

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel 5 January 2021
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Time 6.00 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Scrutiny

Venue Microsoft Teams Meeting

Membership

Chair Cllr Rita Potter (Lab)
Vice-chair Cllr Sohail Khan (Con)

Labour

Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur
 Cllr Beverley Momenabadi
 Cllr Clare Simm
 Cllr Rashpal Kaur
 Cllr Paul Sweet
 Cllr Jasbinder Dehar
 Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre

Conservative

Cllr Udey Singh

Quorum for this meeting is four Voting Members.

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the Democratic Services team:

Contact Earl Piggott-Smith
Tel/Email Tel: 01902 551251 or earl.piggott-smith@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Address Scrutiny Office, Civic Centre, 1st floor, St Peter's Square,
 Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

Copies of other agendas and reports are available from:

Website <http://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk/>
Email democratic.services@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Tel 01902 555046

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Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

- | <i>Item No.</i> | <i>Title</i> |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 | Welcome and Introductions
[The Chair to welcome everyone to the meeting. The Scrutiny Officer will then read out a list of those invited to the meeting to confirm who is in attendance.] |
| 2 | Meeting procedures to be followed
[The Chair will explain how the meeting will proceed, how questions are to be asked and any matters of meeting etiquette.] |

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 3 | Apologies |
| 4 | Declarations of interest |
| | PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY
[To give pre-decision scrutiny to the report]. |
| 5 | The Vision for School Organisation in Wolverhampton 2020-2022 (Pages 3 - 98)
The Panel is asked to note the following:

This item is being considered as pre-decision scrutiny and will therefore not be available to call-in once a decision is made by the Executive.

[Bill Hague, Head of Business and Support, to present report] |

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel 5 January 2021
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Report title	City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre Education and Skills	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Emma Bennett, Director for Children's Services	
Originating service	Children's Services	
Accountable employee	Bill Hague	Head of Education Business and Support Services
	Tel	01902 555100
	Email	bill.hague@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Children and Young People Leadership Team	3 December 2020
	Strategic Executive Board	21 December 2020

Recommendation for action:

The Scrutiny Panel is recommended to:

Conduct pre-decision scrutiny on the 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022' strategic policy document and refer comments to Cabinet.

Recommendation for noting:

The Scrutiny Panel is asked to note:

1. The outcome of external consultation in relation to 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022' strategic policy document.
2. The impact of the demographic uplift on demand for schools in the City.

3. The need to identify and develop appropriate solutions to meet anticipated demand for primary and secondary educational provision in the future.
4. That the Regional Schools Commissioner is responsible for determining if academies can expand. The Council is not in full control of all the factors relating to the effective and timely supply of school places.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To review the 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022' strategic policy document (please see Appendix 2) prior to seeking Cabinet approval on 20 January 2020. A copy of the report to Cabinet can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 1.2 This item being considered as pre-decision scrutiny and will therefore not be available to call in once a decision is made by the Executive.
- 1.3 The comments of the panel will be included in a report presented to Cabinet on 20 January 2021.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Strategy for school organisation in Wolverhampton outlines the framework for decision making regarding primary and secondary school places across the City of Wolverhampton. It highlights the impact of demographic uplift on demand for schools across the City and the need to identify and develop appropriate solutions to meet anticipated demand for primary and secondary educational provision in the future.
- 2.2 The document sets out the opportunities, challenges and recommendations for Education provision in Wolverhampton. It is a key feature of the City of Wolverhampton Council's approach to meeting its statutory duties as an advocate for parents and families, supporting vulnerable children and championing educational excellence. It offers a framework to guide the future development of the school estate in the City.
- 2.3 The Strategy seeks to secure sufficient high-quality school places to improve educational outcomes for all pupils across the City. It contains frameworks to support both the identification of schools for expansion and, in cases where there is considerable surplus capacity, the removal of provision. Surplus places are school places that have not been filled.
- 2.4 Underpinning the Council's Our Council Plan, Wolverhampton's Children, Young People and Families Plan 2015-2025 and Wolverhampton Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy the document details the basic need challenge facing the City and outlines the approach adopted by the Council to meet this challenge.
- 2.5 The Strategy also details that the Council is not in full control of all factors relating to the effective and timely supply of school places. To ensure that the needs of families and pupils can continue to be met effectively it may, on occasion, be necessary for the Council to adopt a more responsive approach to school place planning.
- 2.6 A copy of the 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022', is attached as **Appendix 2** to this report.

3.0 Consultation

- 3.1 The development of the 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022' has been informed by contributions from senior representatives across Education during

an internal consultation which ran from 18 March 2020 to 3 April 2020. Originally external consultation was due to take place in June 2020 but due to the impact of COVID it was deemed appropriate to delay this until Autumn Term 2020.

3.2 Following approval from Strategic Executive Board on 8 October 2020 and to support the development of the strategy, key external stakeholders were consulted.

3.3 External consultation commenced on 12 October 2020 until 8 November 2020. Consultation sought to obtain view and comments from the following stakeholders:

- The Headteachers/Principals and Chair of Governors of Infant, Junior, Primary, Secondary, Pupil Referral Units, Special Schools and maintained nurseries in Wolverhampton
- Diocesan Authorities
- Academy Trusts
- Trade Unions
- All Councillors
- ConnectEd Directors
- Wolverhampton MP's
- Let us Play
- Give us a break
- Wildside Activity Centre
- The Way Youth Zone
- Changing Our Lives
- Voice for Parents
- Wolverhampton Youth Council
- West Midlands School Organisation Group (this group includes School Organisation Officers from the Councils of Staffordshire, Sandwell, Walsall, Birmingham, Dudley, Telford and Wrekin and Worcestershire)
- Regional Schools Commissioner

In addition, social media channels were utilised, and a press release was issued, sign posting to the Council's Consultation Portal.

4.0 Outcome of External Consultation

4.1 52 responses were received during external consultation. The feedback survey contained 11 questions: 10 relating to new sections of the Strategy and a general feedback question. The number of responses for each question and key points raised during consultation are summarised below. A copy of individual responses can be found in **Appendix 3**.

4.2 Question 1 - Do you agree with an annual review of the condition and suitability of temporary accommodation across the maintained school estate?

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	51	98.08%
No	1	1.92%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

4.3 Question 2 – Do you have any comments/feedback regarding the annual review of temporary accommodation?

There were nine comments received with the majority in favour of an annual review. The importance of reviewing temporary accommodation was highlighted for the well-being and health and safety of children, teachers and staff across the school estate and to ensure that children are learning in the best possible environment.

4.4 Question 3 - Do you agree with the recommendation to undertake an annual condition review of maintained schools to inform priority for rebuilding of schools?

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	50	96.15%
No	2	3.85%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

4.5 Question 4 - Do you have any comments/feedback regarding the recommendation to undertake an annual condition review of the maintained school estate?

There were 10 comments received and it was highlighted that condition should be a priority and that rebuilding of older schools is of benefit as this can save money.

4.6 Question 5 - Do you agree with the ambition for new school buildings to be environmentally friendly to support the Council's carbon neutral aim?

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	51	98.08%
No	1	1.92%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

4.7 Question 6 - Do you have any comments/feedback regarding the ambition for any new buildings to be environmentally friendly to support the Council's carbon neutral aim?

There were 14 responses received. It was highlighted that any future design features need to be sustainable and that consideration needs to be given to the financial consequences for schools if environmentally friendly methods cost more to maintain and run than traditional methods. It was noted that everyone has a duty to reduce carbon emissions, ensure health and safety of children, staff and teachers. It was highlighted that schools that are environmentally friendly set a good example to pupils and helps children understand how we can all do our part to help the environment when making changes to provision.

4.8 Question 7 - Do you agree with identifying opportunities for strengthening multiagency working through co-location of services and schools?

Option	Total	Percent	
Yes	46	88.46%	
No	6	11.54%	
Not Answered	0	0.00%	

4.9 Question 8 - Do you have any comments/feedback regarding the co-location of services and schools?

There were 10 responses received. It was highlighted that multi-agency work is vital in schools as it allows easier access to families which achieves better outcomes for both children and families, it might enable outside agencies to obtain a better insight by being co-located. It was noted that the co-location would need to benefit both parties and not as part of a cost saving exercise. It was suggested that repurposing of unused outbuildings or former caretakers' houses could facilitate co-location of services. Safeguarding and logistical arrangements (car parking, staff room space etc.) would need to be considered.

4.10 Question 9 - Do you agree with the recommendation to review the usage of school sites and rationalising the school estate to help meet Council objectives around regeneration, housing and climate change?

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	30	57.69%
No	22	42.31%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

4.11 Question 10 - Do you have any comments/feedback regarding the review and rationalisation of the school estate to help the Council meets its wider objectives?

There were 19 responses received. It was highlighted that consideration should be given to rationalisation of the school estate, however, concerns around conserving nature and wildlife, retaining adequate playing fields and green space for recreation and sports was raised.

4.12 Question 11 - Please provide any further comments you would like to make regarding this strategy, stating the section and page number you are referring to.

There were 5 responses received. It was raised that children need to be at the centre of decision making and not money, that working in partnership with schools on change proposals is essential, and the diversity and quality of the education offer should not be reduced.

5.0 Responses to External Consultation

5.1 In response to the outcomes of consultation, representatives of the Education Department would like to make the following comments:

- 5.2 There is a small number of maintained school sites that house temporary accommodation. Corporate Landlord undertake an annual capital investment programme which is based on condition data as collected from commissioned surveys with the appropriate improvement works then prioritised and undertaken. Education will seek support from Corporate Landlord to identify specific issues relating to temporary accommodation to ensure that this provision continues to be fit for purpose.
- 5.3 The aforementioned annual review undertaken by Corporate Landlord will help identify the schools with the greatest backlog of required building works, which may then assist when determining which maintained school buildings should be prioritised for rebuilding. Previously, Central Government has funded priority school rebuilding programmes, should this opportunity arise again the Local Authority would be in a very good position to submit applications based on the latest data. In addition, should the opportunity arise as part of a citywide strategy to create a network of sustainable schools through rebuilding or relocation, this data is invaluable to help guide policy and meet the needs of the residents.
- 5.4 The feedback received regarding the ambition for any new buildings to be environmentally friendly to support the Council's carbon neutral aim will be forwarded to the Climate Emergency Working Group/Steering Group. In addition, when any new schools or additional accommodation is proposed, climate change and environmental implications will be considered as part of the delivery of the scheme.
- 5.5 As and when opportunities arise to strengthen multiagency working through co-location, the Council would work in partnership with individual schools and services to explore this. It is recognised that any changes would need to ensure that the benefits for both parties can be achieved and will ultimately enhance the overall support and provision for children and families. A pilot of Social Workers located in Secondary Schools is underway at present. The outcome of this pilot would feed into any plans for future co-location.
- 5.6 Concerns were raised regarding rationalisation of the school estate to support wider Council objectives and the impact on playing fields/green space. The Council will not remove any green space or playing fields that are utilised by the school estate. Should removal of green space be required engagement with Sport England, planning requirements and views from relevant stakeholders would all be considered as part of any proposals.
- 5.7 In response to the further comments made in regard to the strategy overall, it should be noted that any changes to the school estate would be fully consulted upon with all relevant stakeholders and any statutory processes would be followed.

6.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 6.1 Option 1: no strategy in place. This would mean that the Local Authority would not have a framework for school organisation and related decision making regarding primary and secondary school places across the city of Wolverhampton.

- 6.2 Option 2: Approve the 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022'. This will be adopted as the framework for school organisation and related decision making regarding primary and secondary school places and school sites across the City of Wolverhampton.

7.0 Reasons for decision

- 7.1 If the 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022' is approved by Cabinet, this framework will be adopted and used to inform school organisation in Wolverhampton. The Strategy will be particularly important in exploring solutions and decisions when introducing additional capacity into the City, maintenance of temporary accommodation, priority for rebuilding of schools, new school buildings designed to be environmentally friendly and identifying opportunities for strengthening multi-agency working through co-location of services and schools and where appropriate rationalisation of the school estate.
- 7.2 This strategic policy document aids the Council in meeting its statutory responsibilities regarding the provision of sufficient school places.

Notwithstanding this, the Regional Schools Commissioner is responsible for determining if academies can expand. The Council is not in full control of all the factors relating to the effective and timely supply of school places.

8.0 Financial implications

- 8.1 Projected levels of demand suggest that further investment in additional school places will be required in the future to ensure that supply can meet demand. This could be over and above the existing capital programme.
- 8.2 The Strategy outlines how the Council will meet its statutory responsibilities regarding providing sufficient school places. Central Government provide a level of capital funding through the Basic Need formula. Historically, the amount received through the Basic Need funding has been insufficient to cover the costs of expansion schemes. This has led to the Council having to fund the balance, predominantly through borrowing.
- 8.3 The Medium Term Capital Programme includes funding for the Primary School Expansion Programme 2021 and 2022 and the Secondary School Expansion Programme 2021 and 2022. In the event that there is any surplus against these it will first be used to support the next tranche of expansion schemes.

[TS14122020/K]

9.0 Legal implications

- 9.1 Under sections 13 and 14 of the Education Act 1996 (as amended by the Education Acts 2006 and 2011), a local education authority has a general statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places available to meet the needs of the population in its area. The local authority must promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. It must also ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area and promote

diversity and increase parental choice. To discharge this duty the local authority has to undertake a planning function to ensure that the supply of school places balances the demand for them.

- 9.2 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires local authorities to promote choice and diversity when carrying out their strategic duties in relation to the provision of new school places.

[TS/07122020/R]

10.0 Equalities implications

- 10.1 An initial equality analysis has been undertaken with regard to the 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022'. The strategy focuses on the supply of sufficient high-quality school places for primary and secondary school pupils who may belong to groups with different characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010. The analysis of the strategy has not found any equality issues at its design stage. The implications of specific significant change proposals developed in line with the policies outlined within the Strategy will be subject to individual equality analyses.

