

Report Title:	Demand for school places
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	No - Part I
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Stuart Carroll, Deputy Chairman of Cabinet, Children's Services, Education, Health, Mental Health, & Transformation
Meeting and Date:	Cabinet, 15 December 2022
Responsible Officer(s):	Kevin McDaniel, Executive Director of People Services
Wards affected:	All wards

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the latest, 2022, projections of demand for school places in the Royal Borough. It provides the latest analysis of demand for school places for Ascot, Datchet/Wraysbury, Maidenhead and Windsor, by each tier of schooling.

The projections continue to suggest that a new primary school may be needed in South East Maidenhead by September 2025, but further mainstream school places are not likely to be needed anywhere else in that period. In Windsor, the level of surplus (spare) places at Reception looks set to increase and action may be required to temporarily reduce capacity.

The recommendations in this report will help the borough achieve its corporate objective of 'Thriving Communities' by making it easier for children and young people to achieve their ambitions and fulfil their potential.

1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATION(S)

RECOMMENDATION: That Cabinet notes the report and:

- i) confirms the delegation of authority to the Executive Director of People Services, in consultation with the Deputy Chairman of Cabinet, Children's Services, Education, Health, Mental Health and Transformation, to start the free school competition process for a new primary school at Chiltern Road, having regard for the target of 5% surplus places, both locally and across Maidenhead as a whole.**
- ii) requests that measures be taken to reduce the likelihood of excessive surplus places in Windsor first schools.**

2. REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Background

2.1 The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead has a legal duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places to meet demand¹. This report provides:

- The 2022 projections for future demand for school places in the borough.
- An assessment of the options available to meet rising demand for school places.

The current school expansion programme

2.2 The Royal Borough is nearing completion of its secondary school expansion programme, providing up to 1,500 new secondary, middle and upper school places over the period 2017/18 to 2022/23.

2.3 The project to expand Windsor Girls' School is underway. Planning permission was granted in September 2022 for a new sixth form block, which will allow the school to permanently expand to 230 pupils per year group. The construction project is now underway.

2.4 Appendix A summarises the progress on the projects in the secondary school expansion programme.

The medium-term need for places in 2022 to 2026

2.5 Projections of future demand are usually done annually and reported to the Department for Education (DfE) in the School Capacity (SCAP) survey in July.

2.6 The projections take into account demographic data (including new housing) and changing parental preference.

2.7 The rapidly shifting demographic picture means that there is still uncertainty over the projections, particularly for first intake into schools at Reception. In summary:

- the birth rate remains low compared the peaks reached between 2006/07 and 2011/12 (who started Reception between September 2011 and September 2016).
- levels of net inward migration into the borough for children aged 0 to 4 have varied significantly in recent years. A generally higher level of net inward movement in the years leading up to 2018/19 was followed by a significant fall during the pandemic period. Whilst net inward migration has recovered since, it is still not at previous levels. The variation in the level of migration impacts heavily on the pupil projections.
- there is growing pressure from international arrivals, from Hong Kong, Ukraine and refugees placed in local hotels, as well as immigration more generally. This is impacting on all year groups.

2.8 There is more information about the changing birth rate, changes to net inward migration and international arrivals in Appendix B.

2.9 The projections and commentary are available on the borough's website at:

¹ Section 14, Education Act 1996.

- 2.10 The commentary is also provided as Appendix C to this report, available by electronic distribution only. The data is summarised in Tables 1 to 9 in this report. Please note that there may be minor changes in the numbers and wording below, particularly around numbers of children admitted from Ukraine, Hong Kong and as refugees seeking asylum. The figures in this report reflect the latest information.
- 2.11 The Royal Borough has a policy of ensuring that there is a surplus of approximately 5% on school places. In other words, there should be around 5% more school places than expected demand, particularly at school intake points (Reception for primary and first schools, Year 5 for middle schools, Year 7 for secondary schools and Year 9 for upper schools). This allows for the operation of parental choice, provides space for families who move into the area later on and also means that there are still enough places if demand is slightly higher than projected.

Table 1: 2022 projections and commentary for intakes into Ascot primary schools.

- White cells indicate a surplus of 5% or more.
- Grey cells indicate a surplus of between 0 and 4.9%.
- Black cells indicate a deficit of places.

