

Notice of Meeting

Schools Forum

Martin Gocke (Pupil Referral Unit Representative (Governor))
(Chairman)
Stuart Matthews, Academy School Representative (Headteacher)
(Vice-Chairman)
Liz Cole, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Jane Coley, Academy School Representative (Headteacher)
Karen Davis, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Neil Davies, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Peter Floyd, Special School Representative (Governor)
Keith Grainger, Secondary School Representative (Headteacher)
Brian Poxon, Secondary School Representative (Governor)
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)
Michelle Tuddenham, PVI Provider Representative
Greg Wilton, Teacher Union Representative



Also Invited:

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

Monday 16 December 2019, 4.30 - 6.00 pm

Council Chamber - Time Square, Market Street, Bracknell, RG12

1JD

Agenda

Item	Description	Page
1.	Apologies for Absence/Substitute Members	
	To receive apologies for absence and to note the attendance of any substitute members.	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
	<p>Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary or affected interests in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	

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3.	Minutes and Matters Arising	3 - 10
	To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of 21 November 2019.	
4.	Childcare Sufficiency Assessment	11 - 34
	To present the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment to the Forum.	
5.	2020/21 Proposals for the Early Years Block Budget	35 - 46
	To seek agreement from the Forum to proposals for the 2020-21 Early Years budgets, including the values to be attributed to the Bracknell Forest Council Early Years Funding Formula (EYFF). There is also a decision to consider in line with the statutory funding framework.	
6.	School Places Plan and Capital Strategy	47 - 78
	To note the School Places Plan and Capacity Strategy 2020-24. These were last approved by the Executive in January 2017 and have now been updated to cover the five-year period from 2020 to 2024.	
7.	2020/21 Proposals for the Schools Block and Central School Services Block	79 - 110
	To present an update to the 2020-21 budget proposals that were presented to the last meeting of the Forum. Associated decisions need to be agreed at this meeting in order to meet the 21 January 2020 statutory deadline for agreeing individual school budgets.	
8.	Dates of Future Meetings	
	The next meeting of the Forum will be held at 4.30pm on 16 January 2020.	

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 December 2019

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**SCHOOLS FORUM
21 NOVEMBER 2019
4.35 - 6.10 PM**



Present:

Martin Gocke, Pupil Referral Unit Representative (Governor) (Chairman)

Schools' Members

Liz Cole, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Jane Coley, Academy School Representative (Headteacher)
Karen Davis, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Neil Davies, Primary School Representative (Headteacher)
Peter Floyd, Special School Representative (Governor)
Keith Grainger, Secondary School Representative (Headteacher)
Stuart Matthews, Academy School Representative (Headteacher) (Vice-Chairman)
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:

Brian Poxon, Secondary School Representative (Governor)

115. Apologies for Absence/Substitute Members

There were no Substitute Members.

116. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman read out the advice from Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) regarding meeting during the election period and noted that regular practice could continue as long as it did not relate to election canvassing or campaigning for a particular candidate or party.

Martin Gocke, Richard Stok and Peter Floyd declared an affected interest in respect of Item 6 (2020-21 Budget Preparations for the High Needs Block).

Stuart Matthews and Peter Floyd declared an affected interest in respect of Item 7 (2020-21 Budget Preparations for the Schools Block and Central Schools Services Block).

Councillor Barnard advised that he was a governor at Garth Hill College.

117. **Minutes and Matters Arising**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 19 September 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Arising from minute 107 Cherry Hall advised that the draft general attendance guidance note was going through the process of being approved and would hopefully be ready for distribution to providers in January.

Also arising from minute 107 Paul Clark had prepared a proposal around the Growth Fund which was included on the agenda.

Also arising from minute 107 it was confirmed that the latest projections of forecast pupil numbers and available places would be presented in December.

Action: Chris Taylor

Arising from minute 108 (Flow of Funds to Schools and Spending Review 2020-23) Paul Clark had shared the PowerPoint slides with the members of the Forum.

Arising from minute 111 Paul Clark had clarified in the consultation document before distribution to schools that the council would only seek to transfer funds to the level of a forecast over spend, if there was one.

Arising also from minute 111 the outcomes from the HNB consultation and the Early Years Funding Formula (EYFF) consultation had been prepared to be reported in this meeting of the Forum.

Arising from minute 114 a column had been added to the attendance register to indicate carparking reimbursement requests.

118. **High Needs Block Sub Group**

The Forum received and noted the terms of reference and minutes of the meetings of the High Needs Block Sub Group on 12 September and 10 October 2019.

119. **Free Childcare Places**

The Forum considered a report which provided an update on the outcome of the consultation with early years providers on proposed changes to the payment arrangements of the free childcare entitlements.

The Chairman noted that several members could not access confidential Annex B prior to the meeting, and this would be investigated. They were viewed on the TV screen and considered during the meeting.

Action: Derek Morgan

Cherry Hall explained that there were a number of unexpected outcomes in the way the deprivation supplement of the local EYFF worked; specifically, the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) measure. Several providers were qualifying for the incorrect band of the deprivation supplement. A fairer and more equitable way of IDACI scoring has been developed.

To gather provider views on the proposed changes to the funding formula, a consultation with all providers registered to deliver the free entitlement was undertaken in October 2019. There was a response rate of only 17% (27 out of a total of 163 registered providers). The Forum reflected that such a low response rate was quite concerning and queried whether there had been any investigation into why providers did not respond. Cherry Hall explained that the team delivering the consultation regularly met with providers and impressed upon them the importance of taking part.

Over 80% of respondents supported the proposed changes to the calculation of the IDACI measure. The forecast payment profile was also consulted on and 59% of respondents wanted to keep the forecast payment at 60% of the total forecast funding for the term.

It has been confirmed that the additional £66 million in funding for early years for 2020-21 equated to 8p per hour increase in Bracknell Forest. Final figures would be reported to the Forum in the meeting in December.

Action: Cherry Hall

RESOLVED

1. to NOTE the majority of respondents to the consultation:
 - i. supported the proposed changes to the calculation of the IDACI element of the deprivation supplement (Annex A questions and paragraph 5.16);
 - ii. indicated that they wished to retain the percentage of funding paid in the forecast payment at the current level of 60% (Annex A and paragraph 5.17);
 - iii. indicated that any future increases in funding to providers should be applied to the base rate (Annex A and paragraph 5.18); and
 - iv. felt the current payment arrangements were suitable (Annex A and paragraph 5.18); and
2. to AGREE that taking account of the response from providers:
 - i. the calculation of the IDACI measure of the deprivation supplement is changed to an average score per child;
 - ii. the threshold scores for the IDACI measure are changed to account for the new calculation method;
 - iii. restrictions on childminders qualifying for the IDACI measure are removed; and
 - iv. to retain the percentage of funding paid in the forecast payment at the current rate of 60%.

120. 2020-21 Budget Preparations for the High Needs Block

The Forum considered a report which provided an update in respect of the current forecast for the 2020-21 High Needs Block (HNB) budget, including the outcomes from the recent consultation with schools to gather views on transferring up to 0.5% of the Schools Block (SB) income to the HNB budget.

Forecast for the 2020-21 HNB budget

Paul Clark explained that Bracknell Forest was in a position of financial pressure which had mainly arisen due to significant increases in the numbers of pupils requiring support, increases in complexity of need, and annual increases in the cost of provision above the level of inflation. Bracknell Forest had a steeper increase than the national figure in the number of children receiving additional support through Education Health Care Plans. Furthermore, there was increasing use of more expensive placements outside Bracknell Forest.

The medium-term financial forecast was summarised in Table 1 of the report and showed an anticipated overspend of £2.408m for 2019-20 (£0.777m if offset against the forecast Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) reserve of £1.631m) with a cumulative overspend of £10.924m over three years.

Kashif Nawaz then highlighted the work that had been completed to date to develop a balanced medium-term budget with a focus on developing a range of quality services at reduced costs. This work had focused on the general themes of outcomes from the High Needs Block Sub Group and were highlighted in 6.18 and 6.19 of the report. It was confirmed there had been robust discussions prior to this meeting, identifying priorities and beginning to unpick where cost savings could be made, services developed and where historically we could have done better. It was acknowledged that there were longer-term challenges but there was a willingness to work with the recommendations. The Forum expressed a desire for flexibility to adapt the plan if things don't work.

The Forum questioned whether the recommendations were likely to lead to a significant reduction in cost. 6.18 outlined a far more robust and graduated approach and identified a range of resources available to commission in an efficient way. Table 3 of the report summarised the financial impact of the proposals and deducting cost reductions the deficit would be reduced by £7m to £3m which would be a significant reduction in the deficit.

Relating to 6.18.2 of the report, the Forum queried how the demand of Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) could be reduced. Kashif Nawaz explained that there had been an escalation in numbers of children going from SEN support to EHCPs. Research suggested that a broader graduated approach could reduce need of EHCP where needs could be met in mainstream schools. A systematic pragmatic approach was needed as opposed to decisions being made on an ad hoc basis. For example, several children with EHCPs in year 11 had been placed out of borough but transition planning meant they could be brought back to be educated within the borough.

Relating to 6.19.4 of the report (setting out new in-school SEND resource provisions), the Forum questioned how much money was covered in this and if the plans had been published. Kashif Nawaz advised that all schools had received details of the scheme and been invited to submit a bid with the individual project plans identifying the proposal which varied across the schools. Over the first two rounds of applications, four schools (Harmans Water Primary, Fox Hill Primary, Jennetts Park Primary and Brakenhale Academy), the Parent Carer Forum, and Community Learning were successful in bidding for funding for the DfE Special Provisions Capital Fund (SPCF), which would provide a total of up to 85 places. The third phase was expected to commence in the Spring term and guidance on how to apply would go out to all schools. £250,000 would be available.

Relating to 6.19.5 the Forum was advised that, whilst the DfE rejected the bid for funding for a new Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Special free School, the council was continuing with plans for a new in-house provision and had received interest from providers in other LAs to collaborate with the council on this.

The Forum queried whether there was additional finance to upscale SEN Hub in line with demand. Kashif Nawaz explained that the team was working with finance to maintain oversight of what was needed. The SEN HUB was funded by the HNB reserves and there were sufficient funds to cover the cost for a couple of years. The team was working to provide better analysis to demonstrate demand and it was expected that after that time the team would be in a good position to demonstrate

ongoing need. The Forum expressed a need for sufficient levels of staffing and expertise for a responsive service.

The Forum queried whether there could be further savings which hadn't yet been identified. Kashif Nawaz advised that there was potential for saving in post 16 if effective processes were in place. The Forum noted that transport savings, whilst not having a direct impact on the HNB budget as it did not come out of that budget, would help other local issues which in turn would have an impact on the HNB budget.

The Forum questioned whether any capital requirements had been considered. It was advised that the possibility of increasing capacity at College Hall, which had been raised previously, would be picked up as part of capital bids.

The Forum acknowledged that each of the strands of the strategy needed further work to be explored more fully and that many figures would change over the course of the on-going work.

Consultation with schools to transfer 0.5% to HNB budgets

A consultation was undertaken with schools to gather views on transferring up to 0.5% of SB funding to the HNB, which reflected the financial pressure outlined above. There was a 61% response rate and 74% of respondents were opposed to the proposed transfer. A key reason cited for opposing the transfer related to affordability and the financial pressures schools were facing.

The Forum was advised to consider the longer-term strategic need of having to balance the HNB budget in light of a forecast significant funding gap. It was also highlighted that the consultation document had been issued in advance of the announcement from the government on the School Budget Spending review which was now considered to deliver average increases in per pupil funding of 5.9% after taking account of the funding transfer. The next steps would be influenced by the views expressed and decisions taken by the Forum. If the Forum could not agree the proposed transfer, the Executive Member could consider an appeal to the Secretary of State.

The Forum questioned whether this was the main proposal to reduce the £3m gap. Paul Clark advised that this was the case.

The Forum were reluctant to vote against the consensus of the consultation. The Forum also expressed that it was difficult to agree to something which did not appear to be concrete. However, Paul Clark explained that the proposal had been brought at this time as the transfer would need to be made by 28 November 2019 as set by the DfE.

RESOLVED to AGREE:

1. the developments to future service delivery (paragraph 6.19 and Annex 5); and
2. that further work is undertaken to identify additional projects to work towards a balanced medium-term financial plan.

The Forum did not agree the proposal of a 0.5% funding transfer from the 2020-21 SB to the HNB budget, estimated at £0.375m. The Forum accepted to take the consequences of this. Councillor Barnard confirmed that he would not sanction an appeal to the Secretary of State on the basis that he believed the responsibility and ability to come up with a solution rested with the Forum.

The Forum expressed thanks to the people involved in producing the report and the recommendations.

121. **2020-21 Budget Preparations for the Schools Block and Central Schools Services Block**

The Forum considered a report which provided an update on the matters that could be dealt with in respect of the SB and Central School Services Block (CSSB) elements of the Schools Budget for the timely preparation of the 2020-21 budget. The Forum was advised that the report had been written with the assumption that the proposal of a 0.5% funding transfer from the 2020-21 SB to the HNB budget would be approved.

Table 4 of the report summarised the initial budget proposals for 2020-21 and an updated funding plan for the key budget issue of diseconomy costs as new schools was summarised in Table 3 of the report.

Relating to the proposed financing and associated budget for the Growth Fund as set out in Table 3, the Forum questioned whether we were statutorily tied to this. The Forum acknowledged that it had previously been agreed by the Forum, but this was not without dissent. It was suggested to bring back the calculation and supporting documents to take a fresh look at it, so long as the Forum would be able to vote on changes. Paul Clark agreed to check the legal status and report back to the Forum in December.

Action: Paul Clark

The proposed amendment to the new school funding policy reflected the thinking that it would be more appropriate for schools to move across to the Bracknell Forest funding formula once they had opened all their pre-16-year-old year groups rather than meet capacity thresholds. The Forum questioned whether that would create a problem with Kings Academy which was not expected to be fully open for several years. Paul Clark advised that it had always been the case that they would stay on the previous formula until pupil numbers were at a relatively high level.

Relating to the criteria for in-year budget allocations to schools experiencing significant growth in pupil numbers, the Forum queried whether the full threshold needed to be met to receive the funding. Paul Clark advised this was the case and was based on the assumption that schools could absorb a certain number of extra pupils without a cost increase but 25 additional pupils (in three and above Form and Entry (FE) schools) would get to the level of needing an extra teacher.

The Forum questioned whether King's Academy's commitment to SEN support has been clarified. Rachel Morgan advised that conversations were being had to explore the plan of opening a primary ASC unit. King's Academy were aware that this was a concern of the Forum. The Forum felt that it was appropriate to scrutinise this.

RESOLVED

1. to NOTE:

- i. the latest update on the School and Education Spending review and the impact anticipated for BF at this time;
- ii. the known options used by other LAs for funding the additional costs arising from new schools, as summarised in Table 2;
- iii. the 6.9% increase in per pupil funding, which after meeting the cost of new pressures, schools will on average receive a 5.9% increase; and

- iv. that the Minimum Per Pupil Funding values expected by the DfE of £3,750 for primary aged pupils and £5,000 for secondary can be fully financed; and
2. to AGREE:
- i. the budget changes for 2020-21, as summarised in Table 4, with particular consideration given to:
 - a. the revised medium-term funding strategy for meeting the additional cost arising from the Growth Fund (Annex 3);
 - b. the elements of the 2020-21 Growth Fund (Table 3);
 - c. the impact of changes in funding to the CSSB; and
 - d. that the Minimum Funding Guarantee is set at the maximum amount of +1.84%;
 - ii. the updated text for the Funding Policy for New and Expanded Schools (Annex 1);
 - iii. on-going central retention by the Council of Central School Services funding for the areas and amounts set out in Annex 4;
 - iv. the updated criteria for allocating funds to schools experiencing significant in-year increases in pupil numbers be implemented from the October 2019 census (Annex 5); and
 - v. that options be developed for the December meeting to consider whether amendments should be made to the distribution of funds to schools in order for 1 FE schools to receive increases close to the overall average increase in per pupil funding.

The pressure to support pupils with high needs was removed as a consideration for the budget changes for 2020-21.

122. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Forum was due to be held on Monday 16 December 2019 commencing at 4:30pm (preceded by a briefing for members at 3:30pm). This had been changed to avoid a clash with the General Election on 12 December 2019.

The Forum queried why the date had been changed due to the General Election considering the ESFA guidance that regular practice could continue during this period. Councillor Barnard clarified that it was changed for practical as opposed to political reasons due to the impact on the council and democratic services. However, the Forum challenged this decision as it was felt that the impact on members had not been considered.

Action: Derek Morgan

The Forum requested that the venue be changed to the Council Chamber going forward.

Action: Joanna Gibbons

CHAIRMAN

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**TO: SCHOOLS FORUM
16 DECEMBER 2019**

**CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT
Executive Director of People**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the attached Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) to Schools Forum.

2 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 **SCHOOLS FORUM NOTES the contents of the attached CSA, which indicates that there is sufficient childcare in Bracknell Forest to meet demand and the ongoing work to understand the impact of new housing and town centre developments on supply and demand.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 3.1 Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities sets out Local Authorities statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare. In order to meet this duty Bracknell Forest Council is required to submit a report to elected council members on how it is meeting its duty and to make this report available to parents.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 No alternative options were considered

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 Section 6 and 7 (as substituted by section 1 of the Education Act 2011) of the Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on English local authorities to secure sufficient childcare for working parents and to secure early years provision free of charge.
- 5.2 Part B of the Statutory guidance for local authorities sets out how Local Authorities should meet this duty, including the requirement to report to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare, and make this report available and accessible to parents.
- 5.3 In making an assessment of the sufficiency of the local childcare market, the CSA draws on data from the Office for National Statistics, labour market statistics from the National Online Manpower Information System (NOMIS) and census data, Health data, local statistical data, information provided by local childcare providers and a survey of parents in Bracknell Forest.
- 5.4 Currently evidence suggests that there is sufficient capacity borough wide, however, there needs to be further analysis to understand the distribution of supply and demand. In particular as housing and business grow in the town centre there may be a corresponding growth in demand
- 5.5 Based on challenges identified in the CSA, a Childcare Strategy is being developed which will set out key priorities for securing sufficient, high quality, inclusive childcare in Bracknell Forest for 2019-23. The actions for meeting these key priorities are set out below:

- Work with partners to identify potential new locations to develop childcare provision in the key areas (e.g. Bracknell Town Council, schools, local businesses)
- Work with existing providers to gain a better understanding of capacity and demand (whether funded or unfunded) and/or change business models to meet the needs of parents, e.g. lower age ranges, extending operating hours/weeks
- Working with and encouraging providers to advertise their childcare more effectively to parents, for example, links for Family Information Service on school and setting websites
- Improving the visibility and accessibility of information which is currently available e.g. childcare mapping tool on FIS
- Continue to engage with Bracknell and Wokingham College to encourage childminders to register to deliver the free entitlements.
- Ensure Job Centre Plus has information on childcare entitlements for working parents and 'how to find childcare'

5.6 Following presentation to Schools Forum the CSA will be submitted to the executive member for approval and subsequently published on the BFC website where it will be available and accessible to parents and childcare providers.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

6.1 The relevant legal issues are addressed within the report

Borough Treasurer

6.2 The revenue related cost of delivering the CSA will need to be financed from within the Dedicated Schools Grant income. If any capital costs emerge, they will need to be considered by the council through the normal budget setting process.

Equalities Impact Assessment

6.3 Not Required

Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.4 BFC will be at risk of not meeting its statutory duty if it does not submit the CSA to the executive member and publish the report where it is accessible to parents.

6.5 If BFC does not complete a sufficiency assessment; development of childcare may not be placed in the correct area, may not meet the needs of working parents and may destabilise the local childcare market.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 In preparing for the CSA, data on current capacity, vacancies and costs were gathered from providers of funded childcare in Bracknell Forest. Parents of children resident in or accessing childcare in Bracknell Forest were consulted on their need for childcare.

Method of Consultation

7.2 Data from providers is collected via the Provider Self Update portal. Parents were consulted via an online survey which was advertised via childcare providers, the BFC website, the Family Information Service website and social media.

Representations Received

7.3 112 parents responded to the consultation.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718179/Early_education_and_childcare-statutory_guidance.pdf

Early education and childcare statutory guidance for local authorities - June 2018

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/21/contents>

Childcare Act 2006

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/5/contents/enacted>

Childcare Act 2016

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2019

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1. Overall assessment and summary

1.1. About Childcare Sufficiency Assessments

Our Council 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'. This Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) has been prepared in order to meet this duty.

The statutory guidance sets out the intended outcomes of this duty as 'parents are able to work because childcare places are available, accessible and affordable and are delivered flexibly in a range of high quality settings' and that Local Authorities are required by legislation to 'Secure sufficient childcare, so far as reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children)

This report makes an assessment of sufficiency using data about the need for childcare and the amount of childcare available, and feedback from local parents about how easy or difficult it has been for them to find suitable childcare.

Sufficiency is assessed for different groups, rather than for all children in the local authority. The number of children in these groups fluctuates across the year, for example the numbers in funded early years provision being at their lowest in autumn after the school intake of 4 year olds and increasing across spring to the highest numbers in summer.

Information about childcare sufficiency is used to plan our work supporting the local childcare economy.

1.2. Overall Sufficiency in Bracknell Forest

Assessment of childcare sufficiency for this report used data gathered in the summer term 2019. Demand for childcare varies across the year, with demand at its highest in the summer term and lowest in the autumn term following the intake of 4 year olds into maintained schools. Data sources include data from childcare providers, a parent survey, the Office of National Statistics and Bracknell Forest Council databases.

Analysis of the data indicates that:

- for the financial year 2019/20 there is sufficient childcare in Bracknell Forest in the following categories:
 - Free entitlement for eligible 2 year olds
 - Universal 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds
 - Extended 30 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds of working parents
 - Early years childcare outside the free entitlements

- There is currently sufficient childcare across Bracknell Forest to meet future demand for the period 2020/21 to 2022/23 in these categories.
- There is insufficient evidence to conclude that there is enough childcare in the following categories:
 - Childcare before and after school
 - Childcare during school holidays
 - Childcare for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Further data gathering and analysis will be undertaken in 2019/2020 to understand sufficiency in these areas.

1.3. Our plans for childcare

A Childcare Strategy is being developed which will set out key priorities for securing sufficient, high quality, inclusive childcare in Bracknell Forest for 2019-23. The actions for meeting these key priorities are set out below:

- Work with partners to identify potential new locations to develop childcare provision in the key areas (e.g. Bracknell Town Council, schools, local businesses)
- Work with existing providers to gain a better understanding of capacity and demand (whether funded or unfunded) and/or change business models to meet the needs of parents, e.g. lower age ranges, extending operating hours/weeks
- Working with and encouraging providers to advertise their childcare more effectively to parents, for example, links for Family Information Service (FIS) on school and setting websites
- Improving the visibility and accessibility of information which is currently available e.g. childcare mapping tool on FIS
- Continue to engage with Bracknell and Wokingham College to encourage childminders to register to deliver the free entitlements.
- Ensure Job Centre has information on childcare entitlements for working parents and 'how to find childcare'

2. Demand for childcare

2.1. Population of early years children

In total, there are 7,171 children under the age of five living in our local authority. These children may require early years childcare. The Council has a statutory duty to provide funded early years provision for all 3 and 4 year olds, equivalent to 2,989 children (although some 4 year olds will have started reception) and the most deprived of 2 year olds, currently estimated at around 240 children.

Table 1: Numbers by age

Age	Number of children
Age 0	1365
Age 1	1390
Age 2	1427
Age 3	1496
Age 4*	1493

Sources: South Central & West Commissioning Support Unit - NHS

* Some four year olds will have started reception

2.2. Population of school age children

In total there are 10,081 children aged 5-11, and 5,080 children aged 12-14 living in our local authority. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays.

Table 2: Numbers by age

Age	Number of children
Age 5	1409
Age 6	1449
Age 7	1481
Age 8	1457
Age 9	1481
Age 10	1432
Age 11	1372
Age 12	1350
Age 13	1231
Age 14	1259

Source: BFC internal data – Numbers on Roll (NOR)

2.3. Number of children with special educational needs and disabilities

Children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) are entitled to support with childcare up to the age of 18 (age 14 for children who do not have a special need or disability). The number of children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan in our local authority is:

Table 3: Children with an EHCP

Age	Number of children
Birth to school age	7
Primary school (reception to year six)	317
Secondary school (year seven to thirteen)	511

Source: BFC Internal data as at 4 November 2019

Children's needs change over time and are identified at different ages. Among the youngest children, SEND may only be identified when they start in childcare or school, and it can take some time from difficulties being identified to an EHC plan being issued. It is therefore possible that the number of children with SEND aged 0-4 is an underestimate. Some children have SEND but do not have an EHC plan. In the summer term 2019 there were 163 children aged 0-4 years known to the Child Development Centre, all of whom have additional needs which vary significantly from mild additional needs to severe, complex and lifelong needs.

