



Cambridgeshire's 0-25 Education Organisation Plan

2023-2024

Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction - What is Cambridgeshire like as a place?	6
1.1 Governance, location and population	6
1.2 Demographic Change	6
1.3 Housing Development.....	7
1.4 Social and Economic Diversity	8
Chapter 2: Early Years and Childcare	13
2.1 What is the national policy?	13
2.2 What are the Council’s responsibilities?	14
2.3 How does the Council manage the quality of provision?	15
2.4 What types of provision are available?	16
2.5 What does take-up look like in Cambridgeshire?	17
2.6 How do we identify pressures in the Early Years and Childcare market?	18
2.7 Where are the current pressures? How are we responding?	19
Cambridge City	20
East Cambridgeshire.....	20
Fenland.....	21
Huntingdonshire.....	21
South Cambridgeshire.....	22
2.8 Useful Links.....	23
Chapter 3: Primary and Secondary Provision	24
3.1 What is the national policy?	24
3.2 What are the Council’s responsibilities?	24
3.3 What types of provision are available?	25
3.4 How do we commission school places?.....	26
3.5 How have the Council responded to pressures experienced within the last two years?	28
Pressures within the primary phase	28
Pressures within the secondary phase	29
3.6 What are the current pressures in the primary phase? How are we responding?	30
East Cambridgeshire.....	32
Huntingdonshire	37
South Cambridgeshire	42
3.9 What are the pressures in the secondary phase? How are we responding?	48
South Cambridgeshire	53
3.10 Useful Links	55
Chapter 4: Post 16 Provision	56

4.1 What is the national policy?	56
4.2 What are the Council’s responsibilities?	56
4.3 What types of provision are available?	56
4.4 How do we identify pressures?	57
Population Forecasts	58
Post-16 Options	58
4.5 How do we commission post-16 places?	58
4.6 What are the pressures? How are we responding?	59
Demand	59
Cambridge Area (Cambridge City, East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire)	61
Fenland	64
Huntingdonshire	65
4.7 Useful Links	67
Chapter 5: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)	68
5.1 What is the national policy?	68
5.2 What are the Council’s responsibilities?	68
5.3 What types of provision are available?	69
5.5 How has this changed over time?	70
<i>National Statistics: Special educational needs in England (DfE)</i>	71
5.7 What are the pressures? How are we responding?	71
5.8 The Safety Valve Agreement	72
5.9 Developing capacity	72
East Cambridgeshire	72
Fenland	72
Greater Cambridgeshire (Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire)	73
Huntingdonshire	74
5.10 Useful Links	74
Appendix A: Demographic Forecast Methodology	76
A.1 Analysis of data	76
A.2 Early Years and Childcare	76
A.3 Primary and Secondary Provision	76
A.4 Local Population Forecasts and Estimates	78
A.5 New communities	79
Appendix B: School Capacity Forecast Methodology	81
B.1 Statutory requirements	81
B.2 Sources of data	81

B.3 Processing the data	81
B.4 Quality Assurance	82
B.5 Other Factors	82
B.6 Forecasting model changes	83
Appendix C: School Planning Areas	84
Appendix D: Capital Funding	90
D.1 Capital Programme	90
D.2 Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)	90
D.3 Developer Contributions	91

Cambridgeshire is facing a period of significant housing growth with the prospect of around 48,000 new homes planned in total across its five districts by 2031. This means there continues to be high demand for education places.

The Council's absolute priority is that children and young people achieve the best outcomes possible and go on to succeed in further learning and in work. Crucial to this is the way that we work with early years and childcare providers, schools and partners to plan and deliver high quality establishments in which to learn.

The Council has a proven track record of working with a wide range of education providers to commission sufficient places to meet the needs of Cambridgeshire's children and young people and remains committed to continuing this approach into the future. The Education Organisation Plan considers education provision in Cambridgeshire across the whole 0 – 19 age range, and up to the age of 25 for children with special educational needs and/or disability (SEND).

We are delighted to present this Education Organisation Plan to you and would welcome your continued engagement with it.

Please note:

The information contained in this document was correct on the date of publication. Please be aware that it is not intended for use as part of Section 106 negotiations.

If you would like any further information or would like to discuss any part of the Education Organisation Plan in detail, please contact:

Ian Trafford

Education Place Planning Service, Box ALC2607, New Shire Hall, Emery Crescent, Enterprise Campus, Alconbury Weald, Huntingdon, PE28 4YE

Email: placeplanningreferrals0-19@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Chapter 1: Introduction - What is Cambridgeshire like as a place?

1.1 Governance, location and population

Cambridgeshire County Council (the Council) has several statutory duties with regard to the sufficiency, diversity and planning of places for early years, school-aged children (including special schools) and post-16 education and training provision, which are outlined in the relevant chapters below.

The Council continues to work with five District Councils: Cambridge City, East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire, and South Cambridgeshire. The Council's various Committees determine its policies and operational priorities. However, some decisions, including setting the revenue and capital budgets for Council services, are reserved for full Council.

At Census 2021, the population of Cambridgeshire was 678,600 residents. This represents a growth of 22.8% since Census 2001, with 9.2% population growth between Census 2011 and Census 2021. Cambridge, which has national and global importance as a centre of learning and research, has seen population growth of 17.6% between Census 2011 and Census 2021, making it one of the fastest growing local authorities in England. Approximately 21% of Cambridgeshire's population live in Cambridge. The other four districts, which are largely rural and have population centres focused around several market towns and the City of Ely, have seen population growth of between 4.7% and 8.9% between Census 2011 and Census 2021.

1.2 Demographic Change

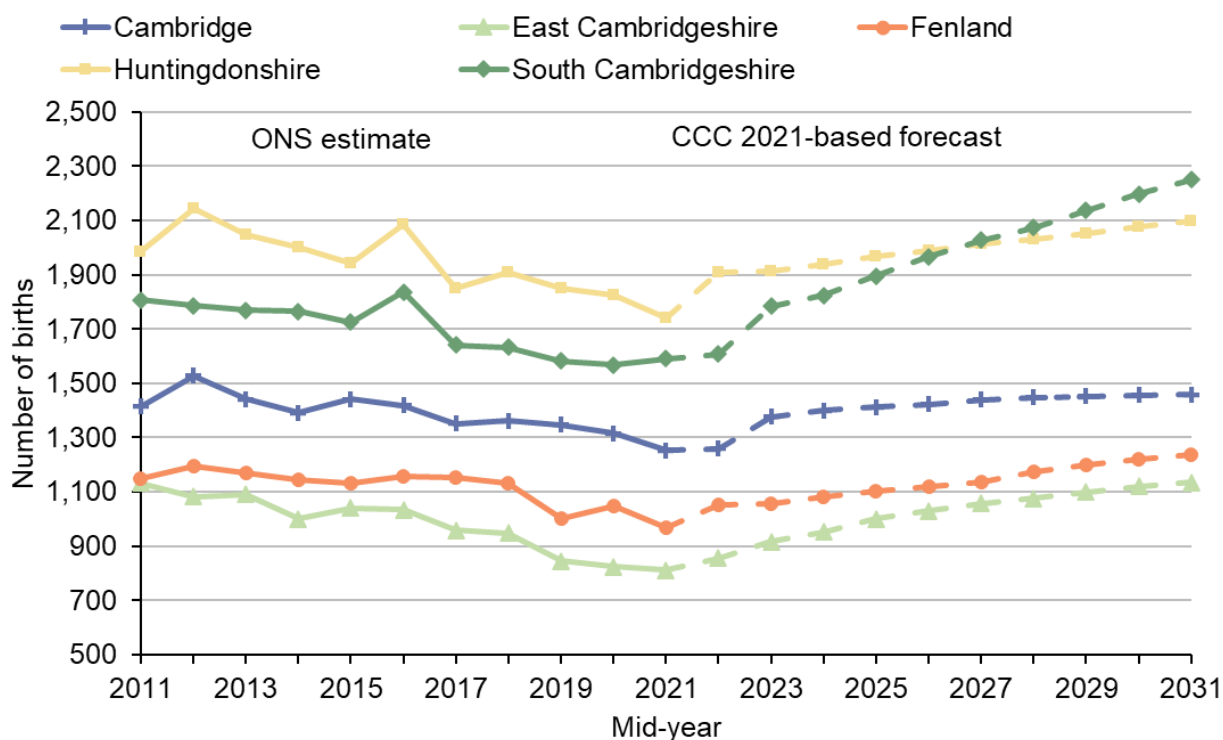
Using birth rates and the actual number of births per year in each district, as well as a forecast of future birth numbers, helps to provide an overview of the demand for early years and childcare and school places. In line with the underlying national trend, there has been a general decrease in birth rates (the number of live births per 1,000 population of all ages) across Cambridgeshire since 2016.

Census 2021 population data has further demonstrated this more recent trend in decreasing birth rates and numbers of births. The population aged 0-4 years in Cambridgeshire fell by 6.3% between Census 2011 and Census 2021, from 36,800 to 34,500. In the same period, the population aged 5-14 years has increased by 13.1%, from 68,500 to 77,500 which is a result of the higher births seen before 2016 ageing on.

The graph below shows the number of births per year by district between 2011 and 2021, along with the Council's 2021-based forecast of number of births per year from 2022 to 2031. After sustained growth in the total number of births between 2009 and 2012, annual numbers of births have fallen to 2021, although there are some year-on-year fluctuations to this trend. Overall, the number of births across Cambridgeshire was broadly stable between 2014 and 2015, increased between 2015 and 2016, and has overall tracked downwards between 2016 and 2021. There were almost 6,400 total births in 2021, compared to the peak of 7,700 births in 2012.

The Council’s 2021-based forecast of births takes into account planned housing development as at the time the forecasts were produced. Local district authorities’ expected levels of net housing completions (as published 2022) contribute to overall forecasts of very gradually rising numbers of births over the forecast period.

Figure 1: Estimated number of births in Cambridgeshire from 2011 to 2021, and CCC 2021-based births forecast from 2022 to 2031



Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS) Mid-Year Estimates (2011-2021), Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) Policy and Insight team’s 2021-based population forecasts (July 2023)

1.3 Housing Development

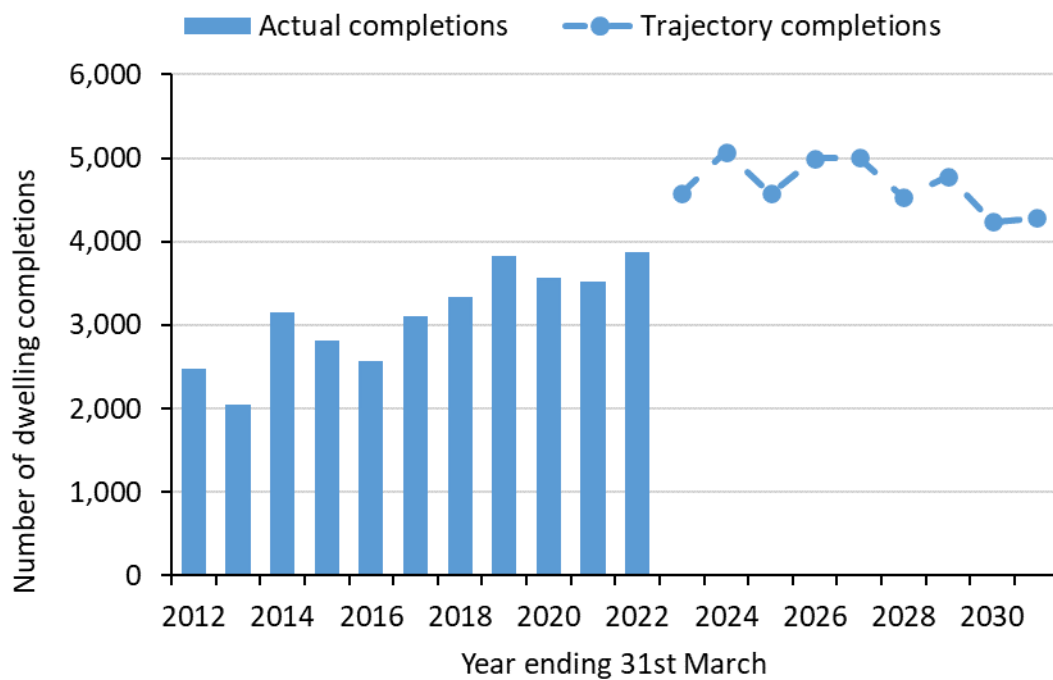
Cambridgeshire is facing a period of significant new housing development, with the prospect of around 48,000 new homes in total across its five districts between 2021 and 2031. The largest developments include Northstowe, a new town to the north of Cambridge, and Waterbeach New Town, with a total of 10,000 and 11,000 homes respectively when they are complete. Alconbury Weald will eventually provide 6500 new homes. The district councils’ development plans include many other sites with over 600 homes. The majority of these will require their own new schools and early years and childcare facilities.

Annual house building completion rates significantly increased in Cambridgeshire between 2016 and 2019, including more than 1,100 new dwellings completed in Cambridge City alone in both 2017 and 2018. The number of completions decreased slightly in 2020 and 2021, but then in 2022 have increased above the peak seen in 2019. Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire have seen high completion rates. Between 2019 and 2022 there were more than 1,000 new dwellings built each year in Huntingdonshire, while in South Cambridgeshire there were also more than 1,000 dwellings completed each year, rising to a peak of 1,300

completions in 2021. The graph below shows net housing completions between 2011 and 2022 and forecast completions from 2023 to 2031.

In the current market environment, where rising interest rates and indications of declining prices are beginning to emerge, completions will need to be kept under review.

Figure 2: Net housing completions from 2012 to 2022 and trajectory completions from 2023 to 2031



Source: Cambridgeshire County Council’s Policy and Insight team’s housing completions 2012 to 2022 and East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and Greater Cambridge Shared Planning five year housing land supply reports.

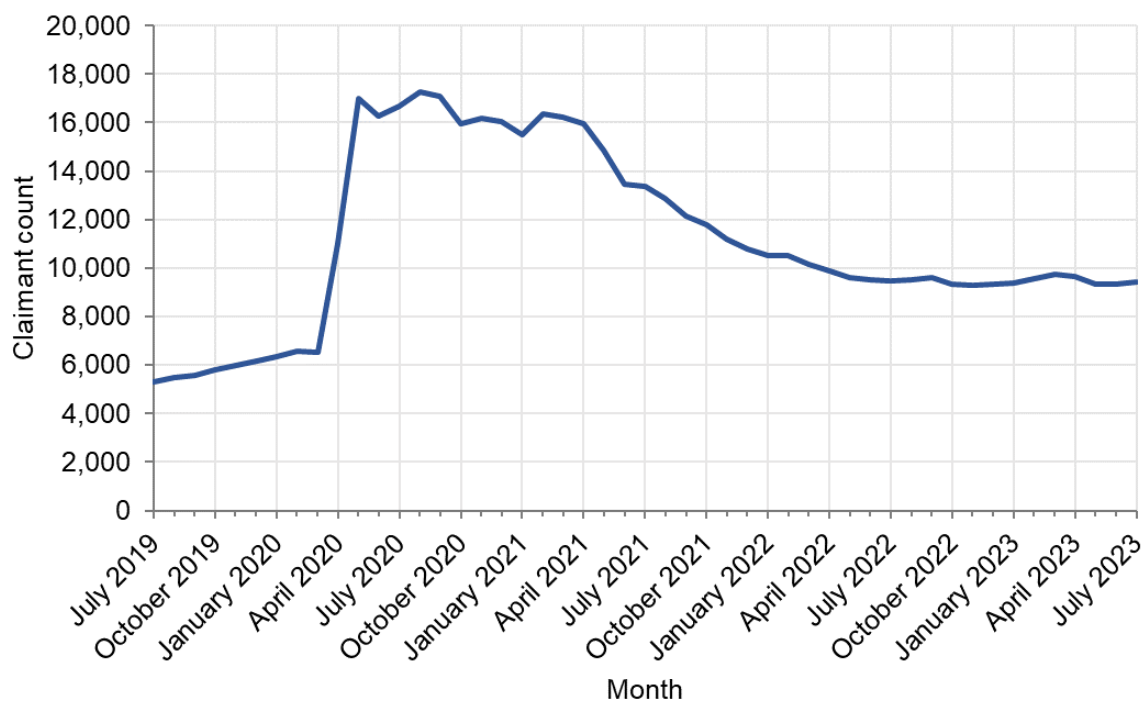
1.4 Social and Economic Diversity

Cambridgeshire is generally regarded as being a wealthy and prosperous county. It has historically had a higher proportion of the working age population being economically active compared to the UK average. However, the COVID-19 pandemic, the following period of high inflation and the cost-of-living crisis mean the area, like the wider UK, has faced a period of economic disruption and uncertainty. The UK annual rate of inflation peaked at 11.1% in October 2022 and has since reduced to 7.9% as of June 2023. This is still almost 4 times higher than the Bank of England inflation target of 2.0%.

High-quality education is of central importance in improving the outcomes of all children and young people. Within the county there are areas which have higher levels of deprivation, most notably to the north of Fenland, but also in parts of Huntingdon and Cambridge, as shown in the 2019 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), mapped below. The IMD 2019 measures relative deprivation for small area geographies called Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in England (LSOAs have a minimum population of 1,000 and the mean is 1,500. There is a total of 32,844 LSOAs nationally).

However, IMD 2019 was published before both the COVID-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis, and an update to the IMD is not currently expected until 2025. Cambridgeshire’s claimant count unemployment rate (the number of people claiming Jobseeker’s Allowance plus those who claim Universal Credit and are required to seek and be available for work) more than doubled between March and May 2020. It peaked in August 2020 and has trended downwards since then, however as of July 2023 Cambridgeshire’s claimant count is still above pre-pandemic levels. There has also been an increase in pupils eligible for free school meals, from 10,476 pupils in Spring 2019 to 18,764 in Spring 2023, a 79.1% increase. This now represents 20.5% of all pupils attending state-funded schools in Cambridgeshire, compared to 12.1% in Spring 2019.

