

CHILDREN SERVICES

SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN

2019

FINAL DRAFT

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Section 1: Introduction and purpose of this plan

Although the statutory requirement to publish an annual School Organisation Plan (SOP) was abolished in 2004, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (the Council) has continued to publish an updated plan to inform schools, parents and the general public. The SOP gives information about the number, types and sizes of schools maintained by the Council, Academies and Free Schools.

The Council does however have a statutory duty to ensure that there are enough school places in the borough to meet demand. The Council must therefore plan, organise and commission places for all state-funded schools in Stockton so that high standards are maintained, diverse school communities created and fluctuating pupil numbers are managed efficiently.

The demand for school places changes over time - this document is considered to be 'live' and, as such, is updated every two years. It sets out where the Council currently thinks there will be a need to provide more school places and if there may be a need to provide fewer places over the coming years. Increases in demand can lead to the creation of a new school or the expansion of schools, whereas decreases in demand can lead to a reduction in school provision.

Predicting school demand is a complex task because where children go to school involves a range of different and often conflicting factors, and as a result planning for school places is based on probabilities, not certainties. This means that while projections may be made from robust calculations, they do not offer any guarantees.

It is important for us to be as open and transparent as possible when considering school organisation decisions. We strive to communicate effectively with schools and school communities about the school place pressures in their area. However, the Council must also endeavour to manage expectations regarding school organisation proposals that are less certain. This document does not seek to definitively set out all the actions the Council intends to take in the future, but rather is intended to provide an overview of issues that may arise in Stockton. Generally speaking, the Council will only name particular schools in this document when there is sufficient assurance that a proposal will be implemented or where this has already taken place.

This updated School Organisation Plan (SOP) aims to provide an overview of current and future pupil numbers which supports planning the provision of school places across the borough. This document will be produced every two years and be made available to our schools and partners.

School Place Planning is a critical aspect of the Council's statutory duty to assess the local need for school places to ensure that every child can be provided with a place in a state-funded school in Stockton-on-Tees. The Council needs to demonstrate that they have robust procedures and systems for forecasting pupil numbers taking account of changes in local circumstances to ensure there will be the right number of schools in the right places for the number of pupils expected in the future.

Schools submit data on pupil rolls to the Council in October, January and May each year through the School Census. Schools are encouraged to play an active role in the planning of pupil place process and to identify at an early stage any concerns with projections that may impact on future school planning.

To enable the Council to gain a clearer understanding of where there are current and anticipated pressures in both primary and secondary school (including Academies) places in the borough, the Council have grouped all schools into specific local planning areas. These planning areas are listed in 'Information on planning areas' from page 16. This will allow more detailed analysis of need and inform decisions regarding the use of funding to meet demand. In Stockton we have broken the borough into the following six planning areas namely Billingham & Wolviston, North Stockton,

Central Stockton, Thornaby, Ingleby Barwick and Eaglescliffe & Yarm for primary and three namely Billingham & Wolviston, Stockton North & Central and Stockton South for secondary.

This plan also sets out the Council's policies and key aims on school organisation and the procedures required by law for making changes such as opening, closing or enlarging schools.

The Council has in place a strategic group that meets regularly and uses the SOP and the data supporting it, in making school place planning decisions. These include increasing school level Published Admission Numbers (PAN's) / Capacity in response to predicted demand for places and the allocation of Basic Need Capital monies to those schools deemed the most appropriate following feasibility options work.

The headlines captured within the SOP are also used to inform the commentary, School Capacity and Pupil Forecast data the Council submits in support of the 'School Capacity Collection' (SCAP) return to the Department for Education (DfE) annually. The SCAP provides the DfE with information on all schools which are maintained by the Council as well as the data for Academies and Free Schools.

The SCAP is used to inform Key Decisions regarding School Place Planning pressures across the borough and Capital allocation priorities across primary and secondary schools in terms of refurbishment and maintenance. This SOP should be read in conjunction with any Capital Papers to Cabinet on future Capital Plans for support and the allocation of appropriate funding.

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Making major changes to school organisation

Changes to school organisation such as opening new schools, closing schools or enlarging them cannot happen without consulting everyone likely to be affected. In April 2016 the Department for Education updated its guides that provided information on the procedures established by The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) and (Establishments and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013. The guidance sets out how any such proposals are decided. On 1 February 2011 the Education Act 2011 (EA 2011) amended the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) to change the arrangements for establishing new schools. Most new schools will now be established via the academy/free school presumption and the related departmental advice describe the department's expectations of how that process should operate.

