



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **SCHOOL ADMISSIONS FORUM** will be held in David Hicks 1 - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on **WEDNESDAY 6 JUNE 2018 AT 7.00 PM**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manjeet Gill', is positioned above the printed name.

Manjeet Gill
Interim Chief Executive
Published on 29 May 2018

This meeting may 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 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS FORUM

Councillors

Prue Bray

Graham Howe

Kate Haines

Diocesan Representatives

David Babb

Church of England Diocesan Representative

Vacancy

Diocesan Representative

Parent / Governor Representatives

Fiona Hayward

St Teresa's Catholic Primary

Vacancy

Primary School

Representatives from the Local Community

Patricia Cuss

Early Years Forum

Vacancy

Other Faith Groups

Schools Representatives

Ben Godber

Bohunt School

Louisa Gurney

Woodley CE Primary

Amanda Woodfin

The Bulmershe School

Sue Runciman

Shinfield St Marys Junior School

Celia Thatcher

Grazeley CE Aided Primary

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
9.		APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN To appoint a Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the 2017/18 academic year.	
10.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.	
11.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 January 2018.	5 - 10
12.		DECLARATION OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest.	
13.	All Wards	SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2018 REPORT To receive and consider the School Admissions 2018 report. School Admissions 2018 Report Enc. 1 for School Admissions 2018 Report Enc. 2 for School Admissions 2018 Report	11 - 66

Enc. 3 for School Admissions 2018 Report

14.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

To note the dates of the planned future meetings:

- 12 November 2018
- 30 January 2019

Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent

A Supplementary Agenda will be issued by the Chief Executive if there are any other items to consider under this heading.

CONTACT OFFICER

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Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1BN

Piers stated that the proposed changes were as follows:

The changes to designated areas proposed were:

- That the designated area of Loddon Primary School be extended to include that of Aldryngton Primary School. The designated area of Aldryngton Primary School would remain unchanged from that established in the original 2017/18 and amended 2018/19 arrangements.
- That the designated area of Whiteknights Primary School be extended to include that of Radstock Primary School. The designated area of Radstock Primary School would remain unchanged from that established in the original 2017/18 and amended 2018/19 arrangements.

Two further changes from the 2017/18 arrangements were:

- a tightening of the definition of “residency” to minimise “gaming” of the admission system to secure places by short term moves from permanent homes and;
- to make it clear that when a child (who has not yet reached the age of statutory education) starts a Reception class the parents can decide if that child should attend on a full or part time basis.

During the discussion of the arrangements the following comments were made:

- In relation to the parents’ right to decide if a child who has not yet reached the age of statutory education should attend on a full or part time basis, David Babb was of the opinion that some wording around agreeing on a sensible arrangement with the Headteacher should be included. David was worried that parents could decide to send their children to school at a time that was convenient for them and not necessarily in the best interest of the child;
- Patricia Cuss agreed that this issue created difficulties, especially because different schools had different approaches;
- Louisa Gurney believed that schools should offer full admission from the first day of school, however some schools had different arrangements;
- David Babb stated that it was illegal for a school not offer full time education if that was the parents wish;
- Louise Gurney stated that in her experience most parents that requested part time had been sensible and been able to come an agreement with the school;
- David Babb stated that the Department for Education (DfE) was looking to make it more explicit to schools that it was illegal to have different year groups starting school one day after the others;
- Louise Gurney stated that it was difficult for schools to monitor school attendance of children who were not yet at statutory school age;
- Piers Brunning stated that the Schools Adjudicator had determined that the 2018/17 admissions arrangements were deficient due to inadequate consultation. Piers explained that consultation was required by law, this had been done mainly via the website and it was considered that it was not publicised enough. Going forward the service would ask schools to inform parents of any consultations;
- In response to a question Piers Brunning stated that there had been no responses to the consultation to the proposed changes in the Early designated areas;
- David Babb suggested that the changes be highlighted in the prospectus so that parents could be made aware of the changes;

- With respect to Early Years, Piers Brunning informed that the service was considering setting out a consultation in relation to giving priority to parents who opted to take up the 30 hours free childcare;
- Piers Brunning stated that the introduction of the 30 hour free childcare for working parents had not resulted in the closure of providers as it had been anticipated;
- David Babb pointed to a typing error on page 15, where it said *By September 12* it should say *By September 11*, Piers would correct it;
- In relation to the timing of entry to Primary Education (page 43 of the agenda) David Babb stated that it would be helpful to state *first school day in September*, to make it clearer;
- In relation to the right to part time education (when a child had not yet reached the statutory age for education) David Babb emphasised that some wording around having a discussion with the Headteacher should be included. In relation to this issue the following concerns were raised:
 - Members wondered what would happen if the parents and the Headteacher could not come to an agreement?
 - What would happen in relation to funding if a part time child was not at school on the day of the census?
- Patricia Cuss stated that some of the school arrangements around part time start were historical;
- Patricia Cuss stated that most parents were receptive to the idea of children going to school full time as a lot of children were already attending pre-school;
- Members noted that the arrangements were mostly similar to the previous year;
- Piers Brunning stated that the Local Authority had been asked to review the admission arrangements for Bohunt in relation to the sibling criteria, however as an academy the school was its own admissions authority;
- David Babb stated that there was much debate around the sibling criteria in other Local Authorities too. In his experience it had been mostly decided that it was not fair to give priority to siblings living outside of the catchment area as this could disadvantage children who lived in catchment;
- Piers Brunning explained that debates around sibling criteria happened periodically; and
- Louisa Gurney stated that most parents knew they were taking a risk by sending their children to a school not in their designated area.

The Forum considered an email (attached to the minutes) which was sent by Sue Runciman, who was unable to attend the meeting but wished to submit her comments in relation to the proposals. The following points were made in relation to her comments:

- Piers Brunning felt that parents would not be disadvantaged by the online school application system;
- Louisa Gurney stated that in her experience when her school introduced online payment many disadvantaged families came into the school office for help as they found the process daunting;
- Piers Brunning stated that some parents already received help to fill in paper applications, and the same level of help would be offered to fill the form online;
- David Babb stated that it was important to be careful when giving help and advice to parents filling in their school applications as wrong advice could cause a successful appeal;

- Members agreed that help with school admissions applications should not be offered by schools. However, schools should be able to tell parents where to go for assistance;
- Piers Brunning stated that the online system was consistent with Wokingham Borough Council's priorities;
- Louisa Gurney worried that disadvantaged families may fail to submit applications for secondary school;
- Piers Brunning stated that the application form would be available through many devices, including smart phones;
- David Babb stated that it was important to make it clear to parents that where references were made to the *application pack* this meant an online pack, and this pack should be sent to parent with enough advance;
- Members discussed the timing of receiving the school offers and agreed that parents were not disadvantaged by finding out the school allocation at different times in the day.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) School Admissions Forum strongly requests that the Local Authority remind all schools of their legal requirement to offer **a full time or part time** education to children who have not yet reached the age of statutory education at the start in a Reception class;
- 2) School Admissions Forum recommends that it is made clear to parents that school admissions packs are available online only and that the pack should be made available before the application process opens;
- 3) School Admissions Forum recommends that it is made clear to parents where they can obtain assistance in filling in the online application form.

Email from Sue Runciman is attached for reference

7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates for planned future meetings of the Forum up to 2019 were noted:

- 6 June 2018
- 12 November 2018
- 30 January 2019

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Term Dates

Piers Brunning explained that it was not yet clear who would undertake the task of setting out term dates under the new 21st Century Council re-organisation. Paul Senior, Director for People Services had spoken to Piers about it and stated that he had noted that this was something that School Admissions Forum normally discussed. Piers was seeking the views of Wokingham's School Admissions Forum regarding this suggestion.

David Babb stated that he had participated in nine different School Admissions Forums when they were compulsory and none of them had been involved in setting out term dates. He pointed out that legally schools had to offer 190 school days to pupils, and schools that were their own admission authorities could arrange their term dates as they wished.

Piers Brunning stated that historically in Wokingham term dates had not been submitted to Executive, this had always been an officer decision and there was no statutory process around this.

Members were in agreement that parents expected some co-ordination in setting out term dates. It could cause problems for schools and families if there was no co-ordination, however all were in agreement that this function was not something they should be discussed at School Admissions Forum.

School Admissions Forum

David Babb stated as School Admissions Forums were not statutory not all Local Authorities still had them. In view of the fact that Sue Riddick's post had not been replaced and there was an issue with Officers' capacity he asked if this Forum should be continued.

Piers Brunning informed that had conversations with the current Interim Assistant Director for Education and the Interim Director of People Services and they were of the opinion that Wokingham should continue to have a School Admissions Forum.

Louise Gurney asked where the discussions around school admissions would take place if not at School Admissions Forum. Piers Brunning believed they would occur at political level.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) School Admissions Forum would not consider matters in relation to school term dates;
and
- 2) Wokingham's School Admissions Forum questioned the continuity of the Forum in view of the recent restructure and reduced staff levels in the Local Authority.

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Agenda Item 13.

TITLE	School Admissions 2018 Report
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	School Admissions Forum on 6 June 2018
WARD	(All Wards);
DIRECTOR	Director of Corporate Services - Graham Ebers

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

That children will receive appropriate school place offers.

RECOMMENDATION

That Forum note the contents of this report and comment as they see fit.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The report considers and compares national offer day outcomes in 2017/18 and 2018/19.

In 2018/19 the number of applications for primary school places declined markedly (-3%) compared to 2017/18. This reflects the reduction in the number of children born to Wokingham resident mothers in the year (2013/14) feeding into the 2018 Reception cohort compared to earlier years. This is despite very high levels of house building in the borough bringing additional children in.

This meant that every school cluster had capacity – something that has not been seen for some years. Overall 10% of Reception places are unfilled. This has helped ensured a high proportion of first preferences achieved and has meant that fewer children have required home to school transport.

The only area where surplus figures did not reach double figures was Woodley (9 surplus places). Woodley is an area that has seen high levels of housebuilding in recent years and current roll projections indicate further work may be required in this area.

Conversely, secondary numbers have risen significantly (3% or 49 offers). This has led to their being 7% surplus capacity overall.

While both North and South planning areas have surplus capacity, in the north this is only 1.5% of capacity. However, there are significant levels of admissions of students from Reading from outside the cross-border designated areas, so this does not necessarily indicate that additional capacity is required in the near future. The southern area has more significant surplus levels.

It should be noted that it is likely that Wokingham Borough would have had insufficient places on offer day without Bohunt School, The new school has brought in some students from outside the borough and Wokingham Borough resident students that would otherwise have attended out of borough schools, but it is highly unlikely the combined effect would have been 81 fewer applications (the deficit achieved by subtracting the number of allocation on offer day from the current total of Year 7 places, less Bohunt's 240 places).

