

CABINET

26 SEPTEMBER 2017

2017 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Andrew Mackness – Children’s Services (Lead Member)
Councillor Martin Potter – Educational Attainment and Improvement

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Summary

This annual summary report provides the Cabinet with an update on the progress made against the School Organisation Plan action plan, highlights areas of emerging need and makes initial recommendations for consideration to ensure that a sufficient supply of good quality school places is maintained.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

1.1 Although there is no longer a statutory requirement for Local Authorities to have a School Organisation Plan (SOP), it was decided by Cabinet when approving the School Organisation Plan in November 2011, that having such a strategic plan will enable the Council to establish a framework for school organisation decisions to ensure an appropriate supply of school places linked to school improvement. All proposals are consistent with the School Organisation Plan Principles, the Council Plan Priority of ‘Supporting Medway’s people to realise their potential’, and the outcome of ‘All children achieving their potential in schools’. The proposals, if approved, will be delivered through available funding from the Education Capital Programme, therefore, this is a matter for Cabinet.

2. Background

2.1 In January 2008 Cabinet approved the School Organisation Plan Principles, which contained a set of planning principles to guide decision-making in a clear and consistent way so that the Council complies with its statutory duty to provide sufficient good school places. The core of these principles ensures that any changes to schools are based upon improving schools and raising standards. In November 2011, the Cabinet approved the School Organisation Plan 2011-16.

2.2 The SOP included an action plan, which highlighted specific proposals for developing provision in Medway over the lifetime of the plan. These proposals were informed by an analysis of local and national policy and strategy, as well as the most up-to-date available information and data, which were used to forecast the future need for places in Medway schools.

- 2.3 Annual reviews followed in July 2013, September 2014, October 2015 and September 2016. Cabinet approved each review of the plan. The reports outlined the positive progress made against the action plan and highlighted further areas of emerging need where additional provision was expected to be required. The action plan was updated to reflect this.
- 2.4 This report identifies areas of emerging need based upon the latest annual round of forecasting undertaken in April 2017.
- 2.5 A new version of the School Organisation Plan was intended to be presented earlier this year; however this was postponed due to delays in publication of the outcomes of the Government's Wave 12 Free School programme. The outcome of this process will inform the new plan. Now that the results are known, the new plan is currently being drafted and will be presented to Cabinet on 6 February 2018. The new plan will outline the next 5 years' expectations and actions to ensure sufficient school places are available for a rising population. At the same time, the School Organisation Principles will be updated to reflect the current national and local education landscape.
- 2.6 The Council has a statutory duty to ensure a sufficient supply of school places. This, coupled with the local and national policy of successful schools expanding, means that when deciding upon which schools to expand, consideration must be given to the OFSTED rating of the school, its current known performance, as well as its popularity with parents. In a recent scorecard published by the Department for Education (DFE) Medway was rated as joint first nationally in providing additional good or outstanding places. On the same scorecard, Medway's school place forecasts were shown to be within the accepted 1% error margin on all benchmarks, therefore, Members can be confident that the recommendations made within the School Organisation Plan and its reviews are based upon robust evidence and analysis.
- 2.7 Birth rates, whilst reducing in recent years, have risen again; continued inward movement of families with children, together with a number of ongoing, approved and proposed housing schemes means that demand for school places is expected to continue to rise into the foreseeable future.
- 2.8 With Medway's Local Plan, currently under consultation, highlighting the need for an additional 29,000 homes across Medway, it is expected that the total population will increase from 279,000 to 330,000; therefore demand for school places is likely to continue to rise over the next 20 years at least.
- 2.9 The forecasts, upon which this report is based, include all approved housing developments. Those schemes either proposed, under consideration, or at the appeal stage will only be included in the forecasts when formally approved. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect that as more housing schemes gain approval, future forecasts will reflect this and demand for places will rise further.
- 2.10 Recognised formulae, based upon research by MORI, which inform the Council's Developer Contributions Guide, indicate that for every 775 two+ bedroom houses built, there is a requirement for an additional primary provision equivalent to 1 Form of Entry (210 children).
- 2.11 To ensure that sufficient places are available to cater for in-year demand (casual admissions) and any sudden influx of pupils into new housing schemes, it is necessary to operate with a surplus of places in the system. It is nationally

accepted that a 5% surplus is a reasonable level to ensure places are available without the viability of schools being endangered. However, in practice, in Medway, given the high proportion of inward movement of families, starting with a 5% surplus in reception year group ensures flexibility in the earlier years but as more children move into the area that margin reduces and has proven to be insufficient in certain areas as that cohort progress through the year groups. It is recommended therefore, that for the reception year group, Medway works to an initial 8% surplus level at planning area level, ensuring sufficient spaces as classes move through the school. This may be a little higher than the average surplus levels, but will ensure a sufficiency of places in areas of demand, and avoid the need and costs for emergency bulge classes and schools admitting over number which can prove difficult for schools to organise at short notice. Working to 8% should not endanger the financial viability of any schools.

2.12 Free Schools

Regional Schools Commissioners worked closely with Local Authorities to encourage applications from potential providers to meet the government's target for 500 new free schools. Unlike the initial tranche of free schools, the government considered applications submitted directly to them under the following criteria;

- there is or will be a basic need for new school places in an area
- the quality of provision in other local schools is poor and the new school will offer a better quality alternative
- the new provision is innovative in its approach and responds to what parents want.

Through this route, the capital and revenue set up costs are met by the DfE, however, there is an expectation that Local Authorities will provide a site where possible and contribute appropriate developer contributions from local housing schemes.

This initiative affords an opportunity for the Council to acquire the additional capacity required to meet school place demand without the significant funding responsibility, subject to the availability of sites capable of supporting a school. For example a 2FE primary school requires approximately 1.6 hectares (4 acres) and a 6FE secondary school around 9-10 hectares (25 acres).

From an initial 13 submissions there were four successful bids. These were

- **The Maritime Academy:** a mainstream all-through (ages 3 to 19) school with places for 1940 pupils (including 250 sixth form pupils) in the Strood area. This will be operated by The Thinking Schools Academy Trust (TSAT). A site is currently being sourced for this school.
- **Medway Academy:** a mainstream secondary school with places for 1150 pupils (age 11 to 19 including 250 sixth form pupils) in Rainham. This school will be operated by The Leigh Academies Trust. A site is currently being sourced for this school.
- **Rochester Riverside Church of England Primary School:** a mainstream Christian faith primary school with places for 420 pupils. There was strong competition for this school and the successful bidder is the Pilgrim Academy Trust. This school is expected to open in September 2021 when the development

reaches a certain trigger of completed dwellings. The site for the school is agreed and the design is underway.

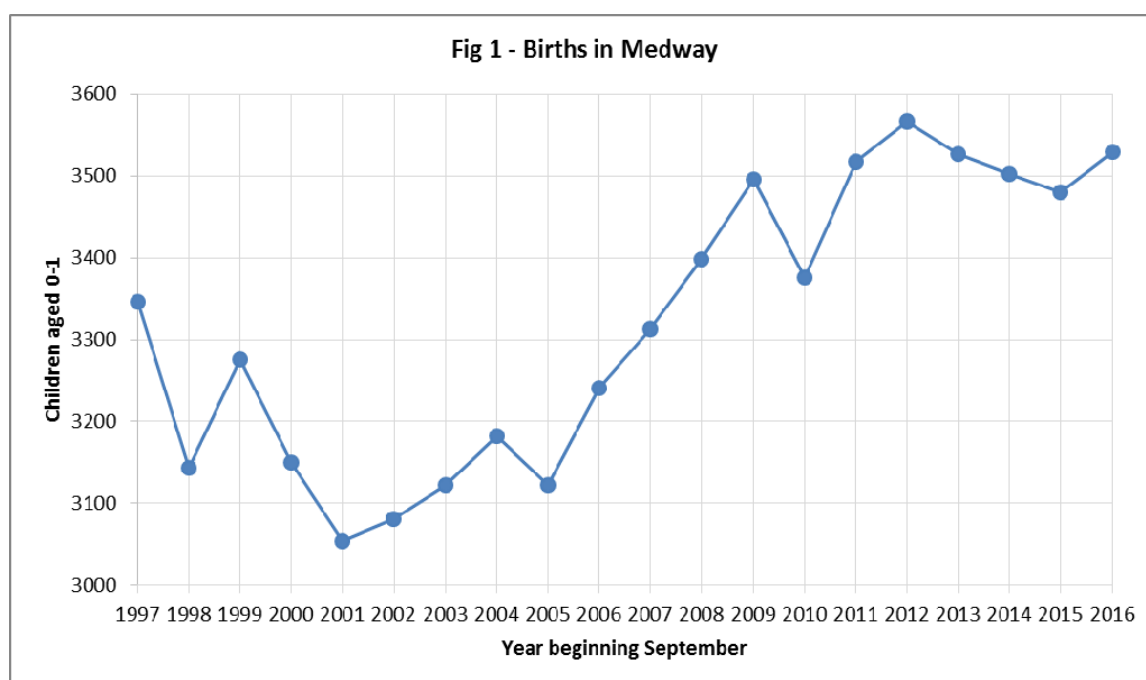
- **The Beeches:** an alternative provision primary school with places for 35 pupils with behavioural issues and excluded children. This will be managed by the Rowans Academy Trust and will be located adjacent to the current Rowans site in Walderslade.

The addition of these schools into Medway's school system is expected to ensure a sufficiency of places in the area for the non-selective secondary sector until at least the mid-twenties based upon known demand, as well as providing additional provision for mainstream primary places and for primary aged children at risk of permanent exclusion.

