

## Wokingham Borough Secondary Schools Strategy 2017-2020

---

### A Executive summary

The strategy considers needs in the period from 2017 to the 2020/21 Academic year; between the end of the previous secondary strategy (the 2016/17 academic year) and the formal adoption of the new Local Plan scheduled for 2019.

It looks at the borough as a whole, broken down into North and South Secondary Planning Areas and at issues that are specific to individual schools and communities. It looks at the impact of housing growth and considers how other factors, such as cross border movement, changing admission arrangements and new initiatives such as Free Schools and Grammar Schools could affect the need for school places.

It has a focus on mainstream education, so does not consider specialist provision for children with higher levels of Special Education Needs.

The core recommendation is that the demand may rise so it becomes necessary to agree or create additional capacity. Specifically 100 additional Year 7 places may be required in the strategy period from 2019/20 (which need not be in additional or new permanent accommodation) split between the north and south areas. This is subject to growth being in line with the higher numbers in the strategy projections. Associated with this is a need for preparatory work to create 270 new permanent places through school expansion to begin (based on 60 places per year in permanent accommodation) to commence for delivery outside the strategy period.

This capacity can be created through partnership working with existing schools and an action plan is set out to monitor rolls and deliver capacity in a timely manner if required.

### B Current position

#### Current Position Summary

This section sets out what the strategy sets out to achieve (purposes and objectives), the context and the role of a local authority.

It goes on to establish the current provision, projected future rolls, the impact of housing development and the importance of cross border movement. It considers all these factors at a borough and local (north and south areas) level.

The analysis shows that depending on changes to the level of cross border movement and the impact of new housing there may be a need for additional capacity towards the end of the strategy period. It recommends a prudent response of timely contingency planning.

Finally it considers a number of factors that bear on the need for school places, including the forthcoming Local Plan, the need to consider the Bohunt Wokingham School sixth form requirements and nationally promoted new schools such as Grammar and Free Schools.

### Purpose and objectives of this Strategy

This strategy sets out Wokingham Borough Council Council's Secondary Place Strategy, for 2017 to 2020 (the 2019/20 academic year). It sets out the expected need for school places

and proposed responses for the secondary sector (age 11 to 18) in the Wokingham Borough Council area. It succeeds the Wokingham Borough Secondary School Provision Strategy adopted by Wokingham Borough's Executive on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2013 for the period from 2013 to the 2016/17 academic year. The relatively short period covered by the Strategy is established by the need for the strategy for the period after 2019 to be consistent with the Local Plan that is currently in development.

The 2013 to 2016 Strategy established the need for a new secondary school in Arborfield. This has been delivered and the Bohunt Wokingham Borough School offers 240 places per year from premises with a current capacity of 1,200 places with planning consent for a further 300 places.

The aim of this Strategy is to ensure there are sufficient secondary school places in good or outstanding schools, where possible with walking distance of home to meet the needs of Wokingham Borough Council resident children. This is in accordance with the priorities established in the Wokingham Borough Council Plan Update 1.2.16 to "improve educational attainment and focus on every child achieving their potential" and in line with the adopted Core Strategy Development Plan.

The Strategy has the following objectives:

- To ensure that there are sufficient places available for pupils, in outstanding schools.
- To ensure that parental preferences are met to the greatest possible extent consistent with the elements of this policy.
- To ensure more children can walk and cycle to school consistent with the objectives in the Council's Sustainable Environment Strategy.
- To support the delivery of the objectives established in the Council's Core Strategy and maximise the opportunities that the Strategic Development Locations (SDLs) provide.

To achieve these objectives schools should be established to offer a broad and balanced curriculum at all three secondary key stages (ages 11 to 18). They should be able to meet the needs of all pupils up to the age of 16 (including those with Special Education Needs) and, post 16, at least able to offer a sustainable academic (A level focus) curriculum for 60% of the planned initial admission number. As far as possible (given the need for efficient and effective education) they should be within walking distance of pupils' homes.

To help ensure that places are accessible the strategy looks at:

- The borough as a whole
- North and South Wokingham Borough (the north is Earley, Woodley and communities north of Wokingham Town, the South is the shared area served by the Wokingham Town schools)
- Individual communities that may be served by oversubscribed schools that may not be able to meet local needs.

The strategy considers school place needs in the light of other WBC strategies. Of particular importance is the borough planning framework set out in the Core Strategy. The Local Plan is currently being refreshed with a view to adoption in 2019 and it is anticipated as this will impact on the demand for secondary school places. The end point of this strategy is intended to coincide with the adoption of the Local Plan to ensure the plan only deals with provision in a period that has an established land use plan.

It considers briefly the potential impact of the proposed new legislation concerning Grammar Schools that is expected to be introduced in the life of the next parliament and of the Free School programme that is currently being delivered.

This document identifies the background and supporting evidence leading to the recommendations. It also considers the continuing actions that will be required in the light of the changing pattern of the pupil population.

## Context

The number of children and young people requiring secondary school places is currently increasing in the Borough. The available evidence is that this trend is set to continue throughout and beyond the Strategy period. This is the consequence of an increased number of live births in the Borough, and migration into recently completed residential developments. Large scale planned development is expected to lead to a continuation of this trend. As well as rising demand, the geography (distribution) of secondary school provision and cross border movement of pupils are also factors that drive this strategy.

The ability to walk (or cycle) to school is a guiding principle. This helps reduce traffic congestion, provides health benefits and will lead to lower revenue spend by Council on home to school transport. By law the Council must provide transport where a child cannot walk to school. The statutory maximum walking distance is 3 miles, measured along a safe walking route (assuming the child is accompanied as necessary) and can include footpaths, bridleways and some roads without adjoining pavements. The opening of the new Bohunt Wokingham School in Arborfield means that only smaller communities in rural areas do not have a school within walking distance.

The strategy must take account of the high volume of cross border movement. To a large part this is a legacy of Berkshire County Council, with schools in Wokingham Borough Council (Bulmershe and Maiden Erlegh) serving communities in the Reading area and Bracknell Forest's Edgbarrow School in Crowthorne serving much of Wokingham without Ward. Other movements (both into and out of the borough) are also significant – as an example Yately school in Hampshire educates a number of Wokingham Borough Council resident children. Demographic and school provision changes in neighbouring boroughs are therefore also important factors for Wokingham Borough Council. Not only does the borough face challenges from rising demand, the movement of pupils and the distribution of schools, but the nature of school governance and management is changing. New and many long standing schools are now Academies and as such are largely independent of the local authority. This impacts on how the Borough can work with its partners and other agencies to develop new provision. It also means these schools become their own admissions authorities and could choose to set arrangements that provide priority to children living in communities in other local authority areas.

The Strategy identifies the key forces affecting the need for secondary school places, and proposes options for ensuring that there are sufficient school places available in all the necessary areas of the Borough. These key issues can be summarised as follows:

- The rising trend in the number of live births in the Borough seen until 2012 has worked its way through the primary sector and the impact is now being seen in the secondary sector.
- The long term need for places will be substantially affected by the planned new housing developments. The Borough's Core Strategy for the period 2006 to 2026 plans for 13,000 new homes over this period, largely in four new Strategic Development Locations (SDLs). A proportion of these homes have now been built and all four SDLs have active housing development sites contributing to a housing trajectory of over 700 new homes per year. The Strategic Housing Market

Assessment for Berkshire 2015 states an Objectively Assessed Need figure of 856 homes per year. The figures underpinning the projection use a lower rate of 500 homes (split 10% to the north and 90% to the south) to minimise the risks of double counting (children captured in the projection and generated by new homes).

- The high level of movement of pupil both within Wokingham Borough Council and between different boroughs. Long standing patterns may change though as new secondary schools open and the impact of rising demand for secondary school places across Berkshire impacts on established community and school relationships. Cross-border movement may be more restricted in the future as a result of a growing population in part due to new housing developments. As demand rises many schools will increasingly only admit from their local area, so reducing the number of places available to pupils crossing borough boundaries. This will impact in the future on the ability of parents to gain places for their children at their preferred schools.

## Local Authority role

Local Authorities have a continuing duty to ensure there are sufficient school places for children of statutory school age under the Education Act 1996. New schools are presumed to be Academies or Free Schools under S6A of the Education and Inspection Act 2006 (as modified by the Education Act 2011) and the majority of secondary schools have now converted to Academy status. This means that any change to school capacity (except for the small number of remaining Community Schools) has to be negotiated with the DfE and schools and cannot be imposed.

There are two ways in which local authorities can support the development of new schools.