Academies

An Academy is a state-funded independent school which may have one or more sponsors. An Academy may be put forward in a competition for a new school, or the Council and potential sponsors may approach the government directly to suggest an Academy to replace one or more existing schools. The governing body of an existing school may decide to apply to the Secretary of State to convert to Academy status without a sponsor.

Free Schools

A Free School is a new school set up with the consent of the Secretary of State by a group of parents or other interested people. Like an Academy, a Free School is an independent school funded directly by the government.

Other changes to schools

Proposals for other changes such as closing a school, enlarging it or changing the age range, may be published by the Council or sometimes by school governing bodies. In most situations the Council will decide these proposals. In some circumstances there will be a right of appeal to an adjudicator. In all cases the people likely to be affected by any change – particularly parents, school staff and governors – must be consulted before any decision is taken. The decision-maker must also take account of guidance issued by the government.

More information about this is available on the website of the Department for Education at www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/schoolorganisation

The aim is for schools to be more in charge of their own decisions about size and composition and to be able to respond to what parents want locally without being unduly restricted by process.

Forecasting Primary and Secondary pupil numbers

Pre 2015, the Council used annually produced pupil projections data provided by Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU). However, following unforeseen shifts in pupil numbers, particularly in the primary sector, the Council has revised its pupil projection methodology and now adopts a local approach to forecasting future pupil numbers across primary & secondary. In addition, further analysis was undertaken in relation to the corresponding pupil yields from housing projects including anticipated increases into the relevant year groups using current local planning pupil ratios. This approach has been used in the Council’s DfE School Capacity return (SCAP) since 2015.

Pupil numbers in primary schools

Pupil numbers had been rising in recent intakes into reception but have since slowed down a little due to lower than expected birth rates. However some of our popular primary schools have very few empty places in KS1 age groups with some still with surplus places in KS2 age groups. Previous SOPs included tables showing the total capacity and number of pupils at schools in each area of the borough. Those overall figures do not reveal the real impact of rising pupil numbers on schools and parents. Many primary schools, for example, have empty places in classes for 9-11 year-olds but it would not be practical to fill these places with 4-6 year-old children. The tables in this Plan concentrate on showing the number of likely children entering Reception (number of four-year-olds) expected to start school each year.

Pupil numbers in secondary schools

Over recent year’s pupil numbers in our secondary schools have begun to steadily rise since the 2013/14 Academic Year as the higher numbers in primary schools transition up into secondary. With these higher Y6 cohorts likely to continue in the coming years it will be necessary to increase the number of places in some secondary schools. The LA have already completed one capital expansion adding 330 places in the Billingham & Wolviston area, with other similar expansions due for completion in 2019/20.

Academies

In Stockton, since the last publication of the SOP we have seen a steady increase in the number of primary and secondary schools which have converted to Academy status (see Tables 1-4 for more details).

Table 1. Primary

Planning area	School	Sponsor	Date converted
Billingham & Wolviston			
	Bewley	1590 Trust	September 2019
	Our Lady Most Holy Rosary	Carmel College Academy Trust	01/01/2019
	Pentland	1Excellence MAT	01/07/2017
	St John’s RC	St Thomas pf Canterbury Multi Academy Trust	01/04/2016
	St Joseph’s RC		
	St Paul’s RC		
	Wolviston	Prince Regent Street Trust	01/10/2018

