



**Norfolk** County Council

# **School Sufficiency Plan**

# **2024**

This year's School Sufficiency Plan has been dedicated to our dear friend and colleague Jane Blackwell who very sadly lost her life earlier this year. Jane served 21 years within the Local Authority with dedication and commitment. For her last 10 years, up until she retired, Jane ensured education places were safeguarded and secured for children and young people across Norfolk. We would like to recognise Jane's legacy which will last with the continued work associated with the planned new school places.



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## Introduction

The School Sufficiency Plan outlines how the Local Authority is meeting its statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places for Norfolk children aged 4-16. It gives an overview of the key demographic changes that impact on this duty and highlights areas of interest across the county that could be affected by growth or decline. Our vision for 'Every Child in Norfolk to Flourish' continues to unite the county but we know that success can only be fully realised through the way we work together at a local and community level, through system leadership across the landscape and through sustainable partnerships with one another.

Norfolk County Council works 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 for our children and young people to flourish.

This plan will show local communities how we expect school provision to change over the next few years. It brings together various information sources and highlights some of the challenge the Local Authority must ensure it is meeting its statutory duty.

## Planning Policy and Principles

The Schools Infrastructure Policy setting out the council's approach for education for the next few years is currently being refreshed and updated. It will consider the ambition for Norfolk alongside the national policy framework and local context, to ensure changes to existing schools' infrastructure and the creation of new infrastructure will support a self-improving system that provides the best possible outcomes for Children.

To ensure the children and young people of Norfolk Flourish. Education sufficiency must consider many, at times conflicting factors. This includes the need to:

- Respond to local need, to raise standards, to manage inclusion across the education sector.
- Address the shortage in skilled staff to support our Early Years and School system.
- Manage within a confined financial system delivering our duties as efficiently as possible.

Schools and academies that make up the education landscape will need to collaborate with the LA (Local Authority) to meet the challenges in demographic



decline and support processes to best operate the school infrastructure to benefit all children in our care.

Within our current policy, any new provision that is built to meet need is usually two forms of entry for all through-primary, providing 420 places with Early Years or specialist resource provision. This is the national, as well as local expectation and overall, it facilitates the best educational structure. Secondary schools should be a minimum of 900 places or larger. All school organisational changes should promote the inclusion of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) into mainstream schools. Meeting this expectation can be more challenging, where there is not a steady flow of children from new developments, and it is less predictable.

Capacity across the sector will be measured to ensure all buildings are fully utilised and delivering for their local communities, to maximise the occupancy of the existing estate. We must ensure every child receives a fulfilled and expansive education giving children of the future aspiration to flourish and exceed their expectations. Having a secure education setting delivering at the highest standard will support this.

New schools or decisions relating to existing schools are made with an expectation that schools are situated in the heart of their communities in sustainable locations, giving the ability for local children to walk or cycle within the legally determined travel distances for children in school.

## School Organisation

Norfolk's education landscape is very diverse and mixed, it reflects the urban and rural mix of settings that exist. There are 400 schools delivering mainstream education, 18 complex needs schools and 3 nursery schools all contributing to the outcomes of our children and young people.

As of September 2023, there are 350 primary phase schools, 187 of which are academies or free schools and 163 are LA Maintained.

Secondary provision is made up of 50 schools in the sector, 49 of the schools are academies or free schools with 1 remaining as an LA Maintained (Foundation) school.

The most common model of curriculum delivery is 11-18 years with a sixth form, although there are 25 Norfolk Secondary schools currently offering 11-16 study only.

Three of Norfolk's schools provide "all-through" primary and secondary education.

One school provides specialist education for the 14-19 age range:

- **University Technical Colleges (UTC)** specialise in subjects that need modern, technical, industry-standard equipment such as engineering and construction, teaching these disciplines alongside business skills and the use of ICT. They are



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sponsored by a local university and employers, and often work in partnership with FE (Further Education) colleges and established academy trusts. They are usually for 500-800 students.

Any new schools since 2011 are established as a Free School and therefore set up as academies. After opening the free school will be run by a Multi Academy Trust.

Norfolk County Council works closely with schools, governing bodies, and academy trusts to manage the supply and demand of pupil places. The County Council will undertake statutory consultations on the school changes and significant alterations. The consultation process includes residents, parents, governors, local Councillors, and other community representatives all with an interest in the proposals.

Surplus places can also mean the reduction of school provision in an area through reduced admission arrangements or rationalisation of school provision, including changes to existing catchment areas. Any review of school provision whether it be, opening, closing, amalgamating, expanding, or contracting of schools will be led by forecast information or organisation/structure changes. We will try to ensure that there is the right pupil places or pupil demand that exists.

## 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)
- School Admission Code

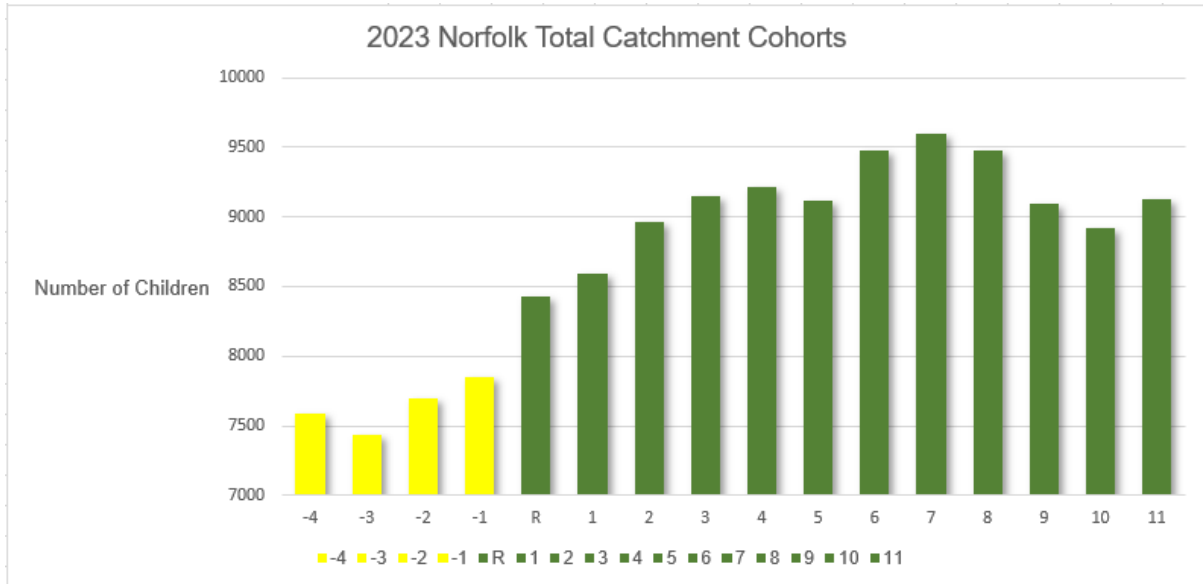
## Pupil Population

Norfolk's pupil population has been in decline for some time, this was first highlighted to schools in 2019 when it was evident the birth rate was starting to fall. The previous peak in pupil population occurred in 2003 and these pupils entered the primary phase around 2007/2008. Since this period numbers have gradually been reducing with some recovery, but now continue to fall and reach an all-time low of approximately 7400 pupils.



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(Graph 1 Norfolk Total Pupil Population, indicating total catchment numbers by cohort – data taken from NHS (National Health Service) Health data for Norfolk)



The data shows the existing higher cohorts of the primary phase sector transitioning through into the secondary phases, following September 2023 admission round we will have one final year of higher numbers expected. This will impact different areas and schools differently and will present a challenge as the affect is not sustained for a long period in the secondary phase. School's Infrastructure colleagues have been working with Post 16 education colleagues to assess how these increased numbers may be accommodated across the existing Post 16 provision.

Based on the current trajectory of birth numbers the primary phase will continue to see reduced numbers entering the reception cohort and as a result, overtime, the older cohorts reducing, this will have quite different and significant effects on settings in different communities. It does impact all schools but presents different challenges dependent upon the size of the school. Children's Services Place Planning expects the smallest of cohorts to begin entering the primary phase from September 2024 and the same time the last of the higher cohorts leaves the phase we will work alongside key stakeholders to manage the implications of this and support schools to safeguard places where absolutely necessary. The reduced numbers in the preschool and early years sectors will also have a considerable impact on early years settings presenting its own challenges for a different stakeholder group.

Norfolk schools have not seen such significant small numbers as are currently being presented and it will require collaboration across all stakeholders to navigate this challenge. We cannot underestimate the impact this will have on our settings across the region, this is a national trend which will challenge our school infrastructure.





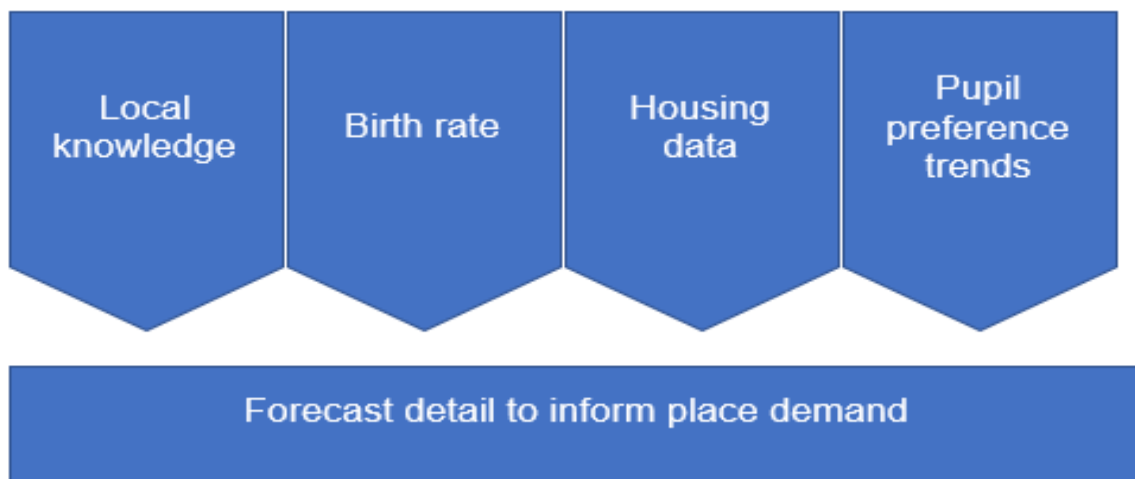
The local planning authorities continue to plan for housing delivery across the county, the impact of the housing market slowdown is not helping the schools currently, and those areas with limited housing are likely to reduce at a faster rate than those in expanding urban settings. We must balance the impact using existing capacity and resource in differing ways to support demand and have a clear vision for managing that capacity for areas where the need will once again return.

## Approach to Pupil Place Planning

Pupil place planning and provision of additional schools' places is an increasingly complex task with the changes in the school population in both primary and secondary phases. Norfolk County Council must ensure we create high quality school educational provision within Norfolk whilst considering many varied factors, such as new housing development, demographic change, individual school status within a system where schools increasingly have greater autonomy. The size and diversity of Norfolk also creates challenges for meeting the demand for place planning against the main principle for providing appropriate local places for local children.

Each year we undertake a robust and comprehensive approach to pupil place planning that builds and revises the forecasting information, outlining the place demand for children requiring a mainstream stream school placement across the age group of 4-16.

(Diagram 1 details the steps taken to build the forecast for pupil places)



Forecasting for mainstream schools are split across the county by planning areas which is a mechanism required when reporting school capacity back to the DFE (Department for Education) via the School Capacity Return. The planning areas are geographical areas across the county which have several schools both in primary and secondary phase that often interact with each other, they may not always be in traditional feeder school groups, they are arranged often by proximity to one another.



The following factors inform the forecasting for school places:

- Numbers of children living in an area, taken from school census detail.
- Numbers of children attending local schools, taken from school census.
- Birth data provided monthly; detail provided through GP (General Practitioners) registration data (NHS).
- Preference patterns assessed over a three-year weighted average.
- Detail on migration and admissions data is modelled to inform transition years across Year Reception, Three and Seven.
- Housing detail is received from the district, borough, and city councils. Local plan and housing projections from the five-year land supplies are factored in against the pupil data using local multiplier information.

