



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** will be held in David Hicks 1 -
Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on
THURSDAY 28 JUNE 2018 AT 7.30 PM



Manjeet Gill
Interim Chief Executive
Published on 20 June 2018

This meeting will be filmed for inclusion on the Council's website.

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WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Our Vision

A great place to live, an even better place to do business

Our Priorities

Improve educational attainment and focus on every child achieving their potential

Invest in regenerating towns and villages, support social and economic prosperity, whilst encouraging business growth

Ensure strong sustainable communities that are vibrant and supported by well designed development

Tackle traffic congestion in specific areas of the Borough

Improve the customer experience when accessing Council services

The Underpinning Principles

Offer excellent value for your Council Tax

Provide affordable homes

Look after the vulnerable

Improve health, wellbeing and quality of life

Maintain and improve the waste collection, recycling and fuel efficiency

Deliver quality in all that we do

MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE

Charlotte Haitham Taylor	Leader of the Council
Julian McGhee-Sumner	Deputy Leader and Finance and Corporate Resources
Richard Dolinski	Adults Social Care, Health and Wellbeing
Stuart Munro	Business and Economic Development and Strategic Planning
Pauline Helliard-Symons	Children's Services
Norman Jorgensen	Environment, Leisure and Libraries
Keith Baker	Highways and Transport
Pauline Jorgensen	Housing
Simon Weeks	Planning and Enforcement
Philip Mirfin	Regeneration

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
10.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence	
11.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 31 May 2018.	7 - 20
12.		DECLARATION OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest	
13.		PUBLIC QUESTION TIME To answer any public questions A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions submitted under notice. The Council welcomes questions from members of the public about the work of the Executive Subject to meeting certain timescales, questions can relate to general issues concerned with the work of the Council or an item which is on the Agenda for this meeting. For full details of the procedure for submitting questions please contact the Democratic Services Section on the numbers given below or go to www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions	
13.1	None Specific	Keith Malvern has asked the Leader of the Council the following question: Question In the Wokingham Paper of the 31st of May the Leader of the Council is quoted as saying 'The residents sent us a clear message on May 3, we have heard that message and are listening to them. If our residents feel	

they are not being listened to, then we need to redouble our efforts to show that we have taken on board what they have to say.' How is that compatible with the proposals to take away the remaining school crossing patrollers despite a petition with more than 200 signatures including those from two new Councillors elected on the 3rd of May?

14.

MEMBER QUESTION TIME

To answer any member questions

A period of 20 minutes will be allowed for Members to ask questions submitted under Notice

Any questions not dealt with within the allotted time will be dealt with in a written reply

14.1 None Specific

Gary Cowan has asked the Executive Member for Business, Economic Development and Strategic Planning the following question:

Question

IMD 2018/28 Duty to Cooperate: SHMA Methodology, Executive - Individual Member Decisions - Monday, 9th July, 2018 3.00 pm

As this IMD has serious implications for Wokingham and its residents I am very surprised to see it "hidden" in an IMD.

Can you therefore give me an update on it as it is scheduled to be determined in 10 days time?

14.2 Winnersh

Rachelle Shepherd-Dubey has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

Question

There are complaints about OTT parking enforcement (CPE) at Dinton Pastures for parents dropping off/picking up their children attending scout functions at the Dinton Activity centre. They are not being given 10 minutes to do so. Winnersh 1st scouts are paying WBC about £6,000 a year for use of the building. Why can't some leeway be given?

14.3 None Specific

Imogen Shepherd-DuBey has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

Question

We have recently had a consultation on School

Crossing Patrollers, but I do not see when the results will be published? We had the same situation, last year, when we lost several School Crossing Patrollers, but I cannot see that a report was issued containing the results and the responses from the Council.

In the interests of transparency, when will these results be publicly available?

14.4 Bulmershe and Whitegates

Carl Doran has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

Question

Can the Executive Member for Highways please supply a list of road traffic accidents that have occurred on the A4 London Road in Earley, over the last two years?

Matters for Consideration

15.	None Specific	SHAREHOLDERS' REPORT	21 - 28
16.	None Specific	COMPREHENSIVE AND EFFICIENT LIBRARY SERVICE	29 - 40
17.	None Specific	WOKINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES STRATEGY 2018	41 - 82

A decision sheet will be available for inspection at the Council's offices (in Democratic Services and the General Office) and on the web site no later than two working days after the meeting.

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE EXECUTIVE
HELD ON 31 MAY 2018 FROM 7.30 PM TO 8.10 PM**

Committee Members Present

Councillors: Charlotte Haitham Taylor (Chairman), Keith Baker, Richard Dolinski, Norman Jorgensen, Pauline Jorgensen, Philip Mirfin, Stuart Munro and Simon Weeks

Other Councillors Present

Parry Batth
Laura Blumenthal
Gary Cowan
Andy Croy
Lindsay Ferris
Charles Margetts
Ian Pittock
Helen Power
Malcolm Richards
Imogen Shepherd-DuBey
Chris Smith
Shahid Younis

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Pauline Helliar-Symons and Julian McGhee-Sumner.

Councillor Shahid Younis attended the meeting on behalf of Councillor Pauline Helliar-Symons and Councillor Charles Margetts on behalf of Julian McGhee-Sumner. In accordance with legislation Councillor Younis and Margetts could take part in any discussions but were not entitled to vote.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 29 March 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Executive held on 16 May 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the addition of Councillor Norman Jorgensen's apologies.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Norman Jorgensen declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 6 Shareholders' Report by virtue of the fact that his wife was a paid Non-Executive Director of WBC Holdings Ltd. Councillor Jorgensen remained in the meeting during discussions and voted on the matter.

Councillors Pauline Jorgensen and Stuart Munro declared personal interests in Agenda Item 6 Shareholders' Report by virtue of the fact that they were paid Non-Executive Director of WBC Holdings Ltd. Councillors Jorgensen and Munro remained in the meeting during discussions and voted on the matter.

Councillors Philip Mirfin and Charles Margetts declared personal interests in Agenda Item 6 Shareholders' Report by virtue of the fact that they were paid Non-Executive Directors of Optalis Holdings Ltd. Councillor Mirfin remained in the meeting during discussions and voted on the matter. Councillor Margetts remained in the meeting during discussions but in accordance with regulations did not vote on the matter.

4. STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION

Councillor Mirfin read out a statement relating to the incident at the former Paddocks Car Park on Bank Holiday Monday. Councillor Mirfin stated how shocked everyone had been to learn of the incident and how everyone's thoughts were very much with the victim during this difficult time. Wokingham was a safe town and incidents like this were rare but nonetheless reports of this nature would quite understandably cause concern in the community.

Councillor Mirfin advised that in the light of the incident the area was being reviewed and it was intended very shortly to install CCTV on the walk-way through from the former Paddocks Car Park. The Council would, of course, assist Thames Valley Police with the ongoing investigation as appropriate. Councillor Mirfin urged anyone who had any information relating to the case to call 101 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In accordance with the agreed procedure the Chairman invited members of the public to submit questions to the appropriate Members.

5.1 Marina Stone had asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question

I would like to ask what has been put in place to manage the increased amount of referrals received in children services as a result of the increasing Wokingham population and the recent government campaign encouraging the public to report child abuse? Although I support this campaign there would have surely been some thought into how this would be managed. Currently social workers are already feeling pressured carrying a high caseload of children and working an unreasonable amount of hours which is impacting on their emotional and physical health and also the service they would like to provide for families. We need more social workers or social worker assistants so that we can "Improve the customer experience when accessing Council services".

Answer

As Ms Stone was unable to attend the meeting the following written answer was provided:

In line with national level trends the department is acutely aware of the increase in the demand for statutory services, which has seen an ongoing rise since September 2017. There is no supporting evidence to underpin any suggestions that there is a direct correlation between government campaigns and increase demand. Evidence illustrates that the increased demand in the main is more likely to be underpinned by a range of complex socio-economic factors, which has been impacting most Children's Services Departments across the region and country over the last 12 to 18 months.

The Assistant Director for Children's Social Care has developed an evidenced based business case for additional staff. This has been scoped based upon current and projected demand across the service. The increased service staffing capacity will enable the service

to be better positioned to respond to the changing needs and demand for children's social care services locally.

The business case requests additional qualified social work staff for key areas of statutory services.

In the meantime there has been additional staffing provided to teams over and above current workforce.

We value our social workers and the work they do in our communities, having to work anti-social hours, under complex and challenging circumstances.

The Children's Social Care management team are reviewing all case- loads and cases to ensure that essential and appropriate work is held by case holding social workers, with proportionate levels of oversight and supervision being provided for practitioners to reduce the potential for risk.

6. MEMBER QUESTION TIME

In accordance with the agreed procedure the Chairman invited Members to submit questions to the appropriate Members.

6.1 Ian Pittock asked the Deputy Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question

Can the appropriate new Executive Member for Children's Services advise me what arrangements have been made for public access to the new leisure facilities at Arborfield Green, in particular during school hours?

Answer

Having recently signed our new 15 year Leisure Contract with Places for People, we are delighted to say that from Monday 15th May 2018, Arborfield Leisure Centre is in full operation to members of the public. A full programme of activities has now been developed including spinning, aerobics, a 50 station gym, eight badminton courts which are also marked out for netball, basketball, football and handball, with an outstanding climbing wall ready to use. As well as a new 3G pitch, two netball courts and three tennis courts all with floodlights. Grass football pitches will be available from September 2018 ready for the new 2018/19 Football Season.

Opening hours for the gym, studio and spinning studios are from 7.30am-10.00pm Monday to Friday, and on Saturday 7.30am-6.00pm, and on Sunday 8.00am-8.00pm. The sports hall will be available to the public from 5.30pm-10.30pm Monday to Friday, and all day at the weekends. Taking fully into account the lease arrangements and safeguarding with Bohunt School the ground floor will be available to the School Monday to Friday during the school term.

If members of the public wish to view these new facilities, I will arrange for a member of staff to show potential members around the Leisure Centre.

Supplementary Question

I am glad to see them open they are excellent. Residents were promised that if we kept the huge MOD gym rather than knock it down and build a standard school gym that

residents would be given access to the main hall containing the rock wall during the school day. They would not be locked out from this overly large hall. Aren't your arrangements contrary to the promises made to residents?

Supplementary Answer

Can I come back to you on that one so that I can give you a more detailed and considered response.

6.2 Gary Cowan asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

Question

With the unfortunate loss of the one person who was putting effort into sorting the current and future transport problems around Wokingham in line with the overwhelming support from Council which are only set to get much worse who will now lead on this?

Answer

As per my announcement at Full Council last week Councillor Keith Baker will continue to lead on highways, which will now also include strategic transport matters. For highways issues related specifically to Wokingham Town Centre regeneration Philip Mirfin will lead on these matters.

Supplementary Question

I was very impressed with the press release on progress with the pretty pictures but it raised the point was there, or is there, a set end date for this work and if so what is, or was it?

I asked a very similar question of Officers for the Shinfield by-pass and I said is there a scheduled date for the completion of this works. The answer I got was that we are only the licensing authority we have no say in the end date. The point I am trying to make is the work that is going on in the town centre which is causing all the chaos. I am assuming that as a Council that when you put that contract in place you actually agreed with the developer that there would be an end date for that work and I am just asking you what is, or what was, the end date for that contract?

Supplementary Answer

You eluded first of all to the Shinfield Eastern Relief Road with that we were not the contractor but Hochtief was contracted by the University of Reading so we were not in control of that contract.

With regards to the town centre, as you no doubt will be aware, once they started to uncover what was underneath in the town centre there was a huge number of pipes and a complete spaghetti of different works being laid on top of each other over decades and decades. It was a lot more complicated than originally thought so it has taken longer than was expected.

In terms of the final date the schedule at the moment is to finish at the end of July.

6.3 Chris Smith asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

Question

Can I have an update on recent and planned works on bus stops in Earley?

Answer

First of all I must sincerely apologise to Councillors for my incomplete answer to your question at last week's Full Council around road activity in Hillside. My answer was given in good faith based on the information provided to me. I was as surprised as you were when comments on social media indicated activity on a bus stop further down Ryehill Way. I have escalated this to the highest level as withholding information, either deliberately or by accident, is simply not acceptable. A full-scale investigation is currently underway by the relevant Director and local Councillors will be kept fully informed of any outcome from this.

Now the project around bus stops in Earley has almost been completed. In all cases other than the two on Ryehill Way the other laybys simple required a refreshment of the markings and have been completed. So, what about these two laybys – why are they different.

We sincerely apologise again for the unexpected and unavoidable delay in completing the works at Ryhill Way bus layby and the works that are now taking place at Rosemary Ave.

To give you a brief overview of what has caused the delays at Ryhill Way, a standard design, which had been implemented elsewhere across the Borough, was used as part of the construction originally and no unusual issues were identified at the time. However, undulations on the surface were brought to our attention and deeper excavation took place which identified unexpected and unusual ground conditions.

Our contractor undertook ground testing of the exposed problem area and based on these results a final solution was agreed and the works were completed last week.

Both Ryhill Way and Rosemary Ave bus la-bys were originally part of the same project and the initial works were carried out at the same time. When the ground testing was carried out at the other bus layby the team decided, as a precaution, it would be wise to check the Rosemary Ave bus layby as well. Similar undulations were also found in Rosemary Avenue.

Testing was also carried out and the results came back similar to that of the Ryhill Way bus layby but not as severe. However, to avoid another long and drawn out situation, it was decided that the same successful resolution used at Ryhill should be carried out at the Rosemary Ave bus layby. Furthermore it should be started as soon as possible which was this week with a scheduled completion of Tuesday 5th June subject to weather conditions.

Supplementary Question

Firstly thank you for arranging most of the works during half term. That is a busy road that leads up to one of the main primary schools in Hillside so at least a lot of the works will be less disruptive.

Given the issues with the Ryhill Way bus stop, particularly the lack of communications I and my fellow Councillors in the Ward received, I was incredibly disappointed to find out about the works on the bus stop only once they had started. Indeed I received a written response from you at 6.15 on the Tuesday stating that there were no planned works other than the Redhatch Drive resurfacing at which point the contractors would already have

been on site and had equipment there. So what will be changed to ensure I and other Councillors are kept informed about these works in the future?

Supplementary Answer

I have already said that a detailed investigation at the highest level is going on and as soon as the outcome of that is known I will communicate that with the Hillside Councillors so that they understand what happened and I am expecting the Directors to put in place measures to make sure that that never happens again. I felt extremely embarrassed giving an answer that was not complete and I never want to be in that position again and I will make sure that it doesn't happen.

6.4 Parry Batth asked the Deputy Executive Member for Finance the following question:

Question

WBC Housing Companies such as WHL, Loddon Homes etc. have been building affordable homes for some time but little exposure is available to the outside world. Would the Exec Member please provide details of the current and future build plans and provide details of the types of houses rented or sold?

Answer:

Last year was a landmark year for the Council's housing companies with 123 affordable homes reaching completion. Whilst there is not time to go through all of this I would mention in particular the 68 general needs homes at Phoenix, 34 rented extra care homes at Fosters and a supported housing scheme for nine vulnerable young people in Reading Road.

Wokingham Housing is firming up proposals for its future development programme which includes 140 new homes, with 30 homes currently on site across the Borough, eg Norton Road in Wokingham three houses to rent and six apartments for shared ownership, as well as two shared ownership homes in Ruscombe. Also the housing companies will purchase 22 apartments at Peach Place for key workers.

Looking ahead of course there is the Gorse Ride estate in Finchampstead which will be a major project for our housing companies. A planning application for Phase 1 in Arnett Avenue is expected next month, while work continues on the rest of the programme. The overall regeneration project at Gorse Ride will provide a total of around 290 new homes, a net gain of 80. And of course as they say there is always more to come.

Supplementary Question

There were actually four affordable flats built in my Ward in Anson Walk on wasteland that was being misused by kids and anti-social behaviour was rife. The locals actually asked me what we could do with this piece of land and I identified that plot of land to WHL and they very successfully built four flats there and they were completed in January. I believe some of them are unoccupied and I was just wondering why are they still unoccupied. It is now the end of May. When will they be occupied?

Supplementary Answer

I do not know the answer to that at the moment but I will be very happy to find out and come back to you directly.

6.5 Imogen Shepherd-DuBey asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

Question

I would like to ask the following question on the Revenue Monitoring 2017\2018 Outturn:

Page 43 of the General Fund Summary - Carry Forwards refers to School Crossing Patrollers. It states that the Budget spend is aligned with the phased approach to ending the delivery of the SCP Service.

Does this mean that Wokingham Borough Council is intending to remove ALL School Crossing Patrollers regardless of the results of the consultations and the concerns of parents and local residents?

Answer

Your proposition that the lack of a budget item automatically means ignoring the results of a consultation is unfortunately way too simplistic. All consultation responses are extensively reviewed to see if they are appropriate first and if so how extensive is that view.

As an example, in April 2017 from phase 1 of this action a significant proportion of the comments received related to general road safety issues, i.e. poor driving, speeding vehicles, inconsiderate parking.

In the current consultation, which is currently being finalised, the general road safety issues raised were dangerous driving, speeding vehicles again and poor parking. None of these issues are reduced or removed by the presence of a School Crossing Patroller so therefore those issues are not appropriate for this particular action.

Phase 1 patrollers were removed from the eight locations where they were operating on some form of pedestrian crossing. May I remind you that a pedestrian crossing has far more "power" to stop traffic than a patroller, often putting their lives at risk, stepping into the road to stop the traffic. All drivers are used to stopping when someone steps onto the crossing as they encounter them all over the Borough and all over the country. Unlike a patroller where there are only 15 of them initially across the whole Borough so a driver may never, ever, have encountered one.

They are also available 24 hours a day and not just around school times so the overall safety of crossing that road is improved significantly. So, all residents benefit not just the parents and children.

Importantly this change has been successfully implemented in phase 1 with no recorded increase in safety issues.

In 2015 this Council made a decision to remove all patrollers but only where there was a viable safe mechanism of crossing the road for parents and children. This requirement was a key reason for the delay you mentioned. That work has now been completed and each of the locations where the remaining seven patrollers operate are planned to have pedestrian crossings of some form before the start of the new academic year, in September. As with phase 1, when they have been installed the patrollers will then be phased out.

Supplementary Question

I am afraid I rather disagree with your statement. No way can an automated crossing anticipate how children are going to behave and how cars are going to behave. It just is impossible.

When are the parents going to see the results of the consultation and will they be involved in it?

Supplementary Answer

As I said already the consultation is currently being put together and that will be made public probably in the next couple of weeks, something like that. But may I remind you that the decision has already been taken to take the action so the people who have commented will clearly be interested but there are no grounds for changing our action.

6.6 Lindsay Ferris asked the Deputy Executive Member for Finance the following question:

Question

Page 44 of the Agenda clearly shows how the Council is eating into its reserves.

As of 31/03/2017 the Council's reserves stood at £10,036m. At this meeting this figure (as of 31/03/2018) now stands at £7,525m, a drop of £2.511m over the last 12 months. This represents a fall of over 25% in the General Fund Balance (also known as reserves). This £2.511m also represents an overspend of circa 3% in Council Tax.

Clearly the ruling administration is losing control of costs, can the Executive Member explain how he intends to rectify this issue?

Answer

I don't think it will come as a surprise to you that I do not accept that the ruling Administration is losing control of its costs.

