

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: ALL
REPORT TITLE: 2021 Annual School Place Planning Report	
REPORT OF: Executive Director Supporting People	
FOR SUBMISSION TO: Children, Schools and Families - Scrutiny Committee	DATE: 12 October 2021
<p>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT:</p> <p>Recent school place reports have identified significant changes and a high level of volatility in demography at a national and local level. Over the last 5 years there has been a significant reduction in demand for pupil places within Camden. Forecasts for this year have been drawn up at a time of unprecedented change and challenge for families in Camden. Specifically, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have fundamentally altered people's lives, the impacts of which are significantly reducing the level of demand for places anticipated within the current forecasts. These factors create a significant degree of uncertainty, and a less stable environment in which to plan ahead. The GLA modelling aims to account for these as best as they can but rely on assumptions of future trends that can only be accurately assessed over time.</p> <p>We consider that it is too early to be definitive about the medium-term impact on school rolls of the new forecast figures given the hugely disruptive impact of Covid. We will need to consider carefully current admission numbers and next year's school roll projections before we can come to any firm conclusions beyond the difficult action the Council has already taken in removing available school places. The impact on pupil rolls of the recent arrival in Camden of significant numbers of children and young people, including asylum seekers and Afghan nationals, is also not yet known.</p> <p>The new data however shows a continued fall in overall birth rates within London and Camden alongside sustained reductions in families moving into Camden over the last 18 months. Together these are suppressing future indications of pupil demand. This issue is not specific to Camden with similar or more acute falls being forecast for Brent, Islington and Westminster.</p> <p><u>Primary:</u> The surplus over the reception year admission number is estimated to increase from 15% in 2020/21 to 25% by 2030/31. National reception offers data for Camden total applicants at 1,988 in 2021/22 is lower compared to last year at 2,102. The number of Camden residents decreased, mirroring a fall in Camden births for this cohort of children.</p> <p><u>Secondary:</u> The Secondary Year 7 surplus is estimated to increase from 9% in 2020/21 to 19% by 2030/31). National year 7 offers data for Camden total applicants in 2021/22 decreased to 2,962 compared to last year at 3,046. The number of Camden residents increased slightly as expected in the pupil number projections.</p>	

Ensuring Camden has the right number of school places is both the Council's statutory responsibility and aligns with our [Camden 2025 priorities](#). Preventing schools becoming financially vulnerable and thus subject to unplanned change, helps maintain strong, safe and open communities. Good and outstanding schools promote independent healthy lives and support strong growth and jobs.

The data and forecasts of the demand for school places within Camden is reviewed annually by the authority and made publicly available. Our review incorporates all underlying demographic data including: existing provision and capacity, actual registered births and fertility, the latest GLA forecasts for births and their relationship to school rolls, together with the additional pupils associated with new housing developments. The analysis is used to help us make informed decisions about the future organisation of school places.

This year, the Council has also included a review of its planning of places for pupils with special education needs and disabilities. Further details are set out in Section 3 of the report and in Appendix H. Following the passing of the 2014 Children and Families Act, the number of pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) has increased significantly both within Camden and across England. Primarily this is in response to the raising of the age range, up to 25, of individuals who can hold an EHCP, but it also contains a significant rise in pupils of statutory school age who have an individual plan. Specifically, within Camden the number of school age children with an EHCP has, since January 2014, risen by 15.7% from 969 to 1,121 pupils. The growth is not uniform across areas of need, with the most significant rise being within pupils with a diagnosis of Autism that rose by 109% over the same 7 year timescale. It is important to understand the changing need profile of this group of children in line with our existing provision and future planned provision so that the Council and schools can ensure needs are met effectively and sustainably in the best interests of children.

Our understanding of the current demographic pressures facing schools has also informed the development of Camden's new Education Strategy, also being considered at this meeting. It will be the purpose of the strategy, and our continued school organisation work, to ensure that our school system is sustainable and stable, offering the best outcomes for our residents.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – ACCESS TO INFORMATION:

The following documents have been used in the preparation of this report:

Appendix A: General (with Tables 1-5)

Appendix B: Primary (with Tables 1-7)

Appendix C: Secondary (with Tables 1-6)

Appendix D: Additional (with Figures 1-6)

Appendix E: Latest housing development trajectory and estimated child yield

Appendix F: Glossary of school places planning abbreviations, report references

Appendix G: A narrative description and guide for interpreting the forecasts and data provided

Appendix H: Special Education Needs and Disabilities analysis

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RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to comment on and note the contents of the report.

SIGNED:

Richard Lewin

Director of Education and Integrated Commissioning

DATE: 30 September 2021

1. WHAT IS THIS REPORT ABOUT?

- 1.1. The 2021 Camden school places planning report is a single, comprehensive report providing detailed analysis, and interpretation of information relating to both primary and secondary school provision. This year the report also provides an analysis of the Borough's specialist provision for pupils with additional special educational needs included as **Appendix H**.
- 1.2. This report includes the latest: Births, GLA 2019 based Camden development population projections (2021), GLA 2021 school roll projections, the Council's housing development data, and other contextual data including school rolls. The report should be referenced in conjunction with all **Appendices** providing detailed tabular analysis, mapping, and additional information underpinning the commentary.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY

- 2.1. The authority, in its role as commissioner of school places, has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places in the borough for every child who wants one. The Council also has to ensure that there are not too many school places which would affect the viability of schools now or in the future. The changing face of school provision over the past decade has added complexity to the Local Authority role. Specifically, changes to education legislation through the Academies Act 2010, introducing academies/free schools across all sectors, and allowing existing schools to convert to academy status has led to a fragmentation of the education system. Almost uniquely within England, Camden has not had any converter academies during this period, and with the inception of Camden Learning, the education community has collectively supported the Camden family of schools.
- 2.2. The Council is committed to giving children across Camden the best start in life, with its schools firmly at the heart of this ambition. The Council has a long and proud history of investment in children's education, ranging from the creation of the Camden Sure Start scheme more than two decades ago, followed by the opening of much valued children's centres and maintaining a strong infrastructure of state school provision across the borough. The Council's Community Investment Programme has enabled the Council to invest in high quality schools, ensuring they provide an environment in which children thrive and the schools themselves sit at the heart of our communities.
- 2.3. The Community Investment Programme enabled the Council to invest more broadly in supporting children, providing homes for families and in rehousing those families that have suffered from serious overcrowding. The Council has committed to doing all it can to remain a family-friendly borough, one that will do everything within its power to encourage and enable families to live in Camden. The Council's support to providing services such as early years, early help, employment support, welfare assistance and housing all form part of the efforts the Council has made over several decades to achieve its ambition to provide the best start in life for children and families.
- 2.4. Despite this investment and focus, the education landscape and demand for pupil places has changed considerably over the past decade. Firstly,

this has impacted on our primary schools following a significant and sustained fall in registered births. The COVID-19 pandemic has added further complexity, significantly impacting on families lives, patterns of migration and our assumptions about future birth rates. These are national and London wide issues, not just impacting on Camden, with effects being experienced widely.

- 2.5. The Council has continued working closely with schools, providing ongoing support to those whose viability is put at risk by falling numbers. As part of this process the Council has, with the support of our schools, taken a number of difficult decisions to reduce the number of available school places outlined later in this report.
- 2.6. Our approach to formal school organisation is based upon the following four points: (i) high quality analysis and early information sharing; (ii) schools and services collaborating to share expertise and space and to prevent duplication; (iii) agreed triggers and structured conversations with the Council and (iv) attracting parents who do not currently send their children to Camden schools.
- 2.7. The significant issues identified within this paper are also being considered in the development of the Council's new education strategy. Building Back Stronger is a proposed comprehensive, 10-year education strategy for Camden and is included as an agenda item at this committee.
- 2.8. Financial pressures are also becoming more significant throughout our schools. Following a funding freeze, in place since 2011, with small 0.5% increases in 2018/19 and 2019/20, Camden schools have seen their real terms income decrease by almost 25% since 2010. The impact of COVID-19 on school rolls and response to the crisis has put additional pressures on school finances.
- 2.9. In recent years, school place planning analysis highlighted volatility at national level. Specific concerns range from the impact of HS2 development, Brexit and now the effects of COVID, potentially altering short and long-term population trends, creating a less stable environment in which to plan ahead. The impact these variables will have on migration, local employment and residency, and of how the UK forges other world relationships in the years ahead, also alter future population assumptions.
- 2.10. Covid has significantly affected all areas of daily life. This could have other longer-term unquantified impacts in the future such as families choosing to leave London with the extension of more flexible working patterns, allowing people to live further from their place of work. These factors represent a significant degree of uncertainty in relation to future forecasts, so great caution should be exercised in drawing immediate conclusions given the unprecedented nature of both the pandemic and Brexit. Officers continue to monitor these significant events very closely through our London wide networks and updating analysis with newly available data. The latest GLA forecasts in 2021 account for the modelled COVID-19 pandemic impact over the next decade.

3. Summary Data Analysis

Births

- 3.1 Camden actual registered births reached a high in 2012 at 3,084, but have followed a downward trend to their latest low in 2020 at 2,337. Whilst falls in birth were reported across London and nationwide between 2012 and 2020, Camden at a 24% reduction, has experienced a greater fall compared to London at 14% and England at 13%, although similar to some inner-London Authorities such as Westminster. The most recent, GLA 2021 birth forecasts are lower compared to last year and now incorporate some COVID-19 modelling. This modelling suggests births would continue to fall from 2019 to 2031 by a further 19% in Camden. The greatest fall, of 25%, is forecast in the North West of the Borough and the smallest, of 4% in the King's Cross, Somers Town and St Pancras area.
- 3.2 The last reported 2019 Total Fertility Rate (TFR – the average number of children born to a woman over her lifetime) in the Borough was very low. Camden at 1.05 was the lowest of any other local authority area, with Greater London at 1.60 and England and Wales at 1.65. All of these have reduced from 2018, and over the last decade, and are below 2.1, the number that is required to retain existing levels of population without any additional inward migration.