The School Capacity Return once assessed by the DFE also informs a Local Authority scorecard which determines the accuracy of forecasting. Norfolk has achieved very highly against this measure in recent rounds and continues to monitor its performance against the national picture. ([DFE LA Scorecard Information](#))

## 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](#)).

## National Policy Guidance/Legislation

- Responding as a consultee on national planning policy guidance and any legislative amendments. Providing a response, as required, on behalf of Children's Services to shape guidance and legislation.

## District Council Local Plans

- Responding to consultations on housing allocations and accompanying infrastructure policies ensuring that the County Council Planning Obligation Standards are referred to in the Local Plan.



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- Ensuring that education requirements are included in any strategic housing site masterplans/Supplementary Planning Documents and allocation policy.
- Ensuring existing school sites are adequately protected and allow for future expansion where appropriate.

## Neighbourhood Plans

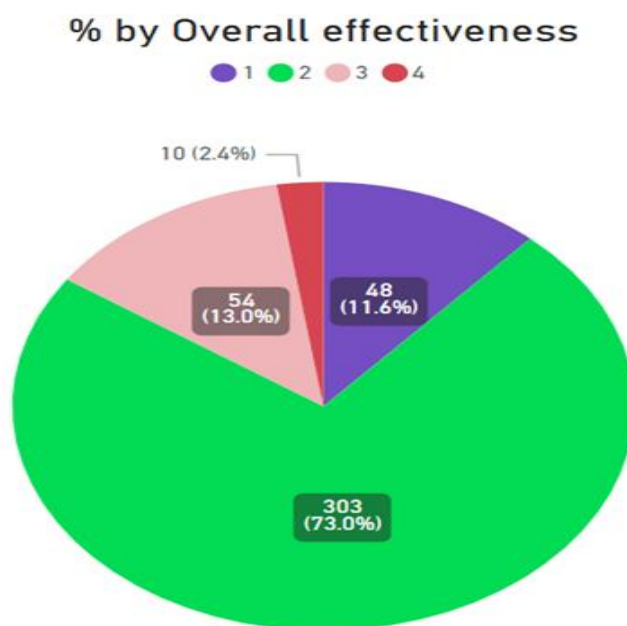
- Responding to consultations on Neighbourhood Plans. In particular on the designation of school playing fields as local green spaces and housing allocations to ensure that school land is retained for future school use.

## Planning Applications

- 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 schools places for growing populations.
- Ensuring on major strategic site that new on-site school(s) are delivered through developer funding mechanisms.

## School Performance

(Ofsted judgements indicated as a percentage of overall effectiveness from September 2023)





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A good Ofsted judgement gives us confidence that a provider is safe, children learn well and achieve good outcomes, which means they are more likely to succeed at the next stage of their education.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023, 85% of Norfolk schools were rated Good or better, by Ofsted, compared to 89% nationally.

The percentage of secondary and special schools judged good or outstanding remain above national figures (Norfolk secondary 85% v England 82%, Norfolk special 92% v National 90%). The proportion of primary schools judged to be good remains below the national average (Norfolk 84%, England 90%).

## Plan Structure

The School Sufficiency Plan (SSP) provides a snapshot of Norfolk County Council's education landscape and how it 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, boroughs or city councils and identifies any growth or 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 1 indicates total number and type of schools across the county)



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

(Table 2 indicates Breckland District Academies and LA Maintained Schools Split)

Academies	LA Maintained
47	21

## Pupil Population

(Table 3 – Mainstream pupil population figures for Breckland for period 2016 to 2023)

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Primary Places	9,637	9,659	9,634	9,557	9,610	9,603	9,425	9,403
Secondary Places	5,856	5,855	5,833	6,018	6,033	6,123	6,207	6,198
Total	15,493	15,514	15,467	15,575	15,643	15,726	15,632	15,601

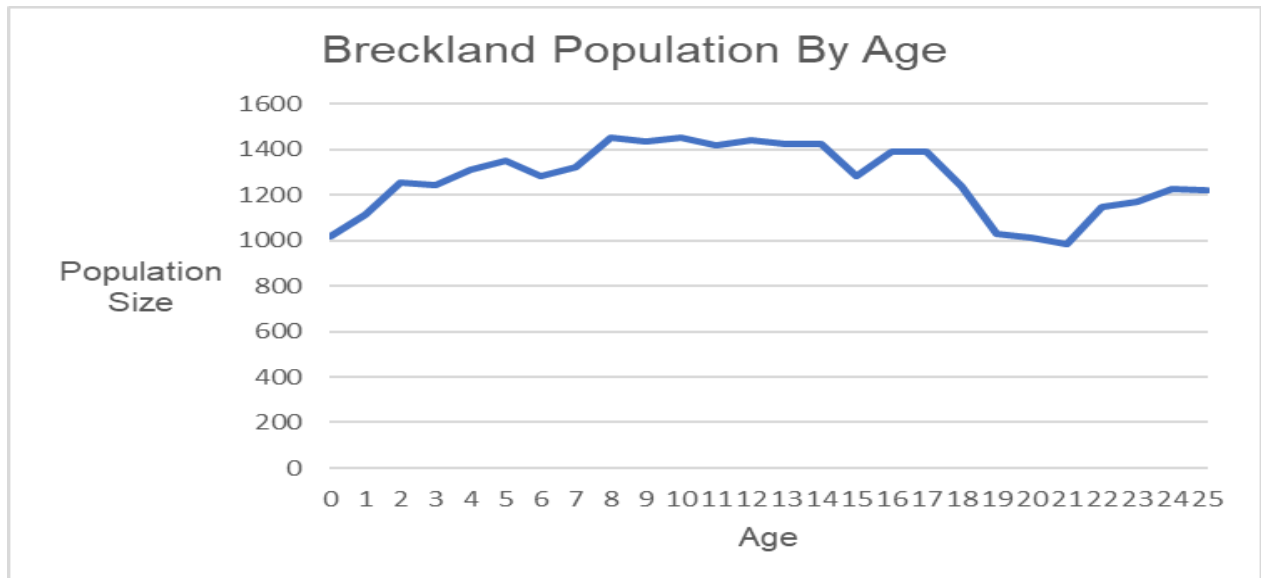
(Figures taken from September census data each year. Data for 2023 has been taken from the May census count)

The data continues to show a slowing of the population across Breckland in school age children, the higher year groups in primary moving into secondary which is expected to be followed by a sharp decline.

(Graph 2 Population size by Age taken from ONS (Office for National Statistics) census 2021 detail)



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Figures suggest a sharp reduction from the peak, in recent years of just under 1,600 children down to 1,200 children based on the graphs detail from the ONS census data of 2021. The lowest age being 19 where it reached a significant low of 1,133, shortly after a sudden increase can be seen.

Breckland are in the process of reviewing their Local Plan for the period 2011-2036, the new plan will run from 2021 to 2046. Over the life of this plan the number of young people aged 0-15 is estimated to increase by only 2.2%, which is a small fraction of the overall population aged 16 and over. Over the last five-year period 6,018 houses have been built across the district.

At the time of writing there were no further updates from the Office of the National Statistics to give any mid-year review of data which was provided last year.

The total capacity across all schools in the area in the primary phase totalled 11,403 places the number on role across the same group of schools was 9,413 places identifying 1,990 surplus places. We expect the net change of places to increase by a further 75 places in this area with the movement between the existing Year 6 and the incoming Reception cohort. Increasing surplus places across the sector to 2,065 places across the primary age schools.

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



## Attleborough

### **Sustainable Urban Extension of 4000 new homes**

#### Current local provision – capacity and organisation

There are two primary schools centrally located collectively able to provide 150 places across each year group. Preference patterns suggest movement into the Wymondham schools and surrounding villages impacting the central schools and some outliers of Attleborough.

#### **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 continue to lead the delivery on this large-scale development, time taken in delivering the road infrastructure needed to unlock the project has slowed progress overall. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2023 the first reserved matters application for the first road infrastructure phase with associated housing was submitted for determination. It is expected later this year the project will recommence, coming forward in seven phases.

Childrens Services is currently engaged in discussion regarding the phasing and location of the first primary school site associated with this development.

#### **Current pressures on pupil numbers**

There remains capacity across the existing primary phase, and this appears stable for the next two to three years, but beyond this, capacity of existing schools is absorbed. Parental preference will continue to draw pupils out of the town to smaller surrounding schools. This spread of parental preference using both town schools and more rural schools is a pattern expected to continue when additional development comes forward.

The secondary school numbers are steadily increasing against the capacity of the building. Numbers for academic year 23/24 were in excess of the schools PAN, the school has been able to offset this higher intake by smaller cohorts higher up the school age range, but it is anticipated this demand will progressively increase through the next few years.

#### **Sufficiency response**

The impact on the local schools will largely depend on the pace of development, by both the significant Strategic Urban Extension as well as other surrounding developments which are contributing to growth.

Primary numbers are expected to maintain manageable levels over the next few years, Childrens Services Place Planning will monitor as part of the annual review and assess any changes in parental preferences. This detail will inform decisions in



relation to the delivery of additional land for the delivery of safeguarded sites for new primary phase schools.

Secondary provision is expected to see increased numbers flow through from the primary phase. The pattern of movement to Wymondham is likely to continue whilst that is possible, but as this reaches capacity, more pupils are expected to remain in Attleborough and surrounding secondary provision. The growth will impact both 11-16 and post-16 learners as capacity across the site will be put increasingly under pressure. Childrens Service Capital Programme has a planned approach for expansion to meet demand which will safeguard provision and meet local need for the future. The options for expansion and the size of this expansion are being consider currently against the available funds for delivery.

**Table 4. Capital response.**

<b>Attleborough</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Stage</b>	<b>Cost/ estimate</b>	<b>Date if known</b>
Current Programme	Attleborough Academy (High)	7FoE/9FoE expansion	Stage 1 complete. Concept design underway	IRO £10.0m	2025+
Future programme	New primary 1	2-3FoE	-	IRO £11.0m	2026+
Future programme	New primary 2	2-3FoE	-	IRO £11.0m	2028+

## **Thetford**

### **Kingsfleet – 5000 new dwellings**





## Current local provision – capacity and organisation

Primary School places within Thetford are provided by 8 schools, 6 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 suggest a decline against overall capacity, and broadly most of the preference is directed to the town schools, a small number of pupils are moving outside of the town.

## Latest assessment of growth

The land promoters for this strategic development, Pigeon Investment Management Limited (Pigeon Homes), have been working with NCC (Norfolk County Council) Children’s Services to ensure new schools are provided as part of the project masterplan. Progress in build out continues to be slow with three housebuilders onsite aiming to speed up delivery against previous years outturns. NCC is currently in discussion on the transfer of the first school site based on agreed triggers within the S106, this could happen during 2024/2025 academic year, delayed due to the current slower than anticipated build out of homes.

## Current pressures on pupil numbers

There is some spare capacity at some schools in the town. With the relatively slow build out of new homes, and a decline in the birth rate. The existing primary school provision in the town appears adequate for the short/medium term. Secondary capacity remains capable of accommodating the current demand and has taken steps to increase PAN based on a change in preference as the larger cohorts reach secondary phase.

## Sufficiency response

The slower than expected development has impacted the delivery of pupils along with the widespread demographic downturn. Transfer of the first primary school site will occur during the next academic year and Children’s Services Place Planning will continue to monitor existing school capacity against population changes.

The parental preference change for Thetford Academy and additional pupils in the secondary phase cohort will continue to increase, confirmation of the overall capacity of the school site is due to be completed by the DFE. This will give a clear position of the overall capacity the LA can utilise as numbers increase and discussion with the Trust will begin if pressure is recognised leading into the admission rounds. The school has already taken steps to admit above its PAN this year and increased its PAN to 290 for the 2024/25 admission round.

**Table 5. Capital response.**

Thetford	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
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Future programme	New Primary School 1	2FoE (Forms of Entry)	Design stage	IRO £11.0m (increased as working towards carbon net zero)	2026+
Future programme	New Primary School 2	2FoE	-	£11.0m	-
Future programme	New Primary School 3	2FoE	-	£11.0m	-
Future programme	Secondary extension	Tbc	-	tbc	-

## 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

1000 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. The level of capacity in the primary phase allows for the spread of parental preference which could impact sustainability of certain schools over this sustained period of decline. The admission round for 2023 indicated 80 surplus places across the reception cohort for the schools in the planning area.