Background

Reception Figures

ALLOCATION OF PRIMARY AND INFANT SCHOOL PLACES		2018/19											2017/18				
Allocation as at 16 April 2018		Oversubscription Criteria															
Area	School	Children with Statements of Special Education Need or Education Health and Care Plans and Criterion A - looked after or previously looked after children	Criterion B - Exceptional Medical or Social Need	Criterion C - Siblings Living in Designated Area	Criterion D - Designated Area	Criterion E - Siblings Living Outside Designated Area	Criterion F - Any Other Children	Unsuccessful Applicants - most accessible school	Published Admission Number	Number Allocated ****	Number of Preferences (1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th preferences combined) for the school received by the date of allocation	Surplus / deficit	Places	Offers	Surplus / deficit	Change in offers	
E	Aldryngton Primary	1	0	9	22	0	13	0	45	45	238		45	45		0	
E	Earley St Peters CE Aided Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	70	64	144		70	70		-6	
E	Hawkedon Primary	0	0	25	23	6	16	0	90	70	202		90	90		-20	
E	Hillside Primary	0	0	14	21	13	12	0	60	60	142		60	60		0	
E	Loddon Primary	0	0	22	33	2	12	1	90	70	179		90	89		-19	
E	Radstock Primary	0	0	25	20	2	13	0	60	60	205		60	60		0	
E	Whiteknights Primary	1	0	13	8	14	24	0	60	60	154		60	60		0	
E Total		2	0	108	127	37	90	2	475	429	1,264	46	475	474	1	-45	
N	Colleton Primary (The)	1	0	22	13	5	2	0	60	43	102		60	55		-12	
N	Crazies Hill CE Primary	0	0	2	2	3	8	0	15	15	47		15	11		4	
N	Piggott School (The)	(Charvil Primary School)						0	30	28	90		30	31		-3	
N	Polehampton CE Infant	1	0	10	36	0	4	0	60	51	132		60	60		-9	
N	Robert Piggott CE Infant (The)	0	0	14	10	2	3	0	45	29	95		45	45		-16	
N	St Nicholas CE Primary	0	0	4	7	1	4	0	20	16	56		20	20		-4	
N Total		2	0	52	68	11	21	0	230	182	522	48	230	222	8	-40	
SE	Finchampstead CE Aided Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	12	47		17	17		-5	
SE	Gorse Ride Infant	0	0	10	24	7	8	2	60	51	102		60	56		-5	
SE	Hatch Ride Primary	0	0	6	10	3	11	0	30	30	75		30	26		4	
SE	Nine Mile Ride Primary	0	0	12	8	14	16	0	50	50	125		50	37		13	
SE	Oaklands Infant	0	1	14	18	8	19	0	60	60	105		60	52		8	
SE	St Sebastian's CE Aided Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	15	44		24	17		-2	
SE Total		0	1	42	60	32	54	2	241	218	498	23	241	205	36	13	
SW	Coombes CE Primary (The)	0	0	14	11	7	5	4	75	41	65		75	44		-3	
SW	Farley Hill Primary	0	0	14	16	0	0	0	30	30	94		30	30		0	
SW	Grazeley Parochial CE Aided Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	30	75		30	30		0	
SW	Lams Lane Primary**	0	0	8	16	1	5	0	30	30	79		30	30		0	
SW	Shinfield Infant & Nursery	2	0	19	29	15	25	0	90	90	170		90	90		0	
SW	Sonning CE Aided Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	30	89		30	30		0	
SW Total		2	0	55	72	23	35	4	285	251	572	34	285	254	31	-3	
W	Beechwood Primary	0	0	9	5	22	24	0	60	60	188		60	57		3	
W	Highwood Primary	0	0	8	17	5	15	6	60	51	112		60	42		9	
W	Rivermead Primary	0	0	19	19	13	9	0	60	60	184		60	60		0	
W	South Lake Primary	0	0	30	30	0	0	0	60	60	178		60	61		-1	
W	St Dominic Savio Catholic Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	60	131		60	58		2	
W	Willow Bank Infant	1	0	17	18	7	17	0	60	60	154		60	54		6	
W	Woodley CE Primary	0	0	13	22	8	2	0	45	45	115		45	45		0	
W Total		1	0	96	111	55	67	6	405	396	1,062	9	375	377	-2	19	
WTE	All Saints CE (Aided) Primary**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	30	90		45	37		-7	
WTE	Evendons Primary ***	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	50	225		50	50		0	
WTE	Floreat - Montague Park ***	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	60	127		60	43		17	
WTE	Keep Hatch Primary	0	0	26	18	1	4	0	60	49	94		60	44		5	
WTE	St Teresa's Catholic Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	36	67		45	45		-9	
WTE	Wescott Infant**	1	0	17	15	1	13	1	56	48	156		56	54		-6	
WTE Total		1	0	43	33	2	17	1	316	273	759	43	316	273	43	0	
WTW	Bearwood Primary	1	0	6	7	5	7	0	45	26	57		40	25		1	
WTW	Emmbrook Infant	1	1	13	23	7	8	0	60	53	114		60	60		-7	
WTW	Hawthorns Primary (The)	0	0	18	23	5	5	0	60	51	146		60	60		-9	
WTW	Walter Infant	0	1	26	42	10	11	0	90	90	212		90	90		0	
WTW	Wheatfield Primary*****	0	0	17	13	0	0	0	30	30	118		30	28		2	
WTW	Windmill Primary*****	0	0	13	13	3	1	0	30	30	154		30	30		0	
WTW	Winnersh Primary	0	0	18	21	10	11	0	60	60	108		60	57		3	
WTW Total		2	2	111	142	40	43	0	375	340	909	35	370	350	20	-10	
Grand Total		10	3	507	613	200	327	15	2,327	2,089	5,586	238	2,292	2,155	117	-66	
Key to areas																	
E	Earley																
N	North																
SE	South East																
SW	South West																
W	Woodley																
WTE	Wokingham Town East																
WTW	Wokingham Town West																
Surplus / Deficit (number and %age)																	
%age change																	
Change between years																	

Secondary Year 7 Offer analysis

ALLOCATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES										WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL							
TO START YEAR 7 IN SEPTEMBER 2018										2017/18		Change in applications					
AS AT 1 MARCH 2018																	
Oversubscription Criteria																	
Area	School	Children with Statements of Special Education Need and looked after and previously looked after children	Medical physical psychological or social needs	Living in designated area with siblings	Living in designated area	Siblings living outside designated area	Single sex preference	Any other children	*Unsuccessful applications most accessible school allocated	Admission Number	Number Allocated	Total number of preferences received for the school	Surplus places	Admission Number	Number allocated	Surplus places	
North	Maiden Erlegh**								-	278	278	764		278	278	-	
North	The Bulmershe	9	1	43	103	35	N/A	49	-	240	240	608		240	240	-	
North	The Piggott								-	203	203	503		203	203	-	
North	Waingels College**								21	240	226	433		240	214	12	
North Total		9	1	43	103	35	-	49	21	961	947	2,308	14	961	935	26	
South	Bohunt School Wokingham**								-	240	240	771		240	240	-	
South	Oakbank								-	112	112	252		112	112	-	
South	St Crispin's	7	1	78	103	-	N/A	#	-	189	189	702		189	189	-	
South	The Emmbrook	-	-	35	79	9	N/A	18	24	210	165	525		210	152	13	
South	The Forest**								12	210	110	279		210	116	6	
South	The Holt**								-	240	240	557		210	210	30	
South Total		7	1	113	182	9	-	18	36	1,201	1,056	3,086	145	1,171	1,019	152	
Grand Total		16	2	156	285	44	-	67	57	2,162	2,003	5,394	159	2,132	1,954	178	
Surplus / Deficit (number and %age)										159	7%			178	8%		
Change between years		49															
%age change		3%															

Primary Preference Statistics

Infant to Junior 2018 (582 students)

1st 98.63%
 2nd 0.86%
 3rd 0.17%
 4th 0%
 Divert 0.34%

Infant to Junior 2017 (579 students)

1st 99.31%
 2nd 0.35%
 3rd 0%
 4th 0.17%
 Divert 0.17%

Entry to Primary 2018 (2,089 students)

1st 90.23%
 2nd 6.94%
 3rd 1.68%

4th 0.43%
 Divert 0.72%

Entry to Primary 2017 (2,155 students)

1st 88.63%
 2nd 8.21%
 3rd 1.90%
 4th 0.37%
 Divert 0.88%

Analysis of Issues

This year Wokingham has been able to offer places to all on-time applicants and has sufficient capacity to meet current needs.

The two areas showing limited signs of stress are Woodley (for the primary sector) and the North (for the secondary sector).

Both areas will need to be monitored, but there is no immediate need for corrective action.

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)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A	N/A	N/A

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision
None

Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services, including properties and priorities?)

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

List of Background Papers

Contact Piers Brunning	Service Place Commissioning
Telephone No Tel: 0118 974 6084	Email piers.brunning@wokingham.gov.uk

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TITLE Draft Report to the Schools Adjudicator 2018

FOR CONSIDERATION BY School Admissions Forum on 6 June 2018

WARD (All Wards);

DIRECTOR Director of Corporate Services - Graham Ebers

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

That national admissions policy takes account of Wokingham needs.

RECOMMENDATION

That Forum note the contents of this report and comment as they see fit.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The Council is required to submit a report to the Schools Adjudicator (SA) every year by 30th June. The report is based on a template issued by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA). The report enables the OSA to get a snapshot view of the functioning of the admissions system and of the view of local authorities on what the SA perceives to be key issues. Specific issues this report picks up include:

Normal point of admission

- Determination of admission arrangements
- Co-ordination of admission arrangements
- Looked after / previously looked after children
- Special Education Needs and disabilities

In Year admissions

- The number of in year admissions
- Co-ordination of in year admissions
- Looked after children / previously looked after children
- Children with disabilities and with SEN.
- Other children

Fair Access Protocol

Directions

Pupil, Service and early years premium (the premiums)

Elective Home Education children

Other matters

Feedback on the LA template

Work has started on the process of completing the template (Appendix A) and some initial drafting completed. The forum is invited to consider the current drafting and propose changes. They are invited to contribute their views to areas where drafting has yet to commence.

Background

The report to the SA is required by Section 88P of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998.

The SA collates the responses received and uses it in the report they make to the Secretary of State for Education.

One of their chief concerns in their 2017 report was that the needs of children needing school places outside the main admissions rounds were not being well met.

Analysis of Issues

National education policy is moving away from a system that is monitored, managed and regulated by local authorities to one in which individual schools (increasingly academised) have much greater agency.

There is a concern that these new arrangements have meant that parents seeking places for their children have experienced delays in placing their children. This has included older secondary age children in Years 10 and 11, who are still entitled to a secondary school place, despite the very obvious problems with creating an appropriate curriculum for them.

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.

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Current Financial Year (Year 1)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A	N/A	N/A

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None

Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services, including properties and priorities?)

