



# WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** will be held in the Council Chamber - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on **WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.00 PM**

Susan Parsonage  
Chief Executive  
Published on 7 September 2021

The role of Overview and Scrutiny is to provide independent “critical friend” challenge and to work with the Council’s Executive and other public service providers for the benefit of the public. The Committee considers submissions from a range of sources and reaches conclusions based on the weight of evidence – not on party political grounds.

**Note:** Although non-Committee Members and members of the public are entitled to attend the meeting in person, space is very limited due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. You can however participate in this meeting virtually, in line with the Council’s Constitution. If you wish to participate either in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams, please contact Democratic Services. The meeting can also be watched live using the following link:

<https://youtu.be/LjffFrL4WPM>



# WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Our Vision

*A great place to live, learn, work and grow and a great place to do business*

### Enriching Lives

- Champion outstanding education and enable our children and young people to achieve their full potential, regardless of their background.
- Support our residents to lead happy, healthy lives and provide access to good leisure facilities to complement an active lifestyle.
- Engage and involve our communities through arts and culture and create a sense of identity which people feel part of.
- Support growth in our local economy and help to build business.

### Safe, Strong, Communities

- Protect and safeguard our children, young and vulnerable people.
- Offer quality care and support, at the right time, to prevent the need for long term care.
- Nurture communities and help them to thrive.
- Ensure our borough and communities remain safe for all.

### A Clean and Green Borough

- Do all we can to become carbon neutral and sustainable for the future.
- Protect our borough, keep it clean and enhance our green areas.
- Reduce our waste, improve biodiversity and increase recycling.
- Connect our parks and open spaces with green cycleways.

### Right Homes, Right Places

- Offer quality, affordable, sustainable homes fit for the future.
- Build our fair share of housing with the right infrastructure to support and enable our borough to grow.
- Protect our unique places and preserve our natural environment.
- Help with your housing needs and support people to live independently in their own homes.

### Keeping the Borough Moving

- Maintain and improve our roads, footpaths and cycleways.
- Tackle traffic congestion, minimise delays and disruptions.
- Enable safe and sustainable travel around the borough with good transport infrastructure.
- Promote healthy alternative travel options and support our partners to offer affordable, accessible public transport with good network links.

### Changing the Way We Work for You

- Be relentlessly customer focussed.
- Work with our partners to provide efficient, effective, joined up services which are focussed around you.
- Communicate better with you, owning issues, updating on progress and responding appropriately as well as promoting what is happening in our Borough.
- Drive innovative digital ways of working that will connect our communities, businesses and customers to our services in a way that suits their needs.

## **Appendix Acronyms**

CPD	Continuous Professional Development
EYFS	Early Years Foundations Stage
FGB	Full Governing Body
KS1	Key Stage 1
KS2	Key Stage 2
MAT	Multi Academy Trust
NLE	National Leader of Education
NLG	National Leader of Governance
RI	Requires Improvement
RSC	Regional Schools Commissioner
SDP	School Development Plan
SEF	Self Evaluation Form
SIB	School Improvement Board
SIO	School Improvement Officer
SLT	Senior Leadership Team
TSA	Teaching School Alliance
WLP	Wokingham Learning Partnership

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### Councillors

Prue Bray  
Norman Jorgensen  
(Chairman)  
Morag Malvern

Anne Chadwick  
Rebecca Margetts (Vice-  
Chairman)  
Jackie Rance

Pauline Helliar-Symons  
Andrew Mickleburgh

### Substitutes

Sam Akhtar  
David Hare  
Alison Swaddle

Phil Cunnington  
Sarah Kerr

Guy Grandison  
Barrie Patman

### Parent Governor Representatives

Vacancy, Parent Governor Representative  
Vacancy, Parent Governor Representative

### Diocesan Representatives

Vacancy, Roman Catholic Representative  
Vacancy, C of E Representative

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
13.		<b>APOLOGIES</b> To receive any apologies for absence.	
14.		<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 June 2021.	7 - 14
15.		<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b> To receive any declarations of interest.	
16.		<b>PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</b> 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 this committee.  Subject to meeting certain timescales, questions can relate to general issues concerned with the work of the Committee 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 <a href="http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions">www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions</a>	

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|------------|---------------|---|------------------|
| <b>17.</b> |               | <b>MEMBER QUESTION TIME</b><br>To answer any member questions   |                  |
| <b>18.</b> | None Specific | <b>EDUCATION UPDATE</b><br>To receive and consider the Education Update report.                         | <b>To Follow</b> |
| <b>19.</b> | None Specific | <b>SECONDARY SCHOOL SUFFICIENCY</b><br>To receive and consider the Secondary School Sufficiency report. | <b>15 - 32</b>   |
| <b>20.</b> |               | <b>FORWARD PLAN</b><br>To receive and consider the Committee's Forward Plan.                            | <b>33 - 36</b>   |

**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

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## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 JUNE 2021 FROM 7.00 PM TO 9.28 PM

### **Committee Members Present**

Councillors: Prue Bray, Anne Chadwick, Pauline Helliard-Symons, Norman Jorgensen (Chairman), Rebecca Margetts (Vice-Chairman), Andrew Mickleburgh, Morag Malvern and Jackie Rance

### **Other Councillors Present**

Councillors: Graham Howe

### **Officers Present**

Sudeshna Banerjee, Service Manager Intelligence and Impact  
Luciane Bowker, Democratic and Electoral Services Specialist  
Carol Cammiss, Director of Children's Services  
Gillian Cole, Service Manager Schools  
Adam Davis, Assistant Director for Children's Social Care and Early Help  
Jo Jolly, Acting Service Manager Children's Services Programme Implementation  
Sal Thirlway, Assistant Director Learning Achievement and Partnerships

### **1. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence.

Councillor Bray suggested that an effort be made to fill the parent governor representative vacancies on the Committee. The Chairman agreed to write to Chairs of Governors in an attempt to fill the vacancies.

### **2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

A declaration of interest was submitted from Councillor Bray on the basis that she was a Governor for the Forest School.

### **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22 March were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### Matters arising

Councillor Mickleburgh made the following comments:

- He asked for an update on permanent exclusions data;
- He asked that a report on the effect of the pandemic on children's development, including the national picture, be brought to the Committee when this information becomes available; and
- He asked for an update on the Committee's request to influence new policies and strategies through pre-scrutiny of draft proposals relating to Children's Services.

Sal Thirlway, Assistant Director for Learning and Partnerships agreed to circulate information about permanent exclusions. He stated that the data/analysis relating to the impact of the pandemic on children was not yet available. However, he would provide a report when possible.

Carol Cammiss, Director of Children's Services stated that draft policies would be added to the forward plan, as agreed with the Chairman.

#### **4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions.

#### **5. MEMBER QUESTION TIME**

There were no Member questions.

#### **6. CHILDREN'S SERVICES RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

Adam Davis, Assistant Director for Children's Social Care and Early Help and Sal Thirlway, Assistant Director for Learning and Partnerships presented the report.

