

Report for: Council's Cabinet on 12 November 2024

Item number:

Title: Council's School Admission Arrangements for the academic year 2026/27 – consultation

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Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key/ Non Key Decision: Key

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1. This report seeks Cabinet agreement to consult on the school admission arrangements for entry into school in the academic year 2026/27 for Haringey's community and voluntary controlled (VC), nursery, infant, junior, primary, secondary and sixth form settings.
- 1.2. Haringey consults annually irrespective of whether there is a proposed change to its school admission arrangements. This is an annual report to Cabinet, every November each year. The results of the consultation proposed in this report are reported to Cabinet in February of each year when Cabinet is asked to determine the admission arrangements that have been consulted on.
- 1.3. This year there are no proposed alterations to the oversubscription criteria or Pan-London co-ordinated admission schemes¹ for Haringey primary, junior and secondary community and Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools for the academic year 2026/27. We are, however, seeking agreement from Cabinet to commence consultation on the proposal to reduce the published admission number (PAN) for primary and secondary schools in the borough. Para. 6.12 below displays the list of schools where a reduction in PAN is being sought.
- 1.4. This proposed consultation follows on from agreement by Cabinet in 2023 and 2024 to reduce the planned admission number for several primary schools. Falling rolls due to lower birth rates and outward migration has demanded changes to PAN at primary level in recent years whilst our reception place surplus is forecast to continue growing until the end of the decade. The smaller primary cohorts have now started to work their way through to the secondary phase and demand for Year 7 places is also declining. For entry in September 2024, there were 200 vacancies in Year 7 across our secondary estate as of October 2024, a significant shift from the previous year when a

¹ The scheme which each Local Authority is required to formulate in accordance with the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) Regulations 2012, for co-ordinating arrangements for the admission of children to maintained primary and secondary schools and academies. The co-ordinated scheme adopted from the PAN London scheme has been successful in meeting its main aim of eliminating or greatly reducing multiple offers of school places.

bulge class was still required to meet our sufficiency requirements on national offer day.

- 1.5. Given the current and forecast drops in demand for Reception and year 7 places between now and the end of the decade, it is essential that the Council ensures that schools and the communities they support are not being adversely affected by falling rolls. Further information on the reasons for this decision can be found at para. 4 below.
- 1.6. This work forms part of a bigger Education Strategy which places the LA as a catalyst and partner with the aim of creating resilience and reducing vulnerability across the school estate. We continue to hold conversations in partnership with our school leaders and governors to explore collaboration and sustainability opportunities to ensure that schools are able to maintain high standards and deliver on the quality of education provision.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1. All schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places at the school. Admission arrangements are proposed and determined by admission authorities. The local authority is the admission authority for the borough's community and VC schools.
- 2.2. Every local authority must publish a co-ordinated scheme which sets out the procedures all schools and academies must follow to co-ordinate the admission process for the reception and secondary transfer admissions round to ensure that all residents are offered a school place.
- 2.3. As the Local Authority, Haringey also has a statutory duty to ensure all pupils have access to a high-quality school place. In common with many other London authorities, Haringey has experienced a significant fall in the demand for school places, particularly in the primary school sector. This brings budget pressures that could affect the sustainability of schools and their ability to maintain high standards.
- 2.4. The funding that a school receives from central government is based on the number of children registered. Therefore, when a school's number of children is lower than expected it receives less funding and this can mean that the school finds it difficult to retain and or recruit enough teachers and support staff to maintain high standards of teaching and learning.
- 2.5. The council has the responsibility to make sure that its school places are organised in a way that helps all schools to continue to maintain high standards. To assist schools that have been significantly impacted to managing the impact of lower pupil numbers it is proposed to formally reduce the number of Reception and Year 7 places (years of entry) being offered at the schools set out in this report.
- 2.6. This report seeks Cabinet approval to commence a six-week period of statutory consultation. The details of what is being consulted on is set out in para. 3 below.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. Cabinet is asked to:

- Agree to consult on the proposed admission arrangements, including the co-ordinated schemes for admission of children to schools for the academic year 2026/27.
- Agree to consult on the proposed fair access protocol² which, if agreed at Cabinet in February 2025, would be come into force from 1 March 2025.
- Agree to consult with stakeholders on the proposal to reduce the PANs at Haringey primary and secondary schools - see table 1 at para 6.12 for the list of affected schools.
- Note that following the consultation, a report will be prepared summarising the representations received and a decision on the final admission arrangements for 2026/27 will be taken by Cabinet in February 2025.

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1. In common with many London authorities, Haringey has been experiencing a decrease in demand for reception school places for several years. The reasons for Haringey's declining numbers are multifaceted, but include a combination of falling birth rates, changes to welfare benefits, the housing crisis, increases in the cost of living, the withdrawal of the right of entry and freedom of movement from EU nationals (Brexit) and as a result of families leaving London during the Covid-19 pandemic. Many of these factors remain outside the Council's control and are at no fault of the schools or their current leadership.
- 4.2. A report on [Managing falling school rolls in London](#) published by London Councils in January 2024 provides some wider context and independent analysis of the issue.
- 4.3. At secondary school level, forecast demand is also now declining. Demand for Year 7 places between now and the end of the decade is set to decline and fall below the notional existing capacity of 2,628 places. Reductions in secondary capacity should also therefore be undertaken to bolster sustainability across the school estate and ensure the provision of places meets projected demand.
- 4.4. The proposals put forward in this report for reductions in PAN are designed to improve schools' ability to efficiently plan their staffing and educational provision by offering a more accurate number of places. This report sets out our response to the change in demand for Reception and Year 7 places in the borough and the consultation process we are asking to begin will gather views on an adjustment to our planned admission numbers for several schools. We will report back to Cabinet on this consultation and seek final agreement in February 2025.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1. We are not proposing a change to the oversubscription criteria for our community and VC schools for 2026/27. Whilst there are other ways admission arrangements can influence the allocation of school places set out in the Code (e.g., designated catchment areas, identified feeder schools or giving priority in our oversubscription criteria to children eligible for the early years premium/ pupil premium) no alternative option is being considered at the time of writing this report.