11.0 Climate change and environmental implications

- 11.1 The Strategy includes the ambition that any new school buildings are environmentally friendly and support the Council's aim to be carbon neutral by 2028.

12.0 Human resources implications

- 12.1 There are no direct human resource implications arising from this report.

13.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 13.1 To support the process Corporate Landlord would work with maintained schools identified within the scope of any place planning exercise to establish the feasibility and likely cost of providing additional pupil capacity on those sites. This process will require the support of a cross section of professionals including Surveyors, Engineers, Architects etc. allowing desk top information and initial sketch proposals to be considered
- 13.2 Corporate Landlord will also liaise with colleagues in Legal Services in the case of feasibility works on Academy, Church or Free School sites that are subject to lease agreements. Corporate Landlord will be able to consider other potential solutions outside of the current traditional school estate if required. It must be noted Education will need to identify a budget prior to commissioning these initial feasibility works.
- 13.3 Any expansion schemes that are delivered by Trusts (but funded by the Council) the Corporate Landlord service would be involved in the project to provide assurance that the proposed scheme is delivering the required capacity in a timely fashion and offering value for money.

14.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

- 14.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty to:

- ensure that sufficient school places are available within their area for every child of school age whose parents wish them to have one
- to promote high educational standards, to ensure fair access to educational opportunity, and;
- to help fulfil every child's educational potential.

14.2 The Local Authority must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in its area and promote diversity and parental choice.

14.3 These duties contribute to the health and wellbeing of young people and young adults in the education system and a good education is a significant wider determinant of health.

15.0 Covid Implications

15.1 There are no Covid implications arising from the recommendation of this report.

16.0 Schedule of background papers

16.1 None.

17.0 Appendices

17.1 Appendix 1 – Cabinet Report 'The City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022'

Appendix 2 - The 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022' strategic policy document'

Appendix 3 – Consultation Responses

Report title	City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre Education and Skills	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Emma Bennett, Director for Children's Services	
Originating service	Children's Services	
Accountable employee	Bill Hague	Head of Education Business and Support Services
	Tel	01902 555100
	Email	bill.hague@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Children and Young People Leadership Team	3 December 2020
	Strategic Executive Board	18 December 2020
	Extraordinary Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel	5 January 2021

Recommendation for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022' strategic policy document.

Recommendation(s) for noting:

The Cabinet is recommended to note:

1. The outcome of external consultation in relation to 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022' strategic policy document.

2. The summary of discussion from the Extraordinary Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel on 5 January 2021, regarding the 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022' strategic policy document.
3. The impact of the demographic uplift on demand for schools in the City.
4. The need to identify and develop appropriate solutions to meet anticipated demand for primary and secondary educational provision in the future.
5. That the Regional Schools Commissioner is responsible for determining if academies can expand. The Council is not in full control of all the factors relating to the effective and timely supply of school places.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This report introduces the School Organisation strategy entitled 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022' (The Strategy). The paper reports the outcome of the external consultation exercise and seeks approval of this strategic policy document.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Strategy for school organisation in Wolverhampton outlines the framework for decision making regarding primary and secondary school places across the City of Wolverhampton. It highlights the impact of demographic uplift on demand for schools across the City and the need to identify and develop appropriate solutions to meet anticipated demand for primary and secondary educational provision in the future.
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development of the strategy, key external stakeholders were consulted.

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5.0 Responses to External Consultation

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- 5.7 In response to the further comments made in regard to the strategy overall, it should be noted that any changes to the school estate would be fully consulted upon with all relevant stakeholders and any statutory processes would be followed.

6.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 6.1 Option 1: no strategy in place. This would mean that the Local Authority would not have a framework for school organisation and related decision making regarding primary and secondary school places across the city of Wolverhampton.
- 6.2 Option 2: Approve the 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022'. This will be adopted as the framework for school organisation and related decision making regarding primary and secondary school places and school sites across the City of Wolverhampton.

7.0 Reasons for decision

- 7.1 If the 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022' is approved by Cabinet, this framework will be adopted and used to inform school organisation in Wolverhampton. The Strategy will be particularly important in exploring solutions and decisions when introducing additional capacity into the City, maintenance of temporary accommodation, priority for rebuilding of schools, new school buildings designed to be environmentally friendly and identifying opportunities for strengthening multi-agency working through co-location of services and schools and where appropriate rationalisation of the school estate.
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- 8.1 Projected levels of demand suggest that further investment in additional school places will be required in the future to ensure that supply can meet demand. This could be over and above the existing capital programme.
- 8.2 The Strategy outlines how the Council will meet its statutory responsibilities regarding providing sufficient school places. Central Government provide a level of capital funding through the Basic Need formula. Historically, the amount received through the Basic Need funding has been insufficient to cover the costs of expansion schemes. This has led to the Council having to fund the balance, predominantly through borrowing.
- 8.3 The Medium Term Capital Programme includes funding for the Primary School Expansion Programme 2021 and 2022 and the Secondary School Expansion Programme 2021 and 2022. In the event that there is any surplus against these it will first be used to support the next tranche of expansion schemes.

[TS14122020/K]

9.0 Legal implications

- 9.1 Under sections 13 and 14 of the Education Act 1996 (as amended by the Education Acts 2006 and 2011), a local education authority has a general statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places available to meet the needs of the population in its area. The local authority must promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. It must also ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area and promote diversity and increase parental choice. To discharge this duty the local authority has to undertake a planning function to ensure that the supply of school places balances the demand for them.

- 9.2 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires local authorities to promote choice and diversity when carrying out their strategic duties in relation to the provision of new school places.

[TS/07122020/R]

10.0 Equalities implications

- 10.1 An initial equality analysis has been undertaken with regard to the 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022'. The strategy focuses on the supply of sufficient high-quality school places for primary and secondary school pupils who may belong to groups with different characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010. The analysis of the strategy has not found any equality issues at its design stage. The implications of specific significant change proposals developed in line with the policies outlined within the Strategy will be subject to individual equality analyses.

11.0 Climate change and environmental implications

- 11.1 The Strategy includes the ambition that any new school buildings are environmentally friendly and support the Council's aim to be carbon neutral by 2028.

12.0 Human resources implications

- 12.1 There are no direct human resource implications arising from this report.

13.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 13.1 To support the process Corporate Landlord would work with maintained schools identified within the scope of any place planning exercise to establish the feasibility and likely cost of providing additional pupil capacity on those sites. This process will require the support of a cross section of professionals including Surveyors, Engineers, Architects etc. allowing desk top information and initial sketch proposals to be considered
- 13.2 Corporate Landlord will also liaise with colleagues in Legal Services in the case of feasibility works on Academy, Church or Free School sites that are subject to lease agreements. Corporate Landlord will be able to consider other potential solutions outside of the current traditional school estate if required. It must be noted Education will need to identify a budget prior to commissioning these initial feasibility works.
- 13.3 Any expansion schemes that are delivered by Trusts (but funded by the Council) the Corporate Landlord service would be involved in the project to provide assurance that the proposed scheme is delivering the required capacity in a timely fashion and offering value for money.

14.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

- 14.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty to:
- ensure that sufficient school places are available within their area for every child of school age whose parents wish them to have one
 - to promote high educational standards, to ensure fair access to educational opportunity, and;

- to help fulfil every child's educational potential.

14.2 The Local Authority must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in its area and promote diversity and parental choice.

14.3 These duties contribute to the health and wellbeing of young people and young adults in the education system and a good education is a significant wider determinant of health.

15.0 Covid Implications

15.1 There are no Covid implications arising from the recommendation of this report.

16.0 Schedule of background papers

16.1 None.

17.0 Appendices

17.1 Appendix 1 - The 'City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022'

Appendix 2 – Consultation Responses

A Place for Every Child

City of Wolverhampton Education
Place Planning 2020-2022



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1 Executive Summary

The main challenge that the City of Wolverhampton faces in relation to the organisation of school provision, is ensuring that sufficient high-quality school places are available to meet the needs of local communities across the City. Driven by an 18% increase in births between 2002 and 2018, levels of demand for school provision have increased significantly in recent years. In excess of 3,000 additional places have been commissioned since 2012 in primary schools and since 2017 in secondary schools, to cater for the demographic uplift. The recently witnessed increase in demand for primary provision in the City, has already started to impact on the City's secondary estate and significant additional capacity will be required to cater for future cohorts. This strategy outlines anticipated levels of future demand and key policy decisions adopted by the Council to guide the ongoing development of the City's primary and secondary school estate.

1.1 Wolverhampton Context

Wolverhampton is a superdiverse City and this is another factor that can influence demand for school places. The City's population now stands at over 260,000 and it is estimated that in recent years the number of non UK born residents in Wolverhampton has increased. (Births by parents' country of birth England and Wales: 2019, Office for National Statistics (ONS) and in 2019, 34.4% of births to Wolverhampton residents were to non UK born mothers. As stated in ONS, 28.7% of all live births were to women born outside the UK; the highest since records began in 1969 continuing the long-term increase. (ONS 2019)

As illustrated by both Census data and published Ward Profiles (available at insight.wolverhampton.gov.uk) the ethnic composition of communities varies significantly across the City. It should be noted that the ethnic makeup of communities in Wolverhampton is dynamic, analysis of Census information suggests that the proportion of White British residents of the City fell by 10 percentage points between 2001 and 2011. In contrast, the proportion of Asian, Black, Mixed and Other ethnic groups increased.

There are considerable challenges with regards to deprivation in the City. In 2019 Wolverhampton was the 24th most deprived of 317 English Local Authorities, although had improved from the 17th most deprived in the prior Indices of Deprivation release from 2015. For the purposes of measuring deprivation, Wolverhampton is split into 158 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). Of these 158, 8 are in the top 5% deprived band in England. The scale of the challenge with deprivation is illustrated in Figure 1, which shows that of all the 0 to 15 year olds resident in Wolverhampton in 2018, 60.3% of them live in an LSOA in the top 20%.

Figure 1: Numbers of children aged 0-15 resident in a deprived area, defined as top 20% most deprived LSOA nationally



The health and wellbeing of our children is paramount to securing good outcomes; unfortunately, the health and wellbeing of children in Wolverhampton is worse than the England average. Despite a slight fall in the rate in 2012-14 Wolverhampton remains one of the Local Authorities with highest rates of infant mortality in England and Wales. 59% of the primary and secondary schools in Wolverhampton are in the most deprived quintile nationally as defined by Ofsted. There are no Wolverhampton schools classed as being in the least deprived category. 22% of all pupils are eligible for free school meals; for primary schools (including reception) the figure is 20.5% (the national average is 14.5%) and in secondary schools (including Academies) it is 19.7% (the national average is 13.2%).¹

¹ City of Wolverhampton Council Early Years Strategy 2017 – 2021, p16

1.2 Strategic Context

This strategy is a key feature of the City of Wolverhampton Council's approach to meeting its statutory duties as an advocate for parents and families, supporting vulnerable children and championing educational excellence. It offers a framework to guide the future development of the school estate in the City.

Underpinning the Our Council Plan 2019-2024, Wolverhampton's Children, Young People and Families Plan 2015-2025 and Wolverhampton Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy this document details the basic need challenge facing the City and outlines the approach adopted by the Council to meet this challenge.

Priorities in the Our Council Plan include more good jobs and investment in our City and better homes for all.² Our local housing company WV Living is building over 1000 new homes over the next five years.³

The planned housing growth programme for the City will deliver around 7500 homes in 10 years to accommodate need and demand, and to support the economic aspirations of the City. This growth will see significant increases in new homes for certain neighbourhoods, which will inevitably create a pressure of additional resident expectations upon the school place provision in those localities.

Potential housing development sites and their estimated delivery timescales are subject to on-going change. In order to manage these pressures, regular liaison between the Council's Planning, Housing and Education teams provides the latest information on the focus of planned development activity. This will permit a coordinated and planned approach, both to support the delivery of new homes with adequate school places, and to support school place planning with good information on the population increases anticipated from newbuild. The School Organisation Team carefully monitor anticipated future housing development on a quarterly basis to gauge likely pupil yields in each Wolverhampton City Ward to ensure alignment and inform annual pupil projections.

² City of Wolverhampton Council, Our Council Plan 2019-2024, p16

³ City of Wolverhampton Council, Our Council Plan 2019-2024, p26

Over the longer term the City's population is predicted to grow by 8.9% by 2037, to 273,300, with residents aged 19 and below expected to increase by 7%. Currently children and young people under the ages of 18 years make up 22.9% of the total population in Wolverhampton.⁴ Therefore pupil yield growth is likely to remain an issue in the medium to longer term and this will be taken into account when making longer term plans for housing development across the City.

We recognise the need for Wolverhampton's school estate to continue to develop to meet the changing needs of children in the City. This strategy recommends that a longer term, estate wide approach to school place planning is adopted that both maximises the use of existing facilities and develops flexible provision. The development of flexible provision and facilities will ensure that the estate is ideally positioned to meet both fluctuating demographic requirements and the changing needs of students.

The City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022, aligned with the Council's School Improvement and Governance Strategy, seeks to secure sufficient high-quality school places to improve educational outcomes across the City. The strategy recognises the Council's role in ensuring an appropriate number of school places and in influencing the quality of education provided regardless of how schools are organised or governed.

Our key principles are

- The right of every child to fulfil their potential
- The needs of local communities
- The value of partnership working
- To respond effectively to the dynamic demographic position
- To consider the sustainability of the school estate
- To ensure resources are used efficiently
- To improve educational outcomes in order to support the longer term development and prosperity of the City
- Promoting choice and diversity of provision.

⁴ City of Wolverhampton Council, Early Years Strategy 2017 - 2021, p14

1.3 Key Statutory Duties

Councils are under a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area, promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. The Schools Admissions Code states that "Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health"⁵. They must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in their area, promote diversity and increase parental choice.