Adam Davis stated that during the pandemic the service had to adapt to continue the delivery of its statutory duties. He highlighted the following:

- Front door contacts continued to be reviewed throughout the year, there was an increase in activity (7%) in March. However, the total number of referrals and the number of Looked After Children (LAC) remained relatively stable;
- The service provided to Children In Care (CIC) and Care Leavers had continued as it had been prior to the pandemic;
- The Fostering Team provided support to foster carers through various initiatives, as listed in the report;
- Bridges, the respite and residential care for children with disabilities remained opened, with reduced capacity and adjustments;
- The Early Help service, which is not statutory, continued to provide support to families via telephone and online communication during the pandemic;
- Supervised contact with birth parents for LAC was sustained during the pandemic. A new contact centre for LAC in the town centre had recently opened.

Sal Thirlway highlighted the following:

- The service continued to provide support to schools and early years settings, including guiding them through the new legislation;
- Weekly meetings were held with headteachers and senior leaders to provide advice and guidance and share experience;
- Additional guidance was provided to early years settings in relation to Covid risk assessments;
- The Education Welfare Service, which was normally a traded service, was provided for free during the pandemic;
- School attendance remained good in the Borough;
- All schools and early years settings in the affected wards had been engaged with the surge testing arrangements;
- There was a holistic approach to provide mental health and emotional wellbeing support to children and young people, the service worked with Social Care, Health and other professionals to provide a joined up offer. This included Kooth and mental health support teams to schools.

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



- Councillor Helliard-Symonds made reference to a recent national report which had identified failures in early help to families during Covid. She was interested to know how the service remained its focus in early help to families in need. Adam Davis stated that Wokingham had a very well established early help service, and this had continued throughout the pandemic;
- Councillor Margetts asked for more information about how the offer of mental health and wellbeing hub was going to be communicated. Adam Davis stated that the work had involved schools, school governors and campaigns to share information with parents;
- Councillor Bray asked if the contract for Kooth was going to be renewed and about the option of extending the offer to 25 year olds. Carol Cammiss, stated that the Kooth contract had been extended for a further year, there had been a slight increase in cost which was going to be absorbed by Children's Services. She would look at the possibility of extending the age range of the offer;
- Councillor Chadwick asked if the Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) covered the whole Borough. Sal Thirlway stated that the MHST was part of a national programme which the local authority had bid to, at this stage the project involved 12 schools in the Borough. It was hoped that the project would, in time, expand to all schools in the Borough;
- Councillor Mickleburgh asked if there had been unexpected concerns during this period and how the service was responding to these concerns. Adam Davis stated that initially there had been concerns over children who were not in contact with any professionals. As the pandemic progressed, nationally there was growing concern over the risk around the non-mobile, under 2 year olds cohort of children. In Wokingham, the service had carried out a review of cases that had been closed, recent cases, and an officer undertook targeted work with the under 5 year old cohort;
- Sal Thirlway stated that the Education Welfare Service had provided support with school attendance;
- Adam Davis stated that in Wokingham those children considered most at risk with Child Protection Plans, had continued to have their visits, with 95% completion during the pandemic period; even where legislation had allowed for flexibility;
- Carol Cammiss stated that the service had made contact with all young carers to ensure they were supported during the pandemic;
- Adam Davis stated that social workers had been able to use technology to engage young people, this had been positive and some young people preferred this method of communication;
- In response to a question Sal Thirlway stated that the traded service arrangements were regularly reviewed, and the provision of the Education Welfare service was dependent on capacity.

Members wished to express gratitude to Officers for the work undertaken during the pandemic. Members were also appreciative of the work undertaken in preparation for this meeting, given the fact that the service was undergoing an Ofsted inspection at this time.

**RESOLVED** That the report be noted.

## **7. CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Sudeshna Banerjee, Service Manager Intelligence and Impact presented the report.

Sudeshna Banerjee went through each indicator outlining the findings contained on the report. During the discussion of the item the following comments were made:

- Councillor Bray asked if the timeliness of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) issued within 20 weeks of referral could be sustained. Sal Thirlway stated that the previous dip in timeliness had been due to staff churn. Currently, the workforce was more stable and more permanent staff were being recruited, therefore he was confident that the timeliness could be sustained. There was also a programme of improvement and innovation in the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) offer within the Borough;
- Carol Cammiss stated that there was now a tracker in place to monitor the timeliness of all partners, to ensure timescales were being met. Also, families were being informed when and why there were delays;
- In response to a question Carol Cammiss stated that there was a lot of information about all the children with EHCP. She offered to answer specific questions via email on request;
- Councillor Mickleburgh asked what was being done to address the anxiety expressed by parents over the length of time to complete the EHCP process. Sal Thirlway recognised that there had been issues with timeliness in the past, but these had now been improved and the vast majority of plans were being issued within the statutory 20 week timescale;
- Councillor Chadwick expressed concern about the number of Care Leavers who were Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) and asked for the narrative around the figure. Adam Davis stated that there could be various reasons why care leavers may be NEET, they could be parents themselves or between jobs. He stated that the number was in line with other local authorities. Wokingham had recently changed the virtual school offer to extend it to working with care leavers;
- Councillor Mickleburgh asked if there was a timeframe showing how long care leavers were NEET. Adam Davis agreed to look into providing this information;
- Councillor Malvern asked for more information about children missing from home/care. Adam Davis stated that when a child went missing from home a return interview was carried out to try and understand the reason for that occurrence. The service looked at themes or patterns to address any issues;
- Councillor Bray expressed concern that the children/young people who were avoiding the return interview might be the ones who needed it the most. Adam Davis stated that the services also looked at contacting other adults and professionals involved with the child to find the best way to reach them;
- Councillor Mickleburgh was concerned that children missing from home may be at risk of exploitation and suggested that a more detailed report be brought to the Committee in a part 2 session.

**RESOLVED** That the report be noted.

## **8. UNICEF APPLICATION**

Jo Jolly, Acting Service Manager, Children's Services Programme Implementation shared a presentation about the Unicef application.

Some of the points highlighted are listed below:

- Wokingham Borough Council was applying to be part of the Child Friendly Cities and Communities programme, this programme worked with councils to put children's rights into practice;
- The programme aimed to give all children a chance to have their voice heard;
- In the UK there were seven cities/communities that were either already part of the programme or in the process of applying;

- Unicef had been particularly interested in working with Wokingham because of its unique demographics, being a wealthy Borough with significant pockets of deprivation;
- This initiative was part of an ambitious improvement programme in Children's Services;
- Wokingham had been working on the application with partners in across the area;
- The result of the application would be known in August and if successful it would start to be implemented in September;
- The programme was split into four sections:
  - Discovery – 6 months
  - Development – 2 to 3 months
  - Delivery – 2 to 4 years
  - Recognition – 3 years
- Unicef set out badges to work towards;
- Councillors were encouraged to get involved in the discovery and implantation phases.

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

- Councillor Margetts asked how Councillors could get involved in the programme. Jo Jolly stated that the programme would be child led, so the involvement of Councillors would be based on what the children/young people decided;
- Carol Cammiss stated that as part of the work that had already been undertaken, the child friendly Officers had already started to ascertain what the priorities for young people were. An event with the Youth Council was going to take place on 6 July, where a Unicef person was going to attend. The Youth Council was going to be consulted on the direction of travel of the programme;
- Carol Cammiss stated that communication would be sent to Councillors with opportunities for engagement;
- In response to a question Jo Jolly stated that the programme was for all children that lived or attended school in the Borough;
- In response to a question Jo Jolly stated that the service was looking for guidance from Unicef into how best to engage with children for this programme, in addition to the forums that were already being used;
- Councillor Helliard-Symonds stated that Councillor Batth was already undertaking a piece of work to engage with young people and suggested that he be contacted to work together on this programme;
- In response to a question Carol Cammiss stated that this programme was very broad and would be part of various strategies and policies within the service;
- Councillor Bray asked if the equalities agenda was being considered. Jo Jolly stated that equalities had already been identified as a priority for young people.