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

List of Background Papers

Contact Piers Brunning	Service Place Commissioning
Telephone No Tel: 0118 974 6084	Email piers.brunning@wokingham.gov.uk



Office of
the Schools
Adjudicator

**Local Authority Report
To
The Schools Adjudicator
From**

Wokingham Local Authority

30 June 2018

Report Cleared by (Name & Title):

Date submitted:

By (Name & Title):

Contact email address:

Telephone number:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-of-the-schools-adjudicator

Please email your completed report to: osa.team@osa.gsi.gov.uk by **30 June 2018** and earlier if possible

Introduction

Section 88P of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (the Act) requires every local authority to make an annual report to the adjudicator. The Chief Adjudicator then includes a summary of these reports in her annual report to the Secretary for State for Education. The School Admissions Code (the Code) sets out the requirements for reports by local authorities in paragraph 6. Paragraph 3.23 specifies what must be included as a minimum in the report to the adjudicator and makes provision for the local authority to include any other issues. The report **must** be returned to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by **30 June 2018**.

The report to the Secretary of State for 2017 highlighted that at the normal points of admission the main admissions rounds for entry to schools work well. The Chief Adjudicator expressed less confidence that the needs of children who need a place outside the normal admissions rounds were so well met. In order to test this concern, local authorities are therefore asked to differentiate their answers in this year's report between

the main admissions round and in year admissions¹. The order of this template for the annual report by local authorities reflects this.

Information requested

1. Normal point of admission

A. Determined arrangements

- i. Please specify the date your local authority determined its arrangements for admissions in 2019 for its voluntary controlled and community schools. Please state if this question is not applicable as there are no voluntary controlled or community schools in the local authority area.

22/02/2018

- ii. Please specify the date the determined arrangements for voluntary controlled and community schools were published on the local authority's website. Say if not applicable.

TBC

- iii. What proportion of arrangements for own admission schools was provided to the local authority by 15 March?

Not applicable None Minority Majority All

	Primary including middle deemed primary	Secondary including middle deemed secondary	All through
iv. How many sets of admission arrangements of schools that are their own admission authority were queried directly by your local authority because they were considered not to comply with the Code?			
v. If, when you considered arrangements for own admission authority schools for 2019, you had any concerns about Code compliance, please indicate which paragraphs of the Code you thought were mainly being breached.			

¹ By in year we mean admission at the start of any school year which is not a normal point of entry for the school concerned (for example at the beginning of Year 2 for a five to eleven primary school) and admission during the course of any school year.

vi. Further comment: please provide any comments on the determination of admission arrangements not covered above.

B. Co-ordination

i. Provision of rankings: what proportion of own admission authority schools provided their rankings correctly undertaken by the agreed date?

Not applicable None Minority Majority All

How well did co-ordination of the main admissions round work?	Not well	A large number of small problems or a major problem	Well with few small problems	Very well
ii. Reception			y	
iii. Year 7			y	
iv. Other relevant years of entry			y	
v. Please give examples to illustrate your answer:				

C. Looked after and previously looked after children

i. How well do admission arrangements in your local authority area serve the interests of looked after children at normal points of admission?

Not at all Not well Well Very well Not applicable

ii. How well do the admission arrangements in other local authority areas serve the interests of your looked after children at normal points of admission?

Not at all Not well Well Very well Not applicable

iii. How well do admission arrangements in your local authority area serve the interests of previously looked after children at normal points of admission?

Not at all Not well Well Very well Not applicable

iv. Please give examples of good or poor practice or difficulties which support your answer, and provide any suggestions for improvement:

D. Special educational needs and disabilities

i. How well served are children with disabilities and/or special educational needs who have an education health and care plan or a statement of special educational needs that names a school at normal points of admission?

Not at all Not well Well Very well Not applicable

ii. How well served are children with disabilities and/or special educational needs who do not have an education health and care plan or a statement of special educational needs at normal points of admission?

Not at all Not well Well Very well Not applicable

iii. Please give examples of good or poor practice or difficulties which support your answer, and provide any suggestions for improvement.

**2.
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admissions**

A. The number of in year admissions. We are asking for two years' data for comparative purposes. If you do not have the data for the year 1/9/16 to 31/8/17 available, please still provide the data for 1/9/17 to 31/3/18.

i.	Primary aged children	Secondary aged children
Number of in year admissions between 1/9/17 and 31/3/18	Statistics awaited	Statistics awaited
Number of in year admissions between 1/9/16 and 31/8/17	Statistics awaited	Statistics awaited
The reasons for children seeking in year admission will vary across the country. What do you consider to be the main reasons in your area?	Statistics awaited	Statistics awaited

ii. The Code requires the setting of a published admission number (PAN) for each normal year of entry. In the annual reports for 2017 several local authorities referred to problems in relation to in year admissions when schools which are their own admission authority refuse to admit applicants even if the year group concerned contains fewer children than the relevant PAN suggested could be accommodated. This was referred to sometimes

as 'capping' in-year admissions and local authorities observed that it reduced the number of places available below that anticipated by the local authority. Please comment on your experience as a local authority.

Our experience relates to one new school that had an admission number of 180 for September 2016, but which initially recruited around 100 children (growing to 150). They informed the LA (in 2017/18) they would not go above 150 for the, by now Year Eight class without forward funding for the gap (which the LA is not prepared to provide). The school has sufficient physical capacity to go up to 240 in each year group. Legal advice was that PANs only apply for the normal year of entry (Year 7) and not for subsequent years

B. Co-ordination of in year admissions

i. To what proportion of community and voluntary controlled schools does the local authority delegate responsibility for in year admissions?

- a) Primary: Not applicable None Minority Majority All
b) Secondary: Not applicable None Minority Majority All
c) All-through: Not applicable None Minority Majority All

d) What do you consider to be the advantages and disadvantages of delegating responsibility for in year admissions (where applicable)?

The advantage would be a reduced workload for the Council at a point where it is important to rationalise services to reduce costs.

When a significant level of surplus capacity is distributed amongst a high proportion of an area's schools making applications to a small number of schools can lead to swifter allocation of places.

The disadvantages of delegated responsibility are:

That when few schools have unfilled places parents have to search through several schools to find one with places.

That parents may be able to hold places at several schools, while they make their final choice.

That while the latter problem might be resolved by training school staff to use the allocations system, this would create a considerable additional support and training burden for the LA and loss of resource to the school..

ii. For what proportion of own admission authority schools does the local authority co-ordinate in year admissions?

- a) Primary: Not applicable None Minority Majority All
b) Secondary: Not applicable None Minority Majority All
c) All-through: Not applicable None minority Majority All

d) What do you consider are the advantages and disadvantages of the local authority co-ordinating in year admissions (where applicable)?

The advantages are:

That the LA has better oversight over the operaton of mid term allocations.

That it is far less likely that children (particularly children from disadvantaged backgrounds) will be left without school places.

C. Looked after children and previously looked after children

i. How well do in year admission arrangements in your local authority area serve the interests of looked after children?

Not at all Not well Well Very well Not applicable

ii. How well do the in year admission arrangements in other local authority areas serve the interests of your looked after children?

Not at all Not well Well Very well Not applicable

iii. How well do in year admission arrangements in your local authority area serve the interests of previously looked after children?

Not at all Not well Well Very well Not applicable

vii. Please give examples of good or poor practice or difficulties which support your answer, and provide any suggestions for improvement:

D. Children with disabilities and children with special educational needs

i. How well served are children with disabilities and/or special educational needs who have an education health and care plan or a statement of special educational needs that names a school when they need to be admitted in year?

Not at all Not well Well Very well Not applicable

ii. How well served are children with disabilities and/or special educational needs who do not have an education health and care plan or a statement of special educational needs when they need to be admitted in year?

Not at all Not well Well Very well Not applicable

iii. Please give examples of good or poor practice or difficulties which support your answer, and provide any suggestions for improvement:

Children with an EHCP are admitted outside the operation of the schools admissions arrangements.

E. Other children

i. How well served are other children when they need to be admitted in year?

- Not at all Not well Well Very well Not applicable

ii. Paragraph 3.12 of the Code - several local authorities referred to paragraph 3.12 in their annual report for 2017 stating that this was being used “*inappropriately*” by some admission authorities. Please could you comment on your experience as a local authority:

There are concerns that schools that are their own admissions authorities are introducing prohibited processes into their day to day admissions practise.

3. Fair Access Protocol

A. Has your Fair Access Protocol been agreed with the majority of state-funded mainstream schools in your area?

- Yes for primary
 Yes for secondary

B. If you have not been able to tick both boxes above, please explain why:

C. How many children have been admitted or refused admission under the Fair Access Protocol to schools in your area between 31 March 2017 and 31 March 2018?

Type of School	Number of children admitted		Number of children refused admission	
	Primary aged child	Secondary aged child	Primary aged children	Secondary aged children
Community and voluntary controlled	Data to follow	Data to follow	Data to follow	Data to follow
Own admission authority	Data to follow	Data to follow	Data to follow	Data to follow

schools				
Total	Data to follow	Data to follow	Data to follow	Data to follow

D. If a number of children have not secured school places following the use of the protocol, please indicate what provision is made for these children.

Ultimately all children needing places secure them at schools under the Fair Access Protocol.

E. How well do you consider hard to place children are served by the Fair Access Protocol in your area?

Not at all Not well Well Very well Not applicable

F. Please explain your answer giving examples of good and poor practice, successes and difficulties as appropriate.

4. Directions

A. How many directions did the local authority make between 31 March 2017 and 31 March 2018 for children in the local authority area?

	Primary aged children (not looked after)	Primary aged looked after children	Secondary aged children (not looked after)	Secondary aged looked after children
Voluntary aided or foundation				

B. Please add any comments on the authority's experiences of making directions.

C. How many directions did the local authority make between 31 March 2017 and 31 March 2018 for a maintained school in another local authority area to admit a looked after child?

For primary aged children	For secondary aged children

D. Please add any comments on the authority's experiences of making directions.

--

E.	How many requests to the ESFA to direct an academy to admit a child did the local authority make between 31 March 2017 and 31 March 2018?	How many children were admitted to school as a result of the request for a direction by the local authority to the ESFA between 31 March 2017 and 31 March 2018?	How many requests were outstanding as at 31 March 2018?
For primary aged children (not looked after)			
For primary aged looked after children			
For secondary aged children (not looked after)			
For secondary aged looked after children			
F. Please add any comments on the authority's experiences of requesting directions.			

