

# **Strategic review of Secondary Education Planning for Cheltenham**

**January 2017**

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## Executive Summary

- There has been pressure on local primary school places in Cheltenham since 2011. This is the result of a change in the birth rate locally and natural changing demographics, coupled with some local housing growth. This growth has been significant and resulted in the need to provide additional temporary and permanent school places at existing primary schools.
- These pupils are now moving through to secondary schools where we now need to establish additional pupil places.
- The strategic housing allocation for Cheltenham lists three significant housing sites which will have significant impact on the future need for places. There have also been several new local housing sites that have been built in the last few years or that are in the process of being built.
- Two of the Cheltenham secondary schools have both agreed to a permanent expansion of 1 form of entry (150 places across the school year groups), which will create two additional permanent forms of entry from 2018.

## Introduction

There are five secondary schools in the Cheltenham Education Planning Area, including one mixed selective school (Pates) and two 11-16 schools:

- All Saints Academy (11-16)
- Balcarras Academy (11-18)
- Bournside Academy (11-18)
- Pittville School (11-16)
- Pates Grammar School (11-18)

The total capacity in this area as of September 2016 was 5914 pupil places, with 929 Year 7 Places available

In 2007 the birth rate in Cheltenham Borough began an upward trend with the number of live births rising from 1231 in 2006 to 1413 in 2011. In addition, the recent improvement in the housing market locally resulted in an increase in the number of pupils emerging from new housing. These factors have contributed to an increased demand for primary school places and the council has had a programme of significant expansion in the primary sector since 2011. In parallel, discussions with secondary schools in Cheltenham about how these increases would eventually impact on them have been ongoing for a number of years.

While overall numbers were generally within the maximum capacity between 2007 and 2015, Year 7 numbers came under pressure in 2014 due to a large year group coming through from primary schools. To accommodate this need, Balcarras School admitted 220 pupils into Year 7 in September 2014 and Pittville School increased their Year 7 intake to 150 in September 2015.

## Supporting data

### Current Numbers on Roll

School	PAN	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
All Saints' Academy	180	141	151	157	160	149
Balcarras School	194	194	195	218	196	194
Cheltenham Bournside School & Sixth Form Centre	270	262	268	269	265	251
Pate's Grammar School	150	150	123	120	123	123
Pittville School	135	135	150	134	90	81
Total	929	882	887	898	834	798
Pates increased its PAN in 2016 from 120 to 150						
Currently at PAN						
Exceeding PAN						

Source October 2016 Census

## 2016 Cheltenham Year 7 Secondary Forecasts

		2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
School Name	PAN	Y7	Y7	Y7	Y7	Y7	Y7	Y7
All Saints' Academy	180	140	160	180	180	180	180	180
Balcarras School	194	194	194	194	194	194	194	194
Cheltenham Bournside School	270	270	270	270	270	270	270	270
Pate's Grammar School	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
Pittville School	150	135	146	150	171	180	180	172
<b>Planning area sub total</b>	944	889	920	944	965	974	974	966
	Forecast to be at PAN							
	Forecast to be over PAN							

Source 2016 Secondary Forecasts

## Future Basic Need

We anticipate that between 2016 and 2022 the overall basic need growth across all years 7 to 11 will be in the region of 770 pupils. In 2017 there will be a need for some additional places to meet localised demand in the south of Cheltenham. This would be managed by the exceeding PAN protocol in 2017.

In 2018, Pittville School will increase again by 30 permanent places (one form of entry) from 150 to 180. At the same time, Cheltenham Bournside School will also increase their admission number from 270 to 300, funded in part through a S106 agreement.

In 2019, there may be potential for Balcarras Academy to increase by 30 permanent places (one form of entry) from 194 to 224, should the governing body agree. A feasibility study is currently underway.

However, by 2019 all Cheltenham Secondary Schools will be full with children that are already on roll in our primary school system. The additional places created as outlined above will just be able to support our basic need<sup>1</sup> but will not provide any surplus capacity as recommended by the Audit Commission of between 5% and 10%. Over 50 further Year 7 places would be required to establish a 5% surplus.

## Planned local housing developments

In addition to the overall growth above, we estimate a further 246 Year 7 – 11 pupils to emerge in this locality as a result of the proposed new housing. These additional pupils equate to approximately two permanent forms of entry by 2021. (Appendix 2)

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<sup>1</sup> Should the proposed increase in 2019 at Balcarras not go ahead, then there will be a shortfall of 30 places for the Year 7 intake.