North Stockton	Crooks barn	AdAstra Academy Trust	01/04/2018
	Frederick Natrass	Northern Education Trust	01/09/2013
	Hardwick Green	Enquire Trust	01/06/2013
	Harrow Gate	Enquire Trust	01/09/2014
	Norton	Northern Education Trust	01/01//2014
	Rosebrook	AdAstra Academy Trust	01/11/216
	St Gregory's RC	Carmel College Academy Trust	01/04/2013
	St Joseph's RC (Norton)	Carmel College Academy Trust	01/02/2019
	St Marks CE	1Excellence	01/07/2017
Central Stockton	Hartburn	Prince Regent Street Trust	01/10/2018
	St Bede RC	Carmel College Academy Trust	01/12/2013
	The Oak Tree	Northern Education Trust	01/09/2013
Thornaby	Bader	1590 Trust	01/09/2017
	Christ The King RC	Our Lady of Light Catholic Voluntary Academy Trust	01/09/2015
	St Patrick's RC		
	Thornaby CE	Dales Academy Trust	01/07/2019
	Village	Prince Regent Street Trust	01/10/2018
Ingleby Barwick	St Francis of Assisi CE	Dales Academy Trust	01/08/2019
	St Therese of Lisieux RC	Our Lady of Light Catholic Voluntary Academy Trust	01/09/2015
	Whinstone	Vision Academy Learning Trust	01/12/2017
Eaglescliffe & Yarm	Egglecliffe CE	CE Diocese of Durham MAT	01/11/2017
	Junction Farm	No sponsor	01/02/2014
	Kirklevington	1590 Trust	01/06/2018
	Layfield	1590 Trust	01/09/2018
	Levendale	1590 Trust	01/04/2019
	Preston	1Excellence MAT	September 2019
	St Mary's CE	CE Diocese of Durham MAT	01/11/2018
	The Links	Venn Academy Trust	01/08/2016
	Yarm	Enquire Trust	01/09/2015

Table 2. Secondary

Planning area	School	Sponsor	Date converted
Billingham & Wolviston	St Michael's RC	Carmel College Academy Trust	01/09/2013
Stockton North & Central	Bishopsgarth	Outwood Grange Academy Trust	01/11/2016
	Grangefield	Northern Education Trust	01/01/2014
	Ian Ramsey CE	The Venerable Bede CE Academy	01/12/2014
	North Shore	Northern Education Trust	01/09/2010
	Our Lady & St Bede RC	Carmel College Academy Trust	01/02/2015
Stockton South	All Saints CE	Dales Academy Trust	01/05/2013
	Conyers	1590 Trust	01/02/2013
	Egglescliffe	Vision Academy Learning Trust	01/08/2016
	St Patrick's Catholic College	Our Lady of Light Catholic Voluntary Academy Trust	01/09/2015
	Thornaby	Teesside Learning Trust	01/09/2010

Table 3. Free Schools

Planning area	School	Sponsor	Date opening
Billingham & Wolviston	Wynyard CE Primary	CE Diocese of Durham MAT	01/09/2015
Stockton South	Ingleby Manor Free School & Sixth Form	Delta Academies Trust	01/09/2014

Table 4. Special Schools

School	Sponsor	Date opening
Abbey Hill School Technology College	Horizons Specialist Academy Trust	01/08/2013
Ash Trees	Ascent Trust	01/11/2014
Greengates	Horizons Specialist Academy Trust	01/08/2013
Westlands	Horizons Specialist Academy Trust	01/08/2013

Academies are independent schools however for completeness this plan contains information about the number of places in Academies and projections of future student numbers. The number of Academy conversions is up to date as at the time of this report being produced.

Schools in Stockton-on-Tees

Early years education

Education is not compulsory for children under the age of five, but local authorities must ensure that a nursery place is available for every three and four-year-old whose parents want one and for every eligible 2 year old that meets Government criteria. Every primary school in the borough contains a nursery unit. In many schools this operates as a Foundation Stage Unit so that children can move between nursery and reception class in a flexible way to meet their individual needs. Additional nursery education places are offered by providers in the private, voluntary and independent sectors including child minders. For further Government advice please visit the DfE website here:

<https://www.gov.uk/topic/schools-colleges-childrens-services/early-years>

Children in Stockton-on-Tees normally start full-time school in the September following their fourth birthday, but this can be deferred until the age of five at the request of parents.

Primary schools

From 1 September 2019 there were:

- Sixty primary schools for children aged 4 to 11 of which 36 are Academies;
- one special school Academy for children aged up to 11 with a range of special educational needs (Ash Trees);
- one special school Academy for children aged 5 to 16 with a range of emotional and behavioural difficulties (Westlands);
- one pupil referral unit for primary-age pupils temporarily excluded from school (Bishopton Centre).

Secondary schools

From 1 September 2019 there were:

- Thirteen schools for pupils aged 11 to 16 of which 11 are an Academy plus one Free School. Three academies have a school sixth form, with one admitting its first cohort in September 2019;
- one special school Academy for pupils aged 11 to 18 with a range of complex special educational needs (Abbey Hill School Technology College);
- one special school Academy for children aged 5 to 16 with behavioural, social and emotional difficulties (Westlands);
- one pupil referral unit for pupils temporarily excluded from school (Bishopton Centre).

