In the right place

A strategy for the organisation of school and other learning places in Leicestershire 2014 / 2018
Foreword

In Leicestershire, we believe that learners come first. We want our children and young people to enjoy learning, make good progress, and achieve high standards. To do this, we want to ensure that there is good choice and diversity in our schools, enabling excellent opportunities for all learners, provided in the most appropriate, local and well maintained settings.

Leicestershire schools have a good track record of success; we are rightly proud that they continue to perform well, and that many children leave school with good qualifications and a positive outlook on life that will equip them well for the future. We want to support all Leicestershire schools to have high expectations, to strive for continuous improvement, to celebrate success and share good practice, and to address issues before they become a cause for concern. Part of that support is to ensure that schools are well maintained, incorporating up to date technology, and have sufficient room to accommodate all potential pupils from within their catchment that might wish to attend. Put simply, we want our schools to be in the right locations, of suitable size, offer good facilities, provide a safe and secure environment, have good access for everyone, and to be amongst the best available. This is our vision and this Strategy sets out the way in which we hope to achieve it.

Our vision will not be achieved easily and requires careful planning to make the best of available resources. Our statutory duty remains very clear – this is to have a strong supply of high quality school places, in buildings that are fit for purpose. This strategy is about ensuring that we meet that duty by having the right number of school places in the right locations, at the time they are needed, and having sufficient funding in place to achieve this.

We want to continue to work closely with our partners including all state funded schools and other learning places, their governors, pupils and their parents, the relevant District Councils, developers, the various Dioceses’, and government departments, so that we can commission sustainable solutions that are appropriate, meet the needs of local communities and the diverse needs of Leicestershire people.

This Strategy document is arranged in six key sections: the first five set out the background, principles and challenges, how we will work to address the things that we will consider and what we need to do about them, and how we will fund the changes necessary. Each of these sections ends with a summary of our strategic intentions. The final section provides an overview for each District of Leicestershire, and the things we believe can drive change at a local level. An Executive Summary is provided at the very start of the document.

It is hoped that all stakeholders with an interest in the planning of school and other learning places will find this document useful, take time to become familiar with its contents, and actively engage with the delivery of our ambitions.

Lesley Hagger
Director of Children and Family Services

Ivan Ould
Cabinet Lead Member for Children and Young People
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Executive Summary

The Strategy represents Leicestershire County Council’s vision and strategic ambition for the next four years. This summary provides an overview of the Strategy document, and sets out how, in a rapidly changing educational environment, we will deliver eight key priorities to meet our statutory duty to have a strong supply of high quality school places, in buildings that are fit for purpose.

The Strategy also aims to provide everyone with an understanding of the range and diversity of educational choice available in Leicestershire, how we wish to shape this in the future, and how decisions will be taken – the latter point is of particular importance to the allocation of available capital funds.

2. The Strategic and Statutory Context

This Strategy has been written at a time of significant change in the way public services are funded and delivered. As a consequence of the Academies Act 2010, and the more recent Education Act 2011, national policy has been radically moved towards a more autonomous and diverse education system rather than the traditional structure of schools under the direct control of the education authority. The Local Authority (LA) has actively sought to embrace and keep pace with this change, through for example, the introduction of a large number of academies, supporting schools seeking a change to their age range, and implementing an improvement framework predicated on school to school support -The Leicestershire Educational Excellence Partnership (LEEP) model.

As the LA’s role shifts to becoming a ‘commissioner’ of school places and is less ‘hands on’, we recognise that in future we will need to work in a very different way – working with a diverse range of providers and different models of provision. The future landscape of education provision in Leicestershire is expected to be a ‘mixed economy’ approach characterised by a wide variety of schools, academies and other provision. This will underpin our drive for choice, diversity and excellence, and must in particular provide support for the most vulnerable children – all things which are at the forefront of national policy.

The change underway has great capacity to raise standards, but if not carefully managed between the LA, the schools we still maintain, academies which have the freedom to take their own decisions, and other partners, it could serve to de-stabilise the education system. The concern is that this may either lead to a significant shortfall of places or over supply, which could make the viability/sustainability of some schools a critical issue.

3. Our Key Priorities

3.1 Early Learning and Childcare Places

We will continue to fulfil our statutory duty to assess the future need for early learning and childcare provision across Leicestershire, to ensure that it is sufficient, taking into account demographic change and planned new development proposals, and ensuring that where new provision is established there are strong links to local schools.

We will work with providers to ensure that all provision is flexible, affordable and accessible to those that require it.
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3.2 Primary School Places

One of the key challenges facing Leicestershire, and many other local authorities nationally is the increase in demand for primary school places. In recent years the local authority has kept pace with demand, adding over 1,107 places since 2012. However, it is anticipated that by September 2015, a further 504 primary places will be needed to meet localised pressures. The commencement, completion and occupation of new housing developments, particularly in relation to the planned large areas of growth for Leicestershire, known as Sustainable Urban Expansions (SUE’s), will add to this position, as will any inward migration of families.

In the context of the above, the LA has a statutory duty to ensure that sufficient school places are available for our children and young people. We will achieve this by looking carefully at our schools, extending these where appropriate, and building new schools where pupil numbers require it. In developing new schools we will ensure that where possible they are placed at the centre of the communities they serve. The provision of the required additional primary places must form a key priority for this Strategy and for expenditure from the LA schools’ capital programme.

Key Priority 1: To provide the additional primary school places required and to identify the capital budget necessary to meet this need before allocating any other expenditure.

3.3 Secondary School Places

As a consequence of the Academies Act 2010, the majority of secondary schools (95%) have become Academies or will soon do so, and by early 2016, we expect the remainder to have converted.

Proposed changes in 2014 to the government’s School Organisation Regulations¹ now make it easier for schools to seek change quickly in order to be better able to respond to the needs of parents. The change in the regulations is welcomed, and brings improved ease for schools to progress age range changes, it is therefore expected to accelerate change in Leicestershire.

Coupled to the academies agenda, many schools have subsequently sought to progress age range changes to give either 11-16 or 11-19 status, with twenty schools having received DfE approval for change between September 2013 and September 2015, and several others expected to follow shortly.

To add to this momentum of change, other types of secondary provision, for example Studio Schools (a new type of provision for 14-18 year olds) have been established in Leicestershire, and from 2014, Further Education Colleges have been entitled to admit students from the age of 14.

The effect of this change has been to significantly enhance the diversity and choice in our schools and other learning places, but at the same time within the secondary sector, introducing an element of competition between schools, and in some localities, an oversupply of secondary school places. This over supply will need to be carefully managed if secondary provision in Leicestershire is to remain sustainable, and will therefore form a key priority for this Strategy. The LA will therefore work with all stakeholders to ensure that any proposals for change are well planned so as to minimise disruption through transitional years, lead to sustainable solutions, and contribute to a coherent and stable educational system in Leicestershire.

Key Priority 2: To ensure there is a good supply of secondary places in each locality, offered through well planned, sustainable and viable solutions, underpinned by robust funding arrangements.

¹School Organisation Maintained Schools; Guidance for proposers and decision-makers, January 2014
Executive Summary

3.4 Specialist School Places
The LA is committed to ensuring that children and young people who have additional needs access their learning in mainstream schools wherever possible. Where new provision is needed we will seek to prioritise available capital funds, but where this cannot be done, we will explore the potential to fund schemes through alternative sources. This might include for example; bids to central government for targeted capital, seeking to encourage the establishment of Free Schools, or developing invest to save strategies providing longer term savings for day to day revenue costs. We will also consider how new providers may be encouraged to establish new provision in Leicestershire to meet specific areas of demand.

Some children need specialist provision that cannot be offered in a mainstream school and the LA will continue its commitment to support provision through Leicestershire’s six Special Schools. Wherever possible, the LA will seek to continue to co-locate special and mainstream school provision, as has so far been demonstrated through the development of four new Area Special Schools and a number of specialist units/enhanced resource bases in mainstream schools, in order to provide inclusive opportunities.

Key Priority 3: To identify sufficient capital funding to fulfil our commitment to the programme of Area Special School development, completing the final development in Wigston.

3.5 Alternative Provision Places
We will continue to fulfil our statutory duty for alternative provision, ensuring that there are strong arrangements in place to meet the needs of all Leicestershire pupils.

Specifically, the LA is committed to the further development of the commissioning arrangements with the five Leicestershire Behaviour Partnerships, in the belief that alternative provision, is most successful when provided in local settings, and will therefore explore ways that we might build upon current arrangements. We will continue to work with those schools that might wish to establish their own alternative provision arrangements on site, and look carefully at how we can improve primary alternative provision, currently directly provided by the LA, and the best location for this.

3.6 Capital Funding
There has been uncertainty over the past few years about the future levels of government funding directly provided to LAs for capital developments.

Academies, Studio Schools, Further Education Colleges and Early Learning settings are not normally reliant on the LA for capital funding.

However, the LA does receive ‘basic need’ capital funding from central government for all maintained schools and Academies. This funding is specifically allocated to enable the provision of additional school places arising from increased births and general demographic change i.e. family movement. Nevertheless there is growing pressure from schools and central government for LA assistance to help meet the capital costs of organisational change, which presents a real challenge in terms of planning the basic need capital programme to ensure this is allocated to areas of greatest need.
The LA also receives a smaller about of capital funding to deal with condition issues in maintained schools only. In contrast Academies seek funding to address condition issues with their premises, directly from central government. There is a distinction between basic need funding provided to the LA to develop additional places, and the funding necessary to support organisational change, for example age range changes, which in practice generally moves school places from one location to another (in some cases reducing their availability), rather than creating additional space.
Executive Summary

The Department for Education has now confirmed a £56 million basic need capital allocation that will be made available to the LA for the period 2014 to 2017 (with most funding attached to the latter two years). As the need for additional places is a national one and the squeeze on public expenditure is set to continue it must be assumed that future allocations will be extremely tight. It is therefore expected that the vast majority of this allocation in the future will need to be used for additional place provision, leaving much less for projects that address the suitability of premises in maintained schools. However we will seek to ensure this funding is used in the best way to help deliver transformational change in Leicestershire schools/academies, subject to agreement with the DfE/EFA to allow this to happen.

In order to make the best of the funding made available to the LA for maintained schools, we will seek to review our framework agreements for capital developments to ensure that these continue to offer good value for money, adopting standardised design solutions for school extensions or new schools, wherever possible, in order to minimise costs and timescales. However in providing standard designs, we will seek not to compromise on build quality.

Key Priority 4: To ensure that basic need capital allocated to the LA is targeted towards meeting the need for additional places arising from increased births and general demographic change.

3.7 Structural change

The LA recognises the growing activity by Leicestershire schools to address the legacy of ‘three tier’ schooling (primary, high and upper phases) and 10+ issues, and separate infant and junior schools which might see a merger as the way to deliver improvements. Whilst the basic need capital allocation is specifically for the provision of additional school places, the LA will in allocating this, seek to realise any opportunities to deliver transformation and address the disparities of our current pattern of schools, where this is necessary, appropriate and there is clear local demand for change. However this will not be allowed to become the primary driver for creating additional places.

Key Priority 5: To seek to support opportunities to address structural change to the pattern of education, where this can be linked to basic need requirements in the locality, and where there is a robust case for change.

In giving approval to the Strategy on 19th November 2014, the Council’s Cabinet acknowledged the strong view expressed during public consultation regarding the potential benefits of removing the 10+ system in the remaining Leicestershire areas, to improving outcomes for children and young people. As a consequence the Strategy now makes provision for the inclusion of a further (ninth) priority.

Key Priority 9: To seek to support opportunities to remove the 10+ system in the four remaining areas of Leicestershire, to enable the retention of year 6 pupils in primary schools, where; there is local demand from parents for change, there is a partnership approach, the change is affordable, and leads to a sustainable solution for schools and improved outcomes.

3.8 Developer Contributions

The LA will also seek to access capital funding from developers for the expansion of maintained schools and Academies, to develop additional places required as a consequence of new housing.

This is of increasing importance as longer term (potentially the next 15 years) will see substantial housing development in Leicestershire, much delivered through Sustainable Urban Expansions (SUE’s). Presently, 15 new primary schools and two new secondary schools are planned for the SUE’s - each new school by law is expected to be an academy – collectively they have a possible capital investment value of in excess of £75 million to the local economy.
Executive Summary

Where new housing development creates a demand for school places in excess of those available, the LA will work with District/Borough Councils and developers to ensure that the appropriate contributions for the provision of additional school places are given. This will continue to be achieved through Section 106 agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy. We will seek the maximum contribution from developers to support the provision of additional places that we believe is proportionate to the impact of the development. It is critical that developers make a financial contribution to school places as, without it, the LA will be unable to deliver the required provision and this will impact on the children and families that come to settle in new developments.

Key Priority 6: To work with each District, housing developers, maintained schools and Academies to ensure that appropriate contributions are received for new school places, proportionate to the scale of development, and used in a way which provides for the best educational solution.

3.9 Commissioning new places

The LA will seek to build upon established good practice within our schools, academies and other learning providers, but also support new providers to Leicestershire where an appropriate opportunity arises. We will adhere to the statutory framework, regulations and our policies, as they apply to establishing new schools, or identifying those schools for expansion, and will always take governing body views into account. However, it should be recognised that school place commissioning powers ultimately rest with Leicestershire County Council. To supplement our work, we will continue to ensure that there is a clear and well-communicated policy in place to determine where schools should expand or where new schools should be developed.

Key Priority 7: To support the development of a vibrant and sustainable mixed market approach to the provision of school and other learning places in Leicestershire, so as to promote the best possible choice and diversity.

3.10 Maintenance of School Buildings

For LA maintained schools, there will continue to be an ongoing programme of work to address serious condition issues. In terms of academies although the LA does not hold funding or the responsibility for addressing condition issues, as the landlord for their premises (in most cases) we recognise the importance of working closely with academies, and supporting them where possible to access funding from the DfE or other sources.

This will help ensure strong asset management, and that all school premises, irrespective of their designation, are appropriately maintained.

In order to achieve our aims we will need to review our relationship with both maintained schools and particularly academies, to ensure that there is clarity about our respective responsibilities and how they will be strengthened through improvements to our processes and systems.

Key Priority 8: To further develop strong arrangements for the management of our assets, and strengthen our relationship with Academies, to ensure all school buildings (irrespective of their designation and howsoever funded) are maintained fit for purpose.
4. How we will work

In the context of the above, and our key strategic priorities;

4.1 Our approach, will be to;

- Embrace our role as a commissioner and keep pace with the changing educational environment so as to successfully meet our statutory responsibility to provide a strong supply of high quality school places.
- Promote good choice and diversity in our schools and use this as a mechanism to further improve standards.
- Ensure that through effective school place planning we support the most vulnerable children including those in care, at risk of social exclusion and those who have specific educational needs.
- Help develop and promote a coordinated and sustainable system of education.
- Seek to support local solutions for the provision of additional school places.

4.2 Guided by key principles to ensure that;

- We continue to build a clear framework for engagement with communities, local learning partnerships and collaboratives in their various forms.
- Encourage the development of a mixed market of providers, based on maintained schools, academies, free schools, studio schools and other providers.
- Support the expansion of popular and successful schools, where practicable and cost effective to do so, in particular where this would secure greater parental preference.
- Maintain a good network of provision in all parts of Leicestershire, particularly rural areas, with a presumption against closing schools unless absolutely necessary for educational reasons or should they become unsustainable.

4.3 Specifically we will;

- Develop a capital programme for future years that gives clarity to how all aspects of funding are sourced, and our intentions for their use, and meets our key priorities for investment.
- Develop investment plans for other aspects of education relating to SEND, Provision for vulnerable individuals and groups, Early Years, and Children’s Centres.
- Ensure that we apply a robust and transparent methodology to give clarity and integrity to the planning of school and other educational places.
- Ensure that where schools are extended or new schools are developed, or other educational provision that this is keeping with the expected demand for additional places, proportionate to their locality, and the needs of the community.

Above all, we will ensure that we have the right number of school places in the right locations, at the time they are needed.

