

Report for: Council's Cabinet on 11 November 2025

Item number: 12

Title: Council's School Admission Arrangements for the academic year 2027/28 – 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 2027/28 for Haringey's community and voluntary controlled (VC), nursery, infant, junior, primary, secondary and sixth form settings.
- 1.2. Haringey consults annually on its school admission arrangements, irrespective of whether or not there is a proposed change. This is to ensure transparency and openness on the contents of the arrangements and to allow parents, carers and other stakeholders who might not previously have been interested in the admission arrangements (perhaps because they didn't have a child of school age) to make a representation which can then be considered as part of the determination of the arrangements.
- 1.3. This process is reported to Cabinet each November. The outcomes of the consultation are then presented to Cabinet in February, at which point Cabinet is asked to formally determine the admission arrangements that were subject to consultation.
- 1.4. For the academic year 2027/28, Haringey is not proposing any changes to the oversubscription criteria or the Pan-London co-ordinated admission schemes for its primary, junior, secondary community, and Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools. However, we are seeking Cabinet's agreement to initiate consultation on proposed reductions to the Published Admission Number (PAN) at selected primary and secondary schools across the borough. The list of schools where a reduction is being sought is provided at paragraph 6.13 below.
- 1.5. This proposed consultation builds on previous Cabinet decisions taken in recent years to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) at a number of primary and secondary schools. Declining pupil numbers—primarily due to lower birth rates and outward migration—have already necessitated adjustments at the primary level. These demographic trends are now beginning to affect demand for Year 7 places at the secondary level.
- 1.6. As of October 2024, there were 200 vacancies in Year 7 across the secondary estate. For the upcoming academic year starting in September 2025, there are currently 165

vacancies for incoming Year 7 pupils. This represents a significant shift from previous years, when additional bulge classes were required to meet sufficiency requirements on national offer day. The data reflects a clear shift in demand patterns, underscoring the need to review and, where appropriate, adjust Published Admission Numbers (PANs) at the secondary level to ensure alignment with projected pupil numbers and to support the efficient use of school estate resources.

- 1.7. Several schools have already taken steps to reduce their PANs in response to this changing context. Heartlands High School reduced its PAN from 240 to 210, effective from September 2025. Park View School and Hornsey School for Girls have agreed reductions from 216 to 189 and 162 to 135 respectively, effective from September 2026. These adjustments reflect a strategic response to demographic trends and support schools in maintaining sustainable class sizes, staffing structures, and high-quality education provision.
- 1.8. Furthermore, in response to local contextual changes, several secondary schools have now also agreed revised class size arrangements with their staff unions, increasing class sizes from 27 to 30 pupils. This adjustment is consistent with national funding assumptions and Department for Education (DfE) guidance, which recognises 30 pupils as a standard class size in secondary education. The change enables schools to realise a range of operational and financial efficiencies, including more effective resource deployment and greater staffing flexibility. Further details on the benefits of this change are provided at paragraph 6.28 below.
- 1.9. The secondary schools referenced in this report as reducing their Published Admission Number (PAN) are therefore doing so to transition from a class size model of 30 pupils to 27. This approach supports schools in aligning their financial and staffing structures with current and projected pupil numbers, while continuing to maintain high standards of educational provision.
- 1.10. This work forms a key component of the wider Education Strategy, which positions the local authority as both a driving force and a strategic partner in shaping the future of education in the borough. One of the key aims of the strategy is to strengthen resilience and address vulnerabilities across the school estate. Through ongoing engagement with school leaders and governing bodies, the local authority is actively identifying and pursuing opportunities for collaboration and long-term sustainability—ensuring that schools are equipped to maintain high standards and consistently deliver high-quality education.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1. All schools are required to have clearly defined admission arrangements that set out how children will be admitted, including the criteria applied when applications exceed available places. Admission arrangements are proposed and determined by the relevant admission authority. For community and voluntary controlled (VC) schools in the borough, the local authority acts as the admission authority.
- 2.2. Each local authority must also publish a co-ordinated admissions scheme, outlining the procedures that all schools and academies must follow for Reception and secondary transfer admissions. This ensures that every resident is offered a school place in a fair and transparent manner.
- 2.3. As the local authority, Haringey has a statutory duty to ensure that all pupils have access to a high-quality school place. Like many London boroughs, Haringey is experiencing a sustained decline in demand for school places, particularly at the

primary level. This trend is now beginning to affect secondary admissions, with implications for school budgets and long-term sustainability.