The commencement and rate of build of these housing developments is set out in the Housing Trajectory provided by Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC). However, experience tells us that these trajectories are only a guide and actual build rates and starts can vary.

## Strategic Housing

We estimate that the three strategic developments that are outlined in the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) will generate approximately 190 Year 7 -11 pupils by 2022/23 in this planning area, rising to roughly 800 by 2032/33.

The three strategic developments from the JCS are:

- **A5 - North West Cheltenham**

This Strategic Allocation is located adjacent to the north-western edge of Cheltenham, north of the A4019 Tewkesbury Road and west of the Gallagher Retail Park, Kingsditch Industrial Estate and Swindon Village.

An infrastructure planning application was submitted in October 2016. The plan supports approximately 4115 dwellings. This revised figure excludes the potential development land identified around Swindon Village which could result in a further 500 dwellings at a later date.

The plans include two new primary schools and a new secondary school.

- **A6 – South Cheltenham Leckhampton (Farm Lane element)**

This site is west of Farm Lane and is within Tewkesbury Borough.

The decision on this development of 450 dwellings has been called in and is with the Secretary of State. The timescale for this determination is as yet unknown

- **Safeguarded Land at West Cheltenham – Hesters Way/Springbank**

This area has been deemed suitable for removal from its Green Belt designation and has been identified as a site suitable for development of 500 dwellings. However, it has been suggested that this site could rise to as many as 1100 dwellings.

*[A6 South Cheltenham – Leckhampton*

*The plans for this area within Cheltenham Borough have changed significantly in the last year. The Inspector's Interim Report recommended that the Cheltenham part of the site be allocated for only a modest level of built development of 200 dwellings as opposed to 764.]*

## Conclusion

Taking account of the planned 1FE expansions at both Cheltenham Bournside and Pittville Schools, by 2019 there will be a permanent shortfall of up to 3FE (90 places) or 2FE (60 places) if Balcarras agree to expand.

In 2021, a further 3FE (90 places) will be required to ensure sufficiency, resulting in a total of six permanent additional forms of entry being needed to ensure there are sufficient secondary school places in Cheltenham.

This is in addition to the places that will be required for pupils arising from the North west Cheltenham Development which will support its own secondary provision.

The 2014 based subnational population projections from the Office for National Statistics indicate that this growth will be sustained far beyond 2022.

The existing secondary schools in Cheltenham would be unable to support this growth. Bournside with an admission number of 300 will already be a very large secondary school; Pittville has some capacity to expand further but not significantly. Balcarras is on a small site and therefore logistically is unable to expand by more than one form of entry.

It is also worth noting that there is, in addition, a continuing need for further primary places in the town that has in the past been managed by temporary expansions at local schools. With this trend set to continue it would be prudent to give thought to the provision of an all-through school that would support the continuing need for additional primary school places. This school could offer two forms of entry (60 places per year group) in the primary sector, alongside a six form entry (180 places per year group) in the secondary sector, on a single site.

## Recommendations

- To evidence demand for the need for secondary school places, this will allow for any sponsor to submit a bid to establish a new Free School to meet the need for additional secondary capacity in the Cheltenham area.  
A new all-through school for ages 4 – 16 years would address the increasing need in both the primary and secondary sector and allow future flexibility as the population naturally changes and as housing gradually builds out.

Footnote:

*The Government's Free School Agenda - Source BBC News 2015*

*Free schools were given approval in the **Academies Act 2010**, which also paved the way for existing state primary and secondary schools to become academies. The act also stipulated that all new schools had to be academies or free schools. This meant local authorities lost their power to create new schools, although they still have responsibility to ensure there are enough school places locally.*

*Free schools will receive no additional money per pupil for their day to day running. Funding is worked out on a per pupil basis, like other schools. A total of £50m - taken out of an axed technology fund for schools - was initially allocated for free schools for the first year of the policy, up to April 2011. And in November 2011, the government announced it had ear-marked an extra £600m on building 100 new free schools in England over the next three years.*

*Prime Minister David Cameron says a future Conservative government would open a further 500 free schools by 2020. This would bring the total number of free schools to more than 900, with 500,000 places.*

