

Report Title:	Demand for school places
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	No - Part I
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Amy Tisi, Cabinet member for Children's Services, Education and Windsor
Meeting and Date:	Cabinet, 29 November 2023
Responsible Officer(s):	Lin Ferguson, Executive Director Children's Services and Education
Wards affected:	All wards

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the latest, 2023, projections of demand for school places in the Royal Borough.

The projections suggest that a bulge class may be needed in Datchet for September 2025, to address a one-off jump in demand for Reception places. The report considers whether the new primary school at Chiltern Road, Maidenhead, should open in September 2025, or if this can be delayed due to significant expected surplus of places in other Maidenhead primary schools. A shortage of places for older primary children in Maidenhead is highlighted, alongside a possible expansion of Churchmead School in Datchet. Conversely, Windsor is facing falling demand, and action is needed to manage the surplus of places in first and middle schools.

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) Supports discussions around a potential bulge class at Datchet St Mary's CE Primary School for September 2025.**
- ii) Delays the opening of a new primary school at Chiltern Road, Maidenhead, until at least September 2026, and requests that this be reconsidered in Autumn 2024.**
- iii) Requests that further places for junior age children are provided in Maidenhead using existing spare physical capacity.**
- iv) Requests that proposals for temporary reductions in Published Admission Numbers are agreed with Windsor first and middle schools, to reduce the number of projected surplus places in the town.**
- v) Requests that public consultation is carried out changes to the Royal Borough's school admissions arrangements for September 2025, as set out in paragraph 5.7.**

- vi) **Requests that officers work with Alexander First School and the Ministry of Defence on plans to rethink education and community provision on the Broom Farm Estate in Windsor.**
- vii) **Requests further investigation of the potential to expand Churchmead School, in consultation with neighbouring local authorities.**

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 2023 projections for future demand for school places in the borough.
- An assessment of the options available to meet rising and falling demand for school places in different parts of the borough.

The current school expansion programme

2.2 The Royal Borough has completed its secondary school expansion programme, providing up to 1,500 new secondary, middle and upper school places over the period 2017/18 to 2023/24.

2.3 The final project, to expand Windsor Girls' School, was completed in September 2023. This provided a new sixth form block, allowing the school to permanently expand to 230 pupils per year group.

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

The medium-term need for places in 2023 to 2027

2.5 Projections of future demand are 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 demographic picture continues to be complex, adding additional uncertainty into the projections. In summary:

- the birth rate remains low compared the peaks reached between 2006/07 and 2011/12 (who then 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. Net inward migration across the borough as a whole has now recovered and is similar to levels seen in the pre-pandemic period. The variation in the level of migration impacts heavily on the pupil projections.

¹ Section 14, Education Act 1996.

- there is continuing 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:
<https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/schools-and-education/school-organisation-places-and-planning/pupil-number-projections>
- 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.
- 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.
- 2.12 For 2023, the DfE also requested pupil projections for future special educational needs demand. This is an area of ongoing work and initial projections are expected in early 2024.

Table 1: 2023 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.				
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Number on roll in Reception:		132	138	122	123	115	138	133	124	127
Surplus/deficit	No.	+18	+12	+28	+27	+35	+12	+17	+26	+23
on published admissions numbers, including all temporary increases/decreases and agreed expansion schemes:	%	+12%	+8%	+19%	+18%	+24%	+8%	+11%	+18%	+16%

Commentary for Ascot primary schools

- 2.13 No further action is currently proposed at present for Ascot. The projections show that there will be enough places until 2027. Demand from residents within Ascot is projected to remain relatively low but will recover from the September 2023 dip. The surplus of places is expected to remain well above the target of 5%. The projections include around 0.8 (24) out-borough pupils at intake.
- 2.14 Following the adoption of the Borough Local Plan, significant new housing is expected in the Ascot area. Some large developments are already underway. 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.
- 2.15 Net inward migration for 0 to 4 year olds rose again in the year to August 2022², with an average 9% growth in cohort sizes. This is a significant recovery from the pandemic period, and close to the pre-pandemic average of 12% annual growth. Primary schools in Ascot have taken a small number of children from Ukraine and Hong Kong (less than 15).
- 2.16 Year groups in Ascot primary schools tend to grow in size as they move up from Reception to Year 6, and some year groups are now close to full. Continued high levels of net inward migration could lead to potential shortages of places at Key Stage 2, and consideration may, therefore, need to be given to a bulge class.
- 2.17 The projections are higher than those from 2021, reflecting a recovery in net inward migration. If this completely recovers to pre-pandemic levels then future Reception numbers may be slightly higher than projected.

² Latest available information for use in the 2023 pupil projections.

Table 2: 2023 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.				
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Number on roll in Reception:		89	88	84	75	84	79	107	78	79
Surplus/deficit	No.	+1	+2	+6	+16	+6	+11	-17	+12	+11
on published admissions numbers, including all temporary increases/decreases and agreed expansion schemes:	%	+1%	+2%	+7%	+18%	+7%	+12%		+14%	+12%
								-18%		

Commentary for Datchet and Wraysbury primary schools

- 2.18 A bulge class may be needed in Datchet and Wraysbury for the September 2025 intake. There are expected to be enough places to meet demand for most of the projections period, but high net inward migration appears to have resulted in a bulge in demand in 2025. This is concentrated in Datchet, rather than Wraysbury. These projections include around 0.5 FE (15) out-borough pupils at intake.
- 2.19 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.
- 2.20 Net inward migration for 0 to 4 year olds for the year to August 2022 was high, with 5% growth in cohort sizes, compared to a pre-pandemic average of little or no growth. Net inward migration was not significantly impacted during the pandemic period. Primary schools in Datchet and Wraysbury have taken a very small number (<5) of children from Ukraine and Hong Kong.
- 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 slightly higher than those from 2022, but with the effect of net inward migration increasing the size of the bulge in demand expected for September 2025. Paragraphs 2.73 to 2.77 set out the next steps for primary provision in Datchet and Wraysbury.