Post 16 Education and Training in Schools

There will be a total of 646 school sixth form places available at the academies of Egglecliffe and Conyers and this will increase to 796 as Ingleby Manor Free School is expected to offer an additional 150 places. In addition to School Sixth Form provision, learning and skills needs in Stockton are supported by one General FE College, one Sixth Form College and a number of Work Based Learning (WBL) providers offering Apprenticeships and WBL provider offering Foundation Learning.

The two colleges located within the borough are Stockton Sixth Form College and Stockton Riverside College (SRC). SRC which operates on Teesdale with Bede College and the Skills Academy at Billingham sites.

A diverse range of maintained schools

“Maintained” means that the Council provides the governing bodies of those schools with an annual budget for their running costs. The schools maintained by the Council fall into one of three categories below:

- Community schools are owned by the Council. The Authority employs their staff and controls the admission of pupils.
- Voluntary Controlled schools are also owned by the Authority and operate largely in the same way as community schools. The Council employs their staff and controls the admission of pupils. The main difference is that the school governing body has some members appointed by a voluntary body. All the voluntary controlled schools in Stockton-on-Tees are primary schools associated with the Church of England.
- Voluntary Aided schools belong to a voluntary body (usually one of the Churches) although the Council normally owns their playing fields. The governing bodies of Voluntary Aided schools employ all their staff and control the admission of pupils. The governing body of a Voluntary Aided school normally contributes 10% towards the cost of any capital work on the school buildings, with the remainder funded by Government. The running costs of aided schools are funded by the Council in the same way as other schools.

In some parts of the country there are Foundation Schools. Like voluntary aided schools they own their land and buildings, they employ staff and control admissions, and the Foundation may appoint the majority of the school’s governors. New Foundation Schools may be called “Trust Schools.” There are no Foundation schools or Trust schools in Stockton-on-Tees.

Academies are not maintained by the Council but are independent schools funded by the government and may be supported by a private sponsor. The sponsor may appoint a majority of governors and has influence over the curriculum of the school. Academies do not have to follow the national curriculum. They may have a longer school day and may employ staff on different conditions of service. Academies do not charge fees to students.

Free Schools are also independent schools funded directly by government and not maintained by Council. Any group (for example parents, a business or community group) may apply to the Secretary of State for permission to establish a Free School if they can demonstrate a demand for new school places.

Table 5 below shows the number of each type of school operating in Stockton-on-Tees from September 2019.

Table 5 – School types

Category	Primary	Secondary
Community	17	1
Church of England Voluntary Controlled	2	0
Church of England Voluntary Aided	2	0
Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided	2	0
Academy	36	11
Free School	1	1
Total	60	13

Federation

A federation is a group of two or more schools that have agreed to come together, often under a single governing body. The Council cannot create a federation of schools. This must be done by the governing bodies of the schools themselves after consulting parents, staff, other schools and the Council.

The Stockton Borough First Federation was set up on 1 April 2006. This is made up of Abbey Hill School Technology College and Westlands School, two schools that jointly provide for pupils with many different kinds of special educational needs. The federation has a single governing body and one executive head teacher. The two schools remain separate schools, each with its own budget, but the single governing body can share resources (including staff) across the two schools. Both schools converted to Academy status 1st September 2013.

Demand across the Borough

Early-years places

A free part-time nursery education place is available for every three and four-year-old whose parents want to take it up and for every eligible 2 year old that meets Government criteria. Information about this can be found at www.stockton.gov.uk/freechildcare. This may be in one of the nursery units attached to every primary school in the borough, in a nursery operated by providers in the private, voluntary and independent sectors or with a child minder. Information about private nursery and childcare providers is available from the Families Information Service at www.stockton.gov.uk/families

Primary school places

The spring schools census collected in January 2019 recorded a total of 19,981 children on roll in the 60 schools across the borough. This included 17,386 children attending the year groups Reception through to Y6 (primary cohort) against a capacity of 19,839 pupil places (as reported in SCAP 2019) providing a surplus of 12.36%.

