

Cabinet

Date: **Wednesday 11 January 2023**

Time: **10 am**

Venue: **Council Chamber, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH**

SUPPLEMENTARY A g e n d a

Advice for members of the public:

This meeting will be held in public and in person.

It will be live streamed on YouTube and, members of the public may watch remotely by clicking on the following link: [Norfolk County Council YouTube](#)

However, if you wish to attend in person it would be helpful if, you could indicate in advance that it is your intention to do so as public seating will be limited. This can be done by emailing committees@norfolk.gov.uk.

The Government has removed all COVID 19 restrictions and moved towards living with COVID-19, just as we live with other respiratory infections. However, to ensure that the meeting is safe we are asking everyone attending to practice good public health and safety behaviours (practising good hand and respiratory hygiene, including wearing face coverings in busy areas at times of high prevalence) and to stay at home when they need to (if they have tested positive for COVID 19; if they have symptoms of a respiratory infection; if they are a close contact of a positive COVID 19 case). This will help make the event safe for all those attending and limit the transmission of respiratory infections including COVID-19.

9 2023 Schools Local Growth and Investment Plan

(Page A3)

Report by the Executive Director of Children's Services

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Cabinet

Item No: 9

Report Title: 2023 Schools Local Growth and Investment Plan

Date of Meeting: 11 January 2023

Responsible Cabinet Member: Cllr John Fisher (Cabinet Member for Children's Services)

Responsible Director: Sara Tough, Executive Director Children's Services

Is this a Key Decision? Yes

If this is a Key Decision, date added to the Forward Plan of Key Decisions: 31/03/2022

Executive Summary / Introduction from Cabinet Member

Norfolk County Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places and provides an annual snapshot of how these will be secured. The detailed planning is included in Appendix A – the Schools Local Growth and Investment Plan 2023 (SLGIP).

Recommendations:

- 1. Cabinet resolves to adopt the Schools Local Growth and Investment Plan 2023.**

1. Background and Purpose

1.1 Norfolk County Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places and provides an annual snapshot of how these will be secured – the Schools' Local Growth and Investment Plan (SLGIP).

2. Proposal

2.1 Norfolk County Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places and provides an annual snapshot of how these will be secured in response to

- a) demographic change, prompted by changes such as birth rates and life expectancy and
- b) population movement, resulting from new housing development or migration to and from particular geographic areas.

2.2 The evidence for the planned growth and decline comes from a range of sources, including population data provided by health authorities and planned housing growth by District Councils.

2.3 Some housing developments agreed as part of Local Plans will take many years to be delivered. Where a need for new places is identified, this is taken into account as part of the planning process at an early stage.

2.4 Housing Growth projected by District Councils is subject to change, so the Schools' Local Growth and Investment Plan provides a snapshot in time, anticipating the **likely** investments in new places for the next 10 years.

2.5 Details of plans for new schools and expansion of existing schools are included in the plan in Appendix A. The report also includes greater emphasis on changing demographic patterns in the context of the growth, and as a result, an increased commentary and discussion of the methodology to plan for any reduction in school places.

2.6 The Schools' Capital Programme agreed by Cabinet in May 2022 sets out the **agreed** projects to provide new places or reduce places during a three-year period.

3. Impact of the Proposal

3.1 As a result of this proposal Norfolk County Council will:

- Continue to implement the policies for developing Norfolk's Education Landscape agreed in March 2020.
- Continue to adopt a pro-active approach to place planning for all areas with demographic change, ensuring efficient use of resources and value for money.
- Identify any changes to the schools capital programme through the regular reporting to Cabinet.

4. Evidence and Reasons for Decision

4.1 The proposed Local Schools' Growth and Investment Plan provides the necessary detail to ensure we secure sufficient school places and prioritise capital appropriately.

5. Alternative Options

5.1 The statutory duty is to provide sufficient places.

5.2 It is possible to plan for fewer additional places, where surplus places are available further afield, but within maximum recommended travel distances.

5.3 Norfolk County Council would then have a duty to provide Home to School Transport. This would add a considerable inconvenience to children and families and is outside of the Council's policies (e.g. building local communities). It would also add to the existing transport costs, where budget pressures already exist.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are significant financial implications for Norfolk County Council, if housing developments are delivered as expected.

6.2 The overall cost of delivering all places identified in this plan is approximately £308m. Funding from developer contributions is expected to provide approximately £97m, leaving a shortfall of £211m. However, to date this has not been an issue due to the rolling nature of the programme and the grant allocations from the DFE

6.3 Developer contributions are secured as part of the planning process and set out in S106 agreements. These include provision for school sites in larger housing developments.

6.4 For areas covered by Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), separate arrangements are in place to secure contributions for Education Infrastructure. These have been set out as part of previous reports on the Schools Capital Programme.

6.5 Government grant contributions (Basic Need Capital) will account for some of the shortfall. The remaining shortfall represents a risk for Norfolk County Council.

6.6 Financial planning for providing new school places is set out as part of the capital programme agreed in November 2021, including capital borrowing for 3 years of the current programme agreed in 2020.

6.7 The Greater Norwich Growth Board recently approved the use of £2.5M CIL income for the Greater Norwich area to be used to offset the borrowing required to deliver schools infrastructure projects in Greater Norwich.

6.8 The projects outlined as part of this plan are based on best estimates, the shortfall outlined will continue to be managed down, to minimise the need to use borrowing where other streams of funding are received.

7. Resource Implications

7.1 Staff: The place planning duties will continue to be delivered with current staffing levels.

7.2 Property: There are no changes to the requirements for office space.

7.3 IT: There are no changes to the requirements for IT.

8. Other Implications

8.1 Legal Implications: none identified

8.2 Human Rights Implications: none identified

8.3 Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) (this must be included):

New school places are planned to ensure that provision has no adverse impact on young people including those with disabilities, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnerships, pregnancy/maternity, race, religious belief, sex or sexual orientation where appropriate. The agreed policy aims to secure a good place of education for every child. In particular it seeks to ensure that every school has sufficient capacity for strong leadership and governance to safeguard a good education for all.

8.4 Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA): none identified

8.5 Health and Safety implications (where appropriate): none identified

8.6 Sustainability implications (where appropriate):

- 8.6.1 Large scale housing developments require associated infrastructure, including school places to create sustainable communities. The SLGIP in Appendix A sets out how these are likely to be secured in Norfolk. This will ensure that places are available locally and the need for travel and Home to School Transport is minimised.
- 8.6.2 Section 4 of the Schools Local Growth and Investment Plan sets out how to address provision of places that becomes unsustainable, usually through demographic decline.

- 8.6.3 NCC has a target to carbon net zero by 2030 and this has implications for all new building design and schools as a subset. This is addressed within the Schools Capital Programme.

8.7 Any Other Implications: none identified.

9. Risk Implications / Assessment

- 9.1 The key risk for Norfolk County Council is a failure to provide sufficient school places. The Schools Local Growth and Investment Plan sets out how this will be mitigated.

10. Select Committee Comments

- 10.1 This is a routine (annual) report, not usually discussed at a select committee.

11. Recommendations

1. Cabinet resolves to adopt the Schools Local Growth and Investment Plan 2023.

12. Background Papers

- 12.1 Schools' capital programme, May 2022
12.2 [Schools' Capital Programme](#), November 2021, page 83
12.3 [Education Landscape and School Place Sufficiency](#), January 2020, page 757

Officer Contact

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Schools' Local Growth and Investment Plan

2023

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Introduction

Norfolk county council has the statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places for Norfolk children aged 4-16. We work collaboratively to achieve a locally coherent (and sustainable) organisation of schools by working closely with the Regional Director, local partners, and communities. We continue to foster our existing partnerships with our schools, academy trusts, governing boards, diocese, and other stakeholders to ensure we have the appropriate school places to provide the highest quality of education to ensure all children and young people Flourish.

Planning Principles

As the statutory and strategic commissioner of educational provision, effective pupil place planning is an essential process that enables the council to work with schools and stakeholders to commission and create high quality school places. In order to deliver this strategic role, we have set out our organisation principles that underpin our approach.

- To undertake a robust and comprehensive approach to forecasting the number of children and young people requiring school places in mainstream provision.
- To fulfil the requirement to meet the need for school places ensuring sufficient places for Norfolk residents who require them to maximise the options for parents.
- To uphold as far as possible the “presumption against closure” in national guidance in relation to any school. Securing the sustainability of effective small schools with a minimum number on roll of 105, particularly in sparsely populated areas.
- To establish as a minimum size, 105 for any school or standalone school site within the mainstream sector, where school organisation changes are promoted in a local area.
- When new schools are needed, primary schools should be at least two forms of entry (420 places) and secondary schools should be a minimum of six forms of entry (900 places) or larger.
- New primary schools should provide from Reception year to Year 6. Pre-school provision should be included if a need for this is identified. New secondary schools should provide from Year 7 to Year 11.
- Where school organisation is promoted in any area, we will work with stakeholders to establish all through primary education as a model for primary phase schools.
- Capacity in neighbouring areas should be used to meet demand, where these schools are within a reasonable distance.
- That all school organisational changes should promote the inclusion of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) into mainstream settings.

- To be flexible in providing buildings that do not create future surplus places but safeguard a sufficiency of places.
- Decision making processes on proposals should consider factors that are inextricably linked with school organisation, such as the admissions processes, parental preferences, school size, published admission numbers and school transport.

Duties and Legislation

Set out below is a list of key national legislation affecting school organisation and place planning.

- Ensure sufficient schools places to meet demand (Education Act 1996)
- Increase opportunities for parental choice (Education and Inspections Act 2006)
- Ensure fair access to educational opportunity (Education and Inspections Act 2006)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
- The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Vol 2
- Equality Act 2010: Advice for schools
- Childrens and Families Act (2014)

Pupil Population

The pattern of growth seen across the county appears to have transitioned from what was significant growth in the primary phase, where our reception year cohorts reached very high volumes in 2013-14 which was as a result of a spike in birth rates in 2011-12, in addition we saw significant long-term migration. Those pupils are now transitioning into Year 6 and 7 where we are expecting high Year 7 cohorts in 2022-23 and then feeding through the remainder of the secondary phase.

Since the peak in 2011-12 the birth rate across Norfolk has seen a decline of 19% to data received against 2021. The birth rate has gradually reduced year on year where we now believe to have reached the lowest point. We will need to monitor data sources to assess what happens moving into 2022 to see if the trend begins to change.

(Table 1 - Birth data taken from the Office of National Statistics across Norfolk 2021)

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Birth data	9057	9042	9259	9328	9662	9187	9105	9052	9057	8670	8436	8083	7643	7853
NOR Yr R	9028	8935	9011	9358	9542	9236	8817	8947	8890	8623	8792	8888	8811	8590

The number of children requiring primary school places appears to have peaked in 2012/13. Across Norfolk the primary place need has declined, the demand in any area will be linked to inward migration and housing development causing elements of high demand across certain urban areas, with other areas having surplus places.

Norfolk's approach to school planning must adapt to support small, isolated populations in its more rural communities as well as the more concentrated urban populations.

The secondary sector is likely to begin to see this growth carrying through from the primary phase and as a result, the secondary sector is likely to see increases in most areas over the next five years. This will then be followed by the decline tracking through from primary phase again, and then the only demand pressures will come from inward migration or housing development areas.

(Table 2 - indicating number of places across the Primary and Secondary phase Sept 2022)

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Primary Places	63,386	64,315	64,291	64,212	63,989	63,844	63,321
<i>Year on Year change</i>	0	+929	-24	-79	-223	-145	-523
Secondary Places	39,931	40,0087	40,818	42,133	42,843	43,606	45,084
<i>Year on Year change</i>	0	+156	+731	+1315	+710	+763	+1,478
Total	103,317	104,402	105,109	106,345	106,832	107,450	108,405

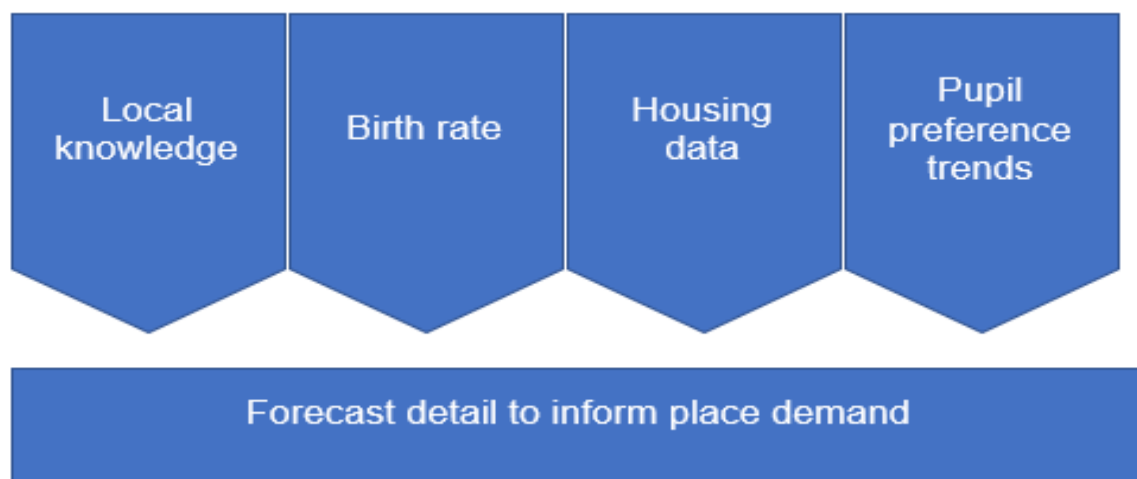
(Year 2022 is based on forecast data as at time of publication the actual numbers were not known, all other years are based on the September census taken each year)

New housing developments will result in an increase in the number of pupils that need school places across Norfolk schools. The planning permission process rests with the local planning district and borough councils. The place planning team receive regular updates on their Local Plans and housing trajectories to help inform the forecasting for school places. As a result of the government policy and regional local plans seeking to increase housing numbers, the housing growth will be a significant contributing factor in any school place pressures.

Approach to Pupil Place Planning

Effective pupil place planning is an essential process that enables us to work with schools and other stakeholders, ensuring we create high quality school educational provision within Norfolk. We undertake a robust and comprehensive approach to pupil place planning that forecasts the numbers of children requiring school places in the mainstream sector across 4-16 years of age.

(Diagram 2 details the steps taken to build the forecast for pupil places)



Forecasting for mainstream schools is split across the county into planning areas and we are able to further analyse down to school catchment area with data indicating parental preference trends. The planning areas are groups of schools in a similar geographical area, and they are split by primary and secondary phase having reasonable distances but also that takes account of the pupil movement in any area.

Birth data is provided monthly, the detail taken from the health data the authority receives from GP registration data (NHS). We also receive updated information taken from school census and assess the pupil preference patterns between schools. The detail is reviewed alongside data on migration patterns and the trends linked to movement between primary and secondary selection, we are then able to determine preference patterns and add into our formulas for forecasting more closely.

Housing detail is received from the District and Borough councils, all the information is combined into our forecasting tool. The pupil forecasts allow the council to ensure that every Norfolk child is offered a school place, meeting our statutory obligation.

Planning Process

Norfolk's Local Planning Authorities (including Norfolk County Council) have a long track record of working together to achieve shared objectives. In doing so they have all agreed to cooperate on a range of strategic cross-boundary planning issues through the implementation of the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework ([Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework \(NSPF\) Web Link](#)) It sets out how all planning authorities will work together to reach the same agreed outcomes.

Norfolk County Council is a statutory consultee on all planning applications which consists of more than 20 dwellings. We apply fair principles in reviewing the need for school places which is set out in the Planning Obligation Standards ([Planning Obligation Standard Web Link](#)).

(Diagram 1 – Outlining the involvement of Children's Service in the planning process)

National Policy Guidance/ Legislation	District Council Local Plans	Neighbourhood Plans	Planning Applications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responding as a consultee on national planning policy guidance and any legislative amendments. Providing a response, as required, on behalf of Childrens Services to shape guidance and legislation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responding to consultations on housing allocations and accompanying infrastructure policies ensuring that the County Council Planning Obligations Standards are referred to in the Local Plan. Ensuring that education requirements are included in any strategic housing site masterplans / Supplementary Planning Document and allocation policy. Ensuring existing school sites are adequately protected and allow for future expansion where appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responding to consultations on Neighbourhood Plans. In particular on the designation of school playing fields as local green spaces and housing allocations to ensure that school land is retained for future school use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responding to planning applications, including pre-applications, over 20 dwellings. To secure monetary mitigation, through Section 106 agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy, to ensure there are sufficient school places for growing populations. Ensuring on major strategic sites that new on-site school(s) are delivered through developer funding mechanisms.

