	Schools Forum 10 October 2018
	Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People

Primary School Place Demand Update

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
No. of Appendices:	One: • 2018 Primary Planning Area Map
Background Papers:	N/A
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1.0   Purpose of the Report

1.1   This report provides an update on the latest projections for primary school places. These will be published in the new School Place Planning strategy 2019-2023, which is being considered by Cabinet in November 2018.

2.0   Recommendation

2.1   The Schools Forum is asked to note the report as it is for information only.

3.0   Introduction

3.1   In November 2018, Brent Council's Cabinet will consider the new School Place Planning Strategy 2019-2023. The strategy will outline the projected need for school places in Brent and how this need will be met. The strategy will set out the objectives and operating principles underpinning the Council's approach to school organisation to support the delivery of good school places for every Brent child.

3.2   The developing 2019-2023 strategy is based on an update of the assessment of need for places across the Borough. This assessment points to reducing Reception intakes and a temporary increase in spare places across the Borough.

4.0 Detail

4.1 Summary of GLA projection comparisons to previous years

4.1.1 The projections that Brent and most other London authorities use to inform place planning are provided by the Greater London Authority (GLA). The GLA projections are informed both by centrally held demographic data, such as the Office of National Statistics (ONS) census data and fertility and birth rates, together with locally held information such as migration patterns and planned housing growth. The methodology also takes account of the percentage of children who historically move into the following academic year in an area. This is particularly important in Brent where there is a high level of pupil mobility and migration to schools in other boroughs.

4.1.2 The GLA pupil projection model is based on the GLA's London wide population projections, which have been generated with ward level housing development data provided by the Borough. The projection model calculates the number of children resident in each ward who are expected to attend each school by each national curriculum year from Reception to Year 11 through the following methodology:

- The number of children projected for each new intake is calculated as an average of the proportion of children in those wards that attended the school in the previous 3 years multiplied by the ward level age population data. This helps to smooth out any unusual variations that are unlikely to reoccur each year.
- For other year groups the model calculates the current proportion of children in the ward attending the school and applies this to the ward level population data.
- School level projections are then aggregated to planning area projections and borough totals. Brent has five primary planning areas (described further below).

4.1.3 The latest forecasts reflect adjustments the GLA has made to the projection model in 2018 due to an over estimation of ONS figures for 0-4 year olds in London over the period 2012-2016. Based on analysis of the ONS mid-year population estimates, the GLA has reduced its population estimates of 0-4 year olds for London in 2016 by 24,000. The impact on Brent is a reduction in the forecast intake primary population by 5.8% in 2020. Brent is not alone in experiencing reduced Reception intakes – many other London boroughs are reporting similar trends.

4.1.4 The latest (January 2018) pupil projections are lower than the January 2017 projections, with year group differences ranging from -5% to +2%.

4.2 Primary Projections

4.2.1 Whole borough Reception projections are set out in Table 1 below, which compares projected Reception demand against known capacity and shows the resulting spare places As a whole borough, the table shows that Reception intakes will continue to decline from 2018 to 2021 before increasing. This results in a temporary increase in the number of spare places with 14% likely by September 2020 (DfE guideline is 5%-10%).

Table 1: Reception forecasts and capacity (GLA January 2018)

Year	Reception projected intake	Reception places available	Surplus places	Surplus/ deficit %
2018/19	3706	4247	541	13%
2019/20	3719	4277	558	13%
2020/21	3707	4277	570	13%
2021/22	3666	4277	611	14%
2022/23	3727	4277	550	13%
2023/24	3798	4277	479	11%
2024/25	3869	4277	408	10%
2025/26	3920	4277	357	8%
2026/27	3977	4277	300	7%
2027/28	4062	4277	215	5%

4.2.2 Brent has five primary planning areas based on the geographic grouping of schools (Appendix 1). By dividing the borough into planning areas officers can more easily ensure that places are provided near to where children live. In reality children can travel across planning areas to attend school, particularly when they live close to the borders.

4.2.3 When broken down into planning areas, only Planning Area 3 shows a shortage of Reception places from 2023/24 onwards due to the intensive house building programme in the area, in particular in the Wembley Central and Alperton growth areas. Planning Area 3 is forecast to have spare places in Reception until 2022/23, and then increasing pressure on places as the new housing comes on stream. Long-term forecasts indicate a need for additional capacity in this area and a new primary free school, Ark Somerville Free School, has been approved by DfE. This school is expected to open in 2022 when projections indicate sufficient basic need demand.

4.2.4 All other planning areas will have spare places over the next five years until demand increases. In the short-term the Authority will be supporting schools in managing reduced school intakes with measures such as temporarily reducing admission numbers.

5.0   Financial Implications

5.1   There are no General Fund revenue implications. School places are funded from Dedicated School Grant based on pupil numbers.

5.2   School budgets are under pressure from real terms funding reductions to the DSG. As schools are funded on the basis of pupil numbers, it is likely that small schools and those with falling numbers on roll will find it most difficult to balance their budgets in the medium term. Larger and growing schools are more likely to successfully manage the funding reductions.

5.3   There are no further primary school expansions included in the Council Capital programme. Capital Investment to support the delivery of additional secondary school places projected as needed is being considered through the Capital Investment Panel.

6.0   Legal Implications

6.1   The Council retains the statutory responsibility to ensure that there are sufficient school places available for all Brent children and young people who need one. It retains too the duties set out in the Education Act 1996 to promote high standards and ensure equal access.

6.2   In addition to securing school places for pupils aged five to 16, the Local Authority has related statutory responsibilities in relation to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) where the Council has to make suitable provision to meet their needs and early years provision, where responsibility for childcare sufficiency and for provision for disadvantaged two year olds and all three and four year olds, as well as children's centres, overlaps with school provision.

7.0   Equality Implications

7.1   There are no equality implications as a result of this paper. The Local Authority will continue to plan SEND places in response to demand, with a focus on meeting identified needs.

8.0   Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

8.1   Not applicable.

Report sign off:

GAIL TOLLEY
Strategic Director of Children and Young People