

Report for: Cabinet – 10 February 2026

Item Number: 13

Title: Admission to Schools - Determined Admission Arrangements for 2027/28

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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 2027/28. 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 2026 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) at selected primary and secondary schools across the borough. The list of schools where a reduction is being sought is provided in Table 1 at paragraph 5.13 below.
- 1.3. On 11 November 2025 Council's Cabinet agreed that statutory consultation should be carried out on the proposed admission arrangements between 27 November 2025 and 8 January 2026. 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 27 November 2025 and 8 January 2026 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.
- 1.5. 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.

- 1.6. 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 5.28 below.
- 1.7. 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.

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 2027/28 and the proposal to reduce the published admission number (PAN) for the primary and secondary schools listed in table 1 at para. 5.13 below. The full range of reasons for agreeing to the proposals are set out in the paper below.

3. Recommendations

Cabinet is asked:

- 3.1. To note that no responses were received during the consultation period, which ran from 27 November 2025 to 15 January 2026. The anticipated reasons for this outcome are outlined from para 7.7.
- 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 2027.
- 3.4. To determine the Council's admission arrangements for the academic year 2027/28 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 2026.
- 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

¹ Paragraphs 19 – 24 of the Regulations

- 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
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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

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

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 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%

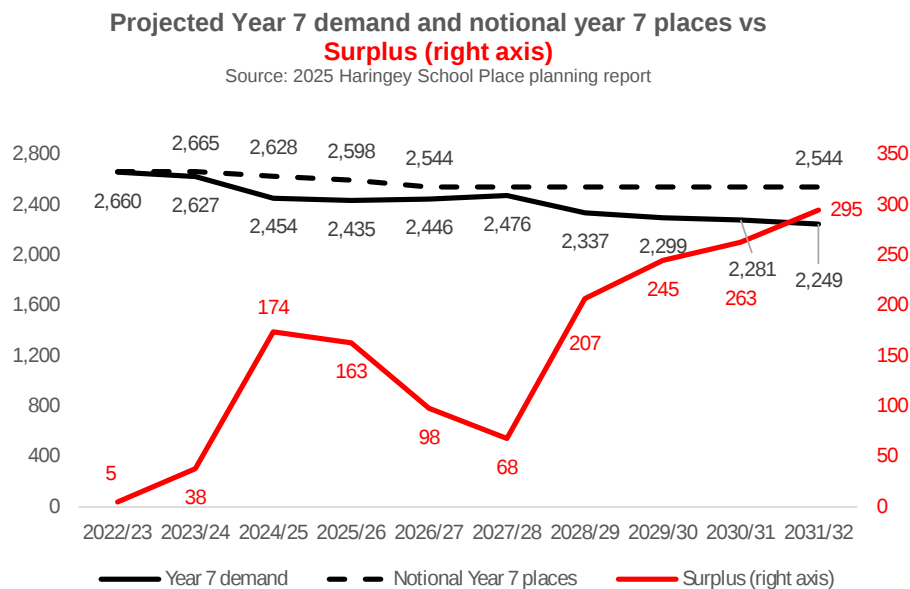
2020/21	2,934 (Jan 2021)	-18	-0.6%	90%
2021/22	2,683 (Jan 2022)	-251	-8.6%	82%
2022/23	2,720 (actual Jan 2023)	+37	1.4%	83%
2023/24	2,652 (actual Jan 2024)	-68	-2.5%	81%
2024/25	2,657 (actual Jan 2025)	+5	0.2%	82%

