

Report for: Cabinet

Item Number: 11

Title: Determination of the Council's School Admission Arrangements for the academic year 2026/27

Report

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Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key/

Non Key Decision: Key Decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1. To continue to meet statutory requirements Cabinet are requested to determine the proposed admission arrangements for the school year 2026/27. These arrangements are in respect of the borough's community and voluntary controlled (VC) schools. Recommendations below (para. 3) also ask Cabinet to agree to their publication on or before 15 March 2025 on the Council's website, such details to include advice on the right of objection to the Schools Adjudicator.
- 1.2. This year the proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled (VC) schools included a proposal to reduce the published admission number (PAN) for several primary and secondary schools in the borough. Table 1 at para. 6.9 below displays the list of schools where a reduction in PAN is being sought.
- 1.3. On 12 November 2024 Council's Cabinet agreed that statutory consultation should be carried out on the proposed admission arrangements between 28 November 2024 and 9 January 2025. This report provides details on, and an analysis of the representations received on all of our admission arrangements and makes recommendations on those proposed admission arrangements at para. 3 below.
- 1.4. The consultation carried out between 28 November 2024 and 9 January 2025 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 also 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 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.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1. As a result of a very full consideration of all the available evidence, this paper recommends that Cabinet agree to determine the Council's admission arrangements for the academic year 2026/27 and the proposal to reduce the published admission number (PAN) for the primary and secondary schools listed in table 1 at para. 6.9 below. The full range of reasons for agreeing to the proposals are set out below from para 4.1 – para 6.48.

3. Recommendations

Cabinet is asked:

- 3.1. To consider and take into account the feedback from the consultation undertaken which is set out in appendix 8.
- 3.2. To consider and take into account the equalities impact assessment of the proposals on protected groups at appendix 7.
- 3.3. To agree the recommendation set out in this report to proceed with the proposal to reduce the published admission number (PAN) for the primary and secondary schools listed in table 1 below from September 2026.
- 3.4. To determine the Council's admission arrangements for the academic year 2026/27 as set out in Appendices 1 – 4.
- 3.5. To agree Haringey's fair access protocol as set out in Appendix 5 to come into force from 1 March 2025.
- 3.6. To agree that the determined arrangements for all maintained primary and secondary schools in the borough are published on the Council's website by 15 March 2025 with an explanation of the right of any person or body, under the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) Regulations 2012, to object to the Schools Adjudicator in specified circumstances¹.

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.

¹ Paragraphs 19 – 24 of the Regulations

- 4.4. This report sets out our response to the change in demand for Reception and Year 7 places in the borough. Falling rolls due to lower birth rates and out-migration rate has demanded changes to PAN in recent years whilst our Reception place surplus is forecast to grow further. Our smaller primary cohorts have also now started to work their way through to the secondary phase and demand for Year 7 places is also declining. The proposals 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.

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.
- 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. The School Admissions Code 2021 requires all admission authorities to determine admission arrangements every year, even if they have not changed from previous years. Regulation 17 of the School Admissions Regulations 2012 also requires admission authorities to determine admission arrangements by 28 February in the determination year.
- 6.2. In addition, the Regulations require the admission authority to publish on its website by 15 March in the determining year the determined arrangements of all maintained primary and secondary school and academies in the borough, advising the right to object to the Schools Adjudicator, where it is considered that the arrangement do not comply with the mandatory provisions of the School Admissions Code 2021.
- 6.3. The Council consults on its admission arrangements annually irrespective of whether or not there is a proposed change to the arrangements. This is to ensure transparency and openness on the contents of the admission arrangements and to allow all stakeholders to make representations which can then be considered as part of the determination of the arrangements.

Fair Access Protocol (FAP)

- 6.4. 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.

- 6.5. 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 the consultation undertaken between 28 November 2024 and 9 January 2025, we asked 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.
- 6.6. **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.
- 6.7. 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 asking Cabinet to proceed with approving the proposal to reduce the published admission number (PAN) for the primary and secondary schools shown in Table 1 at para 6.9 below for entry to September 2026/27.
- 6.8. 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.
- 6.9. The table below shows the proposed amendments to PAN for the affected schools.

