

Notice of Meeting

Schools Forum

Martin Gocke (Pupil Referral Unit Representative (Governor))
(Chairman)
Stuart Matthews, Academy School Representative (Headteacher)
(Vice-Chairman)
Sue Butler, Early Years PVI Provider
Liz Cole, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Jane Coley, Academy School Representative (Headteacher)
Karen Davis, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Peter Floyd, Special School Representative (Governor)
Keith Grainger, Secondary School Representative (Headteacher)
Jo Lagares, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Roger Prew, Primary School Representative (Governor)
Leslie Semper, Academy School Representative (Headteacher)
Phil Sherwood, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Debbie Smith, Secondary School Representative (Headteacher)
Richard Stok, Primary School Representative (Governor)
Greg Wilton, Teacher Union Representative



Also Invited:

Councillor Dr Gareth Barnard, Executive Member for Children,
Young People & Learning

Thursday 14 January 2021, 4.30 - 6.30 pm

Zoom Meeting

Agenda

Item	Description	Page
1.	Apologies for Absence/Substitute Members	
	To receive apologies for absence and to note the attendance of any substitute members. Reporting: Joanna Gibbons	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
	Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary or affected interests in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting. Any Member with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a matter should withdraw from the meeting when the matter is under consideration and should notify the Democratic Services Officer in attendance that they are withdrawing as they have such an interest. If the Disclosable Pecuniary Interest is not entered on the register of Members interests the Monitoring Officer must be notified of the interest within 28 days. Any Member with an affected Interest in a matter must disclose the interest to the meeting. There is no requirement to withdraw from the meeting when the interest is only an affected interest, but the Monitoring Officer should be notified of the interest, if not previously notified of it, within 28 days of the meeting. Reporting: ALL	

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3.	Minutes and Matters Arising	3 - 6
	To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of 10 December 2020. Reporting: ALL	
4.	School Places Plan and Capital Strategy 2021-25	7 - 46
	To present the School Places Plan and Capacity Strategy 2021-25. These were last approved by the Executive in January 2020 and have now been updated to cover the five-year period from 2021 to 2025. Reporting: Chris Taylor	
5.	Update on the 2021-22 High Need Block Budget	47 - 60
	To provide an update on the development of the 2021-22 High Needs Block element of the Schools Budget. Reporting: Kashif Nawaz	
6.	Final Proposals for the 2021-22 Schools Block and Central School Services Block Elements of the Schools Budget	61 - 86
	To present final proposals from the Council for the 2021-22 Schools Block and Central Schools Services Block elements of the Schools Budget. There is also an update on the Early Years Block where uncertainty on national funding arrangements means that final budget proposals will now be presented to the Forum in March, rather than now as originally intended. Reporting: Paul Clark	
7.	Consultation on 2021-22 Budget Proposals from the Council	87 - 112
	To present for comment a summary of the Council's budget proposals for 2021/22 with a particular focus on the impact expected on the People Directorate, as agreed by the Executive on 15 December 2020. Reporting: Paul Clark	
8.	Dates of Future Meetings	
	The next meeting of the Forum will be held at 4.30pm on 11 March 2021. Reporting: Joanna Gibbons	

Sound recording, photographing, filming and use of social media is permitted. Please contact Derek Morgan, 01344 352044, derek.morgan@bracknell-forest.gov.uk, so that any special arrangements can be made.

Published: 6 January 2021

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**SCHOOLS FORUM
10 DECEMBER 2020
4.30 - 5.20 PM**

Present:

Martin Gocke, Pupil Referral Unit Representative (Governor) (Chairman)
Stuart Matthews, Academy School Representative (Headteacher) (Vice-Chairman)
Sue Butler, Early Years PVI Provider
Liz Cole, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Karen Davis, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Peter Floyd, Special School Representative (Governor)
Keith Grainger, Secondary School Representative (Headteacher)
Roger Prew, Primary School Representative (Governor)
Debbie Smith, Secondary School Representative (Headteacher)
Richard Stok, Primary School Representative (Governor)

Observer:

Councillor Dr Gareth Barnard, Executive Member for Children, Young People & Learning
(Observer)

Apologies for absence were received from:

Jo Lagares, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Phil Sherwood, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)

161. Apologies for Absence/Substitute Members

The Chair welcomed Sue Butler from Plus Three Nurseries to the Forum who was replacing Michelle Tuddenham. Neil Davies had resigned from the Forum and the position was to be filled by Jo Lagares.

A Headteacher from an Academy had expressed an interest in joining the Forum and there was a vacancy for an Academy School representative. The Headteacher had been given Paul Clark's contact details who would follow up.

162. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

163. Minutes and Matters Arising

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Forum on 19 November 2020 be approved as a correct record.

Arising from minute 157, Paul Clark advised that he had not yet completed the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Management Template. However, the Council was complying with Department for Education (DfE) expectations and there was no deadline from the DfE for submission. Paul Clark was planning to ask a couple of members to assist in agreeing what presentation format of the Management template

would be useful for members and the Chair suggested that some members of Sub-Group could assist.

Arising from minute 159, Paul Clark explained that the motion outlined in the minutes had been submitted to the DfE in draft form. The Forum was asked to ratify that comment.

RESOLVED to RATIFY the submission that:

“The Schools Forum strongly supports the representations that Bracknell Forest Council is making to the DfE to continue this mode of funding which has already provided benefit for the pupils in Bracknell Forest Schools”.

164. Improving Leadership and Governance over High Needs Funding Block: Terms of Reference for the Schools Forum Sub-Group

The Forum considered a report which updated on the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Schools Forum Sub-Group. This group was set up to work with the Local Authority (the LA) to quantify the current pressures on the high needs budget and identify solutions.

The Forum asked whether all the comments made by the Forum were integrated into the TOR. Kashif Nawaz confirmed that all comments were incorporated. There were some matters arising relating to procedural functionality and resourcing of the group which would be discussed with the Chair of the Sub-Group.

RESOLVED to APPROVE:

1. the terms of reference set out in Appendix 1 of the report; and
2. the appointment of Jenny Baker, Headteacher of Kennel Lane School as the Chair of the Sub-Group from 1 January 2021 to 31 August 2022.

165. 2021-22 Budget proposals for the Schools Block and Central School Services Block Elements of the Schools Budget

The Forum considered a report which presented updated proposals for the 2021-22 Schools Block (SB) and Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) elements of the Schools Budget. Associated decisions needed to be agreed at this meeting to ensure progress was made in meeting the 21 January 2021 statutory deadline for agreeing the budgets.

Paul Clark explained that most decisions had already been taken but the Forum was now able to consider the provisional data from the October 2020 school census and centrally managed budgets. There had not been many changes and it was still forecast that there would be around a £0.400m shortfall in the budget available for schools with proposals managing the previously reported £0.080m shortfall in centrally managed budgets set out in the report.

There had been an average increase in eligibility for free school meals (FSM) of 17%. This created an unfunded budget pressure for 2021-22 of £0.094m but was likely to be just for one year as the 2022-23 DSG funding rates would include the new numbers. It was expected that the entitlements and costs could reduce as the economy recovers.

The report set out proposals to manage the budget gap and alleviate local pressures which was complicated by the outstanding decision awaited from the secretary of state in use of council funds to support school budgets through the agreed medium term funding strategy. If the secretary of state refused, another option was a

temporary funding swap with the £20 per pupil contribution to LA statutory education related duties.

In terms of the additional £0.094m pressure from additional FSM eligibility, Paul Clark advised that it was appropriate to use Reserves to fund this, as it was only a one-year pressure.

Table 2 of the report showed that, after all proposed funding options were applied, there was an expected SB funding shortfall of £68,000. Paul Clark explained that this could change once the DfE provides the final data set, but no significant differences were expected. To meet the £68,000 shortfall, the Forum was also asked to consider top-slicing National Funding Formula (NFF) rates. However, due to the number of schools on the protected Minimum Per Pupil Funding (MPPF) values, the burden of financing that would be met by only 21 of the 36 BF schools which meant that to recover the same amount of funding as in 2020-21, the rate of deduction was likely to need to be around twice the amount.

The Forum asked whether the data wash would work in BF schools' favour or against. Paul Clark replied that there was not any consistency with that. However, Paul did not think there would be any significant changes.

The Chair queried whether there was likely to be any comeback from the DfE for doing the switch with the £20 contribution. Paul Clark clarified that it was a local arrangement and the council would not need DfE permission to do that; the council had the power to make that decision.

RESOLVED

1. to AGREE

- i that the final budget proposals for the 2021-22 budget, to be presented to the Forum in January, are in accordance with principles included in the supporting information, as summarised in Table 1 of the report, and in particular that:
 - a. no changes are made to the Start-up and diseconomy funding policy for new and expanding schools (paragraph 6.18 of the report);
 - b. the Growth Fund, including appropriate elements is set at the amount reported in Annex 1 of the report;
 - c. budgets for de-delegated services are increased by 1% (paragraph 6.24 of the report); and
 - d. the CSSB budget, including appropriate elements is set at the amount reported in Annex 2 of the report; and
- ii For April 2022, there should be at least £1m in Reserves to fund the medium-term cost of new schools (current balance is £1.155m).
- iii Ordinarily, a maximum of £0.250m is withdrawn each year from Reserves.
- iv With the increased risk associated with the secretary of state not agreeing use of council funds to support school budgets, the remaining Reserves of £0.409m should be a first call on any funding pressure.
- v If the secretary of state refuses use of council funds to support school budgets, then a temporary funding swap with the £20 per pupil contribution to local authority statutory education related duties should take place. The effect of this being maintained mainstream schools would retain the £20 per pupil deduction that is ordinarily taken and the income the council ordinarily received from this source would instead be met from the council's Reserve to support school budgets. This amounts to circa £0.230m per annum.
- vi The £0.094m increase in FSM funding allocations to schools that will not be matched by an increase in DSG, can be considered for funding from the Unallocated Schools Budget Reserve as it is one-off in nature. The allocation

- from Reserves would then exceed the expected £0.250m annual maximum but remains affordable within the minimum £1m Reserves balance objective.
- vii A top slice to NFF rates should then be considered, although if the additional cost of increased FSM eligibilities is met from Reserves, then any top slice should be applied equally to all factors in the BF Funding Formula; and,
2. to NOTE
- i the significant increase in numbers of schools on the protected MPPF values – 42% of schools compared to 19% in 2020-21 – results in the burden of financing any agreed top slice to NFF funding rates to be met by only 21 of the 36 BF schools (paragraph 6.27 of the report);
 - ii that the 2020 Spending Review confirmed no significant changes to previously announce funding levels for education and schools, with the overall increase in funding remaining at £2.2bn (paragraph 6.41 of the report); and
 - iii the DfE are expected to publish a policy document by the end of December to set out proposals to move to a “Hard” formula with limited LA involvement with associated consultation documents at the start of the new year (paragraph 6.8 1.f of the report).

166. Dates of Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Forum would be held at 4.30pm on 14 January 2021.

Kashif Nawaz had sent out revised dates for the Schools Forum Sub-Group.

CHAIRMAN

TO: SCHOOLS FORUM
DATE: 14 JANUARY 2021

TO: EXECUTIVE
DATE: 09 FEBRUARY 2021

SCHOOL PLACES PLAN AND CAPACITY STRATEGY **Executive Director, People**

1 PURPOSE OF DECISION

- 1.1 To approve the School Places Plan and Capacity Strategy 2021-25. These were last approved by the Executive in January 2020 and have now been updated to cover the five-year period from 2021 to 2025.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **To approve the School Places Plan and School Capacity Strategy 2021-25 in the attached Appendix A.**

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Council has the statutory duty to provide sufficient school places.
- 3.2 The School Places Plan and Capacity Strategy are the essential tools employed by the Council to meet this duty.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None, it is business critical to undertake pupil forecasting to ensure the Council meets its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places.

5. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Context

- 5.1 Bracknell Forest is moving from a time of scarcity of school places to a time of surplus school places. Whilst secondary school numbers on roll are still rising, the birth rate and corresponding primary school intake numbers are decreasing across the Borough.

School Places Plan and Capacity Strategy

- 5.2 The School Places Plan and Capacity Strategy is attached as Appendix A, which forecasts demand for school places for;
- Early Years
 - Primary
 - Secondary

Unrestricted

- Post 16
- SEN

Sufficient School Places

- 5.3 Forecasts indicate that there will be sufficient school places across all mainstream sectors and in all planning areas to meet the forecast demand.

Costs and Funding – Capital

- 5.4 The DfE allocates capital grant funding for the delivery of additional school places on data submitted by local authorities in the annual Surplus Capacity and Places return (SCAP). The Council is unlikely to receive DfE capital Basic Need grant (BNG) in future years because of the current surpluses of school places.
- 5.5 If proposed new primary school at Bucklers Park (formerly TRL) is built, then the Council will incur capital costs associated with overseeing the developer construct process estimated at £700k. Pupil yields from the new housing at Bucklers Park have been much lower than previously anticipated and unless pupil yields rise, there is no forecast need for this school to be built during the 2021-25 forecast period.
- 5.6 The proposed new primary schools at Amen Corner South and Warfield East have been put on hold, however agreements have been proposed as part of the S106 negotiations with the developers to keep the options to build the schools open up until 10 years after the commencement of each development allowing for these new schools to be built in future years if required. The land and construction costs would be expected to be provided as part of the future S106 agreements yet to be agreed.
- 5.7 The previously committed growth of Kings Academy Binfield will entail the Council paying the capital cost for furniture and equipment for the future classrooms as these come on stream between 2021 and 2024. Financing is in place for these costs.
- 5.8 There are projects on the 2020/21 BFC Capital Programme to re-order school accommodation totalling £657k to facilitate future reductions in PANs and to support school improvement. The DfE does not allocate capital grant to remove surplus places and these schemes have therefore been funded by the council.
- 5.9 The cost of creating additional SEN facilities required as part of this SPP is currently being financed from DfE specific grant for increasing SEN places (Special Provision Capital Fund). This is expected to be insufficient to finance the costs of some of the larger schemes currently being developed which will therefore be subject to bids of council funding through future capital programmes.

Costs and Funding - Revenue

- 5.10 If the proposed new primary schools at Bucklers Park (formerly TRL), Amen Corner South and Warfield East are not built then there may be abortive capital costs equivalent to the expenditure so far incurred in the design of these new schools amounting to £126k. This would be financed from the balance held in the earmarked reserve created for this purpose.
- 5.11 In general, opening new schools creates a significant revenue pressure as schools tend to be built towards the start of housing developments and then fill up with pupils as building continues over a number of years. During these initial years after opening,

additional costs are incurred as schools have relatively low pupil numbers and relatively high per pupil costs. These costs are not fully funded by the DfE and therefore place a pressure on budgets for all schools in the LA.

- 5.12 Schools are supported in their financial planning by providing a five-year income budget forecast based on the pupil forecasts in the SPP. The financial model to schools has been adapted to present the most recent October census to align to the DfE budget setting requirements.
- 5.13 Where pupils are offered a school place involving travel distances to school exceeding 2 miles for primary aged pupils or 3 miles for secondary aged pupils, Home to School Transport costs are paid by the Council. Parents are not however eligible for Home to School Transport if they have been offered a school place within the distance, but instead choose to take up a place at a school beyond the distance. Having surplus places reduces the likelihood that Home to School Transport will be incurred.

6. ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

The local authority has a statutory duty under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to ensure sufficiency of school places in its area. The Plan attached is intended to ensure compliance with this legal requirement.

Director of Finance

- 6.1 The revised pupil forecasting model, has, as expected, increased the accuracy of the data which in turn will improve decision making in respect of capital investments in schools. The current forecasts indicate a sufficiency of places, however, if new schemes are required, including those associated with new SEN facilities and the removal of surplus places they will be presented for a decision through the council's normal budget setting process.

Director of Place, Planning & Regeneration

- 6.2 The School Places Plan recognises the need to review the addition of Primary Schools at Bucklers Park, Warfield East and Amen Corner South. These were all identified as part of the Site allocations Local Plan. It will be important that the opportunity to secure these schools at a later date is not lost if pupil forecasts see a rise in numbers above current forecast levels.
- 6.3 The Draft Local Plan identifies the potential need for additional primary provision at the Jealott's Hill site, this will be important to serve this new community and reduce the need to travel for primary age children. At this time, it is considered that there is unlikely to be the need for new secondary provision as part of the draft plan. However, this matter will be kept under review.

School Sufficiency Board (SSB)

- 6.4 SSB were consulted by email on 17/12/20, and comments received have been incorporated into the body of the report.

Capital Programme Steering Group (PSG)

6.5 PSG were consulted by email on 17/12/20, and comments received have been incorporated into the body of the report.

Schools Forum

6.6 SSB were consulted at their meeting on 14/01/21.

Diocesan Authorities

6.7 The Oxford CE Diocese and Portsmouth RC Diocese were consulted by email on 17/12/20.

Equalities Impact Assessment

6.8 SEN forecasts are included in the SPP. Compliance with needs for disabled access to new build school accommodation is achieved through Part M of Building Regulations. The requirement for disabled access to existing school buildings is set out in the Equality Act and the Council makes accessibility works a priority in its Planned Works programme for schools, details of which are set out in the Asset Management Plan for Schools.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.9 The main factors affecting the planning and delivery of school places are:

ISSUE		RISK	COMMENT
1	Accuracy of forecasts	LOW	A new forecasting system was introduced in 2019 and proved to be 98% accurate for the 2020 intake.
2	Co-ordination between Council teams and departments.	LOW	The School Sufficiency Board has been established including representatives from all teams to oversee planning for school places.
3	Sufficient school places	LOW	Forecasts suggest there will be sufficient school places for the forecast period 2021-25.
4	Surplus school places	MEDIUM	Forecasts suggest primary surpluses will increase, but secondary surpluses will decrease. Measures to reduce the surplus of primary places will mitigate this risk.
4	Council's ability to manage the supply of school places	MEDIUM	Academies may choose to depart from catchment area admissions policies and/or admit over their PANs. Effective relationships with academies are essential.

Unrestricted

5	Capital Cost Risk	LOW	Forecasts suggest there will be sufficient school places for the forecast period 2021-25.
6	Revenue Cost Risk to the Council	LOW	Surplus places reduce the likelihood that Home to School Transport will be incurred.
7	Revenue Cost Risk to Schools – new schools	LOW	New schools require additional revenue funds in the initial years after opening. This is not fully funded by DfE and would likely require a top slice to existing school budgets to cover the additional cost.
8	Reputation Risk	MEDIUM	The Council could stand to be criticised if there are too many surplus school places. Reduction of surplus places is therefore a priority

Background Papers

Appendix A School Places Plan & Capacity Strategy 2021 - 2025

Contacts for Further Information

Rachel Morgan Assistant Director, Education & Learning
01344 354037 rachel.morgan@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Chris Taylor Head of School Property, Places & Admissions
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**SCHOOL PLACES PLAN and
CAPACITY STRATEGY
2021 – 2025**

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places, and the School Places Plan and Capacity Strategy (SPP) is the essential control employed by the Council to meet this duty.
- 1.2 The Bracknell Forest Learning Improvement Strategy contains seven Key Priorities, one of which is to “*Access a High-Quality School Place*”. This SPP is the tool through which there are sufficient accessible school places available across the Borough in the right locations at the right time to meet the forecast need.
- 1.3 The SPP is produced in accordance with DfE Guide to Forecasting Pupil Numbers in School Place Planning, and details of the forecasting methodology are set out in Annex 1.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Bracknell Forest is in transition, moving from a time of scarcity of school places to a time of surplus school places.
- 2.2 The birth rate and primary school numbers are decreasing across the Borough.
- 2.3 Secondary numbers however are still increasing as the previous rise of primary numbers is still working its way up through secondary schools.
- 2.4 Pupil numbers on roll are forecast to change between 2021 to 2025:
 - Early Years - decrease by up to 5% (114)
 - Primary - decrease by up to 9% (898)
 - Secondary KS 3 & 4 - increase by up to 6% (384)
 - Post 16 - increase by 28% (331)
 - SEN - increase by 7.8% (340)
- 2.5 Forecasts indicate that there will be enough mainstream school places across all sectors in all planning areas to meet this forecast demand, and there are no plans to add any additional school capacity during this forecast period. The significant increase in post 16 numbers relates to the anticipated future opening of the sixth form at Kings Academy Binfield in 2023.
- 2.6 Where surpluses of school places result in a surplus of accommodation in schools, this can be dealt with in the following ways:
 - Converting teaching spaces to other uses e.g. learning support
 - Removing temporary accommodation
 - Mothballing part of a school
 - Finding alternative compatible uses for surplus accommodation
 - Leasing out surplus accommodation to paying tenants

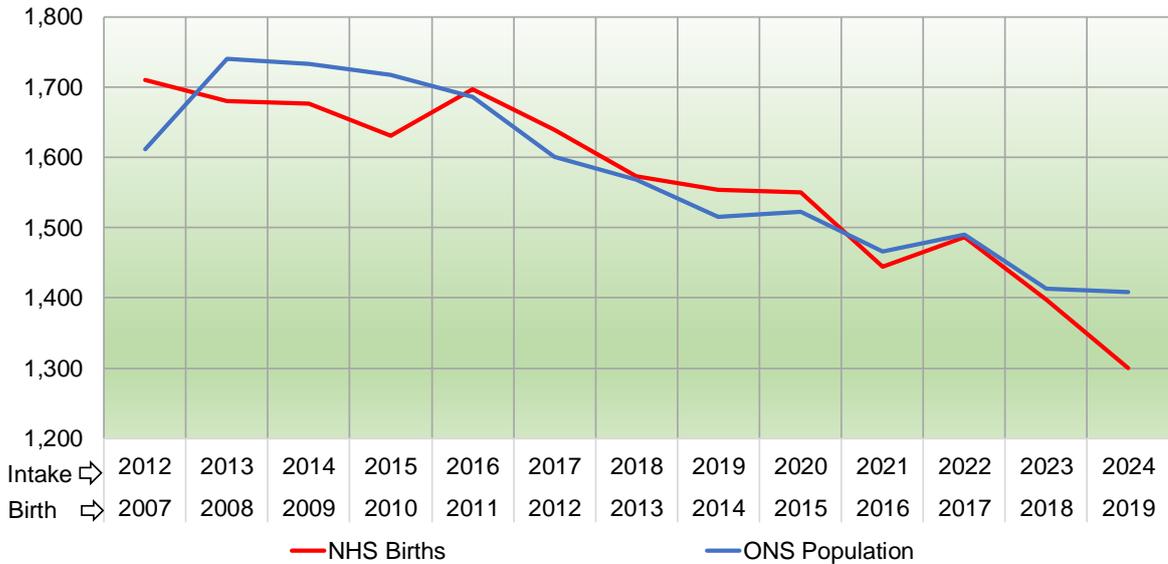
3. Factors Affecting Pupil Numbers and School Places

3.1 The following factors affect the supply and demand for school places:

Demographics

3.2 The Office of National Statistics (ONS) Population Predictions suggest that the numbers of babies born Bracknell Forest are decreasing, as set out on Graph One below. This is confirmed by data from the NHS.

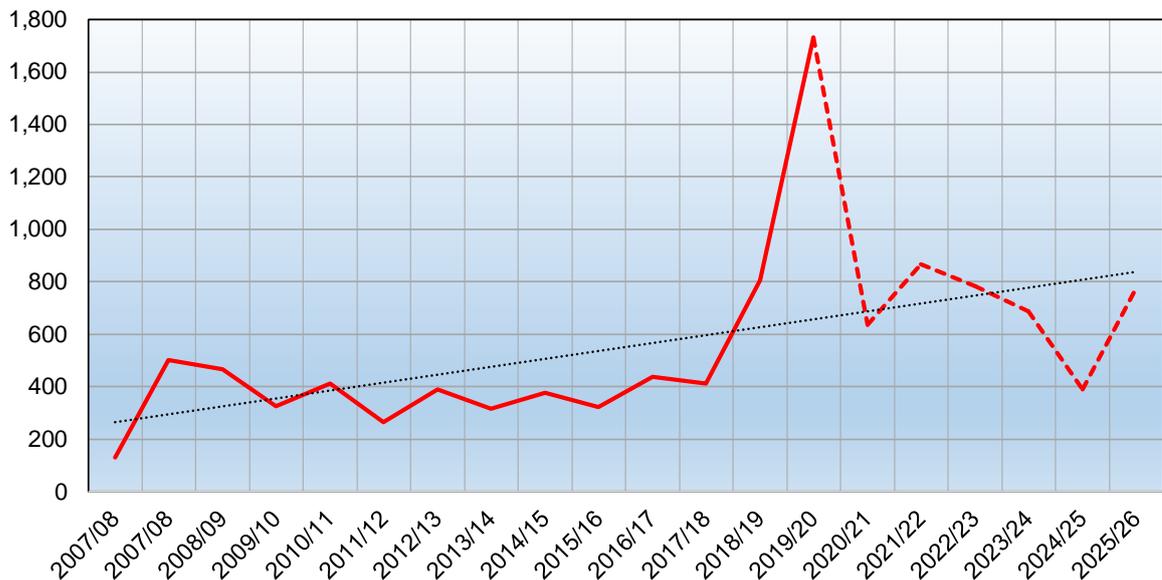
Graph One: Bracknell Forest – Numbers of 5 Year Old Children



New Housing

3.3 The number of houses built in Bracknell Forest in last two years has increased significantly over the preceding ten years as set out on Graph Two below. The predicted house completions up to 2025 are show as a dotted line.

Graph Two: Housing Completions in Bracknell Forest



- 3.4 In the past new housing numbers have often come on more slowly than anticipated, and the timescales for delivery of new housing are outside of the Council's direct control, being in the hands of individual housing developers. Various factors may affect the timescales for new house building including market forces, interest rates, mortgage availability and employment opportunities in the local area.
- 3.5 Pupils arising from this spike in new housing will be unlikely to result in a spike in the school population because research has shown that 85% of families moving within the Borough keep their children at their original schools. The impact of this spike will however be likely to be felt over successive years depending on the age of the children in question and the year group which they will attend. Research has suggested that the peak demand for school places arising from new housing may only be reached after 5-7 years after a new development is completed.
- 3.6 Most of the new housing has been built in the North Bracknell Planning Area.

Pupil Yields Arising from New Housing

- 3.7 New dwellings of different sizes yield different numbers of pupils e.g. smaller flats yield less children than larger 3-4 bed family homes. Research has revealed that estimated average pupil yields from new housing in Bracknell Forest have decreased by 30% since 2016.

New Schools

- 3.8 New schools may cause some turbulence in demand for school places through parental preference for new facilities and the time taken for new schools to fill up in all year groups. The newest schools in Bracknell Forest are the Kings Academy Binfield and Kings Academy Oakwood located in the North Bracknell school planning Area, which opened in September 2018 and September 2019 respectively. There are currently no new schools under construction in Bracknell Forest.

Pupil Mobility

- 3.9 Pupil mobility is high when there are staffing changes at the Royal Military Academy (RMA) which is located in the Sandhurst & Crowthorne school Planning Area. Schools in the Crowthorne and Sandhurst regularly see existing pupils leaving and new pupils arriving unexpectedly which gives the Borough pupil mobility in excess of 20%, which is higher than the national average.
- 3.10 Traveller families are another factor affecting pupil mobility, and this can be difficult to forecast. There is a permanent designated Traveller Site with 13 pitches which is also located in the Crowthorne and Sandhurst school planning area.