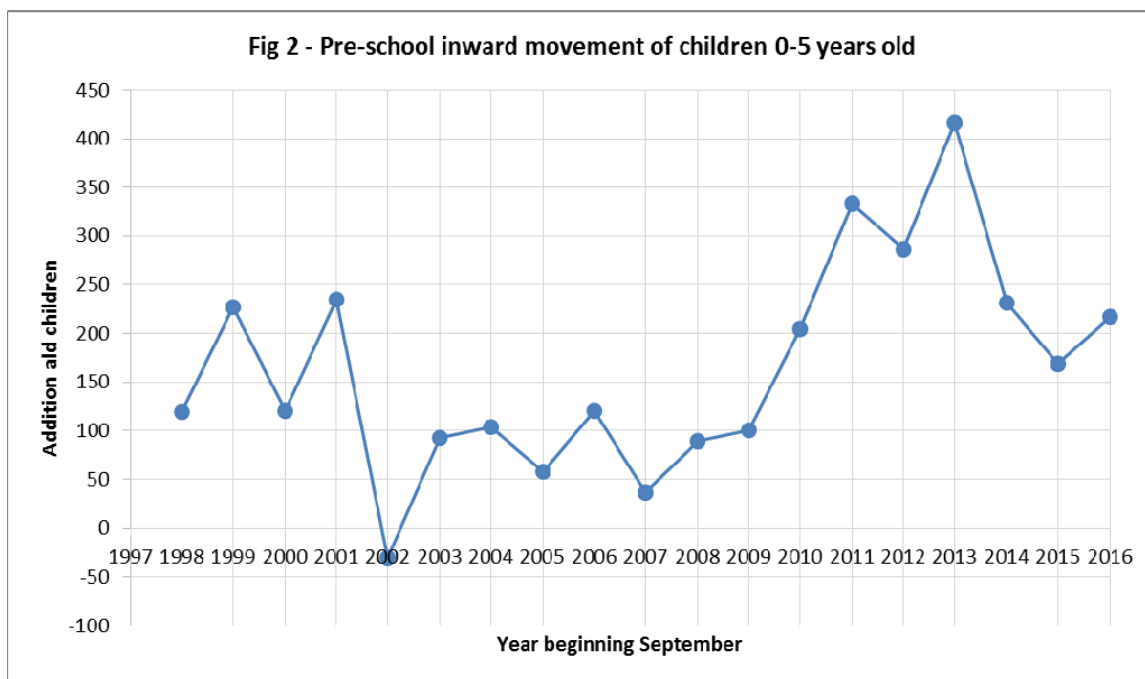
3. Analysis of latest data and information

Pre-school and primary phase

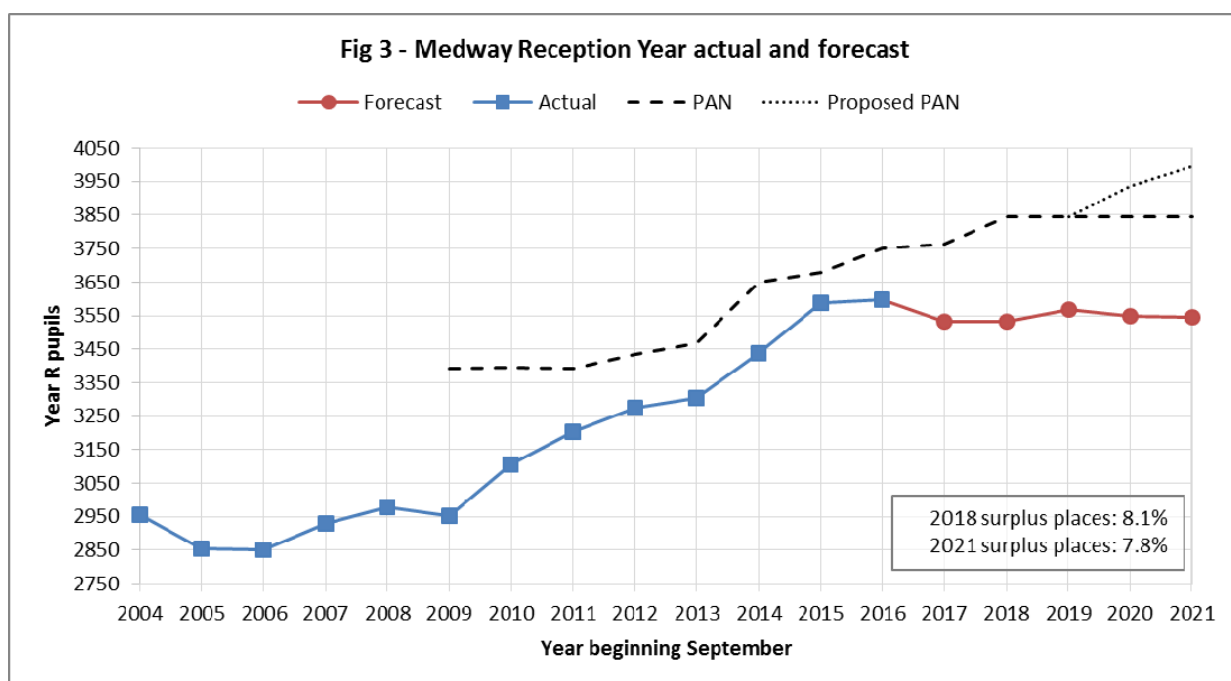
- 3.1 Actual births have risen again in the past year after recent falls as Fig 1 below shows, with the general trend continuing upwards.



- 3.2 The inward movement of families with pre-school age children has also risen again after falling to its lowest level since 2009 last year (fig 2.). Given the likely progression of a number of housing schemes as part of the local plan, inward movement of pre-school age children can be reasonably expected to increase again in the future. This will add to demand for reception places in the future and forecasts will be frequently monitored to ensure the Council is in a position to react accordingly.

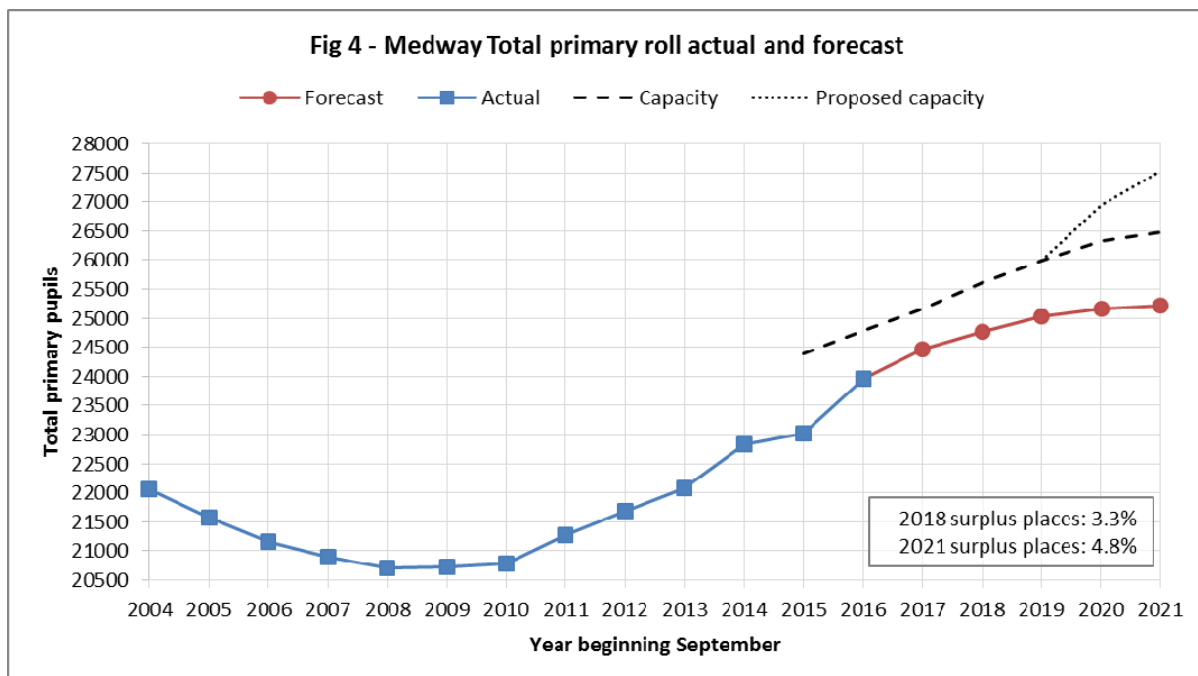


3.3 Both of the factors in 3.1 and 3.2 mean that the demand for reception places is forecast to fall slightly for September 2017, rise again gradually to 2019 and then level out across Medway over the next five years (fig 3). Figure 3 shows that the total Published Admission Number (PAN) of all reception places in Medway sits above the expected numbers of pupils and this difference is 8.1% of the total for 2018 and 7.8% for 2021. Figure 3 also shows the proposed PAN dotted line for the Rochester Riverside free school, and the primary phase of the Maritime Academy free school. The surplus appears higher than required, as the pupils arising from by the housing developments in these areas will only be included in demand forecasts once each phase is formally approved. The timing of the opening of the Rochester Riverside school is linked to the phasing of the development. This aligns with the flexibility levels suggested in section 2.11.



3.4 Overall pupil numbers in primary schools have increased to 23,966, up by 946 children compared to last year and the highest level since 2002, and are predicted to continue to rise for at least the next 5 years to 25,212 (fig 4). The expansion and new build work actioned as part of the capital programme up to September

2018 has enabled the Council to meet demand when and where it is needed, and this additional capacity is expected to meet the forecast demand, although some further primary capacity is likely to be required in future years as housing development accelerates. Figure 4 also shows, by a dotted line, the proposed capacity of the Rochester Riverside free school, and the primary phase of the Maritime Academy free school. As with the reception forecasts, the pupils arising from the housing developments in these areas will only be included in the forecast demand once each phase is formally approved.



3.5 Medway operates nine primary pupil place planning areas based generally on the local geography. However, when planning school places it is sensible to consider neighbouring areas, taking into account cross area movement. The following sections outline the forecasts for each of these areas, some individually and others grouped due to their interdependence and mutual impacts.

