

Primary School Place Strategy 2018 – 2024





September 2018

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1.1

The Primary School Place Strategy sets out Portsmouth City Council's approach to the analysis of demand for primary school places and outlines how the demand will be met.

1.2

Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 requires Portsmouth City Council to ensure that there are sufficient school places for resident children. This duty requires the council to forecast future pupil populations so that it can ensure that sufficient places are provided.

1.3

The strategy considers forecasting data compared to capacity in Portsmouth schools, and determines whether action needs to be taken to meet anticipated future demand for school places by Portsmouth resident children.

1.4

The Strategy covers a 6-year period, but also looks forward to the longer term demand for places. This ensures that prompt action can be taken in a timely way if a future shortfall is identified.

1.5

All Councils are required to submit their pupil projections to the Department for Education (DfE) on an annual basis. The pupil projections inform the Government allocation of Basic Need capital funding to Councils. **Appendix A** explains the pupil forecasting methodology which supports the pupil projections.

1.6

The geography of Portsmouth is important for pupil place forecasting because the lack of permeable boundaries on the east, south and west greatly restricts the potential for migration in and out of the council area by pupils. Portsmouth is the most densely populated city in the UK, outside of London, with 5,000 people per km². Portsmouth parents generally have a broad choice of schools within a small distance. However, there is a significant barrier to pupil movement (as could be expressed through parental preference) due to the water course between the island and mainland parts of the City area. **Appendix B** is a map of Portsmouth showing school locations.

1.7

Since 2011, pupil numbers in Portsmouth have risen dramatically. This has put considerable pressure on the availability of primary school places and over 1,700 additional places have been added through school expansions. These additional pupils are now starting to impact on the availability of secondary school places as the numbers move through the year groups and into secondary provision.

1.8

The increase in demand is largely due to a rise in the number of children being born in the City, but it is also as a result of a range of other social and economic factors including:

- Inward migration
- Impact of housing developments and regeneration schemes
- Reduction in the number of children accessing independent education

1.9

Section 4 explains the forecasting methodology and the current pupil numbers and capacity within Portsmouth schools.

1.10

Section 5 covers the review of demand versus capacity and outlines pro-active steps which could be taken to address future pressure for primary school places. This includes considering the expansion of existing schools (which is covered more fully in **Section 6**).

1.11

The recommendations in **Section 8** focus on actions which need to be taken in the next 1-3 years to ensure that future demand (within the next 6 years) can be adequately addressed.

1.12

For longer-term projected demand (7-17 years) potential actions are provisionally identified and documented, and kept under close scrutiny as the data and intelligence is refreshed each year, until there is sufficient reliable evidence to confirm whether action should or should not be taken. By their nature, longer term forecasts are less accurate than short term projections. This is because assumptions are made but actual occurrences may change over time for example, using estimated birth rates for children who are not yet born, or where expected housing developments are delayed or do not occur. See **Appendix E**.

1.13

In addition to the Primary School Place Strategy, there is also a Secondary School Place Strategy, a SEND Provision Place Strategy, and a School Organisation policy document. The four documents are reviewed on an annual basis and updated to take account of refreshed forecast data and new or emerging intelligence.

2.1

In January 2018, there were 26,108 pupils in Portsmouth maintained schools and academies.

See table 1

2.2

Some schools are maintained by the Local Authority, and other schools are academies within a Multi Academy Trust. In Portsmouth, all schools are encouraged over time to become part of a strong Multi Academy Trust. There are 12 Multi Academy Trusts operating within the city.

See table 2

2.3

For the spread of pupils across primary, secondary and special school provision.

See table 3

2.4

The number of primary pupils has been rising significantly for over a decade. The demand for school places in Portsmouth has been fuelled by rising birth rates; inward migration and the impact of regeneration schemes and housing developments.

2.5

The birth rate has risen by 29% since the lowest point in 2001 of 2153 live births and peaking in 2012 at 2781 live births. Since then there has been a small decline in numbers and the position has stabilised. The most recent data (2016) has shown a further decline.

See table 4 overleaf

2.6

The economic climate can impact on pupil numbers, leading to a reduction in the proportion of pupils leaving the LA maintained sector for independent schools and/or a reduction in outward migration from the Local Authority area. Economic impact has affected pupil numbers across the majority of the country and this impact is evident in predicted pupil numbers across Portsmouth.

Table 1: LA maintained schools and academies (as at January 2018 school census).