3.11 The extent of primary internal migration within the Borough is set out on Charts One to Three below:

Chart One: Where North Bracknell Residents Took up Primary School Places

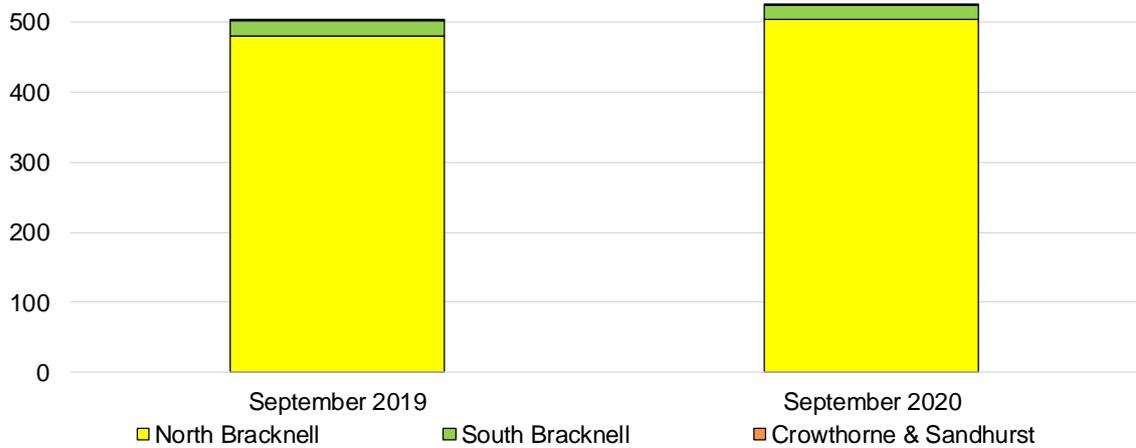


Chart Two: Where South Bracknell Residents Took up Primary School Places

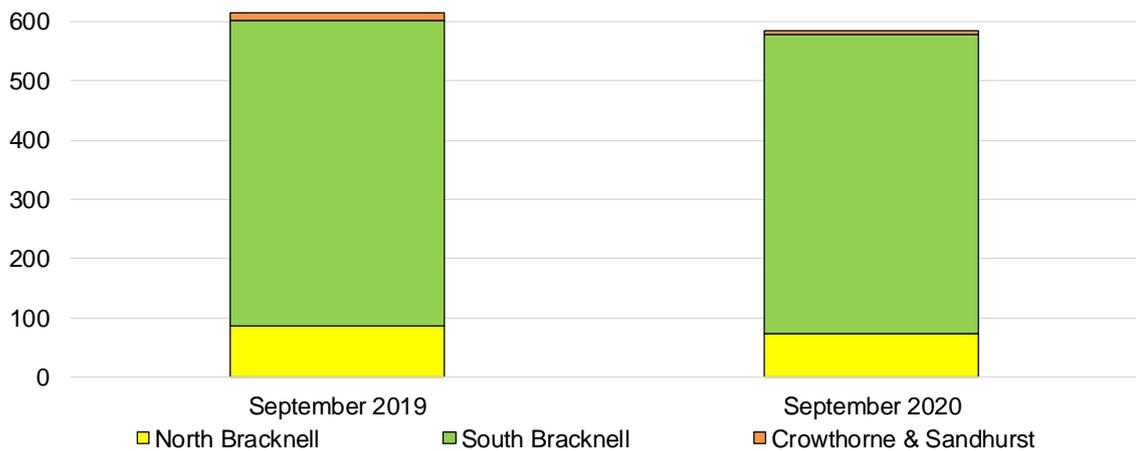
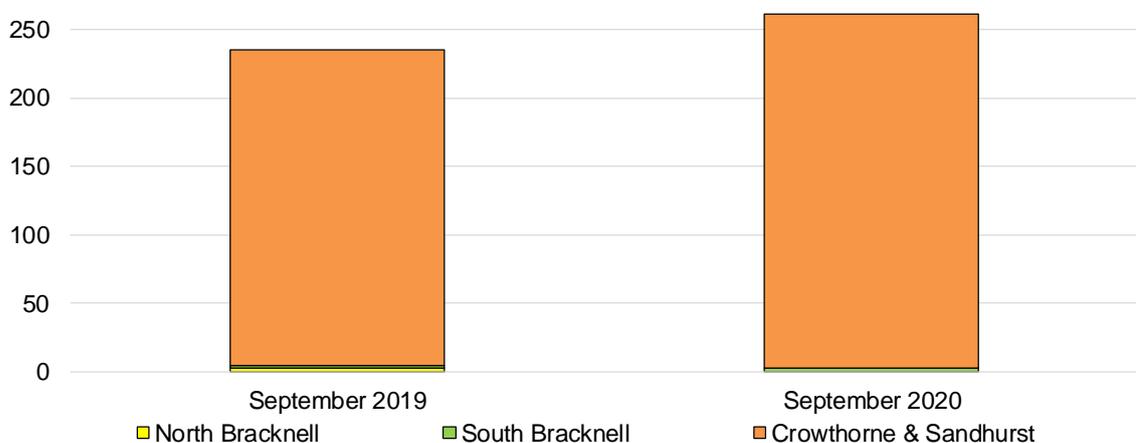


Chart Three: Where Crowthorne & Sandhurst Residents Took up Primary School Places



3.12 The extent of secondary internal migration within the Borough is set out on Charts Four to Six below:

Chart Four: Where North Bracknell Residents Took up Secondary School Places

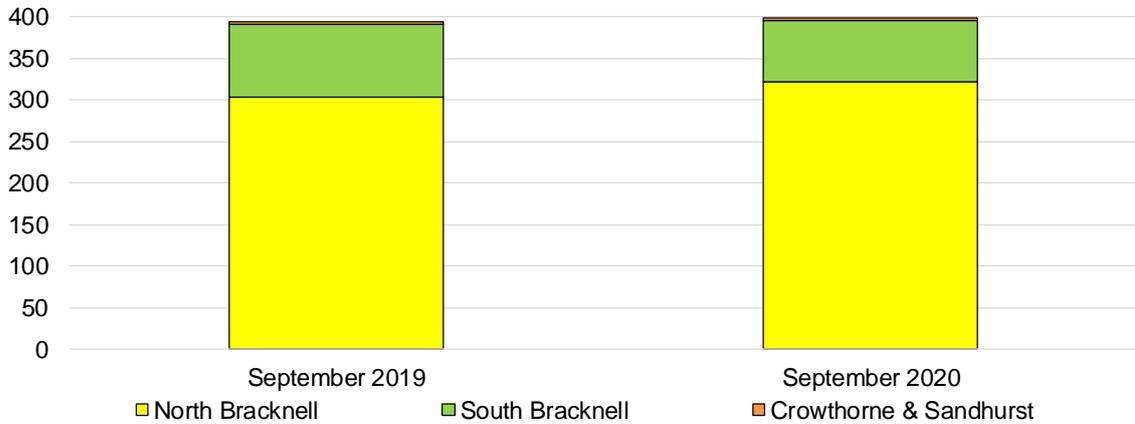


Chart Five: Where South Bracknell Residents Took up Secondary School Places

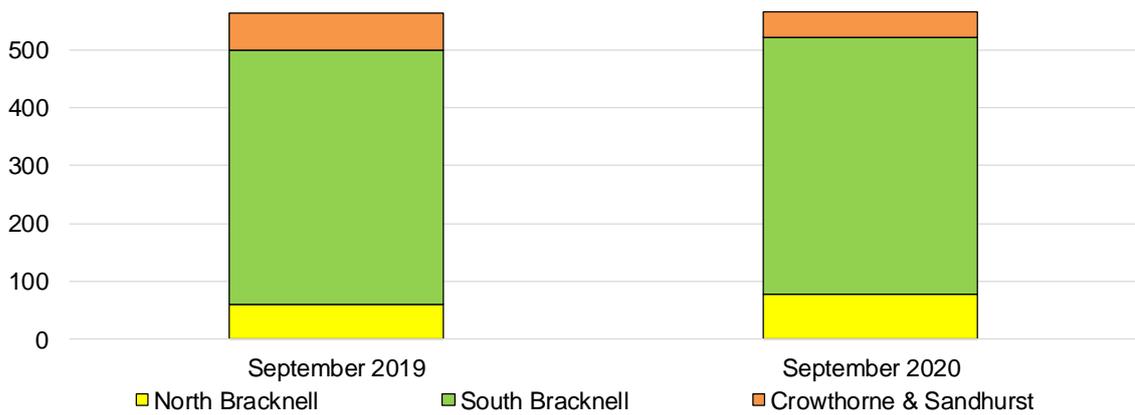
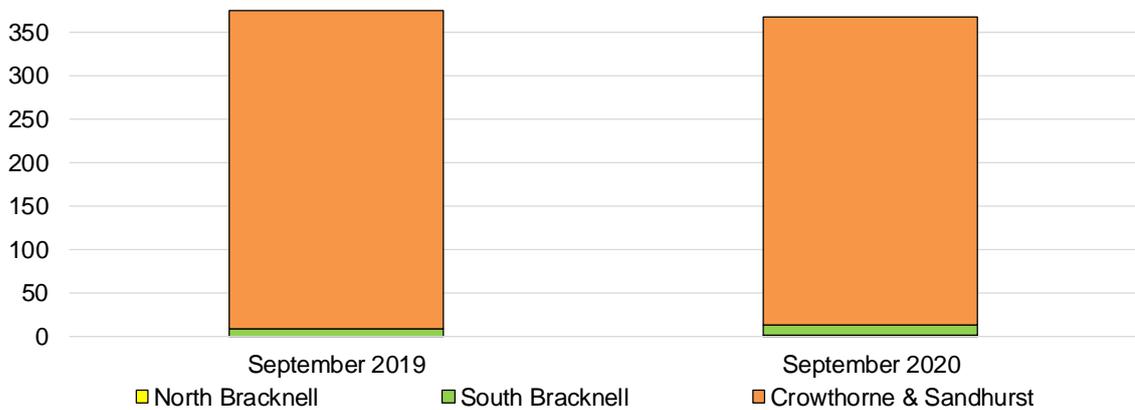


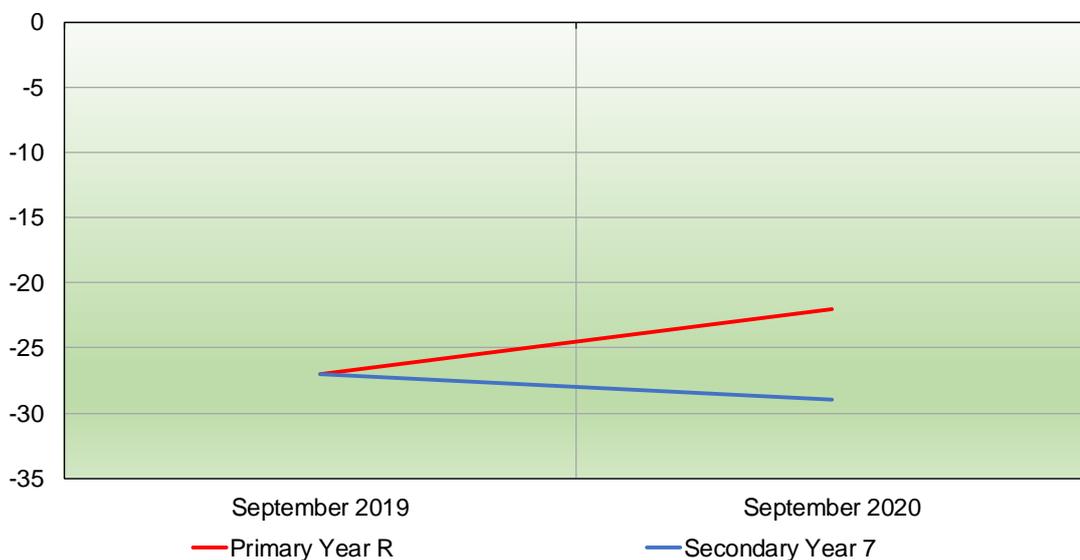
Chart Six: Where Crowthorne & Sandhurst Residents Took up Secondary School Places



Cross Border Issues with Neighbouring Local Authorities

- 3.13 Bracknell Forest shares boundaries with Wokingham, the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead (RBWM), Hampshire and Surrey, but the majority of cross-border movement occurs between Bracknell Forest, Wokingham and RBWM.
- 3.14 There are several legacy issues derived from the way that Berkshire County Council organised its school places:
- Two Bracknell Forest primary schools, Ascot Heath and Cranbourne, are in the designated area of Charters Secondary School, which is located in RBWM.
 - The Wokingham primary schools at Hatch Ride and Oaklands are in the designated area of the Bracknell Forest Edgbarrow Secondary academy.
 - Part of the designated areas of the Bracknell Forest Ascot Heath Primary school and Cranbourne Primary school extend into RBWM.
 - Part of the designated areas of the RBWM South Ascot primary school and Charters secondary academy extend into Bracknell Forest.
- 3.15 Despite this the extent of cross border migration into and out of Bracknell Forest is not significant and is set out on Graph Three Below. For the September 2020 intake year Bracknell Forest was a net exporter of -22 primary and -29 secondary pupils.

Graph Three: Cross Border Migration in the Intake Years R and 7



Admission Over the PAN

- 3.16 Under the current School Admissions Code, individual schools can admit over their Published Admission Numbers (PAN). Schools may also admit over the PAN where parents win admissions appeals.
- 3.17 This impacts on the Council’s ability to manage the supply of school places if schools admit additional pupils that might otherwise have taken up places at other schools.

- 3.18 The seven schools which have admitted over their PAN in the last five years are set out on Table One below, and 89% of the total number of pupils admitted was by academy schools:

Table One: Schools Admitting Over their Published Admission Numbers

School	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20	Total
Edgbarrow academy	31	2	1	30		64
Garth Hill College	4					4
Ranelagh academy			9	9	9	27
Sandhurst			1			1
St Margaret Clitherow academy		1				1
The Brakenhale academy		1		8	8	17
Wooden Hill Primary					9	9
Totals:	35	4	11	47	26	123

Denominational Education

- 3.19 There are ten Church of England and Roman Catholic primary schools within Bracknell Forest and one Church of England secondary Academy, which provide denominational education in the Borough. These are listed on Table Two below.

Table Two: Denominational Schools in Bracknell Forest

School	Type	Planning Area
Binfield	CE Primary Voluntary Aided	North Bracknell
St Joseph's	RC Primary Voluntary Aided	North Bracknell
Warfield	CE Primary Voluntary Controlled	North Bracknell
Winkfield St Marys	CE Primary Voluntary Controlled	North Bracknell
Jennett's Park	CE Primary Academy	South Bracknell
Ranelagh Academy	CE Secondary Academy	South Bracknell
St Margaret Clitherow	RC Primary Academy	South Bracknell
St Michael's Easthampstead	CE Primary Voluntary Aided	South Bracknell
Crowthorne	CE Primary Voluntary Controlled	Crowthorne & Sandhurst
St Michael's Sandhurst	CE Primary Voluntary Aided	Crowthorne & Sandhurst

- 3.20 Voluntary Aided schools are their own admissions authorities and the Governing Bodies set their admissions arrangements. For Voluntary Controlled Schools the Council is the admissions authority, and these schools follow the Council's co-ordinated scheme of admissions.
- 3.21 There is no Catholic secondary school in Bracknell Forest so parents preferring a Catholic education for their children may choose to schools outside of the Borough.
- 3.22 Ranelagh CE academy, St Michael's Easthampstead CE primary and St Joseph's RC primary schools do not have Bracknell Forest designated areas and these schools accept pupils drawn from wider geographical areas.
- 3.23 All the above denominational schools have been included in the SPP forecasts.

Free Schools and Academies

- 3.24 Are state-funded schools but are independent of Local Authority control, and are established through the DfE academies programme as either sponsored or converter academies.
- 3.25 There are currently ten academy schools in Bracknell Forest listed on Table Three below:

Table Three: Academy Schools in Bracknell Forest

School	Type	Academy Trust	Planning Area
Kings Academy Binfield	All Through School	Kings Group Trust	North Bracknell
Kings Academy Oakwood	Primary	Kings Group Trust	North Bracknell
Great Hollands	Primary	Maiden Erlegh Trust	South Bracknell
Jennett's Park	CE Primary	Bonitas Trust	South Bracknell
Ranelagh Academy	CE Secondary	Bonitas Trust	South Bracknell
St Margaret Clitherow	RC Primary	Frassati Trust	South Bracknell
The Brakenhale	Secondary	Greenshaw Trust	South Bracknell
Crown Wood	Primary	Greenshaw Trust	South Bracknell
Edgbarrow	Secondary	Corvus Trust	Crowthorne & Sandhurst
Wildmoor Heath	Primary	Greenshaw Trust	Crowthorne & Sandhurst

- 3.26 Academies and Free Schools are their own Admission Authorities, and their admissions arrangements are determined by their governing bodies in agreement with the Education Funding Agency. The Council would reasonably expect to be consulted on changes to academies' admissions arrangements, but cannot determine them, and this may impact on the Authority's ability to manage the supply of school places.

Independent schools

- 3.27 Some parents send their children to independent schools, and there are five such schools in Bracknell Forest as set out on Table Four Below.

Table Four: Independent Schools in Bracknell Forest

School	Type	Planning Area
Licensed Victuallers' School	Co-educational primary and secondary	North Bracknell
Heathfield	Secondary girls' school	North Bracknell
Wellington College	Co-educational for pupils aged 13 to 18	Crowthorne & Sandhurst
Eagle House	Co-educational preparatory school	Crowthorne & Sandhurst
Lambrook-Haileybury	Co-educational preparatory school	North Bracknell

Selective Education

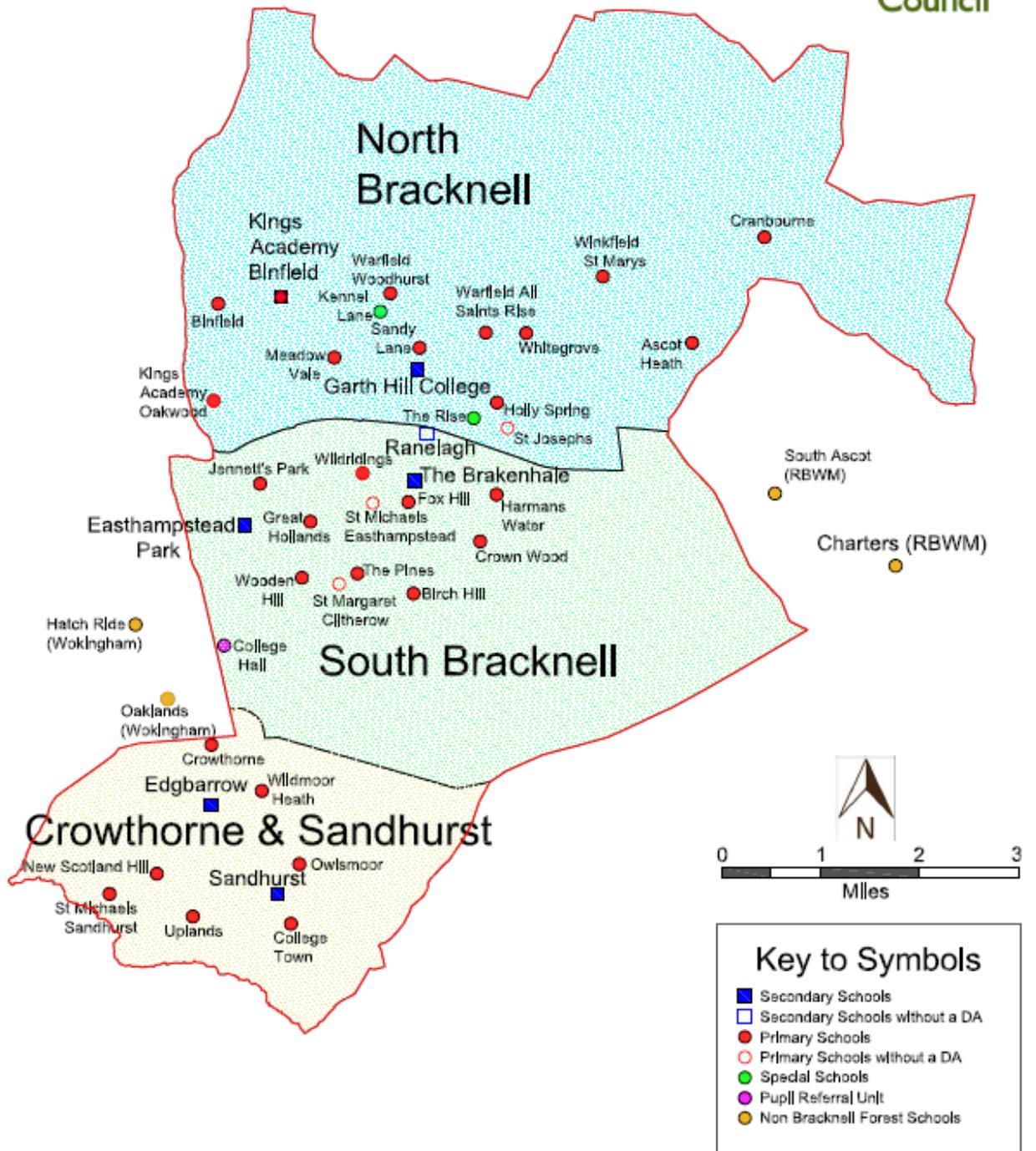
- 3.28 All secondary schools in the Borough are co-educational comprehensive (11-19). Parents seeking single gender or selective secondary education for their children may choose to seek school places in other local authority areas.

4. Planning Areas

4.1 There are three Planning Areas for school organisation as shown on Map One below:

- North Bracknell
- South Bracknell
- Crowthorne & Sandhurst

Map One: School Organisation Planning Areas



5. Schools

5.1 There are 38 schools in this SPP which are set out on Table Four below:

Table Four: Schools in Bracknell Forest

Planning Area	School	Type	Status	Designated Area
---------------	--------	------	--------	-----------------

North Bracknell

Binfield CE Primary	Primary	Voluntary Aided	Yes
Kings Academy Oakwood	Primary	Academy	Yes
Meadow Vale Primary	Primary	Maintained	Yes
Warfield CE Primary	Primary	Voluntary Controlled	Yes
King's Academy Binfield	All Through	Academy	Yes
Cranbourne Primary	Primary	Maintained	Yes
Holly Spring Primary	Primary	Maintained	Yes
Sandy Lane Primary	Primary	Maintained	Yes
Ascot Heath Primary	Primary	Maintained	Yes
St Josephs RC Primary	Primary	Voluntary Aided	No
Whitegrove Primary	Primary	Maintained	Yes
Winkfield St Marys CE Primary	Primary	Voluntary Controlled	Yes
Garth Hill College	Secondary	Maintained	Yes

South Bracknell

Crown Wood Primary	Primary	Academy	Yes
Fox Hill Primary	Primary	Maintained	Yes
Harmans Water Primary	Primary	Maintained	Yes
St Michaels Easthampstead CE Primary	Primary	Voluntary Aided	No
Wildridings Primary	Primary	Maintained	Yes
The Brakenhale	Secondary	Academy	Yes
Birch Hill Primary	Primary	Maintained	Yes
Great Hollands Primary	Primary	Academy	Yes
Jennetts Park CE Primary	Primary	Academy	Yes
St Margaret Clitherow RC Primary	Primary	Academy	No
The Pines Primary	Primary	Maintained	Yes
Wooden Hill Primary	Primary	Maintained	Yes
Easthampstead Park Secondary	Secondary	Maintained	Yes
Ranelagh CE Secondary	Secondary	Academy	No

Crowthorne & Sandhurst

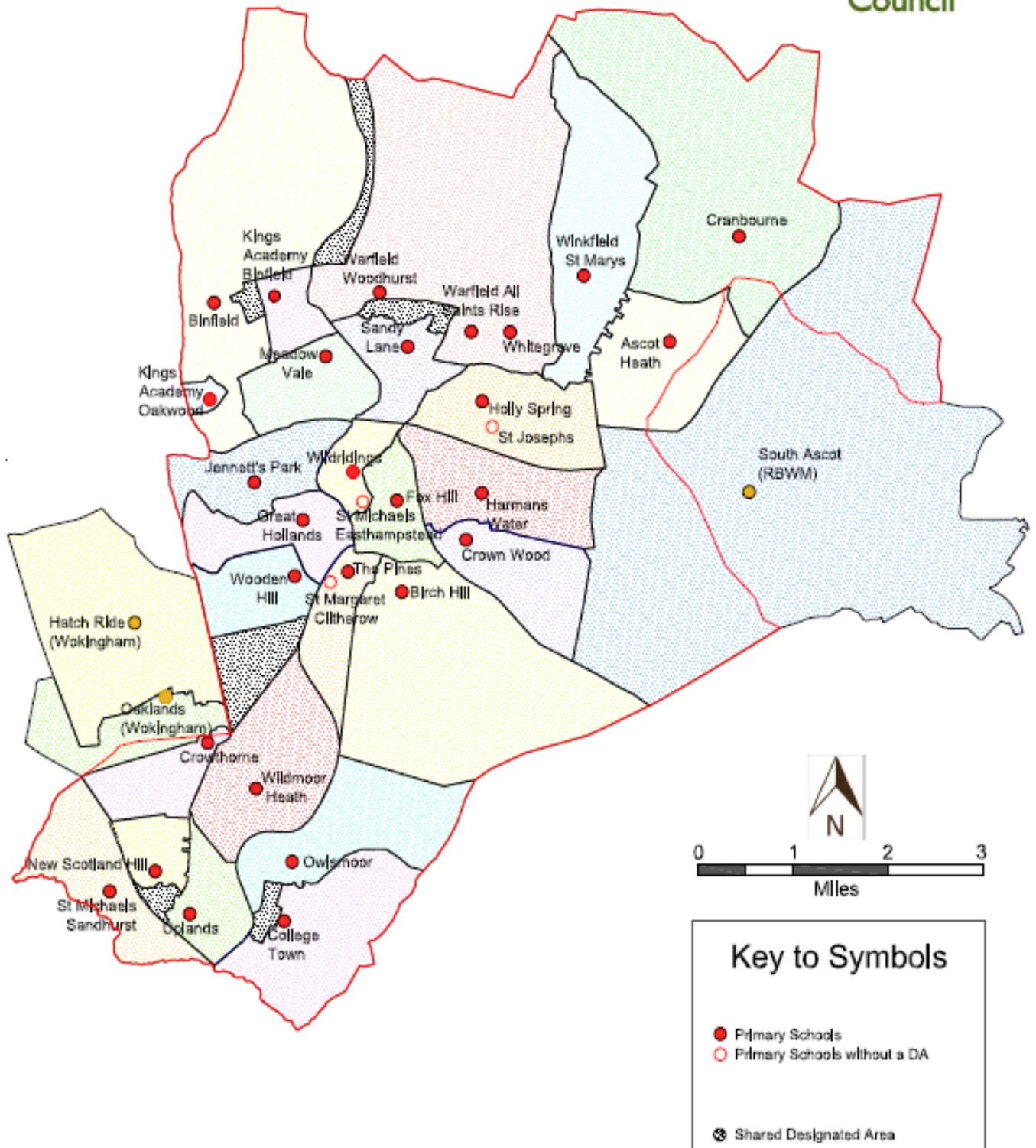
Crowthorne CE Primary	Primary	Voluntary Controlled	Yes
New Scotland Hill Primary	Primary	Maintained	Yes
Wildmoor Heath Primary	Primary	Academy	Yes
Edgbarrow Secondary	Secondary	Academy	Yes
College Town Primary	Primary	Maintained	Yes
Owlsmoor Primary	Primary	Maintained	Yes
St Michaels Sandhurst CE Primary	Primary	Voluntary Aided	Yes
Uplands Primary	Primary	Maintained	Yes
Sandhurst Secondary	Secondary	Maintained	Yes

Others

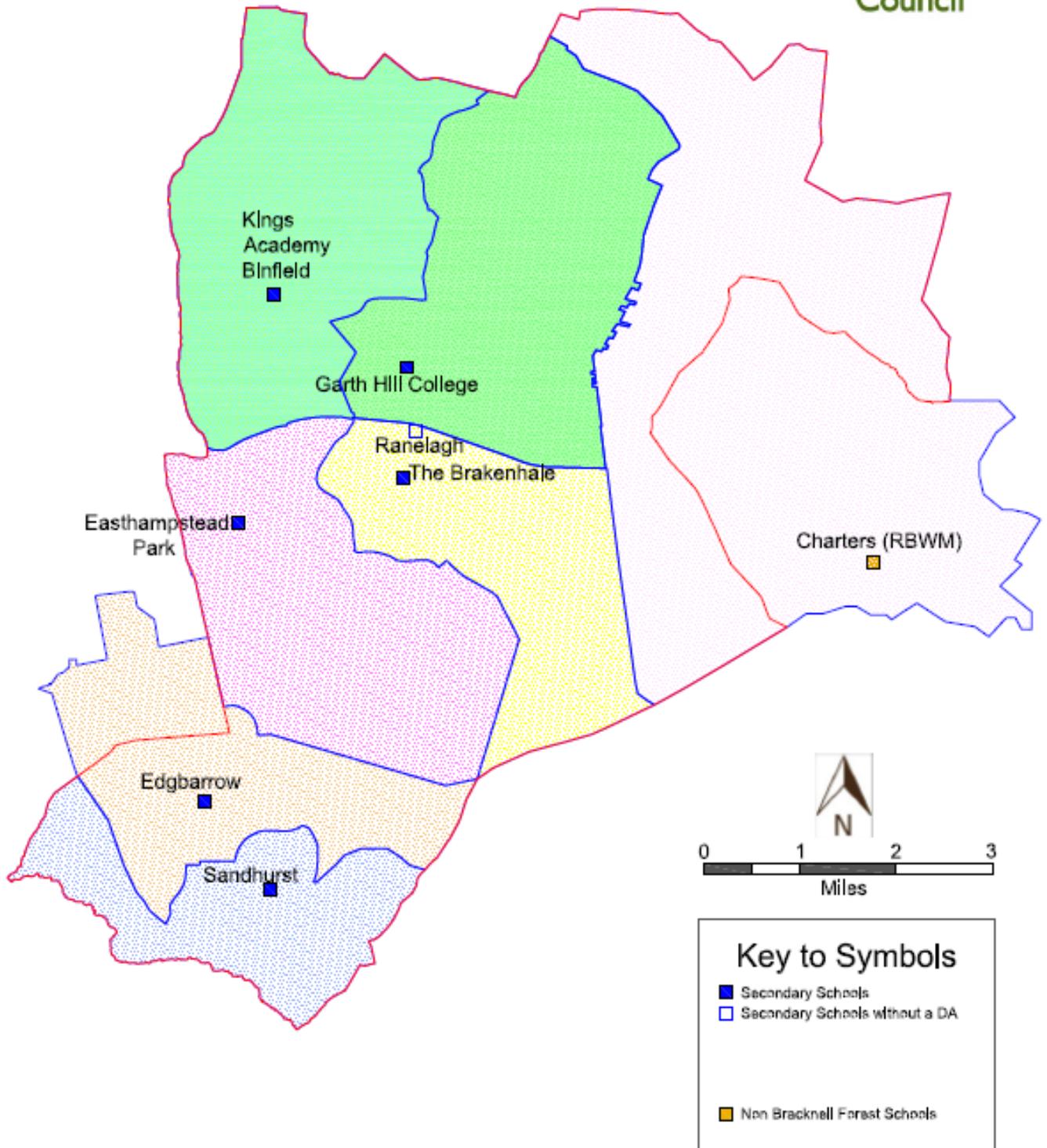
College Hall	PRU	Maintained	No
Kennel Lane	Special	Maintained	No

6. Designated Area Maps

Map Two: Primary School Designated Areas



Map Three: Secondary School Designated Areas.



7. Early Years

Early Years Providers

- 7.1 Calculating the exact number of places available across the authority is challenging as providers continually adapt their capacity dependent on demand. Capacity data is therefore only correct at the point it is gathered from providers. Table Five below shows the approximate number of childcare places available in Bracknell Forest by ward in the summer term 2020 and covers all early years childcare for 0 to 5 year olds, funded and fee paying children and places offered by childminders open to school age children.

Table Five: Early Years Providers in Bracknell Forest

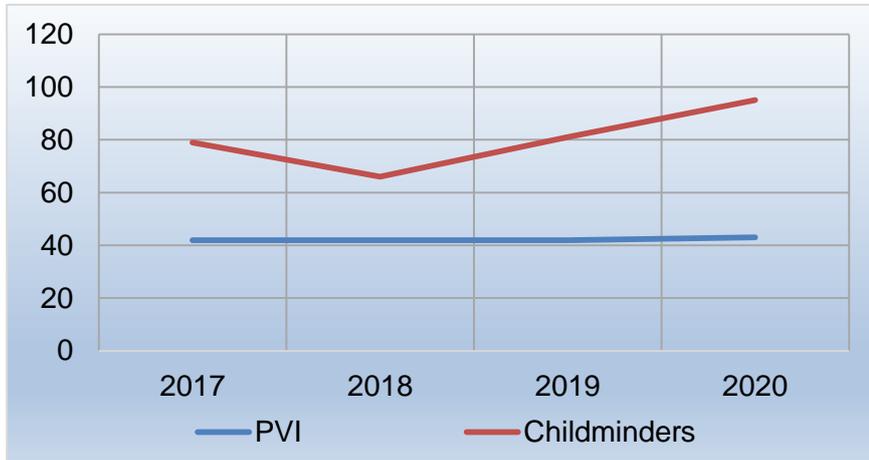
Ward	Capacity
Ascot	212
Binfield with Warfield	416
Bullbrook	203
Central Sandhurst	82
College Town	578
Crown Wood	201
Crowthorne	182
Great Hollands North	212
Great Hollands South	190
Hanworth	407
Harmans Water	272
Little Sandhurst and Wellington	155
Old Bracknell	180
Owlsmoor	175
Priestwood and Garth	373
Warfield Harvest Ride	261
Wildridings and Central	359
Winkfield and Cranbourne	262
Total capacity	4,720

- 7.2 Providers are responsible for ensuring that space requirements are met when making decisions on cohort numbers. Space requirements are dependent on the age of the children attending. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>).
- 7.3 In the autumn term 2020 a total of 164 providers are registered to claim free entitlement funding, 45 Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) providers, 101 childminders and 18 maintained school and academy nursery classes (nursery classes).
- 7.3.1 Funded places for 2-year-old are offered by 43 PVI providers and 95 childminders. No Nursery classes offer 2-year-old places.
- 7.3.2 Universal 15-hour free entitlement places for 3- and 4-year olds are offered by 45 PVI providers, 101 childminders and 18 nursery classes

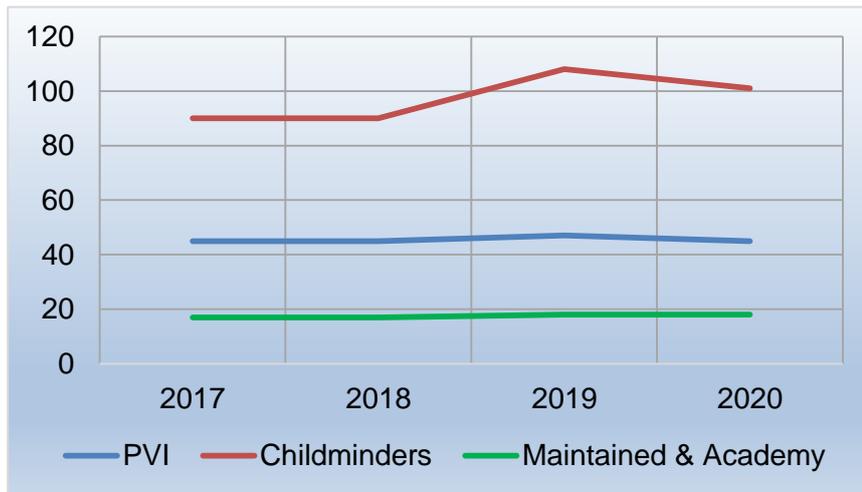
7.3.3 Extended 30-hour free entitlement places for 3- and 4-year olds are offered by 43 PVI providers, 101 childminders and 17 nursery classes.