2.4. Characteristics of children in our area

There are two characteristics of children in our area which must be taken into account when assessing childcare sufficiency - deprivation and parents working status.

2.4.1. Deprivation

Growing up in a deprived household can limit a child's ability to access childcare. These limits include the direct cost of childcare over and above the indirect costs such as transport. Children who meet financial criteria that are indicative of living in a deprived household can receive additional funding to improve their access to childcare. This funding includes two year old funding, Early Years Pupil Premium (3 and 4 year olds not in school) and Pupil Premium (children in school). The numbers of children qualifying for this funding in our local authority in the summer term are:

Table 4: Children eligible for additional funding through financial criteria

Funding type	Number of children
--------------	--------------------

2 year old Funding	161
Early Years Pupil Premium	175
Pupil Premium	1,649

Source: BFC school and Early Years Funding data summer term 2019

2.4.2. Parents working status

To qualify for the 30 hours extended entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds, both parents in a household or one parent in a single parent household must be in employment.¹ In Bracknell Forest 77% of all families meet this requirement.

2.5. Changes to the population of children in our area

In 2018 the CSA noted the potential impact of the newly completed town centre on levels of employment and demand for childcare. Eligibility for the extended 30 hours free entitlement is dependent on parents work status, demand for this entitlement is therefore affected by levels of employment. Demand for childcare in and around the town centre is strong, however, it is not possible to establish a direct correlation between demand for childcare and the increased employment opportunities provided by the town centre.

In the summer term 2018 the extended free entitlement was claimed by 1,014 children or 45% of 3 and 4 year olds accessing the early years free entitlements, with an average claim of 11.94 hours a week. Based on HMRC tax and benefit data, approximately 77% of all families in Bracknell Forest should be eligible for the extended entitlement and uptake of the entitlement is therefore significantly lower than forecast.

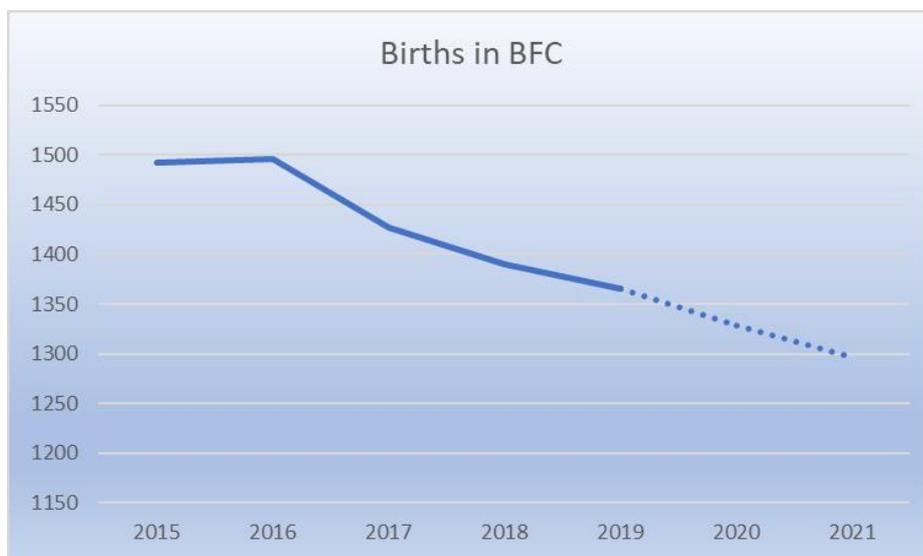
A significant number of new residential properties have been completed in Bracknell Forest since 2012, with even larger numbers expected over the next 5 years. Research has been undertaken to better understand the impact new residential properties have on the demand for childcare and to forecast the impact of future forecast completions. This research indicates that new residential properties have not had a significant impact on the overall demand for childcare in Bracknell Forest.

NHS birth data, supported by forecasts from the ONS, is showing a decrease in the birth rate in Bracknell Forest. The number of births in 2015/2016 was 1,496 (current 3 year olds) and has declined each year with a total number of births in 2018/2019 of 1,365. Using the DfE guidance for predicting

¹ Available to families where each parent (or one parent in a single adult household) are earning the equivalent of working sixteen hours per week on the minimum wage and less than £100,000 per annum

future birth rates 1,328 births are forecast for 2019/20 and 1,296 births forecast for 2020/21. This is illustrated in figure 1 below.

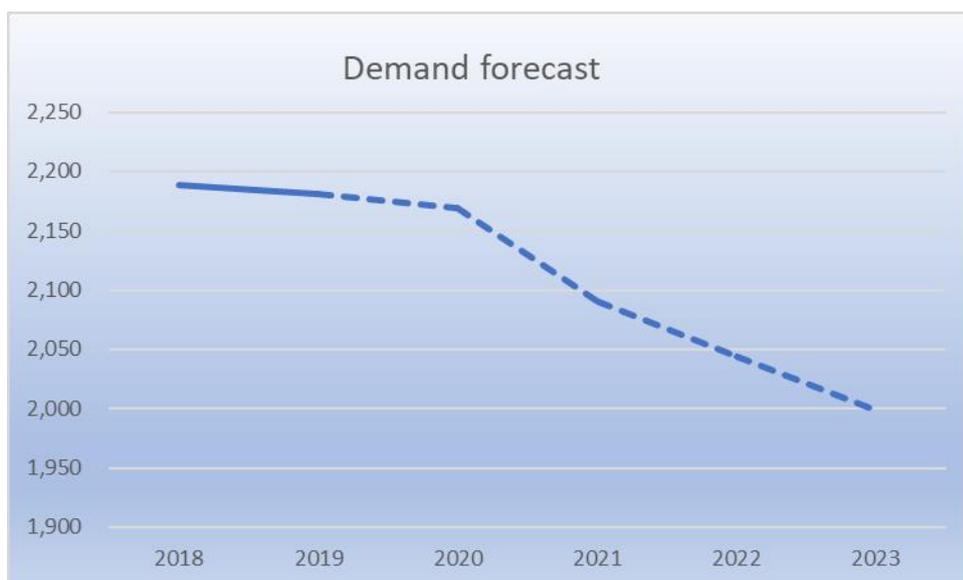
Figure 1: Births in Bracknell Forest Council



Sources: South Central & West Commissioning Support Unit – NHS

By combing the birth data with the average percentage of 3 and 4 year olds accessing free entitlement funding in the summer term, it is possible to predict future demand for funded places. This demand falls in line with the population, from a high of 2,189 in 2018/19 to a low of 1,999 children in 2022/23. This is set out in figures 2 below.

Table 2: Forecast 3 & 4 year old demand for free entitlement places



Sources: South Central & West Commissioning Support Unit – NHS & internal BFC data

3. Supply of childcare

3.1. Number of early years providers and places

In total, there are 249 childcare providers in our local authority, offering a maximum of 5,529 early years childcare places.

Table 10: Early years providers and registered places by type of provision

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Number of registered places</i>
Childminders*	185	1548
Nursery classes in schools	18	1109
Private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers	46	2872

Source: Provider survey summer 2019, BFC data and OFSTED registration data

** childminder places are also available for older children.*

A place is defined as 15 hours of childcare a week, the maximum number of funded hours a week a child can access via the universal entitlement. The table above records the maximum number of 15 hours places a provider is registered to offer in a week. In practice, many providers choose to operate below their number of registered places and some will be allocated to children accessing places outside of the free entitlements.

A child attending for 30 hours a week as part of the extended entitlement will take up 2 places and a child attending all week at a full day care setting will take up 3 to 4 places.

3.2. Early years vacancies

A vacancy is a place that could realistically be used by a child and is available for a minimum of 15 hours a week.

Vacancy rates are a snapshot, and often change rapidly. In some cases, providers may have a vacancy which is only available for a specific age group, or for a particular part time arrangement. In general, vacancy rates are at their highest in the autumn, when children move to school. Table 11 represents reported vacancies in the summer term when vacancies are at their lowest.

Table 11: Early Years Vacancies by type of provision

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Total number of vacancies</i>
Childminders	185	33
Nursery classes in schools	18	49
PVI providers	47	386

Source: Internal BFC data and OFSTED registration data, vacancies as reported by providers to the council in the summer term 2019

3.3. Number of school age providers and places

In total, there are 58 providers of childcare for school age children during term time, and 27 providers of childcare for school age children during the holidays. There are also 185 childminders who may provide care for school age children.

Table 12: School Age provision and places

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Number of registered places</i>
Breakfast club – primary school	24 clubs	700
After-school club – primary school	29 clubs	900
Breakfast club – secondary school	Insufficient data	Insufficient data
After-school club – secondary school	Insufficient data	Insufficient data
Childminders*	185	1000
Holiday club	24 clubs	1000

Source: BFC data and OFSTED registration data

Tracking the supply of childcare for school age children is difficult because not all provision is registered with OFSTED, and changes to the OFSTED registration requirements mean that the number of school age children looked after by a provider is no longer indicated in their OFSTED registration. The figures in this table are therefore a best estimate and it is possible that we have under-counted the provision of breakfast and afterschool clubs and holiday clubs.

There is insufficient data available on childcare provision in secondary schools for inclusion in this table. Parents may also use provision which is not considered ‘childcare’, for example sports or arts clubs after school or in the holidays.

There is insufficient data available to report on the number of school age childcare vacancies.

4. Funded Early Education

4.1. Introduction to funded early education

Some children are entitled to free childcare, funded by the government.

- All children aged 3 and 4 are entitled to the 570 hours of free childcare per year, equivalent to 15 hours a week over 38 weeks, from the term after the child's 3rd birthday until the term after their 5th birthday or they start reception class in school. This is known as the universal 15 hours entitlement
- Children aged 3 and 4 where both parents are working, or from lone parent families where that parent is working², could be [entitled](#) to an additional 570 hours of free childcare per year, equivalent to 15 hours a week over 38 weeks, from the term after the child's 3rd birthday until the term after their 5th birthday or they start reception class in school. This is known as the extended 30 hours entitlement
- Children aged 2 whose families receive certain benefits (including low income families in receipt of in-work benefits), or those who meet additional non-economic [criteria](#), are entitled to 570 hours of free childcare a year, equivalent to 15 hours per week over 38 weeks. Nationally, about 40% of 2 year olds are entitled to this offer, but the proportion varies by area.

Parents do not have to use all the hours of their funded entitlement and may choose to split them between more than one provider. With the agreement of their provider, parents may also spread them across the year – for example, rather than taking 15 hours for 38 weeks a year they could take just under 12 hours for 48 weeks a year.

4.2. Proportion of 2-year-old children entitled to funded early education

In Bracknell Forest, for the summer term 2019, 17% of 2 year olds or 245 children are entitled to funded early education for economic reasons.

4.3. Take up of funded early education

The table below sets out the number of children taking up their funded place (for at least some of the available hours) in our local authority in summer 2019 and the proportion of eligible children that this

² Available to families where each parent (or one parent in a single adult household) are earning the equivalent of working sixteen hours per week on the minimum wage and less than £100,000 per annum

represents. Four year olds who have started reception class are not eligible for funded early education.

Table 13: Take up of two year old funding

Age	Children	% of eligible children
Age 2	157	64%
Age 3	1412	94%
Age 4	892	60%

Source: based on the number of children in receipt of early education funding in the summer term 2018, DWP eligibility data and SWCSU birth data. The take-up for 4 year olds is lower than 3 year olds as many attend school.

4.4. 30 hours extended entitlement applications

Parents who think they are entitled to a 30 hours extended entitlement place apply for this online through the Government’s [Childcare Choices website](#). The same website is used to apply for tax free childcare and parents can apply for either or both. If a parent is eligible, the system issues the parent with a code which they present to their chosen childcare provider in order to claim the funding. The provider validates the code through the Councils funding software prior to confirming that the child can take up a 30 hours extended entitlement place. If they are ineligible, they will still be entitled to the universal 15 hours of early education and childcare.

The table below shows the number of 30 hours eligibility codes issued, the number of issued codes that were subsequently validated by a childcare provider and the number of 30 hours places accessed.

Table 14: 30 hours eligibility codes

Step	Number of families	% of codes issued
Eligibility Codes Issued	1135	NA
Eligibility Codes validated	1022	90%
Accessing a place	982	87%

Source: Department for Education data, summer term 2019

4.5. Providers offering funded early education places

Providers are paid directly by government for delivering funded early education places (via the Local Authority). They are not required to offer them to parents, but of course parents may choose to use a different provider if they do not. Some providers offer a restricted number of funded places. The table below sets out the number of providers offering funded places and the numbers offering each type of funded place.

Table 15: Providers offering

Type of provision	Number of providers	2 year olds	Universal 15 hours	Extended 30 hours
Childminders	95	66	95	92
Nursery classes in schools	18	0	18	16
PVI providers	47	42	47	42

Source: BFC funding data

5. Prices

5.1. Prices of early years childcare

For early years childcare outside the funded entitlements, we report on average prices per hour, reported to us by settings.³ There may be variations to prices based on the number of hours a family uses, with reductions for longer hours, or discounts for sibling groups. There may be additional payments for additional services, e.g. lunch and other meals which are not included in these prices.

Table 16: Average childcare prices – early years

Price per hour	Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	Nursery classes in schools	Childminders
0 and 1 year olds	£6.37	n/a	£5.00
2 year olds	£7.04	n/a	£5.00
3 and 4 year olds	£5.74	£5.00	£5.00

Source: cost data supplied by EY providers – summer term 2019

5.2. Prices of school age childcare

For school age children during term time, we report on average prices before school per session, after school per day, and for childminding per hour. For holiday childcare, we report on holiday club prices per week.

Table 17: Average childcare prices – school age

Setting and price unit	Price
Breakfast club per day	£4.00
After-school club per session	£10.00
School age childminder per hour	£5.00
Holiday club per week	£137.00

Source: cost data from the Bracknell Forest Local Directory

³ Details of how we collect this data are in the methodology section below

6. Quality of childcare in our area

6.1. OFSTED inspection grades

Childcare providers offering the free entitlements must be registered with and be inspected by the appropriate regulatory body, OFSTED or the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

OFSTED graded outcomes are: 'outstanding', 'good', 'requires improvement', and 'inadequate'.⁴ The Independent Schools Inspectorate graded outcomes are: 'excellent', 'good', 'sound' or 'unsatisfactory'.

Schools with nursery classes have an overall inspection grade for the school and most also have a separate early years grade.

Some providers are still awaiting their first full inspection. These providers are excluded from our calculation.

As detailed in the table below, as of the summer term 2018, 238 of 262 providers in Bracknell Forest, equivalent to 91%, achieved a good or outstanding OFSTED rating in their last inspection. Nationally in 2016/17 OFSTED judged 88% of the early years providers inspected as good or outstanding.⁵

Table 18: OFSTED inspection grades by type of provision

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Total number of providers</i>	<i>Total achieving good or outstanding</i>
Childminders	198	180
Nursery classes in maintained schools *	14	12
Nursery classes in academies *	3	0
Private and voluntary nurseries	46	46

Source: OFSTED

* *early years grade if available, otherwise overall school grade*

⁴ For more information see <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/about-our-inspection-reports>

⁵ For more information see

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/761606/2952_3_Ofsted_Annual_Report_2017-18_041218.pdf

7. Parent Survey

A survey was undertaken in October 2019 to gather parents and carers experience and needs in relation to childcare. The survey was aimed at parents currently accessing or looking to access childcare in Bracknell Forest. A total of 112 responses were received. A summary of relevant points and parents comments are provided below. Specific comments from parents have been withheld.

- 7.1. 14 parents (13%) said that they were unable to find childcare in a location that suited their needs, reasons for this included:

No childcare for secondary school children in the required area
No childminders that do school drop off/pick up with spaces
Too expensive
No suitable after school places in the correct area for a child with autism
No afterschool club and holiday club is not in right location
No local childcare provision

- 7.2. 13 parents (12%) said they were not able to find childcare in their preferred area. The preferred locations for these parents were:

Binfield
Crown Wood
Hanworth
Great Hollands South
Wildridings
Bullbrook

- 7.3. 31 Parents indicated they did not use childcare. They were asked to indicate the reasons why they did not use childcare (more than one option could be selected).

Cannot find an available place	2
Too expensive/ can't afford it	18
Children do not want to go	1
I do not need childcare	11
I am not happy with the quality available	1
Sessions are not available at time I want	2
Transport difficulties getting to a provider	1

- 7.4. A total of 34 parents indicated they had found it 'fairly difficult' or 'very difficult' to find some form of childcare, with some parents having difficulties in multiple age groups. Responses by category are:

Below school age	19
School age – before school	9
School age – after school	14
School age – holiday care	16

The percentage of respondents reporting difficulties in finding suitable childcare below school age and school age holiday care have increased by 7% each from 2018.

- 7.5. Parents who answered fairly difficult or very difficult were asked why they had selected this option. Reasons included:

No suitable, flexible places to meet parents needs
Childcare too far, don't drive
Costs too high
Lack of before & after school club places
No suitable holiday clubs/lack of variety
Available times don't meet parents needs

- 7.6. When asked if at any point in the last 12 months they had not been able to access childcare when they or their child needed it, 19 parents answered yes, with the breakdown by category as follows

Early years childcare	8
School age – before school	5
School age – after school	8
School age holidays	9

- 7.7. The problems experienced by parents included:

No suitable places available
Too expensive
Funding not available at short notice
Didn't know what was available

Further analysis of the problems being experienced will be undertaken. Feedback will be provided to respondents where possible.

- 7.8. Respondents were asked to select all the sources of information they used to find out what childcare was available in their area. The responses were:

Local Authority or Family Information Service website	33
Children's Centres	18
School	37
Library	8
Health services	2
Local advertising	20
Internet	44
Social media	39
Friends & family	52
Employer	4

- 7.9. Respondents were asked for ideas on how Bracknell Forest could make it easier for parents to find out about what childcare is available. These responses are summarised below together with feedback from Bracknell Forest Council.

Response received	Bracknell Forest Council Feedback
Ask schools to advertise childminders	We will ask schools to include a link to the Bracknell Forest Local Directory on their website
Have a dedicated site that's easy to use with clear information on the different providers	The Bracknell Forest Local Directory provides a comprehensive listing of childcare in Bracknell Forest
Leaflets or booklets with all providers and what they offer – sent to every home/distributed by health visitors	This would not be cost effective; parents are encouraged to make use of the Bracknell Forest Local Directory
Encourage childminders to keep their details and availability up to date	Childminders are regularly reminded to keep their details and vacancies up to date

The Family Information Service (FIS) has a website which provides information on available childcare in Bracknell Forest, including for children with special educational needs and disabilities. This website, known as the Bracknell Forest Local Directory, can be accessed here <https://bracknellforest.fsd.org.uk/kb5/bracknell/directory/home.page>

Bracknell Forest Council will investigate how we can proactively promote the Bracknell Forest Local Directory. Information on childcare can currently be accessed through our Family Hubs. We will check to see what information on childcare is available through Job Centre Plus and

whether information can be included with council tax bills and targeted at new developments and families moving into the area. We will look to make better use of advertising opportunities in the Bracknell Forest newspaper - Town & Country

- 7.10. Respondents were asked to indicate how they checked the quality of a childcare provision (multiple responses were allowed).

Visited the setting	82
Word of mouth	68
OFSTED reports	56
Looked at the providers website	51
Reviews on the internet	41

8. Methodology

- Child Population – based on data provided by the NHS - South Central & West Commissioning Support Unit & BFC School Data – Number On Roll
- Children with EHC plans: based on data held by Bracknell Forest Council
- Supply of childcare: based on data supplied by providers in the summer term 2019 via the Provider Self Update Portal, data provided by OFSTED and supplemented by local intelligence
- Vacancy rates: based on data supplied by providers in the summer term 2019 via the Provider Self Update Portal
- Funded early education:
 - data on take up of funded early education entitlements is based on the data held in the Bracknell Forest payment software
 - data on 30 hours eligibility codes from the Department for Education - 30 hours free childcare: summer term 2019 report
- Price of childcare: cost data per age group submitted by providers in the summer term 2019 via the Provider Self Update Portal
- Quality of childcare: data on childcare quality is provided by OFSTED
- Data from parents: Online survey using the Objective survey tool on the council website, October 2019. Survey advertised via the Council website, Family Information Service website, social media and childcare providers

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**TO: SCHOOLS FORUM
16 DECEMBER 2019**

2020-21 PROPOSALS FOR THE EARLY YEARS BLOCK BUDGET

**Executive Director:
People**

1 PURPOSE OF DECISION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek agreement from the Schools Forum to proposals for 2020-21 Early Years budgets, including the values to be attributed to the Bracknell Forest Council Early Years Funding Formula (EYFF). There is also a decision to consider in line with the statutory funding framework.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 **Bracknell Forest Council receives funding for the early years free entitlements, which includes funding for some two year olds and the universal and extended entitlements for 3 and 4 year olds, as part of the dedicated schools grant. This funding is allocated locally to early years providers via the Early Years Funding Formula.**
- 2.2 **In October 2019 the government announced a £66m increase in early years funding nationally, which equates to an increase in early years funding to Bracknell Forest of £0.08 per hour.**
- 2.3 **In line with consultation feedback from providers changes are proposed to the Early Years Funding Formula which will maximise the funding allocated to providers.**
- 2.4 **Changes to the Early Years DSG income budget for 2020/21 include additional funding for the SEN Inclusion Fund to address a forecast overspend and BFC Service costs which are currently subsidised by the LA.**

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

That Schools Forum AGREES:

- 3.1 **That for the 2020-21 financial year**
1. **The Early Years DSG income budget be set at £7.560m (Table 2)**
 2. **The funding rates in the Early Years Funding Formula are as set out in Table 4**
 3. **The relevant budgets are as set out in Annex 1**
- 3.2 **That there are appropriate arrangements in place for administration of the Early Years free entitlement funding.**

4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The proposals have taken account of local priorities, provider responses to the consultation and estimated levels of available resources.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None. The proposals reflect the views of providers from the most recent consultations and overall affordability within the financial settlement allocated by the government.

6 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background

- 6.1 This report presents proposals on the Early Years Block (EYB) element of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) that the Department for Education (DfE) allocates to Local Authorities (LAs) to fund provisions and support for children up to the age of 5. It covers:
1. the 15 hours free entitlement to education and childcare for disadvantaged 2 year olds
 2. the universal 15 hours free entitlement to education and childcare for all 3 and 4 year olds
 3. the additional 15 hours free entitlement to education and childcare for eligible working parents of 3 and 4 year olds
 4. the early years pupil premium (EYPP)
 5. the disability access fund (DAF)
 6. the Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF)
 7. other specialist and general support services
- 6.2 The statutory regulatory framework necessitates that the Council decide on the arrangements to be put in place to meet the requirements for children up to the age of 5 and associated resources, and for Schools Forum to comment on their appropriateness. Final decisions are expected to be taken by the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning in January.

National Funding Framework

- 6.3 The DfE uses an Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) to distribute DSG income to LAs. This funding framework sets out key requirements on LAs in setting their EYB budgets for **3 and 4 year olds**, these are:
1. To develop and maintain a local EYFF in accordance with parameters set by the DfE, undertaking consultation with providers and the Schools Forum when any changes are proposed, where the EYFF:
 - a. should include a single funding rate (including the same base rate and supplements) for both entitlements (that is, both the universal 15 hours, and the additional 15 hours for working parents)
 - b. must plan to pass on at least 95% of funding directly to providers – the “pass through rate”
 - c. must use a universal base rate, paid at the same value to all providers
 - d. must use a deprivation supplement to target additional funds to the providers admitting the most disadvantaged children

Unrestricted

- e. can include other, discretionary supplements, which the DfE restricts to rurality / sparsity, flexibility of provision, English as an additional language (EAL) or quality of provision
- f. supplements selected by an LA can generally use any measure of eligibility, provided it is applied equally to all providers in a transparent and fair way
- g. must not allocate more than 10% of funding through supplements
- h. That a Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF) must be created to support children with lower level or emerging SEN
- i. required to pass on the EYPP to providers to support eligible disadvantaged children
- j. required to pass on DAF funding to providers to support disabled children's access to the entitlements

6.4 Requirements on funding providers for **the most disadvantaged 2 year olds** is more straightforward than for 3 and 4 year olds, with no "pass through rate" or payment of additional funding supplements with the DfE encouraging LAs to pay a single flat rate amount. Neither is there a requirement for the SENIF to apply to 2 years, although this is permitted and included in arrangements in the BF SENIF.