- 2.4. School funding is directly linked to pupil numbers. 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. The Council has a duty to ensure that school places are organised in a way that enables all schools to remain financially sustainable while continuing to deliver high standards.
- 2.5. The proposed PAN reductions at secondary level, as outlined in this report, are informed by several secondary schools transitioning from a class size model of 27 pupils to 30, following consultation earlier this year with staff unions. This change aligns with national funding assumptions and Department for Education (DfE) guidance, which recognises 30 pupils per class as the standard model in secondary education. The adjustment allows schools to better align their staffing and financial structures with current and projected pupil numbers, supporting operational sustainability while safeguarding educational quality.
- 2.6. The Council will continue to work in close partnership with school leaders and governing bodies to support these transitions. This includes providing strategic guidance, facilitating collaboration, and helping schools respond effectively to demographic changes. The aim is to ensure that all schools remain resilient and well-positioned to meet the needs of their communities.
- 2.7. This report seeks Cabinet approval to initiate a six-week statutory consultation. Further details of the proposals are set out in paragraph 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 2027/28.
- Agree to consult on the proposed fair access protocol¹ which, if agreed at Cabinet in February 2026, would be come into force from 1 March 2026.
- Agree to consult with stakeholders on the proposal to reduce the PANs at selected primary and secondary schools across the borough. The list of schools where a reduction is being proposed is provided in paragraph 6.13 below.
- Note that following the consultation, a report will be prepared summarising the representations received and a decision on the final admission arrangements for 2027/28 will be taken by Cabinet in February 2026.

4. Reasons for decision

¹ 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.

- 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 School Places and Admissions in London](#) published by London Councils in February 2025 provides some wider context and independent analysis of the issue.
- 4.3. While recent focus has largely been on reducing primary school capacity, forecast demand for secondary school places is also now declining. Year 7 intake is projected to fall below the notional capacity of 2,628 places by the end of the decade. In response, some reductions in secondary capacity have already been implemented to support the sustainability of the school estate and ensure provision aligns with projected demand.
- 4.4. From 2026, Year 7 capacity will reduce to 2,544 places, helping to manage surplus provision. This revised figure reflects permanent reductions at Heartlands High School (from 240 to 210 in 2025), and planned reductions at Hornsey School for Girls and Park View in 2026, to 135 and 189 places respectively. Further reductions may be necessary to maintain a balanced and efficient secondary school estate.
- 4.5. As previously mentioned, several secondary schools referenced in this report are adjusting their Published Admission Numbers (PAN) to reflect changes in class size models. Some are reducing PANs to move from 27 to 30 pupils per class. These schools have agreed with staff unions to increase class sizes from 27 to 30 pupils, in line with Department for Education (DfE) guidance, which recognises 30 as the standard class size in secondary education. This adjustment supports schools in achieving greater operational and financial efficiency through more flexible staffing and improved resource deployment. This approach also supports schools in aligning their financial and staffing structures with current and projected pupil numbers, while continuing to maintain high standards of educational provision.
- 4.6. The proposals outlined in this report to reduce Published Admission Numbers (PAN), including adjustments to class size models from 27 to 30 pupils per class, are intended to support schools in planning their staffing and educational provision more efficiently by aligning capacity with actual and projected demand. This approach reflects Department for Education (DfE) guidance, which recognises 30 pupils as the standard class size in secondary education and enables schools to realise operational and financial benefits. The consultation process we are seeking to initiate will gather stakeholder views on these proposals, with a final decision to be presented to Cabinet in February 2026.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1. We are not proposing any changes to the oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled (VC) schools for the 2027/28 academic year. While the School Admissions Code (2021) allows for various mechanisms to influence the allocation of places—such as designated catchment areas, feeder schools, or prioritisation for children eligible for the early years or pupil premium—no alternative option is being considered at this time.