School Performance

(Ofsted judgements indicated as a percentage as at November 2022)

Judgement	Alternative provision	Primary	Secondary	Special	Grand Total
Outstanding	0.0%	11.7%	11.3%	40.0%	12.6%
Good	50.0%	72.3%	73.6%	33.3%	71.0%
Requires Improvement	50.0%	11.4%	15.1%	0.0%	11.7%
Inadequate	0.0%	3.7%	0.0%	6.7%	3.3%
No Current Judgement	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	20.0%	1.4%
Grand Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Plan Structure

The Norfolk Schools' Local Growth and Investment Plan (SLGIP) provides a snapshot of Norfolk County Council's (NCC) plans to fulfil its statutory responsibility to ensure there are sufficient school places for Norfolk children aged 4-16. Fundamentally, it addresses two issues.

- 1) Demographic change, prompted by changes such as birth rates and life expectancy and
- 2) Population change, resulting from new housing development or migration across geographical areas.

The plan is structured across the seven District and Borough Councils and identifies any growth and decline associated with the following four key areas:

Part 1 Major growth areas which will require multi school solutions

Part 2 Development locations where one new school is planned

Part 3 Growth area with implications for existing schools

Part 4 Areas indicating decline in pupil numbers and where there are several small schools.

Breckland District

District Context

(Table indicates total number and type of schools across the county)

	All Through	Alt provision	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Special	Total
Breckland	1	1	0	57	7	2	68

Pupil Population

(Table 4 – Mainstream pupil population figures for Breckland for period 2016 to 2022)

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Primary Places	9,637	9,659	9,634	9,557	9,610	9,603	9,499
Secondary Places	5,856	5,855	5,833	6,018	6,033	6,123	6,312
Total	15,493	15,514	15,467	15,575	15,643	15,726	15,811

(Year 2022 is based on forecast data as at time of publication the actual numbers were not known, all other years are based on the September census taken each year)

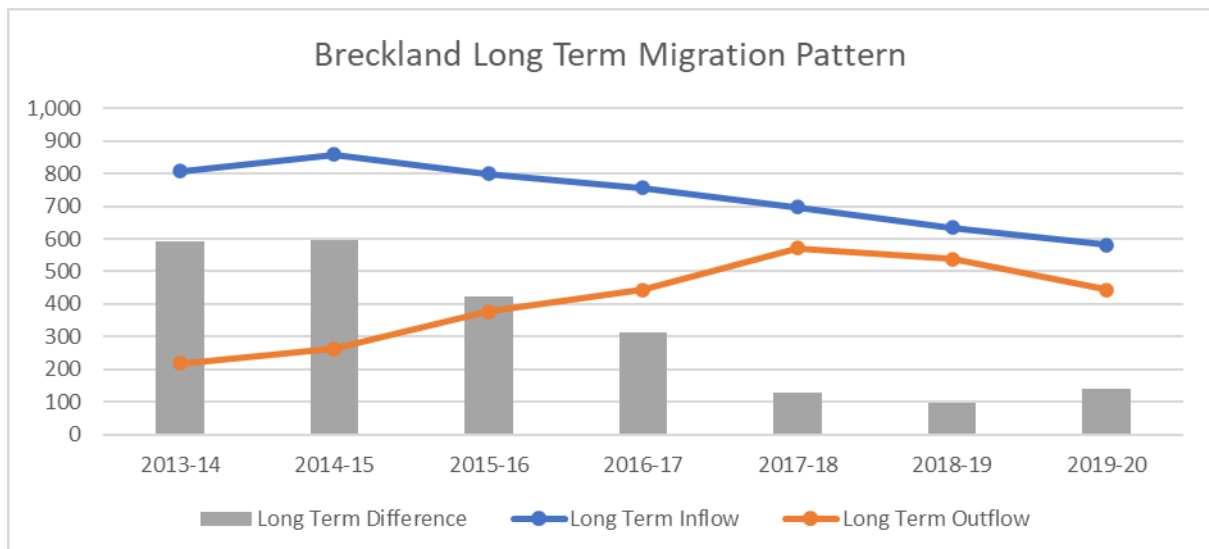
The data indicates a relatively stable pupil population across the primary phase and the increasing numbers moving through in secondary as is seen across the county wide view. The population across both sectors is beginning to see a steady increase,

which could be an indicator of stability in region with migration and some significant development beginning to show signs of recovery. An element of the impact on the Breckland district is the movement of pupils across border which appear to be indicated in the forecast decline for 2022.

Birth data continues to show consistent decline since 2012 with a 14% fall in the birth rate between 2012 and 2019. This is against the population seeing an increase as whole in Breckland of 8.4% from around 130,500 in 2011 to 141,500 2021 (according to the census 2021 figures). The data identifies the largest growth of the population is in the over 65's of 25.8% and only 3.6% increase between the age of 15 to 64. For the school age children there is a decline in 0 to 4 of 8% and an increase of 5 to 14 of 24% being seen from the census detail. (Data from census 2021 visualisations)

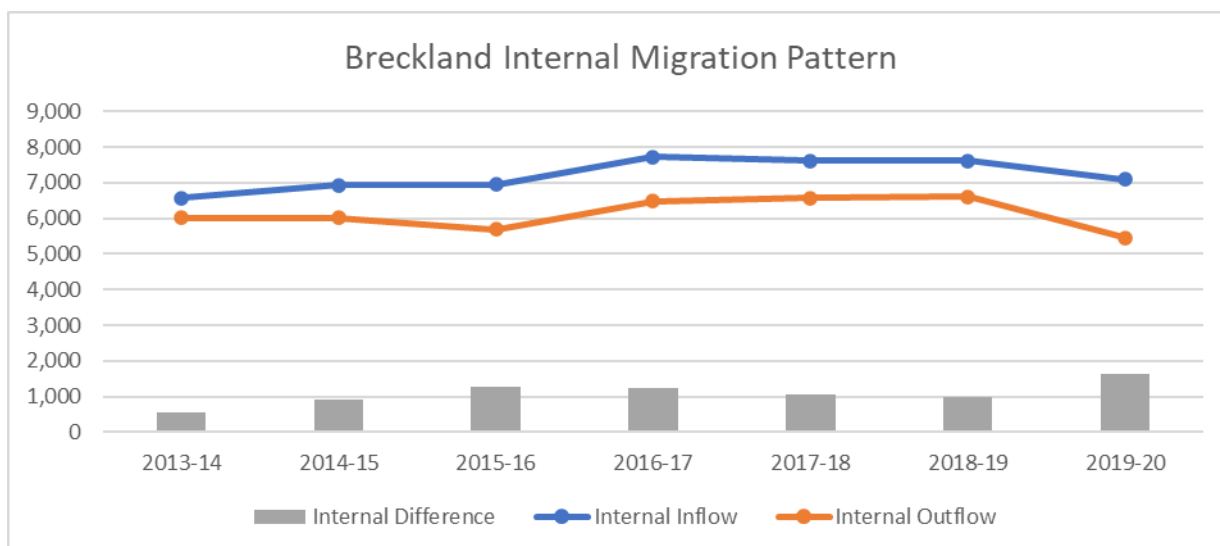
Migration Detail Across the District

(Graph 1 indicating the long-term migration pattern for Breckland – data taken from ONS)



Breckland has seen its population grow by 10,246 individuals from the effects of migration both long term and internally. That trend has started to slow in the last few years, the net effect of long-term migration appears to have reached its lowest in 2018-19 with a gradual increase being seen since.

(Graph 2 indicating Internal migration pattern for Breckland – data taken from ONS)



Internal migration being the movement across the district indicates the inflow continuing to increase where it peaked in 2016-17 with the highest difference between that of the net inflow and outflow in 2019-20, which appears to be a pattern on past years where the difference peaked and then it saw a gradual reduction over a period of 4 consecutive years.

Part 1 - Major growth areas which will require multi-school solutions

Thetford

Kingsfleet – 5000 new dwellings

Current local provision – capacity and organisation

Primary School places within Thetford are provided by 8 schools, 6 of these are academies and 2 community schools, a mix of infant, junior and all-through primary. A total of 360 places are available in each year group across the primary phase. Numbers of places in catchment has remained quite static from the previous year.

Latest assessment of growth

The land promoters for this strategic development, Pigeon Investment Management Limited (Pigeon), have been working with NCC Children's Services to ensure new schools are provided because of this housing. Although progress in building continues to be slow, it is expected three housebuilders will be on site and delivering new homes from late 2022. The first phase of development is 343 homes of which 120 have been completed and some of those remain to be occupied. Anticipated build out rate will be around 50 and 130 homes each year on the three remaining

phases, but this figure is dependent on many factors impacting the housing market currently.

Current pressures on pupil numbers

There is still some spare capacity at some schools in the town. With the relatively slow build out of new homes, the existing primary school provision in the town appears adequate for the short/medium term. Secondary capacity remains capable of accommodating the current and future demand.

Impact of housing growth

NCC have agreed the transfer of the new primary school land will occur in late 2022. Meetings have been held with the trusts in the area to discuss the transition arrangements and to share thoughts on how the new primary school may impact on the existing schools and what the approach will be to manage the expected growth.

Short term response

Handover of the first primary school site to NCC planned for 2022.

Medium longer-term response

Based on the slow build out the medium-term approach will mean we will bring forward and open the new school in the next 5 years. Longer term – 10-20 years, 2 further new primary schools will be opened.

Secondary school places will be monitored at Thetford Academy as additional land has already been provided at the school to allow for future expansion. S106 contributions have been secured although not yet collected because of the future housing allocation.

Table 5. Capital response

Thetford	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Future programme	New Primary School 1	2FE	Design stage which could be progressed quickly if places required.	IRO £10.2m (increased as working towards carbon net zero)	2025
Future programme	New Primary School 2	2FE	-	£10.2m	-
Future programme	New Primary School 3	2FE	-	£10.2m	-
Future programme	Secondary extension	Tbc	-	tbc	-

Attleborough

Sustainable Urban Extension of 4000 new homes

Current local provision – capacity and organisation

The two primary schools in the town ensures the schools collectively provide 150 places across each year group. There is currently some movement between Attleborough and Wymondham which draws children out of the catchment into Wymondham schools. Although Attleborough numbers remain quite static this pupil movement is having some impact on the surrounding village schools, from what was the historical preference. Secondary provision is provided via Attleborough Academy operated by Sapientia Trust.

Latest assessment of growth

An outline planning permission was approved in March 2020 for 4,000 new homes, a link road, two new primary phase schools, community facilities and neighbourhood centres.

Homes England is the UK Government housing accelerator and have bought the first parcel of land for this strategic urban extension. Homes England continue to work with Breckland District Council and local stakeholders to progress the plans through the next stages with a reserved matters application expected towards the end of 2022, to begin the highway infrastructure. Shortly after the road network is in place the land will be parcelled up with the first school site being in those earlier stages of development.

Current pressures on pupil numbers

There is currently capacity across the primary phase within the area, the secondary phase does have some pressure which preference patterns supports with a move into Wymondham area schools. Based on the current demand the secondary can accommodate the future demand that is expected.

Impact of housing growth

It will take few years before pressure begins to be seen in Reception across the town's schools. Once Reserved Matters has been approved.

Short term response

Monitoring of the annual reception intake at both Attleborough Primary phase schools. We will coordinate with Breckland District Council and Homes England to ensure places are managed as the housing continues to be delivered.

Medium longer-term response

Assess the impact of the growth area on the surrounding schools to monitor parental preference patterns to understand how it will impact the delivery of the proposed new schools. Determine what size school may be delivered to meet the expected demand and monitor the pupil population from the development. Continue to monitor the secondary pressure to inform future expansion plans to meet this expected demand.

Table 6. Capital response

Attleborough	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Current Programme	Attleborough Academy (High)	Current project complete	Masterplan being refreshed following completion of first phase.	-	2025+
Future programme	New primary 1	2-3FE	-	IRO £10.2m	2025+
Future programme	New primary 2	2-3FE	-	IRO £10.2m	2028+

Part 2 - Development locations where one new school is planned

There are no development locations in scope for the Breckland area.

Part 3 - Growth areas with implications for existing schools

Dereham/Scarning/Toftwood

700 homes

Area Overview

Dereham has had significant amount of housing over a sustained period however, the pressure for school places has not been evident in the primary phase. Parental preference continues to be evident across the town and surrounding villages, which continues to manage numbers in the area. Secondary numbers continue to fluctuate based on the popularity of the schools, some of this sustained pressure is from out of the town and based solely on parental preference. For 2022 we have approximately 40 places surplus in reception for the current round based on forecasted preference patterns.

Infrastructure Growth Requirements

We will continue to monitor the place preference across the town and work with the schools and trusts to manage the current surplus place in primary and the secondary numbers as appropriate. The birth rate decline is having an impact on the area, we will work with the schools in both phases to manage the challenges that will impact both differently, based on the forecast information for the town.

Part 4 - Areas of the District indicating a decline in pupil numbers and where there are several small schools

Norfolk, as a rural county, is seeing some areas with considerable growth yet other areas with small and sometimes larger decline in pupil numbers. The Local Authority needs to plan effectively to ensure that provision matches the place needs. Whilst surplus places can sometimes facilitate improvement through parental preference patterns, they can also be a barrier to success. Surplus places create inefficiencies in the school system, which individual institutions may find difficult to manage. The analysis below shows the level of surplus places and indicates some of the demographic trends. Larger schools can often manage both contraction and expansion of pupil numbers. District advisers will actively monitor the quality of education provided in any area and consider any action that may be needed, which could include:

1. Agree changes to the PAN with associated change to accommodation
2. Conducting an area-based review, which could lead to
 - a. Schools joining a governance group such as federation or MAT
 - b. Changing age range for a school
 - c. Merging schools in existing or newly provided buildings.
 - d. As a last resort, close schools

The demographic decline that has happened across Norfolk since the boom in 2011-12 leads the LA to assess the schools which could lead to difficult decisions to be considered based on the factors that are impacting schools currently. We need to ensure we maintain sustainable schools which meet the need of the local communities. We will review the capacity in schools against their overall building capacity and consider the geographical changes that may be occurring that could influence schools in certain communities. We must be clear this could where development is happening lead to closure of schools which may not be assessed as delivering a good education to our Norfolk children.

We will continue to work with schools to identify a RAG rating that they may fall into. We will continue to work with schools to ensure they are managing their estate as efficiently and effectively as possible, in order to ensure they continue to deliver the best education for their local communities.

3. Norfolk Planning Areas have been RAG rated to identify long term excess school places across each area:

- a. GREEN – where there are sufficient places to match the catchment area numbers
- b. AMBER – where there is 30+ spare places across the Planning Area but places are often filled with out of area children. These areas will be monitored but with the expectation that either catchment number increase, or housing will solve the issue
- c. RED – areas with considerable surplus places, limited housing, and catchment decline.

Information is based on the School Capacity Return which is sent to the Department for Education on an annual basis. The school planning areas are used to combine groups of school which have similar characteristics and operate within a similar geographical area. They may not link within the traditional catchment or feeder approach and may not strictly sit in the districts they have been included in.

Amber planning areas

Old Buckenham Planning Area - a planning area with 6 primary schools included in relatively rural locations. Only one of the schools has a full form of entry with numbers appearing to show decline in area, schools will need to consider their PAN over this period of uncertainty.

Thetford Planning Area – this planning area has 8 primary schools and 1 secondary with a mix of infant, junior and primary. The catchment numbers indicate a static movement which will create surplus places in the primary phase. The Secondary continues to see increase in numbers due to the previous growth in primary working through the system. There is expected growth in this area, but it has not yet yielded significant numbers to impact on the education in the area.

Red planning areas

Dereham Planning Area – a large planning area of 16 schools including the town of Dereham and its surrounding village schools. The area is seeing a significant reduction in the number of children moving into the primary phase against the available capacity in the schools. Secondary remains very popular schools across the town where there is no issue. Primary phase will need to assess their PAN numbers to consider how to manage this current reduction.