3.6 Peninsula

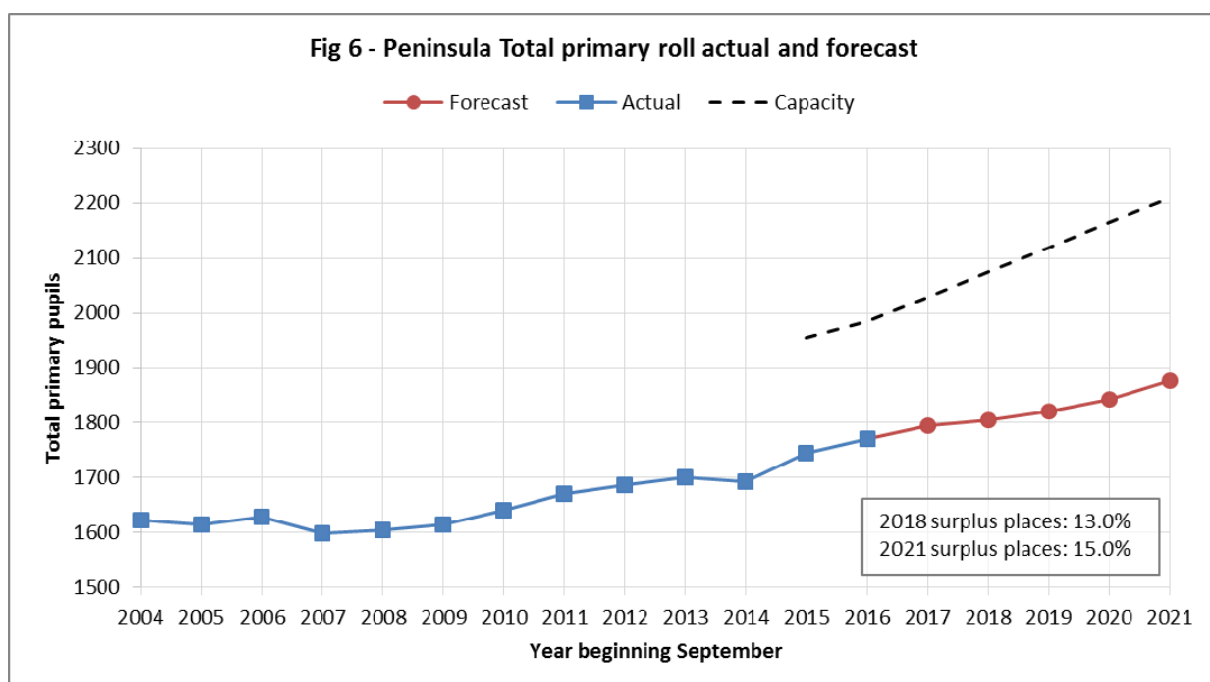
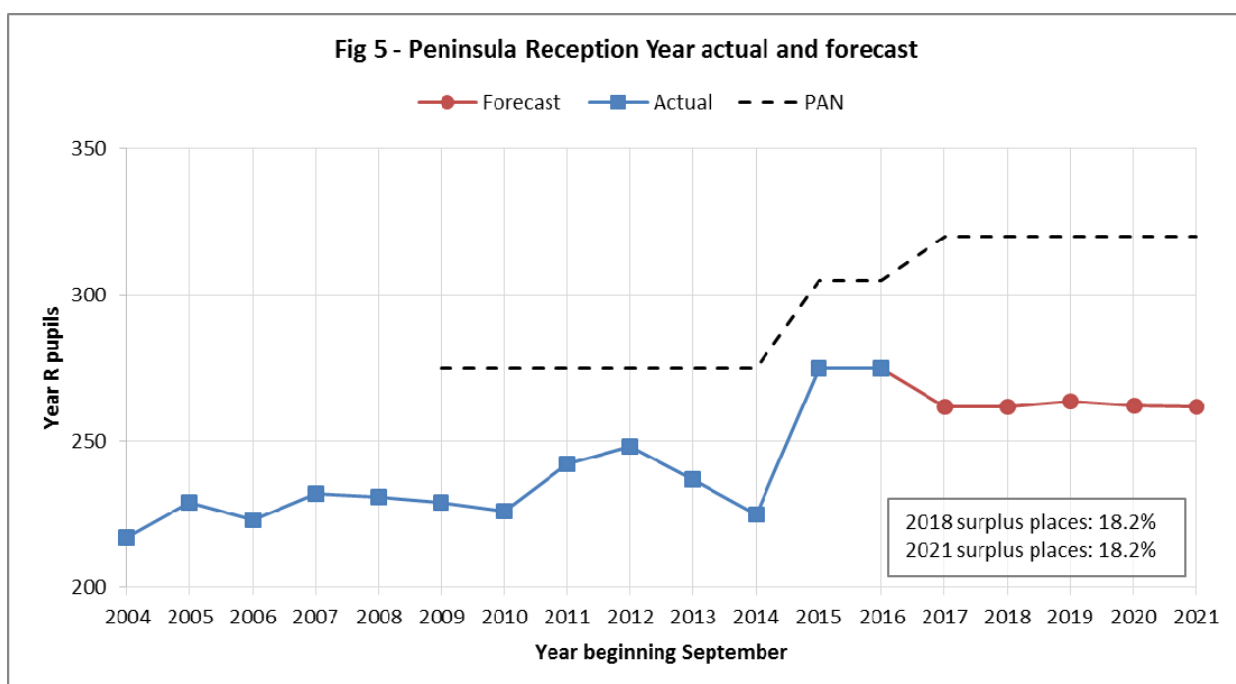
This place planning area encompasses the whole of the Hoo Peninsula and stretches from the Four Elms Hill in the west to the villages of Grain and Allhallows in the east. It incorporates nine primary schools, one of which, the primary phase at The Hundred of Hoo Academy, was established in 2015 to cater for demand from Hoo village as a result of a number of housing developments. This facility moved into new purpose built accommodation in September 2017, having operated for two years in temporary buildings.

Proposals were approved by Cabinet in July 2016 to expand provision at Cliffe Woods Primary Academy from 1.5FE to a full 2FE and this project completes in September 2017, providing over time an additional 105 places.

These two projects have added 315 primary school places into the western peninsula area. Forecasts suggest this to be sufficient for the short term, but as more housing developments gain approval in the area further additional capacity is likely to be required and options to provide this will continue to be considered and reviewed to ensure the Council is in a good position to react as demand dictates and funding allows. For example, the new primary provision at Hundred of Hoo Academy, whilst being built as a 1FE school to meet current demand, has been designed to enable efficient expansion to 2FE in the future and a feasibility study

has been undertaken at Chattenden Primary Academy to assess the viability of a future expansion there.

The graphs below show the forecasts for reception (fig 5) and total primary rolls (fig 6) within the peninsula area. Whilst it appears from the charts that there is sufficient space available, it should be recognised that much of the spare capacity sits within the two schools in the most easterly part of the area in Allhallows and St James' Grain. The schools in the west peninsula are generally full with only a few spaces in various year groups available. The distances involved between the schools means that accessing the schools where spaces are available is difficult and it should not be assumed that these spaces are appropriate for children in more central villages. The position in the western peninsula area should continue to be monitored closely to ensure a good supply of places remains as the population increases as expected.

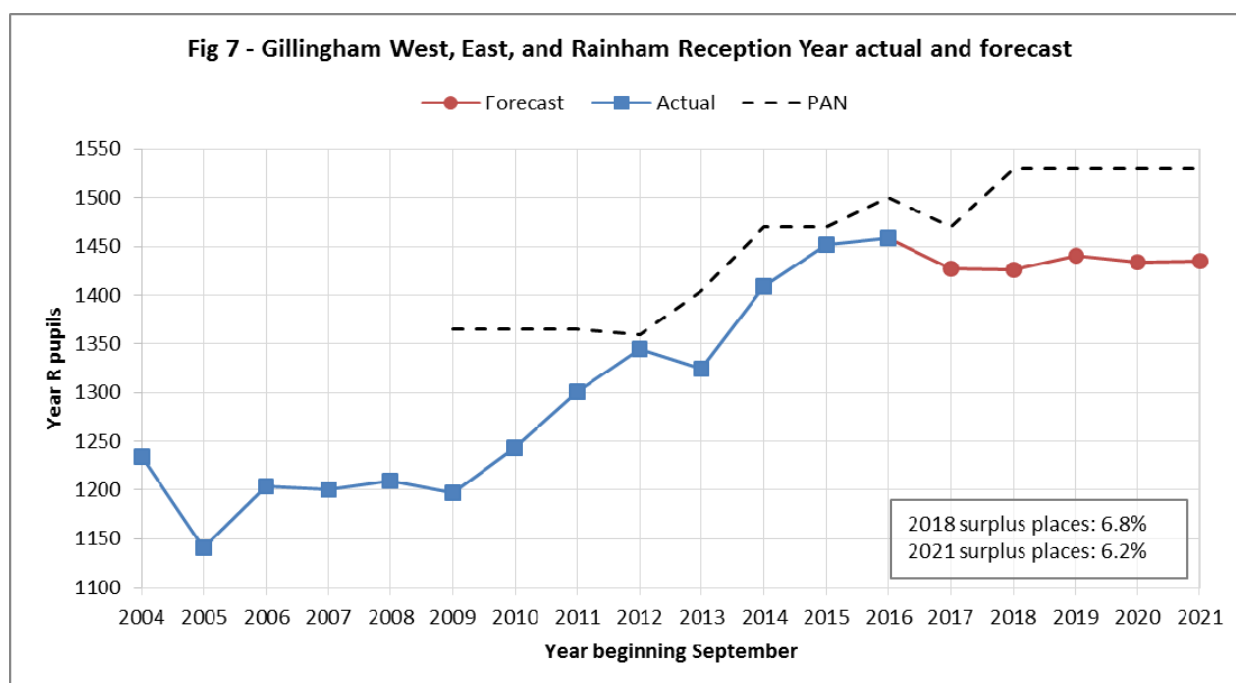


3.7 Gillingham West, Gillingham East and Rainham

Whilst this section covers three individual place planning areas, their proximity to each other and the levels of pupil movement between them makes it sensible to consider the wider Gillingham area as a whole.