5. Engaging with schools, academies and other partners

Working in partnership and effective engagement is considered essential if we are to be successful. We will do this by;

- Working in a way that is open and transparent, promoting fairness and equality of opportunity, and giving integrity and trust.
- Engaging with all schools within a locality to identify the best solutions to address capacity issues and demographic change.
- Listening carefully through consultation and other discussions with pupils, parents, school staff and their governors, and others within an interest in educational provision to ensure their views are heard and their needs are fairly represented in decisions taken.
- Working with all stakeholders in a joined up way, to underpin our emphasis on partnership and collaborative working.
Part 1: Background

6. Aims of the Strategy

This Strategy will enable the LA and its partners to respond to the changing agenda and provide a platform for dialogue between schools, parents, community groups, central government, District Councils, housing developers, and other stakeholders. It is intended that, through the process of consultation, consensus will be reached as to the principles underpinning the provision, organisation and development of schools and other learning places.

Specifically the Strategy aims to provide;

- Pupils with access to a high quality, local learning offer that meets their needs;
- Parents with an understanding of the range and diversity of educational choice available;
- All schools, academies and other relevant learning places with a clear understanding of how decisions are reached about pupil place planning, the maintenance of school premises, asset planning processes (where applicable), the allocation of capital funds, and how they can be involved in the decision-making process;
- Local Planning Authorities, housing developers and their agents with an understanding of their role in supporting the future pattern of education and learning provision and the basis by which decisions are taken by the County Council;
- A stronger relationship with those that also have an interest in the running of Leicestershire schools, in particular the Dioceses.
- An awareness for new providers of our strategic aspirations for the development of Leicestershire schools and other learning places;
- The wider community with an understanding of how education and learning provision will be delivered to support the development of Leicestershire throughout the life of this Strategy;
- The Department for Education, and national government generally with a robust evidence base that supports future investment in Leicestershire schools, and all types of learning provision.

Arising from the priorities identified in this Strategy we will publish a capital investment programme which will set out the funding strategy to deliver our vision for education and learning provision.

This Strategy will sit alongside Leicestershire’s strategy for Education, Learning and Skills which is currently in development and will set out Leicestershire’s vision for raising outcomes for all children and young people in Leicestershire schools and learning places.

7. About Leicestershire

Leicestershire County Council covers an area of 202,880 hectares and contains a diverse range of communities living within several large urban settlements in the main market towns, or around the periphery of Leicester, and interspersed by many rural villages. The County Council is co-terminous with seven District/Borough Council areas and is also bordered by eight other local authorities. Each district has its own unique demography and geography.

The 2011 Census shows that 650,489 people live within the County Council area, of which there are an estimated 143,063 children and young people aged up to 19 years (36,154 of which are in the age range 0 to 5 years).

The Census also shows that the usual resident population figure for the LA area shows a increase of 6.7% since the last census in 2001, this is slightly below the average increase for England of 7.8%.

Future population projections reveal that the County Council area’s population is expected to grow by 9.1% in the years between the 2011 Census and 2021.

The increase in the birth rate in Leicestershire will lead to an increase in the intake into primary schools over the foreseeable future. The changing dynamics of Leicestershire’s population, influenced by increased births, immigration, housing developments and economic migration, mean that the pattern of provision of school places must also change in order to keep pace with demand, whether through provision of additional places or through the redistribution of existing places within the county.
Part 1: Background

To help manage the expected growth, major housing development is proposed in six of the seven districts for future years, predominantly based on key areas for Sustainable Urban Expansion (SUEs).

Patterns of population change will also affect Leicestershire’s local communities. In some areas inward migration is a major factor, particularly where new development is planned, while in all areas there are some uncertainties about future birth rates.

All of these factors, including changes in population, age structure, and new housing development rates, are difficult to forecast with any degree of certainty.

However, we have to be able to respond flexibly to changing patterns of need and ensure that new investment takes place in the most appropriate way and in the most appropriate location.

8. Leicestershire Schools

There are 284 schools in Leicestershire, they include:

- 1 nursery
- 223 primary schools
- 53 secondary secondary/colleges
- 6 special schools
- 1 Pupil Referral Unit

The LA has actively supported a large number of the above schools to convert to academy status. In total we now have 148 academies (51 secondary, 94 primary and 3 special schools) with more in the pipeline to convert later in 2015.

In addition to the above, there are presently three Studio Schools, located in Coalville, Hinckley and Lutterworth.

Working closely with schools in the secondary sector there are six Colleges of Further Education (FE) and three Universities (including those located within the Leicester city area). The FE sector is now able to admit students from age 14.

Although there are not as yet any Free Schools within the local authority area, there is interest for these to be established and some are expected to appear within the life of this Strategy, most likely within the primary sector.

There are 512 early learning and childcare settings provided through the private, independent and voluntary sector, and by some schools, providing for 19,692 places and also 841 childminders providing for a further 4,260 places.

The details of the provision in Leicestershire schools may be found at www.leics.gov.uk/yourguides.htm

In total the 284 schools in Leicestershire provide education for 92,860 children and young people, comprising 47,444 in primary schools, 44,542 in secondary schools and 874 in special schools or units. Of these pupils approximately 2,772 have Statements of Special Educational Needs.

In addition there are approximately 22,500 young people in Post-16 education.

Leicestershire has 109 schools designated as rural by the DfE. In these areas the scale of new housing development will vary, and in some circumstances may be generally lower than in the future than has been the case in the past. The result is that population and pupil numbers in some areas is unlikely to rise significantly and this will continue to challenge the viability of some schools.
Leicestershire schools vary in size, from primary schools with little more than 20 pupils to secondary schools of over 2000 students. The following table illustrates the overall position;

**Primary Schools**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pupil Size</th>
<th>Up to 105</th>
<th>Between 105 and 210</th>
<th>Between 211 and 315</th>
<th>Between 316 and 420</th>
<th>Between 421 and 525</th>
<th>Between 526 and 630</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of Schools</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Secondary Schools** (Excluding Studio Schools)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pupil Size</th>
<th>Up to 600</th>
<th>Between 601 and 900</th>
<th>Between 901 and 1200</th>
<th>Between 1201 and 1800</th>
<th>Above 1801</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of Schools</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The LA supports the principle of local schools for local children for community and environmental reasons. There are good partnerships among many schools who work together in local learning communities. This currently includes a total of 2 federations, 5 umbrella/collaborative academy trusts, 13 multi academy trusts, 4 teaching school alliances, and a single large school based company.

There are many strengths to be recognised through the performance of Leicestershire schools, the quality of the people working within them and the relationship between schools and the LA. 85% of Leicestershire's schools are rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding', this comprises 42 secondary schools, 191 primary schools, and 8 special schools and other educational provision. There is presently only 1 (primary) maintained school which is designated as ‘Special Measures’ and will continue to require intensive support to ensure sustained improvement. This will mean that the LA will continue to support the school until their transition to sponsored academy status as directed by the DfE. In terms of academies there are presently 7 designated as ‘Special Measures’ and requiring DfE intervention.

**9. Statutory Role**

This document has been written at a time of significant change in the way public services are funded. National policy has been radically moved towards a more autonomous and diverse education system rather than the traditional structure of schools under the direct control of the LA. In terms of educational provision, the LA has actively sought to embrace and keep pace with this change, through for example; supporting schools to convert to academies or those schools seeking age range changes, and implementing an improvement framework predicated on school to school support -The Leicestershire Educational Excellence Partnership (LEEP) model.

As the LA’s role shifts from provider to commissioner and is less ‘hands on’, we recognise that we need to work in a very different way – working with a diverse range of providers and models of delivery. The future landscape of education provision in Leicestershire will be a ‘mixed economy’ ranging from the traditional community school model to ‘all through’ provision, characterised by stronger links to employers and apprenticeships, and to external organisations/parents setting up their own Free Schools where they wish to promote a different offer. The drive for choice, diversity and excellence, in particular to provide support for the most vulnerable children, is at the forefront of national policy and a key driver in the LA’s new role.
Part 1: Background

There is potential for our role to change again in the future, to respond to new government priorities. In this context it is important that there is sufficient flexibility in the system, for our role to adapt and evolve as necessary. Whilst it is accepted that our role could change further, our core responsibilities continue to be:

- Securing sufficient and appropriate educational provision within Leicestershire to meet the needs of our children, parents and communities, as set out in the Education Act 1996.
- Improving standards in all schools so that everyone can go to a school that is good or better.
- Supporting the most vulnerable children including those in care, at risk of social exclusion and those who have specific educational needs.

In terms of schools we have a further responsibility to:

- Help develop and promote a sustainable system of education
- Ensure that all schools offer good choice for children and young people of all abilities, safe and secure environments, delivered through local solutions wherever possible.
- Ensure in respect of the above that we have effective admission arrangements, and fair access protocols in place
- Maintain and improve the LA’s schools estate keeping this fit for purpose.

We will continue to adopt a flexible and innovative approach to delivering our statutory responsibilities and are confident that we can meet the challenges that lie ahead.

10. Strategic context

Radical education reform has been introduced by the government and is ongoing. The changes implement which have are most relevance to this Strategy are:

A drive towards an autonomous system that aims to provide parents with choice across a diverse range of provision.

The introduction of the Education Act 2011 which underpins the role of the Local Authority (as set out in ‘The Importance of Teaching – The Schools White Paper 2010’) as champions for parents, families and vulnerable pupils, requiring that the LA promotes educational excellence by ensuring a good supply of high quality school places, and co-ordinating fair admissions.

The full Education Act is contained on the Department for Education website: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/21/contents/enacted

- The Children and Families Act which sets out a new approach to Special Educational Needs and Disability.

The Children and Families Bill aims to improve the entire SEN system and covers issues including reform and early identification and assessment, joint commissioning, funding across health, education, core family support and choice and challenge. There will also be a requirement for local authorities to have a strategic overview of the quantity, quality and accessibility of provision for children and young people with special needs from the ages of 0 – 25 years, and to support SEN.


- The Education and Adoptions Bill announced in the 2015 Queens Speech has received its first reading in Parliament.

The Bill makes provision about schools in England that are causing concern, including provision about their conversion into Academies and about intervention powers. Provision is also made about joint arrangements for carrying out local authority adoption functions in England.

The Education and Adoptions Bill proposals can be viewed at: www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2015-2016/0004/cbill _ 2015-20160004 _ en _ 1.htm

- An expansion of the market and greater diversity in schools as more providers seek to move into Leicestershire. In this context, the 2011 Act also made changes to the arrangements for the establishment of new schools, with a presumption that any such schools will be Academies or Free Schools, secured if necessary through a competition.

- The ‘The James Review of Education Capital’, an independent report commissioned by the Secretary of State for Education to consider education investment, which set out key recommendations for the future direction for capital investment, and how this should be managed.
Part 1: Background

- A range of other strategic drivers also have an impact to this Strategy including:
- A reduction in public finances due to global economic challenges and potentially a long period of austerity predicated on a sharper focus on value for money solutions.
- A demographic increase in births and shortfall of primary places which will eventually impact on the secondary sector.
- A changing role for local authorities moving from a provider to a commissioning and brokerage role.
- An increase in education provision arising from the expected significant housing growth, and the challenges of securing appropriate educational contributions from developers through Section 106 agreements or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Coupled to the above there are other strategic influences particular to Leicestershire which will have a bearing to the future provision of school and other learning places including:

- The ambition of many secondary schools to pursue age range changes, to gain ‘all through status’, and the impact this will have to the number of secondary school places, which whilst generating over supply, may also give rise to localised shortages of places. This aspect of change will need very careful management to ensure that schools remain economically viable and sustainable.
- A strong desire by some schools to seek to remove the 10+ system in the four remaining areas of Castle Donington, Shepshed, Wigston and Oadby, to allow retention of Year 6 pupils in primary schools, coupled with age range extensions in High schools.
- Replacement, where requested and appropriate, of independent infant and junior schools in favour of combined primary provision.
- The need to develop further specialist provision within localities, for pupils that have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities.
- The further expansion of new ways of working through local Behaviour Partnerships and other providers to ensure effective Alternative Provision for excluded pupils, or those at risk of exclusion, vulnerable individuals, those with medical needs, and those at risk of missing education.
- Reviews of other policies and procedures of significant bearing to schools, most notably the anticipated changes to mainstream Home to School Transport provision..

11. Key principles

Developing a Strategy in times of ongoing turbulence is not easy but it is possible, even in times of change, to agree the principles that will influence our decision making. Our intention is to ensure that future pupil place planning is an open and transparent process and that capital investment decisions are directly based on sound principles established in partnership with others responsible for delivering education and learning in Leicestershire.

Our key principles will be to work with key stakeholders to:

- Provide local solutions wherever possible to meet the needs of our children and young people, which recognises the value of each school within its community, this is particularly so for rural primary schools.
- Secure a network of provision for 0-5 year olds across the county that will ensure children are ready for school, improve their outcomes and reduce inequalities, and seek to support the development of provision for disadvantaged two year olds to access appropriate provision.
- Seek to ensure that primary schools are within reasonable walking distance for pupils, to minimise wherever possible the need for transport to school, excepting those children with additional needs.
- Seek to ensure that there is sufficient access to a good secondary school choice of provision offering a variety of educational pathways through a rich and varied curriculum.
- Seek to ensure in all circumstances that schools of whatever size or location are sustainable, appropriate to their locality, and are able to contribute to meeting the needs of their communities.
- Encourage the development of a mixed market of providers, based on maintained schools, academies, free schools, studio schools.
- Ensure that Leicestershire schools provide good choice and diversity, recognising the importance within communities of schools representing particular faiths.
Part 1: Background

• Develop a strong framework of facilities for pupils needing specialist support in the most appropriate locations across the county;

• Support the development of a strong framework of facilities for Alternative Provision to provide for the needs of learners for whom the traditional school environment is not the best option;

• Ensure that there is good choice and progression routes to enable transition for young people from secondary schools to further education/higher education and/or employment

One of our most important key principles when planning new school places will be to ensure fairness and equality of opportunity between all schools in the area, irrespective of their size or designation, and that admissions arrangements do not disadvantage neighbouring schools.

What we will do;

• Embrace our role as a commissioner and keep pace with the changing educational environment, so as to successfully meet our statutory responsibility to provide a strong supply of high quality school places.

• Promote good choice and diversity in Leicestershire schools, and use this as a mechanism to further improve standards.

• Ensure that through effective school place planning we support the most vulnerable children including those in care, at risk of social exclusion and those who have specific educational needs.

• Help develop and promote a coordinated and sustainable system of education.

• Ensure that in planning school places we act fairly, promoting equality of opportunity for all schools in the area, irrespective of their designation.

• Seek to support local solutions for the provision of additional school places.

• Engage with pupils, parents, schools, their communities, and our other partners to determine the most appropriate solutions.
12. The Overall Approach

The County Council has a role as children’s champion in the widest sense. The implication for the planning of school places is that the County Council, as the Local Authority for school place planning, must secure places at popular and successful schools, at the same time as supporting schools in challenging circumstances to improve. The LA must also provide advocacy for parents and also hold schools to account for the use of public resources. However, in doing so, the relationship between schools, the LA and other stakeholders, including parents, needs to continue to be maintained as a strong and positive one for the benefit of Leicestershire communities.

Our intended approach to school place planning in Leicestershire is designed to respond to the capacity demands arising from local communities, where pressures may result from increasing births, family migration, the needs generated by new housing development, and general demographic change.

However, we recognise that the planning of school places is not solely about capacity and numbers, but should also play a key role in promoting choice, quality and diversity in the range of education and learning provision available. This may be extremely challenging in some contexts, for example in rural locations where reduced pupil numbers may limit the scale of facilities available, or in contrast in respect of secondary schools, where over supply of places and competition for pupils may affect the sustainability of schools and serve to restrict the range and quality of the curriculum offer.

The national agenda is for popular schools to expand and so drive up quality and standards in the education sector. The LA supports this approach in principle and in our role as commissioner we will welcome proposals which seek to achieve this. However, it is only possible for the LA to provide financial capital to support proposals where there is a ‘basic need’ requirement, that is to say a shortfall in pupil places for that particular area. When new provision is needed due to a shortfall of places, we will actively encourage popular schools to expand:

- Where it is physically possible
- Where it represents good value for money
- Where there is strong support for change within the local community
- Where there is robust evidence that this will lead to improved outcomes for pupils, and;
- Where the proposal is deliverable in a timely manner to meet the statutory need.

There is no clear definition of a ‘successful’ school, and there are a number of indicators that could potentially be used to determine this. Clearly parental preference as demonstrated through the admissions process would be one, and similarly the results of statutory tests/exams. Ofsted judgements and general indicators of good performance for the school would also need to be factored in when planning places. For long term planning, it is assumed that all schools have the potential to be both popular and successful.