The graphs below show the number of providers offering the free entitlement for the period 2017 to 2020.

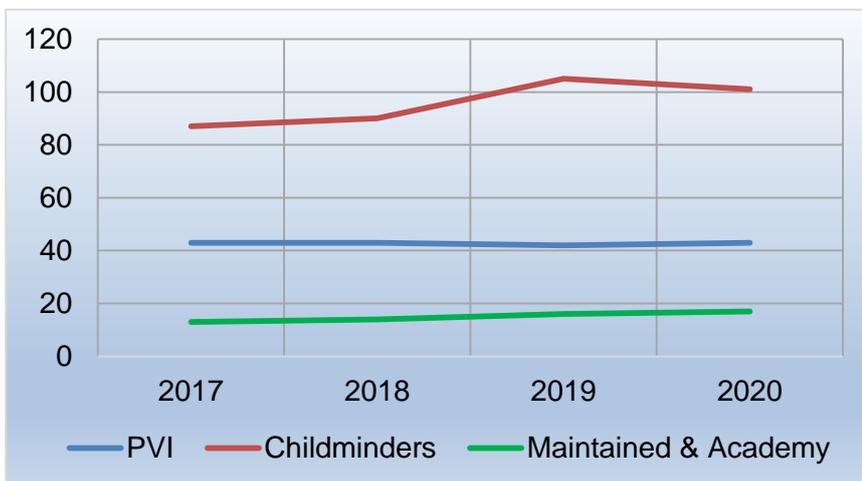
Graph Four: Providers Offering Places for 2 year olds



Graph Five: Providers Offering Universal Places for 3 & 4 year olds



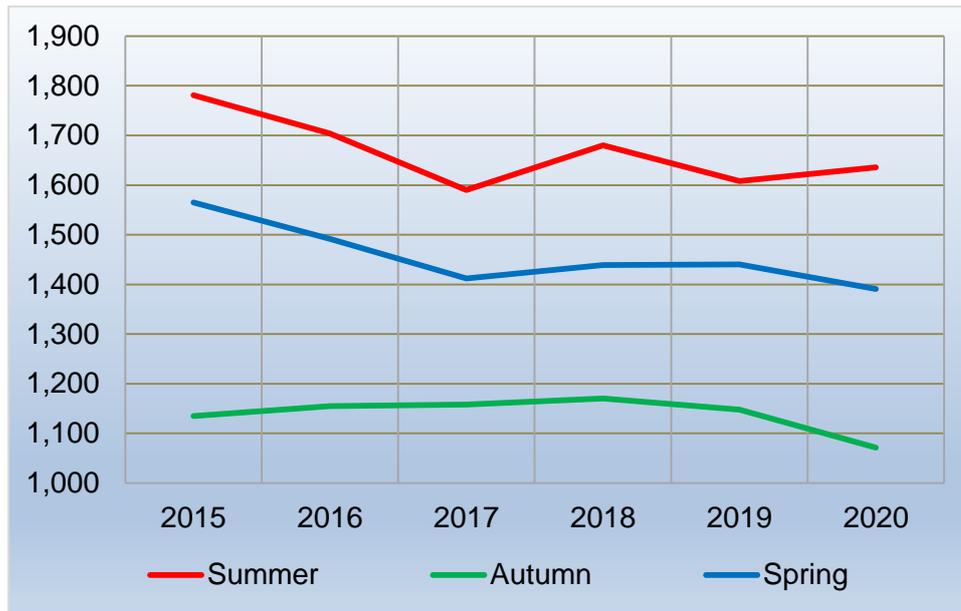
Graph Six: Providers Offering Extended Places for 3 & 4 year olds



Numbers of Children in Early Years Settings

7.4 Graph Seven below shows the take up for funded two, three- and four-year olds over the last five years accessing in Bracknell Forest for PVI and Childminders.

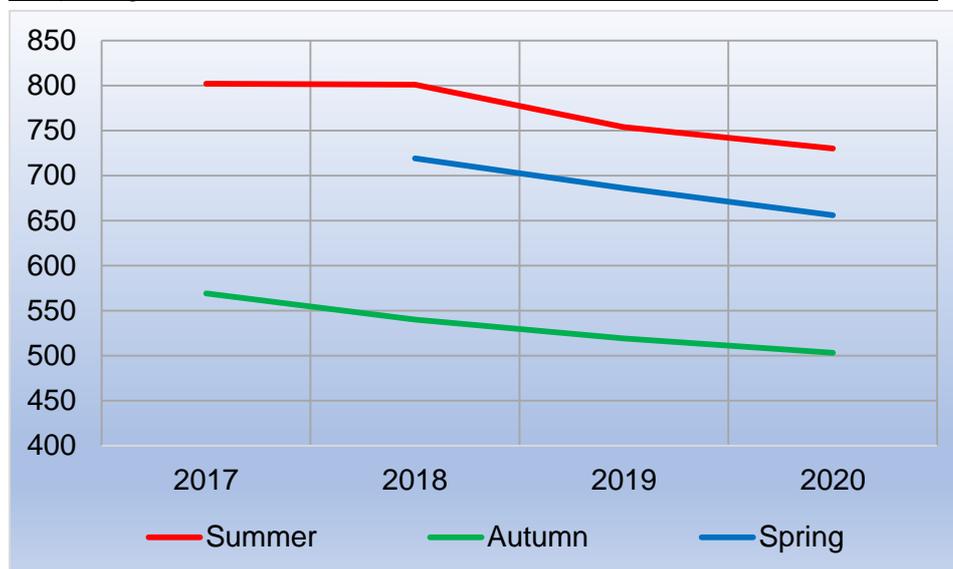
Graph Seven: Free Entitlement Headcount – PVI & Childminders



7.5 Generally, numbers in the PVI sector are lowest in the Autumn term following the school intake, increasing in the Spring term and reaching a peak in the Summer term.

7.6 Graph Seven above shows that over the last five years there has been an overall downward trend in numbers of children across all terms, and this does correspond to the known decrease in birth rates indicated by the NHS. This trend is repeated in the numbers of children attending nursery classes in maintained schools and academies which are shown on Graph Eight below.

Graph Eight: Free Entitlement Headcount – Maintained and Academies



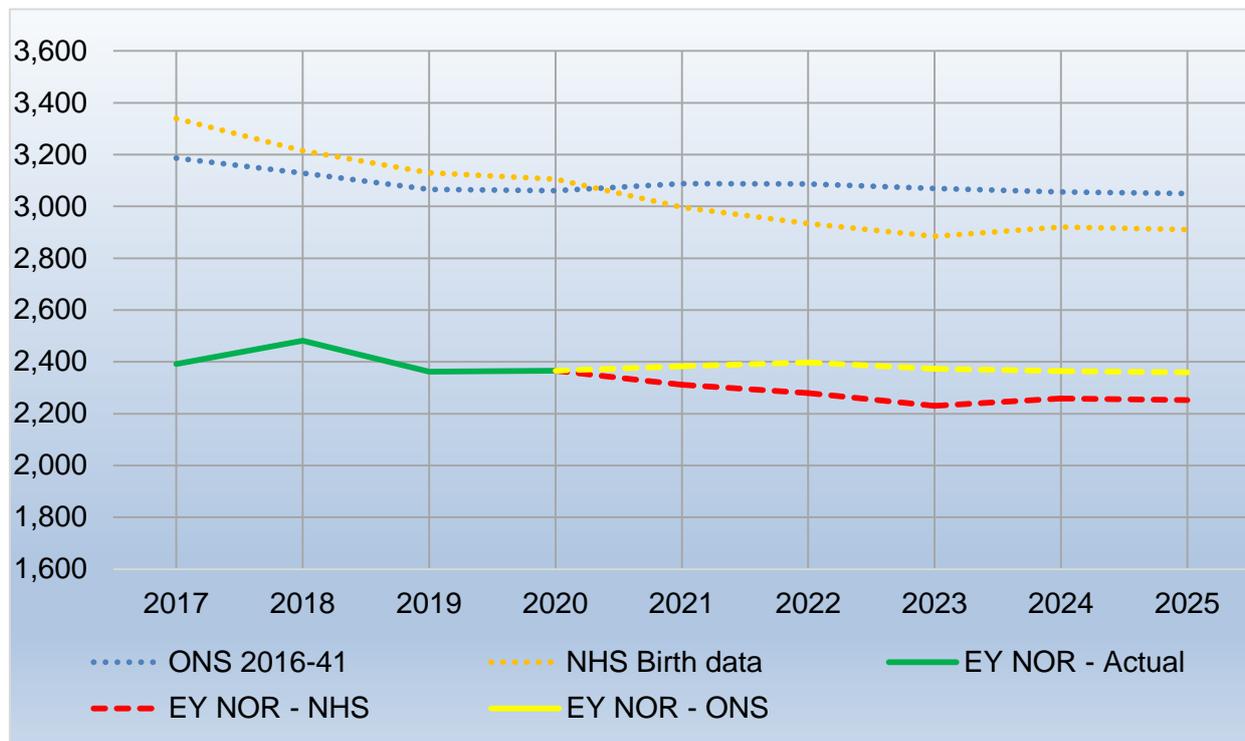
Current Demand for Childcare

7.7 BFC uses the Summer term numbers when predicting demand for free entitlement places for 3- and 4-year olds. In the 2020 Summer term the number of 3- and 4-year olds accessing free entitlements was 2,366 which is approximately 77% of the eligible population.

Forecast Demand for Childcare

7.8 The ONS population forecasts for 3- and 4-years olds in Bracknell Forest in 2025 is 3,049. However, a population forecast based on current NHS birth data indicates a population of 2,911. Using the current average rate of uptake for the free entitlements for 3- and 4- year old of 77%¹, the forecast demand in the summer term 2025 is calculated to be 2,360 using the ONS forecast and 2,252 using the NHS birth data. Graph Nine below illustrates both of these forecasts.

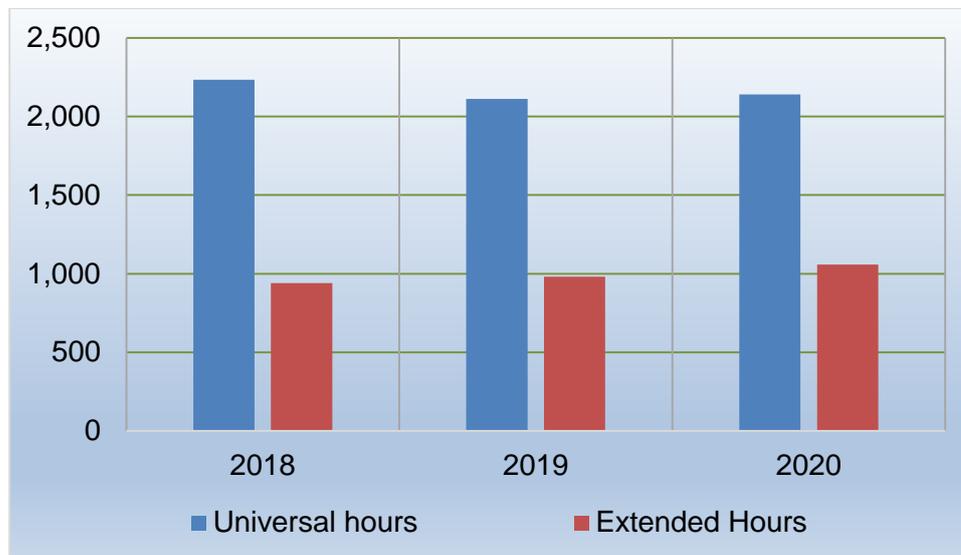
Graph Nine: Population and Free Entitlement Forecast



Universal and Extended Childcare

7.9 The total number of 3 & 4 year olds claiming Universal (570 hours p.a.) and Extended (1,170 hours p.a.) early years entitlements in the summer term is shown on Graph Ten below. In addition, approximately 200 2-year olds will be eligible for 570 hours per annum.

¹ Excludes 4 year olds attending school

Graph Ten: Total Claiming Free Entitlements**Early Years Capacity Strategy**

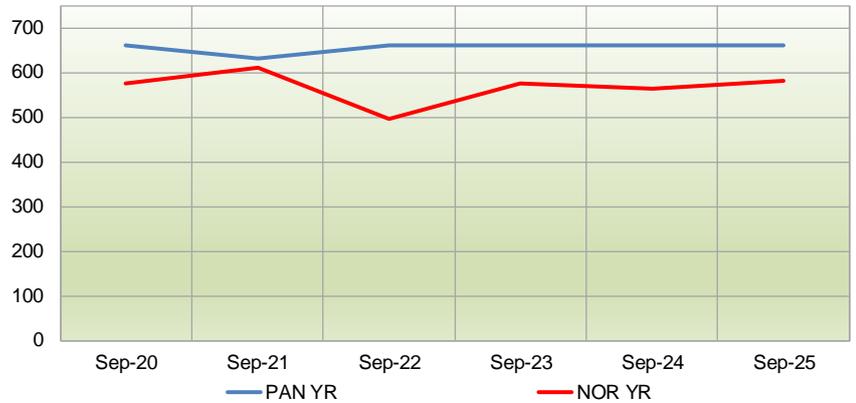
- 7.10 BFC is required by law to 'report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare and make this report available and accessible to parents'. The 2019 Child Sufficiency Assessment is available at <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/strategies-plans-and-policies/strategy-and-policy-documents/children-and-family-services-strategies-and-policies>. The 2020 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment will be published in the Spring term 2021
- 7.11 The most recent assessment evidences that there is currently sufficient childcare capacity across the Borough to meet the forecast demand for places until 2022/2023.

8. Primary

8.1 The graphs below show the forecast Published Admission Numbers (PAN) and Numbers on Roll (NOR) in the intake year R for 2020-25

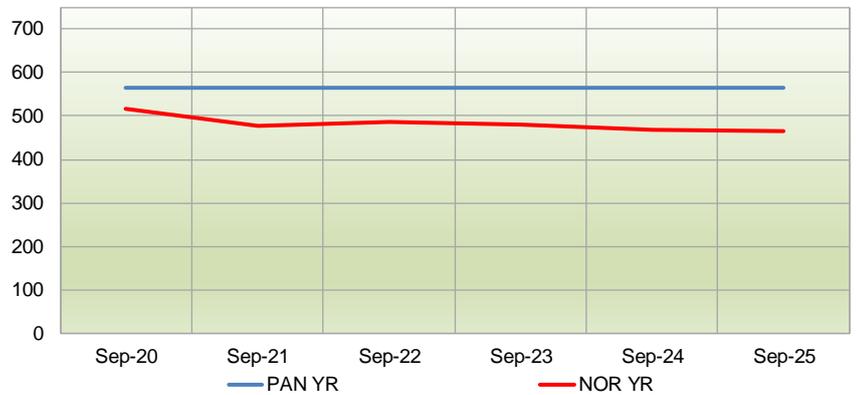
Graph Eleven: Primary Forecasts
North Bracknell Intake Year

YEAR	PAN YR	NOR YR	SURPLUS	%
Sep-20	660	576	84	13%
Sep-21	630	609	21	3%
Sep-22	660	496	164	25%
Sep-23	660	574	86	13%
Sep-24	660	562	98	15%
Sep-25	660	582	78	12%



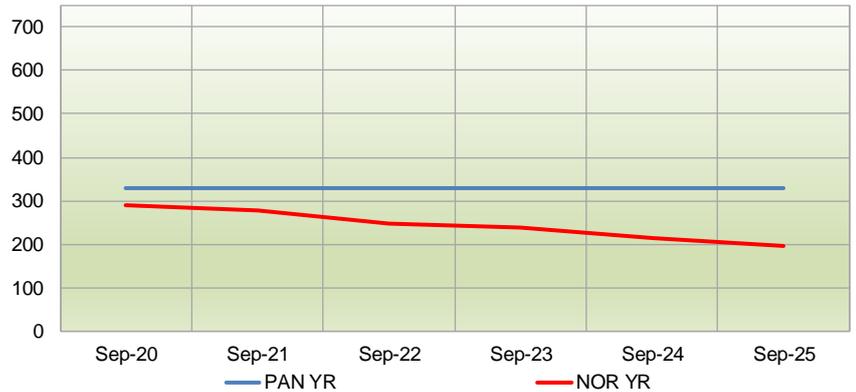
Graph Twelve: Primary Forecasts
South Bracknell Intake Year

YEAR	PAN YR	NOR YR	SURPLUS	%
Sep-20	565	517	48	8%
Sep-21	565	478	87	15%
Sep-22	565	486	79	14%
Sep-23	565	479	86	15%
Sep-24	565	467	98	17%
Sep-25	565	464	101	18%



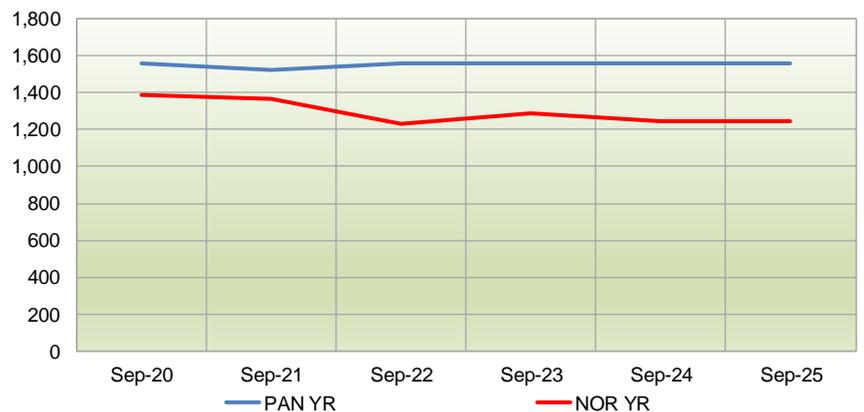
Graph Thirteen: Primary Forecasts
Crowthorne & Sandhurst Intake Year

YEAR	PAN YR	NOR YR	SURPLUS	%
Sep-20	330	291	39	12%
Sep-21	330	276	54	16%
Sep-22	330	246	84	25%
Sep-23	330	238	92	28%
Sep-24	330	214	116	35%
Sep-25	330	197	133	40%



Graph Fourteen: Primary Forecasts
Borough Wide Intake Year

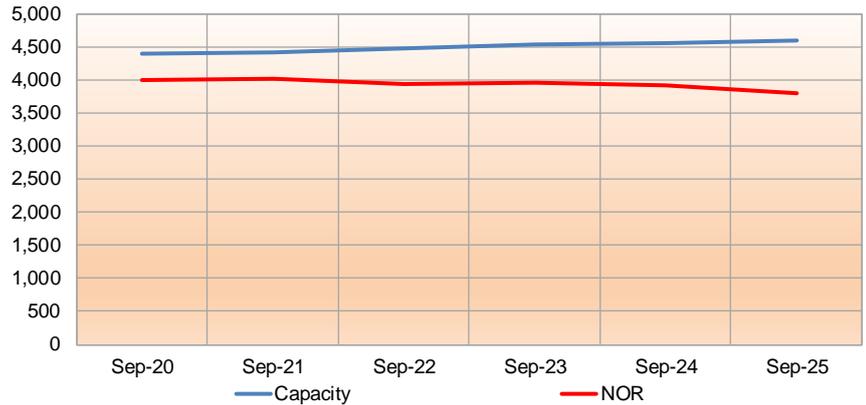
YEAR	PAN YR	NOR YR	SURPLUS	%
Sep-20	1,555	1,384	171	11%
Sep-21	1,525	1,363	162	11%
Sep-22	1,555	1,228	327	21%
Sep-23	1,555	1,291	264	17%
Sep-24	1,555	1,243	312	20%
Sep-25	1,555	1,243	312	20%



8.2 The graphs below set out the forecast primary school capacity and total numbers on roll (NOR) for 2020-25.

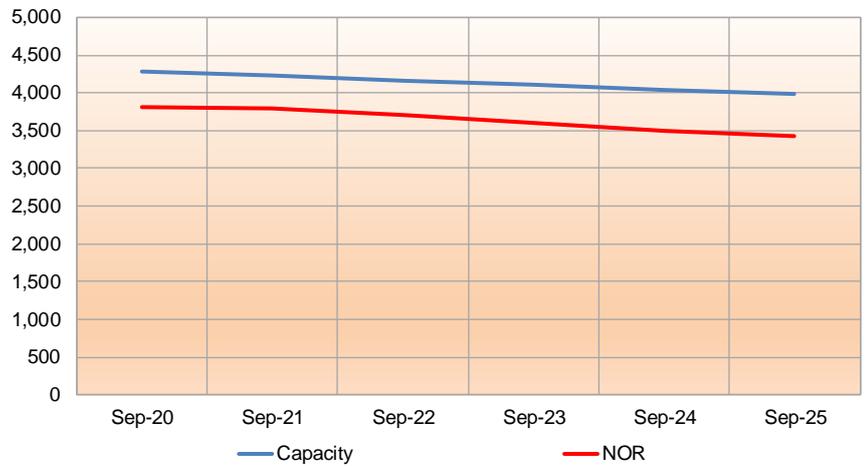
Graph Fifteen: Primary Forecasts
North Bracknell Total Number on Roll

YEAR	Capacity	NOR	SURPLUS	%
Sep-20	4,390	4,010	380	9%
Sep-21	4,410	4,020	390	9%
Sep-22	4,470	3,938	532	12%
Sep-23	4,530	3,965	565	12%
Sep-24	4,560	3,928	632	14%
Sep-25	4,590	3,801	789	17%



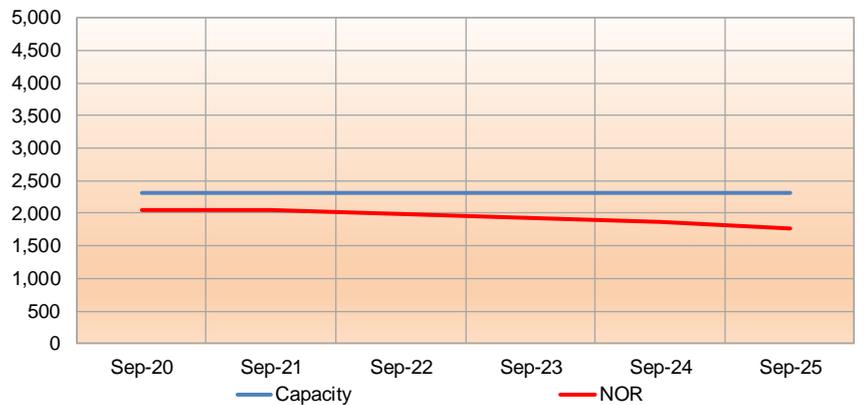
Graph Sixteen: Primary Forecasts
South Bracknell Total Number on Roll

YEAR	Capacity	NOR	SURPLUS	%
Sep-20	4,286	3,810	476	11%
Sep-21	4,226	3,786	440	10%
Sep-22	4,166	3,702	464	11%
Sep-23	4,106	3,610	496	12%
Sep-24	4,046	3,505	541	13%
Sep-25	3,986	3,421	565	14%



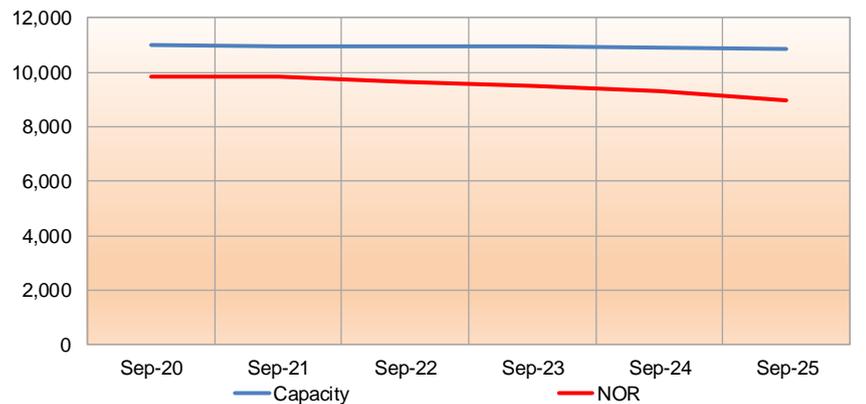
Graph Seventeen: Primary Forecasts
Crowthorne & Sandhurst Total NOR

YEAR	Capacity	NOR	SURPLUS	%
Sep-20	2,308	2,045	263	11%
Sep-21	2,308	2,044	264	11%
Sep-22	2,308	1,997	311	13%
Sep-23	2,308	1,923	385	17%
Sep-24	2,308	1,866	442	19%
Sep-25	2,308	1,765	543	24%



Graph Eighteen: Primary Forecasts
Borough Wide Total Number on Roll

YEAR	Capacity	NOR	SURPLUS	%
Sep-20	10,984	9,865	1,119	10%
Sep-21	10,944	9,850	1,094	10%
Sep-22	10,944	9,637	1,307	12%
Sep-23	10,944	9,498	1,446	13%
Sep-24	10,914	9,299	1,615	15%
Sep-25	10,884	8,987	1,897	17%



Primary School Forecasts

- 8.3 There are 30 primary schools in the Borough with a total of 10,984 places, and 9,885 pupils on roll in September 2020, leaving a surplus of 1,099 places or 10%.
- 8.4 By September 2025 forecasts indicate the numbers of primary school places in our 30 schools will decrease to 10,884, with 8,987 pupils on roll leaving a surplus of 1,897 places or 17%.

Primary School Capacity Strategy

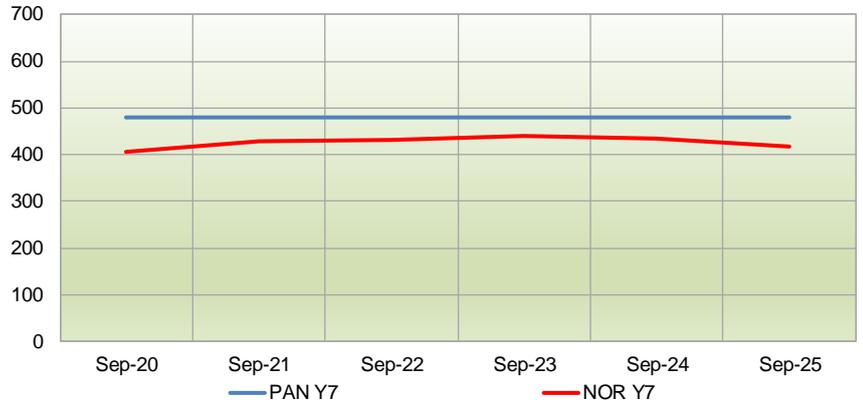
- 8.5 The approach taken is to meet the forecast demand for places across each planning area, acknowledging that pupils can travel to neighbouring schools if their catchment area school is full.
- 8.6 Forecasts indicate that there will be enough primary school places in each planning area to meet demand during the forecast period. There are no plans to add any additional primary school capacity in this forecast period.
- 8.7 Harmans Water Primary School is planned to reduce its PAN from 90 to 60 from September 2021.
- 8.8 Sandy Lane Primary School will also reduce its PAN from 90 to 60 from September 2021.
- 8.9 The programme for constructing the proposed new primary school at Bucklers Park (formerly TRL) has been slipped because the forecasts indicate no requirement for this new school within the forecast period. This school will only be built if there are enough pupils in Crowthorne to warrant this going forward.
- 8.10 The proposed new schools at Amen Corner South and Warfield East have been put on hold, and these schools will only be built if there are enough pupils in North Bracknell to warrant this going forward.
- 8.11 As surplus places put pressure on school budgets, removal of further surplus places will be required during the forecast period.
- 8.12 The proposed reductions in mainstream primary school places will be accompanied by an expansion of primary SEN facilities to meet the rising demand which is set out in section 14. Special and Additional Educational Needs below.
- 8.13 This will see an increase in the numbers of specialist SEN school places including in mainstream schools, making use of the surplus accommodation arising from reducing mainstream numbers on roll.

9. Secondary Key Stage 3 & 4

9.1 The graphs below show the forecast secondary Published Admission Numbers (PAN) and Numbers on Roll (NOR) in the intake year 7 for 2020-25.

