

Lewisham School Place Planning

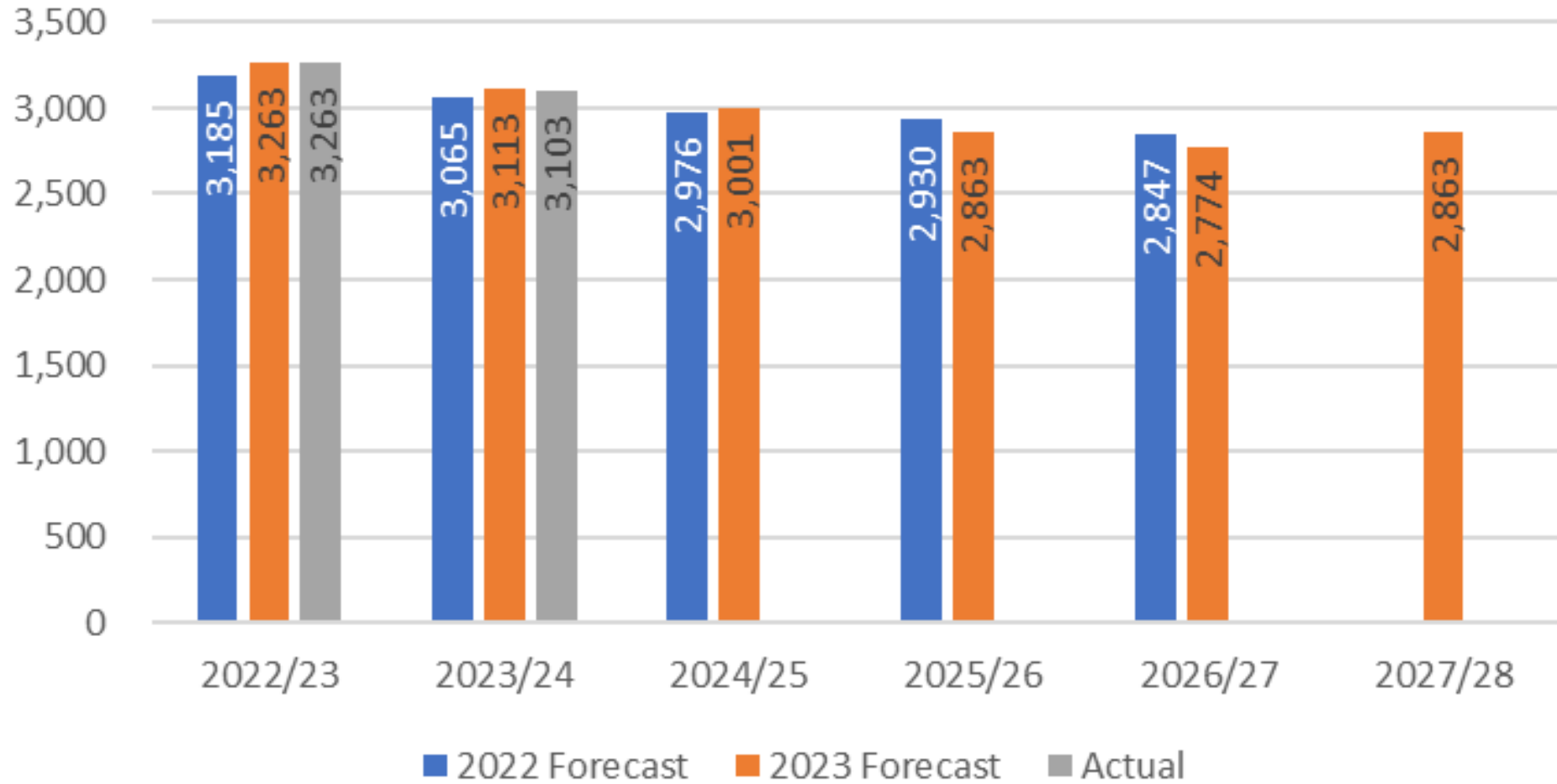
CYP Select Committee – 11 January 2024

School Place Planning

Headlines - Primary

- 2023 forecasting predicts a slight increase in numbers compared to previous for the next couple of years. This is driven by the higher than expected numbers for the past 2 years. 2022 actuals were 78 pupils higher than forecast.
- Since 2018 we have taken circa 600 reception places out of the system. But moving forward there is still more work to do.
- Data from the Councils school admissions records for this year's intake shows that the revised forecasting is pretty accurate, with 3,103 on roll as at 6 December 2023 (versus 3113 forecast).
- Bearing this in mind, the current plan of reductions by 1-2FE per year will continue.