Councillor Bray asked how Members could be involved in the 6 July meeting. Carol Cammiss stated that the agenda was being drawn up with young people, she would let them know that Members were interested in taking part and communicate with Members accordingly.

Members commended the work being undertaken to take part in this project.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

## **9. SCHOOL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND OFSTED REPORTS**

Gillian Cole, Service Manager for school presented the School Performance Indicators and Ofsted reports item.

Gillian Cole highlighted the following points:

- Ofsted had suspended its inspections at the beginning of the pandemic, they decided to visit schools in the Autumn to undertake research and evidence gathering activity;
- Section 8 survey visits resulted in a letter which was posted on the school's Ofsted outcomes page, however no judgement was made as they were research visits;
- One school in the Borough had been subject to a Section 8 visit, this was St Crispin's School;
- During the Autumn term the School Improvement Team visited virtually all the schools and asked the same questions that Ofsted had used in its research visits;
- The research undertaken showed that the local provision mirrored the national provision;
- From the start of the Spring term 2021 Ofsted changed focus and undertook remote monitoring visits to schools, based on priority order in relation to current Ofsted grades. These were non-graded visits;
- Initially, there had been a focus on the quality of remote learning, this moved onto the curriculum and how schools were preparing to move back to face-to-face education;
- Two schools in the Borough had experienced the virtual visits, these were the Forest School and Gorse Ride Junior. Both were considered to be providing effective education;
- Section 8 visits were continuing in the Summer term and would take place on site;
- In response to the pandemic, significant changes were made to the operation of schools and examinations;
- The Department for Education (DfE) removed the testing requirements in respect of all reportable statutory outcomes for 2020, all the statutory testing and reporting for 2021 has also been cancelled;
- The DfE have indicated that all performance tables are suspended and no data from 2020 outcomes will be used to judge school performance. This means that there will be no Analyse School Performance (ASP) reports issued by the DfE and no local statistics for 2020 are available;
- There has been a removal of all statutory testing processes in KS1 and KS2 and a switch to Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG) for GCSE and A Level students;
- The DfE confirmed that all performance tables remain suspended and no data from 2021 outcomes will be used to judge performance. Ofsted will be using 2019 published data as the start point for any future judgement-based inspection activities;
- The TAG process is completely different from the process used last year, this process is complex and has added to the teachers' workload.

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

- Councillor Bray stated that, as a Governor, she had been involved in the Section 8 inspection at the Forest School. She reported that there had been questions that had prompted the school to think about its arrangements going forward. For example, changing from having a two year KS3 and a three year KS4 to having a three year KS3 and a two year KS4, in recognition of the fact that learning was disturbed and children in KS3 had not been taught the whole curriculum as they would have been in a normal year;
- Councillor Mickleburgh asked if the TAG process was addressing some of the issues encountered last year. Gillian Cole stated that algorithms were not being used this year, the responsibility of grading the students was now with the school. She felt confident that schools were being able to achieve a fair assessment of their pupils.

**RESOLVED** That the report be noted.

**10. FORWARD PLAN**

The forward plan for the Committee was considered and the dates of meetings were noted.

Sal Thirlway agreed to include the planning of pre-school provision with the Early Years' Service Review in the 10 January 2022 meeting.

In relation to the Youth Centre item, Carol Cammiss sought direction from the Committee as to what was expected. She stated that there was no Youth Service in Wokingham and offered to provide a report on the general offer for young people.

Councillor Bray suggested that more thought be given to determine what the Committee would like to receive in relation to youth services.

**11. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of the Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Act as appropriate.

**12. SCHOOLS CAUSING CONCERN – PART 2**

The report was discussed in a part 2 session.

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<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Secondary School Sufficiency</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 15 September 2021
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific;
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	Director, Children's Services - Carol Cammiss

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

That there should be sufficient 11 to 16 secondary school places to meet the needs of Wokingham's children.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the contents of this report are noted and the committee makes recommendations as it sees fit.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

All children whose parents made "on time" applications for September 2021 Year 7 places received an offer on national offer day 2021 (1<sup>st</sup> March 2021). Although the total number of offers exceeded the number of previously agreed places, additional places were offered at two schools. Further places were then agreed at a number of schools across the borough, and by September 75 additional (additional to these schools' Published Admissions Numbers) children were allocated to four schools. By the beginning of September, the total number of allocated children had fallen by 74 from offer day. This reduction in the number of children allocated is quite common and is driven by factors including children being withdrawn from the admissions round to take up places in independent schools.

Although the total number of allocations at the beginning of September is now less than the number of Year 7 places originally available in all Borough schools, the additional capacity was (and is) required because of the Council's inability to make use of places available at the Forest School. As a boys' school the Forest School cannot provide places for girls who cannot be offered a preferred place. Where additional places are agreed at other schools, admissions law requires these offers to be made from waiting lists in accordance with each school's oversubscription criteria. Since places could only be agreed at co-educational schools, these additional offers have necessarily included boys, and this has increased the number of unfilled places at the Forest School.

It is currently projected that the number of children requiring Year 7 school places will increase until 2023/24, dropping to current levels by the end of the decade (2028/29). As a consequence the total number of children requiring 11 to 16 places is projected to increase over the decade, peaking in 2027/28. Although the projection does not run beyond the 2028/29 year, the Office for National Statistics population projections for the borough, the primary school projections and the number of children born to borough residents up until 2019/20 points towards 11 to 16 numbers falling into the 2030s.

Demand for Year 7 places in Earley, Woodley and communities to the north of the A329M is projected to peak in 2024/25 and then drop back towards current levels by 2028/29.

Conversely demand for Year 7 place in Wokingham Town, Winnersh and south Wokingham communities is projected to grow until 2023/24 and then remain relatively constant (subject to annual fluctuation) for the remainder of the decade. The fall in the north is likely to reflect the impact of falling birth numbers since 2012/13, while south Wokingham demand is bolstered by the movement of families into the new homes in the large-scale residential developments in this area.

Discussions with school leaders indicate that there can be little or no reliance on capacity in existing schools to meet these additional needs, at least without supporting investment. This reflects the ongoing challenge of accessing Forest School places and rising rolls (through mid-phase allocations) at other schools with capacity. It will therefore be necessary to agree a significant programme of school expansion. Although some permanent expansion is required, projected need indicates that some additional places will only be required to meet need in peak years.

Preliminary discussions have been held with a number of school leaders concerning the ability of their schools to help meet this increase in demand, and with the Council's finance team to agree a suitable budget for the 2022/23 year onwards to enable these needs to be met. It is intended that a programme of school expansion (at least sufficient to meet needs in 2022/23) will need to be agreed. The Council will also set out to work constructively with the Forest School to develop actions that will ensure that a much higher proportion of that school's capacity can be filled in future years.