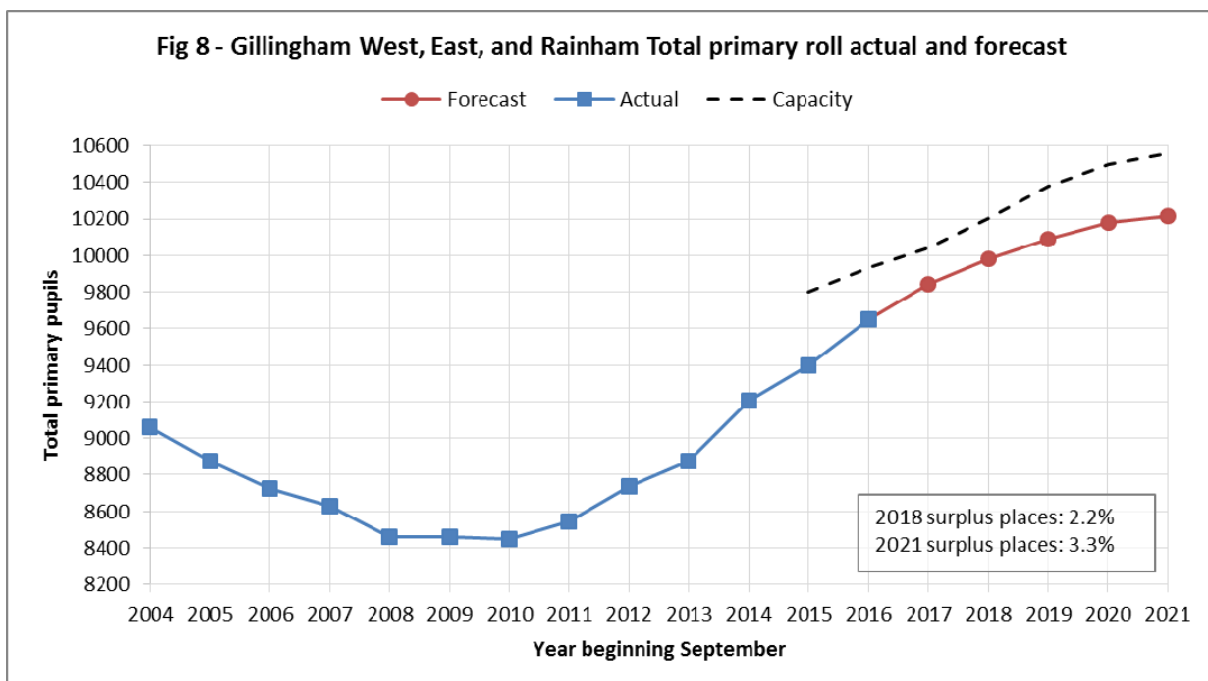
Recent primary phase expansions in the area at Brompton Westbrook, Woodlands Academy, Napier Primary and Saxon Way together with the bulge class at St Thomas of Canterbury for 2016-17 academic year have ensured that sufficient places are available. Forecasting in this area has proved to be particularly accurate in recent years with provision in place to meet increasing demand.

Currently, pressure is being experienced in two parts of the wider area; in the east of the area around the Rainham boundary with Kent and in the west around St Mary's Island and the docks area. In the main this pressure is caused by maturing housing developments as well as those underway and proposed. To meet this demand Riverside and St Mary's Island Primary Schools were approved for expansion in 2016's annual review and these projects are underway and expected to be ready to admit additional pupils in September 2018



The graph above indicates that there is some spare capacity at reception intake (fig 7), but this equates to 6.8% in 2018 and 6.2% in 2021 which, although providing some flexibility in the short term, is less than the ideal 8%. With further housing scheme proposals expected those surplus places could be filled quickly in the coming years.

When looking at overall primary roll forecasts (fig 8) the spare capacity in 2018 will sit at 2.2% and 3.3% in 2021. This should ensure that sufficient places are available during this time to meet demand from inward migration.



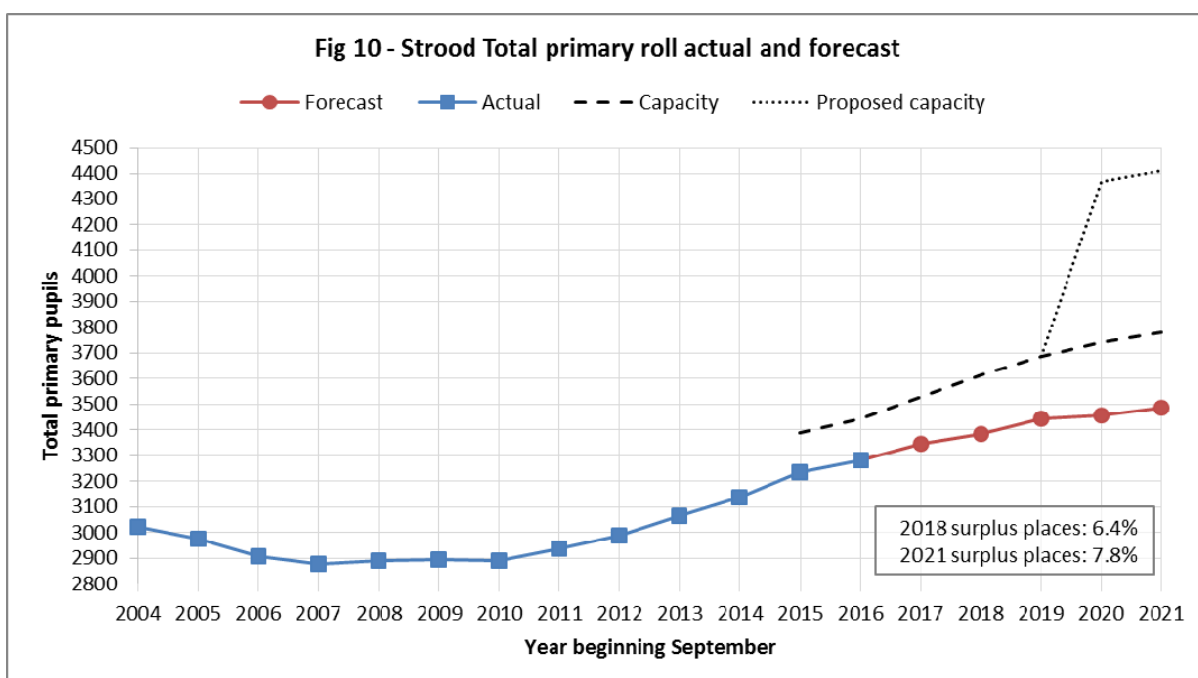
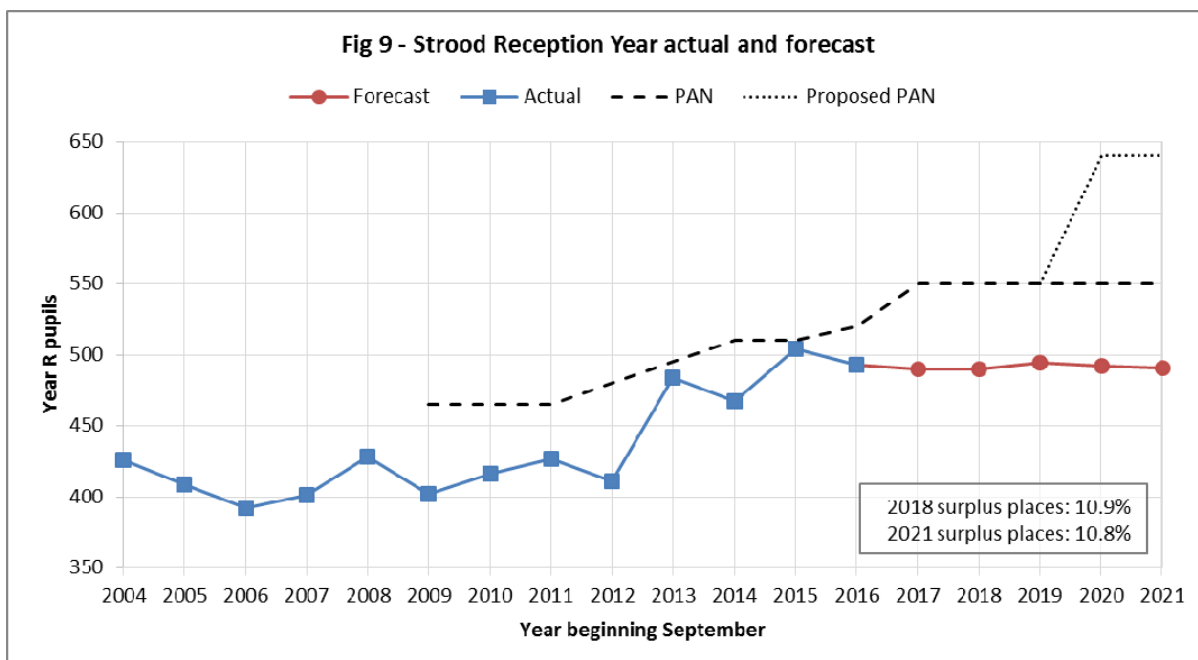
It is therefore suggested that the actions currently underway and those taken in recent years have provided the appropriate number of additional places to meet demand and no further expansion is recommended in the short term. As housing development in the area increases further this position can be reassessed to ensure a sufficient supply of places.

3.8 **Strood**

Strood, as an area, has experienced significant housing development in recent years with Liberty Park, Medway Gate, Templars Rise and a number of smaller schemes. As these become established, births from these developments are increasing. Further development is ongoing, all of which will add to demand. To meet this expected demand, a project to expand Bligh Infant and Junior Schools will complete in October 2017. This has added places for 30 pupils per year group from September 2017.

With the addition of this provision, reception class forecasts suggest that sufficient capacity is in place to accommodate intakes over the next few years (fig 9). However, with further housing developments underway, planned and proposed e.g. 400 dwellings at Temple waterfront, 130 at Commissioners Road, as well as around 1000 proposed along Canal Road and the Civic Centre additional primary phase capacity is likely to be required over time. The pupil forecasts will not include the additional pupils from all of these developments until they are formally approved. The proposed additional PAN dotted line from the primary phase of the Maritime Free School is shown in figures 9 and 10.

Overall, total roll forecasts (see fig 10) suggest that current capacity caters for the known demand. Future demand could be met from the approved Maritime Free School which include 3 Forms of entry primary provision. This is shown as the proposed capacity in figure 9 by a dotted line. Beyond that, should additional capacity be required options are available and feasibility studies have been actioned at Temple Mill, All Faiths and St Nicholas in readiness.