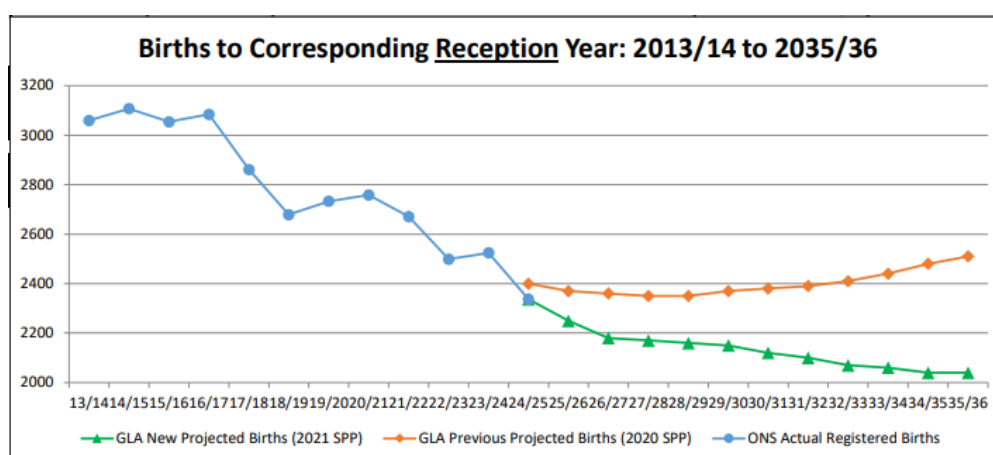


Fig 1: Chart showing reduction in forecast future birth rates

Latest Housing and Estimated Child Yield

- 3.3 New housing has the potential to increase demand for school places as new families move into new homes. Historically we have been conscious that the effect of new build on pupil numbers can be over-estimated. However, additional Camden housing units anticipated to 2035/36 are estimated at 16,038, representing a positive net gain that is included within this analysis. For the purposes of analysis, we arrange schools in to five planning areas (PAs) of roughly equal size that reflect local geography. Camden's planning areas and school locations are identified in Appendix D. The greatest additional housing development is anticipated in our central-southern area PA4 (5,686), with the lowest in the far south PA5 (1,834). Derived Camden child yield cumulatively estimates between an additional 7.5FE to 9.8FE in year groups up to 2035/36.

School Roll projections Primary and Secondary

- 3.4 The Primary 2021 borough forecast, shown below, is lower than previous forecasts, with very high surplus capacity anticipated over the next decade to 2030/31, although it is important to reiterate the caution with which these

figures should be treated. The GLA SRP 2021 forecast of 4-year-olds/reception is lower than previous years, plotting a downward trajectory to 2030/31. The surplus fluctuates from 2020/21 at 15%, falling in 2022/23 to 12%, before rising again to 25% in 2030/31, equating to 13.3FE. The GLA SRP 2021 forecast of 4–10-year-olds/reception to year 6 to 2030/31 are lower than the previous forecasts over the whole period and follow a decreasing trend. Surplus is estimated to increase from 14% in 2021/22 to 25% in 2030/31.

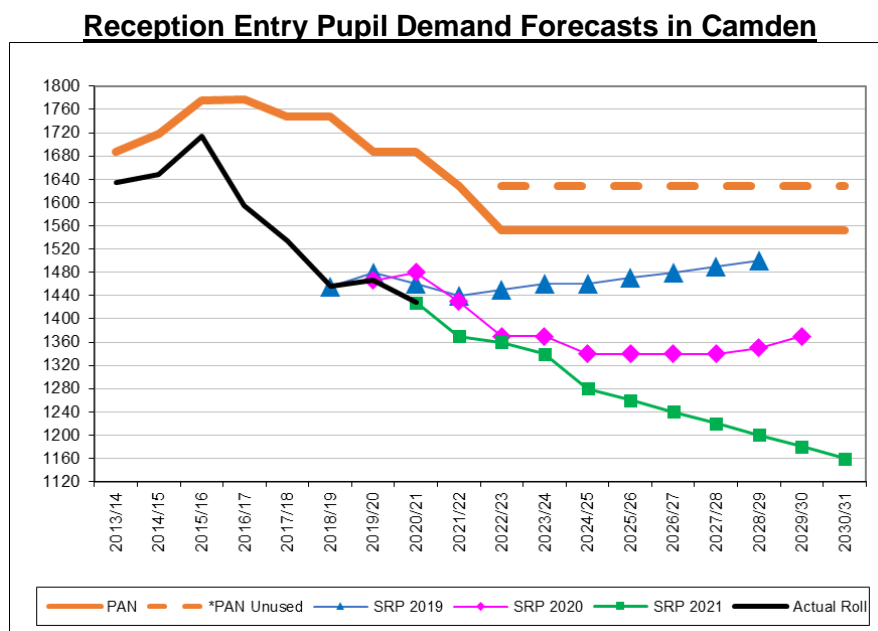


Fig 2: chart showing latest GLA SRP 2021, and previous historic GLA SRP 2020 and 2019 forecasts with planned admission number (PAN): Borough Reception

- 3.5 Secondary GLA SRP 2021 borough forecasts, shown on the next page, are lower compared to the previous forecasts, with surplus capacity anticipated to increase in the period up to 2030/31. Year 7 PAN surplus is estimated to increase from 2020/21 at 10% to 2030/31 at 19%, equating to just over 10.6FE of school places. The GLA SRP 2021 forecasts of 11–15-year-olds/year 7 to 11 to 2030/31 are lower than the previous forecasts over the whole decade and follow a decreasing trend. Secondary PAN surplus is estimated to increase from 7% in 2020/21 to 15% by 2030/31.

Year 7 Entry Pupil Demand Forecasts in Camden

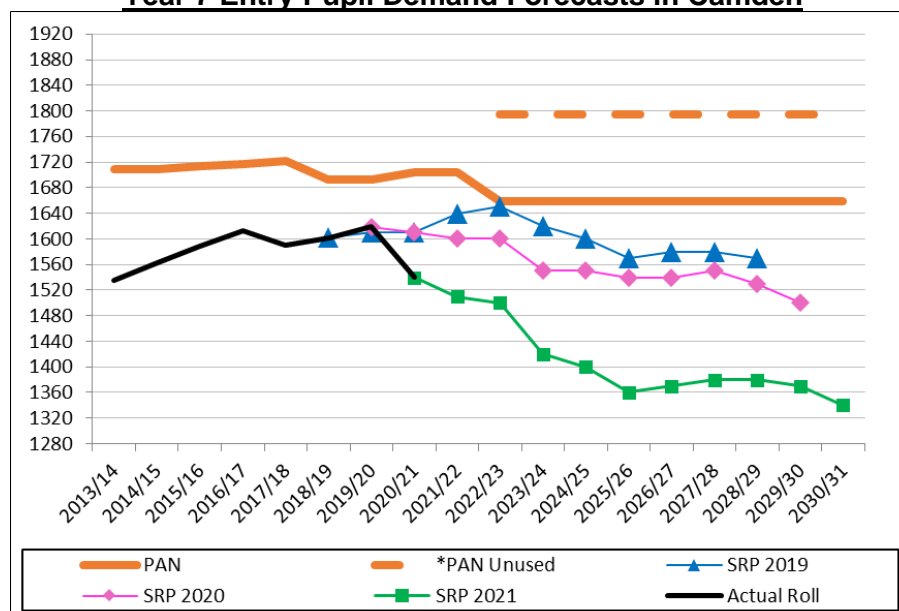


Fig 3:— chart showing latest GLA SRP 2021, and previous historic GLA SRP 2020 and 2019 forecasts with planned admission number (PAN): Borough Year 7