Litcham Planning Area – a planning area of 10 schools only one school has a full form of entry. 5 of the schools have less than 67 pupils on roll. Expected intake numbers are in decline and there is very little housing in the area.

Broadland District

District Context

(Table indicates total number and type of schools across the county)

	All Through	Alt provision	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Special	Total
Broadland	0	0	0	52	7	1	60

Pupil Population

(Table 7 – Mainstream pupil population figures for Broadland for period 2016 to 2022)

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Primary Places	9,854	10,058	10,020	10,089	10,016	10,007	9,869
Secondary Places	7,134	7,062	7,176	7,404	7,512	7,641	7,908
Total	16,988	17,120	17,196	17,493	17,528	17,648	17,777

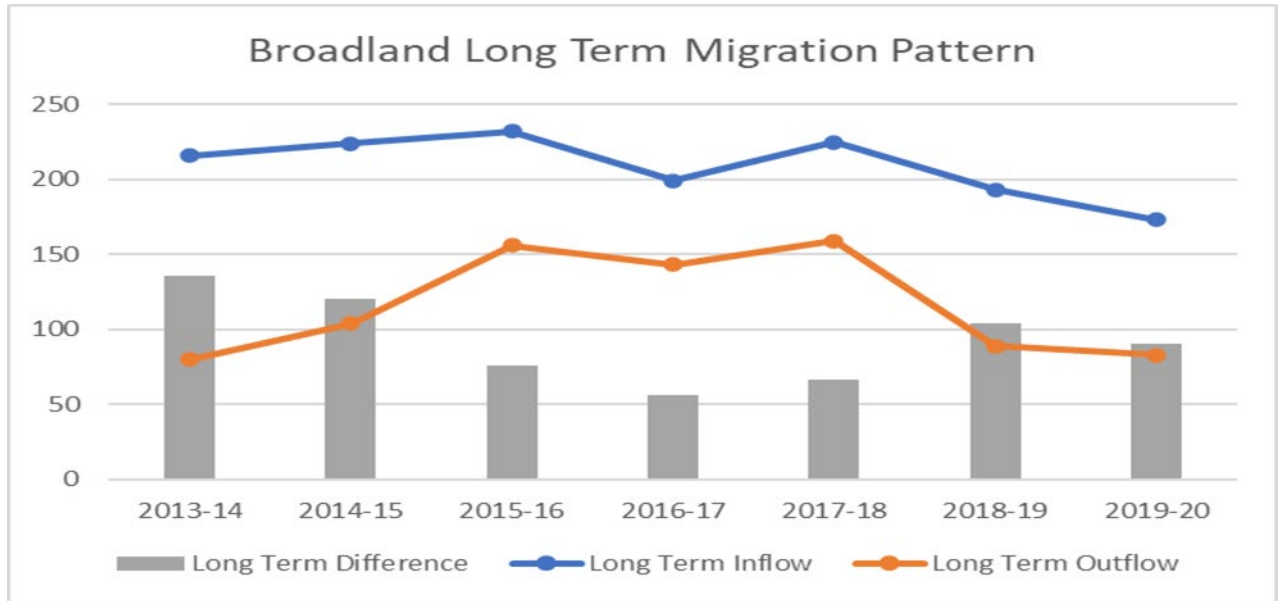
(Year 2022 is based on forecast data as at time of publication the actual numbers were not known, all other years are based on the September census taken each year)

The data indicates a relatively stable pupil population across the primary phase from 2017 onwards, the forecast data for 2022 suggests a significant decline which will need to be reviewed, alongside the actual data when it is made available. The increasing numbers moving through in secondary is a county wide trend. Overall, the pupil population is steadily growing with more children in the secondary sector.

Birth data continues to show a slower but gradual decline in more recent years but since 2012 it has been quite turbulent, 2020 highlights a decline of almost 14% against that of the 2012 levels. This is against the population seeing an increase as whole in Broadland of 5.7% from around 124,600 in 2011 to 131,700 2021 (according to the census 2021 figures). The data identifies the largest growth of the population is in the over 65's of 22.6% and only 0.6% increase between the age of 15 to 64. For the school age children there is a decline in 0 to 4 of 3% and an increase of 5 to 14 of 9% being seen from the census detail. (Data from census 2021 visualisations)

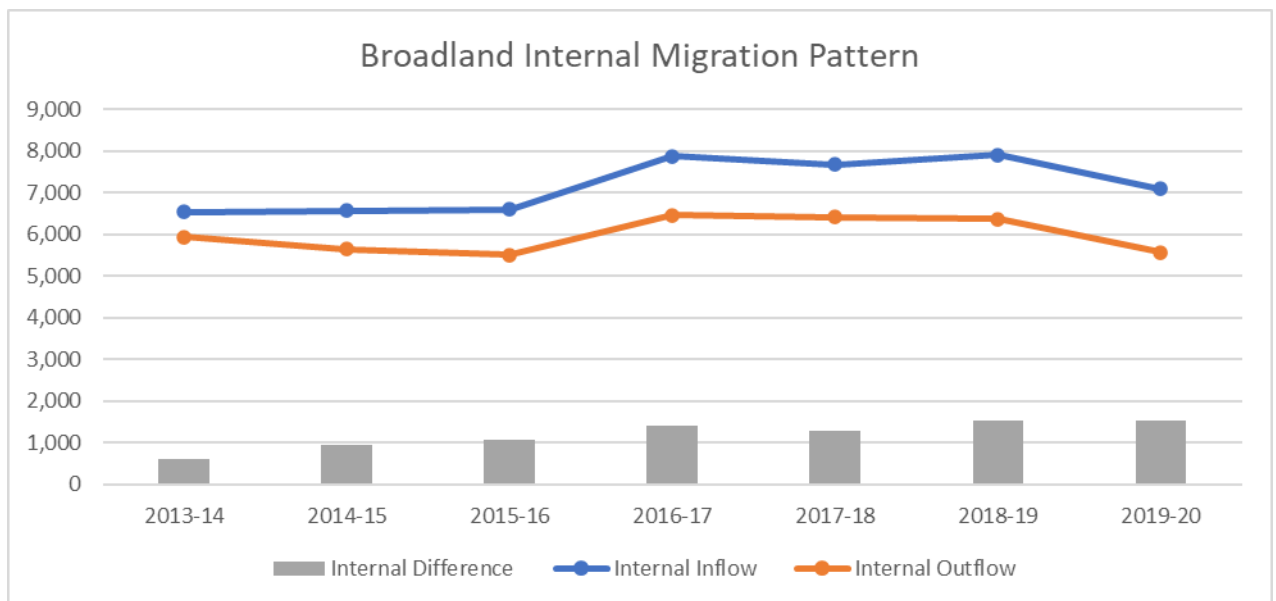
Migration detail across the district

(Graph 3 - indicating the long-term migration pattern for Broadland – data taken from ONS)



Broadland has seen their population grow by 7,191 residents between the period 2010-11 and 2019-20. The smallest net difference between inflow and outflow was experienced in 2016-17 with a gradual increase continuing until 2019-20 when it has experienced a slight decline.

(Graph 4 - indicating Internal migration pattern for Broadland – data taken from ONS)



Internal migration being the movement across the district, indicates the inflow continuing to increase where it peaked in 2018-19, with the highest difference between that of the net inflow and outflow being seen in in the same year. In recent years this appears to be holding stable, after a period of gradual increase.

Part 1 - Major growth areas which will require multi-school solutions

North Norwich growth triangle

Sprowston, Old Catton, Rackheath (Area within the GNLP)

12,000+ new dwellings

Current local provision – capacity and organisation

Allocated sites in this area of Norfolk allocated in Broadland District Council Local Plan now totals in the region of (iro) 2,000 new homes known as the 'Growth Triangle'. This area stretches from Old Catton to the north west of the City to Rackheath and north east of Norwich. Within the Growth Triangle there are specific allocated sites, the larger ones are 1) Beeston Park for 3,500 new homes which has outline planning permission with the first phase with reserved matters and 2) Rackheath for 4,000 new homes now in the control of Taylor Wimpey Ltd who are bringing forward a revised masterplan currently. There are many schools that will be affected by this growth, secondary provision at Sprowston Community Academy, Thorpe St. Andrew School, and Broadland High Ormiston Academy and all their feeder primary phase schools. Birth rate decline is currently impacting on some primary phase schools which is resulting in schools with much lower reception intake than they had a few years ago. We continue to monitor this situation as it is difficult to know when the decline may recede and whether the housing growth will generate the additional pupils we currently have come to expect in this area.

Latest assessment of growth

The largest site Beeston Park has not yet come forward further, there some smaller sites across Old Catton (Repton Avenue 328 homes) and around Salhouse Road (1100 homes) are being built out currently.

Rackheath is owned by Taylor Wimpey who are developing their masterplan of the site, this includes 3815 homes with a smaller site connecting to this area being owned and developed by Halsbury Homes.

There are smaller sites coming forward to the south of Rackheath which are also coming forward and houses are being completed and occupied.

Current pressures on pupil numbers

There is currently no pressure for places in this area and most schools are seeing lower intake numbers at reception due to the birth rate decline.

The larger year groups that have worked through primary phase are being seen at secondary. An expansion to provide additional places at Sprowston Community

Academy was completed in summer 2022 (funded substantially by Section 106 contributions) which will allow for increased intakes for the new academic year.

Impact of housing growth

We will continue to monitor the number of smaller scale developments in the area as they continue to build out. The larger developments are slow to progress still been very much in the planning stages of the development.

Short term response

Continue to receive updates from Broadland District Council on housing progress. Continue to support local primary phase schools who are experiencing a decline in pupil numbers. Continue to assess the options for the secondary school site against the available sites and assess what might be right for the communities.

Medium longer-term response

Monitor the progress of all sites across this area and check against the impact on the surrounding schools based on preference movement. Continue dialogue with Broadland District Council and the developers to secure a new secondary school site within an allocated site. Open new primary phase and secondary phase as the need arises.

Table 8. Capital response

North Norwich Growth	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/estimate	Date if known
Future programme	Lt Plumstead VAP	To 2FE	Planning approval but currently on hold	£3.5-£4m	2024+
Future programme	Rackheath primary 1	2FE	Site identified	£10.2m (unfunded)	2025+
Future programme	Rackheath primary 2	2FE	Site identified	£10.2m (unfunded)	2027+
Future programme	Beeston Park primary 1	2FE	Site identified	£10.2m (unfunded)	2026+
Future programme	Beeston Park primary 2	2FE	Site identified	£10.2m (unfunded)	2028+
Future programme	South of Salhouse Rd new primary	2FE	Site identified, await transfer of land if required.	£10.2m (unfunded)	2025+
Future programme	East of Broadland Business Park	2FE	Initial site layout options	£10.2m (unfunded)	2025+

Future programme	New high school	6FE tbc	New site search options	£26m (unfunded)	2026+
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Part 2 - Development locations where one new school is planned

Blofield/Brundall (Area within the GNLP)

Allocation for up to 500 new homes

Current local provision – capacity and organisation

This local area has its primary school places provided by mainly two schools – Blofield Primary (210 place) and Brundall School (315 place). There are some surrounding schools that impact on primary school provision due to parental preference namely Hemblington and Lingwood but in general, children who live in Brundall and Blofield do take up a place at their local schools. Officers from Children's Services have been working with both Blofield Parish Council and Broadland District Council to have the land transferred to NCC to build a new school. This will allow the existing primary school to move from its existing site which it has outgrown to the new location while expanding from 1FE to a 2FE school, 420 places.

Latest assessment of growth

Three large housing developments have either commenced or have permission granted in this area which centre around the Blofield/Brundall area. Numbers in catchment appear high but preference spreads the children across the schools. We expect the development to yield the children sufficient to populate the additional form of entry, although it can take many years for the additional children to enter the system.

Current pressures on pupil numbers

Schools in area are very popular ensuring numbers are high, and catchment numbers appear stable. The impact of the housing does not yet appear evident in the pupil trajectory we are seeing in our forecasts. Once more children appear from new housing NCC wish to ensure there is a local school place for local children.

Impact of housing growth

Based on the locality of this area and the increase in housing from what was originally included in the local plan, it will be important we ensure there is enough capacity to sustain the local children in the local area, as we expect the number of places needed to increase over a few years into the future.

Short term response

Continue to work with both Blofield Parish Council and Broadland District Council to transfer the land to allow the new school build to commence.

Medium longer-term response

Open a new 420 place primary school building in Blofield and relocate and expand the existing school into this new building.

Table 9. Capital response

Blofield	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Current Programme	New primary school building	2FE primary school	Site acquisition and concept design complete	£10.2M (£1M CIL funding)	2024

Hellesdon (Area within the GNLP)

Allocation for up to 1000 new homes

Current local provision – capacity and organisation

Hellesdon has infant/junior schools situated across the area and a large and popular High School. The infant schools (Arden Grove, Heather Avenue and Kinsale) have 180 places per year group between them. These 3 infant schools feed into two junior schools – Firside Junior and Kinsale Junior. The 2022 admission round as expected has shown surplus places across reception than in previous years across all schools in the area. Hellesdon High School being a popular school for children both within and outside of catchment is regularly over-subscribed but there are plenty of places for local children.

Latest assessment of growth

The hybrid planning application for this 1,000-home development was approved in 2016. The two phases 252 homes are on site with 211 currently complete, the phase 3 development is currently held up with the nutrient neutrality situation. Children's Services officers have agreed the location of the school site with Broadland District Council officers and Persimmon Homes in accordance with the requirements set out in the S106 agreement. With the delays expected with the remainder of the site and that contain the school location its likely to be some years yet before the triggers to transfer the school land are reached.

Current pressures on pupil numbers

Officers in Children's Services will continue to monitor pupil forecasts and admission numbers to ensure sufficient places for local children at their local school. Currently there is no identified pressure at these schools.

Impact of housing growth

It is likely that this scale of housing will eventually impact on places in local schools and a new primary school for Hellesdon is proposed within the new development and it forms part of the wider plan for the development. We will meet with local schools again when the development triggers are reached to discuss the process and ensure any project does not impact the existing schools.

Short term response

Continue to monitor pupil numbers during the annual admissions round.

Medium longer-term response

A new primary school including consideration of all-through primary school provision in Hellesdon. Consider the capacity at the secondary school to ensure adequate places for local children.

Table 10. Capital response

Hellesdon	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Future programme	New primary school	2FE	Section 106 in place and site location agreed	IRO £10.2m	2027+
Future programme	High school	Expansion of Hellesdon High to be considered if necessary	-	-	-

Aylsham (Area within the GNLP)

Local Plan allocation for 250 new homes

Current local provision – capacity and organisation

Aylsham primary age children are served by three schools; St Michael's Primary School which offers 140 places, John of Gaunt Infant School with 180 places, which feeds into Bure Valley School. Secondary education is provided by Aylsham High School.

Latest assessment of growth

Although this is a relatively small allocation, Aylsham has seen considerable growth over the past few years which has resulted in all primary phase schools being near to full. A new development of this size would not typically require the need for a new school but without some additional capacity there will be no primary school places for additional local children. The allocation requires the developer to provide a 2-hectare site free of charge to the Local Authority and officers are working with Hopkins Homes to agree the delivery of this school once the school site location has been finalised.

Current pressures on pupil numbers

Pressure for primary school places is high in Aylsham and the high school, although popular consistently draws children from outside of its catchment. An assessment has been made that although more primary school places will be needed, Aylsham High School has sufficient places for local children.

Impact of housing growth

As mentioned above, this development will provide a site for a new school building. Children's Services officers continue to assess the previous proposals to determine the right solution for the area. This is against pressure in area against any expected decline which may be seen based on the demographic changes impacting county wide. As the trigger moves closer for a decision to be determined on accepting the land monitoring of the area will also be key.

Short term response

Continue to monitor pupil numbers from both the admission round and the in-year admission movement to assess impact on schools.

Medium longer-term response

Transfer the school land across to NCC and open a new school building.