The first point I would like to make is that the like for like comparison to the £10m reserves you quote at 31/3/17, is £9.1m at 31/3/18 and not £7.5m. This is a reduction of less than 10%, not the 25% as you claim.

Throughout the year we have reported the significant budget pressures faced as a result of the increases in Adults' and Children's costs. To give you some headlines for that, basically to stand behind it, our demand for child protection plans up to April 2017 50 children; up to April 2018 139 children – 178% increase. Children in care April 2017 73, March 2018 106 – 45% increase.

The same is replicated across adult services also. Core adult mental health assessment quarter 3 2017-18 199 assessments for all of 2016- 202 and a 40% increase on top of that over the last three years generally in people accessing adult social care services. These are all statutory services so that we have to accept the demand basically that is coming in.

We have a long standing record of strong financial management, at this Council, which includes the close monitoring of our expenditure and putting measures in place to control escalating costs, and ensuring that we have a safe level of reserves. I am confident we will continue to do this, despite the severely escalating care needs of the community; which as

I am sure you are aware is an issue which is national and not simply related to Wokingham Borough.

Supplementary Question

I would like you to turn to page 44 because on page 44 it says General Fund Balance at 31/3/17 £10.036m (in Appendix C) and a bit further down it says General Fund Balance 31/3/18 after carry forwards £7.525m. I therefore challenge your figures which you have just said to me and I would like you to explain why my comments are incorrect because I cannot see any difference - £10.036m and £7.525m is £2.511m. So I significantly challenge your figures and I think it shows that the Council cannot add up.

My question now is that we have lost a quarter of our balances by those figures in one year. Do you feel, and I accept the aspects of the figures and increased responsibilities and I understand the constraints but we have to bear that, I would actually say then do you consider both the February 17 and the February 18 budgets to have been safe?

Supplementary Answer

The answer to your question is the difference between the figure you are using and the figure I quoted is the 17/18 carry forward request total which is listed in the bottom line but one on there but if you wish to discuss that further I am very happy to continue that discussion outside this meeting.

In the final answer to your question yes from all the information I have seen and all the information I am aware of I do believe that the budget is safe.

6.7 Andy Croy asked the Executive Member for Regeneration the following question:

Question

Referring to Agenda Item 6 Page 34 of the Agenda states "*Managing the defects at Phoenix with the contractor continues to be hard work.....*"

Can the defects at Phoenix be quantified and why is managing them hard work?

Answer

I have got a lot of detail here which I am happy to share with you if it would help as it would take more than two minutes for me to go through all the detail.

Yes you are right the scale of defects at Phoenix Avenue can be quantified and has been an area of priority for WHL.

It has also been challenging because we had concerns that not all reports of defects from our tenants were being recorded by the contractors so we have got involved in that as well and that even when definitely recorded, little or no action was being taken by Hill. We have had some difficulty with this contractor in this regard.

WHL have also invested time in working directly with the tenants without getting involved in the detail so that no defects are missed by the contractor and we now have a weekly update session with them.

As a result all but three of the currently known about reported defects have appointments booked to have the issues attended to and WHL's ongoing monitoring suggest that all

defects reported by tenants are now effectively being recorded by the contractor. I will share with you a lot more of the detail.

Supplementary Question

Given the, what I am guessing, quite extensive list of defects was the Prime Minister told about them when she visited?

Supplementary Answer

Councillor Pauline Jorgensen gave the following answer:

The Prime Minister spent a lot of time talking to a lot of residents and I am sure that any residents that were upset about any defects would have taken the opportunity to share that with her. Generally what I saw when I talked to the residents was that they were delighted with their new houses and were really pleased to have somewhere decent to live that we have provided rather than the previous sofa surfing and spare bedrooms that they were using and I really think it is a really good development. We need to fix the issues but I am sure that the residents will have shared any issues they had directly with the Prime Minister. They certainly had plenty of time to talk to her.

The Leader of Council responded:

I would like to state that the number of defects are not huge bearing in mind the number of houses that have been provided on that estate. We will share the data with you. Just in case anyone was going away with a different impression.

6.8 Carl Doran had asked the Executive Member for Finance the following question:

Question

Referring to Agenda item 6 (page 34 of the agenda reports) the "Berry Brook Homes Limited (BBHL)" section reports this:

"The Berry Brook Board have been further considering the strategic direction of the company and developing their Business Plan. These discussions will be worked in to the current draft plan with a view to further refining this at an away day in mid-June."

Can I ask what the financial cost will be for this "away day"?

Answer

As Councillor Doran was unable to attend the meeting the following written answer was provided:

The financial cost of the away day to Berry Brook Homes will be £243, plus expenses for travel of around £80. This is a third of the cost of the venue hire including lunch and all refreshments, which between all three companies is £730.

7. SHAREHOLDERS' REPORT

(Councillors Norman Jorgensen, Pauline Jorgensen, Charles Margetts, Philip Mirfin and Stuart Munro declared personal interests in this item)

The Executive considered a report which provided the budget monitoring position for the month ending 31 March 2018 and the operational update for the period to 31 March 2018.

The Deputy Executive Member for Finance went through the report and was pleased to report that Wokingham Housing (WHL) had now handed over 125 new homes in the last

financial year to its sister housing companies Loddon and Berry Brook Homes which would generate a profit of £1.1m. In 2018/19 WHL were expected to hand over a further 60 new homes with a profit of just short of £1m.

Councillor Margetts reminded Members of why Optalis had been established and advised that today over £1m per annum costs had been reduced from the cost of the Council and the business had expanded from approximately £11-40m per annum following the merger with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

In addition Councillor Margetts drew Members' attention to the operational section of the report which set out the progress with the various sites.

The Leader of Council highlighted the extra care homes and key worker homes that had been provided by WHL and specifically mentioned the homes that were being provided for care leavers. Given that the housing companies had only been operating for a relatively short time Councillor Haitham Taylor felt that this was a tremendous achievement.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) the budget monitoring position for the month ending 31 March 2018 be noted:
- 2) the operational update for the period to 31 March 2018 be noted.

8. REVENUE MONITORING 2017/18 - OUTTURN

The Executive considered a report setting out the outturn position of the revenue budget and the level of balances in respect of the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account, Schools Block and the Authority's investment portfolio.

Whilst introducing the report the Deputy Executive Member for Finance highlighted the General Fund outturn position which showed an £814k overspend, which was actually £523k lower than the figure reported at the last quarter to the Executive. The Housing Revenue outturn position was just under budget. With regard to the Schools' Block outturn although this was overspent by £453k, which was as a result of high needs pressures, this was also more favourable than reported in January.

Councillor Margetts drew Members' attention to the budget carry forwards, as set out in Appendix B, which represented planned activities for 2018-19.

Councillor Mirfin queried whether any more detail was available on the demand affecting the adverse variance in People Services. Councillor Margetts reminded the meeting of the statutory costs that the Council had to bear in terms of social care provision as mentioned earlier in the meeting and the fact that demand was increasing rapidly which was something that was expected to continue.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) the outturn position of the revenue budget and the level of balances in respect of the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account, Schools' Block and the Authority's investment portfolio be noted:
- 2) the General Fund carry forward requests of £1,598,670, as set out in Appendix B to the report, be agreed.

9. CAPITAL OUTTURN 2017-18

The Executive considered a report setting out the Capital Budget Outturn for 2017-18 which included a number of carry forwards into future financial years.

The Executive Member for Finance reminded Members that there had been £89m of investment in the year on things such as highways infrastructure, regeneration, schools and affordable homes and highlighted that what was being delivered was five times as much as the Council delivered 4-5 years ago. The capital programme had also been delivered within budget with an actual underspend of £2.6m which showed that the Council had the ability to undertake such a large programme and keep control of the costs.

Councillor Margetts also highlighted the carry forwards for schemes into 2018/19, as listed in Table 2.3 of Appendix A which consisted of planned work which had been rolled forward.

The Leader of Council highlighted the largescale projects, including schools and country parks that were being undertaken and stated that unfortunately when delivering such large projects there was often disruption. Councillor Haitham Taylor asked residents to bear with the Council during these periods.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) the Capital Outturn, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be noted;
- 2) the carry forwards into future financial years, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved.

10. 21ST CENTURY COUNCIL - UPDATE

The Executive considered a report relating to the progress of the 21st Century Council Programme which was the change programme the aim of which was to transform the way that services were delivered and offer more options for residents to take up these services.

The Deputy Executive Member for Finance went through the report and highlighted a number of areas that had been delivered or were due to be delivered shortly including: online applications for school admissions and blue badges; a new planning search and planning map search facility which would give residents the opportunity to review an area and see related planning applications; an improved customer account facility which around 30k residents had already signed up for; and various online payment systems.

With regard to the Members' intranet site, which was currently at prototype stage, this was designed to place all the information Councillors might require in one area which should make Members more responsive and give a better service to residents.

Councillor Dolinski raised concerns about those residents who did not have access to or were uncomfortable using IT facilities and wanted to ensure that they wouldn't be disadvantaged. Councillor Margetts confirmed that the programme was not just about improving digital services but also about reviewing all the processes within the Council and streamlining them as much as possible. Residents were not obliged to use electronic facilities and there would still be a Customer Services Team to help people who required Council services. Councillor Margetts advised that from data he had recently seen call centre demand remained static but IT demand was increasing and with an increase in

customer services staff this meant that the Council had more capability to deal with more enquiries and respond quicker.

RESOLVED that the progress in implementing the 21st Century Council programme be noted.

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TITLE	Shareholder's Report
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	The Executive on 28 June 2018
WARD	None specific
DIRECTOR	Graham Ebers, Director of Corporate Services
LEAD MEMBER	Julian McGhee-Sumner, Executive Member for Finance

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Transparency in respect of Council Owned Companies

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive is asked to note:

- 1) the budget monitoring position for the month ending 30 April 2018;
- 2) the operational update for the period to 30 April 2018.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The Council have established a group of housing subsidiaries to provide much needed affordable housing across the Borough and generate a financial return for the Council. This return will help towards its aspiration of becoming increasingly self-sufficient. At a high level the housing group has now become well established and saw Wokingham Housing (WHL) hand over 123 new homes in 2017/18 to its sister housing companies Loddon Homes and Berry Brook Homes and generate a profit of just over £600k. 2017/18 also saw WHL pay off £1m of its operational loan. WHL is working hard on creating the future development pipeline which looks to deliver a further 360 new homes over the coming years. Year on year WHL is looking to deliver 50-75 homes per year generating an ongoing profit of at least £1m per annum.

Optalis was established to be the provider of choice for Adult Care Services. Its key objectives were to reduce the cost of services commissioned by the Council and provide a financial return to the Council, whilst providing safe and good quality Adult Social Care Services. To date over £1m per annum costs have been reduced in the cost to the Council and the business has expanded from approximately £11m p.a. to £40m p.a. following a recent merger with RBWM. This will enable Optalis to create further financial returns through its economies of scale and place the company in a stronger position to generate additional streams of income.

Strategy and Objectives of the Council's Subsidiary Companies

There has been no change to the Strategy and Objectives of the Council's Subsidiary Companies since the last report to Executive in May 2018.

Financial Report

A budget monitoring report is provided in section 1 for each of the companies for April 2018.

Operational Update

An operational update is provided in section 2 for each of the companies as at 30th April 2018. Any changes to the Directorships of the companies is provided at the end of the relevant company's operational update.

BACKGROUND

1. Financial Report

WBC (Holdings) Group (comprising WBC (Holdings))

Officers and Holding Board are working together to finalise the budget for full year 2018/19, which will be presented at the next opportunity.

Wokingham Housing Limited (WHL)

Wokingham Housing Limited- Profit & Loss									
P:1 Apr-18	Month			YTD			Full Year		
	Apr-18	Apr-18		Apr-18	Apr-18		Apr-18	Apr-18	
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance	Forecast	Budget	Variance
	£K	£K	£K	£K	£K	£K	£K	£K	£K
Income	527	363	164	527	5,908	(5,381)	20,750	20,750	0
Expenditure	(346)	(209)	(136)	(346)	(5,595)	5,250	(19,591)	(19,591)	0
Operating Profit/(Loss)	181	154	27	181	313	(132)	1,159	1,159	0

Income & Expense: Income for April 2018 was £527k, which was £164k higher than budget due to the booking of profits from schemes that completed in the last days of FY17/18: Reading Road, Elizabeth Road and Barrett Crescent. This higher income was almost matched by higher accruals for the completed projects. However, the monthly operating profit of £181k was £27k higher than budget.

At this point in the year, the full year results are expected to be in line with budget assuming completed schemes finish within budget and estimated timeframes.

Loddon Homes Limited (LHL)

Loddon Homes Limited- Profit & Loss									
P:1 Apr-18	Month			YTD			Full Year		
	Apr-18	Apr-18		Apr-18	Apr-18		Apr-18	Apr-18	
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance	Forecast	Budget	Variance
	£K	£K	£K	£K	£K	£K	£K	£K	£K
Income	23	496	(473)	23	496	(473)	2,851	2,851	0
Expenditure	(22)	(438)	416	(22)	(438)	416	(2,108)	(2,108)	0
Operating Profit/(Loss)	1	59	(58)	1	59	(58)	743	743	0

Income & Expense: Income for April 2018 at LHL reached £23k, which reflects a £473k negative variance. This is a result of the budget including profits from shared ownership sales for Elizabeth Road and Barrett Crescent in the month, which was an aggressive assumption. Demand for the completed properties has been strong, and LHL expects to receive this level of profits, at a minimum, later in the first half of FY18/19.

Expenditure reached £22k in April 2018, which reflected a positive variance of £416k against budget. This was a result of the costs of sales for the above shared ownership properties not flowing through the profit & loss statement until sales are completed.

The operating profit of £1k in the month was £58k off budget as explained above.

At this point in the year, the full year results are expected to be in line with budget assuming completed schemes finish within budget and estimated timeframes.

Berry Brook Homes Limited (BBHL)

Berry Brook Homes Limited- Profit & Loss									
P:1 Apr-18	Month			YTD			Full Year		
	Apr-18	Apr-18		Apr-18	Apr-18		Apr-18	Apr-18	
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance	Forecast	Budget	Variance
	£K	£K	£K	£K	£K	£K	£K	£K	£K
Income	N/A	53	N/A	N/A	53	N/A	N/A	589	N/A
Expenditure	N/A	(22)	N/A	N/A	(22)	N/A	N/A	(265)	N/A
Operating Profit/(Loss)	0	31	0	0	31	0	0	324	0

Income & Expense: Income & Expense: At this early stage in the financial year, figures are not yet available. No significant variations to budget are expected at this early stage, with more comprehensive monitoring forthcoming in future months.

Optalis Group (comprising Optalis Ltd, Optalis Wokingham Ltd and Optalis Holdings Ltd.)

P:1 Apr -18	Month			Full Year		
	Apr-18	Apr-18		Apr-18	Apr-18	
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Forecast	Budget	Variance
	£K	£K	£K	£K	£K	£K
Income	3,826	3,826	0	66,766	66,766	0
Expenditure	(3,826)	(3,826)	0	(66,718)	(66,718)	0
Operating Profit/(Loss)	0	0	0	48	48	0

April 2018 results:

The Optalis full year forecasted out turn is £48k which is in line with budget expectations.

1. Operational Report

WHL Schemes In Progress/Under Development:

Summary:

WHL delivered 123 new homes in 2017/18, having delivered 138 homes in total since 2011. Another 28 units are currently, or about to be, on site over 6 sites, including 11 units for WBCs HRA.

The decision by the Executive for WHL to deliver for Loddon Homes the Gorse Ride South regeneration scheme, means that along with other opportunities, WHL now has around 360 units in the identified development pipeline. This would provide a net gain of units of around 150 additional homes.

WHL is working closely with WBC to look at what other opportunities might be available to increase the future development pipeline further using Council-owned land and any possible surplus assets.

SITE:	PROGRESS:
Grovelands (6 units)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Francis Construction have given us their 8 weeks' notice of completion of the final 3 units to hand over, so the project is now close to being finally completed.
Norton Road (9 units)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground works are continuing, with the superstructure brick /block work to the houses now commenced. The net valuation is £430.8k against the contract sum of £1.631m – c. 26%.

Pipeline site with planning permission:

SITE:	PROGRESS:
Finch Road (2 units)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We await a definitive start on site date from our Joint Venture partner, Burrwood Developments, which is currently delayed as a result of Housing Services entering in to discussions with Burrwood to purchase the four private units as affordable housing within the HRA. This is looking unlikely and discussions should conclude shortly and will enable a definitive start on site date to be agreed.
Middlefields (2 units)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All the necessary approvals for appointing the contractor, RBS, from WHL and Holdco have now been given and we are working with RBS to clear all the planning conditions as they gear up to get on site.
Tape Lane (11 units for the HRA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Service have approved the appointment of LifeBuild.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Services have been decanting the original residents from the six properties due to be demolished. The final resident holding up proceedings has now agreed to move.
Gorrick Square (1 units)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Thames Water drainage pipe that needs to be moved has now been determined and costed, which allows us to be able to produce the tender documents for sending out to bidders through our small contractors framework. As it is just one unit, our Employers Agent is calling each contractor to check they will be submitting a tender return.

Changes to Directors:

There have been no changes to WHL company directors since the last report.

Loddon Homes Limited (LHL)

The vacancy at Vauxhall Drive has been nominated to and details around the new resident moving in are being worked through with the family of the resident for them to move in and start to be liable for the rent.

Reading Road is progressing well, with 6 of the 9 vacancies now filled. This leaves one room remaining in the main building and the two studio flats to be filled. The studio flats are being held for a short time until residents from the rooms are ready to move into more independent living. A fantastic ribbon cutting event to officially mark the opening of the scheme was held on 23rd May with Peter Jones, Head of Affordable Housing and Supply, from Homes England doing the honours. Homes England provided over £300k of grant funding to help build the scheme.

Fosters voids have started to reduce with two-thirds of apartments now let. The Mayor officially opened Fosters on the 14th June at an event that pulled together both the team that delivered such a great scheme as well as the partners now managing the scheme, including Optalis as the care provider and Sophie's Catering as the restaurant operator. Homes England who provided £1.5m of grant funding towards the project were also in attendance to help us celebrate.

Work is progressing well around the sale of the four shared ownership homes at Elizabeth Road and Barrett Crescent with all four units reserved and moving through the sales process.

Changes to Directors:

There have been no changes to Loddon Homes' company directors since the last report.

Berry Brook Homes Limited (BBHL)

All vacancies within Berry Brook Homes stock are now filled except one property at Phoenix Avenue which has become recently vacant. This house was being lived in temporarily by one of the Council's school caretakers family whose own property was being renovated.

A meeting with Phoenix Avenue Berry Brook residents is due to take place in late June and we are looking forward to sharing with them all our latest news and hearing about any issues they would like us to help them address.

Changes to Directors:

There have been no changes to Berry Brook Homes' company directors since the last report.

Optalis Limited

General:

Work has taken place with regard to the implementation of GDPR across Optalis. Training has taken place and our quality and governance team is leading on this project.

As at our year end position, we have seen an impactful improvement in terms of recruitment and retention with the number of people joining Optalis increasing by c30% whilst the number of people leaving Optalis has reduced across the year. Vacancy rates have reduced substantially over the year.

We have carried out a full review of our quality systems and have introduced a new quality framework which is now in place.

Our work with Wexham Park Hospital to reduce delayed transfers of care is proving to be an ongoing success.

FY17/18 saw a positive end to the year from a financial perspective.

A learning disability provider forum has been set up by Optalis, with Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service attending our last meeting.