Table 6 shows the number of children in each year group as at the January 2019 census:

Table 6. Primary pupil numbers January 2019

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
2400	2463	2533	2573	2525	2420	2473

A rising trend of pupil numbers peaked in September 2015 entry and has declined slightly. Every school has a Published Admission Number (PAN), this is also referred to as the ‘capacity’ of children normally admitted into Reception (four-year-olds starting school for the first time). The total Reception capacity for entry in September 2018 (as recorded in SCAP 2019) across all primary schools was 2825 providing the Council with a borough surplus of 15% - though some planning areas have a higher percentage of surplus than others. The continued growth in pupil numbers had led to a capital investment programme that began in 2015 that saw some temporary expansions to meet the immediate demand prior to six permanent expansions that were completed by early 2018. This enabled the Council to meet its sufficiency duty with regards to primary school place planning.

Secondary school places

The spring schools census collected in January 2019 recorded a total school population of 11,180 on roll in the 13 schools across the borough. This included 10,648 children attending the year groups Y7 through Y11 against a capacity of 11,927 pupil places (excluding 796 School Sixth Form places) reported in SCAP 2018; a surplus of 10.7%. Table 7 shows the number of children in each year group as at the January 2019 census:

Table 7. Secondary pupil numbers January 2019

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11		Year 12	Year 13
2287	2226	2160	1995	1980		267	265

There is a trend of rising pupil numbers with a 15.5% increase in the number of pupils entering secondary between Sept 2014 (Y11) and Sept 2018 (Y7). This increase, combined with the even higher primary pupil population in Table 6 expected to move into secondary over the next 7 years will put pressure on school places. This higher level of demand is expected to continue and the projected cohorts in Section 3 of this report led to the Council having discussions with all schools and academies with a view to increasing the capacity of secondary school places.

The total Y7 capacity for entry in September 2018 across all secondary schools was **2443 places** providing the Council with a surplus of 6.38%. However the actual number of surplus places was a little higher due to additional places provided by some academies admitting pupils above their admission number in order to meet parental demand.

Strategy for school investment in Stockton-on-Tees

The key aims of the Strategy for Stockton are:

- Provide sufficient school places across the Borough and have between 5-10% surplus places to:
 - Provide every primary pupil a place within 2 miles;
 - Provide every secondary pupil a school place within 3 miles.
- Ensure that schools are maintained in a good condition, with maintenance work undertaken.
- Identify opportunities to improve the school stock.

Section 3: Pupil projections

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Methodology

Data sources

Each year January pupil census data (R to Y6) as a baseline for primary and (Y7 to Y13) for secondary is used as the basis for submission of the School Capacity (SCAP) return (primary & secondary pupil forecast data). To determine future Primary Reception cohorts School Nursery data is used, as well as the January pupil census, early years data held by Private and Voluntary settings and GP data of registered 1, 2 & 3 year olds. This information for and the pupils home postcode is linked to primary school admission zones in each of the six planning areas in order to forecast the SCAP.

Anticipated actual pupil numbers for Reception and Year 7 (post admission appeals) are also included for the September entry point. In addition pupil yields were added to both primary and secondary pupil forecast tables and compounded to suit. Other adjustments were made to reflect trends in movement across borders and in and out of the three planning areas.

Data processing

Following the use of 'actuals' for the respective Reception and Y7's new entry year we then roll forward the year group actuals for each corresponding forecast year and add the appropriate pupil information across the six planning areas. Using this approach we then roll forward each set of data for subsequent forecast years e.g. for 2023/24 – as a baseline we would now have R – Y3 (Early years projected baseline), Y4 – (Sept 2019 Reception cohort) and Y5 & Y6 (as the remaining January school census cohorts).

For SCAP 2019 secondary planning areas were revised from six to three to better represent the thirteen secondary schools in the borough.
The three new planning areas are:

- 8080007 - Billingham & Wolviston remained the same with two schools but;
- 8080008 - Stockton North & Central encompasses five schools (2 from the previous 8080008 – North Stockton and 3 from 8080009 – Central Stockton) instead of only two and;
- 8080009 – Stockton South picked up the remaining six schools (2 from the previous 8080009 - Thornaby, 2 from 8080010 – Ingleby Barwick and 2 from 8080011 – Eaglescliffe & Yarm).