Table 11. Capital response

Aylsham	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Future programme	New primary school	2FE	Site discussion underway	IRO £10.2m	2026+
Future programme	Aylsham High School	Increase capacity	Section 106 contributions collected	-	-

Taverham (Area within the GNLP)

Strategic allocation for 1400 new homes

Current local provision – capacity and organisation

Taverham primary phase education is provided by two infant schools feeding into one junior school, both infant schools have an admission number of 60 and the junior school 120. Taverham High School is also located in the village which provides secondary education for the local area. With the location of this development, it would be sensible to also consider the impact of Drayton primary phase schools, Drayton Infant and Junior.

Latest assessment of growth

This site has come forward as a strategic allocation in the Greater Norwich Local Plan and an application has been submitted earlier this year.

Current pressures on pupil numbers

There is no pressure for places currently, but with a development of this size and scope, it would be prudent to secure a new school location to meet the local community need and safeguard the additional school places in the future.

Impact of housing growth

A site such as this is likely to be popular to families with children so we anticipate more school places will be required.

Short term response

Continue to monitor pupil numbers at the current time to assess the demand and capacity for places and review the annual admissions data to review patterns that exist.

Medium longer-term response

Consider the possibility of a new primary school for Taverham having regard to existing provision in the village. Open discussions with existing schools to discuss how we may manage the transition of the new school.

Table 12. Capital response

Taverham	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Future programme	New primary school	2FE	Site location continues	IRO £10.2m	2026+

Part 3 - Growth areas with implications for existing schools

There is no development that falls within this category in Broadland.

Part 4 - Areas of the District indicating a decline in pupil numbers and where there are several small schools

Norfolk, as a rural county is seeing some areas with considerable growth yet other areas with small and sometimes larger decline in pupil numbers. The Local Authority

needs to plan effectively to ensure that provision matches the place needs. Whilst surplus places can sometimes facilitate improvement through parental preference patterns, they can also be a barrier to success. Surplus places create inefficiencies in the school system, which individual institutions may find difficult to manage. The analysis below shows the level of surplus places and indicates some of the demographic trends. Larger schools can often manage both contraction and expansion of pupil numbers. District advisers will actively monitor the quality of education provided in any area and consider any action that may be needed, which could include:

1. Agree changes to the PAN with associated change to accommodation
2. Conducting an area-based review, which could lead to
 - a. Schools joining a governance group such as federation or MAT
 - b. Changing age range for a school
 - c. Merging schools in existing or newly provided buildings.
 - d. As a last resort, close schools

The demographic decline that has happened across Norfolk since the boom in 2011-12 leads the LA to assess the schools which could lead to difficult decisions to be considered based on the factors that are impacting schools currently. We need to ensure we maintain sustainable schools which meet the need of the local communities. We will review the capacity in schools against their overall building capacity and consider the geographical changes that may be occurring that could have an effect on schools in certain communities. We must be clear this could where development is happening lead to closure of schools which may not be assessed as delivering a good education to our Norfolk children.

We will continue to work with schools to identify a RAG rating that they may fall into. We will continue to work with schools to ensure they are managing their estate as efficiently and effectively as possible, in order to ensure they continue to deliver the best education for their local communities.

3. Norfolk Planning Areas have been RAG rated to identify long term excess school places across each area:
 - a. GREEN – where there are sufficient places to match the catchment area numbers
 - b. AMBER – where there is 30+ spare places across the Planning Area but places are often filled with out of area children. These areas will be monitored but with the expectation that either catchment number increase, or housing will solve the issue

- c. RED – areas with considerable surplus places, limited housing, and catchment decline.

Information is based on the School Capacity Return which is sent to the Department for Education on an annual basis. The school planning areas are used to combine groups of school which have similar characteristics and operate within a similar geographical area. They may not link within the traditional catchment or feeder approach and may not strictly sit in the districts they have been included in.

Amber planning areas

Hellesdon Planning Area – 5 schools within this planning area of a mix of infant and junior. The area has some development but not yielding the number of children anticipated and the schools will need to work together to plan for the future, based on the reducing catchment numbers.

Spixworth and Horsford Planning Area – a planning area with 4 primary phase schools, 1 infant and 1 junior. We anticipate housing will mitigate some of this decline, although it has not been seen yet.

Sprowston Planning Area - a planning area which consists of 1 primary with the remainder all infant and junior schools. We are aware of large-scale development in this area but the number of pupils in this location have not yielded. Schools will need to work together to plan for the short to medium term until we begin to see the growth from the developments.

Taverham Planning Area – 5 schools in area 3 infant and 2 junior schools. There is expected growth with some large-scale development, but currently numbers have reduced based on the available places across the schools. We will continue to monitor the situation and advise schools on appropriate action in the short and medium term.

Thorpe St Andrew Planning Area – this area consists of 3 large primary schools with all 2 forms of entry. Decline is expected across the catchment which will impact the available pupils the schools may receive; this will need to be managed and monitored into future years.

Reepham Planning Area – a planning area with 8 primary schools and 1 secondary school. Each of the primary schools have 1FE or less, across the area is clear decline with 4 of the schools having demand for under 10 places each. The Secondary is seeing quite buoyant numbers but will begin to see some decline as the low numbers work through from the primary phase. We will continue to engage and liaise with the schools in this area.

Red planning areas

Acle Planning Area - the 8 schools in the area have regular spare capacity, numbers are showing decline across catchment as well as preference. Some of the more rural schools may struggle based on limited development in area.

Great Yarmouth Borough Council

District Context

(Table indicates total number and type of schools across the county)

	All Through	Alt provision	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Special	Total
Great Yarmouth	0	0	0	30	6	2	38

Pupil Population

(Table 13 – Mainstream pupil population figures for Great Yarmouth for period 2016 to 2022)

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Primary Places	7,748	7,901	7,781	7,704	7,634	7,601	7,596
Secondary Places	5,008	4,988	5,057	5,141	5,117	5,269	5,425
Total	12,756	12,889	12,838	12,845	12,751	12,870	13,021

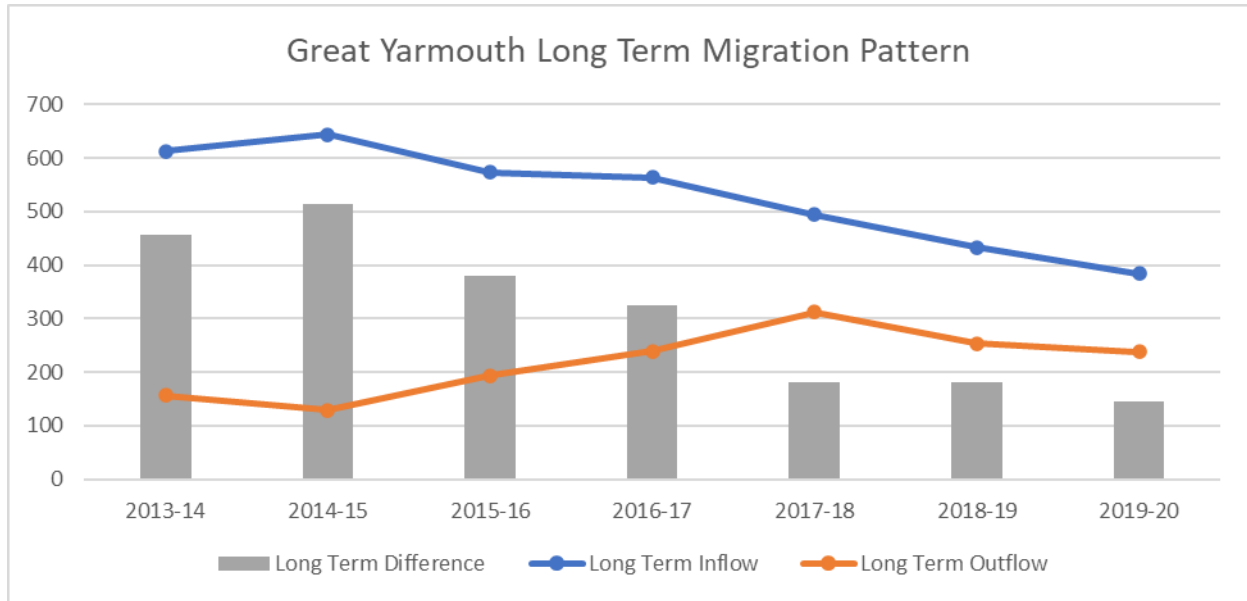
(Year 2022 is based on forecast data as at time of publication the actual numbers were not known, all other years are based on the September census taken each year)

The data indicates a steep increase in primary places for 2017 and from then a decline expected to 2022 and potentially forward. With the secondary phase we have the lowest numbers been seen in 2017 with the highest forecast in 2022, almost the reverse of the phase trends. The birth rate decline will continue to impact the movement across into secondary phase and the level of housing will not reverse this effect.

Birth data continues to show consistent decline since 2012 with a 16% fall in the birth rate between 2012 and 2020. This is against the population seeing an increase as whole in Great Yarmouth of 2.6% from around 97,300 in 2011 to 99,800 2021 (according to the census 2021 figures). The data identifies the largest growth of the population is in the over 65's of 17.8% and only 1.7% increase between the age of 15 to 64. For the school age children there is a decline in 0 to 4 of 10% and an increase of 5 to 14 of 12% being seen from the census detail. (Data from census 2021 visualisations)

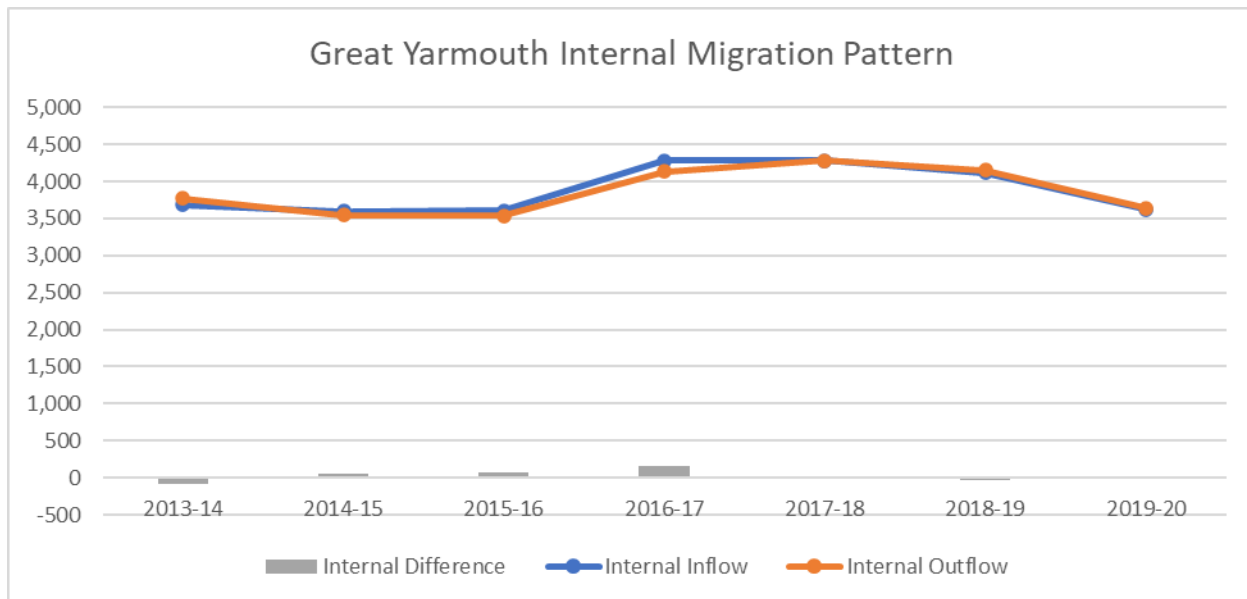
Migration Detail Across the District

(Graph 5 - indicating the long-term migration pattern for Great Yarmouth – data taken from ONS)



The highest point of maintained migration appeared in 2014-15 where this has steeply declined up to 2017-18 where the net difference has levelled with a further sharper decline seen in 2019-20.

(Graph 6 - indicating Internal migration pattern for Great Yarmouth – data taken from ONS)



The pattern of internal migration shows the inflow and outflow are very closely aligned, more recently this has seen an increase in more people leaving the borough than coming into it.

Part 1 - Major growth areas which will require multi-school solutions

There are no developments that fall within this category across Great Yarmouth.

Part 2 - Development locations where one new school is planned

Bradwell

1000 new homes

Current local provision – capacity and organisation

The catchment schools for this new development are Hillside, Homefield and Woodlands Primary Schools who provide 120 places between them for each year group and share a large catchment area. The three schools are at capacity, but we are not yet seeing pressure for places and all local children are allocated a place. The catchment secondary school is Lynn Grove Academy we need to assess their capacity as the development continues to build, to ensure sufficient places for local children.

Latest assessment of growth

Housing is well under way on site and continues at pace in August 2022 over 500 homes had been completed on site. The smaller site continues with completions and at the same period had 60 completions. Conversations continue as to when the primary school site will be transferred between the Local Authority and the developer.

Current pressures on pupil numbers

Although pupil forecasts are not yet showing the full impact of the housing, with many more completions expected and with all schools at capacity, it is now time to consider how and when more primary school places can be offered to this area.

Impact of housing growth

NCC officers are aware the pressure for places can take some time to yield the pupils that will need accommodating in the new school provision. We continue to assess the data and look at the options of provision that need to be delivered to meet the local need. Conversations have occurred with the local schools and the local officer group to determine how best to deliver this school within the current landscape.

Short term response

Continue to monitor the annual admission round and in year admissions to assess the pattern of data. Finalise the transfer of land from Persimmon to NCC.

Medium longer-term response

Open a new primary phase school in September 2025. Work with the secondary phase schools to assess their capabilities of coping with the expected demand and decide if there is scope for additional expansion if deemed necessary.

Table 14. Capital response

Bradwell	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Future programme	New primary school	2FE	School land transfer and masterplan finalised	IRO £10.2m	2025

Caister-on-Sea

Allocation for up to 665 new homes

Current local provision – capacity and organisation

The local area has infant and junior schools which operate as a federation with one executive Headteacher, both schools have a PAN of 90. Secondary education is provided at Caister Academy operated by Creative Education Trust.

Latest assessment of growth

The application for 665 new homes off Jack Chase Way in Caister has been put forward by Persimmon Homes and is being considered by Great Yarmouth Borough Council. The application includes land for a potential 2FE new primary school building and contributions towards additional education provision.

Current pressures on pupil numbers

The birth rate decline seen at a county level is evident in Caister with lower admission numbers at the infant phase which will draw through to the junior school. Caister Academy catchment will see the decline but preference that incorporates Great Yarmouth continues to sustain numbers within the school's capacity. Local officers will continue to monitor pupil numbers to ascertain if sufficient places exist locally before determining the need for a new school in this area.

Impact of housing growth

Not yet been seen until the development begins to build out and occupations of housing begins.

Short term response

Continue to monitor pupil numbers during the annual admissions round and monitor pupil forecasts once housing commences.

Medium longer-term response

Conduct a review in area to assess the need and determine if additional places will be required in Caister to meet the local community demand.

Table 15. Capital response

Caister	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Future programme	New primary school	2 FE	-	IRO £10.2m	2026+

Part 3 – Growth areas with implications for existing schools

There is no development that fall within this category for Great Yarmouth.

Part 4 - Areas of the District indicating a decline in pupil numbers and where there are several small schools

Norfolk, as a rural county is seeing some areas with considerable growth yet other areas with small and sometimes larger decline in pupil numbers. The Local Authority needs to plan effectively to ensure that provision matches the place needs. Whilst surplus places can sometimes facilitate improvement through parental preference patterns, they can also be a barrier to success. Surplus places create inefficiencies in the school system, which individual institutions may find difficult to manage. The analysis below shows the level of surplus places and indicates some of the demographic trends. Larger schools can often manage both contraction and expansion of pupil numbers. District advisers will actively monitor the quality of education provided in any area and consider any action that may be needed, which could include:

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 - c. Merging schools in existing or newly provided buildings.

d. As a last resort, close schools

The demographic decline that has happened across Norfolk since the boom in 2011-12 leads the LA to assess the schools which could lead to difficult decisions to be considered based on the factors that are impacting schools currently. We need to ensure we maintain sustainable schools which meet the need of the local communities. We will review the capacity in schools against their overall building capacity and consider the geographical changes that may be occurring that could have an effect on schools in certain communities. We must be clear this could where development is happening lead to closure of schools which may not be assessed as delivering a good education to our Norfolk children.