Provisional estimate of Early Years Block DSG income

6.5 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 2020 part-time equivalent actual head count data of eligible children age 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 2020; with the equivalent January 2021 data used to fund the 7 months from September 2020 to March 2021.

6.6 At this stage, neither of the data sets used for funding purposes have been validated and therefore the likely DSG income will need to be estimated. The approach taken is to use the January 2019 census data as a proxy and assume the January 2020 and January 2021 headcounts are at a similar level. There is one exception to this approach. The DWP provides a list of potentially eligible 2 year olds in advance of the start of each term. The list for January 2020 is available and has been used to estimate the January 2020 head count based on current levels of uptake. It is assumed that the January 2021 headcount will remain at similar levels.

6.7 In October 2019 the government announced an additional £66m in early years funding nationally. Details of the increase were published on 10 November 2019; Bracknell Forest will receive an £0.08 increase to the hourly funding rate for 2, 3 and 4 year olds with effect from April 2020. Table 1 sets out the resulting change in funding rates.

Table 1: Changes to Early Years Funding

	2019/20 hourly rate	2020/21 hourly rate
2 year old's	£5.88	£5.96
3 & 4 year old's	£4.93	£5.01

Unrestricted

- 6.8 Table 2 below provides a summary of the £7.560m anticipated EYB DSG income for 2020-21. Annex 1 provides a more detailed breakdown of the calculation.

Item	Estimated amount
Funding for 3 & 4 year olds: universal 15 hours	£4,829,380
Funding for 3 & 4 year olds: additional 15 hours for working parents	£2,089,040
Sub total: 3 & 4 year olds	£6,918,420
Funding for 2 year olds	£587,720
Funding for Early Years Pupil Premium	£31,700
Funding for Disability Access Fund	£22,750
Total	£7,560,590

Funding decisions previously taken by the Forum

- 6.9 To gather views from providers on appropriate funding arrangements for BF, provider consultations were undertaken in both December 2016, December 2017 and December 2018. Reflecting on the outcomes, and the DfE requirements on LAs relating to the EY Funding Framework (paragraphs 5.3 **Error! Reference source not found.** and 5.4), Schools Forum has previously agreed parameters for setting the EYB budget as follows:
1. Funding to be managed centrally by the council will be capped at 3% of income compared to the 5% maximum
 2. The SENIF should be set at 1.4%
 3. The provider contingency should be set at 1.5%
 4. The EYFF should allocate 94.1% with:
 - a. The uniform base rate set at around 93% compared to the minimum of 90%
 - b. The deprivation supplement set at around 5%
 - c. The quality supplement set at around 2%
 - d. No supplements to be paid for rurality / sparsity, EAL or provider flexibility
 5. The DAF and EYPP funding allocation should be allocated to providers at the same funding rate as received from the DfE
- 6.10 The current EYFF and funding rates are set out in Annex 2.
- 6.11 A consultation with providers was undertaken in October 2019 and a paper presented to Schools Forum on 21 November which proposed that:
1. The calculation of the IDACI measure of the deprivation supplement is changed to an average score per child
 2. The threshold scores for the IDACI measure are changed to account for the new calculation method
 3. Restrictions on childminders qualifying for the IDACI measure are removed

4. Retain the percentage of funding paid in the forecast payment at the current rate of 60%
- 6.12 Schools Forum was also advised that providers had overwhelmingly indicated that the announced increase in funding should be applied to the universal base rate for 3 and 4 year olds.

Performance of the EYFF

- 6.13 In July 2019 expenditure through the EYFF was analysed and compared to the agreed budget allocations. This analysis indicated that:
1. the formula underspent by 3.4%
 2. the deprivation supplement underspent by 27%
 3. the SENIF overspent by 17%
 4. the allocation for BFC Services did not cover costs
- 6.14 Further analysis indicates the underspend in the formula is primarily due to the difference in how funding paid to BFC is calculated and how funding paid to providers is calculated. As set out in paragraph 6.5, funding is calculated using the spring term headcount. Funding is paid to providers based on actual attendance, with providers submitting their claims to BFC each term
- 6.15 The number of 3 and 4 year olds claiming funding fluctuates across the year, with numbers at their lowest in autumn after the school intake of 4 year olds and increasing across spring to the highest numbers in summer. The DfE calculation of the LAs Early Years Block DSG income assumes that the spring term headcount is roughly halfway between the autumn and summer term headcounts. However, data from the previous 5 years indicates that the spring term headcount is closer to the summer term headcount; on average the headcount increases by 340 between autumn and spring and only 190 from spring to summer.
- 6.16 In addition to the overspend on the SENIF, the introduction of the extended entitlement has placed pressures on providers supporting children accessing in excess of the universal hours. To accommodate these pressures the budget allocation paid for SEN to providers will need to be increased.

Proposals for 2020-21

- 6.17 In line with providers responses to the October consultation, it is proposed the increase in funding for 3 and 4 year olds is applied in full to the uniform base rate. The increase for 2 year olds will be applied in full to the hourly rate paid to providers. The proposed changes will:
1. Increase the base rate for 3 and 4 year olds by 8p from £4.31 to £4.39 per hour
 2. Increase the rate for 2 year olds by 8p from £5.46 to £5.54 per hour
- 6.18 A series of interdependent proposals are required to address the issues identified in paragraph 5.13. **These proposals do not change funding rates paid to providers, with proposed changes only affecting the allocation of the budget across the formula.**
1. Reduce the allocation through the EYFF funding formula to 90.5% of total available funds to address the underspend in the EYFF.

Unrestricted

2. Reduce the deprivation supplement to 4.5% of the EYFF allocation
 3. Increase the quality supplement to 2.4% of the EYFF allocation
 4. Increase the base rate to 93.1% of the EYFF allocation
 5. Increase the allocation for the SEN Inclusion Fund to 3% of total available funds
- 6.19 To date the Council has subsidised the costs of managing the Early Years support functions in respect of funded childcare in the borough by around £0.140m. This has included the cost of professional and business support to providers and some IT costs. The Early Education and Childcare statutory guidance for local authorities – June 2018 set out by the DfE allows the LA to retain up to 5% of budget and to date the LA has only retained 3.0%. The Government has recently announced an increase in EY provision and the bulk of this will be passported to providers resulting in an increase in the budget allocated to providers of 6p per hour.
- 6.20 The overall budget proposals are expected to result in 90.5% of anticipated funding received by the council paid directly to providers, 4.5% set aside for allocations to providers in-year through the SENIF and contingency and 5% retained by the LA to fund central services and activities that support providers. The proposed EYB budget for 2020-21 is set out in Annex 1.
- 6.21 The proposed EYFF for 3 and 4 year olds for 2020-21 is summarised in Table 4. This summary includes the proposals agreed in the paper presented to Schools Forum on 21 November.

Table 4: Summary of the proposed BF Early Years Funding Formula

EYFF Element	Weighting	Proposed hourly funding rate	% total EY funding
Deprivation Supplement	2.2 % of EYFF via IDACI scores Average IDACI score of children attending setting Top 20% - Band 3 Next 10% - Band 2 Next 10% - Band 3	£0.13, £0.26 & £0.39	
	2.3% of EYFF via child eligibility to EYPP	£1.54	
Quality Supplement	2.4% of EYFF via setting leadership qualification Level 5 and above	£0.14	
Uniform Base Rate	93% of EYFF	£4.39	
	Indicative EYFF average provider rate	£4.70	90.5%
	Average SEN funding	£0.15	3.0%
	Average contingency funding	£0.08	1.5%
	Subtotal to providers	£4.93	95.0%
	Average BFC funding (5%) max	£0.25	5%

Unrestricted

Indicative funding from DfE to BFC	£5.01	100%
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- 6.22 If all of the proposals above are accepted, and taking account of the proposals in the paper submitted to Schools Forum on 21 November, the following highlight changes are expected in provider funding rates:
1. 14 providers will see a decrease in funding of up to 1.5% in hourly rate. All decreases are due to changes in eligibility for the deprivation supplement, either due to changes in children attending or corrections in the calculation method.
 2. 100 providers will see an increase of between 1% and 2%. These providers are unaffected by the change to the IDACI measure of the deprivation supplement. The increase in funding is related to the increase in the base rate only.
 3. 9 providers receive an increase of between 4% and 6%. These providers receive an increase of one band in the IDACI measure of the deprivation supplement.
 4. 13 providers receive an increase of between 6% and 8%. All are childminders who receive a 2 band increase in the IDACI measure of the deprivation supplement.
 5. 4 providers receive an increase of between 10% and 11%. All are childminders qualify for the IDACI measure of the Deprivation supplement for the first time and are eligible for band 3.
- 6.23 In respect of the funding proposed to be allocated to the SENIF, this results in total funding of £0.207m (3% of total income). This represents an increase in funding of £0.108m (1.6%) which will be spent on addressing the current overspend and extending support to children accessing the extended entitlement.
- 6.24 In respect of the funding proposed to be managed centrally by the council on behalf of providers based on the budget proposals set out above, this results in total funding of £0.345m an increase of £0.140m. This is proposed to be spent on outreach to parents, professional and business support to providers, EAL specialist support, free milk, management of the EY funding formula and the free entitlement systems and software.

Next Steps

- 6.25 Subject to the views expressed by the Schools Forum, final budget proposal will be presented to the Executive Member for approval in January. It is anticipated that providers will be notified of indicative funding rates for 2020-21 by the end of December 2019, with rates confirmed by the end of January 2020.

7 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

7.1 The relevant legal issues are addressed within the report

Director of Finance

7.2 The financial implications anticipated for the report are set out in the supporting information.

Impact Assessment

7.3 There are no specific impact assessments arising from this report.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

7.4 There is no perceived risk, all proposals are within budget limits and are informed by provider feedback.

8 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 All providers in Bracknell Forest in October 2019

Method of Consultation

7.2 Online consultation emailed to all providers with the option to respond online, by email or in writing.

Representations Received

7.3 The representations received were summarised and presented to DMT on 5 November 2019

BACKGROUND PAPERS

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718179/Early_education_and_childcare-statutory_guidance.pdf

Early education and childcare statutory guidance for local authorities - June 2018

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718181/Early_years_entitlements-operational_guidance.pdf

Early years entitlements: operational guidance for local authorities and providers

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Proposed 2020-21 EY Budgets

<u>2020-21 EY Budget</u>	3 and 4 year olds						2 year olds			
	Hourly / fixed funding rate	Funded hours per week	Funded weeks per year	Total funded hours	Total Funding	%	Hourly / fixed funding rate	Funded hours per week	Total Funding	%
<u>Forecast DSG funding from the DfE:</u>										
15 hours free entitlement funding forecast	£5.01	15	38	963,948	£4,829,380		£5.96	98,610	£587,720	
30 hours free entitlement funding forecast	£5.01	15	38	416,974	£2,089,040		-	-	-	
Total BFC estimate of EY DSG funding	£5.01			1,380,921	£6,918,420		£5.96	98,610	£587,720	
2019-20 rate	£4.93						£5.88			
Change	£0.08	1.62%					£0.08	1.36%		
<u>For allocation through the EY Funding Formula (notional split by supplement):</u>										
Basic rate	£4.39	93.10%	of total available funds		£5,829,150		£5.54	98,610	£546,300	
Deprivation supplement (average)	£0.20	4.50%	of total available funds		£281,750		-	-	-	
Quality (average)	£0.11	2.40%	of total available funds		£150,270		-	-	-	
Total BFC estimate of EY Funding Formula allocation	£4.70	(average)			£6,261,170	90.50%	£5.54	98,610	£546,300	92.95%
2019-20 rate	£4.64						£5.46			
Change	£0.06	1.37%					£0.08	1.47%		

<u>2020-21 EY Budget</u>	3 and 4 year olds						2 year olds			
	Hourly / fixed funding rate	Funded hours per week	Funded weeks per year	Total funded hours	Total Funding	%	Hourly / fixed funding rate	Funded hours per week	Total Funding	%
<u>Funding to be managed by the Council</u>										
<i>Outside the 5% cap of EY Funding Formula:</i>										
SEN Inclusion Fund	3.0%	of total available funds			£207,550	£0.15			£17,630	
Provider Contingency	1.5%	of total available funds			£103,780	£0.08				
					<u>£311,330</u>	4.50%			<u>£17,630</u>	3.00%
Total within the 95% allocation to providers - the "Pass through rate"					£6,572,500	95.00%			£563,930	95.95%
<i>Inside the 5% cap of EY Funding Formula:</i>										
BFC Services	5.0%	of total available funds								
Outreach to parents					£31,960			£21,600		
Professional support to providers					£103,810			£2,190		
Business support to providers					£86,580			£0		
Management of the EY Funding Formula etc					£47,750			£0		
EAL Specialist Support					£30,000			£0		
Free milk					£11,210			£0		
Free entitlement systems and software					£34,610			£0		
								£0		
								£0		
Total BFC estimate of funding to be managed by the Council					<u>£345,920</u>	5.00%			<u>£23,790</u>	4.05%
Total BFC estimate of EY funding					<u>£6,918,420</u>	100.00%			<u>£587,720</u>	100.00%
<u>Other Income</u>										
Early Years Pupil Premium						£31,700				
Ring fenced Disability Access Fund		£615 per child	37			£22,750				
Total anticipated income - DSG and other						£7,560,590				

The current BF Early Years Funding Formula

EYFF Element	Weighting	Proposed hourly funding rate	% total EY funding
Deprivation Supplement	3% of EYFF via IDACI scores where more than 1 in 5 children are from low income families, funding increases where 1 in 4 and again where 1 in 3 children are from low income families. 2% of EYFF via child eligibility to EYPP	£0.13, £0.26 or £0.39 £1.54	
Quality Supplement	2% of EYFF via setting leadership qualification Level 5 and above	£0.14	
Uniform base rate	93% of EYFF	£4.31	
	EYFF average provider rate	£4.64	94.1%
	Average SEN funding	£0.07	1.4%
	Average contingency funding	£0.08	1.5%
	Subtotal to Providers	£4.79	97.0%
	Average BFC funding (max 5%)	£0.14	3.0%
	DfE funding to BFC	£4.93	100.0%

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TO SCHOOLS FORUM
DATE: 16 DECEMBER 2019

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

1 PURPOSE OF DECISION

- 1.1 To note the School Places Plan and Capacity Strategy 2020-24. These were last approved by the Executive in January 2017 and have now been updated to cover the five-year period from 2020 to 2024.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **To note the School Places Plan and School Capacity Strategy 2020-24.**

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

Background

- 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.

Forecasting School Places

- 5.2 A new forecasting system has been developed and adopted in 2019 following concerns that the previous forecasts were too high. This has been developed with input from Council officers in Education & Learning, Business Continuity, Public Health, Finance and the Borough Planners.
- 5.3 A new forum for managing and overseeing this work, the School Sufficiency Board, has been set up which meets quarterly with representatives from all the above Council teams.

- 5.4 The Council has also employed the services of an external consultant to help create the new forecasting system and has exchanged information with relevant officer colleagues in neighbouring authorities, including the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Slough to share insights and good working practice.

School Places Plan and Capacity Strategy

- 5.5 The School Places Plan and Capacity Strategy is attached as Appendix A, which forecasts demand for school places for;
- Early Years
 - Primary
 - Secondary
 - Post 16
 - SEN

Sufficient School Places

- 5.6 Forecasts indicate that there will be sufficient school places across all mainstream sectors and in all planning areas to meet the forecast demand, and no new places are to be created by the council during the Current forecast period to 2024.

Bucklers Park

- 5.7 Previous forecasts identified the need for a new primary school at Bucklers Park (formerly known as TRL), and an agreement is in place with the developer Legal & General to provide a new, up to 2 FE primary school.
- 5.8 Actual pupil yields from the new housing have however been much lower than previously anticipated, and there is currently no forecast need for the new school to be built. The Council will closely monitor the pupil yield arising from the new housing as this development continues (as at April 2019 only 35 out of 1,000 houses had been built).
- 5.9 The Council is also undertaking regular discussions with the developer to ensure that the school is only built should the forecast demand for pupil places clearly demonstrate the need.

6. ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The relevant legal issues are contained within the report.

Director of Finance

- 6.2 The revised pupil forecasting model is expected to increase 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, they will be presented for a decision through the council's normal budget setting process.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 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

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

ISSUE		RISK	COMMENT
1	Accuracy of forecasts	MEDIUM	A new forecasting system has been introduced in 2019 to mitigate this risk.
2	Co-ordination between Council teams and departments.	MEDIUM	A new 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 2020-24.
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. Maintenance of an effective dialogue with academy providers is essential.
5	Capital Cost Risk	LOW	Forecasts suggest there will be sufficient school places for the forecast period 2020-24.
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	MEDIUM	Surplus places increase the likelihood that some schools will have relatively low pupil numbers which can result in budget difficulties.

8	Reputation Risk	MEDIUM	The Council could stand to be criticised if there are too many surplus school places, emphasising the importance of strategic planning.
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7. CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 The School Sufficiency Board (SSB)

Method of Consultation

7.2 SSB were consulted at their meeting on 29/11/19.

7.3 PSG were consulted at their meeting on 16/12/19.

Representations Received

7.4 SSB approved the draft SSP for adoption.

Background Papers

Appendix A School Places Plan & Capacity Strategy 2020 - 2024

Contacts for Further Information

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SCHOOL PLACES PLAN and

CAPACITY STRATEGY

2020 - 2024

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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 tool 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 that ensures there are sufficient accessible school places available across the Borough in the right locations at the right time to meet this 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

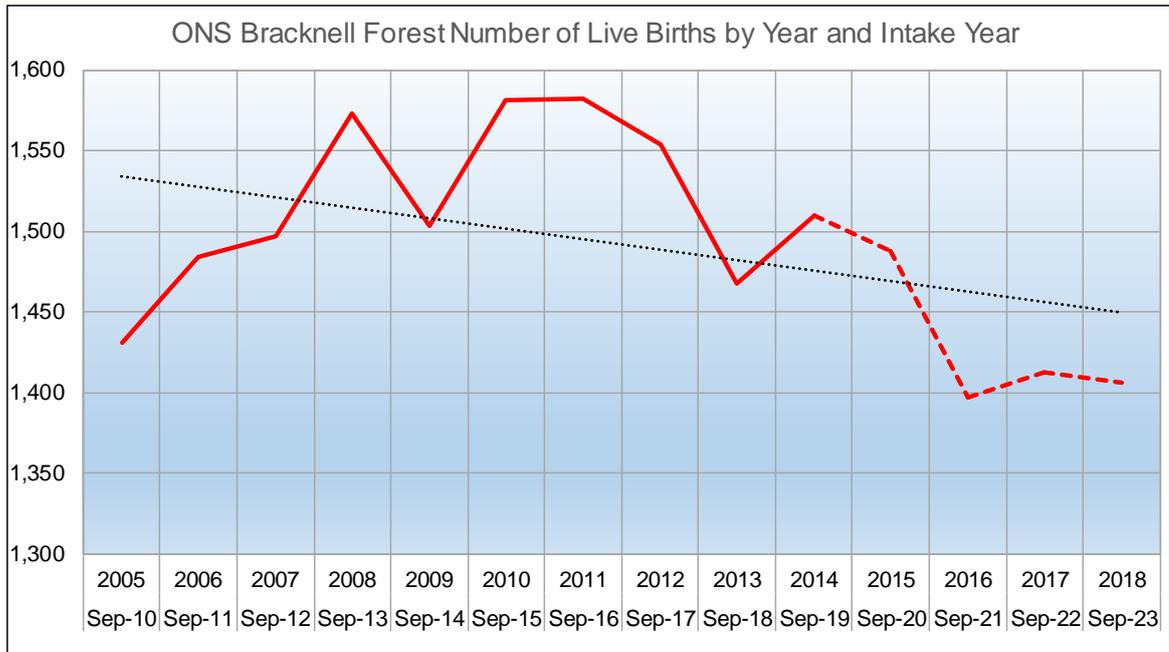
- 2.1 Bracknell Forest is moving from a time of scarcity of school places to a time of surplus school places.
- 2.2 The birth rate and primary school numbers are decreasing across the Borough.
- 2.3 Secondary numbers however are still increasing as the previous rise of primary numbers is now working its way up through secondary schools.
- 2.4 Pupil numbers are forecast to change between 2020 to 2024:
 - Early Years - decrease by 10% (299)
 - Primary - decrease by 7% (756)
 - Secondary KS 3 & 4 - increase by 9% (596)
 - Post 16 - increase by 39% (381)
 - SEN - increase by 12% (378)
- 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 future opening of the sixth form at Kings Academy Binfield.
- 2.6 Where significant surpluses of places put pressure on school budgets, removal of surplus teaching space may be required at some schools, by:
 - Converting teaching spaces to other uses e.g. learning support
 - Removing temporary accommodation
 - Mothballing part of a school
 - Finding alternative compatible uses for some of the 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:

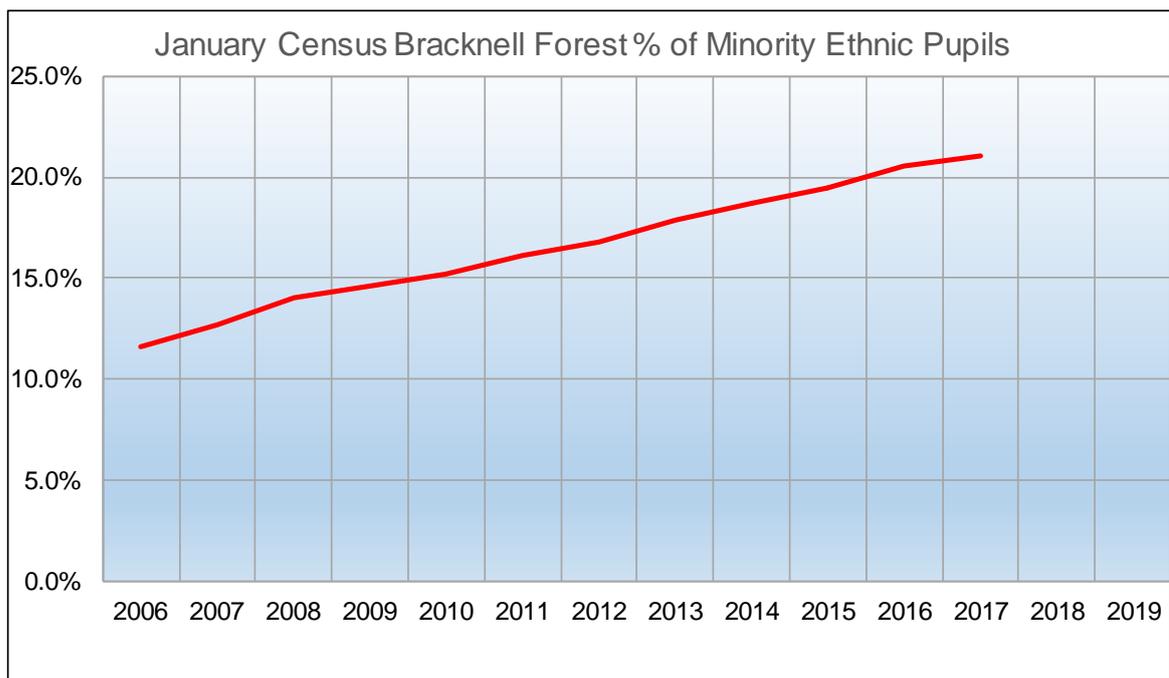
Birth Rate

3.2 ONS population estimates suggest that the birth rate in Bracknell Forest is decreasing, and this is confirmed by data from the NHS.