Cheltenham: Year 7 Intake shortfall

		Intake Year					
		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Basic Need/ PUPIL FORECASTS (incl 5% spare capacity)	Additional Y7 places needed	24	20	57	44	127	92
	Forms of entry	~ 1FE shortfall	~ 0.5FE shortfall	~ 2FE shortfall	~ 1.5FE shortfall	~ 4FE shortfall	~ 3FE shortfall
Housing trajectory Pupil Yield	Additional Y7 places needed	14	21	32	42	50	50
	Forms of entry	~ 0.5FE shortfall	~ 1FE shortfall	~ 1FE shortfall	~ 1.5FE shortfall	~ 2FE shortfall	~ 1.5FE shortfall
Total need (excluding strategic allocations)	Additional Y7 places needed	0	0	89	86	177	142
	Forms of entry	~ 1.5FE shortfall	~ 1.5FE shortfall	~ 3FE shortfall	~ 3FE shortfall	~ 6FE shortfall	~ 4.5FE shortfall

STRATEGIC ALLOCATIONS

Site Name	Location	Gross Site Capacity	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Estimated Year 7 pupil yield					2031-32	2032-33
A5 North West Chelt - CBC & TBC	Swindon Village & Uckington	4115	0	2	12	21	31	118	123	123	123	123	123	123
A9 Safeguarded Land at West Cheltenham	Hesters Way, Springbank	1100	0	0	2	3	6	27	30	33	33	33	33	33
A6T South Chelt Leckhampton - TBC	Shurdlington	377	0	1	2	4	5	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
	Totals	5592	0	3	16	28	42	157	165	168	168	168	168	168
	Forms of entry		0	0	0.5FE	1FE	1.5FE	5.2	5.5	6FE	5.6	5.6	5.6	6FE
Estimated total pupil yield (Years 7 - 11)														
A5 North West Chelt - CBC & TBC	Swindon Village & Uckington	4115	0	11	59	106	153	592	617	617	617	617	617	617
Safeguarded Land at West Cheltenham	Hesters Way, Springbank	1100*	0	0	8	15	30	135	150	165	165	165	165	165
A6 South Chelt Leckhampton - TBC	Shurdlington	377	0	4	12	19	27	57	57	57	57	57	57	57
	Totals	5592	0	15	78	140	210	783	824	839	839	839	839	839

## Appendix 2

Primary Planning Area	Academic Year Pupils are Forecast to Join School				
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Ward sub total - All Saints	59	22	7	7	0
Cumulative Housing Total	59	81	88	95	95
Number of Secondary age pupils 11 - 16	7.1	9.7	10.6	11.4	11.4
Pupils per year group	1.4	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.3
Ward sub total - Battledown	31	58	50	50	50
Cumulative Housing Total	31	89	139	189	239
Number of Secondary age pupils 11 - 16	4.7	13.4	20.9	28.4	35.9
Pupils per year group	0.9	2.7	4.2	5.7	7.2
Ward sub total - Benhall and the Reddings	2	0	0	0	0
Cumulative Housing Total	2	2	2	2	2
Number of Secondary age pupils 11 - 16	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Pupils per year group	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ward sub total - Charlton Kings / Charlton Park	11	5	0	0	0
Cumulative Housing Total	11	16	16	16	16
Number of Secondary age pupils 11 - 16	1.3	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Pupils per year group	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Ward sub total - College	25	0	36	55	21
Cumulative Housing Total	25	25	61	116	137
Number of Secondary age pupils 11 - 16	3.0	3.0	7.3	13.9	16.4
Pupils per year group	0.6	0.6	1.5	2.8	3.3
Ward sub total - Hesters Way	0	0	0	20	11



Cumulative Housing Total	0	0	0	20	31
Number of Secondary age pupils 11 - 16	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	3.7
Pupils per year group	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.7

Ward sub total - Lansdown	109	49	88	34	30
Cumulative Housing Total	109	158	246	280	310
Number of Secondary age pupils 11 - 16	16.4	23.7	36.9	42.0	46.5
Pupils per year group	3.3	4.7	7.4	8.4	9.3

Ward sub total - Leckhampton	19	1	0	0	0
Cumulative Housing Total	19	20	20	20	20
Number of Secondary age pupils 11 - 16	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
Pupils per year group	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5

Ward sub total - Oakley	6	0	0	0	0
Cumulative Housing Total	6	6	6	6	6
Number of Secondary age pupils 11 - 16	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Pupils per year group	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

Ward sub total - Park	29	0	5	0	0
Cumulative Housing Total	29	29	34	34	34
Number of Secondary age pupils 11 - 16	3.5	3.5	4.1	4.1	4.1
Pupils per year group	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8

Ward sub total - Pittville	27	0	23	23	0
Cumulative Housing Total	27	27	50	73	73
Number of Secondary age pupils 11 - 16	4.1	4.1	7.5	11.0	11.0
Pupils per year group	0.8	0.8	1.5	2.2	2.2