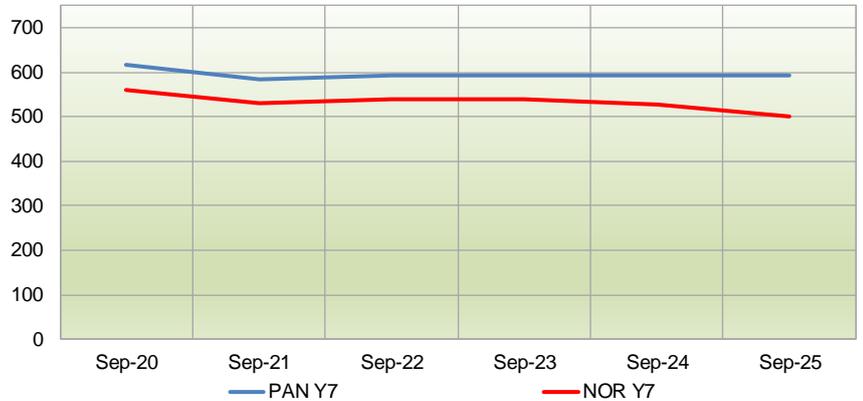
Graph Nineteen: Secondary Forecasts
North Bracknell Intake Year

YEAR	PAN Y7	NOR Y7	SURPLUS	%
Sep-20	480	407	73	15%
Sep-21	480	430	50	10%
Sep-22	480	433	47	10%
Sep-23	480	439	41	9%
Sep-24	480	434	46	10%
Sep-25	480	418	62	13%



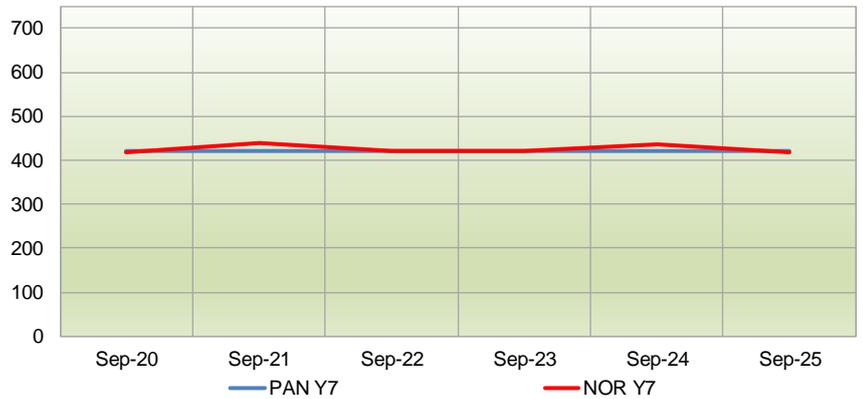
Graph Twenty: Secondary Forecasts
South Bracknell Intake Year

YEAR	PAN Y7	NOR Y7	SURPLUS	%
Sep-20	615	559	56	9%
Sep-21	585	530	55	9%
Sep-22	594	539	55	9%
Sep-23	594	540	54	9%
Sep-24	594	528	66	11%
Sep-25	594	501	93	16%



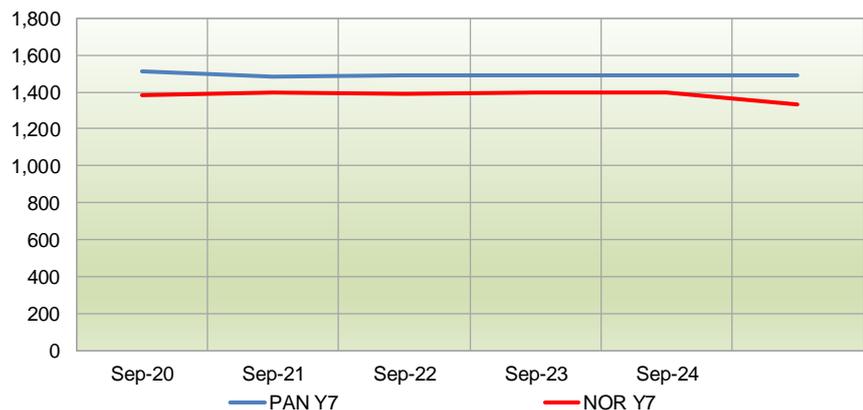
Graph Twenty One: Secondary Forecasts
Crowthorne & Sandhurst Intake Year

YEAR	PAN Y7	NOR Y7	SURPLUS	%
Sep-20	420	417	3	1%
Sep-21	420	440	-20	-5%
Sep-22	420	420	0	0%
Sep-23	420	420	0	0%
Sep-24	420	437	-17	-4%
Sep-25	420	417	3	1%



Graph Twenty Two: Secondary Forecasts
Borough Wide Intake Year

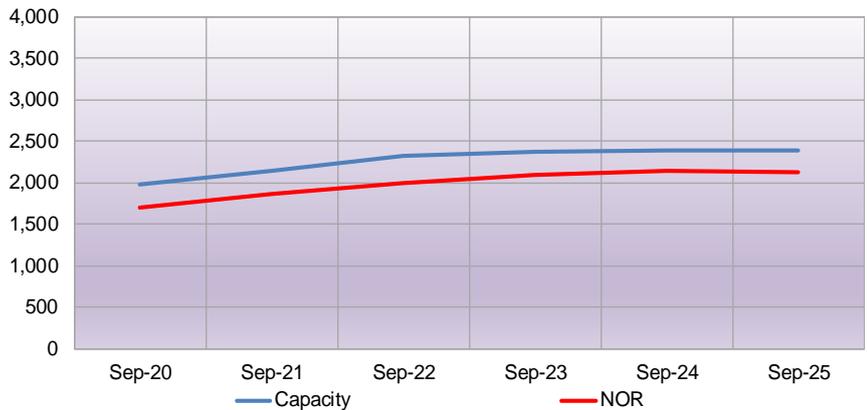
YEAR	PAN Y7	NOR Y7	SURPLUS	%
Sep-20	1,515	1,383	132	9%
Sep-21	1,485	1,400	85	6%
Sep-22	1,494	1,392	102	7%
Sep-23	1,494	1,399	95	6%
Sep-24	1,494	1,399	95	6%
Sep-25	1,494	1,336	158	11%



9.2 The graphs below set out the forecast secondary school capacity and total numbers on roll (NOR) in Key Stages 3 & 4 for 2020-25.

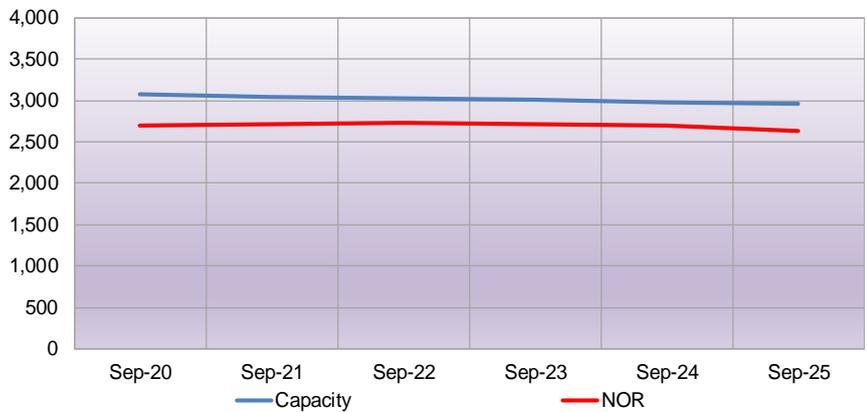
Graph Twenty Three: Secondary Forecasts North Bracknell KS 3 & 4 Total NOR

YEAR	Capacity	NOR	SURPLUS	%
Sep-20	1,986	1,710	276	14%
Sep-21	2,154	1,861	294	14%
Sep-22	2,322	2,007	315	14%
Sep-23	2,370	2,091	279	12%
Sep-24	2,400	2,143	257	11%
Sep-25	2,400	2,124	276	12%



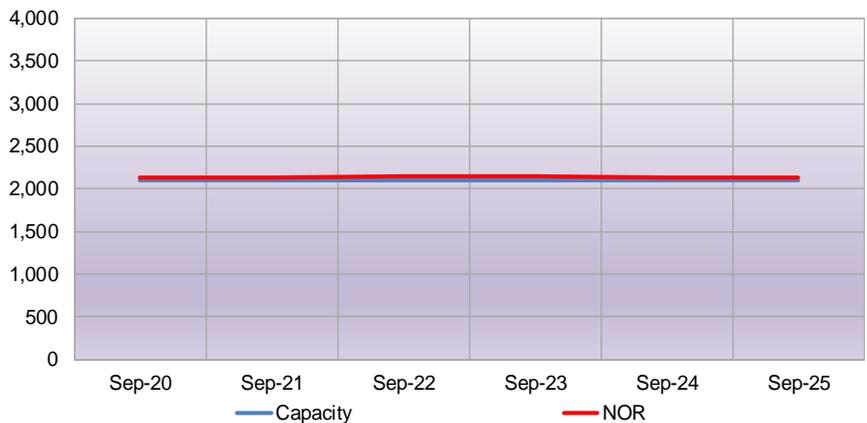
Graph Twenty Four: Secondary Forecasts South Bracknell KS 3 & 4 Total NOR

YEAR	Capacity	NOR	SURPLUS	%
Sep-20	3,075	2,700	375	12%
Sep-21	3,045	2,715	330	11%
Sep-22	3,024	2,737	287	9%
Sep-23	3,003	2,718	285	10%
Sep-24	2,982	2,696	286	10%
Sep-25	2,961	2,638	323	11%



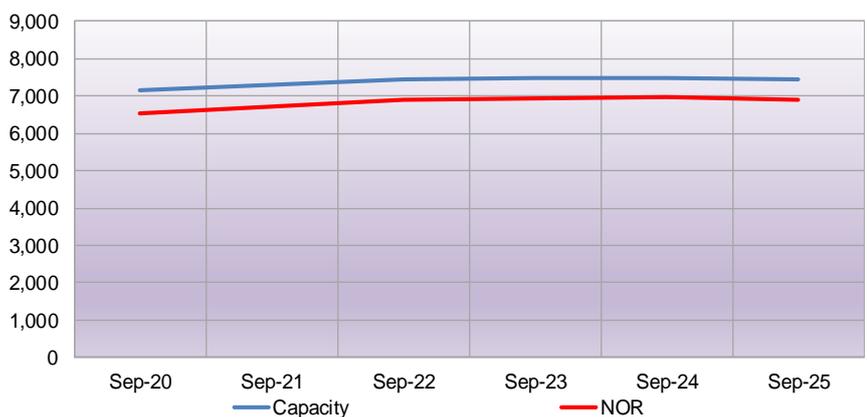
Graph Twenty Five: Secondary Forecasts Crowthorne & Sandhurst KS3&4 Total NOR

YEAR	Capacity	NOR	SURPLUS	%
Sep-20	2,100	2,132	-32	-2%
Sep-21	2,100	2,136	-36	-2%
Sep-22	2,100	2,145	-45	-2%
Sep-23	2,100	2,144	-44	-2%
Sep-24	2,100	2,134	-34	-2%
Sep-25	2,100	2,134	-34	-2%



Graph Twenty Six: Secondary Forecasts Borough Wide Key Stage 3 & 4 Total NOR

YEAR	Capacity	NOR	SURPLUS	%
Sep-20	7,161	6,542	619	9%
Sep-21	7,299	6,711	588	8%
Sep-22	7,446	6,889	557	7%
Sep-23	7,473	6,952	521	7%
Sep-24	7,482	6,973	509	7%
Sep-25	7,461	6,896	565	8%



Secondary School Forecasts

- 9.3 There are 7 secondary schools in the Borough with a total of 7,161 Key Stage 3 & 4 Places, and 6,542 pupils on roll in September 2020, leaving a surplus of 619 places or 9%.
- 9.4 By September 2025 forecasts indicate the numbers of secondary Key Stage 3 & 4 places in our 7 schools will increase to 7,461, with 6,896 pupils on roll leaving a surplus of 565 places or 8%.

Secondary School Capacity Strategy

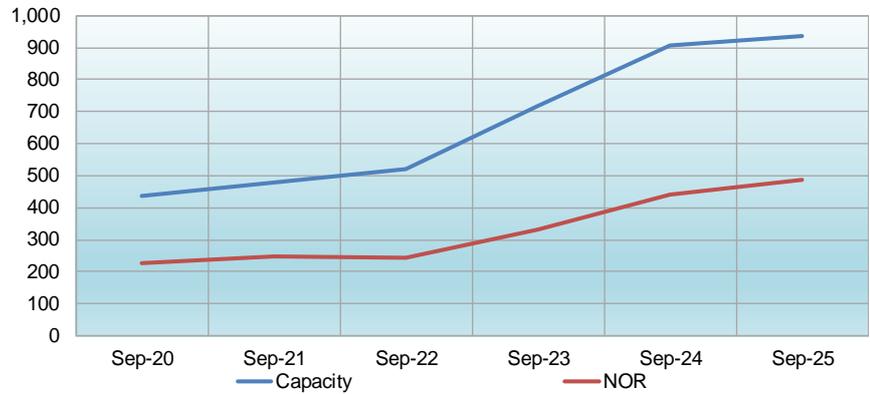
- 9.5 The approach taken is to meet the forecast demand across the whole Borough, allowing for the fact that some schools will have deficits and some surpluses of places. This acknowledges that secondary aged pupils can travel between planning areas to secure a school place if their catchment area school is full.
- 9.6 Forecasts indicate that there will be enough secondary school places across the whole Borough to meet demand throughout the forecast period.
- 9.7 Under a previous commitment Kings Academy Binfield will expand from a PAN of 150 in September 2019 to a PAN of 210 from September 2021.
- 9.8 Garth Hill College will reduce its PAN from 300 to 270 from September 2021.
- 9.9 Easthampstead Park will reduce its PAN from 240 to 210 from September 2021.
- 9.10 Ranelagh is planning to increase its PAN from 165 to 174 from September 2022.

10. Post 16

10.1 The graphs below set out the forecast Post 16 capacity and total numbers on roll (NOR) for 2020-25.

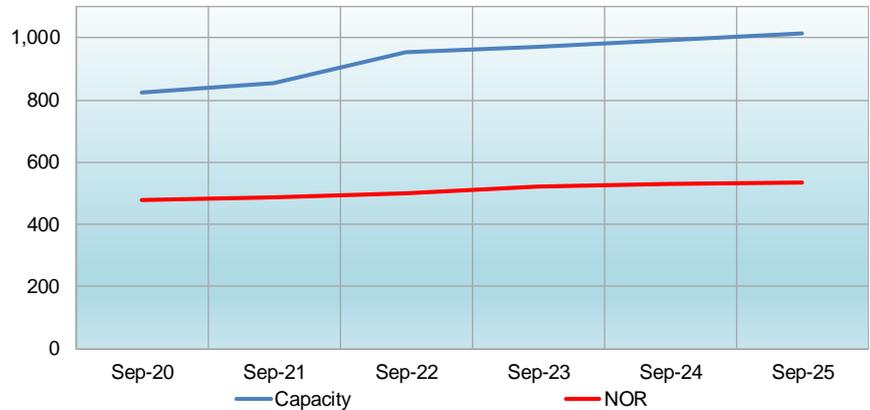
**Graph Twenty Seven: Post 16 Forecasts
North Bracknell Total Number on Roll**

YEAR	Capacity	NOR	SURPLUS	%
Sep-20	436	228	208	48%
Sep-21	478	248	230	48%
Sep-22	520	242	278	54%
Sep-23	720	331	389	54%
Sep-24	907	442	465	51%
Sep-25	937	485	452	48%



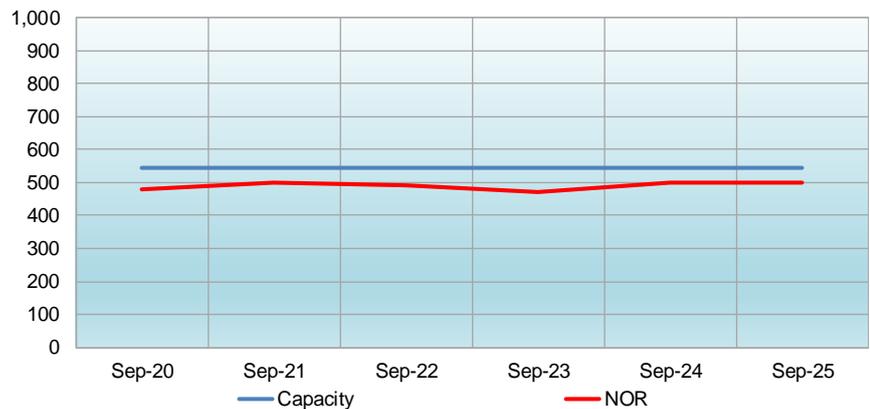
**Graph Twenty Eight: Post 16 Forecasts
South Bracknell Total Number on Roll**

YEAR	Capacity	NOR	SURPLUS	%
Sep-20	826	477	349	42%
Sep-21	856	487	369	43%
Sep-22	952	498	454	48%
Sep-23	973	522	451	46%
Sep-24	994	532	462	47%
Sep-25	1,015	534	481	47%



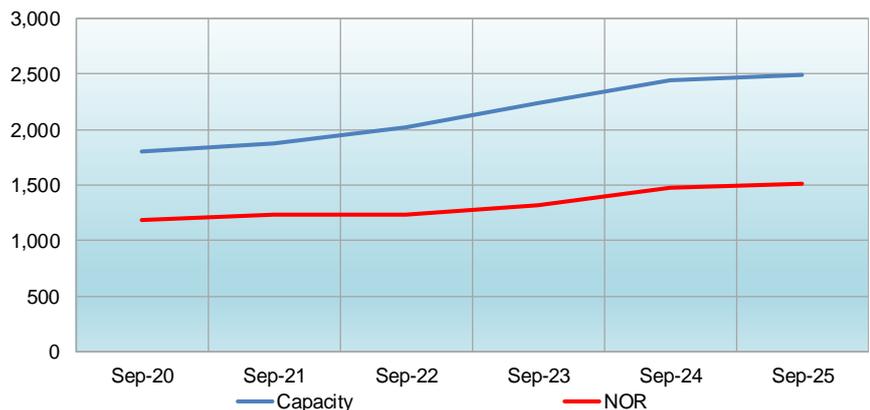
**Graph Twenty Nine: Post 16 Forecasts
Crowthorne & Sandhurst Total NOR**

YEAR	Capacity	NOR	SURPLUS	%
Sep-20	546	481	65	12%
Sep-21	546	498	48	9%
Sep-22	546	490	56	10%
Sep-23	546	473	73	13%
Sep-24	546	500	46	8%
Sep-25	546	498	48	9%



**Graph Thirty: Post 16 Forecasts
Borough Wide Total Number on Roll**

YEAR	Capacity	NOR	SURPLUS	%
Sep-20	1,808	1,186	622	34%
Sep-21	1,880	1,233	647	34%
Sep-22	2,018	1,230	788	39%
Sep-23	2,239	1,325	913	41%
Sep-24	2,447	1,474	973	40%
Sep-25	2,498	1,517	981	39%



Post 16 Forecasts

10.2 There are six secondary schools in the Borough which offer post 16 education as set out on Table Six below:

Table Six: Schools Offering Post 16 Places

School	Type	Planning Area
Garth Hill College	Maintained	North Bracknell
The Brakenhale	Academy	South Bracknell
Ranelagh	CE Academy	South Bracknell
Easthampstead Park	Maintained	South Bracknell
Edgbarrow	Academy	Crowthorne & Sandhurst
Sandhurst	Maintained	Crowthorne & Sandhurst

10.3 Each individual school sets its own admissions numbers and manages admissions into Years 12 and 13.

10.4 The capacity of post 16 in secondary schools has been calculated in one of the two following ways:

- For academy schools this is set out in their funding agreements with the EFA.
- For maintained schools Post 16 capacity is the total net capacity of the school minus the sum of the admission numbers in year groups 7 to 11. This means that where schools reduce their admission numbers in their lower year groups this results in an increase in the surplus of Post 16 places until such time as the accommodation in the school is reduced as set out at 2.6 above.

10.5 Numbers on roll for Post 16 have been drawn from the October School census.

10.6 Across the 6 secondary schools with Post 16 in the Borough there is currently capacity for up to 1,808 Post 16 pupils. In September 2020 there were 1,186 pupils on roll, leaving a surplus of up to 622 places or 34%.

10.7 By September 2025 it is expected that there will be 7 secondary schools with Post 16 in the Borough and overall Post 16 capacity is forecast to increase to 2,498 with 1,517 pupils on roll leaving a surplus of up to 981 places or 39%

Post 16 Capacity Strategy

10.8 The approach taken is to meet the forecast and plan for demand across the whole Borough which acknowledges that Post 16 aged pupils can travel between planning areas to secure a Post 16 school place if required.

10.9 Bracknell & Wokingham College and Farnborough Sixth Form College are non-school Post 16 providers within easy access, and both of these establishments take significant numbers of Bracknell Forest Post 16 pupils each year.

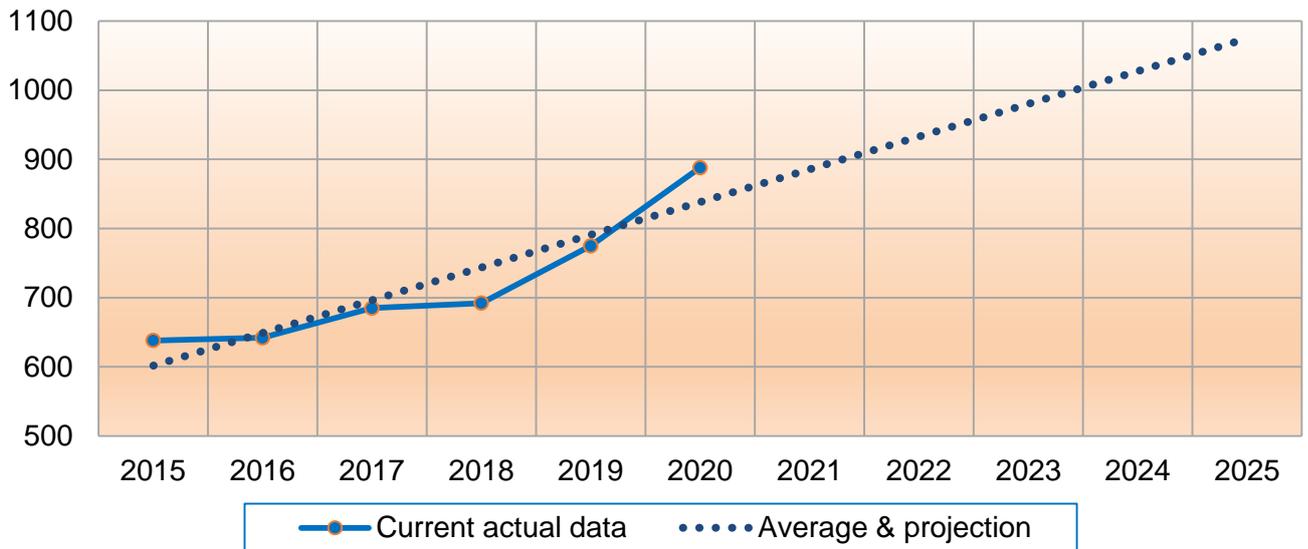
10.10 Kings Academy Binfield is expected to open to Post 16 from September 2023, and a high staying on rate is anticipated, which is expected to result in an increase in the numbers of Post 16 pupils on roll across the Borough.

10.11 The forecast surplus of Post 16 places is rising because two secondary schools are reducing their Admission numbers in their lower year groups resulting in more places being available for Post 16 pupils.

11. Special and Additional Educational Needs

11.1 The numbers of children and young people with special or additional needs are increasing across the Borough as set out on Graphs Thirty One and Thirty Two below.

Graph Thirty One: Education Health Care Plan Population



Graph Thirty Two: SEN Support Growth Population



11.2 The number of children and young people on the school roll and number of children and young people with SEN Support was based on the school census. The number of EHCPs was informed by the SEN2 return data. Information from the last 5 years informed the projections to calculate the average increase in the proportion of the school population with an EHCP or SEN support. This average was then used to predict the equivalent increase over the projection period.

- 11.3 The full details of calculations for the potential population growth of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) population is included in the Needs and Sufficiency Analysis which can be accessed through the Bracknell Forest Local Offer page.²
- 11.4 The growth in the number of children requiring additional support has been divided into two tiers of need. The rate of growth has been identified as significantly different for children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and children without an EHCP but requiring support directly from schools.

EHCP Provisions

- 11.5 The special school in the borough is Kennel Lane school with the capacity for 196 pupils. There are three resource units supporting specific needs with the capacity for 82 pupils. One of these units, The Rise, opened in 2015 with an eight-student yearly intake until capacity is reached. A Pupil Referral Unit provides placements for up to 46 pupils at any one time.
- 11.6 At January 2020, 888 pupils were recorded as having an EHCP. Due to limited provisions within the borough approximately a third of pupils with an EHCP attended schools outside of Bracknell Forest.
- 11.7 Bracknell Forest has seen a growth in the number and proportion of pupils with an EHCP over the last five years, in line with the pattern of statistical neighbours and across England. Over the last five years, there was an average increase in the number of EHCPs within the borough of 7.8% per year from January 2015 to January 2020 when the number of EHCPs increased by 249.
- 11.8 By 2025, the number of pupils with an EHCP is expected to increase by approximately 340 pupils.

SEN Support

- 11.9 Although the proportion of pupils with an EHCP is increasing, the percentage requiring SEN Support and without an EHCP has remained relatively stable. This has also been the case amongst the statistical neighbours. The total number of pupils needing SEN Support has been recorded to have decreased by 292 between 2015 and 2020. At January 2020, 2,038 pupils were recorded as requiring SEN Support.
- 11.10 By 2025, the number of pupils with SEN Support is expected to increase by approximately 181 pupils.

SEND Capacity Strategy

- 11.11 The pressure on education, health and care services to support the needs of pupils with EHCPs is increasing. A new SEND Strategy and SEND Commissioning Plan are being developed to outline how the demand for these places can be met.

2

https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/bracknell/services/files/sufficiency_analysis_sept_2019.pdf

11.12 A number of priorities will be identified including developing more provisions within the borough to support increasing areas of need such as Autism Spectrum Disorder and Social, Emotional and Mental Health.

12. Forward Look to 2036

- a. Work to create a new Local Plan is currently underway in the Council and this will include identification of future sites for new housing development across the Borough to 2036. A new Local Plan is not expected to be adopted until 2021/22. The new Local Plan will be likely to identify significant housing growth, mostly in the North of the Borough, and depending on pupil numbers on roll, there may be a demand for additional school places depending on the numbers on roll at the time and the status of the potential new North Bracknell primary schools referred to in the primary strategy at 9.9 to 9.10 above.

Annex 1: Mainstream Pupil Forecasting Methodology

The Basis of the Forecasting System for Mainstream School Places

The new forecasting system is based on the principle of cohort survival and the guidance from the DfE published in June 2019 "School Capacity Survey 2019 Guide to Forecasting Pupil Numbers in School Place Planning".

Year groups

Primary forecasts include Year R (Reception) to Year 6. Secondary forecasts include Year 7 to Year 11 (plus Years 12 and 13 where schools have sixth forms).

Planning Areas

Forecasts are provided for each planning area. Bracknell Forest currently has three primary and three secondary planning areas as follows:

Primary North Bracknell (8670001)
 South Bracknell (8670002)
 Crowthorne & Sandhurst (8670003)

Secondary North Bracknell (8670004)
 South Bracknell (8670005)
 Crowthorne & Sandhurst (8670006)

Information About Existing Schools

Data is collated on the Borough's latest pattern of school organisation, including details of school types, school designated areas, entry and leaving ages, planning areas, net capacity assessments, and the capacity of academy schools from their Funding Agreements.

Forecasting Reception Pupil Numbers

Population data is drawn from the NHS GP registration of birth data each year by post code. The Borough's Business Intelligence unit applies school catchment areas to each post code to produce a summary of births within the designated area of each primary school in the Borough. Sub-national population projections from ONS published in 2018 are also considered to validate projected birth data.

NOR for the next intake year are derived from actual admissions numbers which become known by the April preceding the start of the next academic year.

A take up factor for the following four years is calculated by taking the average of the difference between the projected birth rate and the actual NOR over the previous three year, and this produces forecast NOR for the next four years ahead.

For VA schools that do not have a designated area, the forecast NOR are calculated using the take-up factor for the planning area in which the school is located.

Forecasting Year 7 Pupil Numbers

Year 7 numbers are calculated by calculating a cohort survival % from Y6 for each planning area and then apportioning this by school taking into account patterns of take up of places in previous years and the intake PAN of the secondary school.

Forecasting Pupil Numbers for Non-Intake Years

Numbers are calculated by using a cohort progression technique. Actual NOR for the last three years are taken from the January school census and the forecast NOR for future years is calculated as the average of the cohort survival of that year group in that school over the previous three years.

Forecasting Post 16 Pupil Numbers

Year 12 numbers are calculated by individual school by using the % historical staying on rate from Y11. Y13 numbers are calculated the same way based on the % historical staying on rate from Y12.

Forecasting Demand for School Places from New Housing

Because the amount of new house building has remained fairly constant in previous years no additional allowance has been made for demand for school places arising from new housing in the previous 2020-24 SPP. Because of the spike in new housing completions in 2019/20 shown on Graph Two at 3.3. in the 2021-25 SPP, forecasts for the North Bracknell planning area, where the majority of the new housing has been built, have been adjusted slightly upwards to reflect this, and this will be closely monitored in future years as the children and young people arising from new housing work their way into the school population.

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TO: SCHOOLS FORUM
DATE: 14 JANUARY 2021

UPDATE ON THE HIGH NEEDS BLOCK BUDGET FOR 2021-22 **Executive Director of People and Director of Resources**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on the development of the 2021-22 High Needs Block (HNB) element of the Schools Budget.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The HNB grant is allocated to LAs by the DfE through a national formula and is intended to fund support for children and young people with the most challenging educational requirements (SEND). It is the most complex part of the school funding framework.
- 2.2 Whilst the total cash increase for the 2021-22 Bracknell Forest (BF) HNB will be 8% per pupil, with the total income retained by BF estimated at £18.998m (+9.7% cash with other data changes in the national formula), this is insufficient to meet the demands forecast. Additionally, as reported in October, the improvement and savings programme has had to be rephased and re-worked to reflect the coronavirus pandemic and current opportunities. The financial challenges being experienced are not unique to BF with many LAs having to set deficit budgets.
- 2.3 Taking account of the update on progress against the actions contained within the SEND Commissioning Plan, the revised medium-term financial forecast indicates a forecast annual deficit of £4.9m which is around 25% of the annual grant allocation. The deficit at 31 March 2023 is now forecast at £14.952m (was £12.686m).
- 2.4 Work will continue in partnership with the HNB sub-group of the Schools Forum to develop further service improvements and cost reductions to remove the reduce the underlying funding gap. This was however expected to present challenges to what are sensitive budgets with the HNB budget heading towards an unsustainable position.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That the Forum NOTES:

- 1 on-going progress against the actions contained within the SEND Commissioning Plan**
- 2 the current update on the HNB Budget and its medium-term financial plan which now projects a £14.952m deficit at 31 March 2023**
- 3 the expectation that budget proposals will be presented to the next meeting of the Forum**

4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure the Forum is aware of the significant financial challenges being experienced in the HNB Budget and that a clear plan of action is being put in place.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 A range of options will be considered with the HNB sub-group as the recovery plan is further developed.

6 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Funding Responsibilities

- 6.1 The HNB element of the DSG is allocated to LAs by the DfE through a national formula to support pupils with SEND and is intended to fund a continuum of provision for relevant pupils and students from 0-24. LAs in general commission services from providers. In-house arrangements are made in a relatively small number of areas. This is a ring-fenced grant on provisions that LAs have no funding responsibility for.

More information on the scope of the HNB and the determination of LA funding is set out in Annex 1.

2020-21 progress on planned Service Developments

- 6.2 The October Forum meeting received an update on service developments and performance against the budget expectations. More work has now been undertaken which is summarised below.

Original developments

- 6.3 In setting the original budget, a significant amount of change in service delivery was agreed with the Schools Forum and approved by the Executive Member. However, a number of factors have impacted the ability to make the changes as originally intended including:
1. The coronavirus pandemic. This has diverted priorities within the council and schools away from the HNB developmental projects
 2. Capacity to take forward the range of immediate developments needed.
 3. Lack of opportunities to collaborate with key partners.
 4. The Annual Reviews and Placement Monitoring officer took up post at the start of August. Although a recent appointment, developments are needed to develop a more robust approach to annual reviews particularly for the post 16 cohort. Initial forecasts suggest that at least 10% of plans could cease as a result of this approach potentially saving £0.150k per annum. Equally important would be the precedent that would be set by establishing this approach to manage processes and expectations for future years.
 5. The SEN finance officer formally started at the start of August. An operating model needs to be developed linked to placement decisions as set out in the Code of Practice.