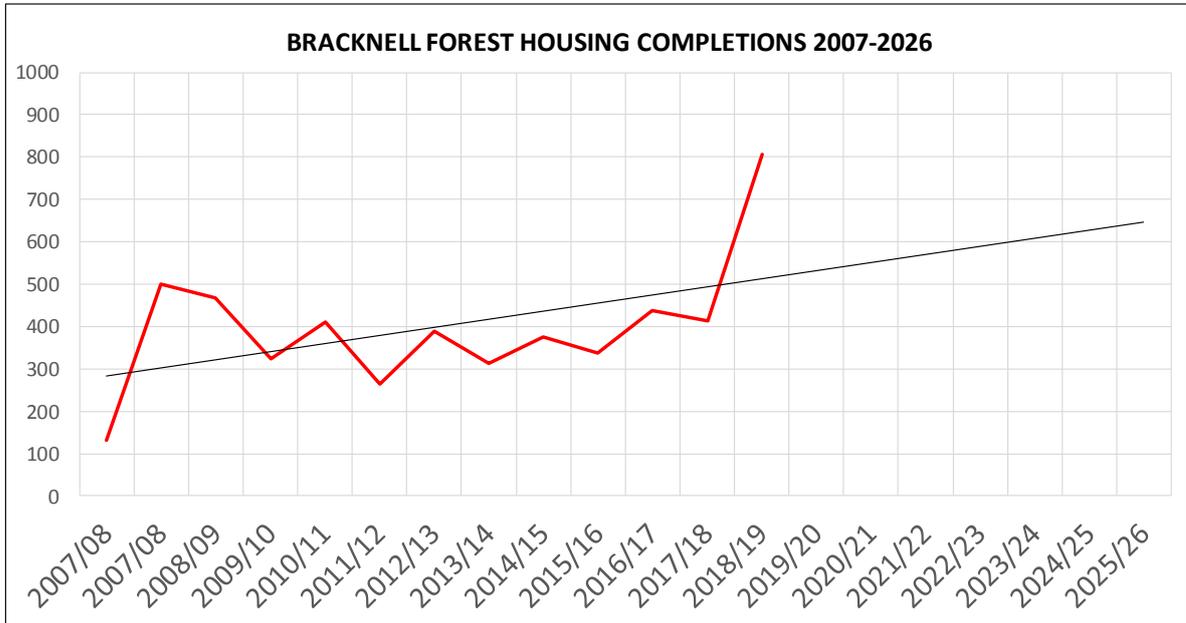
Immigration

3.3 Immigration and the proportion of pupils in schools from a minority ethnic background is steadily increasing.



New Housing

- 3.4 Up to approximately 8,100 new houses may be built across the Borough during the forecast period, based on the housing sites identified in the 2013-26 Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP), and proposed new housing in receipt of planning permission.



- 3.5 It should be noted however that in the past new housing numbers have often come on more slowly than anticipated, and that the timescales for the delivery of new housing is in the hands of developers and is outside the Council’s direct control. Various factors may affect the timescale for new house building, including market forces, interest rates on mortgages and employment opportunities in the local area.
- 3.6 The majority of the proposed new housing is 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.

Pupil Mobility

- 3.8 Internal migration within the Borough for the 2019 intake years is set out on the tables below:

Primary Internal Migration Sep-19 Intake Year

FROM	TO						Total	
	North Bracknell		South Bracknell		Crowthorne & Sandhurst			
North Bracknell	481	35.5%	42	3.1%	2	0.1%	525	39%
South Bracknell	86	6.3%	497	36.7%	13	1.0%	596	44%
Crowthorne & Sandhurst	2	0.1%	2	0.1%	231	17.0%	235	17%
Total	569	42%	541	40%	246	18%	1,356	100%

Secondary Internal Migration Sep-19 Intake Year

FROM	TO						Total	
	North Bracknell		South Bracknell		Crowthorne &			
North Bracknell	304	21.7%	165	11.8%	3	0.2%	472	34%
South Bracknell	60	4.3%	502	35.8%	65	4.6%	627	45%
Crowthorne & Sandhurst	0	0.0%	15	1.1%	287	20.5%	302	22%
Total	364	26.0%	682	48.7%	355	25.3%	1,401	100%

3.9 Pupil mobility is also higher where this is associated with staffing changes at the Royal Military Academy (RMA). Schools in the Crowthorne and Sandhurst planning area regularly receive new pupils unexpectedly and therefore typically have 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 in the Crowthorne and Sandhurst school planning area.

Boundary Issues with Neighbouring Local Authorities

3.11 Bracknell Forest shares boundaries with Wokingham, the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead (RBWM), Hampshire and Surrey, but the majority of cross-border movement occurs with Wokingham and RBWM.

3.12 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, located in RBWM.
- The Wokingham primary schools at Hatch Ride and Oaklands are in the designated area of Edgbarrow Secondary School in Bracknell Forest.
- The designated area of the RBWM South Ascot primary school extends into the eastern part of Bracknell Forest.

3.13 The impact of this cross-border legacy on the September 2019 intake is set out on the table below and this reveals that Bracknell Forest is a net exporter of 54 pupils, which is 1.9% of the total numbers on roll:

September 2019 Intake Year Cross Border Migration	Secondary Y7	Primary YR	Totals
Inward Migration: Offers made to non BF residents for BF schools	120	48	168
Outward Migration: Offers made to BF residents for non BF schools	147	75	222
Totals:	267	123	390

New Schools

3.14 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 new schools in Bracknell Forest are the Kings Academy Binfield and Kings Academy Oakwood North Bracknell which opened in September 2018 and September 2019 respectively.

Denominational Education

3.15 There are nine Church of England and Catholic primary schools within Bracknell Forest and one Church of England secondary Academy, which together meet the demand for denominational education in the Borough;

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Binfield | CE primary voluntary aided |
| • Crowthorne | CE primary voluntary controlled |
| • Jennett's Park | CE primary academy |
| • Ranelagh Academy | CE secondary academy |
| • St Joseph's | RC primary voluntary aided |
| • St Margaret Clitherow | RC primary academy |
| • St Michael's Easthampstead | CE primary voluntary aided |
| • St Michael's Sandhurst | CE primary voluntary aided |
| • Warfield | CE primary voluntary controlled |
| • Winkfield St Marys | CE primary voluntary controlled |

3.16 Voluntary Aided schools are their own admissions authorities and the Governing Bodies set their own admissions arrangements. For Voluntary Controlled Schools

the Council is the admissions authority and they follow the Council's co-ordinated scheme of admissions.

- 3.17 There is no Catholic secondary school in the Borough so parents preferring a Catholic education for their children must apply to schools outside the Borough.
- 3.18 Ranelagh CE academy, St Michael's Easthampstead CE primary and St Joseph's RC primary schools do not have Bracknell Forest designated areas. They accept pupils drawn from wider geographical areas.
- 3.19 All the above denominational schools have been included in the SPP forecasts.

Free Schools and Academies

- 3.20 Are state-funded schools but are independent of the Local Authority and are established through the DfE academies programme as either sponsored or converter academies.
- 3.21 There are currently 8 academy schools in Bracknell Forest;
- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Ranelagh Academy | CE secondary |
| • St Margaret Clitherow | RC Primary |
| • The Brakenhale | Secondary |
| • Crown Wood | Primary |
| • Jennett's Park | CE Primary |
| • Great Hollands | Primary |
| • Kings Academy Binfield | Primary and Secondary |
| • Kings Academy Oakwood | Primary |
- 3.22 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.

Admission Over the PAN

- 3.23 Under the revised 2014 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.
- 3.24 This can impact on the Council's ability to manage the supply of school places if schools take pupils that might otherwise have taken places at other schools.

School	Sep-14	Sep-15	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Total
Brakenhale academy				1		8	9
Crown Wood academy		1					1
Edgbarrow academy	3		31	2	1	30	67
Garth Hill College		5	4				9
Ranelagh academy					9	9	18
Sandhurst					1		1
St Margaret Clitherow academy				1			1
Totals:	3	6	35	4	11	47	106

Selective Education

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

Independent schools

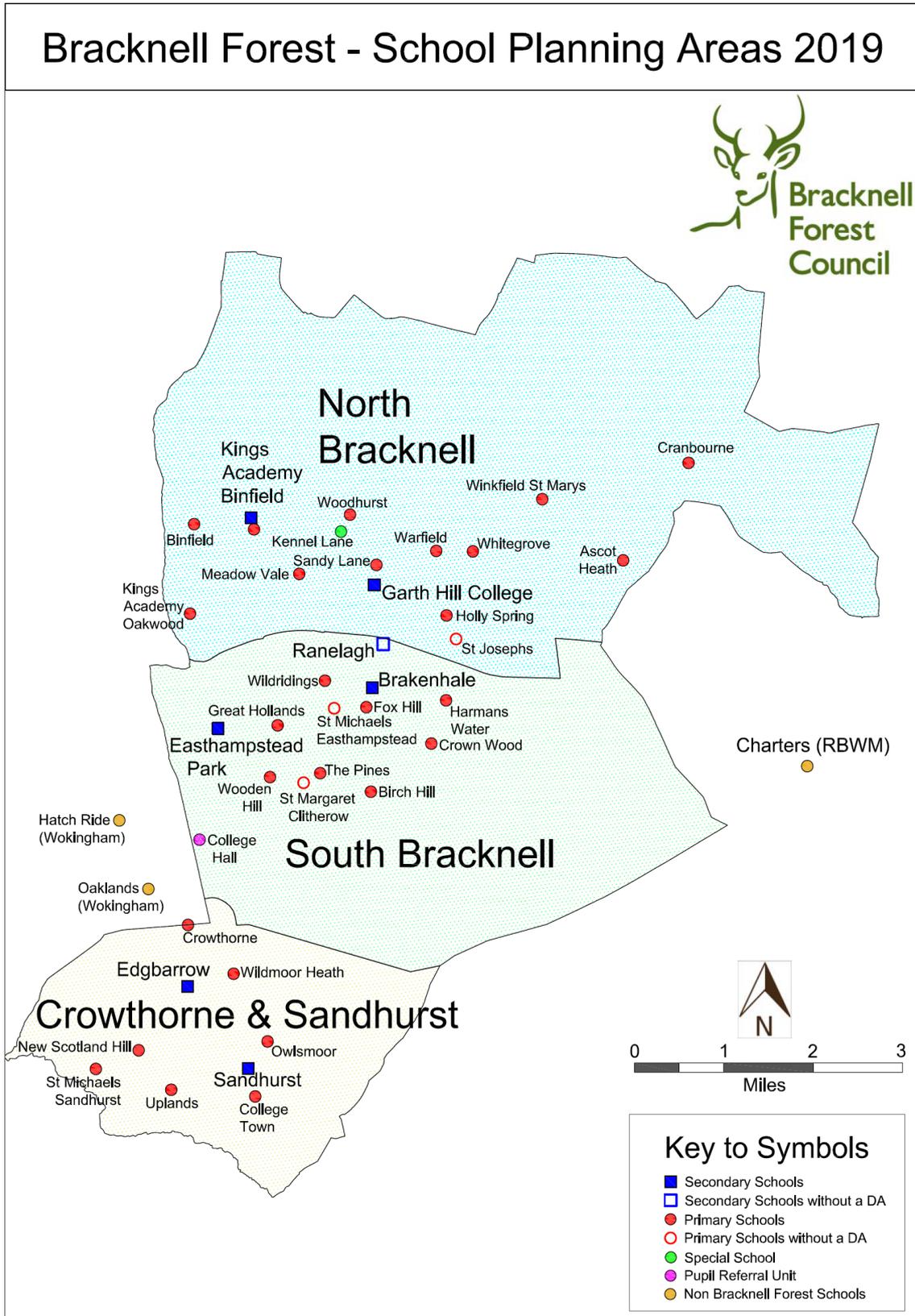
3.26 Some parents send their children to independent schools, and there are five such schools in Bracknell Forest;

- Licensed Victuallers' School Co-educational primary and secondary
- Heathfield Secondary girls' school
- Wellington College Co-educational for pupils aged 13 to 18
- Eagle House Co-educational preparatory school
- Lambrook-Haileybury Co-educational preparatory school

4. Planning Areas

4.1 Bracknell Forest is divided into three Planning Areas for school places:

- North Bracknell
- South Bracknell
- Crowthorne & Sandhurst



5. Schools

5.1 There are 37 schools in this SPP which are set out on the table below:

Planning Area	School	Type	Status	Designated Area
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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
Kings Academy Binfield (primary)	Primary	Academy	Yes
King's Academy Binfield (secondary)	Secondary	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	Voluntary Aided	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

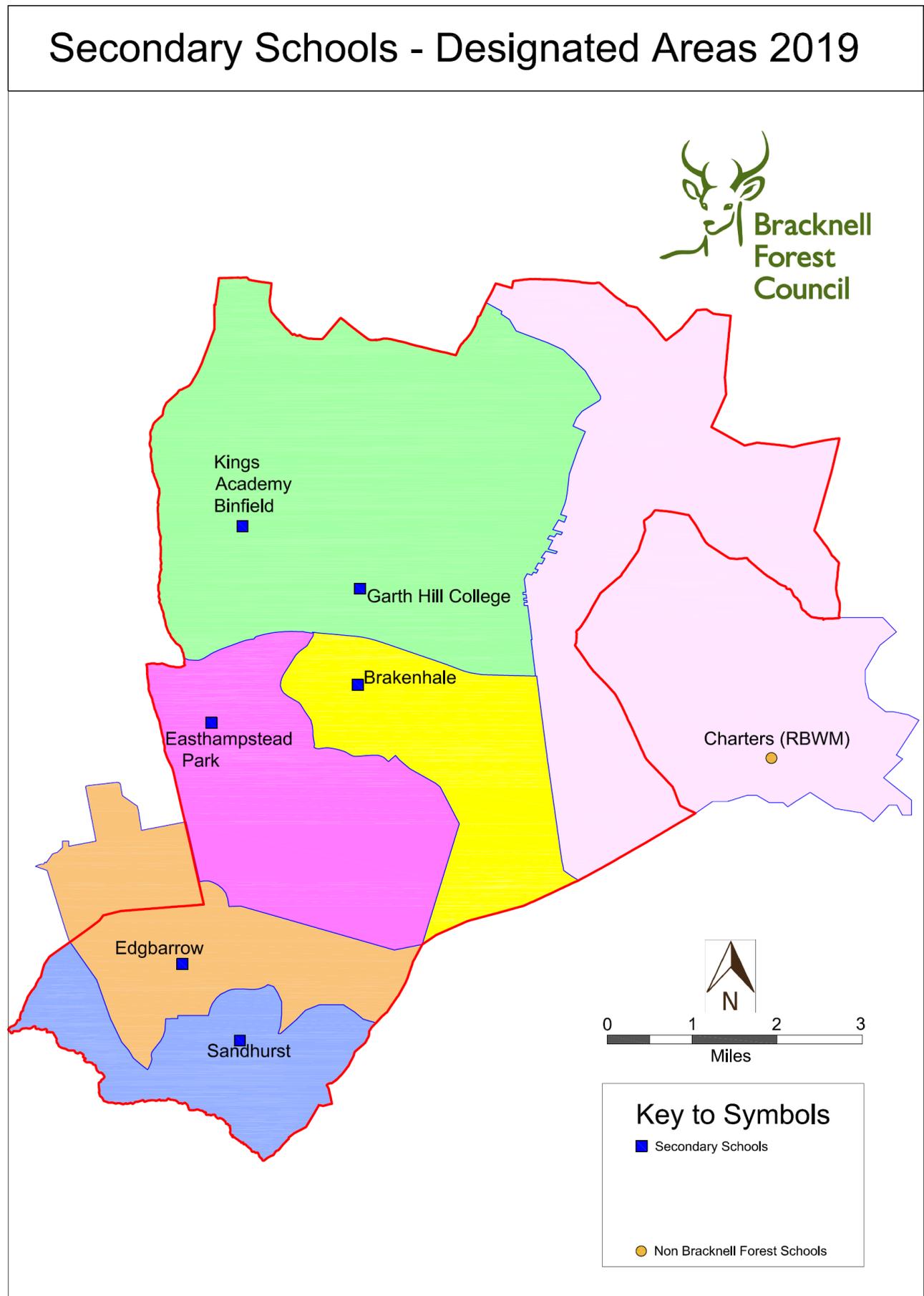
College Hall	PRU	Maintained	No
Kennel Lane	SEN	Maintained	No

6. Designated Area Maps

6.1 The map below sets out the primary school designated areas.



6.2 The map below sets out the secondary school designated areas.



7. Early Years

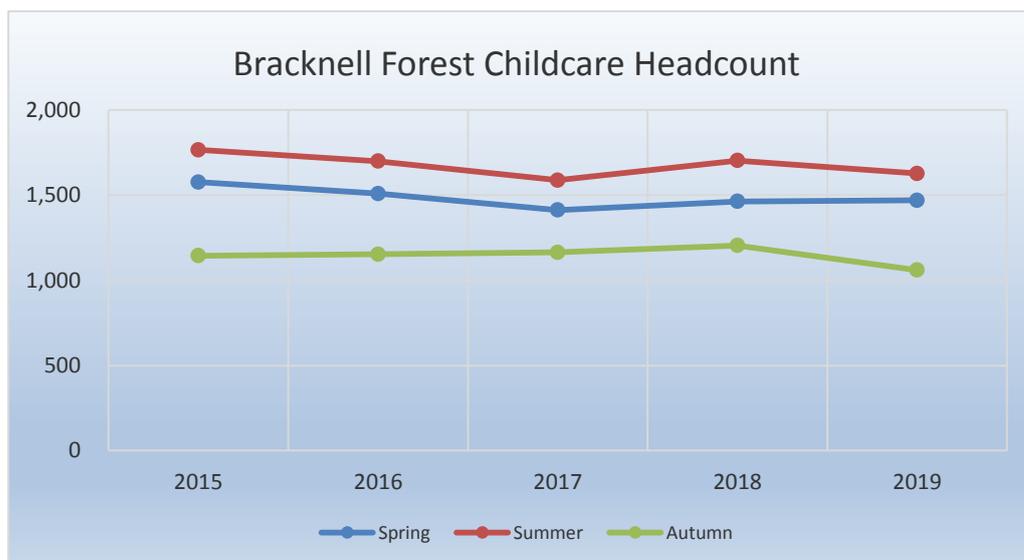
Early Years Providers

- 7.1 It is difficult to calculate the exact number of places available across the authority as providers continually adapt their capacity dependent on demand. 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>)
- 7.2 The table below shows current early years providers in Bracknell Forest registered to deliver the free entitlements. This is a changeable number especially in relation to childminders, although number of childminders is high, they deliver the entitlements to fewer children.

Registered Providers		Offering Services to			%	
		2-year-olds	3- & 4-year olds			
			Universal	Extended		
Private Voluntary and Independent	46	38	45	40	65.0%	
Childminders	101	70	101	98	5.5%	
Maintained Schools and Academies	18	0	18	16	29.5%	
Totals:		165	108	164	154	100%

Numbers of Children in Early Years Settings

- 7.3 The graph below shows the trend of take up for funded two, three- and four-year olds over the last five years accessing private, voluntary and independent early years settings in Bracknell Forest.



- 7.4 Generally, numbers in the Autumn term are low, with them increasing in the Spring and again in the Summer.

7.5 The graph 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.

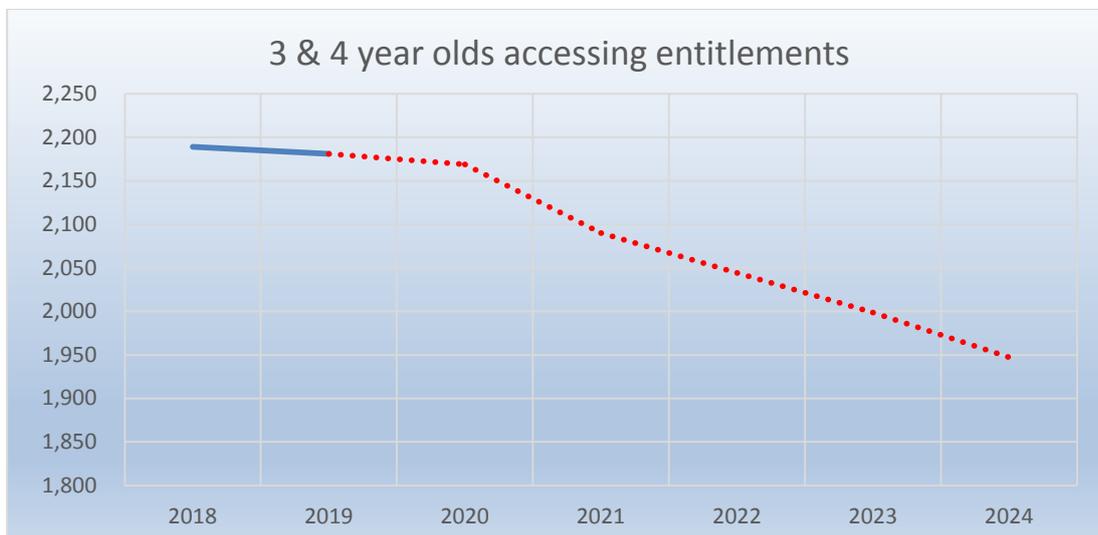
Current Demand for Childcare

7.6 BFC uses the Summer term numbers when predicting demand for childcare. In the 2019 Summer term the number of 2, 3 and 4 year olds accessing free entitlements was 2,384 which is approximately 80% of the eligible population.

Forecast Demand for Childcare

7.7 The forecast eligible population in Summer term 2024 is 2,716, and if 80% of these children access a childcare place the this would equate to 2,173 which is a decrease of 211 places, equivalent to 20%. This forecast decrease in demand is set out on the graph below.

Forecast Demand for Free Entitlement to Childcare by 3 and 4-year-olds



Universal and Extended Childcare

7.8 Demand for Universal (570 hours p.a.) and Extended (1,170 hours p.a.) Childcare for 3 and 4 year olds is shown in the graph above. In addition, approximately 15% or 200 2-year olds will be eligible for 570 hours per annum.

Early Years Capacity Strategy

7.9 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>

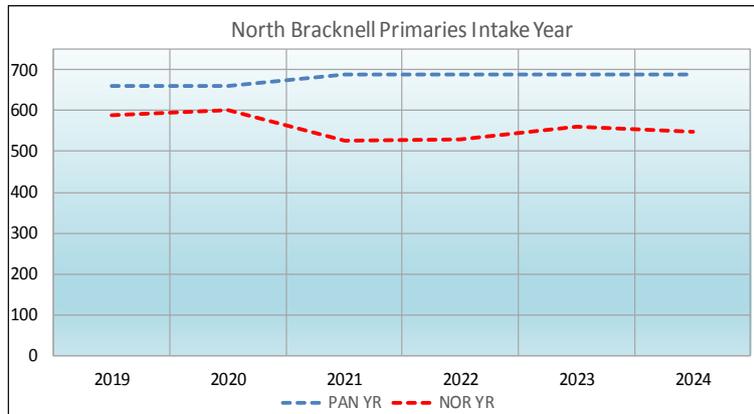
7.10 The most recent assessment evidences that there is currently sufficient childcare capacity across the Borough to meet the forecast demand for places until 2022/2023.