The two secondary schools within the town have some capacity against their catchment numbers, the pressure comes from parental preference, where Netherd admits pupils above its PAN and has for several years, so the school has reached



capacity. Northgate continues to operate within its acceptable levels because of the draw to Netherd, the pressure mainly stems from out of area pupils which would be managed at admission rounds if required.

## **Infrastructure Growth Requirements**

The growth is currently contained for the immediate local area based on the delivery of expected housing, according to current forecasts. The Childrens Services Place Planning Team will continue to monitor the implications of the housing against the local school capacity.

## **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. School infrastructure officers and 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 (Planned Admission Number) with associated change to accommodation.
2. Conducting an area-based review, which could lead to
  - a. Schools joining a MAT or assessing the short-term collaboration via a federation.
  - b. Changing age range for a school
  - c. Merging schools in existing or newly provided buildings.
  - d. Close schools which have significant sustainability issues in the following areas: Pupil numbers, financial viability, staffing, education outcomes.



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The local authority needs 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, to ensure they continue to deliver the best education for their local communities.

1. 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**

**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 schools remain extremely popular across the town where there is no issue. The primary phase will need to assess their PAN numbers to consider how to manage with the reduction, some schools will need to assess the impacts against their own viability.

**Old Buckenham Planning Area** - a planning area with 6 primary schools included in relatively rural locations. Two schools have 1 full form of entry and remainder have



a half form or lower. The catchment suggests a significant decline in available pupils, with parental preference being affected as a result. With limited development schools may need to consider organisational changes and PAN sizes to manage places.

**Thetford Planning Area** – this planning area has 8 primary phase schools and 1 secondary with a mix of infant, junior and primary. The catchment numbers suggest no significant increases which will impact local schools. The rate of parental preference moving pupils away from the town will affect those centrally located schools. Until housing begins to yield a higher proportion of pupils this trajectory may not change. The Secondary continues to see an increase in numbers due to previous growth in primary working through and a change in parental preference. The school does have capacity to accommodate these increased numbers, the area will need monitoring to assess changes relating to the housing yield.

**Watton Planning Area** – a planning area with 8 schools primary, infant, and junior. The centrally located schools have 3 forms of entry with the surrounding schools largely been half form of entry (15 places). Schools are largely underutilised against an area that has and is having development in the area. Suggests numbers of pupils are moving out of the area, which impacts both primary and secondary provision.

## Red planning areas

**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 65 pupils on role. Expected intake numbers are in decline and there is little housing in the area.

## Broadland District

### District Context

(Table 6 indicates total number and type of schools across the county)

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

(Table 7 indicates Broadland District Academies and LA Maintained Schools Split)

Academies	LA Maintained
24	36



## Pupil Population

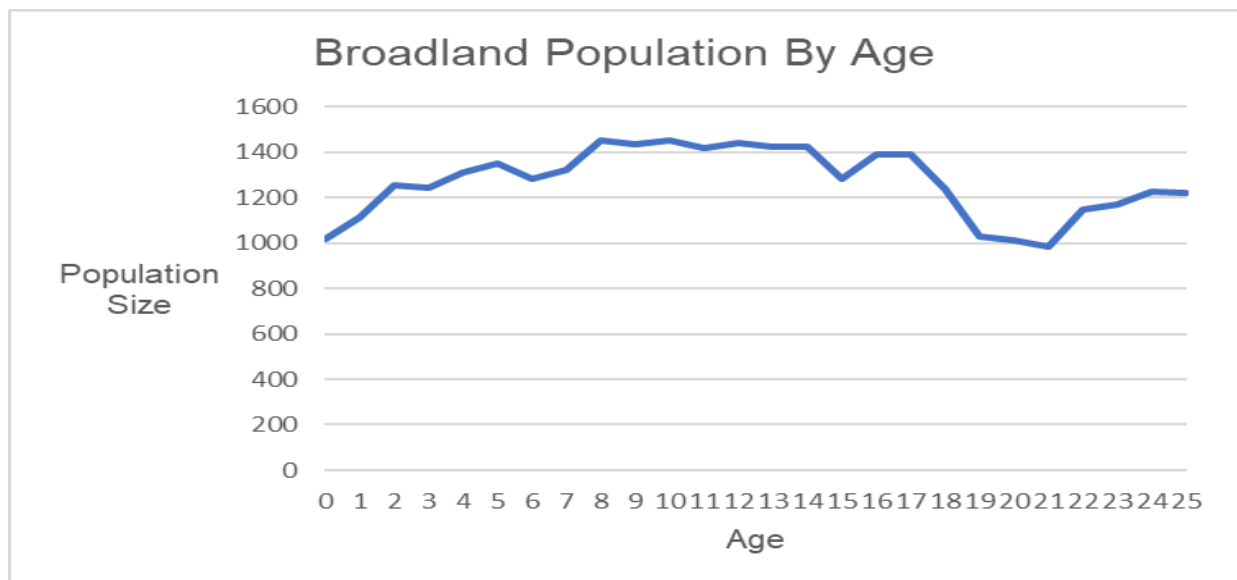
(Table 8 – Mainstream pupil population figures for Broadland for period 2016 to 2023)

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Primary Places	9,854	10,058	10,020	10,089	10,016	10,007	9,864	9,877
Secondary Places	7,134	7,062	7,176	7,404	7,512	7,641	7,797	7,807
Total	16,988	17,120	17,196	17,493	17,528	17,648	17,661	17,684

(Figures taken from September census data each year. Data for 2023 has been taken from the May census count)

Pupil numbers across Broadland remain stable, pupils transitioning between primary and secondary phase education are on the increase. The forecast information suggests a decline continuing to impact the primary phase which may move to the secondary phase in a few years' time. Housing levels are not likely to affect this decline, numbers in the primary phase are expected to be lower than those seen in 2016 and could be as low as 9,000 pupils across the sector, whereas the secondary sector is set to reach 8,400 pupils over the next five years.

(Graph 3 Population size by Age taken from ONS census 2021 detail)



Numbers across Broadland were at their highest in 2011 and 2013 reaching 1,454 children. Current numbers are around 1,012 children under 1 which is slightly higher than the lowest child population reached in 2000.

Following possible adoption of the Greater Norwich Local Plan in 2024 we could expect to see housing delivery increase against those over the past year, based on



implications from nutrient neutrality. We could anticipate larger housing developments across the region to commence onsite within the next two years, which will have some effect on the surrounding schools.

The total capacity across all schools in the area in the primary phase totalled 11,458 places the number on role across the same group of schools was 9,877 places identifying 1,581 surplus places. We expect the net change of places to increase by a further 177 places in this area with the movement between the existing Year 6 and the incoming Reception cohort. Increasing surplus places across the sector to 1,758 places across the primary age schools.

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

### **North Norwich growth triangle**

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

#### **Current local provision – capacity and organisation**

There is still a significant number of homes expected to come forward across the area known as the Norwich Growth Triangle, this spans an area from Norwich Airport across to Postwick and between Sprowston up to Rackheath in the north.

Beeston Park delivering in the region of 3,500 homes could begin to move quickly once issues surrounding nutrient neutrality are resolved. Rackheath is another significant development adding just over 4,000 homes to this area and extensive community facilities.

Catchment numbers across the area remain quite static but with some delivery of housing will add to the capacity but shouldn't until the larger developments begin to make progress.

Secondary provision currently meets demand, with the additional capacity added into Sprowston Community Academy last year this will support the area until those larger developments begin to reach higher numbers of homes being delivered.

#### **Latest assessment of growth**

This is the largest development area across the LA, as well as those larger sites there is significant infill sites across this area which are at various stages of planning and others are currently being built out.





Housing delivery rate has not reached previous levels which is supporting existing infrastructure to meet need, it continues to be slow but could pick up based on changes with nutrient neutrality and the economic situation.

## Current pressures on pupil numbers

There are currently excess surpluses across the planning areas that group the primary schools in this area. As development continues, we might see some higher year groups, years 4-6 impacted with some squeeze on places but it should balance across the next 5 years, offsetting higher cohorts with smaller lower year groups. Secondary covers a vast area in this development area, but with the additional capacity added to Sprowston and movement across North Norwich the forecast indicates capacity across the next few years. This created from smaller cohorts working through from primary once the larger cohorts have progressed in the next couple of years.

## Sufficiency response

This seeing a substantial concentration of development will mean we will continue to work with colleagues across the district and in the schools to assess the impacts as housing comes forward.

The forecasts continue to show a decline moving forward into the primary phase with new housing tending to yield older children in later year groups. This impact will need to be factored in to ensure schools can organise effectively.

The sites currently underway will begin to yield children slower than previously recognised which will be offset from capacity across the system, in secondary we will tackle any pressure via the admission round, managing preference where possible to not over subscribe schools unless accepted by the schools themselves.

Longer term we will be working with developers to assess how the planning comes forward and ensure we take steps to safeguard those sites outlined for primary and secondary provision, agree the trigger points to benefit the wider sector and balance against the timing of delivery ensuring not to create an overprovision of places.

It will be important to try and safeguard the secondary site at the earliest opportunity to reduce the need from pupils becoming displaced from the settlement to which they live, safeguarding this pupil's movement into the future.

**Table 9. Capital response.**

North Norwich Growth	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Future programme	Rackheath primary 1	2FoE	Site identified	£11.0m (unfunded)	2026+





Future programme	Rackheath primary 2	2FoE	Site identified	£11.0m (unfunded)	2028+
Future programme	Beeston Park primary 1	2FoE	Site identified	£11.0m (unfunded)	2026+
Future programme	Beeston Park primary 2	2FoE	Site identified	£11.0m (unfunded)	2029+
Future programme	South of Salhouse Rd new primary	2FoE	Site identified, await transfer of land if required.	£11.0m (unfunded)	2025+
Future programme	Smeeth Lane North/South	2FoE	Initial site layout options	£11.0m (unfunded)	2025+
Future programme	New high school	6-8FoE tbc	Site identified agree specification	£40m (unfunded)	2026+

## Part 2 - Development locations where one new school is planned.

### Aylsham (Area within the GNLP)

#### 500 new homes

#### Current local provision – capacity and organisation

There are currently nine primary schools across this planning area, three schools are centrally located which may be directly affected by this expected development. John of Gaunt Infant and Bure Valley provide 420 places of provision across them, and St Michael's C of E Primary offers 140 places. Secondary places are provided by Aylsham High School offering a minimum of 1025 places across five-year groups.

#### Latest assessment of growth

Aylsham has seen previous developments delivered which assessments have shown parental preference selecting schools from a wide range of locations, some of those been central to Aylsham and others across the wider area.



The LA has secured a school site as part of the Local Plan policy which will ensure based on this additional development, and any change in parental preference those moving into the area will have sufficient capacity to meet their need.

## Current pressures on pupil numbers

Numbers remain quite stable and supporting schools in the local area, but the pattern of children selecting schools out of the town will support capacity in the short term. Centrally located schools are providing for catchment, with the catchment showing signs of decline until the further housing delivers additional homes it is expected schools can accommodate any additional pupils in the short term.

## Sufficiency response

With a relatively small housing numbers coming forward Aylsham continues to be a popular area which is why the school site has been safeguarded as part of the 250-home development.

Schools across the area are expected to have marginally higher numbers in later year groups based on the forecasting trajectory, but this should be managed as part of the existing estate and offset from lower intake years expected in the future.

Children’s Services Place Planning officers will continue to monitor the impact of the housing as it begins to come forward and assess the output of pupils against the existing school infrastructure.

Each assessment made will review the course of action to take in delivering the school meeting the need for the local community.

Aylsham High School continues to draw pupils from out of its catchment and local area which increases pressure on places, but the school has some capacity to accommodate this local need. S106 contributions have been received to support some school redesign and increase of capacity which will be to provide for additional pupils as required. Any risk of over provision of places will be managed between the LA and the school.