Our work in assistive technology continues with our last open day being attended by 50 people to share information and advice. The next open day has already been planned

2.3 Changes to Directors

There have been no changes since the last report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	See other financial implications below	Yes	Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	See other financial implications below	Yes	Revenue
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	See other financial implications below	Yes	Revenue

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision
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The Council will benefit from reduced costs in commissioning services, the interest and management charges to WBC (Holdings) Ltd and future profits paid out as dividend. These will be factored into the Medium Term Financial Plan under the appropriate service.

Cross-Council Implications

No Cross-Council Implications

List of Background Papers

None

Contact Kajal Patel	Service Resources
Telephone No 07769957900	Email Kajal.Patel@wokingham.gov.uk
Date 11 Jun 2018	Version No. 1

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Agenda Item 16.

TITLE	Comprehensive and Efficient Library Service
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	The Executive on 28 June 2018
WARD	None specific
DIRECTOR	Interim Director of Environment - Josie Wragg
LEAD MEMBER	Executive Member for Environment - Norman Jorgensen

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Library Services support the achievement of vibrant and self-sustaining communities through the provision of materials and services for enjoyment, education, creative and engagement activities.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive:

- 1) approve the arrangements to mitigate the impact on the Council and its statutory requirements for the provision of Library Services following notice being served by the Maiden Erlegh School to vacate the Maiden Erlegh School library site;
- 2) agree that the book purchasing and staffing resource is redeployed across the remaining library sites.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The Council operates a very successful Library Service which has increased its usage against a national picture of declining activity within libraries.

The Library Service has a substantial amount of contact with residents each year, going beyond the historical role of libraries to enable a broad range of services and activities that support the vision priorities of the Council.

Recently, the Council has been instructed to vacate the school site due to the school requiring the space for educational purposes and therefore it will no longer be able to operate a library from this site.

The Public Libraries & Museums Act (1964) requires the Council to operate a comprehensive and efficient library service.

This report considers the impact of no longer operating a library from the Maiden Erlegh School and demonstrates how the Council is continuing to meet its statutory obligations for the Library Service.

BACKGROUND

Libraries are a statutory service for local authorities and Wokingham Borough Council has a long history of implementing this statutory duty robustly, economically and flexibly. For many years, we have developed creative ways to not only encourage users into the Libraries themselves, but also to take the Library to those who cannot always make a physical visit.

Statutory Requirements

Local councils have to abide by the Public Libraries & Museums Act 1964 which makes public library services a statutory duty for local authorities.

The Act requires the Council to:

- Provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons in the area that want to make use of it.
- Lend books and other printed material free of charge for those who live, work or study in the area.

Aside from this general requirement for local authorities there are very few additional regulations which dictate what and how local authorities are required to provide.

The key elements that have to be included within a library service can be summarised as:

- Lending of books has to be free.
- Internet usage should be free of charge.
- Lending of ebooks should be free.
- Be able to obtain books we don't have in stock.
- A duty to encourage usage.

The Current Library Service

The Library Service has a substantial and increasing amount of contact with residents each year, going beyond the historical role of libraries to offer a broad range of services and activities that support the vision priorities of the Council.

The library service is delivered through ten library sites and a home library service that cover each population centre in the borough, within premises that range from large purpose built libraries to schools, community centres and porta-cabins.

The Library Offer

In 2016, the Library Offer (see appendix 1) established and promoted the activities that our residents can expect when visiting or using our libraries, including a clear understanding of their contribution to the borough and how they will evolve within the future means of the Council.

The ambition is for our libraries to be welcoming and vibrant places that people are drawn to and to protect the clearly valued heritage of our library services whilst evolving naturally to offer more and more opportunity for residents of all ages to engage in activities and access services. The libraries themselves are to continue to be flexible

and adaptable in terms of their space and their uses, aligning seamlessly with other provision in their area.

Since establishing the Library Offer the Council has successfully implemented self-service in six libraries, relocated the Arborfield Library into the Arborfield Royal British Legion building, provided an extra 17 hours opening time across the borough, and has agreed to relocate Wokingham Library to a new facility as part of the Wokingham Town Centre redevelopment.

A key element of introducing self-service in our libraries was to retain some staffing resource so that those residents who were unable or uncertain about using the kiosks still had the option of engaging directly to a member of staff.

ANALYSIS OF ISSUES

Maiden Erlegh Library

For 34 years Wokingham Borough Council has operated a dual use library on the Maiden Erlegh School site to provide access to library services for local residents and school pupils. A key element of the arrangement has been that the school has not charged the Council for the use of the space.

This longstanding arrangement between the Council and the school has always included the ability for either organisation to end the lease with four months' notice should either party have a reason to end the service on this site.

At the beginning of 2018 new opening times for the library were introduced in response to a request from the school to mitigate any safeguarding risks associated with opening the library during school hours.

In February 2018, Maiden Erlegh School informed the Council that it wishes to terminate the lease to operate the library from the school and suggested that the library close and vacate the site from the end of the summer school term 2018.

Usage of Maiden Erlegh Library

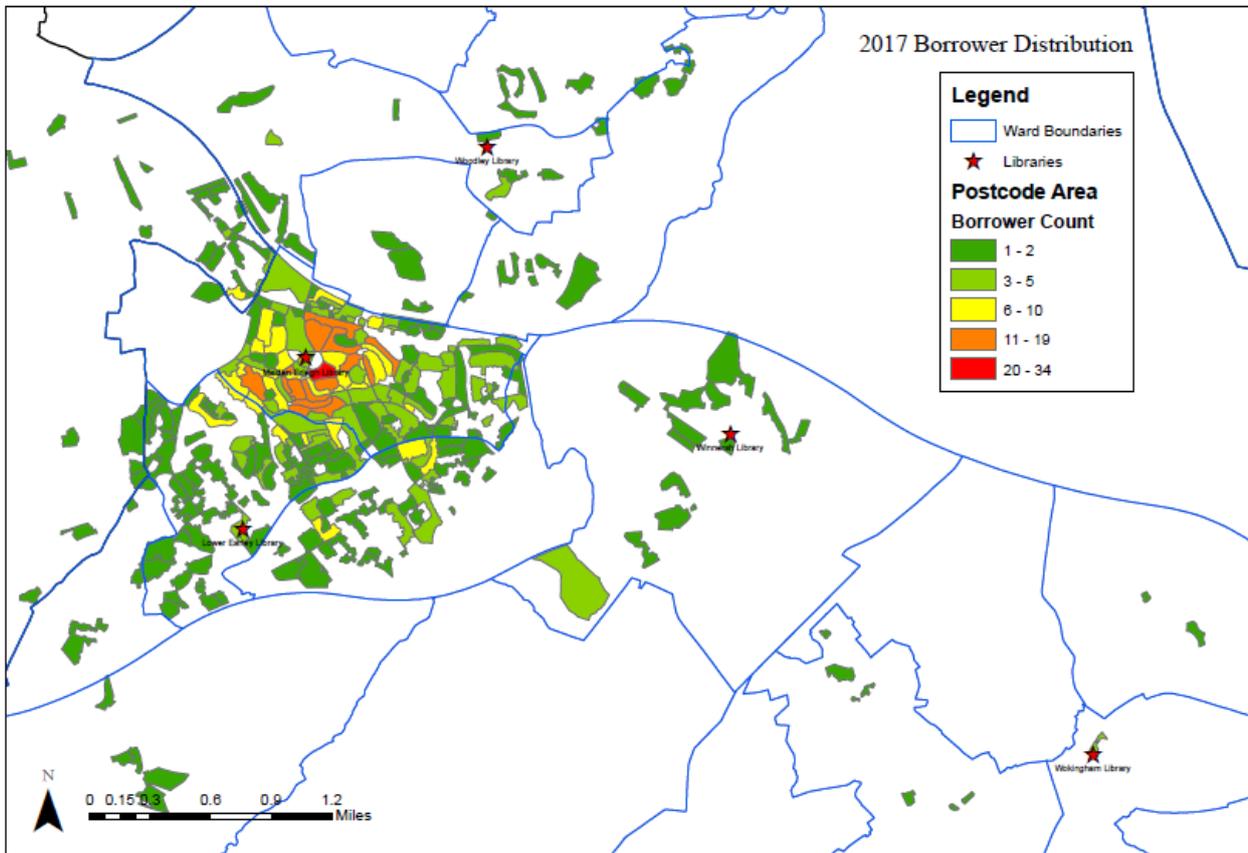
The Maiden Erlegh Library is currently open for 15 hours per week, including being open until the early evening on Thursday and open on Saturday morning.

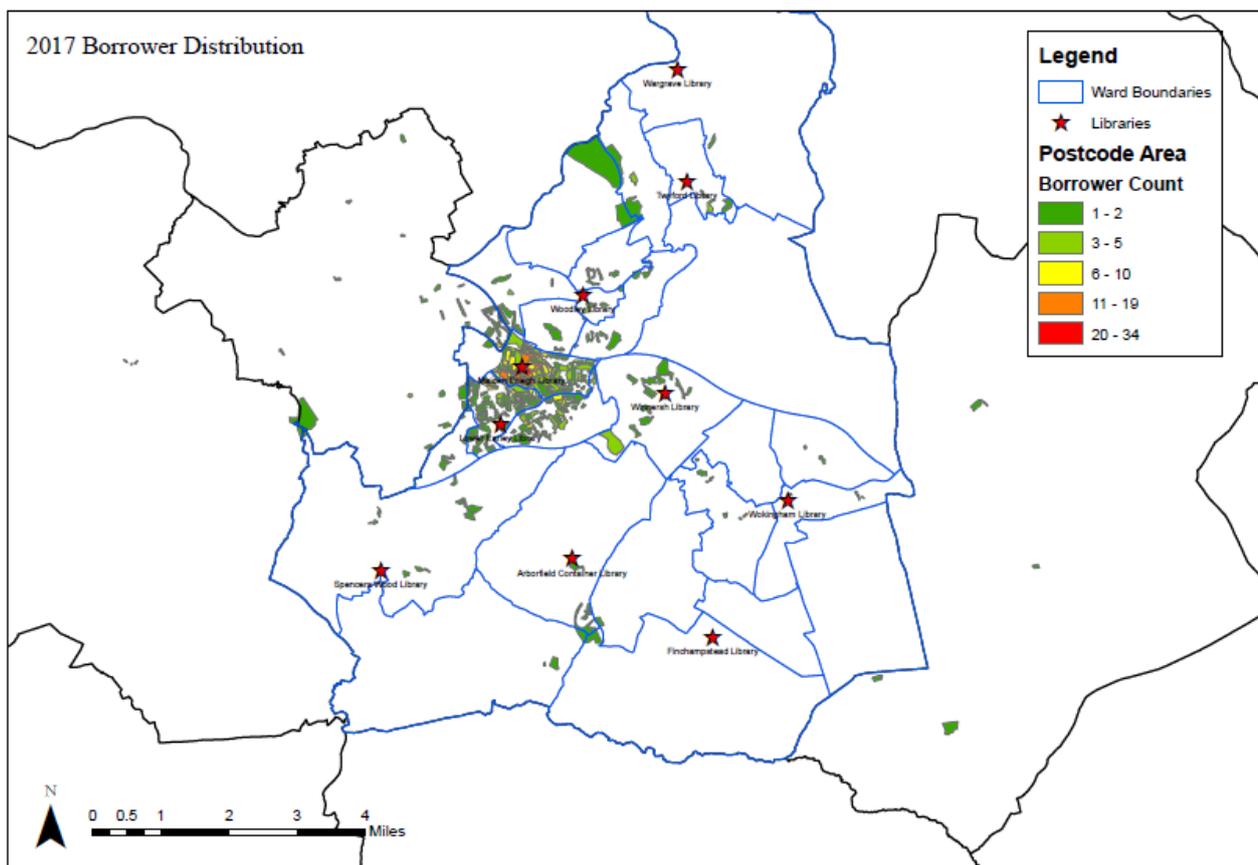
The table below shows the number of visit to Maiden Erlegh Library along with the usage figures for the other nine libraries and the Home Library Service:

	Maiden Erlegh Visits
2012/13	23203
2013/14	24041
2014/15	22393
2015/16	23246
2016/17	23814
2017/18	20606

Across each of the last six years, the visits to Maiden Erlegh Library represent just under 5% of the total visits to libraries across the borough.

The maps below show the distribution across of Maiden Erlegh library users (those who borrowed a book between) 1st Jan 2017 and 31 Dec 2017. The second map also shows the location of the ten libraries across the borough.





Map 2

The table below shows the number of different classification of users of Maiden Erlegh Library and whether they've also used other libraries across the borough:

Borrower type	Used Maiden Erlegh	Used another library	Only used Maiden Erlegh
Pupil	75	47	28
Adult	354	305	49
Child	402	334	68
Teenager	98	79	19
Pensioner	68	62	6
VIP/SEN	5	5	0
Looked After Teenager	1	0	1
Home Educator	1	1	0
Registered Childminder	1	1	0
BookClub	1	1	0
TOTAL	1006	835	171

(March to Dec 2017)

Impact on Library Users

The information above shows that the Maiden Erlegh Library site is substantially closer to other Council libraries than the majority of other library sites. It is approximately 2½ miles from the Woodley Library and only 1 mile from the Lower Earley Library. Both of these libraries are open for substantially longer each week, including Woodley Library being open on both Saturdays and Sundays. In particular, a large number of Maiden Erlegh Library users will not have to travel further to access the Lower Earley Library,

which has much better access arrangements.

It is also clear that the majority of Maiden Erlegh Library users also make use of other libraries across the borough, with just fewer than 17% of library users not making use of other libraries. This is consistent with the broader picture of library usage in recent years, with residents altering which library they use to suit their particular daily circumstances (see appendix 2). Ultimately, the closure of Maiden Erlegh Library will force fewer than 1% of library users to change their habits and make use of different library sites or services.

Therefore the closure of the Maiden Erlegh Library is likely to have a minimal impact upon library users as there are alternative sites nearby and the vast majority of service users also regularly make use of other libraries in the borough. It should also be noted that residents can access a wide range of library services online, removing the need to visit a library site as often as they would have needed to in the past.

Impact On Resources

The costs of operating the Maiden Erlegh Library can be summarise as follows:

- Staffing (£9,135)
- Telecoms (£147)
- Stock Purchases (£8,187)

There are no accommodation costs for the use of the space within Maiden Erlegh School.

The library also takes in approx. £2,500 in income each year.

Due to the absence of any rental or lease costs for operating the Maiden Erlegh Library, the impact on resources is very low. It also means that the costs to the Council of operating the Library Service are likely to substantially increase if the Council was to lease an alternative site in the area.

Continuing to Meet Statutory Requirements

The information above shows that the Council has been successful in providing a well-used library service for the people who live, work and visit the borough. The closure of the Maiden Erlegh Library is likely to have little impact on residents' ability to access library services due to the close proximity of alternative sites that are open substantially longer each week.

If the Council maintains its expenditure on its library stock, library users will still be able to have access to the same number of items. Likewise, if the Council retained the staffing resource, this could be utilised across the library service to ensure that residents still had the same opportunity to engage with a member of staff if they need to.

Any relocation of the Maiden Erlegh Library to another site is likely to substantially increase the operating costs of the service. This would either result in a reduction of service overall or necessitate a larger proportion of funding from the main Council budget. This does not represent an efficient use of resources for service delivery.

It should also be noted that the Council will be opening new library facilities in Shinfield and Arborfield in the near future as part of the infrastructure commitments within the Strategic Development Locations. These will further enhance the options available to residents to access library services.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	0	Yes	Rev
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	0	Yes	Rev
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	0	Yes	Rev

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision
N/A

Cross-Council Implications
None

List of Background Papers
Executive Reports on Library Offer – January 2016 and June 2016

Contact Mark Redfearn	Service Customer and Localities
Telephone Tel: 0118 974 6012	Email mark.redfeam@wokingham.gov.uk

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH LIBRARY OFFER

Access to Services

- The Library Service will adapt to meet the growing population and changing behaviours of our residents.
- The Library Service will utilise opportunities to provide residents with a flexible mix of physical and virtual options for accessing all services
- Improve access to other Wokingham Borough Council services in line with Customer Services vision
- Strong partnership working to ensure flexibility of delivery and access to library services

Library Stock

- Maintain the approach of books being the primary stock type
- Stock purchased will be responsive to the behaviour and needs of our residents
- Increase the numbers of items available in other formats
- Continue to ensure that we hold the books that people most want

Visiting and Using Library Buildings

- The environment within libraries will be welcoming and enjoyable
- Buildings will be flexible and adaptable to changing demands for their use
- Enable access to other types of services including other council services, health services and local community and voluntary services
- They will provide space for locally focused events and activities that develop a sense of community
- Actively identify events and services that support the broader Council vision

Technology

- The Library Service will continue to grow its online services to provide more opportunity for residents to access services when they want them.
- Invest in technologies that support learning and self-sustaining behaviours in residents.
- Increase the range of services within libraries by enabling payments for other Council services.
- Respond to natural opportunities to deliver a greater range of Council services within libraries.

Income Generation

- Income generation ideas will feel a natural extension of our services and activities
- Where opportunities for investment present themselves we will look to gain the most value from them so as to minimise the need for further investments in the future

Supporting Wokingham Borough Council Vision

- The library service will continue to identify ways to directly support Wokingham Borough Council's vision for the borough
- Maintain or improve on the usage of library services so that they remain a valuable method of supporting and promoting other Council services.

Library Choices

Wokingham borough is a mix of urban and semi-rural neighbourhoods with its population centres spread across a relatively dispersed geographical area. In providing a comprehensive library service for the borough, the Council has located a library within most of the populated areas so that people can directly access these services.

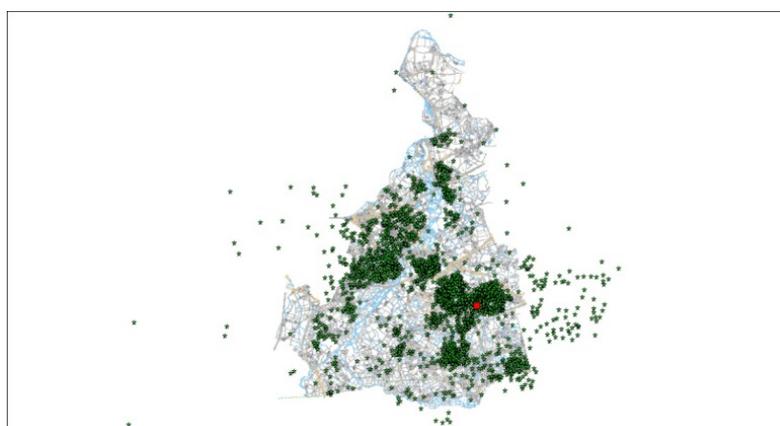
A consequence of this is that people have a degree of choice about which library they use, with most residents having at least two libraries within a few miles of their homes. The table below shows the percentage for each library of the different distances that people have travelled to use them.