3.9 Chatham, Rochester and Walderslade

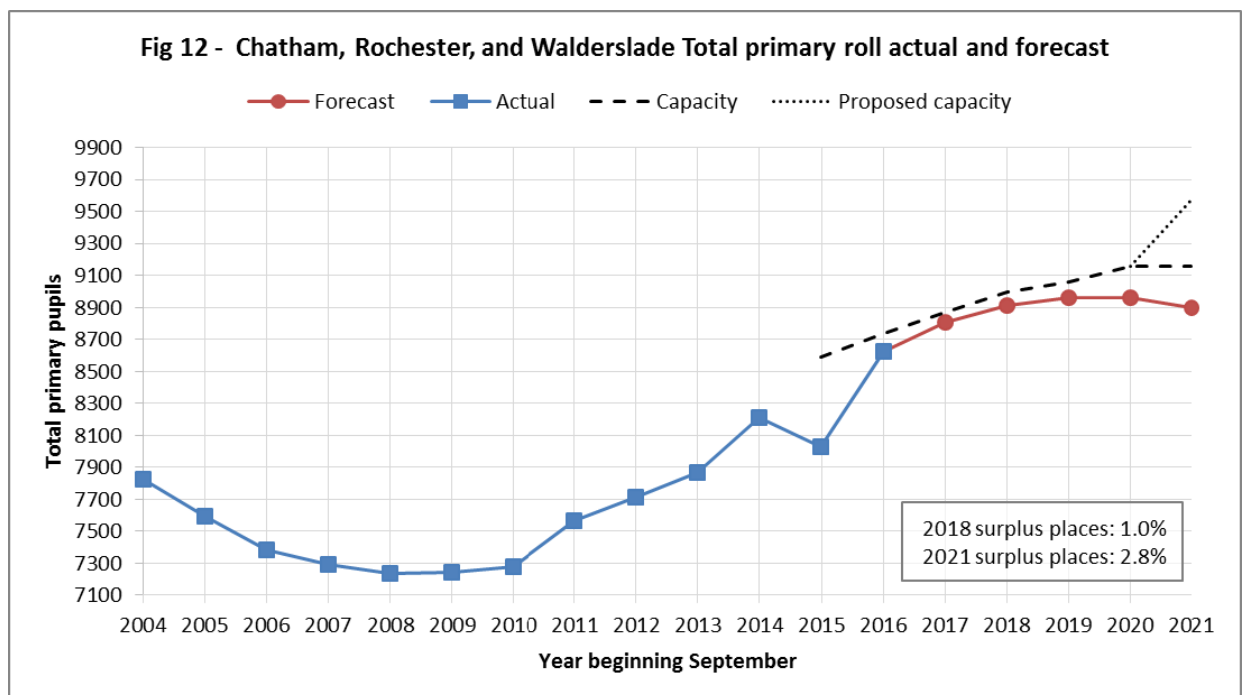
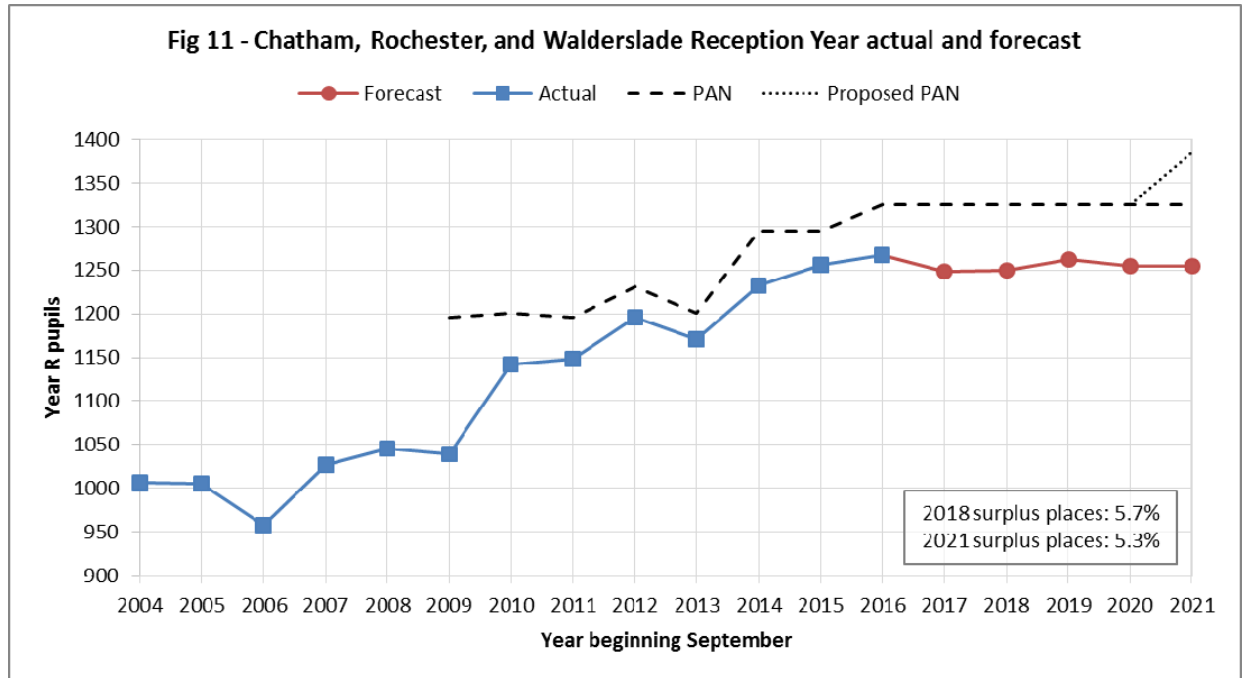
These three planning areas are intrinsically linked by proximity and the cross boundary movement of pupils to attend schools. Recently, significant primary capacity has been added to the area with the creation of New Horizons Children's Academy adding 630 primary places, and the EFA approved proposals by Delce Junior Academy to establish a 1FE infant stage from September 2016, adding another 30 places per year group (210 total).

However, despite this additional capacity, which has successfully catered for increased demand, there remains some concern that there will be pressure on places as we move forward. The graph below in (Fig 12) shows that overall rolls will just meet capacity until 2019 when some capacity will be freed up providing additional flexibility. The graph also shows, by a dotted line, the proposed capacity from the Rochester Riverside free school.

The reception year graph (Fig 11) on the other hand indicates that sufficient spare capacity will become available over the course of the next five years, which will roll

into whole school forecasts. However, to be certain that sufficient capacity is maintained, officers will look at the options for future expansion to be ready to react should the need dictate.

The new primary school to be provided as part of the Rochester Riverside development also needs to be factored into consideration when making a decision. However, at this time, we cannot be certain when the school will be operational, current indications are for September 2021 and it may be that some temporary provision in the form of bulge classes is required in the area until the new school is ready to cater for those families that move into the new development prior to the school being ready. The proposed PAN and capacity from the new school are shown in figures 11 and 12 by a dotted line.

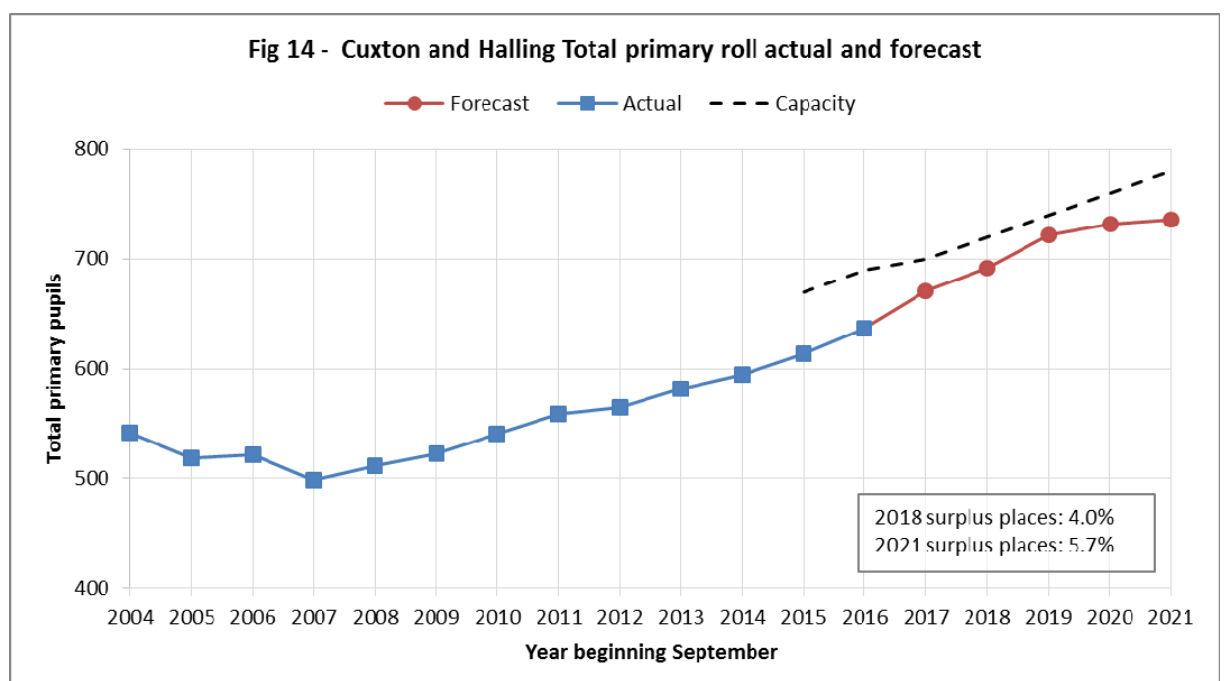
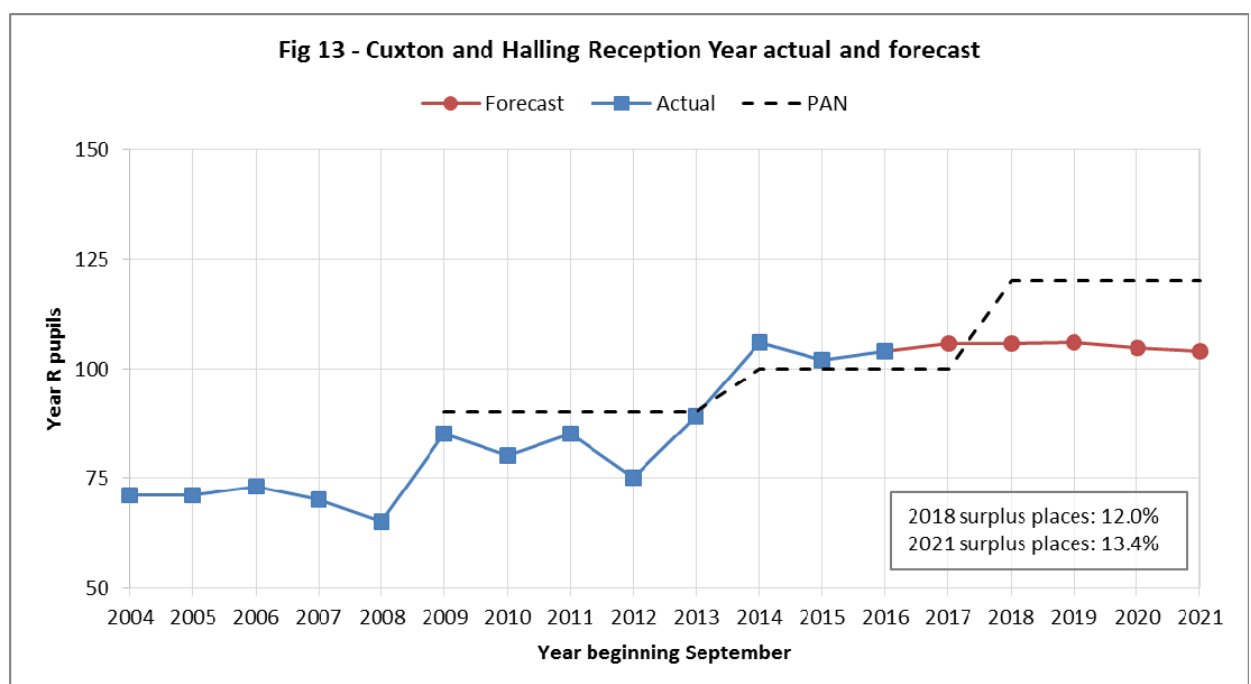