8. Primary

8.1 The graphs below set out the primary school forecasts in the intake year.

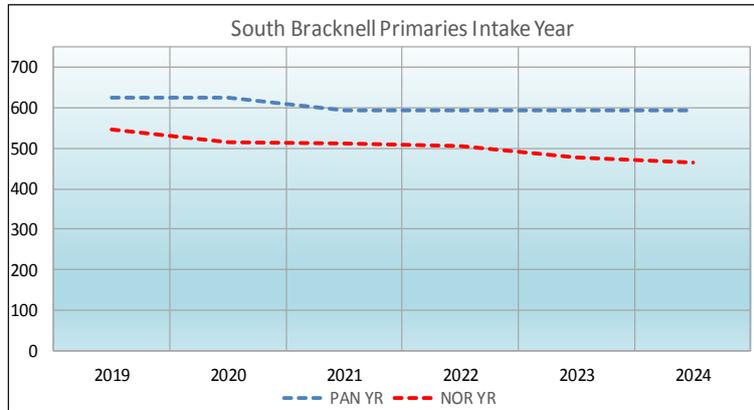
North Bracknell

Academic Year	PAN YR	NOR YR	Surplus	%
2019	660	590	70	11%
2020	660	602	58	9%
2021	690	526	164	24%
2022	690	528	162	23%
2023	690	560	130	19%
2024	690	549	141	20%



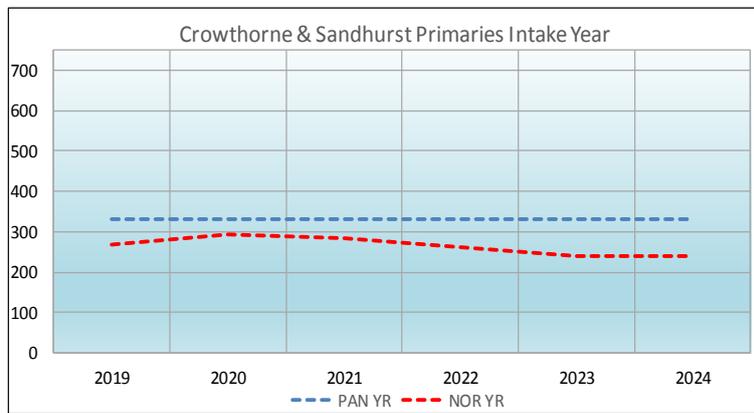
South Bracknell

Academic Year	PAN YR	NOR YR	Surplus	%
2019	625	545	80	13%
2020	625	516	109	17%
2021	595	513	82	14%
2022	595	507	88	15%
2023	595	476	119	20%
2024	595	463	132	22%



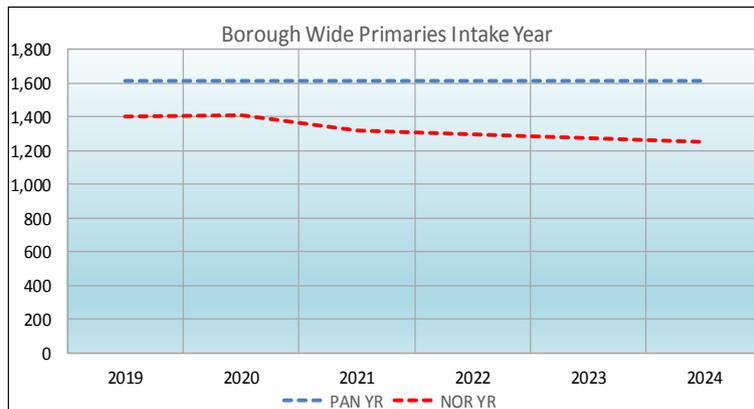
Crowthorne & Sandhurst

Academic Year	PAN YR	NOR YR	Surplus	%
2019	330	267	63	19%
2020	330	294	36	11%
2021	330	283	47	14%
2022	330	262	68	21%
2023	330	241	89	27%
2024	330	241	89	27%



Borough Wide

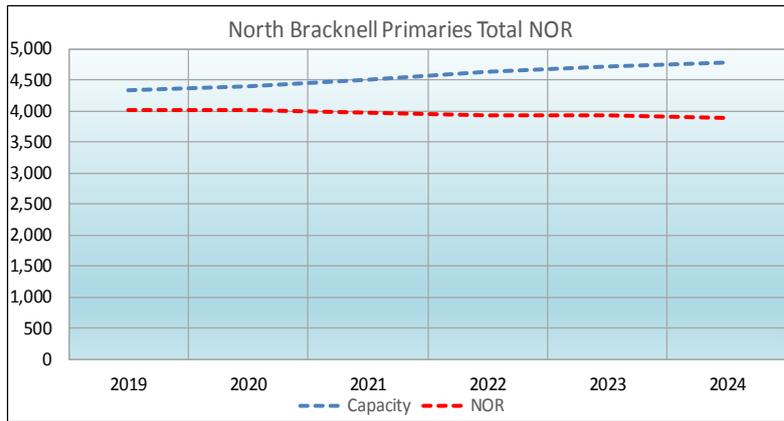
Academic Year	PAN YR	NOR YR	Surplus	%
2019	1,615	1,402	213	13%
2020	1,615	1,412	203	13%
2021	1,615	1,322	293	18%
2022	1,615	1,297	318	20%
2023	1,615	1,277	338	21%
2024	1,615	1,253	362	22%



8.2 The graphs below set out the primary school forecasts for total numbers on roll.

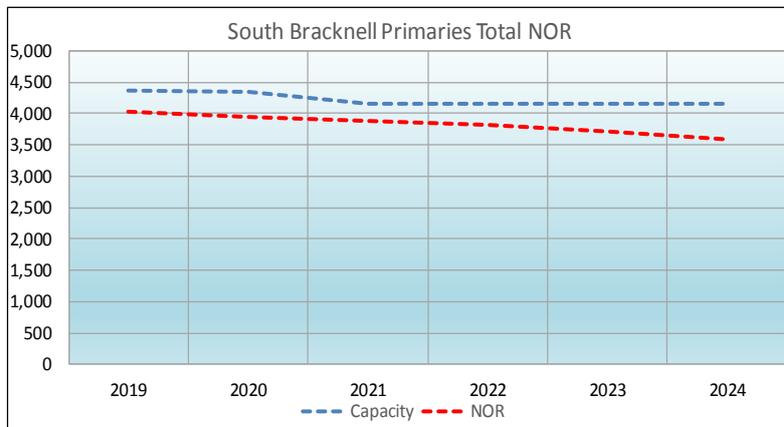
North Bracknell

Academic Year	Capacity	NOR	Surplus	%
2019	4,332	4,013	319	7%
2020	4,392	4,005	387	9%
2021	4,512	3,968	544	12%
2022	4,632	3,929	703	15%
2023	4,722	3,920	802	17%
2024	4,782	3,886	896	19%



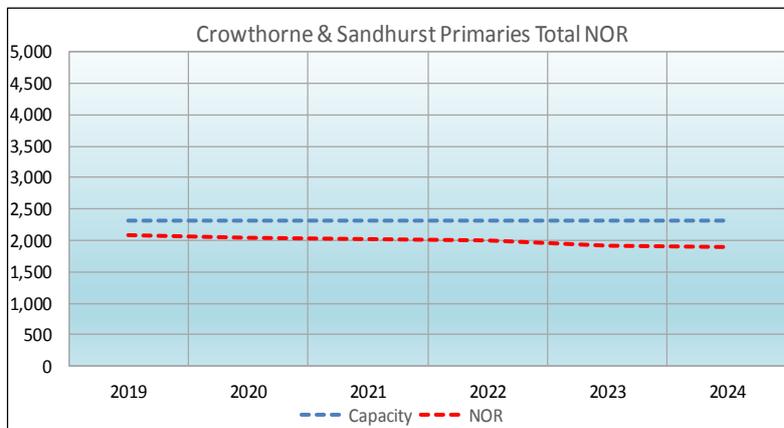
South Bracknell

Academic Year	Capacity	NOR	Surplus	%
2019	4,376	4,022	354	8%
2020	4,346	3,957	389	9%
2021	4,166	3,878	288	7%
2022	4,166	3,821	345	8%
2023	4,166	3,708	458	11%
2024	4,166	3,583	583	14%



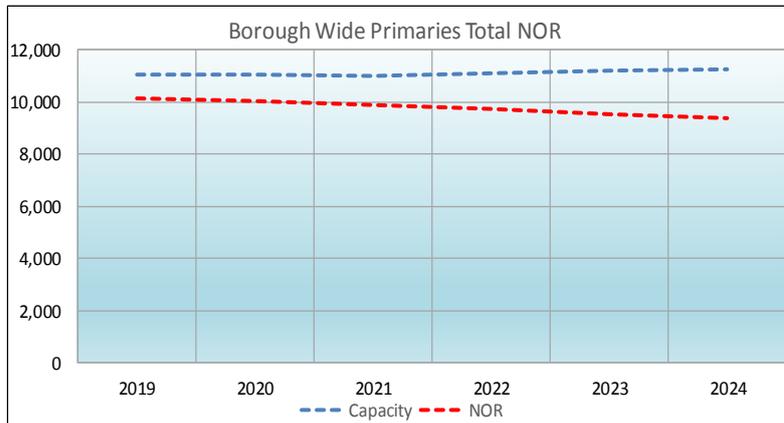
Crowthorne & Sandhurst

Academic Year	Capacity	NOR	Surplus	%
2019	2,308	2,076	232	10%
2020	2,308	2,048	260	11%
2021	2,308	2,015	293	13%
2022	2,308	1,989	319	14%
2023	2,308	1,911	397	17%
2024	2,308	1,885	423	18%



Borough Wide

Academic Year	Capacity	NOR	Surplus	%
2019	11,016	10,111	905	8%
2020	11,046	10,010	1,036	9%
2021	10,986	9,861	1,125	10%
2022	11,106	9,739	1,367	12%
2023	11,196	9,540	1,656	15%
2024	11,256	9,355	1,901	17%



Borough Wide Primary

- 8.3 There are 30 primary schools in the Borough with a total of 11,016 places, and 10,111 pupils on roll in September 2019, leaving a surplus of 905 places or 8%. By September 2024 forecasts indicate an overall decrease of up to 756 pupils in this planning area to 9,355, however previously committed growth in primary capacity will result in the surplus increasing to 1,901 places or 17%.

North Bracknell Primary

- 8.4 There are 12 primary schools in North Bracknell with a total of 4,332 places, and 4,013 pupils on roll in September 2019, leaving a surplus of 319 places or 7%. By September 2024 forecasts indicate an overall decrease of up to 127 pupils in this planning area to 3,886. Previously committed growth in primary capacity will result in the overall surplus increasing to 896 places or 19%.

South Bracknell Primary

- 8.5 There are 11 primary schools in South Bracknell with a total of 4,376 places, and 4,032 pupils on roll in September 2019 leaving a surplus of 354 places or 8%. By September 2024 forecasts indicate an overall decrease of up to 169 pupils in this planning area to 3,583. Despite planned decreases in primary capacity the overall surplus is forecast to increase to 583 places or 14%.

Crowthorne & Sandhurst Primary

- 8.6 There are 7 primary schools in Crowthorne & Sandhurst with a total of 2,308 places, and 2,076 pupils on roll in September 2019 leaving a surplus of 232 places or 10%. By September 2024 forecasts indicate an overall decrease of up to 191 pupils in this planning area to 1,885. The overall surplus is forecast to increase to increase to 423 places or 18%.

Primary School Capacity Strategy

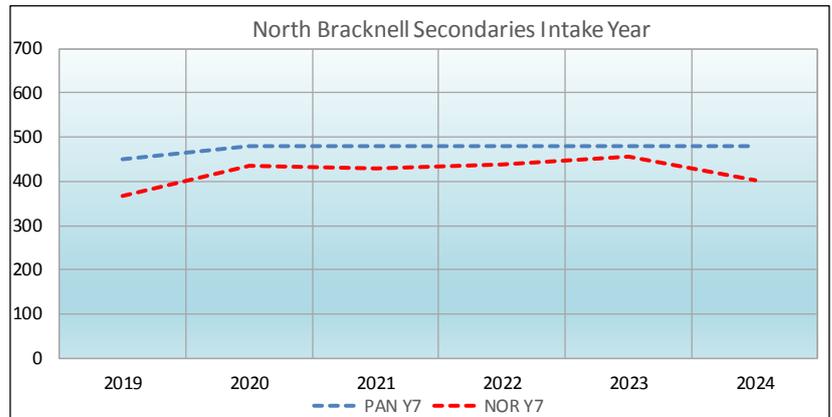
- 8.7 The approach taken is to meet the forecast demand for places across each planning area, acknowledging that pupils can travel to neighbouring schools if their catchment area school is full.
- 8.8 Forecasts indicate that there will be enough primary school places in each planning area to meet demand during the forecast period. There are no plans to add any additional primary school capacity in this forecast period.
- 8.9 Harmans Water is planned to reduce its PAN from 90 to 60 from September 21.
- 8.10 The proposed new primary school at Bucklers Park (formerly TRL) has been slipped to September 22 at the earliest. This school will only be built if there are enough pupils in Crowthorne to warrant this going forward.
- 8.11 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.
- 8.12 As surplus places put pressure on school budgets, removal of further surplus places may be required during the forecast period.

9. Secondary Key Stage 3 & 4

9.1 The graphs below set out the secondary key stage 3 & 4 intake year forecasts.

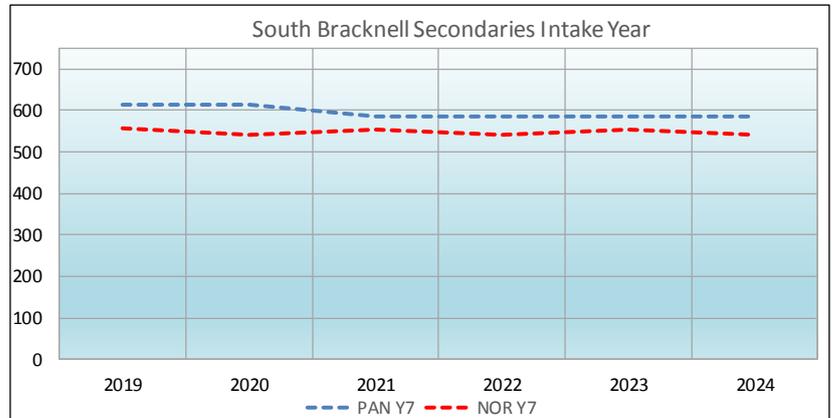
North Bracknell

Academic Year	PAN Y7	NOR Y7	Surplus	%
2019	450	367	83	18%
2020	480	434	46	10%
2021	480	428	52	11%
2022	480	437	43	9%
2023	480	455	25	5%
2024	480	402	78	16%



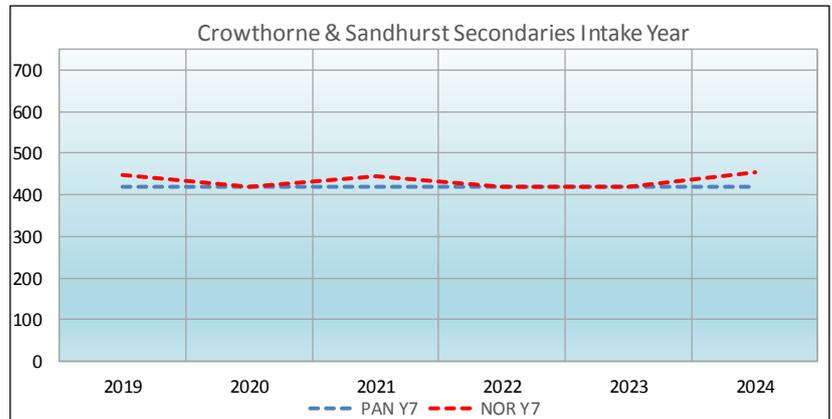
South Bracknell

Academic Year	PAN Y7	NOR Y7	Surplus	%
2019	615	557	58	9%
2020	615	540	75	12%
2021	585	553	32	6%
2022	585	542	43	7%
2023	585	555	30	5%
2024	585	543	42	7%



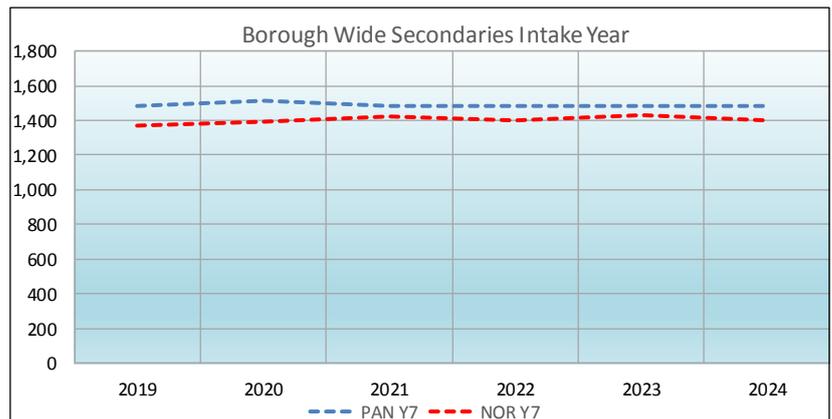
Crowthorne & Sandhurst

Academic Year	PAN Y7	NOR Y7	Surplus	%
2019	420	448	-28	-7%
2020	420	420	0	0%
2021	420	444	-24	-6%
2022	420	420	0	0%
2023	420	420	0	0%
2024	420	456	-36	-8%



Borough Wide

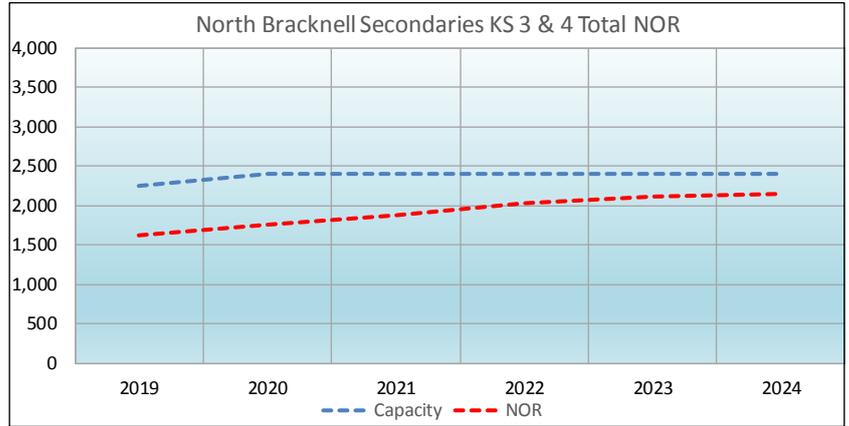
Academic Year	PAN Y7	NOR Y7	Surplus	%
2019	1,485	1,372	113	8%
2020	1,515	1,394	121	8%
2021	1,485	1,425	60	4%
2022	1,485	1,399	86	6%
2023	1,485	1,430	55	4%
2024	1,485	1,401	84	6%



9.2 The graphs below set out the secondary key stage 3 & 4 total NOR forecasts.

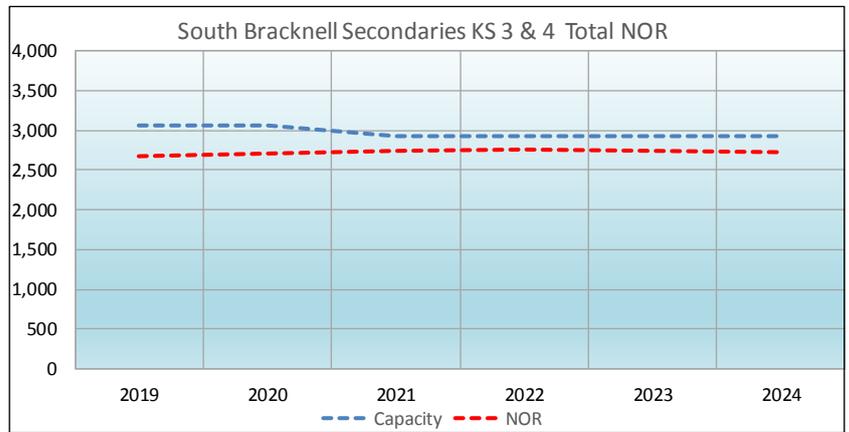
North Bracknell

Academic Year	Capacity	NOR	Surplus	%
2019	2,250	1,621	629	28%
2020	2,400	1,752	648	27%
2021	2,400	1,881	519	22%
2022	2,400	2,027	373	16%
2023	2,400	2,121	279	12%
2024	2,400	2,156	244	10%



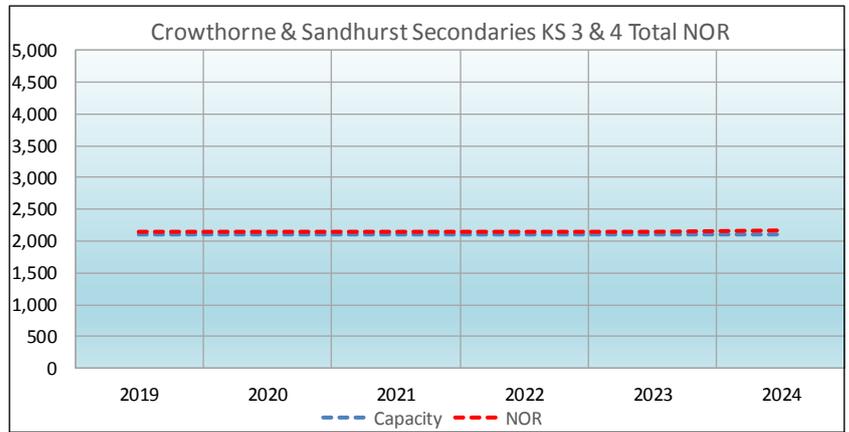
South Bracknell

Academic Year	Capacity	NOR	Surplus	%
2019	3,069	2,681	388	13%
2020	3,069	2,703	366	12%
2021	2,919	2,734	185	6%
2022	2,919	2,755	164	6%
2023	2,919	2,747	172	6%
2024	2,919	2,733	186	6%



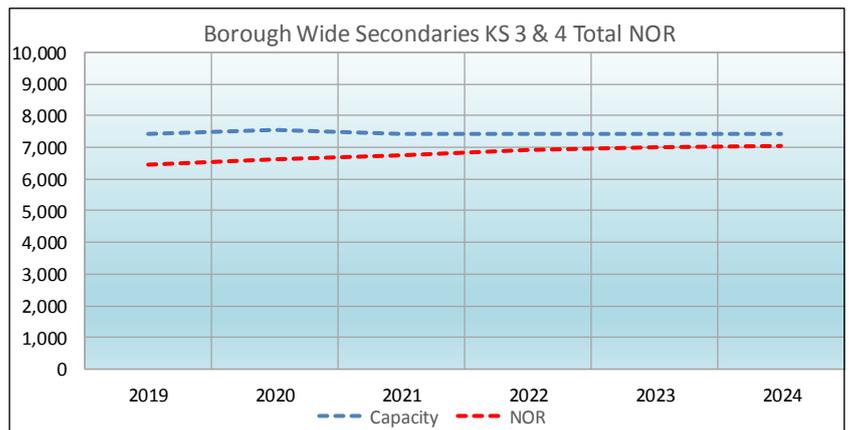
Crowthorne & Sandhurst

Academic Year	Capacity	NOR	Surplus	%
2019	2,100	2,150	-50	-2%
2020	2,100	2,149	-49	-2%
2021	2,100	2,147	-47	-2%
2022	2,100	2,154	-54	-3%
2023	2,100	2,152	-52	-2%
2024	2,100	2,160	-60	-3%



Borough Wide

Academic Year	Capacity	NOR	Surplus	%
2019	7,419	6,452	967	13%
2020	7,569	6,604	965	13%
2021	7,419	6,762	657	9%
2022	7,419	6,936	483	7%
2023	7,419	7,019	400	5%
2024	7,419	7,048	371	5%



Borough Wide Secondary Key Stage 3 & 4

- 9.3 There are 7 secondary schools in the Borough with a total of 7,419 places, and 6,452 pupils on roll in September 2019, leaving 967 surplus places or 13%. By September 2024 forecasts indicate an overall increase of up to 596 pupils in this planning area to 7,048. The overall surplus is forecast to decrease to 371 places or 5%. This is broken down into the three planning areas below:

North Bracknell Secondary Key Stage 3 & 4

- 9.4 There are 2 secondary schools in this planning area with a total of 2,250 places, and 1,621 pupils on roll in September 2019, leaving 629 surplus places or 28%. By September 2024 forecasts indicate an overall increase of up to 527 pupils in this planning area to 2,156. Despite previously committed increases in secondary capacity during the forecast period, the overall surplus is forecast to decrease to 244 places or 10%.

South Bracknell Secondary Key Stage 3 & 4

- 9.5 There are 3 secondary schools in this planning area with a total of 3,069 places, and 2,681 pupils on roll in September 2019, leaving 388 surplus places or 13%. By September 2024 forecasts indicate an overall increase of up to 52 pupils in this planning area to 2,733. There are planned decreases in capacity during the forecast period and the overall surplus is forecast to decrease to 186 places or 6% by September 2024.

Crowthorne & Sandhurst Secondary Key Stage 3 & 4

- 9.6 There are 2 secondary schools in this planning area with a total of 2,100 places, and 2,150 pupils on roll in September 2019, leaving a zero surplus of places. Forecasts indicate that until September 2024 the numbers on roll will remain more or less constant.

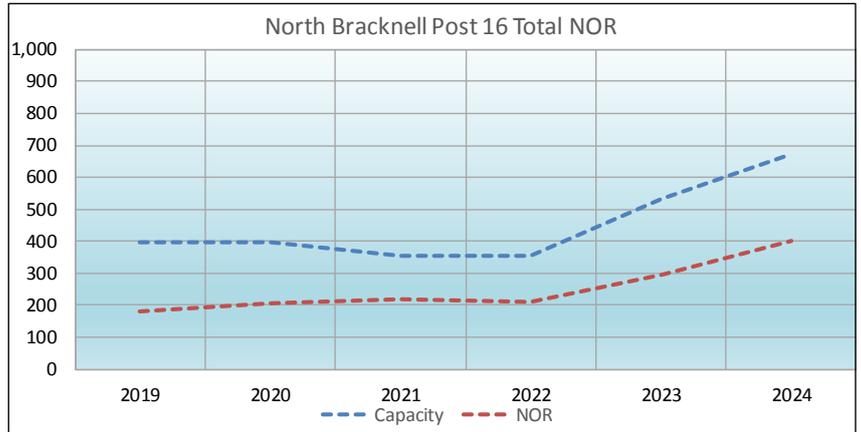
Secondary School Capacity Strategy

- 9.7 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.
- 9.8 Forecasts indicate that there will be enough secondary school places across the whole Borough to meet demand throughout the forecast period.
- 9.9 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.
- 9.10 Garth Hill College is planned to reduce its PAN from 300 to 270 from September 2021.
- 9.11 Easthampstead Park is planned to reduce its PAN from 240 to 210 from September 2021.