		Actual for academic year starting in Sept.				Projected for academic year starting in Sept.				
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Number on roll in Reception:		134	132	138	122	125	104	126	131	130
Surplus/deficit	No.	+16	+18	+12	+28	+25	+46	+24	+19	+20
on published admissions numbers, including all temporary increases/decreases and agreed expansion schemes:	%	+11%	+12%	+8%	+19%	+16%	+30%	+16%	+13%	+13%

Commentary for Ascot primary schools

- 2.12 No further action is currently proposed at present for Ascot. The projections show that there will be enough places until 2026 (at least). Demand from residents within Ascot is projected to remain low, with a dip year expected for September 2023. The surplus of places is expected to remain well above the target of 5%.
- 2.13 Following the adoption of the Borough Local Plan, significant new housing is expected in the Ascot area. This will start to impact on demand towards the end of the projection period, and is included in the numbers given in Table 1. There is expected to be enough capacity within the projections period to meet this demand, but in the longer-term new primary provision may be needed.
- 2.14 Net inward migration for 0 to 4 year olds rose in the year to August 2021, compared to the previous year. Subsequently, primary schools in Ascot have taken a number of children from Ukraine and Hong Kong (15 across all year groups).
- 2.15 Although year groups in Ascot primary schools tend to grow in size as they move up from Reception to Year 6, there are still expected to be enough places in the schools to meet this demand during the projection period.
- 2.16 The projections are higher than those from 2021, reflecting a recovery in net inward migration. If this recovers to pre-pandemic levels then future Reception numbers may be slightly higher than projected.

Table 2: 2022 projections and commentary for intakes into Datchet and Wraysbury primary schools.

- White cells indicate a surplus of 5% or more.
- Grey cells indicate a surplus of between 0 and 4.9%.
- Black cells indicate a deficit of places.

		Actual for academic year starting in Sept.				Projected for academic year starting in Sept.				
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Number on roll in Reception:		88	89	88	84	74	86	72	93	92
Surplus/deficit	No.	+2	+1	+2	+6	+16	+4	+18	-3	-2
on published admissions numbers, including all temporary increases/decreases and agreed expansion schemes:	%	+2%	+1%	+2%	+7%	+18%	+4%	+21%	-3%	-2%

Commentary for Datchet and Wraysbury primary schools

- 2.17 No further action is currently proposed for Datchet/Wraysbury. Projections suggest another dip in demand in 2024 – this is likely to be lessened by movement from out-borough. Conversely, there are only expected to be a small number of spare Reception spaces available in 2023, and none in 2025 and 2026. It is expected that there will be enough capacity to meet demand from local residents. These projections include around 0.5 FE (15) out-borough pupils per year.
- 2.18 Relatively little new housing is planned for the Datchet and Wraysbury area during the next five years, so impact on demand for places will be minimal.
- 2.19 Net inward migration for 0 to 4 year olds for the year to August 2021 is slightly lower than in the previous year, but in line with averages from the pre-pandemic period.
- 2.20 In the 2021/22 academic year, primary schools in Datchet and Wraysbury took a very small number of children from Ukraine and Hong Kong. There has, nevertheless, been an unusual level of inward migration into the two schools since January 2022, adding an average of 2 children per year group. Nearly half of this has been international immigration (6), and half from elsewhere in the UK.
- 2.21 Most year groups are expected to continue to have capacity for families moving into the area during the projection period.
- 2.22 The projections are similar to those from 2021.

Table 3: 2022 projections and commentary for intakes into Maidenhead primary schools.

- White cells indicate a surplus of 5% or more.
- Grey cells indicate a surplus of between 0 and 4.9%.
- Black cells indicate a deficit of places.

		Actual for academic year starting September				Projected for academic year starting September				
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Number on roll in Reception:		862	886	897	872	871	836	794	839	837
Surplus/deficit	No.	+106	+85	+74	+100	+101	+136	+148	+103	+105
on published admissions numbers, including all temporary increases/decreases and agreed expansion schemes:	%	+11%	+9%	+8%	+10%	+10%	+14%	+16%	+11%	+11%

Commentary for Maidenhead primary schools

- 2.23 No immediate further action is proposed for Maidenhead, although the vacant primary school site on Chiltern Road, Maidenhead, is due to be refurbished to allow it to return to primary school use in due course. The projections for the town as a whole suggest that there will be enough school places overall to meet demand in the projection period. The surplus of places could increase to 16% surplus by September 2024. The projections include around 0.8 FE (24 children) of out-borough demand.
- 2.24 The figures include the loss, in September 2024, of 30 Reception places at Lowbrook Academy as it reverts to 30 places again due to limited accommodation.
- 2.25 The current overall projection for Reception masks significant variation within the town. Demand is expected to fall from the current levels in most parts of the town and surrounding areas, with the exception of south-east Maidenhead. Here, growth driven by new housing in and around the town centre is likely to lead to a significant local shortfall by September 2025. Conversely, a sharper fall in demand is expected in south-west Maidenhead, where lower numbers of births are leading to reduced cohort sizes for the September 2023, 2024 and 2025 Reception intakes (see Table 3a)
- 2.26 As noted above, new housing continues to add to demand for primary school places in the town. Recent and planned development is expected to add more than a form of entry to primary demand by September 2025. This demand is included within the figures given in Table 3.
- 2.27 Net inward migration for 0 to 4 year olds remained relatively low in the year to August 2021, compared to pre-pandemic levels. There has, however, been significant and unusual movement into the Maidenhead primary schools since the start of 2022, with net