Ward sub total - Prestbury	29	50	50	50	50
Cumulative Housing Total	29	79	129	179	229
Number of Secondary age pupils 11 - 16	4.4	11.9	19.4	26.9	34.4

Pupils per year group	0.9	2.4	3.9	5.4	6.9
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Ward sub total - Springbank	17	0	0	0	0
Cumulative Housing Total	17	17	17	17	17
Number of Secondary age pupils 11 - 16	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Pupils per year group	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4

Ward sub total - St Marks	17	6	13	0	0
Cumulative Housing Total	17	23	36	36	36
Number of Secondary age pupils 11 - 16	2.0	2.8	4.3	4.3	4.3
Pupils per year group	0.4	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.9

Ward sub total - St Pauls	72	14	47	50	50
Cumulative Housing Total	72	86	133	183	233
Number of Secondary age pupils 11 - 16	10.8	12.9	20.0	27.5	35.0
Pupils per year group	2.2	2.6	4.0	5.5	7.0

Ward sub total - St Peters	31	50	47	50	32
Cumulative Housing Total	31	81	128	178	210
Number of Secondary age pupils 11 - 16	4.7	12.2	19.2	26.7	31.5
Pupils per year group	0.9	2.4	3.8	5.3	6.3

Ward sub total - Swindon Village	2	13	12	7	0
Cumulative Housing Total	2	15	27	34	34
Number of Secondary age pupils 11 - 16	0.2	1.8	3.2	4.1	4.1
Pupils per year group	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.8

Ward sub total - Up Hatherley	5	0	0	0	0
Cumulative Housing Total	5	5	5	5	5
Number of Secondary age pupils 11 - 16	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Pupils per year group	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

Ward sub total - Warden Hill	2	0	0	0	0
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Cumulative Housing Total	2	2	2	2	2
Number of Secondary age pupils 11 - 16	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Number of Secondary age pupils 16+	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

#### Cheltenham Total

<b>Total - Cheltenham Total</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>244</b>
<b>Cumulative Housing Total</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>1139</b>	<b>1485</b>	<b>1729</b>
<b>Number of Secondary age pupils 11 - 16</b>	68.1	106.9	161.4	210.7	246.3
<b>Pupils per year group</b>	13.6	21.4	32.3	42.1	49.3

Pupil Ratios	Pupils per 100 dwellings
Secondary 11-16 (sites under 90 dwellings)	12
Secondary 11-16 (sites over 90 dwellings)	15



# **Strategic review of Primary Education Planning Areas to the Central, South & West of Cheltenham**

**June 2017**

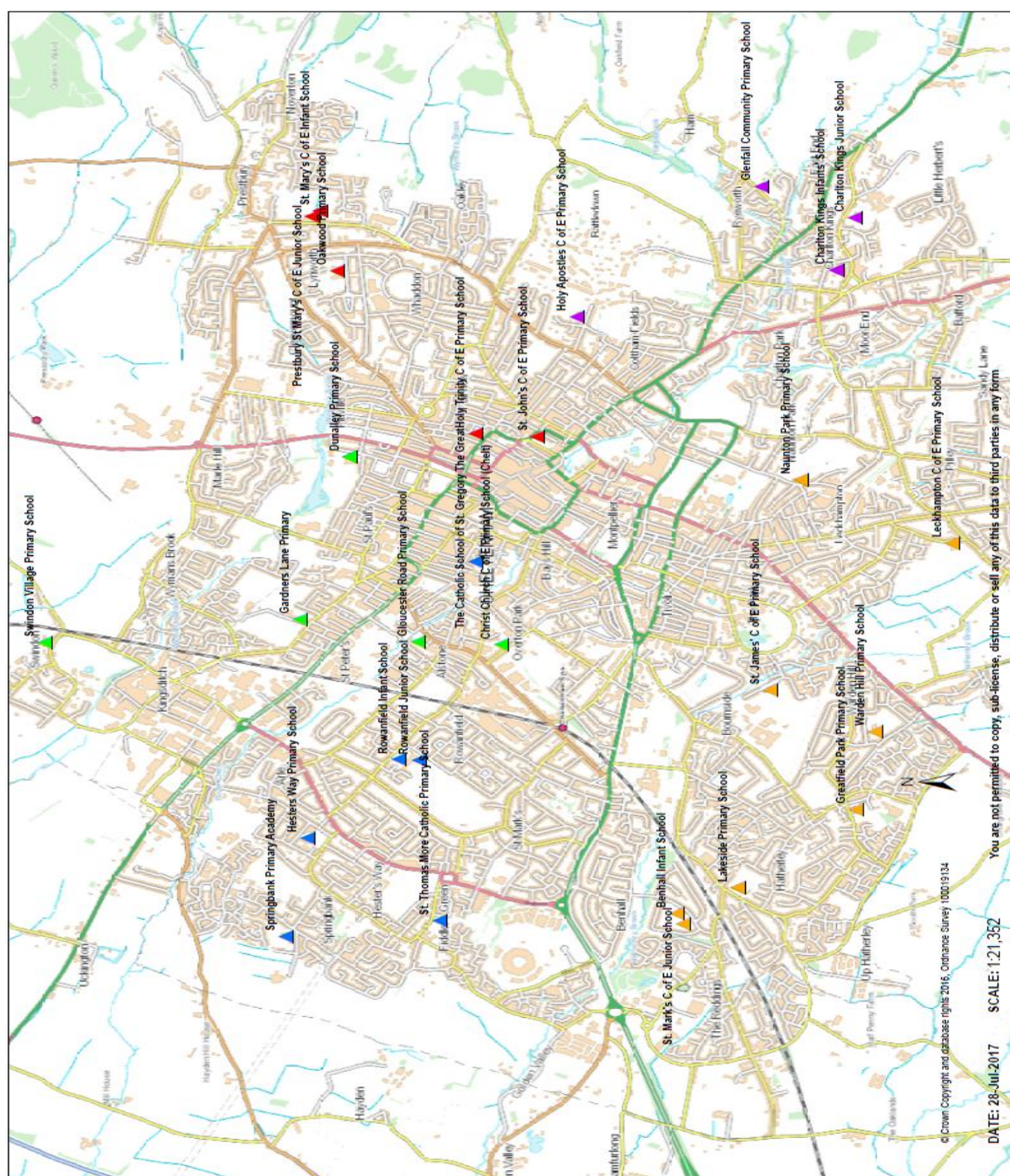
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## Executive Summary