G. Any other comments on the admission of children in year.

5. Pupil, service and early years pupil premiums (the premiums)

A. How many community or voluntary controlled schools in the local authority area will use a premium as an oversubscription criterion for admissions in 2019?	Primary including middle deemed primary	Secondary including middle deemed secondary	All through
Pupil premium	0	0	0
Service premium	0	0	0

Early years pupil premium	0	N/A	0
Total number of schools using at least one premium in their oversubscription criteria	0	0	0

B.		How many own admission authority schools in your area will use one of the premiums as an oversubscription criterion for 2019?	Total number of own admission authority schools using at least one of the premiums in their oversubscription criteria for 2019
Primary including middle deemed primary	Early years		
	Pupil		
	Service		
Secondary including middle deemed secondary	Pupil		
	Service		
All through	Early years		
	Pupil		
	Service		

C. Do you have any further comments on the use of premiums?

Our interest has been to ensure that children have a choice of good or better schools near their homes. Premium based oversubscription criteria make it more likely we cannot place children in schools in their home area. We have experienced this directly (even without Premium based criteria) when we have been unable to offer places to on time applications who are first and only children because of high birth rates in particular school designated areas, and then have been unable to offer places at other local schools, because they too were full with local applicants. Bringing in additional children into oversubscribed admissions Planning Areas could lead to children living in areas characterised by popular schools having to be diverted to places in other areas (which might not be within walking distance). Whilst arrangements could be made that to some extent guard against this, they have the likely disadvantage of adding complexity.

6. Electively home educated children

A. How many children were recorded as being electively home educated in the local authority area on 29 March 2018?

B. Any comments to make relating to admissions and children electively home educated?

There is no requirement for home educated children to be registered with the local authority. This creates clear risks, particularly for children whose home education stems from disengagement with education, rather than carefully considered choice by their parents. There is a high risk, particularly with older secondary age children, that they enter the borough and are never identified as being electively home education (or in reality, not home educated at all).

7. Other matters

Are there any other matters that the local authority would like to raise that have not been covered by the questions above?

There are issues that have been identified but have not been resolved, in part because the School Admissions Code has not been reviewed for a number of years.

One of these is the issue of summer born children, where ministers have promoted support for parents who wish for their children to be educated out of their calendar year, but without making the changes through the system that would be required to give parents full confidence this is achievable. This would need to include a statutory framework for school that extended through secondary education to the treatment of public examinations in national statistics.

Another is consideration of how changes outside the admissions process could create an environment in which schools would work more proactively to support fair admissions to schools. Admitting children who are perceived as being likely to be lower achievers can be to a school's disadvantage, as this is reflected in their overall "score". Schools are therefore more likely to work to make Fair Access work if they know that their efforts are reflected in the overall scores that other parties (including parents) judge them by.

8. Feedback on the Local Authority Report template

In previous years we have asked for feedback on the process of completing the template in the following November to inform what is asked in the following year. We are aware that it may be easier to provide feedback on providing information for the annual report at the time rather than later. We would therefore be grateful if you could provide any feedback on completing this report to inform our practice for 2019.

Thank you for completing this template.

Please return to Lisa Short at OSA.Team@osa.gsi.gov.uk by 30 June 2018

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TITLE Wokingham Borough Draft Primary Strategy 2018 to 2028

FOR CONSIDERATION BY School Admissions Forum on 6 June 2018

WARD (All Wards);

DIRECTOR Director of Corporate Services - Graham Ebers

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

That there will be sufficient primary school places in Wokingham Borough to meet statutory need.

RECOMMENDATION

That Forum note the contents of this report and comment as they see fit.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The draft strategy recommends

- (a) that the planned Strategic Development Location (SDL) schools in Wokingham, Shinfield and Arborfield are the appropriate provision for those areas,
- (b) that additional short (and possibly long) term capacity is required in Woodley, reflecting the impact of new housing in that area.

Other areas of the borough do not need additional capacity.

There the Council's agreed infrastructure plan (based arounds the SDLs) has proved to be robust and has meant the council has appropriate plans for new provision for housing related growth.

The impact of new homes is critical to the viability of new schools and neither the number of new homes or the number of children who will live in them can be known when the decision to let building contracts is given. Therefore the Council must have plans both for managing schools that are built to early or if additional capacity is required.

The draft Strategy is on track to be considered by Wokingham's Executive on 28th June 2018.

Background

The Primary School Places Strategy succeeds the version approved in 2016. The greatest differences between the two documents are (a) that Earley is no longer seen as an area of concern and (b) that additional capacity may be required in Woodley.

Analysis of Issues

Further analysis is provided in the draft strategy.

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)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A	N/A	N/A

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None

Financial implications are dealt with in the final report to Wokingham's Executive.

Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services, including properties and priorities?)

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

List of Background Papers

Contact Piers Brunning	Service Place Commissioning
Telephone No Tel: 0118 974 6084	Email piers.brunning@wokingham.gov.uk



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 a static or low increase in demand (3%). This indicates that although adopted Strategic Development Location and future Local Plan Update housing may lead to a new population geography overall demand may not change or any 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 have 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.
- There are risks of both over and under provision because the impact of new housing cannot be fully 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. 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. 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 (management of these schemes falls outside the scope of this strategy).
- To propose actions to ensure there are sufficient primary school places in the right places to serve Wokingham'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.

2.2 The needs analysis and action planning will be at a borough, planning area and community level.

2.3 The strategy is based on the 2018 Roll Projection, the 2014 base ONS Population Projection, 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 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 (the Local Plan Update process will consider how development is managed beyond 2026) (so in Wokingham Town, Arborfield and Shinfield, with significant housing development in Woodley (albeit recently largely completed)).

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 *If this projection is reliable, it indicates that approximately 2/3 of new housing will not lead to an increase in primary school rolls.***

- 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 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, Arborfield Garrison, 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	

Period	Woodley	South West (Arborfield)	South West (Shinfield)	Wokingham Town / Winnersh
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)

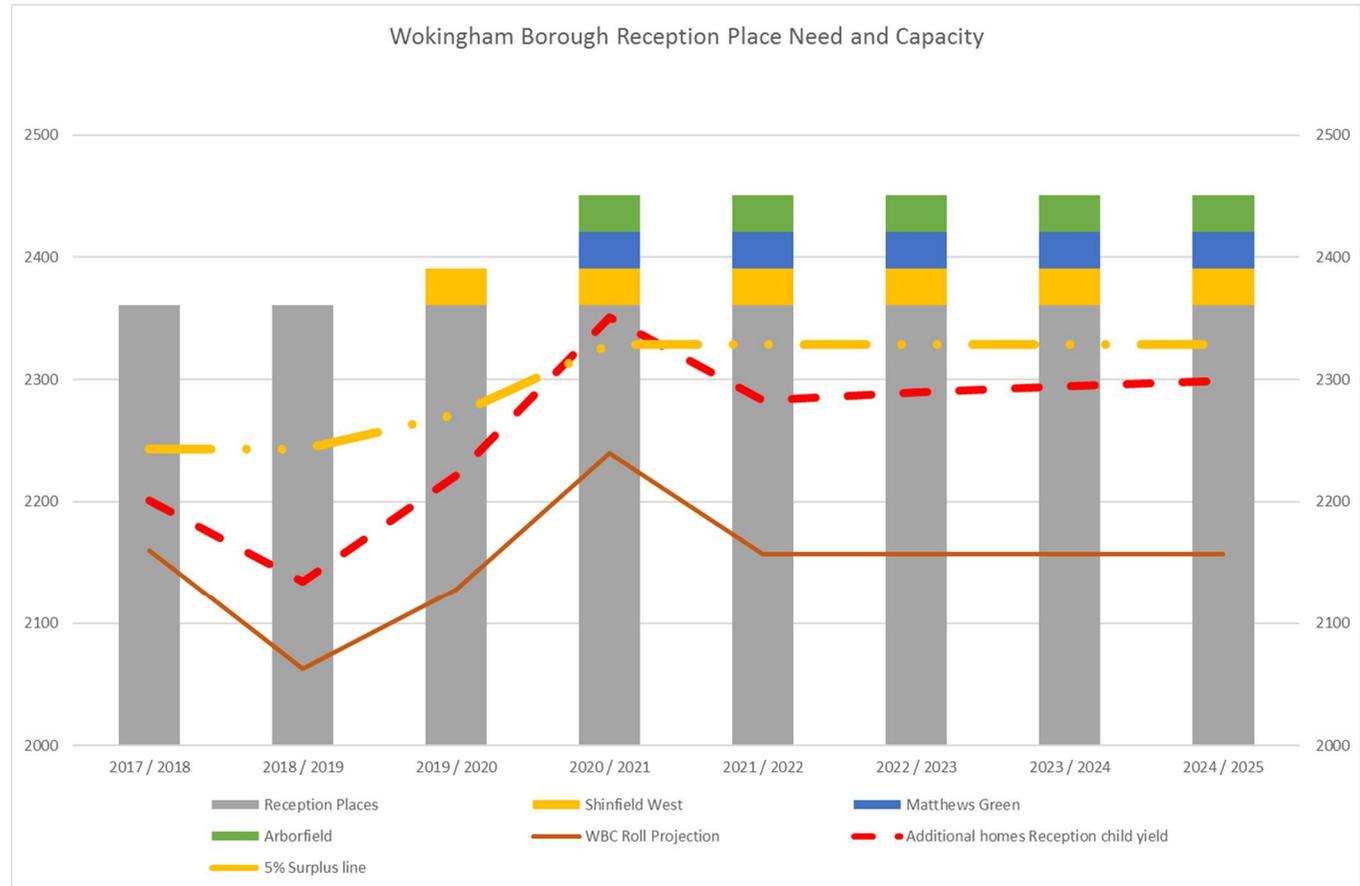
The schools are planned to serve the SDL communities but places will be available to all applicants in line with oversubscription criteria. In most cases the S106 agreements require relatively early delivery, on the basis that there was no expectation when they were agreed that there would be capacity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