growth of 135 children across Years R to 6. This is equivalent to 20 extra children per year group. Two-thirds of this movement has been international immigration (including 70 Ukrainian and refugee children accommodated in the Holiday Inn). Some upward adjustments have therefore been made to the projections to reflect this, although this is clearly an area of ongoing uncertainty.

- 2.28 The increased net inward migration has led to some shortfalls in places, particularly in what are now Years 5 and 6. Spare places are now increasingly concentrated in schools on the edges of Maidenhead or in the surrounding villages. Some schools have agreed to take additional children, and discussions will continue as required.
- 2.29 Although the 2022 projections are lower than those from 2021, it is likely that these may be too low if net inward migration is now returning to previous levels. This will be monitored closely. Paragraphs 2.68 to 2.73 provide an update on the previously agreed strategy for primary school places in Maidenhead.

Table 3a: Projected Year R surplus/deficits in Maidenhead, by subarea

Subarea	Actual				Projected				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Bisham and Cookham	+21	+20	+23	+11	+17	+25	+24	+28	+28
Central Maidenhead	+2	+4	0	+4	-5	+15	+19	+10	+11
Maidenhead Villages	+11	+9	+14	+30	+18	+18	+17	+24	+25
North East Maidenhead	+10	+7	+8	+28	+18	+20	+27	+15	+15
North West Maidenhead	+17	+9	+10	+17	+27	+27	+44	+34	+35
South East Maidenhead	+36	+28	0	-3	-3	-15	-4	-35	-37
South West Maidenhead	+15	+15	+20	+13	+34	+47	+19	+27	+28
Maidenhead total*	+106	+85	+74	+100	+101	+136	+148	+103	+105
Maidenhead % total surplus	11%	9%	8%	10%	10%	14%	16%	11%	11%

*The Maidenhead total is, in some cases, slightly different to the sum of the subarea projections, though not by more than 2.

2.30 The schools in each subarea are:

- Bisham and Cookham: Bisham, Cookham Rise, Cookham Dean, Holy Trinity (Cookham).
- Central Maidenhead: Boyne Hill, Larchfield, St Edmund Campion (and All Saints Junior).
- Maidenhead Villages: Burchetts Green; Knowl Hill; Waltham St Lawrence; White Waltham.
- North East Maidenhead: Riverside, St Luke's, St Mary's.
- North West Maidenhead: Alwyn; Furze Platt Federation (and Courthouse Junior).
- South East Maidenhead: Braywick Court; Holyport; Oldfield.
- South West Maidenhead: Lowbrook; Wessex; Woodlands Park.

Table 4: 2022 projections and commentary for intakes into Windsor first schools.

- White cells indicate a surplus of 5% or more.
- Grey cells indicate a surplus of between 0 and 4.9%.
- Black cells indicate a deficit of places.

		Actual for academic year starting September				Projected for academic year starting in Sept.				
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Number on roll in Reception:		478	502	488	457	446	431	433	417	414
Surplus/deficit	No.	+67	+43	+57	+73	+84	+99	+97	+113	+116
on published admissions numbers, including all temporary increases/decreases and agreed expansion schemes:	%	+12%	+8%	+10%	+14%	+16%	+19%	+18%	+21%	+22%

Commentary for Windsor first schools

- 2.31 Action may be required to temporarily reduce the number of first school places, to manage high projected surpluses. The projections suggest that demand for Reception places is set to continue falling, with the surplus of places potentially reaching 21% in September 2025. This is well above the 5% surplus place target. The projections include around 1.9 FE (57) out-borough children.
- 2.32 The figures above include the temporary reduction in places at Kings' Court First School from 45 to 30.
- 2.33 There is some variation in the projected demand across the town, with south and east Windsor likely to experience greater reductions in demand (on current levels) than the rest of the area (see Table 4a).
- 2.34 Following the adoption of the Borough Local Plan, some new housing is expected in the Windsor area. This will start to impact on demand towards the end of the projection period, and is included in the numbers given in Table 4. There is expected to be enough capacity within the projections period to meet this demand, but in the longer-term new first school provision may be needed.
- 2.35 Net inward migration for 0 to 4 year olds remained negative in the year to August 2021, contrasting with pre-pandemic growth. There has been some relatively unusual movement into the Windsor first schools since the start of 2022, adding an average of 2 extra children per year group. A third of this of these movement has been international immigration (including 15 Ukrainian children). A minor upward adjustment has been made to the projections to reflect this.
- 2.36 The 2022 projections are lower than those from 2021 projections, due to continued low net inward migration.