	0 - 1 miles	1 - 2 miles	2 - 3 miles	3 - 5 miles	5+ miles
Wokingham	35.98%	29.53%	13.22%	15.94%	5.33%
Woodley	53.71%	23.16%	13.15%	7.86%	2.12%
Lower Earley	62.63%	22.31%	7.65%	6.55%	0.86%
Winnersh	45.27%	21.44%	15.42%	14.64%	3.23%
Finchampstead	50.68%	18.16%	16.18%	12.39%	2.60%
Twyford	81.67%	9.92%	2.85%	4.51%	1.05%
Maiden Erleigh	82.65%	9.59%	2.14%	4.08%	1.53%
Spencers Wood	60.77%	20.58%	8.92%	6.04%	3.70%
Wargrave	69.10%	14.61%	6.37%	5.99%	3.93%
Arborfield	50.62%	9.88%	20.99%	14.81%	3.70%

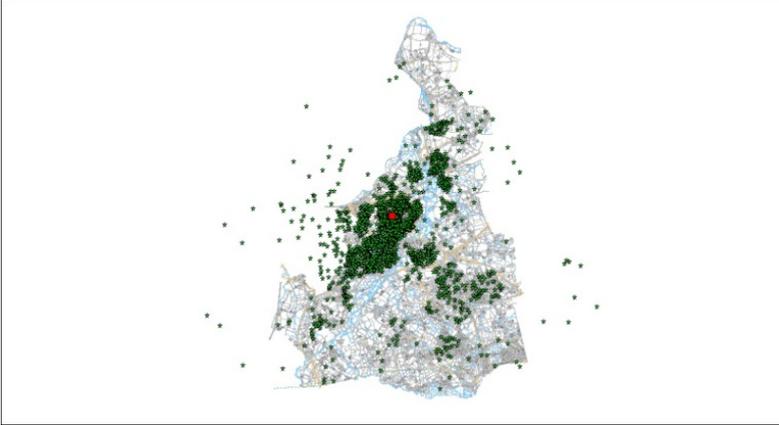
(2015/16 Data)

We can understand this further by mapping the home postcodes of the users of each library to show the catchment area of each library. Below are maps showing catchment areas for boroughs most well-used libraries:

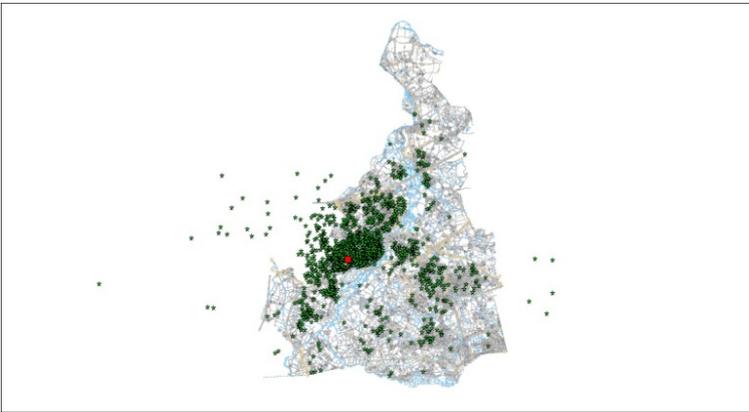
- Wokingham Library



- Woodley Library



- Lower Earley Library



From this we can see that each library is being used by residents from all over the borough.

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TITLE	Wokingham Primary School Places Strategy 2018
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	The Executive on 28 th June 2018
WARD	None specific
DIRECTOR	Director of Corporate Services, Graham Ebers, Acting Director of Childrens Services, Lisa Humphreys
LEAD MEMBER	Pauline Helliar-Symons, Executive Member for Children's Services

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

That there will be sufficient primary school places in the right locations to meet the needs of Wokingham Borough families.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Wokingham Borough Council Primary School Places Strategy 2018 to 2028 is adopted.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The Council has a duty to ensure there are sufficient school places and has a detailed infrastructure plan which sits alongside the planning strategy. This ensures that school places are provided alongside new developments and sufficient new capacity is available to support new communities.

The report and attached Wokingham Borough Council Primary School Places Strategy 2018 to 2028 set out an analysis of the need for primary school places in the context of statutory duty and ongoing, large-scale residential development in the borough. In doing so, it considered the timing of the planned infrastructure provision. It looks at needs and responses in the short (3 year), medium (5 year) and long term (10 years). It shows:

- That in the medium and long term the current projections indicate the need for additional school places is linked to the provision of new housing.
- There may be a need to rationalise provision because while the adopted Strategic Development Locations (SDLs) and future Local Plan Update housing is expected to lead to additional demand originating in the new developments, the projections indicate other areas will see static or declining demand. This is consistent with (and indicative of the success of) the Wokingham Borough Core Strategy intent to focus growth into the SDL areas, where infrastructure can be provided through provision planned when the Core Strategy was devised and approved. This will be constantly monitored.
- That while there is no case to increase capacity in the North, Earley or South East Planning Areas, there are local pressure points in the Wokingham Town West (Wokingham Town and Winnersh), South West (Shinfield and Arborfield) and Woodley Planning Areas.
- That South West and Wokingham Town West areas have needs that can be met through the new provision planned in the SDL areas. This points to the development of these schemes continuing according to established timetables,

but with a need to manage the number of new places delivered locally, to ensure all schools continue to be sustainable.

- That Woodley requires additional provision, initially at least as bulge accommodation for September 2020, leading into permanent accommodation if the rise in population is sustained. This points to a need for a local working party of key stakeholders to agree how to address this issue.
- There are risks of both over and under provision because the child yield of new housing can only be estimated through projections and modelling until homes are occupied, but these can be mitigated through contingency planning.
- Capital costs are already budgeted for in the 10 year vision, using resources secured through Section 106 agreements for SDL schemes and government grant. Revenue costs will be built into the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Growth budget in appropriate years.

Background

1. The Council has a duty to ensure there are sufficient school places. Where additional places are required, they can be provided through school expansion or the creation of a new school.
2. The Council has a detailed infrastructure programme which sits alongside the planning strategy as set out in the adopted Core Strategy and Managing Development Delivery Local Plans. This ensure that necessary infrastructure, including school places, is provided alongside new developments and is able to support new communities. All four Strategic Development Locations include planned schools. Some of these have already been development, whereas others will be provided as development progresses.
3. One key purpose of the Primary School Place Strategy to consider the detailed timing of projects within the infrastructure programme; that is when the planned additional school places are required to support the projected demand. The capital programme is aligned with this need.
4. In addition to considering the planned infrastructure alongside the SDLs, the Strategy also reviews the sufficiency of school places in other areas of the borough. The positive planning approach to strategic development and infrastructure means that unplanned impacts are limited and manageable.

The previous strategy

5. Wokingham Borough's current Primary School Strategy covered the period from 2016 to 2018. It established the need to provide additional capacity in Earley, Woodley and the south west of the borough (as temporary provision until the new SDL school was ready), in addition to developing the agreed SDL school programme.
6. In accordance with the strategy the Council has:
 - Let contracts to expand three primary schools (Beechwood and Highwood primary schools in Woodley and Loddon primary school in Earley)
 - Gained Planning Consent for a fourth primary expansion programme in Earley (Aldryngton Primary School)
 - Created temporary provision to enable a planned new primary school to open in the south west of the borough (Shinfield) in advance of the completion of the permanent premises.
7. The three primary school expansion projects are all now offering additional places, and are expected to complete this year (2018/19). The fourth expansion project (Aldryngton) was subject to further scheme development. Although Planning Permission was awarded the level of need in Earley has not risen to a level to require the implementation of the scheme. Thanks to Loddon School being expanded we no longer need to expand Aldryngton, and may even have an excess of places in the short term as a result.
8. The Shinfield temporary provision was ready for use in 2016, but was not required that year. Although 30 children had to be diverted to schools out of the area on offer day, parents found alternative places for their children in established schools in

surrounding communities before the start of the new school year that September. Currently the permanent base for the school is nearing completion on the Shinfield West development site, (and is now expected to open in 2019).

9. The SDL primary school programme facilitates the delivery of 7 new primary schools (1 in North Wokingham, 2 in South Wokingham, 2 at Arborfield and 2 in the South of the M4 (at Shinfield & Spencer's Wood) SDLs) – all of which are planned with futureproofing capacity for additional forms of entry. To date this programme has led to the opening of the Montague Park Primary School in 2016 (South Wokingham SDL) and the construction of the permanent Shinfield West Primary School in Shinfield (South of the M4 SDL) (planned to open in 2019). Scheme development work has progressed in line with the SDL build out programme and planning consent has been awarded to the Matthews Green Primary School (North Wokingham SDL) and an application has been made for Planning Consent for the Arborfield Primary School (Arborfield SDL). Both the Matthew Green and Arborfield schemes are on programme to open in 2020.

Housebuilding and births

10. During the period of the last primary school places strategy residential development has recovered to the levels anticipated in the Core Strategy. This followed lower growth in the initial planning period for the Strategic Development Locations reflecting the past economic cycle. In the 3 year period leading up to the strategy (2013 to 2016) an average of 528 new homes per year were built in the borough. Given the number of new homes built in the period 2016 to 2018 and the number of homes in construction, it is expected that the average rate of development will be over 1,000 homes per annum for the 3 year period 2016 to 2019. Although the housing market is notoriously cyclical, the expectation is that the borough will continue to see the rate of development exceed 1,000 dwellings for the immediate future. This reflects the number of permissions held by developers and builders and the current level of activity. In the longer term delivery is likely to remain in the 950 to 1,000 homes per annum range, as expected.
11. However, the number of live births in years feeding Reception class admissions in the strategy period fell from 1,936 in 2011/12 (starting school in September 2016) to 1,769 in 2013/14 (starting school in September 2018). This was a fall of 170 children or 9%. The impact of this fall in birth numbers has more than offset the increased demand due to children moving into the area, and consequently in 2018 there were unused Reception class places in all 7 planning areas in the borough on offer day. The average for the next 3 years (2014 to 2017) is 1,836 (with a peak of 1,908 children in 2015/16) – any sustained increase in Reception rolls in the period 2019 to 2022 would be dependent on children moving into the area. The 2015/16 peak in the number of births (entering school in September 2020) largely reflects increases in Woodley and the South West – areas of significant house building but where birth numbers fell back in the subsequent year (2016/17).
12. The following table shows births by area since the peak years (2009 to 2012), with the South West and Woodley highlight. As can be seen Woodley represents the only significant challenge for 2020, as this is a single, very high birth number year.

	Born September 2011 to August 2012	Born September 2012 to August 2013	Born September 2013 to August 2014	Born September 2014 to August 2015	Born September 2015 to August 2016	Born September 2016 to August 2017
Area	Starting School September 2016	Starting School September 2017	Starting School September 2018	Starting School September 2019	Starting School September 2020	Starting School September 2021
Earley	342	326	282	286	293	286
North	234	267	208	225	228	210
South East	172	158	145	159	158	134
South West	331	280	298	289	312	301
Wokingham Town and Winnersh	506	518	483	513	511	521
Woodley	351	323	353	322	406	353
Total	1,936	1,872	1,769	1,794	1,908	1,805

13. In line with the adopted Core Strategy Local Plan most new homes up to 2026 will be constructed in one of the four adopted Strategic Development Locations. In the first three years of the strategy (2018 to 2021) it is expected that 3,777 new homes will be built in the borough.

14. The future need for additional school places is likely to be driven by families moving into the new homes in SDL areas. The detailed infrastructure programme which sites alongside the Strategic Development Locations, means that provision is already planned to accommodate this future demand.

Projecting Need

15. The strategy uses data from a number of sources including the projected rate of housing completions and national population and household projections to understand the potential make up of new families. This enables us to consider the likely impact of new housing on the demand for school places.

Analysis of Issues

16. The projection points to specific areas of need. Two of these (Wokingham Town / Winnersh and the South West) are in areas associated with proposed Strategic Development Location schools, where the detailed infrastructure plan already includes new schools, which have futureproofing for an additional form of entry each. The analysis supports the delivery of these schools on their current timetables – i.e. in 2020.

17. The third is Woodley, where approximately 600 homes have been built in the recent past and a further 300 are expected within the next three years. However, no further large-scale development is planned in the area and there is limited opportunity for significant development. Consequently the projected high level of demand (particularly in 2020) may reflect the short term impacts of the new homes, and in the long term demand may fall back to current levels (in an area where an additional 45 places per year / 315 places in total are being delivered through two expansion projects).

18. Unlike the Strategic Development Locations, there is currently no detailed infrastructure plan for Woodley. The strategy therefore proposes that a working party of key Woodley stakeholders is formed to consider the short, medium and long-term needs in the area and agree how to address them.
19. The analysis underpinning the strategy points to a considerable degree of uncertainty as to the number of children who will need primary school places in future. The number is very much dependent on the child yield of new housing. Whilst the location of most housing is known, the composition of households can only be estimated and therefore the demand for school places can only be looked at similarly. A flexible strategy, with contingency arrangements for both over and under-shooting projections, best addresses these uncertainties.

Indicative programme

Period	Woodley	South West (Arborfield)	South West (Shinfield)	Wokingham Town / Winnersh
Autumn / winter 2018	Stakeholder working party	Scheme tendered School organisation process starts	Scheme completed Sponsor recruitment starts	Scheme tendered Sponsor recruitment starts
Winter / Spring 2019	Proposals agreed	School partner appointed Construction underway	School partner appointed	School partner appointed Construction underway
Summer 2019	Scheme planning	Construction underway		Construction underway
September 2019			School opens	
Spring / Summer 2020	Delivery of 1 st phase scheme	School handed over		School handed over
September 2020	Bulge provision opens / 1 st phase of expansion	School opens		School opens

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£2,400K £30K	N/A Yes	Capital Revenue (DSG)

Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£16,684K £204K	Yes N/A	Capital Revenue (DSG)
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£9,217K £459K	Yes N/A	Capital Revenue (DSG)

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

The capital funding for the Woodley provision will come from funds identified for the Aldryngton Primary School project, which is currently on hold, and does not form part of the works package proposed.

The spend is based on an assumption that initially the council will commit to a bulge class or classes with an expectation that if the evidence indicates a need for permanent expansion, the school will continue to grow.

The capital expenditure for the new SDL primary schools is managed through arrangements established for SDL infrastructure so is not identified above. It is though fully set out in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). The relevant extract from the MTFP for 2018/19 is set out below. The programme requires some re-profiling of agreed schemes but can be contained within the overall allocation.

Provision will be made in the Dedicated Schools Grant Growth Fund for these schools for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 years at the appropriate time. The provisional amounts will include for 3 new SDL schools and 1 bulge class in this period.

The expected Growth fund budget for 19/20 is £800k, and it is unknown if the National Funding Formula will be implemented as proposed by the DfE in 2020/21. The Schools forum will need to approve and can reject the council proposals for the Growth fund in 2019-20 and (in view of the uncertainty around the National Funding Formula) it is unknown what the process will be beyond 2019-20. Therefore the following risks to the council's funding needs to be highlighted and are listed below:

Any spend on the Growth fund within or over the expected approved amount of £800k will need to be communicated to the Schools Forum for a decision. They can approve or reject a request to carry forward any overspend and, if agreed, fund it from the next year's budget (assuming there are sufficient funds). If it is rejected the spend will need to be funded from the General Fund.

In the event that the Schools Forum reduce or reject the council's Growth fund proposal the council can make an application to the Secretary of State to overrule their decision. It is likely that if the Growth Fund budget proposals exceed £800k, this application will be rejected.

The financial implication to the General fund could be 2019-20 £204k and in 2020-21 £459k (figures taken from the financial analysis in this report).

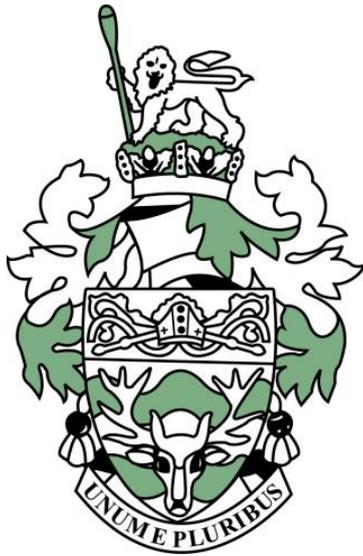
CAPITAL SERVICE BUDGETS				
Scheme description	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Total of scheme
Basic Needs Primary Programme Extension/new build projects to provide additional places throughout the Borough to meet need	3,122	1,641	5,715	10,478
Primary strategy - Aborfield Primary school New build project to provide additional places throughout the Borough to meet need	500	1,000	8,000	9,500
Primary strategy - Highwood Primary school Extension project to provide additional places throughout the Borough to meet need	475	0	0	475
Primary strategy - Loddon Primary school Extension project to provide additional places throughout the Borough to meet need	475	0	0	475
Primary strategy - Montague Park Furniture and fittings for future years	56	37	34	127
Primary strategy- Shinfield west FFE Furniture and fittings for future years	44	44	44	132
Primary strategy - Spencer's Wood Primary School New build project to provide additional places throughout the Borough to meet need	650	4,046	3,546	8,242
Primary strategy - Wheatfield Pri. Sch Furniture and fittings for future years	27	22	22	71
Primary strategy - Windmill Pri. Sch Furniture and fittings for future years	27	27	22	76
Primary strategy - East Park Farm Furniture and fittings for future years	27	27	27	81
Primary strategy - Matthews Green New build project to provide additional places throughout the Borough to meet need	1,200	8,200	4,046	13,446

Cross-Council Implications
The Arborfield SDL school will also include a new community use All Weather Pitch. The Matthews Green School project includes a community centre and has the potential to include a community use all weather pitch.

List of Background Papers
Primary School Planning Strategy 2016 to 2018
Draft new National Planning Policy Framework 2018

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WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wokingham Borough Council Primary School Places Strategy 2018 to 2028

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1 Executive summary

1.1 The key points in the strategy are:

- That in the medium and long term the current projections indicate the need for additional school places is linked to the provision of new housing. Although adopted Strategic Development Location (SDL) and future Local Plan Update housing will lead to a new population geography overall demand may not change or any borough level increase may be less than the new provision required to service new developments. This points to a need to create new provision where demand rises and a possible need to rationalise provision in other areas to ensure schools are sustainable.
- That while there is no case to increase capacity in the North, Earley or South East areas, there are local pressure points.
- That South West and Wokingham Town West areas are local pressure points but their needs that can be met through the new provision planned in the SDL areas.
- That Woodley requires additional provision, initially at least as bulge accommodation for September 2020, leading into permanent accommodation if the rise in population is sustained. This points to a need for a local working party of key stakeholders to agree how to address this issue.
- That the Council's Core Strategy has been successful, as the permanent infrastructure required to meet needs associated with new housing was planned into the new SDL developments from the outset and now forms the core provision that underpins this strategy. Growth outside the SDL areas is manageable, and in the case of Woodley requires special arrangements to look at needs, because there is no adopted infrastructure plan for this area.
- There are risks of both over and under provision because the number of children who will live in new housing cannot be known in advance, but these can be mitigated through contingency planning.
- The management of new provision (whether as a new free school or as an annexe to an existing school) will be determined on a case by case basis, dependent on the balance of local interests. Capital costs are already budgeted for in the 10-year vision, backed by resources secured through S106 agreements for SDL schemes. Revenue costs will be built into the Dedicated Schools Grant Growth budget in appropriate years.

2 Introduction

2.1 The council has a duty to ensure there are sufficient school places. Where additional school places are required, they can be provided by school expansion (including onto a second site) or the creation of a new school. Where a local authority takes the view that a new school is required it must seek proposals for a new Free School.

2.2 The strategy sets out:

- To review the need for primary school places over a 3, 5 and 10 year planning horizon.
- To consider the need for school places in areas associated with the Strategic Development Locations (SDL) to inform the timing of the new primary schools agreed as part of the Council's adopted Core Strategy for the period up until 2026.