Table 3: 2023 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				Projected				
		for academic year starting September				for academic year starting September				
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Number on roll in Reception:		890	898	876	875	861	836	866	812	821
Surplus/deficit	No.	+81	+73	+96	+97	+111	+106	+76	+130	+151
on published admissions numbers, including all temporary increases/decreases and agreed expansion schemes:	%	+8%	+8%	+10%	+10%	+11%	+11%	+8%	+14%	+16%

Commentary for Maidenhead primary schools

- 2.23 Action is likely to be required to provide more Reception places in South East Maidenhead, and to provide additional places for junior age groups. The projections for the town as a whole suggest that there will be enough school places at Reception to meet *overall* demand in the projection period. The surplus of places could increase to 16% surplus by September 2027. The projections include around 0.8 FE (24 children) of out-borough demand.
- 2.24 The figures include the loss, from September 2024, of 30 Reception places at Lowbrook Academy as it reverts to 30 places again due to limited accommodation. This is also reflected in Table 3a below (which shows projections for different parts of Maidenhead).
- 2.25 The current overall projection for Reception masks significant variation within the town. Whilst most parts of Maidenhead are expected to experience static or falling demand, South East Maidenhead continues to grow, leading to potential shortages of places locally. Conversely, a sharper fall in demand is expected in south-west Maidenhead, where lower numbers of births are leading to reduced cohort sizes for future intakes (see Table 3a).
- 2.26 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 2026. This demand is included within the figures given in Table 3a.
- 2.27 Having dropped during the pandemic period, net inward migration for 0 to 4 year olds has now increased significantly, with cohorts growing by 7% on average in the year to August 2022. This compares to a pre-pandemic average of 5%. Part of this is due to international migration – primary schools in Maidenhead have 40+ children on roll from Ukraine and Hong Kong, a similar number of

refugee children (currently accommodated at the Holiday Inn). In addition, primary schools have more than 120 children on roll who have arrived from other international locations since September 2021.

- 2.28 The increased net inward migration has led to some shortfalls in places, particularly in junior year groups. Spare places are now increasingly concentrated in schools on the edges of Maidenhead or in the surrounding villages.
- 2.29 The 2023 projections are higher than those from 2022, due to higher net inward migration. Paragraphs 2.78 to 2.106 set out the next steps for primary provision in Maidenhead.

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

Subarea	Actual				Projected				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Bisham and Cookham	+21	+23	+11	+18	+26	+24	+17	+38	+37
Central Maidenhead	+3	0	+4	+4	+1	+9	-1	+9	+6
Maidenhead Villages	+7	+12	+30	+26	+20	+21	+26	+26	+25
North East Maidenhead	+5	+8	+26	+18	+27	+28	+23	+31	+30
North West Maidenhead	+9	+10	+16	+17	+2	+11	+7	+21	+21
South East Maidenhead	+28	+0	-3	0	+1	-1	-20	-22	-24
South West Maidenhead	+9	+20	+12	+14	+34	+4	+12	+14	+44
Maidenhead total*	+81	+73	+96	+97	+112	+96	+64	+117	+138
Maidenhead % total surplus	+8.3	+7.5	+9.9	+10.0	+11.5	+10.2	+6.8	+12.4	+14.2

*The Maidenhead total given in Table 3 is, in some cases, slightly different to the sum of the subarea projections.

- 2.30 Note that the projections used for Table 3a are based on existing trends to 2022, then adjusted to reflect the movement of pupils from one subarea to another due to lack of places in 2023 and/or parental preference. This means that these projections do not necessarily fully reflect underlying demand locally.
- 2.31 The schools in each subarea are:
- Bisham and Cookham: Bisham, Cookham Dean, Cookham Rise, 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: 2023 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.				
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Number on roll in Reception:		503	490	458	454	462	462	437	424	420
Surplus/deficit	No.	+42	+55	+72	+76	+68	+68	+93	+106	+110
on published admissions numbers, including all temporary increases/decreases and agreed expansion schemes:	%	+8%	+10%	+14%	+14%	+13%	+13%	+18%	+20%	+21%

Commentary for Windsor first schools

- 2.32 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 18% by September 2025. This is well above the 5% surplus place target. The projections include around 1.9 FE (57) out-borough children.
- 2.33 The figures above include the temporary reduction in places at Kings’ Court First School from 45 to 30.
- 2.34 There is some variation in the projected demand across the town, with Windsor North and Windsor South likely to experience greater reductions in demand (on current levels) than the rest of the area (see Table 4a).
- 2.35 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.
- 2.36 Net inward migration for 0 to 4 year olds in the year to August 2022 was roughly zero, contrasting with pre-pandemic annual growth of 2%. Net inward migration is expected to rise in Windsor but is likely to remain below levels in other parts of the borough. First schools in Windsor have taken a small number of children from Ukraine and Hong Kong (<10). Other international migration into Windsor schools is also relatively low.
- 2.37 The 2023 projections are higher than those from 2022 projections, due to the slight recovery in net inward migration. Paragraphs 2.107 to 2.116 set out the next steps for first school provision in Windsor.

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

Subarea	Actual				Projected				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
East Windsor	+3	+5	+7	+4	+6	-5	+16	+13	+14
Eton	+18	+15	+13	-3	+3	+5	+4	+10	+10
Windsor North	+5	+10	+23	+26	+20	+27	+23	+33	+32
Windsor South	+8	+5	+24	+30	+29	+34	+32	+40	+40
Windsor Villages	+8	+20	+5	+6	+11	+6	+12	+10	+9
Windsor total	+42	+55	+72	+76	+68	+68	+88	+105	+105
Windsor % total surplus	+7.7	+10.1	+13.6	+14.3	+12.8	+12.9	+17.6	+20.1	+20.8

*The Windsor total given in Table 4 is, in some cases, slightly different to the sum of the subarea projections.

