014 School Census shows that there will be, over the coming years, a decreasing demand for primary school places hence the



reason for temporarily providing additional places through a bulge class.

2.2.7 A lack of surplus places across the 8 primary schools does have an impact on schools and their ability to accommodate in-year applications from families moving into the area. Preliminary discussions between officers and headteachers have taken place to agree a mechanism which would mitigate this issue (where one local primary school would be prepared to accommodate a bulge class if required).

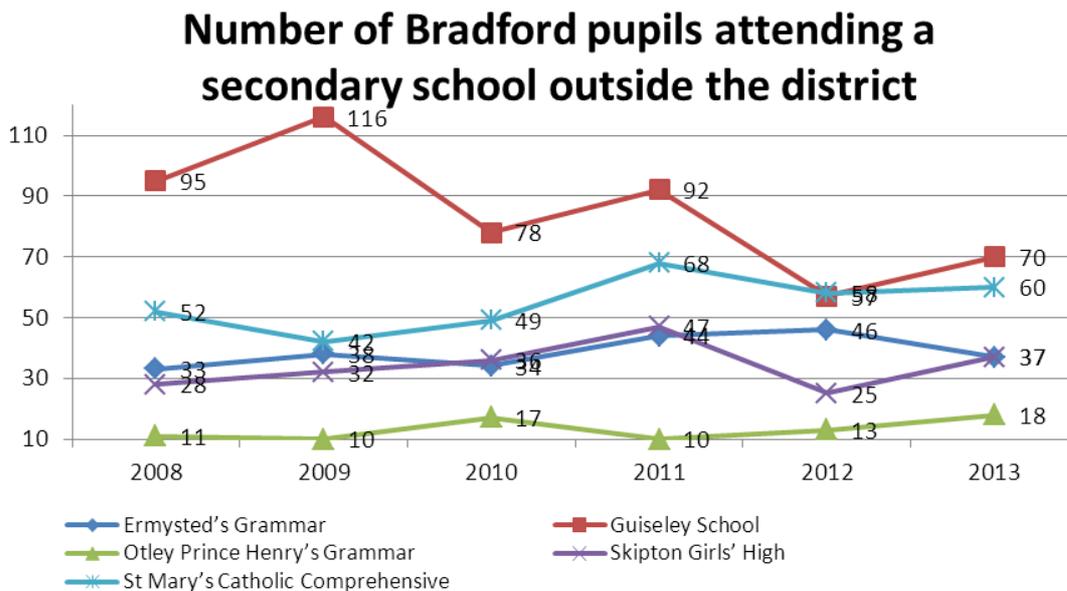
2.2.8 The position with pupil places is constantly monitored, particularly with regards to demand created by new housing developments. Current plans will be updated as and when required.

2.3 Secondary school's provision

2.3.1 The Wharfe Valley is only served by one Bradford District secondary school, Ilkley Grammar School. However, for reasons of proximity and parental preference, a proportion of parents opt, every year, to send their children to a secondary school outside the district (some parents would want to send their children to a catholic school such as St Mary's Catholic, others to a single sex school such as Ermysted's Grammar or Skipton Girls High School):

Guiseley School	Guiseley, Leeds
St. Mary's Menston Catholic Voluntary Academy	Menston, Leeds
Prince Henry's Grammar School	Otley
Ermysted's Grammar School	Skipton
Skipton Girls' High School	Skipton

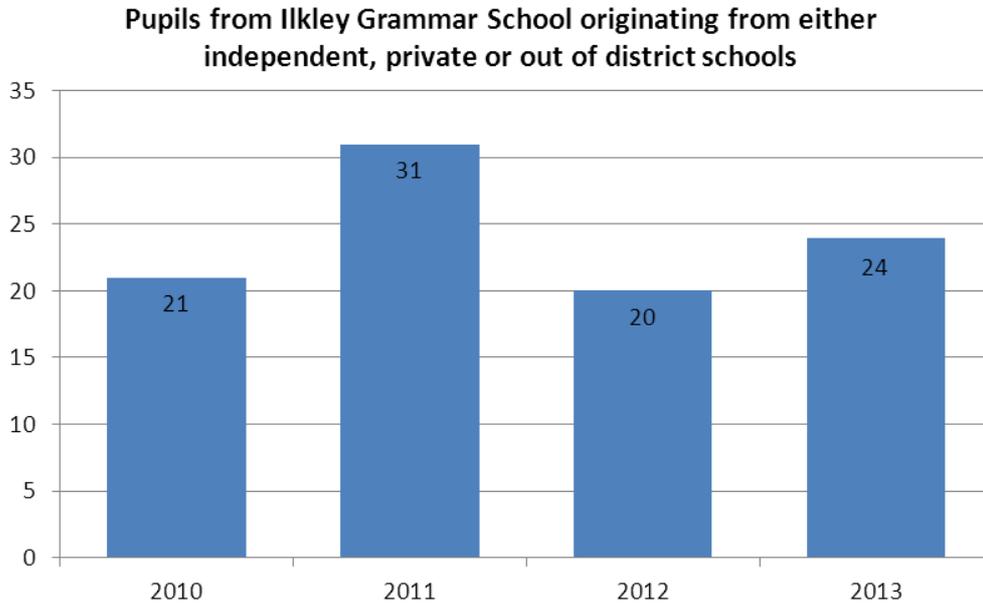
2.3.2 The number of children attending out of district schools varies year on year as shown in the following graph:



Source: School Organisation Plan, Education Client services, 2014



2.3.3 As much as some pupils will be educated in secondary schools outside the district, others pupils will move to Ilkley Grammar School from either private, independent or other local authority primary schools:



Source: School Organisation Plan, Education Client services, 2014

2.3.4 Based upon the above figures, there will be, on average, 9-10 times more pupils from the Wharfe Valley opting for secondary schools outside the district than in the opposite direction:

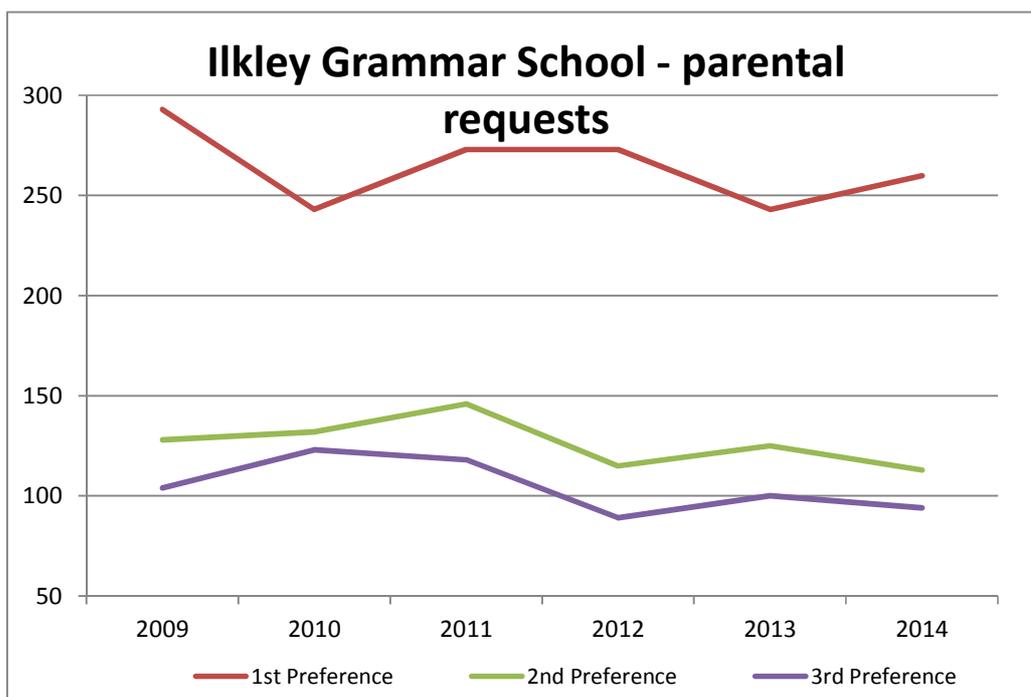


2.3.5 Ilkley Grammar School has a capacity of 1,558 places of which 310 places are post-16 provision. Demand for Year 7 school places (sum of first, second and third choices) at Ilkley Grammar School has over the last 5 years slightly reduced, although the level first preferences remains more or less unchanged.

Year	1 st Preference	2 nd Preference	3 rd Preference	4 th Preference	5 th preference
2009	293	128	104	-	-
2010	243	132	123	-	-
2011	273	146	118	-	-
2012	273	115	89	49	42
2013	243	125	100	57	40
2014	260	113	94	59	41

Source: Admissions Service, CBMDC, 2014





Source: Education Client services, 2015

- 2.3.6 On the basis that the school admits 245 Year 7 pupils every September (PAN), there have been a few occasions (i.e 2012 and 2014) when the number of first parental preferences for Ilkley Grammar School has exceeded the number of places available. However, of the 260 first preferences requesting a place into Ilkley Grammar School, 16 first preference requests or 6.2% of these requests came from outside the Wharfe Valley and as such, outside the school's own admission priority areas. The school is currently operating at its full capacity.
- 2.3.7 The school was, in 2009-10, due to be rebuilt and expanded to 1,950 places (equivalent to an Yr7 intake of 300) under the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. However this project was cancelled by the then newly elected government. In view of the site constraints, the BSF project had planned, at the time, to relocate the school onto a different council-owned land located off Wheatley Lane close to Ben Rhydding train station.
- 2.3.8 In 2012, governors opted to convert Ilkley Grammar School to an academy. However, council officers have continued to work closely with the school.
- 2.3.9 The Authority applied, in July 2014, for the partial demolition and reconstruction of part of Ilkley Grammar School (on its current site) under the government's Priority School Building Programme 2 (PSBP2). The aims of PSBP2 are to replace those school buildings which have the greatest amount of backlog maintenance. However, alongside the request to demolish and rebuild parts of the campus, the proposal also included the expansion of the school by one additional form of entry.
- 2.3.10 In February 2015, the DfE announced the list of PSBP2 schemes which unfortunately did not include Ilkley Grammar School or any other schools within Bradford District. As such, the plan to partly rebuild and expand the school's intake



to 275 pupils for each year group, became unviable.