We will continue to work with schools to identify a RAG rating that they may fall into. We will continue to work with schools to ensure they are managing their estate as efficiently and effectively as possible, in order to ensure they continue to deliver the best education for their local communities.

3. Norfolk Planning Areas have been RAG rated to identify long term excess school places across each area:

- a. GREEN – where there are sufficient places to match the catchment area numbers
- b. AMBER – where there is 30+ spare places across the Planning Area but places are often filled with out of area children. These areas will be monitored but with the expectation that either catchment number increase, or housing will solve the issue
- c. RED – areas with considerable surplus places, limited housing, and catchment decline.

Information is based on the School Capacity Return which is sent to the Department for Education on an annual basis. The school planning areas are used to combine groups of school which have similar characteristics and operate within a similar geographical area. They may not link within the traditional catchment or feeder approach and may not strictly sit in the districts they have been included in.

Amber planning areas

Great Yarmouth Planning Area – a planning area with 7 large schools, 5 primary schools and 1 infant and 1 junior. There is some development expected in locations across the area, but this has not yet started, and the birth decline is impacting on the available pupils in area. The secondary sector unaffected at the current time as the growth previously seen in the primary is moving into the secondary phase.

Red planning areas

Flegg Planning Area – The planning area consists of 8 schools, primary, infant, and junior and one secondary school. There remains significant decline in this area with almost 70 spare places across the schools, development is happening in this area on a small scale, but it is not generating significant numbers to reduce the capacity issues that exist. Parental preference allows for schools to be selected according to the infrastructure routes across the area.

Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council

District Context

(Table indicates total number and type of schools across the county)

	All Through	Alt provision	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Special	Total
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	1	0	2	66	7	2	78

Pupil Population

(Table 16 – Mainstream pupil population figures for Kings Lynn for period 2016 to 2022)

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Primary Places	10,842	10,978	11,024	10,935	10,916	10,835	10,681
Secondary Places	6,602	6,602	6,612	6,777	6,872	7,010	7,234
Total	17,444	17,580	17,636	17,712	17,788	17,845	17,915

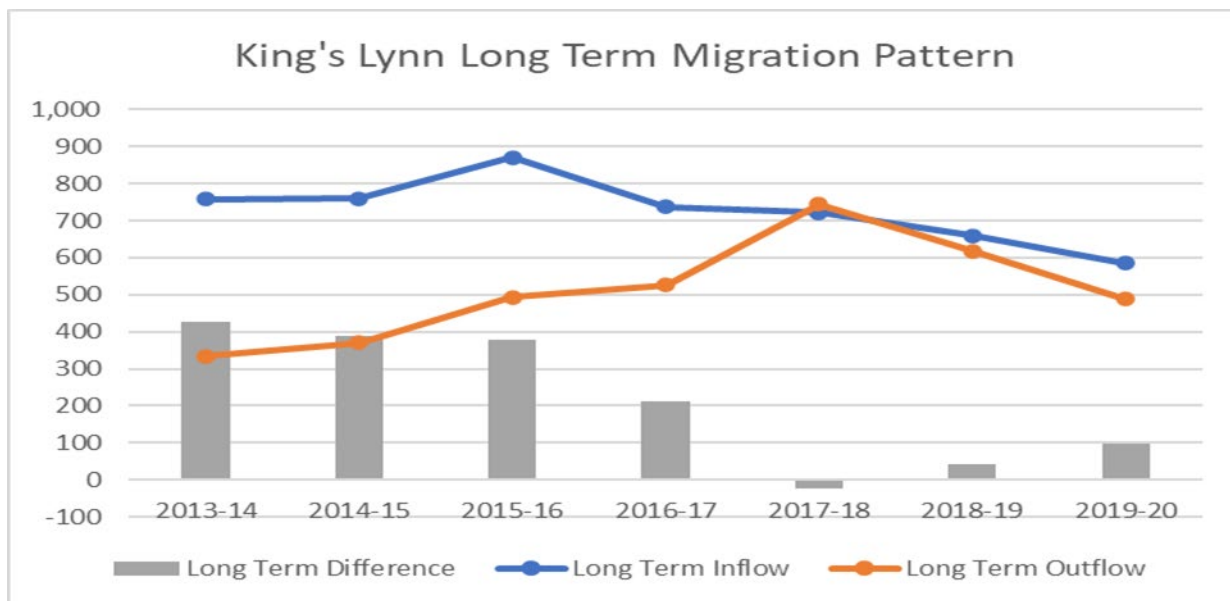
(Year 2022 is based on forecast data as at time of publication the actual numbers were not known, all other years are based on the September census taken each year)

The primary phase shows an element of growth up to 2018 where it has reached its peak, and since then a slight decline across the phase with a more dramatic decline expected. Secondary sector highlights a stable but increasing group moving through which may continue for the next few years.

Birth data continues to show a decline since 2012 with a 21% fall in the birth rate between 2012 and 2020. The population of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk has had an increase of 4.6% from 147,500 in 2011 up to 154,300 in 2021. (According to the census 2021 figures) The data identifies the largest growth of the population is in the over 65's of 17.9% and a 0.1% decrease between the age of 15 to 64. For the school age children there is a decline in 0 to 4 of -8% and an increase of 5 to 14 of 21% being seen from the census detail. (Data from census 2021 visualisations)

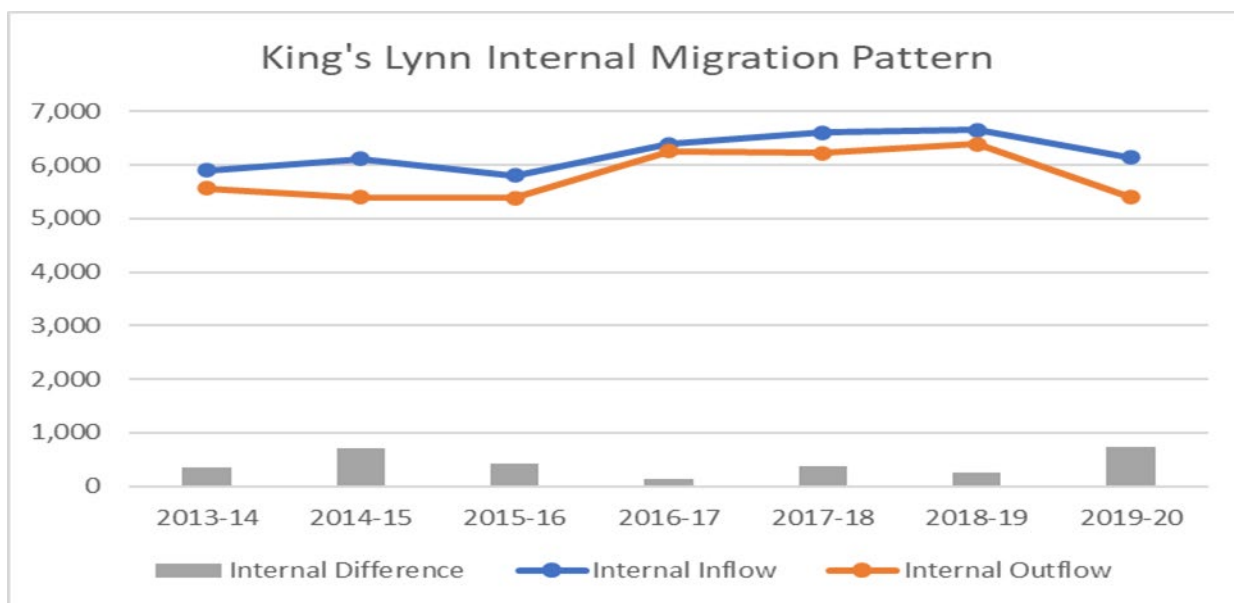
Migration Detail Across the District

(Graph 7 - indicating the long-term migration pattern for King's Lynn and West Norfolk – data taken from ONS)



The peak of the long-term impact of long-term migration has been seen in 2015-16, although the greatest net difference was seen in 2013-14 and has not been repeated. Long term outflow exceeded inflow for the first time in 2017-18 and has continued to remain positive since this period.

(Graph 8 - indicating Internal migration pattern for Kings Lynn and West Norfolk – data taken from ONS)



The net internal migration is at its highest in 2019-20 than it has over the past 7 years, the level is over that seen in 2014-15 and since then it has seen some decline with a gradual build up from 2016-17 onwards.

Part 1 - Major growth areas which will require multi-school solutions

West Winch/North Runcton

Up to 4000 new homes in two phases:

1100 up to 2026

2900 post 2027

Current local provision – capacity and organisation

West Winch village is situated to the south of King's Lynn with geographically a large catchment area and one primary school of 210 places. Parental preference indicates that 80% of children who live within the West Winch catchment attend their local school. The school currently is a suitable size to serve its catchment children, but it is popular and fills its reception intake each year. Middleton Primary is a small school with 60 on roll and situated to the east of West Winch, has a small catchment, and draws children from surrounding areas. Secondary School places for this area are provided by the three secondary schools within King's Lynn. Secondary provision is experiencing some pressure although it is being managed currently.

Latest assessment of growth

West Winch is a large strategic allocation for King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council. It is not unusual for an allocation of this size to take some years to come to forward. Hopkins Homes Ltd. is currently working on the masterplan for the northern part of the site which will bring forward 1,100 homes. An important part for the development to move forward is to bring forward the road infrastructure to the area which is being led by NCC. It is likely to lead to expansion of the existing primary school with the need for two further schools situated to the north and south of the development area, land has been secured to support these projects.

Current pressures on pupil numbers

West Winch Primary School does show some decline in its existing catchment, but preference is strong ensuring it mostly hits its PAN for 30 places each year. The existing site does give scope for expansion to accommodate some of the earlier phases of the development as they come forward. The secondary schools are working with the LA to meet the demand in the area, they currently have sufficient places to meet demand, but this is very quickly being used up. We are working with Kings Lynn Academy to build capacity in the secondary phase, as this school site is the site with the ability to expand on its existing location, and we will continue to liaise with the schools to assess current and future demand.

Impact of housing growth

The entire development area falls within the catchment of the existing West Winch school and there is very little space based on the demand from local children. Children's Services officers will work with the school and ensure development and expansion occurs at the right time to create sufficient places without impacting adversely on surrounding schools. The size of this development is likely to impact on the secondary phases, but it could take some time before this is fully recognised.

Short term response

Monitor the progress of housing development with the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk. Extend Kings Lynn Academy to accommodate 8 forms of entry to tackle existing pressure. Continue to monitor the annual admissions round to ensure sufficient places for the area both at primary and secondary phases.

Medium longer-term response

Expansion of West Winch Primary School. New primary school provision to be built in the northern and southern sections of the development coming forward as demand exists. Secondary provision to be assessed whether 10 forms of entry will be required at Kings Lynn Academy and develop plans further when the time is right to manage the pressure as it gets recognised.

Table 17. Capital response

West Winch/ North Runcton	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Future programme	West Winch Primary	1 to 2FE	-	IRO £5m	2026+
Future programme	New primary 1	2FE	-	IRO £10.2m	2028+
Future programme	New primary 2	3FE	-	IRO £12m	2030+
Future programme	King's Lynn secondary phase	Expansion	Expansion to 8FE in design phase.	£5.5M	2025

Part 2 - Development locations where one new school is planned

There are no developments that fall within this category for King's Lynn and West Norfolk.

Part 3 – Growth areas with implications for existing schools

Wisbech

550 homes in Norfolk

Area Overview

The 550 homes have come forward as part of King's Lynn and West Norfolk's Local Plan, this is annexed by the potential of a large housing development coming forward as part of the Fenland District Council Local Plan. The Fenland plan is currently under review and could determine what level of impact this has on the proposed site for King's Lynn. We continue to collaborate with both councils to establish how this could impact on the surrounding schools on both sides of the border.

Infrastructure Growth Requirements

We have reviewed the demand for places in the surrounding schools and undertaken some analysis to assess what solution might be sought if either of the scenarios occur. There was agreement to channel the agreed Section 106 contributions across to Cambridgeshire in order to meet demand of the larger scale development, if this was removed, we will discuss with colleagues how we will tackle the previous agreement to determine a solution that meets the demand for the 550 homes. School numbers are in decline across Norfolk, but this level of development would be difficult to accommodate in both primary and secondary phases. We will continue to assess the options and liaise with colleagues across the LA to develop an outcome that meets our statutory obligations and supports the children as appropriate.

King's Lynn Knight's Hill

635 homes

Area Overview

The outline planning permission was approved after a public enquiry. We continue to wait for a further development of this site and receive detail of the first phases. The development boundary falls within the Sandringham and West Newton catchment, with an element of the site within Reffley' area. Based on the proximity to Reffley any pupils that are generated could decide to attend Reffley before their catchment school, which is to the north east of the development boundary.

Infrastructure Growth Requirements

Schools in this immediate area currently appear to have capacity, with catchment numbers currently operating below the PAN for each school but does stay at quite consistent numbers over the next five years. Preference patterns does have impact in area with the Reffley school seeing a decline against its catchment numbers, where pupils choose surrounding schools over it, and Sandringham does see some increase from its catchment based on preference, although is a small school under 105. This level of housing will cause some challenge into the area, officers will continue to monitor the stages of the planning process and situation of the schools in order to ensure sufficient places for any of the new community.

South Wootton

450 homes

Area Overview

A site to the north west of the junior school has received outline permission for development, that could develop into a village centre. The area is served by an infant

and junior school, both schools Local Authority maintained currently. The infant site is a little more confined by the existing community, with the junior slightly larger, confined by one side of the community. For local children there is sufficient places for pupils in the area, both schools are popular with surrounding families. There is also an element of movement between South Wootton families and North Wootton in both directions, this has been somewhat of an historical trend.

Infrastructure Growth Requirements

The expected homes will generate a level of need within the existing local schools, Children's Services officers will need to analyse the data to determine what capacity exists, currently it would indicate there is capacity based on the birth decline. The LA must assist with their decision making and be ensured there is an area of land that will give an opportunity for expansion of the existing schools and discussions will begin once more certainty about the development comes forward.

Downham Market

615 homes

Area Overview

There are two large housing sites planned and with permission to the north and south of the central town. As with many areas across Norfolk the primary phase has felt the pressure move through and now this moves into the secondary phase. With a rationalisation of provision on site the secondary school requires investment for expansion to accommodate the current and expected growth.

Infrastructure Growth Requirements

The level of demand in the secondary phase is beginning to materialise with increases being seen in the schools Year 7. Forecasts continue to show that growth with both catchment and preference carrying through. The Capital Priorities Group have agreed early design work to consider how expansion work could take place in order to grow by one form of entry to accommodate the growth moving through the age ranges. Monitoring of the build out of homes and the uptake in the area will continue to assist informing the project on expected demand in the area.

Part 4 - Areas of the District indicating a decline in pupil numbers and where there are several small schools

Norfolk, as a rural county is seeing some areas with considerable growth yet other areas with small and sometimes larger decline in pupil numbers. The Local Authority needs to plan effectively to ensure that provision matches the place needs. Whilst surplus places can sometimes facilitate improvement through parental preference patterns, they can also be a barrier to success. Surplus places create inefficiencies in the school system, which individual institutions may find difficult to manage. The analysis below shows the level of surplus places and indicates some of the

demographic trends. Larger schools can often manage both contraction and expansion of pupil numbers. District advisers will actively monitor the quality of education provided in any area and consider any action that may be needed, which could include:

1. Agree changes to the PAN with associated change to accommodation
2. Conducting an area-based review, which could lead to
 - a. Schools joining a governance group such as federation or MAT
 - b. Changing age range for a school
 - c. Merging schools in existing or newly provided buildings.
 - d. As a last resort, close schools

The demographic decline that has happened across Norfolk since the boom in 2011-12 leads the LA to assess the schools which could lead to difficult decisions to be considered based on the factors that are impacting schools currently. We need to ensure we maintain sustainable schools which meet the need of the local communities. We will review the capacity in schools against their overall building capacity and consider the geographical changes that may be occurring that could have an effect on schools in certain communities. We must be clear this could where development is happening lead to closure of schools which may not be assessed as delivering a good education to our Norfolk children.

We will continue to work with schools to identify a RAG rating that they may fall into. We will continue to work with schools to ensure they are managing their estate as efficiently and effectively as possible, in order to ensure they continue to deliver the best education for their local communities.