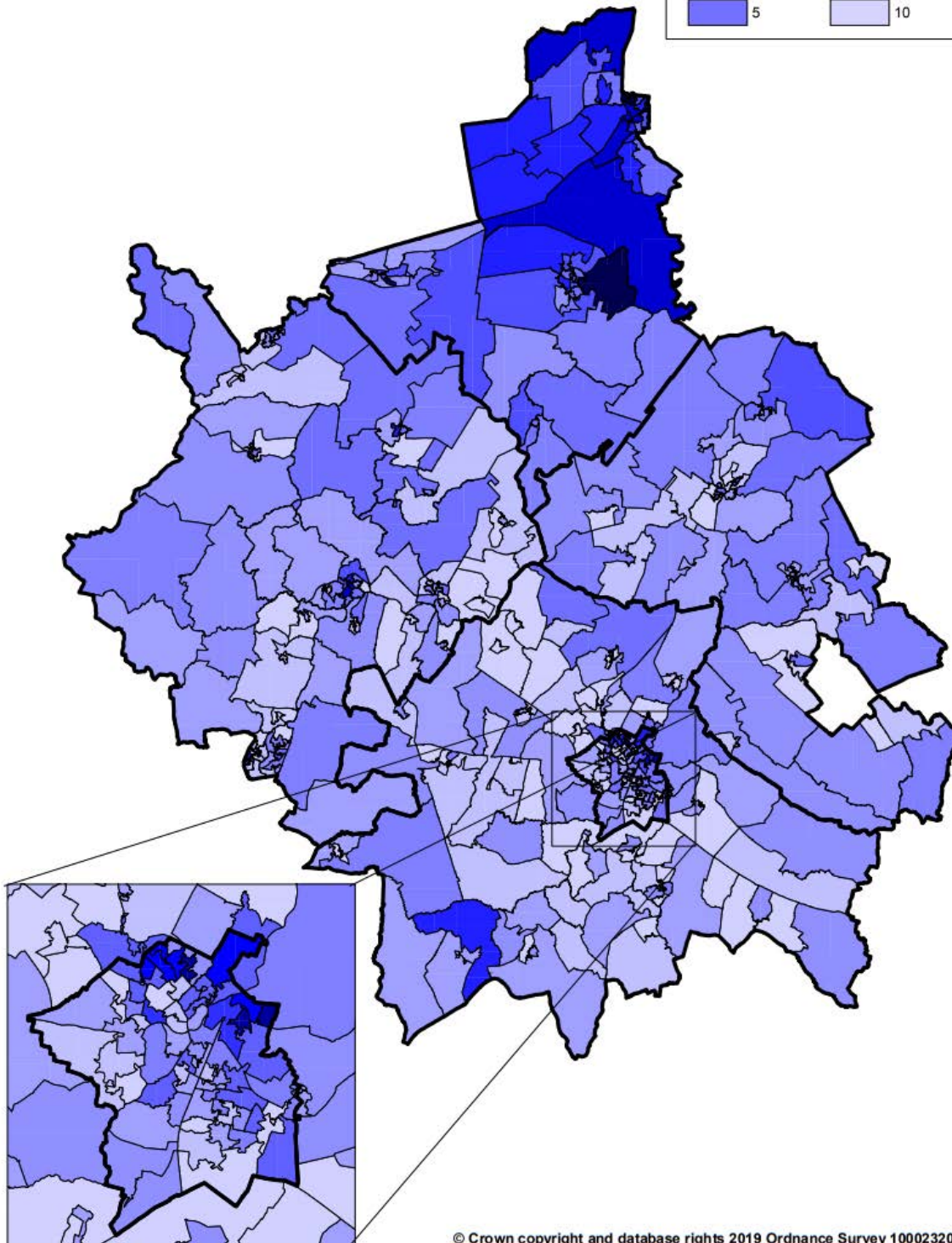
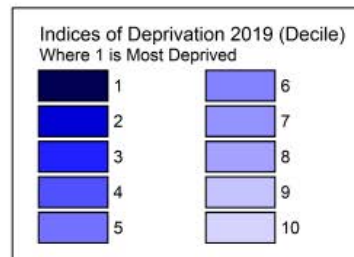
Figure 3: Claimant count for Cambridgeshire by month, July 2019 to July 2023



Source: Office for National Statistics

Figure 4: Economic and social deprivation in Cambridgeshire as measured by the IMD 2019

**Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019:
National Decile for Overall Deprivation by
Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)**



© Crown copyright and database rights 2019 Ordnance Survey 100023205

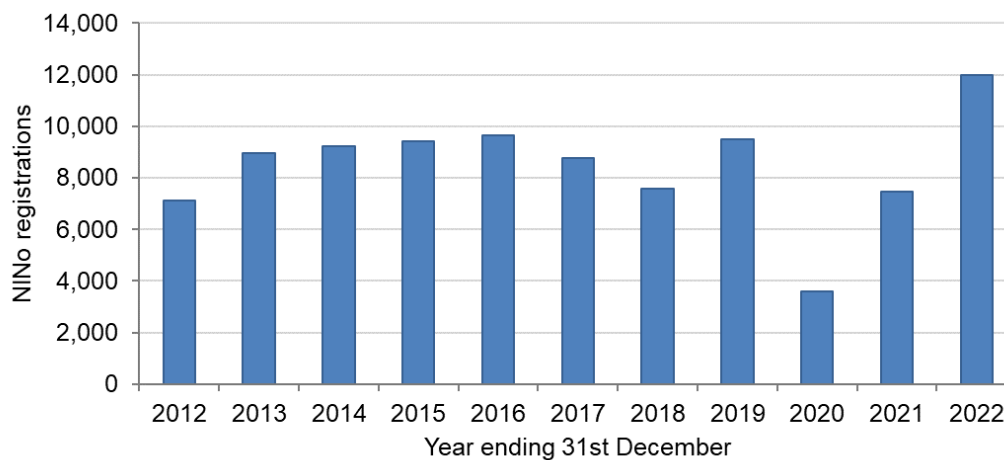
Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

The population of Cambridgeshire is predominantly White-British, with 77.2% of the population identifying as “White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British” at Census 2021. However, Cambridge City is below the Cambridgeshire average with 53.0% of the population identifying as this ethnic group. The increased ethnic diversity in Cambridge City can be linked to the number of students, academics, and workers within the high-tech industries. In rural parts of the county, especially in the north, the economy is focused largely on agriculture and associated industries. Early years and childcare providers and schools in these areas are often subject to seasonal changes to their pupil populations. These areas have attracted migrants from Eastern Europe, although Brexit has had an impact on this in more recent years.

All people coming to the UK and who take up employment for the first time must obtain a National Insurance Number (NINo). Changes in the number of NINo registrations by migrant workers indicate that Cambridgeshire experienced a more delayed response to Brexit compared to trends seen across the wider UK. Cambridgeshire recorded a sustained increase in NINo registrations from 2012 to 2016. All the Cambridgeshire districts subsequently saw a reduction in NINo registrations in 2017 and 2018, largely caused by a fall in registrations from EU workers. The sharpest reductions came in 2018, a year later than seen across the UK generally. In 2019 there was a marginal increase in migrant worker NINo registrations, however in 2020 there was a large decrease in registrations across all districts. This was most likely caused by the international travel restrictions introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the temporary disruption to processing NINo registrations. 2021 saw a significant recovery in NINo registrations to just below the number seen in 2018, and there has then been a record number of registrations for 2022 at almost 12,000.

The increase in NINo registrations since 2020 has mainly been driven by registrations from non-EU workers, with fewer registrations from EU workers compared to the historic trend. This pattern of increased migration since the COVID-19 pandemic will require close monitoring because of the relationship between migration, population growth and the demand for school places. South Cambridgeshire district in particular has experienced a relatively high influx of families from Ukraine, which has put pressure on the roll at some schools.

Figure 5: Number of NINo registrations in Cambridgeshire by year ending 31st December 2012 to 2022



Source: Department for Work and Pensions

The county has one of the largest Traveller populations in the country. Schools near Traveller sites can also experience similar fluctuations in pupil populations to those described above.

Another aspect of Cambridgeshire's diversity is the historic presence of several military bases. The relationship between these and the early years and childcare providers and schools in the local area may result in large reductions or increases in pupil numbers with little advance warning. For example, the re-opening of Bassingbourn Barracks has seen a number of service families move into the area. Meanwhile, the closures of Brampton and Waterbeach barracks resulted in reductions in the number of children on roll at early years and childcare settings and schools in these areas. These effects are now beginning to be reversed with housing development starting to take place on these former military bases.

Chapter 2: Early Years and Childcare

2.1 What is the national policy?

Childcare Act (2006)

The Childcare Act (2006) places a duty on local authorities (LAs) to secure sufficient and suitable quality early education and childcare places to enable parents to work or to undertake education or training which could lead to employment. The Education Act (2011) extended this to include an entitlement of 570 hours of free early education per year for eligible two-year olds, starting the term following their second birthday. This was in addition to the 570 hours of free early education already in place for all three and four-year olds, in the term following their third birthday. This is usually taken as 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year, but it is flexible. Some parents may choose to take fewer hours over more weeks, for example.

Whilst LAs are not expected to provide childcare directly, they are expected to work with local private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector providers to meet local need. Where this cannot be achieved, the LA is required to secure places and, if necessary, manage provision directly as provider of last resort.

The Act also includes the requirement for providers to apply for registration on the Early Years Register and/or The Childcare Register and comply with the associated regulations applicable to all providers.

Childcare Act (2016)

The Childcare Act (2016) extended the previous entitlement and since September 2017, children aged three and four from working families have been entitled to an additional 570 hours (equivalent to 15 hours per week, 38 weeks per year) of free childcare, subject to their parents meeting the following eligibility criteria:

- Both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family)
- Each parent earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage and less than £100,000 per year

The overall entitlement for families meeting these criteria is now 30 hours of free childcare per week (per week 38 weeks per year).

Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to five years old. All schools and early years providers registered with The Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) must follow the framework, including childminders, preschools, nurseries, and school reception classes.

Extension to entitlements

In the 2023 Spring Budget, central government announced an increase in the childcare support offered to parents, to be rolled out in stages over the next two years as follows:

- From April 2024, all working parents of 2-year-olds can access 570 hours per year of funded childcare (15 hours per week)
- From September 2024, all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3 years old can access 570 hours per year of funded childcare (15 hours per week)
- From September 2025 all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3 years olds can access an additional 570 hours per year of funded childcare (30 hours per week)

Further guidance on the implementation of these measures is anticipated.

2.2 What are the Council's responsibilities?

- To ensure sufficient and suitable quality early education and childcare places to enable parents to work, or to undertake education or training which could lead to employment
- To secure sufficient and suitable early years and childcare places to meet predicted demand
- To secure free early years provision for all three and four-year olds, and the 40% most vulnerable two-year olds, of 570 hours per year and an additional 570 hours for those eligible to the extended entitlement. To provide information, advice and assistance to parents and prospective parents on the provision of childcare in their area and other services which may be of benefit to parents, prospective parents or children and young people in their area
- To provide information, advice and training to childcare providers to improve early years outcomes

The Council, in line with Department for Education (DfE) guidance, requires that eligible two, three and four-year-olds can access their free early education entitlement with registered early years and childcare providers (including early years registered childminders) that are newly registered and/or achieve an Ofsted grading of good or outstanding¹. Quality of provision is a criterion for consideration where schools directly manage provision, either through lowering their age range or community powers (section 27), or, in the case of academies, the trust's charitable objectives. The Council would not support a school to set up or take over early years provision if the school has received a 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate' Ofsted rating, or where early years' leadership capacity is limited.

¹ Relates to Section A3 of the Early Education and Childcare guidance (2018), see section 2.7 below.

2.3 How does the Council manage the quality of provision?

Ofsted is the arbiter of quality through its inspection framework, but the Council will, as part of its assessment of the childcare market, identify where improvements to quality could be made as part of any identified market development priorities. The Council will not support the development of any new provision, of any governance type, in an area where there is evidenced capacity to improve in a setting with a 'Requires Improvement' judgement, or where 'Good' or 'Outstanding' provision is currently meeting the needs of local families.

Cambridgeshire's Early Childhood Qualifications Centre offers support and guidance to provide informed choices for careers in early childhood. This includes an 'Exploring Early Childhood Careers' course which provides information to inform adults considering careers in early childhood. There are two pathways; the first which supports those seeking work and entering the workforce, and the other focused on practitioners wishing to pursue professional recognition.

The Early Years and Childcare Training Centre are a NCFE/Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education (CACHE) registered provider delivering accredited qualifications to practitioners in the workforce to gain recognised 'full and relevant' qualifications for working in Early Childhood Careers. It reaches out to learners who are currently working in the setting to enhance their skills and knowledge in the workplace. Qualifications through the Training Centre are funded in partnership with Cambridgeshire Skills allowing practitioners to upskill without having to take out learner loans. In partnership with the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years (PACEY), people considering becoming a childminder are offered training, recruitment and continuous professional development once they have become registered childminders.

The Early Years' Service produce an annual Professional Development Programme to meet current national and local agenda to ensure practitioners have current and up-to-date knowledge and skills to embed into their practice ensuring the best start in life for children in Cambridgeshire. The programme is updated termly with additional courses ranging from basic to intermediate training covering subjects required for mandatory and non-mandatory EYFS requirements.

The programme also provides opportunities for practitioners wishing to specialise in particular subjects to gain an accredited qualification in roles such as Designated Person for Special Educational Needs, Designated Person for Child Protection/ Safeguarding, Speech, language and communication and Designated Person for Equalities.

It is the Council's priority to develop the early childhood workforce to support children to improve in all areas of attainment with a focus on communication, language and literacy scores at the end of reception. The Best Start in Life Strategy (2019) outlines the Council's and

its partners' strategic intentions to keep our youngest children safe and healthy, to develop confidence and to promote an aptitude for lifelong learning.

The Council provides intensive support to currently registered early years and childcare providers at the point of registration, and if they receive an Ofsted judgement of 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate', or if there are evidenced concerns about quality of provision. Following the inspection or an intervention, a risk assessment is completed by the Council, which includes consideration of whether to continue funding early years places. This is regularly monitored and reviewed throughout the intervention process. The Council's position is that no new funded two-year olds should access their early years entitlement at a provider graded 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate'. Where parents insist that they wish to access three- and four-year-old entitlement from a provider who has received a 'Requires Improvement' judgement, the provider will be required to work intensively with the Council to improve practice and show that it has the leadership capacity to improve within a required timescale.

In certain circumstances, it may be necessary to withdraw all government funding, e.g., where an Ofsted report or Welfare Requirements Notice highlights concerns, or where the Council identifies concerns regarding safeguarding, equalities or Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) that cannot be mitigated. In these circumstances, the Council will gather the relevant sufficiency data to identify settings and childminders with available places, and will provide information, advice and assistance to parents and carers.

When required, designated officers from the Early Years' Service will liaise with the regulator and other agencies to share relevant and proportionate information.

2.4 What types of provision are available?

In Cambridgeshire, there are a total of 906 Early Years and Childcare providers who offer places for children from birth upwards. The variety of provision is shown in Figure 6.

Figure 6: Early Years and Childcare in Cambridgeshire as of May 2023

The Council supports registered providers to have regard to the SEND Code of Practice and provides a wide range of training, including annual courses for Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs). Specialist officers will work with providers to develop exemplary inclusive practice, and to ensure that all children have the support they need to access a quality early years' experience.

All providers within Cambridgeshire should have clear admissions policies that provide equality of opportunity and develop a working ethos that has regard for the Disability Discrimination Act (1995) and the Equalities Act (2010).

2.5 What does take-up look like in Cambridgeshire?

The table below shows that the number of 3- and 4-year-old children accessing a funded early education place in Cambridgeshire is slightly above, or in line with, the national average. It also shows that the number of 2-year-olds accessing a funded early education place in Cambridgeshire is equal to the national level. Before this the number of 2-year-olds accessing a funded place in Cambridgeshire has been below the national and East of England averages for the last five years.

The cohort of children accessing free early education entitlement increases throughout the academic year, peaking in the summer funding period before falling in autumn when children leave early years provision and take up a school place in reception. Development of early years and childcare places is a delicate balance between ensuring sufficient places are available in the summer and that provision remains sustainable in quieter autumn funding periods.

Education provision: children under 5 years of age (DfE, 06 July 2023)²

Percentage of 2-year-old eligible children benefiting from universal places

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cambridgeshire	79%	68%	67%	65%	59%	68%	74%
East of England	73%	70%	69%	71%	64%	74%	76%
England	71%	72%	68%	69%	62%	72%	74%

Percentage of 3-year-old eligible children benefiting from universal places

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cambridgeshire	96%	94%	94%	91%	90%	93%	98%
East of England	93%	94%	93%	92%	87%	93%	96%
England	93%	92%	92%	91%	87%	90%	92%

Percentage of 4-year-old eligible children benefiting from universal places

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cambridgeshire	96%	95%	94%	96%	91%	94%	96%
East of England	95%	95%	96%	95%	93%	95%	97%
England	95%	95%	95%	95%	93%	94%	95%

2.6 How do we identify pressures in the Early Years and Childcare market?

The early years and childcare market is continually monitored and reviewed to ensure that there are sufficient places for all children whose parents would like one. This ensures that the Council can identify where potential pressures may arise and respond accordingly.

In assessing where more capacity in the childcare market is required, consideration is given to:

- occupancy levels and capacity within existing provision
- child population using NHS data
- eligible population, by area
- housing development
- quality of provision

The Council also publishes both a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and Market Position Statement which set out the priorities for the development of early years and childcare provision across the county. Through these, all providers, regardless of their governance model (e.g., childminder, private, voluntary, independent, school or academy), are invited to expand or develop new early years and childcare provision to meet the identified pressures.

² [Education provision: children under 5 years of age, Reporting year 2023 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/explore-education-statistics)

The Council is aware of the importance of settings implementing a successful business model from opening and, therefore, works with new providers through the pre-opening process. The Council also looks to facilitate the expansion of provision which has been rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted to meet demand.

2.7 Where are the current pressures? How are we responding?

The information below sets out the early years and childcare places that are already in development or planned but have not yet opened. This includes the following types of provision:

- Those which are currently being commissioned by the Council to run from its own premises
- Those on the site of new schools
- Expansion of existing early years settings
- Those planned due to a lowering of school age range
- Those operating under Section 27 community powers
- Other new, privately, voluntary or independently run settings of which the Council has been informed

Following its approval by elected members (Councillors) in January 2016, it has been Council policy to build new schools with space for early years facilities on site. This can help to ensure sufficient places exist for the earliest occupants of a development and help to alleviate the pressure on existing settings. The timing at which the facility is required will be dependent upon the level of demand in the local area to avoid creating surplus capacity. The Council is therefore committed to working in partnership with new schools to ensure that the facilities are delivered in the best interests of the whole community. The Council will not support the development of new EY places immediately if there is no requirement and other providers are meeting local need.

The Council introduced a Pseudo Dynamic Purchasing System (PDPS) in July 2022, and providers who are interested in running early years and childcare from Council-owned premises are welcome to join. In order to join, providers must complete an application form which will be assessed by an officer panel with a breadth of expertise in place planning and sufficiency, early years and procurement. Those who are successful in joining the PDPS will then be made aware of opportunities as they arise. Childcare providers who are not on the PDPS because they have been unsuccessful or have not applied, will not be able to apply for any of these opportunities, even if they are already offering the service from the location in question. The application window will re-open annually in the summer term. The next round is expected to open in the Spring Term 2024.

Cambridge City

Cambridge City (North)

What are the current pressures?

The demand for early years and childcare provision is high. For this reason, the sufficiency information is kept under continuous review. The Council is currently aware of the need for additional full day care, and in particular the need to provide more places for children under the age of two.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

Darwin Green is a housing-led mixed-use development on the northern edge of Cambridge including land in both South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City. The site has outline planning permission for up to 2,593 dwellings, community facilities, retail units and two primary schools. In line with Council policy, the primary school sites will include facilities for early years and childcare. Planning consent for the first primary school has been secured by the Council and whilst the timing for its opening is being kept under review, it is anticipated that it will not be required before 2025/26.

Cambridge City (South)

What are the current pressures?

In recent years, there has been a pressure on early years and childcare places around Trumpington. The Council continues to work with providers to address such issues.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

Marleigh is a strategic site situated to the north of Newmarket Road. Outline planning permission was granted in 2016 for up to 1,300 homes, as well as community facilities including a nursery and primary school. The school, run by Anglian Learning Trust, opened in September 2022, and includes a 52-place nursery for children aged 3 and 4 years. In addition to the nursery, a full range of childcare, including full day care, sessional provision and wrap around care, will be required to meet the needs of children and their families who move into this housing development. There is also a private nursery offering full day care for children aged 3 months to 5 years, which opened in August 2022.

East Cambridgeshire

What are the current pressures?

None.

What are the requirements for major new housing developments?

Significant growth is planned in both Soham and Littleport. An expansion of early years provision at Millfield Primary School is planned and is due for completion by September 2024. In addition, an expansion of the early years and primary accommodation at The Shade Primary

School is planned but will not take place until the number of in-catchment pupils increases to warrant this, to ensure minimal impact on surrounding settings and schools.

Fenland

What are the current pressures?

There is a significant level of housing growth within the village of Manea. As a result, the demand for early years and childcare is expected to increase. An expansion of Manea Primary School, to include facilities for early years and childcare, is due to be completed in September 2024 which will enable the school to increase its early years and childcare offer by a further 13 places.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

The potential for future growth in March is identified in the Fenland Local Plan with additional housing identified in the south, south-west and southeast of the town. This is likely to require the provision of new primary schools, which will be built with early years and childcare facilities on site. Pre-application discussions have begun with the developers of the March West site (approximately 1,200 new dwellings), but the other sites are some way from coming forward.

Huntingdonshire

What are the current pressures?

The sufficiency information for Huntingdon continues to be monitored carefully. As with other areas in the county, issues with recruitment and retention have meant that some settings have had to operate with a reduced capacity, and others have closed.

A nursery class is due to open in January 2024 at Stilton C of E Primary Academy. This will ensure more families in the local area have access to sessional provision.

Further provision, including both full day care and sessional provision is required in Ramsey. The Council would be particularly keen to secure the full range of funded childcare entitlements, including childcare for funded two-year olds.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

There are several large developments planned within the district, including Alconbury Weald and the St Neots Eastern Expansion, at Loves Farm 2 and Wintringham Park. In response, new schools are planned to serve these new communities, all of which will include early years and childcare provision.

In addition to this, a full range of childcare, including full day care, sessional provision and wrap around care, will be required to meet the needs of children and their families who move

into these developments. As part of the Section 106 (S106) agreement, sites on these developments have been secured from which the sector can provide full day care provision. These business opportunities are likely to be advertised directly by the developer.

South Cambridgeshire

What are the current pressures?

There are new housing developments in Sawston which are likely to increase the demand for childcare places in the village. Current settings within the village are already operating close to capacity. Additional provision in the immediate area would therefore be of benefit.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

There are several large developments planned within the district including Northstowe and Waterbeach New Town.

The demand for early years and childcare provision in Northstowe is high. There is currently only one setting offering sessional provision within the town. In line with Council policy, all new schools built to serve the development will include facilities for early years and childcare with the next primary school scheduled to open in September 2024. Further provision is needed in the short and medium term, particularly for full day care and childminders who can offer flexible hours. A task group has been set up with a focus on recruitment of childminders and other Early Years staff, with Northstowe identified as a priority.

The first homes are being built on Waterbeach New Town. As with Northstowe, new primary schools in Waterbeach New Town will be built with accommodation for early years and childcare provision. The first primary school was planned to open in September 2024 but is delayed. However, a full range of childcare, including full day care, sessional provision and wrap around care, will also be required to meet the needs of children and their families who move into this development.