2.38 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: 2023 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:					
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Number on roll in Year 7:		302	270	270	270	270	270	270	270	270	270
Surplus/deficit	No.	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
on published admissions numbers, including all temporary increases/decreases and agreed expansion schemes:			0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	%	-1%									

Commentary for Ascot secondary schools

- 2.39 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 4 FE (120 pupils) of out-borough demand. A significant part of this is from within the school’s designated area, which covers parts of Bracknell Forest.
- 2.40 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.
- 2.41 Charters School has taken a small number of children from Ukraine and Hong Kong (<10) since September 2021.
- 2.42 The 2023 projections are in line with those from 2022.

Table 6: 2023 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				Projected					
		for academic year starting Sept:				for academic year starting September:					
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Number on roll in Year 7:		92	90	118	120	125	123	124	129	126	127
Surplus/deficit	No.	+18	+30	+2	0	-5	-3	-4	-9	-6	-7
on published admissions numbers, including all temporary increases/decreases and agreed expansion schemes:	%	+16%	+25%	+2%	0%	-4%	-2%	-3%	-7%	-5%	-6%

Commentary for Datchet and Wraysbury secondary schools

- 2.43 The projections indicate that there is likely to be a deficit of places over the projection period. Whilst there will be sufficient places for Datchet and Wraysbury residents who apply for Year 7 places on time, late and in-year applicants may find it more difficult to get a place. A significant part of the school’s designated area covers Slough, where demand for secondary school places had been falling. Recent high levels of net inward migration into the town mean, however, that demand is set to rise again. Further work is needed on how this will affect Churchmead CE Secondary School. 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.
- 2.44 Around 0.7 FE (21 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.
- 2.45 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.
- 2.46 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.
- 2.47 The 2023 projections are higher than those from 2022. 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. Paragraphs 2.117 to 2.120 set out the next steps for secondary provision in Datchet and Wraysbury.
- 2.48 Churchmead School has opened a sixth form, with up to 40 places in September 2023, and 80 from September 2024.

Table 7: 2023 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:					
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Number on roll in Year 7:		954	988	928	974	1,019	966	935	950	970	973
Surplus/deficit	No.	+63	+76	+136	+90	+57	+116	+147	+132	+112	+109
on published admissions numbers, including all temporary increases/decreases and agreed expansion schemes.	%	+6%	+7%	+13%	+8%	+5%	+11%	+14%	+12%	+10%	+10%

Commentary for Maidenhead secondary schools

- 2.49 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 2028. The surplus of places is expected to be above the 5% target for the projections period. The projections include approximately 6.4 FE of out-borough children, which is below previous projections.
- 2.50 Five of the six secondary schools in the town are full for Year 7 in September 2023, despite there being 1,082 places, and only 972 applicants (as at National Offer Day). At the start of term, there remained a small number of girls without Year 7 places in a Maidenhead school (there still being spare places for boys at Desborough College).
- 2.51 This is due to an expected peak in the numbers transferring from primary schools, combined with a significant fall in the number of Maidenhead children taking up places in selective schools in neighbouring local authorities. This dropped from 143 in 2022 to 106 in 2023 (on National Offer Day), well below the longer-term average of 142.
- 2.52 In addition, almost 200 Year 7 places in Maidenhead have been taken by out-borough pupils in September 2023. Under the statutory School Admissions Code, children are considered for places at schools for which they have expressed a 'preference'. Three schools still had places after all Maidenhead residents who had expressed a preference for those schools had been considered. These schools then filled up on out-borough applicants, meaning that no spaces were available to offer to parents whose children had not been offered a place at any of their preferred schools. Excluding late applicants, all children without a place on National Offer Day would have been offered a Maidenhead school place, if they had indicated a preference at one or more of the three schools referred to above.
- 2.53 Changes have been made to the borough's admissions criteria to minimise the risk of this happening in future.

- 2.54 The reasons for the decline in selective school applications and allocations is not clear, but evidence suggest that proportionally fewer Maidenhead applicants were getting the required score in the 11+. There was also a peak in demand for secondary school places in neighbouring areas, which may have had an impact, alongside changes to the designated areas for selective schools in Wycombe. These projections assume that a lower proportion of borough residents will, in future, take up places in the selective sector. This increases the number of Maidenhead residents needing a school place in the town.
- 2.55 New housing continues to add to demand for school places in the town. This is expected to lead to increased numbers transferring up from the primary schools, as well as more in-year admissions.
- 2.56 Net inward migration is also having an impact. In the year to January 2023 all primary age cohorts grew in size, by an average of 2%. This contrasts with the longer-term trend, where primary schools in Maidenhead have tended to lose pupils as cohorts move up through the schools. Future transfer groups are, therefore, likely to be larger than previously predicted. Part of this is due to international migration – secondary schools in Maidenhead have 30+ children on roll from Ukraine and Hong Kong, and around 10 refugee children (currently accommodated at the Holiday Inn). In addition, the schools have more than 90 children on roll who have arrived from other international locations since September 2021.
- 2.57 Two of the secondary schools have reduced their places in Year 8, leaving very few available for pupils moving into Maidenhead.
- 2.58 Although it is expected that there will be enough secondary school capacity to meet this demand during the projections period, the current Year 7 is likely to remain difficult for in-year admissions. Overall, more spaces may be needed in the longer-term.
- 2.59 The 2023 projections are higher than those from 2022, reflecting the changes outlined above.

Table 8: 2023 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:					
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Number on roll in Year 5:		494	467	479	491	479	446	459	436	421	434
Surplus/deficit	No.	+46	+43	+61	+49	+61	+94	+81	+104	+119	+106
on published admissions numbers, including all temporary increases/decreases and agreed expansion schemes:	%	+9%	+8%	+11%	+9%	+11%	+17%	+15%	+19%	+22%	+20%

Commentary for Windsor middle schools

- 2.60 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 2028. The surplus of places will be well above the 5% target, potentially rising to 22% by September 2027. The projections include around 1.9 FE (57 pupils) of out-borough demand. This is higher than historically - most of these children will be transferring 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.
- 2.61 The number of Year 6 children in middle schools indicating a preference for one or more selective schools fell this year to 0.9 FE (26 pupils) and around two-thirds were successful. This movement means that middle schools lose some children at the end of Year 6.
- 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 middle demand mainly through increased numbers transferring up from the first schools. There will also be additional in-year admissions to the middle 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.
- 2.63 Middle schools in Windsor have taken a small number of children (<15) from Ukraine and Hong Kong since September 2021. There has also been some other international migration into the area, with around 15 children on roll who have moved in since September 2021.
- 2.64 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, as well as recovering net inward migration rates.