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

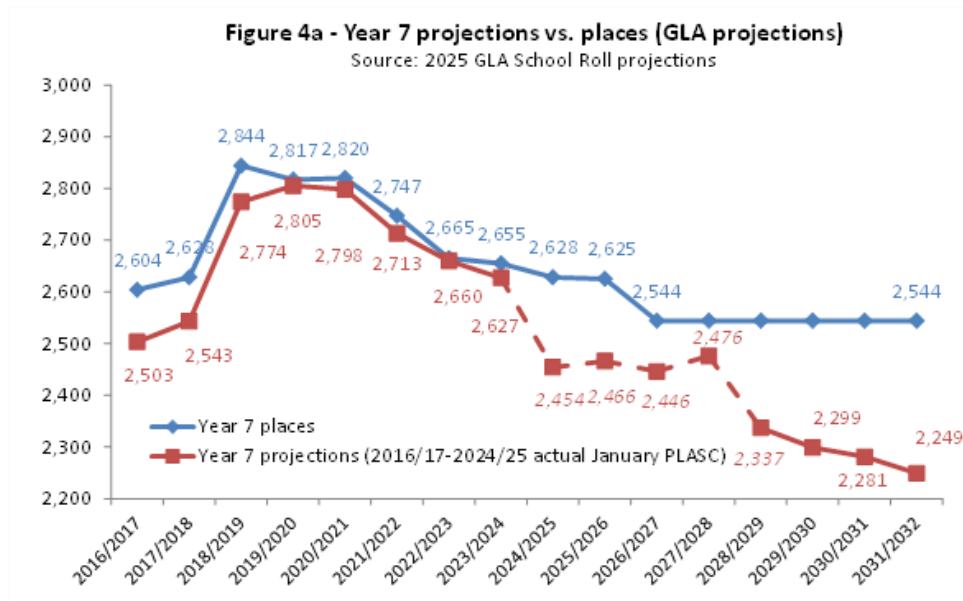
- 6.35. First place preferences data (which is a strong indicator of the overall demand for places) for September 2025 were lower than in September 2024. See planning area level (last year's data in brackets). PA1: 526 (512) PA2: 624 (533) PA3: 331 (342) PA4: 573 (605) PA5: 598 (632). Total first place 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.

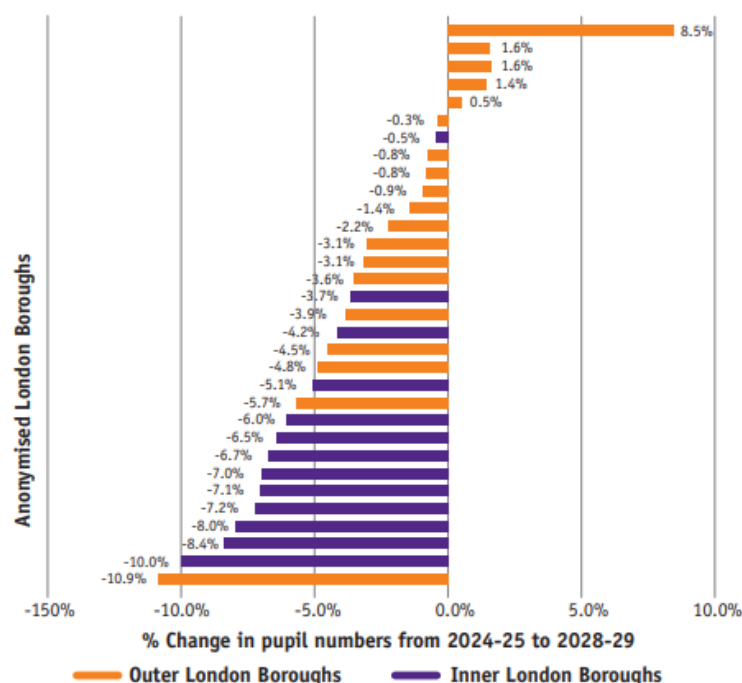


- 6.40. The latest data from the 2025 SPPR (Figure 4a) which features the latest projections from the GLA are shown below:



