

Public Questions for Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 14th September 2021

1. This is not solely a Radcliffe issue its a borough wide issue

All the state High Schools bar 2 in Bury MBC were over subscribed for Sept 2021 intake. If you add some 6500 houses to the mix and some 2500 plus extra children the problem is going to get worse! The Radcliffe High School seemingly is nowhere on the horizon yet again! Elton High School which is brand new are installing pods or portable buildings to increase capacity. How are the council going to deal with this matter?

Supplementary question-

Can someone at the Council give me a date when the High School will be ready and do they feel the 800 spaces will be adequate bearing in the 6500 courtesy of Places for Everyone

Alan Bayfield

Detailed planning is ongoing with the Department for Education and Star Academy in respect of the new school in Radcliffe, with a target date for opening in September 2024. A feasibility study prior to detail design will be completed in the autumn, with detailed plans being presented in Spring 2022, and with construction commencing later in 2022. The school will initially admit year 7 pupils, growing incrementally reaching its initial design capacity of 750 in 2028. There is provision in the design to increase capacity to 1,000 should the needs arise.

Current pupil numbers entering primary schools peaked in 2017 and have been in decline in each subsequent year. Numbers seeking a place in secondary schools remain high, but is forecast to peak in 2023. Current demand for secondary school places is being supported by the flexible increase to admission numbers in several schools. All Bury resident young people that require a place in a Bury school have been accommodated through the use of this flexibility. As the forecast demand drops away there is scope to adjust admission capacity downwards in those schools to ensure that appropriate capacity is maintained to meet that demand.

The new school in Radcliffe seeks to also respond to the high demand, but also the impact of localised development of brownfield sites for residential use, largely concentrated in the Radcliffe area. As the new school begins to admit pupils, it is anticipated that pupil demand from those developments will be catered for, plus other Radcliffe residents seeking a place, and the adjustments applied to other schools admission numbers will be removed. Forecasts suggest that there will be sufficient capacity to meet needs based on this level of housing growth.

Other sites that have been identified for residential use would, if developed, create additional school place demand pressures albeit over an extended period of time in line with construction timelines. Children's Services has produced a paper modelling the impact of residential growth on the supply of

school places from these development sites, and has identified a requirement for additional capacity in the form of new schools or extensions to existing schools. This modelling will form part of discussions with developers as they bring forward their plans.

The current school capacity is therefore not designed to accommodate pupil numbers from these larger developments, and the Council will be looking to developers to contribute to the cost of providing additional school places to be provided alongside those developments..

- 2. At the RCC meeting in May 2021 I asked a question regarding the contract between the council and management of Radcliffe market. The council leader stated that when the agreement was first put in place it was a unique offer and a new working model. It was a 5 year agreement, however I believe that one of the parties, the person named within Part 1, signed on behalf of Radcliffe Market Community Benefit Society has recently resigned. In view of this is the agreement still valid without the signed consent and declarations of a Managing Agent.**

Supplementary question-

The council leader also said 'we recognise the concerns raised and are discussing details of the management arrangements required to safeguard accessibility to public spaces for all' What action has the council taken to formulate a new agreement with the organisation currently operating the market to ensure fairness for community activities and the use of public spaces not only in the immediate area of the market but within the town? This needs to be rectified on behalf of all parties

Judith Sheppard

Response David Lynch – Assistant Director Regeneration

Radcliffe Market is open and continues to trade. The councils Market service is working with Radcliffe Market Hall Community Benefit Society regarding changes in their board of directors. The current management agreement remains valid and live. We are happy to provide an update following the conclusion of this work.