Firstly, they can promote new schools under the “Free School Presumption” process. Under this arrangement the authority meets both capital costs and revenue start-up costs and through a competitive process makes recommendations to the Regional Schools Commissioner (who works for the Secretary of State for Education) as to who should become the school sponsor.

Secondly, they can support other bodies (such as parents or other Academy Schools) to promote their own Free School proposals. If these bodies are successful with their Free School bids they will receive start-up funding and have their premises provided by the DfE. This does though carry a number of risks as the local authority has a much lower level of control over the entire process. It cannot guarantee when (or if) premises will be available, it cannot exercise significant influence over the choice of Free School sponsor, it would be subject to the continued interest of the sponsor and would have less influence over critical issues such as school size and admissions arrangements.

School expansion decisions are taken by the local authority for community schools after a statutory consultation process. Expansion of Academies would be with the agreement of the DfE and the Academy Trust, with an expectation that revenue and capital funding would be provided by the local authority.

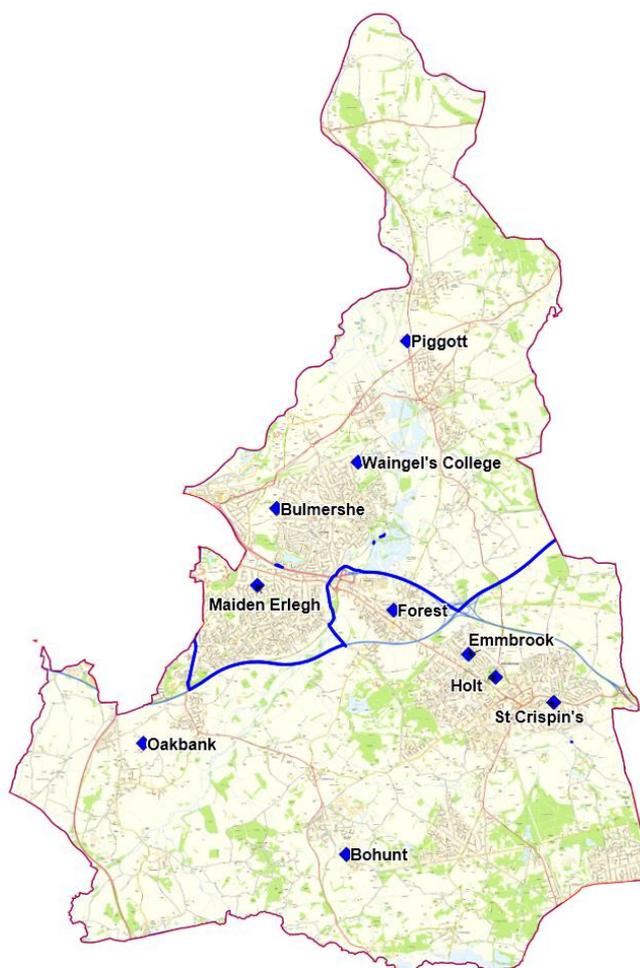
## Present Provision

Wokingham Borough Council has 10 secondary schools:

6 in South Wokingham Borough (Forest School for Boys, Holt School for Girls, Emmbrook School, St Crispins School, Oakbank Free School and the new Bohunt Wokingham School.

4 in North Wokingham Borough (Maiden Erlegh School, Bulmershe School, Waingels College, and the Piggott School)

Of these Emmbrook, St Crispins, and Bulmershe schools are maintained schools while other schools are Academies or Free Schools.



© Crown Copyright and database right 2014 Ordnance Survey 100049222

School	Area	Capacity	Admission Number
Bulmershe (Community)	N	1,383	240
Maiden Erlegh (Academy)	N	1,788	278
Piggott (Academy)	N	1,338	203
Waingels College (Academy)	N	1,500	240
Bohunt Wokingham (Free School)	S	1,200	240
Emmbrook (Community)	S	1,219	210
Forest (Academy)	S	1,208	200
Holt (Academy)	S	1,209	210
Oakbank (Free School)	S	560	112
St Crispin's (Community, converting to Academy)	S	1,123	189
<b>Total</b>		<b>12,528</b>	<b>2,122</b>

Note St Crispins will increase its Admission Number to 200 from 2018/19

## Rolls within the Strategy period

The strategy begins with analysis of demand for school places. This is based on:

**Roll projections**

**+**

**Housing development impacts.**

**+**

**Cross Border movement changes**

**=**

**Forecast Need**

### Roll projections

These are created by applying the historic proportions of the year 6 rolls of all Wokingham Borough Council primary or junior schools arriving in the following year's Year 7 in a particular secondary school to the projected Year 6 rolls to generate projected Year 7 rolls. Other projected year groups are generated by applying historic cohort survival rates (the percentage change in the size of a year group as it ages by one year) to current and projected future year groups. A swell factor is applied to each school's projected year 7, representing the proportion of children who arrive who were not previously on the roll of a Wokingham Borough Council primary level school (in the main this represents out of borough children).

Changes such as the impact of new housing are captured through the impact on the transition and cohort survival rate, provided that the rate of future housing growth matches the historic levels.

This projection uses the summer allocations data for September 2017 places. This is subject to significant variation until September, but ensures the projections take account of the impact of the new Bohunt Wokingham School, offering (and filling) as it does 240 places and the increased popularity of Bulmershe School.

As a projection this is not a forecast. The model does not mimic the impact of the admissions arrangements (for example in limiting the number of children admitted to a school) and in itself takes no account of changing rates of new home construction

Appendix one sets out some additional information.

## **Housing development impacts**

In parts of the borough new housing construction rates significantly exceed historic home construction rates and an allowance is made for the additional children generated by the new homes.

As most development is in the south (associated with the four SDL areas) and only Woodley is seeing significant volumes of house building in the north, the additional pupil impacts are split 10% to the North and 90% to the South areas

## **Cross Border movement changes**

The interest here is in factors that may lead to either an increased out or in flow of children from other boroughs. The most significant inflows are into Maiden Earley and Bulmershe Schools from parts of Reading and to Edgbarrow School in Bracknell Forest from Wokingham Without on the fringes of Crowthorne.

The projection includes an element for pupils who were not previously on the roll of a WBC primary school. Almost all these children will live in neighbouring boroughs. The projections are shown (for Year 7 only) with WBC resident and Out of Borough resident children separated out.

Over the three year life of the strategy it is assumed there will be no changes to cross border movement. This is the “highest pressure” scenario as there are good grounds to take the view that a more credible scenario is that recruitment of out of borough children by Wokingham Borough Council Schools will fall as local (Wokingham Borough Council) demand rises but that existing admissions arrangements protect Wokingham Borough Council children’s access to a number of out of borough schools. The base line data – 2017 admissions round data – has been chosen because this includes the impact of Bohunt School (recruiting to 240 pupils and offering a school within walking distance to a number of south Wokingham Borough communities for the first time) and the increased popularity of Bulmershe School, recruiting to full capacity for the first time.

## **Borough level**

The borough level need assessment considers:

- The total roll projection
- The Year 7 roll projection
- School capacity
- Housing development
- Cross border movement impacts

The analysis shows that even with the opening of the new Bohunt Wokingham School in Arborfield demand could rise to close to capacity (4% margin) in the life of the strategy and that there is a need for contingency plans to offer an increased number of year 7 places. This is based on:

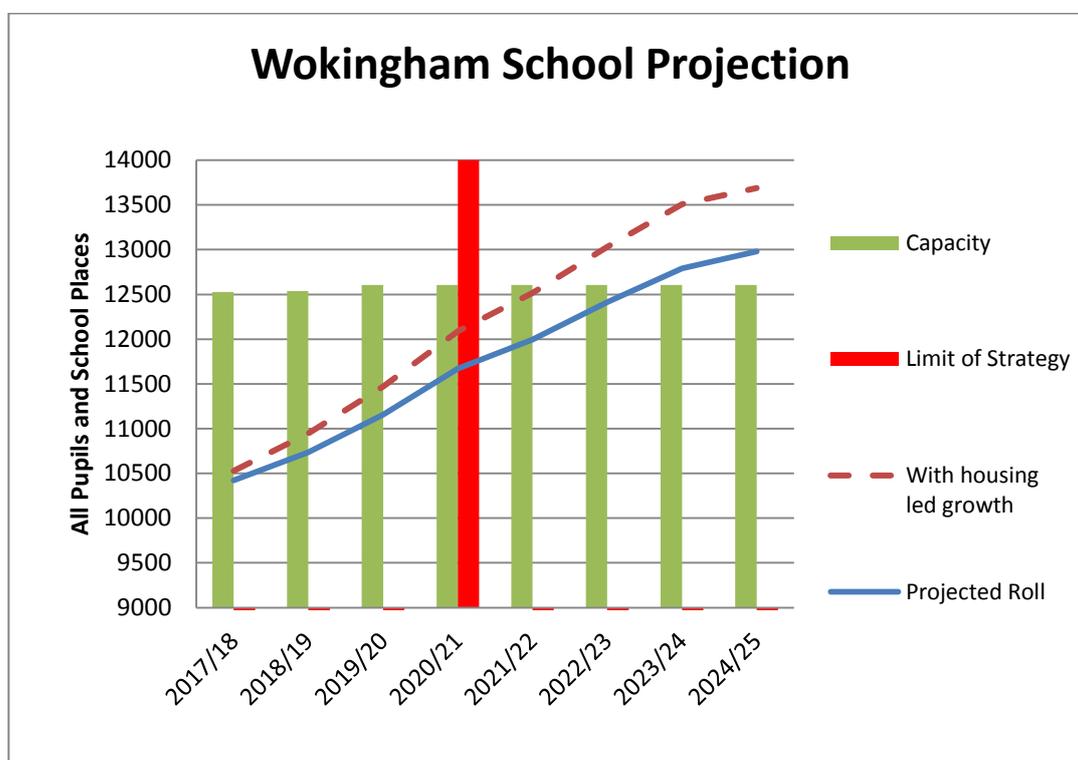
- A rising roll, as the increased numbers of children in the primary sector work their way into secondary schools.
- The impact of new homes on Wokingham Borough pupil numbers.
- No significant changes to the rate of cross border movement

The new homes impacts are necessarily uncertain, as they depend on the rate of new home construction remaining high and on new families arriving from outside Wokingham Borough with secondary age children. Historically the housing market has been intensely cyclical with significant periods of low house building rates locally and nationally, while ONS evidence indicates most migration into the borough is of younger primary school age children. While in the long term housebuilding will undoubtedly have a major impact on the demand for school places, the impact in the period of the strategy will be limited.

Cross border movement is, as established above, a major factor in the demand for school places. It is assumed that this will remain constant in this period as no changes or potential changes have been notified that will increase demand in Wokingham Borough. One impact of rising demand could be that as more schools become oversubscribed pupils living in areas further from these schools will find they cannot be offered preferred Wokingham Borough schools and will be offered school places closer to home.

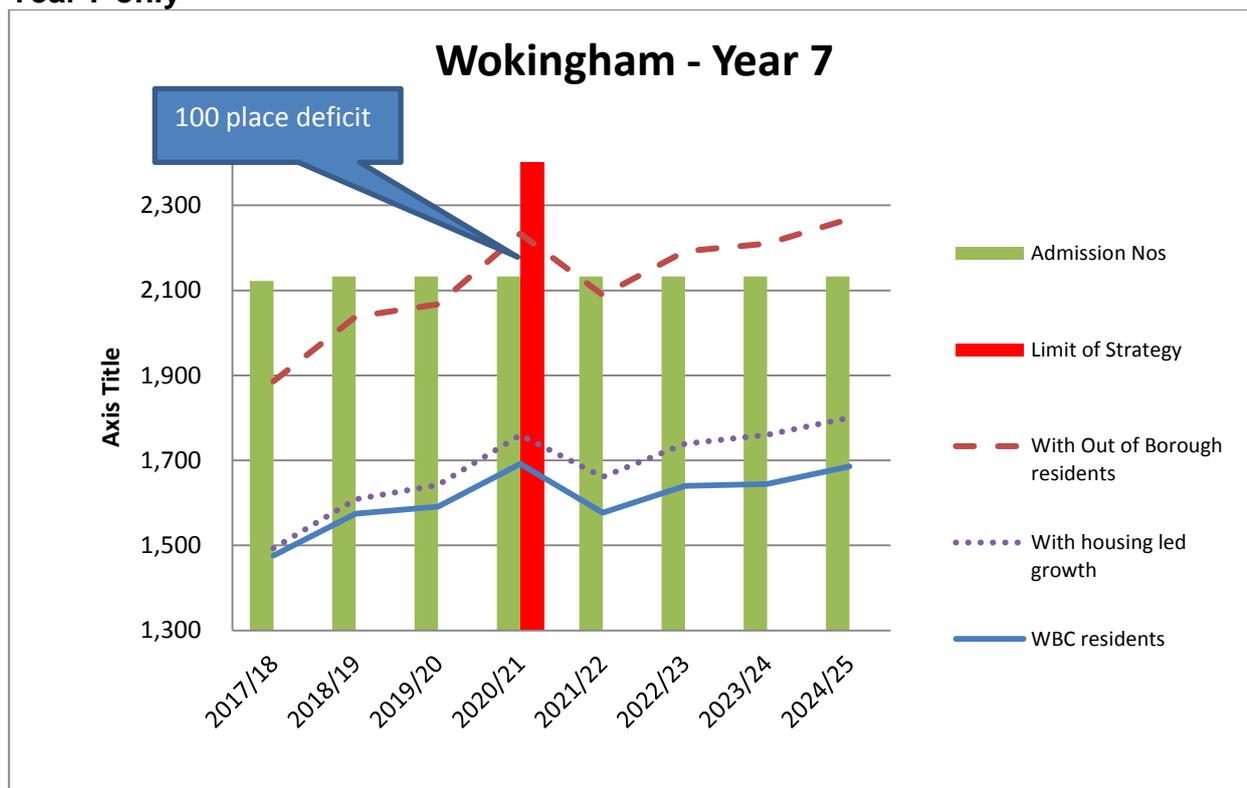
### *Future need for school places*

#### **Secondary sector projection**



The projection indicates that demand could rise to be a close match to place availability over the period of the strategy. In the longer term (after 2021) demand could outstrip capacity. It is therefore important that one action during the strategy period is the development of plans to increase capacity from the 2021/22 academic year.

Year 7 only



Year 7 is of particular interest because the most significant changes in demand can be expected to be those working their way through from the primary sector.

The year 7 projection indicates that Wokingham Borough Council may need to agree 100 additional year 7 places for 2020/21. However cross border movement of children from neighbouring boroughs into Wokingham Borough Council Schools accounts for a high proportion of the total roll. Therefore the normal operation of the admissions arrangements does mean that the proportion of non-Wokingham Borough Council resident offers can be expected to fall as local demand rises and in turn this could lead to all Wokingham Borough Council children receiving local offers, without additional capacity being required. In this scenario it would be important that there were undersubscribed schools to provide local headroom for families moving into the area and to provide places for children who could not be offered any of their preferred school places. Note here that under the Greenwich judgement neither Wokingham Borough Council or “own admissions authority” schools (Academies and Free Schools) can discriminate against out of borough applicants or reserve places for Wokingham Borough Council resident. They can give priority to children living in specific designated areas or by distance and both measures will tend to give Wokingham Borough children priority for Wokingham Borough schools.

Note that while initially additional year 7 places may not require capital investment (because under-utilised secondary school accommodation can be brought into play) permanent school growth will require capital investment.

So the Year 7 projection indicates the need to agree contingency plans for 100 additional year 7 places from 2020/21, preferably leading into permanent expansion schemes required from 2021/22. These will only be required though if it is clear that the proportion of out of borough offers to in-borough offers is maintained.