	No. of pupils	% of pupils
Primary	16,878	65%
Secondary	8,661	33%
Special	569	2%
Total	26,108	100%

This figure does not include pupils in private schools

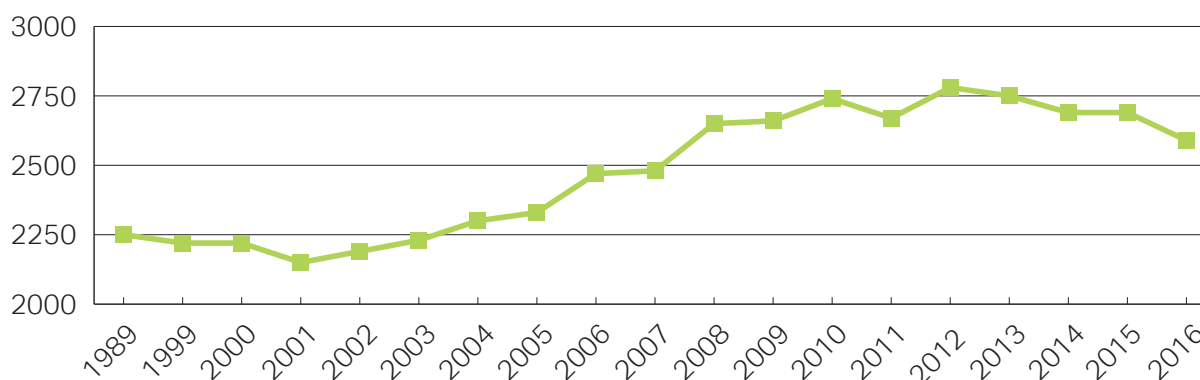
Table 2: Maintained and Academy Schools (as at September 2018)

	LA Maintained schools	Academies	Total
Infant	8	8	16
Junior	3	9	12
Primary	11	9	20
Secondary (including the University Technology College)	1	9	10
All-Through School	1	0	1
Special	2	3	5
Total	27	37	64

Table 3: Pupils across primary and secondary provision (as at January 2018 school census).

	LA Maintained schools	Academies	Total
Infant	2843	999	3842
Junior	1625	3077	4702
Primary	4536	3798	8334
Secondary	2575	6086	8661
Special	173	396	569
Total	11,752	14,356	26,108

Table 4: Number of live births in Portsmouth per year



2.7

For planning and funding purposes, local authorities are required to plan pupil provision based on planning areas which reflect patterns of provision in a similar geographic area. Planning areas in Portsmouth are based on secondary school catchment areas.

2.8

Forecast data is showing a decrease in primary pupil number forecasts, which suggests that the number of Year R pupils will fall in the period 2018-2020. Although the number of surplus places at primary level has started to rise, there is continued pressure in four (out of 7) Planning Areas. As numbers are forecast to rise again from 2021, due to the impact of housing development, the number of surplus places will reduce again.

2.9

The annual review of the Primary School Place Strategy ensures that there is a watching brief on school numbers and that prompt action can be taken in a timely way, if a future shortfall is identified within the next 6 years.

2.10

A **key priority** is to secure capital funding to address sufficiency of school places and also address the urgent condition issues in the city's schools.

2.11

The condition of many of our schools also remains a concern. The council will continue to use capital maintenance funding to address the most urgent condition works in LA maintained schools and academies will do the same either through their allocation from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) or through bids to the Condition Improvement Fund (CIF).

Portsmouth Education Partnership

3.1

The Portsmouth Education Partnership (PEP) brings together Multi Academy Trusts, individual schools and academies, colleges, early years settings, the Regional Schools Commissioner, the University, the Dioceses, the Education Business Partnership and Portsmouth City Council to drive improved attainment and opportunity for all children and young people across the city. The PEP was launched in November 2016.

3.2

86.7% of schools are Good or better (as at March 2018) compared to 85% (as at July 2017). All schools are above the floor standards at Key Stage 2 (KS2) and Key Stage 4 (KS4). Despite a trend of improvement, Portsmouth remains well below national averages for attainment and progress at KS2 and KS4.

3.3

The Education Strategy for Portsmouth 2017-2020: pulling together, achieving more has been drawn up through the PEP. It explains the actions that are being taken to address together key priorities for the city. Detailed plans are continually being updated, and the strategy sets out a high level summary of strategic objectives and key priorities with cross references and links to other documents and action plans. The full strategy document is available on the Portsmouth Education Partnership website and the summary of the Portsmouth Education Strategy 2017-2020 is at

Appendix C.

3.4

The Education Strategy comprises ten strategic objectives. This strategic objective links directly to the Primary School Place Strategy:

Invest in school buildings to create additional school places and provide high quality learning environments that meet the needs of all children.

3.5

Key priorities under this Education Strategy objective and relevant to the School Place Strategy are:

- a) Work with LA maintained schools and Multi Academy Trusts to ensure that there are sufficient primary and secondary school places in Portsmouth in order to achieve a minimum surplus of 2%, through a strategy of expansion of existing schools.
- b) Secure capital funding to address sufficiency, condition and suitability issues through the allocation of basic need funding for the DfE, ESFA Priority School Building Programmes and Free School applications where appropriate.