- 5.2. Our aim is to support schools in achieving long-term sustainability and to introduce greater flexibility across the school estate in response to fluctuating population demand. Reducing PANs is one of several strategies available to schools, alongside strengthening partnerships through soft or hard federations and formal agreements such as memorandums of understanding.
- 5.3. Some neighbouring London boroughs have taken more radical steps to address surplus capacity, including school closures and amalgamations. Last year, the Council consulted on the future of three one-form-entry primary schools and subsequently approved their closure from 31 August 2025, with pupils transferring to local schools. These closures do not affect the consultation or determination of admission arrangements for 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 2027/28 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 2026. 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 decline in demand for school places has prompted the Council to consider reducing PAN at schools where capacity exceeds local need. This approach has enabled a more efficient distribution of places across the school estate, helping schools to strengthen their financial and organisational sustainability while continuing to meet the needs of their communities.
- 6.9. The Code sets out the requirement for all admission authorities to undertake statutory consultation where they propose a decrease to the PAN of schools. We are proposing PAN reductions to schools shown in Table 1 at para. 6.13 below for entry to September 2027/28.
- 6.10. The schools proposing reductions to their Published Admission Numbers (PAN) have done so in response to sustained changes in local demand. These proposals are also informed by a number of secondary schools moving from a class size model of 27 to 30 pupils, following consultation with staff unions earlier this year.
- 6.11. All governing boards support these reductions, recognising that they will enable more efficient use of budgets and resources by concentrating provision around fuller classes. This approach is intended to support school improvement and long-term sustainability. Importantly, governing bodies remain open to increasing PAN in future should demand rise, and the admissions process allows for flexibility—reductions can be reversed, and schools may choose to admit above PAN on a temporary or permanent basis, if needed.
- 6.12. 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.
- 6.13. **The table below shows the proposed amendments to PAN for the affected schools.**

Table 1 - Proposed amendments to PANs for statutory consultation.

School	Determined PAN 2026	Proposed PAN for 2027	Reduction
Primary			
Rokesly Junior	90	60	-30
Secondary			
Park View	189	180	-9
Highgate Wood	243	240	-3
Gladesmore	243	240	-3

Rokesly Junior

A map showing Haringey's school planning areas, including all schools, is available on page 16 below.

- 6.14. **Rokesly Junior** is a primary Junior community school for children in Year 3 to 6 located on Rokesly Avenue N8 8NH and sits within planning area 2. The school normally admits 3 classes (90 pupils) per year. However, due to a decrease in the demand for school places, we proposed to Cabinet last year to reduce the Infant school PAN to 60 for the 2026/27 academic year. The current proposal is for a reduction in PAN to 60 for Rokesly Junior for September 2027/28 to keep in pace with the smaller cohorts working their way through to the Junior school.
- 6.15. The proposed reduction to the Infant school's PAN last year was prompted by the school only filling two forms of entry to Reception for September 2024. A temporary reduction in PAN was approved by the Schools Adjudicator², allowing a one-form entry reduction for that year. Given this, it was considered prudent to seek a permanent reduction for future years. This is due to infant class size regulations, which require an additional teacher for classes exceeding 30 pupils. Financially, the school will struggle to sustain the cost of a third teacher if future cohorts only slightly exceed 60 pupils.
- 6.16. The projected demand for Reception places in Planning Area 2 indicate no additional need between 2025 and 2030. In fact, demand is expected to continue declining, making it increasingly difficult for the school to fill a third class and justify the cost of an additional teacher. Currently, all year groups at the Infant School have 60 pupils or fewer. Therefore, the proposed reduction in PAN to 60 for Rokesly Junior School from September 2027/28 aligns with the smaller cohorts progressing through the school.

Park View

- 6.17. **Park View** is a mixed community secondary school for pupils in Years 7 to 11, located on West Green Road, London, N15 3QR. The school traditionally admits eight forms of entry (216 pupils) into Year 7. However, in response to declining demand for secondary school places, a proposal was submitted to Council's Cabinet last year to reduce the school's published admission number (PAN) by one form of entry—from 216 to 189—for the 2026/27 academic year. This reduction was necessary to align with the smaller primary cohorts now progressing into the secondary phase, and future projections which indicate no additional demand for Year 7 places through to 2030.
- 6.18. A further reduction in PAN from 189 to 180 is now proposed, following agreement with staff unions earlier this year on revised class structures. This change increases class sizes from 27 to 30 pupils and transitions the school to a model of six classes of 30. The adjustment is in line with national funding assumptions and Department for Education (DfE) guidance, which recognises 30 pupils as the standard class size in secondary education. This shift will enable the school to achieve a range of operational and financial efficiencies, including more effective deployment of resources and improved staffing flexibility. Additional details on the benefits of this change are provided in paragraph 6.28 below.
- 6.19. Park View has experienced a steady decline in first-place preferences, falling from 130 in 2020 to 107 in 2025. Borough-wide, first-place preferences for secondary schools have decreased from 2,670 to 2,304 over the same period. Although 189 places were offered at Park View on National Offer Day for Year 7 entry in September 2024, only 171 pupils are currently registered on roll for that cohort as of September 2025. The