It is accepted that due to a variety of reasons some schools may not wish to increase their capacity, in particular they may feel it would compromise their educational offer. In such circumstance the LA would not seek to impose change on any school unless all other options had been exhausted. Nevertheless, we all have to abide by the Admissions Code of Practice and in this context do our best to enable local children to attend their local school without the need to be transported unreasonable distances.

Our approach is therefore to work locally with schools in the expectancy that solutions will be found in most cases, but where this may not be possible, keeping our options open to explore the potential to secure provision through other providers.
We will do this by;

- Maintaining a network of provision in all parts of Leicestershire, with a presumption against closing schools unless necessary for educational reasons or should they become unsustainable.
- Expanding popular and successful schools, where practicable and cost effective to do so, in particular where this would secure greater parental preference. However, we will not seek to expand particular schools, where to do so, is not in keeping with providing a coherent local offer, such that it might seriously challenge the sustainability of other schools within the locality, and thereby have overall disadvantage to parents and pupils.
- Developing new schools where anticipated pupil numbers justify this as the most appropriate approach, or where other clear gaps in provision may be identified.
- Working with all schools within a locality to identify the best solutions to address capacity issues and demographic change.
- Minimising our dependency on schools transport to meet our statutory responsibilities for school place planning.
- Listening carefully through consultation and other discussions to pupils, parents, school staff and their governors, and others with an interest with educational provision to ensure their views are heard and their needs are fairly represented in decisions taken.
- Working with all stakeholders in a collegiate way, to underpin our emphasis on partnership and collaborative working.
- Where possible and appropriate, supporting the further development of locality working within communities, by seeking to maximise the schools estate to bring together health, sports, leisure and cultural affairs to enable co-ordination and integration of services for children, young people and families and the community as a whole.

13. The Role of New Providers

Legislation requires that new providers will normally enter the market through a competitive process. This may happen in several ways;

- Through proposals brought forward by existing providers and/or through the government’s Free School programme. It is recognised that existing schools may feel challenged by new providers entering the market, and we will therefore ensure that through the competitive process any new providers share the same ethos, beliefs and sense of moral purpose as other Leicestershire providers, so as to enable their successful integration to the educational system locally.
- As a result of demographic change or significant housing development.
- We will identify where new provision is required and in keeping with the of Academy Presumption guidance, advertise the proposals nationally through the Department for Education website and to other interested parties.
- For provision promoted by other providers, where they perceive a potential gap in the market and demand for further provision.

We will actively engage with school promoters and provide data and advice which provides a strategic context, to further their understanding. We will engage with new providers where provision meets our statutory responsibilities for pupil place planning and will indicate where provision is likely to affect the sustainability of other local provision. All providers will be encouraged to discuss their proposals with schools in the given locality and to establish good partnership arrangements.

Where new academies or Free schools may be established to meet basic need it is expected that, in keeping with DfE requirements, we will establish a Growth Fund for these schools. This will require further discussion and consultation with schools and the Schools Forum to agree a change to local funding policy and procedures. This funding will need to cover start-up costs, and possibly diseconomy of scale costs, funding for which may be needed until the new school is firmly established.
Part 2: Approach

There is no dedicated capital funding in the LA or central government to establish new Early Learning and Childcare provision. However, the LA may secure capital funding through S106 or CIL contributions to enable provision to be developed as part of community use buildings. Providers may also secure funding for Free Early Education entitlement for disadvantaged 2 year olds and all 3 and 4 year olds.

14. School Place Planning Governance and Decisions

The co-ordination and management of all LA school place planning is located in the Children and Family Services department of the County Council. Recommendations regarding the allocation of relevant capital resource, is initially overseen by the Corporate Schools Group (comprising senior officers representing key departments) before progressing further.

Under the County Council’s Scheme of Delegation, certain decisions relating to school organisation within the remit of the Local Authority are delegated to the Director for Children and Family Services in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Children and Young People, except in the case of opening or closing schools, or where any proposals are politically sensitive and/or have generated significant objection through consultation, in which case they will be taken to the County Council’s Cabinet for decision.

Where any proposals for change require the Council to follow the prescribed statutory process, as set out in the School Organisation Regulations published by the Department for Education (DfE), then the Director for Children and Family Services will ensure that the appropriate timescales and processes are followed, and notices published accordingly so as to make clear the proposed change, the rationale for this, what other options (if any) might be considered, the anticipated timescales, key consultees and means of response, and related matters.

Where proposals relate to academies and other providers outside of the Local Authority control, then the LA will work closely with the DfE, Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) and Education Funding Agency, to give contextual information and other advice to enable decisions to be taken by the Secretary of State for Education.

It should be noted that in January 2014, following consultation with local authorities, the DfE implemented proposals to amend the existing legislative and policy requirements governing school organisation changes. Currently the majority of organisational changes in LA maintained schools, for example age changes, significant enlargement, or moving or closing a school, have been subject to statutory processes. In making amendments to the system for school organisation, the DfE 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. In practice, this means that:

Individual maintained schools would have the freedom to make certain changes (e.g. enlargement of premises) without following a statutory process;

The statutory processes would be slimmed down for certain other changes to maintained schools by reducing the length of the process and the level of prescription;

The requirement for academies to apply to the DfE for permission to make similar changes would generally be removed, but where more significant change is proposed, for example adding a further phase of education or a sixth form, then it is expected that Secretary of State consent (via the RSC/EFA) will be sought beforehand.

The proposed changes will now require that the LA looks very carefully at the corporate decision making process relating to school place planning and where necessary revise this to strike the right balance between accountability and the need to enable schools to respond more quickly to the needs of parents and their communities.

The School Organisation Unit website contains full guidance on making changes to school organisation and provides links to relevant statutes; www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/schoolorganisation
15. Diversity and Localism

Leicestershire has always had a diverse pattern of school provision, owing largely to the significant proportion of voluntary aided schools in the county, and is accustomed to positive working relationships with the CE Anglican and Catholic Diocesan/Church Authorities. Over recent years new providers have been established, including Trust schools and Academies. The LA will work in partnership with an increasing number of providers in order to develop a school organisation and capital investment strategy that delivers optimal solutions for local areas. The LA believes that all categories of school are of equal value and this principle will be applied when planning and delivering the strategy.

In addition, the LA has a specific duty to respond to representations from parents about the provision of schools, including requests to establish new schools or make changes to existing schools.

The LA has therefore developed a flexible approach to the commissioning of school places that is able to stimulate a local market that is shaped for the benefit of children and built around the proven success of local providers. However, there is a balance to be struck between welcoming diversity and new provision and the importance of maintaining coherence within the school system. In this context the LA will look very carefully at proposals for a given locality, and judge each on the extent to which they meet agreed criteria.

16. Community Engagement

We will continue to build a clear framework for engagement with communities and local learning partnerships and collaboratives in their various forms. We will commit to engage with these partners in a timely and appropriate manner when:

• Local plans are being formulated or revised.
• There is evidence of a need to provide additional pupil places and/or revise designated areas.
• There is the potential for new providers to be entering the market in their locality.

What we will do;

• Ensure that pupil place planning is open and transparent, and that there is clear understanding of the Council’s decisions and why these are taken.
• Continue to build a clear framework for engagement with communities, local learning partnerships and collaboratives in their various forms.
• Support the expansion of popular and successful schools, where practicable and cost effective to do so, in particular where this would secure greater parental preference.
• Support the development of a vibrant and sustainable mixed market approach to the provision of school and other learning places in Leicestershire, so as to promote the best possible choice and diversity, based on a balance of maintained schools, academies, free schools and studio schools. (Key Priority 7)
• Maintain a good network of provision in all parts of Leicestershire, particularly rural areas, with a presumption against closing schools unless absolutely necessary for educational reasons or should they become unsustainable.
Part 3 - Challenges and Considerations

17. School Organisation

The LA and its partners will need to address a range of issues around school organisation in order to maintain a coherent system that is fit for purpose, stable, and capable of delivering the best possible outcomes for children and young people in Leicestershire.

The main issues to be addressed are:

- The urgent need to provide additional primary places in some parts of the County;
- The need to keep under review and take appropriate action where necessary, to stabilise the supply of secondary school places. The progression of targeted investment for pupils with SEN and disabilities and other vulnerable pupils;
- To plan a co-ordinated approach to the provision of additional places, new schools and dependency on new providers arising from the expected substantial housing growth;
- Ensuring that we continue to provide high quality provision for early learning and childcare;
- Confirming our approach to the future management of school buildings, and addressing our concerns about their condition.

These issues are considered further in the following sections of this document.

18. Early Learning and Childcare Places

The government provides Free Early Education (FEE) funding for all three and four year olds from the start of the pre-determined term dates set out by the DfE. The FEE provides up to 15 hours of flexible provision per week over 38 weeks of the year. Delivery can be through a range of providers including pre-schools, nurseries, childminders, nursery classes and nursery schools all of which can offer access to FEE funding. In Leicestershire, 99.98% of the FEE is delivered through the PVI (Private, Voluntary and Independent sector) and the remainder through an LA maintained nursery provision.

Free early years education for the most disadvantaged two year olds is also being introduced and it is expected that 40% of two year olds in Leicestershire will be funded in this way from 2014.

We will assess the future need for early learning and childcare provision in each part of Leicestershire, taking into account demographic change and planned new development proposals. Where this assessment indicates that new provision is required, places for under 5 year olds should, wherever possible, provide direct progression through to mainstream provision. This does not necessarily mean that such provision should be physically part of any school or academy, but nevertheless have strong educational links to establishments in the locality.

Where proposals to establish new provision are put forward to the LA, then the LA may approve the proposals provided that; there is no serious impact to the current pattern of provision within the area, there is parental demand for places, and where proposals might derive from maintained schools; there is no requirement from the LA for capital funding, there is no impact on the school’s accommodation for Reception to Y6 (either at the time of expansion or in the future, when the school may be filled to its admission number across all year groups), and provided that the governing body agrees that the published admission number for the Reception year will not be reduced.

We will therefore ensure that there are strong links between all new Early Learning and Childcare provision and local schools. All provision must be flexible, affordable and accessible, providing a mix of funded and paid for places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds to support working parents.
19. Primary school places

One of the key challenges facing Leicestershire, and many other local authorities nationally is the increase in demand for primary school places.

The current capacity of our Primary Schools is 52,309 places. The number of pupils on roll is forecast to rise above the available capacity to 52,928 by 2017/18 which would leave overall a shortfall of 619 places (-1.18%). The table below provides an overview of the position within each District, and Part 6 to this draft Strategy provides a more detailed analysis. The forecasts include pupils from housing gains from developments with planning permission, but not those that have not progressed this far.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Capacity 2013/14</th>
<th>2014/15</th>
<th>2015/16</th>
<th>2016/17</th>
<th>2017/18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blaby</td>
<td>7776</td>
<td>7726</td>
<td>7932</td>
<td>8047</td>
<td>8192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charnwood</td>
<td>12631</td>
<td>11697</td>
<td>12047</td>
<td>12286</td>
<td>12562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harborough</td>
<td>7235</td>
<td>6779</td>
<td>6914</td>
<td>6992</td>
<td>7114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinckley &amp; Bosworth</td>
<td>8106</td>
<td>7753</td>
<td>7993</td>
<td>8201</td>
<td>8373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melton</td>
<td>4158</td>
<td>3697</td>
<td>3751</td>
<td>3791</td>
<td>3823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North West Leicestershire</td>
<td>8026</td>
<td>7390</td>
<td>7559</td>
<td>7817</td>
<td>7960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oadby &amp; Wigston</td>
<td>4377</td>
<td>4285</td>
<td>4352</td>
<td>4412</td>
<td>4396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>52309</td>
<td>49327</td>
<td>50548</td>
<td>51546</td>
<td>52420</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

% Increase from previous year: 2.11% 2.48% 1.97% 1.70% 0.97%

The LA has so far kept pace with demand, adding over 729 extra places in the last two years, with a further 378 planned so far for 2014/15.

However, it is clear from analysis of pupil forecast data that some Districts and in particular, certain localities within these are already beginning to experience early signs of acute demand for places. This is particularly so for the Blaby District, where there is a significant shortfall of places emerging within the Braunstone area, and the Borough of Hinckley and Bosworth, specifically within Hinckley town.

The overall position in Leicestershire is further illustrated by the graph below, which makes comparison of available capacity and demand for places over the next few years.
Part 3: Challenges And Considerations

The commencement, completion and occupation of new housing developments, particularly in relation to the planned Sustainable Urban Expansions (SUE’s) for Leicestershire will add to this position, as will any inward migration of families.

In the context of the above, the additional primary places must form a key priority in terms of strategic delivery and expenditure from the schools’ capital programme.

20. Secondary school places

The position in secondary schools is in stark contrast to that of primary schools.

As a consequence of the Academies Act 2010, the majority of our secondary schools (95%), have now converted to academy status or will soon do so, and by early 2016 it is expected that the remainder will have converted.

Coupled to the academies agenda, many schools have subsequently sought to progress age range changes to give either 11-16 or 11-19 status, with twenty schools having received DfE approval for change between September 2013 and September 2015 change, and several others expected to follow shortly. When considered alongside the five Leicestershire schools already having 11-16/19 status, this means that of our schools are now designated as ‘all through’.

Based on known information this figure is expected to increase to around 60% of schools by the beginning of the 2015/16 academic year. The proposed changes to the School Organisation Regulations, to be introduced early in 2014, whilst enabling schools to be better able to respond to the need of parents, will bring improved ease for schools to progress age range changes and in this respect may serve to accelerate change in Leicestershire.

To add to this momentum of change, other types of secondary provision have been established in Leicestershire, for example the Studio Schools in Coalville, Hinckley and Lutterworth, and the entitlement for FE Colleges to now admit students from the age of 14.

The following table illustrates the current age ranges for Leicestershire secondary schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>% of all Secondary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 - 14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 - 14</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 - 16</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 - 18</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 - 18</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table excludes the three Studio schools and one Post 16 centre.

The current capacity in our Secondary Schools is 51,025 places. The numbers on roll are forecast to rise to 47,177 in 2021/22 which will leave 3,848 surplus places (7.5%), possibly more as additional capacity currently being created in 11 – 16/19 schools and the other factors set out above start to have real impact.
Part 3: Challenges And Considerations

In the right place | A strategy for the organisation of school and other learning places in Leicestershire 2014-2018

The table above shows the breakdown of the position by category of school. The forecasts include pupils from housing gains from developments with planning permission, but not those that have not progressed this far and so the numbers could be greater.

Although analysis of data indicates that there is an overall surplus of secondary school places available across Leicestershire, they are not necessarily in the right places, and there is forecast to be a deficit in certain 11-16/18 schools by the start of the 2015/16 academic year - this is due to complex factors relating to age range changes, for example due to reductions in admission numbers, managing pupil numbers through transitional years, and housing development. It is encouraging that in most cases, each academy has plans in place for extensions to accommodate the extra pupils, but there is also some dependency on capital funding from the DfE to provide additional space. Of more concern are those secondary schools that have not received DfE capital funding and the consequent pressure this places on the LA to try and assist.

The graph below illustrates the forecast surplus/deficit of places by type of school.

**Forecasts Surplus/Deficit in Secondary Schools**
Part 3: Challenges And Considerations

Apart from schools with age range changes, the forecast deficit of places are limited to popular and oversubscribed schools or those where there is a considerable amount of housing gain, such as in Market Harborough.

The overall figures do not show that at a local level in some areas of the County, most notably Loughborough, Wigston and Birstall, there are significant surpluses in some upper schools, and above the 25% threshold at which a school would become a source for concern.

The net effects of the position in secondary schools, has been to significantly enhance the diversity and choice in Leicestershire schools, but at the same time within the secondary sector, introducing also an element of competition. There is a concern that if not addressed the over-supply of places in some localities will negatively affect the viability of some schools. This position is in contrast to the increased pupil numbers now evident in primary schools which longer term, when considered alongside demand for places coming from new housing, may help ease surplus capacity issues in secondary schools. Whilst potentially this offers a solution, in the short term it adds a further challenge, and will prompt consideration to the potential mothballing of surplus facilities, perhaps for a number of years, and whether this represents the most appropriate way forward.