- 3.6 Falling school rolls are not unique to Camden and are discussed widely across London due to the sudden and significant falls in actual registered births impacting on most authorities. Neighbouring authorities have provided updates of school planning data. At primary level all reported reduced demand for reception offers 2021/22 from a low base, with most showing high surplus in reception for the 2020/21 academic year. At secondary the majority reported reduced demand at year 7 offers for 2021/22.
- 3.7 The proportion of Camden pupils attending Independent schools and has been estimated based on updated underlying data and latest resident forecasts. The estimates in 2020/21 for primary at 30% are broadly similar to recent years. At secondary level the estimated proportion of pupils attending independent schools is 38%, rising from 34% in 2018/19.
- 3.8 This is the first time the Council has included SEND analysis within the School Place Planning Report. Appendix H provides detail of the current need profile of pupils with SEND within Camden. It shows the level of current provision, including the proportion of pupils educated within mainstream schools, those within resourced bases within mainstream school's and those within special school provision. The analysis also shows changes in pupils' primary need designation over recent years. In addition, it outlines recent and planned changes in provision, including increases in the number of places provided at resource bases and special schools. As the Council develops its SEND sufficiency reporting over future iterations, this analysis will also include further data about anticipated SEND demand over a 10 year horizon.
- 3.9 Two other key developments highlighted this year are also going to be incorporated within school places planning analysis from 2022: (i) new Camden 2022 wards, and retrofitting of existing data to new ward boundaries, (ii) 2011 ONS Census data underpinning analysis is due to be updated with 2021 ONS Census data potentially in spring/summer 2022, and anticipated for inclusion in 2022 GLA forecasts next year.

4. ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

4.1. PRIMARY

- 4.1.1. Camden has reviewed provision at a number of schools with unsustainable levels of surplus places. The Council has, with the support of schools, taken a number of difficult decisions to remove or reduce pupil numbers. St Aloysius RC 2FE primary school (PA4) closed in December 2019, the school had 63% surplus reception places in 2018/19. St Aloysius pupils were accommodated at the nearby Our Lady's RC primary (PA4) in available school places and a temporary classroom, whilst others took up school offers in other local schools. Following significant consultation Carlton primary school (PA2) closed as a legal entity in July 2021, the school had 72% reception surplus in 2020/21, merging under the leadership of nearby 2FE Rhyl primary (PA3), the Carlton site remains open for education and community use. In addition Kingsgate (PA1) has reduced by 1FE.
- 4.1.2. Following consideration by Cabinet in September 2020 changes listed below will also reduce entry by 2.5 further forms of entry. Operationally these changes came into effect in 2021, but will be formally removed in 2022.
- With support of the Westminster Diocese, to reduce entry at St Dominic's primary school (PA2) from 1.5FE to 1FE (**0.5FE reduction**).
 - Merge the provision of St Michael's CofE primary school (PA4) with that of Our Lady's Catholic school (PA4) through the formal closure of St Michael's 1FE school as a legal entity. The newly merged provision would provide 1FE of school places (**1FE reduction**).
 - Reduce entry at Netley primary school (PA4) from 2FE to 1.5FE (**0.5FE reduction**).
 - Reduce entry at Argyle primary school (PA5) from 2FE to 1.5FE (**0.5FE reduction**).
- 4.1.3. This brings the total reduction in the period up to 2021 of 7.5FE across all Camden Primary Schools.

4.2. SECONDARY

- 4.2.1. Haverstock school permanently reduced PAN by 1FE from 2018/19 due to changes in parental/student preferences resulting in lower school rolls; the school currently operates as 6FE provision. Consultation has been undertaken to remove a further **1.5FE** taking effect from September 2022. The Council is working with the Secondary sector to consider the existing pattern of school provision and will bring forward, where appropriate, proposals to reduce provision to take account of the existing forecasts, migration and school preference patterns.

5. DETAIL OF ANALYSIS AND AREA COMMENTARY

- 5.1. Effective planning analyses an array of information. In reviewing current and anticipated future trends, this report uses the latest available date from August 2021 including:

- Latest actuals, including the capacity of schools, surplus places and/or immediate increasing or decreasing pressures, births, school rolls.
- Projected future 'need', including the latest planned housing development trajectory, feeding into: births, population and school roll projections produced by the GLA.
- Local variances and updated intelligence within the borough.
- Latest school places planning summaries in neighbouring authorities.

5.2. Detailed appendices are provided:

- **Appendix A 'General'** – actual registered births and GLA forecasted births, anticipated new housing development and child yield, GLA population projections, NHS registration comparisons, and independent school estimates.
- **Appendix B 'Primary'** – places filled and numbers on roll compared admission numbers, school capacity and surplus trends, reception offers, GLA school roll projection analysis by borough and planning area, Camden school rolls by borough of residence, and Camden residents attending out-borough schools.
- **Appendix C 'Secondary'** - places filled and numbers on roll compared to admission numbers, school capacity and surplus trends, year 7 offers, GLA school roll projection analysis by borough, Camden school rolls by borough of residence, and Camden residents attending out-borough schools.
- **Appendix D 'Additional'** - provides information including mapping of all Camden schools open in 2021/22 for primary (figure 1) and secondary (figure 2), mapping Camden's housing growth areas (figure 3), GLA population projection model (figure 4), GLA school roll projection model (figure 5), and mapping Camden ward changes from 2022 (figure 6).
- **Appendix E 'Housing development summary'** provides an overview of some larger housing developments, provided by planning colleagues.
- **Appendix F 'Glossary of abbreviations and terms'** provides an overview of abbreviations and terms used in reporting.
- **Appendix G 'Interpreting our Forecasts'** provides a narrative description and guide for interpreting the forecasts and data provided.