- To the central, west and southern areas of Cheltenham there has been pressure on primary school places for some time. This is the result of a change in the birth rate locally and natural changing demographics, coupled with local housing growth. The demand is focused on central Cheltenham, the Christchurch area and the Benhall and Leckhampton corridor to the south.
- A number of both temporary and permanent expansions have helped to address this demand since 2011. The latest projections show demand will be sustained and we now need to consider a permanent solution.
- Windfall housing sites in and around the centre of Cheltenham have quickly filled places creating a need for school expansions. Basic need growth to the south of the town has further increased pressure on all schools in the Leckhampton planning area.
- We will need to consider the long term needs across Cheltenham to ensure we have sufficient places at both Reception and “in year”. The model of filling every school to capacity at Reception since 2011, across the planning areas, has meant that new families moving into in the area with children of various ages have difficulty in getting their children into one school local to them.
- To address the anticipated demand, we need to provide the equivalent of up to 420 new school places in the central/west/southern area. This will restore the balance of available places locally and ensure that parents have a realistic option of a local school place for their children.

## Map of Education Planning Areas (Primary)





## Introduction

The need to support the Cheltenham planning area with additional places began in 2011, when pupils in the Naunton Park area were unable to secure a place at their local school. Naunton Park Primary School supported a temporary bulge year where an additional 30 pupils were admitted. By 2012 the demand for places increased significantly and there has continued to be a shortage of places every year since, requiring the need for further temporary and permanent places.

The table below shows the additional places provided in Cheltenham since 2011

<b>Year</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Permanent/ Temporary</b>	<b>Number</b>
2011	Naunton Park Primary	Temporary	30
2012	Benhall Infant	Temporary	20
	St James Primary	Permanent	15
	Dunalley Primary	Permanent	30
2013	Shurdington Primary	Temporary	15
2014	Warden Hill Primary	Temporary	30
	Lakeside Primary	Permanent	30
	Gloucester Road Primary	Permanent	15
2015	St Marks Junior*	Temporary	20
	Leckhampton Primary	Temporary	15
	Shurdington Primary	Temporary	15
	Rowanfield Infant/Junior	Permanent	15
2016	St Thomas More Primary	Temporary	30
	Springbank Primary	Temporary	15
	Shurdington Primary*	Permanent	15
2017	Greatfield Park Primary	Temporary	30

St Marks Junior\* this is the transfer from Benhall Infant

Shurdington Primary\* will become a 1 FE permanently in 2018, after taking two temporary expansions

This table shows an additional 185 temporary places and 120 permanent Reception places equating to 840 additional permanent whole school places.



