

**Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Interim Executive Director of Children's Services**

Report to:	<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>20 July 2012</b>
Subject:	<b>Sufficiency of School Places in Lincolnshire</b>

**Summary:**

This report invites the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider a report on the sufficiency of school places in Lincolnshire. The report looks at the process for planning school places, the current and future basic need requirements, and examines the issues and factors to be taken into consideration to ensure an effective strategy is in place.

**Recommendation(s):**

To discuss and comment on the report and make comments to the Executive Councillor for Children's Services.

**1. Background**

The Local Authority (LA) is the commissioner of school places with a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places across the whole of Lincolnshire. For several years school populations had declined nationally and the most common concern of the DfE and LAs was to manage surplus school places. Since 2001 there has been a gradual rise in the birth rate which began to have an effect on primary school provision in 2006-2009. To start with the increase was absorbed by the remaining surplus capacity, but most LAs are now reporting significant pressure on primary school places. This will also have an impact on secondary school places in due course. In Lincolnshire the pressure on primary school places is concentrated mostly in urban areas across the county. Many rural areas continue to have high numbers of surplus places with consistently low intakes and falling rolls in some areas.

**2. Conclusion**

Following consideration of the attached report, the Committee is requested to consider the approach of the LA towards pupil place planning and make any comments/recommendations for the consideration of the Executive. The Committee's views will be reported to the Executive.

### **3. Consultation**

The allocation of 'planning areas' to the DfE for pupil place planning purposes has involved consultation with officers from LCC Property and Technology Management, Admissions, Schools Transport, Children's Services Directorate Management Team and Mouchel Capital Development officers.

#### **a) Policy Proofing Actions Required**

Not applicable

### **4. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix 1	Report on pupil place planning and the sufficiency of school places in Lincolnshire.

### **5. Background Papers**

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Paul Holmes, who can be contacted on 01522 553366 or paul.holmes@lincolnshire.gov.uk.