3. Norfolk Planning Areas have been RAG rated to identify long term excess school places across each area:
 - a. GREEN – where there are sufficient places to match the catchment area numbers
 - b. AMBER – where there is 30+ spare places across the Planning Area but places are often filled with out of area children. These areas will be monitored but with the expectation that either catchment number increase, or housing will solve the issue
 - c. RED – areas with considerable surplus places, limited housing, and catchment decline.

Information is based on the School Capacity Return which is sent to the Department for Education on an annual basis. The school planning areas are used to combine

groups of school which have similar characteristics and operate within a similar geographical area. They may not link within the traditional catchment or feeder approach and may not strictly sit in the districts they have been included in.

Amber planning areas

Methwold Planning Area – this planning area has 8 schools for primary and secondary phase. 6 of the schools have lower than one form of entry (30 places). There were 30 more places in reception resulting in all schools in this area having an intake lower than their expected PAN. With limited development the catchment area continues to decline, this will also begin to impact the secondary school as numbers decline.

Downham Market Planning Area – there are 13 schools in this planning area, 5 schools near the town and the remainder in outlying villages across the area. 5 of the primary phase schools have an admission number of 10 or less and the forecasts indicate continued decline to the reception number. Secondary remains stable based on the primary numbers working through. Development is expected with a limited number of completions to date, but we will need to monitor the impact in area on the secondary school as developments begin to come forward.

Red planning areas

King's Lynn Central Planning Area – this planning is all primary phase schools in and around the town area. There are 15 schools including, infant, junior and primary phase. There is expected growth in areas of the town, but currently the numbers are not being seen across the area, the number of children the schools in the area serve have declined, there is approximately 100 spare places, schools will need to try and work together to balance the effects of the decline.

North Norfolk District Council

District Context

(Diagram indicates total number and type of schools across the county)

	All Through	Alt provision	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Special	Total
North Norfolk	0	1	0	46	7	3	57

Pupil Population

(Table 18 – Mainstream pupil population figures for North Norfolk for period 2016 to 2022)

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Primary Places	6,055	6,046	5,983	5,913	5,798	5,698	5,533
Secondary Places	3,938	3,950	4,048	4,139	4,182	4,226	4,339
Total	9,993	9,996	10,031	10,052	9,980	9,924	9,872

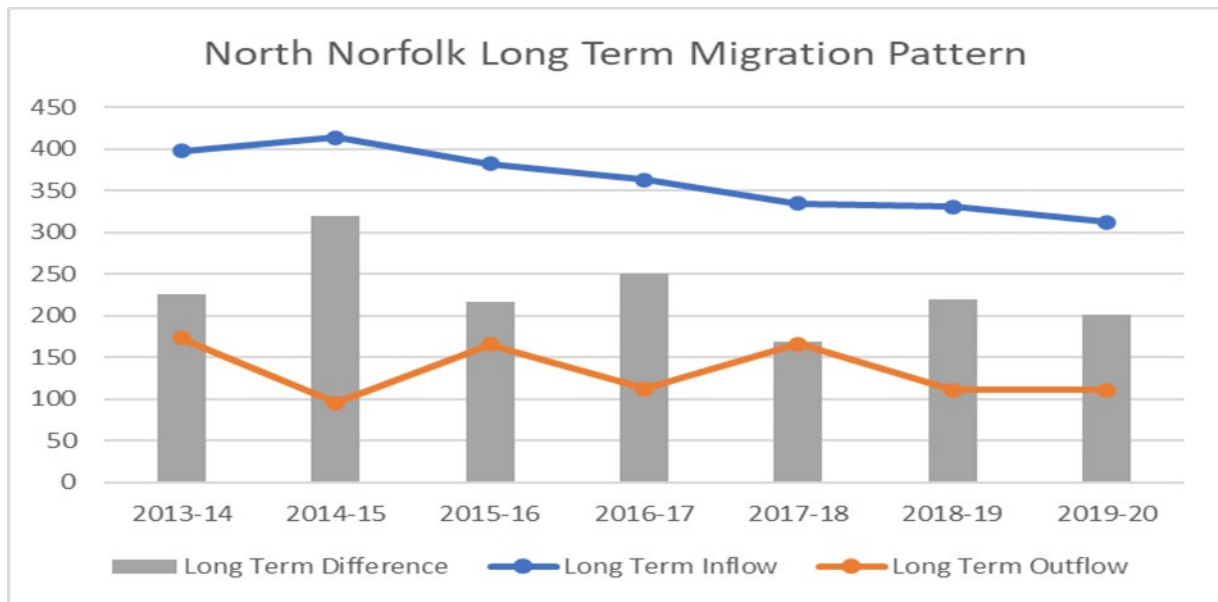
(Year 2022 is based on forecast data as at time of publication the actual numbers were not known, all other years are based on the September census taken each year)

The data indicates a steep decrease in primary places from 2017 and a trend of reducing numbers year on year. The secondary phase has a steady increase from 2016 onwards, although pupil population shows increases to 2019, with a steady decline overall up to the current year.

Birth data indicates an increase to its highest rate in 2010/11, then it has shown a steady rate of decline from 2012 onwards. The rate of decline has seen a fall of 29% between 2011 and 2021. This is against the population seeing an increase as whole in North Norfolk of 1.5% from around 101,5000 in 2011 to 103,000 in 2021 (according to the census 2021 figures). The data identifies the largest growth of the population is in the over 65's of 17.8% and a decrease of 5.6% in people aged of 15 to 64. For the school age children there is a decline in 0 to 4 of 14% and an increase of 5 to 14 of 3% being seen from the census detail. (Data from census 2021 visualisations)

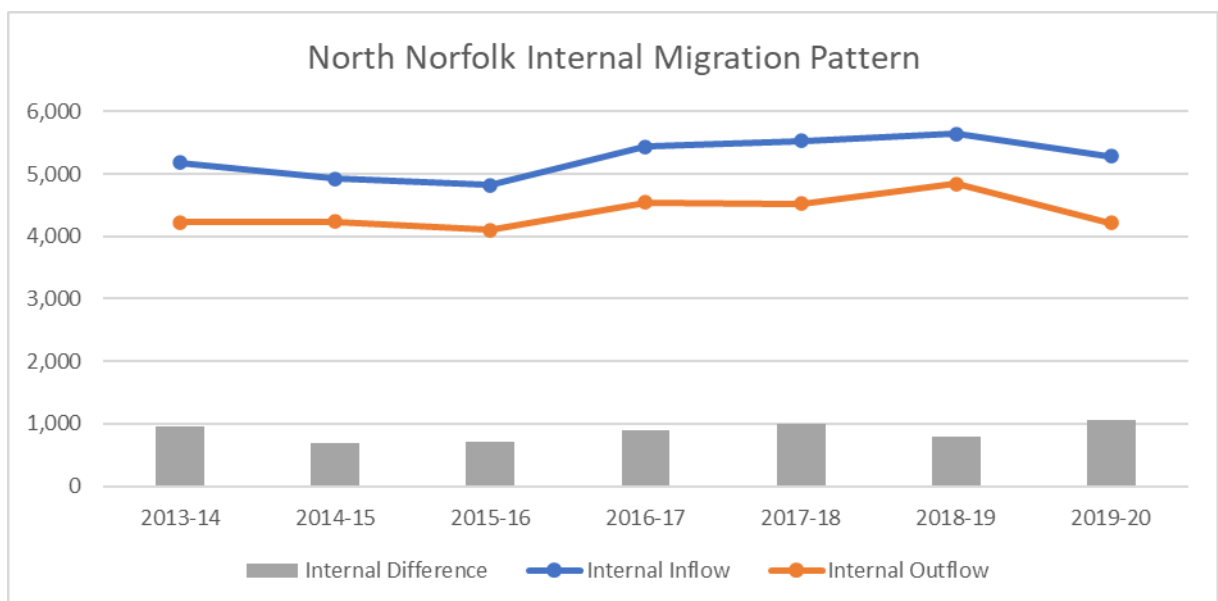
Migration Detail Across the District

(Graph 9 - indicating the long-term migration pattern for North Norfolk – data taken from ONS)



The largest difference between inflow and outflow was seen in 2014-15, inflow figures have seen a steady decline since this date and the long-term outflow has consistently had peaks and troughs until 2018-19 where figures appear to have stabilised.

(Graph 10 - indicating Internal migration pattern for North Norfolk – data taken from ONS)



The internal inflow shows a gradual increase up to 2018-19 peak, where the outflow has shown an increase between 2015-16 to 2018-19, with the biggest difference been seen in 2019-20.

Part 1 - Major growth areas which will require multi-school solutions

There are no developments that fall within this category for North Norfolk.

Part 2 - Development locations where one new school is planned

Fakenham

Allocation of 950 new homes

Current local provision – capacity and organisation

Children have both an infant and a junior school in the town and if they wish there is the offer of smaller village schools surrounding Fakenham. Both Fakenham Infant and Junior School are run by Synergy Multi Academy Trust. The infant school reduced its PAN from 90 to 60 to enable it to deal with the issue of the falling birth rate, catchment numbers continue to show a level of decline across the area.

Secondary provision for Fakenham children is provided at Fakenham Academy run by Sapientia Academy Trust. The Academy provides education to both the 11-16 age range and 16-18 range. Catchment identifies higher numbers than their PAN allows but parental preference continues to play a part in where families choose to send their children, allowing the number of children to be accommodated.

Latest assessment of growth

The major growth site to the north of Fakenham was approved at NCC Cabinet in October 2021 and a Section 106 has been signed that secures land for a new 2FE Primary school building and financial contributions towards the building of that school. The land is being marketed by Trinity College, there has been no further movement on this site coming forward at the current time. Pupil numbers in area continue to be monitored for both reception and year 7, we are awaiting the land being sold and a reserved matters application being submitted.

Current pressures on pupil numbers

With a decline in birth rates across the County and with the infant school reducing its PAN from 90 to 60 there is no pressure at all on pupil places. However, this pattern can change, and pupil forecasts will be carefully monitored to assess for areas of growth.

Impact of housing growth

We do expect this housing to have some impact on school places at both primary and secondary but when this will happen is yet to be known. Discussions have taken place with Synergy Multi Academy Trust, so they understand the process of decision making when a new school in an area is being considered. We agreed to review the progress of this site on an annual basis in order to keep the Trust informed.

Short term response

Continue to monitor admissions both at primary and secondary. Obtain regular updates from North Norfolk District Council on housing progress to understand the impact of the housing on school numbers.

Medium longer-term response

It is likely to be longer term (7-10 years) when additional places will be required for children in Fakenham. Officers from Children's Services will decide on options to provide more places. A new school will be provided if demographics and pupil forecasts indicate this is the best option.

Table 19. Capital response

Fakenham	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Future programme	New primary school	2FE	Section 106 agreed.	£10.2m	2027+
Future programme	Possible expansion to Fakenham Academy	Unknown at present	-	-	-

Part 3 – Growth areas with implications for existing schools

Holt

250-400 homes

Area Overview

Land that includes a site for a new Primary school has recently been sold and it is expected a reserved matters application will be submitted in October 2022 with building to start on site in early 2023. Due to the development which has occurred across the town it and the confined site of the existing school, it is clear this further development will need a new school to accommodate current and future need.

Infrastructure Growth Requirements

A new 2FE primary school building to allow the existing school, Holt Primary school to move to the new premises. This new school will provide the necessary additional places for children in Holt as well as dealing with condition issues at the existing school.

North Walsham

1800 homes

Area Overview

Land is designated as part of the current North Norfolk Local Plan; it identifies North Walsham as a large growth town. The strategic urban extension is being delivered by a consortium of developers, working with promoters with a large amount of experience in housing scheme delivery. Current discussions are ongoing in relation to the project with Children's Services to confirm the site of the new school, which is expected to be delivered based on the size and scale of this development. The development could come forward across two Local Plan periods and the pace of development will be considered as part of planning for pupils in this area.

Infrastructure Growth Requirements

There are currently three schools impacted directly by this development, North Walsham Infant and Junior and Millfield Primary. All schools are operated or due to be operated by two different Academy Trusts. Local Authority Officers will begin discussions with the schools and trusts to understand the aspiration of the Trusts and to consider the implications that growth could bring. There is expected to be delivered a 2FE primary school as part of the development, which will need to be centrally located and linked to the existing communities, but it is of utmost importance this new establishment does not destabilise the existing education infrastructure.

Part 4 - Areas of the District indicating a decline in pupil numbers and where there are several small schools

Norfolk, as a rural county is seeing some areas with considerable growth yet other areas with small and sometimes larger decline in pupil numbers. The Local Authority needs to plan effectively to ensure that provision matches the place needs. Whilst surplus places can sometimes facilitate improvement through parental preference patterns, they can also be a barrier to success. Surplus places create inefficiencies in the school system, which individual institutions may find difficult to manage. The analysis below shows the level of surplus places and indicates some of the demographic trends. Larger schools can often manage both contraction and expansion of pupil numbers. District advisers will actively monitor the quality of education provided in any area and consider any action that may be needed, which could include:

1. Agree changes to the PAN with associated change to accommodation
2. Conducting an area-based review, which could lead to

- a. Schools joining a governance group such as federation or MAT
- b. Changing age range for a school
- c. Merging schools in existing or newly provided buildings.
- d. As a last resort, close schools

The demographic decline that has happened across Norfolk since the boom in 2011-12 leads the LA to assess the schools which could lead to difficult decisions to be considered based on the factors that are impacting schools currently. We need to ensure we maintain sustainable schools which meet the need of the local communities. We will review the capacity in schools against their overall building capacity and consider the geographical changes that may be occurring that could influence schools in certain communities. We must be clear this could where development is happening lead to closure of schools which may not be assessed as delivering a good education to our Norfolk children.

We will continue to work with schools to identify a RAG rating that they may fall into. We will continue to work with schools to ensure they are managing their estate as efficiently and effectively as possible, in order to ensure they continue to deliver the best education for their local communities.

- 3. Norfolk Planning Areas have been RAG rated to identify long term excess school places across each area:
 - a. GREEN – where there are sufficient places to match the catchment area numbers
 - b. AMBER – where there is 30+ spare places across the Planning Area but places are often filled with out of area children. These areas will be monitored but with the expectation that either catchment number increase, or housing will solve the issue
 - c. RED – areas with considerable surplus places, limited housing, and catchment decline.

Information is based on the School Capacity Return which is sent to the Department for Education on an annual basis. The school planning areas are used to combine groups of school which have similar characteristics and operate within a similar geographical area. They may not link within the traditional catchment or feeder approach and may not strictly sit in the districts they have been included in.

Amber planning areas

Fakenham Planning Area – is a market town with an infant and junior in the centre with many village schools around it. There are 8 schools in this planning area, 3 schools have a PAN of below 15. The large infant has managed their PAN to accommodate the decline in area. We will continue to monitor the progress of development to manage the school estate accordingly.

Red planning areas

Cromer and Sheringham Planning Area – this area has 11 schools; forecasts indicate falling catchment numbers with limited development being expected currently. The schools clearly admit children from out of catchment due to parent preference compared to the actual numbers in the catchment areas. 6 schools have below 30 pupils in reception and decline in their catchment is currently being forecast. The secondary phase has some spare capacity, but development will work through the system but will not impact all schools in a similar way.

North Walsham Planning Area – this planning area has 10 schools including infant, junior, primary, and secondary. The schools centred around North Walsham have consistent numbers that appear stable. Catchment numbers in all but 1 school are lower than what their PAN determines, with preference appearing to stay quite static. A large strategic development is planned the LA will need to monitor growth based on current capacity.

Stalham Planning Area – a coastal planning area including 9 schools, only 1 school has 1 full form of entry. This capacity allows for parental preference in the area, but school places appear in decline with small developments not going to impact considerably to the pupil numbers in some of these schools. The low numbers will work through into the junior and secondary phases based on current forecasts.