Table 4a: Projected Year R surplus/deficits in Windsor, by subarea

Subarea	Actual				Projected				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
East Windsor	+4	+3	+5	+7	+19	+27	+13	+29	+30
Eton	+18	+19	+15	+13	+17	+13	+18	+11	+12
Windsor North	+11	+5	+11	+26	+14	+22	+30	+22	+23
Windsor South	+31	+8	+5	+25	+26	+28	+35	+34	+35
Windsor Villages	+6	+9	+21	+5	+4	+5	+4	+8	+7
Windsor total	+67	+43	+57	+73	+84	+99	+97	+113	+116
Windsor % total surplus	+12%	+8%	10%	+14%	+16%	+19%	+18%	+21%	+22%

2.37 The schools in each subarea are:

- East Windsor: Oakfield; Queen Anne; Trinity St Stephen.
- Eton: Eton Porny, Eton Wick.
- Windsor North: Dedworth Green, Homer, St Edwards.
- Windsor South: Alexander; Clewer Green; Hilltop.
- Windsor Villages: Braywood, King's Court, The Royal.

Table 5: 2022 projections for intakes into Ascot secondary schools.

- White cells indicate a surplus of 5% or more.
- Grey cells indicate a surplus of between 0 and 4.9%.
- Black cells indicate a deficit of places.

		Actual for academic year starting Sept:				Projected for academic year starting September:					
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Number on roll in Year 7:		271	302	270	270	274	270	270	270	270	271
Surplus/deficit	No.	-1	-2	0	0	-4	0	0	0	0	-1
on published admissions numbers, including all temporary increases/decreases and agreed expansion schemes:	%			0%	0%		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
		-0%	-1%			-1%					

Commentary for Ascot secondary schools

- 2.38 No further action is currently planned for Ascot secondary school provision. The projections indicate that there should be enough places for Ascot and designated area residents in the projection period. There is not expected to be a surplus of places during the projection period as any empty places are usually filled by out-borough applicants. The projections include approximately 3 FE (90 pupils) of out-borough demand for 2022, and 4 FE (120 pupils subsequently). A significant part of this is from within the school's designated area, which covers parts of Bracknell Forest. A bulge in demand from Ascot has resulted in fewer out-borough pupils getting places this year.
- 2.39 Following the adoption of the Borough Local Plan, significant new housing is expected in the Ascot area. This is likely to eventually impact on secondary demand mainly through increased numbers transferring up from the primary schools. It is expected that there will be enough secondary school capacity to meet this demand during the projections period, but more spaces may be needed in the longer-term.
- 2.40 Charters School has taken a small number of children from Ukraine and Hong Kong (8) since September 2021.
- 2.41 The 2022 projections are in line with those from 2021.

Table 6: 2022 projections for intakes into Datchet and Wraysbury secondary schools.

- White cells indicate a surplus of 5% or more.
- Grey cells indicate a surplus of between 0 and 4.9%.
- Black cells indicate a deficit of places.

		Actual for academic year starting Sept:				Projected for academic year starting September:					
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Number on roll in Year 7:		96	90	119	121	121	115	122	120	123	123
Surplus/deficit	No.	+14	+20	+1	-1	-1	+5	-2	0	-3	-3
on published admissions numbers, including all temporary increases/decreases and agreed expansion schemes:	%	+13%	+18%				+4%		0%		
				-1%	-1%	-1%		-2%		-2%	-2%

Commentary for Datchet and Wraysbury secondary schools

- 2.42 No further action is currently planned for Datchet and Wraysbury secondary provision. The projections indicate that there should be enough places in the area for the projection period, particularly for Datchet and Wraysbury residents. There is projected to be little or no surplus for the projections period. The projections include approximately 2.7 FE of out-borough demand, which is an increase on previous years and a reflection of the school’s increased popularity. A significant part of the school’s designated area covers Slough.
- 2.43 Around 0.9 FE (26 pupils) resident in Datchet and Wraysbury indicate a preference for one or more selective schools on average, and around two-thirds are successful as at National Offer Day.
- 2.44 Relatively little new housing is planned for the Datchet and Wraysbury area during the next five years, so impact on demand for places will be minimal.
- 2.45 There has been no known movement of children from Ukraine or Hong Kong into Churchmead School; however, it is possible that some of the refugees placed into a hotel in Datchet are of secondary school age, and may require a place.
- 2.46 The 2022 projections slightly higher than those from 2021. The projections assume that recent trends in the numbers of out-borough children attending Churchmead, and Datchet & Wraysbury residents attending out-borough schools, will continue. Slough Borough Council have been asked for an update on the latest secondary demand in East Slough and Langley – there are indications that demand for Churchmead from Slough residents is increasing.

