

REPORT TO: OSC**DATE: 22 February 2018****REPORT TITLE: Strategy and approach to delivering pupil places****REPORT AUTHOR/S:****Keith Rowley****telephone: (020) 8379 2459****e-mail: keith.rowley@enfield.gov.uk****PURPOSE OF REPORT:** Update on the demand for school places**SUMMARY: The update reflects:**

the 2017 annual review of the population projections about the expected demand for school places;

The key points from the review of demand for school places up to 2020 are:

Demand for primary school places between 2017 and 2022 is lower than projected last year but there is local demand in the South West from 2022;

Demand for secondary school places between 2018 and 2022 is broadly as previously reported with a peak in 2023;

Demand for high support provision for children with certain categories of special education need continues to increase.

1. BACKGROUND

The forecasting method used in predicting deficit of places was first implemented in 2013, based on Greater London Authority (GLA) projections. GLA figures are used as a baseline to which local knowledge is applied. The reason for this is GLA figures at a borough level are aggregated into planning areas and this causes a mismatch at a local level and doesn't promote parental choice or allow for any regional fluctuations in demand. Adjustment of forecasts allows a truer demand figure to be arrived at the Planning Area and school level.

The level of forecast adjustment is dependent on a number of factors but mainly, historic trends of the GLA accuracy in predicting school rolls and the level of the volatility of demand from inward migration. A local adjustment of secondary rolls accounts for expected additional demand at all age groups rather than just year 7.

Other London LA's have been consulted and similar external audit exercises on GLA/ONS adjustments and concur with Enfield's approach.

Primary Borough level

At the borough level has a sufficiency of places until 2023 when approximately 3 forms of entry (FE) will be required. The borough capacity includes a temporary Bowes Southgate, 2fe (which may have issues) and the introduction of One Degree Academy as planned capacity for 2017. By 2019 there will be an over provision of approximately 10fe which is likely to impact on the less popular schools, as the surpluses have impacted on the less popular schools recently in the secondary sector. The surpluses will be in the North of the Borough whilst the southern areas will still have demand for places.

Secondary Borough Level

At present, there is a surplus in numbers of secondary places, but there is a projected increasing shortfall of Year 7 places, particularly in Secondary PA 1, as the larger cohorts of primary aged pupils admitted in recent years begin to transfer to the secondary sector.

Enfield is in negotiation with Free School providers to establish new Secondary school places.

Planned capacity includes additional capacity in 2019/20 provided through Wren Academy (8FE), to be developed on the Chase Farm site. However should the new free school places fail to materialise other contingency plans will need to be implemented. The secondary boroughwide shows further demand outstrips capacity 2022, with a predicted further need for 3fe in 2023.

There is a significant increase in demand for special school places, particularly in the Social, emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) and autistic spectrum, which is outstripping available places and putting the LA under pressure to deliver sufficiency of places. The LA is planning to expand special school provision, particularly in the Autistic and Behavioural needs spectrum.

2. ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Factors currently affecting pupil numbers across the Borough include:

- Unplanned/unforeseen Free School applications and approvals
- Migration (national and international)
- Regeneration projects
- New housing projects
- Perceived and actual lower cost rental accommodation (when compared to neighbouring boroughs)
- Overcrowding in privately rented accommodation
- Increase in birth rate
- Increase in overall population
- Increase in occupation levels when compared against 'child yield' projections in relation to new housing
- Economic situation resulting in families less able to relocate into adjacent counties

- Popular and successful schools.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee is asked to note, Cabinet, March 2018 is recommended to:

- 3.1 Agree the continuation of the school expansion programme, with the focus on special provision and high needs pupil places;
- 3.2 Agree the increase capacity in special schools and establishments that provide education services for some of the most acute special need categories subject to further approval for the manner in which this is to be achieved.

4. NEXT STEPS

Further assessments will be made based on the January 2018 school census