Update on new initiatives

- 6.4 The need to build and grow capacity across the borough is becoming ever-more pressing. The number of EHCPs continues to grow significantly each year with a 38% increase in resultant purchased places expected in the 4 years to January 2021.
- 6.5 The original developments to HNB services and budgets were the first step towards significant change. The following section sets out progress made over the autumn term against these priorities. More detailed work, to establish business cases for each development, is underway.

a) Ensuring appropriate resources across the continuum of support & reducing cost pressures

- i) The Expressions of Interest (EOI) for primary age specially resourced provision for children with autism has been completed. Two schools submitted expressions of interest and both have had agreement in principle to go ahead. Further work will be done to agree their revenue funding levels. These two provisions will provide a further 20 places in borough for children with autism who struggle to cope full-time in mainstream school.
- ii) SLAs are being agreed for the Special Resource Provisions (SRPs) developed as part of the Special Provision Capital Fund (SPCF). Across the new developments, up to 90 new places will be created (this figure could be higher but we are still awaiting some schools to confirm their capacity), in both secondary and primary phases.
- iii) An Expression of Interest process is being planned for 2021, this time focussing on specially resourced provision for secondary school aged pupils with autism.
- iv) Working with Kennel Lane School supporting their work ensuring appropriate placements are made and that these specialist places are there for those pupils with significantly more complex levels of need.

b) Working with commissioning to improve provision & cost efficiencies

- i) Review residential placements for complex needs including those for children and young people under Child Protection or who are looked after by September 2021.
- ii) Work has also started to take control of post-16 expenditure, taking a commissioning approach to work with existing post-16 providers as well as looking at procuring new provision. In particular, we are keen to work with Adults' Services to develop new provision which will support young people with SEND into a meaningful adult life.

c) Identifying & progressing next steps for Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) provision

- i) Analysis of the feasibility of an SEMH Hub is underway. To support this, officers from a number of services have come together to look at how and where we gather data. This will provide a process for ongoing analysis, as well as reliable data projections which is needed to make a case for the new school.

d) Improved control of number of EHCPs

In addition to new developments which will add places across the borough, we are looking at how we ensure we are maximising existing capacity. To this end, we have completed our consultation with all schools across the continuum of need. This includes:

- i) An improved overview of a consistent application of the Graduated Approach;
- ii) offering the right interventions to schools at the right time via the SEND Intervention Fund/referral to Children's Support Services (as appropriate). This will be in place from January 2021 and details of how to make referrals will be shared as well as published on the local offer.
- iii) We are also reviewing and developing our approach to Annual Reviews specifically for phased transfers.

e) Better governance of SEND processes and procedures

Current governance and decision-making around the current SEND panel processes, intervention hub and high needs funding allocation have been completed:

- i) Formal consultation with stakeholders regarding proposed changes to were carried out and the new ways of working have been implemented or will be from January 2021.
- ii) Planning is underway to continue the work with schools on updating the funding matrix. This is expected to continue apace in the new year. A Task and Finish group, from the Schools' Forum Sub-Group is meeting on 20 January and 25 February, by which point an interim funding matrix should be finalised and agreed. Further work may need to continue to refine the matrix over the first half of the year.

f) Strategic Commissioning

The main areas of progress over the Autumn term for the Commissioning Team have included:

- Update: SEND needs and sufficiency analysis completed
- Development and sign off of SEND Commissioning plan and priorities
- A new Commissioning Team structure was set up in June 2019 incorporating a Children's Commissioning team covering SEND, CLA, Care Leavers, Children with disabilities and Early Help.
- Supporting the local area COVID 19 response and provider engagement across Children's, Adults and Integration.

g) Children and Young People's Integrated Therapy – East Berkshire Service Overview

The Directors across the three East Berkshire LA's (RBWM, Slough and BFC) and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have agreed to work together for developing a **joint approach** to the commissioning and delivery of Integrated Therapies.

Approach to date:

Integrated Therapies for children and young people across East Berkshire are currently commissioned through a variety of arrangements by the three local authorities and the CCG. In order to develop this approach, it is important to gain an understanding of the need, demand, future demand and cost of the services across East Berkshire.

Progress:

- The CCG supported by the LA's has been focused on working collaboratively with BHFT on improvements to the OT services and reducing the current waiting times.
- Collaboration between BFC and BHFT has resulted in strengthened monitoring around SaLT.
- East Berkshire CYPIT needs analysis completed.
- Best practice sessions with other LA's including Ealing.
- This work has allowed us to develop an initial understanding of service need and challenges but is based on limited engagement due to COVID and a lack of robust data.

Next steps

- Develop a detailed project plan and timeline
- Discovery phase to understand the as is picture across East Berkshire – the current model, pathway and the challenges and barriers around delivering CYPIT from BHFT's perspective.
- The experience, outcomes and impact of CYPIT for children and young people.
- Co-production and engagement with schools, BHFT, CYP and families to develop a service model and pathways.
- Funding of therapies across the three LA's – SEND funding and High Needs Block.
- Agree commissioning and contracting model with a view to having new arrangements in place for April 2022.

h) Partnership working and Monitoring of SaLT in Bracknell Forest

Local developments

An established quarterly contract monitoring for SaLT is now in place. This includes:

- BHFT service leads, BFC Commissioning and Operational leads from SEND and Early years
- Focused on early years, school age and 16 – 25 provision
- Activity data including referrals, contacts and waits
- Developing qualitative feedback too
- BHFT and BFC maintained good contact and all monitoring meetings continued utilising remote technology.
- No concerns at this time around waiting lists, however work around tribunals can be time and resource intensive for BHFT therefore joint work to map out the work/process to identify where learning and improvements can be made will take place in 2021.

Summary

- Recovery and restoration planning is ongoing and face to face contacts in schools continue to increase.
- A blended model of service delivery continues to be in place consisting of face to face contacts, telephone and online consultations to best meet the clinical needs of the CYP.
- BHFT training packages are being developed that can be delivered virtually in order to support new working practices and ensure sustainability within the service.
- The CYPIT online resource has provided a level of ongoing support and advice, easily accessed by families.
- Feedback is now automatically requested in the form of an online questionnaire at the end of every 'One Consultation' session. Once online training commences, feedback will be requested at the end of every session which will be analysed, shared with BFC and used to inform service delivery and development.

Financial Forecasts

- 6.6 The October Forum meeting received an update to financial forecasts based on the August 2020 budget monitoring cycle, progress against the SEND Commissioning Plan and expectations around the medium-term funding allocations to be received from the DfE. This reported that the original £1.5m per annum underlying overspend will increase to an average of around £4.2m – over 20% of the annual grant allocation - with the forecast deficit at 31 March 2023 now at £12.686m.
- 6.7 Reflecting on latest progress on service developments and actual financial performance in 2020-21 (to the October monitoring cycle), current forecasts now indicate a £4.954m in-year over spend (further increase of £0.562m from the October Forum report). With the general expectation that the majority of expenditure now being incurred will be fixed for the short to medium-term, this has a significant effect on the medium-term forecast deficit.
- 6.8 For 2021-22 and 2022-23, updated forecasts have been determined from key assumptions and trend data and will be reviewed as further progress is made on the actions contained within the SEND Commissioning Plan. This includes:
1. Annual increases in paid places for EHCP pupils of 7.5%. Recent 4-year average is 9.5% but is expected to be lower due to impacts from the SEND Commissioning Plan.
 2. Annual increases in average cost of placement of 2.5%. Recent 4-year average is 5.5% but is expected to be lower going forward as a result of the public sector pay freeze.
 3. Increase in income from the DfE of 8%. This reflects the increases received in the first 2 years of the 3-year Education Spending Review funding allocation. Whilst detailed spending plans for 2022-23 have yet to be announced, the overall increase in total funds is similar to the first 2 years.
 4. Pending completion of an updated cost plan from the service developments, all expected savings on placements have been slipped forward a year.

Annex 2 presents highlight data used for the budget assumptions. It also highlights spend by SEND category and placement type over the past 4 years.

- 6.9 Table 1 below sets out a summary of the revised medium-term financial forecast, reflecting the changes set out above. The current forecast is for a £4.9m per annum overspending which is around 25% of the annual grant allocation. The deficit at 31 March 2023 is now forecast at £14.952m (was £12.686m).

Table 1: HNB Budget: Medium term financial forecast after interventions

Item	2019-20 £m	2020-21 £m	2021-22 £m	2022-23 £m
<u>Forecast income:</u>				
HNB DSG income - gross	16.892	18.549	20.228	21.846
Import / export deduction at other LEAs	-1.101	-1.158	-1.158	-1.158
Academy places deduction	-0.253	-0.072	-0.072	-0.072
Net retained funding	15.538	17.319	18.998	20.616
Anticipated change - net retained		1.781 11.5%	1.679 9.7%	1.618 8.5%
<u>Forecast spend - no interventions:</u>				
Forecast spend - no interventions	18.684	22.559	24.613	26.867
Annual change		3.875 20.7%	2.054 9.1%	2.255 9.2%
<u>Planned interventions:</u>				
SEND support stage		-0.054	-0.068	-0.068
Reducing demand for EHCP		-0.082	-0.082	-0.585
Review PAN at specialist providers		-0.150	-0.200	-0.200
Reducing reliance on external providers		0.000	-0.041	-0.064
Improved commissioning		0.000	-0.197	-0.290
Central Services:		0.000	-0.084	-0.130
Forecast impact of interventions		-0.286	-0.672	-1.337
Cumulative		-0.286	-0.958	-2.295
<u>Anticipated funding gap after interventions:</u>				
Annual	3.146	4.954	4.943	4.914
DSG reserve 31/3/20	-3.079			
Cumulative	0.141	5.095	10.038	14.952

Next Steps

- 6.10 Further work will be undertaken on the actions within the SEND Commissioning Plan with detailed budget proposals to be presented to the Forum for consideration at the next meeting in March.

7 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 7.1 As set out in the report High needs funding is provided to local authorities through the high needs block of the dedicated schools grant (DSG). Local authorities must spend that funding in line with the associated conditions of grant, and School and Early Years Finance Regulations.

Director of Finance

- 7.2 The financial implications anticipated at this stage confirm the expected significant deterioration in the financial position of the HNB budgets. A number of developments are planned that may make a contribution to cost reductions. However, a funding gap remains, and the budget is heading towards an unsustainable position.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 7.3 The budget proposals ensure funding is targeted towards vulnerable groups and therefore an EIA was not required.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 7.4 There are strategic risks around ensuring all schools remain financially stable as well as pupils with SEND receive timely and appropriate support for their education. A failure to develop a plan for a sustainable HNB budget will place at risk the need to make more drastic changes at a later date.

8 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 8.1 Schools, the Schools Forum, including the HNB sub-group and the People Directorate Management Team.

Method of Consultation

- 8.2 Formal consultation and written reports.

Representations Received

- 8.3 Incorporated into this report.

Contact for further information

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Overview of the HNB Budget

1. The HNB element of the DSG supports pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and is intended to fund a continuum of provision for relevant pupils and students from 0-24. LAs receive funding for these provisions from the DfE and in general commission services from providers. In-house arrangements are made in a relatively small number of areas.
2. The DfE has determined that where the cost of provision is above £10,000 it will be classified as high needs. In such circumstances, a “place-plus” approach to funding will generally be used which can be applied consistently across all providers that support high needs pupils and students as follows:
 - a. **Element 1 or “core education funding”**: equivalent to the age-weighted pupil unit (AWPU) in mainstream schools, which the DfE has stated the national average is around £4,000.
 - b. **Element 2 or “additional support funding”**: a budget for providers to deliver additional support for high needs pupils or students with additional needs of up to £6,000.

Specialist and Alternative Providers (AP), such as special schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) only cater for high needs pupils and therefore receive a minimum £10,000 (Element 1 funding plus Element 2) per agreed place.
 - c. **Element 3, or “top-up funding”**: funding above elements 1 and 2 to meet the total cost of the education provision required by an individual high needs pupil or student, as based on the pupil’s or student’s assessed needs. This element is paid to all provider types, for pupils with assessed needs above the £10,000 threshold.
3. Additionally, HNB DSG is also intended to be used where high needs provisions are not arranged in the form of places e.g. specialist support for pupils with sensory impairments, or tuition for pupils not able to attend schools etc.
4. The statutory regulatory framework requires the council to decide on the arrangements to be put in place for the HNB and associated resources and for the Forum to comment on their appropriateness. The current approach in BF is to develop the services during the year in partnership with schools and has therefore created a sub-committee of the Forum to gather views and help shape arrangements. Final budget decisions are taken in March each year by the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning.

DfE Reforms

5. A new National Funding Formula (HNB NFF) was introduced in April 2018 to replace a system that largely allocated funding based on historic spending decisions. The core elements of funds distribution to LAs now comprises:
 1. **Basic entitlement** (initially £4,000 per pupil / student that the LA is responsible for educating that is attending an SEN institution)
 2. **Historic spend** (50% of 2017-18 baseline amount agreed with each LA)
 3. **Population** (Share of national budget allocation based on projected 2-18 year olds at the relevant mid-year as a proportion of all 2-18 year olds)
 4. **Free school meals** (Share of national budget allocation based on resident pupils eligible to FSM as a proportion of all pupils eligible to FSM)
 5. **Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index** (Share of national budget allocation based on number of 2-18 year olds in IDACI bands A-F as a proportion of all pupils in IDACI bands A-F)

6. **Bad health** (Share of national budget allocation based on number of resident children aged 0-16 in bad or very bad health in the general population census as a proportion of all projected children in bad or very bad health)
7. **Disability** (Share of national budget allocation based on number of resident children aged 0-16 for whom parents are eligible to disability living allowance (DLA) as a proportion of all eligible DLA families)
8. **Key Stage 2 low attainment** (Share of national budget allocation based on number of resident pupils who did not attain level 3 in reading tests plus those that did not attain a scaled score in reading test or were not entered as a proportion of all relevant children)
9. **Key stage 4 low attainment** (Share of national budget allocation based on number of resident pupils who did not attain 5 GCSEs at grades A* to G as a proportion of all relevant children).
10. **Hospital education** (LA specific funding based on budgeted spend)

6. One of the key outcomes for the DfE from these reforms is to ensure that any change in the amount of funding allocated to individual LAs must be introduced slowly to allow those areas facing reductions time to adjust to the new amounts. This is because expenditure is mainly incurred on educational fees and these generally remain unchanged throughout the course of each pupil's time in the relevant institution which often presents commitments for over 10 years. Therefore, in addition to the core factors set out above, there will be further adjustments to each LAs HNB funding as follows:

1. An initial funding floor adjustment to add the cash amount difference where the normal operation of the HNB formula does not deliver at least a 0.5% increase in per head (2-18 year old population) funding compared to the baseline amount of expenditure. The protection is are not calculated on elements of the formula that are subject to later updates and are in proportion to estimated population changes (so a projected decrease in population will result in a lower overall cash percentage increase, subject to a cash protection).

There is a net £174m cost to the Funding Floor in 2020-21, which amounts to 2.1% of total funding and illustrates the importance of moving to the new formula in a measured way.

For LAs experiencing a reduction in population, there will be a second funding floor adjustment to ensure total cash funding does not fall below the baseline amount. Note, the funding floor adjustment is not applied to the basic entitlement factor i.e. current numbers of high needs pupils and students or the import / export adjustment (see note 2. directly below) as the DfE want to ensure that year on year changes in these factors are reflected in a LAs funding.

2. An import / export adjustment so those LAs sending out more pupils to other LAs lose £6,000 per pupil funding to reflect the requirement of the resident LA to finance all place funding in the SEN institutions in their area, irrespective of which LA places the student. This amount is added to the £4,000 per pupil / student funding included in the main formula to achieve the £10,000 place funding cost. This is a lagged adjustment. LA funding allocations are adjusted from January census data, but actual places purchased will generally be based on actual student numbers taking up places during the year.

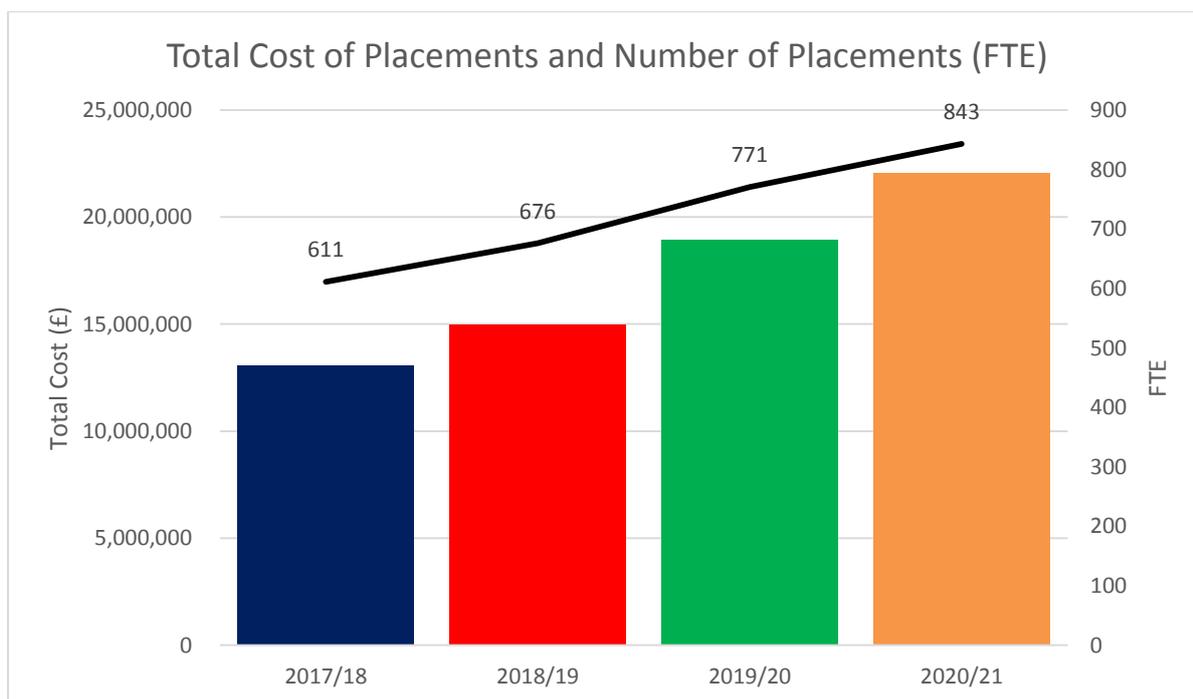
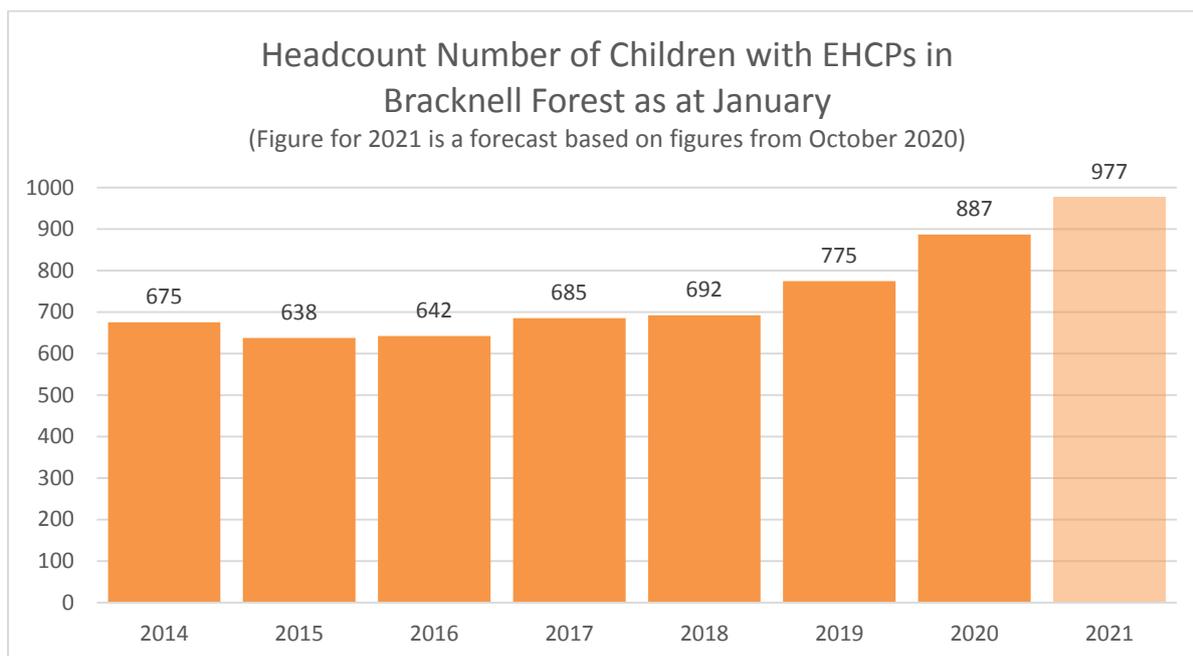
This removes some of the unfairness in the previous funding system where LAs did not generally contribute to Element 1 and 2 costs for their students in institutions in other LAs.

7. An area cost adjustment will be applied where relevant (7.4% uplift for BFC) to all factors other than historic spend as this will already reflect local cost variations. This recognises additional costs in some areas, most notably enhanced salary payments in and around London, and follows the same approach adopted by the DfE in the funding reforms introduced for mainstream schools. The HNB area cost adjustment comprises 2 elements: one for non-teaching staff; and another for teaching staff. As the ratio of teaching to non-teaching staff in

special schools is different from that in mainstream schools, this calculation is different to that used in the School NFF (where the BFC area cost adjustment is 5.6%).

8. The new HNB NFF will deliver significantly less funding to BF than the current arrangements. The draft 2021-22 HNB DSG update from the DfE indicates £2.857m funding protection for BFC, which is around 14% of total funding which clearly illustrates the importance of the funding floor adjustment from a BF perspective. On average, LAs receive 2.1% of their HNB funding through this factor.

Summary Data SEN trend data

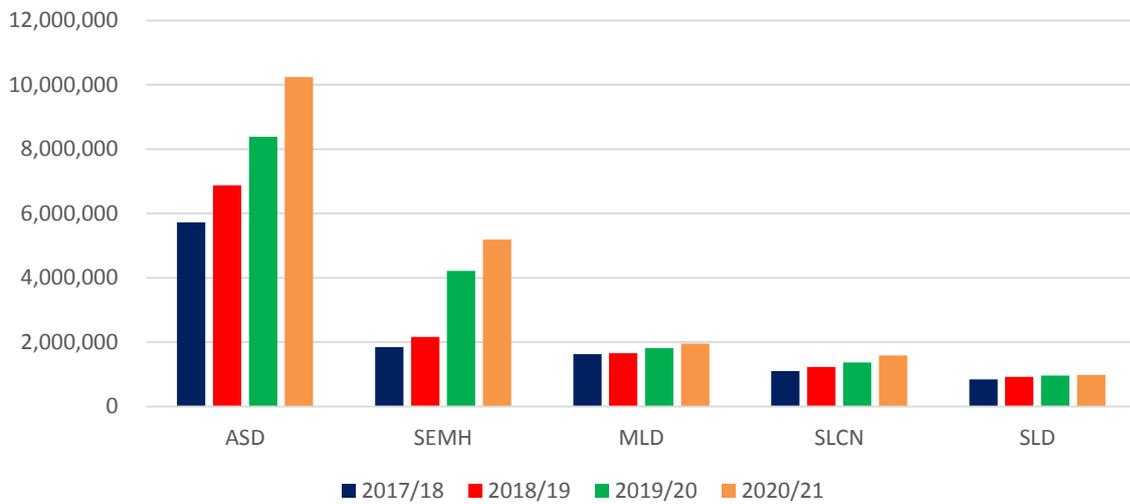


69% increase in total spend

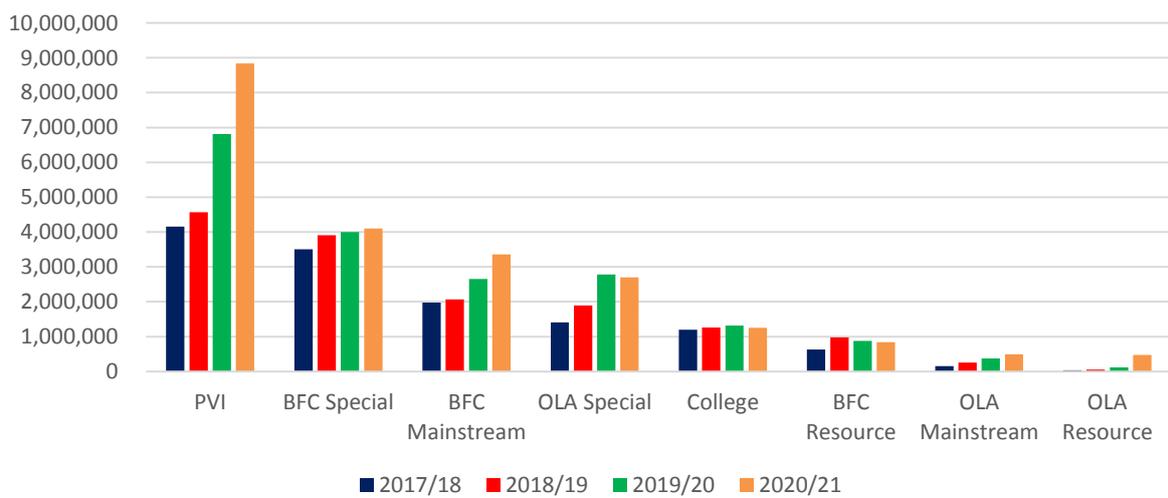
38% increase in FTE

22% increase in average placement cost

Total Cost Per Need for Five SEND Categories Forecast to Result in Highest Costs in 2020/21



Total Cost of SEND Placements Per Provision Type



	PVI	BFC Special	BFC Mainstream	OLA Special	College	BFC Resource	OLA Mainstream	OLA Resource
Proportion of total costs in 17/18	32%	27%	15%	11%	9%	5%	1%	0%
No of FTE 17/18	80	152	196	57	82	24	14	4
Proportion of total costs in 20/21	40%	19%	15%	12%	6%	4%	2%	2%
No of cases 20/21	130	155	278	87	92	45	35	21

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TO: SCHOOLS FORUM

DATE: 14 JANUARY 2021

2021-22 BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR THE SCHOOLS BLOCK AND CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK ELEMENTS OF THE SCHOOLS BUDGET

Executive Director: People

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present final proposals from the Council for the 2021-22 Schools Block (SB) and Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) elements of the Schools Budget.
- 1.2 There is also an update on the Early Years Block (EY) where uncertainty on national funding arrangements means that final budget proposals will now be presented to the Forum in March, rather than now as originally expected.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Building on earlier decisions agreed by the Forum together with the release by the Department for Education (DfE) of the key data that must be used to calculate school budgets, final work on next year's Schools Budget has now been completed. Inevitably, this has led to some changes now being presented, most notably as a result of confirmed additional educational needs (AEN) data which for primary schools has shown an overall reduction in deprivation and low prior attainment (LPA) scores with secondary schools also experiencing a reduction in deprivation but an increase in LPA.
- 2.2 With Local Authorities (LAs) funded for their schools through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) on lagged 2019 data, there is no change in the overall amount of funds available for next year's SB. However, taking account of all the data changes and the requirements of the School Funding Framework, schools will now receive £0.185m less through the BF Funding Formula than previously expected. Without the application of the Minimum Per Pupil Funding Level (MPPFL), the net reduction to school budgets would have been £0.359m.
- 2.3 This overall reduction in funding allocations to schools reduces the previously reported funding gap to achieving the National Funding Formula (NFF) rates from £0.412m to £0.227m.
- 2.4 In terms of the long-awaited decision from the secretary of state on the request from the council to support the cost of new schools by adding funds to school budgets from reserves, a decision has still to be made. However, alternative options have been identified and previously agreed with the Forum to increase funds to schools should use of council Reserves are not permitted. With the final budget data resulting in a reduced funding gap, the expectation is that for the first time full NFF rates can be afforded without the need for a top slice to the 19 schools with budgets above the MPPFL. The proposed budget maintains the integrity and affordability of the medium-term funding strategy of using up to £0.250m of external funding each year.
- 2.5 Overall, the final proposals being presented – after adding the financing of the £0.227m funding shortfall – result in schools on average experiencing an increase in per pupil funding of 3.8% which compares to 6.3% in 2020-21, 2.8% in 2019-20 and 2.7% in 2018-19. The public sector pay freeze will minimise normal cost increases to schools thereby

increasing real terms spending power. However, uncertainty remains around the financial impact from the coronavirus pandemic, including that of meeting the cost of unfunded additional costs and loss of income experienced in 2020-21 financial year.

- 2.6 In respect of the CSSB, there has been an unexpected improvement in funding with each LA now receiving a top up for notional costs arising from the unfunded impacts of the Teachers' Pay and Pension changes that have previously been financed through a specific grant. Together with a confirmed cost reduction against the national copyright licence these changes result in a further £0.054m being available for relevant services. It is proposed that this is used to reinstate most of the previously agreed budget reductions.
- 2.7 Recommendations agreed from this report will form the basis of proposals to be presented to the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning, who has responsibility for agreeing most aspects of the Schools Budget. However, within the overall budget setting process, there are a number of areas where the Forum holds responsibility, and these are separately presented now for a decision.
- 2.8 With the DfE needing to be informed of the actual Funding Formula for Schools to be used in 2021-22 with associated units of resource and total cost no later than 21 January, final budget decisions must be made at this meeting.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

To AGREE

- 3.1 **In its role as the representative body of schools and other providers of education and childcare, the Forum REQUESTS that the Executive Member AGREES the following for the 2021-22 Schools Budget:**
1. **The changes to budgets as set out in Table 3, in particular:**
 - i. **that the Schools Block DSG be set at £81.769m (line 3);**
 - ii. **that the Central School Services Block be set at £0.912m (line 3);**
 - iii. **that the changes to other budgets aggregate to £6.721m (lines 8-19).**
 2. **that the factors used in the BF Funding Formula for Schools and their relative values are the same as those used by the DfE for BF in the NFF (Annex 4);**
 3. **that the £0.227m funding shortfall arising from using NFF rates in the BF Funding Formula, will be met from either:**
 - i. **Council Reserves, if permitted by the secretary of state, or otherwise**
 - ii. **Not implementing the agreed £20 per pupil deduction contribution to education statutory duties, with the £0.004m shortfall met from a draw down from the DSG funded New School Start-up / Diseconomy Reserve.**
 4. **that the cost of the MFG should be financed by all schools above the 2% increase, not just those above the average increase.**
 5. **that other Schools Block related grants be reset to the amounts anticipated in 2021-22 (paragraph 6.39);**

6. that the resulting DfE pro forma template of the 2021-22 BF Funding Formula for Schools, as set out in Annex 5 be submitted by the 21 January deadline.

3.2 As decision maker:

1. that the arrangements in place for the administration of central government grants are appropriate;
2. the financing and budgets for the Growth Fund are as set out in Annex 1.
3. The budgets to be centrally managed by the council on behalf of schools, as set out in Annex 2

To NOTE:

- 3.3 That due to uncertainty on national funding arrangements for the free entitlement to Early Years childcare and education, that final budget proposals will now be presented to the Schools Forum in March.

4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure that the 2021-22 Schools Budget is developed in accordance with the views of the Schools Form, the anticipated level of resources and the statutory funding framework, including the requirement to submit summary details of individual 2021-22 school budgets to the DfE by 21 January 2021.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 These have been considered during each stage of the budget process.