10. Post 16

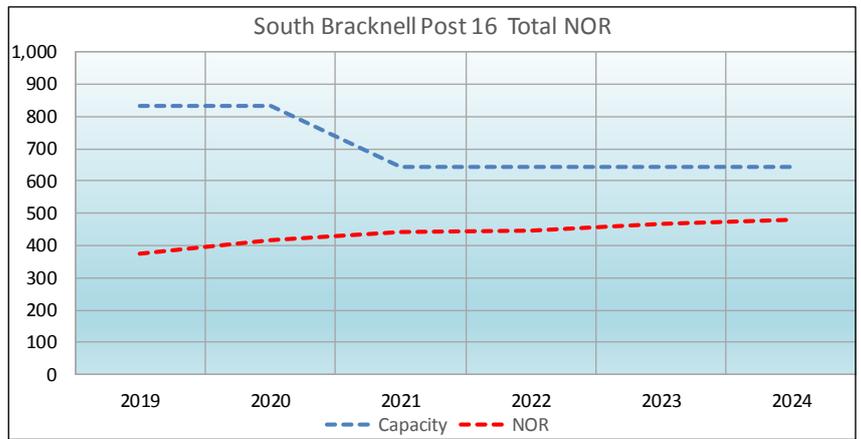
North Bracknell

Academic Year	Capacity	NOR	Surplus	%
2019	396	180	216	55%
2020	396	208	188	47%
2021	356	218	139	39%
2022	356	211	146	41%
2023	531	294	237	45%
2024	671	400	272	40%



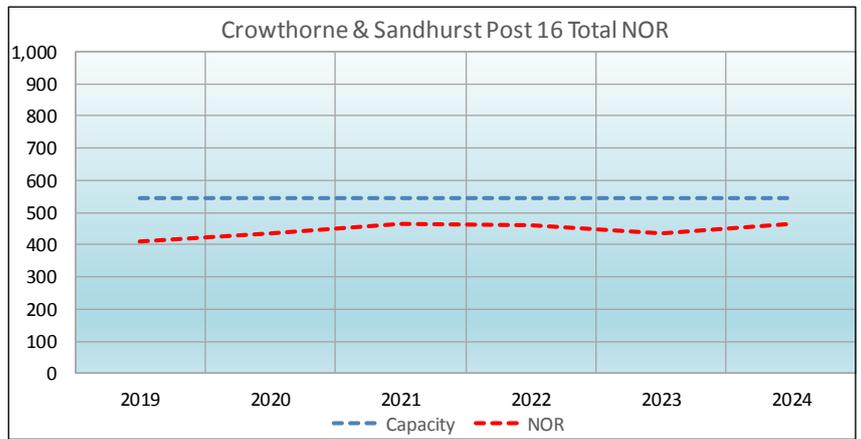
South Bracknell

Academic Year	Capacity	NOR	Surplus	%
2019	832	373	459	55%
2020	832	418	414	50%
2021	642	442	200	31%
2022	642	446	196	30%
2023	642	466	176	27%
2024	642	478	164	26%



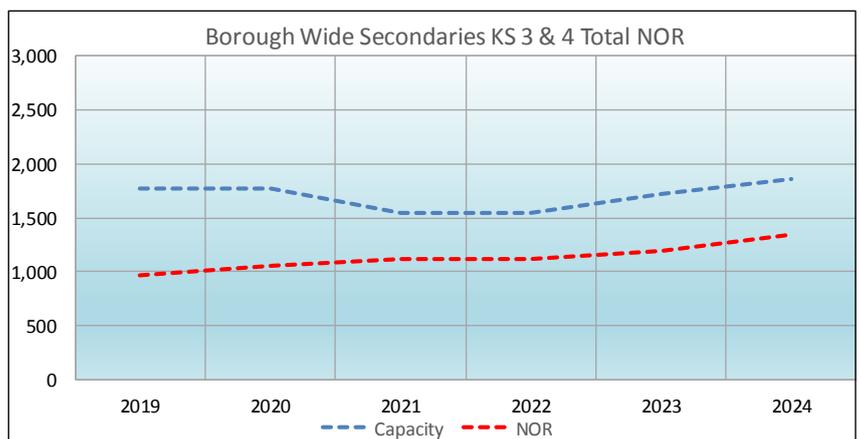
Crowthorne & Sandhurst

Academic Year	Capacity	NOR	Surplus	%
2019	546	408	138	25%
2020	546	433	113	21%
2021	546	463	83	15%
2022	546	461	85	16%
2023	546	437	109	20%
2024	546	464	82	15%



Borough Wide

Academic Year	Capacity	NOR	Surplus	%
2019	1,774	961	813	46%
2020	1,774	1,059	715	40%
2021	1,544	1,123	421	27%
2022	1,544	1,118	427	28%
2023	1,719	1,197	523	30%
2024	1,859	1,342	518	28%



Post 16 Commentary

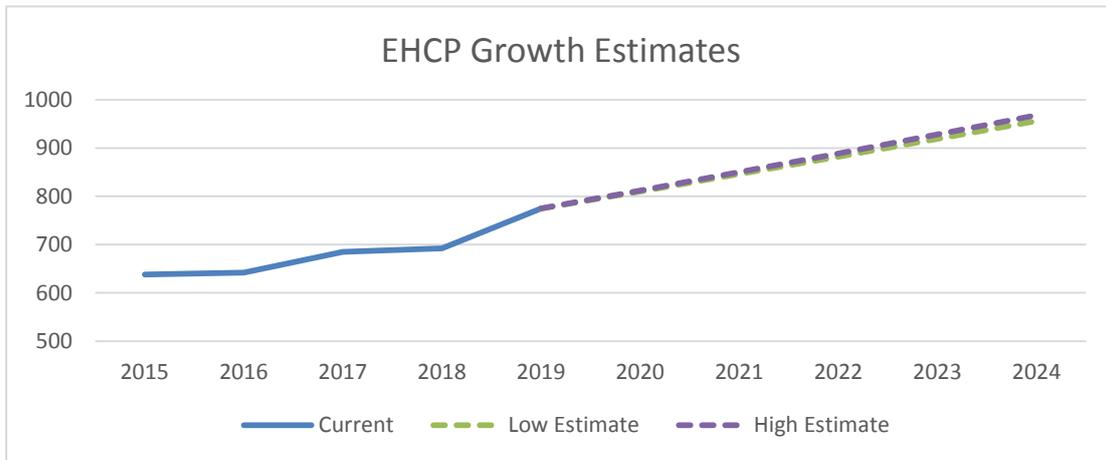
- 10.1 Kings Academy Binfield which opened to secondary pupils in September 2018 is planned to open to Post 16 in September 2023. All of the remaining 6 secondary schools are currently providing post 16 education.
- 10.2 Individual schools set their own Post 16 admissions numbers. The capacity of post 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 PANs in each year group from Y7-11.
- 10.3 Numbers on roll for Post 16 have been drawn from the January School census.
- 10.4 There are a total of 1,774 Post 16 places, with 961 pupils on roll in September 2019 leaving a surplus of 813 places or 46%. By September 2024 with the opening of Kings Academy Binfield to post 16, forecasts indicate an overall increase of up to 381 pupils to 1,342. The overall surplus is forecast to decrease to 518 places or 28%.

Post 16 Capacity Strategy

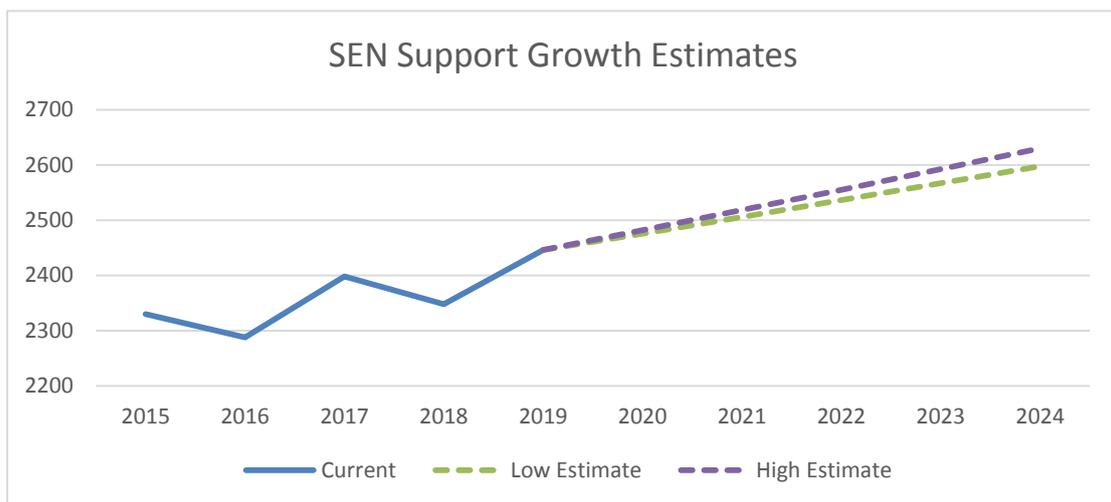
- 10.5 The approach taken is to meet the forecast demand across the whole Borough, allowing for the fact that some schools will have deficits and some surpluses of places. This acknowledges that Post 16 aged pupils can travel between planning areas to secure a school place if their catchment area school is full.
- 10.6 It should be noted that Bracknell & Wokingham College and Farnborough Sixth Form College are two non-school Post 16 providers located within easy access and that both these establishments take significant numbers of Bracknell Forest Post 16 pupils ever year.
- 10.7 The current 46% surplus of Post 16 places is significant; however, this is forecast to reduce as the current growth of secondary numbers on roll moves into Post 16.
- 10.8 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 contribute to the overall decreasing overall surplus of Post 16 places.
- 10.9 Forecasts indicate that there will be enough Post 16 school places across the whole Borough to meet the forecast demand, and there are no plans to add any additional Post 16 school capacity throughout the forecast period.
- 10.10 Theme 7 in the Learning Improvement Strategy is to “Develop Skills and Raise Aspirations at Post 16”. As part of this the Council will Develop a Post 16 Strategy for Bracknell Forest during the forecast period, facilitating interactions between schools, providing audits, advice and training to all Post 16 providers and seeking to develop coherent links with businesses.

12. Special and Additional Educational Needs

EHCP Population



Population



- 12.1 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.
- 12.2 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.¹
- 12.3 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.

¹

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

EHCP Provisions

- 12.4 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.
- 12.5 At January 2019, 775 pupils were recorded as having an EHCP. Due to limited provisions within the borough approximately one third of pupils with an EHCP attended schools outside of Bracknell Forest.
- 12.6 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 six years, there was an average increase in the number of EHCPs within the borough of 3.0% per year.
- 12.7 By 2024, the number of pupils with an EHCP is expected to increase by approximately 188 pupils.

SEN Support

- 12.8 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 increased by 116 between 2014 and 2019. At January 2019, 2,446 pupils were recorded as requiring SEN Support.
- 12.9 By 2024, the number of pupils with SEN Support is expected to increase by approximately 168 pupils.

SEND Capacity Strategy

- 12.10 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.
- 12.11 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.

13. Forward Look to 2036

- 13.1 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. 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 8.10 to 8.11 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 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.

TO: SCHOOLS FORUM
DATE: 16 DECEMBER 2019

**2020-21 PROPOSALS FOR THE
SCHOOLS BLOCK AND CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK
Executive Director: People**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present an update to the 2020-21 budget proposals that were presented to the last meeting of the Forum. Associated decisions need to be agreed at this meeting in order to meet the 21 January 2020 statutory deadline for agreeing individual school budgets.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The November Schools Forum meeting made a number of decisions on the initial 2020-21 Schools Budget with 2 key issues emerging which now need to be resolved: diseconomy funding top-ups for new schools; and whether changes should be made to the values in the BF Funding Formula to ensure a larger average increase in per pupil funding for 1 Form Entry (FE) schools.
- 2.2 For new and expanding schools, a funding policy has been in place since 2016 to enable schools experiencing diseconomies of scale from relatively low pupil numbers to receive funding top-up payments where the normal operation of the BF Funding Formula does not deliver adequate resources. The policy is subject to annual review and as part of this process the Forum sought more information on the diseconomy funding proposed for new schools in 2020-21 which amounted to £1.268m.
- 2.3 The most significant diseconomy funding top-up would be paid to Kings Group Academy (KGA) Binfield school. This is an all through school which opened on a phased basis and at September 2020 will have 3 secondary aged year groups (Years 7-9) and 2 in primary (Reception and Year 1) and an estimated overall number on roll of 510 (450 secondary and 60 primary). Based on the existing policy and budget decisions taken to date, the per pupil funding proposed for KGA Binfield next year would be £5,721 which is 3.3% greater than the £5,538 average funding for the 2 secondary schools receiving the highest per pupil amount and 9.7% above the overall £5,215 average. The Forum needs to agree whether any reasonable changes need to be made to the policy.
- 2.4 In respect of the forecast increase in per pupil funding amounts, the current model now delivers an average 6.5% increase in per pupil funding, and within this, 1 FE primary schools receive 3.0%. The average increase for both 2 FE and 3 FE schools is 8.4% with 5.6% for secondary schools. It has previously been evidenced that 1 FE primary schools face the most difficulties in balancing budgets and therefore as agreed, work has been undertaken to model options to raise the average increase for 1 FE primary schools, where again the Forum needs to agree whether any changes need to be made.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

As decision maker:

3.1 In respect of the funding policy for new schools, to AGREE:

- 1. whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to the funding policy**
- 2. the resultant Growth Fund allocations, as set out in Annex 3**
- 3. the proposed update to the current policy, as set out in Annex 6, as well as uplifts to factor values required through other budget decisions**

As adviser to the Executive Member for Children and Young People:

3.2 To AGREE whether any changes should be made to the fixed lump sum payment payable to all schools through the BF Funding Formula to raise funding levels for 1 FE schools.

4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure that the Schools Block and Central Schools Services Block elements of the Schools Budget are developed in accordance with the views of the Schools Forum and governors, the anticipated level of resources and the statutory funding framework, including the requirement to submit summary details of individual school budgets to the DfE by 21 January 2020.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Options are presented for considered throughout the budget setting process.

6 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background

- 6.1 Taking account of the data available at the time, the November Schools Forum meeting made a number of decisions on the initial 2020-21 Schools Budget, most notably:
- Fully implementing the £3,750 and £5,000 Minimum Per Pupil Funding (MPPF) values for primary and secondary schools respectively
 - That each school should receive at least a 1.84% increase in per pupil funding compared to 2019-20. This is the highest guaranteed increase permitted by the Department for Education (DfE)
 - That a contribution to pressures in the High Needs Block would not be made
 - Schools with a split site and those undergoing amalgamation will receive funding top-ups
 - The budget for the Central School Services Block (CSSB).

To assist schools with their early budget planning, subsequent to the November Schools Forum meeting, a summary illustrative 2020-21 budget allocation was distributed to all mainstream schools which was also copied to members of the Forum.

- 6.2 As well as awaiting the data from the DfE that must be used for calculating actual school budgets, 2 other budget matters remain outstanding before the budget setting process can be finalised: diseconomy funding top-ups for new schools; and whether changes should be made to the values in the BF Funding Formula to ensure a larger average increase in per pupil funding for 1 Form Entry (FE) schools.
- 6.3 In order to present final budget proposals to the Forum in January, in advance on the 21 January statutory deadline for providing the DfE with core school budget data, all outstanding decisions need to be made now.

New and expanding schools

- 6.4 Supporting new and expanding schools in the initial years after they open, often with relatively low numbers of pupils compared to capacity as housing developments continue can require additional financial support over several years. The DfE recognises that the lagged funding methodology whilst suitable for most schools is not responsive enough where new schools admit significantly more pupils at the start of the academic year which is mid-way through the financial year and after the date by which individual school budgets must be confirmed.
- 6.5 Therefore, to acknowledge that substantial extra costs can arise after the statutory budget setting process, the DfE allocates additional resources to LAs which experience in-year increases in pupil numbers through a Growth Fund¹.
- 6.6 An associated policy to allocate funds to new schools is in place in BF and is subject to regular update to ensure it remains appropriate for the prevailing circumstances. The policy was last updated in December 2018 and has 2 main sections:
- **Policy Objectives, which confirms:** applicability only to schools meeting basic need requirements and not parental preference; aim for a fair, transparent calculation; reflects the funding values in the School National Funding Formula (SNFF); promptly moves schools to the BF Funding Formula
 - **Components of additional funding allocations, which are:** pre-opening / start-up costs; diseconomy funding (enhanced fixed lump sum); day to day cost (amount per agreed class not actual pupil numbers), business rates; and post-opening funding (one-off amount per class for non-staffing start-up resources). There is a recognition that different units of resource will be required for primary and secondary schools.
- 6.7 In summary, the policy for funding a new school multiplies the 2020-21 SNFF MPPF values of £3,750 for primary and £5,000 for secondary by the total number of school places when full as determined through the Planned Admission Number (PAN). This calculation caps the amount of total pupil-led funding that can be received in the same way as funding is calculated for an established school. A further allocation is made for business rates outside pupil-led amounts which in accordance with DfE requirements.

¹ 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.

- 6.8 Whilst the approach taken to calculating total funding means that a full new school will receive the lowest level of funding permitted by the DfE through the local Funding Formula, a different set of factors and values are required to ensure sufficient funding is received in the initial years after opening when there are relatively low pupil numbers on roll and diseconomies exist compared to schools with greater pupil numbers.

The current policy is attached at Annex 1 which is compliant with the DfE guidance set out in Annex 2.

Funding top-ups proposed for 2020-21

- 6.9 In considering initial budget proposals for 2020-21, Forum members questioned the £1.268m of diseconomy funds proposed to be allocated to new schools and whether there was a legal requirement to continue to make the top-up payments. Subsequent to the last meeting, revised data results in a reduction in proposed diseconomy costs of £0.063m to £1.205m.
- 6.10 Advice from the DfE is that each LA should decide in consultation with their Schools Forum on an appropriate funding policy, which must be compliant with the DfE guidance (Annex 2). Adopting a policy is a discretionary matter for each area to decide, it is not mandatory.
- 6.11 The new school providers have been appointed after submitting a proposal against a specification and terms for operating the school. This included a provision that post-opening funding required to address diseconomies of scale until the school reaches a viable size will be provided. These funds would be allocated in accordance with policies approved by the Schools Forum.
- 6.12 If the policy is to be changed, Legal advice is that to avoid a challenge to the policy change and for the policy to be properly consulted upon, the Forum would be advised to set out and articulate clear reasonable reasons for the policy change so the objectives of the policy change are clearly understood and can withstand scrutiny by an objective bystander. In short, the Forum would have to be able to defend the changes as being within the realm of reasonableness. Full legal comments are detailed from paragraph 7.1.
- 6.13 Reviewing the detailed calculations of the policy will assist the Forum to consider whether the current policy is reasonable. The method required to calculate a qualifying new school's budget is to:
- use the approved policy to calculate the total funding the school needs i.e. allocate an enhanced fixed lump sum allocation and block funding for each approved class from within the overall funding cap set by MPPF values, with a separate allocation for business rates.
 - run the actual census data through the BF Funding Formula in the same way as for all other schools to calculate "normal" lagged funding, assuming new schools receive per pupil funding at MPPF values.
 - if the BF Funding Formula allocation is lower than that determined through the new school funding policy, then a top-up payment is made for the difference to recognise the anticipated diseconomies of scale.
- 6.14 In the example of a 7 FE secondary school, the new school funding policy would cap the funding at no more than: 30 pupils per class funded at £5,000 per pupil (MPPF value) for 7 classes in each of the 5 year groups plus £20,000 (estimate) for business

rates. This caps funding at £5,270,000. Excluding business rates, the maximum pupil-led funding is £5,250,000².

- 6.15 As set out above, to recognise that fixed costs will initially represent a higher proportion of costs in a new school than an established school, new schools receive an enhanced fixed lump sum allocation. This is offset by reduced class funding compared to what an existing school would receive. Therefore, after deducting the enhanced lump sum amount, the balance of funding is then paid as a fixed amount for each approved class, rather than using the actual number on roll basis as there are usually significant changes at the start of each academic year.
- 6.16 The enhanced secondary fixed lump sum amount of £521,800³ is deducted from the £5,250,000 for the balance of £4,728,200 to be allocated at an equal amount for the maximum 35 classes at £135,090. For comparison, the 2020-21 BF Funding Formula is expected to include a fixed lump sum of £120,205 with average class size funding with 30 pupils of £156,450 (i.e. £5,215 indicative all average secondary per pupil funding).
- 6.17 The 2020-21 budget originally proposed for KGA Binfield, as reported to the November Forum meeting and which Members raised queries on, includes both primary (1 FE) and secondary (7 FE) aged pupils, so there are different values in the calculation to that illustrated above, although it follows exactly the same principles.
- 6.18 The outline calculation for the KGA Binfield proposed budget is:
- New school funding policy equates to £2,454,445. It includes a fixed lump sum for an all through school, business rates and class funding for:
 - April to August 2020: 1 in primary (October 2019 actual pupil numbers 29); 9 secondary (October 2019 actual pupil numbers 271). Meaning 10 classes in total to be funded with 300 actual pupils on roll at 30 per class.
 - September 2020 to March 2021: 2 in primary (increase of 1); 15 in secondary (increase of 6). To reflect the estimated impact from new academic year admissions.
 - To ensure equity with funding arrangements for established schools, there is a £17,041 deduction to reflect a contribution to the cost of new schools
 - BF Funding Formula at MPPF values must use actual October 2019 pupil numbers of 300 plus an allocation for business rates and delivers funding of £1,483,750
 - The £953,654 difference is paid as a diseconomy funding top-up.

Annex 5 sets out a detailed calculation of the budget for KGA Binfield.

- 6.19 The new school funding policy allows for annual update of units of resource to reflect changes required to comply with the key policy objectives, such as setting the overall budgets at changing MPPF values, or through the normal budget setting process. Therefore, many of the values used in 2020-21 calculations are different to those included at Annex 1 which records 2019-20 values.
- 6.20 The October 2019 pupil numbers are forecast to increase at October 2020 to 59 and 451 respectively for a total number on roll of 510 (up 210). This equates to a full year

² For equality of funding with established schools, new school budgets have the same percentage deduction to their funding as established schools for local cost pressures, such as new schools. Therefore, the maximum budget will be lower than indicated in paragraph 6.14.

³ As detailed in Table 4 at paragraph 514) of the policy at Annex 1.

weighted number on roll of 423 and average per pupil funding of £5,721. This is 3.3% above the £5,538 amount received by the average of the 2 highest funded schools, and 9.7% above the £5,215 average anticipated for all 6 secondary schools. In this context, the council considers the proposed allocation to KGA Binfield to be reasonable, fair and consistent with other secondary schools, reflecting the different circumstances.

- 6.21 Taking account of the updated data and the current policy, Annex 3 shows the latest forecast diseconomy costs by school for 2020-21 with Annex 4 presenting the updated 4 year cost and funding summary.

Change to funding policy

- 6.22 Aside from any changes that the Forum consider appropriate, one policy change is proposed for 2020-21. This was reported to the November Forum which deferred a decision pending more information on the diseconomy calculations and relates to when a school moves from the new school funding policy to the normal BF Funding Formula. Current wording sets in place thresholds based on actual pupil capacity to determine transference to the BF Funding Formula.
- 6.23 It is now proposed that once a school has admitted pupils to all the intended pre-16 year old year groups, it will move to the BF Funding Formula. This will provide greater certainty to schools as to the funding method to be used and is more transparent. Should a new school consider there are circumstances that makes this inappropriate, then an appeal can be made which will be considered on a case by case basis. The change reflects current experience and is intended to ensure new schools move quickly to the BF Funding Formula and are funded on an equitable basis to existing schools.

Annex 6 sets out the proposed revision.

1 FE primary school funding

- 6.24 Based on the budget decisions expected to be taken at the November Schools Forum meeting, a summary of illustrative 2020-21 individual school budgets were reported. This highlighted the contrast in expected per pupil increases by size of school, with 1 FEs expecting 2.3% increases, 2 and 3 FEs 7.9% and secondaries 5.0%. The overall average increase was forecast at 5.9%.
- 6.25 The reason for the differences relates to the importance of the fixed lump sum factor to small schools. The 2019-20 BF Funding Formula includes £0.160m for the lump sum. With the approach now being taken of scaling all factor values by the same proportion, this reduces to £0.119m. In the current year, the lump sum on average accounts for 20.0% of a 1 FE school's budget. This reduces to 14.6% in 2020-21.
- 6.26 Several other local LAs are also experiencing the major impact of the reduced lump sum value in the SNFF on 1 FE schools and are including funding protection. This was highlighted as a potential issue on the budget modelling included on the July financial consultation with schools. Taking the summary outcome from initial school budget allocations into account, the Forum agreed that alternative funding options be presented to the December meeting to consider phasing the reduction in the fixed lump sum allocation.
- 6.27 Updating the illustrative 2020-21 individual school budgets to take account of the new decisions that were taken by the Forum in November results in an average increase in

per pupil funding of 6.5%⁴ which breaks down to 3.0% for 1 FE schools, 8.4% increases for 2 and 3 FE schools and 5.6% for secondary schools.