² In line with para. 3.14 of the Code, each local authority must have a Fair Access Protocol to ensure that unplaced and vulnerable children, and those who are having difficulty in securing a school place in-year, are allocated a school place as quickly as possible.

- 5.2. Our overarching aim is to assist schools in helping to enshrine sustainability and to introduce greater flexibility within our school estate to respond to the increasing rate of variation in population demand. PAN reduction is one of several solutions that schools can explore, and future sustainability can also be achieved through other strengthening partnerships e.g. soft/hard federations and memorandums of understanding between schools. Some neighbouring London authorities have taken radical measures to address surplus capacity (school closures / amalgamations). Haringey is also currently consulting on options for the future of one of its most at risk primary schools, but this does not impact on the consultation and determination of the admission arrangements for the schools governed by the Local Authority.

6. Background information

- 6.1. **Why do we consult?** - This report and the consultation that will flow from it will ensure that our proposed admission arrangements for 2026/27 are consulted upon and the co-ordinated scheme is set in accordance with the mandatory provisions of the School Admissions Code 2021 ('the Code').
- 6.2. The Code requires all admission authorities to publicly consult on their admission arrangements. If no changes are made to admission arrangements, they must be consulted on at least once every 7 years. The Code sets out that all admission authorities must consult in accordance with para. 1.42 of the Code where they propose a decrease to the PAN.
- 6.3. The Council is the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled (VC) schools within the borough and is therefore responsible for determining the admission arrangements for these schools.
- 6.4. Ensuring there is a transparent and objective school admissions process is a statutory and integral part of the Council's work. Oversubscription criteria must be reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair, and comply with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation. Admission authorities must ensure that their arrangements will not disadvantage unfairly, either directly or indirectly, a child from a particular social or racial group, or a child with a disability or special educational needs, and that other policies around school uniform or school trips do not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child.
- 6.5. Academies, foundation schools and voluntary aided (VA) schools are their own admission authority; they must consult on and then determine their own admission arrangements by 28 February 2025. The Council has a statutory duty to monitor the arrangements determined by own admitting authority schools to ensure compliance with the Code. All schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places at the school.

Fair Access Protocol (FAP)

- 6.6. An in-year fair access protocol has been agreed with all schools in Haringey to ensure unplaced children, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a school place without delay. This is a statutory requirement set out in the Code. In using the protocol, Haringey ensures that these children and young people are shared fairly across all Haringey schools and that this process is open and transparent.
- 6.7. All Haringey schools, including schools that are their own admission authority continue to support the principles and approach of the fair access protocol. Paragraph 3 at Appendix 5 sets out that "it is essential to the success of the fair access protocol that all

headteachers and governing bodies agree to the aims, principles and procedures and give their fullest support.” As part of this consultation, we ask key stakeholders (headteachers and governing boards) to review the protocol in order to make an assessment of its effectiveness. In line with para. 3.30 (b) of the Code, there is a requirement on all Local Authorities to assess their effectiveness of fair access protocols including how many children were admitted to each school under it. An annual report is produced and sent to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator with this information.

- 6.8. **Is there any change this year and what is the potential risk?** A reduction in Reception and Year 7 places has necessitated the need for the Council to consider measures to reduce the PANs at some schools, where this provision exceeds local demand. This will allow schools to provide places where they are needed and to ensure they are financially and organisationally on a stronger footing than at present.
- 6.9. The Code sets out the requirement for all admission authorities to undertake statutory consultation where they propose a decrease to the published admission number (PAN) of schools. We are proposing PAN reductions schools shown in Table 1 below for entry to September 2026/27.
- 6.10. These schools have been concerned about changes in their local demand and all the governing boards support the reduction since it will enable the schools to focus their budget and resources better for the reduced number of pupils resulting in a reduced number of fuller classes, so supporting school improvement. All the governing bodies agree they will support an increase should local demand for places rise. Importantly, whilst the process to reduce PAN requires considerable data and consultation, it is easy to reverse, so admissions authorities can quickly respond to a rise in demand and decide to admit over PAN on a temporary or permanent basis if and when this is needed.
- 6.11. In all cases, if no serious issues or objections are raised in responses to the consultation, Council’s Cabinet are asked to agree to the reductions, as they will support overall school improvement and effectiveness and financial and other stability.
- 6.12. **The table below shows the proposed amendments to PAN for the affected schools**

Table 1 - Proposed amendments to PANs for statutory consultation

School	Present PAN	Proposed PAN	Reduction
Rokesly Infant Primary School	90	60	-30
Park View Secondary	216	189	-27
Hornsey School for Girls Secondary	162	135	-27

Rokesly Infant School

- 6.13. Rokesly Infant is a primary infant community school for children in Reception to Year 2 located on Hermiston Avenue N8 8NH and sits within planning area 2. *A map of Haringey’s school planning areas can be found on Page 14 below.* The school normally admits 3 classes (90 Reception pupils) per year. However, due to a decrease in the demand for school places, we are proposing to reduce the school’s PAN to 60 for the 2026/27 academic year. This proposed reduction is due to the school only filling 2 forms of entry for entry to Reception in September 2024. The school has seen a reduction in first place preferences from 78 in 2020 to 51 in 2024 whilst first place

preferences for all schools in planning area 2 has fallen from 656 to 533. The projected demand for Reception places in planning area 2 suggests no additional need between 2025 and 2030.

- 6.14. Approval was sought from the Schools Adjudicator for a temporary reduction in PAN for Rokesly Infant School for entry in September 2024 and a reduction by 1 form of entry was agreed. Since infant class size regulations require the deployment of an additional teacher for more than 30 children in an infant class, the school would find it financially difficult to continue to meet the cost of a third teacher if there were just over 60 children admitted to the school in future years. Our projections indicate that demand is likely to continue to decline in future years and the school will struggle to fill any pupils in its third class to be able to afford the cost of an additional teacher.