Forecasting Primary School Places

Forecasting methodology

4.1

Pupil forecasts are reviewed on an annual basis by the council and the DfE. The data presented in this document is drawn from the annual review submitted to the DfE in July 2018. The forecasts for the 2018 return cover the period up to 2024/25. Forecasting pupil numbers is affected by a wide range of factors such as:

- Birth rate
- Inward and outward migration
- Net movement
- Cross border changes
- Housing development timeframes and impact, such as Tipner/Milton
- Future Free Schools
- Impact of University Technology College (UTC)

4.2

The methodology and projections use an impressive range of data sources to model conversion ratios to establish the actual Reception Year cohort. The full forecasting methodology is at **Appendix A**.

4.3

Pupil forecasts are based upon Small Area Population Forecasts provided by Hampshire County Council Research and Intelligence group in the early spring to determine the population of 4 year old children. These are modified within the council's Geographical Information System to reflect primary school catchment areas.

4.4

The methodology for forecasting at the primary and secondary aggregate level for Portsmouth is based on a cohort survival method that assumes pupil numbers will roll forward from one year group to the next at the end of each academic year. Year on year changes, which may be influenced by such factors as migration, turbulence, demographic and building changes, are projected forward by using the highest value of the last 5 years. The Council has pupil census data going back to 1996. This model produces forecasts of the usually resident population by age and sex in each Census Output Area in the city and is based on census, birth and child health data and dwelling supply information. This tried and trusted methodology produces accurate forecasts.

National pupil projections

4.5

In July 2018, the DfE published national pupil projections for the number of pupils in schools in England by type of school and age group. The projections are based on the mid 2016 Office of National Statistics (ONS) national population projections (published in October 2017), ONS monthly births data up to and including 2016, and School Census data up to and including January 2018.

4.6

The 2018 national pupil projections, compared to those produced in 2017, are forecasting a lower level of increase in the pupil population over the next nine years of the projection. This is most notable at primary and nursery level.

4.7

The national nursery and primary population has been rising since 2009 and reached 4.64 million in 2018. However, the rate of increase is slowing, as the lower numbers of births from 2013 onwards start to reach school age. The population is projected to stabilise in 2019 at 4.66 million before starting to fall.

4.8

The national secondary school population rose to 2.85 million in 2018 and is projected to continue increasing until around 2025, reaching an estimated 3.28 million.

See table 5

4.9

Changes in the school age population are largely driven by the birth rate. However, the proportion of the overall population which actually attends school also has an effect, particularly in the early years, since parents can choose whether to send children aged under 5 to school.

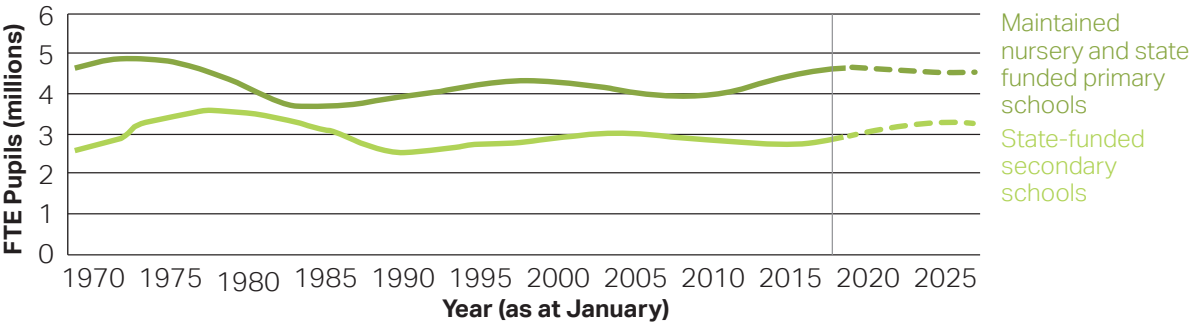
4.10

Direct immigration of pupils born outside the UK has a very small effect on the school age population. However, the birth rate, which has a much larger effect, is affected by any increase in the number of children born to non-UK born women (who overall tend to have higher fertility rates).

4.11

The overall effect of these changes on the projected national population is that the number of children attending all state funded schools has been rising since 2010 and is projected to continue on an upward trend until 2024, albeit at a gradually slowing rate after 2019. After 2024, the figure is expected to fall slightly until the end of the projection period (2027).

Table 5: Mainstream state-funded schools: full time equivalent pupil numbers, actual and projected



Portsmouth pupil projections

4.12

In line with the rest of the country, Portsmouth has seen a rising birth rate which peaked in 2012. Since then, the overall number has started to decrease. This is shown in **Table 4** (section 2.6).