## Background

This report considers both the immediate challenges being faced by the Council and community and the short and longer term planning to ensure that sufficient places are available. The Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places. To ensure that it can meet these needs proactively it prepares primary and secondary school phase sufficiency plans.

The starting point for recent secondary place strategies has been the number of children in the primary sector, who would in time require secondary places and the ongoing impact of housing development. Until 2016 the Council significantly increased the number of primary school places to meet the need generated by increasing numbers of children born in and moving to the borough. After this point the reduced number of births since 2012/13 had led to falling demand for Reception places across the borough. Subsequently, primary school capacity expansion has been focused on the needs of the large scale new residential areas developing in the SDL areas around Wokingham, Shinfield and the Arborfield Garrison. It has always been expected that these children would need additional secondary school places, and the borough opened a large new secondary school, the Bohunt School, Wokingham in 2016.

After opening, this school opted to offer 240 Year 7 places per year, and a number of other secondary schools opted to increase their admission numbers too. At that point there was insufficient demand to fill all Year 7 places and a number of schools saw falling rolls.

The most recent strategy for secondary school places was for the period 2017 to 2020 and is now in the process of being updated. This strategy saw a possible need for 100 additional Year 7 places by 2019/20 (which would not necessarily require additional or new permanent accommodation) and for 270 new permanent places (based on 60 places per year). New or additional places were not necessarily required for the initial 100 places because the recent history of low levels of recruitment to a number of schools was creating surplus capacity. This projection noted though that if the proportion of children admitted from outside the borough reduced there might not be a need for additional capacity in the strategy period.

Although, the analysis below is not focused on variance from the 2017/20 strategy figures, it is important to note that much of the challenges experienced in 2021/22 (and expected to be a significant issue in subsequent years) is the challenge presented by the interaction of parental preference and the Forest School's single gender intake, leading to a significant number of single sex boys places being unfilled, but insufficient places for girls, which is greatly exacerbating the place shortfall, particularly for girls.

As noted above work is now underway to prepare a new secondary school places strategy, for the period 2021 to 2031. An initial needs analysis is attached as Appendix one. This is being used as the basis of an ongoing consultation exercise, which will inform the development of the subsequent action plan.

Post 16 needs (including sixth forms) will be the subject of a subsequent strategy. Post 16 provision is made in schools (6<sup>th</sup> forms), Further Education Colleges in neighbouring Reading and Bracknell, in sixth form colleges (such as Farnborough 6<sup>th</sup> Form College) and through apprenticeships and by other registered training providers. The Council will wish to consider how it can work with local education settings to promote an increase in

the number and proportion of Wokingham students achieving Level 3 (A level equivalent) courses, with a strong focus on the role of new “T” level vocational courses. It may be necessary to increase the number of sixth form places in the Borough (noting here that the Bohunt Wokingham School has planning permission for an extension, that would enable the creation of a new sixth form). However, there is no indication from the projections and current outcome data that there is an immediate need for these places, so this work, although important, does not have the urgency of work to resolve the Year 7 supply issue.

Outside of the changing need for school places, and the issue of the Forest School, there are three context issues that will affect (and have affected) the development of the needs analysis and the action plan:

- Covid 19 has had three significant impact. Firstly, it has led to significant delays in the delivery of the Council’s capital programme, as contractor’s and suppliers staff have fallen ill or been subject to other restrictions. Secondly, it has led to a reduced level of building activity and therefore capital receipts from developers, which has necessitated a reduced capital programme and will have reduced the number of arrivals into the borough, at least in 2020. Finally, it has diverted resources from future planning to pandemic management, which has had a negative impact on the Council’s ability to develop future projects. Although it is assumed that the direct impacts of Covid 19 are now managed, there is a continuing risk of unforeseen impacts, particularly from new virus strains and from “knock on” impacts on finance, costs and future needs.
- Brexit: An issue that has been raised nationally is the possible movement of formerly UK resident families back to their countries of origin. Although no definitive data is available, rolls and language analysis (from census returns) indicates there has been no significant movement out of the Wokingham area, so far.
- Construction cost increases: the data presented in the Financial Analysis and in Appendix 2 do not take account of the ongoing major increase in construction costs (related both to staff and construction cost materials). This is due to a number of factors, although the major issues are likely to be Covid related, as this is an international issue.

## **Analysis of Issues**

All children whose parents made “on time” applications for Year 7 places received an offer on national offer day 2021 (1<sup>st</sup> March 2021). Although the total number of offers (2,232) exceeded the number of agreed places (the total of the Published Admissions Numbers for the borough’s schools) (2,176 places) additional places were offered at two schools. Further places were subsequently agreed at a number of schools across the borough, and by September 75 additional children were allocated at four schools. At this point 2,158 children were allocated places, a reduction of 74 from the position on offer days. This reduction in allocations between offer day and the start of term is quite common and is driven by a number of factors including children being withdrawn from the admissions round to take up places in independent schools.

Although the total number of allocations in September is now less than the 2,176 places available before additional capacity was agreed, the additional places were (and are)

required because of the Council's inability to make use of all the places available at the Forest School. Initial allocations must be made in accordance with parental preferences and school oversubscription criteria. At the point of allocation prior to offer day, the Council found that while there were places available at the Forest School, other schools were fully allocated but there were a significant number of children of both genders who could not be offered places and who would therefore need to be offered places at a non-preferred school with capacity. As a boys' school the Forest School cannot provide places for girls who cannot be offered a preferred place. Where additional places are agreed at other schools, admissions law requires these offers to be made from waiting lists in accordance with each school's oversubscription criteria. Since places could only be agreed at co-educational schools these additional offers have necessarily included boys, and this ensured that all children received offers, but these places have also increased the number of unfilled places at the Forest School.

Current projections are that the number of children requiring Year 7 school places will increase until 2023/24 (with a maximum deficit against all places, including the Forest School of 125 places, or just over 6 classes), dropping to current levels by the end of the decade (2028/29). Therefore, the total number of children requiring 11 to 16 places is projected to increase over the decade, peaking in 2027/28, when an additional 485 places may be required. Although the projection does not run beyond the 2028/29 year, the Office for National Statistics population projections for the borough, the primary school projections and the number of children born to borough residents up until 2019/20 points towards 11 to 16 numbers falling into the 2030s.

Demand for Year 7 places in Earley, Woodley and communities to the north of the A329M is projected to peak in 2024/25 (with a local deficit of 101 places) and then drop back towards current levels by 2028/29. Conversely demand for Year 7 place in Wokingham Town, Winnersh and south Wokingham communities is expected to grow until 2023/24 and then remain relatively constant (subject to annual fluctuation around the level of current school capacities) for the remainder of the decade. The fall in the north is likely to reflect the impact of falling birth numbers since 2012/13, while south Wokingham demand is bolstered by the movement of families into the new homes in the large-scale residential developments in this area.

Although the focus is on Year 7, it should be noted that Years 8 and 9 are also under pressure, although not to the same extent. These needs will also be dealt with through the developing action plan.

It is likely that the action plan that comes out of the needs analysis and secondary places strategy will reflect the needs of specific communities. To date the Twyford area has been identified as an area where additional capacity in the local school (the Piggott School) would be beneficial, not least because this would ensure that south Twyford children would not need to be transported to school by vehicle. There may be other areas where local solutions are also required.