## Supporting data - Current number on roll<sup>1</sup>

School	PAN	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Planning Area 1800									
Christ Church C of E Primary School (Chelt)	30	30	32	30	32	32	31	32	219
Dunalley Primary School	60	59	58	60	54	56	29	27	343
Gardners Lane Primary School	45	42	54	52	41	37	39	35	300
Gloucester Road Primary School	30	29	27	30	23	30	20	21	180
Swindon Village Primary School	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	58	418
Planning Area 1810									
Holy Trinity C of E Primary School	30	30	30	30	31	31	30	30	212
Oakwood Primary School	60	46	37	62	54	49	58	44	350
St. Mary's C of E Infant School	60	60	60	60					180
Prestbury St Mary's C of E Junior School	60				60	59	60	60	239
St. John's C of E Primary School (Chelt)	29	29	29	30	29	30	30	26	203
Planning Area 1820									
Hester's Way Primary School	30	30	28	29	30	29	24	24	194
Rowanfield Infant School	90	88	90	86					264
Rowanfield Junior School	90				78	87	76	60	301
Springbank Primary Academy	60	73	57	60	49	53	37	36	365
The Catholic School of St. Gregory The Great	60	60	61	60	60	60	60	60	421
St. Thomas More Catholic Primary School	30	45	30	30	16	28	19	20	188
Planning Area 1830									
Charlton Kings Infant Academy	90	89	90	90					269
Charlton Kings Junior Academy	93				94	92	93	96	375
Glenfall Community Primary School	30	23	30	30	29	32	30	30	204
Holy Apostles C of E Primary School	30	30	28	30	31	30	29	30	208
Planning Area 1840									
Benhall Infant School	60	61	59	61					181
Greatfield Park Primary School	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	210
Lakeside Primary School	90	90	85	81	60	54	55	56	481
Leckhampton C of E Primary School	60	60	76	61	60	62	61	60	440
Naunton Park Primary School	57	57	57	58	53	60	85	59	429
St. James' C of E Primary School	60	60	60	59	56	59	45	45	384
St. Mark's C of E Junior School	60				60	76	60	55	251
Warden Hill Primary School	60	59	60	88	63	60	60	59	449
Shows number on roll over PAN - some bulge year intakes (Warden Hill, St Marks Junior, Naunton Park, Leckhampton, St Thomas More)									
Shows schools at PAN in certain year groups									
Shows less the 5% surplus									
Shows schools that have permanently increased their PANs									

- Planning area, 1800 (Swindon Village) towards the centre of Cheltenham is complex. Two schools, Dunalley and Gloucester Road have both increased permanently creating 315 additional places between them. Gardners Lane has provided a “buffer” with a PAN of 45 which has in many years exceeded its PAN for local pupils and will now expand permanently with effect from 2018, after which none of the schools in this planning area would be physically able to expand further.
- Planning area, 1810 (Whaddon) is experiencing pressure at some schools in the planning area with the majority of school year groups being full or over full.
- Planning area, 1820 (Hesters Way) is experiencing pressure at some schools, with lower year groups being particularly full. Rowanfield Infant and Junior schools have permanently increased their PANs

<sup>1</sup> School Census January 2017

- ## Pupil forecasts 2017/18

The forecasts above indicate the expected shortfall in the Leckhampton planning area alongside the schools in adjacent planning areas that are expected to be full in Reception. 2017 will require an additional 1FE at Reception (a temporary bulge year is scheduled for Greatfield Park) and with all schools full we do not achieve the surplus capacity of between 5% and 10% as recommended by the Audit Commission. By constantly filling all our school places at Reception we have no space for “in year” applications and risk pupils not obtaining a place at their local school. By 2020/21, there is likely to be over 484 further primary pupils emerging from housing for which we have not been eligible for S106 funding. These pupils will arise from housing under two district councils – Cheltenham and Tewkesbury and are not included in the forecasts above.

## Planned local housing developments

Below is a summary of significant local developments

Housing Development	Pupil Yield	Nearest School
All Saints ward	26	Hester's Way
Battledown	67	Holy Apostles
College Site	38	Naunton Park
Charlton Kings/Charlton Park	5	Charlton Kings
Lansdown	86	Christchurch
Leckhampton	6	Leckhampton
Park	10	Naunton Park
Pittville	20	Dunalley
Prestbury	64	St Mary's
Springbank	5	Springbank
St Marks	10	Rowanfield
St Paul's	65	Gloucester Road
St Peters	58	Gloucester Road
Swindon Village	10	Swindon Village
Up Hatherley/Warden Hill	2	Warden Hill

Highlighted areas show housing in area's that will further impact on basic need shortfall

## Strategic Housing

We estimate that the three strategic developments that are outlined in the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) will generate approximately between 1397 and 1565 primary aged pupils by 2032/33. Although new schools at North West Cheltenham will support a significant number of these, there will still be approximately 250 to 413 additional pupils arising from the South and West Cheltenham developments.