Table 1 - Proposed amendments to PANs

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

- 6.10. 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 XX below.* The school normally admits 3 classes (90 Reception pupils) per year. However, due to a decrease in the demand for school places, we sought agreement from Cabinet last year to consult on reducing 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.

- 6.11. 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

- 6.12. 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 sought agreement from Council's Cabinet last year to consult on reducing the school PAN by 1 form of entry from 216 to 189 for the 2026/27 academic year.
- 6.13. 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 165 pupils are registered on roll in Year 7 as of December 2025.
- 6.14. Our projections indicate that demand is likely to continue to decline and the school will struggle to fill beyond 7 forms of entry (189 pupils). 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.²

Hornsey School for Girls

- 6.15. 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 sought agreement from Council's Cabinet last year to consult on reducing the school's PAN by 1 form of entry from 162 to 135 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. 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 90 pupils are now registered on roll in Year 7 as of December 2024.

² The Office of the Schools Adjudicator has jurisdiction to consider a proposed reduction of PAN via an [in-year variation request](#).

- 6.17. Our projections indicate that demand is likely to continue to decline and the school will struggle to fill beyond 5 forms of entry (135 pupils). 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?

- 6.18. The proposals for reductions in PAN are to improve schools' ability to efficiently plan their staffing and educational provision and not reducing could lead to schools suffering financial pressures leading to deficits, which in the maintained schools could then require a loan, further adding to the pressure in the Dedicated Schools Grant.
- 6.19. 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. Reducing the PAN for entry in September 2026/27 gives these 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 teams in offering a more accurate number of places and also help with long term planning.
- 6.20. 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.
- 6.21. An equalities impact assessment (EqIA) is included at Appendix 7 and has identified a disproportionate impact on the basis of gender. 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 primary schools across Haringey and across the country as a whole.
- 6.22. 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 and determination 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.
- 6.23. 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.
- 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 primary and

secondary estate for entry to Reception and Year 7 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. We will closely monitor the number of applications received 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. In summary, at the current time, we don't expect a reduction in PAN at these schools to mean that any local children can't be offered a local school place.
- 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 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%

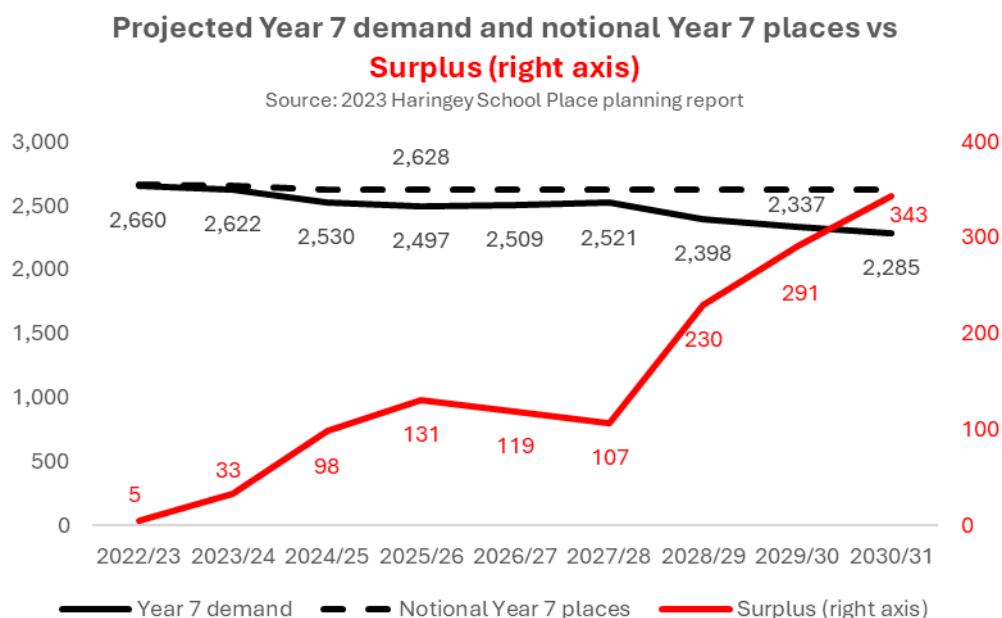
2017/18	2,979 (Jan 2018)	-88	-2.9%	91%
2018/19	3,029 (Jan 2019)	50	1.7%	93%
2019/20	2,952 (Jan 2020)	-77	-2.5%	91%
2020/21	2,934 (Jan 2021)	-18	-0.6%	90%
2021/22	2,683 (Jan 2022)	-251	-8.6%	82%
2022/23	2,720 (actual Jan 2023)	+37	1.4%	83%
2023/24	2,652 (actual Jan 2024)	-68	-2.5%	81%

