

<b>CYP Select Committee</b>			
<b>Report Title</b>	School Place Planning		
<b>Key Decision</b>	No	Item No.	6
<b>Ward</b>	All		
<b>Contributors</b>	Executive Director for Children and Young People		
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date:	17 October 2018

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The report provides an update for CYP Select Committee members on School Place Planning, and provides information on how we are meeting need, as well as providing local context and how Lewisham is performing against near neighbours.

## 2. Summary

- 2.1 The report provides an update on the progress against the Place Planning Strategy 2017-2022 (which was launched in April 2017), including changes to forecasting and measures taken to ensure effective sufficiency of places.

## 3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Select Committee is recommended to note and comment upon the contents of the report.

## 4. Policy Context

- 4.1 The detail within this report is consistent with '*Shaping Our Future: Lewisham's Sustainable Community Strategy*' and the Council's corporate priorities. In particular, it relates to the Council's priorities regarding *young people's achievement and involvement*, including *inspiring and supporting young people to achieve their potential*, the *protection of children and young people* and *ensuring efficiency, effectiveness and equity in the delivery of excellent services to meet the needs of the community*.
- 4.2 The Local Authority has a duty to ensure the provision of sufficient places for pupils of statutory school age and, within financial constraints, accommodation that is both suitable and in good condition.
- 4.3 In aiming to improve on the provision of facilities for education in Lewisham which are appropriate for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the implementation of our Place Planning Strategy 2017-22 contributes to the delivery of the corporate priority *Young people's achievement and involvement: raising educational attainment and improving facilities for young people through partnership working*.

4.4 It supports the delivery of Lewisham's *Children & Young People's Plan* (CYPP), which sets out the Council's vision for improving outcomes for all children and young people, and in so doing reducing the achievement gap between our most disadvantaged pupils and their peers. It also articulates the objective of improving outcomes for children with identified SEN and disabilities by ensuring that their needs are met.

## **5. 2017-2022 Place Planning Strategy**

5.1 The current strategy was drawn up following the recommendations of the 2016 Lewisham Education Commission Report, and followed on from the Lewisham Primary Strategy for Change 2008-2017.

5.2 The strategy made seven key recommendations;

1. We must finish what we have started, and learn from our experiences.
2. We need to maximise use of the investment that has already gone into schools therefore we should be recycling bulge classes where projections justify it – unless there is a good reason not to
3. We need to take advantage of free school opportunities – working with potential sponsors and the EFA to secure what Lewisham needs
4. We need to re-evaluate localities and previously considered expansion opportunities alongside demographic change and future growth projections to identify value for money projects as well as a more accurate forecasting model
5. We need to work with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Team to consider the recent sufficiency review for EYFS and develop a plan for childcare and nursery education
6. We need clear plans for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) places and Alternative Provision (AP) – providing more of the right kind of places within the borough and reducing the number of placements out of borough
7. We need to develop a better information sharing agreement with other local authorities to share data and information relating to school place planning and continue to work as part of London Councils

5.3 Building on those recommendations, five principles were agreed to guide our work, these are;

1. We aim to provide primary school places according to the level of need within different localities and we will continue to use 'planning areas'. Our aspiration is for children to go to primary school within one mile, but within two miles is reasonable
2. As far as possible our school expansion proposals will be for schools that are already achieving high standards and if not, have robust school improvement plans in place
3. We will work with external partners to overcome the financial challenges related to providing additional school places (i.e. Department for Education, Education Funding Agency, Dioceses, Multi Academy Trusts)