**Table 10. Capital response.**

Aylsham	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/estimate	Date if known
Future programme	Aylsham High School	Increase capacity	Section 106 contributions collected	-	2023/24
Future programme	New primary school	2FoE	Site discussion underway	IRO £10.2m	2026+

## Blofield/Brundall (Area within the GNLP)

### Allocation for up to 400 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). Hemblington draws some children out of catchment and has consistently for a few years, this could be because of limited numbers being available in the centrally located schools. All schools in the planning area are all through primary phase schools, two being maintained schools and the other two being academies with different trusts. The primary schools feed into Thorpe St Andrew Secondary School. Based on existing preference patterns the secondary school is set to have capacity to meet demand of the developments in the area.

## 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

Catchment numbers are more than the capacity of the local school’s centred around the development scope. Adding an additional 1FoE to Blofield Primary School will ensure those children have a school place within their local community.

## Sufficiency response

Children’s services continue to work on the land transfer for the school site which will provide a new school providing two forms of entry for Blofield Primary School. This will be a relocation and expansion of the existing school to accommodate the additional pupils expected to yield across the local area. As soon as the land transfer is complete, building work will commence with the anticipated opening of the new premises by January 2025.

Delays with the land transfer process have delayed the original project which anticipated an earlier opening in time for the new academic year.

**Table 11. Capital response.**

<b>Blofield</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Stage</b>	<b>Cost/ estimate</b>	<b>Date if known</b>
Current Programme	New primary school building	2FoE primary school	Site acquisition and concept design complete	£11.2M (£1M CIL funding)	2023 opening 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.

Hellesdon High School continues to meet need across its local area, any pressure is from out of catchment pupils and could be managed via the admission round as required.

#### **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 a large number of homes have currently been completed, the phase 3 development remains currently held up with the nutrient neutrality situation.

With the delays expected with the remainder of the site and that contain the school site it is likely to be some years yet before the triggers to transfer the school land are reached.

#### **Current pressures on pupil numbers**

There is little impact from the existing housing delivery, and there is not expected to be pressure until closer towards the whole site has been delivered. Children's Services will continue to monitor the progress of the development and liaise with developers on the triggers for the proposed new school site when required.

#### **Sufficiency response**

A new school site has been safeguarded through a S106 agreement between Norfolk County Council and Persimmon Homes. With the scale of housing anticipated a new two form of entry primary is expected to come forward, but only when the provision is needed.

Nearer the time assessments will continue to assess the requirement of whether there will be a new school alongside existing provision or reorganisation occurs of existing infant/junior schools to provide for an all through primary school.

Local places within the existing secondary estate will be monitored and capacity will be assessed if any further expansion maybe required in the longer term.



Childrens Services officers will maintain communication with local councillors and school representatives to plan effectively for future demand.

**Table 12. Capital response.**

Hellesdon	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Future programme	New primary school	2FoE	Section 106 in place and site location agreed	IRO £11.0m	2027+
Future programme	High school	Expansion of Hellesdon High to be considered if necessary	-	-	-

## **Taverham (Area within the GNLP)**

### **Strategic allocation for 1530 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. Part of this development, to the eastern side, is within the Drayton primary phase school’s catchment. This contains Drayton Infant and Junior school providing 90 places at each age group.

#### **Latest assessment of growth**

This site has come forward as a strategic allocation in the Greater Norwich Local Plan, an application was submitted in March 2022. Work continues to with key consultees to complete assessments of the overall development.

#### **Current pressures on pupil numbers**

There is minimal housing included in the existing forecast which indicates surplus capacity across this planning area. With a development expected of this size it is anticipated new primary provision will be required to meet the local community demand once existing capacity has been fully utilised. Schools in the area are managing their planned admission number to meet need and must continue to do so.

#### **Sufficiency response**

Children’s Services Place Planning is continuing dialogue with the land agents and developers to secure a school site within the development.



It is Children’s Services belief a development of this size will require additional education provision to meet need that will ensure a school is a central location for the new community.

We continue to monitor existing school numbers across the area and review forecast trends to assess any changes which may have implications on the local area. It would appear this area has an aging population which is impacting the numbers across the existing school infrastructure.

Children’s Services will review the two-tier education establishments and have regard for the need for a single primary school provision understanding the impact this may have on the provision across the village. As the development timescales move forward Children’s Services will engage in discussion with the schools in scope as appropriate about the introduction of a new school as may be required.

**Table 13. Capital response.**

Taverham	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Future programme	New primary school	2FoE	Site location continues	IRO £11.0m	2026+

## Part 3 - Growth areas with implications for existing schools

### Acle

700 homes

#### Area Overview

There are currently planning applications awaiting decision and additional sites earmarked as part of the Local Plan that could impact the school infrastructure across Acle. In both the local primary and secondary school’s parental preference is high with limited movement out to surrounding areas. With additional housing coming forward across Brundall and Blofield and an increase in preference shown for the secondary, we could see a level of pressure growing in this area.

#### Infrastructure Growth Requirements

Children’s Services Place Planning will continue to monitor the housing progress across areas that have an impact on the schools of Acle. Both sites of the secondary and primary have confined sites but deliver their existing demand, if housing begins to have an impact an assessment of options that may be available will need to be



considered, with consideration for the financial contributions via CIL expected. This might put a limitation on any project and solution required. The additional surplus across the wider planning area will need to be considered to not destabilise existing schools.

## **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. School infrastructure officers and advisers will actively monitor the quality of education provided in any area and consider any action that may be needed, which could include:

3. Agree changes to the PAN (Planned Admission Number) with associated change to accommodation.
4. Conducting an area-based review, which could lead to
  - a. Schools joining a MAT or assessing the short-term collaboration via a federation.
  - b. Changing age range for a school
  - c. Merging schools in existing or newly provided buildings.
  - d. Close schools which have significant sustainability issues in the following areas: Pupil numbers, financial viability, staffing, education outcomes.

The local authority needs 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





# Norfolk County Council

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.

2. 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**

**Sprowston Planning Area** - a planning area which consists of 10 primary phase schools, largely made up of infant and junior mix. Based on catchment numbers there are sufficient places to meet overall demand, but parental preference is drawing places out of the area which is making schools must adjust their PAN to plan for the impact. Large scale development is continuing across this area and some significant development will come forward over the next couple of years which should begin to fill the school system, schools will need to work together to plan for the short to medium term.

**Spixworth and Horsford Planning Area** – a planning area with 4 primary phase schools, 1 infant and 1 junior. Currently 100 places of capacity across all schools, 3 schools with less than half form of entry are expecting lower than their indicated Reception PAN. Schools will need to adjust future planning to accommodate the parental preference and falling roles in this area.





## Red planning areas

**Reepham Planning Area** – a planning area with 8 primary schools and 1 secondary school. Each of the primary schools have 1FoE or less, and 4 of the primary schools have continued to admit fewer than 15 pupils over a sustained period. The secondary school draws children from a wide area, local catchment is lower than intake PAN and the projected numbers are expected to further decline over the next three to five years. Schools must manage their planned admission numbers in line with available residents to plan for the future.

## Great Yarmouth Borough Council

### District Context

(Table 14 indicates total number and type of schools across the county)

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

(Table 15 indicates Great Yarmouth Borough Council Academies and LA Maintained Schools Split)

Academies	LA Maintained
25	13

### Pupil Population

(Table 16 – Mainstream pupil population figures for Great Yarmouth for period 2016 to 2023)

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Primary Places	7,748	7,901	7,781	7,704	7,634	7,601	7,554	7,605
Secondary Places	5,008	4,988	5,057	5,141	5,117	5,269	5,308	5,245
Total	12,756	12,889	12,838	12,845	12,751	12,870	12,862	12,850

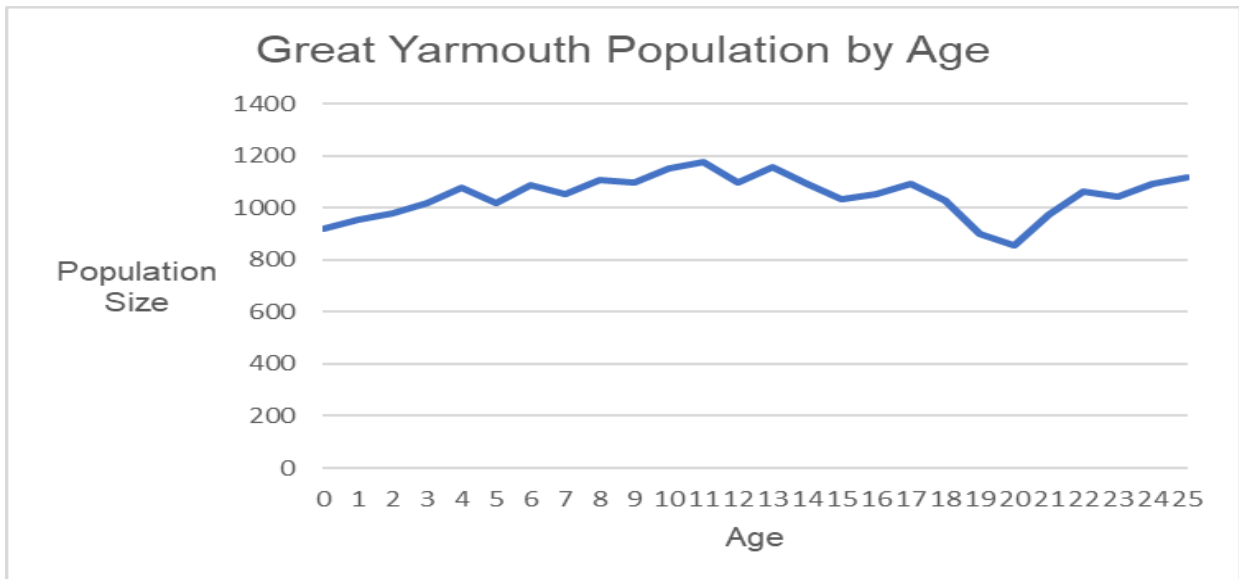


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(Figures taken from September census data each year. Data for 2023 has been taken from the May census count)

Primary numbers appear to show the apparent drop from 2017, and since 2020 those numbers have stayed relatively stable. The secondary phase suggests a steep increase from 2017 reaching a peak in 2022. The numbers for 2023 have been taken from the May census where we should expect to see a consistent or increasing position between September and May numbers, but the figures indicate something different. Based on the three census dates we see a reverse in both phases of the expected trend but continue to expect an increase of pupils moving across into secondary from the primary phase. This is largely due to increased housing and higher numbers in later year groups. The secondary sector is expected to reach a peak of 5,470 pupils by 2027 and primary numbers may fall following the 2023 academic year.

(Graph 4 Population size by Age taken from ONS census 2021 detail)



The highest cohort size reported via the ONS data suggests those pupils aged 11 being the highest in 2021, and from then on, those earlier cohorts sizes reduce over time. The proposed trajectory of decline does not show the level of decline experienced in this area in 2001 when there only appeared to be 855 children in this cohort, reducing numbers in the early years sector are a little higher than this all-time low, but we are yet to see how that continues.

This information does not include any effects of housing growth which is expected to be delivered over the life of the Local Plan.

The Local Plan is currently in Regulation 18 consultation stage with further drafts due later in 2023, when additional housing targets will be set. The last plan aimed to



deliver 5,300 homes across the plan period and at the last count 2,489 homes had been delivered. Its anticipated further housing will come forward in the southern and northern parts of the Borough which will have some impact on those schools more closely situated.

The total capacity across all schools in the area in the primary phase totalled 8,701 places the number on role across the same group of schools was 7,605 places identifying 1,096 surplus places. We expect the net change of places to increase by a further 204 places in this area with the movement between the existing Year 6 and the incoming Reception cohort. Increasing surplus places across the sector to 1,300 places across the primary age schools.

## **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 very close to capacity, with little ability to deal with any in year movement of pupils. All local children are provided a place with some out of catchment children not able to have their first-choice preference met. 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

The housing delivery has reached a point which meets criteria determined within the S106 agreement to schedule transfer of the school site and associated services. Norfolk County Council Children’s Services are currently negotiating the trigger point to finalise the legal transfer with Persimmon.

## Current pressures on pupil numbers

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. In year admissions is causing a level of pressure in this area as the housing is inhabited which is causing a level of pressure for local residents. Conversations have occurred with the local schools and the local officer group to determine how best to deliver this school within the current landscape.