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

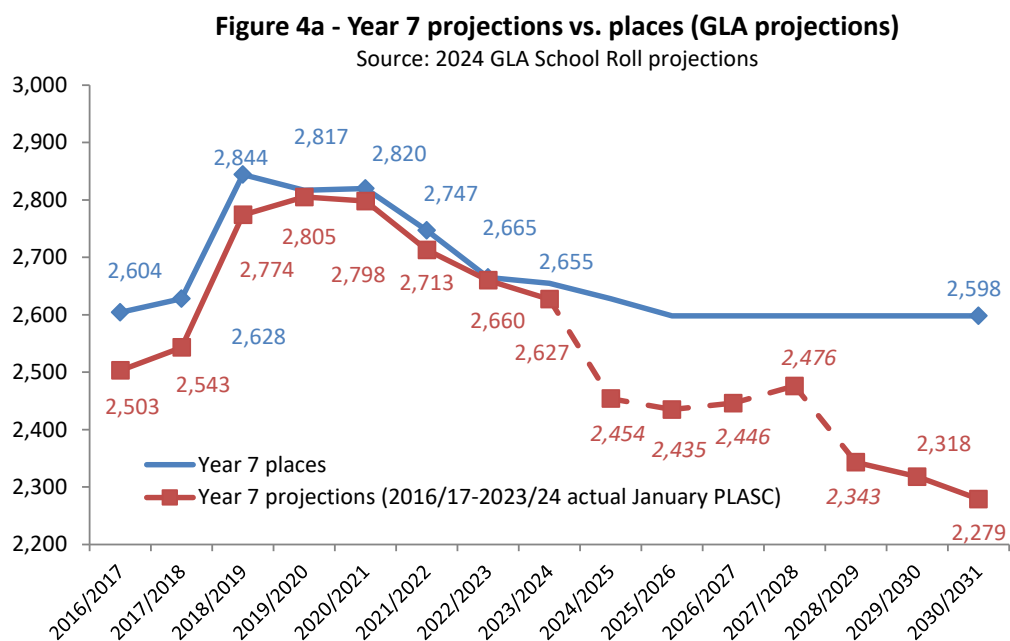
- 6.31. First place preferences data (which is a strong indicator of the overall demand for places) for September 2024 were lower than in September 2023. See planning area level (last year's data in brackets). PA1: 512 (558) PA2: 533 (604) PA3: 342 (348) PA4: 605 (599) PA5: 632 (549). Though they were 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.