Table 9: 2023 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:					
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Number on roll in Year 9:		449	468	488	480	483	473	490	493	480	454
Surplus/deficit	No.	+49	+30	+10	+26	+11	+21	+4	+1	+14	+40
on published admissions numbers, including all temporary increases/decreases and agreed expansion schemes:	%	+10%	+6%	+2%	+5%	+2%	+4%	+1%	0%	+3%	+8%

Commentary for Windsor upper schools

- 2.65 No further upper school places are planned in Windsor during the projection period. The projections show that the surplus of places will be 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 has now been completed.
- 2.66 The projections include approximately 2.5 FE (75 children) of out-borough demand, which is an increase on last year and reflects an upward trend in out-borough demand. Around two-thirds of out-borough pupils are already on roll in a Windsor middle school.
- 2.67 Both upper schools received a significant number of late applications for September 2023, which could reflect increasing net inward migration into Windsor.
- 2.68 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.
- 2.69 Upper schools in Windsor have taken a small number of children (<10) from Ukraine and Hong Kong since September 2021. There has also been some other international migration into the area, with around 10 children on roll who have moved in since September 2021.
- 2.70 The 2023 projections are slightly higher than those from last year.

Further actions for school places in the borough

2.71 In summary, based on the 2023 pupil projections:

- **Ascot Primary** - no new school places currently planned, need to keep demand for junior places under review.
- **Datchet/Wraysbury Primary** - likely to need a bulge class for September 2025.
- **Maidenhead Primary** - new places expected to be needed in South East Maidenhead and as bulge classes in junior year groups.
- **Windsor First** - temporary reductions in places advised.
- **Ascot Secondary** - no new school places currently needed.
- **Datchet/Wraysbury Secondary** - further work on demand from out-borough feeder schools to be undertaken.
- **Maidenhead Secondary** - no new school places currently needed.
- **Windsor Middle** - temporary reductions in places advised.
- **Windsor Upper** - no new school places currently needed.

2.72 The following sections discuss the areas of further work in more detail.

Further actions for Datchet and Wraysbury primary schools

2.73 Datchet St Mary's C of E Primary Academy has previously taken a bulge class to meet local demand and has sufficient classroom space to do so again. There are, therefore, no capital implications in terms of meeting the potential bulge in demand.

2.74 The main concern for schools considering bulge classes is around the revenue funding, and particularly the funding for the additional teacher/teaching assistant(s). In response to the likely need for bulge classes, the Schools' Forum has considered and approved amendments to the funding arrangements intended to address these concerns.

2.75 There is more detail in Section 0 of this report.

2.76 The alternative to opening a bulge class is to provide home to school transport to those schools with places. These would be in Windsor, where there will be capacity. It is very likely that there would be home to school transport implications as Datchet is more than two miles from most of the Windsor schools. This would impact on the borough's revenue budget.

2.77 Discussions with Datchet St Marys C of E Primary School about a possible bulge class have now started. A final decision can be taken together with the school in early 2025 as applications for Reception places are made.

Further actions for Maidenhead primary schools (Reception intake)

- 2.78 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. Following revised demographic data, then showing falls in net inward migration as a result of the pandemic and associated lockdowns, school expansion plans were put on hold.
- 2.79 In principle support was, nevertheless, given to opening a free school on the unoccupied Chiltern Road site³ in Maidenhead to allow the borough to respond to future rising demand in South East Maidenhead.
- 2.80 In August 2022 Cabinet agreed to the remodelling and refurbishment of the Chiltern Road site, to enable it to be temporarily used as a SEND careers hub. This refurbishment has now been completed and the site is in use until at least July 2025 as a SEND careers hub run by Manor Green School.
- 2.81 In December 2022 Cabinet considered last year's pupil projections, which showed the first signs of a post-pandemic recovery in net inward migration and strong indications for a local shortfall of primary school places in South East Maidenhead from September 2025. Cabinet reconfirmed the 'in principle' support for a new school on the Chiltern Road site, having regard for the target of 5% surplus places, both locally and across Maidenhead as a whole.
- 2.82 The latest projections continue to show, in Table 3a, rising demand for primary school places in South East Maidenhead, with an expected local shortfall of 20 Reception places from September 2025. Almost all of the growth within the South East Maidenhead area is concentrated in the town centre locality, bound by the A308 on the west, the A4 on the north, Reform Road on the east, and extending through Braywick Park to the south.
- 2.83 This locality has significant new housing – 429 dwellings were constructed in the period 2020/21 to 2022/23, and a further 2,345 are planned for the next decade. The impact of this housing is taken into account in these projections and is driving the continued expected local growth in demand.
- 2.84 Some of the demand from South East Maidenhead is already being moved into neighbouring subareas. There are, however, still projected to be significant surpluses of Reception places in North East Maidenhead, and in North West and South West Maidenhead towards the end of the projection period. Central Maidenhead is expected to remain almost full.
- 2.85 As at Autumn 2023, there are 49 Reception places available at four schools in Maidenhead town, and 63 at four schools in the surrounding villages. Opening new primary provision in South East Maidenhead needs, therefore, to be balanced against retaining surpluses in neighbouring areas. Table 10 sets out the issues, with some additional commentary below.

³ Formerly Oldfield Primary School (before it moved to Bray Road) and then Forest Bridge School (before it moved to Braywick Park).