5.3. The analysis of school places is considered for the borough as a whole for both primary and secondary, with further analysis completed at primary by five smaller localised borough planning areas (PAs). Planning areas are considered helpful for analytical purposes only, and this analysis model is similar to other local authorities. Planning areas do not provide an indication of catchment areas for admission purposes, and pupils are not constrained by them.

5.3.1 GLA school roll projections for Camden are provided in Appendices B and C. School roll projections anticipate trends over the next decade, and are updated every year, based on the latest underlying data. This includes actual registered births, GLA birth forecasts, fertility, migration, latest Camden development, GLA population forecasts, and this year include COVID-19 modelling.

5.3.2. The majority of London boroughs, including Camden, use the Greater London Authority (GLA) school roll projection service expertise and modelling.

- 5.3.3. Forecasts are not actuals but are based on the latest known position in boroughs, updated base data, and latest roll trends within schools. They aim to provide an estimate of future 'need' within the borough for the next ten years. Every year background consistency checks are completed as part of the school place planning process, in addition to those already completed by the GLA. The accuracy of GLA forecasts is carefully reviewed against new school rolls, with the aim of continued development, renewal, and improvement. The year 2020/21 was challenging on many fronts, which led to an increase in the gap between forecast and actual at borough level for both primary and secondary, although with an error still considered at a reasonable level within +/-5%. Latest school roll forecasts provided by the GLA in 2021, include updated underlying data and in particular the COVID-19 migration assumptions over the planning period, resulting in significantly lower overall forecasts.
- 5.3.4. The GLA school roll projection model is a simplification of complex real-world processes and as with any model there are limitations interpreting output based on a significant number of changing variables including:
- changes to future patterns of births or fertility,
 - changes in patterns of migration or anticipated development,
 - changes to parental preferences for schools,
 - capacity constraints of schools, future changes to school provision
 - changes to the future character of local areas,
 - the impact of welfare reforms,
 - global, national or local events such as COVID 19.
- 5.3.5. The GLA SRP model calculates the proportion of children attending mainstream state schools by national curriculum year group and gender, based on the GLA population projections and wards of residence. The GLA model explicitly accounts for cross border mobility using information on pupil home ward from the DfE national pupil database (NPD). Appendix D, Figure 5 provides background SRP information including the model.
- 5.3.6. The GLA model continually evolves through discussions with borough subscribers and other key stakeholders to identify future enhancements. Enhancing accuracy and robustness of forecasts continues, as new sources of information become available. The GLA continue to negotiate with the DfE regarding the potential use of London School Preferences information submitted nationally in DfE statutory returns for reception and year 7 school offers data. In 2021 the ONS national census was undertaken, and results are anticipated in spring/summer 2022, and will be incorporated into future modelling as soon as available, dependent on release by ONS.
- 5.3.7. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) reviewed electoral arrangements and ward boundaries for the majority of London boroughs, including Camden between 2018 to 2020. The existing 18 Camden wards in existence since 2002, were recommended to increase to 20 following consultation by the LGBCE, these were approved by the UK Parliament in October 2020. The boundaries of all Camden wards will change with the exception of Regent's Park, in addition to new names and changes to existing names. These new Camden ward

boundaries will come into effect from January 2022, whilst the new electoral arrangements will be effective at the local elections in May 2022. A map detailing the existing Camden wards (2002) and the new Camden wards from 2022 are shown in Appendix D, Figure 6. These changes will impact future school places planning analysis from 2022, as existing data such as the 2011 census and all underlying data will require retro fitting to the new 2022 boundaries.

PRIMARY (refer to Appendix B, tables 7A to G)

- 5.3.8. Detailed fully within Appendix B, a comparison for primary is provided between 2013/14 to 2030/31 for five planning areas from north-west planning area 1 through to far south planning area 5, and at borough level.

Factors particularly impacting GLA 2021 forecasts in Camden include: Actual school rolls in January 2021 were lower compared to previous forecasts. Actual registered births for the 2021/22 reception cohort fell. Lower GLA birth forecasts than the latest 2019 area actual – with births potentially falling the most of any reporting area. Additional anticipated demand from housing development is added to GLA forecasts over the whole planning period. The age 4-year-old GLA 2019-BPP (2021) population forecasts are lower than previous forecasts plotting a downward trend to 2030/31. Low/falling primary school rolls are reported in neighbouring authorities and should not be discounted, potentially reducing pressure on Camden school places with more choice and availability for parents. COVID-19 and Brexit migration assumptions have also resulted in lower forecasts. Significant caution should therefore be used when assessing these forecasts as they include base data from an acutely volatile demographic position in the UK over the last 2 years.