Park View

- 6.15. Park View is a mixed community secondary school for children in years 7 to 11 located on West Green Road, London, N15 3QR. The school normally admits 8 classes (216 pupils) in Year 7. However, due to a decrease in the demand for school places, we are proposing to Council's Cabinet to reduce the school published admission number (PAN) by 1 form of entry from 216 to 189 for the 2026/27 academic year.
- 6.16. The projected demand for Year 7 places suggests no additional need between 2024 and 2030 and a reduction in PAN is necessary to keep in pace with the smaller primary cohorts now working their way through to the secondary phase. Park View has seen a reduction in first place preferences from 130 in 2020 to 98 in 2024 whilst first place preferences for all secondary schools in the borough has fallen from 2670 to 2333. Although 189 places were offered at Park View on national offer day in March 2024, this number has reduced, and 176 pupils are now registered on roll in Year 7 as of 07 October 2024.
- 6.17. Our projections indicate that demand is likely to continue to decline and the school will struggle to fill beyond 7 forms of entry. For the immediate future i.e. entry in September 2025, it is likely that the LA will be seeking approval from the Schools Adjudicator for a temporary reduction in PAN.³

Hornsey School for Girls

- 6.18. Hornsey School for Girls is single-sex girls only secondary community school for children in years 7 to 11 located on Inderwick Road, Crouch End, London, N8 9JF. The school normally admits 6 classes (162 pupils) in Year 7. However, due to a decrease in the demand for school places, we are proposing to Council's Cabinet to reduce the school published admission number (PAN) by 1 form of entry from 162 to 135 for the 2026/27 academic year.
- 6.19. The projected demand for Year 7 places suggests no additional need between 2024 and 2030 and a reduction in PAN is necessary to keep in pace with the smaller primary cohorts now working their way through to the secondary phase. Hornsey School for Girls has seen a reduction in first place preferences from 115 in 2020 to 69 in 2024 whilst first place preferences for all secondary schools in the borough has fallen from 2670 to 2333. Although 121 places were offered at Hornsey School for Girls on national offer day in March 2024, this number has reduced, and 95 pupils are now registered on roll in Year 7 as of 07 October 2024.

³ The Office of the Schools Adjudicator has jurisdiction to consider a proposed reduction of PAN via an [in-year variation request](#).

- 6.20. Our projections indicate that demand is likely to continue to decline and the school will struggle to fill beyond 5 forms of entry. For the immediate future i.e. entry in September 2025, it is likely that the LA will be seeking approval from the Schools Adjudicator for a temporary reduction in PAN.

Can any risk be mitigated?

- 6.21. The proposals for reductions in PAN are to improve a schools' ability to efficiently plan their staffing and educational provision and not reducing could lead to schools suffering financial pressures leading to deficits, which for our maintained schools could then require a loan, further adding to the pressure in the Dedicated Schools Grant.
- 6.22. The admissions arrangements and the PANs are proposed and agreed by admission authorities 18 months before implementation, in accordance with the requirements of the Code. Consulting on reducing the PAN for entry in September 2026/27 gives schools sufficient time to review their internal structure so that any potential impact on staff reorganisation can be minimized. It will allow the school leadership team to offer a more accurate number of places and also help with long term planning.
- 6.23. These schools were identified as potential candidates for a reduction in discussions held with school leaders and governors at the end of the Summer term 2024 and at the beginning of the Autumn term 2024. Amendments to PAN and local/planning area capacity has been considered in the context of the effects on local provision, looking at recruitment patterns to local schools and ensuring that the knock-on effects in the adjustment of PANs is considered.
- 6.24. All schools have been affected by unused places for entry to September 2024 and the reduction in demand has impacted these school's ability to manage class sizes and effective pupil to teacher ratios. We are consulting on reducing PAN from September 2026 to assist these schools in managing the impact of lower pupil numbers.
- 6.25. Our proposal will not adversely impact on families trying to access their local school with high quality provision. A projected surplus of school places across our secondary estate means that we expect sufficient places to still be available for local children.
- 6.26. 98% of our primary schools and all of our secondary schools in Haringey are rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted and are able to support children with a wide range of abilities, special needs, disabilities and learning difficulties, from able, gifted and talented pupils to those with multiple and significant disabilities, medical conditions and learning difficulties. Even with these reductions, we are confident that the needs of the community can be met at local schools, and this will be borne out during the consultation process. We will closely monitor the number of applications received in the Autumn 2024 term and in future years and, in the event that there is an increase in demand for school places and additional places are required, schools can revert to their original PANs.
- 6.27. Adjusting the number of school places upwards or downwards is a key and statutory function of place planning so as to respond to demand. We continually monitor the number of school places we have available to ensure we are able to meet demand for places but not create an over or under supply of places. Without careful place planning, we would either fail in our statutory duty to provide sufficiency of places or we oversupply places which creates a risk of serious financial burden on many of our primary schools. This in turn can negatively impact on schools' budgets and thus the quality of educational provision. School place planning is a statutory function for the Council and this consultation will help us to ensure that we are able to continue to meet this duty but not to overprovide places.

- 6.28. The main part of a school's budget is made up of AWPU (Age Weighted Pupil Unit) from per-pupil funding and our schools being full contributes towards financial security in our schools. A benefit of planning places judiciously to account for fluctuations in demand is that it keeps rolls relatively buoyant across and beyond any local area (also known as a school place planning area) as the number of places available closely matches the birth rate and inward migration to our borough.
- 6.29. More details on how we plan for the sufficiency but not oversupply of school places is set out in our annual school place planning report, available to view at www.haringey.gov.uk/schoolplaceplanning.

Demand for Reception places – downward trajectory

- 6.30. Table 2 below shows the number of Reception pupils between 2012 and 2024 in Haringey has generally been on a downward trajectory from a high of 3,259 in 2012 to 2,652 in January 2024 (equivalent to around 20 forms of entry). The latest projections from our 2024 School place planning report (SPPR) suggest demand for school places will not exceed 2,600 as far as our projections currently extend which is 2030/31. Projections from 2024 onwards show demand falling to a low of 2,395 Reception places in 2027/28.