We also projected the primary cohort in each planning area due to move up into their respective secondary planning area e.g. primary pupil projections from 8080001 would move into the appropriate secondary schools in 8080007 planning area. This step was used for the new 8080008 planning area that assumed primary Y6 pupils from 8080002 and 8080003 would attend their nearest school as well as other Y6 pupils from 8080004, 8080005 & 8080006 securing places at the six schools in 8080009. This enabled the LA to identify local pressures in the specific planning areas. In addition we adjusted the totals in each of the three secondary planning areas to reflect known pupil movement from one planning area to another and historical cross border movement out of 8080007 into Durham LA and out of 8080009 into Middlesbrough LA.

Migration & housing developments

We then overlay potential pupil yield from all housing sites with planning permission and those anticipated to deliver within the forecast periods. A family house is assumed to be all houses and flats with 2 or more bedrooms. One-bedroomed houses/flats and housing specifically designed of older people were excluded.

Housing totals and phasing figures are supplied as at the end of April and each assigned to appropriate planning areas. The total homes by year of expected construction from the new entry

point (for SCAP 2019 – Sept 2019) were then used to calculate pupil yield. For primary this represents 26 pupils per 100 qualifying homes and then averaged across the respective primary year groups R – Y6 and secondary 20 pupils per 100 qualifying homes and averaged across the respective year groups Y7 – Y11.

For each corresponding pupil forecast year, these additional pupil yields were compounded thereafter across the appropriate year groups as appropriate. In addition any agreed S106 agreement contributions have added to or excluded from the S106/CIL table subject to any discounts, due to the capacity levels in the applicable schools.

Cross border movement

Small adjustments have been factored into to accommodate secondary age pupils in planning area 8080007 moving across border to a neighbouring LA e.g. Durham. In addition there is a trend for at least 40 pupils from the new planning area 8080009 that secure a school place in another neighbouring LA e.g. Middlesbrough. This cohort would have been previously represented as children from the previous planning area of Thornaby that held this planning area code.

Housing

Stockton-on-Tees has a growing population, with a growing demand for housing. To ensure Stockton-on-Tees remains a great place to live, and that the housing needs of the Borough are met the Council will maintain a rolling 5 year supply of deliverable housing land. To achieve this the Council are preparing a new Local Plan; sites identified within the emerging Local Plan can be viewed at: <https://www.stockton.gov.uk/local-plan/>

In the Publication 'Draft Local Plan' includes a housing requirement of 10,150 homes to be delivered between 2017/18 and 2031/32. The housing requirement will be achieved through the delivery of homes on sites with planning applications and allocations within the emerging Local Plan. The housing strategy within the emerging Local Plan seeks to promote development in the most sustainable way through:

- Supporting the aspiration of delivering housing in the Regenerated River Tees Corridor (between A66 and Newport Bridge) in close proximity to Stockton Town Centre
- Supporting development on suitable sites within the conurbation
- Creating a Sustainable Urban Extension to West Stockton
- Proposing major new residential development at Wynyard leading to the area becoming a sustainable settlement

There are a number of housing developments of greater than 250 homes that are either approved / planned or detailed in the Publication 'Draft Local Plan' across the borough that will affect most of our planning areas namely: Billingham & Wolviston – the Wynyard area (1,100 rising to 3,000+), North and Central Stockton - along Harrowgate / Yarm Back Lane (for 2,150 homes), Eaglescliffe & Yarm – (2,000+) and Ingleby Barwick – continues to expand (1,100).

Planning area & borough level pupil projections

The following projection tables are taken from the 2019 SCAP return and incorporate the change in methodology and indicate the Published Admission Numbers (PAN) for both Primary and Secondary Schools in each planning area, the allocated Reception and Y7 only cohorts and the number of children expected in each of the subsequent years of entry.

Billingham & Wolviston – Primary and Secondary

This area includes thirteen primary schools including the free school Wynyard CE Primary and two secondary schools - Northfield School and St Michael's Catholic Academy.

Table 8 - Primary school places

8080001 Billingham & Wolviston	Capacity	2019	2020	2021	2022	2022
Total	555	450	454	455	456	455

The above Reception projections do not exceed the current Capacity and therefore the level of surplus places expected is sufficient. No further works are proposed given the capacity available. Many of the primary schools have seen lower Reception intakes of late due to the opening of a two form entry primary free school namely Wynyard CE Primary School (Estab. no. 2016). The free school is located within Wynyard close to the border between Stockton & Hartlepool Borough Councils. The opening of the school coupled with a fall in the birth rate has seen surplus places increase in some schools.