### *Development impact*

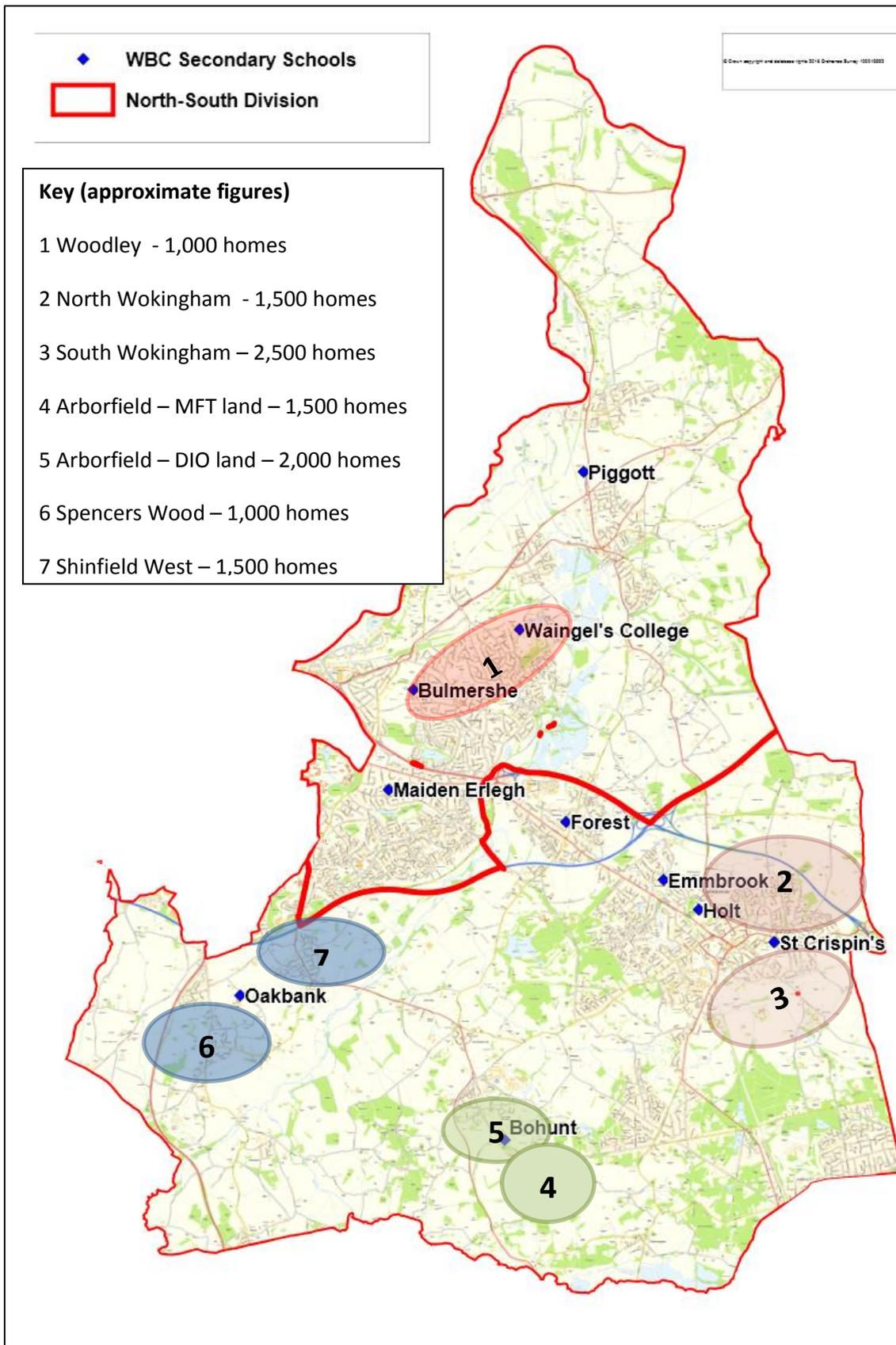
The development map below shows the major development locations in the borough.

The interest here is the likely scale of development throughout the life of the strategy. The roll projection model effectively captures the impact of recent house building rates through cohort survival and primary to secondary school transfer rates. Roll growth due to new housing lead to cohorts increasing in size as they age and this percentage change is captured in the model. Given the number of sites that are now active across the borough it is assumed that housing construction will be in the order of 1,000 homes per annum but that 50% of the increase is captured by the roll projection model. The current high rate of house building can occur because developers have sites with planning consent they could not build out during the economic downturn. Furthermore all the SDL sites are in the south areas, while only Woodley has a number of larger scale development sites that are currently active. There is a nominal 10% North / 90% South division in the housing impact figures.

<b>Year</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>Borough Total</b>
2017	11	95	106
2018	21	190	211
2019	31	283	314
2020	42	375	417
2021	52	467	519
2022	62	556	618
2023	72	645	717
2024	71	639	710
2025	70	633	703

**Table of number of additional pupils across all year groups generated by new housing.**

## Major housing development sites in the strategy period:



## Cross border movement

As noted above cross border movement is a significant issue. Although movements in and out come close to matching at a whole school level they are driven by different factors and therefore the level of movement and the ratio between in and out flows could change significantly in this period.

One effect of rising demand could be that cross border movement reduces as Wokingham Borough Council children, living closer to WBC secondary schools or living in their designated areas will have priority over Out of Borough children in the admissions process and as a consequence all WBC children will receive offers without any increase in capacity. Although the converse (Wokingham Borough resident children unable to secure places at out of borough schools) could also be true, nearly 70% of out of borough offers to Wokingham Borough resident children were to schools with admissions arrangements that normally work to favour some Wokingham Borough residents over many children living in a host borough. This includes admission to the two grammar schools (where high rates of prior attainment can be expected to correlate with admission to the schools) , Edgbarrow School where priority is given for most Wokingham Without residents and Ranelagh, with a faith based priority arrangement.

The tables below show cross border movement and movement between the two Wokingham Borough Council planning areas (north and south) in 2016 and 2017. They are derived from “snapshot” admissions data, so both 2016 and 2017 cross border movement will evolve further. The greatest changes however occur up until the point at which children are admitted to secondary school.

Although admission arrangements are outside the scope of a school place strategy these will be kept under review through the on-going annual admissions arrangement setting and review process to ensure that the rights of Wokingham children are protected.

### 2016

Count of App. Reference		School location →			
Home area	↓	North schools	South schools	Out of Borough schools	Total children by area
North home address		740	75	93	908
South home address		33	726	216	975
Out of Borough address		128	124	2	254
<b>Total Rolls</b>		<b>901</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>2,137</b>
Total in Wokingham Borough Council Schools		<b>1,826</b>			

### 2017

Count of Stud ID		School location →			
Home area	↓	North schools	South schools	Out of Borough schools	Total children by area
North home address		714	55	95	864
South home address		27	771	193	991
Out of Borough address		166	136	6	308
<b>Total Rolls</b>		<b>907</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>2,163</b>
Total in Wokingham Borough Council Schools		<b>1,869</b>			

The data shows:

- That the North and South division of the borough works because over 90% of offers are to schools that are in children's home areas.
- The significance of cross border movement, both into Wokingham Borough Council and out of Wokingham Borough Council schools:
  - 11% of Wokingham Borough North area pupils allocated places in other boroughs
  - 20% of Wokingham Borough South area pupils allocated places in other boroughs
  - 18% of the intake of Wokingham Borough North area schools from out of borough
  - 14% of the intake of Wokingham Borough South area schools from out of borough

Behind the area picture there are specific school issues.

- Movement into the north area is predominantly to Bulmershe school (108 out of 166 or 65%) with lesser movement to other schools.
- Conversely movement out of the North area is predominantly to Reading Grammars (55 out of 86 or 64%)
- Movement into the South area is predominantly to Oakbank (58 out of 136 or 43%) with just under 30 children to Forest and Bohunt schools)
- Conversely movement out of the South area is predominantly to Edgbarrow School (99 out of 193 or 47%) with lesser movement to other schools.

The data shows that there are different factors driving cross border movement. Movement out is to schools where Wokingham Borough residents have some degree of protection compared to many children living in the local authorities within which the relevant schools are sited. The Reading Grammars and Edgbarrow school have admissions arrangements that in effect will continue to give priority to some Wokingham Borough resident children (while these arrangements are maintained). Reading Grammars give priority based on scores in their entry tests and many Wokingham Borough children perform well in these and Edgbarrow has a designated area that includes a significant part of the Wokingham Borough Without Parish.