Table 2 - Reception rolls between 2012/13 and 2023/24

Year	Reception roll as at January	Annual change	Percentage change over previous year	As a proportion of Jan 2013
2012/13	3,259 (Jan 2013)	61	1.9%	100%
2013/14	3,139 (Jan 2014)	-120	-3.7%	96%
2014/15	3,181 (Jan 2015)	42	1.3%	98%
2015/16	3,185 (Jan 2016)	4	0.1%	98%
2016/17	3,067 (Jan 2017)	-118	-3.7%	94%
2017/18	2,979 (Jan 2018)	-88	-2.9%	91%
2018/19	3,029 (Jan 2019)	50	1.7%	93%
2019/20	2,952 (Jan 2020)	-77	-2.5%	91%
2020/21	2,934 (Jan 2021)	-18	-0.6%	90%
2021/22	2,683 (Jan 2022)	-251	-8.6%	82%
2022/23	2,720 (actual Jan 2023)	+37	1.4%	83%
2023/24	2,652 (actual Jan 2024)	-68	-2.5%	81%

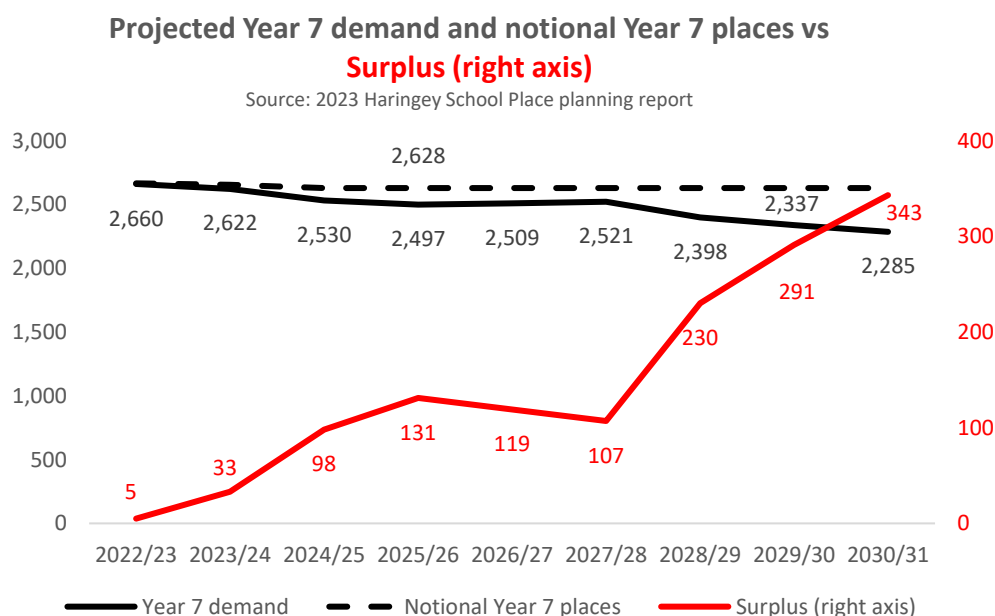
Source: 2012/13-2023/24 PLASC School Census

- 6.31. First place preferences data (which is a strong indicator of the overall demand for places) for September 2024 were lower than in September 2023. See planning area level (last year's data in brackets). PA1: 512 (558) PA2: 533 (604) PA3: 342 (348) PA4: 605 (599) PA5: 632 (549). Though they were still significantly lower than in recent years. Total first place preferences since 2020 are as follows: 2020: 3,039, 2021: 2,562, 2022: 2,658, 2023: 2,688, 2024: 2,624.
- 6.32. Haringey currently has a surplus of **260** Reception school places (year of entry) equivalent to nearly 9 forms of entry. This equates to a 10% surplus across our primary school estate. [The 2024 School Place Planning Report \(SPPR\)](#) projects further growth in primary school vacancies between 2024 and 2030 which will place a growing financial burden on Haringey primary schools.

- 6.33. Pupil numbers can fluctuate year on year, but the aim is to have 5-10% vacancies which will ensure there will be places to meet parental demand in each planning area and for those moving in mid-year, and secure stability for all schools. Having several schools with a PAN over 30 pupils above the level of their local demand means some schools attract a few pupils from further away requiring more classes to be run, but they are not economic, with a risk that if pupils join or leave, a class may need to be opened or closed. This disrupts education for all the pupils in the year group.
- 6.34. To balance school budgets, classes need to include 24 or more pupils. Schools with declining or volatile rolls face big changes in their annual budget, and consequent cuts in staff and risk financial deficit. The aim of PAN reductions is to match the operational level of schools to local demand and improve the focus of resources in each school on their pupils and reduce the risk of deficits. Meanwhile the physical capacity will remain available if demand rises, when it is possible to increase the PAN immediately, without consultation. It is considered prudent that in future PANs may be increased temporarily a year at a time, whilst parental demand is kept under review.