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

incoming Year 7 cohort for September 2025 also has 189 pupils offered a place, with no children currently on the waiting list. Additionally, there are 170 vacancies across Haringey's secondary schools as of September 2025, providing ample surplus capacity to accommodate late applicants at alternative schools. Projections further suggest that demand across the secondary estate will continue to decline, ensuring sufficient places will be available in future years for all Haringey residents at nearby schools rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

Highgate Wood

- 6.20. **Highgate Wood** is a mixed community secondary school for pupils in Years 7 to 11, located on Montenotte Road in Crouch End, N8 8RN. The school typically admits nine forms of entry, accommodating up to 243 pupils in Year 7. A reduction in PAN from 243 to 240 is proposed, following agreement with staff unions earlier this year on revised class structures. This change increases class sizes from 27 to 30 pupils and transitions the school to a model of eight classes of 30. The adjustment is in line with national funding assumptions and Department for Education (DfE) guidance, which recognises 30 pupils as the standard class size in secondary education. This shift will enable the school to achieve a range of operational and financial efficiencies, including more effective deployment of resources and improved staffing flexibility. Additional details on the benefits of this change are provided at paragraph 6.28 below.
- 6.21. While the school has historically been oversubscribed, it has experienced a gradual decline in first-place preferences—from 257 in 2020 to 213 in 2025. This trend mirrors a borough-wide reduction in first-place preferences for secondary schools, which have fallen from 2,670 to 2,304 over the same period. Despite continuing to admit a full Year 7 cohort, the school has seen a consistent year-on-year decline in its waiting list, reflecting a gradual easing in demand.
- 6.22. As of September 2025, there are 170 unfilled places across Haringey's secondary schools, indicating sufficient surplus capacity to accommodate late applicants at alternative schools. Forecasts suggest that this downward trend in demand will persist through to 2030, ensuring continued availability of places for all Haringey residents at nearby secondary schools rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. In addition to the direct benefits for the school, the proposed reduction in PAN contributes to the strategic sustainability of the wider school estate. It ensures that provision remains responsive to demographic trends and aligned with projected future demand, supporting more efficient use of resources and long-term planning across the borough.

Gladesmore

- 6.23. **Gladesmore** is a mixed community secondary school for pupils in Year 7 to 11, located on Crowland Road N15 6EB. The school typically admits nine forms of entry, accommodating up to 243 pupils in Year 7. A reduction in PAN from 243 to 240 is proposed, following agreement with staff unions on revised class structures. This change increases class sizes from 27 to 30 pupils and transitions the school to a model of eight classes of 30. The adjustment is in line with national funding assumptions and Department for Education (DfE) guidance, which recognises 30 pupils as the standard class size in secondary education. This shift will enable the school to achieve a range of operational and financial efficiencies, including more effective deployment of resources and improved staffing flexibility. Additional details on the benefits of this change are provided in paragraph 6.28 below.
- 6.24. While the school has historically been oversubscribed, it has experienced a gradual decline in first-place preferences—from 228 in 2020 to 150 in 2025. This trend mirrors a borough-wide reduction in first-place preferences for secondary schools, which have

fallen from 2,670 to 2,304 over the same period. Despite continuing to admit a full Year 7 cohort, the school's waiting list has steadily diminished year on year, signalling a gradual reduction in demand. For Year 7 entry in September 2025, there were no pupils on the waiting list following national offer day, and it is likely that vacancies may arise in-year for this cohort.

- 6.25. As of September 2025, there are 170 unfilled places across Haringey's secondary schools, indicating sufficient surplus capacity to accommodate late applicants at alternative schools. Forecasts suggest that this downward trend in demand will persist through to 2030, ensuring continued availability of places for all Haringey residents at nearby secondary schools rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. In addition to the direct benefits for the school, the proposed reduction in PAN contributes to the strategic sustainability of the wider school estate. It ensures that provision remains responsive to demographic trends and aligned with projected future demand, supporting more efficient use of resources and long-term planning across the borough.

Can any risk be mitigated?

- 6.26. 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.
- 6.27. 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 2027/28 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.
- 6.28. Due to local changes, the secondary schools displayed in the table above have agreed revised class structures with their unions, increasing class sizes from 27 to 30 pupils. This adjustment offers several operational and financial benefits:
- **Timetabling Efficiencies:** Larger class sizes allow for more streamlined timetabling, reducing the number of teaching groups and enabling more effective use of classroom space and teaching time.
 - **Staffing Optimisation:** With fewer classes needed to accommodate the same number of pupils, schools can better allocate teaching staff, potentially reducing the need for additional recruitment and lowering staffing costs.
 - **Financial Sustainability:** A class size of 30 aligns more closely with national funding models, helping schools maximise per-pupil funding and maintain financial viability.
 - **Resource Allocation:** Economies of scale in teaching resources, planning, and delivery can be achieved, supporting more consistent curriculum coverage and reducing duplication.