The three strategic developments from the JCS are:

- **A5 - North West Cheltenham**

This Strategic Allocation is located adjacent to the north-western edge of Cheltenham, north of the A4019 Tewkesbury Road and west of the Gallagher Retail Park, Kingsditch Industrial Estate and Swindon Village.

An infrastructure planning application was submitted in October 2016. The plan supports approximately 4115 dwellings. This revised figure excludes the potential development land identified around Swindon Village which could result in a further 500 dwellings at a later date.

The plans include two new primary schools and a new secondary school. This development will support its self in terms of primary and secondary schools.

- **A6 – South Cheltenham Leckhampton (Farm Lane element)**

This site is west of Farm Lane and is within Tewkesbury Borough.

The decision on this development of 377 dwellings has now been granted following call in by the Secretary of State. This development has commenced.

- **Safeguarded Land at West Cheltenham – Hesters Way/Springbank**

This area has been deemed suitable for removal from its Green Belt designation and has been identified as a site suitable for development of 500 dwellings. However, it has been suggested that this site could rise to as many as 1300 dwellings.

#### *[A6 South Cheltenham – Leckhampton*

*The plans for this area within Cheltenham Borough have changed significantly in the last year. The Inspector's Interim Report recommended that the Cheltenham part of the site be allocated for only a modest level of built development of 200 dwellings as opposed to 764.]*

## Summary of need

We are operating a system that fills the schools to capacity at Reception intake, leaving no space for future in year admissions.

Schools in the Cheltenham Planning area are popular with parents from neighbouring planning areas which are also under pressure. Since 2011 significant temporary and permanent places have been added to existing schools. The demand for further places is set to continue into the foreseeable future.

We will need to consider the long term needs across the Cheltenham Planning area outlined to ensure there will be capacity to support both reception and in year places. Our basic need data alone shows demand for places will exceed or just meet supply in the coming years.

In addition to the pupils arising from basic need, by 2021/22, there are also likely to be over 450 additional primary pupils generated from local housing. These pupils will arise from the housing proposed in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury districts.

The two strategic housing developments listed above, will produce a range of between 250 to 413 additional pupils depending on the final allocation for West Cheltenham.

From our data it shows that we need to provide the equivalent of up to 420 new school places in the central south of Cheltenham to ensure parents can access a suitable primary place for their children. These additional primary school places will restore the balance of available places locally and ensure that parents have a realistic preference of a local school place for their children.



Footnote:

1. The Government's Free School Agenda

Free schools were given approval in the **Academies Act 2010**, which also paved the way for existing state primary and secondary schools to become academies. The act also stipulated that all new schools had to be academies or free schools. This meant local authorities lost their power to create new schools, although they still have responsibility to ensure there are enough school places locally.

Free schools will receive no additional money per pupil for their day to day running. Funding is worked out on a per pupil basis, like other schools. A total of £50m - taken out of an axed technology fund for schools - was initially allocated for free schools for the first year of the policy, up to April 2011. And in November 2011, the government announced it had ear-marked an extra £600m on building 100 new free schools in England over the next three years.

Prime Minister David Cameron says a future Conservative government would open a further 500 free schools by 2020. This would bring the total number of free schools to more than 900, with 500,000 places.

*Source BBC News 2015*

Independent Assessment  
Strategic Review of School Place Provision in Cheltenham  
August 2017

## **Introduction**

This is an independent assessment report carried out by Wiltshire Council following a request by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) to undertake an external validation of the Cheltenham area pupil place planning data to support the need for additional secondary places.

## **Background Documentation**

The following documentation and data has been provided for review and consideration;

- Strategic Review of Primary Education Planning Areas to the Central, South & West of Cheltenham, June 2017
- Strategic Review of Secondary Need in Cheltenham, January 2017
- Current GCC Developer Multipliers for school places
- Pates School (selective) admissions data
- Primary and Secondary Census and Projections data
- Cheltenham residents studying outside District

## **Overview and Findings**

### Primary Places

In line with regional and national demographic trends, there has been a growing population since 2010 primarily driven by an increasing birth rate. Primary pupil numbers and forecasts evidence this increase and GCC has responded to the increase in demand through the provision of additional permanent and temporary primary school places at existing schools across all planning areas.