4.13

Inward migration has been an important consideration for Portsmouth in terms of pupil places in recent years, particularly as it is difficult to quantify and has occurred over a relatively short timescale. However, since a peak in new arrivals into the city in 2014/15, numbers stabilised and have shown a further decrease this year. With uncertainty regarding Brexit, it is likely that this number will continue to fall.

See table 6

4.14

Appendix D outlines the current pupil forecasts up to 2024/25 as outlined in the 2018 return to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

Table 6: Portsmouth: New arrivals with English as an Additional Language

Year	Total number of new arrivals
2012–13	128
2013–14	194
2014–15	252
2015–16	197
2016–17	195
2017–18	164

Current numbers and capacity

4.15

In order to meet the demand for school places and ensure the Local Authority meets its statutory duty to provide every resident child with a school place, an additional 1,700 primary school places have been created in Portsmouth through two phases of primary expansion. This has been achieved by working with both LA maintained schools and academies, expanding existing primary schools and establishing an all through 4-16 school at Mayfield School. Despite this investment, a surplus of less than 2% at Year R (Reception intake) has been achieved.

4.16

The Government uses an assumption of 2% surplus for both primary and secondary as the basis for basic need funding allocations to Local Authorities. In light of this, the Council uses the aim of a 2% surplus for primary school place planning purposes.

4.17

The surplus places are scattered across the city. The pressure on primary places continues to be a challenge in some planning areas due to the limited surplus that is available in that location.

4.18

In September 2017, the Council provided a bulge year group of an additional 30 Year R places at Beacon View Primary Academy to meet demand in the King Richard planning area and to maintain a surplus of 1%–2% across the city.

4.19

Year R numbers had previously been forecast to remain relatively stable at c.2480, an increase of over 35% from a low point in 2005/06 of 1834. With the decrease in birth rate and the decrease in inward migration, combined with the number of pupils attending out of city schools and independent schools, forecast data suggests that the number of Year R pupils will fall in 2018, 2019 and 2020. This is in line with ONS population projection figures. However, due to housing development impact it is forecast that numbers will increase again from 2021.

4.20

Year 3 numbers are forecast to continue to increase to 2486 for 2020/21, an increase of 39% since reaching a low point in 2008/09 of 1789.

4.21

The Council's Planning Department provided data for 50+ potential housing developments across the Local Authority area. From the Planning data, established models are used to estimate pupil yield for each site and therefore the potential impact on the local demand for school places. Pupil yield is based on the type and volume of housing (for example, the number of children who may live in a one-bedroom flat compared to a 5-bedroomed house may be different).

4.22

Where development impact is included in the Small Area Population Forecasts provided by Hampshire County Council Research and Intelligence group, it is reflected in Year R forecasts and then projected forward as these pupils move through year groups.

4.23

Where developments are tentative and formal planning permissions are not in place, potential pupil numbers are not reflected in the pupil place forecasts.

4.24

The council has agreed to fund an increase in the capacity of Arundel Court Primary School providing an additional 15 places per year group from September 2020. The additional classrooms will be provided as part of the government-funded Priority Schools Building Programme re-build project.

4.25

The council has also retained capacity at Langstone Infant and Junior Schools for a bulge year group, in case this capacity is required to meet demand.

4.26

Portsmouth is yet to have any mainstream free schools. Opportunities are restricted by the lack of land availability, although there has been recent interest shown in Portsmouth as a potential location for a future free school. The impact on pupil numbers will need to be considered if a free school opens in Portsmouth.

Review of Future Demand and Capacity

Place Planning Areas

5.1

The primary school pupil number forecasts in **Appendix D** show that there are enough primary school places at city-wide level to provide an adequate number of surplus places up to 2023/24. However, in some planning areas, the forecast number of pupils has or is expected to exceed the capacity available.

See table 7

5.2

Portsmouth is densely populated. The national expectation at primary school age is that children should be able to access a school place within a reasonable distance. The reasonable distance is nationally interpreted as two miles. For any point within the City, a distance of two miles would result in a relatively large number of potential schools. **Appendix F** shows how a two mile radius circle drawn from College Park Infant School, which is central within the City, includes 27 out of 37 primary phase schools. Parents have a broad choice of schools within a small distance and few geographic barriers to navigate.

5.3

The geography of Portsmouth is important for pupil place planning because the lack of permeable boundaries on the east, south and west greatly restricts the potential for migration in and out of the city by pupils. This tight geography and the restrictions to internal movement reduce the relevance of pupil place planning areas and increase the focus on city-wide pupil place planning.

