

**Action 66: Upload September committee report regarding Education shortfalls to Examination library and provide information to Inspectors regarding the expected timescales for the delivery and need for a new Secondary School.**

3<sup>rd</sup> September Committee Report 'Update on Primary, Secondary, and Post-16 Mainstream and SEND Sufficiency 2025-2030' to the Council Education, Children and Families Policy Committee has been added to the examination library.

The recent data review for the secondary sector (Year 7 to Year 11), shows a continuing trend from last year, with a number of planning areas forecast to see a sustained shortfall/deficit of secondary places from 2025/26 onwards. Annualised forecasts from 2025/26 onwards are found in Table 1/ paragraph 2.3.1 of the committee report, which show the current forecast peak deficit of places is in 2027/28, where there is a forecast 15 forms of entry (450 places) deficit of Year 7 places. Details of the deficits by school planning areas are set out in Appendix 4 of the committee report (page 25). The school place planning maps can be found in Appendix 2 of the committee report (page 23) or in figure 5 of the IDP (IN01, page 43).

SCC has commissioned a sufficiency review of the mainstream secondary school estate. The purpose of this activity is to ensure we have an up-to-date understanding of the potential capacity and estate opportunities in the city and supports our approach to meet the forecast demand. The approach to meet the forecast demand is a hybrid expansion approach, which would consist of:

- a) Individual secondary school expansion projects (either temporary or permanent) to be developed in areas of forecast demand.
- b) Consideration of all options to expand or develop new additional provision to support sufficiency to meet both medium, and longer-term forecast demand.

The option to develop a new secondary school is under consideration, however the national free school programme has recently been paused. This does not necessarily inhibit this option but makes it more challenging. Next steps include an early review of the 2024/25 data, followed by Councillor briefings and possible Committee activity in 2025, plus engagement with corporate finance to review funding options.