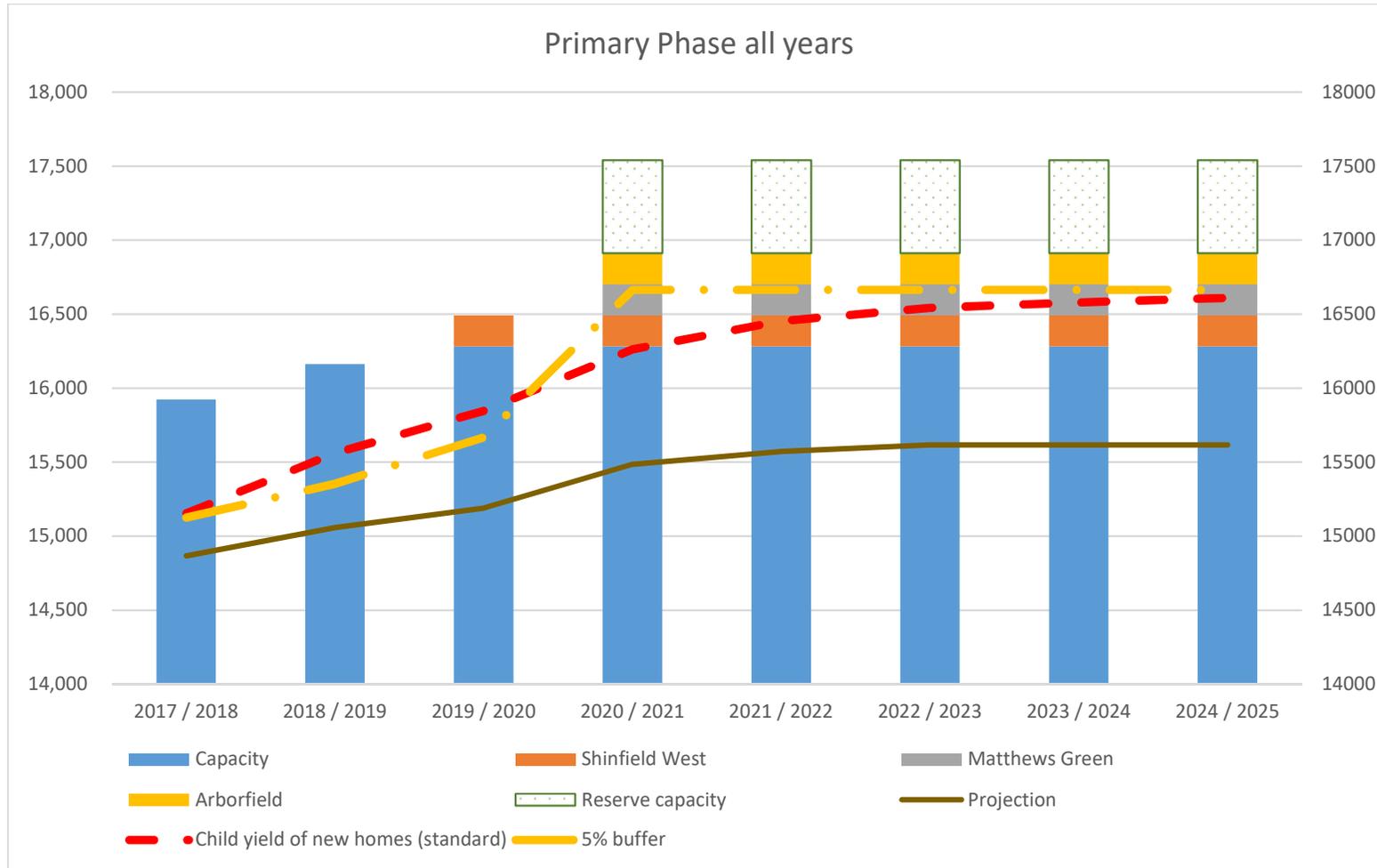
While the data indicates an issue in Woodley that may require resolution in the initial three years of the strategy, this is not an area where significant residential growth is expected after this period (see Housing Numbers below). There is therefore no expectation that growth in rolls will continue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

12 Appendix C: Roll projections

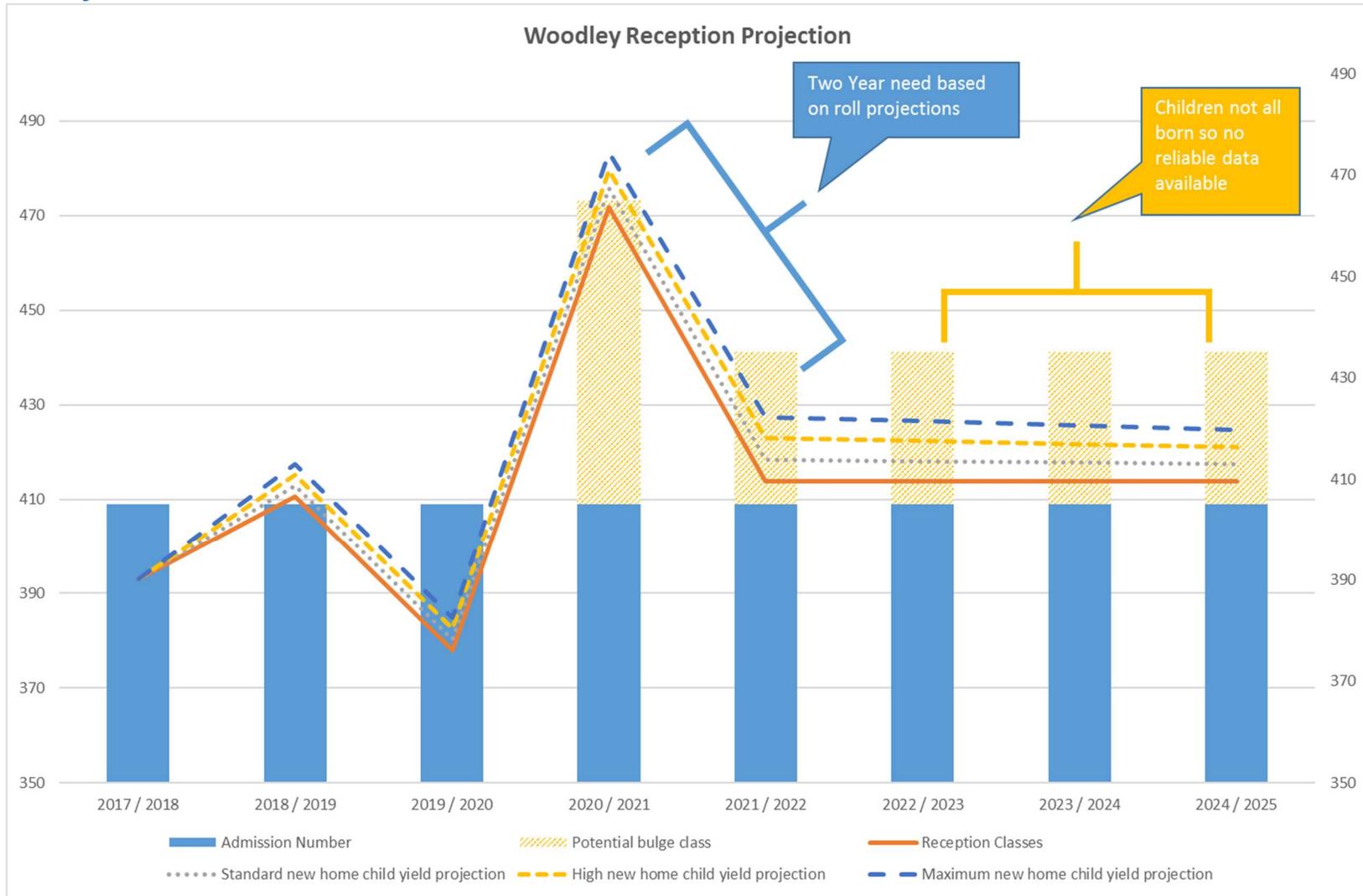
The projections indicate that at a borough level there will be sufficient capacity for Reception children, without any additional capacity, but that additional capacity will be required to meet the needs of older children generated by ongoing development. This reflects the higher rolls in some older 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.