## Sufficiency response

Children’s Services are conducting a consultation on the relocation and expansion of Bradwell Homefield CE VC Primary that will move to the new site within this development area. The school will increase from its current one form of entry to two form’s and due to the confined site provided, it will not be able to deliver nursery provision as part of its offer. The school is anticipated to open from September 2026, we continue to monitor the impact of the changing pupil numbers alongside the demographic changes in area against the wider development that is currently coming forward across the settlement.

The consultation closes on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2023, and it is hoped the land transfer will occur early in 2024 to enable development to commence shortly after.

**Table 17. Capital response.**

Bradwell	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Future programme	New primary school	2FoE	School land transfer to finalise and masterplan prepared	IRO £11.0m	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 planning application for 665 homes has recently been approved by Great Yarmouth Borough Council. The site has provision for a two forms of entry primary school within the heart of the new community. The local area does have other sites identified and being put forward within the update to the new Local Plan, those sites could contribute to increased capacity required beyond that currently available within the existing schools. Based on the locations of the existing schools and the new developments pupil movement may be improved by the new school location.

## 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. To help with planning both schools have adjusted their planned admission number to accommodate the current reduction experienced. Caister Academy catchment will see the decline but preference that incorporates Great Yarmouth continues to sustain numbers within the school’s capacity.

## Sufficiency response

Children’s Services Place Planning continues to work alongside the Borough council to ascertain the proposed impact of the approved application and if future changes to the Local Plan expect to have further implications for the schools in this area.

The S106 agreement includes criteria to consider the need for a new primary school within this development or alternative provide for developer contributions if the land may not be required. Local Authority officers will meet with local schools as plans develop to discuss the potential implications of the development in this area.

**Table 18. Capital response.**

Caister	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/estimate	Date if known
Future programme	New primary school	2 FoE	-	IRO £11.0m	2026+



## **Part 3 – Growth areas with implications for existing schools**

### **Hopton**

**750 homes**

#### **Area Overview**

Development sites have gradually come forward within the catchment for Hopton and currently a development for 200 homes is being built out. With sites earmarked for pending applications and those being proposed in the new Local Plan we could expect a level of pressure increasing on the existing one form entry primary school. The school sits on a confined site with little room for expansion. The catchment area for the school abuts Ormiston Cliff Park to the north where some development is being proposed and this could see pupil movement across into Cliff Park as opposed to the development's catchment school of Hopton. We would need to consider the implications of this effect and how parental preference may be met.

#### **Infrastructure Growth Requirements**

Children's Service Place Planning continues to liaise with the Borough planning department on the implications across this school catchment. With the site being very small and the potential for additional growth we might have expected available space for two forms of entry to meet this level of housing yield that has come forward around the school. With it being very early stages in terms of the update to the Local Plan and pending development applications Place Planning will need to monitor the effect of housing across the wider area and discuss with the school and Academy Trust what action is likely to be possible to meet need.

## **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



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

5. Agree changes to the PAN (Planned Admission Number) with associated change to accommodation.
6. Conducting an area-based review, which could lead to
  - a. Schools joining a MAT or assessing the short-term collaboration via a federation.
  - b. Changing age range for a school
  - c. Merging schools in existing or newly provided buildings.
  - d. Close schools which have significant sustainability issues in the following areas: Pupil numbers, financial viability, staffing, education outcomes.

The local authority needs 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**

**Gorleston Planning Area** – The Gorleston area is made up of 15 schools, a large geographical area with 13 primary schools and 1 infant and 1 junior. The eastern part of this planning area that falls between the A47 and the river has very limited opportunity for development, and we see numbers for the schools across this area in decline and below their planned admission number. Growth continues across the western side of this planning area and the schools are not impacted as much by significant falling roles. We do not yet see a reverse in the birth rate decline and therefore expect some further shrinking of the population in the eastern part of the planning area and therefore schools will need to manage their intake cohorts to accommodate the reductions to assist with planning.

## **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 130 spare places across the schools in the primary phase. The secondary has a surplus of one form of entry on the planned admission number with this trajectory expected to continue over the next few years. There is some development expected in an around Martham, Ormesby and Hemsby but it is relatively small scale and will not affect the capacity that exists across the area. The surplus capacity allows for flexibility in parental preference and can hinder school's ability to plan accordingly.

# **Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council**

## **District Context**

(Table 19 indicates total number and type of schools across the county)



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

(Table 20 indicates King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Academies and LA Maintained Schools Split)

Academies	LA Maintained
56	22

## Pupil Population

(Table 21 – Mainstream pupil population figures for Kings Lynn for period 2016 to 2023)

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Primary Places	10,842	10,978	11,024	10,935	10,916	10,835	10,684	10,717
Secondary Places	6,602	6,602	6,612	6,777	6,872	7,010	7,206	7,138
Total	17,444	17,580	17,636	17,712	17,788	17,845	17,890	17,855

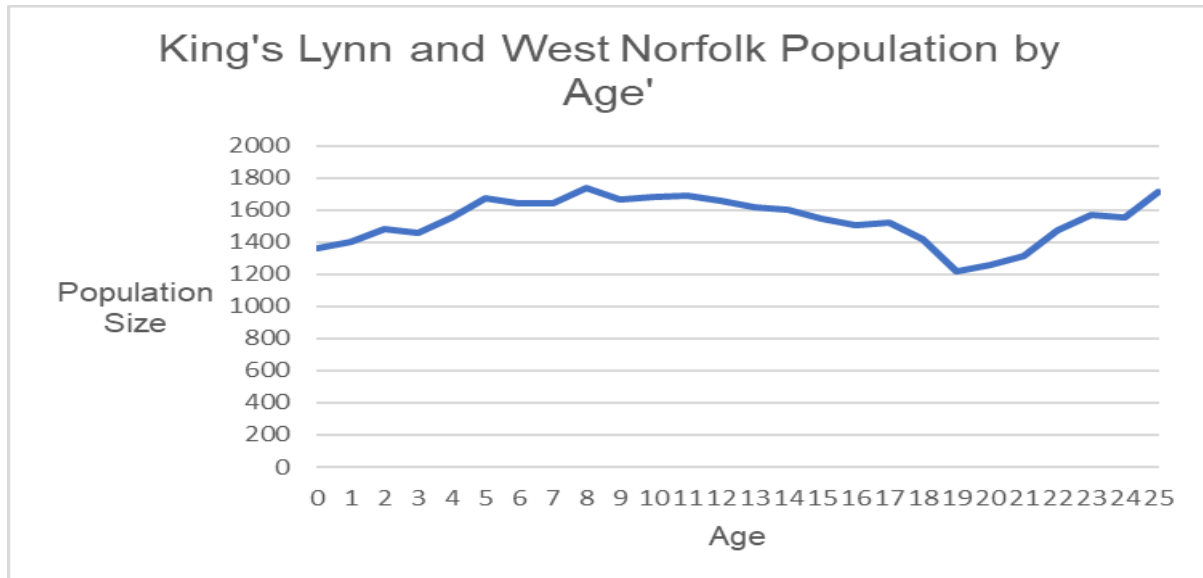
(Figures taken from September census data each year. Data for 2023 has been taken from the May census count)

The data shows a primary phase in decline reaching a level of stability between 2022 and 2023 numbers, forecasting beyond this point suggests a gradual decline not counteracted by the impact of housing across the area. Secondary pupils show an increase in pupil numbers from 2019 onwards, our forecast suggests with housing numbers will grow further into 2023 and beyond. This period of increased numbers transitioning into secondary remains for the next three years when the primary numbers behind this period then begin to show a level of decline. This does not in the forecast take account of additional large-scale housing that is anticipated to come forward included within the Local Plan.

(Graph 5 Population size by Age taken from ONS census 2021 detail)



# Norfolk County Council



The highest cohort size reported via the ONS data suggests those pupils aged 8 being the highest in 2021, and from then on, those earlier cohorts sizes reduce over time. The lowest cohort entering the school system across this area was back in 2004 when there were 517 fewer children across the reception age range.

This information does not include any effects of housing growth which is expected to be delivered over the life of the Local Plan. Our forecast estimates housing will have some impact against the decline, this will not offset the impact of the birth rate decline over the next five years, until larger housing development begins to make progress.

The new emerging Local Plan is currently under examination by the inspectorate, timescales for adoption are currently unclear. The last plan aimed to deliver 16,500 homes across the plan period which 11,381 homes were delivered. The emerging plan has a target currently of 12,057 houses to be delivered across the new period with large sites expect across West Winch, Wootton and Kingsfleet.

The total capacity across all schools in the area in the primary phase totalled 12,247 places, the number on role across the same group of schools was 10,771 places identifying 1,476 surplus places. We expect the net change of places to increase by a further 175 places in this area with the movement between the existing Year 6 and the incoming Reception cohort. Increasing surplus places across the sector to 1,651 places across the primary age schools.



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

### **West Winch/North Runcton**

**Up to 4000 new homes in multiple 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. The development will slightly overlap into the Middleton Primary catchment area, which has maximum capacity for 140 places. West Winch is popular and fills its reception intake each year drawing pupils from other schools' catchments. Middleton primary is further south of West Winch and struggles to retain its catchment pupils, reception numbers began to decline from 2018 onwards. 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. Has submitted an outline planning application for 1,100 homes to the north part of the overall site. 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**

The current West Winch primary catchment remains lower than the schools PAN and is expected to remain stable for a period of time. Middleton's numbers in area decrease over time remaining in the low 20's in the future. The forecasting data does not currently include the impact of the large-scale housing development and will only impact the pupil trajectory once housing begins to become occupied. More central schools of the planning area see some effect of housing where housing is coming forward across the central King's Lynn Area.



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 filled. Plans are being formalised to expand Kings Lynn Academy to meet demand expected in the secondary sector, this school has been assessed has having the capacity to expand on its existing site against the other two in the town.

## Sufficiency response

The plan to expand and develop the education infrastructure in alongside this development will come forward over a long period of time and in a phased way. Currently there is space on the existing West Winch site to expand via a further 1FoE to grow alongside the development. This will be managed alongside surplus space in other surrounding schools in order to not destabilise schools. Based on the size and scale of this proposed development it will take some time to begin to impact existing schools, with the secondary impacted much later in the programme. Children’s Services Place Planning will monitor the impact of in year movement to assess that trend and liaise with schools as appropriate.

There are contributions being sort that will support the expansion of West Winch Primary and land provided in the north and south elements of the development that will come forward against the proposed phasing of the housing. King’s Lynn Academy will grow in a staged way that will meet demand over time. The initial phase will aim to deliver eight forms of entry with a maximum of ten forms of entry being added if required.

**Table 22. Capital response.**

West Winch/ North Runcton	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Future programme	West Winch Primary	1 to 2FoE	-	IRO £5m	2026+
Future programme	New primary 1	2FoE	-	IRO £11.0m	2028+
Future programme	New primary 2	3FoE	-	IRO £12m	2030+
Future programme	King’s Lynn secondary phase	Expansion	Expansion to 8FoE 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**

### **Downham Market**

**640 homes**

#### **Area Overview**

There are two large housing sites planned and with permission to the north and south of the central town, and smaller developments which impact on the overall housing yield expected to affect the schools in this area. As with many areas across Norfolk the primary phase has felt the pressure moving through with numbers now in decline and surplus capacity expected. The higher year groups are in transition between primary and secondary, and a change of preference the central Downham Market High school have become under pressure for places, also contributing to this was a rationalisation of accommodation across the site, moving the sixth form provision within the mainstream school area.

#### **Infrastructure Growth Requirements**

Increased demand has materialised across the secondary phase with continued catchment and preference growth. The historic movement of pupils selecting Cambridge has reduced due to capacity in those schools and the preference trend changing. The Capital Priorities Group have agreed early design work to consider how expansion work could take place to grow by one form of entry to accommodate the growth moving through the age ranges.

### **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 northeast 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 they do 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. The level of preference being expressed is causing some operational issues for schools in this area and the additional housing will contribute to this problem and may make some schools unviable before the development begins to impact the area.