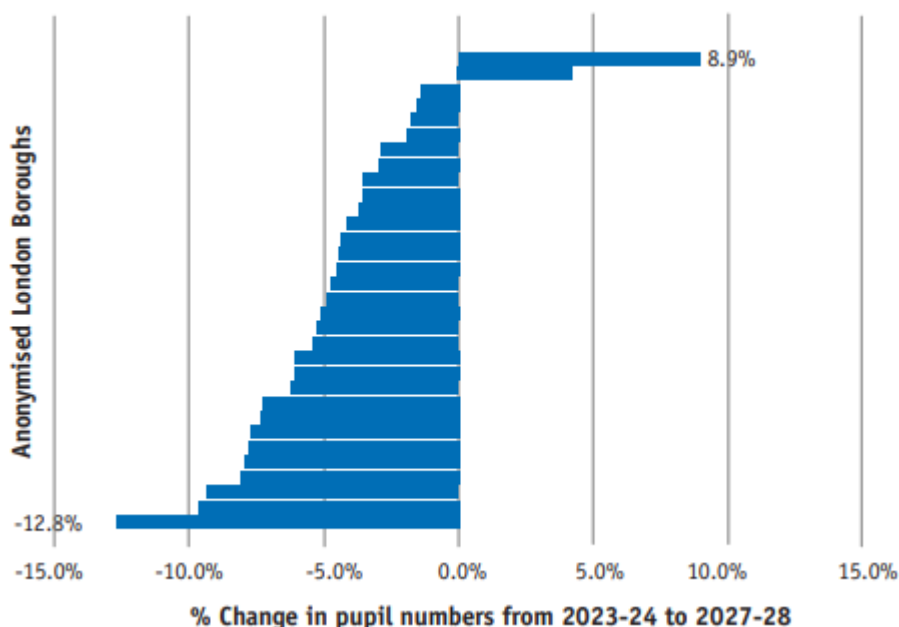
- 6.36. The latest data from the 2024 SPPR (Figure 4a) which features the latest projections from the GLA are shown below:



- 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 2025.³
- 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.

³ From September 2025 the PAN at Heartlands High is reducing permanently from 240 to 210.

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)

- 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.

