

## **Council Response to the Inspector's initial observation on proposed education provision to serve the two AAPs over the plan period**

22<sup>th</sup> July 2016

### **Introduction**

Following submission of the City Centre AAP and Shipley and Canal Road Corridor AAP, the Inspector has provided the Council with a number of observations after an initial assessment of the AAPs and the accompanying evidence. The Inspector is seeking the Council's response in relation to further evidence/work or understanding to these issues. This paper sets out the council's up-to-date position in relation to the Inspector's initial observation on education provision to serve the two AAP areas.

### ***Inspector's Observation- Education Provision***

*"Schools- Again, reviews are in progress, and meetings are taking place, including reference to Free Schools etc. Would be very useful to have up to date paper on proposed education provision to serve the two AAPs over the plan period"*

### **Council's Response**

Following on from the Council's previous correspondence with the Inspector, the Council can confirm that its position in relation to education provision within the two AAPs is as follows.

Throughout the production process of the two AAPs and supporting evidence bases, there has been regular meetings and discussions with education officers to reach an agreed position in relation to future school provisions for the planned new developments in the AAP areas. Children's Services have confirmed that the Council has been delivering extra school places under a school expansion programme since 2010 and have so far created over 8,000 new primary school places across the District. Within reach of the City Centre and Shipley and Canal Road Corridor the Council has also expanded a number of primary schools and in addition a free school has opened with a capacity of 525 places. Discussions with schools in these areas are on-going to ensure the Council continues to increase capacity as necessary. Discussions have been held with secondary schools with a view to expansion. A number of schools have agreed to further expansion, subject to consultation, and the Council's Executive will consider allocating funding to several schemes in 2016.

A sixth form review across the District is currently underway which may impact on places in secondary schools. This will be considered together with outcome of new Free School applications which have been submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) to determine whether the Council need to pursue a Free School presumption to deliver a new secondary school. The sixth form review does not include the consideration of any sites within either AAP area.

An Education Organisation Plan (EOP) is produced annually which sets out projected geographical distribution of need for education places across the District. Any reviews of school provision undertaken by the Council (e.g. the opening, closing, federating, amalgamating, expanding or contracting of schools) based on projected need for schools

places are contained in this document. The EOP is reviewed and updated on an annual basis. The latest update (September 2015) is available online the council website below-

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/3D824114-748A-4104-A359-87DCBF4416CD/0/EducationOrganisationPlan.pdf>

In accordance with NPPF paragraph 162 the Council has worked with infrastructure providers to assess the capacity of provision and the two AAPs are supported by Infrastructure Delivery Plans (IDPs). The IDPs are based on information that was available at the time and designed to be able to respond to changing infrastructure needs and circumstances over the Local Plan period. Consequently the Council treats the IDPs as 'live' documents and will update the reports, regularly, taking into account of changes to infrastructure needs and delivery. The Council will updated the submitted version of the IDPs in regards to education provision, taking account of the most up to date available information and in collaboration with the relevant education infrastructure providers. The latest AAP IDP reports will be made available for consideration as part of the AAP Examination.

In an effort to ensure the supporting evidence base for the AAP's are the most up to date available, the Council have undertaken a review of primary and secondary education provision within Bradford City Centre and Shipley and Canal Road Corridor. The review has included internal meetings and dialogue with the Council's education officers and taken account of existing and future capacity of schools outside the plan areas. The conclusion of this review has been the demand for new school places resulting from the growth of new housing within the two AAP areas can be met through the planned expansion of the existing school stock facilitated by developer financial contributions and Department of Education funding.

As result of the review of educational need and provision within Bradford City Centre and Shipley and Canal Road Corridor, the Council intend to update the Infrastructure Development Plans for both AAPs and submit them to the AAP Examination Library.

Taking into account the available evidence and information set out above, the Council do not intend to allocate any specific sites for the development of primary or secondary education in the Bradford City Centre AAP. The Council do not intend to allocate any specific sites for the development of secondary education in the Shipley and Canal Road Corridor AAP. Within the Shipley and Canal Road Corridor AAP the site proposal statement for the New Bolton Woods Site (NBW1) sets out that the site will be expected to provide a new primary school as part of the development.