Table 10: Pros and cons of options for proceeding with new primary school provision on the Chiltern Road site

Option	Opening a new primary school on the Chiltern Road site in September 2025	Delay opening until at least September 2026
Pros:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides 30 places per year group close to main area of growth in Reception intakes. • Avoids children being taught outside their home area and requiring costly home to school transport. • The building is ready for occupation by a primary school, following significant investment in remodelling and refurbishment. • Additional places may, over time, also assist with issues with places in-year admissions in Maidenhead town (see paragraphs 2.100 to 2.106). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoids adding new primary school places at a time when Reception intakes across the area are low, leading to a higher surplus of places. • Helps reduce the risk of schools getting deficit revenue budgets, due to low numbers. • There are currently Reception places available in other schools in the town. The closest is Riverside Primary School, which has just been graded 'Good' by Ofsted. • Will allow the SEND Careers Hub to remain onsite for at least one more year. • The site will remain available for use as a primary school with a later opening date.
Cons:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will add to the overall surplus of places across the town. • Likely to increase the risk of some primary schools running deficit revenue budgets. • Would require the SEND Careers Hub to vacate the site and find new premises. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will result in South East Maidenhead residents being taught outside the immediate local area, and possibly much further afield in the village schools, although changes to school designated areas could avoid some of this. • Likely to result in higher home to school transport costs, impacting on the borough's revenue budget. • Doesn't provide any additional places to meeting ongoing shortages for in-year admissions in the town. • The Council has invested capital resources into the new primary provision, for the purposes of providing school places to meet the demand from South East Maidenhead. • If projected demand in South East Maidenhead is higher than anticipated the local shortage will be more acute.
Recommendation:	This is not the recommended option.	This is the recommended option, as it will minimise the level of surplus places, whilst keeping the option of opening the new primary school in future years.

- 2.86 Opening a primary school on the Chiltern Road site would provide another form of entry – 30 places per year group - close to the main area of growth (roughly 0.7 miles walk from town centre). This will ensure that there is enough primary school capacity to meet local demand from new housing, so that children can be taught in their local community.
- 2.87 If the school is not opened, then many children resident in South East Maidenhead will need to find places at schools in other parts of Maidenhead. There is only one primary school with spaces currently in Reception that is a similar distance from the town centre. This is Riverside Primary and Nursery School, which is 0.8 miles from the town centre.
- 2.88 The other schools in Maidenhead town with Reception places are St Mary's Catholic Primary (1.2 miles), (Wessex Primary (2.5 miles) and Woodlands Park (3.3 miles). The schools in the surrounding villages with space at Reception are generally even further away (Bisham Academy – 4.2 miles; Knowl Hill CE Primary – 5.0 miles; White Waltham CE Primary – 4.9 miles). Children could qualify to home to school transport, increasing demands on the borough's revenue budget.
- 2.89 Some of this could be addressed by amending the school designated areas in the centre of Maidenhead, to give residents in the area of growth priority for other local schools. This would minimise the risk of pupils having to travel further and would push other demand out towards schools with space.
- 2.90 Paragraphs 2.100 to 2.106 describe the shortage of places for available for in-year admissions in Maidenhead, particularly at Key Stage 2. The proposed new primary school could assist with this, though as the school will probably fill up from the bottom it will take seven years for a class to open for each year group.
- 2.91 There are, however, also a number of disadvantages to opening the new school in September 2025. Table 3 shows that the overall demand in Maidenhead for Reception places in September 2025 is expected to be similar to demand in September 2023, where there are currently 112 empty Reception places. Even taking into account the reduced Reception places available at Lowbrook this will leave an overall surplus of 106 empty Reception places (11%) in September 2025, and 14% in September 2026.
- 2.92 This would lead to schools having high numbers of empty places, potentially threatening their long-term financial viability and resulting in more schools with revenue deficits. If a school with a deficit becomes a sponsored academy, the deficit balance then becomes a revenue issue for the local authority.
- 2.93 This could potentially be managed by reducing intakes at other schools in the town, as part of a rebalancing of provision to address new patterns of demand. This is likely to be controversial and would require further discussions with schools.
- 2.94 Any decision to postpone to opening of a primary school on the Chiltern Road site can be revisited in the future. The lease to the SEND Careers Hub, run by Manor Green School, will continue to have a break clause allowing the borough to terminate the lease at a future date.

- 2.95 If the primary school is delayed and demand for Reception places is higher than anticipated there are schools with the physical capacity to take bulge classes (Riverside, Holyport Primary) at Reception.
- 2.96 Local residents have been kept informed of developments regarding the Chiltern Road site, and the borough will write to them again following any decision by Cabinet on the future use of the site.
- 2.97 The recommendation of this report is that new primary school places should be delayed until at least September 2026, to minimise the surplus of places across the town. The situation will need to be kept under review and should be considered by Cabinet again in Autumn 2024.
- 2.98 Additionally, a proposal has been discussed with Riverside Primary and Nursery School to extend their designated area south to cover more of the Maidenhead town centre. The southern boundary currently runs along the A4 from the Thames to Maidenhead/Bourne End railway line. The proposal would extend it southwards to also cover the area between the A4 and the main Reading/London railway line, with Frascati Way as the western boundary. This area includes a significant number of new dwellings and is currently in the designated area for Oldfield Primary School. This will continue to be the case – Oldfield Primary School’s designated area will not be changed as part of this proposal.
- 2.99 Any changes to Riverside’s designated area will need to be consulted on, and this report therefore recommends that consultation the amendments is carried out this winter, in accordance with the requirements of the School Admissions Code. The outcome of the consultation will be reported to Cabinet in February 2024 and, if approved, would be in place for September 2025. More details about this consultation are set out in paragraphs 5.3 to 5.7.

Further actions for Maidenhead primary schools (in-year admissions)

- 2.100 Table 11 shows the number of spare places available this Autumn in Maidenhead primary schools. There are very few spare places available in Year Groups 4, 5 and 6 in Maidenhead town. There are some places available in those year groups in primary schools outside Maidenhead.