6 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background to School and Education Funding

- 6.1 The Forum has been kept up to date with DfE school and education funding reform, most notably through the introduction of a NFF since change was first announced in March 2016.
- 6.2 The Schools Budget is funded by a 100% ring fenced government grant called the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The DSG comprises 4 funding Blocks, each with a separate calculation and funding allocation; the Schools Block (SB); the Central School Services Block (CSSB) the High Needs Block (HNB); and the Early Years Block (EYB). The SB and CSSB directly support mainstream schools and are generally delegated to governors, the HNB and EYB are centrally managed by LAs although the majority of funds are ultimately used to pay schools and other providers for services to children.
- 6.3 The DSG can only be spent on the purposes prescribed by the DfE. Any under or overspending in a year must also be ring-fenced and applied to a future Schools Budget. There is a general ring-fence in place in that SB funding must be spent on school budgets, although where agreed by the local Schools Forum, up to 0.5% of the SB (circa £0.400m) can be transferred to fund costs that fall into other Blocks. Money can be freely transferred from other Blocks into the SB or from the SB to CSSB.

- 6.4 The government has recently introduced a change to the funding framework that could have an adverse effect on the amount of funds available for individual school budgets. Rather than requiring the size of the Schools Budget to be at least at the size of the DSG, LAs are no longer permitted to add funds from their own resources without the express permission of the secretary of state. This has been introduced to strengthen the ring-fence principle of the DSG in that the funding responsibilities for meeting the duties rest with the DfE and not individual LAs.
- 6.5 Reflecting local cost priorities, the council's Executive has agreed to support a 4-year funding strategy and will provide £1m from council balances to March 2023 to help finance the diseconomy funding required from the new school building programme. As reported at the November and December Schools Forum meetings, there is a risk that the DfE will prevent the council from adding the remaining £0.409m into individual school budgets. An update is still awaited from the DfE. A decision on this is expected by the end of December.
- 6.6 Whilst the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning has responsibility for agreeing most aspects of the SB although within the overall budget setting process, there are several areas where the Forum holds responsibility, and these are now being presented for a decision.
- 6.7 This report focuses on the SB and CSSB elements of the Schools Budget where DSG funding is allocated to LAs by way of:
- A pupil-led NFF that uses the most up to date census data relating to number on roll, deprivation, low prior attainment and English as an additional language measures (SB)
 - School based funding, based on prior year costs for business rates and other property factors such as schools operating across split sites (SB)
 - Two funding protection mechanisms (SB):
 - A minimum per pupil funding amount for the year (£4,180 for primary aged pupils in 2021-22 and £5,415 for secondary).
 - A minimum increase / maximum decrease in per pupil funding from the previous year (+2% for 2021-22)
 - A per pupil amount for defined on-going LA education related responsibilities (CSSB)
 - Contribution to previously agreed historic costs (for supporting vulnerable pupils) (CSSB)

Funds allocated through the CSSB continue to be subject to transitional funding adjustments as a result of the reforms, with the amount of historic costs funding expected to reduce by a further 20% per annum – circa £0.065m - to a nil value at 2025-26.

Progress to date

- 6.8 Previous meetings of the Forum agreed the following key budget decisions:
- That the factor values in the BF Funding Formula should be set at the national rates used by the DfE. Should this not be affordable, then each factor value would be scaled by the same proportionate amount.

- That Minimum Per Pupil Funding (MPPFL)¹ values are set at £4,180 for primary aged pupils and £5,415 for secondary aged pupils. These are the same values as used by the DfE in the SNFF.
- That the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)² is set at the maximum amount permitted by the DfE and delivers per pupil funding increases from 2020-21 for all schools of at least +2.0%.
- Any cost associated with meeting the MFG should be met by those schools receiving the largest increases in per pupil funding, typically those above the average percentage increase.
- That the *new and expanding school funding policy* would remain unchanged from the existing (2020-21) policy, other than applying the provisions to update funding rates in accordance with over budget decisions of the Forum.
- That a centrally managed Growth Fund should be maintained for in-year allocation to qualifying schools
- With maintained schools supporting on-going 'de-delegation' of those services permitted by the DfE, this would continue, with a 1% uplift to per pupil funding rates.
- With maintained schools supporting an on-going £20 per pupil contribution towards the cost of delivering 'general' education related statutory and regulatory duties, this would continue.
- The preferred approach to be taken in balancing the £0.412m forecast shortfall on the SB as follows:
 1. Use council Reserves as a first call, subject to permission of the secretary of state
 2. If 1. Above is not possible, undertake a funding switch between the contribution schools make towards the council's costs of education related statutory duties
 3. Due to its one-off nature, the £0.094m increase in FSM funding allocations to schools can be funded from the DSG funded Unallocated Schools Budget Reserve
 4. A top slice to NFF rates would then be considered, that would be applied equally to all factors in the BF Funding Formula
- The relevant services where budgets would be centrally managed on behalf of schools by the Council and the associated amounts, which aggregate to £1.004m (the CSSB).

¹ The NFF includes MPPF levels that are applied to all school budgets where a top up is added if the normal operation of the local Funding Formula does not deliver sufficient funds – for 2021-22 this is £4,180 for primary aged pupils and £5,415 for secondary. LAs had discretion to apply these values in their local funding formula but are now mandatory, unless agreed by the DfE that they are unaffordable. The MPPF calculation required by the DfE excludes funding for business rates.

² The MFG compares per pupil funding allocations between years and where the change is below the minimum threshold, a funding top-up is added to meet the minimum per pupil change requirement. The MFG calculation required by the DfE excludes funding for business rates and fixed lump sum allocations. The cost of top-up funding is financed by scaling back increases to schools experiencing funding gains.

Final budget proposals for 2021-22

- 6.9 As the DfE data that must be used for funding purposes has emerged, and more work has been undertaken on other budget calculations, a number of changes to budgets are now being proposed from those anticipated at the December meeting of the Forum. Other than the approach to take to fund the cost of the MFG (paragraph 6.306.29), there are no changes recommended to previously agreed principles.

Confirmed Schools Block DSG income

- 6.10 The DfE published verified October 2020 school census and the other data that must be used to calculate 2021-22 school budgets on 15 December. This confirmed no changes to the expected level of SB DSG income of £81.769m (£79.129m from per pupil funding, £0.770m for the Growth Fund³ and £1.870m for non-pupil-based school costs, such as business rates).

Changes in funding allocations to schools:

- 6.11 This section only reports on budget areas that have changed from the December meeting of the Forum.

Changes in AEN - £0.286m overall reduction in funding

- 6.12 The published DfE data set includes updated pupil profile measures to reflect latest characteristics which are used as proxy measures for targeting funds towards pupils with the greatest needs. This is the data that must be used in the local Funding Formula and generally results in changes to any estimated calculations made to this point. The October 2020 census data has shown a greater level of change to expected outcomes than experienced in previous years with an overall reduction in funding allocations of £0.286m.
- 6.13 The proxy measures used in the data set indicate relative levels of deprivation (Free School Meals (FSM), Ever6 FSM and Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)⁴. Note: Actual FSM and IDACI had already been updated from BF data and included in the provisional budget calculations, although further changes are now necessary), Low Prior Attainment (LPA) from national tests, incidence of English as an additional language (EAL) and high in-year pupil mobility.

The following sections set out the changes that have occurred against the information available in December.

³ The Growth Fund comprises 3 elements: funding for significant in-year increases in pupil numbers at existing schools; allocations to schools requiring additional financial support to meet Key Stage 1 Infant Class Size Regulations; and pre-opening, diseconomy and post opening costs for new schools.

⁴ IDACI uses post code data to calculate the probability of a family with children living in that area being eligible to income support benefits. The higher the probability, the higher the funding top-up. 2020-21 budgets are the first to reflect the 2019 data update (previously used 2015 data).

Primary schools – REDUCTION in AEN measures (-£0.341m):

- Pupil numbers have reduced by 1 pupil from the draft October Census (-£0.003m)
- FSM numbers are unchanged.
- Ever6 FSM⁵ deprivation numbers are down by -111 / -8.9% (-£0.068m)
- IDACI scores vary by post code and are banded by severity and therefore changes are more difficult to interpret. The pure numbers are up by 9 / +0.80% (+£0.002m).
- LPA⁶ scores are down by -205.56 / -11.0% (-£0.238m). With the coronavirus pandemic resulting in the cancellation of national tests, the 2019 results have been replicated in 2020.
- EAL numbers are up by 16 / +3.6% (+£0.010m)
- Mobility numbers are down by 45 / -86% (-£0.043m)

Secondary schools – INCREASE in AEN measures (+£0.055m):

- FSM numbers for Secondary are down by +81 / -10.3% (-£0.039m). This is because in the December budget update report post-16 FSM numbers had been included in error.
- Ever6 FSM deprivation numbers are down by -40 / -3.5% (-£0.035m)
- IDACI scores vary by post code and are banded by severity and therefore changes are more difficult to interpret. The pure numbers are up by 15 / +2.3% (+£0.004m)
- LPA⁷ scores are up by 74 / +5.2% (£+0.131m).
- EAL numbers are down -4 / -4.2% (-£0.006m)

6.14 The most significant changes in data and therefore budget allocations relate to Ever6 FSM and LPA scores where reductions of £0.103m and £0.107m respectively have occurred. In addition, primary schools are generally experiencing reductions with secondary schools increases. LAs do not receive provisional data sets for these elements of the NFF prior to the release of the final data which makes for uncertain financial forecasting which has therefore not been attempted in the provisional budget calculations undertaken to date.

6.15 For Ever6 FSM data, LAs do not ordinarily receive the detailed pupil information that underpins the funding allocations. Allocations in the 2021-22 budget calculations count the proportion of pupils on roll on the spring 2020 census that were recorded as eligible

⁵ Ever6 FSM counts the proportion of pupils on roll on the spring 2020 census that were recorded as eligible for FSM in any of the censuses (autumn, spring and summer, including the alternative provision (AP) and pupil referral unit (PRU) census) over the previous 6 years back to the summer 2014 census.

⁶ Primary schools receive funding through the LPA factor for all pupils who did not reach the expected level of development at early years foundation stage (EYFS). EYFS data for pupils in Reception is not available as they take the test at the end of the Reception year. To include an element for Reception children in the funding calculation, the total number of eligible pupils is derived by working out the proportion of LPA-eligible pupils in years 1 to 6 and multiplying this proportion by the total pupil count, which includes pupils in Reception.

⁷ Secondary schools receive LPA funding for all pupils who did not achieve the expected level at KS2 in one or more of reading or writing or mathematics. LPA pupil numbers for year groups 7 to 9 inclusive are weighted so that those who have sat the more challenging key stage 2 tests (introduced in academic year 2015 to 2016) do not have a disproportionate effect on the LPA factor.

for FSM in any of the censuses (autumn, spring and summer, including the alternative provision (AP) and pupil referral unit (PRU) census) over the previous 6 years back to the summer 2014 census. The aggregated proportion is then multiplied against the full number on roll (NOR) to calculate the number of pupils to be funded through this measure.

- 6.16 The increases in pure FSM numbers evidenced in October 2020 as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and reported to the Forum December Forum are not therefore included in this update. This calculation therefore uses data that has not been significantly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and shows a reduction in FSM eligibility. The 2020-21 Ever6 FSM calculations reflects dropping off of the relatively high numbers of FSM in the start of the 6-year period.
- 6.17 For the calculation of LPA funding allocations, a similar approach is taken to Ever6 FSM, with test scores collected for each Year Group across a multi-year period, which is then converted to an aggregated proportion of pupils needing additional support that is then multiplied against the actual current pupil numbers to generate a number of pupils to attract a funding top-up. Again, the oldest data drops out of the calculation each year to be replaced by the current year information. With the cancellation of the 2020 national tests, the DfE confirmed that 2019 national tests results would be repeated, and the expectation was that this would result in similar funding allocations in 2021-22. However, with significant differences between the oldest and 2019 results, this has created more turbulence than originally expected.
- 6.18 There is also an impact on new schools from the AEN data update. The *new and expanding school funding policy* fixes the total budget relevant schools receive and therefore has not changed from the AEN update. However, in terms of setting the funding for relevant schools there are 2 separate budget lines, both of which have changed as a result of the updated AEN data, although there is no overall financial effect as they offset each other. The relevant calculation is as follows:
- Step 1: calculate the amount distributed through the BF Funding Formula
- Step 2: deduct the amount distributed through the BF Funding Formula Allocation from the amount due through the *new and expanding school funding policy* and pay this to relevant schools as a diseconomy top up
- 6.19 With additional pupils on roll at the new schools, and implementing the required proportional funding calculation for AEN measures explained above, the allocation through the BF Funding Formula for AEN has increased by £0.074m. However, there is no change to the total budget as this is determined through the *new and expanding school funding policy*, and therefore, in order to ensure new schools receive the amount on the policy, diseconomy funding needs a corresponding £0.074m reduction.
- 6.20 Members of the Forum are aware that there are a high number of schools, especially in the primary phase that are funded at the MPPFL. Therefore, any funding reductions arising at these schools from data changes are offset by a larger top up payment to reach the MPPFL. Implementing this requirement results in the amount allocated through this protection factor increasing by £0.174m (+£0.180m in primary and -£0.006m in secondary).
- 6.21 Table 1 below summarises the changes that have occurred in budget allocations to schools as a result of the updated AEN data and the associated requirements of the DfE Funding Framework. It results in a different funding distribution for schools, with primary schools in aggregate receiving £0.186m less, and secondary schools £0.001m more. The largest decrease in per pupil funding is in a primary school at -£78 (-1.7%), from £4,737 to £4,659 and the largest increase is in a secondary school, at £49 (+0.9%) from £5,760

to £5,808. Overall, average per pupil funding in primary schools has reduced by £19 to £4,235 with the secondary average pupil funding remaining unchanged at £5,681.

Table 1: Summary budget change from updated AEN data:

Change in BF Funding Formula allocation from AEN data update:	Amount £000	Sub total £000
Existing schools	-360	
New schools	+74	-286
Change in diseconomy top up at new schools	-74	-360
MPPFL top up	+174	-185
Total reduction	-185	

Note: rounding errors exist

- 6.22 Annex 1 sets out the budget requirement for the whole of the Growth Fund, including allocations due to individual schools. The Forum is the statutory decision maker on the setting the budget for the Growth Fund and is recommended to agree these amounts.

Meeting DfE per pupil funding requirements

- 6.23 After LAs have calculated school budgets through their local Funding Formula, there are 2 mandatory checks required by the DfE to ensure that each individual school budget has received the minimum permitted:

1. amount of per pupil funding for the relevant year i.e. the MPPF value
2. increase in per pupil funding from the previous year i.e. the MFG

MPPF values

- 6.24 The DfE has set mandatory MPPF values of £4,180 for primary aged pupils and £5,415 for secondary. These are the minimum per pupil funding rates that an LA must pay their schools unless agreed by the DfE. These final proposals generate additional payments of £0.915m, with 16 primary schools receiving £0.874m in aggregate and 1 secondary school receiving £0.041m. This is an increase of £0.610m compared to 2020-21 when 5 primary schools received £0.204m and 2 secondary schools £0.101m and generally reflects the closeness of the primary per pupil funding rate paid to BFC (£4,235) compared to the minimum amount that has to be passed on to schools (£4,180) with only a 1.3% difference.

- 6.25 As reported to the previous Forum meeting, an impact of this significant increase in numbers of schools on the protected MPPF values – 47% of schools compared to 19% in 2020-21 – is that should a top slice to NFF funding rates be required to balance the budget, then this can only be recovered from 19 schools rather than 36 which clearly increases the rate of top slice that would otherwise be required. For example, the 0.2% top slice applied to 2020-21 NFF funding rates amounted to £0.159m. The same 0.2% rate of deduction in the 2021-22 budget would only amount to £0.068m.

MFG

- 6.26 To limit turbulence between financial years at individual school level, the MFG must be applied to each school's per pupil funding rate. Where the normal operation of the local Funding Formula does not deliver the necessary change, an appropriate top-up is paid. For 2021-22, the DfE requires each LA to set their MFG at between +0.5% and +2.0%.
- 6.27 The Forum has previously agreed that the maximum +2.0% increase is applied with top-up payments to be financed from capping gains at other schools that are receiving above average increases in per pupil funding. Schools receiving top-ups to the MPPF values are excluded from contributing to the cost of the MFG.
- 6.28 There has been very little financial impact from the MFG in recent years as school funding rates have increased. The total cost in 2020-21 was £0.003m with no cost expected in 2021-22 with the provisional October 2020 census. However, with the significant changes arising on the AEN data release, the cost of MFG has risen to £0.028m with 6 schools receiving as top up ranging from £0.007m to £0.013m.
- 6.29 Whilst still a relatively small amount, with the limited number of schools available to contribute to the costs, these are now higher than envisaged when it was proposed that only those schools receiving increases above the average amount should contribute. Applying the deduction as originally agreed means the £0.028m falls on only 6 schools to finance. Including all schools with an increase above 2% increases the number of schools contributing to 11, with overall, much smaller amounts of contribution.
- 6.30 Table 2 below sets out a summary of outcomes from 2 approaches, and the Forum is recommended to agree Option 1 – all relevant schools with funding increases above 2% contribute to the cost of increasing budgets for schools experiencing below 2% increases.

Table 2: Options for funding the cost of the MFG

	Option 1 – all schools with increases contribute			Option 2 – only schools with above average increases		
	No.	Max	Min	No.	Max	Min
Primary:	6	£0.9k	£0.6k	4	£2.4k	£0.3k
- amount per pupil		£4.53	£2.80		£11.99	£1.53
Secondary	5	£8.4k	£3.0k	2	£19.4k	£3.7k
- amount per pupil		£6.62	£2.69		£15.38	£3.58
Total / average	11	£2.6k		6	£4.8k	

2021-22 individual school budgets

6.31 These budget proposals, using NFF funding rates, result in a 3.8% average per pupil funding increase⁸ from 2020-21, with the following headline summary data available from individual school budgets (NB in this context, per pupil funding is calculated from the whole Formula Budget allocation less business rates):

- 1 Primary schools receive an average increase in per pupil funding of 4.1%, and secondaries 3.3%.
- 2 The highest per pupil increase in a primary school is 6.4%, with 4.7% in secondary. The lowest increases are 1.8% and 2.2% respectively
- 3 6 schools receive an MFG top up when the guaranteed increase is set at the maximum 2% permissible by the DfE.
- 4 The MPPF level amount has increased by 6.4% for Primary and the secondary rate has increased by 2.9% with 17 schools needing to receive top ups to this level
- 5 The average per pupil funding amount for a primary school would be £4,240 and £5,681 for a secondary.

Centrally managed budgets within the CSSB

6.32 The confirmed DSG allocation for the CSSB has included an unexpected £3 per pupil contribution to finance the increased costs arising for the Teachers' Pay and Pension increases that schools have received direct grant funding. Together with a further 127 pupils included in the funding calculation from updated census data and a £0.003m reduction in the cost of the national copyright licensing contract, there is a net increase in funds of £0.054m.

6.33 To reflect the lower level of funding previously anticipated, the December Forum meeting agreed a number of budget reductions and also supported the proposal from the council to add £0.015m from LA resources (subject to the council's annual budget consultation exercise). It is now proposed to reinstate the majority of reductions as set out in Annex 2 which the Forum is recommended to agree.

Summary of proposed changes – SB and CSSB

6.34 Based on the data set provided by the DfE and other relevant information, a series of changes have been set out above that the council proposes are reflected in the 2021-22 SB and CSSB budgets. Table 3 below summarises the changes proposed to the 2020-21 budgets which results in a balanced budget for the CSSB and a funding shortfall on the SB of £0.227m for which a previously agreed external funding approach has been agreed. Annex 3 sets out the changes made in Table 3 from the December Forum meeting.

⁸ This average excludes funding for new schools and those subject to amalgamation in 2019 as there are separate, specific funding rules in place for calculating these budgets.

Table 3: Summary final budget proposals for 2021-22

Ref.	Item	Schools Block		Central	Total
		Delegated school budgets	Growth Fund - LA Managed	Services Schools Block	D
		A £'000	B £'000	C £'000	D £'000
1	2020-21 Schools Block budget	74,738	365	1,084	76,187
2	2020-21 base budget	74,738	365	1,084	76,187
3	Final 2021-22 DSG funding	81,404	365	912	82,681
4	Internal Schools Block funding transfer	20	-20	0	0
5	On-going contribution to CSSB pressures	-146	0	146	0
6	2021-22 forecast income	81,278	345	1,058	82,681
7	+Surplus of income / - Deficit of income	6,540	-20	-26	6,494
8	<u>Changes for 2021-22</u>				
9	Add: Teachers' Pay and Pension Grants	3,672	0	0	3,672
10	Impact of change in pupil numbers (+127)	593	0	0	593
11	New schools - 2021-22 change in cost pressure	-44	0	0	-44
12	Impact from estimated data changes - October	-43	0	0	-43
13	Impact from estimated data changes - December	94	0	0	94
14	Impact from confirmed data changes - January	-111	0	0	-111
15	In-year growth allowances, KS1 classes etc	0	-20	0	-20
16	Rates: revaluation and inflation	-47	0	0	-47
17	School Amalgamations - impact on lump sum	-119	0	0	-119
18	Cost of new year NFF funding rates at circa +3%	2,772	0	0	2,772
19	Reductions on Central School Services	0	0	-26	-26
20	Total changes proposed for 2021-22	6,767	-20	-26	6,721
21	Shortfall to DSG Funding	-227	0	0	-227
	<u>Memo items:</u>				
22	Total for DfE Pro Forma (A6 + B6 - A21)	81,505	345	0	81,850
23	MPPFL	915	0	0	915
24	MFG	28	0	0	28

Managing the budget shortfall

- 6.35 The Forum has previously agreed that the 2021-22 budget should be set with each BF factor value at the same amount as the NFF values, if necessary, scaled by the same proportional amount to the affordable value. These proposals result in a £0.227m funding shortfall which equates to a reduction of £0.185m from the amount anticipated in December.

6.36 Taking account of information available in December, the Forum agreed the following approach to managing the budget gap, with additional clarifications now added in italics:

1. For *April 2021*, there should be at least £1m in Reserves to fund the medium-term cost of new schools (current balance is £1.155m).
2. Ordinarily, a maximum of £0.250m should be withdrawn each year from Reserves *which would ensure a balance remained after meeting the next 3 years of relatively high diseconomy funding costs being forecast.*
3. With the increased risk associated with the secretary of state not agreeing use of council funds to support school budgets, the remaining council Reserves of £0.409m should be a first call on any funding pressure, *subject to obtaining relevant permissions.*
4. If the secretary of state refuses use of council Reserves to support school budgets, then a temporary funding swap with the £20 per pupil contribution to LA statutory education related duties should take place. The effect of this being maintained mainstream schools would retain the £20 per pupil deduction that is ordinarily taken and the income the council ordinarily received from this source would instead be met from the council's Reserve to support school budgets. This amounts to circa *£0.223m per annum (was previously estimated at £0.230m).*
5. The £0.094m increase in FSM funding allocations to schools that will not be matched by an increase in DSG, can be considered for funding from the Unallocated Schools Budget Reserve as it is one-off in nature. The allocation from Reserves would then exceed the expected £0.250m annual maximum but remains affordable within the minimum £1m Reserves balance objective.
6. A top slice to NFF rates should then be considered, although if the additional cost of increased FSM eligibilities is met from Reserves, then any top slice should be applied equally to all factors in the BF Funding Formula.

6.37 With further changes having emerged, the final budget proposals present the following recommended approach to reach an affordable budget as summarised below in Table 4, divided between where the secretary of state permits the council to continue to add funds to the SB or not.

Table 4: Proposed funding options for SB funding shortfall

Funding source	<u>Option 1:</u> Sec of state agrees council funding for schools	<u>Option 2:</u> Sec of state refuses council funding for schools
Council Reserve for new schools	227	0
School contribution to Education related statutory duties	0	223
One-off from unallocated Schools Budget Reserve (DSG funded)	0	4
Total other funds	227	227
Estimated funding shortfall to NFF rates	-227	-227
Balance still to fund	0	0

Note: should Option 2 be required, there will need to be some adjustments in school accounts – including academies – to ensure the correct impact on each school as the contribution to LA statutory Education related duties will not always be equivalent to the additional allocation through the BF Funding Formula as the former is fixed at £20 per pupil and the latter uses a range of formula funding factors.

Submission of DfE pro-forma budget statement

- 6.38 The DfE closely monitors the progress of LAs in setting their individual school budgets and requires the completion and submission of a template that sets out the Funding Formula to be used, associated units of resource and total cost. The deadline for return has been set at 21 January 2021. Annex 5 sets out the pro forma which the Forum is recommended to agree is submitted to the DfE.

The £81.850m total recorded at row 22 of Table 3 above reconciles to the total amount in the DfE pro forma at Annex 5.

Other grant income

- 6.39 In addition to the DSG, schools also receive revenue funding from other specific grants including School Sixth Forms (currently -£1.638m), the Pupil Premium (-£2.122m), Primary PE and Sports Premium (-0.438m) and the Universal Infant Free School Meals Grant (-£1.244m). All of these amounts are subject to change in 2021-22 and budgets will be updated once new year funding allocations are confirmed.

As previously reported, the Teachers' Pay Grant and Teachers' Pension Grants have ceased, with funding transferred into the BF Funding Formula with effect from 1 April 2021.

- 6.40 Furthermore, the Education, Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) have very recently announced 2021-22 arrangements for the pupil premium calculations for schools. The Funding rates will stay the same as for 2020-21 (Primary pupils: £1,345 Secondary pupils: £955 Looked-after children: £2,345 Children who have ceased to be looked-after: £2,345 Service children: £310), however although the eligibility criteria for the pupil premium will remain unchanged, the ESFA will be using October 2020 school census data to calculate pupil premium allocations instead of the expected January 2021 census. Exceptions to that include alternative provision and pupil referral units where eligibility will continue to be based on the January census. The ESFA will issue further information about this change in 2021.
- 6.41 The effect of this change is expected to be that schools will be funded for fewer eligible pupils as the trend is for more eligible pupils in January than October. This expected funding loss will be partially offset for some schools through the extension of one further year of the Free School Meal Supplementary Grant into 2020-21 which provides funding for schools to help them meet the costs of providing extra free school meals due to the roll out of universal credit before the lagged funding system catches up. Schools experiencing increases in FSM pupil numbers between October 2019 and October 2020 will receive £450 per pupil.

Actual cost pressures estimated for 2021-22

- 6.42 Schools will experience a range of cost pressures next year which in general will need to be met from within the increase in the BF Funding Formula allocation and are estimated at between 0.5% and 1.0% from:
1. As set out above in the November 2020 Spending Review, the Chancellor has announced a public sector pay freeze for 2021-22 meaning there is no pay inflation pressure on school budgets.
 2. The overall cost of performance related pay and contractual increments are assumed to be self-financing from appointing new staff on lower pay points than those leaving.
 3. The underlying deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme is being reduced by way of additional lump sum contributions. The one-off payments due from schools in the BF Local Government Pension Scheme to contribute to the accumulated deficit will increase by around 26%, which is equivalent to around a 1.5% cost increase to the local government pay bill. There is no change to the Payroll on-cost rate.
 4. The general rate of inflation on non-pay costs (November Consumer Price Index) is 0.6%. Schools can expect cost increases of this level on relevant budgets, but should use local intelligence where this suggests an alternative amount.

Other decisions required from the Schools Forum

- 6.43 The content of this report complies with requirements of the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2020. In addition to this, in setting the 2021-22 Schools Budget, there are also requirements from the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012 that need to be complied with.
- 6.44 There is a requirement to seek comments from the Forum in respect of administration arrangements for the allocation of central government grants. No changes are proposed on existing arrangements whereby relevant costs are absorbed by the council in normal day to day operations and the Forum is requested to agree this approach continues.

Early Years Block

- 6.45 In the absence of complete financial information from the DfE for the 2021-22 Early Years Block Budget, in November, the Forum agreed the following approach to setting the budget and associated provider hourly funding rates:
- The components and hourly rate values in the Early Years Funding Formula (EYFF) as agreed for 2020-21 is retained for 2021-22.
 - If the DfE provides an increase in funding for 3 and 4 year olds this will be applied in full to the uniform base rate that is paid to all providers. An increase in funding for 2 year olds will be applied in full to the hourly rate paid to providers
 - The IDACI element of the deprivation supplement will be recalculated as normal using data from the 2020 calendar year
 - The Quality element will also be recalculated as normal
 - Early years providers indicative rates for 2021-22 will be calculated using these proposals

6.46 In November the government announced an additional £44m in early years funding nationally. Details of the increase at an LA level were published on 17 December and confirmed that BF will receive an increase in funding for 3 and 4 year olds of £0.06 per hour and for eligible 2 year olds of £0.08 per hour. Table 5 sets out the change in funding rates that will be paid to BFC.

Table 5: Early Years Funding rates paid by the DfE to BFC (DSG funded)

	2020/21 hourly rate	2021/22 hourly rate	Change
2 year old's	£5.96	£6.04	+1.1%
3 & 4 year old's	£5.01	£5.07	+1.1%

6.47 In terms of calculating the total income each LA receives, this is determined by multiplying the hourly funding rates from Table 5 against the aggregated actual participation rates each January.

6.48 To reflect potential fluctuations in take-up of the entitlements, and therefore costs, the DfE uses 2 census points to calculate each LAs Early Years Block DSG income. January 2021 part-time equivalent actual head count data of eligible children aged 2, 3 or 4 for 15 or 30 hours are used to calculate funds the first 5 months of the financial year from April to August 2021; with the equivalent January 2022 data used to fund the 7 months from September 2021 to March 2022

6.49 On 17 December, the DfE published guidance setting out their intention to follow the normal approach in setting LA funding allocations in 2021-22. However, given the significant uncertainty surrounding likely January 2021 participation rates, the DfE has confirmed that funding LAs for the summer term 2021 will be kept under close review. A further update to guidance to confirm the approach to be taken is expected early in the new year.

6.50 Reflecting on the current announcements, which mean if there are no changes from initial announcements LAs will need to fund EY providers for the April 2021 actual take-up rates from a funding allocation based on what is expected to be a much lower January 2021 take-up rate, this could result in a significant over spending. All the DfE will confirm at this stage is that January 2021 funding will be set at no lower than 85% of January 2020 actual. However, if, for example, take up for 3 and 4 year olds is 10% higher at April 2021 compared to the January 2021 funding from the DfE, there would be a £0.3m over spending.

6.51 Therefore, it is not considered appropriate to present final budget proposals at this stage, but to wait for more information from the DfE and better insight on the January 2021 census take-up. Final proposals will therefore be presented to the Forum in March when it may be necessary to review the originally agreed approach to setting the budget and provider funding rates.

Conclusion and Next steps

- 6.52 On average, schools can expect to receive a 3.8% increase in per pupil funding which continues the improved financial settlement experienced in the last 2 financial years. Whilst the public sector pay freeze will minimise normal cost increases to schools, uncertainty remains around the financial impact from the coronavirus pandemic, including needing to finance additional costs in 2020-21 financial year.
- 6.53 The Executive Member is expected to agree the 2021-22 Schools Budget on 21 January, based on final recommendations agreed by the Schools Forum, which will then need to be reported to the DfE through submission of the national pro-forma, with individual schools receiving budget allocations by the middle of January.
- 6.54 As usual, schools can expect to receive an initial budget notification for 2021-22 by the end of January. This will include the confirmed BF Funding Formula allocation, plus estimates for funding from the Early Years and High Needs Blocks, as well as a best estimate of likely DfE grant allocations. A final budget statement with updates where available to the provisional amounts will be provided before the end of March.