For secondary provision in Leicestershire to remain sustainable, the current over supply will need to be carefully managed and must therefore form a key priority for the Council in the next few years, working with each academy, the DfE and other partners. We will all need to ensure that any change is well planned so as to minimise disruption through transitional years, lead to sustainable solutions, and contribute to a coherent educational system in Leicestershire.

21. Specialist School Places

The LA will continue to make progress in enabling children and young people who require specialist provision to be educated within the Leicestershire mainstream sector wherever possible, and in the most appropriate settings. Analysis of data shows that there of the 2,772 pupils with statements of SEN, 38% attend Leicestershire special schools, 55% attend mainstream schools and academies or specialist units located within them, and 7% attend independent establishments (in Leicestershire or further afield), and. Overall this represents circa 2.7% of the pupil population. It is estimated based on current trends that in future years the number of pupils requiring access to specialist provision, may increase marginally above the current proportion to overall pupil numbers.

The majority of Leicestershire children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) access their learning in their mainstream school. However there are a significant number of children in Leicestershire whose special needs cannot be wholly met in a mainstream school. These children may have moderate, severe or profound difficulties in one or more areas of hearing, vision, speech and language, physical health, emotional and mental health or behaviour. In such circumstance these pupils may be educated in one of our six special schools, our 13 enhanced resource bases or units in mainstream schools, at other schools outside of Leicestershire, or in one of our alternative provision settings.

In delivering our ambitions for school place planning we are committed to the further development of specialist provision. This will be predicated on our aim to continue to co-locate special and mainstream school provision, as has so far been demonstrated through the development of four new Area Special Schools and further develop specialist units or enhanced resource bases in mainstream schools, in order to provide inclusive opportunities. We will seek to prioritise available capital funds where new provision is needed, or alternatively explore the potential to fund schemes by other means. For example, this might include; bids to central government for targeted capital, seeking to attract new providers to Leicestershire to establish Free School or independent provision, or LA invest to save strategies providing accrued revenue savings over a period of time.
Part 3: Challenges And Considerations

A significant amount of post-16 SEN provision is currently undertaken in Leicestershire’s local Further Education (FE) colleges, supported by provision in area special schools and some secondary academies. To continue to promote diversity and choice we will continue to promote this mixed market approach, seeking opportunities to build upon this as they arise.

In terms of access to residential facilities, it is not the Council’s intention to further develop our own provision, as it is our belief that this is adequately catered for by other providers in the market. However, we will ensure that in circumstances where children with SEN need to access residential provision, that there will be close partnership working with social care and health and designated providers, to achieve the best outcome for the young person.

We will seek as far as we are able, to work on a locality based model for SEN provision, however in some cases this may not be possible due to diseconomies of scale, or where more specialist provision might be required. We will only develop proposals for changes in SEN provision that are likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of educational provision, taking into account key factors in order to make an assessment of the impact of the proposals.

22. Alternative Provision

There may be times in a child or young person's education, where for one reason or another they are not able to access mainstream education provision. However, it is vital that the educational needs of the child are met in the most suitable setting, given the circumstances, to enable continuity of support and provision and prevent disadvantage to the learner. There are occasions, such as a child being permanently excluded, at risk of exclusion, or when a child is unable to attend school because of health problems and would not otherwise receive a suitable full-time education, when the LA is responsible for arranging Alternative Provision.

Currently alternative provision in Leicestershire, is provided at the primary phase by the LA maintained Oakfield School. We will look carefully at how the primary provision could be improved including the location for this. For the secondary phase of key Stage 3 and 4, provision is commissioned by the LA from the five local Behaviour Partnerships and delivered in local secondary schools or facilities placed nearby. Those pupils having medical needs will normally attend hospital school (located in Leicester City) or access bespoke provision.

The LA is committed to developing the work of the behaviour partnerships, in the belief that alternative provision is most successful when provided in local settings, and will therefore explore ways that we might build upon current arrangements. This will include working with those schools that might wish to establish their own alternative provision arrangements on site.

23. The Effects of New Housing and provision of New Schools

Most of the Districts in Leicestershire have proposals for Sustainable Urban Expansions (SUE’s) to provide for an expansion of housing within their Core Strategy. Overall ten SUE’s are planned in Leicestershire and one area of significant development. The timescales for the delivery of new housing as part of these developments varies between Districts, but if things progress as planned then in broad terms the next 12 years will see up to 25,250 new homes developed. As self-sustaining communities these developments also make provision for new schools with currently 2 secondary and 15 primary schools planned.

In most cases the new primary schools are expected to be provided around the occupation of the 300th dwelling whereas the two secondary schools are expected to be provided around the occupation of the 2,000th dwelling. The number of dwellings built a year is subject to a number of factors but could be upwards of 200 dwellings on the larger SUE’s once the development is firmly established. It is expected that in some cases, developers will seek to directly build schools, as opposed to the local authority commissioning this work. This will place greater importance in ensuring that such schools are developed in keeping with our expectations.
Some, SUE’s for example the Lubbesthorpe development have planning consent and are close to starting work on site, those for Barkby/ Thurcaston, Barwell, Coalville and Castle Donington are also progressing towards planning, whereas others, as is the case for the Melton SUE have gone back to the drawing board.

The challenge that SUE’s really present in terms of planning school places is that relating to the scale and speed of development (which is driven by the economy and housing market), and at what point new schools will be built. Having effective transition arrangements to manage pupil numbers during the early years of construction is of paramount importance. In the short term this will mean finding solutions for pupils from new housing at existing schools nearby.

There will also be significant other housing development developed on a lesser scale to the SUE’s but of equal importance in terms of school place planning. Normally, the LA will seek to extend local schools where additional places are required, but where there may be several developments planned within a locality, but to broadly similar timescales, consideration will be given to the aggregate impact of the new housing, and if this generates a new for a new school.

In all cases where new housing development creates a demand for school places in excess of those available, the LA will work with District Councils and developers to ensure that appropriate contributions for the provision of additional school places, via Section 106 agreements (or the Community Infrastructure Levy) are given, and that they are proportionate to impact in order to mitigate against the effect of any new development on local infrastructure. It is critical that developers make a financial contribution to school places as, without one, the LA will be unable to deliver the required provision and this will impact on the children and families that come to settle in new developments.

In parallel with the implementation of this Strategy, we will review our policy for developer contributions via Section 106 agreements to ensure that they offer the flexibility the LA needs to deliver our priorities for new school and learning places. Specifically, we will seek to work with Districts and developers to ensure that any future S106 agreements (or those in existence that require variation) provide greater opportunity for the use of available funding. In practice this means that the LA will often seek contributions for new places within a given locality, rather than naming specific schools/academies, which might otherwise serve to restrict our ability to target funds appropriately where organisational change is implemented.

The table at Appendix 3 provides a summary of the proposed SUE’s and their impact in terms of school places.

24. Maintaining premises

It is essential that all schools and academies are maintained fit for purpose. To ensure this happens will require that the LA continues to maintain a clear oversight of assets for the school estate, to ensure that priorities for maintenance work are being addressed.

For LA maintained schools, there will continue to be an ongoing programme of work to address serious condition issues. In terms of academies although the LA does not hold funding or the responsibility for addressing condition issues, as the landlord for their premises (in most cases) we recognise the importance of working closely with academies, and supporting them where possible to access funding from the DfE or other sources.

This will help ensure strong asset management, and that all school premises, irrespective of their designation, are appropriately maintained.

In order to achieve our aims we will need to re-consider our relationship with both maintained schools and particularly academies, to ensure that there is clarity about our respective responsibilities and how they will be delivered through process and system improvements.
25. Maintaining Children’s Centres

We have a statutory duty to secure sufficient children’s centre provision to meet local need. In previous years central government funding has supported the provision of children’s centres, but consideration needs to be given to the cost of ongoing upkeep and maintenance issues, and we will need to develop a discrete budget for this purpose. The ideal situation is that Children Centre facilities should be self-sustaining, and we will explore ways about how this might be achieved.

There are 36 centres in Leicestershire, 21 are located on school sites, the remaining 15 are freestanding, however all have good access arrangements and strong collaboration with local schools/academies. The Children’s Centres are located in the following Districts;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>School Based Children Centres</th>
<th>Stand Alone Children’s Centres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blaby</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charnwood</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harborough</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinckley &amp; Bosworth</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melton</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North West Leicestershire</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oadby &amp; Wigston</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>21</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What we will do;

- Provide the additional primary school places required and to identify the capital budget necessary to meet this need before allocating any other expenditure. (Key Priority 1)
- Ensure there is a good supply of secondary places in each locality, offered through well-planned, sustainable and viable solutions, underpinned by robust funding arrangements. (Key Priority 2)
- Engage with secondary schools and our other partners to address concerns about the viability and sustainability of provision in certain areas
- Progress a strategy for inclusion, delivered through targeted investment for pupils with SEN and Disabilities, and other vulnerable individuals, predicated on our aim to continue to develop locally based solutions.
- Identify sufficient capital funding to fulfil our commitment to the programme of Area Special School development, completing the final development in Wigston. (Key Priority 3)
- Develop a co-ordinated approach to the provision of additional places, new schools and dependency on new providers arising from the expected substantial housing growth
- Ensure that we continue to provide high quality provision for Early Learning and Childcare
- Strengthen our arrangements for Alternative Provision, wherever possible building upon our work with Behaviour Partnerships, and encouraging the development of local solutions.
- Maintain and improve the LA’s school premises keeping these fit for purpose, offering a safe and secure environment in which to learn
- Confirm our approach to the future management of school buildings, to maintain good oversight of all LA assets.
Part 4 - Capital Funding Strategy

26. Funding Sources

There is currently a complex pattern of capital grant funding made available by central government to the LA, this consists of:

- **Basic Need** – this is the main capital formula grant allocation to the local authority to help to ensure there are sufficient pupil places in all schools. This is allocated based on detailed annual returns by each local authority to the DfE (known as the SCAP return) of their expected demand for additional places, arising from increased births and general demographic change, based on groups as schools determined by the local authority, referred to as ‘planning areas’ – in Leicestershire there are 79 planning areas for primary schools and 24 for secondary schools.

- **Capital Maintenance** – this is a second formula grant to the local authority for all maintained community, voluntary controlled, trust and foundation schools. This funding is aimed at addressing maintenance needs in existing school premises, but does not include academies or free schools. The allocation to Leicestershire for 2014/15 was £4.225 million and for 2015/16 £3.397million.

- **Local Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP)** – a relatively small formula grant to the voluntary aided sector targeted at condition and suitability issues. The allocation for 2013/14 was £750,000.

- **Academies Condition Improvement Fund (CIF)** – a central Government capital grant fund available direct to academies and targeted at condition, suitability and expanding successful academies. Academies normally have to bid directly to government to secure money from this fund on an annual basis, however where academies may be part of a larger arrangement of a multi academy trust, they will have more ready access to this funding. This Fund does not cover basic need as the funding allocated to the LA for this is intended to cover both maintained schools and academies.

- **Devolved Formula Capital** – a relatively limited capital allocation made directly to state funded schools by the DfE to support small scale refurbishment and ICT development.

- **Free schools programme** – a capital fund (circa £600m nationally) made available to individual groups and organisations, not connected to the LA, to support the provision of new free schools and studio schools.

In addition, the DfE has previously made significant capital funding available to local authorities through the following programmes, however it is not clear if some or all of these arrangements may now be discontinued in preference to channelling available funding through the above:

- **Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP)** – a programme previously based on Private Finance Initiative (PFI) to address the maintenance issues of the worst condition schools nationally, with a view to significant re-builds. A second round of bidding (PSBP2) was held at the end of 2014 as a consequence of which three Leicestershire schools (two primary and one secondary) have secured capital investment for major rebuilding programmes between 2015 and 2021.

- **Targeted Capital** – the DfE has from time to time provided the opportunity for local authorities to bid for targeted capital funding for specific projects that were sufficiently designed/developed to the point where they might be delivered in comparatively short timescales.
27. Section 106 Contributions

In the context of our overarching statutory duty to provide sufficient places for all pupils in Leicestershire, the current funding from central government (the Basic Need funding stream) does not secure additional capacity for pupils arising from new housing development.

Funding for new school places arising as a consequence of new housing is secured via developer contributions through their planning obligations, which are known as Section 106 agreements.

Where new development generates a need for additional pupil places which cannot be met from residual capacity in existing schools the Council, as the statutory local authority for education, are able to request contributions from residential housing development to mitigate the impact of additional homes. Residual capacity is measured by assessing the current level of spare capacity for schools within the locality, and the extent to which that capacity is already required as mitigation for committed development approved elsewhere.

Section 106 agreements are negotiated between the planning authority (normally the District Council) and the developer, with input from the LA.

The process therefore requires the LA to demonstrate to the planning authority sufficient need for additional school places, to do so has so far normally required that specific schools are named in the S106 agreement.

As a consequence of new legislation introduced in April 2010 a new mechanism for securing developer contributions through a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was introduced. This places greater emphasis on the naming of specific schools to receive any contributions. This means developers are unlikely to welcome the uncertainty of competitions for additional places, and will seek to only provide money for specific schemes.

The position is made further complex by the academies programme as schools set their own capacity and admission limits, and the introduction of age range changes, which may require that S106 funds allocated to specific schools are re-directed to others to take account of additional year groups. In both circumstances any change adds a layer of complexity to discussions with developers, leading to either the need to renegotiate some S106 agreements, or a challenge about the number of spaces available or to be provided as a consequence of housing development.

Of equal concern is an emerging trend where some developers have sought to renegotiate, and supported by the District Valuer, the amount of expected S106 contribution for new school places, on the basis that payment of the full monies would make their scheme financially unviable. Planning legislation gives entitlement for such negotiations to happen, but it should be expected that in these circumstances that there will be discussion with the Local Authority before a decision is reached, to determine our local priorities.

At present there are in Leicestershire circa 133 S106 agreements relating to providing funding for additional school places. Overall if all of the housing schemes, to which these agreements relate, proceed as they are planned then this will generate an additional £29 million funding, so far £7 million has been drawn down by the Council.

Due of the advent of Academies and the number of schools now making changes to their age range, admission arrangements and catchment areas it is helpful for the LA to have the flexibility to use the funding at the most appropriate school within the locality. We will therefore need to review our current S106 policy for developer contributions, to reflect this position so as to avoid wherever appropriate naming a particular school or site.

A revised policy in relation to planning obligations and developer contributions was agreed by the Cabinet at the end of 2014 and may be viewed via the following link www.leics.gov.uk/lpop_version_4_final.pdf

The LA may also need to further review its position in relation to Section 106 funding if, over the next few years there is a move away from funding of new places from one of Basic Need plus section 106 to one focused on CIL – this will be determined by central government policy.

Whatever funding mechanism is adopted, the LA will always seek to secure funding where it has entitlement to do so, and that is sufficient and appropriate for the needs of additional pupils within the locality.
28. Funding for specialist school places

As well as a reduction in the total capital investment in schools, there has also been a reduction in dedicated funding streams which have previously supported major capital investment in provision for pupils with SEN. Previously significant investment to develop SEN provision has been secured through bids to central Government, principally through the Targeted Capital Fund which is unlikely to be available in the future.

In terms of the future, Leicestershire is expected to experience significant population growth and a consequent increased need for special needs provision. This will result in an increased need for infrastructure and investment in mainstream and special school settings in the absence of a specific central Government funding mechanism to support this investment. Central government does not currently collate information on proposed need and there is an expectation that local authorities will have to respond to this need in the context of their overall capital funding resource.

Experience shows that the expansion of capacity in Leicestershire’s special needs facilities requires a much greater scale of investment per pupil place than for mainstream education, due to its specialist nature. However such investment, although significant, can lead to a significant reduction in revenue expenditure - by reducing the requirement to fund high-cost placements in the independent school sector. Reducing these revenue costs and ensuring value for money has continues to be an ongoing priority for the local authority.

In this context the LA will continue to explore the potential to extend SEN provision through a variety of funding strategies. This might include for example further targeted capital bids should the opportunity arise, developing invest to save proposals, or seeking to encourage new providers to Leicestershire through the development of Free or independent schools.

As soon as the opportunity arises, we will also seek to conclude our programme of developing area special schools, by completing the development of the remaining school in the Wigston area.

This Strategy will therefore need to be closely allied to the objectives set out in the accompanying strategy for SEN provision and the impacts to this arising from the Children and Families Act 2014.