Table 7: Planning areas expected to exceed capacity available

	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23	
	YR	Y3	YR	Y3	YR	Y3	YR	Y3	YR	Y3
Charter	469	455	468	443	470	457	477	473	482	471
capacity	455	455	455	455	470	470	470	470	470	470
surplus/deficit	-14	0	-13	12	0	13	-7	-3	-12	-1
Priory	364	336	365	349	365	352	369	352	372	354
capacity	355	345	355	345	355	345	355	345	355	345
surplus/deficit	-9	9	-10	-4	-10	-7	-14	-7	-17	-9
Springfield	271	272	265	275	267	277	270	277	272	272
capacity	270	270	270	270	270	270	270	270	270	270
surplus/deficit	-1	-2	5	-5	3	-7	0	-7	-2	-2
Miltoncross	261	221	262	241	262	247	264	258	266	259
capacity	270	240	255	240	255	240	255	240	255	240
Surplus/deficit	9	19	-7	-1	-7	-7	-9	-18	-11	-19

Data for 2023/2024 is not yet available.

City-wide Place Planning

5.4

Appendix D outlines the comparison of capacity versus demands for school places. The figures are summarised below.

See table 8

5.5

Based on the pupil forecasts, urgent action is not required to address the sufficiency of school places and there is 2% surplus at Year R until 2023/24. At Year 3, 2019/20 and 2020/21 remain tight with little surplus, but a bulge year group could be located on the Langstone site to address this pressure.

5.6

However, the forecasts indicate that at least one additional form of entry (30 primary school places) will be needed by 2023/24. The pressure on capacity is driven by housing developments, and, if housing development impact starts to be seen as forecast across a number of development schemes, additional places will be required. The impact of developments on primary pupil numbers is shown in **Appendix E**.

5.7

It should be noted that, without the housing development impact, there would not be a pressure on primary school places in this timeframe, and therefore the assessment of housing impact is a vital factor in pupil forecasting.

Table 8: Pupil forecasts including housing development child yield

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Year R						
Number on Roll	2396	2337	2358	2387	2412	2490
Capacity (Admission Limit including proposed changes)	2505	2490	2505	2505	2505	2505
Housing development impact (Strategic sites & large permitted sites)	1	3	21	34	41	56
Surplus /(Deficit)	108	150	126	84	52	(41)
% Surplus /(Deficit)	4.31%	6.02%	5.03%	3.35%	2.08%	-1.64%
Year 3						
Number on Roll	2378	2439	2486	2413	2353	2387
Capacity (Admission Limit including proposed changes)	2475	2475	2525	2495	2495	2495
Housing development impact (Strategic sites & large permitted sites)	1	3	21	34	41	56
Surplus /(Deficit)	96	33	18	48	101	52
% Surplus /(Deficit)	3.88%	1.33%	0.71%	1.92%	4.05%	2.08%

5.8

The northern part of the city is on the mainland and has a boundary with Hampshire County Council. Pupil numbers in this area of the city are heavily impacted by cross border pupil movement. At meetings with Hampshire County Council, cross border impact is reviewed to ensure that any changes in pupil numbers are captured and to allow for adequate planning of school places. The discussion considers cross border pupil number flows, cross border development impact, change to school capacity and other known local issues that may impact on cross border pupil numbers. It was recently concluded that Hampshire primary numbers have started to decline.

See table 9

5.9

There is potential for an 800 home development in Portchester which is likely to be approved in late 2018 and may be built within a 5 year period. The pupil yield for this development is unknown at this point. However, Hampshire County Council has confirmed that it will not be increasing the capacity of their schools to cater for the pupil yield from this development; this could result in a reduction in the number of Portsmouth pupils who would be able to attend Hampshire schools. The impact of the development will be considered in future pupil forecasting, once more information is available.

5.10

There are four planning areas that currently demonstrate demand for Year R places as the numbers of pupils exceed the number of places available. Therefore, the geographical location of future expansions must be carefully considered.

5.11

It is recommended that an additional form of entry is provided in the North of the city. This would address two issues: the shortfall in capacity within the Springfield planning area and the expected increase in demand in the King Richard planning area due to housing development impact in Portchester on the Hampshire border.

5.12

The strategy for creating additional educational capacity has, to date, been to expand existing primary schools and academies to create additional capacity and a better spread of provision across a number of schools. This has been possible due to the compact size of Portsmouth and there are still schools which have capacity to expand.

Table 9: Percentage of pupils allocated an out of city school

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Reception	2.6%	2.1%	2.8%	2.4%	2.7%
Junior	2.1%	2.6%	2.6%	2.9%	1.9%
Secondary	9.2%	7.6%	6.7%	9.6%	9.7%

5.13

In July 2018, the Education and Skills Funding Agency has highlighted Portsmouth as being in the top 20 Local Authorities for the efficient delivery of value for money education capital projects. This supports the assertion that school expansions in Portsmouth offer value for money.

5.14

Consideration is given to determining whether to expand existing schools or seek a new school. Planning must allow sufficient time for feasibility to be established, funding sources to be identified, and capital projects to be undertaken to provide additional accommodation.