The Local Authority, in fulfilling its statutory obligation⁶, writes to parents/carers of children in Year 9 attending a school in the City of Wolverhampton annually to inform them of the opportunities available in relation to schools with atypical points of admission. The correspondence encourages parents/carers to consider the options available to their child as they move into Year 10, providing guidance on the type of schools and context, specifically in relation to University Technical Colleges (UTCs) and Studio Schools. The letter informs parents on how to apply for a place at schools with atypical admission points that are within a reasonable travelling distance of the City of Wolverhampton, this includes Thomas Telford UTC and Health Futures UTC.

Primary Context

There is a legal requirement that any class containing infant aged children (five, six and seven year olds) will not exceed a maximum of 30 pupils with a single class teacher, other than when an additional pupil admitted fits the criteria for an 'excepted' pupil (as defined in the School Admissions Code).⁷

In September 2015, the Department for Education (DfE) announced their intention to give summer-born children the right to start in Reception at the age of 5. Children usually start school in the September after they turn 4 but parents of summer-born children (born between 1 April and 31 August) can ask to delay entry into school for a year, they can also ask for early admission or delayed transfer to school (admission outside of normal age group).⁵

⁵ Department of Education, Schools Admissions Code December 2014, (p. 25 para. 2.17)

⁶ School Information Regulations 2017

⁷ Department of Education, Schools Admissions Code December 2014 (P23, para 2.15)

In 2015, Central Government raised the age of participation to 18. Local Authorities are required to develop a local strategy against the following criteria:

- To work with schools, colleges, training providers and employers to ensure a sufficient local curriculum offer
- To provide careers advice from year 8 to year 13 – minimal statutory role focussing on supporting vulnerable learners
- To track and record young people’s progression from education and training
- To identify numbers of NEET (young people not in education, employment or training) or “unknowns” on local Client Caseload Information Systems
- To provide additional support for young people with special needs (up to age 25); those in care; young offenders; young parents or those with specific support needs including mental health and substance misuse.

The Department for Education monitors progress against the above criteria and evaluates performance against national targets.

Aspiration

We will continue existing, and further expand, collaboration arrangements with educational establishments in the City including secondary schools/academies, the University of Wolverhampton and the City of Wolverhampton College.

1.4 Partnership Working

The Council recognises the value of sustaining an effective partnership with all schools regardless of their status or governance arrangements and we have established a strong working partnership with Free Schools, Academies, Trusts, the Department for Education, the Education and Skills Funding Agency, the Regional Schools Commissioner for the West Midlands, neighbouring Local Authorities, private sector partners and local Diocesan Authorities.

The City of Wolverhampton Council encourages partnership working across education in the City in order to provide the broadest curriculum possible; this can be achieved through the co-commissioning of Post 16 provision.

Opportunity

Since 2013 four Free Schools have opened in Wolverhampton and have become part of the school community. We have embraced opportunities for Free Schools to expand in the City to meet basic need; however, introducing additional Free School provision in geographically appropriate locations and in a timely manner presents a significant challenge. To ensure that the needs of families and students in Wolverhampton can continue to be met effectively it may, on occasion, be necessary for the Council to adopt a more responsive approach to school place planning and to develop contingency plans to cater for external influences on the supply of school places.

Aspiration

We will:

- Work closely with Diocesan Authorities to ensure that an appropriate balance of denominational and community places are available
- Avoid the need for compulsory redundancy, where possible
- Promote equal opportunities and that particular groups of children are not disadvantaged.

1.5 School Size

We recommend that primary schools in the City provide a minimum of 30 places per year group (one form entry) and a maximum of 90 places per year group (three form entry). This will ensure the efficient use of resources, whilst avoiding the loss of a more personal primary ethos.

Admission limits will be managed in accordance with Infant Class Size Regulations and to promote the most efficient use of resources. This strategy recommends that admission limits, which exceed a form of entry (i.e. 30 pupils), are either set as full forms of entry (multiples of 30) or half forms of entry (multiples of 15).

Larger primary schools (2 form entry and above) can potentially offer:

- greater opportunity for specialism
- a workforce that has a wider spectrum of experience and expertise
- increased opportunity to offer a broad and balanced curriculum
- greater flexibility to cover staff absence
- increased potential to provide strategic leadership succession opportunities
- the opportunity to use resources more efficiently
- an increased ability to respond to change more readily.

We recommend that to ensure the efficient use of resources and to support the longer-term viability of individual establishments, secondary schools in the City offer a minimum of 150 places per year group (Year 7 to 11).

Larger secondary schools can potentially offer:

- an increased opportunity to respond effectively to change
- greater flexibility to cover staff absence
- increased opportunity to provide leadership succession opportunities
- increased opportunity to use resources more efficiently.

Opportunity

The City of Wolverhampton Education Place Planning 2020-2022 supports the development of larger primary or secondary schools, where appropriate.



1.6 The Autonomous School System

Central Government policy initiatives, including the establishment of Free Schools and University Technical Colleges coupled with the conversion of schools to academy status, have recently changed the landscape in which education and the Council's statutory responsibilities are delivered. Figure 2 illustrates the diverse range of education provision in Wolverhampton.

Figure 2: Provision of establishment types within Wolverhampton

PRIMARY	
Establishment Type	Number
Infant School - Community	1
Infant School – Voluntary Controlled	1
Junior School - Community	1
Junior School – Voluntary Controlled	1
Primary Academy	36
Primary Community School	24
Primary Free School	1
Primary - Voluntary Aided	4
Primary - Voluntary Controlled	2
Total	71

SECONDARY	
Establishment Type	Number
Academy - Secondary	14
Community - Secondary	2
Free School - Secondary	1
University Technical College	1
Voluntary Aided - Secondary	1
Total	19

ALL THROUGH	
Establishment Type	Number
Free School (Primary and Secondary)	1
Total	1

SPECIAL SCHOOL	
Establishment Type	Number
Academy - Special School	3
Community - Special School	4
Free School - Special School	1
Total	8

PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT	
Establishment Type	Number
Academy - Pupil Referral Unit	1
Community - Pupil Referral Unit	3
Total	4

Source: City of Wolverhampton Council, List of Educational Establishments Summer 2020.
Please note The Royal School Wolverhampton is a free all through school.

Legislation dictates that, when considering the establishment of a new school, Free School/Academy proposals should be considered in the first instance and that Academy Trusts can apply directly to the Secretary of State to make significant changes to individual establishments.

The autonomous school system poses challenges concerning school place planning, and it should be noted that the Council is not in full control of all factors relating to the effective and timely supply of school places. In addition, Trusts can decide to admit above their Published Admissions Number and as a consequence, successful partnership working is of paramount importance in order to ensure that the needs of the City's communities can continue to be met effectively.

To enable a localised approach when developing solutions and reporting upon school organisation, the City has been divided into four planning areas for the primary estate (see Appendix A) and three planning areas for the secondary estate (see Appendix B). This approach allows the School Organisation Team to recognise the differing pressures facing local communities across the City. It should be noted that given the significant variations in both localised demand and the popularity of individual establishments, balancing levels of surplus across all schools is a significant challenge; adopting a planned, strategic approach to school place planning maximises opportunities to meet localised demand for school places and for individual establishments' positions to be considered.

1.7 Surplus Place Position

Surplus places are school places that have not been filled. A level of surplus is essential to offer increased opportunity for parental preference to be reflected in allocations, to allow for fluctuations in demand and to offer flexibility to cater for mid-year entrants. Too few surplus places can result in reduced opportunity for parental choice, increased travel times, and increased class sizes. However, too many surplus places can lead to the inefficient use of resources.

When allocating basic need funding to Local Authorities central government operate a level of 2% surplus. Historical patterns of in year growth have seen increases in pupil numbers in excess of this 2%. There is a balance to be found between investment in school places, supporting schools with low pupil numbers and meeting parental preference.

We recommend that a school place is available within a maximum walking distance of two miles (for a child under 8 years old) and up to a maximum of three miles (for a child over 8). To ensure that pupils can access a local school and that travel times are reasonable.

An annual dialogue continues between representatives of Education and Transportation to review school access routes and citywide transportation requirements.

1.8 Cross Border Movement

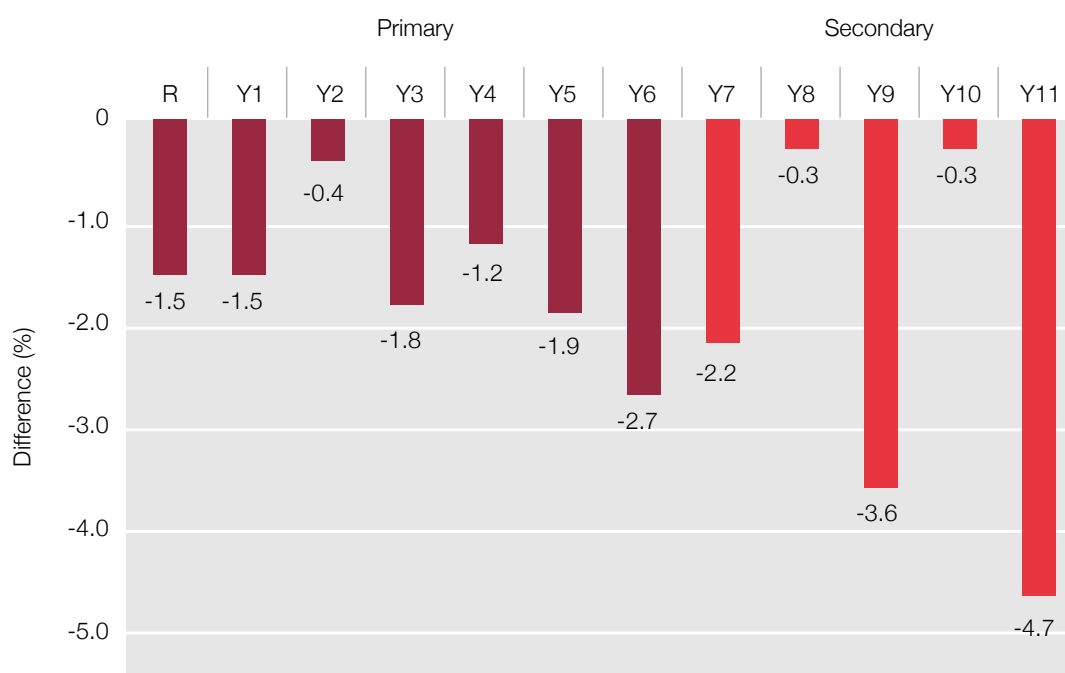
One of the key factors influencing demand for school places in the City, particularly in secondary schools, is the cross-border movement of students. It is essential that we monitor trends in the number of pupils educated in Wolverhampton residing outside of the City (imports) against those pupils educated outside of the City residing in Wolverhampton (exports).

Over the last two years in Wolverhampton the difference between imports and exports to the City has narrowed. Although the City of Wolverhampton has remained a net exporter of pupils, the number of imports into the City has increased against a decreasing number of exports. This indicates that schools within Wolverhampton have become increasingly popular with pupils residing both within the City and outside of its borders. This shift is particularly prevalent within the secondary sector, with a significant reduction in the net exports since 2015.

In terms of the primary sector, between 2007 and 2015 the gap between pupil imports to the City and exports out of the City increased significantly, however more recently this trend has reversed with a 33% reduction in the gap in imports and exports from 2015 to 2019. In January 2019, the City had 925 primary pupil imports and 1311 exports, remaining a net exporter with a difference of -386 (-1.6% of school population).

Overall, in terms of the secondary sector, from 2007 to 2015 the gap between pupil imports to the City and exports out of the City has gradually reduced, however since 2015 to 2019 this gap has grossly reduced by a significant 76%. In January 2019, the City had 1,919 secondary pupil imports and 2257 exports, remaining a net exporter with a difference of -338 (-2.2% of school population).

Figure 3: Difference between Imports and Exports by National Curriculum Year as a percentage of the school population (January 2019)



Source: Department for Education (2019)

Figure 3 illustrates the City's net exports per National Curriculum Year. The graph clearly indicates the narrowing of the gap between imports to the City and exports out of the City in the primary phase of education compared to the secondary phase. In January 2019, the City had a net export of -1.5 as a percentage of the total school population for the Reception phase and -2.7 for Year 6. However, in the secondary phase the gap between the imports and exports is significantly wider, with a net export of -2.2 as a percentage of the total school population in Year 7 and -4.7 in Year 11. This trend indicates less fluidity of movement out of the City during the primary phase.

If the difference between those imports into the City and exports out of the City continue to follow this trend, then levels of demand for school places within the City will increase the strain on resources and additional capacity would be required to cater for the demand.