Table 11: Spare places in Maidenhead primary schools, Autumn 2023

	Yr R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
Maidenhead Town	44	31	23	31	6	1	1
Maidenhead Villages	64	53	49	33	27	34	25
Total	108	84	72	64	33	35	26

- 2.101 This shortage is due to:

- relatively large cohorts still working their way through the primary year groups.
- high levels of net inward migration. Historically, the primary schools in Maidenhead have tended to lose children (to other local authorities and/or to the independent sector), as cohorts move up through the schools. In the last two years, however, there has been significant net inward movement, across all year groups.

- a reduction in the number of available places at some schools, as intakes to those schools have fallen. Three schools with junior year groups have reduced their intakes in recent years. A fourth school has not changed its intake but does have the physical capacity to take an additional year group.

2.102 The shortage of places in Years 4, 5 and 6 could be addressed by opening one or more ‘bulge’ classes. This is where a school takes an additional class in one year group. Other year groups are not affected, and the bulge class closes once the larger year group leaves school (in this case at the end of Year 6). Despite several requests from the local authority, none of the four schools with physical capacity has agreed to take a bulge class.

2.103 As set out in Table 12, two of the schools are academies, and so are in control of their own admissions. Two are community schools - the Royal Borough is the admissions authority and could choose to open bulge classes without the agreement of the schools.

Table 12: Spare places in Maidenhead primary schools, Autumn 2023

School	Type	Previous intake	Current intake
Maidenhead Town			
All Saints CE Junior	Academy	90	60
Courthouse Junior	Community	105	90
Riverside Primary	Community	60	60
Maidenhead Villages			
Holyport CE Primary	Academy	60	30

2.104 It is hoped that the changes to the Schools’ Growth Fund approved by the Schools’ Forum (see paragraph 2.74 and Section 4) will make it easier to encourage schools to take bulge classes and/or a small number of additional children in each junior class.

2.105 The alternative to providing additional places in schools within the town is to provide home to school transport to those schools with places in the villages outside Maidenhead. Most of the places are in schools that are five or more miles distant from Maidenhead town centre, which means that these children will be taught outside their local communities. Section 0 provides further details around the costs of providing this additional home to school transport.

2.106 This report recommends further discussions with Maidenhead schools to provide more junior places to meet the demand from families moving into the town, using existing physical capacity.

Further actions for Windsor First and Middle Schools

2.107 Although the expected fall in demand in Windsor is not as severe as projected in previous years, there are still going to be significant surpluses of places. This is likely to threaten the financial viability of some schools unless action is taken.

2.108 There have been some initial discussions around the potential for temporary reductions in Published Admission Numbers (PANs) at Windsor schools.

These will allow schools to reduce their intakes, but no accommodation will be removed. This will allow schools to expand again as demand rises.

- 2.109 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 at least 30 by September 2025 and 60 by September 2026. Windsor Year 5 places could be reduced by at least 30 in September 2025, and 60 by September 2026.
- 2.110 The number of first schools that could have their PAN reduced is relatively small, as schools could not be reduced below 30 places per year group. There is more flexibility around the middle schools. The potential reductions are set out in Table 13.
- 2.111 The borough would not, generally, support a reduction in PAN to a number that is not a multiple of 30. This is because this provides whole year group classes, avoiding the mixing of different year groups in one class. Whilst a number of schools do successfully operate this model, it tends to be unpopular with parents and staff if introduced.
- 2.112 If there is no agreement to reduce PANs, then the Royal Borough can, as the Admissions Authority, implement reductions at community schools, without the agreement of the school. In those cases, the governing body will have the right of appeal to the Office of the Schools' Adjudicator. For academies and Voluntary Aided schools, the Royal Borough can engage with the DfE/Diocesan Authorities to encourage reductions.

Table 13: Potential PAN reductions in Windsor schools

School	Type	Current PAN	Possible PAN
First Schools			
Clewer Green CE	Academy	60	30 or 45
Hilltop First	Community	45	30
Homer First	Community	45	30
Oakfield First	Academy	60	30 or 45
St Edward's Catholic	Voluntary Aided	60	30 or 45
Middle Schools			
Dedworth Middle	Academy	180	150 or 120
St Edward's RFE	Voluntary Aided	120	90
St Peter's CE Middle	Academy	90	60
Trevelyan	Academy	150	120

- 2.113 To date, no school (aside from King's Court First School) has agreed to a reduction in their PAN. This report recommends restarting these discussions, with the aim of agreeing temporary reductions for September 2025. Any that can be agreed for community or voluntary controlled schools can be included in the proposed consultation on admissions arrangements already recommended in this report (paragraph 2.99).
- 2.114 In the longer-term, Alexander First School has been working with the Ministry of Defence on a scheme that will consider the regeneration of the Broom Farm Estate in Windsor. Regeneration could potentially see a significant increase in

the number of dwellings on the site, the majority of which would be family housing.

2.115 This would also provide an opportunity to rethink the education and community provision within the estate. A rebuilt and possibly expanded school could include, for example, boarding provision in order to better serve families where the parent(s) are deployed elsewhere for a period.

2.116 This report recommends that the Royal Borough works with the school and the Ministry of Defence as these plans develop.

Further actions for Datchet and Wraysbury secondary schools

2.117 Churchmead School is full at Year 7 intake and has a waiting list in several year groups. The 2023 Year 7 was oversubscribed on first preferences, and the school want to explore expansion to up 150 places per year group.

2.118 At present, there are enough places at Churchmead to meet demand from residents of Datchet and Wraysbury who apply on time. There is, however, continued demand from Slough and Buckinghamshire – Churchmead’s ‘designated area’ covers part of Slough and Bucks, and the school formally serves ten out-borough feeder schools.

2.119 The recent opening of a sixth form at the school seems likely to further encourage local residents to attend. This could, in turn reduce the number of out-borough children attending, putting pressure on capacity in their home areas.

2.120 Discussions with Slough Borough Council and Buckinghamshire are underway to establish likely future demand from those areas, and whether this can be met within existing capacity. Options for potentially joint funding of an expansion could be explored.