2.47 Churchmead School hopes to start offering sixth form places from September 2023, subject to take-up from the current Year 11.

Table 7: 2022 projections for intakes into Maidenhead secondary schools.

- White cells indicate a surplus of 5% or more.
- Grey cells indicate a surplus of between 0 and 4.9%.
- **Black cells** indicate a deficit of places.

		Actual for academic year starting Sept:				Projected for academic year starting September:					
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Number on roll in Year 7:		921	954	988	933	959	1,018	959	934	937	952
Surplus/deficit	No.	+87	+63	+76	+131	+105	+46	+105	+130	+127	+112
on published admissions numbers, including all temporary increases/decreases and agreed expansion schemes.	%	+9%	+6%	+7%	+12%	+10%	+4%	+10%	+12%	+12%	+11%

Commentary for Maidenhead secondary schools

- 2.48 No further action is currently proposed for Maidenhead secondary schools. The projections show that there will be enough places to meet demand during the period to 2027. Although the surplus of places will be below 5% in September 2023, the number of pupils attending from out-borough means there is scope to address more local demand by taking fewer out-borough children, through the normal operation of the school admissions criteria.
- 2.49 The projections include approximately 7.3 FE last year, above last year, but in line with long-term averages.
- 2.50 The number of Maidenhead resident children taking up selective school places in neighbouring local authorities remains high by historical standards, at nearly 5.0 FE (143) for September 2022. This compares to a 2010 to 2017 average of 90. Three-quarters of applicants were successful as at National Offer Day.
- 2.51 New housing continues to add to demand for primary school places in the town. This is likely to eventually impact on secondary demand mainly through increased numbers transferring up from the primary schools. It is expected that there will be enough secondary school capacity to meet this demand during the projections period, but more spaces may be needed in the longer-term.
- 2.52 Secondary schools in Maidenhead have taken 37 refugee children from Ukraine and other locations since September 2021. Other international immigration, including from Hong Kong, has also contributed to growth in secondary school numbers over the last twelve months. There remains capacity for families moving into the area.
- 2.53 The 2022 projections are higher than those from 2021, reflecting a return to the long-term average of out-borough pupil numbers.

Table 8: 2022 projections for intakes into Windsor middle schools.

- White cells indicate a surplus of 5% or more.
- Grey cells indicate a surplus of between 0 and 4.9%.
- Black cells indicate a deficit of places.

		Actual for academic year starting Sept:				Projected for academic year starting September:					
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Number on roll in Year 5:		473	494	467	482	488	461	456	458	437	413
Surplus/deficit	No.	+37	+46	+73	+58	+52	+79	+84	+82	+103	+127
on published admissions numbers, including all temporary increases/decreases and agreed expansion schemes:	%	+7%	+9%	+14%	+11%	+10%	+15%	+16%	+15%	+19%	+24%

Commentary for Windsor middle schools

- 2.54 No further action is proposed for Windsor middle schools, although temporary reductions in capacity may be required towards the end of the projections period. The projections show that there will be enough places to meet demand during the period to 2027. The surplus of places will be well above the 5% target, potentially rising to 24% by September 2027. The projections include around 1.5 FE (45 pupils) of out-borough demand. Most of these children will have transferred up from the first schools. A further 1.0 FE (30 children) come from Datchet/Wraysbury), half of whom are on roll in a first school.
- 2.55 On average, around 1.5 FE (43 pupils) resident in Windsor indicate a preference for one or more selective schools, and 56% are successful (on average). This movement means that middle schools lose some children at the end of Year 6.
- 2.56 Following the adoption of the Borough Local Plan, some new housing is expected in the Windsor area. This is likely to eventually impact on middle demand mainly through increased numbers transferring up from the first schools. It is expected that there will be enough middle school capacity to meet this demand during the projections period, but more spaces may be needed in the longer-term.
- 2.57 Middle schools in Windsor have taken a small number of children (9) from Ukraine and Hong Kong since September 2021.
- 2.58 It is expected that there will remain enough middle school places for families moving into the area.
- 2.59 The 2022 projections are slightly higher than those from last year, reflecting an increased proportion of residents choosing a Windsor middle school at the end of Year 4.