Reception



NB. Current PAN 3420

Mainstream Forecasting - Primary

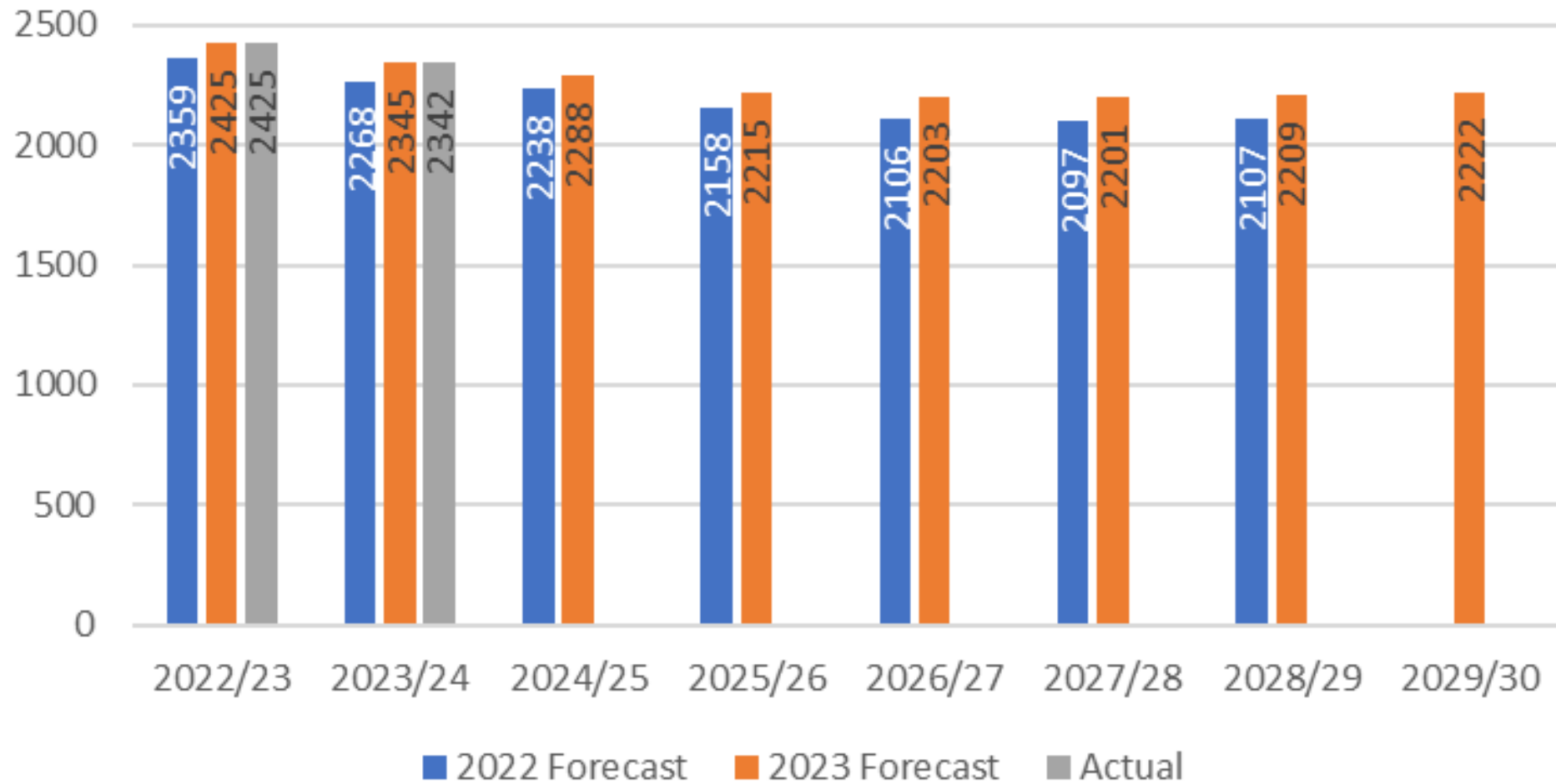
Actions

- Short term – Caps in place in for this academic year 2023/24.
Conversations with schools regarding further actions once Reception rolls known.
- Medium term – Continue working with schools to consider the possibility of in-year Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA) applications for Published Admissions Number (PAN) reductions dependent upon application numbers, where appropriate.
Expectations continue to be that we need to reduce numbers by approximately 1-2FE per year either via PAN reduction or capping.

Headlines - Secondary

- Following an increase in applications for 2022/23 which resulted in over-offering at undersubscribed schools we saw a similar pattern for 2023 whereby we over-offered in a number of schools again.
- The highpoint for the primary bulges coming through was in 2022/23, so this is showing that typically Lewisham schools are becoming more popular. The Year 7 cohort in 2022/23 was 66 higher than forecast.
- Data from our admissions records suggests that the new forecasting is pretty accurate with 2,342 on role as at 6 December 2023 versus a forecast of 2,345
- Current primary year group numbers are relatively consistent with cohorts around 3,300 so there should be a steady number of pupils coming through to Year 7 moving forwards.

Year 7



NB. Current PAN 2412

Mainstream Forecasting - Secondary

Actions

- Continuing discussions via Secondary Heads regarding future over-offering if needed.

Reminder of options for Reducing Numbers

LA Allocations Cap

- Can vary across year groups
- Not an official reduction in PAN, so cannot override parental choice
- Can be put in place at any point, and removed at any point

In year PAN reduction

- Only applies to that years' 'entry'
- Requires an application to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator
- Needs clear evidence that demand not there
- Decision is not ours
- Takes up to 8 weeks post submission

Options for Reducing Numbers (*cont.*)

Determined Admissions Arrangements PAN reduction

- Next determined admissions arrangements consultation in train for 2025 entry (for community schools)
- Will be a permanent change in PAN
- Decision taken by the Mayor and Cabinet on 24 January 2024

NB – all decisions need input from Governing Body

Wider work on Strategy

- The School Place Planning and Admissions Forum have set up a task and finish group to look at how we go about dealing with over- and under-supply of places.
- First meeting has taken place and a new draft set of over-arching principles has been developed for further discussion.
- Once agreed we will share with Heads and GBs for further discussion and agreement.

SEND – Special Schools and Resource Bases

- Watergate planning application is being submitted. Meanwhile use of the Ladywell Children's Centre is providing 70 interim places.
- Launcelot Primary School Resource Base agreed for opening January 2024, providing up to 16 places for primary aged pupils with Autism (ASD). This completes the current need for additional primary resource provision.
- Further expression of interest issued for Secondary schools to host Resource Bases.