3.10 Cuxton and Halling

This area extends from the M2 motorway bridge south-westwards to the border with KCC at Snodland and is covered by two primary schools. One of them, Cuxton, has been expanded recently resulting in an increase in its capacity by 70 pupils, which has ensured sufficient places are available in the short term.

However, previous forecasts suggest that with the number of housing developments in the area on both sides of the boundary, that further additional capacity is required. Therefore the expansion of Halling Primary School was approved as part of 2016's review.

This will provide an additional 20 places per year group 140 in total. Fig 13 below highlights the intake position, with the Halling expansion included, and indicates that sufficient capacity is expected to be available to meet demand from 2017. It is expected that the project to provide additional accommodation at Halling, currently under design, should be ready for September 2018.



3.11 Primary summary

The table below highlights the significant number of additional primary school places provided since 2013 and up to 2018. This has, and will, ensure that the Council continues to meet its duty to provide sufficient school places. These places have been successfully provided when and where required.

School	Planning Area	Number of additional places	Year implemented
Wainscott Primary School	Strood	210	2013
Brompton Westbrook	Gillingham	105	2013
Napier Primary School	Gillingham	210	2013
Saxon Way Primary	Gillingham	210	2014
Cedar Primary School	Strood	105	2014
New Horizons Academy	Chatham	630	2014
Woodlands Primary	Gillingham	210	2014
Cuxton Infant and Junior	Cuxton	70	2014
Hundred of Hoo	Peninsula	210	2015
St Thomas of Canterbury	Gillingham	30 (Bulge Class)	2016
Delce Academy Infant Phase	Rochester	210	2016
Bligh Infant and Junior	Strood	210	2017
Cliffe Woods	Peninsula	105	2017
St Mary's Island Primary	Gillingham	210	2018
Riverside Primary	Rainham	210	2018
Halling Primary	Cuxton	140	2018
Total		3075	

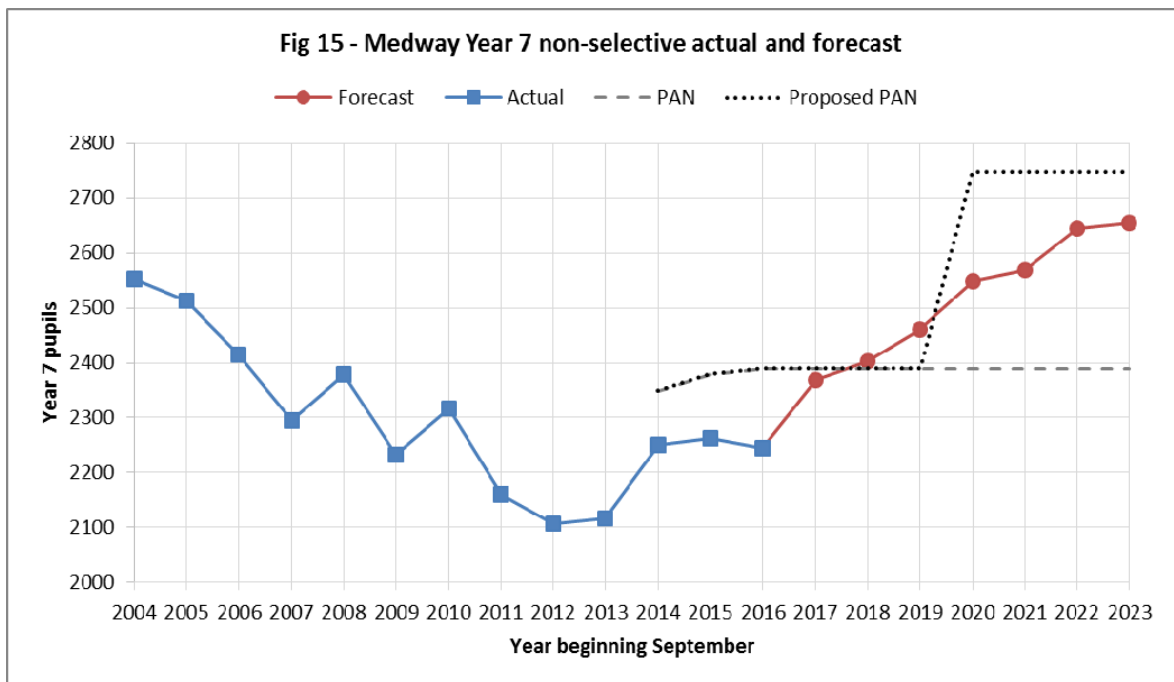
It is recommended that no further action is taken in the primary school sector beyond those projects already underway and accounted for in the above graphs and charts. Forecasts will continue to be monitored twice each year, together with weekly birth numbers and inward migration, and the position will be assessed accordingly. Options are already in place should additional capacity be required in the future so that the Council are in a position to react quickly.

3.12 Secondary

The increasing number of primary pupils will start to impact upon secondary numbers over the next few years with overall numbers expected to rise from 18,661 in 2015-16 to 21,635 in 2023-24. The pressure will initially be most severe in year 7 as the larger numbers of primary school children start to feed into secondary education. This will extend through the schools as the years progress.

3.12.1 Non Selective

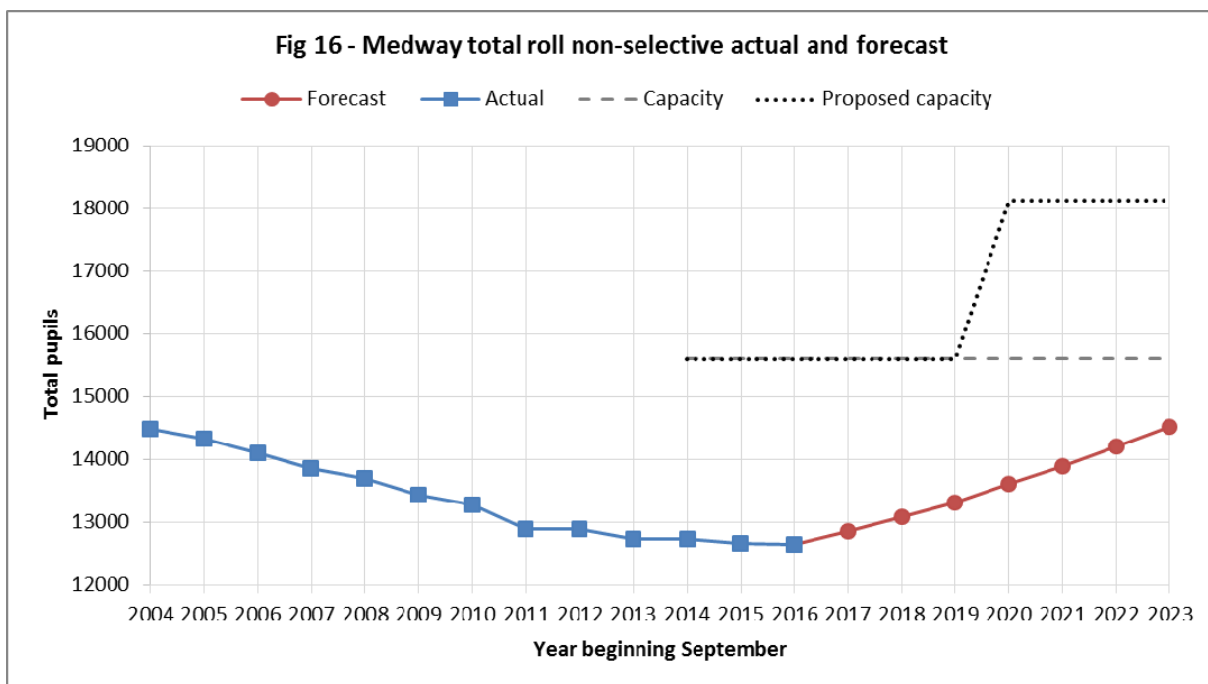
Figure 15 below shows how the demand for year 7 non-selective places rises steeply from 2016 onwards. Sufficient capacity exists to 2017 due to spare capacity in older year groups and it is likely that 2018 and possibly 2019 intakes can be absorbed into the spare capacity too. From this point additional capacity will be necessary to avoid a widespread oversubscription of places. For example in 2020 there could be a shortfall of 160 places which equates to the need for over 6 forms of entry and by 2022 the need for 10 forms of entry.



This shortfall will be met through the provision of the two Free Schools (Medway and Maritime Free Schools) awarded to Medway; this is shown on the graph as the proposed PAN dotted line. These would be delivered and funded through the Government's Free School programme as set out in section 2.12. It is anticipated, subject to the availability of sites, that these schools will be operational from 2020.

Fig 16 below shows the overall school forecasts against capacity and highlights that sufficient spaces will be available as a result of the new free school. During the scope of the graph there appears to be surplus places, however, these will be filled year on year as the larger numbers progress through, providing flexibility and certainty of places into the mid-twenties.