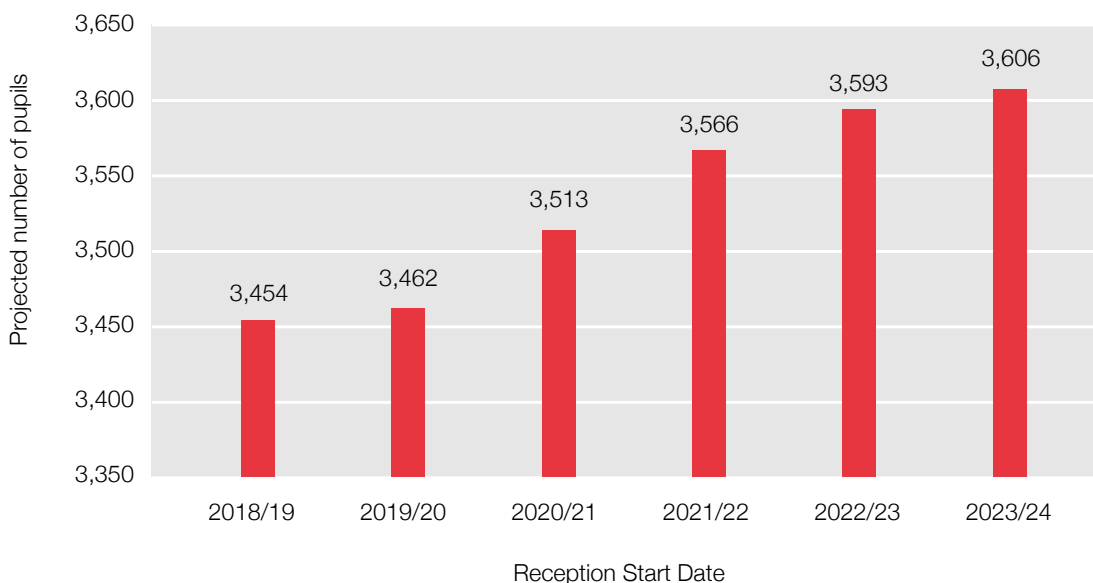
2

Primary School Organisation

Update to read: Levels of demand for primary school provision across the City have increased significantly in recent years, as illustrated in Figure 4. This upsurge has been primarily driven by an increase of 18% in the number of births to Wolverhampton residents between 2002 and 2018.⁸

To meet demand, the Council has recently invested heavily in the provision of additional primary school places in a number of areas of high demand across the City. Recent expansion schemes have been funded through a combination of both central capital funding and constrained Council resources. Since September 2012, Primary School Expansion Programmes have introduced an additional 2,745 additional primary school places across 21 existing primary schools. In addition, two Free Schools have opened (Nishkam Primary School Wolverhampton in September 2013 and The Royal School Wolverhampton in September 2016). There remains uncertainty in respect of future central government capital funding allocations to meet basic need in the medium term.

Figure 4: 2019 Projected Citywide Reception Cohorts



Source: City of Wolverhampton Council, School Organisation Forecasts 2019.

⁸ City of Wolverhampton Council, School Organisation Forecasts 2019.

As demand has increased, the number of surplus school places has reduced and levels of surplus within some primary year groups are now constrained. Surplus places are school places that have not been filled.

Figure 5 illustrates levels of surplus in each national curriculum year group on a Planning Area and citywide level, and Appendix C highlights recent fluctuations in the size of individual cohorts. Levels of in-year growth have accelerated in recent years; anecdotal evidence suggests that this growth is also being experienced by neighbouring Local Authorities and is likely to be the consequence of migration rates.

Figure 5: Primary Surplus by National Curriculum Year Group (with Planning Area level)

National Curriculum Year Group (2019/20)	Number on Roll (Spring 2020 Census)	Surplus Places on Planning Area Level				Citywide Surplus Places Against Admissions Limits (Percentage)	
		Planning Area 1	Planning Area 2	Planning Area 3	Planning Area 4		
R	3402	667	732	911	1092	221	(6.1%)
1	3505	721	754	942	1088	125	(3.5%)
2	3431	717	755	891	1068	118	(3.3%)
3*	3634	756	787	944	1147	82	(2.2%)
4*	3725	760	778	1010	1177	61	(1.6%)
5*	3476	737	781	872	1086	57	(1.7%)
6*	3376	714	731	864	1067	60	(1.8%)

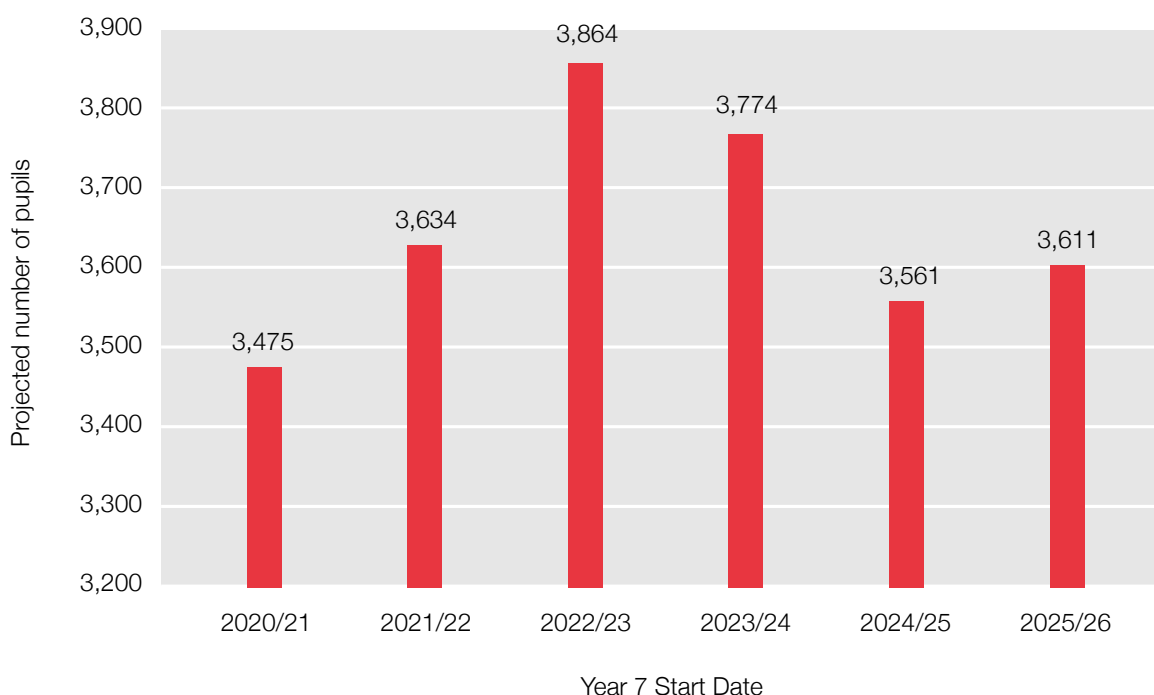
* Please note that in order to meet levels of demand in Key Stage 2, in specific hotspots, primary schools in the City have introduced additional capacity by agreeing to admit above their admission limits.

3

Secondary School Organisation

As illustrated by Figure 6, levels of demand for secondary school provision in Wolverhampton are expected to increase significantly in the future as the bulge in pupil numbers in the City’s primary schools moves through to the secondary estate. The Secondary School Expansion Programme 2019-2020 provided 340 permanent places and 236 temporary places. In addition, 170 permanent places and 105 temporary places have been provided in Year 7 for 2018/19 in secondary schools across Wolverhampton. In 2020/21 185 permanent places will be introduced in Year 7. Moreover the all-through school, The Royal Wolverhampton, opened in September 2016 and the West Midlands University Technical College opened in September 2015. The West Midland University Technical College is lowering its age range to take students from Year 7 with effect from September 2020 and has joined the Thomas Telford Multi Academy Trust. It is now known as Thomas Telford University Technical College.

Figure 6: Projected Citywide Year 7 Cohorts



Source: City of Wolverhampton Council, School Organisation Forecasts 2019

The City faces a considerable challenge to ensure that sufficient high quality school places are available to meet the needs of local communities.

The recently observed growth in the size of younger secondary cohorts is expected to accelerate in the short to medium term and projections suggest that between 2020/21 and 2022/23 Year 7 cohorts are likely to grow by 11%.

As evident in Wolverhampton's primary school estate, the City has recently experienced an acceleration in the in-year growth of some existing secondary cohorts (see Appendix D). Council representatives are closely monitoring fluctuations in the size of existing cohorts to ensure that incoming students can access educational provision within a reasonable distance of their home address.

As shown by Figure 7, currently the level of surplus in secondary schools remains above the 2% that this strategy recommends for secondary schools, however the number of surplus places varies considerably across year groups. It should be noted that in the coming years surplus places are expected to be constrained as existing primary cohorts progress through the education system.

Figure 7: Secondary Surplus by National Curriculum Year Group (with Planning Area level)

National Curriculum Group (2019-20)	Number on Roll (Spring Census 2020)	Planning Area 1	Planning Area 2	Planning Area 3	Citywide Surplus Places Against Admissions Limits (Percentage)
7	3401	11	174	N/A	185 (5.5%)
8	3358	7	117	N/A	124 (3.7%)
9	3164	13	110	N/A	123 (3.8%)
10	3090	43	143	88	279 (8.4%)
11	2945	97	138	111	346 (10.5%)

4

The Introduction of Additional School Places

To meet rising demand for school places the Council will continue to consider, where feasible, the expansion of existing schools across the City. To safeguard the sustainability of the school estate, the expansion of existing schools will be investigated in the first instance, prior to considering the introduction of new provision.

However, it should be noted that, given the scale of recent expansion programmes, there are a limited number of remaining opportunities available within the existing school estate. Based on this we would need to consider the cost effectiveness of expanding existing schools against the introduction of new schools.

All new schools or new refurbishments and expansions will be compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. Any planning for school expansions or new schools will take account of the need to continue to align and balance planned housing development and future school place planning.





Factors we consider when prioritising potential school expansion schemes:

- Parental Preference - schools which are most popular with parents
- School Performance - schools judged as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted
- Attainment - schools whose results consistently exceed floor standards
- School Leadership - schools with stable and proven leadership
- Location - schools located within areas of high demand, taking into account local regeneration and housing development priorities
- Viability for expansion - schemes which can be most easily and efficiently implemented.

The Council is committed to ensuring the implementation of practical solutions to meet the basic need challenge and will work closely with schools and Academy Trusts to develop appropriate schemes that consider pupils' needs and support the effective delivery of the curriculum. When an expanding school is in the process of converting to academy status, the Council will seek to ensure that legal mechanisms are employed to ensure that the needs of the City are fulfilled and any approved investment is secured for the future. The Council's legal representatives will seek to include reference to the enlarged capacity within relevant Commercial Transfer Agreements and representations will be made to the DfE to request that Funding Agreements reflect the capacity post-expansion.

The expansion of a school can present challenges for schools and a school may require additional support from the School Improvement Team. This support will be reflected in the school categorisation and the time allocated to each school.

Parental Preference and Expansions

The Council's policy of prioritising popular and successful schools for expansion has proved successful.

Despite the significant growth in demand, in 2020-21

- Primary: 87% of on time applicants were offered a Reception place in their first preference school and 97% were offered a place in one of the preferred schools
- Secondary: 73% of on time applicants were offered a Year 7 place in their first preference school and 93% were offered a place in one of the preferred schools

Source: City of Wolverhampton Council, Capita ONE data

4.1 The Growth Fund

To support the needs of students in expanding schools and in line with the Education and Skills Funding Agency recommended approach, the Council will seek continued support from Schools' Forum for a Growth Fund to support resultant revenue needs of schools which are required to provide extra places to meet basic need.

Schools currently qualify for funding through the Growth Fund in the following circumstances:

- The school or academy has agreed with the LA to permanently increase its admission limit to meet basic need
- The school or academy has agreed with the LA to provide a bulge class to meet basic need
- The school or academy has agreed with the LA to expand in-year to meet basic need.

Aspiration

We recognise the need for expanding schools to receive appropriate funding, in a timely manner, to meet students' needs.

4.2 Bulge Classes

In specific circumstances, where local demand is predicted to rise and then fall within a short period of time, the Council will consider the introduction of bulge classes. These are time limited expansions of the capacity of individual year groups within a school, for example, a temporary increase of a school's admission limit by one form of entry in an individual year group to meet demand. Bulge classes will only be considered when the permanent expansion of a school to meet demand would not be sustainable.

4.3 Additional Capacity in Existing Cohorts

As illustrated in Figures 5 and 7 some existing school cohorts have grown significantly and demonstrated in-year fluctuations, resulting in reduced levels of surplus. It is recognised that as demand increases and levels of surplus reduce, that the introduction of additional capacity into existing cohorts may need to be considered. To ensure that pupils can access school provision within a reasonable distance of their home address, the Council will continue to work with schools to introduce additional capacity into existing cohorts to cater for rising demand as required.

We recommend that the introduction of additional capacity into existing cohorts is only considered in response to significant demographic challenges and to support the needs of local communities. We recognise that introducing additional capacity, at points other than standard years of entry, can potentially destabilise both individual cohorts and the wider school estate.

To support the needs of pupils in schools that introduce additional capacity into existing cohorts, the Council will seek continued approval from Schools' Forum through the Growth Fund to support the resultant revenue needs of schools.

4.4 Vertical Grouping

Vertical Grouping (or the employment of mixed age classes) is most commonly employed in primary schools with intakes of 45 or 75 and works successfully in many schools across the City. However, the use of this structure can increase the complexity of planning and delivering the curriculum.

When an opportunity or need arises consultation will be conducted with Headteachers, Governors and Trusts to consider increasing or reducing admission limits in schools with existing 45 or 75 admission limits.

We recommend that the introduction of additional 45 or 75 admission limits only be considered once other practical solutions have been exhausted.

4.5 Temporary Accommodation

It is recognised there is temporary accommodation within the maintained school estate. These consist of a range of different styles and ages of building. This Strategy recommends an annual review of the condition and suitability of any temporary accommodation within the maintained school estate and where necessary will make recommendations for repair or replacement to ensure that children and young people are being taught in a suitable environment.

5

Removal of Maintained Provision / Discontinuance of Maintained Provision

In certain circumstances the Council will consider the removal of maintained provision.

We will consider the closure of a school if the school meets two or more of the following criteria:

- The school is judged Inadequate by Ofsted
- The performance of pupils at the school is unacceptably low
- The school has a significant number of surplus places
- There are significant suitability issues in respect of the school's accommodation and/or site
- Closure could be effected without denying any pupils access to at least one alternative school with available places within a maximum of two miles or three miles (walking distance of primary and secondary respectively) of their home
- The substantive Headteacher has left or is leaving.

Prior to initiating any statutory processes to close a school, the Council will consult with the school's Headteacher and the Chair of the school's Governing Board to discuss how the criteria may apply to their school.

As part of this process the Council will review and consult with schools' Governing Boards regarding:

- The likely impact of a school's closure on other schools in the local area, taking account of numbers on roll and the capacity of schools to enhance provision for children and families
- Projected levels of future demand
- The importance of the school to the wider community
- The condition, suitability and sufficiency of school facilities.