5.15

A number of key actions are recommended to prepare for forecasted demand:

- a) Review the progress of forecast housing developments over time, to ensure that forecasting accurately captures likely build out rate and pupil yield from developments. Development impact should be carefully monitored to ensure that both the size/type and completion dates are reflected appropriately in future plans.
- b) The Stamshaw Junior School site has been identified as a site large enough to provide a future school expansion, as and when the Tipner development requires additional school places. The development area is within the Mayfield planning area that currently has sufficient school places and current indications are that this is unlikely to be required until at least 2023/24. It is recommended that the impact of the Tipner development continues to be monitored.

- c) Review the potential for expanding existing primary schools and undertake feasibility studies at appropriate primary school sites in case a future capital project is required. It should be noted that there is not always the physical space and capacity to expand the most popular schools in the exact area required, and paragraph 5.2 explains the national expectations regarding distance to school.

- d) There is a lead-in time for school expansion projects due to the time required to both develop architectural plans and to undertake the required capital building works. Ideally, a 3-year lead-in time would be used. It is therefore recommended that any feasibility studies should commence at the earliest opportunity to enable funding decisions to be made in 2019.

- e) Consider whether a new school would be financially viable with the current forecasted numbers (both in terms of capital funding for the build costs and in terms of revenue funding, which is calculated based on a national formula and is heavily weighted by pupil numbers). If this appears to be a viable option in terms of pupil numbers, and a site is available to the council, undertake a feasibility study in case a future capital project is required.

5.16

Initial discussions have taken place to identify primary school expansion projects which could address the deficit of places which has been identified. The potential for expansion of existing school sites is outlined in **Section 6**.

6 Primary School Expansion Projects (Long List)

6.1

There are a number of schools in the city that have sufficient land and/or core capacity to be able to expand.

6.2

Portsmouth primary schools and academies were asked to indicate if they were interested in future expansion. 17 schools expressed an interest in being considered and the potential scale of any expansion. Four proposals involved more than one school, and therefore there were 12 potential solutions to consider.

6.3

To ensure that the council is best placed to respond when there is a predicted increase in pupil numbers, discussions and site visits have taken place with the primary schools and academies that expressed an interest in expansion.

6.4

The following factors were used to determine the initial high level assessment of viability and to prioritise potential sites:

- Sufficient land within the school boundary on which to expand the school
- Current pupil numbers within the planning area where the school is located
- Trends in pupil numbers within the planning area where the school is located
- Potential benefits associated with building in this location
- Potential risks / complexities associated with building in this location, including land ownership
- Potential benefits or risks associated with access to the site to build

6.5

Having considered the factors for each site, the following conclusions were drawn in relation to the 12 possible solutions:

Potential projects (low risk/difficulty)	5
Potential projects (medium risk/difficulty)	2
Potential projects (high risk/difficulty)	5

Potential projects (Low Risk/Difficulty)

6.6

Each of the projects in this section offers the potential for expansion in a Good (Ofsted category) school, and on a site with sufficient space to accommodate a capital building project. Increase in capacity is described by form of entry (FE). For example, a 1FE primary school has a Reception intake of 30 pupils, and a 2FE primary school has a Reception intake of 60 pupils.

6.7

Flying Bull Academy

The school is located in the Charter planning area which is an area with demand for places, and is ideally located for expansion. It is also well placed to support the Tipner expansion, as and when that occurs. The outdoor space and kitchen facilities are sufficient and could accommodate an expansion in numbers, increasing from 2FE to 3FE. The school would require additional classrooms and a new hall. The capital build project could be undertaken in 3 phases to minimise disruption (Phase 1 – Years R and 1 and new hall; Phase 2 – Years 2 and 3; Phase 3 – Years 4, 5 and 6).

Recommended:

- Would provide an additional 210 primary school places (+1FE)
- Located in an area of high demand for primary places
- Could meet future demand from the Tipner development.

6.8

Langstone Infant and Langstone Junior Schools

These schools are in the Miltoncross planning area which is an area of demand. The schools share a large site and there is capacity to expand increasing from 3FE to 4FE. Initial design work was undertaken 4 years ago and the assumptions would need to be reviewed. However, there is space between the two existing schools for a capital building project, which would include classrooms and a new Hall. There is a risk here that the new provision would not fill up due to its location within the planning area and its proximity to the Admiral Lord Nelson planning area which has an adequate number of places available. Therefore, the timing of any expansion here is critical.

Recommended:

- Would provide an additional 210 school places across the two schools (+1FE)
- Located in an area of high demand for primary places, but the schools are located close to Admiral Lord Nelson planning areas which has capacity.
- Large site with capacity to expand.