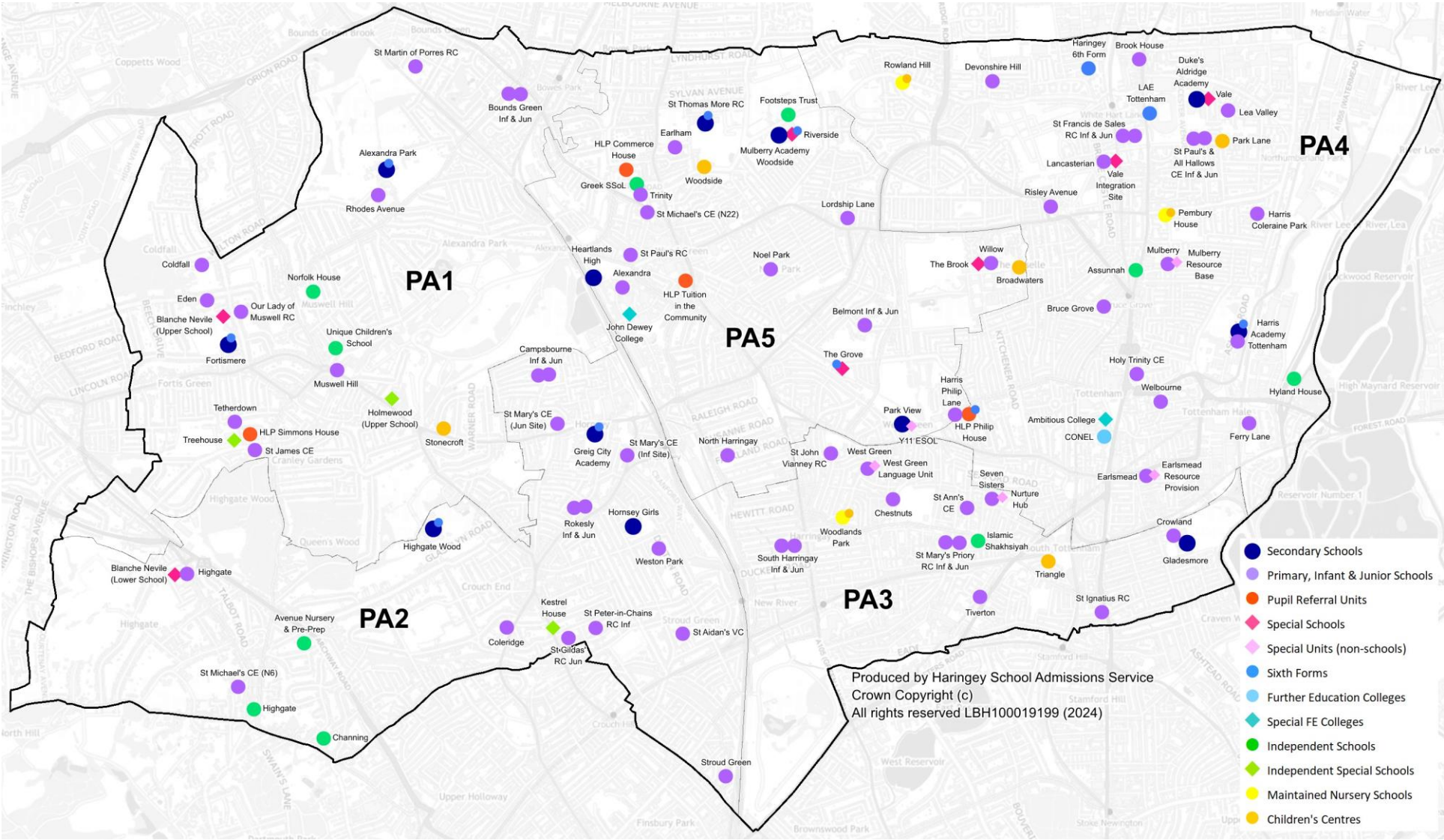
Housing development across the borough

- 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 primary 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



7. Consultation

- 7.1. In accordance with paragraph 1.42 of the School Admissions Code (2021), a six-week consultation (28 November 2024- 09 January 2025) was carried out to invite anyone of interest to comment or object to the proposed admission arrangements for 2026/27.
- 7.2. A consultation document and online questionnaire via Commonplace were used as the basis of informing stakeholders of the proposals to reduce the PAN at the schools mentioned in this report.
- 7.3. The purpose of the consultation was to ensure that all voices and views could be heard, enabling parents, schools, religious authorities, and the local community to comment about our proposed admission arrangements and proposals to reduce PANs.
- 7.4. To ensure as wide a consultation as possible, a range of modes and methods of communication were used to inform and facilitate feedback from stakeholders -
- 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 all MPs in Haringey
 - to the diocesan authorities and any other religious bodies
 - other groups, bodies, parents and carers as appropriate
- 7.5. Stakeholders were given the opportunity to express their views in writing, via a questionnaire – both electronically via Commonplace or via the hard copy attached to the consultation document, by email and post.

Equality and Diversity Monitoring

- 7.6. As part of the consultation process, respondents were asked to complete an equality and diversity questionnaire, looking at Gender, Age, Ethnicity and Disability. The information collected will help identify any special requirements; promote equality; and improve choice and diversity. This information will only be retained and used for as long as is necessary. Where data is no longer required, it will be destroyed in line with relevant destruction policies and processes.

Consultation responses

- 7.7. The consultation closed with only 13 responses in total, and all were received via the Commonplace online survey. A detailed analysis of the responses, including Officer responses to individual written representation can be found at Appendix 8.
- 7.8. As previously stated, consultation is carried out on our admission arrangements every year. We often use the annual consultation exercise to ask Headteachers, school staff, parent/carers and other stakeholders about proposed changes to school capacity or related admissions issues. Occasionally these additional elements elicit higher response rates as respondents are keen to articulate their views on an issue or proposal not recently debated. In years when no additional changes are proposed, or the topics are ones with a familiar theme (such as falling rolls across London) response

rates to the survey are low. In some years we have only had several responses, and this is the case for the most recently completed consultation on PAN reductions, happening for a third consecutive year in Haringey and across many London boroughs.