- To propose actions to ensure there are sufficient primary school places in the right places to serve Wokingham Borough’s growing communities, outside of SDL associated areas.
 - To consider longer-term needs (10 year plus) that will inform the development of the Local Plan Update.
- 2.3 The needs analysis and action planning will be at a borough, planning area and community level.
- 2.4 The strategy is based on the 2018 Roll Projection, the 2014 base ONS Population Projection, Wokingham Borough Planning Policy, the draft National Planning Policy Framework 2018 (NPPF) and the Wokingham Housing Trajectory.

3 Context

Current schools and projects

- 3.1 Wokingham Borough has 54 primary phase schools, offering 16,281 places. They include 28 Community Schools, 13 Voluntary Controlled and Aided schools, and 13 Academy or Free Schools.
- 3.2 In response to rising demand in the borough the Council has both opened and expanded primary schools and one Free School under the national programme has opened (Ewendons in the Wokingham Town Council area). Currently three primary school expansion projects (Loddon Primary in Earley and Beechwood and Highwood Primary schools in Woodley) are nearing completion or well advanced. A new primary school in Shinfield (the Shinfield West School) will be completed in 2018 (planned opening in 2019). Two other school schemes are well developed and could open in 2020 (Matthews Green in the North Wokingham SDL and Arborfield in the Arborfield SDL. A full list of SDL schools is provided in Appendix B.

National policy on new provision

- 3.3 New schools will normally open as Free Schools. Under the “Free School Presumption” requirements (S6a Education and Inspection Act 2006, as modified by the Education Act 2011) the Free School sponsor is determined by the Secretary of State for Education (after a process in which the Local Authority can invite proposals, determine which one it favours and make recommendations to the Secretary of State). The Local Authority is responsible for procuring the site and building and for meeting start-up costs.
- 3.4 Alternatively, new schools may be provided under the DfE’s Free School programme, where individuals and bodies wishing to set up a new Free School make proposals directly to the DfE. The national programme operates through bidding “waves” and currently there is no opportunity to bid to open a new Free School. School delivered through the national route benefit from capital and start-up funding from the DfE.
- 3.5 School sites can also open as second sites of established schools, including maintained schools (and the Council would be responsible for initial capital and revenue funding).

4 Strategy organisation

- 4.1 The strategy is based on three planning horizons:
- 3 years (to 2021/22) is those projects that will be delivered within that period and implies that scheme planning and delivery should start immediately.

- 5 years (to 2023/24) is those projects where site acquisition and initial scoping can occur, but it is not expected they will be delivered in the initial 3 years.
 - 10 years (to 2028) will capture expected demographic growth over this period and implications for the Local Plan Refresh.
- 4.2 The strategy will be updated regularly within the strategy period, dependent on changing circumstances.
- 4.3 The analysis is conducted against the seven Wokingham Borough primary school Planning Areas: Earley, North, South East, South West, Wokingham Town West, Wokingham Town East and Woodley (see Appendix A for further details). For some purposes (where data sets inhibit further division), Wokingham Town East and West (which includes Winnersh) are analysed together as Wokingham Town.

5 Forecasting future demand

Roll Projection model

- 5.1 The Council has a long established roll projection model that uses historic relationships between births by ward and primary school Reception classes and transition rates (known as cohort survival rates) between school years to generate future rolls. These are then aggregated to provide projections for each planning area. The model has been tested, but is not intended to provide a reliable projection for individual schools. For example, projected admissions are not capped at school capacity. It also only uses live birth data to derive Reception numbers, using the last available birth numbers (2016/17, feeding into the 2021/22 School Year Reception class) to drive Reception numbers for later years (i.e. from 2022/21 onwards).
- 5.2 These factors mean that the model is most valuable in the short term and outcomes needs to be evaluated rather than adopted without being set in a wider context.
- 5.3 The model for future Reception numbers is very much driven by numbers born by ward. Recent data here is set out in Appendix G. It can be seen that recent birth number are markedly down compared to the period ending in 2012 (from a peak of 1,936 births to a low of 1,769 children in 2013/14).

Future housing

- 5.4 The model does incorporate the impact of future housing, where a constant annual supply rate applies. However, one piece of contextual information is whether or not future housing rates will mirror historic rates. The high number of new homes planned for the borough requires analysis because of its expected impact on the level and distribution of the need for primary school places. Currently over 1,000 new homes are being built each year onto an existing housing stock of over 64,700 homes (an approximate 1.5% increase each year). The full housing trajectory is set out in Appendix H.
- 5.5 To satisfy NPPF requirements it is likely that around 850 new homes per year will be required. Key to the current process is the “Objectively Assessed Need” – the number of homes that should be delivered in a rolling five-year period to meet needs. This has been assessed in a number of ways, but in future, the number of new homes required will be the product of a formal Local Housing Need assessment set out through the NPPF.
- 5.6 The major part of the assessed need is generated by the household projection for Wokingham Borough (from the Department of Housing, Communities and Local

Government) in this period. The household projection is in turn driven by the national (Office of National Statistics or ONS) population projection for the Borough.

- 5.7 The population projection takes account of births (see Appendix G for the most up to date information – the most recent population projection is based on 2014 data) and movement. As can be seen from Appendix I Wokingham Borough is an area to which young families move, but which also see movement out by young adults and older individuals (likely to be “empty nesters”).

Affordability factor housing

- 5.8 Part of the Local Housing Need calculation is an adjustment to reflect affordability of housing. This is intended to increase the supply to make homes more affordable and allow for concealed households. Initial work indicates this could be in the order of 255 homes out of the (approximately) 850 Local Housing Need requirement per year. These homes could deliver additional children to the number projected in the ONS projections (but may also work to reduce average household size, rather than to increase the local population). Earlier assessments of the Objectively Assessed Need used different planning assumptions, but ended up with very similar figures.
- 5.9 The projections underpinning the strategy use the impact of this additional housing, only on top of the standard roll projection, as this is most consistent with the ONS projection plus additional housing impact line. This is explored further in Appendix F.

Strategic Development Locations

- 5.10 In line with the WBC Core Strategy most new housing will be built in the designated Strategic Development Location areas up to 2026 (so in Wokingham Town, Arborfield and Shinfield, with significant housing development in Woodley (albeit recently largely completed)). The Local Plan Update will consider how development is managed to take account of needs going beyond 2026.

Office of National Statistics Projections

- 5.11 As noted above the need for approximately 2/3 of the requirement for new housing is ultimately driven by the ONS population projection. The ONS projections for children aged 5 to 11 are:

- 2021 (3 year) – no change in demand from 2018
- 2023 (5 years) – negligible decline from 2018 demand (-1.2%)
- 2028 (10 years) – static – unchanged from the 5 year projection (2023)

- 5.12 The projection indicates that approximately 2/3 of new housing will not lead to an increase in primary school rolls. These new homes are though necessary to ensure there are sufficient homes to meet needs generated by the projected increase in the number of households.

- 5.13 The “affordability” component of the Local Housing Need assessment is therefore critical to the impact of new homes on the need for school places.

The impact of “affordability” factor housing

- 5.14 While the NPPF derives the additional housing (the 1/3 that is in addition to the supply driven by the household projection) from the “affordability” of local housing, earlier assessments derived a similar level of overall need, taking account of other factors such as economic growth.
- 5.15 The Council evaluates the impact of new homes through a model that considers the high initial child yield associated with new housing and the lower, long-term child yield

rates associated with established residential areas. This model (developed with consultants working for developers) indicates a possible outcome (looking only at the “affordability” housing) could be:

- 2021 (3 years) – 331 additional children (1 ½ forms of entry)
- 2023 (5 years) – 465 additional children (2 forms of entry)
- 2028 (10 years) – 735 additional children (3.5 forms of entry)

5.16 This indicates a markedly lower additional need (at a borough level) than the capacity planned for the SDLs. Currently this is planned as follows:

- 2021 (3 years) – 1,050 places (5 forms of entry)
- 2028 (10 years) – 2,100 places (10 forms of entry)

5.17 The scale of the individual planned housing developments and the need to provide places close to homes inevitably means that new housing developments will require significantly higher capacity than indicated by figures derived from the Local Housing Needs calculation. This in turn means that there is a need to plan for a possible reduction in demand across existing residential areas and therefore to have plans to manage surplus capacity. This is purely a logical corollary of the known pattern of occupancy of new developments and the projected population totals – real world outcomes could be very different.

Policy implications

5.18 It also indicates that the evidence of need must be considered at the point school developments are authorised. Second schools in large developments should be subject to particular scrutiny.

5.19 Contingency plans need to consider both how additional capacity could be provided and how new capacity can be managed if built in advance of need. The former could include plans to expand schools (new and existing) or to accelerate the provision of new schools. The latter could include plans to make use of premises temporarily until demand has risen sufficiently to make new schools viable (if the number of children that move into a new development is significantly less than the number expected at the point the decision to tender is taken). They might also include proposals to restrict use of new premises to ensure that new provision does not arrive in such a way as to threaten the viability of existing schools.

5.20 One option to manage this risk is to plan new schools to open in temporary premises, with permanent premises to follow. This would ensure that school opening could be more closely tied to the admissions rounds, rather than to the lengthier capital project delivery timetable. This would make it more likely school opening would coincide with sufficient local demand to make the new school viable. Conversely though this would increase total spend, lead to greater disruption for schools as they moved between premises and would present a challenge securing suitable sites (preferably away from the new school construction sites). This option is therefore not recommended.

6 Three year planning horizon (2021/22)

6.1 Between the 2009/10 to 2011/12 academic years, after a near decade of growth, live births in the Borough peaked, with a high point of 1,936 births in 2010/11. From 2012 onwards the number of births in the Borough declined by 9% to 1,769 in 2013/14. Although 2015/16 (starting school in 2020/21) returned to over 1,900 births the average of the last 5 years births (1,830) is 100 children **less** than the average for the

preceding 5 years (1,926) (2007/08 to 2011/12 compared to 2012/13 to 2016/17). This is despite the high levels of house building seen in recent years.

- 6.2 This fall in births has led to a fall in the number of applicants for places in 2018. Roll projection indicates most areas will have sufficient capacity in this period. Where future rolls are led by births without any significant housing impact, Reception class intakes can be expected to be flat over this period, with some local surplus capacity.
- 6.3 The most challenging areas (from the standard roll projections) are:
- **Woodley**, where a deficit of 67 Reception places is projected in 2020/21 (albeit this reduces to an 8 place deficit in 2021/22).
 - **Wokingham Town (East and West)**, where a surplus of 35 Reception places (5%) is projected for 2021/22.
 - **South West**, where a surplus of 13 Reception places (5%) is projected in 2021/22.
- 6.4 Appendix C shows the Borough Projections and capacity (current and planned) for Reception and whole school rolls and capacity.
- 6.5 Appendix D shows the Reception and whole roll projections for Woodley, Wokingham Town and Winnersh and the South West
- 6.6 Appendix E shows Reception and whole roll projections for the areas where no action is proposed (Earley, North and South East areas).
- 6.7 All three areas are currently experiencing the impact of rapid house building so additional children will arrive with the new homes.

Woodley

- 6.8 This area has sites in development that will bring in the order of 300 new homes from 2018 to 2021 (and there may be delayed impact from recently completed housing – where families moved in with pre-school age children). However, this scale of development is not expected after this period because there are no identified large sites in the area where significant numbers of new homes could be created. These 300 additional homes are the last homes in a series of developments in the area in recent years that have built in the order of 600 homes on sites across the Woodley area. In the long run development on this scale could add in the order of 30 additional place need per year with a significantly higher short-term impact. This is though a small proportion of the total number of homes in the area.
- 6.9 Woodley is therefore an area of challenge. It is likely that any additional capacity in the Woodley area would need to be delivered through school expansion. The area is densely developed with a limited range of potential development sites available. The current information points to single year “bulge” in 2020/21 for up to 3 classes and a need (at least in 2021/22) for additional capacity, of up to 1 FE (30 places per year).
- 6.10 There is a need for caution though, as the high numbers (and in particular the 2020/21 projection) may reflect high numbers of children associated with new development. Developments have high initial child yield rates, but these decline over time. The recent high build rate may mean that this is a short-term spike rather than a long-term increase. This would point to a need to manage additional demand but in a way that does not lead to long-term oversupply. One way to achieve this would be to identify a school or schools that could offer two bulge classes on the basis that this would lead into a permanent expansion, if the higher numbers were sustained after

2021/22. The alternatives are not to create additional capacity (and to rely on capacity in adjoining areas) or to create the additional capacity in permanent accommodation (despite the risks associated with long-term oversupply).

- 6.11 The recommendation here is that a working group is set up of local stakeholders to consider the long-term needs of the area and to develop plans to manage needs in future (which may be short or long-term arrangements).

Wokingham Town West

- 6.12 This area includes the Matthews Green North Wokingham SDL area and the former Hatch Farm Dairies site (now known as Hatchwood Mill). It may also be impacted by developments in the Wokingham Town East area (including the western part of the North Wokingham SDL (now Mulberry Grove and Keephatch Gardens) and the Montague Park development (the first phase of the South Wokingham SDL).
- 6.13 The Wokingham Borough housing trajectory indicates that an additional 2,000 homes will have been built by the end of the 2020/21 year in the Wokingham Town / Winnersh area.
- 6.14 Although, this development could (using the housing child yield model) generate up to 650 additional children by 2021, with a long-term impact of 420 children (or a peak of 3 forms of entry (FE) and a long-term impact of 2FE), a significant proportion of these children will have been captured in the standard roll projection. This in effect takes the impact of historic house building into account, through the transition rate from births to school and the cohort survival rates (the proportion of children born in a ward arriving in Reception classes and the moving up the next year group each year respectively). Where these are positive (e.g., more children arrive in schools from each ward than were born to parents living in the ward) this indicates children have moved into the area, and this movement may reflect house building locally. Given this it is likely that demand, including the impact of new development can be met with an additional 1 FE places (with a risk of up to 2FE additional places required).
- 6.15 The likely level of demand can be met in the planned Matthews Green School (opening 2020), with reserve plans to create additional capacity through use of part-completed accommodation at Montague Park School and by further expansion of the Matthews Green site (as per the planning consent for the site). Note that the Matthews Green School could open offering 60 places, on the basis that the additional accommodation would be provided before the initial 210 places are exhausted.

The South West

- 6.16 This area has two SDL areas within it – Arborfield Garrison and South of the M4. The first SDL school, the Shinfield West school is planned to open in 2019 (the premises were ready for 2018 opening but there were insufficient pupils). The second school, in the Arborfield Garrison SDL, could open in 2020. The management of SDL facilities is outside the scope of this strategy (the Council has well developed procedures for the co-ordination and delivery of SDL infrastructure). The critical point here is that there will be insufficient capacity without at least one of the two planned schools. Given the scale of planned developments in both SDLs, the projected impact of rising birth rates locally and the physical separation of the Arborfield and Shinfield areas (they are not within walking distance of one another) there are good grounds to think that both schools are required. It may be appropriate to seek to open both schools as 1 form of entry initially to ensure they and other local schools have viable rolls.

7 Five Year Period (until 2023/24)

- 7.1 The birth data ends in 2016/17, feeding into the September 2021 Reception intake. The standard roll projection model uses the last live birth data to generate future years (until 2024/25). It is therefore important that other data sources be used to provide an indication of the likely changes after that point. An assessment of need until 2023/24 therefore has to consider the impact of housing and ONS (Office of National Statistics) population projections for the end of this period.
- 7.2 ONS 2014 base projections indicate a static projection for the primary age range.
- 7.3 The borough level housing analysis (set out above) indicates a need for 465 additional places in this period. This will effectively be met by the new Shinfield West Primary School. However, other schools will be required, because the new communities serve larger areas that cannot be adequately serviced from existing schools.
- 7.4 Given this (and on the basis that new schools will open in Wokingham Town, Arborfield and Shinfield in the first three years) it is recommended that no additional capacity is required in this period (but that the demand be kept under review in view of the significant number of homes planned). Development work for new schools in Spencers Wood and the second Arborfield School, at least, will proceed in this period.

8 Ten Year Projection to 2028

- 8.1 Development in this period will be in line with the emerging Local Plan Update. This will determine new residential areas in addition to those identified in the current Core Strategy. While these are not yet agreed, the volume of new housing will follow the trajectory established through the Local Housing Need assessment process.
- 8.2 For the purposes of this analysis it is assumed that the affordability component will remain constant, although this will be subject to review during the period (so may increase or decrease).
- 8.3 The projection overall shows a 6% surplus against current capacity. This indicates that any new capacity needs to be delivered where necessary and when there is a clear local need and that if the distribution of population changes, there may be a need to decommission capacity in some areas to keep schools viable.

9 Managing New Provision

- 9.1 As noted above new school sites can be managed as annexes to existing schools, or as new Free Schools. It is proposed that the Council adopt a flexible approach, considering each scheme separately. Proposals for both new Free Schools and Annexes to existing sites will be developed and approvals sought dependent on officers' assessment of the balance of interests locally. Funding proposals
- 9.2 Capital costs for schemes in the strategy are already within the Council's 10-year vision.
- 9.3 The Woodley proposals are new, but substitute for existing Aldryngton Primary School proposals within an identified "Basic Needs Primary Programme" budget.
- 9.4 Revenue costs will be met from the Council's Dedicated Schools Grant Growth fund. Costs will begin to be incurred from the 2019/20 year onwards.

10 Indicative programme

Period	Woodley	South West (Arborfield)	South West (Shinfield)	Wokingham Town / Winnersh
Autumn / winter 2018	Stakeholder working party	Scheme tendered School organisation process starts	Scheme completed Sponsor recruitment starts	Scheme tendered Sponsor recruitment starts
Winter / Spring 2019	Proposals agreed	School partner appointed Construction underway	School partner appointed	School partner appointed Construction underway
Summer 2019	Scheme planning	Construction underway		Construction underway
September 2019			School opens	
Spring / Summer 2020	Delivery of 1 st phase scheme	School handed over		School handed over
September 2020	Bulge provision opens / 1 st phase of expansion	School opens		School opens

11 Appendices

Appendix A: Schools and Planning Areas

Primary Planning Area	Schools	Ward (best fit)	Parish / Town Council (best fit)
Earley	Aldryngton Primary, Earley St Peter's CoE, Hawkedon Primary, Hillside Primary, Loddon Primary, Radstock Primary, Whiteknights Primary,	Hawkedon, Hillside & Maiden Erlegh	Earley
North	Colleton Primary, Crazies Hill, Polehampton CoE VC Infant, Polehampton CoE VC Junior, Robert Piggott CoE VC Infant, Robert Piggott CoE VC Junior, Sonning CoE VA Primary, St Nicholas CoE VC Primary, Charvil Piggott CoE	Charvil, Hurst, Remenham, Wargrave and Ruscombe, Sonning & Twyford	Charvil, Hurst, Remenham, Ruscombe, Wargrave, Sonning & Twyford
South East	Finchampstead CoE VA, Gorse Ride Infant, Gorse Ride Junior, Hatch Ride Primary, Nine Mile Ride, Oaklands Infant, Oaklands Junior, St Sebastian's CoE	Finchampstead North, Finchampstead South, & Wokingham Without	Finchampstead & Wokingham Without
South West	Coombes CoE Primary, Farley Hill Primary, Grazeley CoE VA Primary, Lamb's Lane, Shinfield Infant and Nursery, Shinfield St Mary's CoE VA	Arborfield, Barkham, Shinfield North, Shinfield South, Swallowfield,	Arborfield and Newland, Barkham, Shinfield, & Swallowfield
Wokingham Town East	All Saints CoE VA Primary, Keep Hatch Primary, St Teresa's RC VA Primary, Wescott Infant, Westende Junior, Evendons, Montague Park,	Norreys & Wescott	Wokingham
Wokingham Town West	Bearwood Primary, Emmbrook Infant, Emmbrook Junior, Hawthorns Primary, Walter Infant, St Paul's CoE VC Junior, Winnersh Primary, Wheatfield Primary, Windmill Primary	Emmbrook, Evendons, Winnersh	Wokingham & Winnersh
Woodley	Beechwood Primary, Highwood Primary, Rivermead Primary, South Lake Primary, St Dominic Savio RC VA, Willow Bank Junior, Willow Bank Infant, Woodley CoE VC Primary	Bulmershe and Whitegates, Coronation, Loddon & South Lake	Woodley

Appendix B: SDL plans

The SDL masterplans include 7 primary schools:

SDL	School	Opening	Capacity
South Wokingham	Montague Park Primary School	Opened 2016	420 places plus 210 available in a part completed building.
South Wokingham	2 nd school (south of the railway)	TBC	opening date to be determined
North Wokingham	Matthews Green Primary School	2020	210 (option to expand to 420)
South of the M4	Shinfield West Primary School	2020	420 plus nursery
South of the M4	Spencers Wood Primary School	TBC	Up to 420 places
Arborfield	Arborfield Primary School (Garrison site)	2020	420 places (+210 places if required)
Arborfield	Arborfield Primary School (Hogwood Garden Village)	TBC	420 places (+210 places if required)

The schools are planned to serve the SDL communities but places will be available to all applicants in line with oversubscription criteria. In most cases the S106 agreements require relatively early delivery, on the basis that there was no expectation when they were agreed that there would be capacity in existing local schools for children generated by the developments.