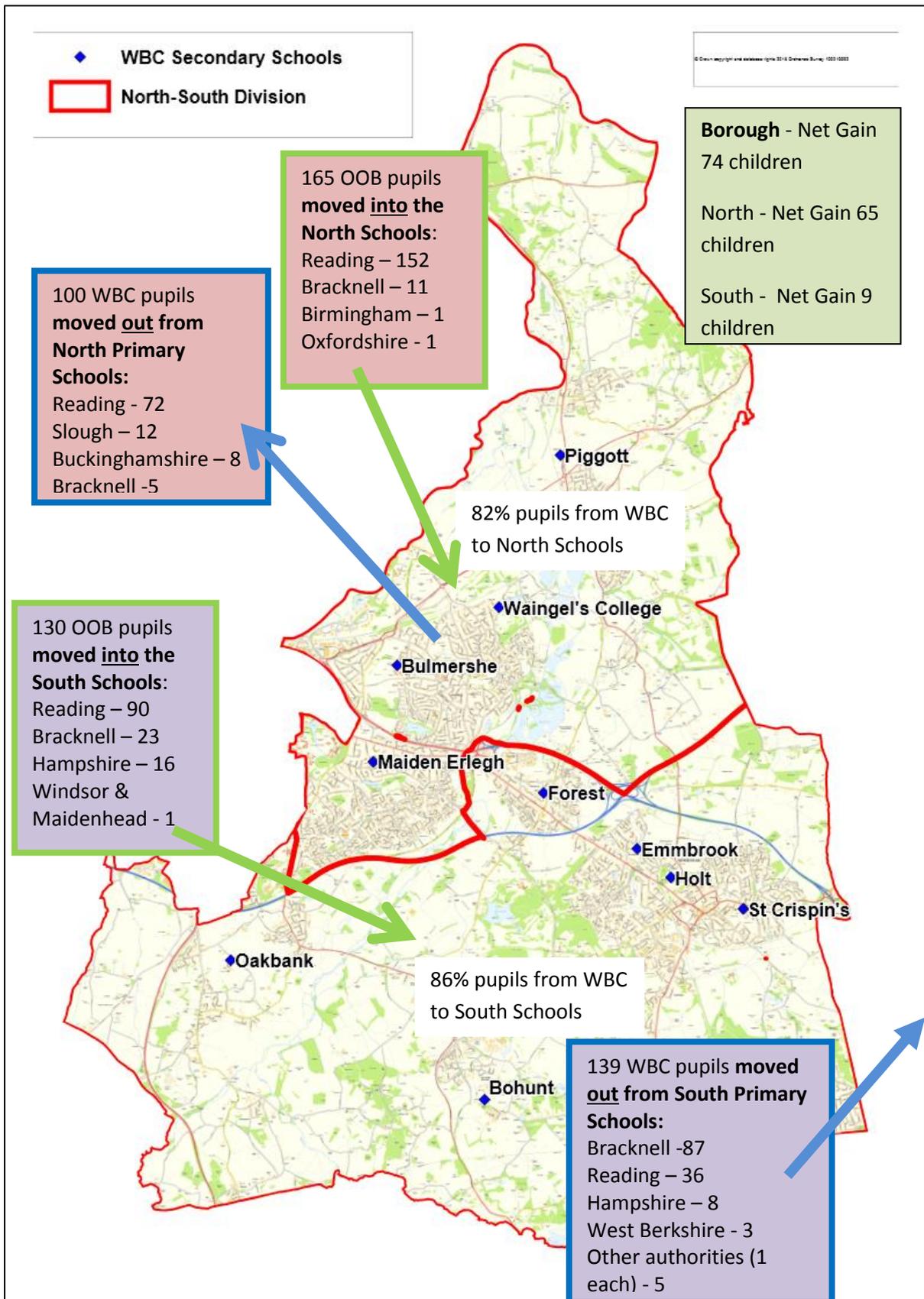
Movement in to Wokingham Borough schools is predominantly to community schools and if demand increases in those parts of Wokingham Borough closest to the schools (and in their designated areas), Wokingham Borough resident children will have a degree of priority over out of borough children. While Bulmershe School has a designated areas that includes parts of Reading, in fact most of the out of borough admissions are to children who do not live in the designated area.

In short admissions arrangements are important and it would be in the interest of Wokingham Borough families to seek to maintain current arrangements in most cases.

The diagram on the next page below looks at cross border movement from the perspective of primary schools attended. It paints a similar picture, but with reduced rates of apparent

movement out because in many peripheral areas children already attend primary schools in the local authority areas where the allocated secondary schools are located.

**Cross-border movement:**



### *Capacity requirement over the strategy period*

The table below shows how standard roll projections, combined with additional housing led growth could lead to a diminishing level of surplus capacity.

	Projected Roll (11 to 18)	Housing led growth	<b>Total Need</b>	Capacity	<i>Surplus (+) / Deficit (-)</i>	<i>%ge surplus capacity</i>
<b>2017/18</b>	10,422	106	<b>10,528</b>	12,528	<i>2,000</i>	<i>16%</i>
2018/19	10,736	211	<b>10,947</b>	12,607	<i>1,592</i>	<i>13%</i>
2019/20	11,156	314	<b>11,470</b>	12,607	<i>1,137</i>	<i>9%</i>
2020/21	11,670	417	<b>12,087</b>	12,607	<i>520</i>	<i>4%</i>

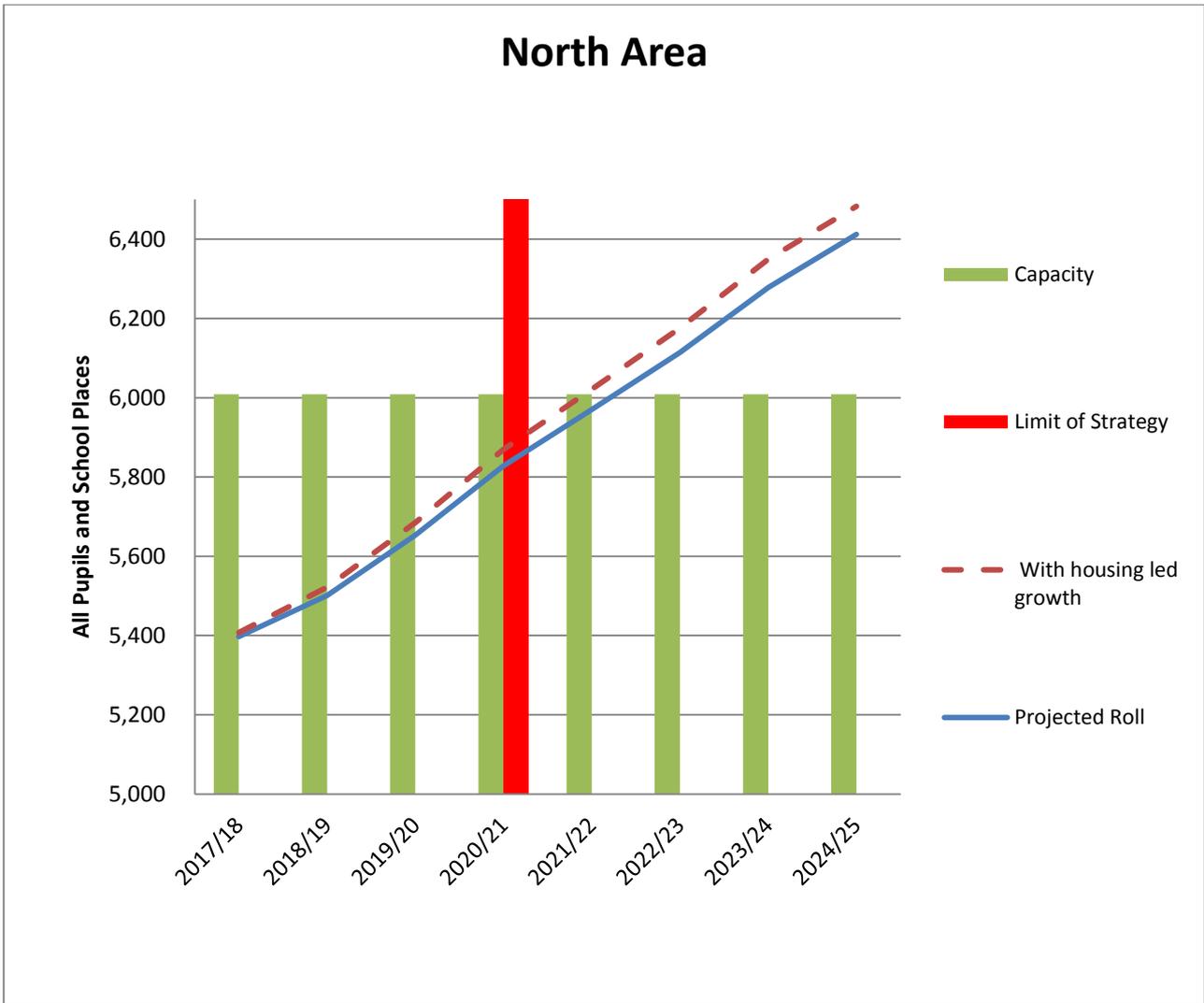
The DfE recommend a 5% surplus figure, and the surplus only fall below this figures because of the possible impact of new housing towards the end of the projection period. Without the housing impact, the surplus would be 7% - a figure that requires no remedial action.

However, the Year 7 position is one where there could be a need for 100 places, dependent on the balance of cross border movement and the impact of new housing. This is clearly a possible not firm need so the prudent step is to prepare timely contingency plans.