Although it is known that some schools have unused capacity, current analysis indicates that this cannot be relied on to meet needs in 2022/23 and beyond. Work is ongoing though to confirm current capacities with a number of schools.

This new analysis reflects discussions with school leaders (preliminary discussions have been held with a number of school leaders concerning the ability of their schools to help meet this increase in demand) and the ongoing challenge of accessing Forest

School places. Rising rolls (through mid-phase allocations) and the risks of expansion to school standards mean that these unused places may either not be there when required or will require investment for this use to be acceptable to school leaders. It will therefore be necessary to agree a significant programme of school expansion, from 2022/23. Although some permanent expansion may be required, projected need indicates that many of the additional places will only be required in peak years, and therefore high-quality temporary accommodation may be appropriate.

Discussions are ongoing with the Council’s finance team to agree a suitable budget for the 2022/23 year onwards through the normal annual budget making process, to enable these needs to be met. The Council will also set out to work constructively with the Forest School to look at steps that would ensure that a much higher proportion of that school’s capacity can be filled in future years.

To inform the development of the new secondary school places strategy and to develop a plan of action meetings with schools both collectively (a meeting is scheduled for 13/09/21) and individually are occurring over the Autumn term 2021.

The provisional investment programme (and agreed additional places in 2021/22) is set out as Appendix 2. It will require an additional £2.8m (on top of the £3.9m already budgeted for) to create 534 places.

Revenue costs would be met from the Dedicated Schools Grant Growth Fund.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION**

***The Council faces severe funding pressures, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.***

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£0		Capital
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£2.2M	£1.7M	Capital
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£1.9M	£1.4M	Capital

### **Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision**

N/A

### **Cross-Council Implications**

N/A

### **Public Sector Equality Duty**

Please confirm that due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty has been taken and if an equalities assessment has been completed or explain why an equalities assessment is not required.

<b>List of Background Papers</b>	
N/A	
<b>Contact</b> Piers Brunning, Sal Thirlway	<b>Service</b> Learning Achievement and Partnerships
<b>Telephone No</b> Tel: 0118 974 6084, Tel: 0118 908 8238	<b>Email</b> piers.brunning@wokingham.gov.uk, sal.thirlway@wokingham.gov.uk

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# Wokingham Secondary School Places Strategy (age 11 to 16) Needs and Options Paper

## Consultation 2021: Background paper

### Introduction

This year Wokingham Council will revise its secondary school places strategy. At this point we are asking views on how we should respond to the need for statutory school places (Years 7 to 11 or ages 11 to 16). A separate exercise will be conducted in the autumn concerning post 16 provision. There are two reasons for this split:

- There is a more acute need for additional provision for statutory school age children, with rising numbers of children in future Year 6 classes requiring secondary school places.
- Post 16 provision needs are more complex, because of the range of provision, in schools and colleges in and around the borough, and the need to ensure an appropriate mix of academic, vocational and life skills provision for all the borough's young people, including those with additional needs.

This paper is intended to provide some background information, that may assist you in completing the questionnaire.

### Background

#### Wokingham Births

The borough increased the number of primary school places because of a rising number of younger children requiring Reception class places, largely driven by an increased number of children born in the borough, up until the 2012/13 academic year. The number of children born to Wokingham resident mothers has fallen since that point, albeit there has been considerable variation between individual years.

Born	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Reception	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Year 7	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32
Earley	318	323	342	326	282	286	293	286	259	239	217
North	271	236	234	267	208	225	228	210	189	206	170
South East	179	187	172	158	145	159	158	134	139	154	173
South West	335	312	331	280	298	289	312	301	292	398	359
Woodley	324	347	351	323	353	322	406	353	370	413	321
Wokingham Town	506	534	506	518	483	513	511	521	488	527	514
<b>Total</b>	<b>1933</b>	<b>1939</b>	<b>1936</b>	<b>1872</b>	<b>1769</b>	<b>1794</b>	<b>1908</b>	<b>1805</b>	<b>1737</b>	<b>1937</b>	<b>1754</b>

Table 1 -Births 2009/10 to 2019/20

#### Housing

New, predominantly family, housing has had an impact on the number and location of children needing school places. New homes facilitate the arrival of established families (bringing children with them) and enable existing residents to move to new communities.

The Council's Draft Local Plan Public Consultation document from 2020 established that "Provision will be made for a minimum of 13,901 net additional dwellings, and associated infrastructure, in the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2036" (Policy H1).

Wokingham Secondary School Places Strategy 2021 to 2031 background paper

The majority of these homes would be in proposals already in place. However, section 7.8 also established that a minimum of an additional 2,061 dwellings would be required up until 2036.

The current Local Plan has focused new home building around Wokingham Town, in Shinfield and around the former Arborfield Garrison site. Development in all these areas is expected to continue into the next decade. A new Local Plan is in preparation, to ensure new homes that are required because of national planning policy will be provided with necessary supporting infrastructure (including roads and schools). This plan is expected to be relevant throughout the life of this strategy (to 2031). Earlier drafts of the Local Plan Update were based around most of these new homes being provided in the Grazeley area. However, revisions to the emergency planning requirements associated with the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) at Burghfield have made this scheme untenable, and the council is looking at alternative sites for new homes. Masterplanning work to understand the constraints and opportunities presented by two areas is underway. These are in the area bounded by Shinfield Village, Sindlesham, Arborfield and the M4 and on land associated with the agreed South Wokingham major development. No decision has been taken yet.

The National Planning Policy Framework establishes that local housing need should be determined using the Office for National Statistics household projection (which is based on their population projections) and a local affordability factor. The Council's most recent published assessment (published 14/01/21) shows that in accordance with this guidance, homes for 554 additional households, plus a further 235 homes (total 789 homes) would be required each year. As an approximation, 2/3rds of the housing need is directly derived from the local population projections, with 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the planned homes providing an opportunity for additional households to be established in the area. In the period leading up to the Covid 19 epidemic the local housebuilding rate was markedly higher than 800 homes required to meet projected household formation rates, peaking at over 1,500 new homes in the 2019/20 year.

A long-established rule of thumb is that every 1,000 homes will, in the long run, be occupied by 30 children from each year group, but with higher levels of child yield in the initial years after occupation. Note that these children may already be captured (entirely or in part) in existing roll and population projections.