This model supports schools in making their financial and staffing structures work as effectively as possible, while maintaining high standards of education delivery.

- 6.29. 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 the school estate (both at primary and secondary level) means that we expect sufficient places to still be available for all local children.
- 6.30. 99% 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 2025 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.

- 6.31. 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.
- 6.32. 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.
- 6.33. More details on how the Council plans 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

- 6.34. Table 2 below shows the number of Reception pupils between 2012 and 2025 in Haringey has generally been on a downward trajectory from a high of 3,259 in 2012 to 2,657 in January 2025 (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 2,500 between 2027/28 and 2031/32.

Table 2 - Reception rolls between 2012/13 and 2024/25.

Year	Reception roll as of 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%

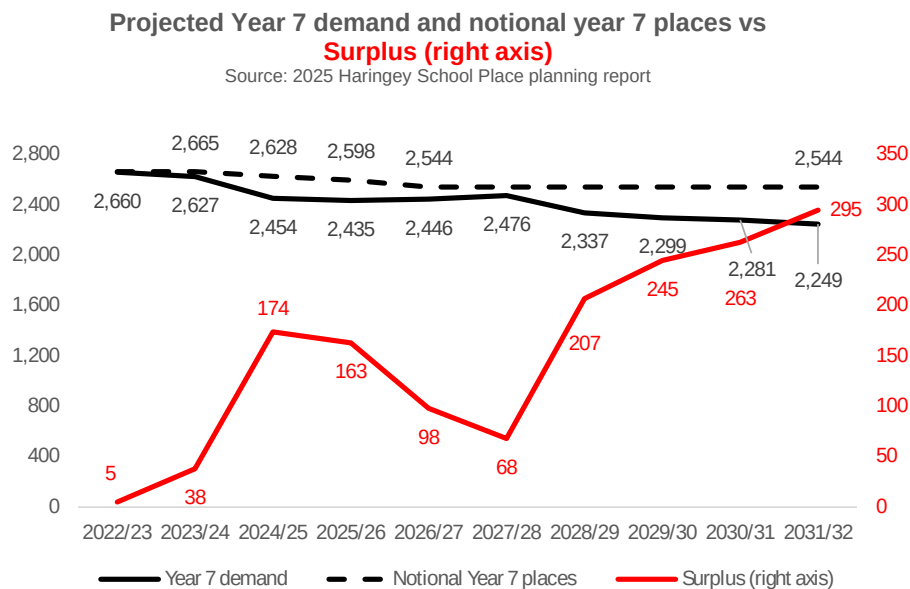
2023/24	2,652 (actual Jan 2024)	-68	-2.5%	81%
2024/25	2,657 (actual Jan 2025)	+5	0.2%	82%