Bourn Airfield and Cambourne West are two sizeable developments adjacent to the existing village of Cambourne. The first homes on Cambourne West are now occupied, and construction on Bourn Airfield is expected within the next few years. Both developments will have primary schools built with provision for early years and childcare. In addition, a full range of childcare will also be required.

2.8 Useful Links

[Cambridgeshire's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment May 2023](#)

[Cambridgeshire County Council Capital Programme: Business Plan](#)

[Cambridgeshire County Council Early Years & Childcare Market Position Statement](#)

[Childcare Act \(2006\)](#)

[Childcare Act \(2016\)](#)

[Childcare Choices](#)

[Disability Discrimination Act \(1995\)](#)

[Early Years: Business Support](#)

[Early Years Foundation Stage Framework](#)

[Equalities Act \(2010\)](#)

[Extended entitlement \(30 hours\) childcare for working parents](#)

[Family Information Directory \(Cambridgeshire Directory of Services: Childcare\)](#)

[Learn Together – Cambridgeshire: Portal for Early Years Providers](#)

[Ofsted](#)

[Pseudo Dynamic Purchasing System](#)

[Universal entitlement to free childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds](#)

Chapter 3: Primary and Secondary Provision

3.1 What is the national policy?

Education Act (1996)

Section 14 of The Education Act (1996) places LAs under a general duty to provide a school place for every child living in their area of responsibility who is of statutory school age and whose parents want their child educated in the state-funded sector.

Education and Inspections Act (2006)

The Education and Inspections Act (2006) made LAs commissioners, rather than providers, of new schools. This legislation also places additional duties on LAs to ensure fair access to educational opportunity, to promote choice for parents and to secure diversity in the provision of schools. In addition to this, the Act places an explicit duty on LAs for the first time to respond formally to parents seeking changes to the provision of schools in their area, including new schools.

Academies Act (2010)

The Academies Act (2010) made it possible for all publicly funded schools in England to acquire Academy Status, including special schools. Becoming an academy provides schools with increased autonomy over their curriculum, budget and staffing.

Education Act (2011)

The Education Act (2011) changed the arrangements for the establishment of new schools by introducing a presumption that when LAs set up new schools, they will be academies (including free schools). It also made changes to the legislation relating to school land, to increase the Secretary of State's ability to make land available for free schools.

3.2 What are the Council's responsibilities?

The Council continues to respond positively to the changes in national policy direction, working closely with existing and potential education providers and the Regional School's Commissioner (RSC) to promote diversity, choice and quality in education provision across the County.

The Council is committed to working in partnership with all education providers, regardless of status. In its role as a champion for children, young people and their families, the Council continues to provide advice, guidance and support to:

- promote educational development and school improvement
- challenge the lowest performing schools to deliver improved outcomes
- enable early years and childcare provision and reception classes to be supported as one foundation stage and work together to secure good early years outcomes

The Council also acts as a critical friend, raising concerns over educational performance and outcomes directly with schools. Where these are not addressed by the school's leadership and governors, the Council will request that Ofsted undertakes an inspection.

The Council believes that all education provision should be inclusive, attractive and welcoming, whilst promoting safeguarding. It should also enable children, young people and their families to access a range of support, advice and positive activities which includes transport assistance beyond the statutory walking distances and in cases where there is not an available walking route to and from their designated school.

Breakfast/After School and Holiday Clubs

Breakfast Clubs, After School Clubs and Holiday Clubs also play an important role in ensuring that sufficient childcare is available outside of school hours. The Council therefore monitors the availability of provision to ensure that sufficient places are accessible for parents who want them. Where there is a need for additional places which cannot be met by existing providers, this will be noted in the LA's Market Position Statement.

In the 2023 Spring Budget, central government announced that local authorities and schools will be given more funding for wraparound care, so that parents of school-age children can access childcare in their local area from 8am – 6pm. This could include provision of activities that fall outside of school hours, via breakfast clubs and after-school clubs. By September 2026, is expected that most primary schools will be able to provide their own before and after school care.

The Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme

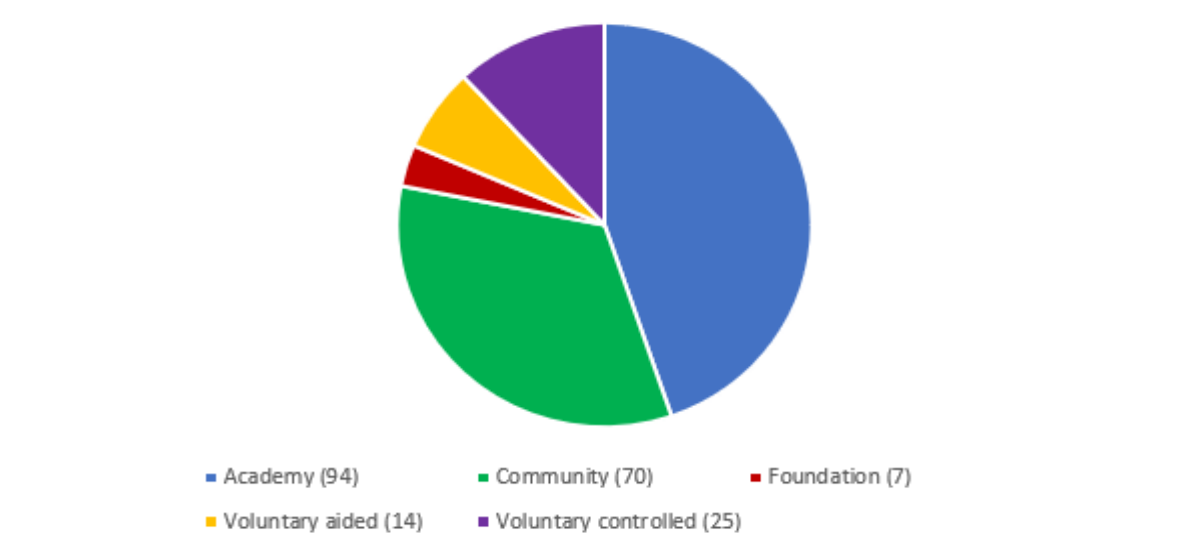
Since 2021, the DfE-funded HAF programme has provided support for school-aged children from disadvantaged backgrounds throughout the holiday periods. Children in receipt of benefits-related free school meals, newly arrived refugee families and families who are struggling financially, are eligible for the programme. This nationwide initiative includes the provision of nutritious food and education, enriching experiences, social stimulation and physical activity through funded places at local holiday playschemes.

3.3 What types of provision are available?

Primary Provision

In September 2023, there were 210 primary schools in Cambridgeshire, with 94 of these now operating as academies.

Figure 6: Primary Schools in Cambridgeshire as of August 2023



Cambridgeshire had seen a steady rise in the number of primary schools converting to, or being opened as, an academy over a number of years. That rate has slowed recently and is now below the national rate. This may be due in part to the number of schools in Cambridgeshire which converted to academy status earlier on, whilst other Local Authority areas are now seeing a higher rate of conversions.

Secondary Provision

There are currently 33 secondary schools in Cambridgeshire. In addition, there is one University Technical College (UTC) which serves students aged 13-19.

The overwhelming majority of the County's secondary schools became academies before 2017. Since 1 September 2020, following the conversion of Northstowe Secondary College from a Foundation school all 33 secondary schools are now academies.

3.4 How do we commission school places?

The different pressures on available education places require a range of approaches to commissioning school places. These include local area reviews, new development negotiations and working in partnership with other key stakeholders such as the DfE.

Planning areas

In urban areas, the impact of pupil forecasts on available provision is considered more widely than at the level of individual schools, reflecting the fact that there is often greater choice for parents when several settings or schools are in close proximity. This also allows the Council to provide sufficient places, without creating surplus capacity. To support this approach, the Council groups schools within planning areas. These:

- include schools in close proximity
- link primary schools to their catchment or designated secondary schools
- take account of federations and partnerships between schools
- take account of natural barriers and constraints on journeys between schools
- have been agreed with the DfE and form the basis of the Council's annual school capacity return (SCAP) to government

A full list of the planning areas in Cambridgeshire, and the schools within each of them, is included in Appendix C. This will be kept under review as the Council responds to demographic changes and housing development proposals.

Commissioning school places

There are currently three ways to establish a new mainstream school:

- Central Free School route: This requires an application from a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) directly to the DfE. The DfE decides whether to approve the application. Costs are the responsibility of the DfE.
- Presumption route: The Council publishes a specification for a new school and invites MATs to apply to run that school. This requires an application to the Council, but it is the DfE which decides whether the preferred sponsor recommended by the Council will be approved to run the school. Costs are the responsibility of the Council.
- Voluntary Aided (VA) route: Anyone, including a Diocese or LA, may publish a proposal for a new VA school in response to a clear demand for places that the new school would provide.

Where new schools are commissioned to meet basic need, LAs are responsible for the pre-opening start-up and post-opening diseconomy of scale costs. These are currently met from centrally retained Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding which is subject to annual Schools Forum approval.

Given the uncertainty of future funding, and the current burden of revenue expenditure, the Council will utilise the national Free Schools Programme, as appropriate. If the Council believes that a new school is required but no free school proposal is approved, then it follows the presumption route, advertising the opportunity widely to ensure that there is a strong field of high-quality applications.

In existing areas, mostly urban, where the Council is responding to demographic change, the option of providing a new school may not necessarily be the right approach educationally. In these circumstances, the preference is to work with existing schools and trusts to expand provision, where possible, in good or outstanding schools. For example, the creation of an extra mixed class at New Road Primary School in Whittlesey will accommodate additional Year 3 and Year 4 pupils for 2023-24. This expansion was carried out in partnership with the Aspire Learning Trust.

3.5 How have the Council responded to pressures experienced within the last two years?

Pressures within the primary phase

Cambridge City

- A new 2FE/420-place primary school, Marleigh Primary Academy, has been constructed following its approval through Wave 12 of the Free School Programme. The school opened in September 2022 and includes a 52-place nursery for 3- and 4-year-olds.
- The Council has recently run a free school presumption competition to identify a sponsor to run a new 2FE/420-place primary school on the Darwin Green development, in the northwest fringe of the city. The school is scheduled to open in September 2025.

East Cambridgeshire

- No actions.

Fenland

- Temporary accommodation has been provided at Benwick Primary School to accommodate an increase in the number of pupils on the school's roll. The two mobile classrooms will be replaced with a permanent build, due to be completed for September 2024.

Huntingdonshire

- Following a free school presumption competition, Meridian Academies Trust has been approved to run a new 1FE/210-place primary school in the village of Sawtry.

South Cambridgeshire

- Following the free school presumption competition Anglian Learning Trust has been approved to run a new 3FE/630-place primary school in Waterbeach New Town, with the opening date subject to review.
- The Council supported an application made by Meridian Academies Trust to change the age-range of Northstowe Secondary College from 11-19, to 4-19 effective from September 2024. This would offer 630 primary places.

Pressures within the secondary phase

Cambridge City

- September 2023 will see the largest secondary intake in the city for many years. The Council worked with all the schools and Academy Trusts to ensure that sufficient places were available.

East Cambridgeshire

- The Council worked in collaboration with Bottisham Village College, Ely College, Soham Village College and Witchford Village College, to ensure that the relatively high intake for September 2022 could be managed effectively.

Fenland

- The Brooke Weston Trust's application, in Wave 14 of the government's Free School programme, to run a new 4FE/600 place secondary school in Wisbech was approved by the DfE and granted permission to move to pre-opening stage in 2021. The design and build of the new school will be procured by the DfE using its own contractor framework. The school is due to open in September 2025.
- A scheme is currently underway to expand Sir Harry Smith Community College to 8FE/1,200 places. It is due to be completed in February 2024.

Huntingdonshire

- The Council continues to work with Meridian Academies Trust to provide places for children moving into Alconbury Weald at Sawtry Village Academy, prior to the opening of the secondary school on the development.

South Cambridgeshire

- No recent actions.

3.6 What are the current pressures in the primary phase? How are we responding?

Cambridge City

After a period of significant increases in the birth rate, the most recent demographic data suggests that it has begun to level off and even reduce slightly. Some schools in the city are now experiencing falling rolls, however this is balanced by the impact of the high levels of new housing developments in and around the city.

The Greater Cambridge Housing Trajectory and Five-Year Land Supply report (2022) reaffirms the expectation that over 14,000 new homes will be built in Cambridge in the period up to 2031.

The report indicates that over the six years prior to 2019/20 the pace of housing development in the city has exceeded the identified housing trajectory. However, over the two-year period 2019/20 to 2020/21, the actual number of house completions was well under the annualised target of 700 dwellings per year. The annual number of housing completions is predicted to pick up again from 2022/23. Over the coming five years around 3,300 homes are projected to be delivered.

These figures are for homes delivered within the Cambridge City Council administrative area. They do not include housing allocations within the South Cambridgeshire District Council administrative area which abut the city boundary. The impact of these developments, which are urban extensions, are assessed as part of the overall planning of the Cambridge City planning area.

Cambridge City North of the River Cam

What are the current pressures?

The Council is keeping numbers under review, with particular reference to occupations in the major developments around the Northwest Fringe.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

In addition to some small infill sites, most of the major housing development over the coming five years will be delivered as part of the Northwest Fringe. This consists of two major sites; both of which straddle the administrative boundary with South Cambridgeshire:

- The Northwest Cambridge Site; delivering 3,000 new homes including 50% for identified University key workers. This includes approximately 1,500 homes within Cambridge and 1,500 homes within South Cambridgeshire. By mid-2022, some 800 homes had been completed, with further homes being released in batches.
- Darwin Green; delivering around 2,500 new homes across two phases. The first homes, in the first phase (Cambridge City delivering up to 1,500) were occupied in late 2019. The next

phase of development has just started. Timescales for the second phase of development (around 1,000 homes in South Cambridgeshire) are currently unknown.

There is the potential for further significant housing development in the north of the city on land surrounding the new Cambridge North Railway Station. However, it is unlikely that these developments would be under construction within the next five years.

There will be two new schools as part of the Darwin Green development. Planning consent for the first school has been secured by the Council and the school will be run by the Discovery Trust. The final timetable for opening the new school is being kept under review; it is anticipated that it will open in 2025/26, however this may be affected by the availability of places at nearby schools.

Planning consent for the first school has been secured by the Council and the school will be run by the Discovery Trust.

Cambridge City South of the River Cam

What are the current pressures?

There is little surplus capacity in the schools to the south and east of the city centre. The level of infill housing developments within these areas could lead to a pressure on places within the next three to five years. There is currently some surplus capacity in schools in the Cherry Hinton area, however this is expected to reduce as the development of 1,200 homes on Land North of Cherry Hinton progresses.

The housing development in the Trumpington area of the city is now coming to an end and demand continues to be monitored as the new community expands. As part of this, the Council will continue to engage with the governing bodies and Academy Trusts of both Trumpington Meadows Primary School and Trumpington Park Primary School, to allow increases in the schools' PANs to be made at the appropriate time, and in a co-ordinated manner.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

In addition to several larger infill sites, there are two urban fringe development sites in the east of the city. Some of these sites straddle the administrative boundary.

Major housing development sites in the south of the City include:

- Marleigh (formerly known as Wing): delivering up to 1,568 new homes in the east of the City to the north of Cambridge Airport. Delivery of the site, which is within South Cambridgeshire, began in 2020, with the first occupations in 2021.
- Land North of Cherry Hinton: delivering up to 1,200 new homes in the southeast of the city, on land south of Cambridge Airport. The site, which is split across the administrative

boundary, is now under way. A site for a new school is included in the Section 106 (S106) agreement attached to the planning consent for housing.

A new 2FE primary school (420 places) to serve the Marleigh housing development opened in September 2022 and is run by the Anglian Learning Trust.

The proposed development on Land North of Cherry Hinton is anticipated to generate demand for a further new 2FE (420 place) primary school. The decision on whether and when to open a new school will be taken as part of a review of capacity at surrounding schools.

East Cambridgeshire

The East Cambridgeshire Local Plan adopted in 2015 sets an expectation that 11,500 new homes will need to be built in the period 2011 to 2031. These development targets are formally set out in the adopted Local Plan. A large part of this new housing development will be located within the market towns of Ely, Littleport, and Soham but there will also be significant levels of new housing built within villages throughout the district.

The Local Plan documents set out a vision for:

- Over 3,900 new dwellings in Ely to be built in the period up to 2031, this includes 3,000 homes proposed for an urban extension to the north of the town.
- New housing allocations to the east and south of Soham bringing the total to 1,655 dwellings to be built in the period up to 2031.
- A potential 1,447 new homes in Littleport to be built in the period up to 2031.

East Cambridgeshire District Council is undertaking a Single-Issue Review of the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2015. The examination of the Single-Issue Review of the Local Plan has now commenced. However, there are no plans to increase the number of housing allocations in the plan. The 2015 Local Plan will continue to be used as the basis for the future planning of school places.

Although the annual number of births has fallen in the last few years, this may be counter-balanced by future annual housing completions.

Bottisham Rural 1

What are the current pressures?

A scheme to expand Bottisham Primary School has been removed from the Local Authority's Capital Plan. This scheme could be reinstated in later years if the downward trend in birth numbers is reversed.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

Bottisham Rural 2

What are the current pressures?

There is a demand for additional places at Cheveley Primary School, however, significant site constraints mean that it is not possible to expand the school further. In recent years, the issue has resolved itself with some parents expressing a preference for the nearby Kettlefields Primary School. The Council has provided temporary accommodation at Kettlefields Primary School to meet the demand. For some intakes, Cheveley Primary School can over-admit because of in-catchment demand, using accommodation already available in the school.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

Ely Town 1

What are the current pressures?

An 1FE/210-place expansion of Littleport Primary School is now underway and due for completion in September 2025. On completion, the school will have capacity for 3FE/630 places.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

The East Cambridgeshire Local Plan establishes the potential for the further development of 1,700 dwellings in Littleport. As part of the consultation process on the Littleport Masterplan and following the expansion of the existing Millfield Primary School, the Council identified the need for an additional 210 primary school places. These have been secured through the work underway to expand Littleport Primary School, as detailed above.

Ely Town 2

What are the current pressures?

No actions required.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

In addition to the impact of demographic changes, there are a number of development proposals, notably for 3,000 dwellings to the north of Ely. Locations for two new primary schools were secured ahead of the new developments being built so that they can meet the needs of both the existing Ely community and the new housing when it is built and occupied.

The Isle of Ely Primary Academy was constructed in a single phase and will ultimately provide 630 places of which 420 are currently available. A further 2FE primary school is planned to serve the Highflyer Farm development to the north of Ely. The opening date will be dependent on the timetable for the build out of this development and the amount of surplus capacity at other schools in the city. There has been a recent fall in the number of annual births which has led to a reduction in the roll at some schools in the city.

Witchford Rural 1

What are the current pressures?

Several planning applications for residential development have been approved in Haddenham and Wilburton indicating that additional places will be required. A number of these developments are underway, and the roll at Robert Arkenstall Primary School, Haddenham is forecast to increase above its capacity of 280 places. A feasibility study is underway to consider an option for increasing the capacity of the school to 330 or 420 places. Wilburton CE Primary School is on a restricted site. It is proposed that the expansion at Robert Arkenstall will be sufficient to accommodate additional children from the Wilburton developments.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

As above.

Witchford Rural 2

What are the current pressures?

A feasibility study has been commissioned to prepare proposals for expanding Sutton Primary School in response to an outline planning application for 250 homes on nearby land. However, a recent fall in annual births in the village may mean that the expansion is not required. The situation continues to be monitored.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

Several housing developments in the village of Witchford are now underway and the pupil roll at Rackham CE Primary School is forecast to increase above its capacity of 315 places. A feasibility study is underway to consider expanding the school to 420 places.

Soham Rural 1

What are the current pressures?

A number of developments were proposed in Isleham, however only one sizeable development has been approved and is underway. If any more obtain planning permission, it is likely that additional places will be required. Isleham CE Primary School is on a restricted site. Following a feasibility study, a new site has been secured on County Council land elsewhere in the village for an expanded school if this is required.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

In May 2019, a planning application for a new garden village of 500 homes at Kennett was approved. The Council is working with Staploe Education Trust, which has responsibility for Kennett Primary Academy, on a proposal for the relocation and expansion of the existing school to meet the long-term demand for places. The school will increase in size from 105 places (0.5FE) to 210 places (1FE) with a planned opening date of September 2024.

Soham Town 1

What are the current pressures?

A feasibility study was commissioned to consider options to expand either St Andrew's CE Primary School or The Shade Primary School from 2-3FE. The preferred option is to expand The Shade Primary School when the local pupil roll increases to warrant this.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

There are major development sites allocated in the Local Plan in the Eastern and Northern gateways to Soham, however, there is some uncertainty regarding the timescales for delivery. If the sites, which have been allocated, are developed, additional primary school provision will be required, and the Council will need to secure further primary school places. The opening of the new railway station in 2022 may provide a boost to the local housing market.