## **South Wootton**

**530 homes**

## **Area Overview**

The housing numbers are made up of two sites one north of the junior school and another northwest, both applications have been granted permission. The area is served by an infant and junior school, both schools are 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 existing community and will be landlocked by the new larger development. 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, which will impact existing preference and reduce the numbers of pupils coming into the catchment area. The larger development currently provides for a parcel of land to allow expansion of the junior school if required. Decisions will be made in conjunction with local schools as the development begin onsite to secure long term places for local children.





## **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 pass the agreed Section 106 contributions across to Cambridgeshire to meet demand of the larger scale development. If Fenland removed the entire large-scale development in Cambridgeshire, we would again assess the implications of this with colleagues in the LPA and see at that point what are the likely implications for local schools. 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.

## **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. School infrastructure officers and advisers will actively monitor the quality of education provided in any area and consider any action that may be needed, which could include:



# Norfolk County Council

7. Agree changes to the PAN (Planned Admission Number) with associated change to accommodation.
8. Conducting an area-based review, which could lead to
  - a. Schools joining a MAT or assessing the short-term collaboration via a federation.
  - b. Changing age range for a school
  - c. Merging schools in existing or newly provided buildings.
  - d. Close schools which have significant sustainability issues in the following areas: Pupil numbers, financial viability, staffing, education outcomes.

The local authority needs 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.

4. 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**

**Hunstanton Planning Area** – There are 8 primary phase schools within this area, current schools' capacity is 1,131 places and being required is 889 places giving 242 surplus places. Parental preference is ensuring some schools have higher numbers than building capacity allows, which impacts the pupil's movement in this area. There is limited development in most of this planning area with housing coming forward closer to main towns and settlements. The high school continues to meet demand which appears stable over the next five years.

**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 are some very small catchments across this area which are below current planned admission numbers, with limited housing this will begin to impact sustainable class sizes in the sector.

**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. There are some specific schools which continue to operate below both building and PAN capacity which will impact long term sustainability. Secondary remains stable based on the primary numbers working through. Development is expected with a limited number of completions to date, but we continue to monitor the impact in area on the secondary school as developments begin to come forward and manage the effect of in year pupil movements with our Admission colleagues.

## **Red planning areas**

**King's Lynn Area Planning Area** – this planning is all primary phase schools around the central area of King's Lynn. There are 8 schools with a mix of faith and non-faith primary schools. There is expected growth near to West Winch, but more rural locations have very limited opportunity of housing coming forward. Catchments are all lower than the schools current operating PAN and preference therefore is high, as pupil numbers reduce further this will challenge the sustainability of some schools within this area. There are currently 174 spare places across this group of schools, managing the organisation of the cohorts and planning for further decline will be key for schools.



## North Norfolk District Council

### District Context

(Table 23 indicates total number and type of schools across the county)

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

(Table 24 indicates North Norfolk District Academies and LA Maintained Schools Split)

Academies	LA Maintained
26	31

### Pupil Population

(Table 25 – Mainstream pupil population figures for North Norfolk for period 2016 to 2023)

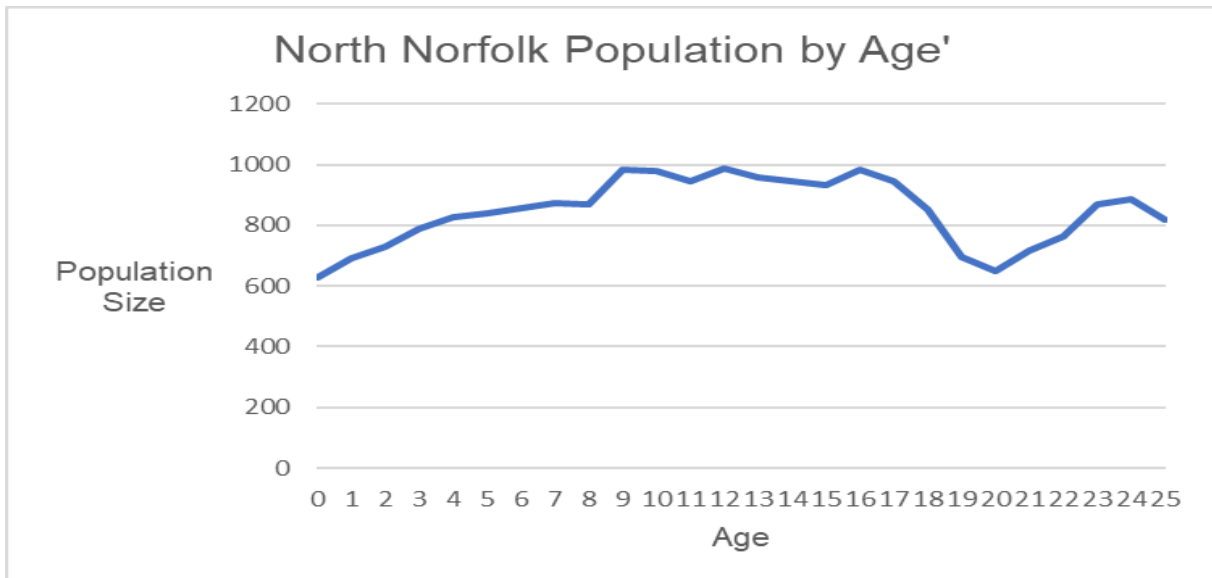
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Primary Places	6,055	6,046	5,983	5,913	5,798	5,698	5,552	5,577
Secondary Places	3,938	3,950	4,048	4,139	4,182	4,226	4,337	4,326
Total	9,993	9,996	10,031	10,052	9,980	9,924	9,889	9,903

(Figures taken from September census data each year. Data for 2023 has been taken from the May census count)

Numbers across the district fell between 2017 and 2022 with a slight increase shown in 2023, this fits with the expect Reception cohort entering the system for September 2023 where it shows a very slight increase on last year. Some of this could be in relation to housing but also parental preference patterns across the border areas.

It is anticipated with the higher cohorts moving through the primary phase into secondary, the numbers in the primary sector will reduce over time and will only change based on additional development and a reverse in the birth rate decline. Secondary sectors continue to grow while the higher year groups move through but will only remain at increased levels in some instance for the next five years or so, until the smaller groups begin to appear.

(Graph 6 Population size by Age taken from ONS census 2021 detail)



The highest cohort size reported via the ONS data suggests those pupils aged 12 being the highest in 2021, and then we see slow and gradual decline down as far as 693 children aged 1.

This information does not include any effects of housing growth which is expected to be delivered over the life of the Local Plan. Our forecast estimates housing will have some impact against the decline, but we are not expecting numbers to return to those high seen back in 2011.

The existing Local Plan which ran for period of 2001-2025 set targets of 8,025 homes to be completed within that plan period, the housing delivered reached 8,347. The updated emerging plan sets an increased target of 12,096 homes to be delivered across a similar plan period, this represents an increase of 4,071 homes expected across North Norfolk.

The total capacity across all schools in the area in the primary phase totalled 7,643 places, the number on role across the same group of schools was 5,577 places identifying 2,066 surplus places. We expect the net change of places to increase by a further 185 places in this area with the movement between the existing Year 6 and the incoming Reception cohort. Increasing surplus places across the sector to 2,251 places across the primary age schools.

## 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 2FoE 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 limited development expected in Fakenham catchment numbers have fallen over the last three years which is why the infant and junior schools have adjusted their planned admissions numbers. Parental preference drives movement of pupils across the area with a wide selection of schools being chosen out of the central town catchment. We must monitor this pattern to assess when the schools may need to increase their PAN once again and we will work with admission colleagues to adapt as required.



## Sufficiency response

The size of the proposed development will create a substantial number of pupils based on the county pupil yield assessment. Changes in the forecast alongside information received from district colleagues in relation to progress in the development will be used to monitor the situation across Fakenham. Discussions did take place with Synergy Mult Academy Trust and will need to be revisited once further detail becomes available.

Colleagues from both Place Planning and Admissions will work with all schools in this area to assess any changes in projection and take action to support places being secured as parents require.

**Table 26. Capital response.**

Fakenham	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Future programme	New primary school	2FoE	Section 106 agreed.	IRO £11.0m	2027+
Future programme	Possible expansion to Fakenham Academy	Unknown at present	-	-	-

## North Walsham

**1800 homes**

### Current local provision – capacity and organisation

North Walsham includes 3 primary phased schools and 1 secondary school. There is an infant and junior school providing 60 places per age group operated by Broad Horizons Academy Trust and Millfield Primary School has a PAN of 45 operated by Enrich Learning Trust. The secondary school has capacity of 950 places also operated by Enrich Learning Trust.

The primary phase as a combined catchment overall capacity across the primary schools could reach 135 places across the three settings, but due to reduced numbers in the catchment the infant and junior has reduced its PAN accordingly. The secondary school has high numbers but battles parental preference for areas outside of the town.





## Latest assessment of growth

The proposed Strategic Urban Extension of North Walsham is proposed to deliver 1,800 homes across the western side of the town, it will be a consortium of developers coming together to deliver the programme. A site for a new school has been secured as part of the plan which will be near other community facilities. The proposed school will have a site allocated of just over 2Ha and is planned for being 2 forms of entry primary.

Children’s Services continues to work with the district to bring forward the project, it will form a key part of the emerging Local Plan.

## Current pressures on pupil numbers

As stated previously the catchment numbers have declined across this area over the course of six years. The numbers in area do appear to have reached a particular low and remain static at that point servicing places for approximately 100 places. Clearly this reduction in numbers will impact those centrally located schools and the infant and junior schools have adapted their PAN to manage the numbers expected. Alongside the decline in catchment parental preference appears to have changed reducing the numbers of pupils entering those schools from elsewhere.

Due to the size of this development, it is expected a new school will be required but the new school will be scheduled alongside the existing capacity to ensure the school infrastructure is not destabilised as the development comes forward.

## Sufficiency response

A new 2FoE primary school is part of the masterplan and Children’s Services Place Planning will work alongside district and developer colleagues to plan the required triggers for the new school. When the development comes forward which may not be for another 3-4 years, we will engage in conversations with the schools in the area to discuss the delivery plan and how we may mitigate the impact of the new school on the existing estate.

The size and scale of this development will take some time to fully deliver, and the school is situated in the central part of the development, it is likely housing will build up to either the north or south of the development so assessing the impact of delivery against the school capacity will be key in long term planning for the area.

**Table 27. Capital response.**

North Walsham	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Future programme	New primary school	2FoE	Site location assessed	£11.0m	2028+



Future programme	Possible expansion to North Walsham Academy	Unknown at present	-	-	-
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## Part 3 – Growth areas with implications for existing schools

### Holt

250-400 homes

#### Area Overview

Existing and future development has led to assessment of need for a new primary school to come forward. Land has been secured as part of an outline approved planning application which will deliver 110 dwellings with associated infrastructure. The existing school is situated on a confined site with separate playing fields, the new development gives an opportunity to improve the primary school provision in the area.

#### Infrastructure Growth Requirements

A new 2FoE primary school will be delivered in a central location of this development which will allow the existing school to relocate and expand onto the new site. This will provide additional places to meet future demand across perspective sites within the new Local Plan.

## 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



# Norfolk County Council

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. School infrastructure officers and advisers will actively monitor the quality of education provided in any area and consider any action that may be needed, which could include:

9. Agree changes to the PAN (Planned Admission Number) with associated change to accommodation.
10. Conducting an area-based review, which could lead to
  - a. Schools joining a MAT (Multi Academy Trust) or assessing the short-term collaboration via a federation.
  - b. Changing age range for a school
  - c. Merging schools in existing or newly provided buildings.
  - d. Close schools which have significant sustainability issues in the following areas: Pupil numbers, financial viability, staffing, education outcomes.

The local authority needs 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.

5. 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**

**Cromer and Sheringham Planning Area** – this area has 11 schools; forecasts indicate falling catchment numbers with limited development that may only affect certain schools. The schools clearly admit children from out of catchment due to parental 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, with larger cohorts working their way through the school any development could take some time before it affects the pupils entering this phase.

**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. Individual schools may have some lasting sustainability issues which the LA will need to address.

**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 and liaise with some particularly vulnerable schools accordingly.