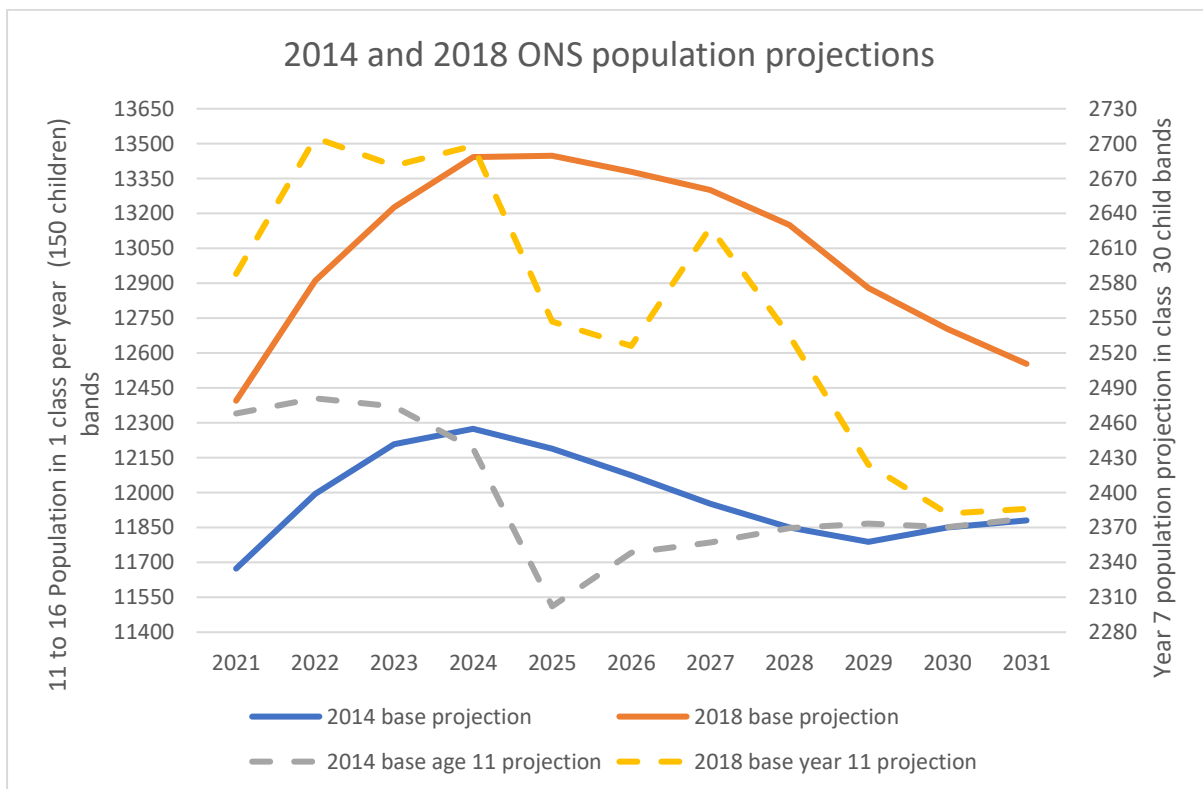
#### [Population projections](#)

The ONS population projections are the starting point for both the analysis of both Housing Need and long-term school place need. As noted above the housing build numbers may exceed the projected household need numbers (derived from the household projections) by a considerable margin. It is likely that this will impact on future iterations of the population and household projections. Therefore, the assessment of long-term need, based on current population projections must carry an important caveat, that future population numbers may be above the current projections.



The most recent population projection is 2018 based. The population for the whole school age group is expected to peak in the years 2024 to 2025 (at just under 13,500 children), dropping back to slightly above the 2021 level by 2031. The age group corresponding to Year 7 is projected to start at 2,600 children, to reach a peak over the period 2022 to 2024 (circa 2,700 children), dropping back to 2,400 children by the end of the decade. Note that these figures are not directly comparable to roll figures as the projections do not correspond to school years and they include home and independent school educated children.

The 2014 base projection is included to show how population projections can change over a short period. This population projection underpins the 2014 base household projection that underpins the assessment of housing need. Even in a four year period, the projection has changed significantly, with over 1,000 additional children projected in the 2018 base projection (for the 11 to 16 year group) and over 200 children (equivalent to 7 classes) variance between the two peaks. Both, 2014 and 2018 projections do though point to peak child numbers for the age groups feeding Year 7 in the early 2020s, with sharp falls after 2024 and lower numbers (on average at least) in subsequent years and similarly a peak in roll numbers for the statutory year groups around 2025 and falling numbers from 2026 onwards.



Graph 1 – ONS population projections to 2031

### Wokingham Roll projections and school capacity

Wokingham’s roll projections take account of projected Year 6 rolls, the historic transfer rates between primary and secondary schools, and historic year group survival rates. They take no account of the relative popularity of schools or of school

admission numbers. Their primary usefulness is as a tool for projecting area needs, rather than understanding future individual school rolls. They run up until the 2028/29 year<sup>1</sup>.

For secondary school place planning the Council's area is broken down into two areas, north and south. The north area includes Maiden Erlegh, Bulmershe, Waingels and the Piggott schools (and therefore Earley, Woodley and parishes to the north of the A329M). The south area includes Oakbank, Bohunt, St Crispins, Holt, Emmbrook and the Forest Schools (and therefore parishes to the south of the A329M, and M4 (with Hurst Parish served by schools in both areas)).

The analysis uses current admission numbers (so the school capacity is 5 times the current admission number, even if the school is building numbers up from Year 7). All but two Wokingham schools have sixth forms and the total school capacity includes sixth forms. Sixth form numbers are not necessarily directly related to the 11 to 16 roll; schools have discretion over the range of courses offered and the number of places available to young people who did not previously attend the school.

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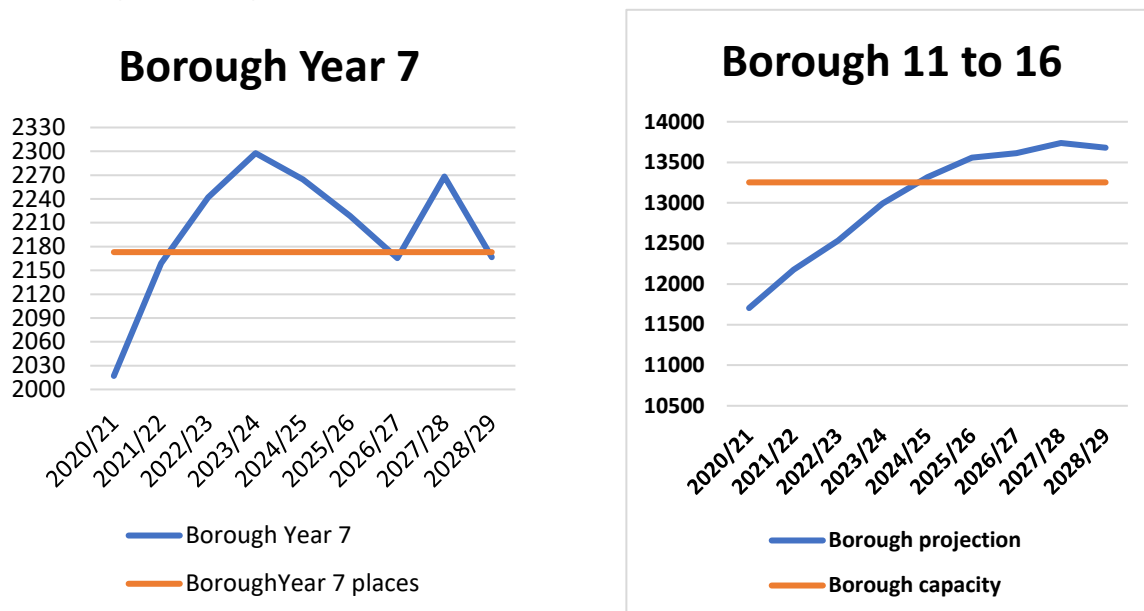
<sup>1</sup> *There are a number of important caveats that apply to the WBC roll projections:*