Fenland

Fenland District Council's Local Plan sets out a broad level of growth of 11,000 new homes for the district in the period up to 2031, mainly to be built as urban extensions to the market towns.

There is a new draft local plan which is currently being consulted on. It requires 10,525 dwellings to be built between 01 April 2021 and 31 March 2040 and focuses most of the new residential development in and around Fenland's four market towns of Wisbech, March, Whittlesey and Chatteris.

In the coming years there will be a need for school place planning to respond but also reflect the pace of development, which may be slow because of issues around development viability.

Chatteris Rural 1

What are the current pressures?

There is currently a project underway at Benwick Primary School to replace two mobile classrooms with a permanent build. This is due to be completed for September 2024.

Temporary accommodation has been provided at Manea Primary School to enable the school to increase their intake in response to the housing growth within the village. There is currently a project underway to extend Manea Primary School to 300 places which is due to be completed by September 2025.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

Chatteris Town 1

What are the current pressures?

The demand for primary places in the town has increased in recent years hence additional primary places were provided by lowering the age range of Cromwell Community College to include provision for 3- to 10-year-olds, starting with Reception in 2020/21.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

There is a significant amount of housing planned in the town although this has progressed more slowly than had been expected. The forecast is showing there is sufficient capacity in the town over the next five years. Forecast Reception numbers match the PAN in September 2027 so it is likely that a further expansion of Cromwell Community College, to include an additional form of entry in both the primary and secondary phases, will be required towards the end of this decade or early in the next depending on housing build out rates.

March Town 1

What are the current pressures?

Townley Primary School serves the remote village of Christchurch and surrounding rural area. It is proposed to replace a mobile classroom on site and replace it with a permanent extension to accommodate the Foundation Stage 3–5-year-olds. The scheme is included in the Capital Programme and should be completed by September 2024, starting late in 2023.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

The potential for future growth in March is identified in the Fenland Local Plan with additional housing identified in the south, south-west and south-east of the town. This is likely to require new primary provision within these major housing development areas. Pre-application discussions have begun with the developers.

Whittlesey Town 1

What are the current pressures?

No actions required.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

A number of housing developments are coming forward in the town and in response to these an extension to increase the capacity of New Road Primary School from 210 to 420 places (2FE) was opened in September 2020. Officers are monitoring demand and working with the Headteacher to use this accommodation at the right time. An additional Year 3 and 4 class is opening in September 2023.

Wisbech Rural 1

What are the current pressures?

No actions required.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

Wisbech Rural 2

What are the current pressures?

There was a capital project allocated in the County Council's Capital Programme for a modest expansion at Friday Bridge. However, forecasts are showing this is no longer required so has been removed.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

Wisbech Town 1

What are the current pressures?

No actions required.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

The potential for future growth in Wisbech is identified in both the current and draft Fenland Local Plan. This is likely to require the provision of a new primary school within a major housing development area. Potential sites are already identified for this.

Huntingdonshire

Huntingdonshire is the largest district in Cambridgeshire and has a predominately rural nature. The four historic market towns of Huntingdon, St Neots, St Ives and Ramsey are the largest centres of population and services in the district. There is also one other town,

Godmanchester, many villages of varying sizes, hamlets and isolated dwellings in the countryside. Many of the smaller villages scattered across the district largely retain their historic form as recent housing and employment growth has been concentrated in and around the district's main towns, and to a lesser extent, in the larger villages.

Huntingdonshire District Council Local Plan includes provision for 20,100 new homes to be delivered between the period 2011 to 2036.

Four spatial planning areas are designated reflecting their status as the district's most sustainable centres. Approximately three quarters of the objectively assessed need is focussed in these areas. They include:

- Huntingdon (including Godmanchester, Brampton and Alconbury Weald)
- St Neots (including Little Paxton and St Neots East)
- St Ives
- Ramsey (including Bury)

Primary numbers are forecast to rise slightly over the next five years, increasing from a total of 14,405 in 2021/22 to a predicted total of 15,015 by 2026/27. Reception numbers also reflect this trend of a slight rise, increasing from a total of 1938 in 2021/22 to a predicted total of 2262 by 2026/27.

This growth can mainly be accounted for through house building on the strategic residential allocations in the Local Plan. It also masks the trend of falling primary rolls seen in some areas, particularly rural areas, which have not been the focus of housebuilding and where the population is ageing. Falling roles prompted the decision to close Great Gidding CofE Primary (3066) in July 2023. Cambridgeshire County Council are now preparing a Small Schools Strategy to outline how the Council can work with these schools to make them more sustainable.

Huntingdon Rural 1

What are the current pressures?

Following the closure of Great Gidding CofE Primary, Brington CofE Primary has seen an increase in the number of pupils applying for a school place. The school will be increasing its structure by one-class in September 2023 to accommodate this.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

Huntingdon Rural 2

What are the current pressures?

No actions required.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

There is housebuilding due in this planning area however, the majority is likely to be built out after the end of the forecast period. An expansion of Buckden CofE Primary school may be necessary to accommodate the increased number of pupils within the catchment area. The Council is currently monitoring the housing developments to confirm if this will be required.

Huntingdon Rural 3

What are the current pressures?

Whilst pupil numbers within the planning area are increasing slightly there is sufficient capacity across the three schools to accommodate this. Fluctuations are expected due to the proportion of Forces families accessing a place in this planning area.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

Huntingdon Town 1

What are the current pressures?

In order to meet demand, Godmanchester Bridge will be operating with two classes in its reception year group for 2023. Works to deliver the second phase of Ermine Street Church Academy, to expand the school to 3FE/630 places, are due to complete in Autumn 2024.

The Council will continue to work with developers and Huntingdonshire District Council, as the local planning authority, to monitor build trajectories from the various sites closely to ensure enough primary school places are available at the right time and that new schools are educationally and financially sustainable.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

Alconbury Weald, a 5,000-home, mixed-use development is part of a government approved Enterprise Zone. The first houses were released for sale in autumn 2016. The anticipated build rate is up to 400 homes a year as the development progresses. Eventually, there will be a further two primary schools serving the Alconbury Weald development and a further primary school to serve the Ermine Street North and South developments. These are all likely to be delivered post the current forecast period.

A planning application has also been submitted for the development of a further 1,500 dwellings on the southern area of the Alconbury Weald site known as Grange Farm. This application, if approved, would require an additional primary school.

Ramsey Rural 1

What are the current pressures?

No actions required.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

Ramsey Town 1

What are the current pressures?

No actions required.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

The Local Plan includes details of developments in Ramsey amounting to 895 new dwellings. Primary provision in Ramsey comprises of separate Infant and Junior schools both of which previously had a PAN of 90. The Junior school reduced their PAN some years ago. A review is underway to assess options in the town.

Sawtry Rural 1

What are the current pressures?

Sawtry Infant School / Sawtry Junior Academy will now be the designated catchment school for children living in Great Gidding, Little Gidding, Steeple Gidding, Winwick and Hamerton following the closure of Great Gidding CofE Primary in August 2023.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

The five-year housing land supply includes 305 new dwellings within the planning area. A further application for 340 dwellings has since been approved. This means that a total of 645 new dwellings are planned.

To accommodate the increase in pupil numbers, a 2FE/420-place primary school is planned on the site of the new development. The new school, Saltbrook Primary Academy, will have shared catchment area with Sawtry Infant School / Sawtry Junior Academy and will be run by Meridian Academy Trust. As progress with the new housing has been delayed, the new school is now proposed to open in September 2025, as opposed to 2024 which was previously stated. The new school will open as 1FE initially, and to reception only, and will grow in line with housing and increased pupil numbers.

Sawtry Rural 2

What are the current pressures?

No actions required.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

St Ives Town 1

What are we doing now?

Plans were in place to increase the capacity at Eastfield Infant School/Westfield Junior School. However, updated forecasts suggest that additional capacity is no longer required. Eastfield Infant School and Westfield Junior School have confirmed that they wish to retain their status as separate infant and junior schools and so no further projects are planned.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

St Neots Rural 1

What are the current pressures?

Both schools in this planning area have PANs of less than 30 and are therefore designated by the Council as small schools. The smallest, The Newton School, has a PAN of 15 and a forecast decrease in numbers over the next five years. The Council has committed to developing a strategy to support small schools with workshops planned in Autumn 2023.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

St Neots Rural 2

What are the current pressures?

No actions required.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

St Neots Rural 3

What are the current pressures?

No actions required.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

St Neots Town 1

What are the current pressures?

No actions required.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

Within Huntingdonshire District Council's Local Plan, St Neots is identified as a location for significant housing growth. In addition to 140 dwellings planned in the town, the main housing will be delivered at Wintringham Park, (a 2,800-home development to the east of the railway) and Loves Farm 2 (a 1,020-home development adjacent to Loves Farm) known jointly as St Neots Eastern Expansion. The planning applications include sites for three new primary schools on the Eastern Expansion site, 2 schools on Wintringham Park and one on Loves Farm 2. The first school Wintringham Park Academy is now open.

The Council is working with developers and Huntingdonshire District Council, as the local planning authority, to monitor build trajectories from the St Neots Eastern Expansion closely in order to ensure a sufficient number of primary school places are available at the right time and that new schools are educationally and financially sustainable.

Peterborough Rural 1

What are the current pressures?

No actions required.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

This planning area borders Peterborough Unitary Authority where there are pressures on the availability of places. There is also in catchment growth in numbers in both Yaxley and Farcet. Three additional classrooms were provided at Fourfields Primary school in 2016. The need for phase two of the work is under review, though at this time it seems that further expansion will be unnecessary.

South Cambridgeshire

Although the existing South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, alongside the Cambridge City Local Plan, was only adopted in September 2018, a new Local Plan is being drafted.

The Greater Cambridge Housing Trajectory and Five-Year Land Supply report (2022) states the expectation that around 24,600 new homes will be built in South Cambridgeshire in the period up to 2031. Between 2011 and 2022, approximately 9,450 homes have been completed. Annual building rates were below the expected level of 1,230 in the first seven years of the plan period but have been close to this average in each of the last four years. The trajectory forecasts an increase in annual building rates and that some 7,700 homes will be completed over the next five years.

The Local Plan anticipates most of these new homes to be delivered through urban extensions of Cambridge and Cambourne, or the creation of new developments proposed at Bourn Airfield, and two new towns at Northstowe and Waterbeach. The first families moved into Northstowe in May 2017, and the development has continued to grow at a steady pace since then. Following completion of the A14 upgrade in the spring of 2020, Phase 2 of the development can now proceed.

Consent has also been given for the development west of Cambourne which is now underway. The developer's proposals for Waterbeach have been approved by South Cambridgeshire District Council Planning Committee and the Section 106 agreements have been signed. The first homes are anticipated to be available from 2023. The other major developments are at an early stage of discussion in the planning process.

The fall in the annual number of births and other demographic changes have resulted in a reduction in the roll in some parts of the district, however the pattern is mixed. The district has experienced a relatively high influx of families from Ukraine, which has put pressure on the roll at some schools.

Bassingbourn Rural 1

What are the current pressures?

In response to the decision by the Ministry of Defence to re-open Bassingbourn Barracks, an expansion of Bassingbourn Primary School to 2FE/420 places has been completed. Pupil numbers for the area are being kept under review.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

Comberton Rural 1

What are the current pressures?

In Caldecote, planning applications for three relatively large residential developments have been approved. Caldecote Primary School currently operates close to its capacity, although some of the demand arises from pupils coming from outside the catchment area. The Council will therefore need to monitor this as it may be necessary to provide additional places at the school in the future.

In Hardwick, two sizeable housing developments have been approved. The Council is keeping demand in the village and the impact of housing development on projected pupil numbers under review.

Since 2019 primary education in Gamlingay has been organised on a two-tier basis. The opening of Gamlingay Primary School as an all-through, 2FE (420 place) primary school will provide sufficient capacity to meet existing catchment demand as well as that arising from planned housing developments in the village.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

A major development of 3,500 homes is proposed on the Bourn Airfield site in the submitted Local Plan. Two new primary schools have been identified as required to mitigate the development at Bourn Airfield. The development has planning permission with the first homes expected to be built in 2027. The timescales for delivery of the first new school will depend on the pace of the housing development.

Cambourne 1

What are the current pressures?

Housing development is ending across the existing town of Cambourne. The demand for Reception places at the four schools has begun to fall after several years of significant growth.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

The proposed housing development of Cambourne West, which would see the development of 2,350 homes, has been granted outline planning consent. This site would create a 50% increase in homes across Cambourne. The development is now underway and may lead to the need for two new primary schools. The timescale for opening the first of these will depend on the pace of development and the future demand for places within the current Cambourne community, so as not to undermine the stability of the four existing schools.

Cottenham Rural 1

What are the current pressures?

Three sizeable housing developments are either under construction or about to start in Cottenham, totalling some 500 new homes. Although there is currently some capacity available within Cottenham Primary School, depending on build-out of the approved sites, there might be a requirement to secure additional capacity in the area.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

Impington Rural

What are the current pressures?

No actions required.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

There have been a number of speculative housing applications in Waterbeach some of which are now under construction. This housing growth, combined with increased demographic changes, has led to significant increases in the in-catchment demand for primary school places. In response to the pressures identified, the Council has expanded Waterbeach Primary School by 1FE (210 places) to 630 places.

In Histon and Impington increased demand for places led to the Council working with the schools to secure an additional form of entry. This increase in demand resulted from a combination of demographic changes, inward migration, and new infill housing development. Whilst limited additional housing development has been proposed within the Local Plan, the villages are identified as being among the most sustainable within South Cambridgeshire.

Histon and Impington Infant and Junior Schools have been redeveloped to enable them to extend their age ranges to operate as all-through primary schools. The Infant school relocated to Buxhall Farm in January 2021. The age range changes came into effect for admissions to the schools from September 2021. The former Infant School is now Histon & Impington Park Primary, and the former Junior School is Histon & Impington Brook Primary.

An outline planning application has been approved for the first phase of the major new development of 6,500 homes at Waterbeach Barracks. The developer has indicated that they anticipate delivering an initial phase of development of around 1,600 homes with the first homes recently completed. A new primary school was planned to open in September 2024, but the opening date is currently under review.

A second application, for 4,500 homes adjacent to the Barracks site has been granted outline planning permission. The timescales for this development are less clear at this stage. It is likely that additional primary schools will be needed, and that this may be required at an early stage of the development. However, this would depend on the connectivity between the two developments.

Linton Rural 1

What are the current pressures?

No actions required.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

Melbourn Rural 1

What are the current pressures?

The picture in this area is mixed with some villages experiencing a growth in the school-aged population linked to new housing developments, while others have experienced a decline, mainly because of a fall in annual births. These pressures are kept under review.

Following approval of a speculative planning application for 300 homes on the former CEMEX site on the outskirts of Barrington, an expansion of Barrington C E Primary School to become a 1FE school (210 places) was completed in September 2019. The pupil roll has and is expected to continue to increase as the development progresses.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

Melbourn Rural 2

What are the current pressures?

Growing demographic pressure, has created in-catchment demand in both Melbourn and Meldreth. In addition, there have been a number of speculative planning applications across both villages, which have been approved. To meet the expected demand, Melbourn Primary School was expanded from 1.5FE (315 places) to 2FE (420 places), and the capacity at Meldreth Primary School increased to 1FE (210 places). These projects have been delivered ahead of the implementation of the housing developments. This reflects the limited capacity within both catchment areas and will also ensure that the Council has sufficient places for the early residents moving into the new developments.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

Sawston Rural 1

What are the current pressures?

No actions required.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

Outline planning permission for a development of up to 1,500 residential dwellings has been secured for an extension of the Genome Campus, Hinxton which will increase the number of primary-aged pupils in the area. To meet this additional demand, a new primary school is included as part of the development. The timescale for delivering this school is dependent on the pace of development and surplus capacity at neighbouring schools.

The pupil yield from this development may be lower than would usually be expected for a development of this size, because a proportion of the new housing will be allocated to campus staff.

Sawston Rural 2

What are the current pressures?

No actions required.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

Sawston Rural 3

What are the current pressures?

South Cambridgeshire District Council's Local Plan indicates that there will be significant development in and around Sawston. Two sizeable sites are now underway and combined with demographic change, will continue to put pressure on the available primary school places within Sawston.

In response to the proposed housing developments and increased birth rates, an expansion of The Bellbird Primary School was opened in September 2019, so the school is now able to operate with a PAN of 60, and an overall capacity of 420 places (2FE). Further expansion is likely to be needed and the Council is currently reviewing options.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

Swavesey Rural 1 and Northstowe

What are the current pressures?

The delivery of the new town of Northstowe, which has been planned over an extended period, began with the first new residents arriving in spring 2017. The first new primary, The Pathfinder School, opened in September 2017 with a reduced PAN. This is in line with the long-standing approach of the Council to ensure that schools in new communities are able to grow in line with the housing development and community which they serve. Works to convert rooms, previously used as community space for the new development, into new classrooms was completed in the Summer of 2022 to enable the school to operate at full capacity (3FE).

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

The second primary school for Northstowe will also be 3FE (630 places) and is to be co-located on the education campus, where existing schools are run by Meridian Academy Trust. Due to the primary school's location, the trust changed the age range of Northstowe Secondary College from 11-19, to 2-19 to enable it to become an all through, all-inclusive school from September 2024. Further new primary schools are planned as part of the development.

Swavesey Rural 2

What are the current pressures?

No actions required.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

Swavesey Rural 3

What are the current pressures?

No actions required.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

3.9 What are the pressures in the secondary phase? How are we responding?

Cambridge City

The secondary roll in the city has increased over the last three years mainly because of relatively large cohorts in local primary schools moving into the secondary sector. The Year 7 intake in 2023/24 is expected to be the largest for the foreseeable future; however, intakes are forecast to remain close to capacity for the next few years and the secondary roll is forecast to continue to increase. There is pressure on places in the north of the city.

What are the current pressures?

Trumpington Community College opened in September 2015 to serve the developments on the south-west fringe of Cambridge. The school is intended to operate as 5FE (750 places) but is currently operating at 4FE. This will be monitored, and the Council is carrying out a feasibility study to address the school's concerns about the suitability of the accommodation.

The Council did provide a 2FE expansion to Chesterton Community College which would have created an additional 300 places. This accommodation is no longer available to the Council as the Regional Schools Commissioner approved the opening of a sixth form at the school which took its first Year 12 students in Sept 2022. The Council is working with the trusts operating the two secondary schools north of the river to manage the demand for places.

A small expansion in capacity at St Bede's has taken the capacity at the school to 6FE (900 places). The Council is also supporting a small expansion of North Cambridge Academy to allow it to admit another five pupils per year group and address issues relating to the suitability of the accommodation.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

A new school will also be opened to serve the new housing developments in the northwest of the City which will be run by Meridian Academy Trust (MAT). Delays in the commencement of development at Darwin Green mean that the opening date of this school continues to be kept under review. Discussions are underway with the MAT to explore the most effective approach for opening the new school. Ultimately this will be a 6FE school, offering 900 places, but will open with a smaller PAN and grow gradually to 6FE as the developments are built out and demand for places rises. It is currently planned to open in September 2026.

A Wave 12 secondary free school is proposed on Land North of Cherry Hinton in response to the 1,200 new homes planned in the south-east of the city, on land south of Cambridge Airport. Opening date is still to be confirmed by the DfE. The school is planned to initially provide 4FE of accommodation but with land available to increase to 6FE to meet local need.

East Cambridgeshire

The Local Plan for East Cambridgeshire, which was adopted in 2015, promoted widespread but small pockets of housing development accompanied by a major expansion of Ely (3,900 homes), Soham (1,665 homes) and Littleport (1,447 homes).

A district-wide review of secondary school provision was undertaken to ensure sufficient places are delivered. It concluded that current secondary schools in East Cambridgeshire should be expanded to meet their in-catchment need for places as and when it arises. This will allow for a more flexible response to the slowly rising demand for places and provide these places at a local school. A single new school to meet the cumulative demand across East Cambridgeshire was not the Council's favoured approach given the distances involved and the potential impact of a new school on existing schools within the District.

The Council is yet to implement any recommendations arising from its most recent review because of the uncertainty caused by a Wave 12 application for a new 4 FE free school in Soham, sponsored by the St Bede's Trust. This was initially approved by the DfE, but the DfE confirmed in summer 2022 that it would not proceed with the new school project.

The Council is working on a scheme with the Eastern Learning Alliance to expand Witchford Village College by 0.5 FE from 900-975 places to allow the school to accommodate relatively high future Year 7 intakes coming forward in the area.

Bottisham, Ely, Soham, Witchford

What are the current pressures?