29. Early Learning and Childcare

Apart from the capital funding to develop additional places for disadvantaged two year olds there is currently no dedicated capital funding stream to support either new provision, or the strategic maintenance of existing Early Learning and Childcare.

Early learning and childcare providers previously benefited from the Childcare Quality and Access capital funding for Early Years, provided by the DfE. This fund is no longer available, in fact previous years budgets were reduced as a part of the national approach to reducing the budget deficit. While there are currently no ongoing capital funding streams from central government, we will seek to ensure that we can meet our statutory responsibilities for provision for two, three and four year olds and will look carefully at available funding sources to achieve this.

30. Current/anticipated capital programme

In consideration of the capital funding requirements arising from the above, the LA has previously prepared and published a capital funding programme for 2014/15, and more recently 2015/16, to confirm our planned investment priorities and to give clarity to schools, academies and other learning providers about these. Further programmes will be published in subsequent years to underpin delivery of the Strategy.
Part 4: Capital Funding Strategy

32. Maintenance and Condition Funding

The LA currently receives an amount of capital maintenance funding for maintained schools from central government. This is the only source of direct funding available to us for the strategic maintenance of existing school buildings.

Although there has been a good level of investment in the maintenance of Leicestershire’s schools over recent years, for the most part this has only been sufficient to address the most urgent and/or critical maintenance issues identified from building survey assessments. By necessity, priority has been principally given to the replacement/repair of heating systems, and keeping buildings wind and water tight. As a result, it has not been possible to deal with everything we would like, and we acknowledge that some schools have had to continue to operate with concerns about maintenance issues.

On the other hand academies now have access to maintenance funding directly via the CIF (explained above), but nevertheless do encounter the same funding restrictions to those experienced within the LA.

The introduction of a large number of Leicestershire academies, and their further development in future years, is expected to incrementally reduce the overall scale of Capital Maintenance funding allocated to the LA by central government. The limited availability of funding to the LA highlights the importance of having a transparent and evidenced based approach to identifying priorities for investment over the next few years.

There is also an emerging issue in relation to academies moving into sponsorship arrangements, enforced by the DfE as a consequence of concerns about their performance. Increasingly potential sponsors are pressing the LA to address the key condition and maintenance issues relative to the school to be sponsored, before the arrangement is confirmed. This approach appears to have the support of the DfE, which is keen to; move underperforming schools quickly into sponsorship arrangements, address beforehand any potential barriers to this, and ensure the establishment of sponsored academies on a sound financial footing. In practice this has placed significant demands upon the available capital maintenance budget, in doing so, seemingly giving priority treatment for sponsored academies.

31. Delivery of the Capital Programme

The LA will need to ensure that capital grant allocations provided by central government for new school places are used in line with DfE/EFA expectations in terms of build costs. To achieve this, and to make the best of the funding made available, we will seek to review our framework agreements for capital developments to ensure that these continue to offer good value for money, adopting standardised design solutions wherever possible, in order to minimise costs and timescales. However in providing standard designs, we will seek not to compromise on build quality.
Part 4: Capital Funding Strategy

Clearly, the scale of funding allocated from central government is not related directly to the scale of investment needed to address all the maintenance needs of Leicestershire schools. This is a position that the LA and schools are not content to accept and we will work with our partners to continue to press central government for a fairer settlement.

There is no discrete funding in the LA to support the maintenance of Children’s Centres, although minor tenant issues are addressed through the revenue budget. Larger issues are not fully integrated in to capital planning, which leaves the LA exposed to meeting potential high costs arising from boiler and roof replacement etc.

Meeting Capital Maintenance priorities

The approach to funding maintenance issues will be based on an objective assessment against consistently applied criteria. A key part of the assessment process will be the condition of facilities as identified in the Asset Management Plan (AMP) database, and this will be the key determinant for capital funding. This data is either held by the LA for maintained schools or independently by academies.

While the government commissioned the Schools National Survey and has undertaken a review of school buildings across the country to inform future funding decisions, the Education Funding Agency has confirmed that local surveys should continue to be done. For maintained schools it is proposed that there will be an ongoing regime of condition assessments, and it is advised that academies (as custodians of LA properties), also continue to keep accurate condition data as this will form a key driver for future capital investment. While the asset data will be the key driver for prioritising and allocating capital maintenance funding, decision-making needs to be supported by direct engagement with individual schools, their headteachers and governors, to identify where there are specific concerns about condition and health and safety issues. A contingency fund will continue to ensure that urgent but unforeseen items can be addressed should the need arise.

For LA maintained schools we will therefore:

- Commit to address all AMP Condition priorities that are identified as ‘Priority 1’ urgent works that need to be undertaken within six months, and if left unaddressed could result in more serious issues arising, such as a school closure.
- Maintain a list of all AMP priorities identified as high priority from which a maintenance programme of action will be developed.
- Ensure that schools are made aware of intended works, and the criteria by which they are determined, so as to provide some certainty of our investment priorities.

Although we expect that the maintenance programme will include more schemes than can be immediately financed, inclusion on the list will establish which schemes will be brought forward if and when any additional funding becomes available.

For Children’s Centres we will review the current arrangements, and seek to establish a process to determine their maintenance needs and ensure that these are incorporated in our capital planning.

The agreed maintenance investment programme will further provide the opportunity to review the delivery of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy solutions across the education estate. Such a programme has the potential to mitigate the impact of ever increasing energy costs and to reduce the carbon footprint of Leicestershire schools; contributing to the LA’s and national targets. Given the uncertainty of future capital funding post 2018, there is a clear requirement to find innovative ways to fund such a programme. Depending on technology renewable energy schemes can provide guaranteed long term revenue streams as well as meaningful savings in energy costs. These sources of income provide the potential payback mechanism for private sector investment by energy service companies (ESCos) in renewable heat and electricity solutions as well as energy efficiency upgrades. We are committed to exploring such opportunities to provide a truly sustainable education estate.
34. Prioritising investment

Against a background of budget reductions and uncertainty about central government support, it will be increasingly important for us to work with key stakeholders to identify our key priorities for future investment.

Investing in Leicestershire schools and academies is much more than just about the maintenance of the bricks and mortar, it will contribute to the health and wellbeing of pupils and staff, support their achievement and education performance generally reduce running costs, and the carbon impact of our buildings.

Set against our principles, the two primary drivers underpinning investment prioritisation must continue to be:

- Basic Needs - the need for the Council to meet its statutory obligations in terms of pupil place provision, and;
- Condition and suitability of LA maintained school buildings - the need to ensure a safe, secure and healthy environment for pupils in terms of maintenance investment, but delivering this in a way that does not favour any particular group of schools at the expense of others, or disproportionately allocate available funds.

There is growing activity by Leicestershire schools to address the legacy of ‘three tier’ schooling (primary, high and upper phases) and 10+ issues. Whilst the basic needs capital allocation must be used for the provision of additional school places, in allocating this, we will seek to realise the aspirations of schools and academies to address the disparities of our current pattern of schools, where this is necessary, appropriate and where there is clear local demand for change. However this will not be allowed to become the primary driver for creating additional places. Any such requests would of course be prioritised in the context of other demands upon the available budget.

What we will do;

- To ensure that basic needs capital allocated to the LA is targeted towards meeting the need for additional places arising from increased births and general demographic change. (Key Priority 4)
- To seek to support opportunities to address structural change to the pattern of education, where this can be linked to basic needs requirements in the locality, and where there is a robust case for change. (Key Priority 5)
- To work with each District, housing developers, maintained schools and Academies to ensure that appropriate contributions are received for new school places, proportionate to the scale of development, and used in a way which provides for the best educational solution. (Key Priority 6)
- To further develop strong arrangements for the management of our assets, and strengthen our relationship with Academies, to ensure all school buildings (irrespective of their designation and howsoever funded) are maintained fit for purpose. (Key Priority 8)
- To seek to support opportunities to remove the 10+ system in the four remaining areas of Leicestershire, to enable the retention of Year 6 in primary schools, where there is local demand from parents for change, there is a partnership approach, the change is affordable and leads to improved outcomes. (Key Priority 9)
- Develop a capital programme for future years that gives clarity to how all aspects of funding are sourced, and our intentions for their use, and priorities for investment.
- Ensure that where new housing is developed, adequate developer contributions are secured through Section 106 or CIL, so as to provide for additional school places and other aspects of education provision.
- Explore opportunities to secure investment for other aspects of education relating to SEN and Disabilities, Provision for vulnerable individuals and groups, Early Learning, and Children’s Centres.
- Ensure that the capital investment for the maintenance of the LA’s is guided by sound asset management planning.
### Part 5: The Methodology for Planning Additional Places

#### 35. Primary Schools

##### 35.1 Pupil forecasts

The key objective for short term forecasting, is to ensure that there are sufficient primary school reception places available for pupils expected in the following September in each locality. Expected pupil numbers are derived from NHS data analysed for each district and applied to schools within the given planning areas.

This provides an annual assessment of births and the locations of all pre-school age children. This data, together with an assessment of pupil migration i.e. historic data about parents choosing schools out of catchment, children having SEN etc, provides a robust indicator of the likely number of children needing a place at each local primary school.

The pupil forecasts are compared to Planned Admission Numbers (PAN) and net capacities of schools in each planning area/locality and this will identify where there is the potential for a shortfall in places. At this stage where significant growth is identified, there will be discussions with the respective schools to test the assumptions made, agree the numbers that need to be planned for and the most appropriate action to address any capital needs.

Academies, Free schools, Studio Schools, Mainstream and Voluntary Aided/Controlled schools are all state-funded provision and are required to participate in Leicestershire's co-ordinated admissions processes. The expectation is that places provided by all of these schools will be taken into account when strategically planning school place provision across the county.

##### 35.2 Planning timescales

Our planning timescales in relation to pupil forecasts broadly follow the timeline below;

**November** - Analysis of revised NHS figures and checks against previous changes in pupil numbers

**December and January** - First assessment of future year admissions, checks on assumptions leading to a final assessment used to inform the capital investment programme

**March to May** - Strategic review of the capital investment programme and a further review of anticipated admission numbers

**September** - An analysis of actual admissions round as compared to assessment to inform and improve future planning

##### 35.3 Primary school places

The planning window for additional primary places is short and birth information and planning applications are constantly monitored in order to plan ahead effectively. The LA will normally wait until at least two (and occasionally more) years of increased demand in the area is evident before it makes proposals to permanently expand a school. The reason for this policy is to ensure that permanent places are not created where temporary places would be sufficient; to maintain stability of provision in neighbouring schools and to reduce the risk around unnecessary capital expenditure. In practice, this will often mean that schools that are commissioned to provide additional places will have a temporary expansion followed by a permanent expansion once statutory consultation (where required) has been completed.

Where the need for places is significant but not sustained, the authority may need to seek temporary solutions to providing the places for one (or occasionally more) years. If accommodation is not available in existing premises, it is likely that this additional capacity would be provided in temporary accommodation on an existing school site.

It should be noted that for the purpose of capital funding for school place planning, the replacement of temporary accommodation, where this does not create additional pupil/capacity will normally be considered as a condition funding issue rather than basic needs.
The need to provide additional places with limited resources may mean that schools are required to reinstate classrooms previously adopted for other, non-statutory purposes. This could include resources such as music rooms; art rooms; after schools clubs; private or voluntary nursery rooms (where lease arrangements allow); break out spaces/intervention rooms and ICT suites. Schools are encouraged to be mindful of this possibility when considering the conversion of classrooms to other usage. In taking such action it will be necessary to give careful consideration whether decisions would compromise the quality of education provided, and be detrimental to teaching and learning – clearly in the context of demand for additional places, there is a balance to be struck between striving to address school viability; cost effectiveness and quality of provision; and the inclusivity of provision.

The LA will aim to provide additional places at existing schools, wherever possible and appropriate, rather than commission new provision. The rationale for this approach is to maintain stability in the existing school system; to provide the places in the shortest timescale possible; and to achieve best value for money, making the most of capital allocations.

### 35.4 Preferred school size

The preference of the LA is to expand schools in whole forms of entry (1 form of entry constitutes 30 pupils) unless there is no other option available. Our ideal is for schools to operate on the basis of two forms of entry (60 pupils into reception year forming two classes) to give an overall size of 420 places, but will operate at a maximum of three forms of entry providing 630 places where this is the only realistic option in the area, school leadership is strong and good practice is embedded, and ideally standards are high or demonstrate sustained improvement.

The LA will always seek to arrive at a negotiated solution with governing bodies. However, on occasion, the need may arise for the LA to use its school place commissioning powers against the wishes of the governing body if an alternative solution is either not available or not considered to offer the same quality of educational opportunity to local children.

Where it is not possible to arrive at a proposal which directly matches all of the commissioning criteria, the Council will either seek best fit, commission new provision or invoke its commissioning powers.

### 35.5 Viability and Sustainability

It is recognised that in many rural areas, schools are unlikely to be able to operate to our preferred size, or indeed whole forms of entry, bringing a requirement in some cases, for combined year groups. There are currently 57 primary schools in Leicestershire that are below half a form of entry (105 pupils or less) in terms of pupil numbers, a large proportion of these being designated rural schools. It is acknowledged that many of these schools provide good or outstanding standards of education and are a vital part of the community they serve. In June 2013 the national review of the schools’ funding formula was published. This includes a review of measures for supporting small schools which have less flexibility within the budget compared to larger schools in dealing with sudden decreases in pupil numbers. This school funding reform is scheduled to take effect from 2015.

Where school size is significantly below one form of entry the LA will promote collaboration and support through local school networks as a means of achieving sustainability and maintaining stability.

If ultimately a school becomes either educationally or financially unviable and local reorganisation remains the only option, the LA will work closely with the Governing body, and where necessary the Diocese, to identify potential solutions, but with a presumption of the school remaining open, and closure only as a last resort.
36. Secondary School Places

36.1 Pupil forecasts

At secondary level, the planning of school places needs to recognise the wider geographical area that secondary schools serve, and the greater flexibility they have in accommodating changing numbers. For these schools, assessments of future pupil numbers will be based initially on the historic transfer data from existing feeder primary schools and previous analysis of parental preference.

There are now many secondary schools with surplus places, well in excess of what should be considered as a reasonable tolerance, for example there are over 9 schools with surplus places in excess of 25%. Overall pupil numbers at secondary schools are not expected to begin to rise until at least the 2017/18 academic year and in some cases later.

In view of the current position, and the over-supply of places in some localities as a consequence of limited numbers of potential pupils (and accentuated in some areas by secondary age range changes), it is unlikely that short term demand for places will be an issue, and the main focus should therefore be on longer term planning and capacity to accommodate housing growth.

Forecasts of pupil numbers for secondary schools are based on the historic transfer of pupils (usually the average of the last three years) from their feeder primary schools. Individual school intakes are adjusted to recognise parental choice, admission numbers, the usual number of successful appeals and general in and out catchment movement trends.

The staying-on rates into post 16 education within school sixth forms (Years 12 and 13), are usually based on recent staying-on rates.

Adjustments are made to individual year groups to allow for the annual net losses or gains to year groups. Similarly, adjustments are made to year groups to take account of the effect of children moving into new housing. Information on recent and future housing developments is provided by each District in their capacity as the local planning authority – in this context the LA will only take account of completed housing developments or those known to have received full planning consent.

Where the assessment of future pupil numbers confirms that a change is needed in the capacity an existing school or a change of age range, we will work closely with the school(s), its governors, and the DfE/EFA to ensure that there is clarity regarding the future pupil numbers, and that there are effective arrangements in place during any years of transition.

36.2 Preferred school size

The LA preference is for secondary schools of 1000 pupils and above, but it is recognised that due to local factors there are many schools of between 600 and 1000 places. In our view the unit costs of provision rises significantly at below 600 pupils, and small schools may experience challenges in providing diversity within the curriculum. However we recognise that in some circumstances small secondary schools may be dictated by local factors, such as pupil demographics or the limitations of their available site. In such circumstances strong partnership/collaborative arrangements with other schools, preferably in the locality, is considered advantageous.

36.3 Viability and Sustainability

The LA has a concern regarding the quality of learning in those schools facing viability issues as a consequence of significantly reduced pupil numbers. Where this is the case we will actively encourage schools to consider their options for sustainability, and will work with their governors, the DfE/RSC/EFA and other partners to identify possible solutions, but recognising at all times that predominantly as academies, such schools are not directly under the control of the local authority. In this context we will consider all opportunities to utilise surplus places for appropriate and sustainable 14 – 19 provision; short stay school provision; or the delivery of wider council services; where there is both well evidenced demand and support, and proposals are appropriate to the needs of the community.