Table 9: 2022 projections for intakes into Windsor upper schools.

- White cells indicate a surplus of 5% or more.
- Grey cells indicate a surplus of between 0 and 4.9%.
- Black cells indicate a deficit of places.

		Actual for academic year starting Sept:				Projected for academic year starting September:					
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Number on roll in Year 9:		403	443	455	480	470	462	470	469	474	449
Surplus/deficit	No.	+95	+55	+43	+26	+24	+32	+24	+25	+45	+54
on published admissions numbers, including all temporary increases/decreases and agreed expansion schemes:	%	+19%	+11%	+9%	+5%	+5%	+6%	+5%	+5%	+4%	+9%

Commentary for Windsor upper schools

- 2.60 No further upper school places are likely to be needed in Windsor during the projection period. The projections show that the surplus of places will be relatively low during the projection period to 2026. This follows the approval of plans to expand Windsor Girls' School by 22 places per year group, to ensure that there are enough upper school places for girls. The accommodation for this expansion will be built in 2023.
- 2.61 The projections include approximately 2 FE (60 children) of out-borough demand, almost all of whom will already be in a borough middle school.
- 2.62 Following the adoption of the Borough Local Plan, some new housing is expected in the Windsor area. This is likely to eventually impact on upper school demand mainly through increased numbers transferring up from the first and middle schools. It is expected that there will be enough upper school capacity to meet this demand during the projections period, but more spaces may be needed in the longer-term.
- 2.63 Upper schools in Windsor have taken a small number of children (6) from Ukraine and Hong Kong since September 2021.
- 2.64 It is expected that there will remain enough upper school places for families moving into the area.
- 2.65 The 2022 projections are in line with those from last year.

2.66 In summary, based on the 2022 pupil projections:

- Ascot Primary – no new school places currently needed.
- Ascot Secondary – no new school places currently needed.
- Datchet/Wraysbury Primary – no new school places currently needed.
- Datchet/Wraysbury Secondary – no new school places currently needed.
- Maidenhead Primary – new places expected to be needed.
- Maidenhead Secondary – no new school places currently needed.
- Windsor First – temporary reductions in places advised.
- Windsor Middle – no new school places currently needed.
- Windsor Upper – no new school places currently needed.

Latest information about net inward migration

2.67 Initial analysis of data released in October 2022 suggests that net inward migration rates have increased again in the year to August 2022. There is more information about this in Appendix B. Initial rough work suggests that this does not yet change the conclusions given in paragraph 2.66 above.

Further actions for Maidenhead primary schools

2.68 Cabinet considered a report in November 2021 on the outcome of public consultation for more primary school provision in the Maidenhead area. This followed pupil projections showing increasing demand for primary school places in the town. As was noted in the December 2022 report, the evidence for that growth had since weakened significantly, as falls in net inward migration became apparent in the data supporting the projections.

2.69 Accordingly, Cabinet:

- gave in principle agreement to the opening of a primary free school on the unoccupied Chiltern Road site² in Maidenhead.
- requested a report on options for the temporary occupation of the Chiltern Road site, and its refurbishment, ahead of any free school opening.
- requested that demand be kept under review and that proposals considered in the public consultation for primary school expansions at Lowbrook Academy, St Luke's Church of England Primary School and St Mary's Catholic Primary School are brought back to Cabinet for consideration in Autumn 2022.
- delegated authority to the now Executive Director for People Services to begin the free school competition process for the Chiltern Road site, when required. A decision on whether to start this in time for a September 2025 opening will be required in 2023.
- delegated authority was also delegated to the now Executive Director for People Services to carry out further consultation on a possible rebuild of Larchfield Primary School as a 420 place school, if demand in central Maidenhead were to rise significantly.

2.70 Cabinet considered a report in August 2022 confirming the strategy for the Chiltern Road site. Design works for its refurbishment are now underway. The site is expected to be used by Manor Green School for a SEND Careers Hub until at least September 2025.

² Formerly Oldfield Primary School (before it moved to Bray Road) and then Forest Bridge School (before it moved to Braywick Park).