6.9

Lyndhurst Junior School

The school is situated in the Mayfield planning area, are considering an increase from 120 pupils (4FE) to 128 pupils per year group without any capital investment or capital build. This school had, in the past, decreased their published admission number to 120. Although not an immediate area of need, the additional places would be welcome to increase capacity at primary level in a relatively central planning area.

Recommended:

- The council encourages the school to make this minor increase in pupil capacity, which would provide an additional 32 school places.

6.10

Medina Primary School

Medina Primary school is a 1FE primary school situated on a large site in the King Richard planning area, with capacity to expand to 2FE.

The planning area is not an area of immediate demand due to the large number of pupils who choose to go to Hampshire schools. As Hampshire County Council have indicated that they will not be increasing the capacity of their schools to cater for future development impact within the Hampshire border, it is likely that less Portsmouth pupils will be able to attend Hampshire schools as a result.

In addition, the location of this site is close to the Springfield planning area so could potentially offer a more cost effective and achievable solution to the identified demand in the Springfield planning area.

Recommended:

- Situated between King Richard and Springfield secondary schools.
- Ideally located to provide an additional 210 primary school places (+1FE) in the North of the city where there is significant demand.
- Could meet future demand from Hampshire development impact.

6.11

Moorings Way Infant, Meon Infant and Meon Junior Schools

Moorings Way Infant and Meon Infant Schools feed into Meon Junior School and are situated in the Miltoncross planning area, which is an area of demand. The capacity at infant and junior in this area are not synchronised which can lead to parental dissatisfaction when selecting a junior school place if there is not sufficient capacity to move from the infants to the juniors. The proposal is to rationalise the numbers:

- Moorings Way Infant School increases from 1.5FE to 2FE
- Meon Infant School remains at 2FE
- Meon Junior School increases from 3FE to 4FE.

The Multi-Academy Trust will review the way in which the numbers are located across the three sites.

A feasibility study would identify how the reconfiguration of existing space could be achieved and it is anticipated that there would be modest capital required to achieve this outcome.

The council would be required to confirm that the existing modular building on the Moorings Way site would remain indefinitely.

This proposal would offer additional and sufficient primary places to meet the demand from the future Milton housing development (depending on the size of the development proposals).

Recommended:

- Would provide an additional 45 Infant school places and 120 Junior school places in an area where there is demand for places.
- Would re-align pupil numbers at Infant and Junior schools in this area.
- Could meet future demand from the Milton development.
- Potential for a modest capital outlay to achieve the additional places, thus offering good value for money.

Potential Projects (Medium Risk/Difficulty)

The following sites could have the potential for expansion, but there are risks or difficulties in undertaking a capital build on the school site. Therefore, these sites offer potential but are not assessed as priority sites:

6.12

St Swithun's Catholic Primary School

The school is situated in the Priory planning area which is an area of demand. There is an existing modular building which is used for breakfast and after-school clubs and as intervention spaces. The modular is time-limited and could be replaced by a two-storey building to accommodate Year 4 and Year 5. Other spaces (such as hall, dining, and outdoor space) are sufficient to accommodate the increase in pupil numbers from 1.5FE to 2FE.

However, the school is located on the Great Morass, which is a large marsh in Southsea and the ground suffers from movement over time. This is evidenced by the change in levels seen on the playground. The current building is stable on a raft foundation structure and specialist foundations would be required for a new build. This could significantly increase the costs of a project on this site.

6.13

Gatcombe Park Primary School

The school is located in Admiral Lord Nelson Planning area, which currently has an adequate number of places available. The school would be well placed to support the Tipner expansion, when that occurs. The site could accommodate an expansion in numbers but it is noted that outside space is already limited and the minimum amount of land required must be taken for an expansion project. The school would require additional classrooms and a new hall to increase from 1FE to 2FE. The capital build project could be undertaken in phases to minimise disruption.

Potential Projects (High Risk/Difficulty)

The following sites represent a high level of financial and/or construction risk and are not recommended at this time, as lower risk solutions are available.

6.14

Copnor Primary School

This site was discounted due to the lack of available space to expand to 4FE. The school could accommodate a small nursery provision in one corner, but, in discussion with the school, it was not possible to identify a viable option or location for a building project, without compromising the outside space needed for existing pupils. The school is also situated in the Admiral Lord Nelson planning area where there is currently adequate capacity available. The potential for a nursery is being considered by the Early Years team.

6.15

Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School

The school is split into 3 buildings. One building is an old flat-roofed building. The proposal is to expand the school from 1.5FE to 2FE by removing this building and building a two-storey block of classrooms in its place. The project would require modular classrooms on the playground for the period of the build. The site is very limited and it is difficult to envisage how this project could be successfully delivered without an unacceptable level of disruption to the education of existing pupils. The school is situated in the Mayfield planning area which currently has an adequate number of places available.