Demand for Year 7 places

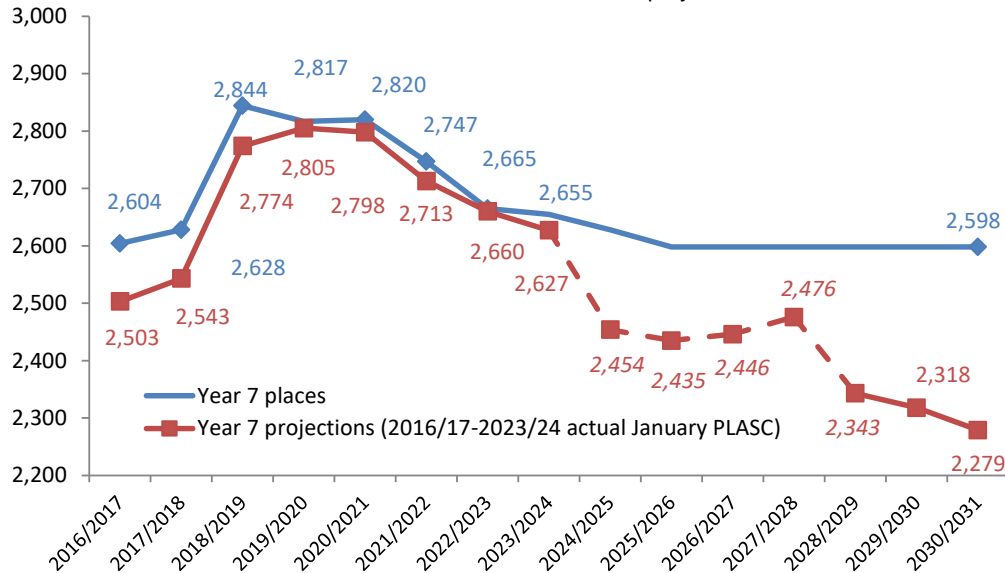
- 6.35. A secondary place planning briefing was produced in April 2024 for all Secondary Headteachers prior to the publication of the 2024 School Place Planning report (SPPR). The data in this report suggested falls in projected Year 7 demand as shown below. Assuming no changes to our then notional PAN of 2,628 Year 7 places the data projected a growing surplus of Year 7 places between now and the end of the decade. With no reduction in PAN this surplus was projected to grow to 343 places, more than 10% of existing Year 7 capacity.



- 6.36. The latest data from the 2024 SPPR (Figure 4a) which features the latest projections from the GLA are shown below:

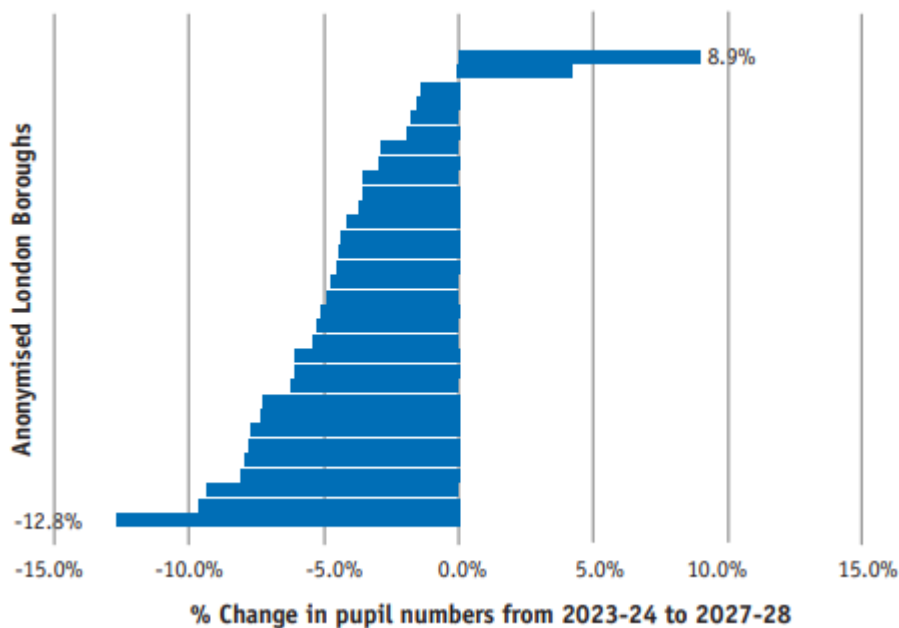
Figure 4a - Year 7 projections vs. places (GLA projections)

Source: 2024 GLA School Roll projections



- 6.37. They show no material difference in the predominant issue of growing surpluses in Year 7 between now and the end of the decade (319 places). The 2024 projections are based on a new secondary PAN of 2,598 following the permanent reduction in capacity at Heartlands High from 2025.⁴
- 6.38. This decline in secondary demand is not related specifically to Haringey. Data from London Councils (Graph 2) shows that only 2 boroughs are reporting an increase in projected change in Year 7 demand between 2023-24 and 2027-28. The average drop across London is 4.3%. This is important since it reduces the likelihood of our secondary schools from being “rescued” by demand from our neighbouring boroughs.

Graph 2: Percentage Change in Y7 student Numbers from 2023-24 to 2027-28



Source: London Councils – Managing falling school rolls in London (January 2024)

⁴ From September 2025 the PAN at Heartlands High is reducing permanently from 240 to 210.

- 6.39. The data below shows year by year projections for Year 6 and Year 7 places using the latest data from the 2024 SPPR. It shows some variability but vacancies of between 4 and 10 forms of entry (based on standard class sizes of 30) between now and the end of the decade.
- 6.40. Based on the above decline reductions in secondary capacity should be undertaken to bolster sustainability across the school estate and ensure the provision of places meets projected demand.
- 6.41. As the Year 7 surplus grows year by year there will be a sustained growth in vacancies across the entire secondary cohort. Data on 11-15 year old projections and planned places is shown below. It clearly shows surpluses across the secondary cohort growing to around 1,000 places by the end of the decade.
- 6.42. To put 1,000 secondary places into a Haringey context data from the May 2024 School census indicates that our existing 12 secondary settings (Y7-Y11) vary in total pupil rolls between 720 and 1,343 with an average of 1,110 and a median average of 1,147.

Table 3 - Year 6 and 7 projections and planned places (Original GLA projection data)

	Year	Number of year 7 places	Number of year 6 pupils	Number of year 7 pupils	year 7 place shortfall / surplus	% of year 7 surplus places
Actual	2022/2023	2,665	2,863	2,660	5	0.2%
Actual	2023/2024	2,665	2,825 (actual Jan 2024)	2,627 (actual Jan 2024)	38	1.4%
Projection	2024/2025	2,628	2,750	2,454	174	6.6%
Projection	2025/2026	2,598	2,809	2,435	163	6.3%
Projection	2026/2027	2,598	2,751	2,446	152	5.9%
Projection	2027/2028	2,598	2,673	2,476	122	4.7%
Projection	2028/2029	2,598	2,667	2,343	255	9.8%
Projection	2029/2030	2,598	2,584	2,318	280	10.8%
Projection	2030/2031	2,598	2,461	2,279	319	12.3%

Source: 2018-2024 PLASC counts and GLA 2024 School Roll projections 10 year constrained and 3/4 Model. Note From September 2025 the PAN at Heartlands is reducing from 240 to 210.