Norwich City Council

District Context

(Table indicates total number and type of schools across the county)

	All Through	Alt provision	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Special	Total
Norwich	0	0	1	34	8	5	48

Pupil Population

(Table 20 – Mainstream pupil population figures for Norwich for period 2016 to 2022)

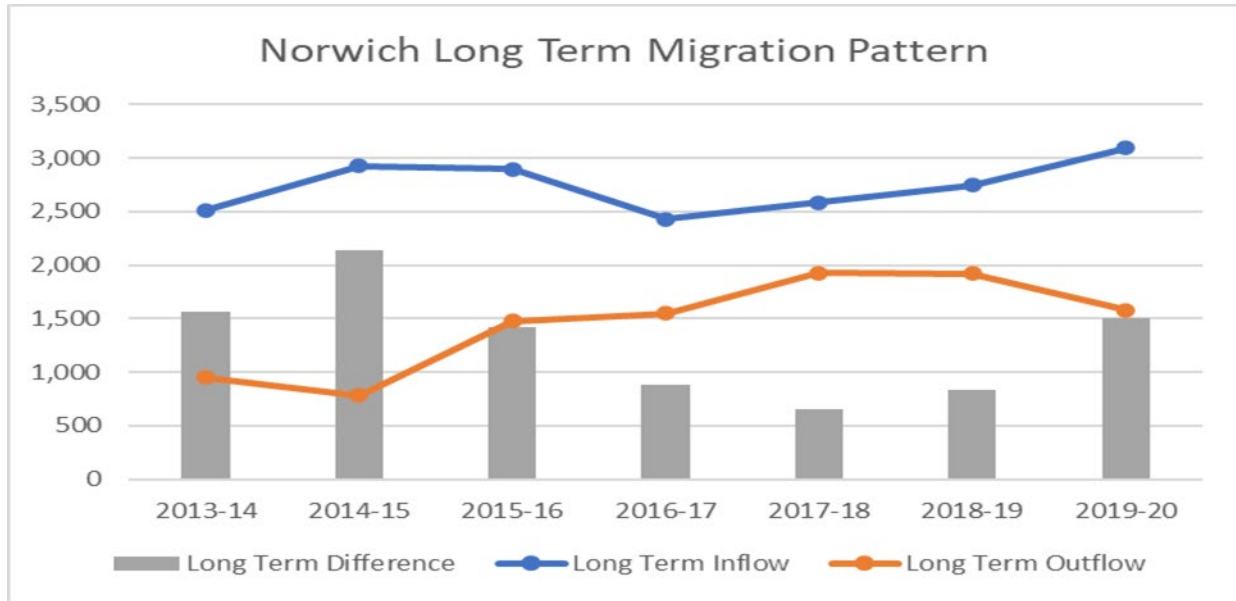
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Primary Places	9,292	9,425	9,456	9,427	9,242	9,200	9,221
Secondary Places	4,932	4,961	5,134	5,340	5,528	5,619	5,734
Total	14,224	14,386	14,590	14,767	14,770	14,819	14,955

There was significant increase in primary phase pupils between 2016 and 2017 and since 2019 numbers have begun to decrease year on year, with a small change in the forecasted 2022 prediction. Secondary see's the steep increase will continue for the next three to five years after which, the implication of the reducing numbers in the primary phase will begin to filter through and a decrease will begin.

Birth data indicates an increase to its highest rate in 2011 then then it has shown a steady rate of decline from 2012 onwards. The rate of decline has seen a fall of 32% over the ten-year period. This is against the population seeing an increase as whole in Norwich of 8.7% from 132,500 in 2011 up to 144,000 in 2021 (according to the census 2021 figures). The data identifies the largest growth of the population is in the over 65's of 10.6% and an increase of 8.6% in people aged of 15 to 64. For the school age children there is a decline in 0 to 4 of 18% and an increase of 5 to 14 of 47% being seen from the census detail. (Data from census 2021 visualisations)

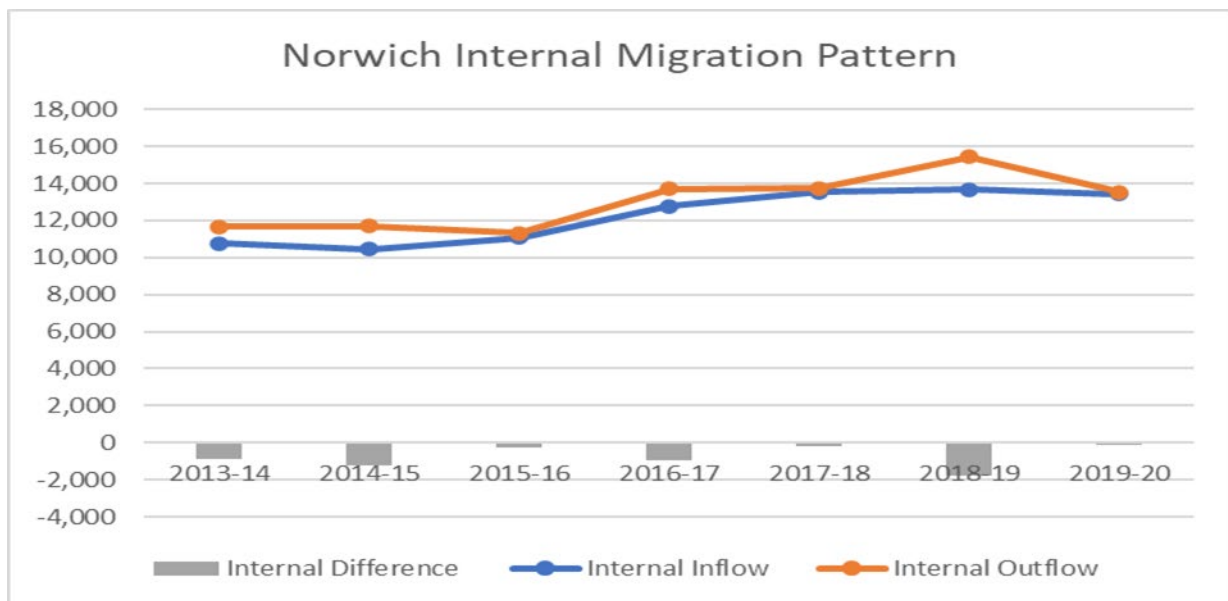
Migration Detail Across the District

(Graph 11 - indicating the long-term migration pattern for Norwich – data taken from ONS)



The largest net gain was seen in 2014-15 where this has seen a steady decline until 2019-20 when it appears the net gain has increased again further.

(Graph 12 - indicating Internal migration pattern for Norwich – data taken from ONS)



The internal migration detail shows a very transient population with continued higher outflow than inflow. The largest of these declines was seen against 2018-19.

Part 1 - Major growth areas which will require multi-school solutions

There are no developments that fall within this category within Norwich.

Part 2 - Development locations where one new school is planned

East Norwich (Area within the GNLP)

Allocation for up to 4000 new homes

Current local provision – capacity and organisation

There are several primary phase schools located around the area of this anticipated development, these include: Lakenham Primary, Trowse Primary and Lionwood Infant. With Trowse moving to a new site to allow expansion to 1 form of entry and Lakenham operating as a two-form entry centrally located, Lionwood is a three-form entry infant school. Both Lionwood and Lakenham are not full currently, Trowse continues to grow from its previous half form of entry and has capacity in higher year groups. Secondary education is provided by the Hewett Academy, CNS, and Notre Dame. CNS and Notre Dame continue to be popular across secondary cohorts, where the Hewett Academy continues to struggle to meet its PAN.

Latest assessment of growth

The East Norwich Partnership was formed in 2020 and the Steering Group has been meeting on a bi-monthly basis since its inception. This is a public-private sector group with representatives from the County Council working with partners to steer the production of the masterplan for the site. It is anticipated to provide 4,000 new homes and 6,000 jobs, the initial site of Carrow Works area could come forward as early as next year. Consultants have completed the [Stage 2 masterplan](#) (link directed to the East Norwich Regeneration project page). County Council officers continue to work with Norwich City colleagues to progress the development through stages of the planning process in order to see the important site come forward.

Current pressures on pupil numbers

Primary school provision is currently experiencing demographic decline, any pressure may only exist in specific year groups, but the trend suggests there continues to be sufficient places. As mentioned above the Hewett continues to have capacity for any in year or additional movement of pupils.

Impact of housing growth

Children's Services continues to be consulted on the plans for the development and is working with colleagues to determine the required location of a new school which will serve this new community. There is much to do before we begin to see this site come forward, which is expected in three large areas. The school design will also need to be adapted to meet the urban design that is expected in this site, and it is expected to deliver the highest standard of education possible.

Short term response

Continue discussions with strategic partners on this site to ensure school place planning is adequately represented. Look at urban design schools to understand the deliverability of this new aspect for Children's Services.

Medium longer-term response

Continue to assess the demand for places in both sectors and assess when the build of this new school will commence to meet the needs of the community.

Part 3 – Growth areas with implications for existing schools

There are no developments that fall within this category within Norwich.

Part 4 - Areas of the District indicating a decline in pupil numbers and where there are several small schools

Norfolk, as a rural county is seeing some areas with considerable growth yet other areas with small and sometimes larger decline in pupil numbers. The Local Authority needs to plan effectively to ensure that provision matches the place needs. Whilst surplus places can sometimes facilitate improvement through parental preference patterns, they can also be a barrier to success. Surplus places create inefficiencies in the school system, which individual institutions may find difficult to manage. The analysis below shows the level of surplus places and indicates some of the demographic trends. Larger schools can often manage both contraction and expansion of pupil numbers. District advisers will actively monitor the quality of education provided in any area and consider any action that may be needed, which could include:

1. Agree changes to the PAN with associated change to accommodation
2. Conducting an area-based review, which could lead to
 - a. Schools joining a governance group such as federation or MAT
 - b. Changing age range for a school
 - c. Merging schools in existing or newly provided buildings.
 - d. As a last resort, close schools

The demographic decline that has happened across Norfolk since the boom in 2011-12 leads the LA to assess the schools which could lead to difficult decisions to be considered based on the factors that are impacting schools currently. We need to ensure we maintain sustainable schools which meet the need of the local communities. We will review the capacity in schools against their overall building capacity and consider the geographical changes that may be occurring that could influence schools in certain communities. We must be clear this could where development is happening lead to closure of schools which may not be assessed as delivering a good education to our Norfolk children.

We will continue to work with schools to identify a RAG rating that they may fall into. We will continue to work with schools to ensure they are managing their estate as efficiently and effectively as possible, in order to ensure they continue to deliver the best education for their local communities.

3. Norfolk Planning Areas have been RAG rated to identify long term excess school places across each area:
 - a. GREEN – where there are sufficient places to match the catchment area numbers
 - b. AMBER – where there is 30+ spare places across the Planning Area but places are often filled with out of area children. These areas will be monitored but with the expectation that either catchment number increase, or housing will solve the issue
 - c. RED – areas with considerable surplus places, limited housing, and catchment decline.

Information is based on the School Capacity Return which is sent to the Department for Education on an annual basis. The school planning areas are used to combine groups of school which have similar characteristics and operate within a similar geographical area. They may not link within the traditional catchment or feeder approach and may not strictly sit in the districts they have been included in.

Amber planning areas

Norwich North Planning Area – this area has 18 schools across the area with all phase and type being recognised. The catchment at primary demonstrates the schools have enough capacity to accommodate all pupils, but parental preference is leading to decline in take up of places, with 150 places not utilised. Schools will need to recognise their level of take up against the PAN until developments across the city begin to have some effect.

Norwich South Planning Area – this is a large planning area of 26 schools, all primary phase schools operate at least 1 form of entry or larger. There are over 200 places of surplus space at reception based on catchment, parental preference does

keep numbers stable against catchment. Secondary phase does contain itself on current and future predictions. Primary phase schools will need to consider their PAN to manage the decline being seen in area.

Red planning areas

No planning areas with this category.

South Norfolk District Council

District Context

(Table indicates total number and type of schools across the county)

	All Through	Alt provision	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Special	Total
South Norfolk	1	0	0	62	8	0	71

Pupil Population

(Table 21 – Mainstream pupil population figures for South Norfolk for period 2016 to 2022)

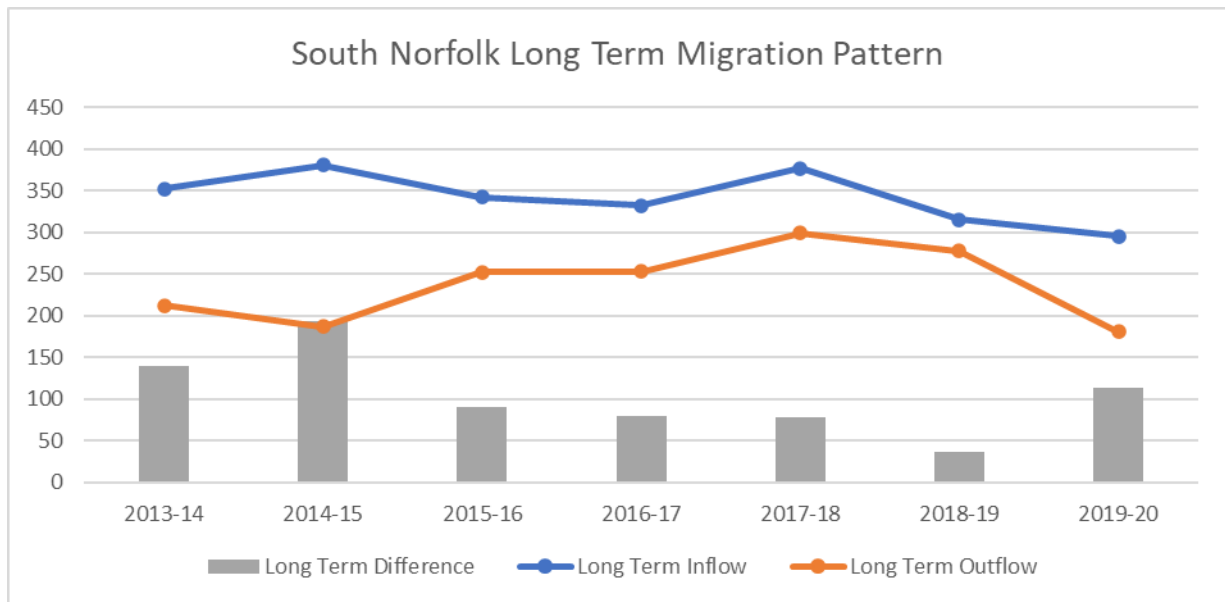
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Primary Places	9,694	9,999	10,284	10,426	10,629	10,929	10,922
Secondary Places	6,430	6,549	6,759	7,047	7,404	7,808	8,132
Total	16,124	16,548	17,043	17,473	18,033	18,737	19,032

There has been a continued growth across both phases of education with the greatest step change in secondary in 2021 and for primary it was 2017. Population numbers begin to grow at a greater pace than any other district or borough council in Norfolk.

Birth data highlights growth between 2008 and 2012, it is then evident births decline from 2015 to current. This is against the population seeing a significant increase as whole in South Norfolk of 14.4% from 124,000 in 2011 up to 141,900 in 2021. South Norfolk population increase is higher than the increase seen for the East of England (according to the census 2021 figures). The data identifies the largest growth of the population is in the over 65's of 30.1% and an increase of 9.7% in people aged of 15 to 64. For the school age children there is an increase in 0 to 4 age range of 3% and an increase of 5 to 14 of 34% seen from the census detail. (Data from census 2021 visualisations)

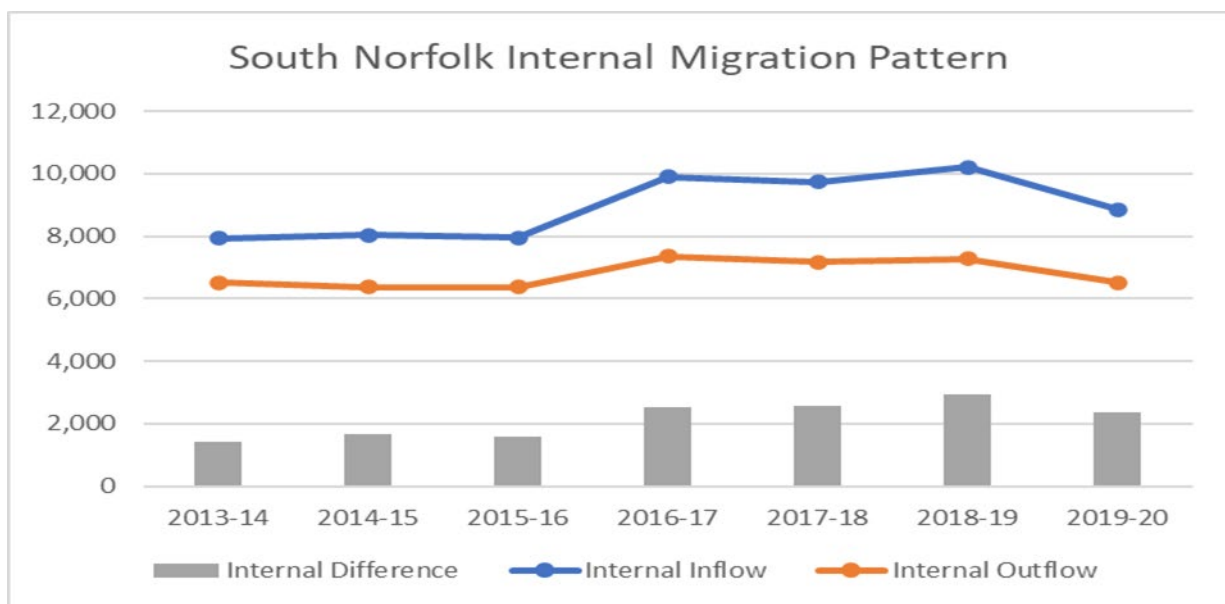
Migration Detail Across the District

(Graph 13 - indicating the long-term migration pattern for South Norfolk – data taken from ONS)



Long term immigration data indicates the largest net gain was in 2014-15, with decline been seen since. Numbers continue to keep pace with 2019-20 showing some signs of a resurgence with immigration numbers remaining in the county.