4. We will aim for efficient delivery of education, with consideration of the economies of scale and the viable size for schools and impact on revenue budgets
  5. We will ensure that any proposal for the provision of extra places is scrutinised both in terms of suitability and value for money as well as making best use of existing assets and resources
- 5.4 When taking the recommendations and principles into account, alongside the forecasting and demand of the time (Spring 2017) we believed that we would need to deliver the following to ensure sufficient places;
  - 5.5 **Primary** – recycle bulge classes and 4FE by 2022.
  - 5.6 **Secondary** – and an extra 11 FE by 2022.
  - 5.7 **Early Years Foundation Stage** – sufficient places but improved flexibility.
  - 5.8 **Special Education Needs and Disability** – expansion of and additional Social, Emotional and Mental Health provision.
6. **Changing landscape**
    - 6.1 **Revised forecasting Summer 2017** – Within the new strategy we committed to reviewing our place forecasting on a regular basis and making revisions where necessary. We first did this in the Summer of 2017 when new ONS birth data and school census data was available. This was then tested against the actual roll data in the Autumn of 2017. This showed a marked reduction in both primary and secondary demand.
    - 6.2 **Primary** - There were London wide issues regarding Primary numbers in 2017/18, with an average reduction of applications for places of over 4% (some as high as 10%). Lewisham experienced a 6% reduction, and 2017 Autumn Census data confirmed that numbers on roll. This meant that we became relatively confident that we would have sufficient places within Primary for the following 5 years, and that there was in fact a risk of a large oversupply if our schools chose to recycle bulge classes.
    - 6.3 **Secondary** – Autumn Census figures were also below the revised Summer forecasts, with a significant fall in Year 7 pupils on roll. This shifted back the expectation of when we would require additional places (remembering that our Year 6 cohort was the largest on record).
    - 6.4 **ASD review** – A review of our ASD needs was completed in the Summer of 2017 that recommended a re-profiling of our SEND schools along with wider work to look to cater for young people with ASD in mainstream provision. As such, the focus for additional specialist SEND provision centred on how we could provide additional SLD/PMLD places within the borough as well as addressing SEMH need, to better provide for the needs of a young people within their own communities. This led to the decisions to expand Watergate School to provide an additional 59 places for primary aged children, and

Greenvale School to provide an additional 93 places for secondary aged children. Within this work we continued to look at the previously highlighted need for SEMH provision and a decision was made to extend the age range of New Woodlands School from KS1-KS3 to include KS4 children as well, as there was previously no KS4 SEMH provision within the borough.

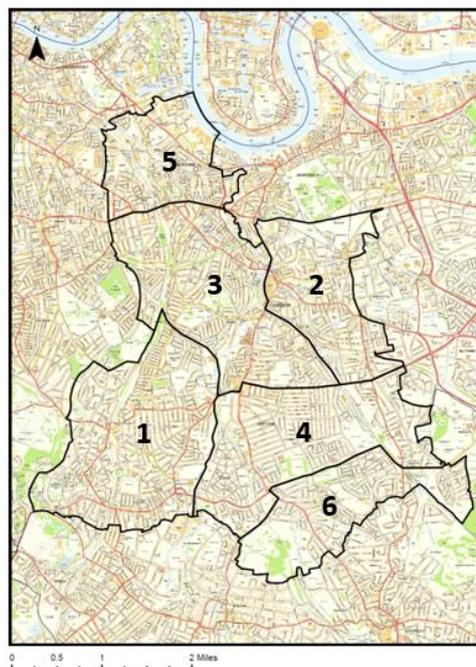
- 6.5 **Free Schools** – The previously approved Citizen School withdrew its application as the ESFA could not secure an appropriate site for an all-through school within the borough. From the previous round of applications, the Lewisham CofE Secondary Free School was approved and so at present there are two pre-approved free schools for the Borough – Harris Academy Lewisham (2/3FE primary) and Lewisham CofE Secondary Free School (6/8FE Secondary) but neither has a site identified.