2.3.11 The Authority will continue to work closely with Ilkley Grammar School and consider means to address the shortfall of secondary school places year-on-year and consider alternative funding streams to potentially expand the school by 1FE.

2.3.12 There is however insufficient demand for an additional secondary school in the Wharfe Valley. The reasons for this are:

- The difference between the first parental preference and Ilkley Grammar School's annual intake was only 15 (i.e. 15 children who did not obtain their first choice of a secondary school);
- Irrespective of whether there would be places locally, some parents will still choose to send their children to either a faith school (i.e. St Mary's Menston Academy) or single sex schools (Ermysted's Grammar School or Skipton Girls High School) or a private/independent school. As such, the number of children retained in the district by building an additional secondary school may be marginal.
- The authority has also been notified that St Mary's Menston are consulting on increasing their admissions number from 180 to 200. Ilkley Grammar School sits in the "3 Valleys" confederation which overall currently has surplus places.
- For an additional new school to be financially viable, it must have at least 7FE or 1050 places (equivalent to an intake of 210 Yr7 pupils). The demand for so many new secondary places in the Wharfe Valley is not required and, on this basis; there would be a limited opportunity to secure any funding from the Education Funding Agency.
- This position may change if a proportion of the potential housing developments identified through the Local Plan are built. However, until these sites are developed, the Authority is not allowed by the DfE to include these potential schemes into its forecast for pupil places. Having consulted the Local Plan, we are fully aware of the implications of the potential housing developments across each of the town and villages within the Wharfe Valley, however, until these sites are developed, the Authority is not allowed by the DfE to include these potential schemes into its forecast for pupil places.
- Should the Authority have been allowed, to consider these potential schemes, then the number of additional school places would have been as follows:

Local Plan proposals	Potential additional homes	Potential additional pupil places required in each school year *
Addingham	1,153	22
Burley	1,094	22
Ilkley	1,636	32
Menston	1,159	22

* the average yield per 100 new houses equates to 2 additional pupil places per school year



- The average of additional places across the valley equates to 98 places. Even if all these proposed housing developments were to come to fruition, the demand for pupil places would still be insufficient to support the creation of a new secondary school.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

3.1.1 Whilst the Authority does not currently foresee any needs for additional places over and above the extra capacity applied for under the PSPB2 scheme the situation may change (i.e. increased births, new housing developments, and greater inward migration). The Authority will continue to monitor local needs and update the forecasts when required.

4. OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Committee may decide to take a view and make proposals on the petitioners' request.
- 4.2 Alternatively the Committee may take a view that no further action is required if it is satisfied that background information demonstrates that the need for places is currently being met by existing schools and that the Authority is proactively working with stakeholders including Ilkley Grammar School in monitoring current and future pupil place requirements locally.
- 4.3 Furthermore, any potential increase in pupil place requirements will not be sufficient, in the predictable future, to require a new secondary school in this area due to the required financial and curriculum needs which demands that a secondary school should provide at least 1050 places in order to be viable.

5. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 5.1 Schools receive their main revenue funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The Schools Forum sets the annual school's budget based on an agreed formula which mainly allocates DSG funding based on the number of pupils attending school in the district.
- 5.2 Capital investment for new build work or extension programmes are funded through the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and the LA has to prepare bids for this funding every year. The EFA does not take account of forecasted housing developments contained within the Local Plan although the LA does take these into consideration in its school organisation planning.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

The Authority will continue to monitor the overall pupil places requirements across the



district and ascertain future needs accordingly.

7. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 7.1 The Local Authority's statutory duty is to secure pupil places that there are sufficient schools available providing Primary and Secondary Education, taking into account number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate Education (section 14 Education Act 1996).
- 7.2 Appropriate Education being education which offers a variety of instruction and training as may be desirable in view of pupils different ages, abilities and aptitudes and the different periods which they may be expected to remain at school.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

There are no equality and diversity implications apparent.

8.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no sustainability implications apparent.

8.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

There are no greenhouse gas emissions impacts foreseen at this stage.

8.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None.

8.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

There are no Human Rights Act implications apparent.

8.6 TRADE UNION

There are no anticipated trade union implications.

8.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

There are no anticipated ward implications.

8.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)



None.

9. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That the Committee considers the contents of the Report in response to the petition and that no further action is required as the background information demonstrates that the need for places is currently being met by existing schools and that the Council is proactively working with stakeholders including Ilkley Grammar School in monitoring current and future pupil place requirements locally.
- 10.2 Furthermore, any potential increase in pupil place requirements will not be sufficient, in the predictable future, to require a new secondary school due to the required financial and curriculum needs which demands that a secondary school should provide at least 1000 places in order to be viable.

11. APPENDICES

None.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

[Schools Organisation Plan, 2014 .](#)
[Primary place planning](#)
[Secondary place planning](#)