In brokering sustainable solutions the LA will consider the balance between the need to maintain an educational presence in the area, including the need for particular categories of school, against the need for sustainable and high quality provision.
37. Factors and Criteria influencing selection

A basic requirement of this Strategy is that it ensures the right number of school places to meet pupils needs, in the right locations, at the time they are needed.

In areas that have been assessed as requiring additional places, the commissioned schools will be selected according to the following criteria:

- The location of the school relative to the expected pupil need
  
  It is desirable for schools to be at the heart of the community that they serve in order to provide easy access to their facilities by children, young people and their families, and the resident community. The Local Authority will seek to commission school places at schools and in areas that provide easy access in terms of travelling distance, time and nature of the journey, aiming to facilitate sustainable modes of transport such as cycling and walking. However, this may not always be possible, given the size and geography of Leicestershire, and its rural communities, and some children may therefore have to make longer journeys to their school. We will aim to ensure that disadvantaged groups are not adversely impacted by changes to school locations.

- The current size of the school
  
  We will wherever possible seek to expand schools in whole forms of entry, aiming for an optimal size of two forms of entry (60 pupils into reception year forming two classes) but in certain circumstances will consider operation at a maximum of three forms of entry where certain criteria outlined above are met, and if this is the only realistic option.

- The current performance of the school
  
  Guidance on school organisation is clear that outcomes should lead to school improvement and increased attainment levels. The Government wishes to see a dynamic system in which weak schools that need to be closed are closed quickly and replaced by new ones where necessary; and the best schools are able to expand and spread their ethos and success.

Performance information used in planning school place provision will include Ofsted judgements and attainment data for the respective key stages. This information is coupled with information on deprivation, as measured by entitlement to free school meals and the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, and the amount of pupil progress between key stages in order to set attainment in context. Particular attention will be paid to the effects of proposals on groups that tend to underperform including children from certain ethnic groups, children from deprived backgrounds and children in care, with the aim of narrowing attainment gaps.

- Popularity of the school
  
  We will seek to commission additional places, when needed, at schools with high levels of parental preference in the locality, looking closely at first choices and those schools that are oversubscribed.

- The physical ability of the school to expand, including any site, or potential planning constraints
  
  We will conduct an option appraisal of the existing premises and sites to inform feasibility, and seek informal views of planners, the DfE and Sport England where required to do so. The issues to be considered will include: the condition and suitability of existing premises; the ability to expand or alter the premises, including temporary transitional arrangements whilst works are in process; the works required to expand or alter the premises and the estimated costs for this; the size of the site and its topography; road access and general highways issues, including safety issues; and the likelihood of obtaining planning consent and section 77 consent if required (approval from Sport England where playing fields might be affected by the proposals). The DfE has previously made clear that consent to build on outdoor space should not be presumed. Alterations to school premises and new build schools are subject to planning development consent, by the LA for maintained schools and the District in respect of academies. This process will consider the impact of the proposals on the local community, in terms of location of premises on site, alterations to traffic conditions and road safety issues.
Part 5: The Methodology for Planning Additional Places

- **Costs of expansion**
  
  *It will be important to ensure that any proposals represent good value for money and are in keeping with available capital funds.*

- **Diversity**

  Leicestershire has a broad variety of provision, with high proportions of voluntary-aided, foundation and some trust schools, in addition to a large number of academies of various types. The LA seeks to maintain or increase levels of diversity and choice for parents wherever possible. In considering school planning, the aim will be to maintain the balance of denominational provision, unless parental preferences via the admissions process provide evidence that change is required. In considering places at voluntary aided schools the LA has a strong relationship with the appropriate Diocesan and Church Authorities, and we regard this partnership working as implicit to good planning.

  In providing additional places, we will seek to provide these at existing schools with high standards which receive high levels of first preference applications, wherever possible. However, if this is not possible, and the LA has to commission a new school, the Education Act 2011, and non-statutory guidance, contains a presumption that the new school will be an academy or free school.

  The process for establishing a new school has been amended by section 37 of the Education Act 2011 and a flowchart for establishing a new school can be found in Appendix 4 to this document.

- **SEN**

  Wherever possible any school changes should seek to promote greater inclusion for those pupils having SEN and/or disabilities, by providing specialist provision within /linked to mainstream schools or academies. The benefits of this approach are that it; maximises the opportunity for children and young people to be included within their local community, minimises journey times to and from school, enables pupils to spend more time at home with their families, and makes the optimal use of the revenue funding available to support such individuals or groups.

- **Pupil Referral Unit, Alternative Provision, extended services and other support for vulnerable children and young people**

  *It is important that any changes to schools if not directly related to Alternative Provision, help support access to a wide range of extended services, providing opportunities for personal development; academic and applied learning; training; addressing barriers to participation and in particular supporting wherever possible, vulnerable children and young people and their families.*

- **The wishes of the Governing body**

  *Proposals will normally require careful negotiation with schools and their governors to align aspirations for development. Where proposals are subject to statutory notice processes we will ensure that all prescribed consultees have the opportunity to have their say before any decisions are taken by the LA.*

### 38. Addition of sixth forms

Where any proposed changes involve the addition of a sixth form, the following additional factors will be considered:

- The existing and future pattern of post 16 provision in the area, including provision in neighbouring local authorities (quantity, quality, breadth, viability and impact to overall sustainability of provision in the area); any proposals to establish further provision through Studio Schools, University Technical Colleges and Free Schools

- Evidence of demand from parents and young people.

- Evidence of the need for the proposed curriculum in the area; for example will the sixth form curriculum compliment what is already available locally and will it help engage young people that are not in education, employment or training (NEET), or conversely might the proposals displace learner numbers that would have otherwise attended other establishments within the locality

- Effects on the viability of nearby high quality post 16 providers, (particularly the scale of the effect compared to the provider(s) size);

- Evidence of the intention for the proposals to lead to higher standards and improved progression routes.
Part 5: The Methodology for Planning Additional Places

- The sustainability of learner numbers in the long term.
- The proposed admission arrangements

39. Consultation

Seeking the views of all stakeholders forms a key principle of validating any proposals for change.

In terms of maintained schools, the LA as the commissioner, will make the final decision on the majority of school organisation proposals. For academies the decision will be taken by the Secretary of State for Education through the DfE/RSC/EFA as appropriate, having first sought the views of the local authority.

The School Organisation Regulations prescribe which individuals and groups should be consulted and the time scales for consultation. These individuals and groups include; pupils, parents, the school concerned including staff and governors, other schools and colleges likely to be affected by any change, the respective Diocese, neighbouring local authorities, the local Member(s) of Parliament, the local community and other relevant parties. Particular emphasis is placed on the need to consult with the parents of children who might be eligible to attend proposed new or expanded provision, as opposed to parents of pupils already at the school. Periods of consultation should be widely publicised beforehand, and be of sufficient length so as to provide all individuals with the opportunity to have their say. It is recommended that schools publish consultation information on their websites, including a means to respond online, and invite interested parties to an open meeting within the consultation period. Where statutory notices apply, all consultation responses should be considered, whether given in any initial consultation (prior to the publication of the statutory notice) or the representation period that follows publication.

40. School Net Capacity and Published Admission Numbers

Schools’ net capacities are derived from the number, size and use of teaching areas. The Department for Education’s methodology is used to calculate a range of work spaces. This takes account of the number of teaching spaces, their size and usage and includes an allowance for supplementary spaces such as halls and libraries, and also indicates an appropriate admission number for the school. This provides the authority with a measure against which to assess surplus places and overcrowding.

Each schools published admission number is its maximum permitted intake in the normal year of admission. Published admission numbers are normally set at, or slightly above, the indicated admission number level and will be within the maximum and minimum capacity range for the school. Schools should be aware when planning any building projects that providing additional teaching areas will increase the range of workplaces and, consequently, increase the indicated admission number. This could lead to a requirement to take additional pupils, by increasing the published admission number.

Conversely, the removal of accommodation from school use (e.g. a temporary classroom) may decrease the net capacity and should lead to a school considering whether a downward adjustment to the published admission number may be required in order to avoid the possibility of future overcrowding. Schools adding or removing capacity should be aware of the implications on both the level of surplus places and the admission number of the school and are required to inform the local authority of any changes to their accommodation which may affect the net capacity.

As the LA needs to be aware of the availability of places at all schools in the county in order to fulfil its statutory responsibility to provide sufficient school places, there is a requirement for Leicestershire academies to share information on their admission numbers and capacity of their buildings.

Where major building projects for maintained schools relate to the significant enlargement of schools’ premises, and may therefore also be subject to a statutory consultation process, the LA will provide advice and guidance upon request. This will include impact on the sufficiency of premises, published admission numbers and any legal processes that are required to effect changes. However, irrespective of whether the school is LA maintained or an academy, the governing body will be responsible for undertaking any required consultation in order to effect the changes.
41. New Housing Yield Rates and Pupil Cost Multipliers

Contributions will be sought in relation to outline or full applications for planning consent for residential developments of 10 or more dwellings which are likely to result in the need for additional educational provision. The LA does not presently seek contributions for the following:
- One bedroomed dwellings
- Sheltered or elderly housing
- Student accommodation
- Other specialist housing where it can be demonstrated that the accommodation will not be used by children

Contributions will be sought for all other types of housing including social housing.

When calculating the need for education contributions the LA uses the yield rates shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yield Rate per 100 homes of 2 or more bedrooms</th>
<th>Yield Rate per 100 flats or apartments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Age Pupils</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Age Pupils</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>1.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post 16</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The need for additional places is determined by taking account of:
- The net capacity of the catchment school and any other school within a two/three mile available walking route of the development. The net capacity will be determined according to the number set by an Academy or the LA following the use of the DfE Net Capacity Assessment. It will not necessarily be the minimum or the maximum of the range but will be set at a point within the range which is determined to be the most appropriate for the individual school.
- Pupil projections at the catchment school and any other school within a two/three mile available walking route of the development
- Any other housing developments with outline or full planning permission which will generate the need for pupil places at the catchment school for the development and any other school within two/three miles.

Having taken all these factors into account where it can be demonstrated that the number of pupils generated by a development is greater than the spare capacity in the local schools the LA will seek a contribution to provide the additional school places required.

When calculating an education contribution the LA will use the following figures based on the previous Department for Education (DFE) cost multipliers of;
- **£12099** for each Primary age pupil;
- **£17876** for each Secondary age pupil, and;
- **£19,327** for each post 16 pupil/student

These cost multipliers are used where Section 106 contributions are sought to extend or enhance facilities at existing schools.

When the scale of development is such to necessitate a new school, the Developer/s will be expected to provide a fully serviced site free of charge, or fund site acquisition, fund the building costs, including the infrastructure and the playing fields and all furniture, equipment and ICT costs, to a specification agreed by the LA.

The new school may be constructed directly by the Developer or they may provide the necessary funds to the LA to organise construction.
Part 5: The Methodology for Planning Additional Places

The phasing of any contributions to fund the cost of a new school, or the timetable for the building of a new school, where the developer(s) is undertaking this will be agreed on a site by site basis. Ideally the opening date for a new primary school will be the first September prior to the occupation of the 300th dwelling, and for a secondary school the September prior to occupation of the 2000th dwelling, but by negotiation may sometimes be brought forward. Any new school, howsoever constructed will be an Academy

42. Planning Areas

For the purposes of this Strategy, Leicestershire has been considered in terms of the seven District authority boundaries, notably;
- Blaby
- Charnwood
- Harborough
- Hinckley and Bosworth
- Melton
- North West Leicestershire
- Oadby and Wigston

In terms of school capacity returns to the DfE (the SCAP return), analysis has taken place in greater detail based on small clusters of schools arranged in planning areas - this provides for a clearer picture in terms of school place planning needs, pinpointing areas of specific concern. It should be noted that the school planning areas do not necessarily have a boundary in common with those of the Districts.

43. Factors that may cause volatility in pupil numbers

Pupil projections are estimates within a wide range of future possibilities and may be subject to variances arising from hard to predict or unforeseeable circumstances. For example, the child yield from new housing estates may have a significant impact on pupil numbers but is a particularly difficult figure to estimate, due to the uncertainty of build and occupation rates, and the different types of housing. These judgements are made more complex given the recent economic situation and the impact to the housing market.

Despite the slowing down of the housing market in recent years - although there are now encouraging signs of a recovery - there nevertheless continues to be significant movement of population into and within the county. By its nature, this is difficult to measure and project.

What we will do;

- Ensure that we apply a robust and transparent methodology to give clarity and integrity to the planning of school and other educational places.
- Ensure that where schools are extended or new schools are developed, or other educational provision provided, that this is keeping with; the expected demand for additional places, proportionate to their locality, and the needs of the community.
- Above all ensure that we have the right number of school and other learning places in the right locations, at the time they are needed.....
44. Blaby District

44.1. Primary Schools

There are 25 Primary Schools in Blaby District, 15 are located within villages where there is one or more other schools within a safe walking distance with the remaining 10 in a more isolated position.

The smallest school in the district has a net capacity of 70 with a further 5 schools with a net capacity below 210. The remaining 19 schools have capacities between 210 and 560.

If no further action is taken 17 schools are forecast to have number on rolls above their net capacity within the next 5 years, however 3 of the more isolated schools are forecast to have significant surplus places in excess of 25%.

The two areas facing the most significant pressure are Countesthorpe and Braunstone Town. The increases here have been due to a variety of factors including increased birth rates, housing developments and inward migration to the area. An extension was completed to Greenfield Primary School in Countesthorpe during 2014/15 and the development of a new primary school to serve Braunstone and Leicester Forest East will commence as part of the 2015/16 Capital Programme. Section 106 funds are held to address the forecast deficits at the primary schools in Sapcote, Glenfield, Stoney Stanton, Leicester Forest East, Huncote and Blaby. Discussions are on-going with Kirby Muxloe Primary as to how to best address the forecast deficit of places at that school.

Due to the location of the District next to the city boundary there have been a significant number of city resident pupils in primary schools in Blaby, most notably in Glen Parva, Glenfield and Braunstone. However, as birth rates increase the number of spaces available for city resident pupils has decreased, most notably in Braunstone but also in other areas as well. There is not a significant loss of primary age pupils to other districts.

44.2 Secondary Schools

Although there are 4 secondary Schools in the district, pupils living in the district are served by a number of secondary schools just outside of the boundary, these include:

- Hastings High School, Burbage
- Heathfield High School, Earl Shilton
- Martin High School, Anstey
- Thomas Estley College, Broughton Astley
- Mount Grace High School Hinckley
- Bosworth College, Desford
- John Cleveland College, Hinckley
- Lutterworth College
- William Bradford College, Earl Shilton

Of the 4 Secondary schools in the district, three are High Schools and there is 1 Upper School. Two of the High Schools have recently gained approval for age range changes from 11 to 14 to 11 to 16 - Braunstone Winstanley will retained its year 9 from September 2014 and Brockington College will do so from September 2015. Plans for a change in age range for Countesthorpe College and Leysland High are currently awaiting DfE approval.

In Braunstone the change of age range has caused a forecast deficit of places which Winstanley College (an academy) has plans to address. Similar plans relating to addressing the consequences of a change of age range at Brockington College are also underway. There are some surplus places at the two remaining secondary schools in the district, however these are not of a level to cause concern.

As with Primary Schools there have historically been a number of pupils residing in Leicester City attending Secondary Schools in Blaby District. It is anticipated that the number will reduce at Winstanley and Brockington College’s when each school reduces its admission numbers to cater for their planned age range changes.
44.3 Post 16 provision

Countesthorpe College is the only post 16 provider located in the District with other provision linked to the Upper Schools in Hinckley, Lutterworth and Desford. A studio school, the Sir Frank Whittle School, opened in September 2014 in Lutterworth, and now adds to the choice and diversity of provision for students age 14-18. The studio school serves a wide area extending into neighbouring districts.

44.4 Provision for SEN

There is a unit for pupils with Speech and Language Difficulties attached to a Primary School. There is also a satellite provision for the Birkett House Special School, located adjacent to Countesthorpe College.

44.5 Alternative provision

The Oakfield School Pupil Referral Unit, providing for primary age pupils, is located on the outskirts of Blaby village.

44.6 Nursery provision

There is a Local Authority maintained Nursery located in Countesthorpe.