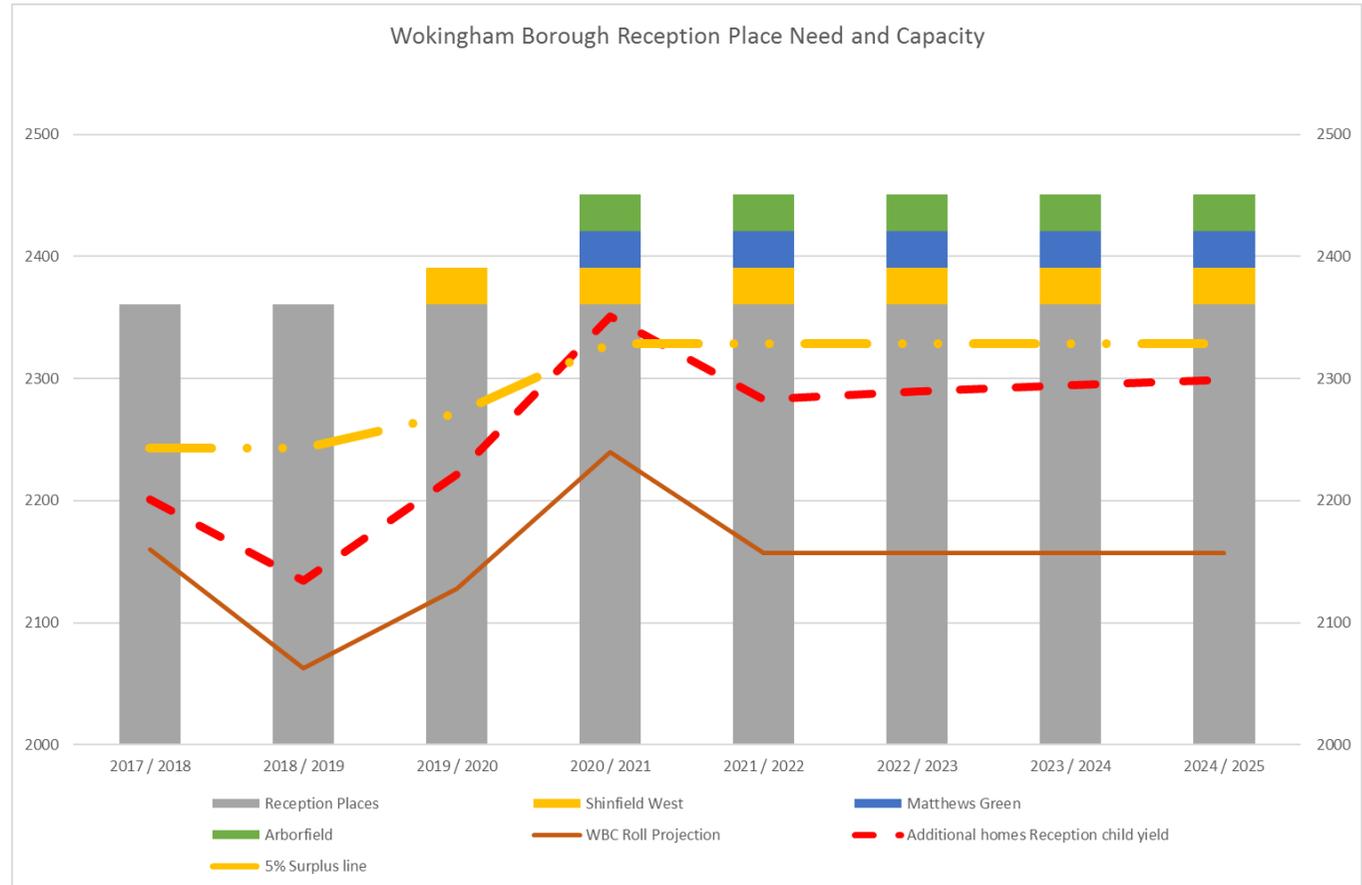
While the data indicates an issue in Woodley that may require resolution in the initial three years of the strategy, this is not an area where significant residential growth is expected after this period (see Housing Numbers below). There is therefore no expectation that growth in rolls will continue beyond this point.

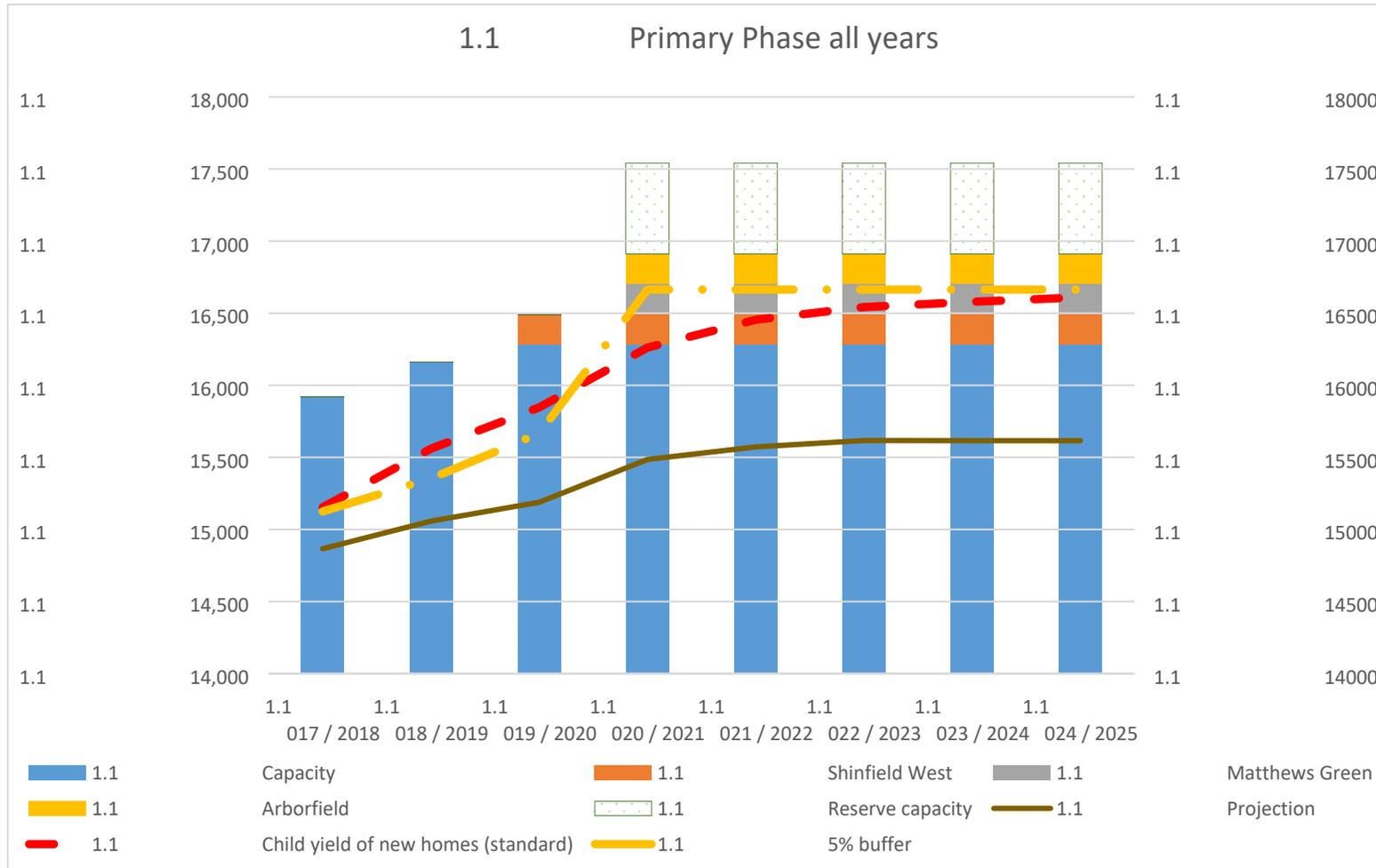
12 Appendix C: Roll projections

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The projections indicate that at a borough level there will be sufficient capacity for Reception children, without any additional capacity, but that additional capacity will be required to meet the needs of older children generated by ongoing development. This reflects the higher rolls in some older age groups that are the product of the higher birth numbers in the borough in years that fed these academic years.

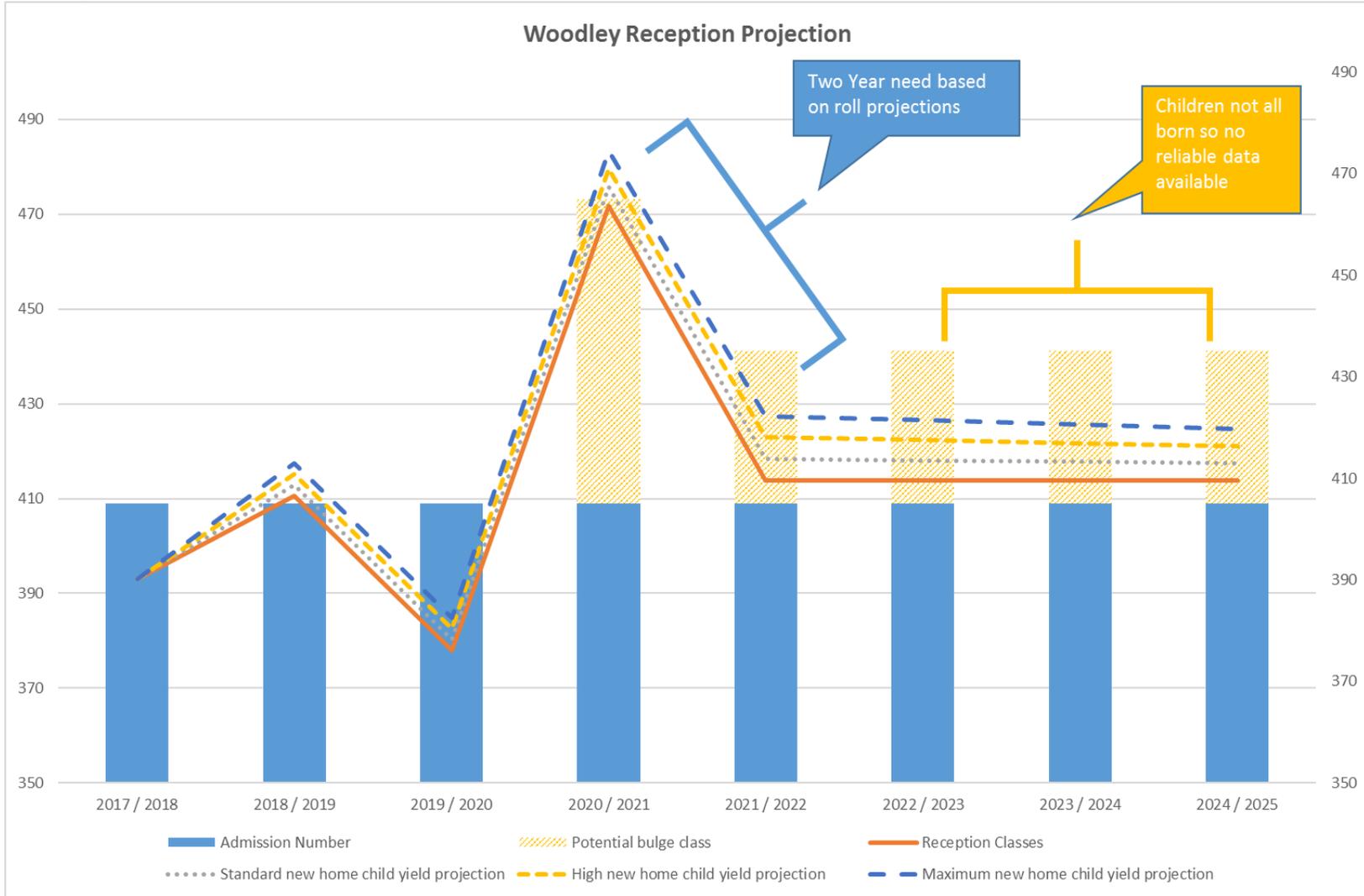
Note that the capacity figures are based on constraining the size of new schools to avoid over provision while the developments they are built to serve are built out.

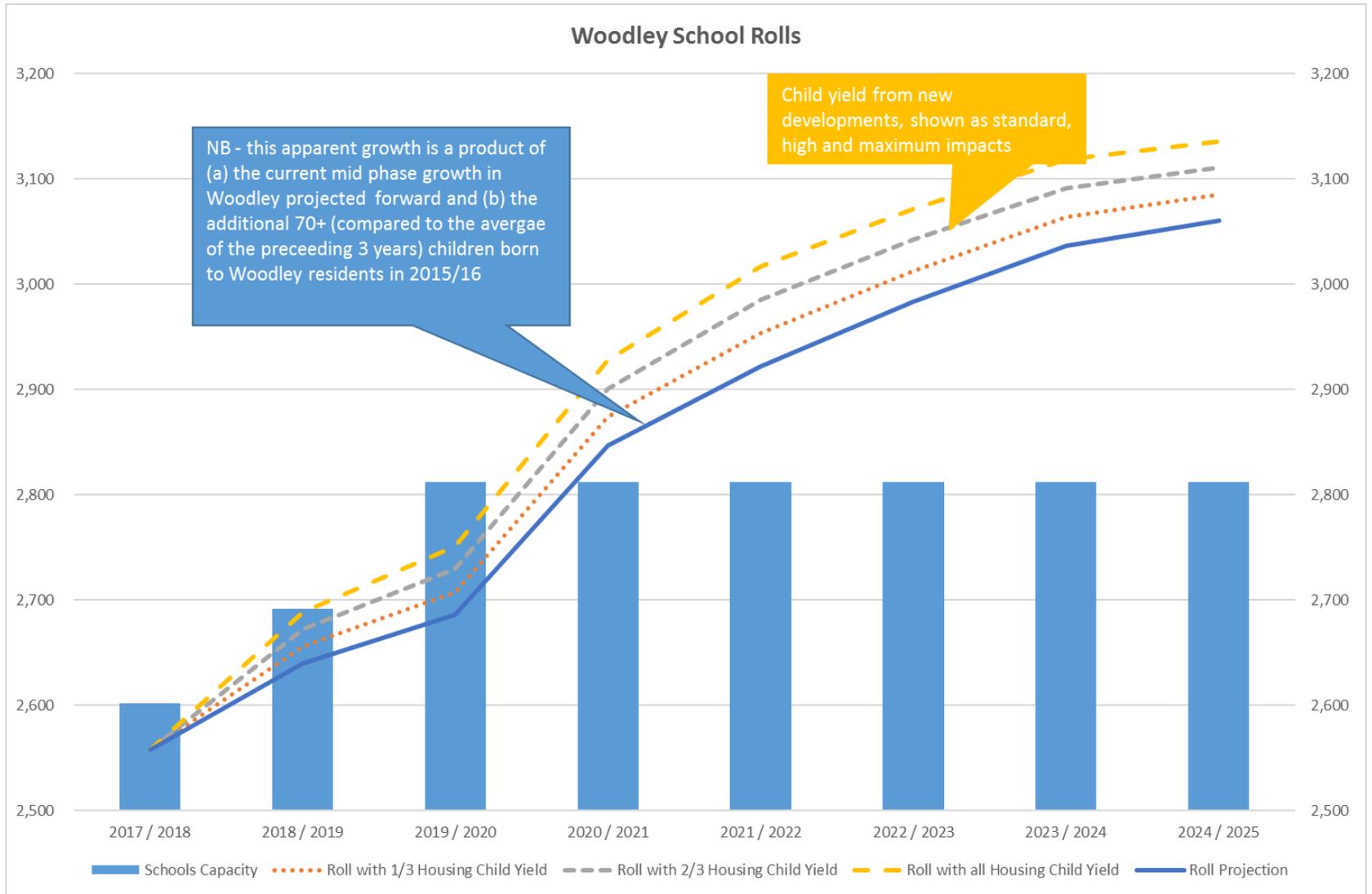




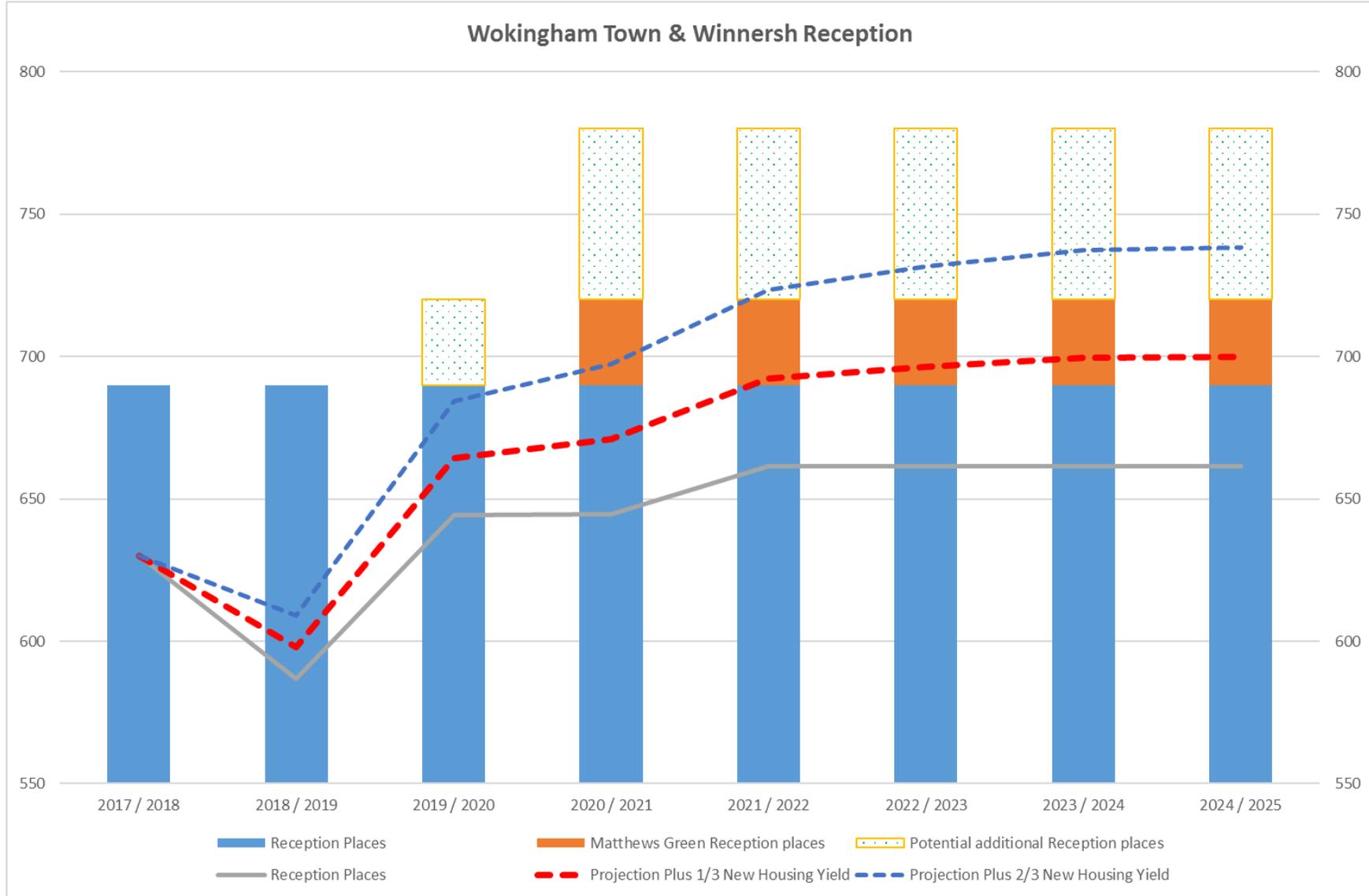
Appendix D: Projections for areas where action is required
Woodley