The Strategic Review indicates that primary school capacity in Cheltenham will be full by 2018/19 from existing population growth and that from 2020/21 an estimated 484 additional primary pupil places will be required from emerging housing in the Cheltenham and Tewksbury District Council areas.

Alongside this, the report highlights that there are three strategic housing developments identified in the Joint Core Strategy that will generate up to 1600 primary age pupils by 2032/33. The North Cheltenham development will include two new 3FE (630 place) primary schools to meet much of this demand, but that will still leave a shortfall of up to 340 places.

GCC is using a Developer Multiplier (for primary pupil places) of 0.2802 for larger housing developments, indicating that for every 100 dwellings the pupil product will be 28 primary children. This is considered reasonable for assessing pupil projections.

Based on the data and information provided in the reports, the summary indicates a need for one additional 2FE (420 place) primary school located in the south of Cheltenham, in addition to those being provided as part of Strategic housing developments.

Considering the pupil projections from basic need growth and the new housing development, I would consider that this is a reasonable assessment, in particular if you are trying to achieve a modest surplus.

### Secondary Places

The report indicates that in 2006, some 1231 children were born in Cheltenham, however the projected Year 7 intake for 2017/18 (same cohort) is 920. This is a loss of over 300 (or 25%) children by the time they reach secondary school. Reviewing the information provided on Cheltenham residents studying outside the District, it is understood that a large percentage of children currently attend the popular Cleeve School in Bishops Cleeve, in the adjacent District but close to Cheltenham with smaller numbers attending other secondary schools outside of Cheltenham. Additionally a significant number of children attend grammar schools outside of Cheltenham and a small percentage transfer to special schools. Consideration will need to be given as to whether there will continue to be the places available at Cleeve School to accommodate the large outflow of children from Cheltenham or whether growth in that area will take up the places available and push numbers back to Cheltenham.

The 2016 Planned Admission Number (PAN) across all the secondary schools in Cheltenham was 944 and this is expected to rise to 1004 in 2018 following an increase in capacity at Pittville School and Bournside School. There is also a proposal to increase Balcarras School PAN by 30 subject to governing body approval which would increase to overall PAN to 1034. These increases will provide an additional 2FE (possibly 3FE of secondary accommodation if Balcarras School agree to expand).

The information provided in the report indicates that there is a need for an additional 770 secondary school places (years 7-11) by 2022, to meet basic need growth only. This would require an additional 5FE, so there remains an expected shortfall of at least 3FE to meet basic need if only two of the schools above expand as reported.

The planned expansions above only relate to basic need and do not take into account the expected demand from new housing. An estimated 246 additional secondary places will be required from emerging housing in the Cheltenham and Tewksbury District Council areas which is almost 2FE. This brings the secondary shortfall to 5FE.

Alongside this, the report highlights that there are three strategic housing developments identified in the Joint Core Strategy. Using the GCC Developer Multipliers this would indicate up to 617 extra secondary children in North West Cheltenham by 2032/33. This number could increase by a further 75 to 692 with the development around Swindon Village. A new 6FE secondary school is proposed in the North West Cheltenham development which would cater for these children.

The other two strategic sites would increase secondary school place demand by a further 140-230 places dependant on the number of houses approved. These are not included in the current projections but would require at least 1FE additional secondary capacity. This brings the shortfall to 6FE.



## Conclusions

### Primary

Taking into account basic need projections, new housing development and the provision of two 3FE primary schools as part of the North Cheltenham development, the conclusion that a further 2FE primary school is required to meet remaining demand in Cheltenham is considered reasonable.

### Secondary

The LA is using a Developer Multiplier (for secondary pupil places) of 0.1515 for larger housing developments, indicating that for every 100 dwellings the pupil product will be 15 secondary children. Based on experience elsewhere this is considered a low figure and may result in an under estimation of pupil projections. Evidence has shown in a number of LA's, a figure closer to 20 would be more realistic however local circumstances may be different in Cheltenham.

If a Developer Multiplier of 0.20 was used to calculate the secondary pupil yield from the three strategic sites then the number of secondary places (size of proposed new secondary school) expected from the North West Cheltenham development would be 923 compared to 692 above, and separately there would be a need for up to 310 additional secondary places from the other two developments, which would be another 2FE. This brings the shortfall to 8FE.

Taking into account basic need projections and all the known new housing development, including the provision of a new 6FE secondary school to serve the North West Cheltenham development, there will be a further shortfall of approx. 7-8FE (1050-1200) secondary school places dependent on the Developer Multiplier used.

### Contributors

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