44.7 Births

Over the last 10 years births have fluctuated year upon year with increases and decreases in birth rate balancing out over this period. The number of births peaked at 1077 in 2008/09, and the lowest number of births in the ten year period occurred in 2004/05 when the figure was 991. The latest information gives a figure of 1026 for 2012/13. The average figure for the ten year period is 1025 births per year.

44.8 Planned Housing Growth

Planning Permission has been granted for a 4,250 dwelling Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) at Lubbesthorpe. Sites and funding have been safeguarded on this development for two Primary Schools and a Secondary School, the size of which will be dependent upon the mix of dwellings on the development. It is anticipated that the first primary school will be open when 300 dwellings are occupied and the secondary school when 2000 dwellings are occupied.

In addition to the SUE the District core strategy for housing outlined 12 area of growth which are;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No of dwellings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blaby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countesthorpe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narborough / Littlethorpe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whetstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoney Stanton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cosby</td>
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<tr>
<td>Croft</td>
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<tr>
<td>Huncote</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elimesthorpe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharnford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurlaston</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

As other developments apply for planning permission requests will be made for education contributions to accommodate pupils from the developments where required. Due to the expected small number of dwellings involved in further proposals, it is likely that any S106 funding will be used to provide additional places at existing schools in the area.
45. Charnwood Borough

45.1 Primary Schools

There are 48 Primary Schools in Charnwood Borough, 31 are located within towns/villages where there is one or more other schools within a safe walking distance, with the remaining 17 in a more isolated position.

The smallest school in the district has capacity for 63 pupils. The largest has capacity for 511 pupils. Currently there are 2 schools with less than 70 pupils on roll. There are three primary schools in the Shepshed area whose age range is 4-10, rather than the traditional 4-11.

If no further action is taken 25 schools are forecast to have number on rolls above their net capacity within the next 5 years.

The areas facing the most significant pressure are Loughborough Town, Barrow, Quorn, Mountsorrel, Wymeswold, Anstey, Syston, Sileby, Birstall, Rothley and Hathern. The increases have been due to a variety of factors including increased birth rates, housing developments and inward migration to the area. The situation in Loughborough Town will be addressed in future years; discussions are on-going with Barrow Hall Orchard C of E Primary School as to how to best address the forecast deficit of places. New classrooms were provided at Mountsorrel Primary School in 2013/14 in anticipation of the forecast deficit. A new foundation block is currently under construction at Wymeswold Primary School due to complete April 2014. A feasibility study has been commissioned at Anstey Latimer School to look at providing additional pupil places. Additional classrooms at The Merton Primary School, Syston, were completed in 2013/14 to meet the forecast deficit. The forecast increase at The Pochin Barkby is based on a planning application that was granted permission in 2012 but has yet to commence on site. The situation in Birstall will be addressed in future years. The new Rothley C of E Primary School has now opened providing 420 places with infrastructure to expand to 525 places in the future if required. An additional classroom was provided at Hathern C of E Primary in 2013/14.

Charnwood Borough also abuts the city boundary. As a consequence of this, there have been a significant number of city resident pupils in primary schools in Barkby, and Thurmaston. However, Leicester City Council is increasing the size of a primary school in Hamilton by two Forms of Entry (420 places) which may see a drift back to the City and fewer applications coming through. There is not a significant loss of primary age pupils to other districts.

45.2 Secondary Schools

There are 14 Secondary schools in the Charnwood Borough, they consist of 1 High School for pupils 10-14, 3 High schools for pupils 11-14, 4 schools for pupils 11-16, 3 Upper schools for pupils 14-19 and 3 schools for pupils 11-19.

Roundhill Academy has been approved to change its age range to 11-16 from September 2015. Shepshed High School and Hind Leys CC are currently progressing through academy sponsorship and longer term are expected to seek a merger and change of age range to provide a ‘all through’ school. Four of the secondary schools, Quorn Rawlins, Woodbrook Vale, Anstey Martin and Limehurst, are forecast to have a deficit of places; this is partly as a result of changing age range and some Academies accepting pupils over their admission number. All four have had mixed success in obtaining funding from the EFA (Education Funding Agency) to enable them to increase their capacity to begin to address the forecast deficit, however in some schools, particularly Anstey Martin, there is a significant and urgent need for capital investment. There are two specific areas where the forecast number of surplus places is a cause for concern. Discussions about potential solutions are on-going with the schools involved.

45.3 Post 16 provision

There are seven post 16 providers in the Borough, they are Quorn Rawlins, Wreake Valley, Charnwood Upper, Longslade, De Lisle Catholic, Shepshed Hind Leys and Loughborough College.
45.4 Provision for SEN
There is an Area Special School, a Special School, 1 unit for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties attached to a Primary School, 1 Unit for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties attached to a Upper School, 1 Unit for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder attached to a High/Upper campus, and 2 units for pupils with Speech and Language Difficulties attached to a High and Upper Schools.

45.5 Births
Over the last 10 years births have steadily increased. The lowest number of births in the ten year period occurred in 2005/06 when the figure was 1618. The highest number of births was 1864 in 2010/11. However in 2011/12 this figure dropped to 1814. The latest information gives a figure of 1833 for the year 2012/13. The average figure for the ten year period is 1770 births per year.

45.6 Planned Housing Growth
The proposed housing growth detailed below is part of the Core Strategy submitted by the Borough Council.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sites and funding have been requested for new Primary Schools on the developments at:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• West of Loughborough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• North East of Leicester (Barkby)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• North of Birstall (Broadnook)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A site and funding for a new for a Secondary School has also been requested on the North East of Leicester SUE, the size of which will be dependent upon the mix of dwellings on the development. As other developments apply for planning permission requests will be made for education contributions to accommodate pupils from the developments where required. In most cases it is anticipated that the funding will be used to provide additional places at existing schools in the area.

46. Harborough District
46.1 Primary Schools
There are 35 Primary Schools in Harborough District, 14 are located within towns/villages where there is one or more other schools within a safe walking distance, with the remaining 21 in a more isolated position.

The smallest school in the district has a net capacity of 70 with a further 17 schools with a net capacity below 210. The remaining 17 schools have capacities between 210 and 525.

If no further action is taken 13 schools are forecast to have number on rolls above the net capacity within the next 5 years, however two of the more isolated schools, and one town school are forecast to have surplus places in excess of 25%.

Of the forecast deficit of places at the above 13 schools, 7 are due to housing gains for which developer contributions are held, the remaining 5 deficits are for general demographic change, in each case below 20 pupils. Discussions are ongoing at these schools and the provisional of additional accommodation will be planned taking into consideration the actual pupil numbers and the trigger points for payments of the developer contributions.
46.2 Secondary Schools

There are 6 Secondary Schools in the District (which also serve pupils residing outside of the District). There are also Secondary schools located in adjacent Districts that also serve pupils within Harborough.

Of the 6 Secondary schools in the District, 3 have undergone age range changes to 11-16/19yrs, whilst two others are planning a change for September 2015 admissions, and the final school is awaiting DfE approval to a age range change from September 2016.

Deficits are forecast at four of the secondary schools in the District with the remaining two showing surplus spaces, although these are not of a level to cause concern, as the impact of age range changes will distribute places across the locality. The forecast deficit of places at the four secondary schools in Market Harborough is due to housing gain and developer contributions have been secured to fund the additional places. Discussions are ongoing at these schools, and the provisional of additional accommodation will be planned taking into consideration the actual pupil numbers and the trigger points for payments of the developer contributions.

46.3 Post 16 provision

The Upper Schools in Market Harborough and Lutterworth both provide post 16 provision. A Studio School, the Sir Frank Whittle School which opened in September 2014 in Lutterworth has added to the choice and diversity of provision available. The Studio School serves a wide area extending into neighbouring Districts.

46.4 Births

Over the last 10 years births have remained fairly constant. The number of births peaked at 899 in 2006/07, and the lowest number of births in the ten year period occurred in 2010/11 when the figure was 781. The latest information gives a figure of 805 for the year 2012/13. The average figure for the ten year period is 833 births per year.

46.5 Planned Housing Growth

The development of a Sustainable Urban Extension(SUE) of 1500 dwellings is planned for Market Harborough. A site and funding has been safeguarded for a new Primary School on the SUE and developer contributions have been secured to fund the additional places required for the Secondary pupils. In addition to the SUE the District Core Strategy outlined the following areas of growth:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>No of dwellings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lutterworth</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scraptoft, Thurnby and Bushby</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broughton Astley</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Centres</td>
<td>355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total additional dwellings</strong></td>
<td><strong>1555</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As other developments apply for planning permission requests will be made for education contributions to accommodate pupils from the developments where required. Due to the number of spaces currently available and the number of dwellings proposed in each area it is likely that the funding will be used to provide additional places at existing schools rather than new schools.
47. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough

47.1 Primary Schools

There are 33 primary schools in the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough area, 20 are located within towns/villages where there is one or more other schools within a safe walking distance, the remaining 13 are in a more isolated position.

The smallest school in the district has capacity for 77 pupils. The largest has capacity for 581 pupils. Currently there is 1 school with less than 70 pupils on roll.

There are 3 primary schools in the Hinckley & Bosworth District area whose age range has recently altered from 4-10, to the traditional 4-11.

If no further action is taken 18 schools are forecast to have number on rolls above the net capacity within the next 5 years.

The areas facing the most significant pressure are Hinckley Town, Earl Shilton, Groby/Ratby, Stanton under Bardon, Markfield and Nailstone. The increases have been due to a variety of factors including increased birth rates, housing developments and inward migration to the area.

Discussions are in progress regarding potential solutions for the forecast deficit of places in Hinckley town – in this respect, work is already underway for a move and expansion of Holliers Walk Primary to the Mount Grace site in September 2017, and expansion of other schools in the town is under consideration. Discussions are also on-going with Weavers Close and Townlands C of E Primary Schools as to how to best address the forecast deficit of places at these schools. An extension is planned to Barwell Infant School during 2014/15, a feasibility study has been commissioned to look at providing additional places at Ratby Primary School. The increased demand at Stanton under Bardon partly arises as a consequence of the proposal for the school to retain their Year 6 pupils from Sept 2015, a mobile classroom has been sited at the school as a temporary solution. Forecast increases at Markfield and Nailstone will require further investigation and discussion with each school.

Section 106 funds have been negotiated to address forecast deficits across Borough arising from new housing development. This will be utilised to provide additional pupil places once they are received by the LA. There is not a significant loss of primary age pupils to other districts.

47.2 Secondary Schools

There are 13 Secondary schools in the Hinckley & Bosworth District, 5 High schools for 11-14 year olds, 3 secondary schools for 11-16 year olds, 3 upper schools for 14-19 year olds and 3 schools for 11-19 year olds.

In addition there is a Studio school located in Hinckley, The Midland Studio College providing education for students age 14-18. This establishment serves a wide area extending into neighbouring counties. Redmoor, Mount Grace and Hastings High Schools, along with John Cleveland Academy have secured approval to implement age ranges to 11-16 and 11-19 respectively effective from September 2015.

Eight of the secondary schools are forecast to have a deficit of places. Some, including Bosworth Academy, Market Bosworth High School, Stoke Golding St. Martins Catholic School and South Charnwood High School are in part due to a change of age range and some Academies accepting pupils over their admission number. These Academies will be providing additional accommodation to meet the projected shortfall of places. In other areas the deficit is slight and the situation at each school will be kept under review, and action taken to address the issues if this trend continues and the deficit of places grows.

Consultation is now underway within the Earl Shilton area (where the forecast number of surplus places is a real cause for concern) regarding a potential merger of Heathfield High and William Bradford Academies.

47.3 Post 16 provision

There are six post 6 providers within the Borough; Bosworth Academy, Groby Community College, William Bradford College, John Cleveland College, The Midland Studio College and North Warwickshire and Hinckley College.

47.4 Provision for SEN

There is an Area Special School, a special nursery, two units for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties attached to a Infants and a Junior School and one unit for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder attached to a Primary School.
47.5 Births

Over the last 10 years births have fluctuated year upon year with increases and decreases being broadly equivalent. The number of births peaked at 1206 in 2011/12, and the lowest number of births in the ten year period occurred in 2006/07 when the figure was 1068. The latest information gives a figure of 1148 for 2012/13. The average figure for the ten year period is 1118 births per year.

47.6 Planned Housing Growth

The residual housing growth and Sustainable Urban Extensions for Barwell and Earl Shilton for Hinckley & Bosworth is detailed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>No of dwellings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hinckley</td>
<td>958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burbage</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groby</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barlestone</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market Bosworth</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newbold Verdon</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higham on the Hill</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheepy Magna</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nailstone</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twycross</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUE’s Dwellings</td>
<td>4100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total additional dwellings</td>
<td>5447</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A site and funding have been requested for a Primary School on the Barwell SUE along with funding to provide additional primary places within the existing schools in Barwell. A planning application has not yet been submitted for the Earl Shilton SUE but a request will be made for a site and funding for a primary school. It is anticipated that any secondary provision will be provided at existing schools in the locality.

As other developments apply for planning permission requests will be made for education contributions from developers. In most cases it is anticipated that the funding will be used to provide additional places at existing schools in the area.

48. Melton Borough

48.1 Primary Schools

There are 25 primary schools in the Melton Borough Council area.

There are 6 primary schools in the market town of Melton Mowbray, with the remaining 19 schools located in surrounding villages.

The smallest school in the Borough has capacity for 49 pupils. The largest has capacity for 593 pupils. Currently there are 3 schools with less than 50 pupils on roll.

Nine schools are forecast to have a deficit of places within the next five years, of these 3 schools are in Melton Mowbray, the other 6 are in rural village locations. In the case of Bottesford and Long Clawson this growth is largely attributable to housing growth. Bottesford Primary has already been extended by one classroom to cope with the additional pupil numbers, and further work is planned in the future. A number of options are being explored to provide additional places elsewhere.

Whilst there is considerable in and out catchment movement across the majority of schools in the district, the area also incurs a net loss of pupils to other districts, and this has helped mitigate the impact of the rising birth rates in recent years.
48.2 Secondary Schools
There are currently 4 Secondary schools in the Borough; John Ferneley College, Long Field School and Bottesford Belvoir High school are all 11-16 providers. All of these establishments are academies.

John Ferneley College is forecast to have a deficit of places within the next 5 years, however it operates a shared catchment area with the Long Field School, and the total number of places available exceeds the forecast number on roll for the combined schools.

The Belvoir High school is forecast to have a very small surplus of places over the next five years, however given the proximity of neighbouring authorities which could impact on the demand for places, the position will be kept under review to ensure a deficit of places does not arise.

48.3 Post 16 provision
Post 16 education is provided at the Melton Vale Post 16 Centre, and the Brooksby Melton College.

48.4 Provision for SEN
There is an Area Special School within Melton Mowbray, and a unit for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties within the adjacent Primary School.

48.5 Births
Over the last 10 years births have fluctuated on an annual basis. There was a sustained period of increasing births between the period 2007/8 to 2011/12 when numbers increased from 514 per annum to 587 per annum. However in 2012/13 this figure dropped to 516 per annum. The latest information gives a figure of 546 for 2013/14. The average figure for the ten year period is 545 births per year.

48.6 Planned housing growth
The Borough Council withdrew its Core Strategy in 2013, and with it the proposal to build 1,000 dwellings on land off Scaford Road in Melton. The Council produced a Local Plan “Issues and Option” for consultation in September 2014. The document contained a number of possible options for housing development in terms of location and quantity, and suggested the remaining number of dwellings to be built by 2036 could be 4,602 or 5,852.

The majority of these houses are likely to be built in Melton town, but there are also a number of proposals to build in some of the larger village settlements.

In the absence of an agreed Core Strategy which identifies a five year land supply and sites for residential development there continues to be a number of housing applications emerging which collectively will impact on education provision in particular in Melton town. The number of houses to be built, the location and the timescales for building are not yet clear, but are being kept under constant review.

49. North West Leicestershire District
49.1 Primary Schools
There are 43 primary schools in the NWLDC area. 11 schools are located in the towns of Coalville and Ashby, and Castle Donington. The remaining 32 schools are located in surrounding villages/settlements.

The towns of Ashby and Coalville contain the largest concentration of schools and are areas which are experiencing the largest growth in the school age population. This growth is due to a variety of factors including an increasing birth rate, new housing and inward migration.