The local demography indicates that there will be relatively high secondary intakes from September 2022. Discussions took place with the schools to address years with larger intakes and Bottisham Village College, Ely College, Soham Village College, and Witchford Village College have agreed to over-admit if necessary.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

Fenland

Fenland District Council's Local Plan sets out a broad level of growth of 11,000 new homes for the district in the period up to 2031, mainly to be built as urban extensions to the market towns.

There is a new draft local plan which is currently being consulted on. It requires 10,525 dwellings to be built between 01 April 2021 and 31 March 2040 and focuses most of the new residential development in and around Fenland's four market towns of Wisbech, March, Whittlesey and Chatteris.

Chatteris, March, Whittlesey, Wisbech

What are the current pressures?

The catchment forecasts for Thomas Clarkson Academy indicate that there is an increasing pressure for places in Year 7, as the larger cohorts of primary pupils begin to reach secondary school age.

The Wisbech Free School, a new 4FE secondary school run by the Brooke Weston Trust is due to open in September 2025. Officers are in conversation with Thomas Clarkson Academy on how to meet the high demand for September 2024.

A project to deliver a further 1FE expansion of Cromwell Community College was completed in August 2020 and a further expansion is likely to be necessary in the future once further housing development is underway.

An expansion of Sir Harry Smith Community College, Whittlesey is currently taking place. It is due to be completed in February 2024 and will take the school's capacity to 8FE.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

Huntingdonshire

Huntingdonshire is the largest district in Cambridgeshire and has a predominately rural nature. The four historic market towns of Huntingdon, St Neots, St Ives and Ramsey are the largest centres of population and services in the district. There is also one other town, Godmanchester, many villages of varying sizes, hamlets and isolated dwellings in the countryside. Many of the smaller villages scattered across the district largely retain their

historic form as recent housing and employment growth has been concentrated in and around the district's main towns, and to a lesser extent, in the larger villages.

Huntingdonshire District Council Local Plan includes provision for 20,100 new homes to be delivered between the period 2011 to 2036.

Four spatial planning areas are designated reflecting their status as the district's most sustainable centres. Approximately three quarters of the objectively assessed need is focussed in these areas. They include:

- Huntingdon (including Godmanchester, Brampton and Alconbury Weald)
- St Neots (including Little Paxton and St Neots East)
- St Ives
- Ramsey (including Bury)

Secondary numbers in Huntingdonshire are forecast to rise over the next ten years, increasing from a total of 8311 in 2021/22 to a predicted total of 9683 by 2031/32. This growth can mainly be accounted for from the larger numbers coming through from the primary sector and due to house building on the strategic residential allocations in the Local Plan.

Huntingdon

What are the current pressures?

New secondary provision in Huntingdon will be driven largely by the needs coming from major new housing developments as proposed in the Local Plan. Pupil forecasts will be kept under review as the larger primary cohorts age through, and as the new developments are built.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

The DfE has approved an 8FE/1,200-place secondary school to pre-implementation stage under Wave 11 of the Free School Programme which is scheduled to open at Alconbury Weald. The opening date is currently under review .. Sawtry Community Academy is providing secondary school places to the early residents and pupil numbers will be closely monitored as the development progresses.

A new development on the outskirts of Huntingdon, known as Ermine Street, will result in the need for additional secondary school places to be provided at either St Peter's School or Hinchingsbrooke School.

The first residents moved into the new development at Alconbury Weald during the autumn of 2016. Eventually, this will be a new community of some 6,500 homes served by its own secondary school. The DfE has approved a 1,200 place (8FE) secondary school to pre-implementation stage under Wave 11 of the Free School Programme. Sawtry Academy is providing secondary school places to the early residents and pupil numbers will be closely monitored as the development progresses. There will be a need for additional places to be

provided in September 2024 before Alconbury Weald Secondary school opens. Discussions with the local schools are currently underway.

Ramsey

What are the current pressures?

Abbey College has a PAN of 210. The number of pupils in-catchment currently exceeds PAN; however, a large number of children take their secondary place out of catchment.

The condition of the buildings at Abbey College presents additional challenges in offering sufficient places to in-catchment children. The college is currently considering ways to improve the accommodation, working with the DFE/ESFA, and the Council is providing support to enable the College to consider all options.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

Sawtry

What are the current pressures?

Sawtry Village College has reduced its PAN to 180, better to reflect in-catchment pupil numbers. However, the number of secondary-aged children resident in the school's catchment area is rising, and the school is also offering places to children from the Alconbury Weald development until the new secondary school opens there.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

St Ives

What are the current pressures?

The number of secondary-aged children in the St Ivo catchment is forecast to remain in the mid-200s for the forecast period, these children can be accommodated within the school's existing capacity.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

St Neots

What are the current pressures?

No actions required.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

Currently the forecasts suggest that there is sufficient secondary school capacity across the town's two secondary schools to meet the demands from the existing community.

Due to the fall in birth rates in both schools' catchments additional secondary school provision will not be needed to accommodate the additional pupils from the Eastern Expansion housing development. As forecasts previously suggested that expansion would be required a feasibility study has been undertaken and the forecasts will be kept under review as the developments progress and expansion of one or both secondary schools will be carried out if required.

The DfE has approved a free school in the area, to pre-opening stage, however there is no further information on this free school currently.

Peterborough Rural

What are the current pressures?

No actions required.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

South Cambridgeshire

The Greater Cambridge Housing Trajectory and Five-Year Land Supply report (2020) states the expectation that around 24,600 new homes will be built in South Cambridgeshire in the period up to 2031. Although the extant South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, alongside the Cambridge City Local Plan, was only adopted in September 2018, a new Local Plan is being drafted.

The major new towns of Northstowe and Waterbeach New Town will be built out over the next fifteen to thirty years. These towns, along with fringe development areas around the City of Cambridge, will be the main determinant for secondary places in South Cambridgeshire in the years ahead.

Comberton and Cambourne

What are the current pressures?

As Cambourne has developed, the Council has closely monitored the level of need for secondary places in the new town.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

Future demand for places will rise steeply once the proposed major development of 2,350 houses to the west of Cambourne, approved in 2017, is built out. In response to this, the Council has identified a need for a further 600 places (4FE) of secondary school provision which will be provided through the expansion of the existing village college, providing

accommodation for a total 11FE and a sixth form of 350 places. The completion date for the capital project is autumn 2024.

Additional demand will also arise from the planned 3,500 home development at Bourn Airfield. The planning for this development is at an early stage. In response, the Council has identified a need for additional secondary school capacity. This may take the form of an annexe site of Comberton Village College. The final pattern and timing of delivery for the additional capacity required will be part of the ongoing pre-application discussions with the developer.

Cottenham and Impington

What are the current pressures?

The Council is carefully monitoring data and plans in conjunction with developers in anticipation of the new town at Waterbeach Barracks which is under construction.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

A new town of up to 11,000 dwellings is now under construction on the site of the former Waterbeach Barracks. The development will require one and possibly 2 new secondary schools. Cottenham Village College has sufficient capacity to accommodate the initial demand. The Council will carefully monitor the data and aim to open the new school taking account of demand from the new development and local available capacity.

Linton

What are the current pressures?

Whilst Linton Village College is regularly oversubscribed, this is mainly due to patterns of parental preference, with the school attracting large numbers of pupils from both outside the planning area, and Cambridgeshire. As such, although there is frequently pressure on places, the school is able to meet demand for places from within their catchment community so there is no real basic need demand for additional capacity.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

Swavesey

What are the current pressures?

This area covers the new town of Northstowe which consists of 9,500 homes. Northstowe Secondary College opened in September 2019 with capacity to accommodate 600 pupils.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

Northstowe Secondary College will open its second phase to expand the school to provide 1,200 places for pupils aged 11-16 and 400 sixth form places in September 2024. The increase

in PAN is being staggered to limit the impact on neighbouring schools. A third phase which is to increase the capacity to 1,800 age 11-16 places pupils is planned.

Sawston

What are the current pressures?

The Council continues to monitor the need for additional places because the roll remains close to the capacity of the school.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

Bassingbourn and Melbourn

What are the current pressures?

The Council continues to monitor the need for additional places at Melbourn Village College because the roll remains close to the capacity of the school.

What are the requirements for housing developments over 500 homes?

None.

3.10 Useful Links

[Academy and Free School Presumption, DfE Guidance \(January 2023\)](#)

[Cambridgeshire County Council Capital Programme: Business Plan](#)

[Education Act \(1996\)](#)

[Education Act \(2011\)](#)

[Education and Inspections Act \(2006\)](#)

[First Steps: Admission to Primary School – Cambridgeshire Admissions Guidance](#)

[Learn Together Cambridgeshire website, Guidance and Teaching in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough schools](#)

[Secondary Admissions Cambridgeshire](#)

[Ofsted](#)

Chapter 4: Post 16 Provision

4.1 What is the national policy?

Education and Skills Act (2008)

The Education and Skills Act (2008) increased the minimum age at which young people in England can leave learning. Since 2015, young people have been required to continue in learning or training until the age of 18. Raising the participation age has not changed the statutory school leaving age, this remains 16. Young people do not need to stay in school until they are 18; they can choose from one of the following options:

- Full-time education, such as school, college or home education
- Apprenticeships, work-based learning
- Part-time education or training if they are employed, self-employed or volunteering for at least 20 hours a week

Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act (2009)

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act (2009) set out the commissioning infrastructure and provision of suitable and sufficient learning options.

4.2 What are the Council's responsibilities?

The LA has the duty to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate in education or training. It therefore has the responsibility to:

- secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for all young people in the area who are over compulsory school age but under 19 or aged 19 to 25 and for whom an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan is maintained
- secure sufficient education and training for young people who wish to travel into their area to learn
- encourage diversity and increase choice for young people in the type of education and training available, including apprenticeships, full and part-time academic and vocational courses and access to the 'core entitlement' of Mathematics, English and ICT
- secure sufficient suitable education and training for young people subject to youth detention

4.3 What types of provision are available?

The post-16 offer, which covers a wide range of content and qualifications, is delivered in Cambridgeshire by a range of providers including:

- sixth form colleges
- further education colleges
- academies with a 6th form
- specific vocational skills centres at a number of schools and colleges

- maintained and private special schools for young people with SEND whose needs cannot be met within the range of support or specially resourced provision offered by mainstream providers
- independent schools
- independent private providers
- apprenticeship providers

Huntingdonshire Regional College merged with Cambridge Regional College on 1st August 2017. The merger combined the strengths of both colleges, providing a range of courses including post-GCSE programmes, further education qualifications and some higher education courses.

Effective from September 2020, T Levels are gradually being rolled out as new post-16 qualifications. These are equivalent to 3 A levels and are two-year courses developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work, further training or study.

T Levels offer students a mixture of classroom learning and ‘on-the-job’ experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days).

Cambridge Regional College offered Digital Business Services and Education and Childcare route T levels from 2021. Cambridge Academy of Science and Technology offers the Healthcare Science and Laboratory Sciences route T level from 2022.

4.4 How do we identify pressures?

In 2022, the Council’s Policy and Insight Team, in conjunction with commissioning and delivery partners, undertook a county-wide review of post-16 provision in response to forecast growth in the numbers of 16- and 17-year-olds. The review was predicated on the principle that there is little, or no likelihood of any capital funding sources being made available by central government to support expansion. Therefore, the focus was necessarily on collaborative approaches within the sector to provide solutions which make use of and/or re-configure the existing capacity for expansion locally, where appropriate, and avoid duplication.

Modelling demand for post-16 provision is particularly challenging because of:

- the different types of provision (academic and vocational)
- the variety of providers; and
- the travel to learn culture which characterises this sector particularly in the City and South Cambridgeshire where most secondary schools provide only for the 11 to 16 age range

The review concluded that the combination of planned new provision (Alconbury Weald, Cambourne and Northstowe) and proposals put forward by the sector during the review, are

sufficient to expand the supply of post 16 places to meet the forecast demand across the County and will also continue to provide some market flexibility.

Population Forecasts

The Council's current population model takes account of all relevant demographic trends (including international and national migration, change in birth-rate). The model also includes all future housing development plans, based on each of the published District Council's house building trajectories.

The 2020-based population forecasts were used to provide the baseline numbers for young people aged 16+.

Post-16 Options

To understand demand for post-16 education satisfactorily, information is needed about the proportion of young people opting into different types of education or training settings and their geographical movement around the county (as well as possible movements in and out of county).

For this information, the results of the annual post-16 options surveys carried out by the Council in 2019, 2020 and 2021 were used. The surveys were conducted during the autumn, following-up with the previous summer's school leavers, and are used for performance monitoring on issues such as young people being 'NEET' (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

The Cambridgeshire surveys provide each school leaver's origin institution and post-16 destination by institution name, type and level of course. This allows for the analysis of movements between different geographical areas.

4.5 How do we commission post-16 places?

In recent years, the role of the Council, with regard to post-16 provision, has moved away from being the commissioner of learner places, to working with schools and colleges in an influencing role, with a strategic overview of provision and needs. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority has a Skills Committee to oversee strategies and programmes to ensure local provision meets the needs of local learners and employers, in line with labour market and local economic needs.

The Council recognises that the providers of post-16 education and training, including general further education colleges, sixth form colleges and school sixth forms, are autonomous institutions which determine their own curriculum and can attract students within a free market. Likewise, providers recognise the statutory responsibility placed on LAs to secure sufficient suitable education and training opportunities to meet the reasonable needs of all young people in their area. Each provider is responsible for delivering a high-quality learning experience promoting young people's successful progression to 19 and beyond in the light of current legislation, including the raising of the participation age to 18.

The Council is committed to ensuring that the needs of all Cambridgeshire's young people are met, while recognising that post-16 education and training provision is ultimately determined by learner choice. This requires cooperation and collaboration between all parties. Across

the county, there have historically been three geographically focused commissioning partnerships: Cambridge Area Partnership, covering the areas of Cambridge City, South and East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and Fenland. These geographic areas are used below.

4.6 What are the pressures? How are we responding?

Demand

Cambridgeshire has been a rapidly growing county and many places are expected to experience continued high levels of housebuilding in the near future. Past growth, in the last ten years, and future growth serve to increase the population aged 17 to 18 by a range of +18% (Cambridge) and +37.8% (Fenland) over the next 19 years.

District	Forecast Increase in population age 17 to 18 2022-2041	Percentage increase in population aged 17 to 18 2022-2041
Cambridge City	555	18.1%
East Cambridgeshire	488	25.6%
Fenland	715	37.8%
Huntingdonshire	874	23.4%
South Cambridgeshire	1,234	33.6%
Total:	3,866	

In the short to medium term, over the period 2022-2027, we see the following forecast:

District	Forecast Increase in population aged 17 to 18 2022-2027	Percentage increase in population aged 17 to 18 2022-2027
Cambridge City	681	22.2%
East Cambridgeshire	449	23.5%
Fenland	607	32.1%
Huntingdonshire	674	18.0%
South Cambridgeshire	747	20.3%
Total:	3158	

[Note 1] – these forecasts are from Cambridgeshire County Council's 2020-based population forecasts, which

There is expected to be a significant period of housebuilding in the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire area during the period 2021 to 2031 on large sites such as Waterbeach, Northstowe and Cambourne West. Beyond 2031 development growth is assumed to return to longer-term averages for the area.

Supply

Summary tables of what the review found for theoretical capacity at sixth form and FE settings across the county, as of summer 2022, are given below. Places available across both types of settings are sufficient to respond to the demand outlined above in the medium term at least, through to 2025. Patterns of take-up for sixth form and FE settings and plans for expansion at specific institutions are described in the area commentaries below.

Post-16 Capacity Figures, Sixth Form, Year 12 only

District	Current Capacity 2022) ⁶	Theoretical (Summer	Planned change to future capacity ⁷	Notes
Cambridge / South Cambridgeshire	3,875		+565	+ 50 Netherhall + 100 Chesterton 2022 + 40 Cambridge Maths school 2023 + 175 Cambourne + 200 Northstowe
East Cambridgeshire	150		+100	+ 100 Bishop Laney
Fenland	345		-	No changes indicated
Huntingdonshire	1,013		+175	+175 at Alconbury in 2027.

Post-16 Capacity Figures, FE College, Year 12 only

District	Current Capacity (Summer 2022) ³	Theoretical	Planned Change to Future Capacity ⁴
Cambridge / South Cambridgeshire	1,775		-
East Cambridgeshire	0		-
Fenland	415		-
Huntingdonshire	600		-

Post-16 Learning Preferences

Learners' different patterns of preference for education or training settings or types of post-16 learning can be seen across the county. The review data showed that the post-16 options for Fenland and for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire were substantially different compared to other areas. Fenland was the only district where the majority of school leavers go on to an FE college rather than sixth form. For Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, the opposite was true, with more than 70% of school leavers going on to sixth form. All other districts have a broadly similar pattern with slightly more school leavers going to sixth form compared to an FE college.

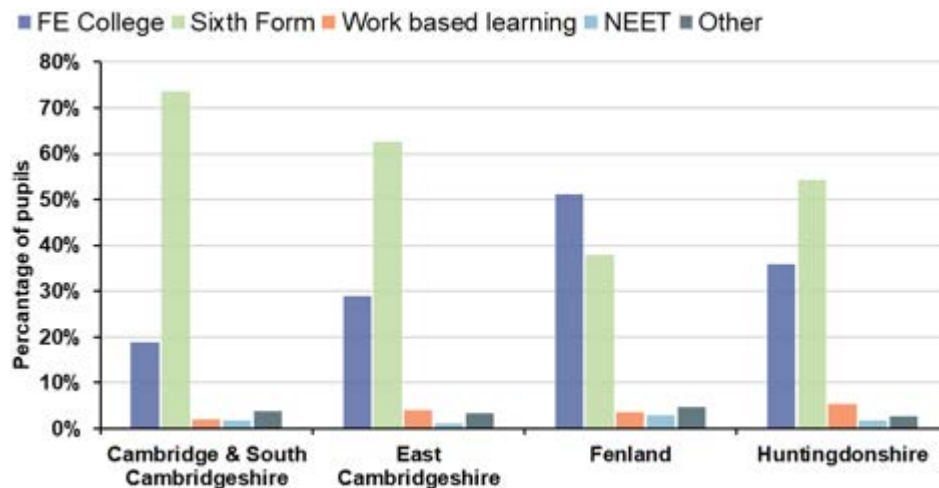
Travel to learn and options patterns are the part of the future forecasting model that is most vulnerable to change overtime. Previous pupil forecasting experience has shown that over an extended period (in the case of this modelling - fifteen years), there will be variation in the

³ Theoretical capacity reflects the number of physical places that could be available without building ('bricks and mortar') additional spaces and includes, the flexible use of sites / facilities in the event of future demand where known. Figures shown are for single year group, Year 12 only to align with forecasting model outputs.

⁴ Planned Change to Future Capacity only includes fully committed projects to build ('bricks and mortar') additional capacity.

offer and popularity of different institutions. For the purposes of the review, the average of the last three years for the options/movement of young people was used as a constant in the demand forecasting model.

Figure 7: Average Post-16 learner type for school leavers



Cambridge Area (Cambridge City, East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire)

Sixth form demand and capacity

The 2022 post-16 review found that the average annual cohort size across Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire attending sixth forms or sixth form college provision in the period 2019-2021 was 2147. In East Cambridgeshire the average cohort was 595. Of those resident in the City and South Cambridgeshire and opting for sixth form provision, 93.7% of the cohort continued at settings in those districts. Of those from East Cambridgeshire, 16.0% took up provision within the district while 77.8% travelled to settings in Cambridge City or South Cambridgeshire.

The chart below shows sixth form forecasts for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire compared with current and planned capacity. While the dashed grey line shows local demand, the dashed-dotted orange line adds a 5% estimated demand for places from young people coming into the area from outside the county.