- **Planning Area 1, North West Camden: PA1 (Table 7A)**
 Situated in the north-west part of the borough, this planning area saw sustained rising pressure for a number of years, with school rolls remaining at higher levels to 2015/16, before falling. Historically this greater demand for school places in PA1 was also affected by rising demand in the immediate area, the western PA3 Swiss Cottage ward. PA1 continued with the lowest levels of reception surplus of any Camden planning area, although remaining above 5% target. Actual school rolls for children aged 4 fell by over 1.5FE since 2015/16. The latest GLA SRP 2021 anticipate a decrease in 2021/22, plotting a downward trajectory over the whole reporting period to 2030/31, with forecasts below those reported previously. PAN capacity has been reduced by 1FE, although PAN surplus is estimated to increase from 8% in 2020/21 to a potentially very significant 31% or 4.1FE by 2030/31. The GLA SRP 2021 for 4–10-year-olds also indicate a lower forecast over the whole reporting period to 2030/31 plotting a downward trajectory, and lower compared to previously reported forecasts. This is a significant departure from recent forecasts and links to forecast reductions in births and migration that have not been experienced in this area to this point. We will need to carefully monitor the intake numbers and any other local changes to validate or revise the figures in response to actual demand patterns.
- **Planning Area 2, North East Camden: PA2 (Table 7B)**

Situated in the north-east area of Camden. PA2 reception school rolls have fallen from the last relative high in 2015/16, with surplus the highest of any other planning area in 2020/21. Actual reception school rolls fell by just under 2.5FE from 2015/16. In response the Council, after significant consultation took the difficult decision to close Carlton primary school (2FE) in July 2021, with St Dominic's also reducing its PAN permanently by 0.5FE. The latest 4-year-old GLA SRP 2021 anticipate similar rolls to 2023/24, before falling to 2030/31, lower than previous forecasts. The surplus based on PAN and accounting for agreed changes is anticipated to decrease from 23% in 2020/21, to 7% in 2021/22 before potentially increasing to 21% in 2030/31 equivalent to 2.2FE. The latest GLA SRP 2021 forecasts of 4–10 year-olds over the next decade to 2030/31 are lower than previous forecasts over the whole period. The total surplus is estimated to increase from 26% in 2021/22 to 19% in 2030/31, taking account of the recent reductions that have been agreed.

- **Planning Area 3, Central Camden: PA3 (Table 7C)**

Planning Area 3 comprises of the main east to west central belt of Camden. Demand was historically higher in the western Swiss Cottage ward bordering PA1. Reception school rolls have fallen from the last relative high in 2015/16, and the number of surplus places has increased consequently. Compared to last year's GLA SRP the latest 4-year-old GLA SRP 2021 forecast is slightly higher to 2025/26, falling to a similar level for a few years, before reducing below existing levels through to 2030/31. Surplus based on PAN is forecast to increase from 11% in to 25% in 2030/31, or just over 3FE. The GLA SRP 2021 forecasts of 4–10-year-olds are generally higher to 2028/29, before falling below current levels to 2030/31 when compared to GLA SRP 2020. Total surplus is estimated to increase from 15% in 2021/22 to 25% in 2030/31.

Table 7D combines planning areas 1, 2 and 3. The latest GLA SRP 2021 are lower than previous GLA forecasts to the end of the reporting period in 2030/31, charting a downward trajectory for those aged 4, and aged 4-10 years old. Surplus could rise from current reception 2020/21 of 14% to 27% in 2030/31, or just under 10FE. This combined area contains the over-whelming proportion of surplus school places within the Borough.

- **Planning Area 4, South: PA4 (Table 7E)**

Situated in the south of the borough between central and far southern areas, including Somers Town, King's Cross and St Pancras areas. This area is of highest anticipated development growth in Camden over the next ten years and beyond, developments are included in all GLA forecasts. Reception school rolls have fallen sharply from the last high in 2015/16 by just over 3.3FE. The latest 4-year-old GLA SRP 2021 are lower compared to previous forecasts, with rolls anticipated to remain at similar levels to existing until around the mid-2020s before falling slightly to the end of the reporting period 2030/31. Reception PAN surplus is anticipated to decrease from 21% in 2020/21 to 16% in 2030/31 or 1.5FE. Whilst GLA SRP 2021 forecasts of 4–10-year-olds over the next decade to 2030/31, are lower than the previous GLA forecasts over the whole period and follow a decreasing trend. Surplus based on PAN is estimated to increase slightly from 13 % in 2020/21 to 15% in 2030/31. Caution should be exercised when interpreting PA4 forecasts considering the high

anticipated new development, as developments or phasing can change as plans alter through the planning process.

- **Planning Area 5, South of the Euston Road: PA5 (Table 7F)**

Situated in the far south of the borough, and South of the Euston Road. PA5 has the lowest population of any other Camden planning area. Reception school rolls have fallen by just over 0.7FE from the last relative high in 2016/17, a year later than other areas, and surplus remains high. PA5 saw no 'need' for historic bulge classes, with no change to permanent provision. In response to higher PA5 surplus Argyle has reduced PAN permanently by 0.5FE. The latest 4-year-old GLA SRP 2021 forecast is lower compared to previous forecasts, plotting a downward trajectory to the end of the reporting period in 2030/31. Reception PAN surplus is anticipated to increase from 13% in 2021/22, to 33% in 2030/31 or just over 1.8FE. Latest GLA SRP 2021 forecasts of 4–10-year-olds over the next decade to 2030/31, are lower than the previous GLA forecasts over the whole period and follow a decreasing trend. Total surplus is estimated to increase from 18% in 2020/21 to 34% in 2030/31.

- **Borough PRIMARY (Table 7G)**

Borough reception school rolls have fallen from the last high in 2015/16, with surplus rising and higher to 2020/21, demand for primary school places remains low, with potential added impacts from COVID-19. Over the past ten years before demand dropped, historic bulge classes were provided in PA1 and PA3, with some schools permanently expanded or re-modelled, and new free schools/academy funded by the DfE across the borough. Expansions were provided prior to GLA SRP adjustments mitigating an ONS error first amended by the GLA from 2018 onwards, which coupled with a decreasing actual registered birth trend, led to significant forecast reductions and low numbers of children we see today. Forecasts of 4-year-olds in the latest GLA SRP 2021 are lower compared to previous GLA forecasts, plotting a downward trajectory to the end of the reporting period to 2030/31. Reception PAN surplus fluctuates in response to the agreed PAN reduction measures from 15% in 2020/21, falling to 12% in 2022/23, before rising again to 2030/31 at 25%, equating to 13.3FE. Latest GLA SRP 2021 forecasts of 4–10-year-olds over the next decade to 2030/31 are lower than the previous GLA forecasts over the whole period and follow a decreasing trend. Total surplus is estimated to increase from 2020/21 at 14% to 2030/31 at 25%.