## 7. **Achievements to date**

- 7.1 **Controlling supply** – Given the potential impact of oversupply we have taken action to help reduce that risk. At primary phase we have worked with the 13 schools that had bulge classes that could have been recycled in 2018 to reach a collective decision whereby no school has taken up this option. At secondary phase we were able to revoke the decision to expand Addey and Stanhope School in advance of the planned expansion taking place following the statutory consultation process to avoid oversupply.
- 7.2 **Primary Place Planning Locality changes** – One of the areas highlighted in the Place Planning Strategy was to re-assess the Primary Place Planning localities. Historically there have been 6 PPPLs in Lewisham and these had been in existence for well over 10 years (with no revisions) and did not reflect the demographic changes in the borough or best practice. As such the areas were reviewed and revised to provide a lesser number of areas that were more equal in terms of both geography and places available, whilst still trying to track pupil flow (i.e. not too many pupils are travelling across boundaries). The diagrams below show the changes made in terms of numbers of places in each area and the geographical make up. The new 4 PPPL model was implemented as of Summer 2018.

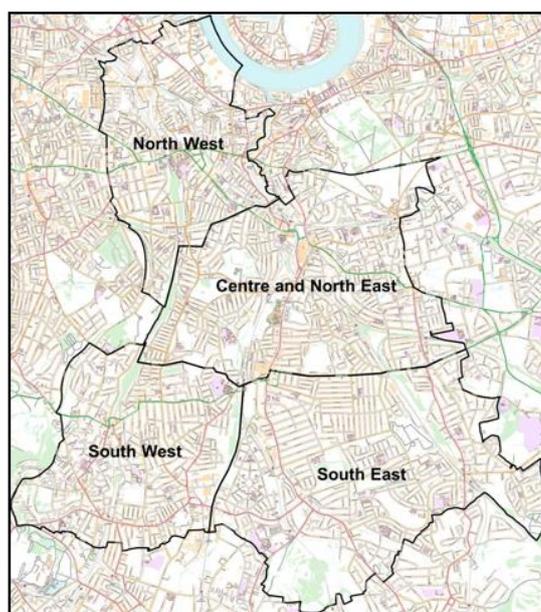
## Historic PPPLs

Primary Place Planning Locality	2018/19 Published Admissions Number
1 – Forest Hill & Sydenham	990
2 – Lee Green	420
3 – Lewisham & Brockley	930
4 - Catford	660
5 – Deptford	540
6 - <u>Downham</u>	360
<b>Total</b>	<b>3900</b>