## North Wokingham Borough

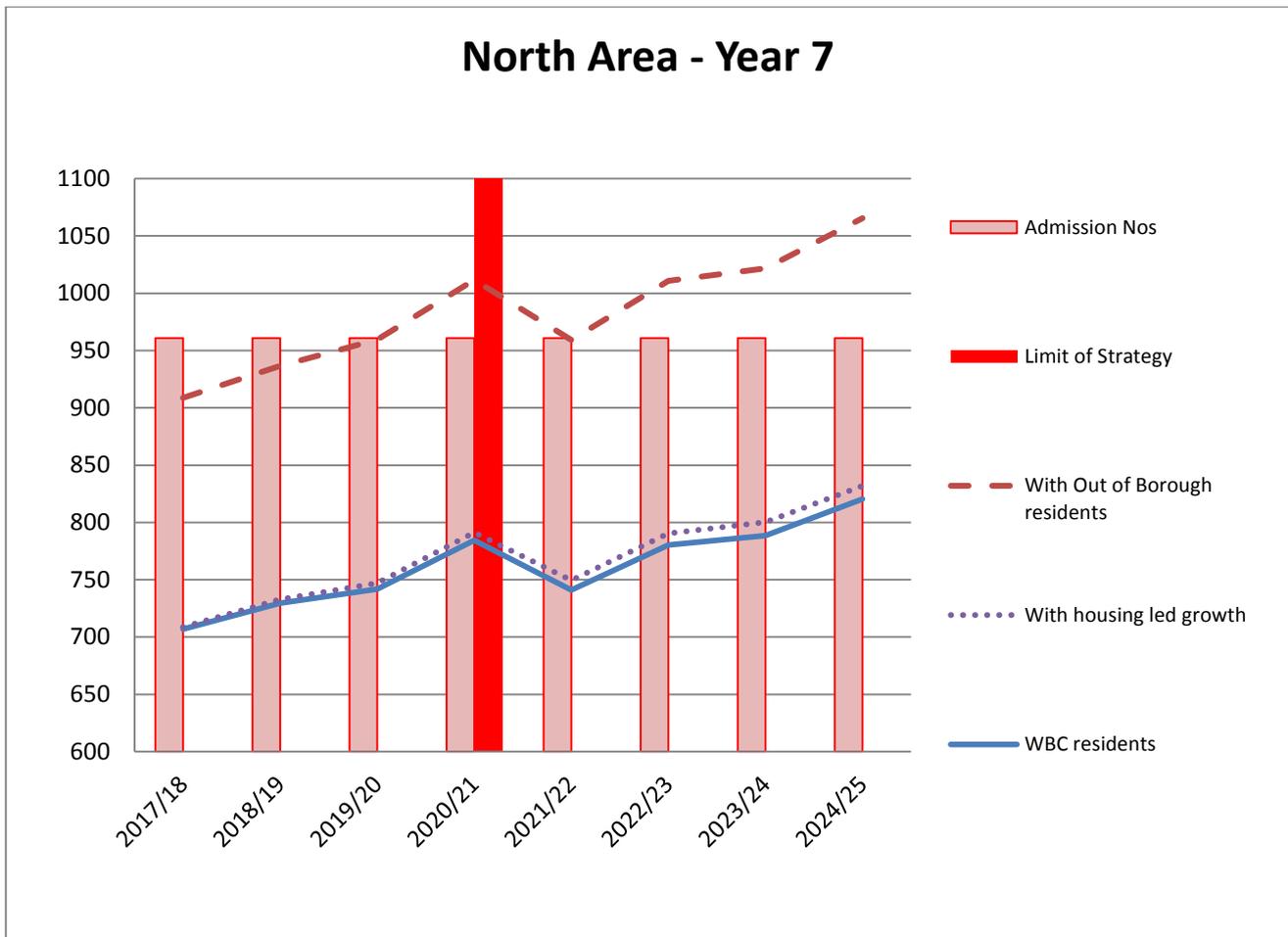
The projection indicates there will be sufficient capacity within the strategy period.

North	Projected Roll	Housing led growth	Total need	Capacity	Surplus (+) / Deficit (-)	%ge surplus
2017/18	5,397	11	5,408	6,009	601	10%
2018/19	5,501	21	5,522	6,009	487	8%
2019/20	5,653	31	5,685	6,009	324	5%
2020/21	5,828	42	5,870	6,009	139	2%
2021/22	5,970	52	6,022	6,009	- 13	0%
2022/23	6,114	62	6,176	6,009	- 167	-3%
2023/24	6,278	72	6,350	6,009	- 341	-6%
2024/25	6,412	71	6,483	6,009	- 474	-8%



**Year 7 position**

The projections indicate that there is a need for contingency plans for 60 additional year 7 places from the 2018/19 year, albeit at no point does the projection indicate that demand from WBC resident children will exceed capacity. While a proportion of these out of borough children live in the designated area of North area schools, the majority do not so the normal action of the admissions process may well ensure places continue to be available to Wokingham Borough resident children.



**School / community level issues:**

Two schools are very popular and have been oversubscribed for many years - Piggott and Maiden Erlegh.

**Bulmershe School** – has become popular in 2017 and is effectively fully allocated. Offer data for 2017 shows that 105 offers were to children living outside the school’s designated area, strongly indicating capacity to meet needs generated by local population growth, including in the parts of the designated area in the Reading area. Note though that admitting children to the current admission number may create a requirement for additional capacity from 2020/21 onwards as the current assessed net capacity is less than the roll that will be generated if the school continues to recruit to its admission number.

**Waingels College**– is the only school with Year 7 capacity. This school has not historically recruited children from out of borough, possibly reflecting the good links to the neighbouring area but greater distance from the borough boundary than either Bulmershe or Maiden Erlegh Schools (the school is over 3 miles walking distance from Cemetery Junction in Reading, for example).

Growth in the primary sector has led to the establishment of a new school in Charvil and the expansion of five other schools. Of these only Colleton Primary School in Twyford will see an expanded year group (an additional 25 pupils) leave the primary sector for secondary schools in the strategy period (Hawkedon Primary School in Earley has also expanded but

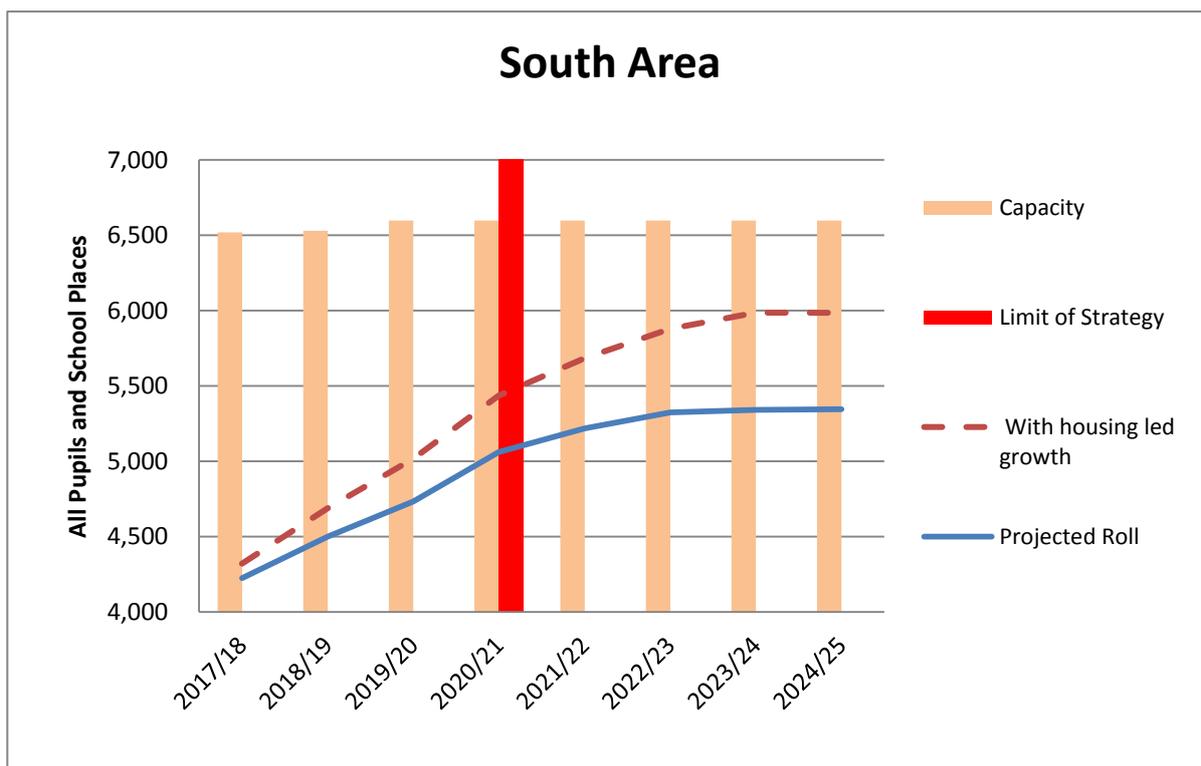
the school filled quickly and expanded year groups are already entering the secondary sector). The analysis does not indicate this growth is sufficient to warrant school expansion in the strategy period.