- 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

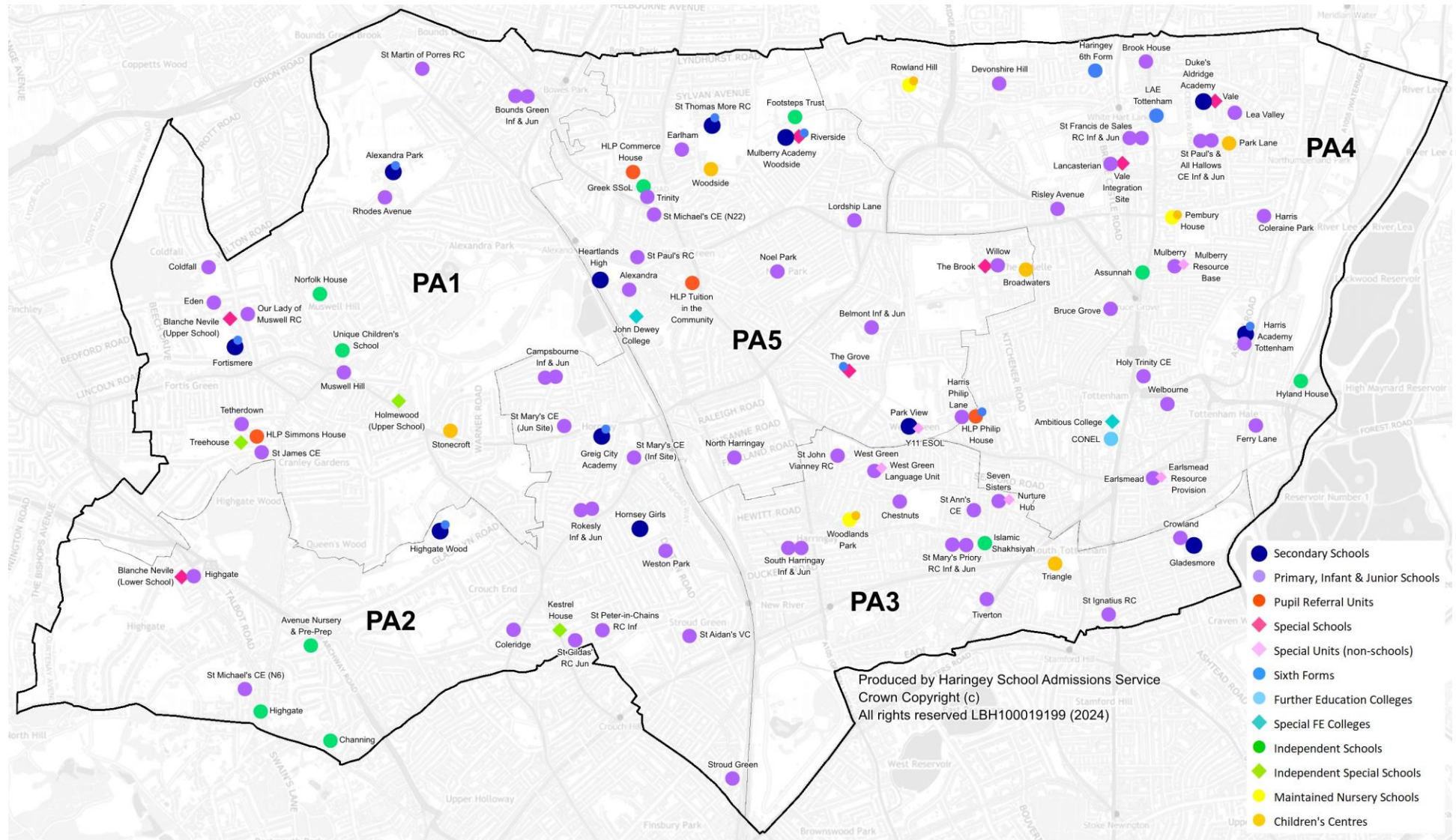
6.51. The proposals to reduce Published Admission Numbers (PANs) has been developed through a fully collaborative process involving key stakeholders, guided by two core principles:

- 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.

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



7. Consultation

- 7.1. In accordance with paragraph 1.42 of the School Admissions Code (2021), a six-week consultation (27 November 2025- 8 January 2026) was carried out to invite anyone of interest to comment or object to the proposed admission arrangements for 2027/28.
- 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 selected 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 period closed on 8 January 2026 with no responses received. This was despite publication on Commonplace and the Haringey website, as well as wide distribution of communications to key stakeholders, including schools, nurseries, early years providers, and neighbouring local authorities. To ensure that every reasonable step was taken to facilitate a meaningful consultation, the decision was made to extend the consultation by one week, until Thursday 15 January 2026. Unfortunately, this extension did not elicit any responses.