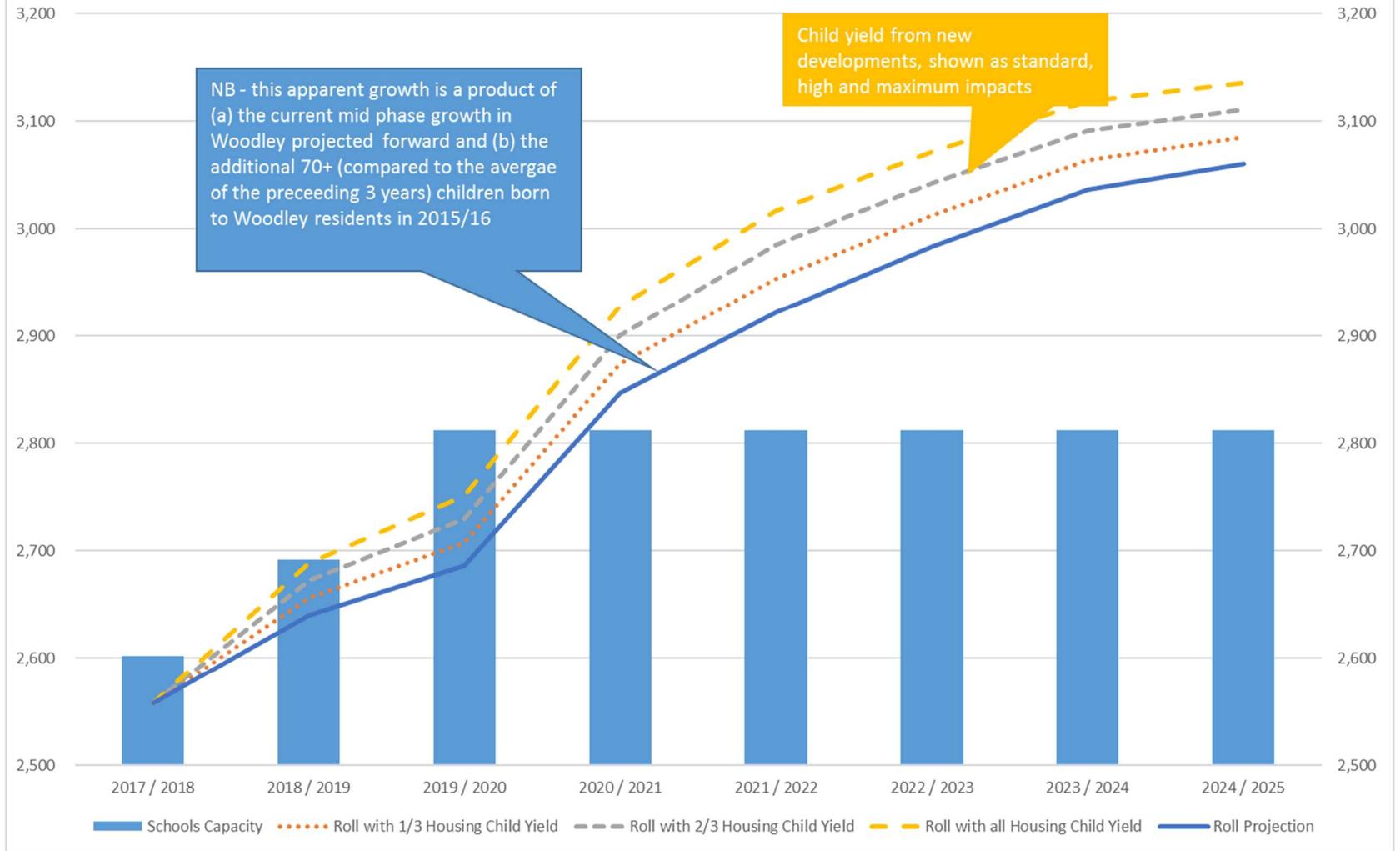




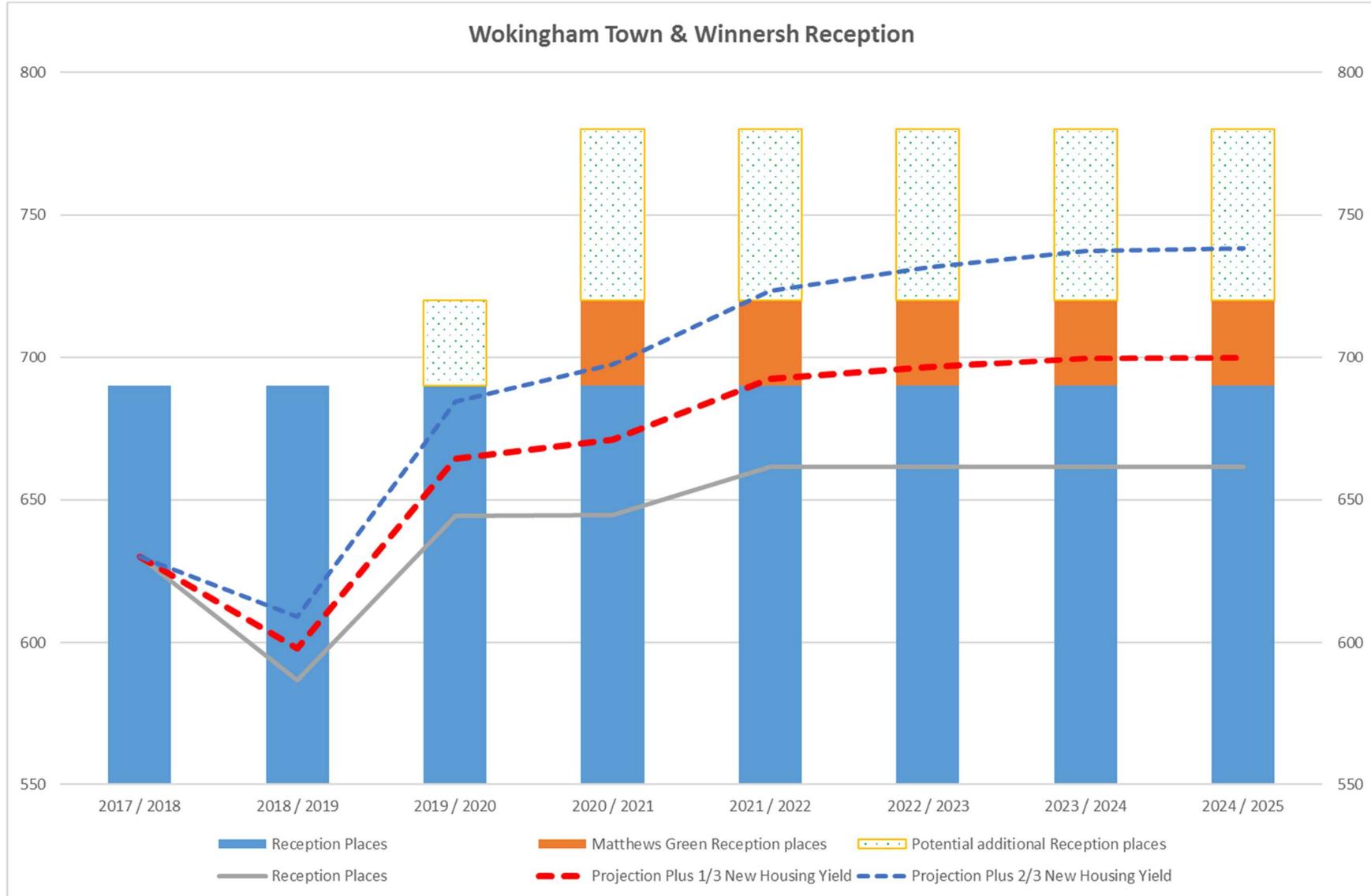
Appendix D: Projections for areas where action is required
Woodley