### South Wokingham Borough

#### Overall capacity position

The projections indicate there sufficient capacity over the life of the strategy, reflecting the impact of the opening of the Bohunt Wokingham School in Arborfield

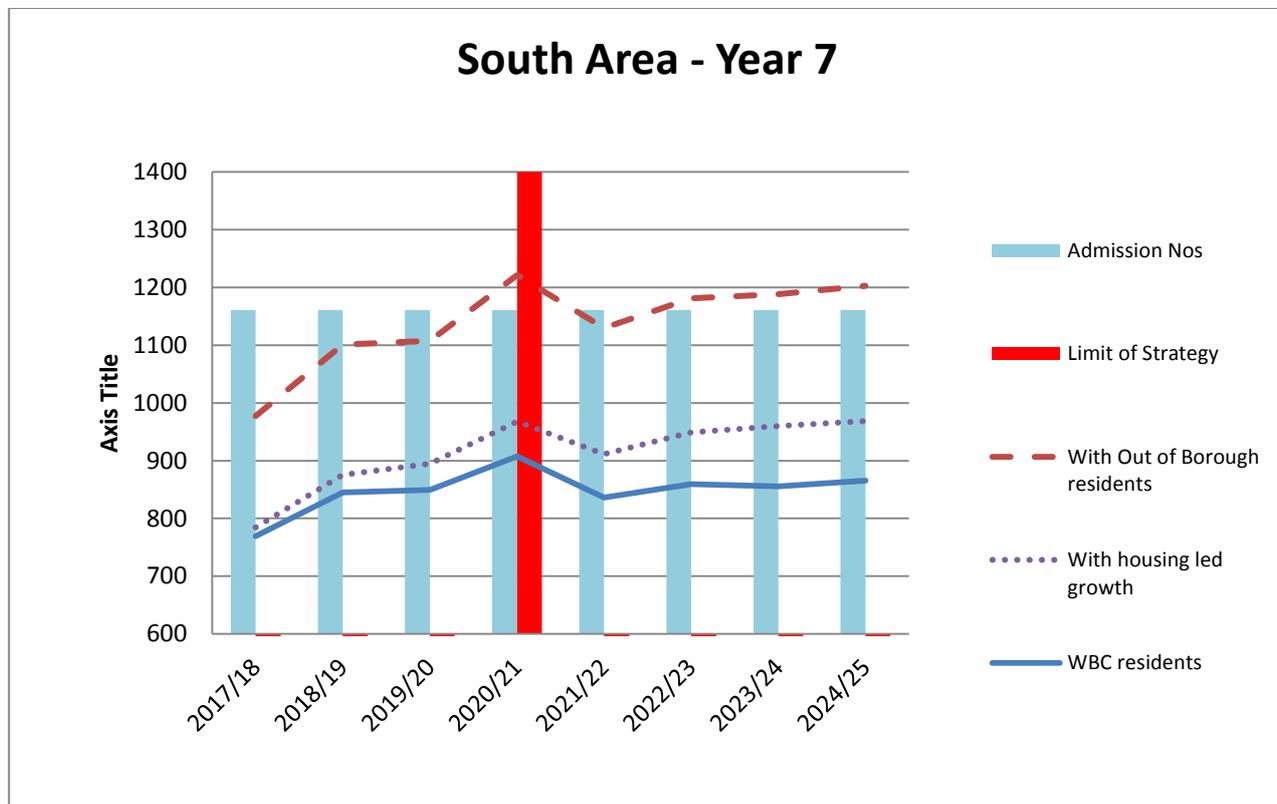
SOUTH	Projected Roll	Housing led growth	Total need	Capacity	Surplus (+) / Deficit (-)	%ge surplus
<b>2017/18</b>	4,225	95	4,320	6,519	2,199	34%
2018/19	4,500	190	4,689	6,530	1,841	28%
2019/20	4,733	283	5,016	6,598	1,582	24%
2020/21	5,062	375	5,437	6,598	1,161	18%
2021/22	5,218	467	5,684	6,598	914	14%
2022/23	5,324	556	5,880	6,598	718	11%
2023/24	5,341	645	5,986	6,598	612	9%
2024/25	5,346	639	5,984	6,598	614	9%



#### Year 7 position

While the school level projection indicates there is sufficient capacity the year 7 projection indicates there could be a shortfall of 60 places by 2020/21. This does however reflect a projected continued inflow of children from outside the borough into South area schools and housing led growth. This points to a need for contingency plans for 60 additional Year 7 places, from 2020/21 onwards. The accommodation capacity should be available in existing schools at that point, and in the two years immediately after the end of the strategy period,

so there may not be a need to begin to plan for capital investment to create capacity in the strategy period for implementation after 2020/21. However, this capacity is only available in a few schools. Schools that are fully subscribed, where expansion would be in accordance with parental preference and which may include schools that offer better opportunities for growth than other schools would need additional accommodation to provide sustained growth from 2020/21 onwards.



### Key local issues

This is an area of very active housing growth so it will be important to monitor the impact of new homes throughout this period. All four Strategic Development Locations are in the South, all of them have planning consents for at least part of the sites (only the South Wokingham SDL has land without at least outline planning consent) and all of them have active house building sites.

A number of secondary schools have significant site constraints that present challenges to expansion. Only **St Crispins School** has known potential, because of the recent work that has been undertaken to develop a new sixth form centre and ASD unit.

Cross border movement is an important issue for a number of schools and communities.

**Wokingham Without** Ward homes on the edge of Crowthorne are dependent on access to **Edgbarrow School**. This is the only school that can provide places that are accessible by walking or cycling so it is important this link is maintained.

Although **Shinfield** is an area of rapid residential development it is likely to be a number of years before the community size significantly exceeds the capacity of the local school, **Oakbank**. The school has an admission number of 112, but already the primary schools in the Shinfield area have admission numbers totalling 150 and the schools planned in the SDL could bring this to 210 primary places per year in the near future.

## **Other issues to be managed during the strategy period**

There are a number of development activities that will be required in the strategy period.

### **Local Plan Preparation**

The Council is preparing a new Local Plan to comply with National Planning Policy Framework requirements. This will determine the geographical pattern of development beyond 2026. However, since it will effectively supersede the existing Core Strategy any developments agreed in the Plan can be progressed as soon as the strategy is adopted (although developers are not bound to follow the plan timetable and can seek planning consent for any site whatever its status in our Local Plan at any time, but are more likely to gain consent from the Council if the site is designated for development).

### **Bohunt Wokingham Sixth form**

Bohunt Wokingham School needs a capital commitment towards the end of the plan period to open a sixth form in the 2021/22 year, to meet the Post 16 education needs of the pupils admitted in September 2016 on site. The current premises have planning consent for a building for 1,200 pupils, which was intended to be for an 11 to 18 school. The Bohunt Trust have decided though to offer 240 places, which means the current capacity is expected to be exhausted in the 2020/21 academic year.

It will therefore be important to work with the Bohunt Education Trust to determine the timetable for future investment in the scheme.

### **Grammar Schools**

Although not in the last Queen's Speech the national Conservative manifesto included proposals to allow new Grammar Schools and other forms of selection based on academic ability. From a school organisation perspective, this has the potential to unpick some of the analysis conclusions. This could lead to existing schools recruiting children from different geographical areas and the creation of new schools in or near the Wokingham Borough area drawing in Wokingham Borough children.

It is possible that existing schools or individual promoters and may be able to bring forward proposals under current (or future) legislation during this period. The speed of delivery would depend on the nature of the proposals – so proposals that relate to existing schools or available premises could be implemented within the strategy period but proposals that rely on the acquisition of sites and the construction of premises are likely to impact after 2020.

### **Free Schools, UTCs and Studio Schools**

These schools would normally be developed without significant council involvement. No new secondary Free Schools have been agreed to open in the strategy period within or near the Wokingham Borough area. There is no requirement for potential Free School sponsors to discuss plans with the Council at an early stage though and consultation can occur shortly before approval. Therefore a Free School must be considered a possibility in this period, albeit the impact is likely to be a significant level of surplus capacity in the short term. Free schools have been developed in a number of premises, including former office blocks and the National Planning Policy Framework presumption in favour of school developments may lead to planning approval where other uses might be resisted.