5.1 Intervention

The Council will consider proposing the adoption of structural solutions (including both federation and sponsored academy status) to improve standards in underperforming schools (federations only in primary).

5.2 Change Management

It is recognised that making significant changes to individual establishments can have a disruptive effect on the delivery of education. This strategy requires that any school reorganisation or development scheme seeks to minimise disruption and avoid any longer-term detriment to students.



5.3 Federations

Federations offer schools the opportunity to share best practice and support one another. The term federation is used to describe the creation of formal shared governance structures, which enable schools to raise standards and enhance provision by sharing resources, staff, expertise and facilities. There are a variety of federation models that allow schools to choose which model best suits their needs.

Regardless of the federation model adopted, individual schools retain their identity, continue to receive individual school budgets, have separate Ofsted inspections and report on performance individually.

Federating schools can have many benefits, including:

- Providing a structured way for schools to learn from each other and share best practice
- Offering opportunities for improved teaching and learning through increased specialism
- Building capacity across the federation
- Saving on planning and administration time
- Offering better support and development opportunities for School Governors
- Providing broader career opportunities across the federation
- Extending curriculum entitlement.

5.4 Sponsored Academies

In certain circumstances, the Council will facilitate the sponsorship of schools to become academies or support eligible schools to convert to academy status. Such steps will only be taken to support the overall improvement of education in the City, including the raising of pupils' attainment and progress.

Where appropriate, the Council will work with other agencies to identify locally sourced sponsors to support the conversion of schools.

We recommend the adoption of structural solutions (including federations and sponsored academy status) and seek to influence the implementation of effective governance arrangements that promote school improvement and advance the quality of education across the City.

6

All-through Schools

An 'All-through school' is a school which provides both primary and secondary education.

Opportunity

To improve the diversity of the school estate in Wolverhampton the introduction of all-through schools will be explored, where appropriate.

Successful all-through schools can offer many benefits including:

- Reducing the number of transitions children face and reducing the risk of delayed learning at the start of secondary school
- Extending opportunities available to primary pupils; all-through schools can offer primary age pupils early access to specialist subject teaching and facilities
- Providing an additional opportunity to fully utilise the whole school estate to meet the anticipated future primary basic need challenge
- Providing school staff with wider career development opportunities
- Offering cost savings through economies of scale.

The introduction of all-through provision will only be considered where there is a demonstrable need for additional capacity in the local area and all-through provision would be an appropriate solution.

7

Specialist Provision

Local authorities must ensure that there are sufficient good school places for all pupils, including those with Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND).

The high needs estate is made up of educational settings who are primarily supported by the high needs funding system including special schools, resource bases and alternative provision.

In September 2020, there were eight Special Schools in Wolverhampton:

Special School Establishment	School Type	Age Range	SEND Designation
Broadmeadow Special School	Academy	2-7	Physical Disability Severe Learning Difficulty
Green Park School	Community	3-19	Severe Learning Difficulty Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty
Pine Green Academy	Academy	7-16	Speech, Language and Communication Social, Emotional and Mental Health Physical Disability Moderate Learning Difficulty
Penn Fields Special School	Community	5-19	Specific Learning Difficulty Speech, Language and Communication Autistic Spectrum Disorder Moderate Learning Difficulty Severe Learning Difficulty
Penn Hall Special School	Community	3-19	Physical Disability Severe Learning Difficulty Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty Autistic Spectrum Disorder
Tettenhall Wood School			Autistic Spectrum Disorder
Westcroft School	Community	4-19	Autistic Spectrum Disorder
Wolverhampton Vocational Training Centre	Academy	5-19	Moderate Learning Difficulty Severe Learning Difficulty
	Free School	16-18	Specific Learning Difficulty Visual Impairment Hearing Impairment Speech, Language and Communication Autistic Spectrum Disorder Social, Emotional and Mental Health Moderate Learning Difficulty Severe Learning Difficulty

In September 2020, there were 11 mainstream schools with resource base provision:

Resource Base Establishment	School Type	SEND Designation
Aldersley High School	Academy	Speech, Language and Communication Autistic Spectrum Disorder
Bilston Nursery School	LA Nursery	Severe/Complex Needs Significant Difficulties
Bushbury Nursery School	LA Nursery	High Needs and or EHCP
Castlecroft Primary School	Community	Visual Impairment
Low Hill Nursery School	LA Nursery	Severe/Complex Needs Significant Difficulties
Palmers Cross Primary School	Academy	Speech, Language and Communication
Springdale Primary	Community	Speech, Language and Communication
Smestow School	Academy	Visual Impairment
St Matthias School	Community	Hearing Impaired
Warstones Primary School	Community	Hearing Impaired
Windsor Nursery School	LA Nursery	Severe/Complex Needs Significant Difficulties

In September 2020, there were four Pupil referral Units:

Pupil Referral Unit Establishment	Age Range
Midpoint Centre (Key Stage 4 PRU)	14-16
Evergreen Academy (Primary PRU)	4-11
The Braybrook Centre (Key Stage 3 PRU)	11-13
The Orchard Centre (Home and Hospital PRU)	5-16

7.1 Guiding Principles

It is recommended that the development of high needs provision in the city is guided by the following principles:

- A transparent, choice of provision and providers is available to students and families
- Clear and consistent pathways are offered within Wolverhampton's high needs estate
- A broad range of high needs provision, including a comprehensive graduated response, is available within the city
- High quality, local solutions are developed to support a reduction in the required number of out of city placements
- Solutions are developed to offer opportunities for students with SEND to attend mainstream provision, unless doing so would be incompatible with the provision of efficient education.

7.2 Mainstream Provision

The Children and Families Act 2014 secures the general presumption in law of mainstream education in relation to decisions about where children and young people with SEND should be educated.

Improving access to mainstream education and educational achievement for students with high needs is essential to ensure equality of opportunity, full participation in society, greater independence, and access to employment opportunities.

It is recommended that the vast majority of students with SEND (combined cohorts of students with an Education, Health and Care Plan and those accessing SEND support) in Wolverhampton should access mainstream schools.

The City of Wolverhampton Council's Schools Accessibility Strategy aims to maximise the benefits to children and young people with SEND by; increasing the extent to which pupils with SEND can participate in the school curriculum, ensuring that pupils with SEND are able to gain maximum benefit from their time in education through improving facilities and services provided or offered by schools and improving the delivery of information to disabled pupils.

It is recommended that the accessibility of mainstream facilities is considered within the design and delivery of all school capital projects commissioned by the Council.

Commissioning Priorities:

In accordance with this policy and to effectively meet community needs moving forwards, the City of Wolverhampton Council will prioritise the commissioning of an effective, targeted and transparent outreach offer to provide specialist support to mainstream schools and promote inclusion.

7.3 Resource Base Provision

Resource bases offer specialist provision reserved for pupils with SEND within a mainstream school. The Department for Education (DfE) categorises resource bases as either ‘SEN units’ or ‘resourced provision’.

SEN units are, “...special provisions within a mainstream school where pupils with SEND are taught mainly within separate classes” (DfE 2019), that are formally recognised by the local authority as reserved for pupils with SEND.

Resourced provisions are, “...places that are reserved at a mainstream school for pupils with a specific type of SEN, taught mainly within mainstream classes, but requiring a base and some specialist facilities around the school” (DfE 2019), that are formally recognised by the local authority as reserved for pupils with SEND.

Admissions into resource bases are controlled by the City of Wolverhampton Council and are distinct from mainstream admission arrangements. Places are commissioned on an annual basis in accordance with the annual high needs place commissioning process.

The City of Wolverhampton Council:

- Recognises the benefit of developing a broad geographic spread of resource base provision across the city
- Recommends that a range of resource bases are developed to cater for the broad areas of need identified in the SEND Code of Practice i.e. Communication and Interaction, Cognition and Learning, Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties and Sensory and/or Physical Needs
- Recommends the exploration of opportunities to extend the range of needs that existing resources bases cater for (excluding sensory resource bases).

It is recommended that, when prioritising the potential development of resource base provision in the city, the following factors are considered:

- School Performance – schools judged as ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted will be prioritised
- Leadership – schools with stable and proven leadership will be prioritised
- Local Needs – schools in areas of high demand will be prioritised
- Viability – schemes which can be most easily and efficiently implemented will be prioritised.

In certain circumstances, the Council will consider the discontinuance of maintained resource base provision. We will consider this if closure could be implemented without denying existing students access to appropriate alternative educational provision and the setting meets two or more of the below criteria:

- The setting is judged Inadequate by Ofsted.
- The performance of students in the resource base is unacceptably low
- The resource base has a significant number of surplus places
- There are significant suitability issues in respect of the resource base’s accommodation/site.

Commissioning Priorities:

In accordance with this policy and to effectively meet community needs moving forwards, the City of Wolverhampton Council will prioritise:

- The commissioning of additional resource base provision to enhance the local offer for pupils with Social Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties (SEMH)
- The commissioning of additional resource base provision to enhance the local offer for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and/or Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)
- The commissioning of opportunities to extend inclusive resource base provision into the primary and secondary phases
- The exploration of opportunities to extend the range of needs that existing resources bases cater for (excluding sensory resource bases).

7.4 Special School Provision

A special school is a school “specially designed to make special educational provision for pupils with special educational needs” (DfE 2014).

Places in special schools are commissioned on an annual basis in accordance with the annual high needs place commissioning process.

The City of Wolverhampton Council recognises the practical benefits of larger special schools, including;

- a workforce with a wider spectrum of experience and expertise
- increased opportunity to offer a broad and balanced curriculum, greater flexibility to cover staff absence
- increased potential to provide strategic leadership succession opportunities
- the opportunity to utilise resources more efficiently, and;
- an increased ability to readily respond to change.

To promote the efficient use of scarce resources and support the development of robust provision which can flex to meet changing community needs, whilst recognising the importance of a personal ethos; it is recommended that Special Schools in the city offer a minimum of 75 places.

To meet rising demand for special school places the Council will continue to consider, where feasible and required, the expansion of existing special schools across the city. To safeguard the sustainability of the existing special school estate, the expansion of existing schools will be investigated in the first instance, prior to considering the introduction of new provision.

To facilitate the development of appropriate and transparent student pathways within the city's special school estate, it is recommended that special school age ranges are consistently aligned to standard mainstream transition points i.e. nursery, primary, secondary and post 16.

To promote the development of choice in the special school estate it is recommended that the development of both all-through special school provision and primary and secondary phase special school provision is explored.

In certain circumstances, the Council will consider the discontinuance of maintained special school provision. We will consider this if closure could be implemented without denying existing students access to appropriate alternative educational provision and a school meets two or more of the below criteria:

- The school is judged Inadequate by Ofsted
- The performance of students in the school is unacceptably low
- The school has a significant number of surplus places
- There are significant suitability issues in respect of the school's accommodation/site.

Commissioning Priorities:

In accordance with this policy and to effectively meet community needs moving forwards, the City of Wolverhampton Council will:

- Explore potential opportunities to amend the age ranges of existing special school provision to enable timely access to provision and reduce transitions experienced by students with SEND
- Commission additional capacity with the city's special school estate to cater for the anticipated increase in demand in the short to medium term.

7.5 Alternative Provision and Pupil Referral Units

Alternative provision is recognised by the Department for Education as, "...education arranged by local authorities for pupils who, because of exclusion, illness or other reasons, would not otherwise receive suitable education; education arranged by schools for pupils on a fixed period exclusion; and pupils being directed by schools to off-site provision to improve their behaviour." (DfE 2013).

The City of Wolverhampton Council recognises the practical benefits of developing a broader range of pupil referral units/alternative provision which offer specialisms and provide commissioners and families with greater choice from a range of local provision.

There are currently four pupil referral units in Wolverhampton; the City of Wolverhampton Council recognises the invaluable support that local Pupil Referral Units provide to vulnerable students.

Places in pupil referral units are commissioned on an annual basis in accordance with the annual high needs place commissioning process. This policy requires that admissions into pupil referral units are informed by clear and transparent admissions policies which support timely access to provision and promote student reintegration.

The City of Wolverhampton Council recognises the practical benefits of larger pupil referral units; however, it is appreciated that the value of both a personal ethos and appropriate staff to pupil ratios within pupil referral units is fundamental to their success.

Any proposal to expand the capacity of a maintained pupil referral unit to accommodate rising local demand should not detrimentally affect existing students.

It is recommended that the age ranges of pupil referral units in Wolverhampton are consistently aligned to standard mainstream transition points i.e. primary and secondary.

It is recommended that local pupil referral units should provide distinct provision for students with mental and physical health difficulties and students with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties and that, where appropriate, opportunities to house distinct provision on separate sites are explored.

In certain circumstances, the Council will consider the discontinuance of maintained pupil referral units. We will consider this if closure could be implemented without denying existing students access to appropriate alternative educational provision and a pupil referral unit (PRU) meets two or more of the below criteria:

- The PRU is judged Inadequate by Ofsted
- The performance of students in the PRU is unacceptably low
- The PRU has a significant number of surplus places
- There are significant suitability issues in respect of the PRU's accommodation/site.

Commissioning Priorities:

In accordance with this policy and to effectively meet community needs moving forwards, the City of Wolverhampton Council will:

- Explore opportunities to house distinct PRU provision on separate sites
- Explore opportunities to commission a broader range of local alternative provision.

7.6 Post 19 Educational Provision for Young People with SEND

To enable young people with SEND to effectively complete and consolidate their education and be better prepared for adulthood, the Department for Education requires local authorities to clearly set out what is normally available for 19- to 25-year-olds with SEND to ensure educational and training needs are met, regardless of whether they have an EHC plan.