- 6.28 Two alternative options to the original Option 1 have been modelled for the Forum to consider; Option 2 is to phase the reduction in lump sum payment over 2 years; Option 3 is to phase the reduction over 3 years. No other changes have been made to the original approach to allocating funds to schools.
- 6.29 As expected, these changes raise the increase in per pupil funding for smaller schools with larger schools receiving a reduced increase. Table 1 below summaries the outcomes from the 3 Options which the Forum is requested to consider and agree the approach to take.

Table 1: Lump sum value options and impacts

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Data	Scale all SNFF factors by the same percentage	Phase reduction in lump sum over 2 years	Phase reduction in lump sum over 3 years
Lump sum value 2019-20	£160,143		
Lump sum value 2020-21	£120,205	£140,174	£146,831
Lump sum value annual change	-£39,938	-£19,969	-£13,312
Percentage scaling to SNFF	99.4%	98.3%	97.9%
<u>Average change in per pupil funding:</u>			
1 FE	+3.0%	+4.5%	+5.0%
	£3,962	£4,019	£4,038
2 FE	+8.4%	+8.6%	+8.6%
	£3,946	£3,953	£3,955
3 FE	+8.4%	+8.3%	+8.3%
	£3,818	£3,815	£3,814
Secondary	+5.6%	+5.0%	+4.8%
	£5,215	£5,186	£5,178

Next steps

- 6.30 Individual mainstream school budgets must be submitted to the DfE no later than 21 January 2020. In order to meet this statutory deadline, decisions now need to be taken on allocations from the funding policy for new schools and the value of the fixed lump sum.

⁴ Excludes new schools and 2019 school amalgamations at Holy Spring and Ascot Heath where different approaches to funding need to be made.

- 6.31 Furthermore, the DfE is not expected to issue the actual pupil data that must be used for 2020-21 budget setting purposes until towards the end of December. There is also an expectation that revised estimates will imminently be available for school business rates. Once this outstanding data is available final budgets can be calculated for review and agreement by the Forum on 16 January 2020.

7 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 7.1 The relevant legal issues are addressed within the main body of the report. There has been some suggestion that the formula used for new schools takes funding away from established schools and if the start up additional funds to the per pupil funding were less there would be more money available to existing schools. This contextually is seen in light of the additional places available in the borough which is due to new academy schools whose establishment is reducing the numbers of pupils in maintained schools based on parental preference and thereby making the established schools less financially viable.
- 7.2 The current policy is quite recent and compliant with the DfE guidelines and the new start schools would have a legitimate expectation that they would be funded in accordance with the policy. The Forum is able to change the policy but it should not divert from the principles in the DfE guidance and it would need to be consulted on and only changed when the current cohort of start up schools have been established. To avoid a challenge to the policy change and for the policy to be properly consulted upon the Forum would be advised to set out and articulate clear reasonable reasons for the policy change so the objectives of the policy change are clearly understood and can withstand scrutiny by an objective bystander. In short the Forum would have to be able to defend the changes as being within the realm of reasonableness. All new proposed start ups going forward, would need to be told in advance that the policy is being reconsidered and may impact on their start up funding.

Director of Finance

- 7.3 Included within the supporting information.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 7.4 None identified.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 7.5 Whilst the funding reforms and financial settlement in general result in schools receiving additional funds, several strategic risks exist, most significantly:
1. Insufficient funding to cover anticipated pay and price inflation and changes in contributions to the Pension Funds for those schools receiving the lowest increases.
 2. The ability of schools with licensed deficits to manage their repayments. Two secondary schools and four primary schools have significant deficits that need to be managed during a period of financial change.
 3. Managing the additional revenue costs arising from the new / expanded schools programme and increased number of high needs pupils.
 4. The ability of schools to achieve school improvement targets.

- 7.6 These risks will 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. The 6.5% average increase in per pupil funding next year will greatly assist many schools in balancing their budget as will additional DfE grants to finance unfunded teachers' pay and pension costs. There remains a de-delegated budget of £0.190m (after academy deduction) to support maintained schools in financial difficulties that meet qualifying criteria.

8 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 8.1 People Directorate Management Team, school governors, head teachers, Schools Forum and other interested parties.

Method of Consultation

- 8.2 Written report to People Directorate Management Team and Schools Forum; formal consultation with schools.

Representations Received

- 8.3 Included in body of the report.

Background Papers

None.

Contact for further information

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Doc. Ref

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START-UP AND DISECONOMY FUNDING POLICY FOR NEW AND EXPANDING SCHOOLS IN 2019-20

DECEMBER 2018

Background

- 1) Significant growth in pupil numbers has been experienced in recent years and the latest pupil forecasting information contained in the School Places Plan indicates the trend of increasing pupil numbers at the intake year in primary schools is now beginning to impact on secondary schools. In addition, a number of significant housing developments are also anticipated which will require additional school places.
- 2) All schools where site conditions allow for significant expansions have now been developed which results in any increase in demand for new places needing to be met from new schools. Where new schools are required, they will generally open at the start of an academic year with relatively low pupil numbers as housing construction continues and generally take a number of years to reach the point where the normal operation of the School National Funding Formula (SNFF) delivers sufficient funds to adequately resource the schools. Therefore, during this period, they will need to be funded at a higher rate than would ordinarily be provided, creating a budget pressure within the overall Schools Budget.
- 3) To effectively manage the resultant financial impact, a relevant funding policy needs to be agreed that can be applied consistently, fairly and transparently to all new / expanding schools whilst at the same time minimising the financial burden on existing schools. In addition, the funding policy will need to comply with the requirements of the School Funding Regulations.
- 4) It is important to remember that like the SNFF, the model to be used to fund new / expanding schools will be designed to deliver resources in line with the policy and available funds, with compromises needing to be made. It is therefore designed to be a relatively simple model to “best fit” requirements. In reality, each school will have a different cost base to the model as it will reflect the decisions taken by individual governing bodies and academy trusts. The funding model therefore aims to meet the overall policy objectives and requires individual schools to develop their spending plans accordingly.

Funding options

- 5) School funding is closely regulated by the Department for Education (DfE) and any arrangements to be put in place to provide additional financial support to new / expanding schools will need to be in accordance with current guidance. When growth funding is required over the long term the DfE supports funding schools through a variation to actual pupil numbers. Here, the LA requests to fund relevant schools with the number of pupils required for the normal operation of the Funding Formula to deliver the level of funds needed for the school to operate as determined by the new / expanding schools policy and not the relatively low actual or expected number on roll.

Funding on a variation to pupil numbers is therefore considered the appropriate methodology to adopt in BF due to the long term nature that additional financial support will need to be in place and the greater predictability of income.

Policy Objectives

- 6) As set out above, the new / expanding schools will initially need to be funded at a higher rate than would ordinarily be provided through the SNFF and this will create a budget pressure on the overall Schools Budget. To determine how the appropriate amount of additional funding should be calculated, the following key features and methodologies will be used:
1. The policy only applies to new / expanding schools meeting basic needs requirements i.e. insufficient school places. Pupils attending through parental preference will not be funded by the council.
 2. The need to recognise that new / expanding schools require funding allocations that reflect their additional costs in the initial years, usually as a result of a relatively high proportion of fixed costs compared to total costs.
 3. That a fair and transparent methodology is in place that can be consistently applied to all schools in similar circumstances and is readily understood.
 4. That where possible, units of resource are based on the SNFF, to ensure new / expanding schools move towards their on-going amount of funding, which is the affordable level to the Schools Budget.
 5. Whilst funding negotiations will not routinely be undertaken with individual schools, limited flexibility needs to exist to reflect exceptional / specific circumstances; in particular around the number of classes that need to be opened and pre-opening start-up costs. For example, if a new school fills up relatively slowly, then there is likely to be a need to review the size of the lump sum allocation as fixed costs will remain a larger proportion of costs than expected in the funding policy.
 6. That there is no financial incentive for schools approaching their capacity to remain on the new school funding policy with clear cut off points in place to determine when new schools move to the SNFF.
 7. As initial budgets will be largely based on assessed needs, where a school is found to be over funded for day to day costs in one year, there is the option to make a corresponding reduction to the budget allocation due in the next year. Over funding of up to one class would not normally be subject to repayment.
 8. To reflect the different cost bases, different funding rates will need to be applied to different types of schools i.e. primary, secondary or all through, and also whether it is a new or expanding school.
 9. The policy needs to be regularly reviewed to ensure it remains appropriate for the activity in the borough, remains compliant with ESFA guidance and is affordable.

Components of the proposed additional funding allocations

- 7) The funding elements of the policy are:
1. **An allocation for pre-opening / start-up costs.** New / expanding schools will incur start-up costs associated with planning and preparation activities required to ensure readiness to admit pupils. These apply to the period between the capital work being completed and the school opening and will characteristically cover salary costs of headteacher, caretaker and administration prior to opening and the purchase of any resources not covered by the capital element of the project necessary to admit pupils. There could also be cases when there is a delay to the scheduled opening date in which case extra costs would be incurred to maintain an empty school to a safe and efficient standard. These costs would need to be assessed on a case by case basis.

2. **An allocation for diseconomies of scale.** This relates to the need to incur a disproportionate amount of fixed management and premises costs as new schools build up their pupil numbers that the normal operation of the SNFF does not adequately fund when pupil numbers are relatively low.
3. **An allocation for day to day operational expenses.** DfE Funding Regulations require school budgets to be calculated on actual pupil numbers at the October prior to the commencement of the financial year. The new / expanding schools will all be opening after the census point used for funding purposes and will generally experience significant increases in pupil numbers at the start of each academic year and will therefore need an alternative funding methodology.
4. **An allocation for rates.** To operate in the same way as the SNFF. A full budget allocation at the estimated cost of rates. Note, due to their charitable status, academy schools receive 80% reduction on business rates and funding will therefore be allocated on 20% of the full cost in relevant circumstances.
5. **Post opening funding.** To support new schools get through the initial high costs of stocking up with general resources through a top up to the normal school budget which is only sufficient to finance established schools where less consumables and smaller value items would generally be required.
6. **Discretion for the relevant Director** to consider making adjustments to the funds allocated to new / expanding schools in exceptional circumstances. Any changes would subsequently be reported to the Schools Forum.

Units of resource

- 8) As expected, the financial modelling undertaken indicates different cost bases between school phases and that different units of resource need to be used, the details of which are set out in Appendices 1 and 2. The funding rates will also be subject to regular review to consider the impact of pay and price changes. The following paragraphs summarise the key points and display the illustrative amounts considered appropriate at this stage. Final amounts will need to be agreed by the Schools Forum and Executive Member as part of the normal budget setting process, with affordability likely to be a key issue and should the funding of existing schools need to reflect the cost impact of new schools, the new school funding rates would also be subject to similar adjustments. Therefore rates quoted in this policy need to be viewed as a guide and not guaranteed amounts.

Calculation of total budget

- 9) Total maximum budget allocations will be calculated through reference to the SNFFF, and in particular the new minimum per pupil funding rates i.e. £3,500 for primary and £4,800 for secondary (2019-20 amounts). A cap will be calculated on total funding available when a new school is full, based on the minimum per pupil funding rates required in the SNFF. This would then equate to the minimum budget a school can receive when funded on the SNFF and is consistent with national government funding policy. It will inform what levels of funding can be included in each element of this policy.
- 10) In addition to funding based on minimum per pupil funding rates, there would be an allocation for business rates as this is outside the DfE minimum rate calculation. Table 1 below illustrates how the total maximum budget of a new school would be calculated, using the primary phase as an example.

Table 1: Calculation of maximum budget allocation to a new primary school

FE	Pupils per class	Year Groups	Max NOR	Per pupil funding rate	Rates (estimated actual)	Total if Full
3 FE (assumed to open as 1 FE, then expanding to 2 FE and 3 FE when sufficient demand)						
First FE	30	7	210	£3,500	£20,000	£755,000
Second FE	30	7	210	£3,500	£0	£735,000
Third FE	30	7	210	£3,500	£0	£735,000

Table 1 illustrates the incremental funding to be received as a school expands over time in response to increasing pupil numbers. Assuming a £20,000 cost of business rates, a 1 FE school could receive up to £755,000, a 2 FE school £1,490,000 and a 3 FE school £2,225,000.

The relevant calculation for a 7 FE secondary schools would be:

	30 pupils per class		
X	5 year groups	=	150 pupils
X	7 Forms of entry	=	1,050 pupils
X	£4,800 per pupil	=	£5,040,000 per pupil funding
+	£80,000 rates	=	£5,120,000 maximum budget

- 11) To ensure new / expanding schools move quickly to the SNFF and most likely to higher funding allocations, thresholds will be in place based on actual pupil capacity in a new school. 1 FE schools will move to the SNFF once pupil numbers reach 95% of capacity, 2 FE at 90% and 3 FE and above at 85%. Funding thresholds are lower for larger schools which in general benefit from greater economies of scale. Table 2 below illustrates how this would work.

Table 2: Calculation of maximum NOR for a new primary school before being funded on SNFF

FE	Total if full (as per Table 1)	Maximum pupils			Pupil funding	Rates	Maximum funding on new school formula
		When at full capacity		When on new school policy			
3 FE (assumed to open as 1 FE, then expanding to 2 FE and 3 FE when sufficient demand)							
First FE	£755,000	210	95%	200	£698,300	£20,000	£718,300
Second FE	£1,490,000	420	90%	378	£1,323,000	£0	£1,323,000
Third FE	£2,225,000	630	85%	536	£1,874,300	£0	£1,874,300

Pre-opening / start-up costs – one-off

- 12) Funding will generally be made available for the 2 terms before opening, with headteacher costs funded at 1.0 FTE from January to August for a new school and 0.6 FTE for expanding schools. There is also funding for caretaking and support staff, together with an allowance for other costs such as recruitment and general resources. Expanded schools will receive lower funding levels than new schools due to the availability of an existing school infrastructure that can support this part of the process in a similar way that other expanded schools have.

Table 3: One-off pre-opening / start-up costs

School type	Provisional start-up costs		
	Jan - March	Apr - Aug	Total
Academy Primary School - stand alone	£34,500	£62,900	£97,400
Academy Primary School - satellite to existing school	£26,300	£0	£26,300
New Academy All Through School	£49,900	£160,400	£210,300
Expanded Maintained Primary School	£14,500	£40,800	£55,300

See Appendix 1 for full details.

Diseconomies of scale – on-going (fixed, lump sum payment)

- 13) Funding to be made available to support the senior management, general organisational structure and other costs that generally vary depending on the overall size of a school – forms of entry (FE) – and not the number of classes, and whether expanding or new. All of the primary schools are expected to be opening with an additional 1 FE and will be funded accordingly, with some then expanding to a 2 FE or 3 FE school when demand dictates, at which point additional resources will be required for a step up in organisational requirements, with opening of second FE triggering a payment at around 50% of the 1 FE amount, with the opening of a third FE triggering a payment at around 15% of the 1 FE amount.
- 14) For secondary and all through schools, the larger site dimensions result in proportionally higher fixed costs, and the calculation needs to be based on the final number of FE.

Table 4: Diseconomy funding

School type	Provisional diseconomies funding		
	1 FE	2 FE	3 FE
New Academy Primary School	£167,600	£249,400	£274,300
Expanded Maintained Primary School	£123,200	£192,800	£244,600
	Opening as secondary only	When all through *	
New Academy All Through School	£521,800	£605,600	

*To receive 50% of a new academy primary school amount to reflect economies of scale from an all through school.

See Appendix 2 for full details.

Day to Day expenses – on-going (fixed amount per agreed class)

- 15) The calculation of class funding will be the balancing amount after deducting the funding allocated for diseconomies of scale – on-going (fixed, lump sum payment) from the ‘Total if Full’ budget calculation set out in the Tables. Table 5 below illustrates how this would work for a primary school, with Table 6 showing the calculation for an all through school.

Table 5: Calculation of day to day expenses for a new primary school

FE	Total if full (as per Table 1)	Elements of the funding policy						Grand Total
		Rates	Lump sum (as per Table 4)	Class funding				
				No.	Amount per class (balance)	Total (balance)		
3 FE (assumed to open as 1 FE, then expanding to 2 FE and 3 FE when sufficient demand)								
First FE	£755,000	£20,000	£167,600	7	£81,060	£567,400	£755,000	
Second FE	£1,490,000	£20,000	£249,400	14	£93,310	£1,220,600	£1,490,000	
Third FE	£2,225,000	£20,000	£274,300	21	£101,440	£1,930,700	£2,225,000	

NB. For class funding, the first 7 classes are funded at the 1 FE school rate of £81,060, the next 7 at 2 FE school rate £93,310 and the final 7 at 3 FE school rate £101,440.

Table 6: Calculation of day to day expenses for a new all through school

FE	Total if full (as per para 10)	Elements of the funding policy						Grand Total
		Rates	Lump Sum (as per Table 4)	Class funding				
				No.	Amount per class (balance)	Total (balance)		
7 FE	£5,120,000	£80,000	£521,800	35	£129,090	£4,518,200	£5,120,000	

- 16) Appendix 3 shows a summary of the forecast pupil numbers and costs over the medium term which will be subject to change.

Post opening expenses – one-off (fixed amount per class required by BFC)

- 17) The post-opening revenue budget is intended to support new schools through the initial high costs of stocking up with general resources through a top up to the normal school budget allocation which is only considered sufficient to finance established schools where less consumables and smaller value items would generally be required as stock would be built up gradually over a number of years.
- 18) The policy uses the funding allocations that the DfE make to new free schools. One-off per pupil funding allocations are made in the value of £250 per primary aged pupil and £500 per secondary aged pupil. For each new class opened by a primary school as requested by the council would be paid at £7,500 for each class, at the start of the academic year it opens. A total of £52,000 would be paid to a 1 FE primary (7 classes). If a school chooses to open more classes that considered necessary by the council, they will not receive post opening expenses.
- 19) Secondary schools would receive £15,000 for each class required by the council, with a 7 FE school receiving £525,000 (35 classes).

One-off pre-opening /start-up costs

New Primary Academy School - stand alone

Expense / Income	Pay point	Basic Pay / cost	Full Year Total	FTE Jan - Mar	Cost Jan - Mar	FTE Apr - Aug	Cost June - Aug	Cost Apr - Aug	Full cost
Headteacher	L11	£52,335	£66,204	1.0	£16,551	1.0		£27,585	£44,136
Caretaker - Caretaker grade	BG - I17	£21,392	£25,670	0.0	£0	1.0		£6,418	£6,418
School Business Manager	BG - I32	£29,652	£35,583	0.4	£3,558	0.6		£8,896	£12,454
Governing body		£4,000	£4,000		£1,000			£1,667	£2,667
Professional costs (legal / finance)		£25,000	£25,000		£9,375			£15,625	£25,000
Recruitment / hospitality		£5,000	£5,000		£4,000			£2,083	£6,083
Staff induction / training		£5,000	£5,000		£0			£3,125	£3,125
Equipment / Resources (Revenue)		£15,000	£15,000		£0			£6,250	£6,250
Office Services		£3,000	£3,000		£0			£1,250	£1,250
Costs between handover and opening							£15,000	£15,000	£15,000
Sub - Total					£34,500		£15,000	£87,900	£122,400
Less DfE grant		-£25,000	-£25,000					-£25,000	-£25,000
Total					£34,500		£15,000	£62,900	£97,400

New Primary Academy School - satellite to parent school

Expense / Income	Pay point	Basic Pay / cost	Full Year Total	FTE Jan - Mar	Cost Jan - Mar	FTE Apr - Aug	Cost June - Aug	Cost Apr - Aug	Full cost
Professional staff costs			£17,100		£10,400			£8,500	£18,900
Caretaking Assistant			£1,800		£0			£1,800	£1,800
Administration / Reception			£2,950		£0			£2,950	£2,950
Professional costs (legal / finance)			£6,000		£0			£6,000	£6,000
Recruitment / hospitality			£7,620		£7,560			£60	£7,620
Staff induction / training			£1,600		£0			£1,600	£1,600
Equipment / Resources (Revenue)			£9,280		£5,180			£4,100	£9,280
Office Services			£3,150		£3,150			£0	£3,150
Sub - Total					£26,300		£0	£25,000	£51,300
Less DfE grant			-£25,000					-£25,000	-£25,000
Total					£26,300		£0	£0	£26,300

New All through Academy school

Expense / Income	Pay point	Basic Pay / cost	Full Year Total	FTE Jan - Mar	Cost Jan - Mar	FTE Apr - Aug	Cost June - Aug	Cost Apr - Aug	Full cost
- Headteacher	L26	£75,012	£94,890	1.0	£23,723	1.0		£39,538	£63,261
Site Controller - Caretaker grade	BG I - 17	£21,392	£25,670	0.0	£0	1.0		£6,418	£6,418
School Business Manager	BG - F44	£40,558	£48,670	0.6	£7,300	1.0		£20,279	£27,579
Administration	BG - I25	£23,708	£28,450	0.6	£4,267	1.0		£11,854	£16,121
Governing body		£5,000	£5,000		£1,250			£2,083	£3,333
Professional costs (legal / finance)		£25,000	£25,000		£9,375			£15,625	£25,000
Recruitment / hospitality		£25,000	£25,000		£4,000			£10,417	£14,417
Staff induction / training		£20,000	£20,000		£0			£12,500	£12,500
Equipment / Resources (Revenue)		£45,000	£45,000		£0			£18,750	£18,750
Office Services		£7,000	£7,000		£0			£2,917	£2,917
Costs between handover and opening							£45,000	£45,000	£45,000
Sub - Total					£49,900		£45,000	£185,400	£235,300
Less DfE Grant		-£25,000	-£25,000					-£25,000	-£25,000
Total					£49,900			£160,400	£210,300

Maintained Primary school - expanding

Expense / Income	Pay point	Basic Pay / cost	Full Year Total	FTE Jan - Mar	Cost Jan - Mar	FTE Apr - Aug	Cost June - Aug	Cost Apr - Aug	Full cost
- Headteacher	L11	£52,335	£66,204	0.6	£9,931	0.6		£16,551	£26,482
Caretaker - Caretaker grade	BG - I17	£21,392	£25,670	0.0	£0	0.5		£5,348	£5,348
School Business Manager	BG - I32	£29,652	£35,583	0.4	£3,558	0.6		£8,896	£12,454
Governing body		£4,000	£4,000		£1,000			£1,667	£2,667
Recruitment / hospitality		£5,000	£5,000		£0			£2,083	£2,083
Staff induction / training		£5,000	£5,000		£0			£3,125	£3,125
Equipment / Resources (Revenue)		£15,000	£5,000		£0			£2,083	£2,083
Office Services		£3,000	£2,600		£0			£1,083	£1,083
Total					£14,500			£40,800	£55,300