UTC (University Technical Colleges) and Studio Schools are examples of relatively small schools intended to serve a specific part of the secondary phase. These schools may not offer age 11 to 16 or 18 education and may serve wider areas (including a number of local authorities) than the majority of mainstream secondary schools.

## C Response options

### Response options summary

This section sets out how additional capacity can be delivered, how it can be funded, managed, parents and other stakeholders engaged, what risks are entailed, and finally sets out an action plan.

### Delivering additional capacity

While the Bohunt Wokingham School at Arborfield is expected to deliver sufficient capacity over the initial period to the 2019/2020 academic year there is a need to develop contingency plans in the event that pupil numbers are significantly higher and additional capacity is required. It is likely that the growth of existing schools will be central to these plans.

Contingency arrangements for additional Year 7 places are required, but these would not necessarily entail expansion of premises. The initial expectation is that contingency arrangements will be based on delivering additional capacity at existing schools, rather than the creation of a new school in this period.

It is known that St Crispins School could deliver additional capacity in the south (subject to planning consent and the agreement of the school's governing body). It is an action point from the strategy to work with schools to consider their potential for expansion in a timely manner if the upper limit of the projection is seen in practise.

This work will look at a number of potential constraints, including site area, site characteristics (flood potential, heritage concerns), school run traffic and on-site parking and school aspirations.

School run traffic in particular is a matter of considerable concern across the borough. Road improvements, new drop-off areas, new car parking, parking controls and more onerous school travel plan obligations would be required. Delivery of this mitigation would be challenging and so these all present obstacles to expansion.

Schools will also have different aspirations for their future size. It is not a given that every school will see expansion as appropriate.

In line with national policy it is a presumption of this strategy that any new school would be an Academy or Free School. In line with current national policy all capital and revenue start up costs need to be met by this authority if this school is defined as one being created to address or prevent a shortfall in provision. Capital funding would come from a number of sources including S106, CII and DfE Basic Need. If the school is founded as a Free school in response to a parent led or promoter led application to increase the diversity of local need start up costs (both revenue and capital) will be met by DfE.

### Funding the Strategy

The main capital funding sources for new secondary provision are as follows:

Developer contributions to meet the additional infrastructure needs arising from the SDLs. Currently these payments and provision are made through planning obligations (known as Section 106 contributions) but future payments made to meet secondary school needs will be through the Community Infrastructure Levy (or CIL).

Funding for Free Schools and Academies is provided directly from the Department for Education (DfE) through the Education Funding Agency (EFA) except where these are required to meet “Basic Need” (rising demand).

Basic Need funding from the DfE to Wokingham Borough to meet needs generated by demographic growth. In the short term this is required to enable expansion in primary school provision (as described in the primary strategy presented to the Executive in October 2012).

Some funding may be required from the Borough’s own capital funding resources.

Devolved capital funding and Building Condition funding from the DfE are more limited, but could assist with issues associated with some school expansions.

The funding routes for three recent secondary schools illustrate how the sources can interact:

#### **a) Oakbank School**

Oakbank opened in September 2012 as a new Free School Academy. It has been established through a partnership between the West of Wokingham Parents Group and the CfBT Education Trust. Initial capital and revenue funding was provided by the DfE as above. As the site was a former school site it was made available to the new school at a peppercorn rent.

#### **b) Reading UTC**

The new Reading UTC school is a University Technical College, which is a new category of school, for the 14 to 19 age range directly funded (capital and revenue) by the DfE. The UTC recruits from a wide area.

#### **C) Bohunt Wokingham Borough**

The new Bohunt Wokingham School was built using a variety of funding streams, that include Basic Need funding from DfE, receipted S106, and other capital sources, all held by the Council.

## **Management of expansion**

The expansion of existing and the establishment of new schools will require a partnership approach with existing schools. This will be developed through the Schools Forum, where decisions relating to arrangements for financial support for new and expanded schools are agreed.

## **Public engagement and consultation**

No public engagement is proposed in the short term in view of the finding that no additional capacity is required at this stage. However, if the demand does increase towards the limit of current capacity there will be a need to engage with all stakeholders at an early stage. Without being proscriptive these will include:

- Schools

- Parents (including future parents of secondary age children)
- Parish and Town Councils
- Other local community representatives
- Diocesan authorities
- Neighbouring local authorities

## Risks

The key risks to the development of suitable secondary school provision in the Borough have been described in detail throughout the report. They can be summarised as follows:

Risk	RAG rating	Mitigation
Changing admission arrangements for schools or changes in their local populations in other boroughs lead to a significant reduction in the number of children securing places in out of borough schools		Responsible officers will continue to monitor proposed new admissions arrangements. Where these disadvantage WBC residents and can be challenged officers will object to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator.
The rate of secondary age population growth exceeds the rate underpinning the projection		The development of contingency arrangements for additional school places proposed under the strategy provides appropriate mitigation.
That new and unplanned for providers enter the local market and provide popular places that create surplus capacity in existing schools.		A new secondary school of sufficient size to cause significant difficulties for local schools would need a large site and would take a number of years to establish. It is likely this could only occur towards the end of the strategy period so no mitigation is proposed.

## Indicative Action Plan

Pending agreement to this Strategy, the following programme of activity is required

Year	Activity
2017	WBC to formally adopt strategy
2018	<p>Dependent on growth matching or exceeding expectations, enter discussions with relevant schools for contingency arrangements for Year 7 classes.</p> <p>This will entail engagement with schools individually and collectively, through the Schools Forum (for funding) and the Secondary Federation.</p> <p>This will determine each school's interest in expansion and the issues they would see as being important in this process.</p> <p>Initial feasibility work for school expansion should commence in this period. This would require an assessment of school expansion capacity through a survey of site areas, facilities and constraints. This would require liaison too with the Council's Planning and Highways Development Management teams to determine which sites are most suited to development and what the site specific challenges would be.</p> <p>During this period development work will be light touch – dependent on short visits and site plans and the intention would be to identify those schools where projects would be developed in detail in later years, subject to actual demand emerging.</p>
2019	<p>Determine support for Bohunt Wokingham sixth form expansion in light of capital position, need and other funding opportunities available to the school.</p> <p>Review rolls versus capacity. If demand rises in line with projections (with housing impacts and cross border movement rates maintained) enter into detailed discussions with schools and (if appropriate) begin formal feasibility work (as defined by RIBA) on specific projects identified in 2018.</p>
2019/20	Dependent on growth matching or exceeding expectations, identify and carry out feasibility work necessary to support future expansion.

# APPENDICES

## Appendix 1 Data Sources

### Data

Three key data sets are used to look at likely future demand:

- Roll projections are derived from historic trends for transfers to secondary schools from the primary sector.
- Residential growth figures come from the Borough's Core Strategy. The impact (numbers of secondary age pupils "generated") should be considered to lie within a wide band, dependent on housing growth.
- Cross border movement data (derived from analysis of admissions data). Some of this movement results from planned designated areas crossing LA boundaries. Some movement also arises from individual decisions regarding opting for preferred schools.

### Roll projections

The graphs included in paragraph 4 of the report are taken from the Borough's roll projections. As new schools have no history to indicate their likely pattern of movements judgements have been made about their impacts on existing WBC school rolls. The new 11-16/ 11-18 schools will draw both from current WBC schools and from schools in neighbouring areas, if they are popular.

The Year 7 graph re-iterates the point that provided the new schools are opened according to the anticipated timetable sufficient places will be available. There is however a need for rapid delivery as rising primary numbers will work their way very shortly in to the secondary sector.

These projections are based on current trends and patterns, which are only reliable if they continue to hold good in future years. Past experience has shown that these are highly likely to be subject to change.

A range of possible variables and variations between models can lead to different outcomes. Examples of such changes and alternative approaches to longer term forecasts include:

- The rate in growth in number of children of statutory school age could be less than the rate of growth in the number of homes. Demographers indicate that average household sizes may decrease in the medium (up to 10 years) to long term (10years+). This is understood to be an impact of an aging population.
- Different models for the changing age structure in new housing developments have a major impact on the number of places required.
- Demographic projections could be used to create longer term roll projections. Standard ONS (Office of National Statistics) projections are of limited value, as they do not take account of all future residential growth. Work continues to develop an improved roll projection model using demographic projections that take account of planned residential growth.
- Projections need to consider variations between local and national (and regional) patterns of household occupation. As Wokingham Borough is an area popular with families there are (and we can reasonably assume there will continue to be) higher numbers of children per household than are seen in other areas.