Options

Table 14: Options arising from this report

Option	Comments
Supports discussions around a potential bulge class at Datchet St Mary’s CE Primary School for September 2025. This is the recommended option.	This will enable the school and local authority to prepare for a possible bulge class and take a final decision as applications for places are made in early 2025.
Delays the opening of a new primary school at Chiltern Road, Maidenhead, until at least September 2026, and requests that this be reconsidered in Autumn 2024. This is the recommended option.	This will keep the level of available places as at present, whilst retaining the option of opening the school in 2026.
Further places for junior age children are provided in Maidenhead using existing spare physical capacity. This is the recommended option.	More spaces are needed for this cohort of children in Maidenhead, who will otherwise need to be transported to available spaces in the surrounding village schools.
Proposals for temporary reductions in Published Admission Numbers (PANs)	Planned PAN reductions will help to minimise the number of

Option	Comments
<p>are agreed with Windsor first and middle schools, to reduce the number of projected surplus places in the town. This is the recommended option.</p>	<p>schools with high levels of surplus places that are financially unsustainable.</p>
<p>Requests that public consultation is carried out changes to the Royal Borough's school admissions arrangements for September 2025. This is the recommended option.</p>	<p>This will allow the borough to amend the school admissions arrangements, in line with the requirements of the School Admissions Code, to assist with the challenges laid out in this report.</p>
<p>That officers work with Alexander First School and the Ministry of Defence on plans to rethink education and community provision on the Broom Farm Estate in Windsor. This is the recommended option.</p>	<p>This is an opportunity to develop education provision for one of the more deprived communities in the borough.</p>
<p>Further investigation of the potential to expand Churchmead School, in consultation with neighbouring local authorities. This is the recommended option.</p>	<p>This is the next step in considering any expansion for the school.</p>
<p>Do nothing. This is not the recommended option.</p>	<p>The 'do nothing' option will mean that shortages and surpluses of places in different parts of the borough could become more acute.</p>

3. KEY IMPLICATIONS

Outcome	Unmet	Met	Exceeded/ significantly exceeded	Date of delivery
Enough places for Datchet and Wraysbury residents at Reception in September 2025.	1 or more Datchet/Wraysbury residents are left without a local school place for Reception in September 2025.	All Datchet/Wraysbury residents have a local school place for Reception in September 2025.	n/a	1 st September 2025
Enough places for Maidenhead residents at Reception in September 2025.	1 or more Maidenhead residents are left without a local school place for Reception in September 2025.	All Maidenhead residents have a local school place for Reception in September 2025.	n/a	1 st September 2025
Additional places for junior age children are created in Maidenhead.	No additional places for junior age children are created in Maidenhead.	Additional places for junior age children are created in Maidenhead.	n/a	31 st January 2024
Reduced PANs are agreed for Windsor first and middle schools.	PAN reductions are not agreed.	PAN reductions of 30 Reception and 30 Year 5 places are agreed for September 2025.	n/a	31 st January 2024
Admissions arrangements are amended.	Admissions arrangements are not amended.	Admissions arrangements are amended in 2024.	n/a	1 st April 2024
Development of education and community provision on Broom Farm Estate.	n/a	n/a	n/a	None
Consideration of expansion for Churchmead School.	n/a	n/a	n/a	31 st January 2024

4. FINANCIAL DETAILS / VALUE FOR MONEY

Capital

- 4.1 There are no capital implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

Revenue – Schools’ Growth Fund

- 4.2 The Schools’ Growth Fund, which is used to provide revenue support to expanding schools, is part of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Changes to this fund do not, therefore, directly impact on the borough’s revenue funding.
- 4.3 Changes to the DSG must be approved by the Schools’ Forum.
- 4.4 The borough has been considering changes to the Schools’ Growth Fund in response to the need for additional ‘bulge’ classes in Datchet and Wraysbury. Under previous ‘School Growth Fund’ arrangements schools got the full funding to run a bulge class for one year only. Revenue to support the additional teaching staff in subsequent years was expected to be generated by the additional pupil numbers reported in the Autumn school census.
- 4.5 Sufficient revenue funding was, however, only be generated if the bulge class was mostly full. This didn’t always happen, however, and led to some schools running deficit budgets.
- 4.6 A number of changes have been agreed, therefore, by the Schools’ Forum at their meeting on 16th November 2023. In summary, these are:
- Increase funding for growing schools (based on either the Age Weighted Pupil Unit or a lump sum) to comply with DfE minimum funding rules.
 - Bulge class revenue protection for 2nd year it is in place, and tapered funding for subsequent years.
 - Place funding for classes above the Published Admissions Number.
- 4.7 The Schools’ Growth Fund currently has sufficient funding to cover existing commitments and a number of additional bulge classes over the next few years.
- 4.8 It is hoped that this will make it more attractive for schools to open bulge classes and/or admit small numbers above their intakes.
- 4.9 Where school numbers are falling, especially in Windsor, it is proposed that schools should reduce their PANs. The school funding arrangements do not provide any mechanism for requiring schools to reduce PANs to avoid deficits. Schools are encouraged to take actions to control and reduce school deficits – one of which is to stabilise the school numbers and, where appropriate, reduce PANS. It is hoped, therefore, that the risk of falling into deficit due to low demand will encourage schools to reduce PANs where needed.
- ### Revenue – Home to school transport
- 4.10 The home to school transport revenue budget is directly funded by the council. Any increase, therefore, in home to school transport eligibility directly affects the council’s revenue.

- 4.11 If there are insufficient school places in Maidenhead or Datchet, it may become necessary to provide free home to school transport to the nearest school with places.
- 4.12 A market testing exercise carried out earlier this year indicated that a 16 seat minibus running from central Maidenhead to Knowl Hill or Bisham (where there are currently spaces in most year groups) would cost £34k per annum. A 30 seat coach would be £61k per annum. Costs from Datchet to Windsor would be similar, depending on exactly which schools had places available in September 2025.
- 4.13 There is, therefore, a clear risk of adding to the home to school transport costs quite significantly, if it continues to be difficult to place junior age children in Maidenhead schools, or if a bulge class is needed and not added at Datchet.
- 4.14 A similar risk arises from delaying the opening of a new primary school on the Chiltern Road site. This could be offset by redrawing designated areas to give residents of the growth areas in South East Maidenhead priority to other local schools. This would make it more likely they would get a school close to their home address.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Ensuring sufficient school places

- 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.