7 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 7.1 The relevant legal implications are addressed within the main body of the report.

Director of Resources

- 7.2 Included within the supporting information.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 7.3 The budget proposals ensure funding is targeted towards vulnerable groups prioritised by the DfE NFF and a BFC specific EIA is not required.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 7.4 The likely impact from the funding reforms and the additional resources that will be allocated to schools through the 2020-23 spending review is that schools will be receiving real terms increases in funding in each of the next 3 years. However, some strategic risks do exist including:
1. Falling pupil numbers in some primary schools at a time of surplus places will create budget difficulties through having to operate with relatively small class sizes.
 2. The ability of schools with deficits to manage their repayments. Two secondary and four primary schools have significant licensed deficits that need to be repaid.
 3. Cost pressures on school responsibilities to meet SEND needs of pupils up to the £10,000 limit when numbers are rising.
 4. Managing the additional diseconomy revenue costs arising from the new / expanded schools programme.
 5. On-going impacts from the coronavirus pandemic.

- 7.5 These risks will also be managed through support and assistance to schools in the budget setting process which is a well-established programme. It has ensured that schools develop medium term solutions to budget shortfalls and draws on funding retained to support schools in financial difficulty or through the allocation of short to medium term loans. There remains a de-delegated budget of £0.185m (after academy deduction) to support schools in financial difficulties that meet qualifying criteria.
- 7.6 The financial impact from new schools is also being managed through the measured use of accumulated DSG balances and up to £1m contribution from the council (subject to DfE permission).

8 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 8.1 People Directorate Management Team, schools and the Schools Forum.

Method of Consultation

- 8.2 Written reports to People Directorate Management Team and the Schools Forum, formal consultation with schools

Representations Received

- 8.3 Included in reports.

Background Papers

None:

Contact for further information

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Doc. Ref

[https://bfcouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/fina/bpm/FIBPSCB-FIN9.6/Schools Forum/\(102\) 140121/Forum 2021-22 Schools Budget Final Proposals v2.docx](https://bfcouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/fina/bpm/FIBPSCB-FIN9.6/Schools%20Forum/(102)%20140121/Forum%202021-22%20Schools%20Budget%20Final%20Proposals%20v2.docx)

Proposed financing and associated budget for the Growth Fund

	Primary £'000	Secondary £'000	Current Proposed 2021-22 £'000	Previously Reported 2021-22 £'000	Change £'000	Actual 2020-21 £'000	Change from 2020-21 £'000
<u>New schools:</u>							
Diseconomy costs	261.3	732.9	994.2	1,068.3	-74.1	1,038.0	-43.8
	261.3	732.9	994.2	1,068.3	-74.1	1,038.0	-43.8
<u>Retained Growth Fund</u>							
Start-up costs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Post opening costs	15.0	0.0	15.0	15.0	0.0	15.0	0.0
In-year pupil growth KS1 classes	107.5	107.5	215.0	215.0	0.0	300.0	-85.0
	115.0	0.0	115.0	115.0	0.0	50.0	65.0
	237.5	107.5	345.0	345.0	0.0	365.0	-20.0
Total estimated costs	498.8	840.4	1,339.2	1,413.3	-74.1	1,403.0	-63.8
<u>Costs by school:</u>							
KGA - Oakwood	137.9	0.0	137.9	162.3	-24.4	157.8	-19.9
KGA - Binfield	138.4	732.9	871.3	921.1	-49.8	895.3	-24.0
Total costs	276.3	732.9	1,009.2	1,083.3	-74.1	1,053.1	-43.9

Note: the amount of in-year pupil growth previously reported in this Annex to the Forum was incorrect at £0.155m. The main budget summary in Table 1 of the report included the correct amount of £0.215m.

Services proposed to be centrally managed by the Council

Item	Schools Budget Funded				Comment on proposed change
	2020-21 Final Budget	2021-22 Previously Proposed	2021-22 Final Proposal	2021-22 Change	
<u>Combined Services Budgets:</u>					
Family Intervention Project	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000	£0	
Educational Attainment for Looked After Children	£133,590	£133,590	£133,590	£0	
School Transport for Looked After Children	£42,890	£42,890	£42,890	£0	
Young People in Sport	£18,050	£0	£15,960	£15,960	Reinstates funds close to previous amount for ad hoc coaches / instructors in delivery of sports activities in schools.
Common Assessment Framework Co-ordinator	£42,470	£42,470	£42,470	£0	
Domestic Abuse	£6,000	£2,000	£2,000	£0	
Education Health Partnerships	£30,000	£0	£15,000	£15,000	Reinstate the 50% of funding not to be covered by BFC to fund existing costs to provide support to children and young people with SEND to maximise their potential.
SEN Contract Monitoring	£32,680	£32,680	£32,680	£0	
<i>Central School Services - historic commitments</i>	<i>£405,680</i>	<i>£353,630</i>	<i>£384,590</i>	<i>£30,960</i>	
<u>Other Permitted Central Spend</u>					
<u>Miscellaneous (up to 0.1% of Schools Budget):</u>					
Forestcare out of hours support service	£5,150	£5,150	£5,150	£0	
Borough wide Initiatives	£28,930	£15,000	£28,930	£13,930	Reinstate to previous level of funding for special projects in schools that would otherwise not take place e.g. Pupil Premium, SEND initiatives. Reflects recent spend profile.
Support to Schools Recruitment & Retention	£7,920	£7,920	£7,920	£0	
<u>Statutory and regulatory duties:</u>					
'Retained' elements	£275,830	£275,830	£275,830	£0	
<u>Other expenditure:</u>					
School Admissions	£186,690	£186,690	£186,690	£0	
Schools Forum	£22,740	£20,935	£20,935	£0	Reflects ordinary level of expenditure.
Boarding Placements for Vulnerable Children	£62,470	£50,000	£62,470	£12,470	Reinstates to previous funding level on this is a very volatile budget.
Central copyright licensing	£89,030	£89,030	£85,560	-£3,470	Confirmed cost from DfE contract.
<i>Central School Services - on-going responsibilities</i>	<i>£678,760</i>	<i>£650,555</i>	<i>£673,485</i>	<i>£22,930</i>	
Total Central School Support Services	£1,084,440	£1,004,185	£1,058,075	£53,890	
<u>Funding</u>					
Historic commitments	£324,544	£259,635	£259,636	£1	
On-going responsibilities	£614,057	£598,711	£652,670	£53,959	Allocation from DfE based on pupil numbers. Reflects updated pupil numbers and unexpected £3 per pupil for teachers' pay and pensions.
Total Funding	£938,601	£858,346	£912,306	£53,960	
Existing agreed transfer from Schools Budget	£145,770	£145,770	£145,770	£0	
Central School Services Total Funding	£1,084,371	£1,004,116	£1,058,076	£53,960	

Changes from 10 December 2020 Forum to 14 January 2021 Forum

Ref.	Item	Schools Block		Central	Total
		Delegated school budgets	Growth Fund - LA Managed	Services Schools Block	
		A £'000	B £'000	C £'000	D £'000
1	2020-21 Schools Block budget	0	0	0	0
2	2020-21 base budget	0		0	0
3	Final 2021-22 DSG funding	0	0	54	54
4	Internal Schools Block funding transfer	0	0	0	0
5	On-going contribution to CSSB pressures	0	0	0	0
6	2021-22 forecast income	0		54	54
7	+Surplus of income / - Deficit of income	0		54	54
8	<u>Changes for 2021-22</u>				
9	Add: Teachers' Pay and Pension Grants	0	0	0	0
10	Impact of change in pupil numbers (+127)	0	0	0	0
11	New schools - 2021-22 change in cost pressure	-74	0	0	-74
12	Impact from estimated data changes - October	0	0	0	0
13	Impact from estimated data changes - December	0	0	0	0
14	Impact from confirmed data changes - January	-111	0	0	-111
15	In-year growth allowances, KS1 classes etc	0	0	0	0
16	Rates: revaluation and inflation	0	0	0	0
17	School Amalgamations - impact on lump sum	0	0	0	0
18	Cost of new year NFF funding rates at circa +3%	0	0	0	0
19	Reductions on Central School Services	0	0	54	54
20	Total changes proposed for 2021-22	-185		54	-131
21	Shortfall to DSG Funding	-185		0	185
	<u>Memo items:</u>				
22	Total for DfE Pro Forma (A6 + B6 - A21)	81,505	345	0	81,850
23	MPPFL	174	0	0	174
24	MFG	28	0	0	28

SNFF Units of Resource compared to BF Funding Formula

Factor	National Core NFF	BF Actual NFF ¹	BF 2021-22 Actual ²	BF 2020-21 actual	BF 2019-20 Actual	BF 2018-19 Actual
	Unit of resource					
Per pupil funding:					+	
Age Weighted Pupil Unit: Primary	£3,123	£3,301	£3,301	£3,014	£2,769	£2,796
Age Weighted Pupil Unit: Secondary - KS3	£4,404	£4,655	£4,655	£4,239	£4,087	£4,066
Age Weighted Pupil Unit: Secondary - KS4	£4,963	£5,246	£5,246	£4,812	£4,297	£4,275
Additional needs funding:						
Deprivation						
Current FSM top up (Primary)	£460	£486	£486	£475	£373	£420
Current FSM top up (Secondary)	£460	£486	£486	£475	£634	£634
FSM anytime in last 6 years: Primary	£575	£608	£608	£591	£88	£86
FSM anytime in last 6 years: Secondary	£840	£888	£888	£850	£385	£385
IDACI ³ band F: Primary	£215	£227	£227	£222	£182	£182
IDACI band E: Primary	£260	£275	£275	£264	£445	£445
IDACI band D: Primary	£410	£433	£433	£396	£192	£430
IDACI band C: Primary	£445	£470	£470	£427	£412	£430
IDACI band B: Primary	£475	£502	£502	£459	£738	£738
IDACI band A: Primary	£620	£655	£655	£633	£607	£914
IDACI band F: Secondary	£310	£328	£328	£316	£1,349	£1,349
IDACI band E: Secondary	£415	£439	£439	£427	£1,254	£1,254
IDACI band D: Secondary	£580	£613	£613	£564	£2,940	£2,940
IDACI band C: Secondary	£630	£666	£666	£612	£1,998	£1,998
IDACI band B: Secondary	£680	£719	£719	£659	£15,723	£15,723
IDACI band A: Secondary	£865	£914	£914	£886	£2,831	£2,831
Low prior attainment						
Low prior attainment: Primary	£1,095	£1,157	£1,157	£1,124	£917	£1,586
Low prior attainment: Secondary	£1,660	£1,755	£1,755	£1,698	£1,216	£1,216
English as an additional language (EAL)						
EAL: Primary	£550	£581	£581	£564	£427	£427
EAL: Secondary	£1,485	£1,570	£1,570	£1,519	£777	£777
LAC				£0	£0	£0
Mobility						
Mobility: Primary	£900	£951	£951	£923	£315	£315
Mobility: Secondary	£1,290	£1,363	£1,363	£1,319	£0	£0
Lump sum:						
Lump sum: Primary	£117,800	£124,508	£124,508	£120,684	£160,143	£160,143
Lump sum: Secondary	£117,800	£124,508	£124,508	£120,684	£148,573	£148,573

¹ Includes BF area cost uplift at 5.69%

² Funded at BF Actual NFF

³ IDACI is a deprivation measure linked to low family income and a pupil's home address post code. It determines the probability of a pupil living in a low income household from their post code and weights funding according to severity of deprivation. It does not require individual pupil data to determine entitlement

2021-22 Pro Forma BF School Budget Statement

Local Authority Funding Reform Proforma

Note: only relevant lines are presented.

LA Name:

Bracknell Forest

LA Number:

867

Pupil Led Factors

1) Basic Entitlement Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)	Reception uplift	No	Pupil Units		0.00			
	Description	Amount per pupil		Pupil Units		Sub Total	Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)
	Primary (Years R-6)	£3,300.82		9,937.33		£32,801,385	£65,398,151	40.25%
	Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)	£4,654.76		4,097.00		£19,070,567		23.40%
	Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)	£5,245.59		2,578.58		£13,526,199		16.60%
2) Deprivation	Description	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Eligible proportion of primary NOR	Eligible proportion of secondary NOR	Sub Total	Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)
	FSM	£486.19	£486.19	944.74	720.70	£809,722	£2,996,442	3.68%
FSM6	£607.74	£887.83	1,129.28	1,129.55	£1,689,156			
IDACI Band F	£227.24	£327.65	1,183.37	685.73	£493,591			
IDACI Band E	£274.80	£438.63	6.36	4.00	£3,501			
IDACI Band D	£433.35	£613.03	0.00	0.00	£0			
IDACI Band C	£470.34	£665.87	1.00	0.00	£470			
IDACI Band B	£502.05	£718.72	0.00	0.00	£0			
IDACI Band A	£655.30	£914.25	0.00	0.00	£0			
3) Looked After Children (LAC)	LAC March 19	£0.00	£0.00	0.00	0.00	£0	£611,031	0.00%
4) English as an Additional Language (EAL)	EAL 3 Primary	£581.32		783.34		£455,368		0.74%
	EAL 3 Secondary		£1,569.56		93.99	£147,517		
5) Mobility	Pupils starting school outside of normal	£951.25	£1,363.45	8.56	0.00	£8,146		0.01%
6) Low prior attainment	Description	Weighting	Amount per pupil (primary or secondary respectively)	Percentage of eligible pupils	Eligible proportion of primary and secondary NOR respectively	Sub Total	Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)
	Primary low prior attainment		£1,157.35	24.07%	2,392.21	£2,768,624	£5,397,555	6.62%
Secondary low attainment (year 7)	64.53%			22.33%				
Secondary low attainment (year 8)	64.53%			22.22%				
Secondary low attainment (year 9)	63.59%		£1,754.52	23.50%	1,498.38	£2,628,931		
Secondary low attainment (year 10)	58.05%			21.64%				
Secondary low attainment (year 11)	48.02%			22.57%				

Other Factors

Factor	Lump Sum per Primary School (£)	Lump Sum per Secondary School (£)	Lump Sum per Middle School (£)	Lump Sum per All-through School (£)	Total (£)	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)
7) Lump Sum	£124,507.53	£124,507.53			£4,482,271	5.50%
8) Sparsity factor					£0	0.00%
9) Fringe Payments					£0	0.00%
10) Split Sites					£75,000	0.09%
11) Rates					£1,578,880	1.94%
12) PFI funding					£0	0.00%
13) Exceptional circumstances (can only be used with prior agreement of ESFA)						
Circumstance						
Additional lump sum for schools amalgamated during FY20-21					£49,803	0.06%
Total Funding for Schools Block Formula (excluding minimum per pupil funding level and MFG Funding Total)					£80,589,133	98.88%
14) Additional funding to meet minimum per pupil funding level					£915,006	1.12%
Total Funding for Schools Block Formula (excluding MFG Funding Total)					£81,504,139	100.00%
15) Minimum Funding Guarantee			2.00%	£28,428		
Where a value less than 0.5% or greater than 2% has been entered please provide the disapplication reference number authorising the value						
Apply capping and scaling factors? (gains may be capped above a specific ceiling and/or scaled)						
Yes						
Capping Factor (%)	0.00%	Scaling Factor (%)	2.68%			
Total deduction if capping and scaling factors are applied					-£28,428	
					Total (£)	Proportion of Total funding(%)
MFG Net Total Funding (MFG + deduction from capping and scaling)					£0	0.00%
Total Funding for Schools Block Formula					£81,504,139	
Growth fund (if applicable)					£345,000.00	
Other Adjustment to 20-21 Budget Shares					£0	
Total Funding For Schools Block Formula (including growth and falling rolls funding)					£81,849,139	
% Distributed through Basic Entitlement					80.24%	
% Pupil Led Funding					91.29%	
Primary: Secondary Ratio					1 :	1.35

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TO: SCHOOLS FORUM
DATE 14 JANUARY 2021

2021/22 PROPOSALS FOR THE LOCAL AUTHORITY BUDGET **Director of Resources**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present to the Forum for comment a summary of the Council's budget proposals for 2021/22 with a particular focus on the impact expected on the People Directorate, as agreed by the Executive on 15 December 2020.
- 1.2 Preparations for next year's budget have been undertaken against a backdrop of unprecedented uncertainty. All councils are experiencing significant additional costs and losses of income as a consequence of Government actions to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The scale and duration of these remain impossible to predict with any degree of certainty. Moreover, while it is expected that additional, exceptional costs will continue to be incurred into 2021/22, it was unclear until the Government's Spending Review announcement on 25 November whether the additional funding it has provided in the current year would continue into next.
- 1.3 While the Spending Review provided some comfort at a national level in this respect, the papers for the Executive meeting were published before the Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement announcement. This will set out individual authority funding calculations and is expected to be announced in the week commencing 14 December. Therefore, in the absence of the Provisional Settlement, the report is based on a number of high-level assumptions regarding government funding for Bracknell Forest in 2021/22.
- 1.4 All comments received on these budget proposals will be submitted to the Executive on 9 February 2021 alongside any impact from the announcement of the Finance Settlement. This will allow the Executive to determine its final budget package and recommend the appropriate Council Tax level to Council, which will formally approve the 2021/22 budget and Council Tax on 24 February 2021.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That the Schools Forum comments on the 2021/22 budget proposals of the Executive for the People Directorate in respect of:**
 - i. **The revenue budget (Annexes A to C), and**
 - ii. **The capital programme (Annexe D).**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Executive seeks the views of the Schools Forum as an interested party.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 The range of options being considered are set out in the main reports on the public access website.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Introduction

- 5.1 This report presents a summary of the Council's revenue and capital budget proposals for 2021/22 that were prepared on information and assumptions available at the end of November 2020 and are therefore subject to change as more information emerges or changes occur as part of the consultation process. The focus of this report is proposals from the People Directorate, with full details of the council's budget proposals available at:

[Agenda for Executive on Tuesday, 15 December 2020, 5.00 pm | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](#)

Revenue Budget

Commitment budget

- 5.2 Initial preparations for the 2021/22 budget have focussed on the Council's Commitment Budget for 2021/22 – 2023/24. This brings together the Council's existing expenditure plans, taking account of approved commitments and the ongoing effects of service developments and efficiencies that were agreed when the 2020/21 budget was set.
- 5.3 A number of changes are proposed to the Commitment Budget since it was last considered by the Executive in February which amount to a net decrease in budget of £0.881m. The main changes relate to slippage in the capital programme and additional capital receipts last year the budget for the Minimum Revenue Provision has been significantly reduced (-£0.318m) and removal of one-off staffing pressures built into the budget for the People Directorate in 2020/21.
- 5.4 Taking account of these changes, Table 1 summarises the position and shows that base expenditure (excluding schools) is planned to decrease by £0.881m to £90.326m next year, before consideration is given to allowances for inflation and the budget proposals identified by individual directorates in 2021/22. The commitment budget relating to the People Directorate is shown in Annexe A.

Table 1: Summary Commitment Budget 2021/22-2023/24

Item	Planned Expenditure		
	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000
Base Budget	91,207	90,326	90,894
<i>Movements in Year:</i>			
Central	-95	-252	0
Delivery	-8	27	76
People (excluding schools)	-1,357	-110	-156
Non Departmental / Council Wide	579	903	595
<i>Total Movements</i>	-881	568	515
Adjusted Base	90,326	90,894	91,409

Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement 2021/22

- 5.5 A multi-year Spending Review was expected to take place in July, but due to the disruption caused by the pandemic the Government pushed back the review until late November. The spending review usually sets spending totals for three years, and capital budgets for a further year. However, the Treasury has opted to make the review cover a single year, acknowledging the level of economic uncertainty that currently exists. Longer term settlements are, however, expected for some public spending crucial to the recovery, including spending on the NHS, schools and infrastructure. This decision follows the delay to the Autumn Budget announced in September and is the second single-year spending review in succession. While it is acknowledged that current circumstances around Covid-19, Brexit and global economic conditions meant this was an inevitable approach, its impact is to make medium-term financial planning extremely difficult.
- 5.6 On 25 November 2020 the Government set out the results of the 2020 Spending Review (SR20). Up to this point preparations for the Council's budget had been based on the deliberately prudent assumption that Government support would remain broadly at the level it was at the start of 2020/21, i.e. before the additional Covid-19 support was provided. The Spending Review has confirmed that additional funding will also be provided in 2021/22 to help meet on-going Covid-19 pressures. Figures have not yet been provided at individual council level but figures for England as a whole include over £3 billion of additional support.
- £1.55 billion of grant funding to meet additional expenditure pressures as a result of Covid-19;
 - £670 million of additional unringfenced grant funding to help local authorities support the more than 4 million households that are least able to afford council tax payments;
 - providing an estimated £762 million to compensate councils for 75 per cent of irrecoverable losses of council tax and business rates revenues in 2020/21;
 - extending the existing Covid-19 income compensation scheme for a further 3 months until the end of June 2021.
- 5.7 The sums involved will be significant for the Council, but as indicative figures are not available and the basis for allocation has not been determined, this additional income has not been included in the calculation of the remaining budget gap at this stage. Whilst the additional funding is very welcome, it should be noted that it is assumed to be one-off and therefore will not assist that Council's medium-term financial position.
- 5.8 Other key announcements included:
- a pay freeze for all local government employees earning above the median salary of £24,000;
 - further support for social care via additional grant and the ability to raise a 3% adult social care precept, in 2021/22, 2022/23 or across the two years;
 - maintaining the existing New Homes Bonus scheme for a further year but with no new legacy payments;
 - freezing the Business Rates multiplier in 2021/22.
- 5.9 Earlier this year, the Government announced that it would delay the move to 75 per cent Business Rates Retention and the implementation of the fair funding review. The SR20 confirmed that the Government has decided not to proceed with a reset of business rates baselines in 2021/22. The government is undertaking a fundamental review of the

business rates system, including other options to supplement the rates retention scheme, and is currently considering responses to the call for evidence. A final report setting out the full conclusions of that review will be published in spring 2021. With the Council having benefitted significantly from the current funding arrangements which were introduced in 2013, the impact of any change can be expected to be significantly detrimental to its financial situation.

- 5.10 To support businesses in the near-term, the government has also decided to freeze the business rates multiplier in 2021/22. This will be cost neutral for the Council as compensation for the loss of income will be provided via a government grant.
- 5.11 Funding from central government is currently received through a share of Business Rates, Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and Specific Grants. The 20SR has indicated that RSG will be increased in line with inflation and is therefore expected to increase by 0.5% to -£1.780m for 2021/22 (-£1.771m in 2020/21). It is expected that Business Rates Baseline Funding, the other element of the 2021/22 Settlement Funding Assessment, will be frozen in line with the Business Rates multiplier (-£16.832m)..

Grants

- 5.12 The Council also receives substantial external funding through a number of specific grants for which the following assumptions have been included within the latest budget projections:
1. *New Homes Bonus (NHB)*. This is used to incentivise LAs to maximise house building and has been subject to many changes since it was introduced in 2011/12 with a further consultation for change due at the start of this year. This consultation never took place, but the 2020 SR has now confirmed that a consultation will be launched shortly, with a view to implementing reform in 2022/23. It also confirmed that the existing NHB scheme will be maintained for a further year and that any allocation would again be for one year only. The Council's budget preparations were constructed on the basis of information that indicated the NHB incentive would be withdrawn or significantly diluted in 2021/22, resulting in an expected £1.5m reduction in NHB down to -£0.4m. However, housing growth has been exceptionally high in Bracknell Forest over the last 12 months. With the continuation of NHB into 2021/22 now being confirmed, additional income is now expected with the figure depending on the overall amount made available and the relative performance of Bracknell Forest compared to other councils. The actual amount will be confirmed in the Provisional Settlement.
 2. *Other Specific Grants*. This mainly relates to ring-fenced Public Health, NHS funding streams and Better Care Fund which are reflected in the base budget. For 2021/22 the Government is proposing to protect all social care grants from 2020/21 as well as providing an additional £300m in grant funding (£150m of new, non-baselined grant and £150m of funding identified from within existing resource). No indicative figures are available as distribution options will be consulted upon through the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement in December. The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a pooled budget which consists of several schemes, some of which are managed by the Council and some by the Clinical Commissioning Group. The NHS contribution to adult social care through the BCF is expected to increase in real terms in 2021/22, in line with the overall NHS long-term settlement. It has been assumed that this will be cost neutral for the Council at this stage. Information on several other smaller grants normally follows several days or weeks after the Provisional Settlement and any changes will be incorporated into the February budget report to the Executive along with any changes in the Final Settlement.

Business Rates

- 5.13 A third important stream of income for the Council is Business Rates, a proportion of which is retained locally following the introduction of the Business Rates Retention reforms in April 2013. The level of Business Rates changes each year due to inflationary increases (set by central government), the impact of appeals and local growth or decline as local businesses and economic conditions expand or contract. The Government sets a baseline level of funding against which any growth or reduction is shared between local and central government. It has been assumed this will be frozen in line with the Business Rates multiplier (-£16.832m).
- 5.14 Business rates income is expected to fall from the current level due to successful appeals against valuations (e.g. town centre retailers), potential business changes and the continued impact of the pandemic. At this stage, Business Rates income is therefore forecast to decrease by around £1m in 2021/22. This assessment will be refined over the coming weeks to reflect the most up to date position in February.
- 5.15 Currently the Council collects significantly more Business Rates than it is allowed to keep and only receives approximately 30% of any Business Rates growth. There has however been considerable volatility in Business Rates income with Council officers being notified by Government officials that a large part of the Council's retained growth will be removed following centralising of a large multinational company's liability away from local collection.
- 5.16 An unavoidable consequence of this has been significant volatility in Bracknell Forest's Collection Fund balance each year since 2014. In 2019/20 a surplus of -£8.241m was projected on the Business Rates element of the Collection Fund. This was transferred into the Future Funding (£0.741m) and Business Rates Revaluation (£7.500m) Reserves in 2020/21 and has been reversed out of the budget proposals in Table 5 due to the one-off nature of this saving. A final projection for the Collection Fund in 2020/21 will need to be made by the 31 January which will be incorporated into the February budget report. Early indications are that there will be a significant deficit which is entirely due to the additional Business Rates reliefs granted by the Government after income estimates were submitted at the beginning of the year. Section 31 grant is being received this year to compensate councils for the resultant loss of income. This will be transferred into an earmarked reserve at the year-end so that it can be used to fund the 2020/21 deficit when it becomes payable in 2021/22.
- 5.17 The Government has announced that the introduction of a new Business Rates system will now be delayed until at least 2022/23. To coincide with this a fair funding review is currently underway which will calculate the new baseline funding levels for individual councils based on an up-to-date assessment of their relative needs and resources. Existing grants including RSG and most likely the Public Health Grant will be incorporated into the revised baseline and more responsibilities are likely to be transferred to Local Government to ensure that the new system is fiscally neutral overall. The outcome of these deliberations is impossible to determine, although it will almost certainly have a significant long-term detrimental impact on the funding of the Council.
- 5.18 This will most likely mean that all or a large part of the additional business rates that the Council has secured through the company referred to above and from the town centre opening in 2017 will no longer directly benefit Bracknell Forest. This is a consequence of Bracknell Forest having for many years been able to generate income significantly in excess of its assessed funding needs. As the Council uses a substantial element of Business Rates growth (approximately £4m) to support the budget, this will result in a significantly increased budget gap in the future.

Council Tax

- 5.19 Council Tax at present levels will generate total income of -£63.476m in 2021/22. It was expected that the number of properties paying Council Tax would increase significantly over the coming years and to date the Council Tax Base has remained broadly in line with predictions. A period of economic uncertainty / downturn normally has an adverse impact on the housing market however the temporary stamp duty reduction has helped to stimulate the market. The Council Tax Base for 2021/22 would generate total income of -£64.571m in 2021/22. This represents a net increase of 808 (-£1.095m) arising from the occupation of new properties during 2021/22 partly offset by an increase in the take-up of the Local Council Tax Benefit Support Scheme.
- 5.20 The surplus/deficit on the Council Tax element of the Collection Fund in 2020/21 will need to be assessed by the 15 January 2021. Early indications are that there will be a small surplus. Due to the impact of the pandemic, the Government has recently enacted legislation which enables any deficit to be spread over the next three years rather than impacting on just the 2021/22 budget. The final figures and the impact in 2021/22 will be incorporated into the February budget report.
- 5.21 The Government limits Council Tax increases by requiring councils to hold a local referendum for any increases equal to or in excess of a threshold percentage which is normally included in the Local Government Financial Settlement. Following the outcome of SR20, the Government is proposing a core referendum limit of 2% plus the option for councils with responsibility for adult social care, including Bracknell Forest, to set an adult social care precept of up to a further 3%. Early indications are that the 3% can be raised in 2021/22 or spread across two financial years. Each 1% increase in Council Tax would generate approximately -£0.646m of additional income. The referendum principles will be confirmed in the provisional settlement.
- 5.22 The Executive at its meeting in February will recommend to Council the level of Council Tax in light of the Final Settlement, the results of the consultation and the final budget proposals.

Budget Proposals for 2021/22

Service pressures and Developments

- 5.23 In preparing the 2021/22 draft budget proposals each directorate has evaluated the potential pressures on its services and those relating to the People Directorate are set out in Annexe B. Table 2 summarises the pressures by directorate.

Table 2: Service Pressures/Development

Directorate	£'000
Central	916
Delivery	3,158
People (excluding schools)	4,348
Non-Departmental / Council Wide	0
Total Pressures/Developments	8,422

- 5.24 A Best Case and Worst Case approach has been used to identify pressures. This reflects the continuing uncertainty surrounding the impact of the pandemic on costs and income. The level of additional Government support for Covid-19 announced in the SR20 indicates that it would be prudent to allow for the Worst Case figures in the Council's draft budget at this stage, which are shown in Table 2. It will need to be

decided in the final budget proposals whether to continue to make provision for this level of additional cost pressures overall and how much to allow for in base service directorate budgets versus a centrally managed contingency.

5.25 Many of the pressures are simply unavoidable as they relate to current levels of demand or legislation changes. They do, however, also support the six strategic themes included in the new Council Plan in the following way

- caring for residents and their families (£3.850m);
- providing education and skills (£0.458m);
- provide value for money (£0.131m);
- supporting communities (£1.321m);
- protecting and enhancing the environment (0.238m).

5.26 Service pressures will be kept under review throughout the budget consultation period. There is always the risk in Social Care services in particular, that the numbers of people requiring care packages, the content of existing care packages and contract inflation will vary considerably from the assumptions included in these draft budget proposals. Any revisions to service pressures will be reported to the Executive in February.

5.27 In addition to these revenue proposals the Council continues to invest in its priorities through targeted capital expenditure. Details are set out below from paragraph 5.45, but any revenue cost implications arising from the capital proposals are included in these draft budget proposals

Service Economies

5.28 Members and officers have held regular meetings to determine options for savings and a list of potential draft budget savings has been developed. This list totals -£3.332m and is summarised in Table 3 with areas relating to the People Directorate set out in more detail in Annexe C. As in previous years, savings have focused as far as possible on increasing efficiency, income generation and reducing central and departmental support rather than on front line services. There will potentially be some impact on services, although this has been minimised to a large degree.