- 2.71 With regard to expansions at St Luke's Church of England Primary School, St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Larchfield Primary School & Nursery, it is proposed that these remain on hold for the present.
- 2.72 For Lowbrook Academy, the proposal here was to provide new accommodation so that the school could retain a permanent Published Admission Number (PAN) of 60. At present, its accommodation of only 11 classrooms means that the school can only have 60 pupils in four of its seven year groups. The other three year groups have only 30 pupils. The school is due to revert to a PAN of 30 in September 2024.
- 2.73 In view of continued falling demand in South West Maidenhead, and following discussions with the school, it has been agreed that there is currently no school place planning justification for the spaces. This will, of course, be kept under review, as the current situation can be difficult for the school to manage, and can cause issues with siblings wanting places at the school.

Development on the Maidenhead Golf course site

- 2.74 The Borough Local Plan made provision for new primary and secondary schools on the housing development planned for what is generally known as the Maidenhead Golf course site, and more formally called AL13, South West Maidenhead.
- 2.75 In school place planning terms, the site is currently within the Central Maidenhead planning area and is likely to become a planning area in its own right. Development of the site is likely to have only just started by 2025, so its impact is not yet registering in the pupil projections. The scale of the development means that the site is expected to need its own primary school (regardless of surplus places elsewhere in the town). New secondary school provision is likely to follow in due course, likely delayed until the 2030s (demand for secondary school places from new housing takes a while to materialise).
- 2.76 A separate report on the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) relating to AL13 South West Maidenhead is being considered by Cabinet in December.

Further actions for Windsor first schools

- 2.77 The significant projected level of surplus places in the Windsor first schools poses risks to schools in the town. Without a planned reduction in capacity, some schools may end up with large numbers of spare places, threatening their financial viability.
- 2.78 Officers have previously asked Windsor first schools to consider temporary reductions in their PANs, and it is proposed that this is now pursued further. Temporary reductions allow schools to reduce their intakes, but no accommodation will be removed. This will allow schools to expand again as demand rises.
- 2.79 The target for surplus places is 5%. In the context of the projected Windsor numbers this would mean reducing the number of Windsor Reception places by around 90 by September 2025. This level of reduction may be challenging, and initial efforts should focus on a temporary reduction of 30 to 60 places. School places should continue to be available where they are needed.

Options

Table 10: Options arising from this report

Option	Comments
<p>Confirms the delegation of authority to the Executive Director of People Services, in consultation with the Deputy Chairman of Cabinet, Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Health, Mental Health and Transformation, to start the free school competition process for a new primary school at Chiltern Road, having regard for the target of 5% surplus places, both locally and across Maidenhead as a whole.</p> <p>This is the recommended option.</p>	<p>This will allow the local authority to start the free school competition process for a new primary school on the Chiltern Road site, if and when demand is confirmed.</p>
<p>Requests that measures be taken to reduce the likelihood of excessive surplus places in Windsor first schools.</p> <p>This is the recommended option.</p>	<p>This will allow the borough to reduce the surplus places in Windsor first schools in a planned way, minimising the risk of financial instability for schools.</p>
<p>Do nothing.</p> <p>This is not the recommended option.</p>	<p>This will mean that the borough would risk delays in starting the competition process for a new free school on the Chiltern Road site. Simultaneously, high levels of surplus places could accumulate in Windsor first schools.</p>

3. KEY IMPLICATIONS

Outcome	Unmet	Met	Exceeded/ significantly exceeded	Date of delivery
Decision on competition process taken in time to allow September 2025 opening.	No decision on the need for a competition process is taken by September 2023.	A decision on the need for a competition process is taken by September 2023.	A decision on the need for a competition process is taken by June 2023.	1 st September 2023.
Temporary reductions in Windsor First School PANs are achieved.	0 PAN reduction	30 PAN reduction	60 PAN reduction	1 st September 2023

4. FINANCIAL DETAILS / VALUE FOR MONEY

4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Local authorities are under a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area. This is set out in the Education Act 1996, Section 14, subsections 1 and 2.

5.2 There is no legal duty to provide any particular level of surplus places.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Table 12: Impact of risk and mitigation

Risk	Level of uncontrolled risk	Controls	Level of controlled risk
Accuracy of pupil projections, with the risk that actual demand is significantly different to that expected. This appears to be a higher risk in recent years, due to Covid-19, and changing national and international migration.	High	Annual production of pupil projections to take account of the latest information. Inclusion of a surplus of places in planning, to provide capacity in the system in case projections are lower than actual demand. Monitoring of a wide range of sources of information to help make sense of emerging trends.	Medium
Decision on running a free school competition for the Chiltern Road site is delayed.	Medium	The 2023 projections process will start in Spring 2023. This should give sufficient information to make a judgement about the need for a new school for September 2025.	Low
No temporary reductions in PANs are agreed by Windsor first schools.	High	The local authority will carry out analysis to clarify the likely impact of reduced demand on each first school.	Medium.

7. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

7.1 Equalities. An EQIA is contained at Appendix D.

7.2 Climate change/sustainability. There are no climate change or sustainability implications arising directly from this report.

7.3 Data Protection/GDPR. There are no data protection or GDPR implications arising from this report.

8. CONSULTATION

8.1 No consultation has been carried out in relation to this report. The 2022 projections and analysis have been shared with schools.

9. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

9.1 Implementation date if not called in: A decision about whether a new school is needed on the Chiltern Road site will need to be taken at least two years ahead of opening. A decision in relation to September 2025 will be needed, therefore, by September 2023.

10. APPENDICES

10.1 This report is supported by three appendices:

- Appendix A – summary of secondary programme.
- Appendix B – summary of net inward migration, births data and arrivals from Hong Kong.
- Appendix C – SCAP commentary.
- Appendix D – EqIA.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

11.1 This report is supported by three background documents:

- [*Demand for school places*](#), Report to Cabinet, November 2021 (item 6b).
- [*Demand for new primary school places in Maidenhead*](#), Report to Cabinet, November 2021 (item 6c)
- [*Temporary use of Chiltern Road School Site – Manor Green SEND Careers Hub*](#), Report to Cabinet, August 2022 (item 6e)

12. CONSULTATION

Name of consultee	Post held	Date sent	Date returned
<i>Mandatory: Statutory Officers (or deputy)</i>			
Adele Taylor	Executive Director of Resources/S151 Officer	11/11/22	22/11/22
Emma Duncan	Director of Law, Strategy and Public Health / Monitoring Officer	11/11/22	16/11/22
<i>Deputies:</i>			
Andrew Vallance	Head of Finance (Deputy S151 Officer)		
Elaine Browne	Head of Law (Deputy Monitoring Officer)		
Karen Shepherd	Head of Governance (Deputy Monitoring Officer)	11/11/22	14/11/22
<i>Other consultees:</i>			
<i>Directors (where relevant)</i>			
Tony Reeves	Interim Chief Executive		
Andrew Durrant	Executive Director of Place		
Kevin McDaniel	Executive Director of People Services	10/11/22	10/11/22
Lin Ferguson	AfC Director of Children's Services		
<i>Heads of Service (where relevant)</i>			
	Head of		
	Head of		
	Head of		
<i>External (where relevant)</i>			
N/A			

Confirmation relevant Cabinet Member(s) consulted	Deputy Chairman of Cabinet, Children's Services, Education, Health, Mental Health and Transformation	Yes
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REPORT HISTORY

Decision type:	Urgency item?	To follow item?
Key decision: First entered into the Cabinet Forward Plan: 18/07/2022	No	No

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Report Author: Ben Wright, School Places and Capital Team Leader

Appendix A: Approved school expansion programme

Table A1: Approved school expansion programme sets out the current approved expansion programme.

Table A1: Approved school expansion programme

Area	School	Phase	Original PAN	New PAN	PAN increase No. /FE*	First year of new intake (Sept.)
Ascot	Charters School	1	240	270	+30 / +1.0	2017
Maidenhead	Cox Green School	1	176	206	+30 / +1.0	2017
Maidenhead	Furze Platt Senior School	1	193	223	+30 / +1.0	2017
Windsor	Dedworth Middle School	1	120	150	+30 / +1.0	2017
Windsor	The Windsor Boys' School	1	230	260	+30 / +1.0	2017
Windsor	Windsor Girls' School	1	178	208	+30 / +1.0	2017
Maidenhead	Furze Platt Senior School	2	193	253	+60 / +2.0	2018
Windsor	Dedworth Middle School	2	150	180	+30 / +1.0	2018
Windsor	St Peter's CE Middle	3	60	90	+30 / +1.0	2019
<i>Windsor</i>	<i>Windsor Girls' School</i>	4	208	230	+22 / +0.7	2022

*FE means Form of Entry. 1 FE = one class of 30 children per year group.

A further 6 places per year group were also been added at Newlands' Girls School. This scheme, funded largely by S106 contributions, was not part of the formal secondary expansion programme but nevertheless increased the number of places available. Cox Green School has also further increased its PAN to 210, adding a final six additional places per year group.

These schemes are proceeding as follows:

- The Windsor Boys' School completed.
- Windsor Girls' School completed.
- Charters School completed.
- Cox Green School completed.
- Newlands Girls' School completed.
- Dedworth Middle School completed.
- Furze Platt Senior School completed.
- St Peter's CE Middle School completed.
- Windsor Girls' School planning application approved in September. Due to start on site this winter. The school has already admitted additional pupils.