(Graph 14 - indicating Internal migration pattern for Norwich – data taken from ONS)



Internal migration figures appeared quite static between the years 2013-14 and 2015-16, from 2016-17 the pattern began to show increases in the net gain, with the lowest figure starting to evident some decline in 2019-20.

Part 1 - Major growth areas which will require multi-school solutions

There are no developments that fall within this category within South Norfolk.

Part 2 - Development locations where one new school is planned

Wymondham (Area within the GNLP)

Up to 2000 new homes in various locations across the Town with planning permission and still to be built.

Current local provision – capacity and organisation

Wymondham has four primary phase schools, Browick Road, Ashleigh, Robert Kett and Wymondham Prep providing eight forms of entry between them. Early pressure seen from the extensive development in the town has been managed across all schools. In year admissions continue to be a challenge to accommodate in later year groups of the primary phase. However, there is some capacity in Key Stage 1 year groups which narrows the choice to new families moving into the area. The secondary provision is delivered by both Wymondham High and Wymondham College, and as the year groups move through into the secondary phase it is expected a further project to increase Wymondham High will be required.

Latest assessment of growth

Housing developers across the six sites have planning permission or have commenced on site. Progress continues at pace with pupil yield currently managed as it occurs. There are no further sites allocated across Wymondham as part of the Greater Norwich Plan. The data on growth of pupils against the number of developments will continue to be monitored as appropriate. Children's Services is of the opinion further housing cannot be offered as part of the Wymondham area due to the excess strain it puts on the education facilities in and around the town. Any further development needs to ensure schools are available as part of the wider plan to deliver housing in this locality.

Current pressures on pupil numbers

Pressure for places at the admissions round, reception and Year 7 for secondary are being managed well. The issue Children's Services has with pupil places is the in-year admissions which is high and with very limited options for families across the primary phase schools, children are often offered a place outside of their local area.

Impact of housing growth

The impact on housing continues to cause some issues in later year groups and for in year admissions. Robert Kett does have some capacity but only in the reception cohort, and where Wymondham Prep continues to expand into later year groups it would not be sustainable to allocate small cohorts in the older age range based on

the need from in year changes. Children's Services continues to develop its plan to open a new primary school in the Silfield area of Wymondham, until this opens the pupil movement will be managed via the admission process and the surrounding schools if capacity exists. The Secondary schools across the area have capacity to manage the local children, preference is strong for schools in the town, and this will be managed via the admission round in accordance with policy processes.

Short term response

Continue to monitor housing growth and anticipated reception intakes as well as in year admission patterns. Work with admission colleagues to find a solution to any specific challenges as they may arise. Review admissions for secondary for September 2022 and assess the required need which will inform the next steps for the proposed continued expansion at Wymondham High.

Medium longer-term response

Opening of the new school in Silfield in September 2024. Finalise expansion of Wymondham High Academy in response to growth.

Table 22. Capital response

Wymondham	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Future programme	Silfield new primary school	2FE	Detailed design	IRO £10.2m	2024
Future programme	Wymondham High Academy	Further phases	Final Expansion to bring to capacity of site	£10m	2025

Cringleford (Area within the GNLP)

1300 new homes on two adjacent sites

Current local provision – capacity and organisation

Cringleford village is served by one 420 place primary school, Cringleford CE VA Primary School. Secondary age children feeder catchment school is Hethersett Academy, being located close to Norwich other secondary options are available.

Latest assessment of growth

One of the sites south of the A11 has two developers on site which brings the housing yield forward faster, the other continues to have one developer so this will be at a slightly slower rate. This is a popular location based on its proximity to the city amenities housing will continue into 2027-28 based on current projections.

Current pressures on pupil numbers

Primary age catchment cohorts remain stable and the pressure for places on the local school are being managed. The single school is very popular and does attract

pupils from out of catchment, but numbers remain controlled based on the school's capacity. With the pupil movement through secondary Children's Services continues to plan expansion of Hethersett Academy which is being discussed and managed with the school to ensure sufficient places for the future.

Impact of housing growth

Land for a new 2FE primary school in Cringleford is secured within one of the new developments. The LA has begun a new school presumption process which is due to conclude in November 2022, when a new academy sponsor will be secured for the school to allow work to commence on finalising the design to ensure the new school is ready in September 2024. Local schools continue to be communicated with to update on the progress of the processes and understand if any unforeseen issues arise as a result of pupil movement.

Additional land has been handed over to Hethersett Academy under the planning application for the strategic growth in Hethersett. Work is underway to agree further expansion because of anticipated additional pupil numbers for this school.

Short term response

Continue to manage reception admissions until the new school is in operation. The catchment continues to be managed in the local area and numbers indicate this will be the case until the new school is ready. Discussions with Hethersett Academy will continue as the project planned to manage the growth is expected over the next few years.

Medium longer-term response

Open a new primary school for Cringleford in September 2024. Manage the impact of the new school opening with other local schools.

Table 23. Capital response

Cringleford	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Future programme	New primary	2FE	Detailed design. Await transfer of new school site.	£11.5m	2024

Hethersett (Area within the GNLP)

1200 home strategic development

Current local provision – capacity and organisation

Hethersett village provides primary school places in two primary schools with the potential of offering 120 places across all year groups. The previous reorganisation of the schools in this area has allowed capacity to grow ensuring there are two primary schools both having 420 places available. Both schools have capacity with Hethersett Primary operating currently with a PAN of 30, but this will increase once

the need begins to rise across the area. Secondary provision is met via Hethersett Academy operated by Inspiration Trust, the school is popular with both local children and some from out of catchment which may ordinarily choose some Norwich central schools.

Latest assessment of growth

The housing development to the north of the village continues to build out at quite a pace, with both developers on site this will continue at pace through this year. Children's Services continues to have discussion with South Norfolk District Council regarding some land available for expansion to Hethersett Woodside Primary. This will allow for additional outside space and if need arises expansion of a further one form of entry which may be required when the development reaches its conclusion.

Current pressures on pupil numbers

There remains capacity within the Hethersett Primary school based on its transition from a junior school, and the demand within the area not yet being realised. The pressure has come via in year admissions movements, which impacts later year groups and not always the reception intake numbers. NCC Admissions and place planning officers are working with this school to consider when an increase of their PAN to 60 would be viable. Hethersett Academy is at capacity and over-subscribed but as places are available to allow for the planned growth, some drift from city-based children to Hethersett is being seen. NCC officers are working with the high school to understand what further expansion work is required.

Impact of housing growth

NCC Children's Services organised the schools to ensure there are sufficient school places for local children. The downturn in the pupil population could not have been predicted based on the different factors impacting it. The in-year admission pressure from new housing continues to be monitored to work with the schools to find a solution that is sustainable. The secondary provision continues to be assessed to ensure there are sufficient places for local children, and to look at further expansion that may well be needed in the future.

Short term response

Continue to manage admission both at primary and secondary level. Hethersett High Academy masterplan refresh with a view to a second phase of expansion. Manage in-year admissions at primary school level.

Medium longer-term response

Work with the primary schools to monitor the growth from the developments and assess potential need for expansion as may be necessary. Continue to monitor growth in both Hethersett and Cringleford as Cringleford is a feeder school for Hethersett Academy. Work with Hethersett Academy to ensure sufficient places for both local children and those living in the school feeder catchments.

Table 24. Capital response

Hethersett	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Future Programme	Hethersett Academy	Staged expansion	Additional stage of expansion	£10m	2025

Long Stratton (Area within the GNLP)

1800 - 2400 new homes

Current local provision – capacity and organisation

Long Stratton primary school provision is provided by Manor Field Infant School run by Corvus Education Trust and St Mary's Junior School run by Diocese of Norwich St Benet's MAT. The schools operate as two forms of entry but are seeing much lower numbers of intake at reception. This is due to preference in the town drawing children into the surrounding village schools. Secondary education is delivered by Long Stratton High School operated by Enrich Learning Trust, numbers in secondary are currently stable with the growth from primary moving through.

Latest assessment of growth

The large strategic development which is planned for Long Stratton continues to be worked through and detailed plans built up. This process has been delayed through nutrient neutrality mitigation requirements, which may mean the project could be delayed by approximately twelve months. This planned project is a key element of infrastructure for the town leading to development of the homes on both east and west locations of the existing A140. The east site provides a site for a new Primary phase school building and the school site location has been agreed with the land promoters.

Current pressures on pupil numbers

There does not appear to be pressure on places currently with preference spreading out the number of pupils from the central location to the surrounding areas. Children's Services plan school provision in accordance with pressure on catchment numbers, the place planning in this area continues to be monitored to track any change in preference pattern which may impact the centrally located schools and the plan for the new school as the project begins to build momentum.

Impact of housing growth

Although a site for a new school has been agreed it will be several years before we see pressure for places that will require additional primary school provision in Long Stratton. In the meantime, officers from Children's Services will have discussions with local schools and Academy Trusts as appropriate to understand the most effective way to provide these additional places with the new building in mind.

Short term response

Continue to be involved in stakeholder groups to ensure education is covered in all aspects of this development.

Medium longer-term response

Opening of a new primary phase school in Long Stratton with the potential to move to all-through primary provision in the village.

Table 25. Capital response

Long Stratton	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/estimate	Date if known
Future programme	New primary phase school building	2FE	Site location agreed	IRO £10.2m	2026+
Future programme	High school	Expansion of Long Stratton High to be considered longer term	-	-	-

Poringland (Area within the GNLP)

Current local provision – capacity and organisation

The village of Poringland is served by Poringland Primary School. There are other smaller primary schools surrounding the village of Poringland namely, Stoke Holy Cross, Brooke, Trowse, Alington and Rockland all of which provide primary education for children in the area. Framingham Earl High School provides secondary education.

Latest assessment of growth

Housing continues to be delivered in the village, with no new development expected as part of the new Local Plan.

Current pressures on pupil numbers

The schools near Poringland have high numbers on the latest admission round, with some of the village schools showing some capacity in certain year groups. There is growth in the catchment which is currently being managed via the admission round and balanced across the schools in the area. It does in some respects means some children are allocated schools outside of Poringland, which we endeavour to keep to a minimum. This will slightly reduce in demand based on the demographic pattern of decline, but this may not be for a few more years.

Impact of housing growth

Poringland Primary School is completely at capacity with a limited site and there is no opportunity to consider further expansion. Use of the admission round to manage places will continue, options to expand other schools have previously been considered and not seen feasible. Children's Service continues to monitor land availability to assess the demand and the potential for a new school, ideally delivered to the northern fringe of Poringland.

Short term response

Continue to manage the annual admissions round and in-year admissions until a suitable new school site can be found.

Medium longer-term response

Securing a new school site and building a new school for the village will be required, as growth is a concern over a longer period and the school currently cannot cope on its own. Pupil forecasts for secondary school places indicates sufficient places at Framingham Earl academy certainly for the medium term. The school consistently admits out of catchment children on preference.

Table 26. capital response

Poringland	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Future programme	New primary school	Initially 1 FE with the scope to increase to 2FE	Site search	£10.2M	2025+

Part 3 – Growth areas with implications for existing schools

Easton

890 homes

Area Overview

The development surrounding Easton is beginning to come forward where full planning has been received for phases 1-4.

The development includes land to extend St Peter C of E Primary Academy which is currently a one form entry school. Secondary provision is served through Ormiston Victory Academy where expansion has already occurred to meet this and other development demands.

Infrastructure Growth Requirements

It is proposed we will expand the existing school to either 1.5 or 2 forms of entry when the place planning need is evident. Secondary sector is currently being expanded to 10FE to support meeting the need in this area.

Part 4 - Areas of the County indicating a decline in pupil numbers and where there are several small schools

Norfolk, as a rural county is seeing some areas with considerable growth yet other areas with small and sometimes larger decline in pupil numbers. The Local Authority needs to plan effectively to ensure that provision matches the place needs. Whilst surplus places can sometimes facilitate improvement through parental preference patterns, they can also be a barrier to success. Surplus places create inefficiencies in the school system, which individual institutions may find difficult to manage. The analysis below shows the level of surplus places and indicates some of the demographic trends. Larger schools can often manage both contraction and expansion of pupil numbers. District advisers will actively monitor the quality of education provided in any area and consider any action that may be needed, which could include:

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The demographic decline that has happened across Norfolk since the boom in 2011-12 leads the LA to assess the schools which could lead to difficult decisions to be considered based on the factors that are impacting schools currently. We need to ensure we maintain sustainable schools which meet the need of the local communities. We will review the capacity in schools against their overall building capacity and consider the geographical changes that may occur that could have an effect on schools in certain communities. We must be clear this could where development is happening lead to closure of schools which may not be assessed as delivering a good education to our Norfolk children.

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3. Norfolk Planning Areas have been RAG rated to identify long term excess school places across each area:

- a. GREEN – where there are sufficient places to match the catchment area numbers
- b. AMBER – where there is 30+ spare places across the Planning Area but places are often filled with out of area children. These areas will be monitored but with the expectation that either catchment number increase, or housing will solve the issue
- c. RED – areas with considerable surplus places, limited housing, and catchment decline.

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Amber planning areas

Costessey and Bowthorpe Planning Area – the area has 6 schools with a combination of infant, junior and primary phase, there is currently capacity in the schools with 50 places in reception available each year, the area is outlined for some development, but this is not yet included in our forecasting, numbers in school are being monitored.

Tas Valley Planning Area – a planning area of 7 village schools, the largest being Mulbarton with a PAN of 60, the other schools have a PAN of one form of entry or less. Catchment shows decline but parental preference is quite strong which brings pupils into the schools in scope. 3 schools have very low catchment numbers that show further decline against their PAN. The more rural smaller schools could become under pressure which will require monitoring.

Harleston Planning Area – a small planning area consisting of 4 schools, limited development opportunity impacting the decline in primary phase, the secondary phase is managing with numbers, it gains children from out of county supporting its pupil population. The main town primary and secondary recently became an all through school, the resulting structure will support the school manage against the declining pupil population.

Long Stratton Planning Area – a small planning area with 6 schools, 1 infant and junior in the village centre with the surrounding schools all primary. The secondary school has stable numbers against its catchment numbers, infant and primary have 40 surplus places against catchment, with preference matching. The large-scale development will take some time before it begins to impact on the schools in the area.

Red planning areas

Diss Planning Area – there are 12 schools in this planning area, 3 near the town centre and the remainder in outlying villages close to the border with Suffolk. Preference patterns indicate further decline against PAN in 6 of the reception school cohorts. Secondary numbers see some decline based on the migration between phases.

Loddon Planning Area – This is a large planning area consisting of 13 schools across the phases. 9 of the schools are operating a half form of entry or less, the concentration of pupils' centre around Loddon with 5 of the schools running along the border seeing some challenge with pupil movement and intake numbers. The development in this area is showing stable numbers to the central Loddon schools but there is little development in the other areas of this planning area.