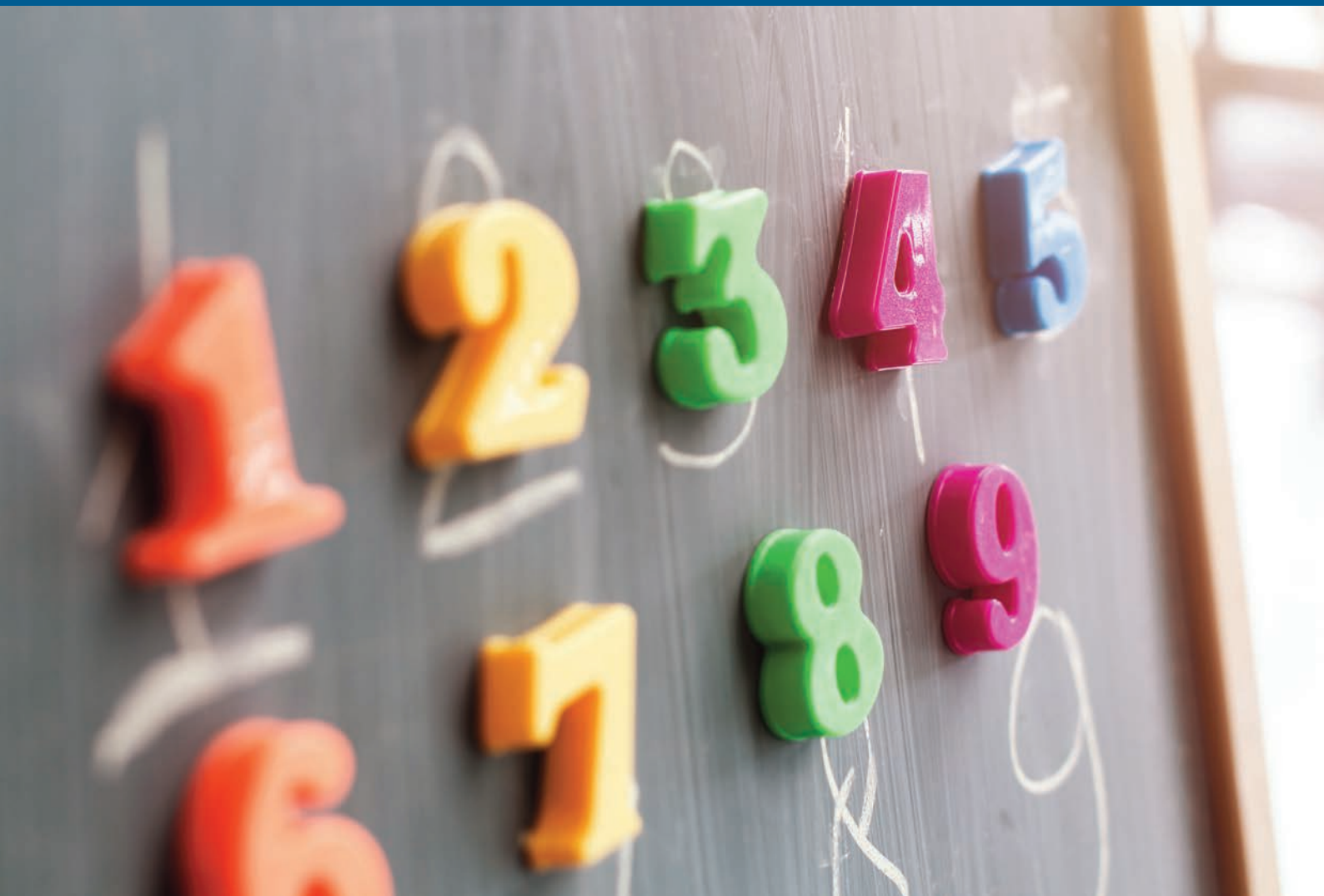
Students aged 19 to 25 with EHC plans who are continuing in education may have a range of options, including attending:

- further education
- training
- a supported internship
- an apprenticeship

It is recommended that young people with SEND in Wolverhampton are provided with a choice of appropriate high-quality provision from a diverse range of local post 19 educational providers.

Commissioning Priorities:

In accordance with this policy and to effectively meet community needs moving forwards, the City of Wolverhampton Council will prioritise the development of a broader local provision offer for young people aged 19+ with SEND.



7.7 Regional Commissioning

To promote the effective use of scarce resources and for the benefit of children and young people with SEND, this policy promotes the opportunity for the City of Wolverhampton Council to work closely with neighbouring local authorities when commissioning provision for students with SEND.

7.8 Local Offer

Wolverhampton's offer is available here:
http://win.wolverhampton.gov.uk/kb5/wolverhampton/directory/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=7_4



Early Years Provision

Early Years provision has a legal duty to generate a report on Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and is organised into four localities, split into eight areas, detailing current supply and demand of registered childcare. The Local Authority offers support, advice and guidance to registered childcare providers who work within the Early Years Statutory Framework. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) provides details of legislation on welfare requirements and learning and development. Support is also offered to families through programmes such as Home learning, Bookstart and the Parent Champion programme⁸.

City of Wolverhampton Council have published an Early Years Strategy for parents and professionals. The strategy is based on the assumption that parents are the first educator and to ensure that there is a robust system in place to support them in this vital role. The Local Authority is committed to:

- Putting the best interests of the child at the heart of decision making
- Taking a holistic approach to the wellbeing of a child
- Working with children, young people and their families on ways to improve wellbeing
- Advocating preventative work and early intervention to support young children and their families ensuring they are appropriately safeguarded
- Believing professionals must work together in the best interests of the child.

⁸City of Wolverhampton Council, Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, 2017

The Early Years Strategy has four work plans; Parental Engagement, Workforce Development, High Quality Education and Good Family Health. These are live documents that highlight areas of development to support in providing good quality experiences for families across the City, contributing to improving children's outcomes for learning. An identified key area for development is to ensure children are ready for school, to support this, a school readiness definition has been agreed⁹:

The Early Years Strategy states that “as a child starts full time schooling within Wolverhampton, there is an expectation that children feel prepared and ready to start school socially, emotionally and physically. Children will be able to express their needs, feelings and wants. A school will ensure that children feel heard and understood by their practitioners. Leading to children being excited, enthused and demonstrate a curiosity to learn both inside and outside of the classroom.”

The City continues through the work of the Early Intervention Service, School Improvement and Standards team to strive to ensure that schools, settings, childminders and all early year's providers are delivering high quality early years experiences. The Ofsted ratings for the City continue to rise annually; the figures for all providers within the City demonstrate this¹⁰.

⁹ City of Wolverhampton Council, Early Years Strategy 2017-2021, p.9

¹⁰ City of Wolverhampton Council, Early Years Strategy 2017-2021

9

Infant and Junior School Provision

We recommend that whenever the Headship of a school becomes vacant in an infant or junior school, the Council invites responsible bodies (e.g. Governing Boards) to consider their merger or amalgamation. For merger to be considered, the leadership of the establishment that is proposed for expansion must be at least 'Good'.

Bringing infant and junior schools together offers many advantages, including:

- Reducing the number of major transitions that pupils face
- Reducing the likelihood of lost learning at the beginning of Key Stage 2
- Increasing the opportunity for specialist teachers to work with a wider range of pupils
- Providing the opportunity for a consistent approach to the curriculum to be adopted
- Ensuring the continuity of teaching, learning and achievement
- Cost savings through economies of scale.

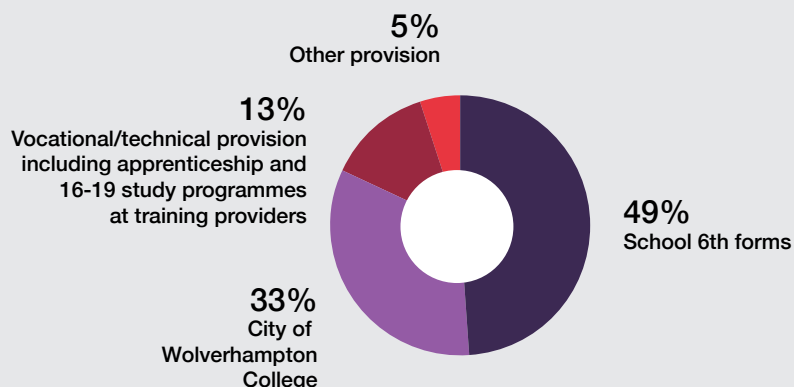
Please note that, in this context:

- The 'merger' of infant and junior schools is the process of joining the schools together by discontinuing one establishment and expanding and altering the age range of the other
- The term amalgamation relates to the process of joining the schools together by discontinuing both establishments and creating a new school.

10

Post-16 Provision

The Post 16 landscape is made up of 24 organisations;



10.1 Current Places and Funding

Across the City of Wolverhampton there are a variety of post-16 providers, offering a mixture of qualifications to 16-19 year olds.

In 2017-18 there were 5,475 funded Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) places within the City. Post-16 provision varies significantly from the secondary education phase due to a breadth of provision offered by specialist academic and technical providers.

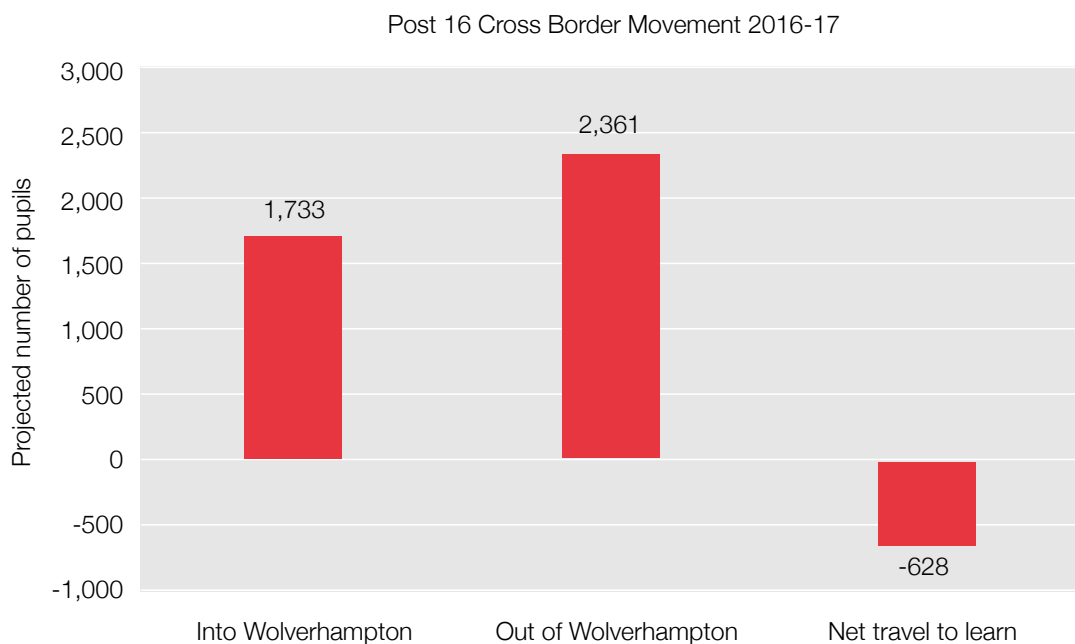
Post 16 provision is based on lagged, (historic) learner numbers, the current allocation does not include capacity to grow or infrastructure development of existing settings.

Effective collaboration between schools and City of Wolverhampton College will be key to successful implementation of the governments skills plan. The strategy for education place planning recognises the aspirations of schools to have efficient and successful 6th form provision, and the need to balance provision and its success between 6th forms and City of Wolverhampton College. With regard to this, the impact of co-commissioning of post 16 courses and any rationalisation of available space will be considered when exploring any future secondary school place planning activities.

10.2 Cross Border Movement

In Key Stage 4 and 5 the City exports more learners than we import. The table below shows that in the academic year 2016-17 more Wolverhampton residents aged (16-19) left the City compared to the numbers from neighbouring Local Authority who travelled into Wolverhampton. In this academic year there was a net loss of 628 learners.

Figure 8: Post 16 Cross Border Movement 2016-17



Source: DFE ESFA Data Sets

Figure 9: Post 16 Cross Border Movement of pupils to Wolverhampton from neighbouring Local Authorities

Local Authority	Export	Import	+/- migration
Dudley	933	208	-725
Sandwell	244	159	-85
Staffordshire	300	355	+55
Walsall	382	315	-67

Sufficiency needs are currently met in Wolverhampton due to the number of learners exported and capacity within the existing Post 16 settings. However due to the forecasted bulge in Year 7 from 2016-17 to 2023-24 and a projected future growth in Post 16 numbers as a consequence, the City could have a shortage in capacity of around 1,855 young people in 2028-2029.

11

Estate Management

School Buildings

It is recognised that generally the maintained school estate has been well maintained with a rolling programme of capital works. However, it is also recognised that some school buildings are costly to maintain effectively due to their age and design. It is recommended that an annual condition review of maintained schools is carried out to inform priority for rebuilding schools. School condition will be considered alongside other factors such as location and proximity to new housing developments when considering rebuilding and/or relocation of schools.

The School Organisation Team will work closely with the Council's regeneration team to review potential sites for new/relocated schools.



New School Buildings

The ambition of this strategy is to ensure that where possible, any new school buildings are environmentally friendly and support the Council's aim to be carbon neutral by 2028.

We recommend a long term approach to the management of educational assets in order to ensure that fluctuations in demand can be effectively and efficiently catered for. Where appropriate, sites should be reserved as contingency to cater for anticipated increases in demand, such as that resulting from new housing developments.

However, it should be recognised that adopting a longer-term approach will result in short-term budgetary pressures for Corporate Landlord as sites must be secured and maintained.

Any reserved sites that are included on the Council's Disposal Programme will impact on the Council's ability to achieve its capital receipt target.

Where circumstances arise that present the opportunity to use existing school accommodation in different ways, this strategy would require that priority is given to the provision of statutory school places. However, to further align school place planning with the corporate assets programme we will identify any opportunities for strengthening multi-agency working through co-location of services and schools.