## Revised PPPLs

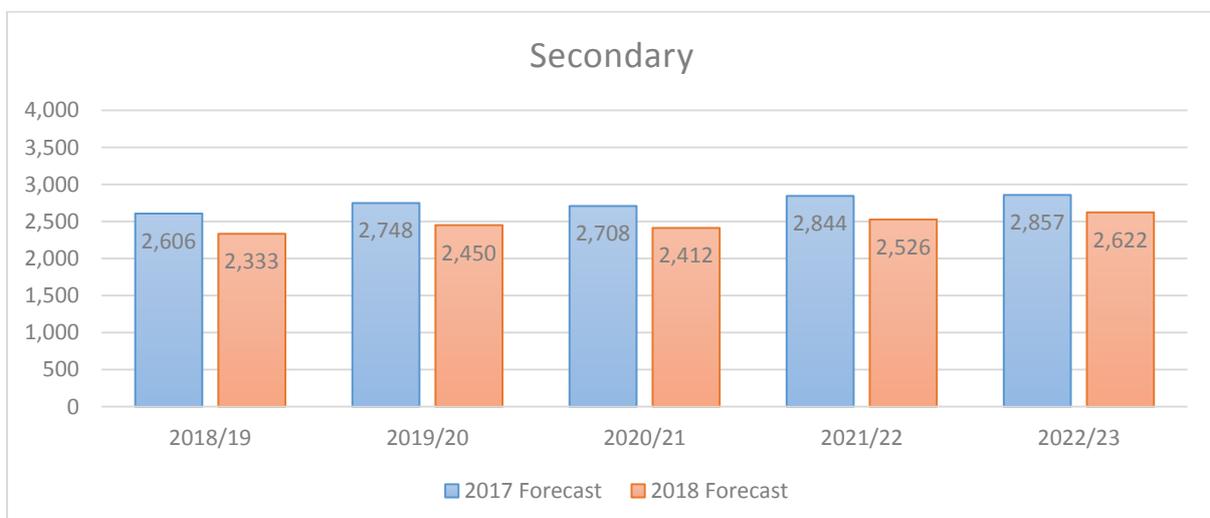
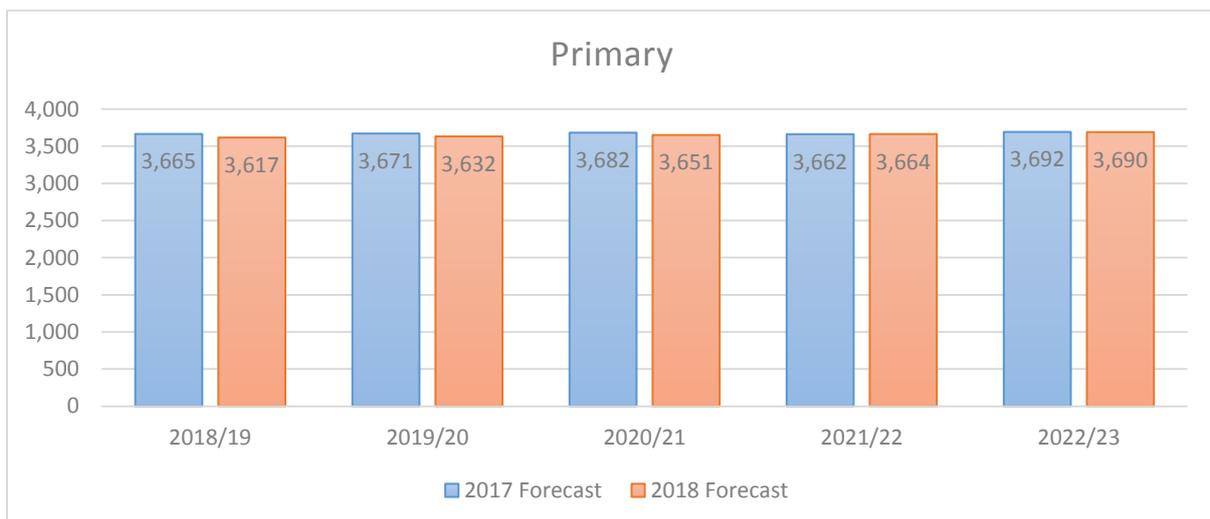
Primary Place Planning Locality	2018/19 Published Admissions Number
1 – South West	900
2 – South East	1020
3 – Centre & North East	990
4 – North West	990
<b>Total</b>	<b>3900</b>



- 7.3 **SEND projects on track** – As mentioned in 3.5 above, work is underway to expand both Watergate and Greenvale schools, with Greenvale already taking additional pupils as of 2018 and a permanent expansion on track to be delivered on a satellite site on Mayow Road from September 2020, and Watergate looking to take additional pupils from 2019 with a permanent expansion ready for September 2020. The change of age range at New Woodlands has been implemented as of September 2018 with additional works at the school being phased over the coming 12 months to enable a full KS4 cohort to be in place from 2019.

## 8. Further forecasting revisions – Summer 2018

8.1 In advance of the most recent DfE School Capacity Return a further review of forecasting took place and necessitated a revision of the forecasting figures. The revised forecasting has again revised down the previous forecasting. In primary this is a small revision over the coming three years that then aligns with the summer 2017 forecasting thereafter. In secondary this quite dramatically revises down the forecasting. It is worth noting that current factors impacting on reduced numbers include; the Brexit effect; delays in major developments; spare capacity in out of borough secondary schools (including academies increasing their PANs); along with a subdued birth rate. However, the long term GLA forecasts for London continue to show continued growth (school place demand is cyclical along that overall trajectory). The tables below give an indication of the scale of this change – note that the current number of reception places is 3900, and the current number of Year 7 places is 2636.