It is expected that future housing growth in the Wynyard area albeit within a neighbouring Council area (Hartlepool) could see an increase in the demand for school places in the future in this planning area. With this in mind, the Council already works closely with HBC School Place Planning colleagues as part of the Strategic Master Plan to ensure 'jointly' that there will be sufficient school places available in the future.

Another recent primary free school application in Wynyard (within Hartlepool) was unsuccessful in Wave 13 on the grounds that there was insufficient immediate demand. It was deemed that there was sufficient capacity available to meet the current demand, and any pupil yield from future housing.

Table 9 - Secondary school places

8080007 Billingham & Wolviston	Capacity	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total	540	493	493	514	554	545	523	529

The above projections do not significantly exceed the current Capacity in most years, but the level of surplus places does fall below 5% in some years. For this Y7 entry (Sept 2019) there are 55 spaces (10%) surplus at the recently expanded Northfield School. St Michael's is operating above Y7 capacity due to successful appeals hence the variance compared to the table above. The above figures reflect some movement of pupils from Stockton North & Central into the St Michael's as a RC feeder primary school located in Norton has a historical arrangement in place that enables children attending the RC primary a greater opportunity to gain a place there. There is also some consideration for SBC children who are successful in gaining a place at a Sedgfield school in County Durham each year. However the above figures do not take into account those that successfully gain a place in an independent school.

A recent secondary free school application by the same CE Diocese responsible for the Wynyard CE Primary was also unsuccessful in Wave 13 on the grounds that sufficient capacity was available in surrounding schools in this planning area. There is also evidence that children from this planning area access places at other state school provision in neighbouring LAs or independent schools due to parental preference. The proposed opening of the new secondary school was predicted on growth / demand from housing earlier than was evidenced in recent SCAP submissions.

North Stockton - Primary

This area includes fourteen primary schools (including nine academies).

Table 10 - Primary school places

8080002 North Stockton	Capacity	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	669	610	611	608	607	605

The above projections do not exceed the current Capacity and in most years the level of surplus remains between 5 & 10%. No further works are proposed given the capacity available.

Central Stockton - Primary

This area includes ten primary schools (including three academies).

Table 11 – Primary school places

8080003 Central Stockton	Capacity	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	500	425	438	440	440	440

The above projections do not exceed the current Capacity and in most years the level of surplus is in excess of 10%. No further works are proposed given the capacity available.

This area sometimes experiences a ‘parental preference’ effect as children travel further to access Reception places outside of this planning area and many parents can access school places at other schools. In addition some schools tend to admit above their admission number which also adds capacity.

The LA had also agreed as part of a Strategic Infrastructure Plan with a number of developers and landowners a large housing development at Harrowgate / Yarm Back Lane which included the need for a new primary school at some point during its development. Unfortunately a free school application submitted in Wave 13 and led by the CE Diocese and a new MAT - 1Excellence (two academy convertor primary schools (St Marks CE Elm Tree and Pentland) was unsuccessful. It was felt that there was sufficient capacity in surrounding schools to meet demand.

Stockton North & Central Secondary

This area includes five schools all of which are academies.

Table 12 - Secondary school places

8080008 Stockton North & Central	Capacity	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total	987	919	975	1017	1068	1052	1057	984

*The Capacity available at the moment in this area was reduced by 50 places in September 2016 due to North Shore Academy reducing overall places to 160 from 210.

For SCAP 2019 this planning area is new as we revised our secondary planning areas from six to three to better represent the thirteen secondary schools in the borough. This followed a request from the Pupil Place Planning (PPP) adviser after previous SCAP return pupil forecasts had highlighted obscure variances. This was easily explained due to known pupil movement from one planning area to another due to parental preference as well as some academies recruiting over capacity in recent Y7 intakes. However this meant that North & Central Stockton were better represented if they became one planning area.

The higher projected totals reflects the new methodology used to project the Year 7 places in the coming years. The data above illustrates that from 2021 onwards there are higher numbers of primary pupil leavers in the planning area compared to the actual number of secondary places available.

The LA already has in place a Capital Strategy to potentially expand one / two academies due to the size and location of a large ‘strategic site’ at Harrowgate / Yarm Back Lane for 2,150 homes. F Feasibility work will continue to include an update on potential development at Outwood Academy Bishopgarth if demand dictates need.