Table 3: Summary Service Economies

Directorate	£'000
Central	-779
Delivery	-769
People (excluding schools)	-1,769
Non-Departmental / Council Wide	-15
Total Savings	-3,332

Council Wide Issues

5.29 Apart from the specific departmental budget proposals there are some Council wide issues affecting all directorates' budgets which need to be considered. The precise impact of these corporate budgets is likely to change before the final budget proposals are recommended, however the current view on these issues is outlined below:

a) Capital Programme

The scale of the Council's Capital Programme for 2021/22 will impact upon the revenue budget and is itself subject to consultation. Current proposals, as set out further below from paragraph 5.45 and after allowing for projected receipts of approximately £3.1m (including Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)) in 2021/22 and carry forwards, the additional revenue costs will be £0.050m in 2021/22 and £0.125m in 2022/23.

b) Interest and Investments

The coronavirus outbreak has done huge economic damage to the UK and economies around the world, and with the Bank Rate not expected to rise above 0.1% over the next 3 years, as such any new borrowing that may arise is likely to be undertaken at historically low rates. The Council, in close co-ordination with its Treasury Management advisers, will monitor medium and long-term interest rates and take any necessary decisions based on the information available to effectively and efficiently fund the capital programme.

c) Provision for Inflation and Pay Awards

At this stage the inflation provision is not finalised. For planning purposes, a sum of £2.100m (£1.998m 2020/21) had initially been added to the budget preparation calculations on the assumptions that:

- pay awards would be 2%;
- contracts would be negotiated where possible to minimise inflation;
- and fees and charges would be increased in line with the Council's income policy.

The 2020 Spending Review confirmed that the Government is planning to freeze pay for all local government employees except for those earning below the median salary of £24,000 who will be guaranteed a pay rise of at least £250. To reflect this announcement the initial provision has now been reduced to £1.200m.

The Council will need to consider where it is appropriate and necessary to provide for inflation over the coming weeks so that the actual inflation provision can be added to the final budget report in February.

d) Fees and charges

Increases in fees and charges are determined by the overall economic conditions, the willingness of customers to pay the higher charges and continued demand for Council services. The Council policy for fees and charges requires each Directorate to consider the level of charges against the following criteria:

- fees and charges should aim, as a minimum, to cover the costs of delivering the service;
- where a service operates in free market conditions, fees and charges should at least be set at the market rate;
- fees and charges should not be levied where this is an ineffective use of resources, i.e. the cost of collection exceeds any income generated.

Certain other fees will attract the percentage determined by statute.

e) Corporate Contingency

The Council manages risks and uncertainties in the budget by way of a general contingency added to the Council's budget. Every year the Council faces risks on its budget in relation to demand led services, Business Rates and the general economic climate.

At this stage the Contingency has been maintained at £2.25m, however, this will continue to be reviewed to see if it is more appropriate for some Worst Case pressures to be included in a centrally managed Contingency rather than service area base budgets.

The Executive will need to make a judgement on the appropriate level of contingency at its February meeting, taking advice from the Director: Resources who will need to certify the robustness of the overall budget proposals in the context of the latest performance data, continuing progress on the Transformation Programme and the Council's remaining general and earmarked reserves. All the reserves will be reviewed to ensure that they are sufficient to manage the financial risks facing the Council in the coming years.

Spending on schools

- 5.30 The SR20 reaffirms the government's commitment in the Spending Round 2019 that over the 3 years 2020/23 there will be a 15% increase in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding which the Institute for Fiscal Studies has indicated restores school spending to pre-austerity levels, although this will now have been impacted by Covid-19. For 2021/22, the DfE has increased the Bracknell Forest per pupil funding element of school budgets by 3.4%.
- 5.31 Despite the additional funding, there is a significant medium-term financial pressure on the Schools Budget arising from the cost of new schools that are being built in response to new housing and the resultant need for more school places. In order to provide sufficient places when they are required, new schools will need to open at the start of the developments but will take a number of years to fill up as house building continues. During this period, new schools need additional financial support to cover what can be significant diseconomies of scale.
- 5.32 This cost pressure is not adequately resourced in the funding settlement from the DfE and over the medium term is expected to create a funding shortfall of around £4m. To help manage this, as part of the 2019/20 budget, the Executive agreed that £1m of Council reserves would be made available as part of a funding package which would also include £1m from accumulated balances in the DSG with the remaining circa £2m being met from the annual funding allocation to schools from the DfE.
- 5.33 In light of the significant financial pressures that councils are experiencing on the High Needs budgets (those intended to support pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)) the DfE has introduced new rules around funding transfers in and out of the Schools Budget. The primary objective is to make clear that any accrued deficit is not a liability on councils but remains a DfE responsibility
- 5.34 There are 2 consequences from this on the council: the DfE must now approve any requests from councils to add funding to their Schools Budget; and the DfE has introduced a more rigorous monitoring and intervention regime where council areas have deficit balances or experience a significant reduction in a surplus.

- 5.35 In respect of the planned funding transfer to schools next year, despite intending to increase the money schools receive, initial discussions with the DfE on approving a council contribution have not resulted in clear agreement and further information was requested and provided. Feedback from the DfE is awaited and a risk exists relating to use of council funds to support schools from next financial year. Therefore, the contribution for 2021/22 has yet to be considered by the Schools Forum, but if approved, it is anticipated to be a similar value to the £0.253m used in 2020/21.
- 5.36 In terms of the more rigorous DfE monitoring and intervention regime, as the DSG surplus balance reduced by £2.783m in 2019/20, additional monitoring and intervention can be expected. Whilst no specific communications have been received from the DfE all affected councils are required to complete a standard DSG Management Plan template. This is in the process of being completed.
- 5.37 In addition to grant funding for schools, the DfE makes separate allocations for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) from age 0-24, Early Years funding for 0-4 year olds and a small number of services that support schools and pupils which councils are permitted to manage centrally.
- 5.38 Funding for SEND pupils is forecast to increase by 8% (£1.361m) next year to £18.369m. Whilst a substantial increase, this would still be insufficient to fund the forecast cost increase of £5.1m which arises from significant increases in both the numbers of pupils requiring support and the complexity of need. As set out above, this is a national issue with the council working closely with the Schools Forum on a change programme.

Summary position on the Revenue Budget

- 5.39 Adding the draft proposals to the Commitment Budget and taking account of the corporate issues identified above would result in total expenditure of £89.425m as shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Summary of proposals:

	£'000
Commitment Budget	90,326
Budget Pressures	8,422
Budget Economies	-3,332
Capital Programme	50
Inflation Provision	1,200
Reversal of the one-off transfers into the Future Funding and Business Rates Revaluation Reserves for the projected Collection Fund - Business Rates surplus in 2019/20	-8,241
Reduction in Business Rates income	1,000
Draft Budget Requirement 2021/22	89,425

- 5.40 Without the Provisional Finance Settlement, assumptions have had to be made on the level of grant income. It has been assumed that the Council can anticipate income of up to -£83.183m. This arises from Revenue Support Grant (-£1.780m), Business Rates baseline funding (-£16.832m) and Council Tax at the 2020/21 level (-£64.571m).

- 5.41 With the potential overall cost of the budget package being consulted on in the region of £89.425m, this leaves a potential gap of around £6.242m. Members can choose to adopt any or all of the following approaches in order to bridge the remaining gap:
- an increase in Council Tax;
 - use of additional government grants once these are confirmed, although noting for future planning that the majority of these are one-off in nature;
 - an appropriate contribution from the Council's revenue reserves, bearing in mind the Medium Term financial position.

Reserves

- 5.42 The Council has an estimated £6.7m available in General Reserves at 31 March 2021, if spending in the current year matches the approved budget. Details are contained in Table 5.

Table 5: General Reserves as at 31 March 2021

	£m
General Fund	7.1
Planned use in 2020/21	(0.4)
Estimated Balance as at 31 March 2021	6.7

- 5.43 The Council has, in the past, planned on maintaining a minimum prudential balance currently assessed to be £4.5m. This assessment is based on the financial risks which face the Council and the Director: Resources considers these in the February report to the Executive at which a final decision on the use of balances can be taken, taking account of the financial position likely to face the Council over the next five years.
- 5.44 The Council will also have an estimated £18.2m in the Future Funding Reserve as at 31 March 2021, which has been deliberately established to help manage the Medium-Term financial position

Capital Programme

Introduction

- 5.45 The Council's total usable capital receipts at 31st March 2020 are zero as all receipts have been applied to fund prior capital investment – all receipts during 2020/21 will be used to finance the 2020/21 Capital Programme. The Council is partly reliant on capital receipts and other contributions to fund its capital programme, although interest generated from capital receipts can also help support the revenue budget in the short term. However, with investment rates at historic lows it makes more economic sense to offset borrowing.
- 5.46 The proposed capital programme for 2021/22 has been developed, therefore, on the assumption that it will be funded by a combination of Government grants, other external contributions, capital receipts and borrowing only if required. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions and some small miscellaneous property sales should enable £3m of the capital programme to be funded from receipts. Internal resources will be used in the first instance and borrowing from external sources (e.g. the PWLB) will be used only when necessary. The financing costs associated with the General Fund Capital Programme have been provided for in the Council's revenue budget plans.

New Schemes

5.47 Within the general financial framework outlined above, Service Departments have considered new schemes for inclusion within the Council's Capital Programme for 2021/22 – 2023/24. Given that both capital and revenue resources are under pressure, each Department has evaluated and prioritised proposed schemes into broad categories in line with the Council's agreed Asset Management Plan approach. Having done this, only the very highest priority schemes and programmes are being recommended for inclusion in the Capital Programme.

Elements of the capital programme

5.48 The capital programme is structured into categories of spend as follows:

- *Unavoidable and committed schemes*; these are required to ensure that the Council is not left open to legal sanction and includes items relating to health and safety issues, new legislation etc. Committed schemes also include those that have been started as part of the 2020/21 Capital Programme.
- *Maintenance (Improvements and capitalised repairs)*; an assessment is made of the state of each building and highways element and its repair priority with a condition rating and repair urgency to inform spending requirements which are intended to address the most pressing high priority works. Maintenance of school buildings is financed from DfE School Condition Grant, with the expenditure budget set at the equivalent amount to the grant income.
- *ICT Schemes*; The change in strategic direction of the Council towards cloud-computing and “software as a service” and the current review of Bring-Your-Own-Device, the ICT Steering Group is proposing that the current funding available in 2020/21 be prioritised for investment over the next 18 months. A move to cloud-computing will reduce the need for capital expenditure on traditional IT infrastructure and there has been considerable investment over the last 2 years with the move from desktops to laptops. There will however be a potential revenue pressure associated with this strategic change which the Council will need to fund in future years and resources have been identified in the Council's Revenue Budget.
- *Rolling programmes*; cover more than one year and give a degree of certainty for forward planning schemes to improve service delivery. They make an important contribution towards the Council's established Asset Management Plans and mainly include ICT programmes.
- *Other desirable schemes*; are other high priority schemes that meet the needs and objectives of their service and include school building adaptations to facilitate school improvement and various safeguarding and pre-school projects.
- *Invest to save schemes*; these are schemes where the additional revenue income or savings arising from their implementation exceeds the Council's borrowing costs.

Summary

- 5.49 A summary of the cost of schemes proposed by directorates is set out below in Table 6. A detailed list of new schemes from the People Directorate is included in Annexe D.

Table 6: Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2022/23

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Service Area	£000s	£000s	£000s
Delivery	2,615	4,435	1,835
People	2,935	250	0
Central Directorates	6,482	3564	3,164
Total Capital Programme	12,032	8,249	4,999
Less Externally Funded	5,174	2,614	2,364
Council Funded Programme	6,858	5,635	2,635

Funding options

- 5.50 The proposed capital programme for 2021/22 has been developed on the assumption that it will be funded by approximately £3m from a combination of:

- Government grants
- Section 106 funding (developer contributions)
- CIL
- And council funding from capital receipts and prudential borrowing

- 5.51 Following the introduction of the Prudential Borrowing regime local authorities are able to determine the level of their own capital expenditure with regard only to affordability on the revenue account. In practice this represents the amount of borrowing they can afford to finance, and will necessitate taking a medium-term view of revenue income streams and capital investment needs.

- 5.52 To achieve its aim of ensuring that capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable, the Local Government Act requires all local authorities to set and keep under review a series of prudential indicators included in the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. The Capital Programme recommended in this report can be sustained and is within the prudential guidelines. Full Council will need to agree the prudential indicators for 2021/22 to 2023/24 in February 2021, alongside its consideration of the specific budget proposals for 2021/22 and the Council's medium-term financial prospects.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The Council is legally obliged to calculate the Council Tax Base for 2021/2022 by 31 January 2021. Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as inserted by the Localism Act 2011, imposes a duty on the Council, as a billing authority, to calculate its Council Tax by applying a formula laid down in that Section. The formula involves a figure for the Council Tax Base for the year, which must itself be calculated. The Local Authority (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, require a billing authority to use a given formula to calculate the Council Tax Base.

- 6.2 The authorisation for incurring capital expenditure by local authorities is contained in the legislation covering the service areas. Controls on capital expenditure are contained in the Local Government Act 2003 and regulations made thereunder.

Director: Resources

- 6.2 The financial implications of this report are included in the supporting information.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 The Council's final budget proposals will potentially impact on all areas of the community. A detailed consultation process is planned in order to provide individuals and groups with the opportunity to comment on the draft proposals. This will ensure that in making final recommendations, the Executive can be made aware of the views of a broad section of residents and service users. A number of the budget proposals require specific equality impact assessments to be carried out and draft versions of these have been completed and can be viewed on the website. Where necessary, impact assessments on specific schemes within the capital programme will be undertaken before work commences. Consultation with equalities groups that are likely to be affected by the proposal is part of the assessment process.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.3 A sum of £2.25m is currently included in the draft proposals to meet the costs of unpredictable or unforeseen items that would represent in year budget risks. The Executive will need to make a judgement on the level of Contingency at its meeting in February.
- 6.4 The Director: Resources, as the Council's Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer), must formally certify that the budget is sound. This will involve identifying and assessing the key risk areas in the budget to ensure the robustness of estimates and ensuring that appropriate arrangements are in place to manage those risks, including maintaining an appropriate level of reserves and Contingency. This formalises work that is normally undertaken each year during the budget preparation stages and in monthly monitoring after the budget is agreed. The Director: Resources will report his findings in February, when the final budget package is recommended for approval.
- 6.5 The scale of the Council's Capital Programme for 2021/21 will impact upon the revenue budget and will itself be subject to consultation over the coming weeks. All new spending on services will need to be funded from new capital receipts or borrowing. The generation of capital receipts in future years may mitigate the impact on the revenue budget, but as the timing and scale of these receipts is uncertain their impact is unlikely to be significant.
- 6.6 There are also a range of risks that are common to all capital projects which include:
- Tender prices exceeding the budget
 - Planning issues and potential delays
 - Uncertainty of external funding
 - Building delays due to unavailability of materials or inclement weather
 - Availability of staff with appropriate skills to implement schemes
- 6.7 These can be managed through the use of appropriate professional officers and following best practice in project management techniques. The report also identifies the

risk associated with the shortfall in maintenance expenditure compared to that identified by the latest condition surveys. With only those highest priorities receiving funding in 2020/21, there will be a further build up in the maintenance backlog and a risk that the deterioration in Council assets will hamper the ability to deliver good services.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 The Overview & Scrutiny Commission will be consulted on the budget proposals and may also choose to direct specific issues to individual overview and scrutiny panels. Targeted consultation exercises will be undertaken with business rate payers, the Schools Forum, town and parish councils and voluntary organisations. Comments and views will be sought on both the overall budget package and on the detailed budget proposals. In addition, this report and all the supporting information are publicly available to any individual or group who wish to comment on any proposal included within it. To facilitate this, the full budget package will be placed on the Council's web site at <http://consult.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/portal>. There will also be a dedicated mailbox to collect comments..
- 7.2 The timetable for the approval of the 2021/22 Budget is as follows:

Executive agree proposals as basis for consultation	15 December 2020
Consultation period	16 December 2020 - 26 January 2021
Executive considers representations made and recommends budget.	09 February 2021
Council considers Executive budget proposals	24 February 2021

Background Papers

BFC budget proposal reports to the Executive:

<http://democratic.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=102&MId=8577&Ver=4>

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Doc. Ref [https://bfcouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/fina/bpm/FIBPSCB-FIN9.6/Schools Forum/\(102\) 140121/2021-22 LA Budget Proposals from the council - Schools Forum.docx](https://bfcouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/fina/bpm/FIBPSCB-FIN9.6/Schools%20Forum/(102)%20140121/2021-22%20LA%20Budget%20Proposals%20from%20the%20council%20-%20Schools%20Forum.docx)

Description of Commitment Budget Items for 2021/22 to 2023/24

Department and Item	Description	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000
People Directorate				
Suitability surveys	Suitability and access surveys are undertaken every three years to update the Asset Management Plan so that up to date information is available to inform investment decisions on the capital programme.	20	-20	
Schools Budget – Funding for New Schools	There is a significant medium-term financial pressure on the Schools Budget arising from the cost of new schools that are being built in response to new housing and the resultant need for more school places. New schools generally need to open at the start of the developments and will take several years to fill up as house building continues. During this period, they need additional financial support to cover what can be significant diseconomies of scale. This cost pressure is not adequately resourced in the funding settlement from the government and in order to protect school budgets, up to £1m of funding will be provided by the Council over the next four years. In 2020/21 an allocation of £0.253m was built into the base budget funded from an Earmarked Reserve. This is expected to remain at £0.253m in 2021/22.		-97	-156
Schools Budget - High Needs deficit	Bracknell Forest along with many other councils has had to set a deficit budget for the High Needs Block. This deficit will be balanced in the Council's budget by a contribution from school reserves as it will need to be met from the DSG over the medium term.			
Home-Start and Journey to Parenthood	Short term Public Health funding was secured for two family support programmes in 2020/21. One year's funding for Home-Start (£0.030m) and two years for Journey to Parenthood (£0.007m).	30	7	
Youth facility at Braccan Walk	A premises and general resources budget is required for the new facility which opened part way through the year. This is the full year impact.	17		
Staffing Pressures	In 2020/21 several areas were identified where there are pressures on the staffing budget in order to comply with statutory responsibilities and	-1,424		

Department and Item	Description	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000
	to ensure service quality standards are met. Funding was provided for one year only on the assumption the pressure would be managed down during the year as structures and ways of working were redefined.			
Total		-1,357	-110	- 156

Revenue budget: proposed PRESSURES for the People Directorate

Description	Best Case 2021/22 £'000	Worst Case 2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
<p>Children Looked After (CLA) This represents the pressure on care and accommodation charges. It has been calculated by taking current costs and estimating changes for the remainder of the financial year, including an anticipated reduction from young people turning 18 and transferring into Adult Social Care. The Worst Case reflects the further care and accommodation costs anticipated from Covid-19, which have been minimised by temporary additional social worker support for prevention of Child Protection escalation to CLA and caseload management.</p>	91	531		
<p>Adult Social Care This represents the pressure on care packages. It has been calculated by taking current costs and estimating changes for the remainder of the financial year. There are also a large number of suspended services currently due to Covid and the figure includes an estimate proportion of the services being re-instated by 1 April. The pressure also includes an estimate of the costs arising from young people turning 18 and transferring into Adult Social Care. The Worst Case assumes a greater proportion of suspended services are re-instated by the end of the financial year and a rise in demand for services generally over the remaining months of the financial year.</p>	1,040	2,363		
<p>Historic commitments in the schools budget Grant funding for a range of services that support vulnerable children is being reduced by 20%. A number of efficiencies and service reductions can be managed that reduce the financial impact.</p>	15	15		
<p>Open Learning Centre and Early Help Income generation will be significantly impacted from Covid-19 as a result of new ways of workings with significantly fewer external lettings, including from schools and the Leadership Hub.</p>	85	169		
<p>School Accommodation Temporary hire of modular accommodation (10 classrooms and drama studio) for Sandhurst Secondary while emergency roof repair is undertaken at the main school.</p>	200	200	-200	

Description	Best Case 2021/22 £'000	Worst Case 2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
<p>Coopers Hill Youth Centre The exit from the Coopers Hill site will be completed in 2020 at which point various lettings and room hire receipts will be lost. Some services will be relocated to other BF buildings but there will be a net loss of income. This is part of the overall business case for the Joint Venture project.</p>	74	74		
<p>One-year funding for Directorate staffing pressures The 2020/21 budget included one-year funding for essential staffing resources with the Directorate, including continuation of the Family Safeguarding Model. This is now being made permanent.</p>	626	626		
<p>Children's Social Care – Family Safeguarding Model The Family Safeguarding Model involves joint working with partners from the Health (£220k) and Police Services (£110k). Continuation of funding for relevant posts will need careful consideration if agreement to resourcing is not achieved with partners. Health workers are directly employed by Health (3 FTE), BFC employ staff supporting the Police Service (3 FTE).</p>	0	330		
<p>Quality Assurance Officer Post It is proposed to invest further in the People Quality Assurance team and to extend their accountability to include oversight of corporate complaints.</p>	40	40		
PEOPLE TOTAL	2,171	4,348	-200	0

Revenue budget: proposed ECONOMIES for People Directorate

Description Impact	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Historic underspends The following budgets can be reduced to reflect historic underspends with no impact on services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Network. • Children's Social Care office running costs. • Community Safety. 	-40		
Mencap The contract with Mencap has ended.	-30		
Education & learning Training budgets will be reduced across all services for one year. The enhanced NEET prevention program for 16-19 year olds will be provided in-house.	-45	-5	
Additional income / day to day resources The following areas have been identified where additional income can be generated or day to day spend on resources reduced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Social Care: Make Safe Team training income. • Housing & Welfare: rental income from additional units created through capital projects. • Community Safety: fee for Domestic Abuse training for external organisations. Non-essential expenditure will be reduced across family hubs including refreshments, stationery, learning resources and sundry expenses.	-19	-13	
Children's Social Care transformation The detail of the scheme is being scoped and is likely to include a programme to develop foster carers so that they become more resilient to adolescence and more expensive external placements are avoided reducing costs of care and accommodation.	-500	-500	
Adult Social Care transformation The Adult Social Care transformation programme includes the following workstreams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased provision of independent day support for people with learning disabilities to allow more care to be provided in a group setting rather than 1-1. • Adopt the Conversations Model. This includes greater use of community assets and assistive technology to meet care needs, more consistent approach to how people access Adult Social Care Support and the redesign of the hospital discharge pathway. • Update of the choice and charging policy. • Review of high cost care packages. 	-75 -445 -150 -200	-125 -455 -170 -200	-50

Description Impact	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Housing & Welfare Review of the service to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract negotiation with registered providers for young people's supported accommodation schemes. 	-50		
Forestcare Continuation of the work already underway to convert Forestcare into a trading account that covers costs. This will require further negotiation of existing contracts and bidding for new work where it is financially viable to do so.	-95	-130	
Integrated commissioning team with Health Create an integrated commissioning team with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) resulting in staff savings.	-25	-25	
Education & Learning staffing Reduction in using external consultants to deliver training to governors. Staffing restructure within the school property, place and admissions team.	-39	-25	
Youth offending service Alternative location to be sourced for the service so that the running costs of the existing building can be eliminated.	-35		
Early Help Sexual Health contract Fund the GP sexual health contract from Public Health grant.	-21		
PEOPLE TOTAL	-1,769	-1,648	-50

CAPITAL PROGRAMME - PEOPLE

	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	TOTAL £000
Committed				
Sandhurst Nursery Relocation	50	-	-	50
	50	-	-	50
Unavoidable				
No Schemes	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Rolling Programme / Other Desirable				
Non-Schools				
No Schemes	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Departmental Bids:				
Feasibility Study	60	-	-	60
	60	-	-	60
School Bids:				
School Security and Safeguarding	50	-	-	50
Birch Hill Modular Re-furbishment (SEN)	15	-	-	15
Holly Spring Fusion (SEN)	120	-	-	120
Pines Orchard Outside Space (SEN)	30	-	-	30
	275	-	-	275
Total	275	-	-	275
TOTAL REQUEST FOR COUNCIL FUNDING	325	-	-	325
External Funding - Other				
Non-Schools				
S106 10a Portman Close Flats	200	250	-	450
	200	250	-	450
Schools				
DfE Grant: Schools Capital Maintenance (provisional)	1,500	-	-	1,500
DfE Grant: Devolved Formula Capital (provisional)	250	-	-	250
S106 Primary SEMH Hub	660	-	-	660
	2,610	250	-	2,860
TOTAL EXTERNAL FUNDING	2,610	250	-	2,860
TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME	2,935	250	-	3,185

PEOPLE DIRECTORATE
2021/22 Capital Programme Bids
NEW SCHEMES

1. School Investment Feasibility (£60k)

Sandhurst and Easthampstead Part schools have not had major investment in recent years and the standard of their accommodation and facilities is falling behind these other schools (including academy schools) with whom they are in competition for attracting pupils during a time of surplus places.

This budget will pay for a feasibility & cost report to be drawn up, to set out how this maintained school might be redeveloped in the future in order to help maintain their competitive edge.

The feasibility & cost reports will also pick up identified issues including:

- Enhancements targeted to support school improvement
- Works to facilitate land sale
- Works to facilitate reduction in admission numbers
- Future school capacity requirements based on new pupil places forecasts
- Potential for income generation by utilising surplus assets
- Potential for greater community use by utilising surplus assets

The feasibility & cost report will be drawn up in consultation with the Headteacher. Surplus funding will be used to commence the redevelopment project.

2. School Security and Safeguarding (50k)

A number of schemes have been prioritised relating to security and safeguarding issues. A budget of £50k is proposed to deal with these

Sandhurst Fencing, Gates and Fire Alarms

- One of the gates installed in the 2018 project fencing project needs to open electronically upon the fire alarm sounding. The gate is a major thoroughfare to the fire evacuation meeting point in the sports centre and so has to remain unlocked and / or open throughout the day. Whilst the gate is not visible from the road, and so isn't obvious, it means the school is not 100% access controlled. 125m of additional boundary fencing plus gates is required to make secure the car park which has been transferred to the school from the Council when the Sports Centre closed. Following an issue with the school's fire panel in March, we were advised by our service engineers that "Fire panel has panel and loop faults and has been recommended for replacement". Whilst the panel is still "roadworthy", the number of incidents and faults are continuing and the current panel has without doubt a finite life and so a replacement is sought.

The Pines Security

- The office area at the front of The Pines School is not safe. The front desk is low enough that the children can get over the top of it, and children can then leave the school premises by pressing the button to unlock the front door. The office staff are only protected from the public by a magnet locked door and once an unwanted visitor is in reception they would be able to get over the lower desk to gain access to the whole school.

Due to the site set up at The Pines School the front access of the building is open to the public as we are unable to put a fence around the car park as we share access to it with the social club and nursery on site. To protect the children and staff we would like to install glass to the front desk area and re work the desk to make it suitable for someone to work at the front desk. To do this we would need to remove the current wall between the main office and reception so that we are all able to assist with visitors at the front desk and rework the seating arrangements so that we are facing the visitors to the reception area. We would also like to install an electronic sign in system to again improve the security of the school premises.

3. Birch Hill Modular Refurbishment (£15k)

This bid is to refurbish our existing modular building that is near end of life to provide a resource for our SEND children. We are seeing an increase number of children with a range of complex Special Education & Disability Needs (SEND) including children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Moderate Learning Difficulties and increasing numbers of children who have significant Social, Emotional & Mental Health Needs (SEMH). In addition, we have a number of children who are Looked After (LAC), Post LAC/Adopted. We recognise the importance having alternatives to the standard classroom provision for children who need variety and a more bespoke approach to education. This is a continuation and a development of our successful and popular Nurture provision that we have been establishing

4. Holly Spring FUSION (£120k)

To extend and update our existing terrapin to become a self contained multiuse space for a one of a kind specialist support hub for nurture/Sen and community provision to lead the way as an outstanding school providing in house and LA school bespoke training as well as available to hire by other local schools, council and agencies such as PSCO, social workers etc (SEN) Extension and refurbishment of a modular building for specialist support for nurture/SEN and community. Supported by the Head of Children's Support Services.

5. The Pines Orchard Outside Space (£30k)

The Pines would like to develop an outside space to include a canopy and all weather surface so that the children are able to access this space at all times to further their learning and development. This outside space will allow for the sensory needs of the children who have been identified as having specific learning needs as well as sensory seeking needs. All the children in The Orchard have an Education, Health Care Plan and the provision for their needs requires hands-on practical play-based learning opportunities. The Orchard provision is to be run as an Early Years environment where learning through play and use of an outside continuous provision is essential. The space is essential for development of gross motor skills as well as interaction with their peers. This covered outside area will also enable a safe place for the pupils to be if the large and busy main playground is too overwhelming, both in terms of noise, people and overstimulating.

External Funding Bids

6. 10a Portman Close Flats, (£450k) S106 Funding

10 Portman Close consists of a two story 1970s building with respite care for children to the ground floor and residential accommodation to the first. The upper floor referred to as 10a is used as temporary accommodation for homeless households and is split into two units managed by the Housing Service. Current accommodation at Portman Close is currently poorly laid out. Each of the flats is designed as a multiple occupancy dwelling with rooms, with shared kitchen facilities between the two flats.

The proposal is to remodel the interior to a total of four self-contained flats to increase the provision of temporary accommodation for families, improving facilities and making better use of the current space. The plan provides for 3x2-bed and 1x1 bed flats – small family/lone parents can comfortably be accommodated in these on a temporary basis. Aged sanitary, electrical, heating and fire detection systems will require attention as part of the project.

7. New SEMH facility, (£660k) Conditional on S106 Funding

A proposal for a new 4-11 primary co-educational SEMH school with 50 places to be created in existing school accommodation that is or will become surplus as a result of falling school rolls. Detailed studies and analysis of pupil numbers, education provision and trends in the Borough relating to SEND, migration and accommodation have revealed that the creation of a new SEMH School best meets the needs of children and young people (CYP) and their families. A specific trend has been the arrival in recent years of an increasing number of families from outside the UK. In particular, we are experiencing a steady rise in the numbers of refugees; currently 10 CYP in the borough are refugees. Experiencing a traumatic situation, such as conflict, separation from family and financial hardship, all of which are common experiences for refugees, can significantly increase the likelihood of needing specialist SEMH provision.

We do not have sufficient specialist provision for a growing number of CYP with a primary presentation of SEMH, which is why so many are currently educated out of Borough. Out of borough places have a personal impact on individuals and families. CYP with SEMH are at a disadvantage due to travel over long distances to school, separation from their community support network and inability to engage with community life. There is also a significant financial impact on the Borough. BF spends more on SEND than both the national average and our statistical neighbours. The spend for CYP educated out of authority in non-maintained or independent schools is £2,731,386, with £37,935 of this for 72 pre-16 pupils. 71% of CYP with SEN who are educated in independent or non-maintained schools present a prime difficulty of either ASC (35%) or SEMH (36%).

The proposal is to create the new SEMH Hub in existing school accommodation that is or will become surplus as a result of falling school rolls. There is currently a 13% surplus of primary places across the Borough in the intake year which is forecast to increase over the next five years. When suitable surplus school accommodation has been identified, this project will entail conversion/adaptation of the vacated space for SEN use prior to occupation. By taking up surplus school accommodation this proposal will also remove surplus mainstream school places from the system, which links to and forms part of the current School Capacity Strategy.

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