- a) *The analysis of place sufficiency is gender neutral. In the real world many of the available places may be in a single sex school, and therefore not be available for use by girls or boys.*
- b) *The model maintains a constant proportion of children not previously on the roll of a Wokingham Primary School in projected Year 7 admissions to Wokingham schools (based on the historic proportion of such children allocated places at individual schools). These children are a mix of children attending (and in many cases living) in neighbouring boroughs, children attending independent schools or being home educated and children whose families have recently moved into the borough. The proportion of such children varies markedly, between less than 5% and nearly 50%. One effect of rising local demand could be that a smaller number of children living further from oversubscribed schools (e.g. in other boroughs) will be admitted. There is no clear evidence of this effect to date, though.*
- c) *The model captures a range of real-world factors that affect roll numbers in simple measurements. It does not easily allow the effects of changed cross border movement versus children new to the borough to be disentangled, for example (both impact on the number of children admitted, not previously on the roll of a Wokingham primary school). These factors vary from year to year (for example, if new housebuilding ceases in an area, the flow of new children into new homes will stop too).*

*For individual schools, the principal deficiency with the roll projections is that they take no account of each school's PAN or relative popularity. In the real world rising demand does not lead to rising admissions to already oversubscribed schools or necessarily increased admissions to less popular schools. However, this deficiency becomes a strength for area planning, as it gives a better indication of area need, than would be the case if individual schools were capped.*

## The Wokingham Borough

The Borough level projection points to a peak need for Year 7 places in 2023/24, when just over 120 additional Year 7 places will be required (or four classes of 30), reducing to 2026/27, when the projected demand and places balance, followed by a lower peak of 90 required places in 2027/28. The 11 to 16 analysis points to there being sufficient places until 2024/25, and a requirement for 485 places by 2027/28 (dropping back slightly by 2028/29).



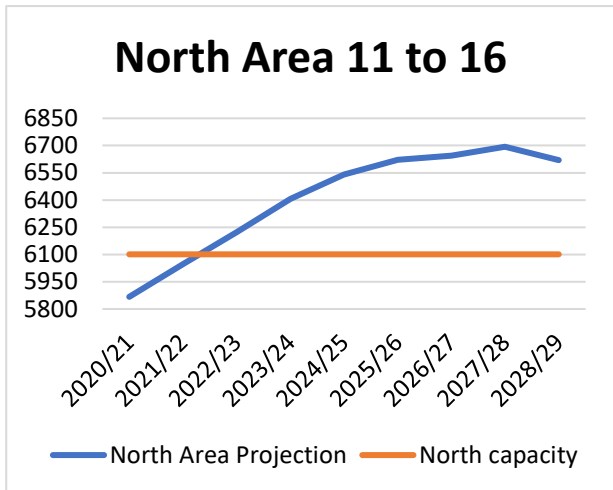
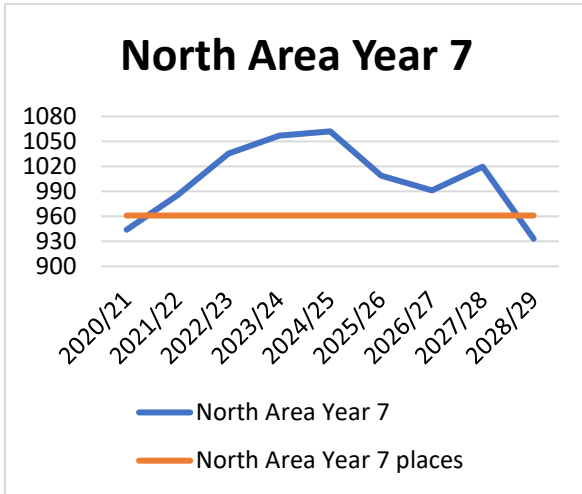
Graphs 2 and 3 Borough Projections to 2028/29

## The North Area

Looking at the north area alone, both the Year 7 and (to a lesser extent the 11 to 16) projections point to “bulge” passing through. Year 7 demand is projected to peak in the period 2023 to 2025, when up to 100 additional Year 7 places are required, dropping back to 2020 levels by 2028/29. For the 11 to 16 age group, demand peaks later in 2027/25, with a maximum need for 600 additional places.

Within the northern area, one issues is noted:

- South Twyford: where rising demand has meant that families were unable to secure Year 7 places in 2021 at the only school within walking distance (the Piggott School). Additional places were agreed for 2021 and (subject to further agreements) it is likely that the Council will support an expansion programme at that school.



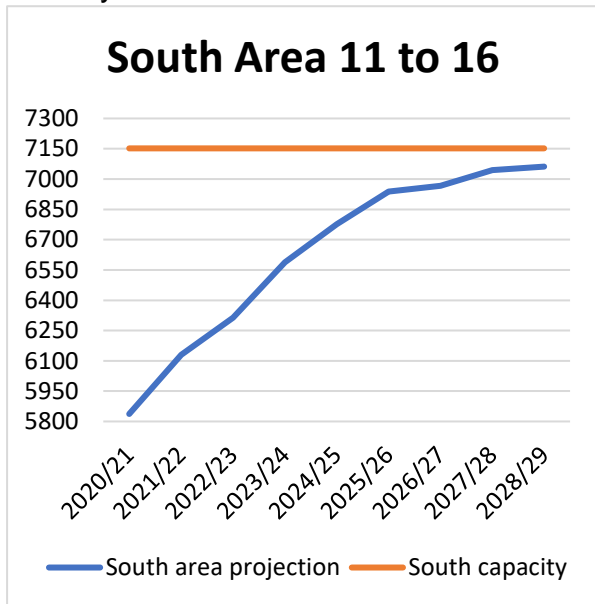
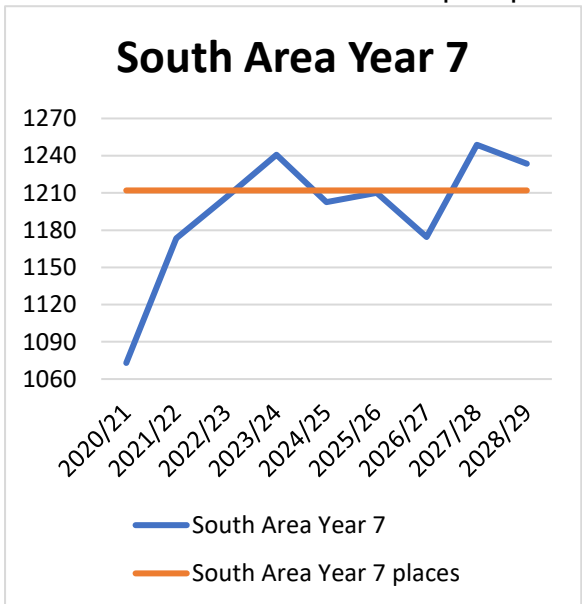
Graphs 4 and 5: North area projections

### The South Area

Looking at the south area the need for Year 7 places is projected to increase sharply until 2023/24. Thereafter demand fluctuates around the current number of available Year 7 places (with a range of + / - 40 places). Looking at 11 to 16 need and place availability as a whole in this area, projected need is expected to increase towards capacity by 2028/29.

Within the southern area, one significant issue has been identified:

- The difference between the popularity of the two single sex schools has meant that there are surplus places for boys at Forest School.