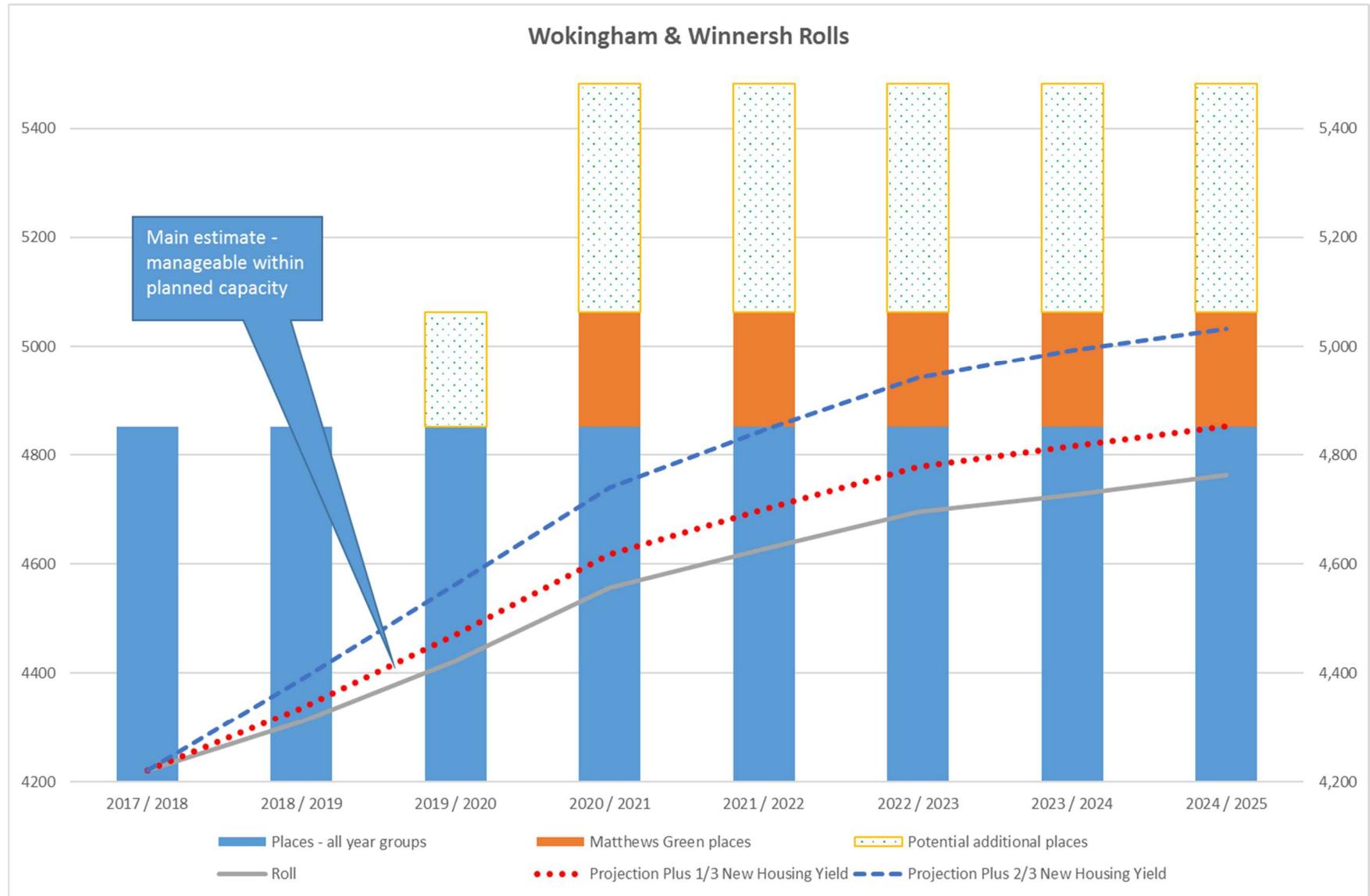


Woodley School Rolls



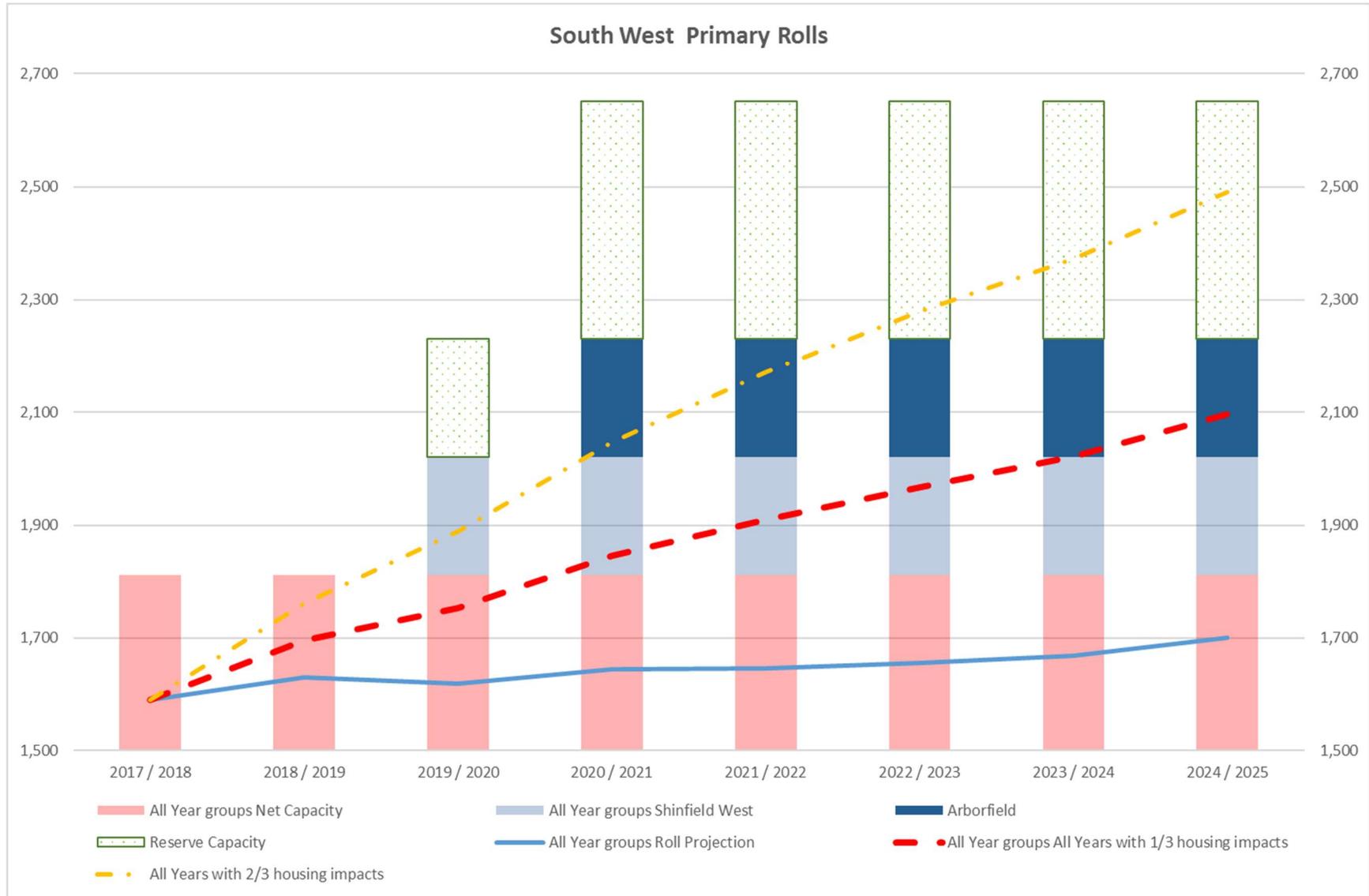
Wokingham Town and Winnersh





South West





Appendix E: Areas where no action is proposed

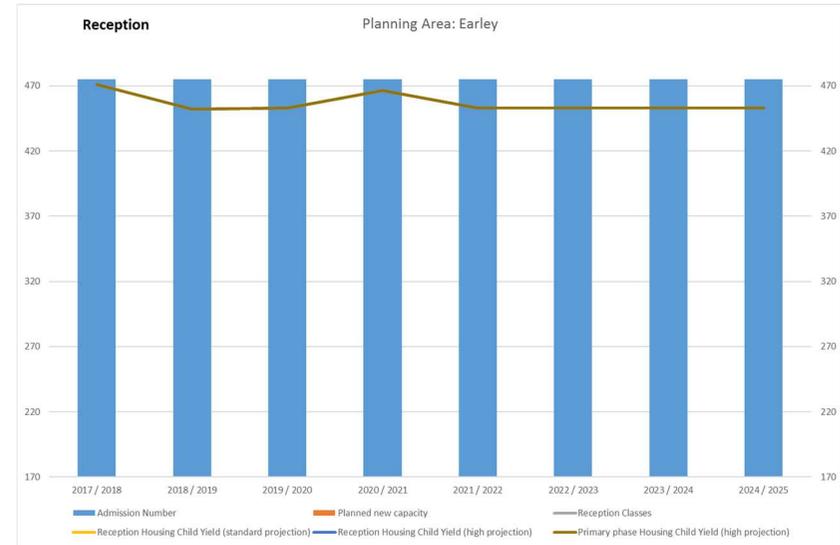
Earley

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.

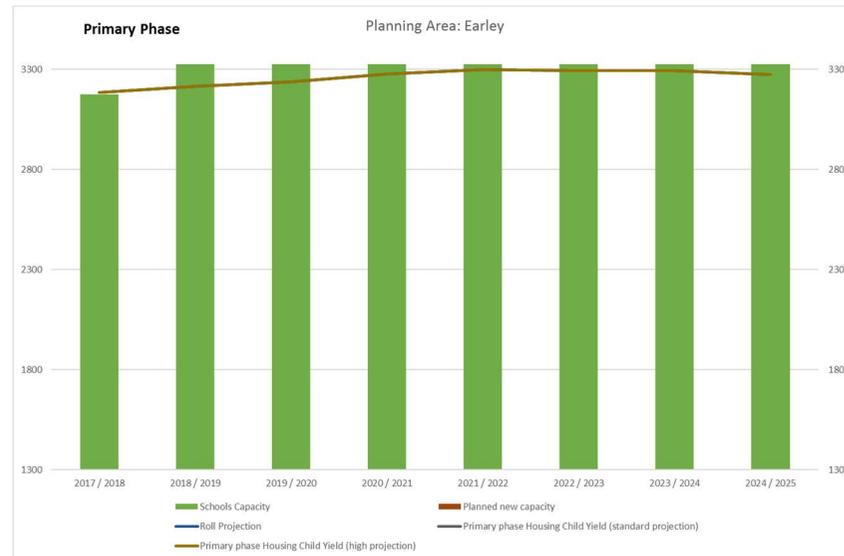
No additional housing is planned in the area.

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

12.1



12.2

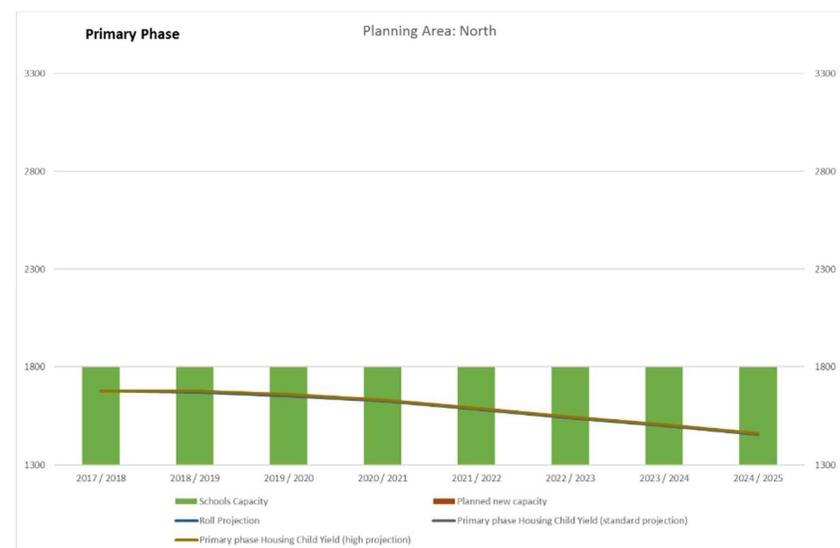
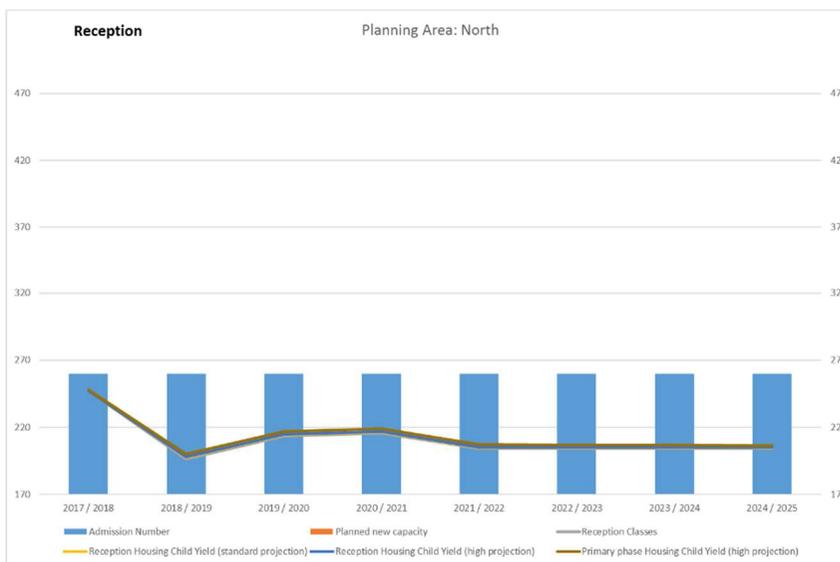


North

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).

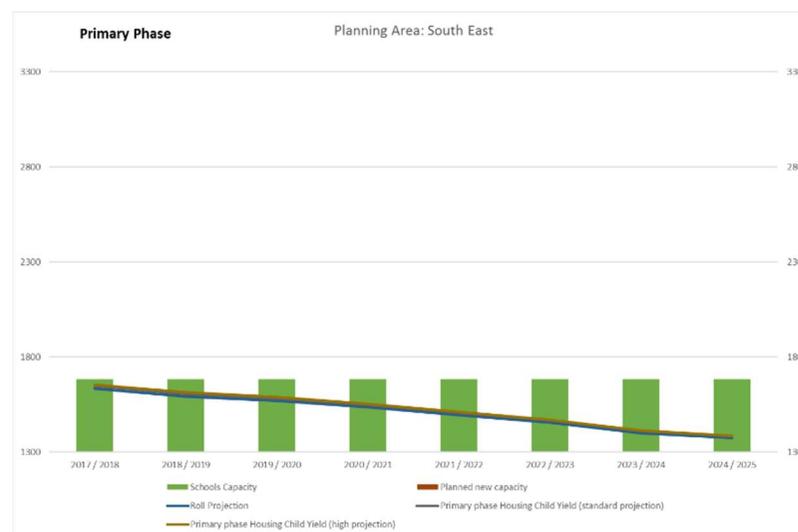
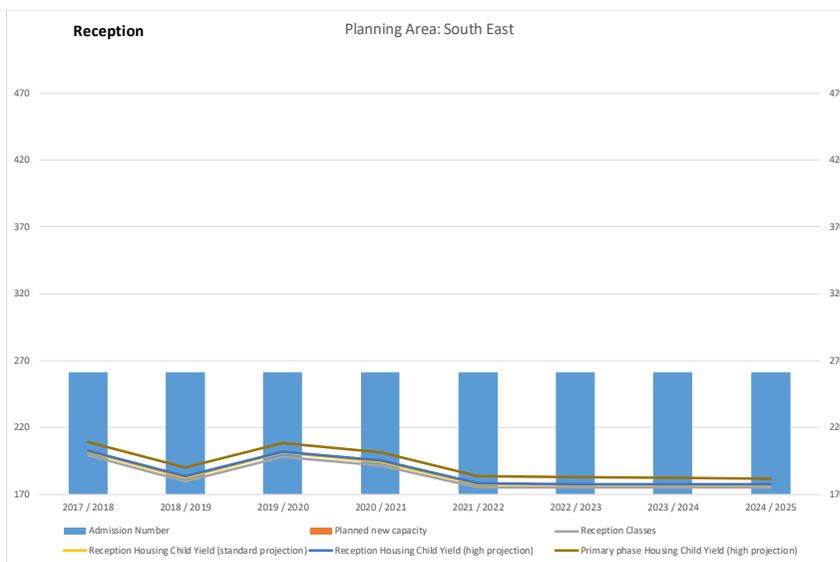
Local birth numbers do not indicate future increases in demand.



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 year as each cohort ages. This is not therefore thought to be a reliable approach to estimating the impact of new homes.