Source: 2012/13-2024/25 PLASC School Census

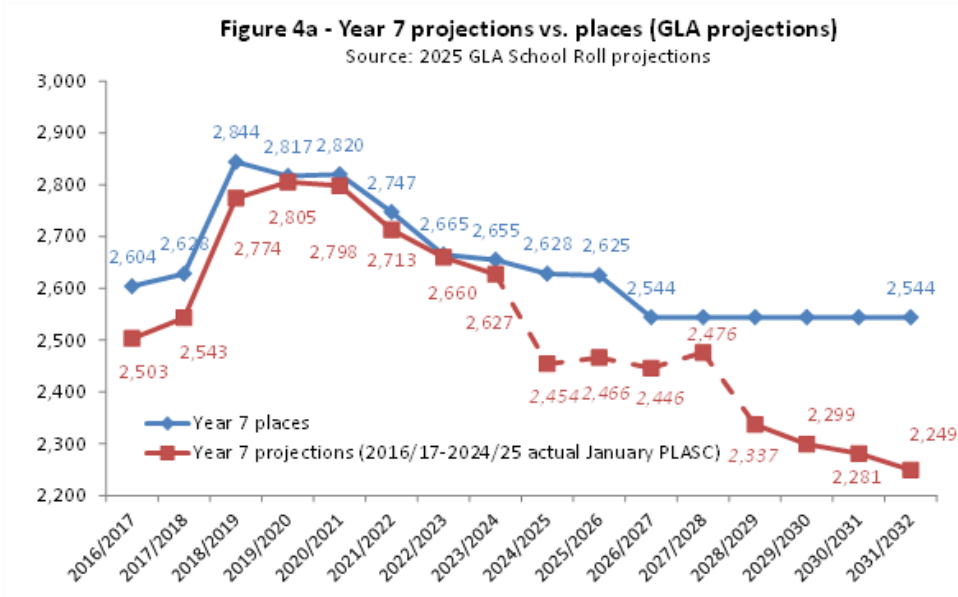
- 6.35. First place preferences data (which is a strong indicator of the overall demand for places) for September 2025 were lower than in September 2024. See planning area level (last year's data in brackets). PA1: 526 (512) PA2: 624 (533) PA3: 331 (342) PA4: 573 (605) PA5: 598 (632). Total first place preferences since 2020 are as follows: 2020: 3,039, 2021: 2,562, 2022: 2,658, 2023: 2,688, 2024: 2,624, 2025: 2,652.
- 6.36. Haringey currently has a surplus of **276** Reception school places (year of entry) equivalent to nearly 10 forms of entry. This equates to a 9.8% surplus across our primary school estate. [The 2025 School Place Planning Report \(SPPR\)](#) projects further growth in primary school vacancies between 2025 and 2031 which will place a growing financial burden on Haringey primary schools.
- 6.37. 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.
- 6.38. 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

- 6.39. A secondary place planning briefing was produced last year for all Secondary Headteachers prior to the publication of the 2024 School Place Planning report (SPPR) in June 2024. The data shown below has been reproduced showing the latest 2025 projections and reflecting changes in secondary capacity as shown below. Reducing our Y7 capacity to 2,544 from 2026 onwards has reduced the number of surplus place but further reductions in capacity are required.



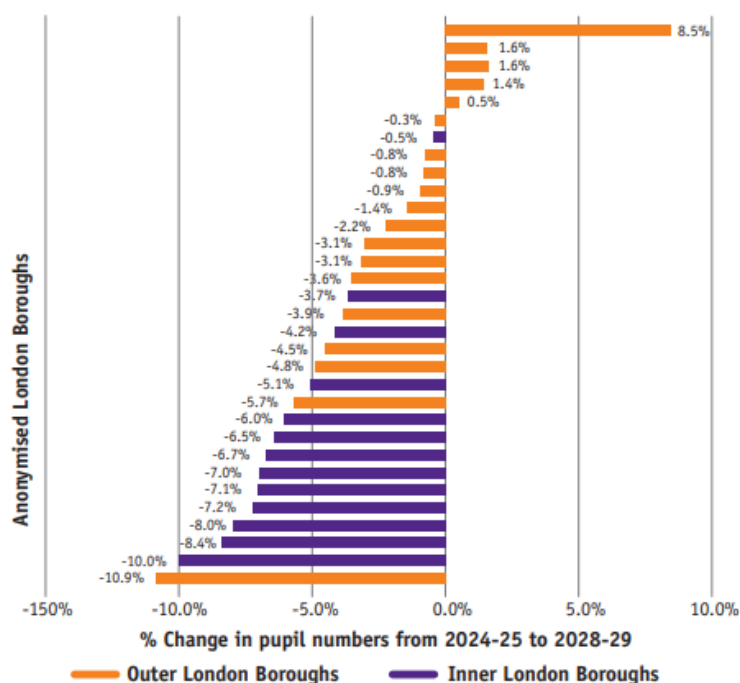
6.40. The latest data from the 2025 SPPR (Figure 4a) which features the latest projections from the GLA are shown below:



6.41. They show little material difference in the predominant issue of growing surpluses in Year 7 between now and the end of the decade (263 places). The 2025 projections are based on a new secondary PAN of 2,544 following the permanent reduction in capacity at Heartlands High from 2025 (240 to 210) and reductions in PAN at Hornsey school for Girls and at Park View in 2026 to 135 and 189 respectively.

6.42. This decline in secondary demand is not related specifically to Haringey. Data from London Councils (Graph 2) shows that only 5 boroughs are reporting an increase in projected change in Year 7 demand between 2024-25 and 2028-29. The average drop across London is 2.9%. This is important since it reduces the likelihood of our secondary schools from being “rescued” by demand from our neighbouring boroughs.