Current funding availability indicates that the Council would not be in a position to fund either sufficient expansions or the new schools required without the free schools. The estimated cost of a new 6 Form of entry secondary school would be approximately £25-30m. The biggest risk to Council's ability to meet its obligation to provide sufficient school spaces is presented should the Free Schools not materialise. The ability to secure suitable sites in Rainham and Strood forms the majority of this risk and Members are asked to support location of suitable sites in Rainham and Strood.



3.12.2 Selective

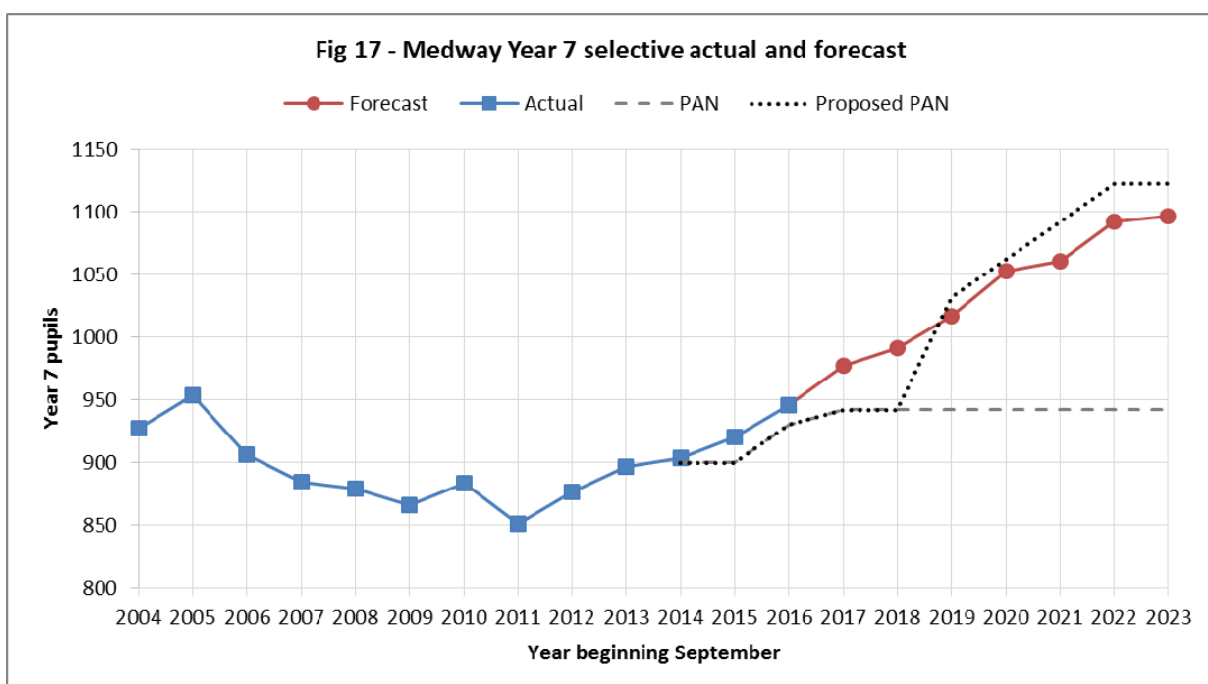


Fig 17 highlights that the selective sector is experiencing similar issues as non – selective. Year 7 intakes follow the same pattern and by 2019 there will be a shortfall of 74 spaces and by 2021 a deficit of 119 spaces. The deficit of places in 2017 and 2018 should be absorbed into the current capacity with schools agreeing to admit over their PAN, but this is not sustainable without additional physical capacity being made available from 2019.

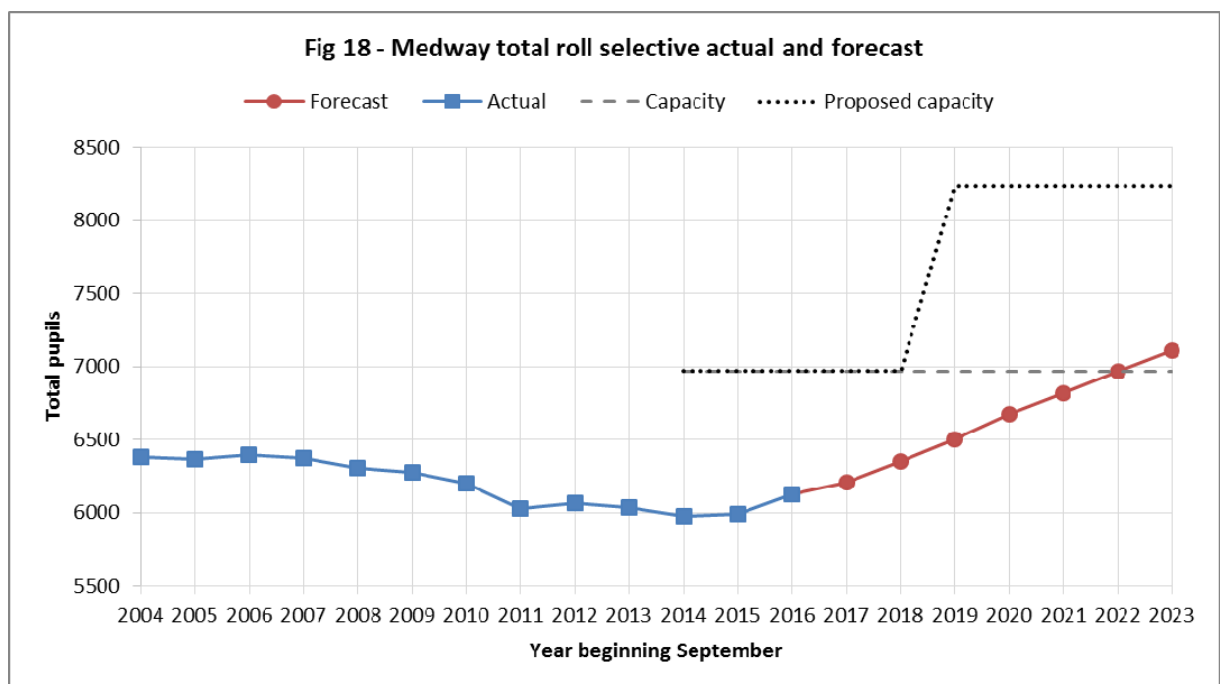
The Government’s Free School programme will not include new grammar schools and therefore the responsibility for ensuring sufficient spaces in this sector will fall to the Council.

All grammar schools have been contacted and all are willing to assist the Council in addressing this issue to varying degrees. As funding becomes available, potential projects will be assessed for their viability, value for money and cost per

pupil. It is likely that over time all six Grammar Schools will require some additional capacity.

Initially, £5m is available for this purpose, see section 6.6 and Cabinet is asked to delegate authority to the Director of Children and Adults Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Children’s Services (Lead Member) and Educational Attainment and Improvement to undertake the development and implementation of the grammar school expansion programme. This includes identification of which schools represent the best value for money, where the largest number of places can be provided cost effectively in order to meet demand when necessary and the implementation of such proposals as appropriate. The impact of the proposed expansion is shown on the above graph as the proposed PAN dotted line.

Figure 18 below highlights the overall grammar school forecasts against actual and proposed capacity, and shows that should the proposals recommended in section 8.2 be approved then sufficient space should be available into the mid-twenties.



3.13 Special needs

3.13.1 In line with increasing demand for mainstream places, demand for special school provision has also risen. In recent years the Council has taken action to provide appropriate additional provision and to reduce the numbers of pupils placed in expensive independent or out of area settings.

A project to expand capacity by 40 children at Danecourt Special School was completed in 2016 and a project resulting in an expansion of 68 pupils and relocation to provide new purpose built accommodation for Abbey Court was completed in December 2016 with the school taking up occupation in April 2017.

There has also been additional secondary aged special capacity for pupils with behavioural difficulties provided through the Inspire Free School, whilst the Castle Academy Trust has successfully bid for a Free School on the Delce Academy site in Rochester to provide for primary aged children with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Proposals to provide secondary aged Hearing Impaired provision have been approved and design is underway, and a primary pupil referral unit (PRU) provision Free School was approved by the DFE which will be operated by the Rowans school under the Inspiring Change Trust

3.13.2 Proposals had previously been consulted upon to expand Rivermead by 60 primary pupils with ASD and relocate into the buildings vacated by Abbey Court in Rainham (shown in Appendix 1). However the Trust, which operates the school, intends to apply to establish a Primary ASD Free School on a separate site, which would provide the required additional capacity elsewhere, and frees up the former Abbey Court buildings for alternative uses.

It is recommended that this building be leased to the Rivermead Inclusive Trust for the purposes of providing provision for secondary aged pupils with Tier 3 and Tier 4 mental health needs. This would provide a reduction in costs in excess of £370,000 per year by providing local provision instead of placing children in out of area provision when they are discharged from hospital. This saving is subject to the young people returning to live at home or being placed in local children’s social care provision and therefore being able to access this new provision. This would provide dedicated mental health provision, which is rare nationally. No capital investment is required from the council as the provision is funded separately and benefits from having funding already in place to adapt the building for their needs.

The lease would be for an initial period of 20 years at peppercorn rent. The building is of sufficient size to enable a site share. The lease will be written so that the Council can place other associated and appropriate services in the building as necessary.

- The recommendation supports the SEN Strategy of increasing local provision for children with special educational need and disability.
- The proposal offers a potential reduction on out of area placements of approximately £370,000 per annum based on current numbers, population projections and subject to the young people returning to live at home or being placed in local children’s social care provision and therefore being able to access this new provision.
- Refurbishment of the building and maintenance and repair during the time of the lease would be the responsibility of the Rivermead Trust.

4. Risk management

4.1 There are no risks resulting directly from this report, however the following would be assessed as risks should recommendations from individual proposals flowing from this report be implemented or not.