Table 4 - 11-15 year old projections and planned places

Year	11-15 capacity (2018/19 – 2022/23) and planned places (2023/24 – 2030/31)	Number of 11-15 year old pupils (projections from 2023/24 onwards)	11-15 year old place shortfall/ surplus	% surplus / shortfall of 11-15 year old places
2022/23	13,893	13,814	79	0.6%
2023/24	13,704	13,689	15	0.1%
2024/25	13,515	13,249	266	2.0%
2025/26	13,293	12,883	410	3.1%

2026/27	13,144	12,606	538	4.1%
2027/28	13,077	12,408	669	5.1%
2028/29	13,020	12,135	885	6.8%
2029/30	12,990	11,993	997	7.7%
2030/31	12,990	11,837	1,153	8.9%

Source: 2018-2024 PLASC counts and GLA 2024 School Roll projections 10 year constrained and 3/4 Model Note
From September 2025 the PAN at Heartlands is reducing from 240 to 210.

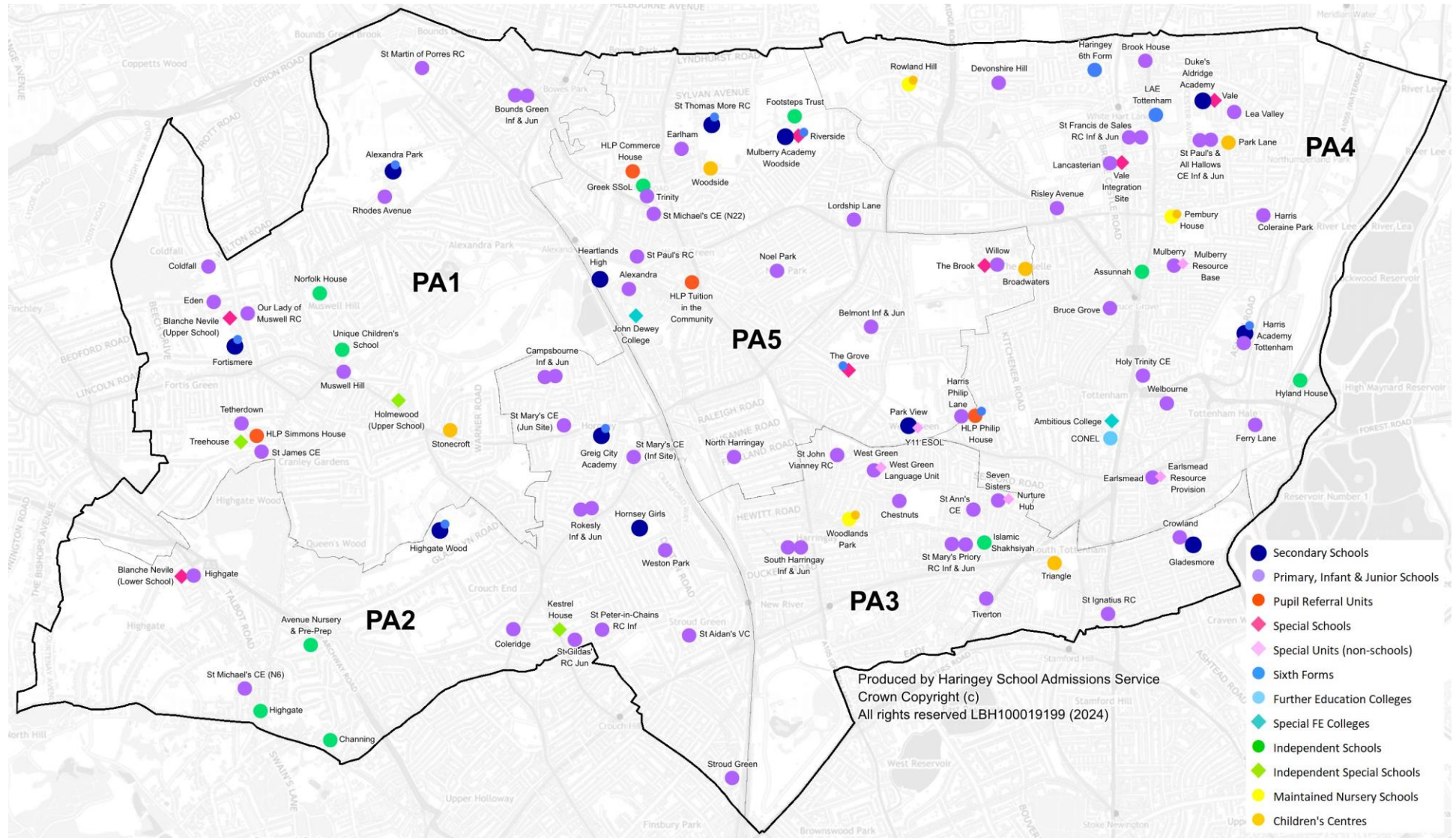
Housing development across the borough

- 6.43. At this stage it is unclear how much additional demand for school places will come from planned housing development. Our projections use data from the GLA (Greater London Authority) which make assumptions about the “child yield” from new developments, essentially the number of children that you might expect from the mix of proposed new housing.
- 6.44. In recent years and across most London boroughs these child yields have been considerably lower than anticipated. This may be in part related to the character of new properties, many of which are 1–2-bedroom apartments and which are not necessarily optimal for family living.
- 6.45. Further factors also include the affordability of larger housing in Haringey and across London and the additional impacts of Brexit and Covid-19, both of which have been linked to lower levels of demand for future school places as both factors have impacted birth rates across London and led to out-migration from Haringey and London.
- 6.46. Irrespective of whether new housing or some other dynamic creates additional demand for Reception places in future years the priority now is to ensure the sustainability and broad mix of all our secondary schools. This will ensure their continued success today and ability to absorb of potential additional pupils in future years.