Borough SECONDARY (refer to Appendix C, table 6)

- 5.3.9. Appendix C provides the latest information across the borough for secondary ages. Secondary is behind the curve compared to primary and the very low rolls being experienced, and still within the period of relatively high actual registered births. Secondary school place 'need' was lower than anticipated in GLA forecasts due to an ONS error, although still at relatively high levels compared to existing primary, there were changes to student/parental preferences in some schools over recent years, and there are potential added impacts from COVID-19. In 2020/21 the UCL academy increased PAN by 12 school places per year group, although there was already sufficient secondary capacity available within the borough. Actual year 7 borough school rolls continued a gradual upward trend to 2019/20, with PAN surplus low and reducing

(within target), before rising significantly to 2020/21. In addition, further PAN capacity reductions of 1.5FE by 2022/23 have been approved at Haverstock school to alleviate rising surplus.

- 5.3.10. Latest and fully updated GLA SRP 2021 forecasts for borough secondary are lower compared to the previous forecasts, with surplus capacity anticipated to increase due to falling actual registered births. Forecasts of 11-year-olds in the latest GLA SRP 2021 are lower compared to previous GLA forecasts, plotting a decreasing trajectory over the next decade to 2030/31. Year 7 PAN surplus is estimated to increase from 10% in 2020/21 to 19% in 2030/31 equating to just over 10.6FE of school places. Latest GLA SRP 2021 forecasts of 11-15-year-olds over the next decade to 2030/31, are lower than the previous GLA forecasts over the whole decade and follow a decreasing trend. Secondary total surplus is estimated to increase from 7% in 2021/22 to 15% in 2030/31.
- 5.3.11. The Council will be working with Secondary Schools to share and understand data. The Council and schools will come forward collectively with proposals, where appropriate, to match demand with a sustainable pattern of school provision.
- 5.3.12. Camden is a 'net importer' of pupils from other boroughs at secondary age. More non-Camden borough residents attend Camden schools (2,812), than Camden residents attend out-borough schools (1,936). The GLA SRP for Camden are buoyed by this considerable number of non-residents attracted to our excellent Camden schools.

6. NEIGHBOURING BOROUGH SCHOOL PLACES PLANNING

- 6.1. Understanding potential growth or decline in neighbouring boroughs and assessing possible effects on imports or exports is clearly important for analysis of potential 'need' in Camden. Latest 'pipeline' free school/academy information from DfE was released on 26 July 2021 and is incorporated within each borough summary. Officers requested a school place planning update in spring 2021 following national offer days from surrounding authorities. This return is summarised for Barnet, Brent, Haringey, Islington, and Westminster. Camden maintains a regular dialog with local authority peers to monitor information, this will continue over the next twelve months, including sharing information on housing developments, free schools/academies, school expansions, or closures.

6.2. Barnet

Primary: At reception offer day 2021/22 reduced demand was reported compared to the previous year, there were no unplaced Barnet residents, with just over 14.5FE surplus, PAN formally reduced by just under 2FE at two schools (alternatively used for SEN provision) not near the Camden border. Reception surplus increased to January 2020/21 at 8%.

There are no Barnet primary free school/academy plans announced by DfE as pipeline.

Secondary: At year 7 offer day 2021/22 increased demand was reported compared to the previous year, there were no unplaced Barnet residents, with 1.7FE surplus, PAN reduced by just over 0.2FE. Year 7 surplus increased to January 2020/21 at 4%.

There are no Barnet secondary free school/academy plans announced by DfE as pipeline.

6.3. **Brent**

Primary: At reception offer day 2021/22 reduced demand was reported compared to the previous year, with just over 100 unplaced Brent resident applicants, and approximately 26.8FE surplus, PAN remained unchanged. Reception surplus increased to January 2020/21 at just below 16%.

There are no Brent primary free school/academy plans announced by DfE as pipeline.

Secondary: At year 7 offer day 2021/22 a slightly reduced demand was reported compared to the previous year, with 280 unplaced Brent residents, and just over 6.7FE surplus, PAN reduced by just under -3FE (a mix of permanent and temporary measures). Year 7 surplus increased to January 2020/21 at just below 10%.

Latest Brent secondary free school/academy information from DfE and announced as pipeline, includes: JFS (Brent North). No further information is available.

6.4. **Haringey**

Primary: At reception offer day 2021/22 reduced demand was reported compared to the previous year, with minimal unplaced Haringey resident applicants, and approximately 16.3FE surplus, PAN reduced by approximately -6FE, reductions are not near to the Camden border. Reception surplus was under 9% at January 2020/21.

There are no Haringey primary free school/academy plans announced by DfE as pipeline.

Secondary: At year 7 offer day 2021/22 reduced demand was reported compared to the previous year, with 13 unplaced late Haringey residents, and only 2 vacancies, with no PAN reductions – four schools are though providing bulge classes (one in the planning area bordering above Camden). Year 7 surplus was under 1% at January 2020/21.

There are no Haringey secondary free school/academy plans announced by DfE as pipeline.

6.5. **Islington**

Primary: At reception offer day 2021/22 reduced demand was reported compared to the previous year, with no unplaced Islington resident applicants, and approximately 12.1FE surplus, PAN reduced by approximately 1FE. Reception surplus increased to under 18% at January 2020/21.

There are no Islington primary free school/academy plans announced by DfE as pipeline.