## **Red planning areas**

**Stalham Planning Area** – The planning consists of 8 primary phase schools only one school has a PAN over 1FoE, remainder are small rural schools. There is considerable capacity across the area allowing parental preference to be high. Limited housing will not impact the schools, the decline is reduction of pupil's overtime and surplus places not being adjusted accordingly. With the High school drawing from its catchment the lower numbers will begin to impact the secondary sector in the next 3-5 years.



**Wells Planning Area** – There are 6 schools all primary all through schools in this planning area. One school in this area has 1 full FoE the remaining schools has a half form of entry or lower. There is significant capacity across the primary sector and the catchment for the secondary is below the operating capacity with the school drawing pupils from Hunstanton and Fakenham regularly. The LA will monitor the area and continue to work with schools which may have some sustainability concerns to plan to meet educational demands.

## Norwich City Council

### District Context

(Table 28 indicates total number and type of schools across the county)

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

(Table 29 indicates Norwich City Academies and LA Maintained Schools Split)

Academies	LA Maintained
31	17

### Pupil Population

(Table 30 – Mainstream pupil population figures for Norwich for period 2016 to 2023)

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Primary Places	9,292	9,425	9,456	9,427	9,242	9,200	9,281	9,462
Secondary Places	4,932	4,961	5,134	5,340	5,528	5,619	5,781	5,776
Total	14,224	14,386	14,590	14,767	14,770	14,819	15,062	15,238

(Figures taken from September census data each year. Data for 2023 has been taken from the May census count)

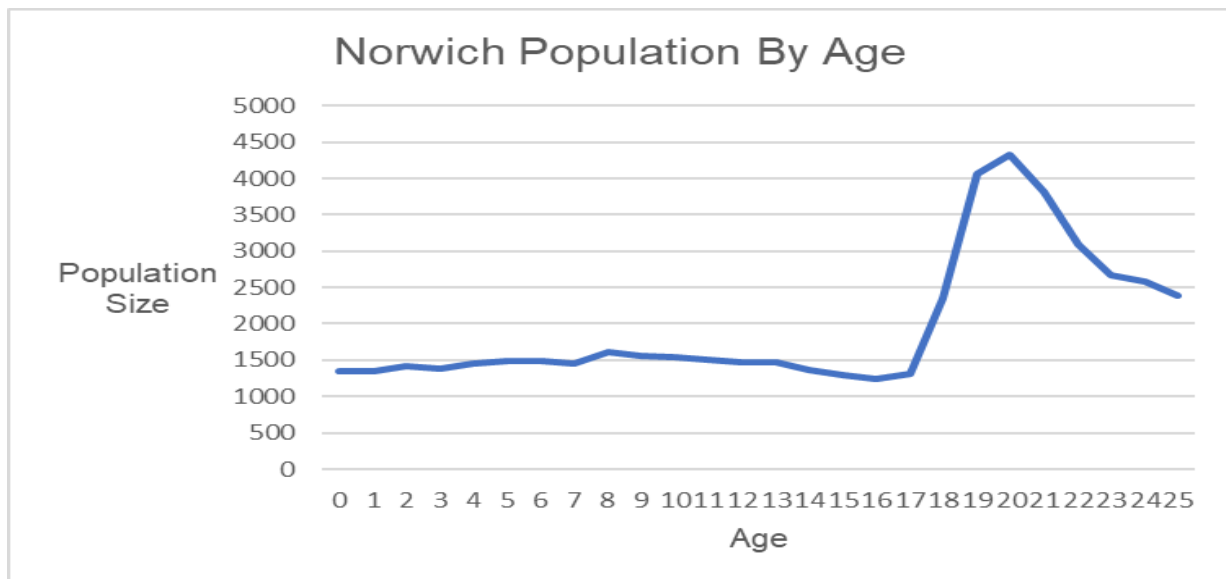
The figures indicate a slight increase between 2022 and 2023 in the primary phase, when reviewing actual cohort numbers, it is not the children entering in Reception cohorts, its later year groups Year 4 to 6 where the increase has grown over this period. This is a common theme across the county which suggests internal movement across the LA into central areas and more urban areas.



# Norfolk County Council

The secondary cohorts will grow further with increases expected to reach a peak by 2027, this tracks those higher cohorts from primary moving through into the secondary sector.

(Graph 7 Population size by Age taken from ONS census 2021 detail)



The highest cohort size reported via the ONS data suggests those pupils aged 20 being the highest in 2021, there is then a significant reduction in the cohorts across Norwich, reaching a low of 1249 pupils aged 16 and then it appears to stabilise and remain relatively constant. This significant high did not impact the school age population it is as a result of inward migration at post 18 for education and employment purposes.

This information does not include any effects of housing growth which is expected to be delivered over the life of the Local Plan. Our forecast estimates housing will have some impact against the decline, this will be expected in the longer term beyond 2027, this is after reaching an absolute low of approximately 1,175 pupils entering the reception age cohorts. It is a very slow and long-term position and similar to those numbers seen in 2005. Even with the impact of housing the numbers are not likely to increase substantially.

Following possible adoption of the Greater Norwich Local Plan in 2024 we could expect to see housing delivery increase against those over the past year, based on implications from nutrient neutrality and delays with the plan.

The total capacity across all schools in the area in the primary phase totalled 10,555 places, the number on role across the same group of schools was 9,461 places identifying 1,094 surplus places. We expect the net change of places to increase by a further 195 places in this area with the movement between the existing Year 6 and



the incoming Reception cohort. Increasing surplus places across the sector to 1,289 places across the primary age schools.

## **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**

The centrally located development in Norwich falls within the catchment for Lakenham Primary School and the Lionwood Infant and Junior schools and will be quite close to other surrounding schools. Lakenham is a 2FoE primary all through school having capacity for 420 places and the Lionwood schools have capacity for 3FoE across both school sites. Both schools have capacity within their existing buildings and continue to operate under their planned admission number.

Secondary education is provided by the Hewett Academy, CNS, and Notre Dame. CNS and Notre Dame continue to be popular across secondary cohorts and the Hewett has seen some increases in pupil numbers over the last year and could continue to have higher numbers over this sustained period.

#### **Latest assessment of growth**

The East Norwich development covers three key areas across Norwich. Covering the Carrow Works, the Deal Ground and the Utilities site on the opposite side of the river. This is a difficult development to coordinate and bring forward and currently is being overseen by the East Norwich Partnership. This is collaboration of public-private sector groups with representatives of the County Council working in partnership to steer and deliver the masterplan for the site.

The initial site to come forward with a planning application is the Carrow Works site and this could be closely followed by the Deal Ground. We could see 2,500 dwellings from both development areas, of which a large proportion are likely to be flats.





## Current pressures on pupil numbers

Primary provision is currently experiencing a demographic decline, early pressure may exist in later years groups. We anticipate this level of development to require additional capacity over time and to meet demand over a long period of time. The Hewett has a level of capacity but is part of a rebuild programme led by the DFE which will alter capacity but is expected to be available to meet demand from this project.

## Sufficiency response

Children’s Services Place Planning continues to be consulted on the plans for the development and is working with colleagues from the City to determine the required location of a new school which will serve this new community. The school design will need to meet an urban delivery which will be quite different from that delivered previously across Norfolk.

Working alongside colleagues we are working to assess the school delivery and understand further the needs of the development alongside the existing school capacity, which will determine the next steps of planning for this development area.

**Table 31. Capital response.**

East Norwich	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Future programme	New primary school	2FoE	Site location assessed	IRO £11.0m	2027+

## 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. School infrastructure officers and advisers will actively monitor the quality of education provided in any area and consider any action that may be needed, which could include:

11. Agree changes to the PAN (Planned Admission Number) with associated change to accommodation.
12. Conducting an area-based review, which could lead to
  - a. Schools joining a MAT or assessing the short-term collaboration via a federation.
  - b. Changing age range for a school
  - c. Merging schools in existing or newly provided buildings.
  - d. Close schools which have significant sustainability issues in the following areas: Pupil numbers, financial viability, staffing, education outcomes.

The local authority needs 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.

6. 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.



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- 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 120 places not utilised. Schools will need to plan effectively using their planned admission number to adjust cohort sizes during this period of decline. It is not anticipated the level of development across this area will counteract the birth rate decline. The key developments across the city may take a long time before they yield any pupils.

## Red planning areas

No planning areas with this category.

# South Norfolk District Council

## District Context

(Table 32 indicates total number and type of schools across the county)

Phase of School	All Through	Alt provision	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Special	Total
South Norfolk	1	0	0	62	8	1	72

(Table 33 indicates South Norfolk District Academies and LA Maintained Schools Split)

Academies	LA Maintained
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## Pupil Population

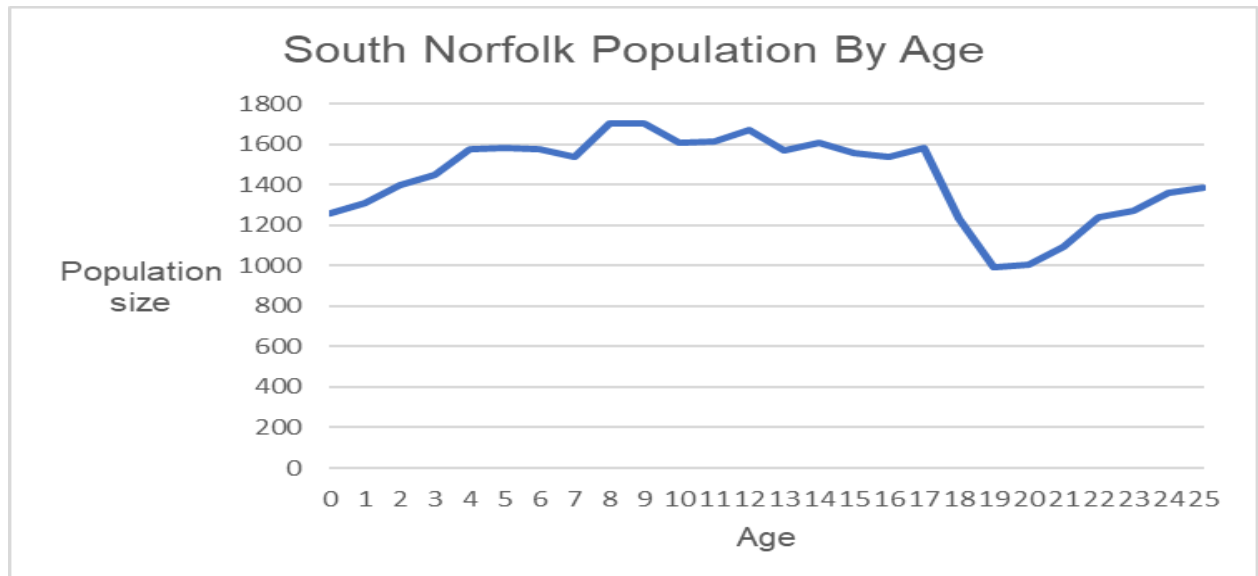
(Table 34 – Mainstream pupil population figures for South Norfolk for period 2016 to 2023)

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Primary Places	9,694	9,999	10,284	10,426	10,629	10,929	10,909	11,027
Secondary Places	6,430	6,549	6,759	7,047	7,404	7,808	8,053	7,990
Total	16,124	16,548	17,043	17,473	18,033	18,737	18,962	19,017

(Figures taken from September census data each year. Data for 2023 has been taken from the May census count)

Numbers continue and progressively are increasing across the district. The slight change in primary numbers for 2022 appears to be related to in year adjustments. The change in secondary between 2022 and 2023 could be linked to capacity in area and movement of pupils out of area schools. The transition into secondary continues to be a pressure area for Children’s Services which we plan to address in the coming academic year.

(Graph 8 Population size by Age taken from ONS census 2021 detail)



The pupil population across South Norfolk has seen quite varying changes over the generations. The low being reached for those pupils aged 19, with those children entering the reception cohort in 2002 has not been repeated. There has then been



significant growth where numbers reached the high of 1,705 pupils in 2013, since then numbers have progressively been in decline.

The numbers in this chart do not show the effects of housing growth which is expected across the district. The forecast information currently plans for further reduction before numbers again begin to rise to levels experienced in 2020.

The total capacity across all schools in the area in the primary phase totalled 11,060 places, the number on role across the same group of schools was 10,976 places identifying 1,709 surplus places. We expect the net change of places to increase by a further 268 places in this area with the movement between the existing Year 6 and the incoming Reception cohort. Increasing surplus places across the sector to 1,977 places across the primary age schools.