Fully collaborative process – schools of all types

- 6.47. The proposal to reduce PANs at schools has been undertaken as part of a fully collaborative process with key stakeholders and with two specific guidelines: a) that parental preference will not be undermined and b) that any school that reduces PAN will be able to immediately revert to their substantive PAN should local demand warrant it. The aim of this proposal is to help stabilise each school’s intake and enable school leaders and governing boards to plan and deliver school provision effectively to meet local demand.
- 6.48. The London Diocesan Board for Schools and Westminster Diocese have also contacted about the need to rationalise the number of school places available. A considerable number of our faith schools have already taken steps to reduce their published admission numbers to reflect changes in Haringey’s population and governing bodies at these schools have in recent years delegated this responsibility to the local authority as part of the Council’s annual consultation and determination of admission arrangements. We will continue to work within a collaborative process and take a graduated approach in partnership with both dioceses.

Map of Haringey Planning Areas



Consultation

- 6.49. Where changes are proposed to admission arrangements, the Code sets out that an admission authority must first publicly consult on those arrangements. If no changes are made to admission arrangements, they must be consulted on at least once every 7 years. Consultation must be for a minimum of 6 weeks and must take place between 1 October and 31 January in the year before those arrangements are to apply.
- 6.50. All admission authorities must consult in accordance with paragraph 1.42 of the Code where they propose a decrease to the PAN. This report will ask for approval from Cabinet to consult on our proposed admission arrangements, including the proposal to reduce the PANs at the above named schools set out in this report from September 2026. We will collate and present all feedback from this consultation to the Cabinet of the Council in February 2025 for decision.
- 6.51. The purpose of our consultation is to ensure that all voices and views are heard, and it will allow parents, schools, religious authorities, and the local community to comment about our proposed admission arrangements and proposals to reduce PANs.
- 6.52. To meet statutory requirements (para. 1.47 of the Code) but also to ensure as wide an engagement as possible, we will be consulting with:
- parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen;
 - other persons in the relevant area who may have an interest in the proposed admissions;
 - all other admission authorities within the relevant area
 - whichever of the governing body and the local authority who are not the admission authority;
 - any adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority; and
 - in the case of schools designated with a religious character, the body or person representing the religion or religious denomination.

Proposed consultation timetable

Stage	What happens?	Dates and Timescales
1	Consultation on the Council's proposed admission arrangements including proposals to reduce PANs at X primary schools	November 2024– January 2025
2	Analysis of consultation representations and preparation of information to be considered by the Council's Cabinet	January – February 2025
3	Meeting of the Cabinet to consider representations and determine future arrangements including decision on proposal to reduce PANs	February 2025

- 6.53. To ensure as wide a consultation as possible we intend to provide details in the following ways:
- through the bi-weekly (term-time only) Haringey Schools Newsletter which is distributed to the headteacher and chair of governors of all schools in the borough

- to all children's centres in the borough
- to all registered nurseries and child minders and any other early year's providers
- on the Council's online admissions pages
- Individual school websites and noticeboards
- via information in all libraries across the borough
- to all councillors
- to MPs in Haringey
- to the diocesan authorities and any other religious bodies
- other groups, bodies, parents and carers as appropriate

7. Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2024-2026

- 7.1. Ensuring we have a transparent and objective school admissions process with oversubscription criteria that is reasonable, clear, objective, and compliant with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation, underpins theme 3 within the Corporate Delivery Plan which seeks to enable every child to have the best start in life with access to high quality education. By reducing the PANs at some schools, the council will ensure that schools remain viable, standards are maintained and improved, and that parents and carers still have a choice of good or outstanding schools to choose from for their children.
- 7.2. Ensuring that we prioritise forms of school organisation that will remain financially viable under a range of different funding scenarios (i.e., organisational structures within and between schools that provide flexibility to address population change. Exploring creative and lasting solutions for school re-organisation, that minimise the risk of having to close schools in future and maintaining the current balance of provision across the borough that matches local need and strengthens local communities (including sufficient affordable SEND provision, balance of faith provision and LA/Academy Schools).

8. Statutory Officers comments (Director of Finance (procurement), Head of Legal and Governance, Equalities)

- 8.1. Below are financial, governance and legal and equality comments.

Finance

- 8.2. The Director of Finance has been consulted in the production of this report and confirms that apart from a small administrative cost there are no direct financial implications as a result of the consultation and engagement proposals. However, it will help reduce the financial pressure on these individual schools and the risk of these schools running into deficit.
- 8.3. It is in the interest of the local authority to ensure that demand is as closely matched to supply as possible. Reducing PANs to match the demand would reduce school expenditure on staff not required to teach classes that are not required.
- 8.4. Reducing the PAN may mean fewer teachers are required by the schools, there is a risk that this could create redundancy costs in the short term, potentially the reduction could be met by not replacing staff.
- 8.5. Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on local authorities to secure that there are sufficient primary and secondary school places in their area. There is a small risk that reducing school capacities could potentially leave the Council vulnerable to legal action for not meeting its target duty to provide sufficient primary school places, if we were in any danger of not being able to offer a "reasonable offer" to an applicant.

However, the level of vacancies presently observed at both primary and secondary level would mitigate against that risk.