## 9. Continuing control of surplus places

9.1 There remains a risk of surplus places in both primary and secondary phases. From a primary perspective this varies geographically but becomes more acute if popular schools elect to recycle previous bulge classes. As such we will continue to work with our schools to minimise this risk (as per 2018 – note improvement from 2017 to 2018 in table below) as well as explore whether less popular 3FE schools can reduce to 2FE. From a secondary perspective Prendergast Ladywell have already reduced their PAN down to 180, and Deptford Green are looking to do the same, this will help keep the current surplus in check – with the future ability to increase their intake as required. It should be noted that this issue is affecting the majority of the capital (as the Brexit effect seems to be affecting London more heavily than other regions) and that Lewisham is not suffering with the worst oversupply issue (see table below) – indeed we always aim for a small oversupply (3-8%) to allow us to provide in-year admissions (nationally LA's often aim for 5-10%). We are 'mid table' below.

London Reception On-time Applications & Vacant Places			
Borough	Spare capacity as at National Offer Day		
	2017	2018	2018 Ranking* (1 <sup>st</sup> = fewest vacancies)
Lewisham	463	359	14 <sup>th</sup>
Bromley	227	241	9 <sup>th</sup>
Bexley	453	512	21 <sup>st</sup>
Croydon	977	872	31 <sup>st</sup>
Greenwich	218	418	17 <sup>th</sup>
Lambeth	754	635	26 <sup>th</sup>
Southwark	1040	782	30 <sup>th</sup>
Barking & Dagenham	603	755	29 <sup>th</sup>
Barnet	439	352	13 <sup>th</sup>
Brent	617	604	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Camden	138	175	7 <sup>th</sup>
City of London	0	0	n/a
Ealing	562	697	28 <sup>th</sup>
Enfield	669	611	24 <sup>th</sup>
Hackney	530	465	20 <sup>th</sup>
Hammersmith and Fulham	173	101	4 <sup>th</sup>
Haringey	394	362	15 <sup>th</sup>
Harrow	223	420	18 <sup>th</sup>
Havering	245	405	16 <sup>th</sup>
Hillingdon	617	631	25 <sup>th</sup>
Hounslow	233	341	12 <sup>th</sup>
Islington	281	271	10 <sup>th</sup>
Kensington and Chelsea	72	58	2 <sup>nd</sup>

<b>Kingston upon Thames</b>	90	34	1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Merton</b>	57	104	5 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Newham</b>	808	942	32 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Redbridge</b>	381	525	22 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Richmond upon Thames</b>	140	118	6 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Sutton</b>	29	77	3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Tower Hamlets</b>	433	450	19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Waltham Forest</b>	628	639	27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Wandsworth</b>	358	240	8 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Westminster</b>	476	312	11 <sup>th</sup>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>13328</b>	<b>13508</b>	
Average spare capacity at NOD*	417	422	

\*Not including the City of London

9.2 The currently approved free schools for Lewisham (see 6.5) are not currently needed. Officers continue to be in constant dialogue with the ESFA and DfE with regards to our current forecasting and roll numbers. No sites have been identified for either.

## 10. Financial Implications

10.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report

## 11. Legal Implications

11.1 Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 obliges each local authority to ensure that there are sufficient primary and secondary school places available for its area i.e. the London Borough of Lewisham, although there is no requirement that those places should be exclusively in the area. The Authority is not itself obliged to provide all the schools required, but to secure that they are available.

11.2 In exercising its responsibilities under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 a local authority must do so with a view to securing diversity in the provision of schools and increasing opportunities for parental choice.

11.3 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 places requirements on Authorities to make their significant strategic decisions concerning the number and variety of school places in their localities against two overriding criteria:

- to secure schools likely to maximise student potential and achievement;
- to secure diversity and choice in the range of school places on offer.

Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 provides that where a local authority or the governing body of a maintained school proposes to make a prescribed alteration to a maintained school and it is permitted to make that alteration, it must publish proposals.

## **12. Equalities Implications**

- 12.1 This report supports the delivery of the Council's Equalities programme by ensuring that all children whose parents /carers require a place in a Lewisham school will be able to access one.

## **13. Environmental Implications**

- 13.1 Every effort will be made to enhance rather than detract from school, and other, environments in the solutions to providing additional sufficient places.

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