Graphs 5 & 6: South Area projections

### Comparison with ONS projections

Firstly, as expected, the number of children in the roll projection each year is less than the number of children in the roll projection. If the ONS figures are reliable then

a very significant proportion of the population must be educated outside the state system, or have moved into the borough without relinquishing state school places in other areas.

Secondly, the pattern of change is markedly different, with a clear peak in need towards the middle of the decade, but demand dropping back from that point (essentially to current levels). This would point to a need for bulge accommodation that would not be required at the end of the period. This is clearly at variance with the roll projection for the borough as a whole. The Year 7 north area figures show a similar pattern, and a peak with declining demand, but the downturn in demand in Years 7 to 11 occurs later in the decade. The south area, by contrast shows continued growth in Years 7 to 11 rolls, probably reflecting the impact of ongoing housebuilding in the area (as noted above, at a rate that is appreciably higher than would match the household and population projections).

### Increasing capacity

Over the period of the strategy there are three ways of increasing the number of places available:

- Utilising surplus places in older age groups
- Expanding existing schools
- Opening new schools

### Utilising existing capacity

There are few schools in Wokingham that have the ability to offer significant numbers (60 or more) of additional places, without additional accommodation.

- In the north only Waingels College is projected to have two 11 to 16 year groups that are undersubscribed by more than 30 places in each year group in 2021/22.
- In the south only Emmbrook and the Forest schools are projected to have two or more year groups undersubscribed by 30 children or more in 2021/22. The combination of the Forest School's gender restriction, undersubscription and admissions law has meant that while this school had surplus Year 7 places, additional capacity was required at other schools.

Note that it is likely that these surplus places will be required in future years, so allocating to schools with surplus places in older age groups may well create a need for investment in future years.

They do have the advantage of potentially being available at short notice, and deferral of investment may be helpful to the authority, at a time when the developer payments required to service commitments have reduced, because of the impact of Covid 19 on the construction industry last year.

*This is therefore at best a partial solution for 2021 and 2022 admissions.*

## Expansion of existing schools

There are three main restrictions on the expansion of places available at existing schools.

- Firstly, given that nearly all secondary schools are now academies, expansion is dependent on agreement with school Trusts. Given that a number of schools have increased their rolls in recent year it is not reasonable to assume that all Trusts would wish to grow. They may be concerned, for example, by the possible loss of PE space, and the challenges of managing a larger student body.
- Secondly, expansion is dependent on securing planning consent for schemes. This may be challenging on a number of sites not least because of the difficulties in securing additional car parking and in maintaining sufficient PE space. A number of sites are already highly developed and it may be challenging to deliver satisfactory expansion proposals.
- Thirdly, resource limitations, the extent of the building works required to secure a satisfactory expansion and the time required to execute schemes may limit the Council's ability to offer additional places at some schools. For example, it is unlikely that a multi-storey car park would be regarded as offering sufficient value for money, even if this was the only way of meeting additional car parking requirements.

It may not therefore be possible to create additional provision through school expansion in the heart of some communities.

*This is the most deliverable option for the next 5 years (at least).*

## Opening new schools

A new school would require a significant site. It is likely that sites within established residential areas would be too compromised to be considered. It is most likely therefore that a new site would be acquired through the master planning process for a new residential community.

Given the number of new homes planned and the established ability of housebuilders to sell high volumes of new family homes in the area it will be prudent to ensure that at least one large scale new housing scheme includes the potential for a new secondary school. This could enable a new school later in the decade or early in the 2030s. If it became clear that too few places could be created through school expansion, then it may be necessary to bring a new school forward into the mid 2020s, to meet the current projected place shortfall.

*A new school depends on a new site being identified and significant funding being identified. This points to this being a viable option towards the end of the decade.*

Piers Brunning

Senior Specialist

Commissioning Teams

## Appendix 2 Indicative Secondary Places investment programme

Places required	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	
Need	14	-69	- 125	-92	-46	7	- 95	6	
Forest impact	- 100	-90	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Need plus Forest	-86	- 159	- 125	-92	-46	7	- 95	6	
Other Years	-30								
<b>Places in existing capacity</b>									
	91								
<b>Places in refurbished / new capacity</b>									
Places		180	150	90	60				
<b>Balance</b>	-25	21	25	- 2	14	7	- 95	6	

### Indicative construction programme (places built and "banked" for future years)

									Total
Others		180	150	90	90		54		
<b>Total places</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>534</b>
<b>Budget</b>									
Average cost per place (2% pa)	£12,000	£12,240	£12,485	£12,734	£12,989	£13,249	£13,514	£13,784	
Cost	£0	£2,203,200	£1,872,720	£1,146,105	£779,351	£0	£729,753	£0	<b>£6,731,129</b>
Rounded	£0	£2,200,000	£1,900,000	£1,100,000	£800,000	£0	£700,000	£0	<b>£6,700,000</b>
Current budget		£ 500,000	£ 500,000	£ 968,000	£ 968,000	£ 968,000			<b>£ 3,904,000</b>
Variation		-£ 1,700,000	-£ 1,400,000	-£ 132,000	£ 168,000	£ 968,000	-£ 700,000	£ -	-£ 2,796,000

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## CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2021/22 WORK PROGRAMME

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	PURPOSE OF REPORT	REASON FOR CONSIDERATION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER / CONTACT OFFICER
15 September 2021	Education update	Overview of work with schools reflecting on previous term's activities.	Challenge item	Children's Services/ Sal Thirlway
	Secondary School Sufficiency	To consider the sufficiency of secondary school places.	Challenge item	Children's Services/ Sal Thirlway
	CSO&S Forward Plan	To consider the forward plan of the Committee.	Standing item	Democratic Services/ Luciane Bowker
DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	PURPOSE OF REPORT	REASON FOR CONSIDERATION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER / CONTACT OFFICER
4 November 2021	Missing Children not in education	To consider the issue of children missing education.	Challenge item	Children's Services/ Sal Thirlway
	Resource base units at schools – sufficiency review	To consider the sufficiency of school places.	Challenge item	Children's Services/ Sal Thirlway
	Children's Services Strategy	To review the service's strategy.	Challenge item	Children's Services/ Carol Cammiss

	<b>CSO&amp;S Forward Plan</b>	To consider the forward plan of the Committee.	Standing item	Democratic Services/ Luciane Bowker
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>REASON FOR CONSIDERATION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER / CONTACT OFFICER</b>
<b>10 January 2022</b>	<b>Education update</b>	To review the work with schools.	Challenge item	Children's Services/ Sal Thirlway
	<b>Fostering Strategy</b>	To review the strategy.	Challenging item	Children's Services/ Adam Davis
	<b>Early Years' Service review</b>	To review the provision of Early Years, including pre-school planning of provision.	Challenging item	Children's Services/ Sal Thirlway
	<b>CSO&amp;S Forward Plan</b>	To consider the forward plan of the Committee.	Standing item	Democratic Services/ Luciane Bowker
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>REASON FOR CONSIDERATION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER / CONTACT OFFICER</b>
<b>21 March 2022</b>	<b>Adoption services</b>	To review the adoption services.	Challenging item	Children's Services/ Adam Davis
	<b>CSO&amp;S Forward Plan</b>	To consider the forward plan of the Committee.	Standing item	Democratic Services/ Luciane Bowker

Currently unscheduled topics:

- Youth service

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