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
The Council’s statutory duty to provide sufficient good quality school places	If insufficient school places are made available to meet demand, the Council would be failing to meet its obligations	Implement proposals to provide additional good quality places in the areas demand	C1

That insufficient funding is available to fund proposals to provide sufficient places	Basic need funding is limited and the extent of the emerging need may mean that unless additional funding can be sourced projects to provide places may not be able to be implemented, which could mean that the council fails to meet its statutory obligation.	Explore options to fund projects including bidding for funding initiatives. Look at cost effective ways to supply places.	A1
That the level of forecast pupils fails to materialise	Should the expected numbers of pupils fail to materialise, then any funding committed could have been better spent elsewhere	Continue to monitor births, migration and housing developments and accuracy of forecasting	D3
Applications for Free Schools increases	Applications for Free Schools could be a risk to strategic planning framework, as the Council has no control over where or by whom the application is made.	Monitor all applications to Secretary of State, and work with DFE to influence outcomes of applications to suit, and fit in with, the Councils wider pupil place planning strategy	A2
Other Local Authorities placing children in Medway	Other authorities are placing children into Medway schools including unaccompanied asylum seekers, which adds pressure to the system and is difficult to plan for.	Retain a certain level of flexibility within the system unexpected inward movement of children requiring a school place.	A3

5. Consultation

- 5.1 No consultation is required for this report, however, any specific proposals that are progressed as a result of this report will include a consultation process as appropriate.
- 5.2 No Diversity Impact Assessment accompanies this report, however, one will be provided for individual proposals brought forward as a result of actions from this report.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 All projects approved and undertaken as a result of this report will be funded through the Children and Adults' Capital Programme. Funding implications for proposed projects will be included in subsequent procurement board reports requesting funding approval for each individual project.
- 6.2 Where appropriate, Developer Contributions will be sought from new housing schemes to assist with the provision of school places in areas of demographic growth.
- 6.3 Occasionally, additional funding sources and initiatives become available. Where possible the Council will seek to make use of these opportunities to reduce the demands upon the funding currently available. For example, central government is making available £200m nationally to provide additional special school and unit

provision; Medway has been allocated 1.377m over the three years from 2018 to 2020. A programme for this funding is being prepared and will be made available in the new School Organisation Plan. This programme will sit outside of the Basic Need programme.

- 6.4 The Government's Free School programme provides an opportunity to create additional provision without the responsibility for funding and all opportunities to benefit from this source of funding will be explored. This is particularly relevant to secondary provision, which requires significantly higher capital funding than primary schools; however the availability of land is an issue. Officers will seek to secure Free School provision for Medway as required and discussions with the ESFA will continue.
- 6.5 Medway Council receives a basic need grant from central government annually. The table below highlights the levels of funding due to be received until 2019/20. Beyond then, Medway could reasonably expect further Basic Needs allocations of at around £2-3 million per annum and, at a national level, the Department for Education may offer further opportunities to bid for targeted funds to deliver the basic need for school places, although there is no guarantee that there will be opportunities or that bids will be successful.

Year	Grant Funding	In Year S106 Funding Received
Carry over	£1.9m	£6.3m
2015 –16	£2.2m	£1.5m
2016 –17	£2.3m	£0.9m
2017 - 18	£9.0m	£1.2m (to date)
2018 - 19	£3.1m	-
2019 - 20	£4.9m	-

- 6.6 This table outlines the remaining available funding within the Capital Programme from central government basic need grants together with developer contributions and lists the current approved projects and adds in the recommendations from this report with estimated costs for projects based around the feasibility studies.

Funding remaining (up to and including 2019-20 allocations)	£10,100,000*
Approved schemes – estimated pre-tender costs	
St Mary's Island C of E Primary School expansion	£2,000,000
Riverside Primary School expansion	£1,600,000
Halling Primary School expansion	£1,300,000
Awaiting approval – estimated pre-tender costs	
Grammar School expansion programme	£5,000,000
Total of outstanding projects	£9,900,000
Remaining funding up until March 2020	£200,000

* This figure comprises of £2,644,000 Government basic need grant and £7,456,000 of developer contributions from section 106 agreements

- 6.7 Whilst the table above outlines a significant level of available funding, this funding is allocated to the completion of the projects currently approved and underway or held for those recommended as part of this report. There is currently little funding

remaining for the projects necessary to further expand secondary and special provision, which will need to rely either entirely upon future years funding beyond 2019-20 which is as yet unknown, or will be funded as a result of future Free School programmes.

7 Legal implications

- 7.1 The Council has the power under sections 18 and 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to make “prescribed alterations” to a maintained school. The procedure for making prescribed alterations is set out in ‘School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.
- 7.2 From 24 January 2014 there is no longer a prescribed ‘pre-publication’ (informal) consultation period for prescribed alterations, there is however a strong expectation on Local Authorities to consult interested parties in developing their proposals prior to publication of the formal proposals as part of their duty under public law to act rationally and take into account all relevant considerations. Specific proposals brought forward from this report will be subject to these consultation processes.
- 7.3 Where an academy is proposed for expansion it falls to the academy trust to ensure appropriate consultation is undertaken. In such circumstances the Regional Schools Commissioner is the decision maker on the proposals. As these are basic need proposals funding responsibility falls to the Council and all decisions on funding approval will robustly follow the Council’s procurement procedures.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 The Cabinet is asked to note the continued excellent progress made against the School Organisation Plan framework, which has ensured that the Council meets its duty and sufficient school places are available to meet the increasing demand.
- 8.2 The Cabinet is asked to delegate authority to the Director of Children and Adults Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Children’s Services (Lead Member) and Educational Attainment and Improvement, to undertake the development and implementation of the programme to provide additional grammar school places within the budget set out in sections 3.12.2 and 6.6 of the report at one or more of the following schools;
- Sir Joseph Williamson Mathematical School
 - Holcombe Grammar School
 - Chatham Grammar School for Girls
 - Rainham Mark Grammar School
 - Rochester Grammar School
 - Fort Pitt Grammar School
- 8.3 The Cabinet is requested to authorise the granting of a lease to the Rivermead Inclusive Trust on the Former Abbey Court Buildings in Rainham, as indicated in Appendix 1 to the report, for the purposes of providing Tier 3 and Tier 4 mental health provision as set out in section 3.13.2 of the report.
- 8.4 The Cabinet is asked to authorise officers to undertake further feasibility studies as necessary to ensure that forward planning is in place to meet demand as and where it emerges and report back to Cabinet any formal proposals arising.

9. Suggested reasons for decision(s)

- 9.1 By approving the recommendations in section 8, the Cabinet is ensuring that the Council meets its statutory duty to ensure sufficient good quality school places are available.

Lead officer contact

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Appendices

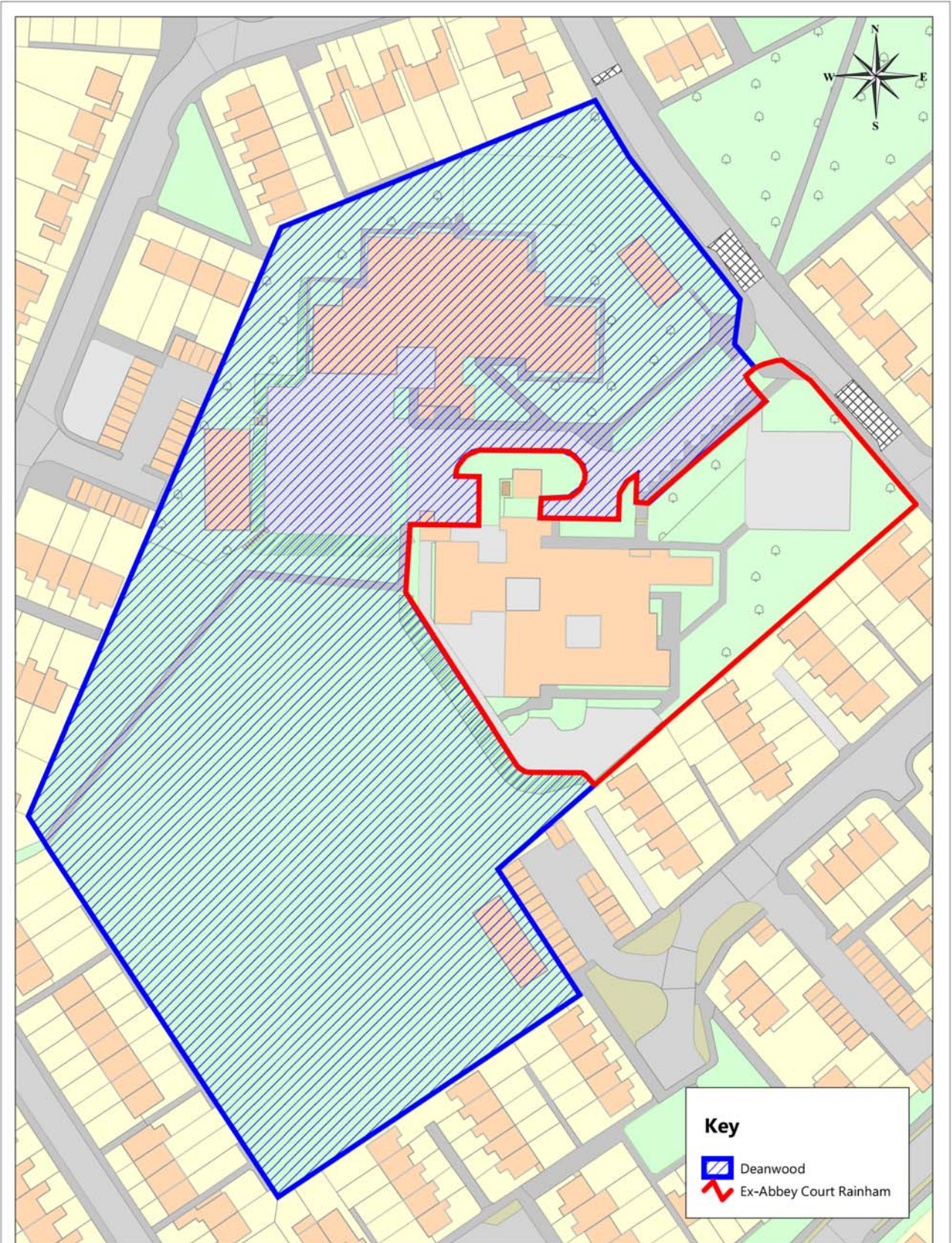
Appendix 1 - Plan of former Abbey Court site, Rainham

Background papers

Outcome of Consultation Period for School Organisation Plan 2011/2016 – Report to
Cabinet 1 November 2011

<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=115&MIId=2335&Ver=4>

Appendix 1 - Plan of former Abbey Court site, Rainham



Title: Former Abbey Court Rainham Site

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