Figure 8: Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Sixth Form forecast compared to current and planned future capacity

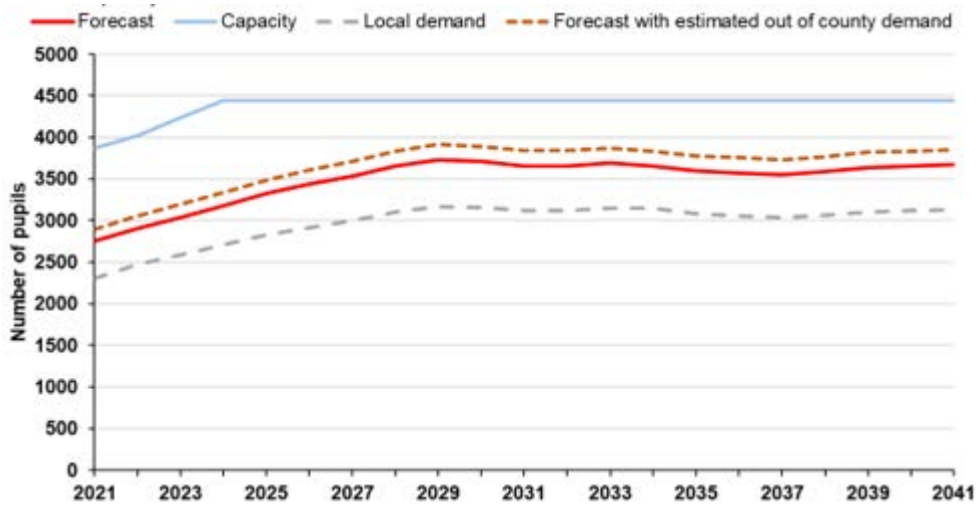
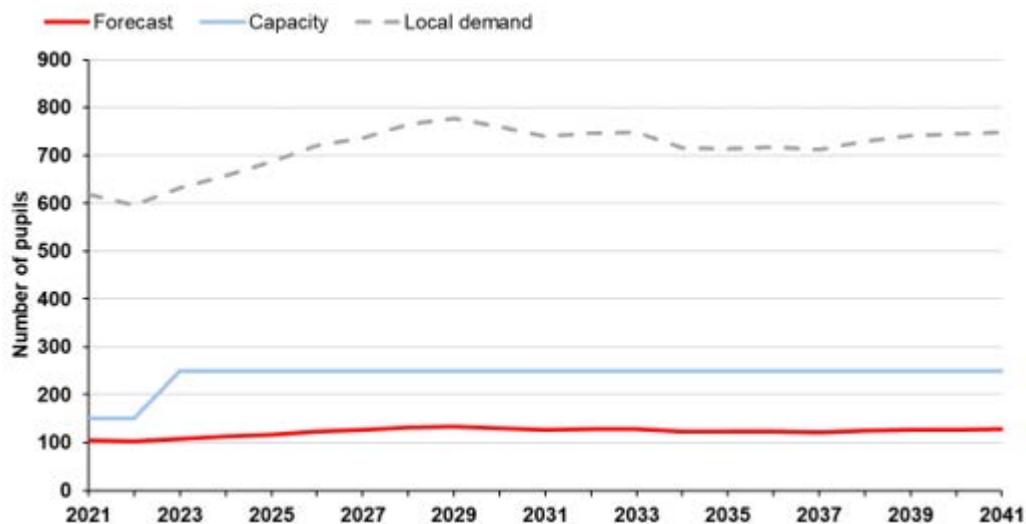


Figure 9: East Cambridgeshire Sixth Form forecast compared to current and future planned capacity

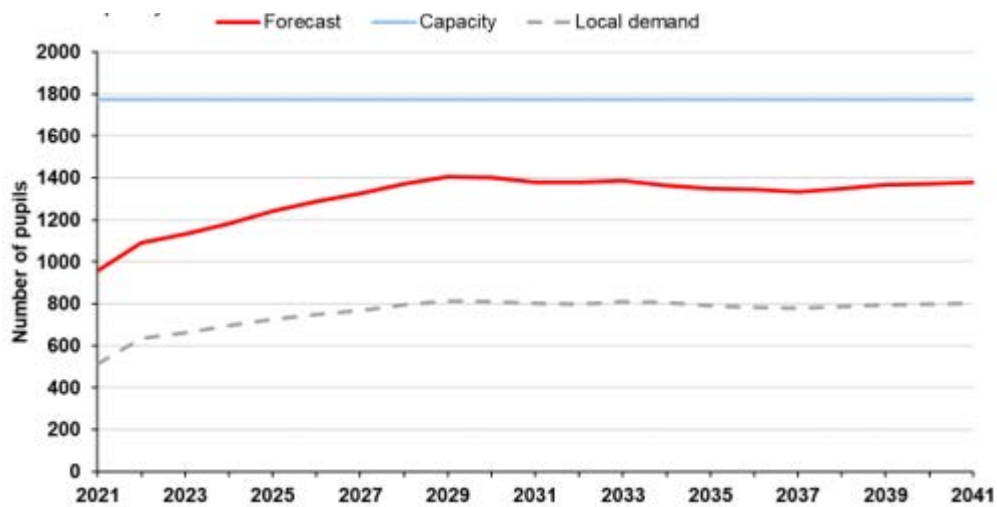


FE demand and capacity

The average annual cohort size across Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire attending FE college provision in the period 2019-21 was 548. In East Cambridgeshire the average cohort was 276. Of those resident in the City and South Cambridgeshire and opting for FE courses, 89.3% of the cohort continued at settings in those districts; Of those from East Cambridgeshire, where there is no general FE college, 64.1% travelled to settings in Cambridge City or South Cambridgeshire and just under 2.1% went to other settings across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The chart below shows forecast FE demand for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire compared with current and planned capacity.

Figure 10: Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire FE College forecast compared to current and future planned capacity



What are we doing now?

The review has found that there are plans underway and further opportunities to create additional Sixth Form places in Cambridge.

- Long Road Sixth Form College has a large site and could extend to provide additional capacity; potentially over 1,000 places. The college is looking to obtain planning permission to extend. Current provision focuses mainly on A levels, some applied qualifications at Level 3 and some alternative Level 2 courses. It is exploring the introduction of T levels and Level 2 transition courses.
- Hills Road Sixth Form College does not have the space to expand much further than possibly around another 50 places, if needed. However, it is interested in collaborating with others to provide additional specialist capacity in other parts of the county, e.g., the north and east, as necessary.
- In September 2023, The Eastern Learning Alliance will open The Cambridge Maths School, a specialist 16-19 mathematics college which will draw students from across the east of England. Starting with 40 places in Year 12, the school aims to provide a full capacity of 200 places in the future.
- Cambridge Regional College, an FE college, operates two main campus sites, one in Cambridge and the other in Huntingdon. The college currently has around 2,700 students studying a wide range of vocational course options, including BTEC and Apprenticeships from entry up to Levels 4 and 5. The college began delivery of T Levels from 2021. The college has significant options to expand places rapidly, should they be required, with around another 500 places potentially available.
- The Eastern Learning Alliance opened a Sixth Form on the site of Chesterton Sixth Form College in September 2022.

In South Cambridgeshire, partners also have significant plans for post-16 development:

- Impington Village College has a sixth form of 100 places, offering BTec and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses. The Learning Alliance, which took over sponsorship of the college from September 2020, also aspires to offer a further 50 Level 1 and 2 course places across the Multi-Academy Trust.
- Cambourne Village College, currently an 11-16 school, is looking to establish a sixth form with 175 places. The intention is for this to be available to the first students from September 2024, with a range of A level and BTec courses offered.
- Northstowe Secondary College also has a future sixth form planned. From September 2024 it intends to open the first 100 places of a 400 place sixth form, again offering a wide range of A level and vocational courses.

In East Cambridgeshire:

- Bishop Laney Sixth Form at Ely College has students in Sixth Form education offering Level 2 and 3 courses along with A levels. In June 2023 it secured funding from the Department for Education to expand capacity to 400 places.

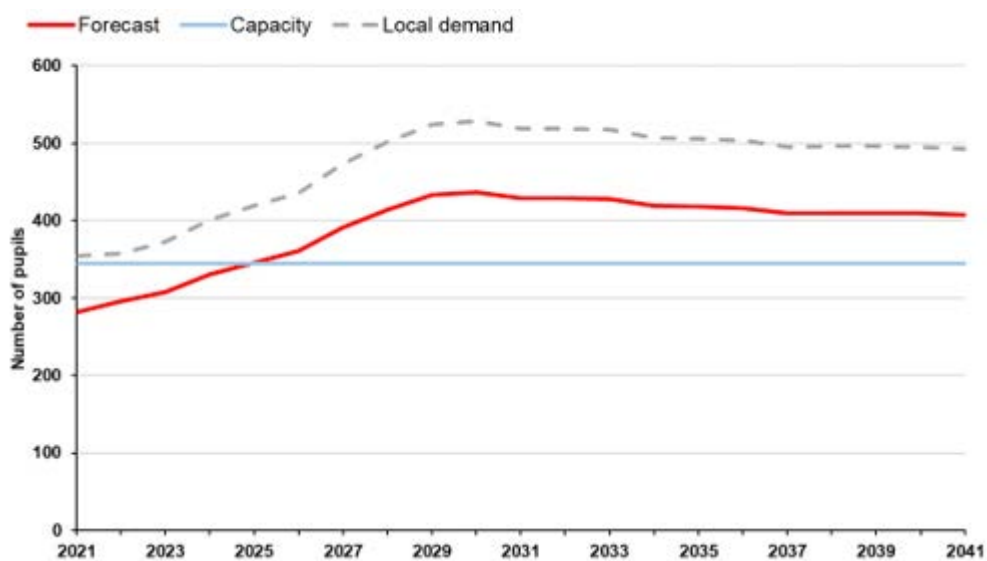
Fenland

Sixth form demand and capacity

The review found that the average annual cohort size of Fenland residents attending sixth forms or sixth form college provision in the period 2019-21 was 344. Of those opting for sixth form provision, 82.3% of the cohort continued at settings in Fenland, 4.6% travelled to Cambridge City or South Cambridgeshire, 0.7% travelled to Huntingdonshire respectively and 1.0% took up a place in East Cambridgeshire.

The chart below shows sixth form forecasts for Fenland compared with current and planned capacity.

Figure 11: Fenland Sixth Form forecast compared to current and planned future capacity

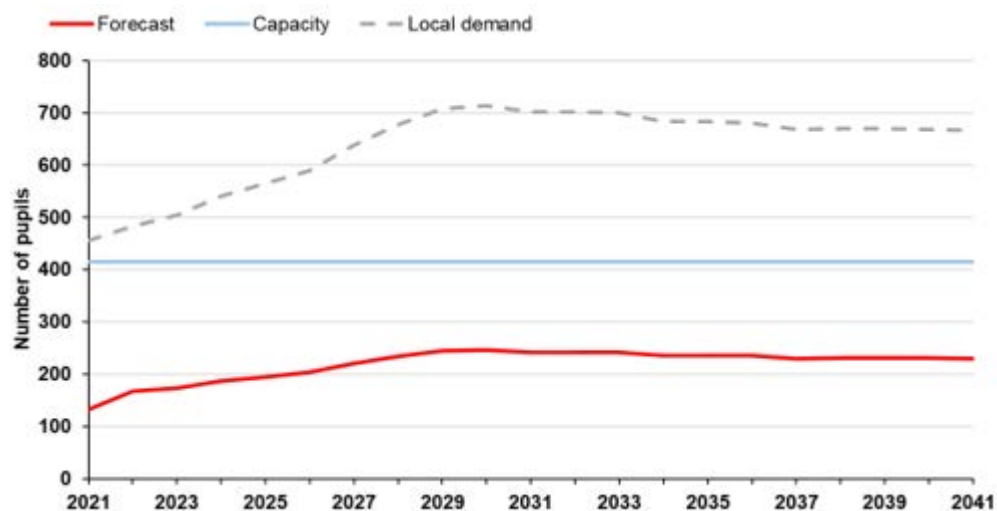


FE demand and capacity

The average annual cohort size in Fenland attending FE college provision in the period 2019-2022 was 465. Of those resident in Fenland and opting for FE courses 34.0% of the cohort continued at settings within Fenland; 35.3% attended in Peterborough, 1.5% travelled to Huntingdonshire and 11.5% went to settings in Cambridge City or South Cambridgeshire.

The chart below shows FE forecasts for Fenland compared with current and planned capacity.

Figure 12: Fenland FE College forecast compared to current and future planned capacity



What are we doing now?

There is no requirement for further expansion in terms of place sufficiency, though Sir Harry Smith Secondary School, part of the Aspire Trust in Whittlesey is understood to be exploring a potential expansion of sixth form capacity in line with a 1FE expansion of its 11-16 places.

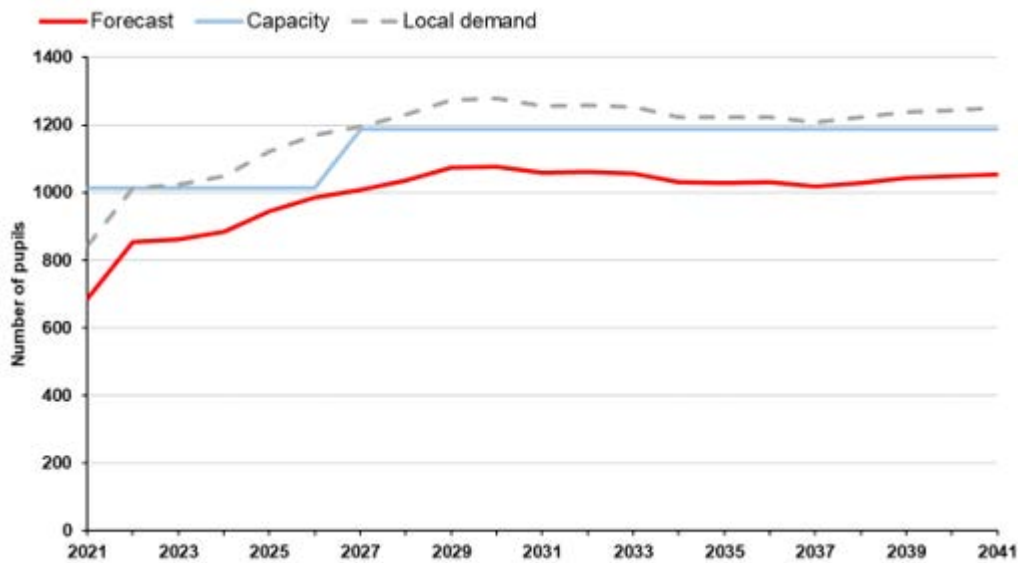
Huntingdonshire

Sixth form demand and capacity

The review found that the average annual cohort size of Huntingdonshire residents attending sixth forms or sixth form college provision in the period 2019-2022 was 840. Of those opting for sixth form provision, 83.3% of the cohort continued at settings in the district, 10.3% travelled to Cambridge City or South Cambridgeshire and 0.5% took up a place in Peterborough.

The chart below shows sixth form forecasts for Huntingdonshire compared with current and planned capacity, with reference to the effects of population growth at St Neots Eastern Expansion and at Alconbury Weald.

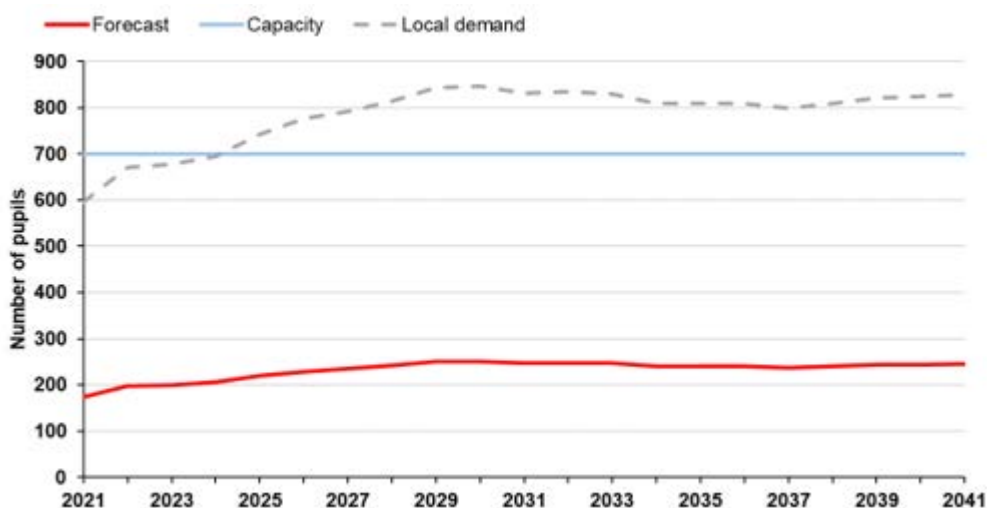
Figure 33: Huntingdonshire Sixth Form forecast compared to current and future planned capacity



FE demand and capacity

The average annual cohort size of Huntingdonshire residents attending FE college provision in the period 2019-22 was 557. Of those, 44.4% went to colleges and settings in Cambridge City or South Cambridgeshire, 27.1% remained at settings within the district, 13.1% went to Peterborough, 0.2% of the cohort took up a place in Fenland. The chart below shows FE forecasts for Huntingdonshire compared with current and planned capacity.

Figure 14: Huntingdonshire FE College forecast compared to current and future planned capacity



What are we doing now?

Partners have reported capacity within existing provision and in anticipation of new housing development areas within Huntingdonshire:

- At the main Cambridge Regional College (CRC) campus in Huntingdon, there is theoretical capacity for 1,200 places. A significant proportion of this capacity is not needed currently.
- At Alconbury Weald plans are in place for a sixth form at Alconbury Weald Secondary school. The opening date for the sixth form has not yet been set. .
- Sawtry Village Academy has refurbished its sixth form centre, and this has capacity for more than 150 places.

4.7 Useful Links

[Apprenticeships](#)

[Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act \(2009\)](#)

[Education and Skills Act \(2008\)](#)

[Education Transport for young people post-16](#)

[Learn Together Cambridgeshire website: Guidance and Teaching in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough schools](#)

[Ofsted](#)

[T Levels: a guide to their introduction](#)

[UCAS: admissions to further education and sixth form colleges](#)

[Vacancies for 16+ and apprenticeships information](#)

Chapter 5: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

5.1 What is the national policy?

Children and Families Act (2014)

The Children and Families Act (2014) aims to ensure that all children, young people and their families can access the right support and provision to meet their needs. The Act outlines the Code of Practice for children and young people with SEND.

Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (2015)

The Code of Practice sets out a general presumption of mainstream education for children with SEND. In addition, it states parents of children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and young people with such a Plan have the right to seek a place at a special school, special post-16 institution or a specialist college.

Other key pieces of legislation which are used to guide practice include:

- Mental Capacity Act (2005)
- Equalities Act (2010)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
- Care Act (2014)
- NHS Five Year Forward View (2014)
- Think Autism: an update to the Department of Health strategy (2014)
- Transforming Care - Building the right support (2015)

5.2 What are the Council's responsibilities?

Section 14 of the Education Act (1996) places Local Authorities (LAs) under a general duty to provide a school place for every child living in their area of responsibility, irrespective of their needs. This may be in mainstream or specialist provision.

Health services, the LA and their partners are required to:

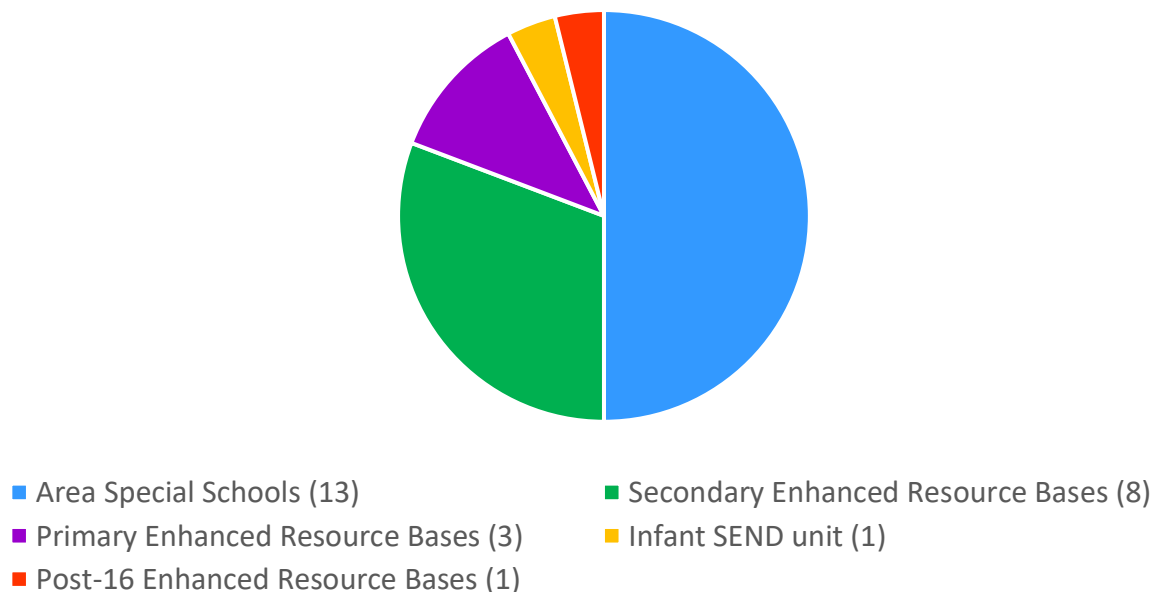
- include children, young people and their parents/carers in decision-making at individual and strategic level
- work cooperatively together both at a strategic level when developing, buying and managing services and at an individual level when agreeing support to families including the production of EHCPs for children and young people

The Children and Families Act (2014) also places a duty on every LA to publish a Local Offer, setting out in one place information on the provision they expect to be available in their area for children and young people aged between 0 and 25 who have SEND.