Secondary: At year 7 offer day 2021/22 increased demand was reported compared to the previous year, with no unplaced Islington residents, and 2.6FE surplus, PAN remained unchanged. Year 7 surplus reduced to just above 13% at January 2020/21.

There are no Islington secondary free school/academy plans announced by DfE as pipeline.

6.6. **Westminster**

Primary: At reception offer day 2021/22 reduced demand was reported compared to the previous year, with 30 unplaced Westminster resident applicants, and approximately 14.2FE surplus, PAN reduced by -1.5FE. Reception surplus increased to 22% at January 2020/21.

There are no Westminster primary free school/academy plans announced by DfE as pipeline.

Secondary: At year 7 offer day 2021/22 reduced demand was reported compared to the previous year, with 78 unplaced Westminster residents, and 1.4FE surplus (boys only), PAN remained unchanged. There was no year 7 surplus at January 2020/21, unchanged on the previous year.

There are no Westminster secondary free school/academy plans announced by DfE as pipeline.

7. **INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ESTIMATE**

- 7.1. In Primary, actual Camden residents attending state provision fell over recent years. The estimated primary population educated within the independent sector in 2018/19 was 32%, reducing 31% in 2019/20, with the latest 2020/21 figure standing at 30%. Whilst still a high proportion potentially attending primary independent schools, estimated numbers have reduced in recent years. In Secondary, actual Camden residents attending state provision decreased to 2020/21. The estimated secondary population education with the independent sector in 2018/19 was 34%, reducing to 31% in 2019/20, with the latest 2020/21 rising to 38%. This is a high proportion of pupils potentially attending secondary independent schools, with numbers estimated as increasing especially in the latest year. Estimates should though be treated with caution and can change as underlying base data is updated. We also know that the economic impacts of COVID-19 are yet to be fully felt and that the response to this could materially affect the proportion and take up of private school places.

8. **CONCLUSIONS**

- 8.1. The conclusions from Camden's 2021 comprehensive annual school places planning report and analysis are based on the latest known position to **August 2021**, fully reflective of newly revised underlying data, derived trends, and information since December 2020.
- 8.2. 2020 saw the lowest number of recorded births in Camden in 30 years, with a drop of 24% from 2012 (compared to a 14% drop across London and 13% nationally over the same time period). The forecasts also account for the significant reduced inward and increased outward

migration experienced during the period of COVID restrictions and the continued impact of Brexit. These forecasts assume that these trends will be repeated over the medium term. In short, COVID-19 is modelled as a low population, high outward migration scenario. 2020 however has the potential to be an outlier that comprises both the worst impacts of COVID on urban populations and the Brexit impact on application numbers, which have been particularly acute within Camden's Catholic schools. Officers and the education community need to carefully consider these figures and revise in light of new input data that could alter the future trajectory of new forecasts.

- 8.3. Our borough level data suggests a continued fall in numbers on roll from reception from 2021. For entry into schools in September 2021 Camden resident applicants decreased to 1,538 in 2021/22 compared to 1,619 in 2020/21, non-residents decreased to 450 from 483, impacting overall numbers similarly decreasing to 1,988/2,102. The Council will be monitoring the number of pupils admitted into schools in September 2021 to assess whether it is above this predicted level of the new forecasts. Early indications suggest that entry in 2021 is above the position contained within these forecasts, and it is likely that these will impact upon, and therefore improve figures over the medium term.
- 8.4. The monitoring of school place demand will continue within the borough, linking closely with schools and other colleagues across Camden and other London Boroughs to share and interrogate relevant data. The next decade is anticipated to remain very challenging due to continued falling actual registered births, whilst global, national, and local events evolve further. Reporting in 2022 will see further enhancements incorporating the new Camden 2022 ward boundaries, updated primary planning areas, retrofitted data, and potentially new 2022 GLA forecasts based on newly released 2021 ONS national Census data, depending on release by the ONS. New actual school roll and preference data will also be known that could challenge the assumptions made within the current forecast position.

9. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 9.1. By virtue of sections 13 and 14 of the Education Act 1996, as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places available for the children in the borough. In addition, the Council must increase parental choice. The Council needs to undertake a school roll projection to ensure that there are sufficient school places to meet the need.
- 9.2. The Council must take into account its equality duties when exercising its functions, namely to have 'due regard' to the need to: eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act; to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not; and foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not (which involves tackling prejudice and promoting understanding). Under the Duty the relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation. In respect of the first aim only i.e. reducing discrimination etc, the protected characteristic of

marriage and civil partnership is also relevant. It appears from the report that the Council in undertaking its statutory duty for school planning, acts in accord with its equality's duties.

- 9.3. Although there has been no statutory requirement to publish a School Organisation Plan since 2004, it is considered good practice to produce a plan related to pupil place planning. This will show local communities the present and predicted future pupil numbers on roll, together with information about birth rates, school capacity, and new housing. In addition, the plan sets out the statutory framework for making changes such as opening, closing, or enlarging schools in the Borough.

10. FINANCE COMMENTS

- 10.1. The revenue costs of a school (staffing, running costs) are funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant which is distributed on a formula basis. DSG allocations are on a per pupil basis so the funding received by a school will rise and fall in line with increases or decreases in pupil numbers. National DSG funding allocations have not kept pace with costs which creates a financial pressure for schools. The over supply of school places exacerbates the financial pressures in the school system as no funding is received for vacant places.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: General (with Tables 1-5)

Appendix B: Primary (with Tables 1-7)

Appendix C: Secondary (with Tables 1-6)

Appendix D: Additional (with Figures 1-6)

Appendix E: Latest housing development and estimated child yield

Appendix F: Glossary of school places planning abbreviations, report references

Appendix G: Provides a narrative description and guide for interpreting the forecasts and data provided

Appendix H: Special Educational Needs Analysis

REPORT ENDS