Rationalising the School Estate

At present there is land that is not used within some school sites in the city. The strategy recommends reviewing usage of school sites and rationalising the school estate to ensure that schools have adequate useable space while ensuring that any agreed excess space is used to meet Council objectives around regeneration, housing and climate change.

12

Strategy Review

The strategy is subject to review on a biennial basis.



13

Resources

City of Wolverhampton Council, Our Council Plan 2019-2024
<https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/your-council/council-plan>

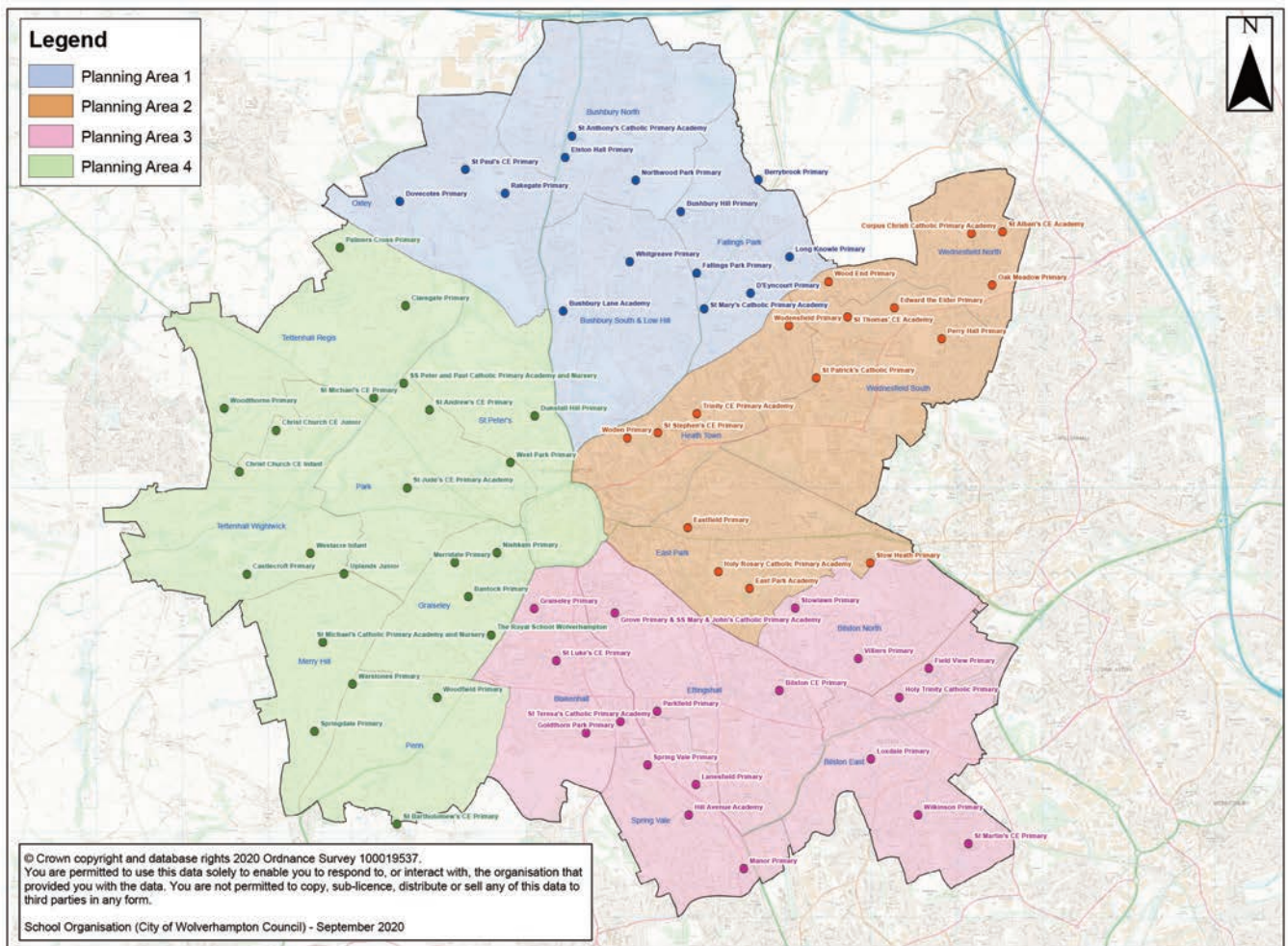
City of Wolverhampton Council, Early Years Strategy 2017 – 2021
<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=11544&p=0>

City of Wolverhampton Council, Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2017
<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=14604&p=0>

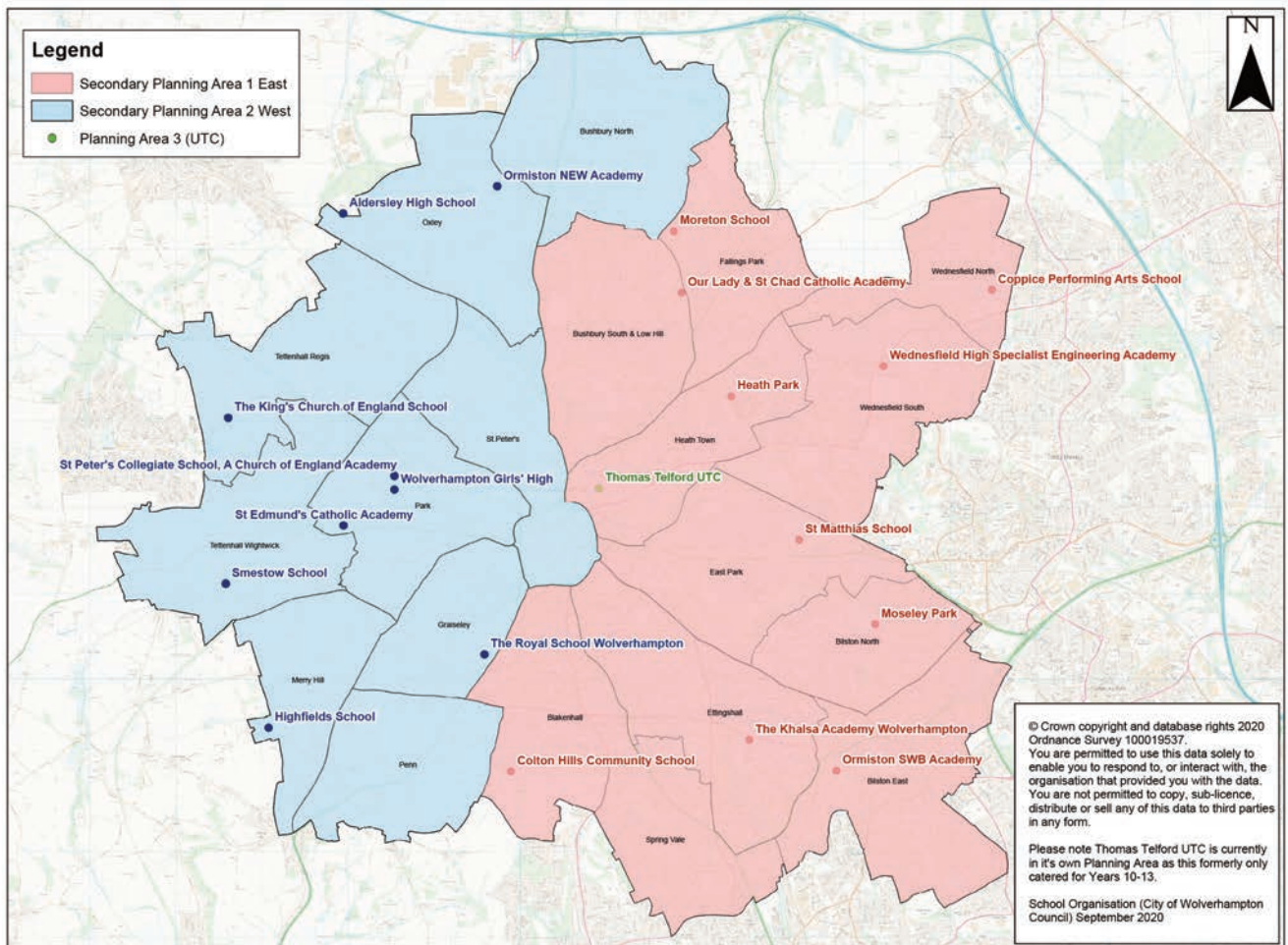
Department of Education, Schools Admissions Code December 2014
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389388/School_Admissions_Code_2014_-_19_Dec.pdf

Appendices

Appendix A: Primary Provision Planning Areas 2020



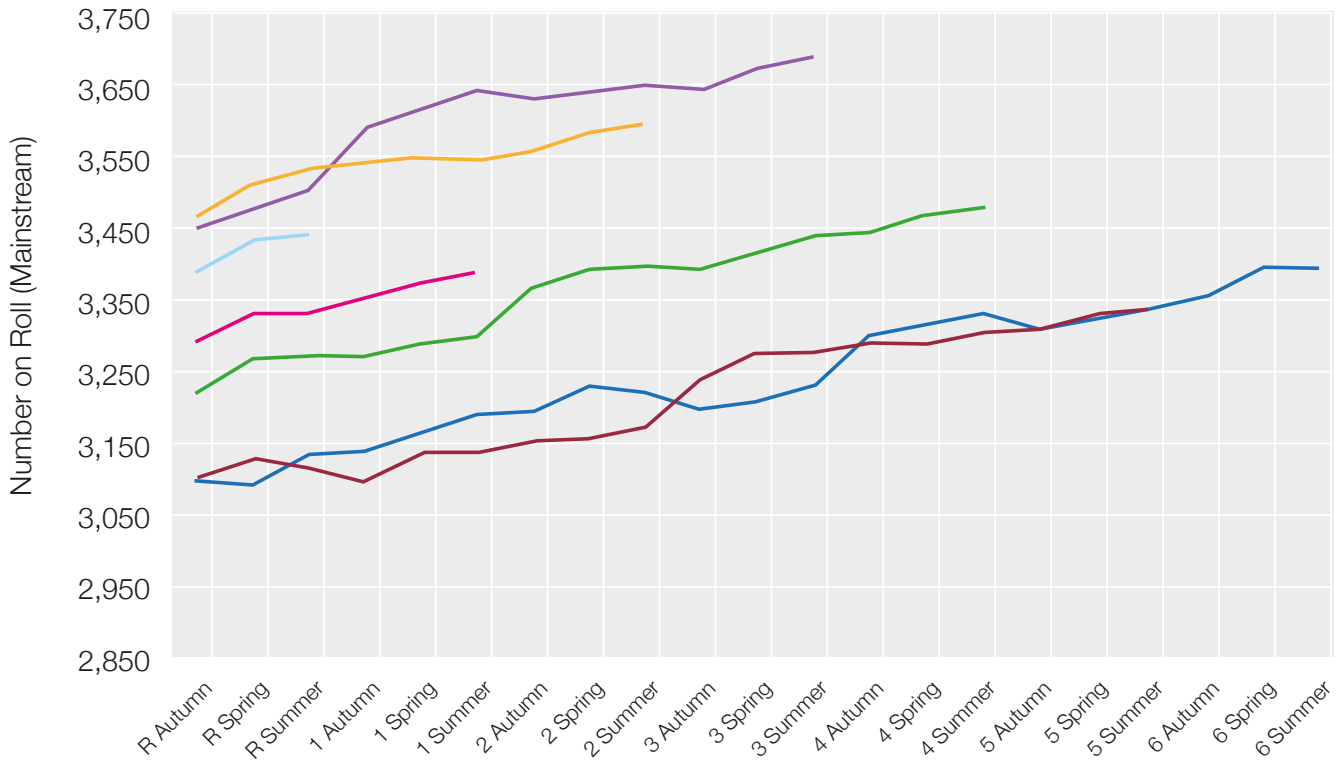
Appendix B: Secondary Provision Planning Areas 2020



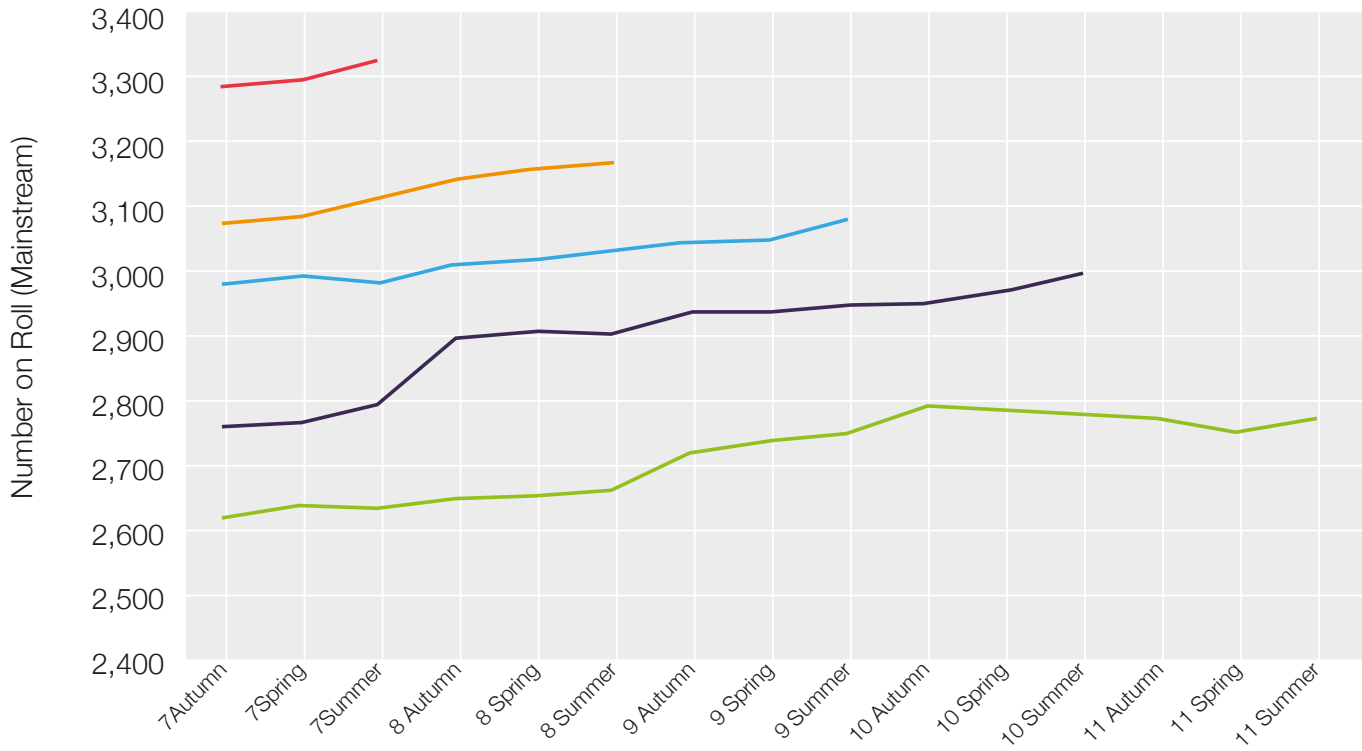
Appendix C:

Primary Cohort Fluctuations

(Autumn, Spring and Summer census data)



Appendix D: Secondary Cohort Fluctuations (Autumn, Spring and Summer census data)



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audio or in another language by calling 01902 551155

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City of Wolverhampton Council, Civic Centre, St. Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

Question 1	Question 2	Question 3
Do you agree with an annual review of the condition and suitability of temporary accommodation across the maintained school estate? - Y/N	Do you have any comments/feedback regarding the annual review of temporary accommodation? - Comments or feedback	Do you agree with the recommendation to undertake an annual condition review of maintained schools to inform priority for rebuilding of schools? - Y/N
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes	An annual review is very important as we have to look after the wellbeing of children and teachers and staff across the school estate	Yes
Yes		Yes

Yes	<p>Its should be a consistent approach across all schools.</p> <p>The temporary accommodation should be on traffic light system with state of repair</p>	Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes

Yes		Yes
Yes	Thorough investigation is needed considering the practical, realistic use of such buildings considering the well-being of teachers and children	Yes
Yes	If there is an annual review, afterwards something should be put in place so children are learning in the best environment/building possible	Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		No
Yes		Yes
Yes	Temporary accommodation should be temporary and a initial limit should be set out as to how long it will be used for.	Yes
Yes		Yes

Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		No
Yes		Yes
Yes	no	Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes	It is necessary to complete annual reviews to check on the condition of temporary accommodation so that this can be taken into account for future school place planning., as well as from a Health and Safety aspect.	Yes

Yes	Financial support needs to be available to enable schools to action recommendations.	Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
No	There should be no temporary accommodation in the 1st place	Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes

Question 4	Question 5	Question 6
<p>Do you have any comments/feedback regarding the recommendation to undertake an annual condition review of the maintained school estate? - Comments or feedback</p>	<p>Do you agree with the ambition for new school buildings to be environmentally friendly to support the Council's carbon neutral aim? - Y/N</p>	<p>Do you have any comments/feedback regarding the ambition for any new buildings to be environmentally friendly to support the Council's carbon neutral aim? - Comments or feedback</p>
<p>A broad review should consider bold decisions such as the changing of purpose of accommodation, if there are sufficient factors (cost, alternative use, access etc).</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>As long as there are not shorter term financial consequences to the upkeep and maintenance of the new buildings e.g. a particular system that is 'environmentally friendly' could cost significantly more than traditional methods and put pressure on a school budget.</p>
	<p>Yes</p>	
	<p>Yes</p>	
	<p>Yes</p>	<p>I agree with the need to be environmentally friendly, but this must support that these buildings are set to last. Any design features need to be sustainable for the future.</p>
	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This should've happened long ago.</p>
	<p>Yes</p>	
	<p>No</p>	
	<p>Yes</p>	
	<p>Yes</p>	
<p>Annual review is important to ensure the safety of children, staff and parents whilst they are doing the school run.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>We all have a duty to reduce carbon emissions and to be environmentally friendly. This also ensures health and safety of children, teachers and staff. We have to think about the future of our children and the climate.</p>
	<p>Yes</p>	

<p>Yes, it is useful to plan works. However, not just applying sticking plasters.</p> <p>Ensuring that there is a capital works and maintenance programme that is SMART Specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This should also be taught to kids to explain how we can all do our part to help the environment.</p> <p>Also, if local suppliers and contractors are available this should be considered along side value for money.</p>
	<p>Yes</p>	
	<p>Yes</p>	
	<p>Yes</p>	
	<p>Yes</p>	
	<p>Yes</p>	
	<p>Yes</p>	
	<p>Yes</p>	
	<p>Yes</p>	
	<p>Yes</p>	

<p>I think generally when older schools are rebuilt it is of benefit as they can save money in the long run</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>I think schools which are environmentally friendly set a good example to pupils.</p>
<p>School condition should be priority not position of school relating to new houses. Why should quality and safety of building not be of higher priority compared to providing more places. ALL school building should be prioritised based on condition of buildings. ALL children matter.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Great also for children's learning about making change for environment</p>
<p>However as before, no maintained school should be in such disrepair.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Absolutely brilliant idea. This should be a priority for all schools not just those falling apart</p>
	<p>Yes</p>	
	<p>Yes</p>	
	<p>Yes</p>	
	<p>Yes</p>	
	<p>Yes</p>	
<p>I have found LA projects very rushed and last minute, which indicates lack of strategic planning. Often, major work is reactive and lacks planning. Headteachers should not have to be chasing LA for work on buildings and then having to manage chaotic planning.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	

	Yes	Providing the cost is not at the expense of building more accommodation/ refurbishing schools as needed.
	Yes	
	Yes	
There may be competing demands on whether a particular school has capital spending and location a to new housing developments may be one of very many factors, including transport links, quality of educational offering, distinctiveness of offering requiring additional external support or area of disadvantage that has little recourse to capital funds, but serves a specific community with particularly high needs. It is likely to be in existing and long standing (no pun intended) communities where greatest need is and investing in new housing areas risks further deteriorating existing stock or isolating some communities from a good or outstanding school.	Yes	Absolutely and built into this would be transport connectivity and access to schools within communities whilst retaining the opportunity for parents and their children to have choice in the educational journey.
	Yes	
no	Yes	no
	Yes	
	Yes	AS long as the fundamental ideas do not compromise teaching & learning
	Yes	

	Yes	God ambition but I am not sure how realistic it is. Are schools adequately supported to enable them to achieve this?
	Yes	
	Yes	
	Yes	
	Yes	
	Yes	
	Yes	
	Yes	
I believe that all schools not just maintained ones should have regular inspections to ensure all children allocated a school place by Wolverhampton council go to a school with appropriately maintained buildings. Not every child gets a place at a preferred schools, parents expect the council to send pupils to schools without holes in the roof etc	Yes	It should be the council's priority that pupils needs are put before environmental e.g a class room or more trees planted on site. The class room should always take priority.
	Yes	
	Yes	
	Yes	
	Yes	

Question 7	Question 8	Question 9
Do you agree with identifying opportunities for strengthening multiagency working through co-location of services and schools? - Y/N	Do you have any comments/feedback regarding the co-location of services and schools? - Comments or feedback	Do you agree with the recommendation to review the usage of school sites and rationalising the school estate to help meet Council objectives around regeneration, housing and climate change? - Y/N
Yes		No
Yes		Yes
Yes	Multi agency work is vital in schools. It allows families to be engaged sooner therefore achieving better outcomes for children and families	Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
No		No
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes	None	Yes
Yes		No

Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		No
Yes		No
Yes		Yes
Yes		No
No		Yes

Yes		No
Yes	Obviously with appropriate safeguarding procedures but also keeping in mind these may need to be allocated back to school in years that follow.	No
No	Needs more clarity. Co-locarion could work as long as these locations are next to each other and services benefit each side.	No
Yes		Yes
No		No
No		No
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		No

Yes	I would welcome workers in school - it would provide better and easier access for our families who need support	Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes	Where that is not merely a cost-saving exercise, but one which will realise the synergy of co-located resources and accessible to all partners across the city. This can only occur where capacity exists or can be made. Sensitivity and creativity in creating and maintaining suitable spaces for a range of educational provision is critical for welfare and futures of children and young people in the city.	Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes	no	No
Yes		No
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes

Yes	If there is spare building capacity eg outbuildings or unused caretaker's house then co-location of schools and education services could be a good use of underused facilities. The primary focus of the site ie school education shouldn't be lost or hindered by other services. It might enable outside agencies to obtain a better insight by being close to or part of a school site. However, safeguarding and logistical arrangements (car parking, staff room space, reception....etc.) might be difficult to meet.	No
No		No
Yes		No
Yes		No
Yes		Yes
Yes		No
Yes	With public libraries so children have access to books	No
Yes		Yes
Yes	SEN pupils in mainstream school should have access to the same provisions as pupils in specialist SEN provision e.g specialist dental service, onsite OT and physio, paediatrician visits etc. The pupils in mainstream are receiving a second class service than their peers in specialist provision	No
Yes		No
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes
Yes		Yes

Question 10	Question 11
<p>Do you have any comments/feedback regarding the review and rationalisation of the school estate to help the Council meets its wider objectives? - Comments or feedback</p>	<p>Please provide any further comments you would like to make regarding this strategy, stating the section and page number you are referring to. - Comments</p>
<p>My concern would be that a precedence could be set of green and open space being used for housing.</p>	
<p>Although I agree this mustn't be at the cost of cutting playng fields for children and young people</p>	
<p>Safeguarding and safety is very important for the wellbeing of children and staff. Extra security measures will need to be put in place to ensure safety all around.</p>	<p>None</p>

<p>I believe that there should be additional consideration given to rationalisation of the school estate around regeneration.</p> <p>I believe it is important to also maintain and conserve our nature and wildlife when rationalisation of the estate is considered.</p>	
<p>If unused land is used to build houses, this will put pressure on places on the school it is next to, therefore they might need to expand, but now can't because their land is now houses. Bit of a catch-22. Unused land should perhaps be used instead for green spaces or community projects.</p>	
<p>I do not feel there are sufficient schools in Wolverhampton any way I would also have concerns that schools on more desirable sites with large grounds would be at risk. I feel strongly that school grounds provide important outdoor spaces for youngsters.</p>	
<p>Using school land to build houses on for example will mean children's outdoor learning will be greatly affected.</p>	
<p>I agree with the above provided each school is left with adequate green space for recreation and sports and that the school and its surroundings do not become a concrete jungle.</p>	

<p>I think it is important for schools to keep their outdoor spaces to give enough room for children to play safely. I don't think that it is a good idea for school grounds to be lost. If anything they could build extra classrooms on land not being used to meet demand for school places.</p>	
<p>Schools should be supported in making use of these groups / spaces. They often have been left due to funding. With some support from businesses and volunteers land could provide amazing learning spaces that could inspire and engage our children in learning. Also school fields should be protected, as a child I loved the playing fields at school. They provide outdoor space that has positive impact on children's mental health and should not be taken away.</p>	<p>Children need to be at the heart of these decisions not making money.</p>
<p>If schools have excess land, it should be utilised for the children, especially as a green zone. There are not enough parks and extra space would encourage healthy lifestyles and fitness of children.</p>	
<p>It depends on definition of 'excess space'. School fields are an essential part of what makes schools so enjoyable to children at unstructured times and for physical activity. West Park PS - every cm of the space is used and enjoyed.</p>	

<p>As long as it IS unused by the school, and they have no future plans to use it to benefit the children's educational offer.</p>	
<p>Are you referring to the use of school playing fields? I believe that this is an area that must be protected, even more so in the current climate.</p>	
<p>Huge caveat to former reply. Open spaces, places to recreate and have purposeful outdoor experiences are crucial to wellbeing and mental health for pupils, teachers and wider community. Following the current situation there will continue to be a need for young people to reconnect with their surroundings and outdoors. Any loss of amenity must be carefully assessed and balanced against the less measurable, but equally important wellbeing and welfare issues.</p> <p>However, where excess capacity exists that could be repurposed to more flexible and positive use that contributes to the urban landscape then it may be a positive impact.</p>	<p>I agree with the need to offer choice to pupils and their parents and for the continual striving to offer a high quality, enriching learning experience for every child in the city must be a goal.</p> <p>Sharing of plans and specific locations, outcomes and intentions is more than helpful, it is critical to the success of education and the future of young people now and in the future. It cannot remain a cost/benefit analysis on a spreadsheet, but must increasingly offer an aspirational route for the young people of Wolverhampton to not only survive, but thrive and push forward the regeneration of their city and region.</p>
<p>As long as the school can challenge and refuse too</p>	

<p>If the whole class site is not being used I would ask why? How can the provision of education be improved through better use of the site? Schools should make full use of any outdoor space for sport and outdoor learning opportunities especially at a time when mental health and wellbeing are so important. Surrounding schools with more housing is also likely to create greater pressure on admission numbers. School space should be used to enhance education not create more pressure on it.</p>	<p>The school community - staff, governors, pupils and local residents and businesses should be part of any proposal to significantly change school sites.</p>
<p>I don't think space should be taken from schools to build houses on , although schools should make best use of their land , it should be for the children rather than new developments .</p>	
<p>All schools should have access to sporting provision onsite they should not have to chose e.g a rugby or a football pitch an athletics track or tennis courts. Having a wider variety of sport available in schools encourages pupils to be more active and may encourage them to continue being active into adult life.</p>	<p>Don't reduce the diversity and quality of education on offer in Wolverhampton, it's imperative that pupils receive high quality teaching with a variety of subjects and facilities. Less does not equate to more.</p>