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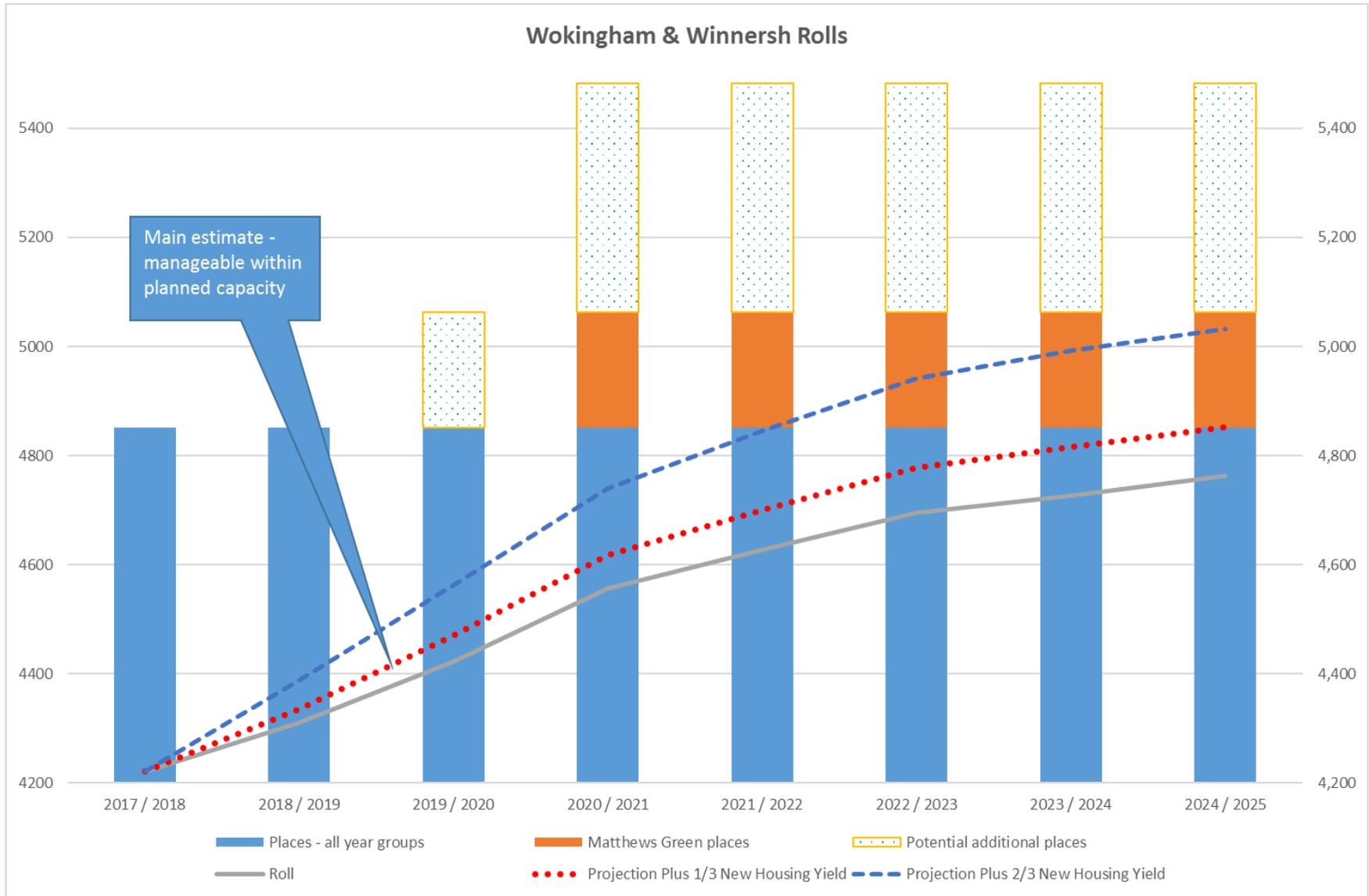
Wokingham Town and Winnersh



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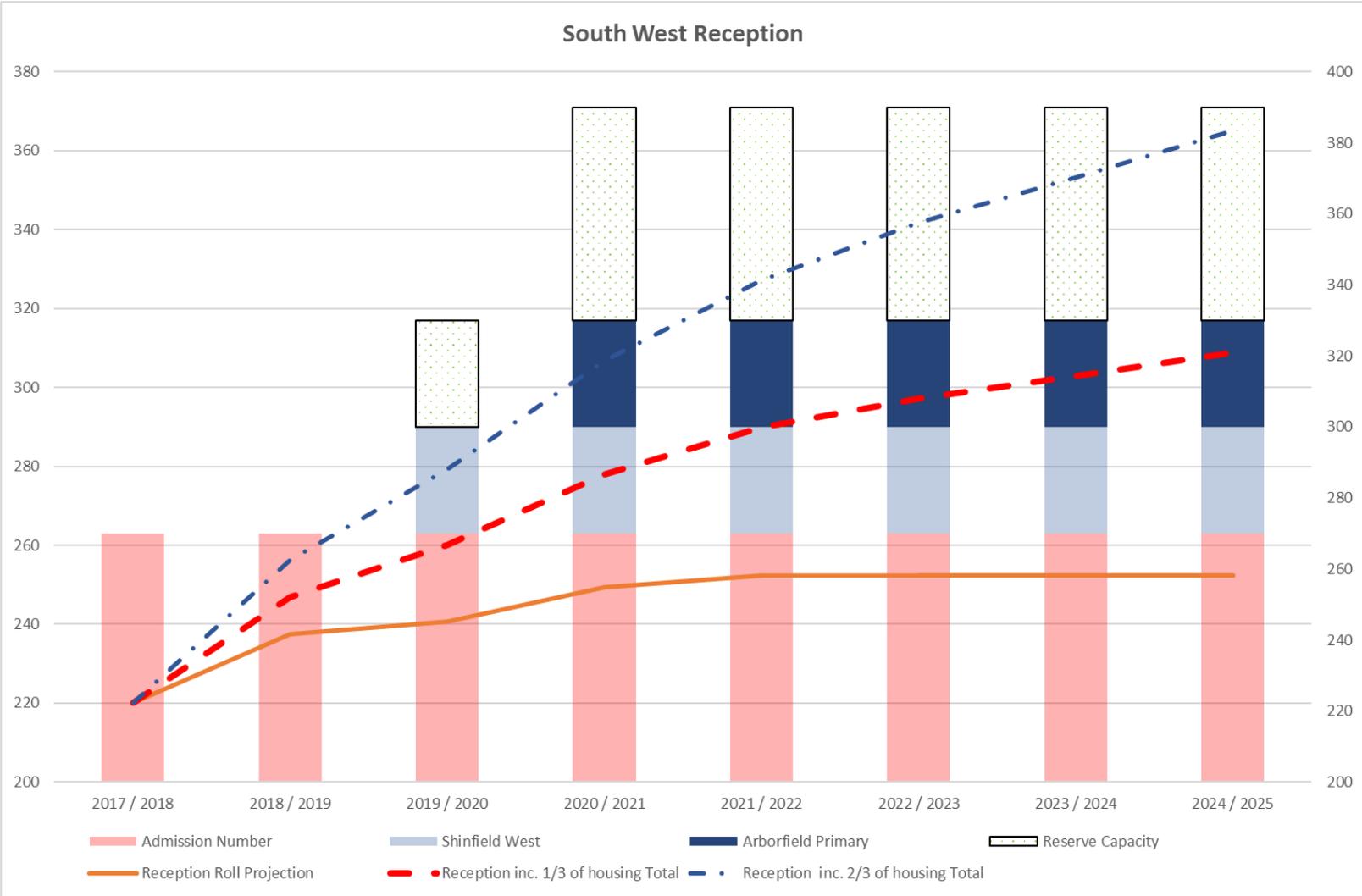
Wokingham & Winnersh Rolls

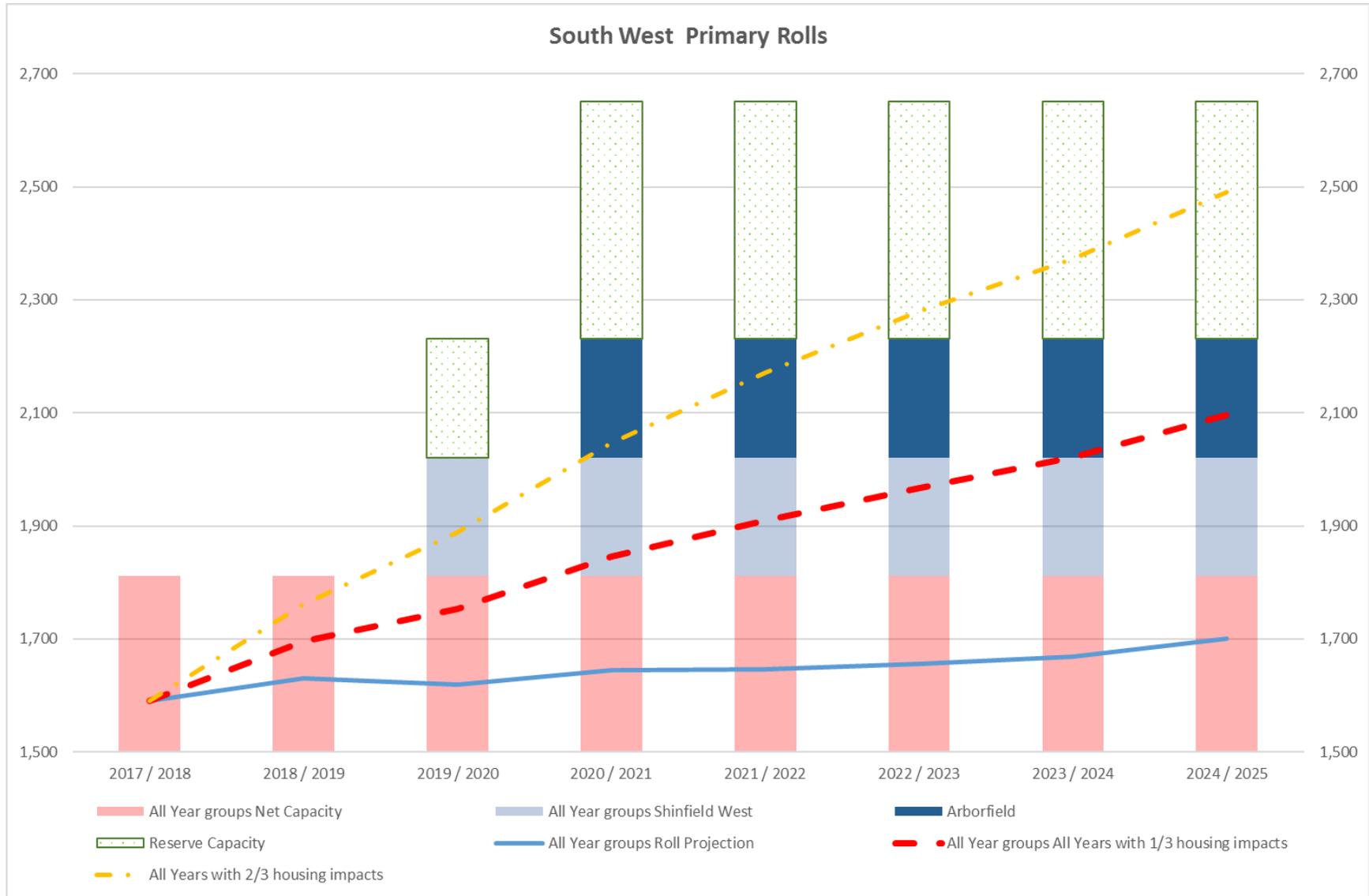
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South West

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Appendix E: Areas where no action is proposed

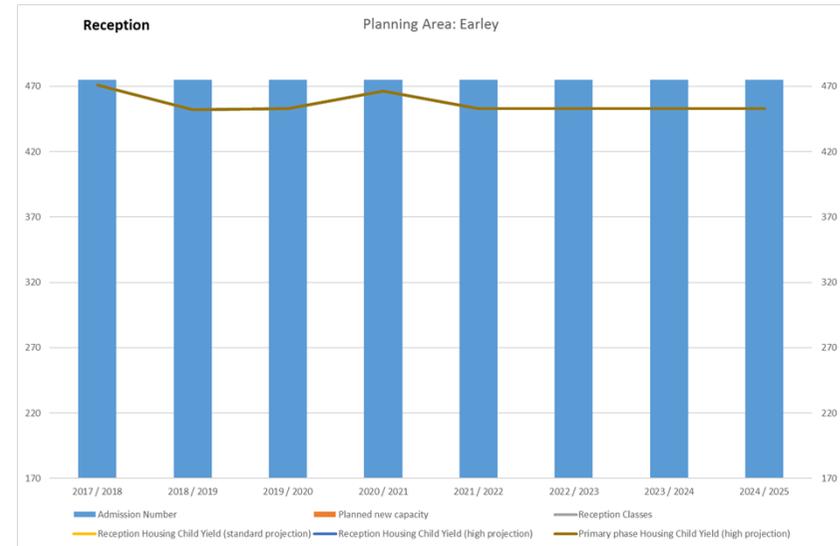
Earley

Although the projections indicate that rolls will remain close to school capacity there is no current evidence that indicates that demand will exceed place supply. On offer day 2018 (the day initial Reception place offers were made for 2018 Reception places) a number of Earley Schools had unfilled places.

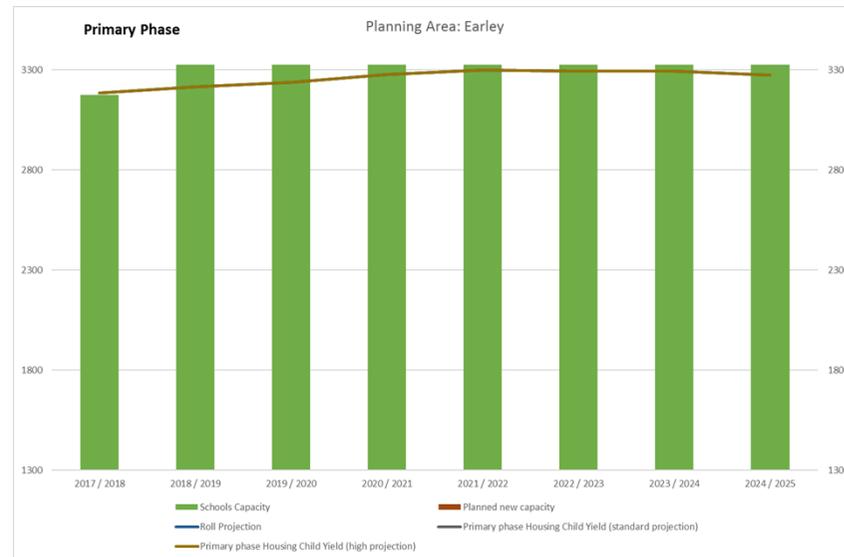
No additional housing is planned in the area.

Earley continues to be an area that receives children from out of area, pointing to a need for annual monitoring.

12.1



12.2

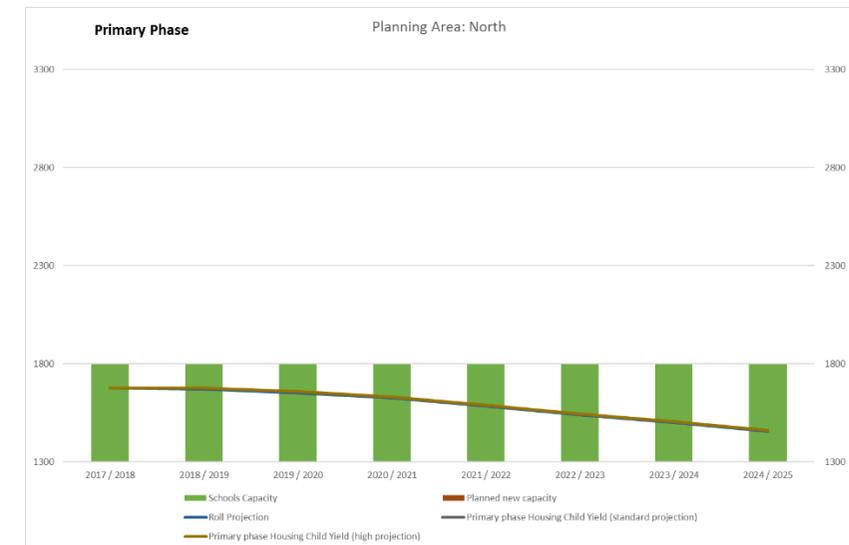
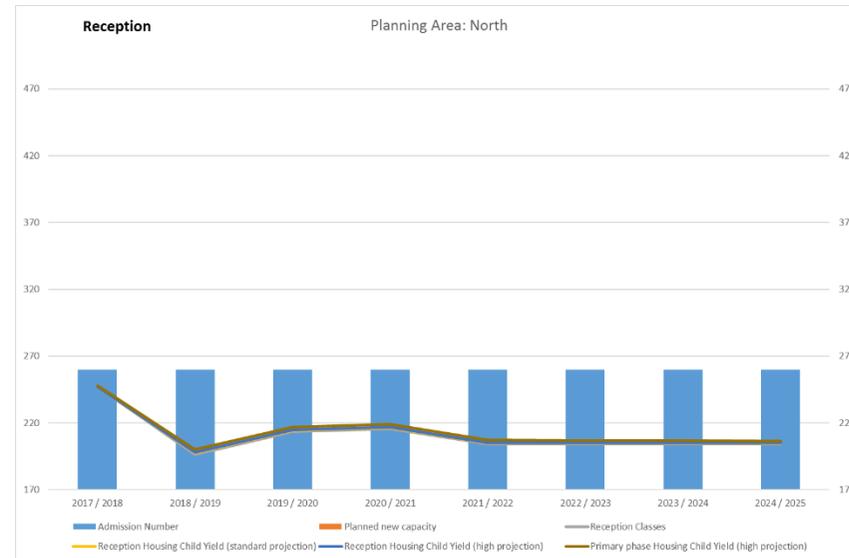


North

The projections indicate a steady level of demand, at least for next three years.