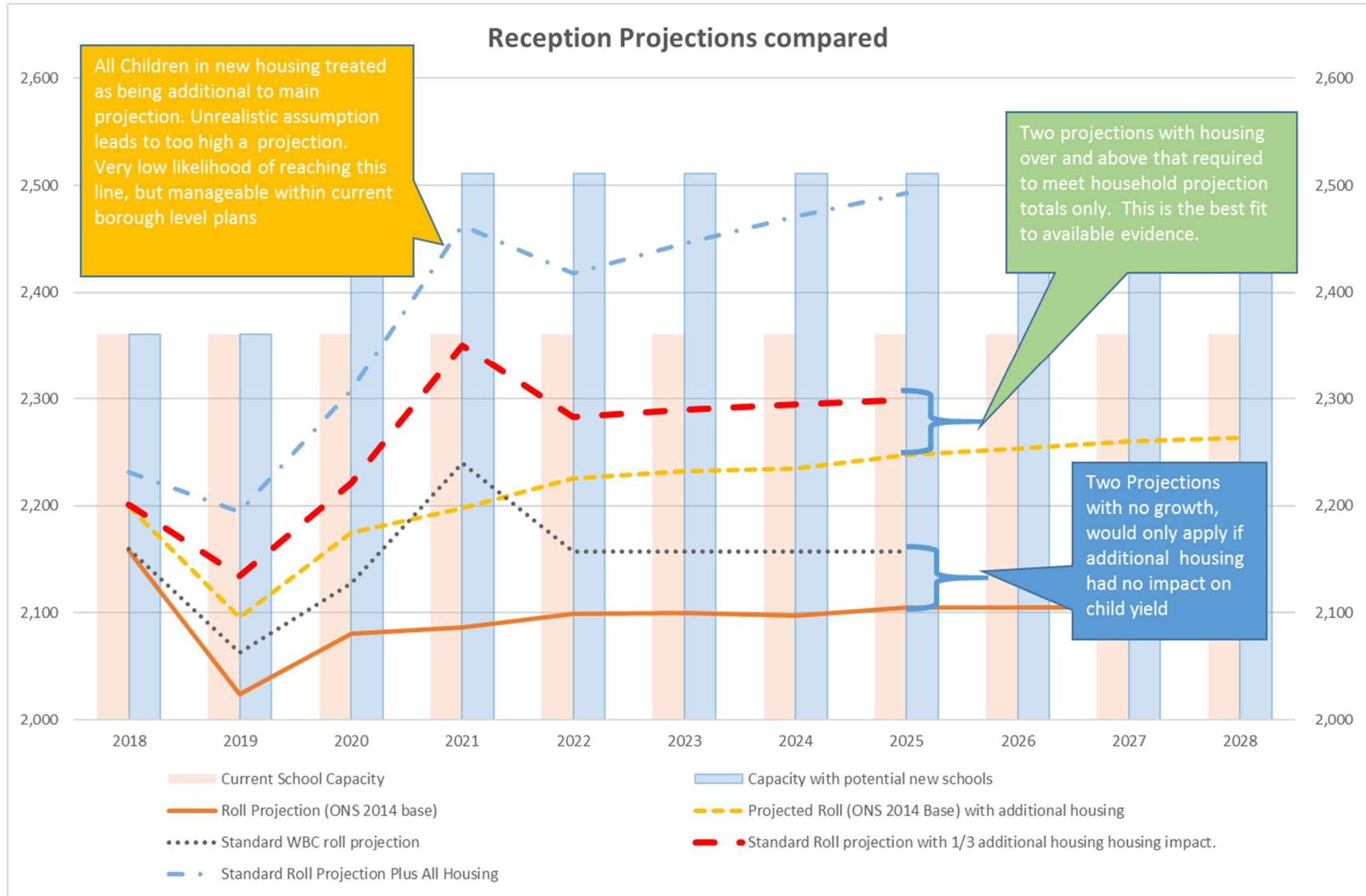
However, it can be seen that the impact of the “additional homes” added to the standard roll projection is a close match to the projection achieved by adding the child yield of the “additional housing” to the roll derived from the ONS population projection. The ONS projection is the most authoritative 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

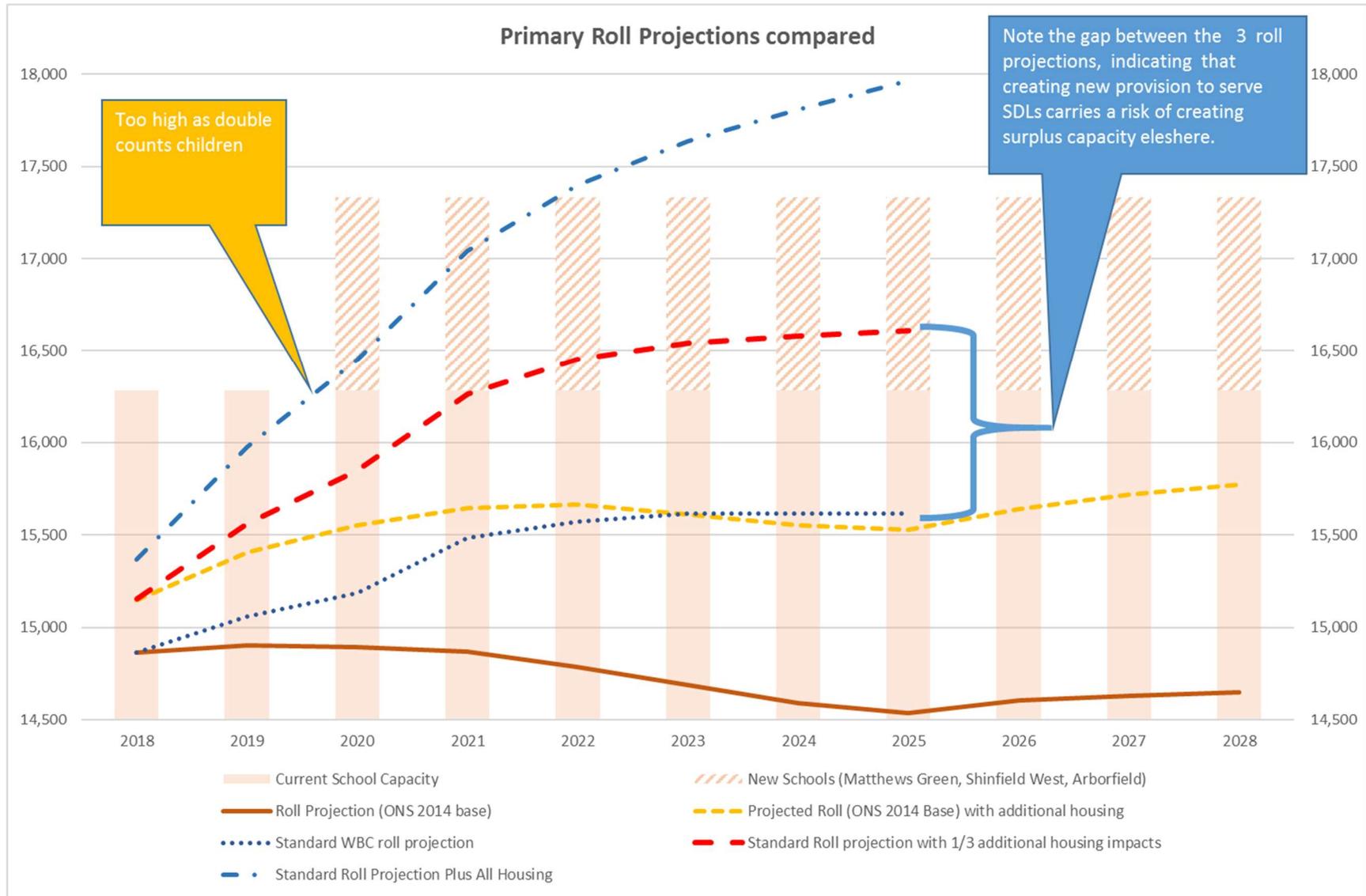
be a projection that fully matches real world outcomes, because circumstances evolve to make model assumptions invalid, but this approach gives an estimate that has a basis in Wokingham records, national population statistics and new home building rates.

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.

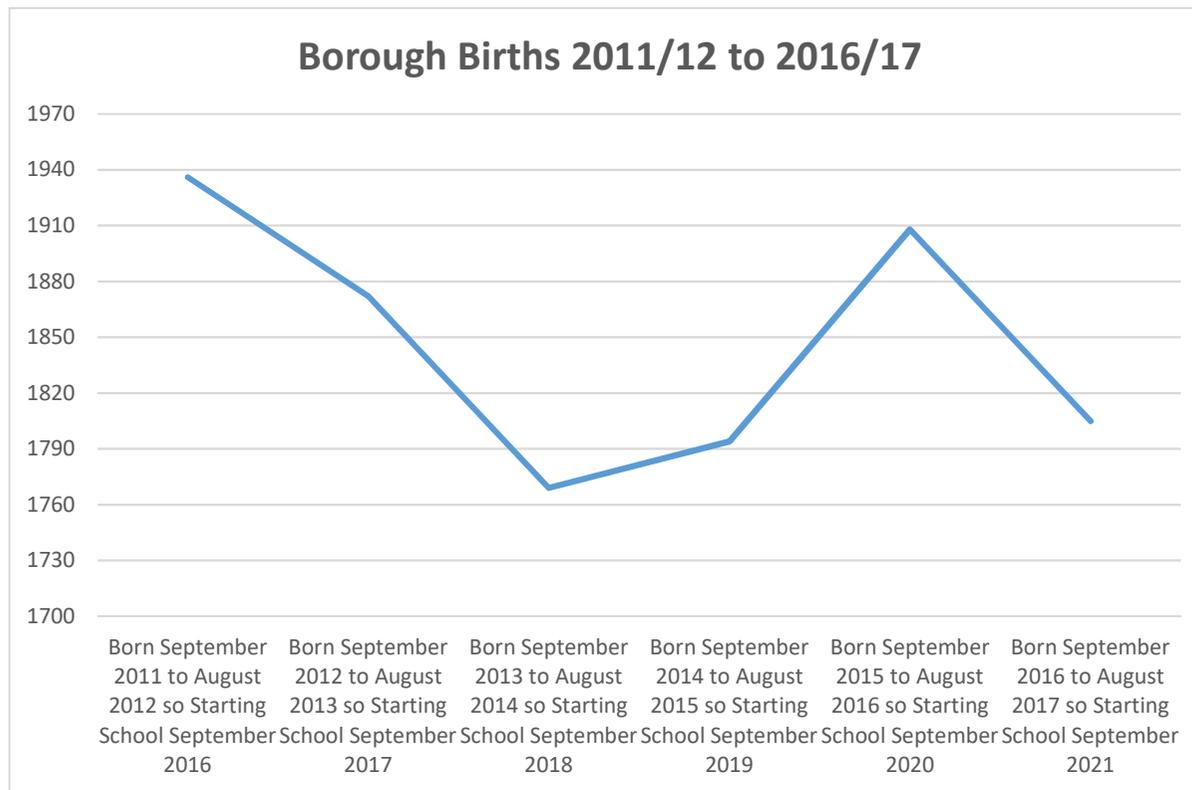
The whole roll projection is a less good fit between the ONS derived roll projection plus the additional housing child yield and the WBC roll projection plus the additional housing child yield. Here the standard WBC roll projection is a better match to the ONS data derived roll projection plus the additional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

Experience indicates that roll growth is normally predominantly from the bottom up (ie through increased numbers entering Reception classes). 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 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'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 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. 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 school places, where families move from neighbouring authorities (particularly with older children) they may choose to retain their current school place.