5.3 What types of provision are available?

The Council is committed to inclusion and will endeavour to support children in mainstream schools wherever possible. However, for those children and young people for whom mainstream is not considered appropriate, there are several specialist education provisions in the county.

Figure 15: Specialist Education Providers in Cambridgeshire as of August 2023



*Of the 3 Primary Enhanced Resource Bases, 1 caters specifically to children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and of the 8 Secondary Enhanced Resource Bases, 5 cater specifically for children with ASD.

5.4 How do we identify pressures?

National Statistics

The DfE publishes national statistics on an annual basis. These are collated using the information provided as part of the school census on pupils with SEND and SEND provision in schools. This provides further analysis by primary type of need, and the trends over time.

Local Authority level forecasting

In 2022 the Holt Winters method was used to forecast the expected number of 4-year-olds. Given the under-forecast in age 4s last year it has been decided to use a new methodology for 2023. A line graph was created showing the last three years 4-year-olds, including the drop in 2023. A trendline was added and the equation of the line was found. This method was used to calculate number of four-year-olds for all provision types (Mainstream, Special Schools, Independent Schools, Other and Resourced Provision, as well as number of 16-year-olds for Post 16). It will be important to monitor if the drop in numbers in 2023 is a short-term anomaly or the start of a longer-term trend.

For pupils aged 6-15, numbers in one year group are calculated based on the numbers in that year group and those in the same group (or cohort) in the previous school year based on the average experience of the last three years. A weighted average is used to bias towards the most recent year.

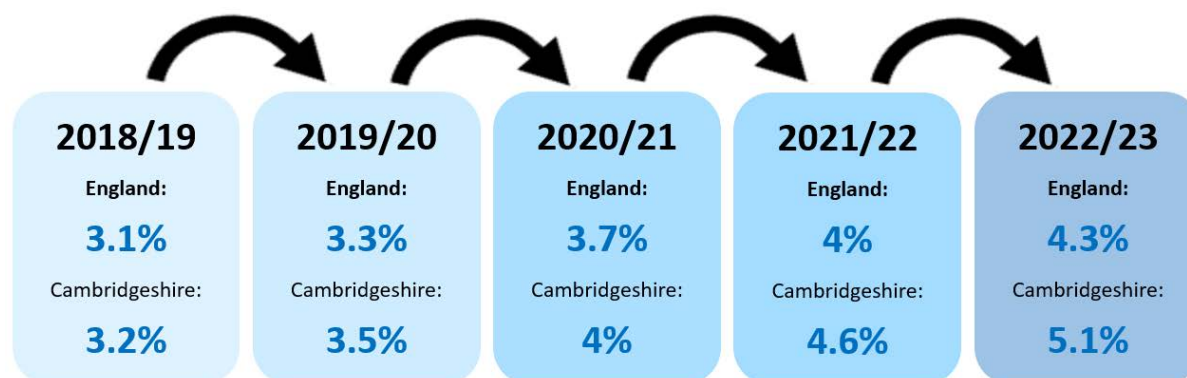
The key point to note, is that despite falling birth rates and a drop in 4-year-olds with EHCPs, the total number of children and young people with EHCPs continues to see an upward trajectory. The greatest rises are expected in those with primary diagnoses of autism and social, emotional and mental health needs.

5.5 How has this changed over time?

Nationally, the percentage of pupils with an EHCP has increased from 4% in the 2020/21 academic year to 4.3% in 2022/23, continuing a rising trend since 2017. The percentage of pupils with SEND but no EHCP also increased, from 12.6% in the 2021/22 academic year to 13% in 2022/23.

In Cambridgeshire, 5.1% of children had an EHCP in 2022/23. This is an increase from 4.6% in 2021/22 and continues to be above the national average of 4.3%. Conversely, the rate of children with SEND but no EHCP in Cambridgeshire is 11.9%. Although being an increase from 2021/22, this remains below the national average of 13%.

Figure 17: Percentage of Pupils with EHC Plans



National Statistics: Special educational needs in England (DfE)

5.6 How do we commission places for pupils with SEND?

The Children and Families Act (2014) states that LAs must integrate educational provision and training provision with health and social care provision, where it promotes well-being and improves the quality of provision for children or young people with SEND.

LAs and NHS clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) must make joint commissioning arrangements for education for children and young people aged 0 to 25 with SEND. Joint commissioning may involve services that we already run or buying services from other organisations. Reviewing and monitoring of services is ongoing and involves service users and providers.

5.7 What are the pressures? How are we responding?

Growth in the number of pupils with SEND, and with an EHCP, means that additional places will be required across the age range, need types and districts. The highest type of need is expected to be for children and young people with ASD, those with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs and those with moderate learning difficulties. Although the highest immediate need for SEND school places is in Fenland, it is expected that Greater Cambridge (City and South Cambridgeshire) will see the greatest rise in the number of pupils with SEND over the coming 5 years.

A graduated approach to provision, which ensures that children and young people can access the right support, in the right place, at the right time, means that additional places for SEND will be required in mainstream schools, in Enhanced Resource Bases or units attached to mainstream schools, and in Area Special Schools. A cross-directorate working group is in place to implement the Developing Capacity workstream of the SEND Transformation project.

5.8 The Safety Valve Agreement

In March 2023, Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) entered into a 'Safety Valve' agreement with the DfE. This agreement stipulates that CCC improve their SEND offer to reach in an in year balanced budget by 2027. In return, the DfE will provide funds to address CCCs existing budget deficit and provide capital funds to provide additional school places for children with EHCPs. This has significantly increased planned growth in the number of places across the county.

5.9 Developing capacity

The information provided below sets out where in the county additional SEND provision is being developed, or planned, but is yet to open, including schemes funded by both the Safety Valve agreement and by CCC. The SEND Capital Plan, published on the Council's website, also includes an allocation of funding towards adaptations to mainstream provision. Where specific adaptation is necessary for a child or young person, an assessment based on the child's individual requirements is carried out. The request is then taken to a county panel to be discussed and approved on a case-by-case basis

East Cambridgeshire

What are the current pressures?

There is increasing demand for Area Special School places.

How are we responding?

A small expansion of Highfield Littleport Academy is underway, with an additional 10 places expected in September 2023. A larger expansion of the school is in the early development stages and aims to provide a further 50 places in September 2024.

Fenland

What are the current pressures?

There has been a significant and growing need for SEMH provision in Wisbech. As a result, there is a need to relocate and expand existing provision.

Meadowgate Academy in Wisbech is an Area Special School for children and young people aged 2-19. It is currently operating at capacity and unable to respond to requests for places from families living in the local area.

How are we responding?

A capital scheme is complete to relocate Riverside Meadows Academy – Wisbech Green, a SEMH provision in Wisbech. It is due to open in September 2023. The new purpose-built accommodation will allow for expansion of provision from 30 to 60 places.

Agreement has been given from the DfE for a new centrally delivered area special school in the March area of Fenland. We aim to open the provision, which will offer 210 additional places, in 2026.

In addition, there is ongoing exploration of an expansion to Meadowgate Academy.

Greater Cambridgeshire (Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire)

What are the current pressures?

The Castle School is an Area Special School for children and young people aged 2 to 19. The school is currently operating at capacity and is unable to respond to requests for places from families living in the local area.

Martin Bacon Academy is an Area Special School in Northstowe for children and young people aged 2 to 19. The school opened in 2020 and is operating at capacity. It is currently unable to respond to requests for places from families living in the local area.

How are we responding?

Satellite provisions, run by The Castle School and based at Chesterton Community College and the Fields Maintained Nursey School site, opened in September 2022.

Co-located with Impington Village College, The Cavendish School, opened in September 2021, providing education for up to 80 children aged between 8 and 19 years of age, with a primary diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC).

There is a commitment from Cambridgeshire County Council to provide a new Special School for children and young people (CYP) with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs in Gamlingay. The current aim is to open this new school in 2025 and offer 60 places.

There is planned expansion of Martin Bacon Academy onto 2 satellite sites:

- A 40-place satellite at Swavesey Village College will provide education to CYP on the roll out of Martin Bacon Academy who need a specialist placement, but who are cognitively able to access some elements of a mainstream curriculum. The aim is to open this satellite provision towards the end of the 2022/23 academic year.
- An expansion at Northstowe Secondary College will provide 20 places for young people aged 16-19, thereby alleviating the pressure on space on the main school site. This is expected to open during the 2024/25 academic year.

Huntingdonshire

What are the current pressures?

Spring Common Academy in Huntingdon is an Area Special School for children aged 2 to 19. It is currently operating at capacity and unable to respond to requests for places from families living in the local area.

Samuel Pepys Academy in St Neots is an Area Special School for children and young people aged 2 to 19. The school is currently operating at capacity and is unable to respond to requests for places from families living in the local area.

The Alconbury Weald development is currently underway and is expected to deliver approximately 6,500 homes once complete. Due to the size of the development, it is recognised that there will be increased demand for specialist provision, above that which can be met by existing Area Special Schools.

How are we responding?

A 10-place satellite expansion of Spring Common Academy opened in 2023. The satellite is for CYP aged 16-19 and is located at the Huntingdon campus of Cambridge Regional College.

An Area Special School is being built as part of the Alconbury Weald development. The new school, to be known as Prestley Wood, will cater for children aged between 2 and 19. In total, this school will have 150 places and will be run by the Horizons Education Trust following their successful application to the presumption competition run by the Council in 2017. This new school is expected to open in September 2024.

An expansion of Samuel Pepys School is underway to provide an additional 63 places on the site, increasing the overall capacity to 165. The additional places are expected to be available in September 2024

Countywide

Cambridgeshire County Council is seeking to establish additional Enhanced Resource Bases at schools countywide to meet needs of those with ASD and SEMH. This, and the other projects referenced above, are part of a wider SEND transformation strategy which is supported by safety valve funding and has been approved by the Cambridgeshire Children and Young People committee. Further information can be found below in 5.10.

5.10 Useful Links

[Cambridgeshire County Council Capital Programme: Business Plan](#)

[Cambridgeshire County Council's SEND offer: 'the local offer'](#)

[Care Act \(2014\)](#)

[Children and Families Act \(2014\)](#)

[Children and Young People Committee Paper, 5 July 2022- Proposed approach for developing capacity for school placements for children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities](#)

[Contingency Framework: Education and Childcare Settings Equalities Act \(2010\)](#)

[Learn Together Cambridgeshire website: Guidance and Teaching in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough schools](#)

[Mental Capacity Act \(2005\)](#)

[Ofsted](#)

[Dedicated Schools Grant 'Safety Valve' Agreement: Cambridgeshire 2022-2023 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[SEND and specialist settings: additional COVID-19 operational guidance \(applies after Step 4\)](#)

[SEND Code of Practice \(2015\)](#)

[SEND Information and Advice Support Service \(SENDIASS\)](#)

[SEND: Old issues, new issues, next steps \(DfE, 16 June 2021\)](#)

[Think Autism: an update to the Department of Health strategy \(2014\)](#)

[Transforming Care - Building the right support \(2015\)](#)

[Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2018\)](#)

Appendix A: Demographic Forecast Methodology

A.1 Analysis of data

The Council's Business Intelligence Team undertakes research and analysis of population data. This includes birth data supplied by the NHS, school census data and the Government's ten-year census. From this data, a range of population and school place forecasts are produced.

A.2 Early Years and Childcare

Future demand for pre-school provision is assessed based on the number of children born in the county each year. Data is obtained from NHS Provide, providing counts of children aged 0 to 4 that are registered with a doctor, by postcode. Translating this information into a pattern of demand for childcare is difficult as families can choose to take up provision close to their workplaces rather than to their home and take up rates for childcare places are different depending on family circumstance. Therefore, the NHS data is only considered together with a broader Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

A.3 Primary and Secondary Provision

District and County level forecasts are produced once a year. These show the number of pupils forecast to attend schools within each District Council area. The key inputs to the forecasting model are the latest data on actual school rolls (taken from the annual January school census counts) and NHS data, showing the number of 0–4-year-olds in each district. The forecasts assume that recent trends, generally those in the past three years, will continue over the next ten years. In detail, the assumptions used are as follows:

- 4-year-old pupils: Intake of 4-year-olds into reception classes the following year is projected based on the relationship over the last three years between the numbers of children aged 4 arriving at school and the numbers of births five years earlier – currently an average arrival rate of 92% across Cambridgeshire; however, this varies greatly across districts
- 5–10-year-old pupils: Projected on the basis of the average change in the size of year-groups over the last three years
- 11-year-old pupils: Projected based on the average proportion transferring from the top primary year-group to secondary school over the last three years – currently a transfer rate of 97% averaged across the County. The net loss on transfer mainly represents moves into the private sector
- 12–15-year-old pupils: Projected based on the average change in the size of year-groups over the last three years.

While the District and County-level forecasts of pupil numbers are the most robust for planning future provision at a strategic level, they do not give sufficient geographical detail to enable planning at a local level or to assist individual schools with their plans. Therefore, two other kinds of pupil forecasts for existing schools and communities are produced, these are:

- Future pupil numbers, determined by the school they are forecast to attend (trend based)
- Future pupil numbers, determined by catchment areas (catchment based)

Individual (trend based) forecast

Individual (trend based) school forecasts are produced once a year. These forecasts apply recent trends of parental preference, as well as taking current catchment numbers into account. These forecasts are primarily used to support individual schools' budgetary and organisational planning.

Catchment area forecast

For strategic planning purposes, catchment area forecasts are produced. These forecasts take full account of all pupils living within each primary school catchment area and are not limited by the capacity at any school. These forecasts make no assumptions about which school pupils will go to; therefore, they do not attempt to model the impact of parental preference. Experience has shown that parental preference can change dramatically over relatively short periods of time. The catchment forecasts also follow a trend-based approach, specifically:

- Numbers of 4-year-olds living in each catchment and attending a school are forecast on the basis of the relationship between the numbers of children recorded as living in the catchment in the NHS Provide data and the numbers attending maintained schools and living in each area (as shown by the January school census) over the previous three years.
- Year-groups are assumed to progress through the school phases, within the same catchment area, adjusted for the average net gains and losses experienced within those areas over the past three years.

This approach provides a sound basis for ensuring that the overriding statutory duty to provide a school place for all pupils whose parents want them educated in the state-funded sector is met. It is particularly effective when considering not just capacity and demand for places at individual schools, but those within geographical areas, enabling effective utilisation of resources. Using this approach, and not looking specifically at demand and capacity of individual schools, also means it is possible to make allowances for parental preference.

The Council is able to collate data about parental preference from admission applications. The annual school census can also be used to show where children are not attending their catchment school. In combination with other information gathered, this provides a means of assessing patterns of parental preference. Although patterns of parental preference can, and often do, change on a regular basis, it is important that due consideration is given to promoting choice during reviews of education provision.

Whilst accepting the rights of parents to express a preference for a school place, this is considered to be secondary to the Council's duty to secure sufficient school places. This is especially important in terms of making efficient use of limited capital resources. However, where pressures are identified, due consideration is given to parental preference in determining solutions to providing additional capacity.

A.4 Local Population Forecasts and Estimates

The Council's Policy and Insight team produces local population estimates and forecasts. The current forecasts start from a base year of 2021 derived from the Council's mid-2021 population estimates. These population forecasts are 'policy-led', so that they are consistent with planned levels of house building between 2021 and 2041. The 2021-based population forecasts are mainly based on the published 2022 housing trajectories, with some interpolation and extrapolation by the Policy and Insight Team.

The Council uses POPGROUP (specialist demographic software) to produce its population forecasts. The forecasts are produced by ageing forward the population by sex and single year of age, year by year, from 2021 to 2041 in the 2021-based population forecasts. Population change is forecast by allowing for the main components of population change: births and deaths (which together give natural change), and migration, as well taking into account planned levels of house building.

Births are forecast by applying age-specific fertility rates to the numbers of women of child-bearing age in the local population. The age-specific fertility rates used in the forecast model are calculated from ONS data on live births by age of mother and with reference to the ONS's Dynamic Population Model estimates (publication February 2023) between 2016-17 and 2019-20. These rates are applied in the forecast model from 2022-23 onwards. For 2021-22, estimates of births have been calculated based on reported ONS and NHS births data.

Deaths are forecast by applying age-specific mortality rates to the number of men and women in the local population. The forecast sex- and age specific mortality rates used in the model are calculated from ONS data on deaths by age and sex and with reference to the ONS's Dynamic Population Model estimates (publication February 2023) between 2016-17 and 2019-20. These rates are applied in the forecast model from 2022-23 onwards. For 2021-22, estimates of deaths by age and sex have been calculated based on reported ONS deaths data.

Net migration is the balance between migration into an area and migration from it. The age and sex structure of migrants gives the probability of migrants being of a particular age and sex. This structure is determined for the base year of the model and then fitted to forecast totals of net migration to produce numbers of migrants into or out of an area by sex and age.

At the time of the production of CCC's population forecasts, the full dataset which is expected to be produced from Census 2021 on recent trends in internal and international immigration and emigration was not available. Within this set of 2021-based forecasts, immigration and emigration rates have been calculated with reference to the ONS's Dynamic Population Model estimates (publication February 2023) between 2016-17 and 2019-20. In this model

run, in-migration is adjusted such that the number of households generated by the model is consistent with the number of dwellings that are expected to be built between 2021 and 2041.

A.5 New communities

The scale and likely impact of housing growth within the County is assessed from each District Council's development plans [Note 1], and specifically their Housing Trajectories and Site-Specific Development Plans. It is important to emphasise that these plans do not provide assurance that this level of development will occur, as housing development is driven by economic conditions and market forces. Likewise, these strategies do not preclude additional 'speculative' development being proposed. They do, however, provide the best information available on which to base planning of future education provision in relation to proposed development.

Housing developments range in size from major development sites, often of 100+ homes, to windfall developments which can be as small as 1-2 dwellings [Note 2]. Whilst windfall developments are not identified within them, most Core Strategies will include references to areas and circumstances under which such development may be welcomed.

As the scale of development is lower on windfall sites, the impact on demographic pressures from these sites is less than from major developments and can be incorporated within general forecasts. In contrast, major developments require specific forecasts, and often lead to the identification of a need for additional provision. However, as this can be over extended periods, it is important to understand the likely short and long-term impact of these developments to support strategic planning of future provision.

The scale and pace of development is assessed by the Council's Policy and Insight team, who prepare and publish an annual development survey of housing development across the county.

All forecasting is an inexact process, heightened by the number of unknowns that exist in relation to future developments. While some key variables, such as dwelling size and tenure mix can be identified, many, for example, the impact of place and design influencing the desirability of a development, cannot. Added to this is the need for infrastructure to evolve to meet the needs of the population as the development settles and matures.

To aid its forecasting for new housing developments, the Council has adopted assumptions for the numbers and age-range of children likely to live in different types of housing. These assumptions are known as multipliers, these were approved by the Children and Young People's Committee in September 2015. The figures were revised and re-approved by the Committee in 2017. The 2017 multipliers are currently under review and will be taken to elected members later in 2023. The current figures are listed below:

- 20-30 pre-school aged pupils per 100 dwellings
- 30-40 primary children per 100 dwellings,
- 18-25 secondary pupils per 100 dwellings

Underpinning the 'general multipliers' are detailed multipliers for different tenures and dwellings sizes.

The general multipliers, together with projections of the pace of housing delivery, enable the build-up of demand for school places to be modelled and planned at an early stage. As development proposals progress, the forecasts continue to evolve, as details of housing and tenure mix and pace of development become confirmed. These forecasts are monitored alongside pupil numbers obtained from school census data and NHS GP Registrations, and revised forecasts are produced.

Appendix B: School Capacity Forecast Methodology

B.1 Statutory requirements

Regulations require the LA to provide a statement to accompany the School Capacity Collection forecast pupil numbers explaining the method by which the forecast has been made.

B.2 Sources of data

Pupil numbers already on roll come from the January annual school census, January 2023.

Primary forecasts of reception numbers are based on numbers of children under school age living in catchments derived from NHS Provide Data. To complete this piece of work Cambridgeshire County Council received a data table listing numbers of children by postcode. The council used a detailed look-up table / gazetteer so that children aged 0-4 (as at 31 August 2022) could be allocated to school catchment areas.

Admissions for autumn 2023 are based on actual admissions data as at the end of the third round of applications under the County Council school admissions process.

Intakes for 2026/27 are based on forecast numbers of births taken from a three-year average of births for the previous three years.

Data about future housebuilding is taken from an assessment of the District Council Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs) and published future housing trajectories / five year land supply reports. This assessment was supported by the County Council's Policy and Insight team who provide a planning monitoring service for all of Cambridgeshire's districts.

B.3 Processing the data

The Council has developed a combined pupil forecasting model, which has been in use since 2018. Together with the improved model there are set written procedures for updating and rolling forward the model with new data:

Raw data for school roll, 0-4s and births were entered into the model and subject to a quality assurance process (see below).