Very little additional housing is currently planned in the area (although housing sites across the borough are under review through the Local Plan Update process).

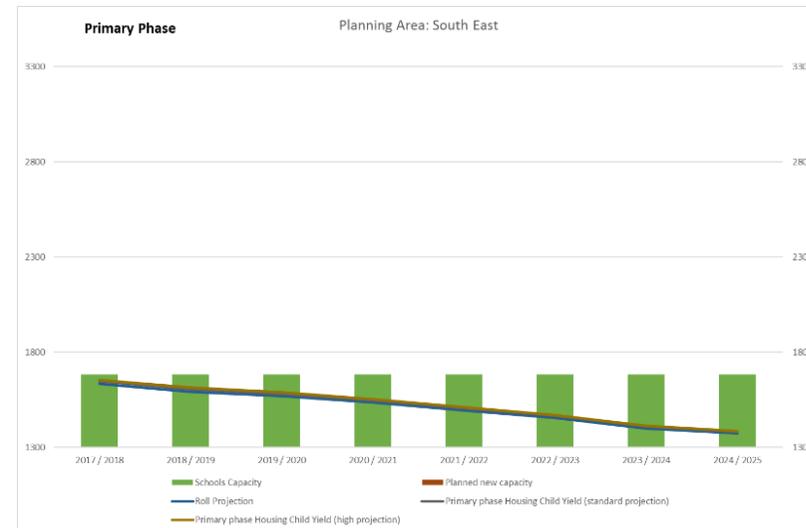
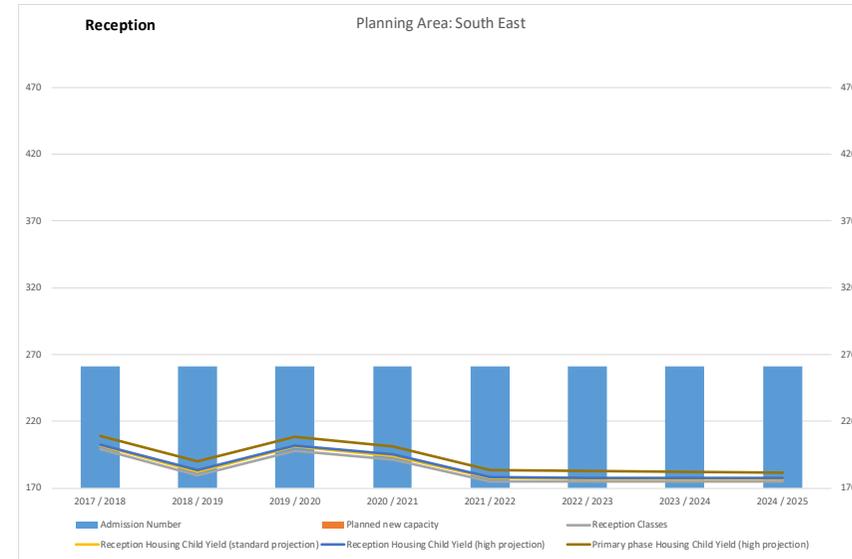
Local birth numbers do not indicate future increases in demand.



South East

Projections indicate that demand will not rise across the area.

Additional housing is expected to have some impact, but future numbers planned are low compared to other parts of the Borough. The adjoining large scale development in Bracknell Forest (on the TRL site) will bring its own primary school.



Appendix F

Borough Projection models

The charts below show data derived from a number of sources and show a very wide range of possible outcomes, depending on the model used.

The two key underlying projections are derived from:

- a) Office of National Statistics 2014 base population projections and
- b) The Wokingham BC roll projection.

These produce the two lowest lines and the ONS projections indicate there will be no need for additional capacity across the borough in this period (even with most of the planned SDL developments).

However, a proportion of the new homes (estimated at 1/3 of the total) will be additional to the homes required to match the household projection that is generated by this population projection (the “additional homes”).

Using a model developed in conjunction with experts working for housing developers the child yield of both all the new homes and just the additional homes above the number necessary to match the population projection can be estimated. The model takes account of both high initial child yield from new homes and applies a year on year reduction over 7 years to long-term child yield rates associated with established developments.

If all the children expected to live in new homes living in new homes were additional to the standard roll projection, the top most line (leading to a very rapid increase in child population) would be seen. The standard roll projection does though include children generated by new homes through the application of historic arrival in schools from births in wards and annual cohort change rates for children in school. Where new housing is built and families move in these rates may be positive – so more children arrive in schools than were born in a ward or school rolls grow year by as each cohort ages. This is not therefore thought to be a reliable approach to estimating the impact of new homes.

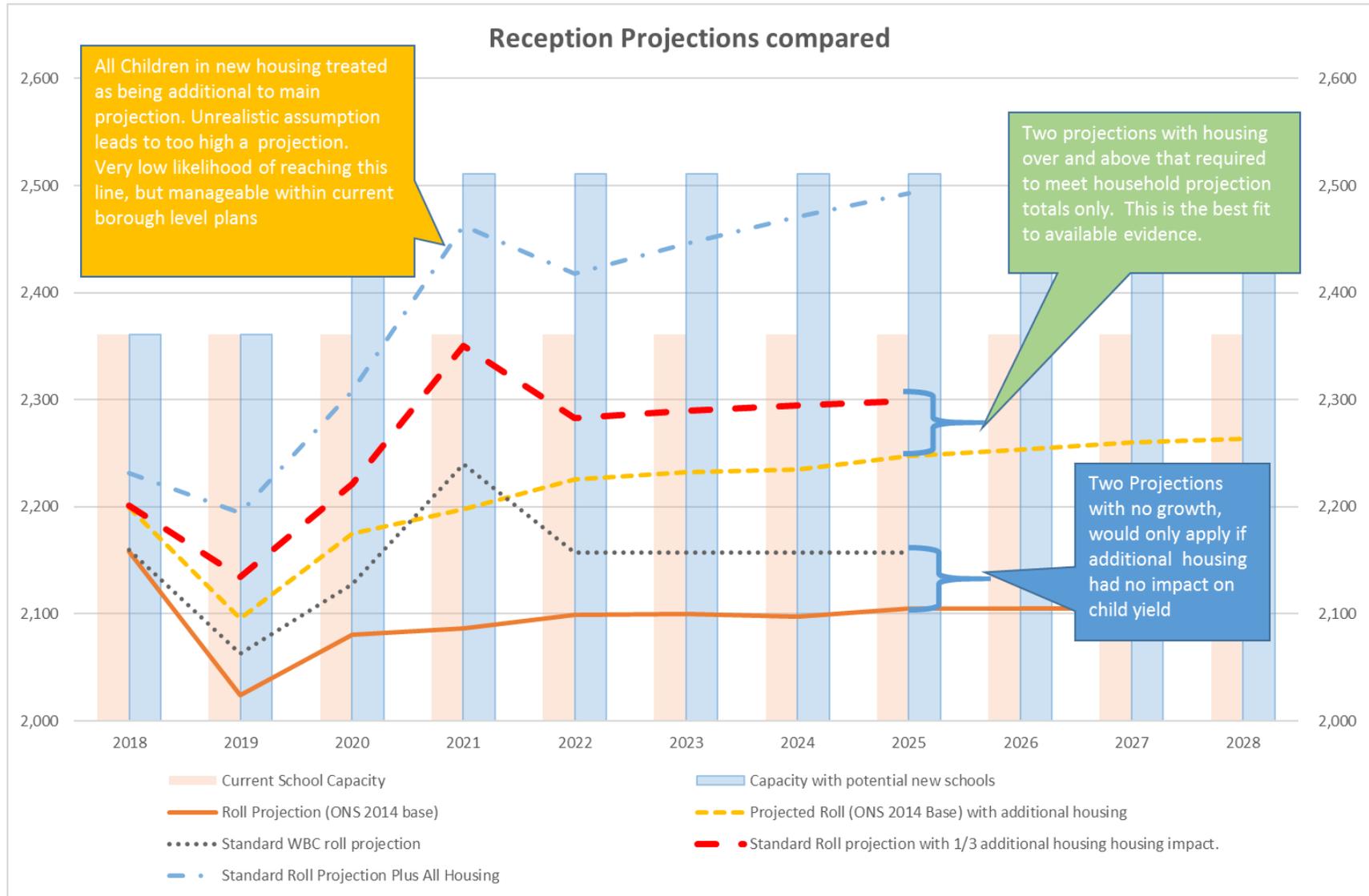
However, it can be seen that the impact of the “additional homes” added to the standard roll projection is a close match to the projection achieved by adding the child yield of the “additional housing” to the roll derived from the ONS population projection. The ONS projection is the most authoritative estimate of the future population of the borough as a whole and using the population impact plus 1/3 of the total child yield from new homes leads to local area projections that are consistent with the Borough roll projection plus the additional children. There can never

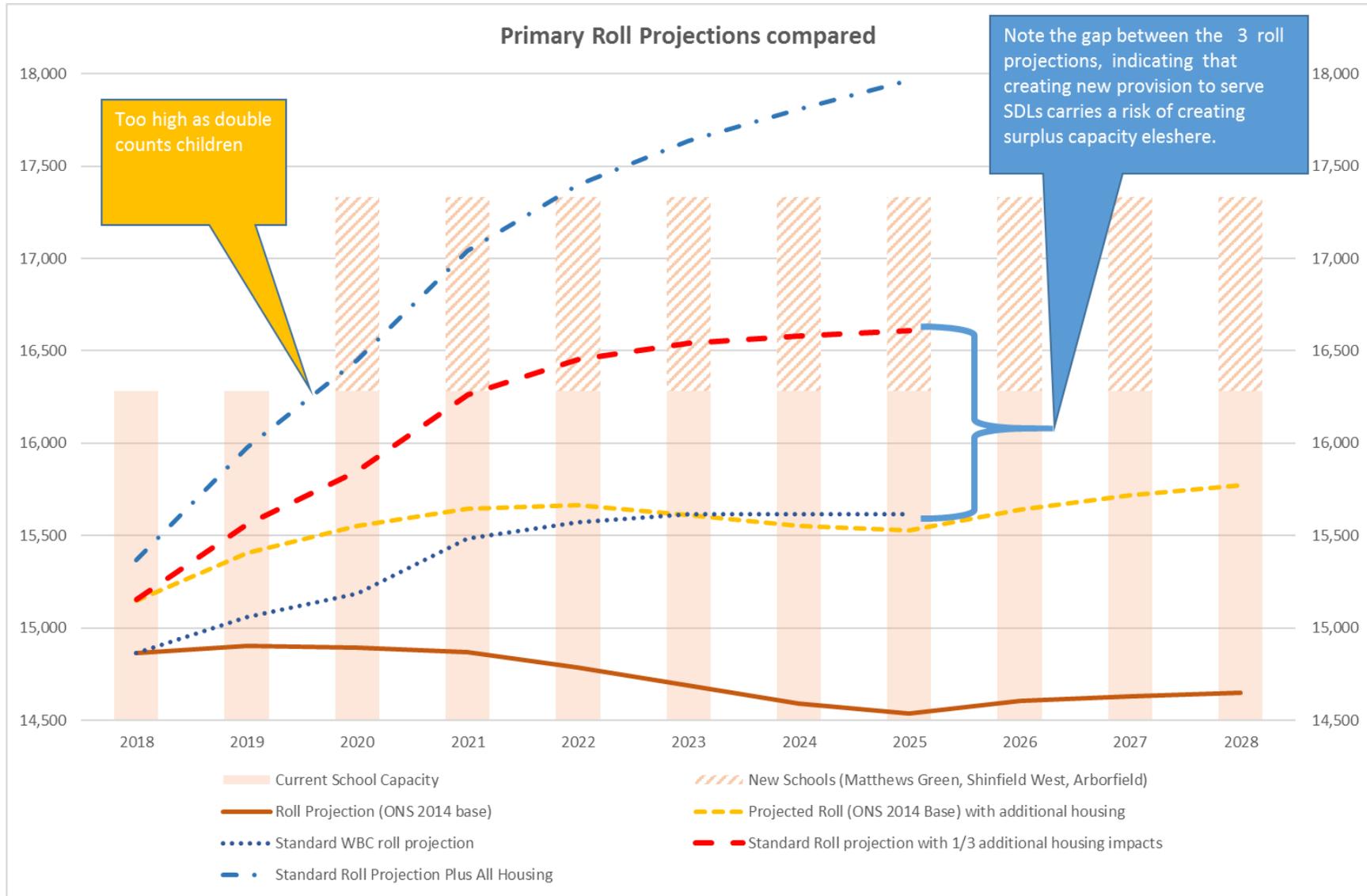
be a projection that fully matches real world outcomes, because circumstances evolve to make model assumptions invalid, but this approach gives an estimate that has a basis in Wokingham Borough records, national population statistics and new home building rates.

It could be that the additional homes (or a proportion of them) simply go to reduce average household size and this will diminish the impact of additional new housing on the demand for school places.

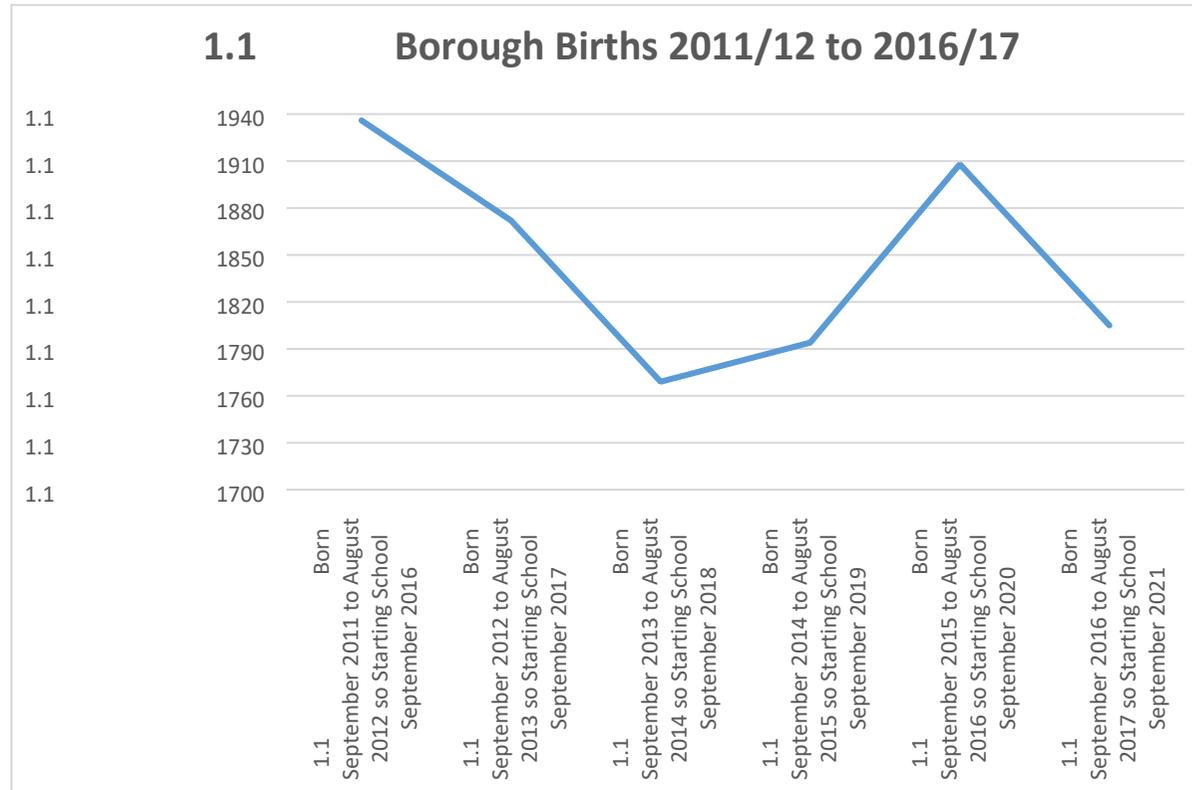
The whole roll projection is a less good fit between the ONS derived roll projection plus the additional housing child yield and the WBC roll projection plus the additional housing child yield. Here the standard WBC roll projection is a better match to the ONS data derived roll projection plus the additional housing child yield.

Experience indicates that roll growth is normally predominantly from the bottom up (ie through increased numbers entering Reception class). This points to the estimation of Reception rolls as being critical. However, the fact that the best match at a borough level is between the standard roll projection and the ONS plus affordable housing child yield projection points to a need to manage the delivery of new capacity to avoid oversupply.





Appendix G: Birth data



As the graph shows the number of births in 2013/14 (the year that feeds into the September 2018 admissions round) was markedly lower (-170 (/ 6 Forms of Entry) from the 2010/11 peak)) than the preceding years (2005/06 was the last year when fewer children were born). Although the number of births increased in 2015/16 (to over 1,900) they fell to 1,805 in 2016/17. This is too little data to indicate a long term trend and indicates that any long term strategy must have the flexibility to manage within variable birth rates.

Appendix H Housing

The Wokingham Borough roll projection model makes no specific provision for new homes. However, the impact of recent historic house building is implicit in both the cohort survival rate and the arrival rate from birth to Reception years. It is clear that Wokingham Borough's 0 to 10

population increases as each cohort ages and this can only be because of migration of families into the borough. This migration reflects house building and the rate at which existing homes become available in the council area.

The table below shows the expected number of completions each year. If this total (10,000+ new homes) is delivered as per the current housing trajectory this will be a 16% increase in the number of Wokingham Borough homes from the 2016 total of 64,730 homes.

Planning Area	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
To be determined						46	142	331	494	494	1,507
Earley Total											
North Total	4	16									20
South East Total	55	6									61
South West Total	552	615	625	623	567	510	565	413	250	250	4,970
Woodley Total	794	613	497	427	475	338	187	150	150	150	3,781
Grand Total	1,405	1,250	1,122	1,050	1,042	894	894	894	894	894	10,339

Appendix I Movement

The graph below shows the current pattern of change in Wokingham Borough. It can be seen that this is an area that families with young children move to (hence the growth in the number of children aged up to 10 and growth in the age range 30 to 44). However there is a significant movement out of the borough by young adults aged 15 to 19 (18+) and individuals aged 50 to 69 (presumed to be “empty nesters”).

It is a reasonable presumption that new family housing will maintain or exacerbate this pattern, so any plan must allow for continued growth in cohort size once children have entered primary school. In other words sufficient capacity for children admitted to Reception may not be sufficient for that year group as it ages through its primary school career. This points to a need for a significant buffer in plans for Reception Year capacity, which will be reduced as the cohort ages through the school system. Note though that not all these children will require Wokingham Borough school places, where families move from neighbouring authorities (particularly with older children) they may choose to retain their current school place.