- 7.8. As outlined previously, consultation on admission arrangements is undertaken annually. These exercises often include questions on proposed changes to school capacity or related admissions issues. Where additional elements are included—such as significant changes to provision or the oversubscription criteria—response rates tend to be higher, as stakeholders are keen to express views on new or contentious proposals.
- 7.9. In years where no substantial changes are proposed, or where topics reflect ongoing themes (such as falling rolls across London), response rates are typically low. In some previous years, only a small number of responses have been received. This pattern has continued for the most recent consultation on PAN reductions, which has now occurred for a fourth consecutive year in Haringey and across many London boroughs. The absence of responses this year is therefore consistent with previous trends and may indicate confidence in the consultation process and the proposals presented.

Next steps

- 7.10. The Council's Cabinet is asked to determine the Council's admission arrangements for the academic year 2027/28 as set out in Appendices 1 – 4.
- 7.11. Council's Cabinet is recommended to agree the proposal to reduce the published admission number (PAN) for the 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.
- 7.12. In addition, Cabinet is recommended to agree Haringey's fair access protocol to come into force from 1 March 2026. 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 Ofsted rated 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), Director 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.

Director of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

- 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 should be read alongside the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 ('the Regulations').
- 9.6. The legislation and Code places statutory duties and mandatory requirements on admission authorities. The Council is the admission authority for its community schools and voluntary controlled schools. In determining its admission arrangements for 2027-2028 the Council must act in accordance with the Regulations and the provisions of the Code and ensure that the admission arrangements are compliant. 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.
- 9.7. The admission arrangements must set out the admission authority's practices and the criteria used to decide the allocation of school places are fair clear and objective. Paragraph 15 sets out a summary of how the process operates. This report is produced to discharge the authority's duty to determine its admission arrangements annually and where as in this instance changes are proposed, the requirement to first publicly consult on those arrangements subject to prescribed exceptions before determining the arrangements.
- 9.8. 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.

- 9.9. 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.
- 9.10. The report proposes to decrease the PAN of the community schools identified. Consequently, the Council must comply with the requirements of paragraph 1.45 of the Code that provides prescriptive provisions to discharge its duty to consult in these circumstances. Pursuant to the Code the Council must consult for the duration and time frame noted above and in addition to the governing body of the schools affected must also consult with the following stakeholders 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.
- 9.11. This report details the process being undertaken to discharge the Council's duties and responsibility to ensure that admission arrangements are compliant with the Code and relevant legislation. The draft arrangements contains the practices and criteria used and comply with the relevant legislation including equalities legislation. Parents and stakeholders are able to look at the proposed arrangements and understand easily how places will be allocated and given the opportunity to comment on the arrangement for 2027-2028 prior its determination.
- 9.12. 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 (the Scheme). The Scheme applies to the normal admissions round and late applications for all publicly funded schools within the Council's 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. Cabinet Members will see the Proposed Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme at Appendix 8.
- 9.13. 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.
- 9.14. The proposed admission arrangements for 2027-2028, 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 2027-2028 would appear to be in compliance with the Code and the Regulations.

- 9.15. Once the admission arrangements have been determined the authority must comply with the process to notify the appropriate bodies and must publish a copy of the determined arrangements their website and ensure that the schools affected do so on their own websites by 15 March in the determination year.
- 9.16. 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 local procedures that are underpinned by their statutory duties under for example the Employment Rights Act 1996, Equality Act 2010, to ensure that the processes followed are lawful.

Equality

- 9.17. 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.

- 9.18. 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.
- 9.19. 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.
- 9.20. 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.

- 9.21. 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.
- 9.22. 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.
- 9.23. 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.
- 9.24. 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 2027
Appendix 2	Reception and Junior 2027
Appendix 3	Secondary Transfer 2027
Appendix 4	In-year admissions 2027
Appendix 5	Fair Access Protocol
Appendix 6	Sixth Form 2027
Appendix 7	EqIA
Appendix 8	Co-ordinated admissions scheme 2027-28

- 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).