Primary - Thornaby

This area includes seven primary schools (including 3 academies)

Table 13 - Primary school places

8080004 Thornaby	Capacity		2019	2020	2021	2020	2022
Total	380		314	310	311	312	311

The above projections do not exceed the current Capacity and in most years the level of surplus is in excess of 10%. No further works are proposed given the capacity available.

This area however experiences a ‘parental preference’ effect as children will travel further to access Reception places outside of this planning area. In addition some schools tend to admit above their admission number which also adds capacity. This will need to be reviewed to ensure supply meets demand.

Primary - Ingleby Barwick

This area includes six primary schools (including 2 academies)

Table 14 - Primary school places

8080005 Ingleby Barwick	Capacity		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	390		336	282	284	279	278

There has been, a fall in the demand for Reception places in some Ingleby Barwick schools for entry since September 2015 intake despite continued house building. This has led to a higher than expected surplus in this planning area – in excess of 15%. However there may be an increase in demand for places in the future as other housing developments are approved and built out.

There are no planned expansions in this planning area but with recent planning approval for additional homes, this will need to be reviewed to ensure supply meets demand.

Whilst all six schools admit pupils, Whinstone (an academy convertor) and Ingleby Mill are both three form entry schools and have had the biggest decrease in pupil numbers. Discussions took place with both schools in 2018 and a reduction in admission intake for Sept 2020 from 90 to 60 at Ingleby Mill was approved at Cabinet in 2018/19 in advance of the application round opening in November 2019. Whinstone will monitor numbers for the same intake and may reduce its admission number for September 2021.

Primary - Eaglescliffe & Yarm

This area includes ten primary schools (including three academies)

Table 15 - Primary school places

8080006 Eaglescliffe & Yarm	Capacity	2019	2020	2021	2021	2022
Total	331	274	227	234	232	229

There had been a drop in the demand for Reception places in some schools for entry in September in this planning area as in 8080005. However this may only be a temporary fall due to new housing in this area and possible inward migration from other areas due to parental preference has seen numbers increase slightly for Sept 2019. The future cohorts in the table above are however lower as these are based on known GP registered children but as in 2019 more have gained a place than reside in the planning area.

There are no planned expansions in this planning area but with recent planning approval for additional homes, this will need to be reviewed to ensure supply meets demand.

Stockton South Secondary

Table 16 - Secondary school places

8080009 Stockton South	Capacity	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total	1020	1002	913	976	975	978	950	948

For SCAP 2019 as mentioned above this planning area is new. It is expected that this will better represent known pupil movement from one planning area to another due to parental preference and some academies recruiting over capacity in recent Y7 intakes. This meant that the three areas of Thornaby, Ingleby Barwick and Eaglescliffe & Yarm are better represented as one planning area.

Across the south of the borough there is always cross boundary movement from one area to another which creates surplus in two schools in particular e.g. Thornaby (60+). There is also the likelihood that academies will admit above their capacity through choice to meet demand as is the case for 2019 admission where two academies have admitted an additional 36 pupils above capacity (not counting appeals). As part of the Councils Capital Strategy we have commenced the expansion of one school in this area – All Saints CE Academy to increase it to a 900 place school from 700. This will allow 180 pupils to access a place from 2019 onwards. If demand increases we will of course revisit supply.

Borough level

Table 17 – Primary

Primary	PAN		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	2885		2409	2322	2332	2326	2318

The projected totals from 2019 to 2023 reflect the revised approach the Council took in 2015/16 regarding pupil forecasting. With investment already completed there are no plans to increase places further. As already mentioned in this report other free school applications could be possible in the future as large strategic sites commences.

Table 18 – Secondary

Secondary	PAN		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total	*2547		2414	2381	2507	2597	2575	2530	2461

* This includes a 50 place reduction in available places due to North Shore Academy reducing overall places to 160 from 210

The total number of pupils in 2019 incorporates actual children expected to enter Y7 for this coming September 2017 plus a small number of additional children from potential pupil yields linked to house building across the borough.

With the higher numbers across primary expected to enter secondary in the coming years therefore increasing demand, the Council has already begun the process to increase secondary school places in those priority areas to sufficiently meet the predicted demand whilst carrying a 5 to 10 % surplus.

Darren Coulton
August 2019