## **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 1300 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 continues 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 increased pressure is expected across most year groups.



## Latest assessment of growth

Those sites that had permission before nutrient neutrality have continued at pace. Other sites will have been delayed until a solution is finalised in relation to nutrient neutrality mitigation. There are no further sites allocated across Wymondham as part of the Greater Norwich Local Plan, this is because of the period of extensive development in the area.

Children’s Service Place Planning continues to assess the pupil numbers across the area and does not believe the school infrastructure can accommodate additional housing without putting excess strain on the schools both at primary and secondary.

## 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.

## Sufficiency response

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 has taken transfer of the land for the new Silfield 2FoE primary school and has consulted on the procedure to open. The presumption process has identified a trust which will run the school and work alongside the LA when delivering the build. The school is scheduled to open in September 2025, the initial PAN for the school will be 1FoE, this will need to be reviewed based on the level of demand in the town.

To tackle the large numbers in the secondary sector a project has been started to look to expand Wymondham High. This will achieve up to 10FoE for the school and will maximise the space available on the site. Numbers in area will be monitored and managed through the admissions process in accordance with the policy set out by the trusts involved.

**Table 35. Capital response.**

Wymondham	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/estimate	Date if known
Future programme	Silfield new primary school	2FoE	Detailed design	£11.5m	2025
Future programme	Wymondham High Academy	Further phases	Final Expansion to	IRO £12m	2025



			bring to capacity of site		
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## Cringleford (Area within the GNLP)

1200 homes

### 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, which is operated by Inspiration Trust. Both schools remain popular within this local community and generally see’s little movement to alternative schools unless through parental preference or capacity. Certainly, the High school continues to experience high volumes putting pressure on families at the admission round.

### 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 phase cohorts remain stable with pressure for places in higher year groups from when the school was asked to take a bulge year. The school is very popular and does pull some children from out of catchment, but numbers are controlled according to their PAN. Hethersett High has continued to support growth by over admitting beyond PAN for the transition into Year 7 and has committed to continue this approach while expansion comes forward. Overflow of pupils that may not get into Hethersett are able to take up a place in the Hewett which is another of the Inspiration Trust schools.

### Sufficiency response

Children’s Services School’s Infrastructure team has begun a project on site delivering the new 2FoE primary school. This will support demand across this local community and meet the needs of the continued housing in the future. The presumption process to select a new trust has concluded and the LA is collaborating with the new trust to manage the school delivery to meet its scheduled opening date of September 2024.

Discussions have taken place with local schools to manage the expectations and limit any impact of the new school on those existing settings. Continued monitoring





of the pupil yield in this area will occur alongside the forecasting round and further land is available if further expansion in the primary phase may be required.

Additional land has been handed over to Hethersett Academy under the planning application for the strategic growth in Hethersett. Work is underway to agree plans for the expansion project which will fully utilise the school site and bring it up to the maximum operating capacity of 1,350 pupils.

**Table 36. Capital response.**

Cringleford	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Future programme	New primary	2FoE	Detailed design. Started on site.	£11.5m	2024

## 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, as an operating PAN of 150 places with some capacity in higher year groups.

### Latest assessment of growth

This large Strategic Urban Extension for Long Stratton developing both the east and west sides of the existing A140 and includes a new bypass. Delays have occurred linked to nutrient neutrality, but the LPA planning committee approved the first planning application which brings forward the key infrastructure of the road. It will be some time before housing commences and begins to impact the local schools.

### 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. Childrens 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.



## Sufficiency response

A site for a new 2FoE primary school has been agreed to form part of a phase on the eastern development. It is expected the development will take several years before pressure on places will require the addition of a new school. When the time is right discussions will be had to determine the right approach for the school infrastructure to meet the needs of the local community and how the new building may be utilised.

Children’s Services Place Planning continues to engage with stakeholder groups to plan for the development. A site assessment has been requested to understand the land specification better to plan a project and know the potential cost implications.

**Table 37. Capital response.**

Long Stratton	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Future programme	New primary phase school building	2FoE	Site location agreed	IRO £11.0m	2027+
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. The primary school operates two forms of entry delivering 420 places and the secondary school has a PAN of 160 places, both schools have relatively confined sites.

### Latest assessment of growth

Housing continues to be delivered in the village, windfall sites have come forward outside of the LP process which has caused some capacity issues across both the primary and secondary sectors. No new development is expected as part of the new Local Plan.



## Current pressures on pupil numbers

The catchment for Poringland continues to operate above the PAN for the primary school which requires parents to choose other local schools and is managed as part of the admission round. In some instances, pupils have been allocated schools outside of Poringland which leads to travel implications and has supported surrounding schools which ordinarily may have not reached their admission number.

## Sufficiency response

Children’s Services has been unable to secure a site alongside the long-term development that has occurred across the village. Continued site assessment has been undertaken to establish a suitable location for an additional school to serve the local community.

A recent site has come forward for planning permission which offers a new primary school site as part of its masterplan, and this is currently being assessed by the district and statutory consultee’s. It may offer a solution to support an additional school site to the north of the town, but it is currently too early to say.

Until a site is agreed the only option available is to manage the admission process for this area allocating the most appropriate schools accordingly to parental preference and the policies set out by the schools in scope. We continue to be aware the primary school cannot cope with demand expected.

Framingham Earl is a popular school often accepting beyond its local community to meet preference. Its anticipated growth can be managed in the secondary sector in the foreseeable future, any additional pressure may have to utilise existing schools near to Poringland.

**Table 38. capital response.**

Poringland	School	Scheme	Stage	Cost/ estimate	Date if known
Future programme	New primary school	Initially 1FoE with the scope to increase to 2FoE	Site search	£11.0M	2026+

## Part 3 – Growth areas with implications for existing schools

### Easton (Area within the GNLP)

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 one and half or two forms of entry when the place planning need is evident. The secondary sector has been expanded to 10FoE to support meeting the need across this area.

## **Hethersett (Area within the GNLP)**

**570 homes**

## **Area Overview**

This is the last known position of remaining homes from a larger Strategic Urban Extension allocation of 1400 homes. The development is coming forward to the northern edge of the village centre. There are two developers onsite which are delivering houses at pace.

## **Infrastructure Growth Requirements**

Children's Services previously reorganised the schools in area from a two-tier system into two all through primaries delivering 840 places across both settings. Hethersett Woodside Primary is a popular set in a new provision supporting pupils from around its local community, and Hethersett Primary is the previous junior school expanded to meet its additional demand and see children from Wymondham showing preference into the school. Further land is available as part of an existing S106 which will allow for expansion of outside space for the Hethersett Woodside site.

The secondary school admits pupils from across its catchment which has lots of housing developing including Cringleford. The school has continued to over admit supporting parental preference and expansion of the site is expected to meet



continued demand, with a project being agreed to come forward over the next year to utilise the school site, which will maximise the capacity of the school.

## **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. School infrastructure officers and advisers will actively monitor the quality of education provided in any area and consider any action that may be needed, which could include:

13. Agree changes to the PAN (Planned Admission Number) with associated change to accommodation.
14. Conducting an area-based review, which could lead to
  - a. Schools joining a MAT or assessing the short-term collaboration via a federation.
  - b. Changing age range for a school
  - c. Merging schools in existing or newly provided buildings.
  - d. Close schools which have significant sustainability issues in the following areas: Pupil numbers, financial viability, staffing, education outcomes.

The local authority needs 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.

7. 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**

**Harleston Planning Area** – a small planning area consisting of 4 schools, a 354 dwelling development has approval but not yet started and is not likely to impact the capacity within the primary phase for some time. The secondary phase is managing with numbers, it gains a consistent number across from the Diss catchment and this slightly increased in the last admission. Reduced numbers entering the primary phase will over time impact the secondary cohorts.

**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 secondary school is operating at current PAN and appears to maintain this for a period, numbers will reduce if pupil numbers do not increase via additional development expected centrally located to Loddon.

**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 50 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.

**Queen’s Hill Costessey Planning Area** – a single school planning area, the school built specifically to meet the demand of the new community it serves. The school is a 3FoE primary and manages its PAN against demand, although in recent years catchment has been higher than PAN parental preference has supported sufficiency of school places. This preference pattern could lead to sustained difficulties for the school as the catchment continues to decrease over time below current PAN.

## Red planning areas

**Diss Planning Area** – there are 12 schools in this planning area, 3 near the town centre and the remainder in outlining villages close to the border with Suffolk. 6 schools have a PAN of less than half form of entry and struggle to reach their intake number. There are some small cohorts across the schools in this area and pupil

numbers do not suggest a return to increased numbers. The schools will need to work together to manage capacity accordingly and allow planning for the future to safeguard schools in this area.

## Appendix 1

The list of projects where development is planned linked to Local Plans, the projects are current safeguarded sites where Education feel there could be some impact on the existing estate and may require additional facilities. The costs associated are currently indicative based on current design guidelines and principles.

## Summary of Proposed Projects

Location	District	Scheme	Cost/Estimate	Estimate Date of Delivery
Attleborough	Breckland	High School Expansion	IRO £10.0m	2025+
Attleborough	Breckland	New Primary 1	IRO £11.0m	2026+
Attleborough	Breckland	New Primary 2	IRO £11.0m	2028+
Thetford	Breckland	New Primary 1	IRO £11.0m	2026+
Thetford	Breckland	New Primary 2	IRO £11.0m	2028+
Thetford	Breckland	New Primary 3	IRO £11.0m	2030+
Thetford	Breckland	High School Expansion	Not Yet Known	2030+
Beeston Park	Broadland	New Primary 1	£11.0m	2026+
Beeston Park	Broadland	New Primary 2	£11.0m	2028+





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Location	District	Scheme	Cost/Estimate	Estimate Date of Delivery
Rackheath	Broadland	New Primary 1	£11.0m	2026+
Rackheath	Broadland	New Primary 2	£11.0m	2028+
Rackheath	Broadland	New High School	IRO £40.0m	2027+
Smee Lane North/South	Broadland	New Primary	£11.0m	2025+
South of Salhouse Road	Broadland	New Primary	£11.0m	2026+
Aylsham	Broadland	New Primary	£11.0m	2026+
Blofield	Broadland	Primary Expansion	£11.2m	2024
Hellesdon	Broadland	New Primary	IRO £11.0m	2027+
Hellesdon	Broadland	High School Expansion	Not Yet Known	2030+
Taverham	Broadland	New Primary	IRO £11.0m	2026+
Bradwell	Great Yarmouth	New Primary	IRO £11.0m	2025
Caister	Great Yarmouth	New Primary	IRO £11.0m	2026+
West Winch	King's Lynn West Norfolk	Primary Expansion	IRO £5.0m	2026+
West Winch	King's Lynn West Norfolk	New Primary 1	IRO £11.0m	2028+
West Winch	King's Lynn West Norfolk	New Primary 2	IRO £12.0m	2030+
King's Lynn	King's Lynn West Norfolk	High School Expansion	£5.5m	2025+
Downham Market	King's Lynn West Norfolk	High School Expansion	IRO £10.0m	2024+
Fakenham	North Norfolk	New Primary	IRO £11.0m	2027+
Fakenham	North Norfolk	High School Expansion	Not Yet Known	2030+
North Walsham	North Norfolk	New Primary	IRO £11.0m	2028+
North Walsham	North Norfolk	High School Expansion	Not Yet Known	2030+
Holt	North Norfolk	New Primary	IRO £11.0m	2026+
East Norwich	Norwich	New Primary	IRO £11.0m	2027+
Silfield	South Norfolk	New Primary	£11.5m	2025
Wymondham	South Norfolk	High School Expansion	IRO £12.0m	2025



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<b>Location</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Cost/Estimate</b>	<b>Estimate Date of Delivery</b>
Cringleford	South Norfolk	New Primary	£11.5m	2024
Long Stratton	South Norfolk	New Primary	IRO £11.0m	2027+
Poringland	South Norfolk	New Primary	IRO £11.0m	2026+
Easton	South Norfolk	Primary Expansion	IRO £6.0m	2026+
Hethersett	South Norfolk	High School Expansion	IRO £8.0m	2024