6.16

Manor Infant School

The school is situated in the Mayfield planning area which currently has an adequate number of places available. This site was discounted due to the lack of available space to expand from a 3FE Infant school to a 2FE Primary school. In discussion with the school, it was not possible to identify a viable option or location for a building project, without compromising the outside space needed for existing pupils. A neighbouring play park was discussed which could site a building project and the potential for this option was explored but did not result in a viable solution. This solution would also result in a loss of 30 Infant school places.

6.17

Penhale Infant School

The Multi-Academy Trust is keen to expand Penhale Infant School from a 3FE Infant school to a 3FE Primary school using the adjacent land which is currently used for the Harbour@Fratton school. The Harbour@Fratton school is re-locating to the Vanguard Centre in October 2018, and the building will be vacated.

For a viable scheme to come forward to develop Penhale Infant School into a primary school, a solution would need to be found in relation to the purchase of the land and this would significantly increase the cost of the project. The Academy Trust is currently pursuing this option in discussion with the ESFA and the council as part of a potential free school application.

6.18

Solent Infant and Solent Junior Schools

The proposal is to expand both the Infant school and the Junior school from 3FE to 4FE. These sites are in the Springfield planning area where there is a demand for places. However, there is limited land available for expansion.

At the Junior school, there is one small building which could be replaced and there are pockets of small spaces around the building. Land levels are inconsistent. There is a high risk with a piecemeal project of this type, including potential issues when linking new build with the existing infrastructure which can expose unforeseen building risks. It is also unclear how this type of approach could be achieved without an unacceptable level of disruption to the education of existing pupils. Therefore, a piecemeal approach is not deemed as a viable proposal.

The alternative on the Junior school site is to develop a new block on the current environmental area, which would be a reasonable proposal.

Due to the location of these schools on the mainland, it is imperative that both the Infant and Junior school are expanded at the same time to ensure capacity across all primary age groups.

The Infant school is a purpose-built 3FE school. It has land around it which is owned by the Water Board, and is not available for development. Play space is limited. There could be a feasibility study to explore further whether the Infant school could expand, but this is likely to include the cost of purchasing land for a capital build project which would disproportionately increase the cost of the scheme.

In summary, there is not an easy solution to expansion in this area, and an option would be needed which can deliver for both schools.

7 Capital Funding for Primary School Expansion Projects

7.1

Basic Need funding is allocated by the Government on the basis of a comparison of school capacity against forecast mainstream pupil numbers from Year R to Year 11, uplifted to provide a 2% surplus operating margin. Funding is allocated based on the annual returns of pupil numbers which the council makes to the DfE in July each year. It is hoped that basic need funding will be forthcoming to support the delivery of the primary school expansion projects.

Conclusions and Recommendations

8.1

The Council continues to have a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for resident children and is committed to working with schools, academies and Multi-Academy Trusts for the benefit of children and young people in Portsmouth.

8.2

Detailed analysis and forecasting has confirmed that the number of pupils requiring primary school places will exceed capacity by the academic year 2023/24. Longer term forecasts (national and local) indicate that adding 1FE-2FE capacity in the city would ensure sufficient capacity in Year R for the foreseeable future. Pressure in Year 3 is forecast from 2025.

8.3

Pressure on capacity is driven by potential housing developments and the schemes should be closely monitored to assess whether progress is delayed or the scheme has failed to proceed.

8.4

Five potential primary school expansion solutions have been identified in discussions with the relevant schools. Each solution could provide additional primary school places to meet basic need school place pressures. Four of the solutions will require a capital build project.

8.5

Lyndhurst Junior School is able to increase by 8 pupils per year group within the existing school infrastructure. The council is encouraging the school to make this change.

8.6

The Stamshaw Junior School site has been identified as a site which is large enough to provide a future school expansion, as and when the Tipner development requires additional school places. It is recommended that a feasibility study and strategic plan is developed for this site, including the modular building housing the on-site nursery.

8.7

It is recommended that feasibility studies are carried out to clarify what an expansion project would entail and to allow accurate assessment of potential costs. The outcome of the 5 feasibility studies would inform decisions about future capital bids and projects:

- Flying Bull Academy (**para 6.7**)
- Langstone Infant and Junior Schools (**para 6.8**)
- Medina Primary School (**para 6.10**)
- Moorings Way Infant, Meon Infant and Meon Junior Schools (**para 6.11**)
- Stamshaw Junior School (**para 5.15 b**)

8.8

Expansion does not have to be limited to a specific phase of education. Proposals for all through schools offering primary and secondary places will be considered where this is viable in terms of physical space and financial planning.

8.9

The Primary School Place Strategy is reviewed on an annual basis, alongside the annual pupil forecasting return to the DfE and refreshed pupil forecasts.



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