Head of Legal & Governance

- 8.6. The Head of Legal and Governance has been consulted on the contents of this report and comments as follows: The current School Admissions Code ('the Code') came into force in September 2021 and was issued by the Department for Education under section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Code is to be read alongside the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 ('the Regulations'). In determining its admission arrangements for 2026-2027 the Council has a statutory duty as an admissions authority to act in accordance with the Regulations and with the relevant provisions of the Code. It must also as a result of its duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct which is prohibited by or under that Act, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations in relation to persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 8.7. Paragraph 15 of the Code states that all schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places at the school. As part of determining its admission arrangements, the Council must set an admission number (called the Published Admission Number or PAN) for each school's "relevant age group" i.e. the age group at which pupils are or will normally be admitted to the school.
- 8.8. School admission arrangements are determined by admission authorities. Generally, the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools is the local authority. Admission authorities must set ('determine') admission arrangements annually. Generally, where changes are proposed to admission arrangements, the admission authority must first publicly consult on those arrangements. If no changes are made to the admission arrangements, they must be consulted on at least once every 7 years. Consultation must be for a minimum of 6 weeks and must take place between 1 October and 31 January of the school year before those arrangements are to apply (the determination year). Consultation must be undertaken when proposals are still at a formative stage. It must include sufficient reasons for particular proposals to allow those consulted to give intelligent consideration and an intelligent response, adequate time must be given for this purpose and the product of the consultation must be conscientiously taken into account when the ultimate decision is taken.
- 8.9. In relation to consultation the Council must consult with parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen; other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions; all other admission authorities within the relevant area; whichever of the governing body and the local authority who are not the admission authority; any adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority and in the case of faith schools, the body or person representing the religion or religious denomination. The authority must also for the duration of the consultation publish a copy of the full proposed admission arrangements (including the PAN) on its website together with details to whom comments should be sent and the areas on which comments are not sought.
- 8.10. It is the responsibility of the authority to ensure that admission arrangements are compliant with the Code and relevant legislation. Arrangements mean overall procedures, practices, criteria and supplementary information to be used in deciding on

the allocation of school places. In drawing up the arrangements, the authority must ensure that the practices and criteria used are reasonable, fair, clear and objective and comply with the relevant legislation including equalities legislation. Parents should be able to look at the set of arrangements and understand easily how places will be allocated. It is for the authority to decide which criteria would be the most suitable according to local circumstances.

- 8.11. Each year all local authorities must formulate and publish on their website a scheme by 1 January in the relevant determination year, a scheme to co-ordinate admission arrangements for the normal admissions round and late applications for all publicly funded schools within their area. All admission authorities must participate in co-ordination and provide the local authority with the information it needs to co-ordinate admissions by the dates agreed within the scheme. There is no requirement for local authorities to co-ordinate in-year applications, however, Haringey centrally co-ordinates for the vast majority of schools and has safeguarding protocols in place for tracking pupils admitted directly by some schools that administer their own in-year admissions.
- 8.12. The Code requires that the Council must have a Fair Access Protocol (FAP), agreed with the majority of schools in its area, to ensure that, outside the normal admissions round, unplaced children, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school as quickly as possible. The Cabinet Members will see the Proposed In-Year Fair Access Protocol at Appendix 5.
- 8.13. The proposed admission arrangements for 2026-2027, the proposed co-ordinated scheme, the proposed FAP and the proposed consultation on the proposed admission arrangements for 2026-2027 are in compliance with the Code and the Regulations.

Equality

- 8.14. The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act 2010 ('the 2010 Act') to have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a "relevant protected characteristic" and people who do not share it;
 - Foster good relations between people who share those a "relevant protected characteristic" and people who do not share it.
 - A "relevant protected characteristic" is age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation.

The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty. Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

- 8.15. The proposed admission arrangements set out in this report comply with the public sector equality duty and ensure that as an admission authority, the Council's arrangements do not directly or indirectly unfairly disadvantage an individual or group that possesses any of the characteristics defined in sections 4-12 of the 2010 Act.
- 8.16. As the reduction in PAN is being done to remove part of the surplus of school places, there will not be any disproportionate impact on children with protected characteristics. There is a possibility that this proposal could adversely impact female teachers / female teaching assistants as several staff members at each school may be made

redundant or re-deployed. This may be unavoidable as there is a greater ratio of female to male teachers and teaching assistants in schools across Haringey and across the country as a whole.

- 8.17. In terms of mitigating the impact on this equality characteristic, affected staff should be supported by appropriate HR procedures. The Council will support schools in ensuring all staff affected by the proposal are given access to redeployment options and support to find alternative roles within Haringey. To mitigate against any negative impact on staffing as a whole, we have ensured that the timing of the consultation of admission arrangements allows the schools sufficient time to review staff structure, including needing to take no action as a result of staff moving to jobs outside the school as part of a natural process, taking steps to redeploy staff to other departments/schools, not renewing short-term contracts or reducing the use of agency staff.
- 8.18. In the event that it is not possible for schools to avoid making posts redundant, where appropriate, the Council will consider defraying some of the costs of redundancy. Such matters will be considered on a case-by-case basis taking into account the schools' budget as well as what other options are or may be available to the schools.
- 8.19. The proposed admission arrangements for 2026/27 do not differ materially from the arrangements for previous years. We therefore do not consider that another full equality impact assessment is necessary for our admission arrangements at this stage. We have continued to monitor and assess the impact of any changing trends – please see in the updated EqIA in Appendix 7 for more information on equalities impacts. As part of the consultation, we will seek to ascertain whether the proposed reduction in PAN at the schools listed above could have an impact on protected groups and whether there are steps that can and/or should be taken to mitigate against such an impact. The EqIA will be updated based on the results of the consultation.
- 8.20. The consultation process will be used to help populate and inform the final version of the EqIA which decision makers will consider in February 2025.

9. Use of Appendices

- 9.1. The following appendices support this report:

Appendix 1	Proposed admission criteria for nursery 2026
Appendix 2	Proposed admission criteria for reception and junior admissions 2026
Appendix 3	Proposed admission criteria for secondary 2026
Appendix 4	Proposed admission criteria for in-year admissions 2026
Appendix 5	Proposed Fair Access Protocol for Haringey schools
Appendix 6	Proposed admission criteria for Sixth Form 2026
Appendix 7	EqIA
Appendix 8	Co-ordinated admissions scheme 2026-27

- 9.2. The full papers for this report can be viewed electronically on the Council's website at or in paper form at Level 5, 48 Station Road, Wood Green, N22 7TY.

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 10.1. This report contains no exempt information.

Background

1. The Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998.
2. The Education Act 2002.

3. The Education and Inspections Act 2006.
4. Education and Skills Act 2008.
5. The School Admissions Code (September 2021)
6. School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012
7. The School Admissions (Infant Class Sizes) (England) Regulations 2012.
8. The School Admissions (Appeals Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012.
9. The Education Act 2011.
10. The School Admissions Appeals Code (2022).