Graph 2: Y7 SCAP % change between 2024-25 to 2028-29



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

- 6.43. The data below shows year by year projections for Year 6 and Year 7 places using the latest data from the 2025 SPPR. It shows some variability but vacancies of between 3 and 10 forms of entry (based on standard class sizes of 30) between now and the end of the decade.
- 6.44. 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.
- 6.45. 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.
- 6.46. To put 1,000 secondary places into a Haringey context data from the May 2025 School census indicates that our existing 12 secondary settings (Y7-Y11) vary in total pupil rolls between 668 and 1,342 with an average of 1,075 and a median average of 1,108.

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	2023/2024	2,665	2,825	2,627	38	1.4%
Actual	2024/2025	2,628	2,750 (actual Jan 2025)	2,454 (actual Jan 2025)	174	6.6%
Projection	2025/2026	2,598	2,809	2,435	163	6.3%
Projection	2026/2027	2,544	2,795	2,446	98	3.9%

Projection	2027/2028	2,544	2,671	2,476	68	2.7%
Projection	2028/2029	2,544	2,658	2,337	207	8.1%
Projection	2029/2030	2,544	2,576	2,299	245	9.6%
Projection	2030/2031	2,544	2,575	2,281	263	10.3%
Projection	2031/2032	2,544	2,444	2,249	295	11.6%

Source: 2018-2025 PLASC counts and GLA 2025 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
2024/25	13,515	13,249	266	2.0%
2025/26	13,320	12,890	430	3.2%
2026/27	13,117	12,633	484	3.7%
2027/28	12,996	12,456	540	4.2%
2028/29	12,885	12,155	730	5.7%
2029/30	12,801	11,976	825	6.4%
2030/31	12,720	11,840	880	6.9%
2031/32	12,720	11,660	1,060	8.3%

Source: 2018-2025 PLASC counts and GLA 2025 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

- 6.47. 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.
- 6.48. 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.
- 6.49. 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.
- 6.50. 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 and schools of all types

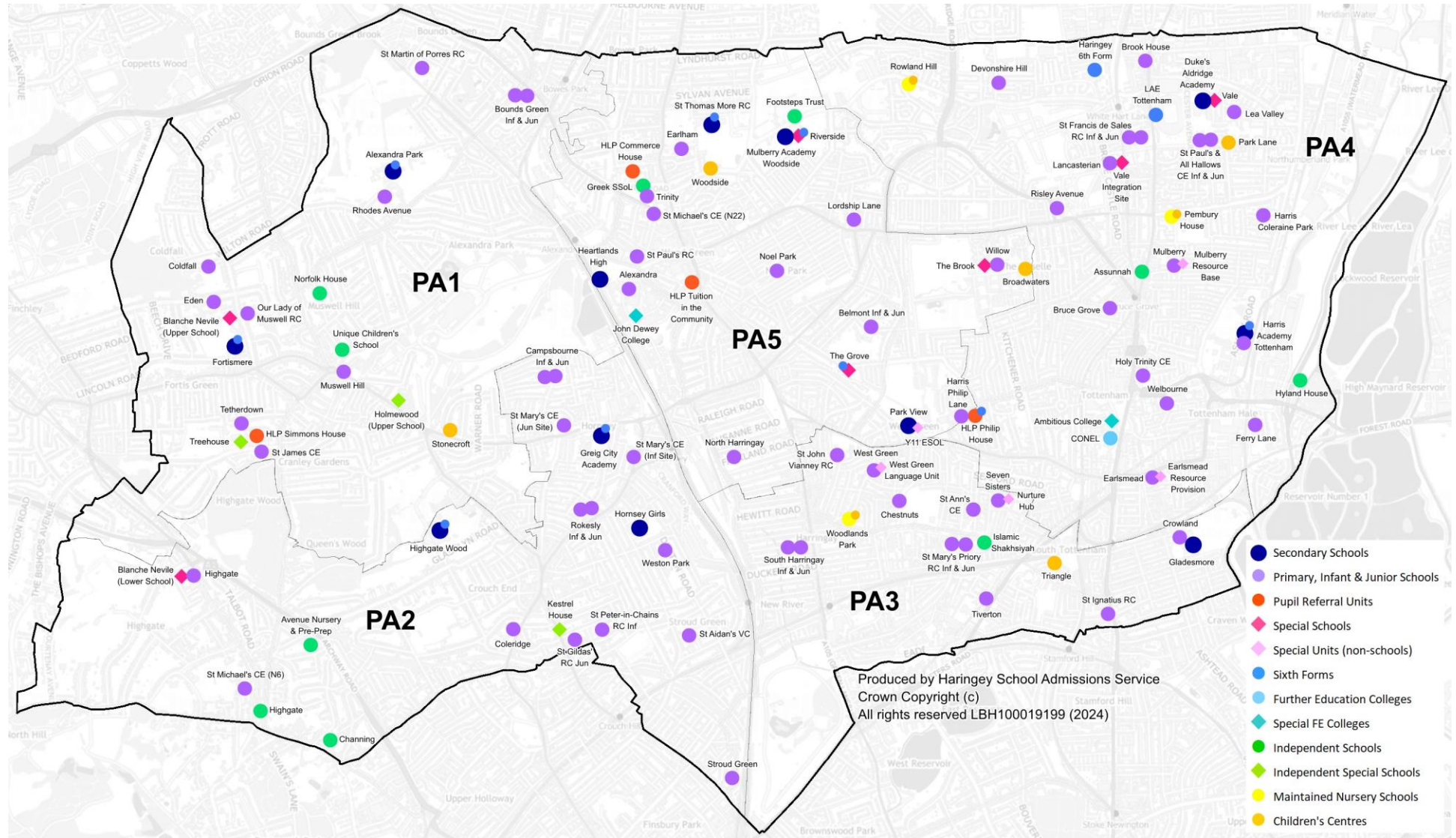
6.51. The proposals to reduce Published Admission Numbers (PANs) has been developed through a fully collaborative process involving key stakeholders, guided by two core principles:

- a) **Parental preference will be protected**, with places remaining available for all Haringey residents at Ofsted-rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' Haringey schools within a reasonable travelling distance.
- b) **Flexibility will be maintained**, allowing any school that reduces its PAN to revert immediately to its original PAN should local demand increase.

The primary objective is to stabilise pupil intake across schools, enabling school leaders and governing boards to plan and deliver provision more effectively in response to local needs.

6.52. Academies, along with the London Diocesan Board for Schools and Westminster Diocese, have been engaged regarding the need to rationalise the number of available school places. Several primary academies and faith schools have already taken steps to reduce their Published Admission Numbers (PANs) in response to demographic changes within Haringey. In some cases, governing bodies have delegated this responsibility to the local authority, enabling adjustments to be made as part of the Council's annual consultation and determination of admission arrangements. We remain committed to a collaborative and phased approach, working in partnership with both academies and diocesan schools to ensure that provision is responsive, sustainable, and aligned with local needs.

Map of Haringey Planning Areas



Consultation

- 6.53. 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.
- 6.54. 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 2027. We will collate and present all feedback from this consultation to the Cabinet of the Council in February 2026 for decision.
- 6.55. 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.
- 6.56. 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 selected primary and secondary schools	November 2025– January 2026
2	Analysis of consultation representations and preparation of information to be considered by the Council's Cabinet	January – February 2026
3	Meeting of the Cabinet to consider representations and determine future arrangements including decision on proposal to reduce PANs	February 2026

- 6.57. 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), Director 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. 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.
- 8.4. 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 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.

Director of Legal and Governance

- 8.5. The Director 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 2027-2028 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.
- 8.6. 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.
- 8.7. 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.
- 8.8. 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.
- 8.9. 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.

- 8.10. 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.
- 8.11. 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.
- 8.12. The proposed admission arrangements for 2027-2028, the proposed co-ordinated scheme, the proposed FAP and the proposed consultation on the proposed admission arrangements for 2027-2028 are in compliance with the Code and the Regulations.

Equality

- 8.13. 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.

- 8.14. 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.
- 8.15. As the reduction in PAN is being done to remove part of the surplus of school places across the school estate, 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.

- 8.16. 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.
- 8.17. 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.
- 8.18. The proposed admission arrangements for 2027/28 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 in this report 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.
- 8.19. The consultation process will be used to help populate and inform the final version of the EqIA which decision makers will consider in February 2026.

9. Use of Appendices

- 9.1. The following appendices support this report:

Appendix 1	Proposed admission criteria for nursery 2027
Appendix 2	Proposed admission criteria for reception and junior admissions 2027
Appendix 3	Proposed admission criteria for secondary 2027
Appendix 4	Proposed admission criteria for in-year admissions 2027
Appendix 5	Proposed Fair Access Protocol for Haringey schools
Appendix 6	Proposed admission criteria for Sixth Form 2027
Appendix 7	EqIA
Appendix 8	Co-ordinated admissions scheme 2027-28

- 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).