Diseconomy Funding – Primary Expanded

Primary - Expanded	Data Source	Pay point	Basic Pay	On-costs %	On-costs £'s	Full year total	FTE	Gross Pay	1 FE	2 FE	3 FE
									Cost Apr - Mar	Cost Apr - Mar	Cost Apr - Mar
Senior Leadership - non teaching time	Pay & Conditions	L2	£41,847	26.50%	£11,089	£52,936	0.2	£10,587	£10,587		
Senior Leadership - non teaching time	& HR	L5	£44,976	26.50%	£11,919	£56,895	0.4	£22,758		£22,758	
Senior Leadership - non teaching time		L8	£48,346	26.50%	£12,812	£61,158	0.8	£48,926			£48,926
Assistant Headteacher - addition over mainscale	Pay & Conditions	N/A							£0		
Assistant Headteacher - addition over mainscale	& HR	L3	£8,281	26.50%	£2,194	£10,475	1.0	£10,475		£10,475	
Assistant Headteacher - addition over mainscale		L6	£11,493	26.50%	£3,046	£14,539	1.0	£14,539			£14,539
Teaching, Learning, Responsibility Allowances	Pay & Conditions	TLR	£6,386	26.50%	£1,692	£8,078	1.0	£8,078	£8,078		
Teaching, Learning, Responsibility Allowances	& HR	TLR	£6,386	26.50%	£1,692	£8,078	2.0	£16,157		£16,157	
Teaching, Learning, Responsibility Allowances		TLR	£7,546	26.50%	£2,000	£9,546	2.0	£19,091			£19,091
SEN support from SEN Co - addition over mainscale	HR	L1	£6,268	26.50%	£1,661	£7,929	0.5	£3,965	£3,965		
SEN support from SEN Co - addition over mainscale		L2	£9,327	26.50%	£2,472	£11,799	0.8	£9,439		£9,439	
SEN support from SEN Co - addition over mainscale		L2	£9,327	26.50%	£2,472	£11,799	1.0	£11,799			£11,799
Caretaker - Caretaker grade	HR	BG I - 17	£19,344	20.00%	£3,869	£23,213	1.0	£23,213	£23,213	£23,213	
Site Controller	HR	BG - I22	£22,552	20.00%	£4,510	£27,062	1.0	£27,062			£27,062
Midday Supervision	HR		£4,500	20.00%	£900	£5,400	1.0	£5,400			£5,400
School Bursar/Business Manager	HR	BG - I32	£28,762	20.00%	£5,752	£34,514	0.8	£27,612	£27,612		
School Bursar/Business Manager	HR	BG - F38	£33,761	20.00%	£6,752	£40,513	1.0	£40,513		£40,513	
School Bursar/Business Manager	HR	BG - F42	£37,668	20.00%	£7,534	£45,202	1.0	£45,202			£45,202
Office support reception, clerical	HR	BG - K10	£15,008	20.00%	£3,002	£18,010	0.2	£3,602	£3,602		
Office support reception, clerical	HR	BG - K11	£15,008	20.00%	£3,002	£18,010	0.5	£9,005		£9,005	
Office support reception, clerical	HR	BG - K12	£15,008	20.00%	£3,002	£18,010	0.5	£9,005			£9,005
Administration	HR	BG - I22	£28,762	20.00%	£5,752	£34,514	0.2	£6,903	£6,903		
Administration	HR	BG - I22	£28,762	20.00%	£5,752	£34,514	0.7	£24,160		£24,160	
Administration	HR	BG - I22	£28,762	20.00%	£5,752	£34,514	0.8	£27,612			£27,612
Governing body	Estimate		£2,600			£2,600		£2,600	£2,600	£2,600	£2,600
Fixed contribution to Grounds Maintenance	Estimate		£5,000			£5,000		£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
Fixed contribution to Utilities	Estimate		£3,000			£3,000		£3,000	£3,000	£3,000	£3,000
Fixed contribution to split site	Estimate		£25,000			£25,000		£25,000	£25,000	£25,000	£25,000
Total Expanding Primary Diseconomy Funding									£119,600	£191,300	£244,200

Diseconomy Funding – Primary New

Primary - New	Data Source	Pay point	Basic Pay	On-costs %	On-costs £'s	Full year total	FTE	Gross Pay	1 FE	2 FE	3 FE
									Cost Apr - Mar	Cost Apr - Mar	Cost Apr - Mar
Headteacher - Leadership	Pay & Conditions	L9	£49,530	26.50%	£12,725	£62,255	1.0	£62,255	£62,255		
Headteacher - Leadership	& HR	L12	£53,241	26.50%	£14,109	£67,350	1.0	£67,350		£67,350	
Headteacher - Leadership		L15	£57,232	26.50%	£15,166	£72,398	1.0	£72,398			£72,398
Senior Leadership - non teaching time	Pay & Conditions	L2	£7,265	26.50%	£11,089	£18,354	1.0	£18,354	£18,354		
Senior Leadership - non teaching time	& HR	L5	£44,976	26.50%	£11,919	£56,895	0.5	£28,447		£28,447	
Senior Leadership - non teaching time		L8	£48,346	26.50%	£12,812	£61,158	0.5	£30,579			£30,579
Assistant Headteacher - addition over mainscale	Pay & Conditions	N/A		26.50%	£0	£0		£0	£0		
Assistant Headteacher - addition over mainscale	& HR	L3	£8,281	26.50%	£2,194	£10,475	1.0	£10,475		£10,475	
Assistant Headteacher - addition over mainscale		L6	£11,493	26.50%	£3,046	£14,539	1.0	£14,539			£14,539
Teaching, Learning, Responsibility Allowances	Pay & Conditions	TLR	£6,386	26.50%	£1,692	£8,078	1.0	£8,078	£8,078		
Teaching, Learning, Responsibility Allowances	& HR	TLR	£6,386	26.50%	£1,692	£8,078	2.0	£16,157		£16,157	
Teaching, Learning, Responsibility Allowances		TLR	£7,546	26.50%	£2,000	£9,546	2.0	£19,091			£19,091
SEN support from SEN Co - addition over mainscale	HR	L1	£6,268	26.50%	£1,661	£7,929	0.5	£3,965	£3,965		
SEN support from SEN Co - addition over mainscale	HR	L2	£9,327	26.50%	£2,472	£11,799	0.8	£9,439		£9,439	
SEN support from SEN Co - addition over mainscale	HR	L2	£9,327	26.50%	£2,472	£11,799	1.0	£11,799			£11,799
Caretaker - Caretaker grade	HR	BG I - 17	£19,344	20.00%	£3,869	£23,213	1.0	£23,213	£23,213	£23,213	
Site Controller	HR	BG - I22	£22,552	20.00%	£4,510	£27,062	1.0	£27,062			£27,062
Midday Supervision	HR		£4,500	20.00%	£900	£5,400	1.0	£5,400			£5,400
School Bursar/Business Manager	HR	BG - I32	£28,762	20.00%	£5,752	£34,514	0.8	£27,612	£27,612		
School Bursar/Business Manager	HR	BG - F38	£33,761	20.00%	£6,752	£40,513	1.0	£40,513		£40,513	
School Bursar/Business Manager	HR	BG - F42	£37,668	20.00%	£7,534	£45,202	1.0	£45,202			£45,202
Office support reception, clerical	HR	BG - K10	£15,008	20.00%	£3,002	£18,010	0.2	£3,602	£3,602		
Office support reception, clerical	HR	BG - K11	£15,008	20.00%	£3,002	£18,010	0.5	£9,005		£9,005	
Office support reception, clerical	HR	BG - K12	£15,008	20.00%	£3,002	£18,010	0.5	£9,005			£9,005
Administration	HR	BG - I22	£28,762	20.00%	£5,752	£34,514	0.2	£6,903	£6,903		
Administration	HR	BG - I22	£28,762	20.00%	£5,752	£34,514	0.7	£24,160		£24,160	
Administration	HR	BG - I22	£28,762	20.00%	£5,752	£34,514	0.8	£27,612			£27,612
Governing body	Estimate		£3,000			£3,000		£3,000	£3,000	£4,500	£3,000
Fixed contribution to Grounds Maintenance	Estimate		£5,000			£5,000		£5,000	£5,000	£8,000	£5,000
Fixed contribution to Utilities	Estimate		£3,000			£3,000		£3,000	£3,000	£6,240	£3,000
Total New Primary Diseconomy Funding									£165,000	£247,500	£273,700

Appendix 2

Diseconomy Funding – All Through New

All Through - New	Data Source	Pay point	Basic Pay	On-costs %	On-costs £'s	Full year total	FTE	Gross Pay	5 FE	6 FE	7 FE
									Cost Apr - Mar	Cost Apr - Mar	Cost Apr - Mar
Headteacher - Leadership	Pay &	L19	£57,232		£15,166	£72,398	1.0	£72,398	£72,398		
Headteacher - Leadership		L24	£71,105		£18,843	£89,948	1.0	£89,948		£89,948	
Headteacher - Leadership		L26	£74,618		£19,774	£94,392	1.0	£94,392			£94,392
Senior Leadership - non teaching time	Pay &	L8	£48,346		£12,812	£61,158	1.0	£61,158	£61,158		
Senior Leadership - non teaching time	Conditions	L19	£63,034		£16,704	£79,738	1.0	£79,738		£79,738	
Senior Leadership - non teaching time	& HR	L24	£71,105		£18,843	£89,948	1.0	£89,948			£89,948
Assistant Headteacher - addition over mainscale	Pay &	L6	£11,493		£3,046	£14,539	1.0	£14,539	£14,539		
Assistant Headteacher - 0.7 FTE non-teaching	Conditions	L10	£50,773		£13,455	£64,228	0.7	£44,959		£44,959	
Assistant Headteacher - 0.7 FTE non-teaching X 2	& HR	L13	£55,873		£14,806	£70,679	1.4	£98,951			£98,951
Teaching, Learning, Responsibility Allowances	Pay &	TLR	£7,546		£2,000	£9,546	3.0	£28,637	£28,637		
Teaching, Learning, Responsibility Allowances	Conditions	TLR	£7,546		£2,000	£9,546	4.0	£38,183		£38,183	
Teaching, Learning, Responsibility Allowances	& HR	TLR	£7,546		£2,000	£9,546	5.0	£47,728			£47,728
SEN support from SEN Co - addition over mainscale	HR	L2	£9,327		£2,472	£11,799	1.0	£11,799	£11,799		
SEN support from SEN Co - addition over mainscale	HR	L7	£12,706		£3,367	£16,073	1.0	£16,073		£16,073	
SEN support from SEN Co - addition over mainscale	HR	L9	£14,948		£3,961	£18,909	1.0	£18,909			£18,909
Caretaker - Caretaker grade	HR	BG I - 17	£19,344		£3,869	£23,213	1.0	£23,213	£23,213		£23,213
Site Controller	HR	BG - I22	£22,552		£4,510	£27,062	1.0	£27,062		£27,062	£27,062
Midday Supervision	HR		£4,500		£900	£5,400	1.0	£5,400	£5,400	£5,400	£5,400
School Bursar/Business Manager	HR	BG - F38	£33,761		£6,752	£40,513	1.0	£40,513	£40,513		
School Bursar/Business Manager	HR	BG - F42	£37,668		£7,534	£45,202	1.0	£45,202		£45,202	
School Bursar/Business Manager	HR	BG - F44	£39,557		£7,911	£47,468	1.0	£47,468			£47,468
Office support reception, clerical	HR	BG - K11	£15,008		£3,002	£18,010	1.0	£18,010	£18,010		
Office support reception, clerical	HR	BG - K12	£15,008		£3,002	£18,010	1.0	£18,010		£18,010	
Office support reception, clerical	HR	BG - K15	£17,069		£3,414	£20,483	1.0	£20,483			£20,483
Administration	HR	BG - I22	£20,861		£4,172	£25,033	1.0	£25,033	£25,033		
Administration	HR	BG - I23	£22,552		£4,510	£27,062	1.0	£27,062		£27,062	
Administration	HR	BG - I25	£22,878		£4,576	£27,454	1.0	£27,454			£27,454
Governing body	Estimate					£3,000		£3,000	£3,000	£3,000	£3,000
Fixed contribution to Grounds Maintenance	Estimate					£7,000		£7,000	£7,000	£7,000	£7,000
Fixed contribution to Utilities	Estimate					£4,000		£4,000	£4,000	£4,000	£4,000
Total New All Through Diseconomy Funding									£314,700	£405,600	£515,000

Forecast Revenue Impact from New / Expanding Schools

School and estimated opening date		Actuals to date			Estimates						= school full		
		2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	= school on SNFF	
Pupil data		Forecast pupil numbers - start of academic year										Max Places	Max NOR on policy
Warfield West	Sep-16	94	165	184	203	237	266	297	324	352	381	420	378
Warfield East	May not be required	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	420	378
Amen Corner South	May not be required	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	420	378
KGA Oakwood	Sep-19	0	0	0	58	136	170	190	201	210	209	210	200
Crowthorne (TRL site)	Sep-23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	144	180	420	378
KGA Binfield - Primary	Sep-19	0	0	0	28	58	119	148	183	229	249	420	378
KGA Binfield - Secondary	Sep-18	0	0	121	271	451	661	871	960	1,020	1,050	1,050	893
Total Forecast NOR		94	165	305	561	882	1,216	1,506	1,758	1,955	2,070	3,360	2,983
Financial data		Costs £k										Total still to fund	Total 2016-2026
Total growth in existing schools		348.0	85.0	385.0	365.0	400.0	400.0	400.0	400.0	400.0	400.0	2,765.0	3,583.0
Total Start up costs		42.1	117.0	91.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	14.5	40.8	0.0	0.0	80.3	330.4
Total Diseconomy Funding		250.9	338.6	814.4	1,200.7	1,311.8	1,151.0	983.0	811.9	321.4	214.6	5,994.4	7,398.3
Total post opening costs		0.0	0.0	0.0	75.0	37.5	30.0	22.5	45.0	30.0	30.0	270.0	270.0
Total cost - annual		641.0	540.6	1,290.4	1,665.7	1,749.3	1,581.0	1,420.0	1,297.7	751.4	644.6	9,109.7	11,581.7
Total cost - cumulative		641.0	1,181.6	2,472.0	1,665.7	3,415.0	4,996.0	6,416.0	7,713.7	8,465.1	9,109.7	9,109.7	11,581.7

Costed at 2018-19 prices

ESFA guidance on the operation of a Growth Fund (September 2019)

Growth funding

Growth funding is within local authorities' schools block NFF allocations.

167. For 2020 to 2021, it will be calculated using the same methodology as in 2019 to 2020, based on the growth in pupil numbers between the October 2018 and October 2019 censuses. This will be detailed in the NFF technical note published in October.

168. To support local authorities to plan ahead of their growth allocation in the DSG settlement, local authorities will also be sent information by the end of October allowing them to input their own forecast of pupil numbers in the October 2019 census and estimate the growth funding they can expect to receive in 2020 to 2021.

169. As it is within the schools block, a movement of funding from the schools formula into the growth fund would not be treated as a transfer between blocks. The schools forum still needs to agree the total growth fund.

170. As well as uplifting the per-pupil and new school rates used on the growth factor, the only difference to the methodology in 2020 to 2021 is the removal of the gains cap on growth funding allocations. This means local authorities will no longer see gains above 50% from the previous year scaled back.

171. Local authorities that received growth funding protection in 2019 to 2020 will continue to receive protection in 2020 to 2021, meaning the maximum reduction in growth funding for these local authorities will be set at -0.5% of their total DSG schools block allocation in 2019 to 2020.

172. The growth fund can only be used only to:

- support growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need
- support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation
- meet the costs of new schools

173. Local authorities are responsible for funding these growth needs for all schools in their area, for new and existing maintained schools and academies. Local authorities should fund all schools on the same criteria, discussed below. Where growth occurs in academies that are funded by ESFA on estimates, ESFA will use the pupil number adjustment process to ensure the academy is only funded for the growth once.

174. The costs of new schools will include the lead-in costs, for example to fund the appointment of staff and the purchase of any goods or services necessary in order to admit pupils. They will also include post start-up and diseconomy of scale costs. These pre and post start-up costs should be provided for academies where they are created to meet basic need.

175. ESFA will continue to fund start-up and diseconomy costs for new free schools where they are not being opened to meet the need for a new school as referred to in section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

176. The growth fund must not be used to support:

- schools in financial difficulty; any such support for maintained schools should be provided from a de-delegated contingency
- general growth due to popularity; this is managed through lagged funding

177. The growth fund may not be the most appropriate source of funding for growing schools and we expect local authorities to use varying pupil numbers where there is a more permanent and significant change to numbers, and where it's appropriate for the change to be reflected in the funding formula.

178. Local authorities will not need to submit a disapplication request for an increase to numbers where this is due to a change to the admission limit or a local reorganisation. Local authorities are required to produce criteria on which any growth funding is to be allocated, which must be agreed by the schools forum.

179. The schools forum must also be consulted on the total size of the growth fund from each phase, and should receive regular updates on the use of the funding.

180. ESFA will check the criteria for compliance with the 2018 (No. 2) Regulations. The criteria should provide a transparent and consistent basis for the allocation of funding, which may be different for each phase.

181. Criteria for allocating growth funds should contain clear objective trigger points for qualification, and a clear formula for calculating allocations with these criteria applying to all schools on the same basis. Compliant criteria would generally contain some of the features set out below:

- support where a school or academy has agreed with the authority to provide an extra class in order to meet basic need in the area (either as a bulge class or as an ongoing commitment)
- additional support where a school has extended its age range (the majority of funding would be paid through the funding formula where the local authority should seek a variation in pupil numbers)
- support where a school has temporarily increased its pupil admission numbers (PAN), by a minimum number of pupils, in agreement with the authority
- support for KS1 classes where overall pupil numbers exceed a multiple of 30, by a minimum number of pupils
- pre-opening costs, initial equipping allowance, or diseconomy of scale allowance, for new maintained schools and academies; including new academies where the school is opening in response to basic need

182. Methodologies for distributing funding could include:

- a lump sum payment with clear parameters for calculation (usually based on the estimated cost of making additional provision for a new class, or the estimated start-up costs)
- a per-pupil rate (usually based on AWPU, and reflecting the proportion of the year which is not funded within the school's budget share)
- a per-pupil rate, with a maximum ceiling

183. Where growth funding is payable to academies, the local authority should fund the increase for the period from the additional September intake through until the following August. Local authorities should enter the cost of growth funding for the April to August period, along with appropriate justification, on the recoupment tab of the APT so that the recoupment calculation can be adjusted accordingly.

184. ESFA will not make growth fund recoupment adjustments for diseconomy of scale, or start-up funding; local authorities should not enter these on the recoupment tab of the APT. This funding will continue to be met from the local authority's growth fund.

185. Where schools have agreed an expansion in pupil numbers with the local authority, the school should ensure that they understand the methodology for funding the increase and are content that the expansion is deliverable within the funding available.

186. Local authorities should report any unspent growth funding remaining at the year-end to the schools forum. Funding may be carried forward to the following funding period, as with any other centrally retained budget, and local authorities can choose to use it specifically for growth. Any overspent growth funding will form part of the overall DSG surplus or deficit balance.

**Proposed financing and associated budget for the Growth Fund
(Updated from that reported to 21 November Forum)**

	Primary £'000	Secondary £'000	Total 2020-21 £'000	November Forum £'000	Total Change £'000
<u>New schools:</u>					
Diseconomy costs	364.8	840.0	1,204.8	1,267.6	-62.8
	364.8	840.0	1,204.8	1,267.6	-62.8
<u>Retained Growth Fund</u>					
Start-up costs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Post opening costs	15.0	0.0	15.0	15.0	0.0
In-year pupil growth	150.0	150.0	300.0	277.0	23.0
KS1 classes	50.0	0.0	50.0	73.0	-23.0
	215.0	150.0	365.0	365.0	0.0
Total estimated costs	579.8	990.0	1,569.8	1,632.6	-62.8
<u>Financing:</u>					
BF council			247.8	307.6	-59.8
DSG balances			0.0	0.0	0.0
2020-21 DSG income - Growth Fund			797.0	800.0	-3.0
2020-21 DSG income - SNFF			525.0	525.0	0.0
Total estimated costs			1,569.8	1,632.6	-62.8
<u>Costs by school:</u>					
Warfield Woodhurst	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
KGA - Oakwood	258.6	0.0	258.6	255.8	2.8
KGA - Binfield	121.2	840.0	961.2	1,026.7	-65.6
Total estimated costs	379.8	840.0	1,219.8	1,282.6	-62.8

December 2019: Medium Term funding plan for meeting the cost of new schools

16 December 2019 Schools Forum Report		2019-20 Actual £m	2020-21 Provisional £m	2021-22 Estimate £m	2022-23 Estimate £m	4 year total £m
<u>New schools:</u>						
1	Start-up costs	0.026	0.000	0.015	0.041	0.082
2	Diseconomy costs	1.243	1.205	1.131	1.129	4.707
3	Post opening costs	0.075	0.015	0.015	0.023	0.128
		1.344	1.220	1.161	1.192	4.916
<u>Existing Schools:</u>						
4	In-year pupil growth / KS1 classes	0.365	0.350	0.400	0.400	1.515
5	Total estimated costs	1.709	1.570	1.561	1.592	6.431
6	Estimated funding from DfE	-0.779	-0.797	-0.645	-0.645	-2.866
7	Funding gap	0.930	0.773	0.916	0.947	3.565
<u>Proposed funding sources:</u>						
8	Use of Schools Budget balances	0.254	0.000	0.000	0.248	0.502
9	Contribution from BFC	0.338	0.248	0.316	0.099	1.000
10	SNFF allocation (DSG): <i>In year change</i>	0.338	0.187	0.075	0.000	
11	<i>Cumulative</i>	0.338	0.525	0.600	0.600	2.063
12	Total funding	0.930	0.773	0.916	0.947	3.565
13	4 year shortfall	3.565				
14	<i>In year % contribution from existing schools</i>	0.50%	0.20%	0.10%	0.00%	
15	<i>Cumulative % contribution from existing schools</i>	0.50%	0.70%	0.80%	0.80%	
16	<i>Cumulative % contribution last year estimate</i>	0.50%	0.80%	1.10%	1.10%	

Change from 21 November 2019 Schools Forum Report		2019-20 £m	2020-21 Provisional £m	2021-22 Estimate £m	2022-23 Estimate £m	4 year total £m
<u>New schools:</u>						
1	Start-up costs	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
2	Diseconomy costs	0.000	-0.063	-0.043	-0.032	-0.138
3	Post opening costs	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Total estimated costs	0.000	-0.063	-0.043	-0.032	-0.138
<u>Existing Schools:</u>						
4	In-year pupil growth	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
5	Total estimated costs	0.000	-0.063	-0.043	-0.032	-0.138
6	Estimated funding from DfE	0.000	0.003	0.002	0.002	0.007
7	Funding gap	0.000	-0.060	-0.041	-0.030	-0.131
<u>Proposed funding sources:</u>						
8	Use of Schools Budget balances	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.019	0.019
9	Contribution from BFC	0.000	-0.060	0.034	0.026	0.000
10	SNFF allocation (DSG): <i>In year change</i>	0.000	0.000	-0.075	0.000	
11	<i>Cumulative</i>	0.000	0.000	-0.075	-0.075	-0.150
12	Total funding		-0.060	-0.041	-0.030	-0.131
13	4 year shortfall	-0.131				
14	<i>In year % contribution from existing schools</i>	0.00%	0.00%	-0.10%	0.00%	
15	<i>Cumulative % contribution from existing schools</i>	0.00%	0.00%	-0.10%	-0.10%	

2020-21 KGA Binfield Proposed Budget

Detail	Pupils per class	Year Groups	Classes / pupils 1 April	Classes / pupils 1 Sept	Weighted Max NOR NOR	Max NOR NOR	Per pupil	Class funding	Lump sum	Rates (estimated)	Total
<u>Maximum funding through BF Funding Formula i.e. at full capacity</u>											
1 FE Primary school	30	7	7	7		210	£3,750		in per pupil amount	in below	£787,500
7 FE secondary school	30	5	35	35		1,050	£5,000		in per pupil amount	£20,000	£5,270,000
Maximum funding on new school funding policy						1,260				£20,000	£6,057,500
Average per pupil funding (excluding rates)											£4,791.67
<u>2020-21 funding for KGA Binfield:</u>											
1 FE Primary school	30	7	1	2				£88,560	£83,800	in below	£224,020
7 FE secondary school	30	5	9	15				£135,090	£521,800	£20,000	£2,230,425
Contribution to cost of new schools											-£17,041
Funding for 2020-21											£2,437,404
Average per pupil funding (excluding rates)						423					£5,721.67
<u>Allocation through the BF Funding Formula:</u>											
1 FE Primary school			29	59	47		£3,750			in below	£108,750
7 FE secondary school			271	451	376		£5,000			£20,000	£1,375,000
Total funding through normal operation for the BF Funding Formula						423					£1,483,750
<u>Diseconomy top-up</u>											
Difference											£953,654

Proposed amendment to the Funding Policy for New and Expanding Schools

New text is in bold and shaded i.e. **bold and shaded**, deleted text is bold and struck through i.e. ~~bold and struck through~~

- 11) To ensure new / expanding schools move quickly to the **BF Funding Formula SNFF and most likely to higher funding allocations**, once a school has admitted pupils to all the intended pre-16 year old year groups it will move to the BF Funding Formula. Should a school consider there are existing circumstances that make this approach inappropriate, then a case can be made to the Assistant Director responsible for schools. The primary considerations will be the needs of pupils throughout the borough and the financial impact on the school, where it will be expected that a school can operate on the BF Funding Formula when pupil numbers are:

- 1 At least 90% of capacity for 1 FE schools
- 2 At least 85% capacity for 2 FE schools
- 3 At least 80% capacity for 3 FE and above schools.

Funding thresholds are lower for larger schools which in general benefit from greater economies of scale.

For all through schools, separate calculations will be made for the primary and secondary phases.

An appeal to the Assistant Director's decision can be made to the Executive Director responsible for schools whose decision will be final.

~~Thresholds will be in place based on actual pupil capacity in a new school. 1 FE schools will move to the SNFF once pupil numbers reach 95% of capacity, 2 FE at 90% and 3 FE and above at 85%.~~

Note to the forum: the funding thresholds have been changed for reasons of funding equity as they are now considered to better reflect what would be expected of an established school.