By default, year-groups are assumed to move through schools with a weighted average of the net gains and losses experienced within the schools over the past three years. Where there was a significant reason to vary this methodology (for example because of erratic or exemption year group change in one of three of the past years) then this decision was made by the pupil forecaster and recorded.

The model was adjusted to take into account changes in school organisation. For example, the opening of new schools.

Intake at four years old is forecast based on the relationship between the numbers of children recorded as living in the primary school catchment in the CHIS data, and the weighted average of actual intakes at that school from the previous three years. Real-time information from schools and the Admissions Team on the expected September 2023 intake (allocations) is also incorporated in the forecasts.

Intake at 11 years old is forecast on the basis of the relationship between the numbers of 10-year-old pupils in the primary schools normally feeding to a secondary school and the weighted average of actual intakes at that school from the previous three years. Admissions system data on allocations to school places from the second round of admissions for the September 2023 intake is also incorporated into the forecast.

B.4 Quality Assurance

Forecasts are completed by the County Council's Policy and Insight Team that has a track record / expertise in forecasting and holds the population forecasting model and the regional economic forecasting model.

All data-entry is quality assured. The process is that one member of the team at 'analyst' level enters the data and checks it. Then a second member of the team at 'senior analyst' level rechecks all the data entry. Key checks are then made against totals etc. to ensure all 0-4 numbers and PLASC numbers equal the original totals.

This point provides a chance to check the accuracy of the previous year's one year forecast. Significant differences are identified and explained. For the most part variances are attributable to known uncertainties for example areas undergoing rapid housebuilding, schools with poor Ofsted or areas of significant population turn-over. Where the difference is attributable to modelling decisions (only a small number of cases) then assumptions are adjusted for the following year's forecasts.

Forecasts generated and then sense checked against previous years forecasts. Where there are significant variations then the forecasts are rechecked and adjusted if needs be. This process is managed through regular meetings of the forecasting team.

Forecasts are then passed to the place planning team and checked with place planning officers. Again, variations in officer's understanding of the situation on the ground are checked with the research team and a dialogue is held to ensure that the forecasts represent as accurate a picture as possible given the known information.

B.5 Other Factors

Housing

Individual primary school forecasts are adjusted for expected major changes in housebuilding within the school catchment, i.e., the beginning or completion of a large housing estate. Housing additions are based on trajectories provided by District Council planning departments each year. Pupil yields from housing developments are specified in the forecasting model. These are added to the base forecast to produce the total forecast.

Cross border movement

Pupil numbers from the January 2023 annual school census includes pupils on roll at Cambridgeshire schools living outside the local authority area, so that cross border parental preference is accounted for.

B.6 Forecasting model changes

The Secondary forecasting model now calculates Reception year arrivals using CHIS data from ages 0-3, which now matches how the Primary forecasting model calculates Reception year arrivals. Previously, the Secondary forecasting model used only the cohort at birth (age 0) for this calculation.

Appendix C: School Planning Areas Summer 2023

School Name	Planning Area Name
Arbury Primary School	Cambridge City (North of River Cam) Primary
Chesterton Primary School	Cambridge City (North of River Cam) Primary
Kings Hedges Primary School	Cambridge City (North of River Cam) Primary
Mayfield Primary School	Cambridge City (North of River Cam) Primary
Milton Road Primary School	Cambridge City (North of River Cam) Primary
Orchard Park Community Primary School	Cambridge City (North of River Cam) Primary
Shirley Community Primary School	Cambridge City (North of River Cam) Primary
St Laurence Catholic Primary School	Cambridge City (North of River Cam) Primary
St Luke's CofE Primary School	Cambridge City (North of River Cam) Primary
The Grove Primary School	Cambridge City (North of River Cam) Primary
University of Cambridge Primary School	Cambridge City (North of River Cam) Primary
Bewick Bridge Community Primary School	Cambridge City (South of River Cam) Primary
Cherry Hinton CofE VC Primary School	Cambridge City (South of River Cam) Primary
Colville Primary School	Cambridge City (South of River Cam) Primary
Fawcett Primary School	Cambridge City (South of River Cam) Primary
Marleigh Primary Academy	Cambridge City (South of River Cam) Primary
Morley Memorial Primary School	Cambridge City (South of River Cam) Primary
Newnham Croft Primary School	Cambridge City (South of River Cam) Primary
Park Street CofE Primary School	Cambridge City (South of River Cam) Primary
Queen Edith Primary School	Cambridge City (South of River Cam) Primary
Queen Emma Primary School	Cambridge City (South of River Cam) Primary
Ridgefield Primary School	Cambridge City (South of River Cam) Primary
St Alban's Catholic Primary School	Cambridge City (South of River Cam) Primary
St Matthew's Primary School	Cambridge City (South of River Cam) Primary
St Pauls CofE VA Primary School	Cambridge City (South of River Cam) Primary
St Philip's CofE Aided Primary School	Cambridge City (South of River Cam) Primary
The Galfrid School	Cambridge City (South of River Cam) Primary
The Spinney Primary School	Cambridge City (South of River Cam) Primary
Trumpington Meadows Primary School	Cambridge City (South of River Cam) Primary
Trumpington Park Primary School	Cambridge City (South of River Cam) Primary
Marleigh Primary Academy	Cambridge City (South of River Cam) Primary
Bottisham Community Primary School	Bottisham Rural 1 Primary
Burwell Village College (Primary)	Bottisham Rural 1 Primary
Fen Ditton Primary School	Bottisham Rural 1 Primary
Fulbourn Primary School	Bottisham Rural 1 Primary
Great Wilbraham CofE Primary School	Bottisham Rural 1 Primary
Swaffham Bulbeck CofE Primary School	Bottisham Rural 1 Primary
Swaffham Prior CofE Primary School	Bottisham Rural 1 Primary
Teversham CofE VA Primary School	Bottisham Rural 1 Primary
Cheveley CofE Primary School	Bottisham Rural 2 Primary
Ditton Lodge Primary School	Bottisham Rural 2 Primary
Kettlefields Primary School	Bottisham Rural 2 Primary
Littleport Community Primary School	Ely Town 1 Primary
Millfield Primary School	Ely Town 1 Primary

School Name	Planning Area Name
Downham Feoffees Primary Academy	Ely Town 2 Primary
Ely St John's Community Primary School	Ely Town 2 Primary
Ely St Mary's CofE Junior School	Ely Town 2 Primary
Isle of Ely Primary School	Ely Town 2 Primary
Lantern Community Primary School	Ely Town 2 Primary
Spring Meadow Infant School	Ely Town 2 Primary
Little Thetford CofE Primary School	Witchford Rural 1 Primary
Robert Arkenstall Primary School	Witchford Rural 1 Primary
Stretham Community Primary School	Witchford Rural 1 Primary
Wilburton CofE Primary School	Witchford Rural 1 Primary
Mepal and Witcham CofE Primary School	Witchford Rural 2 Primary
Sutton CofE VC Primary School	Witchford Rural 2 Primary
The Rackham CofE Primary School	Witchford Rural 2 Primary
Fordham CofE Primary School	Soham Rural 1 Primary
Isleham CofE Primary School	Soham Rural 1 Primary
Kennett Primary School	Soham Rural 1 Primary
St Andrew's CofE Primary School	Soham Town 1 Primary
The Shade Primary School	Soham Town 1 Primary
The Weatheralls Primary School	Soham Town 1 Primary
Benwick Primary School	Chatteris Rural 1 Primary
Lionel Walden Primary School	Chatteris Rural 1 Primary
Manea Community Primary School	Chatteris Rural 1 Primary
Thomas Eaton Primary Academy	Chatteris Rural 1 Primary
Cromwell Community College	Chatteris Town 1 Primary
Glebelands Primary Academy	Chatteris Town 1 Primary
Kingsfield Primary School	Chatteris Town 1 Primary
All Saints Interchurch Academy	March Town 1 Primary
Burrowmoor Primary School	March Town 1 Primary
Cavalry Primary School	March Town 1 Primary
Townley Primary School	March Town 1 Primary
Westwood Primary School	March Town 1 Primary
Alderman Jacobs School	Whittlesey Town 1 Primary
Coates Primary School	Whittlesey Town 1 Primary
New Road Primary & Nursery School	Whittlesey Town 1 Primary
Park Lane Primary & Nursery School	Whittlesey Town 1 Primary
Alderman Payne Primary School	Wisbech Rural 1 Primary
Gorefield Primary Academy	Wisbech Rural 1 Primary
Guyhirn CofE VC Primary School	Wisbech Rural 1 Primary
Kinderley Primary School	Wisbech Rural 1 Primary
Leverington Primary Academy	Wisbech Rural 1 Primary
Murrow Primary Academy	Wisbech Rural 1 Primary
Wisbech St Mary CofE Academy	Wisbech Rural 1 Primary
Beaupre Community Primary School	Wisbech Rural 2 Primary
Elm CofE Primary School	Wisbech Rural 2 Primary
Friday Bridge Community Primary School	Wisbech Rural 2 Primary
Clarkson Infants School	Wisbech Town 1 Primary

School Name	Planning Area Name
Elm Road Primary School	Wisbech Town 1 Primary
Orchards CofE Academy	Wisbech Town 1 Primary
Peckover Primary School	Wisbech Town 1 Primary
Ramnoth Junior School	Wisbech Town 1 Primary
St Peter's CofE Aided Junior School	Wisbech Town 1 Primary
The Nene Infant & Nursery School	Wisbech Town 1 Primary
Brington CofE Primary School	Huntingdon Rural 1 Primary
Spaldwick Primary School	Huntingdon Rural 1 Primary
Brampton Village Primary School	Huntingdon Rural 2 Primary
Buckden CofE Primary School	Huntingdon Rural 2 Primary
Offord Primary School	Huntingdon Rural 2 Primary
Abbots Ripton CofE Primary School	Huntingdon Rural 3 Primary
Houghton Primary School	Huntingdon Rural 3 Primary
Wyton on the Hill Community Primary School	Huntingdon Rural 3 Primary
Cromwell Academy	Huntingdon Town 1 Primary
Ermine Street Church Academy	Huntingdon Town 1 Primary
Godmanchester Bridge Academy	Huntingdon Town 1 Primary
Godmanchester Community Academy	Huntingdon Town 1 Primary
Hartford Infant and Preschool	Huntingdon Town 1 Primary
Hartford Junior School	Huntingdon Town 1 Primary
Huntingdon Primary School	Huntingdon Town 1 Primary
St Anne's CofE Primary School	Huntingdon Town 1 Primary
St John's CofE Primary School	Huntingdon Town 1 Primary
Stukeley Meadows Primary School	Huntingdon Town 1 Primary
Thongsley Fields Primary and Nursery School	Huntingdon Town 1 Primary
Earith Primary School	Ramsey Rural 1 Primary
Somersham Primary School	Ramsey Rural 1 Primary
St Helen's Primary School	Ramsey Rural 1 Primary
Warboys Primary Academy	Ramsey Rural 1 Primary
Bury CofE Primary School	Ramsey Town 1 Primary
Ramsey Junior School	Ramsey Town 1 Primary
Ramsey Spinning Infant School	Ramsey Town 1 Primary
The Ashbeach Primary School	Ramsey Town 1 Primary
Upwood Primary Academy	Ramsey Town 1 Primary
Alconbury CofE Primary School	Sawtry Rural 1 Primary
Great Gidding CofE Primary School	Sawtry Rural 1 Primary
Sawtry Infants' School	Sawtry Rural 1 Primary
Sawtry Junior Academy	Sawtry Rural 1 Primary
Folksworth CofE Primary School	Sawtry Rural 2 Primary
Holme CofE Primary School	Sawtry Rural 2 Primary
Stilton CofE Primary Academy	Sawtry Rural 2 Primary
Eastfield Infant and Nursery School	St Ives Town 1 Primary
Hemingford Grey Primary School	St Ives Town 1 Primary
Holywell CofE Primary School	St Ives Town 1 Primary
Thorndown Primary School	St Ives Town 1 Primary

School Name	Planning Area Name
Westfield Junior School	St Ives Town 1 Primary
Wheatfields Primary School	St Ives Town 1 Primary
Barnabas Oley CofE Primary School	St Neots Rural 1 Primary
The Newton Community Primary School	St Neots Rural 1 Primary
Great Paxton CofE Primary School	St Neots Rural 2 Primary
Little Paxton Primary School	St Neots Rural 2 Primary
Great Staughton Primary Academy	St Neots Rural 3 Primary
Kimbolton Primary Academy	St Neots Rural 3 Primary
Bushmead Primary School	St Neots Town 1 Primary
Crosshall Infant School Academy Trust	St Neots Town 1 Primary
Crosshall Junior School	St Neots Town 1 Primary
Eynesbury CofE C Primary School	St Neots Town 1 Primary
Middlefield Primary Academy	St Neots Town 1 Primary
Priory Junior School	St Neots Town 1 Primary
Priory Park Infant School & Playgroup	St Neots Town 1 Primary
St Mary's CofE Primary School St Neots	St Neots Town 1 Primary
The Round House Primary Academy	St Neots Town 1 Primary
Winhills Primary Academy	St Neots Town 1 Primary
Wintringham Primary Academy	St Neots Town 1 Primary
Farcet CofE (C) Primary School	Peterborough Rural 1 Primary
Fourfields Community Primary School	Peterborough Rural 1 Primary
The Elton CofE Primary School of the Foundation of Frances and Jane Proby	Peterborough Rural 1 Primary
William de Yaxley CofE Academy	Peterborough Rural 1 Primary
Yaxley Infant School	Peterborough Rural 1 Primary
Bassingbourn Primary School	Bassingbourn Rural 1 Primary
Guilden Morden CofE Primary Academy	Bassingbourn Rural 1 Primary
Petersfield CofE Aided Primary School	Bassingbourn Rural 1 Primary
Steeple Morden CofE VC Primary School	Bassingbourn Rural 1 Primary
Barton CofE VA Primary School	Comberton Rural 1 Primary
Bourn CofE Primary Academy	Comberton Rural 1 Primary
Caldecote Primary School	Comberton Rural 1 Primary
Coton CofE (VC) Primary School	Comberton Rural 1 Primary
Gamlingay Village Primary	Comberton Rural 1 Primary
Haslingfield Endowed Primary School	Comberton Rural 1 Primary
Meridian Primary School	Comberton Rural 1 Primary
Hardwick and Cambourne Community Primary School	Cambourne Primary
Jeavons Wood Primary School	Cambourne Primary
Monkfield Park Primary School	Cambourne Primary
The Vine Inter-Church Primary School	Cambourne Primary
Cottenham Primary School	Cottenham Rural 1 Primary
Willingham Primary School	Cottenham Rural 1 Primary
Girton Glebe Primary School	Impington Rural 1 Primary
Histon and Impington Brook Primary School	Impington Rural 1 Primary
Histon and Impington Park Primary School	Impington Rural 1 Primary

School Name	Planning Area Name
Milton CofE Primary School	Impington Rural 1 Primary
Oakington CofE Primary School	Impington Rural 1 Primary
Waterbeach Community Primary School	Impington Rural 1 Primary
Burrough Green CofE Primary School	Linton Rural 1 Primary
Castle Camps CofE (Controlled) Primary School	Linton Rural 1 Primary
Great Abington Primary School	Linton Rural 1 Primary
Linton CofE Infant School	Linton Rural 1 Primary
Linton Heights Junior School	Linton Rural 1 Primary
Meadow Primary School	Linton Rural 1 Primary
Barrington CofE VC Primary School	Melbourn Rural 1 Primary
Fowlmere Primary School	Melbourn Rural 1 Primary
Foxton Primary School	Melbourn Rural 1 Primary
Harston and Newton Community Primary School	Melbourn Rural 1 Primary
Hauxton Primary School	Melbourn Rural 1 Primary
Thriplow CofE Primary School	Melbourn Rural 1 Primary
Melbourn Primary School	Melbourn Rural 2 Primary
Meldreth Primary School	Melbourn Rural 2 Primary
Duxford CofE Community Primary School	Sawston Rural 1 Primary
William Westley CofE VC Primary School	Sawston Rural 1 Primary
Great and Little Shelford CofE (Aided) Primary School	Sawston Rural 2 Primary
Stapleford Community Primary School	Sawston Rural 2 Primary
Babraham CofE VC Primary School	Sawston Rural 3 Primary
The Bellbird Primary School	Sawston Rural 3 Primary
The Icknield Primary School	Sawston Rural 3 Primary
Bar Hill Community Primary School	Swavesey Rural 1 & Northstowe Primary
Dry Drayton CofE (C) Primary School	Swavesey Rural 1 & Northstowe Primary
Hatton Park Primary School	Swavesey Rural 1 & Northstowe Primary
Pathfinder CofE Primary School	Swavesey Rural 1 & Northstowe Primary
Elsworth CofE VA Primary School	Swavesey Rural 2 Primary
Pendragon Community Primary School	Swavesey Rural 2 Primary
Fen Drayton Primary School	Swavesey Rural 3 Primary
Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School	Swavesey Rural 3 Primary
Over Primary School	Swavesey Rural 3 Primary
Swavesey Primary School	Swavesey Rural 3 Primary
Cambridge Academy for Science and Technology	Cambridge City Secondary
Chesterton Community College	Cambridge City Secondary
Coleridge Community College	Cambridge City Secondary
North Cambridge Academy	Cambridge City Secondary
Parkside Community College	Cambridge City Secondary
St Bede's Inter-Church School	Cambridge City Secondary
The Netherhall School	Cambridge City Secondary
Trumpington Community College	Cambridge City Secondary
Bottisham Village College	Bottisham Secondary

School Name	Planning Area Name
Ely College	Ely Secondary
Vista Academy, Littleport	Ely Secondary
Soham Village College	Soham Secondary
Witchford Village College	Witchford Secondary
Cromwell Community College	Chatteris Secondary
Neale-Wade Academy	March Secondary
Sir Harry Smith Community College	Whittlesey Secondary
Thomas Clarkson Academy	Wisbech Secondary
Hinchingbrooke School	Huntingdon Secondary
St Peter's School	Huntingdon Secondary
Abbey College, Ramsey	Ramsey Secondary
Sawtry Village Academy	Sawtry Secondary
St Ivo Academy	St Ives Secondary
Ernulf Academy	St Neots Secondary
Longsands Academy	St Neots Secondary
Cambourne Village College	Comberton Cambourne Secondary
Comberton Village College	Comberton Cambourne Secondary
Cottenham Village College	Cottenham Impington Secondary
Impington Village College	Cottenham Impington Secondary
Linton Village College	Linton Secondary
Sawston Village College	Sawston Secondary
Northstowe Secondary College	Swavesey Secondary
Swavesey Village College	Swavesey Secondary
Bassingbourn Village College	Bassingbourn Melbourn Secondary
Melbourn Village College	Bassingbourn Melbourn Secondary

Appendix D: Capital Funding

D.1 Capital Programme

The Council, as part of its annual budget-setting process, sets out its five-year capital spending projections.

The Council recognises the importance of planning and prioritising the allocation of funding within a transparent and objective framework. Its criteria are⁵:

- health and safety improvements to avoid school closures
- investment in the provision of sufficient school places in line with the Council's statutory duties (referred to commonly as meeting basic need)
- implementing statutory changes, for example, increasing the age range a school serves
- implementing the recommendations of a review of education provision
- implementing new statutory duties or education policy changes where no other funding is available
- reducing schools' maintenance costs, prioritising schools in the worst condition
- improving schools' environmental performance, prioritising those with the most inefficient buildings

Whether temporary or permanent, the Council is committed to providing accommodation that meets both statutory and local policy requirements, including the Equalities Act (2010), to support children and young people with SEND in mainstream schools. In doing so the accommodation should:

- be of high quality
- be fit-for-purpose
- provide value for money
- provide flexibility to respond to changes in need and curriculum

The very nature of capital planning necessitates alteration and refinement to proposals and funding during the planning period. Therefore, whilst the early years of the Business Plan provide robust, detailed estimates of schemes, the later years only provide indicative forecasts of the likely infrastructure needs and revenue streams for the Council.

[Business Plan 2023-2024](#)

D.2 Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)

The ESFA, which is part of the DfE, provides all funding for free schools including capital funding. Once approved, free schools are given an ESFA contact who will work with them to

⁵ These **criteria** were endorsed by the Children and Young People's Policy Development Group, in a paper on the Children and Young People's Capital Programme, 4 November 2010

acquire a suitable site for the school. The ESFA will pay for the purchase and lease of the building or land as well as any building work or refurbishment that needs to be done.

In addition, the Council will work with academies and free schools to seek to secure capital funds from the ESFA to help address condition and suitability needs.

D.3 Developer Contributions

When a new development is being built the Council will seek Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions from the respective District Council or S106 contributions from the developer to ensure the effect of the development is mitigated.