Making changes to school admissions arrangements

- 5.3 The School Admissions Code sets out how school admissions arrangements must be managed. The Royal Borough is the admissions authority for community and voluntary controlled schools. The Diocesan bodies are the admissions authorities for voluntary aided schools, whilst academy trusts carry out that function for their schools.
- 5.4 All admissions authorities are required to consult where they propose a decrease in the published admission number. Community and voluntary controlled schools can object to the Office of the Schools' Adjudicator if they don't agree with a proposed reduction in their PAN⁴.
- 5.5 Consultation must last for a minimum of 6 weeks and must take place between 1st October and 31st January. Any consultation taking place this winter would be in relation to the arrangements for September 2025⁵.
- 5.6 After this, there is the opportunity to seek an amendment to the admissions arrangements via the Office of the Schools Adjudicator.
- 5.7 This report recommends that consultation be carried out on:

⁴ [School Admissions Code](#), Page 9, Department for Education, September 2021.

⁵ [School Admissions Code](#), Page 18, Department for Education, September 2021.

- extending the designated area for Riverside Primary and Nursery School southwards to cover more of the town centre.
- reductions in Published Admission Numbers at Windsor community and voluntary controlled schools where there is agreement for the change.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Table 15: Impact of risk and mitigation

Threat or risk.	Impact with no mitigations in place or if all mitigations fail.	Likelihood of risk occurring with no mitigations in place.	Mitigations currently in place.	Mitigations proposed.	Impact of risk once all mitigations in place and working.	Likelihood of risk occurring with all mitigations in place.
There is a risk that the pupil projections will be significantly different to actual demand. This appears to be a higher risk in recent years, due to Covid-19, and changing national and international migration. This could result in current strategies being inadequate, leading to acute surpluses or shortages of places e.g. in South East Maidenhead.	Major	High	Produce pupil projections annually. Provide a surplus of places, so that there is capacity in the system. Monitor a wide range of sources of information to help make sense of emerging trends.	None further.	Major	Medium
There is a risk that schools don't agree to bulge classes or otherwise taking more pupils. This could result in shortages of places in Maidenhead and Datchet.	Major	High	None	Adoption of new Schools Growth Fund arrangements should make it more attractive to schools.	Major	Medium

Threat or risk.	Impact with no mitigations in place or if all mitigations fail.	Likelihood of risk occurring with no mitigations in place.	Mitigations currently in place.	Mitigations proposed.	Impact of risk once all mitigations in place and working.	Likelihood of risk occurring with all mitigations in place.
<p>There is a risk of increased home to school transport costs if more school places aren't provided as per the recommendations. This will increase the revenue cost to the council.</p> <p>The same risk also arises from not opening the new primary school at Chiltern Road in September 2025.</p>	Major	High	None.	<p>Providing more school places where they are required.</p> <p>Redrawing school designated area boundaries to increase the chances of children getting into a local school.</p>	Medium	Medium
<p>There is a risk that schools in Windsor won't agree to temporary reductions in PANs. This could lead to schools becoming financially unsustainable.</p>	Major	High	None.	<p>Reduce PANs at community schools without support from the school(s).</p> <p>Engage with the DfE/Diocesan Authorities to encourage PAN reductions.</p>	Low	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 2023 projections and analysis have been shared with schools.

9. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 9.1 Implementation date if not called in: immediate.

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 This report is supported by four appendices:
- Appendix A – summary of secondary programme.
 - Appendix B – summary of net inward migration, births data and arrivals from overseas.
 - 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)
 - [Demand for school places](#), Report to Cabinet, December 2022 (item 9).
 - [School Admissions Code](#), DfE, September 2021.

12. CONSULTATION

Name of consultee	Post held	Date sent	Date returned
<i>Mandatory: Statutory Officers (or deputy)</i>			
Elizabeth Griffiths	Executive Director of Resources/S151 Officer	11/10/23	
Elaine Browne	Deputy Director of Law & Governance & Monitoring Officer	11/10/23	01/11/23
<i>Deputies:</i>			
Andrew Vallance	Deputy Director of Finance & Deputy S151 Officer	11/10/23	01/11/23
Jane Cryer	Principal Lawyer & Deputy Monitoring Officer	11/10/23	
<i>Mandatory: Procurement Manager (or deputy) - if report requests approval to go to tender or award a contract</i>			
Lyn Hitchinson	Procurement Manager	11/10/23	11/10/23
<i>Mandatory: Data Protection Officer (or deputy) - if decision will result in processing of personal data; to advise on DPIA</i>			
Samantha Wootton	Data Protection Officer	11/10/23	
<i>Mandatory: Equalities Officer – to advise on EQiA, or agree an EQiA is not required</i>			
Ellen McManus-Fry	Equalities & Engagement Officer	11/10/23	
<i>Other consultees:</i>			
<i>Directors (where relevant)</i>			
Stephen Evans	Chief Executive	11/10/23	
Andrew Durrant	Executive Director of Place	11/10/23	
Kevin McDaniel	Executive Director of Adult Social Care & Health	11/10/23	
Lin Ferguson	Executive Director of Children's Services & Education	11/10/23	27/10/23
<i>Assistant Directors (where relevant)</i>			
	Assistant Director of		
	Assistant Director of		
	Assistant Director of		
<i>External (where relevant)</i>			
N/A			

Confirmation relevant Cabinet Member(s) consulted	Cabinet member for Children's Services, Education and Windsor	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

Report Author: Ben Wright, School Place Planning and Capital Programme
Manager

Appendix A: Approved school expansion programme

Approved school expansion programme sets out the final secondary school 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 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 were 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 completed.