Next steps

- 7.9. The Council's Cabinet is asked to determine the Council's admission arrangements for the academic year 2026/27 as set out in Appendices 1 – 4.
- 7.10. Council's Cabinet is recommended to agree the proposal to reduce the published admission number (PAN) for the 3 Haringey schools cited in this report. In all cases, no serious issues or objections were raised in responses to the consultation. Council's Cabinet is therefore asked to agree the reductions, as they will support overall school improvement and effectiveness and financial and other stability.
- 7.11. In addition, Cabinet is recommended to agree Haringey's fair access protocol to come into force from 1 March 2025. The protocol ensures hard-to-place children are given a school place without delay and is a statutory requirement set out in the School Admissions Code 2021.

8. Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2024-2026

- 8.1. 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.
- 8.2. 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).

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

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

Finance

- 9.2. 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 proposals. However, it will help reduce the financial pressure on these individual schools. 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.

- 9.3. 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.
- 9.4. 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 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.

Assistant Director of Legal and Governance

- 9.5. 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.
- 9.6. 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.
- 9.7. 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.
- 9.8. 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.

- 9.9. 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.
- 9.10. Each year all local authorities must formulate and publish on their website 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, the AD is informed that 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.
- 9.11. The Code requires that the Council must have a Fair Access Protocol, 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. Cabinet Members will see the Proposed In-Year Fair Access Protocol at Appendix 5.
- 9.12. The proposed admission arrangements for 2026-2027, the proposed co-ordinated scheme, the proposed fair access protocol, and the consultation (that has been undertaken in accordance with the mandated period between 1 October to 31 January for a minimum of 6 weeks) on the proposed admission arrangements for 2026-2027 appear to be in compliance with the Code and the Regulations.
- 9.13. In the event that some school posts are likely to become redundant as a result of a re-structure following reduction of PAN, schools should comply with their statutory duties e.g. under the Employment Rights Act 1996, Equality Act 2010, and any applicable guidance with a view to ensuring that the processes followed are lawful.

Equality

- 9.14. 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.

- 9.15. 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.
- 9.16. An equalities impact assessment (EqIA) identified a disproportionate impact on the basis of gender - 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 concentration of females than males amongst teachers and teaching assistants in schools across Haringey and the country as a whole. To mitigate against any negative impact on staffing as a whole, the Council has ensured that the timing of the consultation allows schools sufficient time to review their staff structure, including allowing for natural wastage (staff voluntarily moving on), taking steps to redeploy staff to other departments/ schools, not renewing short-term contracts or reducing the use of agency staff.
- 9.17. 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.
- 9.18. As the reduction in PAN across the borough is being done to remove part of the surplus of school places, there will not be any disproportionate impact on children with protected characteristics.
- 9.19. This proposal does not impact the net capacity of schools (the number of pupils these schools can accommodate) and any increase in demand for local school place in future can be easily accommodated without even the need for a formal consultation i.e. reinstatement of PAN. Paragraph 3.6 of the Code provides the conditions upon which variations to PAN can take place. Admission authorities may propose other variations where they consider such changes to be necessary in view of a major change in circumstances. Such proposals must be referred to the Schools Adjudicator (for maintained schools) or the Secretary of State (for academies) for approval, and the appropriate bodies notified.
- 9.20. The proposed change is a reasonable and proportionate response to the issue of falling rolls across Haringey schools and will have wider positive benefits for the educational outcomes of Haringey's children and young people.
- 9.21. The publication of clear admission arrangements for all of our schools (a statutory requirement) ensures that admission to schools is a clear and transparent process and that parents and carers are able to select preferences for a school place with full knowledge of how admission to their local school(s) is determined.

10. Use of Appendices

- 10.1. The following appendices support this report:

Appendix 1 Nursery 2026

Appendix 2 Reception and Junior 2026

- Appendix 3** Secondary Transfer 2026
- Appendix 4** In-year admissions 2026
- Appendix 5** Fair Access Protocol
- Appendix 6** Sixth Form 2026
- Appendix 7** EqIA
- Appendix 8** Consultation responses analysis

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

11. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

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).