The smallest school in the district has capacity for 66 pupils. The largest has capacity for 595 pupils. Currently there are 2 schools with less than 50 pupils on roll.

Twenty two schools are forecast to have a deficit of places within the next five years, of these 16 schools are in a village or rural location. A number of measures are being taken to address this shortfall including changes to catchment areas, review of admission numbers and some extensions to a number of schools are planned or have recently been completed.

There are 7 primary schools in the Castle Donington area whose age range is 4-10, rather than the traditional 4-11. These schools have recently consulted on the proposal to become 4-11 schools; this change, if approved, is expected to take effect in September 2017.

Whilst there is considerable in and out catchment movement across the majority of schools in the district, the area is not effected by significant pupil movement in or outside of the District boundary.
49.2 Secondary Schools

Secondary schools in the district operate on the two tier education system. There are four High schools for pupils 11-14 and one 10-14 school, and two upper schools providing 14-18 education. All schools are Academies. In addition there is a Studio school located at Stephenson College in Coalville, providing education for students age 14-18. This establishment serves a wide area extending into neighbouring counties.

The Secondary schools in Coalville, Ibstock and Ashby operate as part of a collaborative partnership. There are no plans at the moment for a change in their current age range. The Castle Donington High school is a 10-14 establishment; on leaving pupils have the choice of attending Ashby School or Hind Leys Upper School in Shepshed depending on the catchment area they live in. The Castle Donington High School is currently awaiting approval from the DfE to change its age range to become an 11-16, which if given will take effect in September 2017.

Four high schools are forecast to have a deficit of places; this is as a result of large housing developments within their catchment area, which have secured planning permission. S106 contributions have been agreed or are awaiting agreement to provide funding to create the additional places required.

49.3 Post 16 provision

Post 16 education is provided at the Coalville King Edward VII College and Ashby School. The Stephenson Studio School and adjacent Stephenson College also offer provision to Post 16 students in this area and the wider area extending beyond the District boundary.

49.4 Provision for SEN

There is an Area Special School in Coalville, and 2 Units for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties attached to a Junior and Primary School in the District.

49.5 Births

Over the last 10 years births have fluctuated on an annual basis with no clear trend of an increasing or decreasing number of births in the district. The number of births peaked at 1071 in 2007/8, but then fell the following year to 989. Births peaked again in 2010/11 at 1041, dropped in 2012/13 to 996 and rose to 1017 in 2013/14. The ten year average figure stands at 1009.

49.6 Planned Housing Growth

The draft Core Strategy for the District identified the need for 9,700 new homes in the district over the period 2006 to 2031.

Significant development sites have been approved in Ashby, Coalville and Castle Donington. All three developments include land for the building of new primary schools. A Section 106 agreement is in place for the Coalville site at Bardon Grange, for the developer to build, or fund the building of a new school when 400 of the new homes are built and occupied. Discussions are on-going to secure Section 106 agreements on the remaining sites.

A large site South East of Coalville is also subject to an application to build 2,700 homes and will provide a site for a further primary school, and significant contributions to the secondary sector if approved.

In the absence of an agreed Core Strategy identifying a five year land supply and sites for residential development there has been an increasing number of applications and successful planning appeals which has resulted in a growth in new housing in not only the town areas but also in many villages in the District. Where a claim for an education contribution can be justified this will be used to extend existing schools.
50. Oadby & Wigston Borough

50.1 Primary Schools
There are 14 Primary Schools in Oadby and Wigston Borough, 5 located in Oadby, 6 in Wigston and 3 in South Wigston. All of these schools have other schools within a safe walking distance.

All the schools have at least 1 full form of entry of 30 pupils and schools range in size from 180 to 550 places.

The Primary Schools in Oadby and Wigston operate on the 4-10 age range (10+ system); this means that schools have 6 year groups rather than the usual 7, with pupils transferring to High school at year five rather than year six.

The 3 Primary schools in South Wigston, have recently changed their age range to retain pupils in year six. The schools in Wigston have recently submitted a business case to seek approval to the retention of year six pupils in line with the changes proposed by the Wigston Secondary Schools, to take effect from September 2016. Discussions continue with the Oadby primary schools to help identify the most appropriate solution and timing for a change age range to enable the retention of year 6 pupils.

Primary schools in Oadby are generally oversubscribed, although birth rates relative to places available are low. Due to its location next to the city boundary there are a significant number of City resident pupils in primary schools in Oadby, there has also been a trend of mid-term movement where year groups, which were full at first time admission, become over full when new families move into the area. This leads to the forecast of a small number of deficit places at those schools and discussions are on-going to provide additional places in Oadby to ease the problem. Wigston Schools are generally under less pressure, they also admit a number of pupils resident in the City but are not subject to the same mid-term pressure as Oadby. Whilst there is a forecast surplus of places in the Wigston primary schools this is generally not excessive, however one of the schools (a CE Aided primary) gives more cause for concern. In South Wigston the change of age range has caused a forecast deficit of places which the High School (which is an academy) has plans to address.

50.2 Secondary Schools
There are 3 Secondary schools in Oadby, 3 in Wigston and 1 in South Wigston. The 3 in Oadby also serve parts of the Harborough District Council area.

At present the secondary schools in Oadby and Wigston are organised as 10+ High Schools which provide for 10 – 14 year olds and Upper Schools which provide for 14 – 19 year olds. The Secondary School in South Wigston has recently changed age range from 10 – 14 to 11 -16. The 3 secondary Schools in Wigston have agreed proposals to amalgamate the two high schools to form an 11 – 16 Secondary School and to convert the Upper School to a Post 16 centre, effective from September 2016.

Discussions continue with the Oadby secondary schools to help identify the most appropriate solution and timing for a change age range to enable 11-16/19 status, possibly effective from September 2017.

The availability of places in the Oadby High Schools is forecast to fluctuate over the next few years but is not a cause for concern. The forecast deficit of places at the Upper School however may be a cause for concern and this matter will be kept under close review.

The situation in the Wigston Secondary Schools is uncertain given the proposals for age range change, however there is forecast to be a significant number of surplus places at the Upper School which is now under consideration.

In South Wigston the change of age range has caused a forecasts deficit of places which the High School (which is an academy) has plans to address.

50.3 Post 16 provision
There are 3 establishments which provide Post 16 Education in the Borough, the two Upper Schools and the South Leicestershire College.

50.4 Provision for SEN
There is an Area Special School, a Special Nursery, a unit for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties attached to a Primary Schools, a enhanced resource base for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder attached to a High School, and two further enhanced resource bases for pupils with Hearing Impairment attached to High and Upper Schools.
50.5 Births

Over the last 10 years births have steadily increased. The number of births peaked at 635 in 2011/12, and the lowest number of births in the ten year period occurred in 2003/04 when the figure was 497. The latest information gives a figure of 602 for the year 2012/13. The average figure for the ten year period is 577 births per year.

50.6 Planned Housing Growth

The housing allocation for the Borough is low compared with other districts. There are no plans for a Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) in the Borough. The Core Strategy outlined the following areas of growth:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>No of dwellings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wigston Town Centre</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wigston direction for growth</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wigston Station Road flats</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wigston Station Road houses</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wigston small sites</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Wigston small sites</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oadby Town Centre</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oadby small sites</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total additional dwellings</strong></td>
<td><strong>994</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The largest single housing allocation is for an area of growth identified in Wigston, it is anticipated that the majority of pupils from the development will be able to be accommodated in local schools without additional places being created. Other developments relate to flats and apartments which will yield fewer pupils.

In addition to housing developments in the Borough there are developments in Harborough District which will affect Secondary Schools in Oadby. In these cases Section 106 developer contributions have been secured to provide the additional places required.
## Appendix 1

### Glossary of Terms

**Academies** - Schools funded directly by central government, independent of the local authority.

**All through school** - Schools in Leicestershire covering the age range 11-16 or 11-19.

**AMP** - Asset Management Plan.

**Basic Need** - Forecast demand for additional pupil places arising from increased births and general demographic change, in excess of current schools capacity to provide them.

**Behaviour Partnerships** - The local collective of schools and academies commissioned as the provider for secondary age pupils with additional needs.

**Cabinet** - The decision making body of the County Council.

**Capital Maintenance** - A formula grant to the local authority for all maintained community, voluntary controlled, trust and foundation schools, but not for academies (which are funded via the ACMF), and intended to address maintenance and condition issues.

**Catchment Area** - The geographic boundary for a school used to determine admissions.

**CIL** - Community Infrastructure Levy which allows local planning authorities to agree developer contributions to support education, highways and other infrastructure needs.

**CIF** - Condition Improvement Fund (replaced the Academies Capital Maintenance Fund) provides an EFA controlled capital fund which academies may bid to for monies to address condition issues.

**Core Strategy** - The strategic plan prepared by each District to indicate the proposed areas for housing and infrastructure growth.

**DfE** - Department for Education – the central government controlling body for all aspects of education.

**DSG** - Dedicated Schools Grant.

**EFA** - Education Funding Agency – the central government body responsible for the allocation and control of funds to academies and other schools operated independent of the local authority.

**EYFS** - Early Years Foundation Stage - the phase in education and care from 0-5 years, until a child moves into Year One at school.

**FE** - Form of Entry based on multiples of 30 pupils, used to determine the size of schools.

**FEE** - Free Early Education entitlement - 15 hours of provision per week over 38 weeks of the year for 3 and 4 year olds.

**Free schools** - All ability state-funded schools set up in response to local demand, operating independent of the local authority.

**LCVAP** - Local Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme - a small formula grant to the voluntary aided sector targeted at condition and suitability issues.

**LEEP** - The Leicestershire Educational Excellence Partnership - a framework for improvement based on school to school support, development work and intervention.

**Local Planning Authority** - In relation to new housing this will normally be the District Council. For adaptations to maintained schools the planning authority will be the County Council, and for academies the respective District Council.

**Maintained schools** - Funded by central government through the local authority, including community, community special, foundation (including trust), voluntary aided and voluntary controlled.

**MAT** - A group of academies operating under a single academy trust and governing body, with a named lead establishment.

**NEET** - A descriptor for young people not in employment, education or training.
Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms

**Net capacity** - The number of pupil places available at a school

**PAN** - Planned Admission Number: maximum number of pupils a school intends to admit in the first year of school

**PFI** - Private Finance Initiative – a means of raising funds for development through a private sector partner

**Planning areas** - Small geographic areas of Leicestershire, used to determine future school capacity needs in submissions to the DfE.

**PRU** - Pupil Referral Unit an establishment maintained by the local authority for children with additional needs, and unable to attend a mainstream or special school, or academy

**PSBP** - Priority Schools Build Programme comprises a large DfE controlled capital fund that all schools may bid for (when made available) to address significant building related issues i.e. the replacement of a whole school or block

**Section 106** - Planning obligation on developers to provide contributions, either in cash or kind, for additional school places as a consequence of new housing

**SEND** - Special Educational Needs and Disability

**Sponsored academy** - An academy controlled by a sponsor, where additional support is required, normally as a consequence of underperformance.

**Studio School** - A school funded directly from central government, under the control of a proposer (normally a FE College, but could also be an Upper school), offering academic and vocational qualifications for 14-19 year olds in a practical and project-based way, combined with work placements with local and national employers

**Special Measures/Serious Weaknesses** - Inspection judgements made by Ofsted. Maintained schools placed in either of these categories by Ofsted will normally be required to become sponsored academies to bring about the necessary improvements

**SUE** - Sustainable Urban Expansion - a large area of housing growth identified within the Core Strategy for the local planning authority

**Three tier** - The predominant pattern of education in Leicestershire, comprising Primary, High, and Upper school schools

**Trust school** - A maintained school supported by a charitable foundation

**Umbrella Trust** - A group of academies each with its own academy trust and governance arrangements, but legally bound together to deliver a shared set ethos/set of principles

**University Technical College** - Technical academies sponsored by a local university for 14-19 year olds with emphasis on providing technical education

**Voluntary aided school** - VA schools are maintained schools with a foundation established by the church

**Voluntary controlled school** - VC schools are maintained school that retain minority foundation representation on their governing body and also retain strong links with the church in their community

**Yield Rates** - The means of determining the number of pupils to come from the development of new housing
Appendix 2

District Maps and List of Schools
Appendix 2: District Maps and List of Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>NOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>COUTESTHORPE NURSERY SCHOOL</td>
<td>Community</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>NOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>COUTESTHORPE GREENFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL</td>
<td>Community</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>COBBS PRIMARY SCHOOL</td>
<td>Academy</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>KIRBY MULDOE PRIMARY SCHOOL</td>
<td>Academy</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>NARIBOROUGH GREGSTOE PRIMARY SCHOOL</td>
<td>Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>BLA BY THETTLEY MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>BRAUNSTON MILLFIELD LEAD ACADEMY</td>
<td>Academy</td>
<td>473</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>ENDERSBY DAWLHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL</td>
<td>Academy</td>
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</tr>
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<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>HUNCOTE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL</td>
<td>Academy</td>
<td>472</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>BRAUNSTON KINGSWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL</td>
<td>Community</td>
<td>506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>GLENFIELD THE HALL SCHOOL</td>
<td>Community</td>
<td>506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>OLDFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL</td>
<td>Community</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>NARIBOROUGH RED HILL FIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL</td>
<td>Academy</td>
<td>506</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>BRAUNSTON RAVENHURST PRIMARY SCHOOL</td>
<td>Academy</td>
<td>506</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>NARIBOROUGH THE PASTURES PRIMARY SCHOOL</td>
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<td>BLA BY STOKES CHURCH OF ENG LAND PRIMARY SCHOOL</td>
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<td>CROFT CHURCH OF ENG LAND PRIMARY SCHOOL</td>
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<td>SHARNFORD CHURCH OF ENG LAND PRIMARY SCHOOL</td>
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<td>WHETSTONE ST PETERS CHURCH OF ENG LAND PRIMARY SCHOOL</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>LEIC FOREST EAST STAPFORD LEYS COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL</td>
<td>Academy</td>
<td>506</td>
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**TOTAL** 7701

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### Pupil Forecast

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<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Number on Roll</th>
<th>Net Capacity</th>
<th>Number on Roll</th>
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</thead>
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<td>BRAUNSTONE WIGSTANLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE</td>
<td>Academy</td>
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<td>140</td>
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<td>COUNTESTHORPE LEYSLAND HIGH SCHOOL</td>
<td>Academy</td>
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### Appendix 2: District Maps and List of Schools

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| Total   |                               |            |                |              |                  |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |

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61 In the right place | A strategy for the organisation of school and other learning places in Leicestershire 2014-2018
# Appendix 2: District Maps and List of Schools

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Appendix 2: District Maps and List of Schools

MELTON BOROUGH

- PRIMARY SCHOOLS
- 11-16 SECONDARY SCHOOLS
- POST-16 PROVISION
- SPECIAL SCHOOLS

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Appendix 2: District Maps and List of Schools

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Appendix 2: District Maps and List of Schools

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT

IN THE RIGHT PLACE | A strategy for the organisation of school and other learning places in Leicestershire 2014-2018
Appendix 2: District Maps and List of Schools

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Appendix 2: District Maps and List of Schools

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Appendix 2: District Maps and List of Schools
### Appendix 2: District Maps and List of Schools

#### Map Ref | SCHOOL | Status | Number on Roll | Net Capacity | Admission Number | Pupil Forecast 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
1 | WIGSTON GLENMORE COMM. PRIMARY SCHOOL | Academy | 195 | 180 | 90 | 165 | 156 | 153 | 163 |
2 | SOUTH WIGSTON FAIRFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL | Academy | 200 | 210 | 90 | 194 | 190 | 190 | 202 |
3 | OADBEY BROOKSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL | Academy | 122 | 135 | 60 | 127 | 127 | 127 | 127 |
4 | WIGSTON THE MEADOW COMM. PRIMARY SCHOOL | Academy | 326 | 360 | 60 | 341 | 351 | 350 | 356 |
5 | WIGSTON THYTHORN FIELD COM. PRIM. SCHOOL | Community | 164 | 180 | 90 | 167 | 170 | 173 | 175 |
6 | OADBEY BROOKS HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL | Academy | 359 | 359 | 60 | 360 | 364 | 364 | 364 |
7 | OADBEY LANGMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL | Academy | 169 | 180 | 90 | 175 | 180 | 183 | 183 |
8 | WIGSTON WATER LEYS PRIMARY SCHOOL | Community | 355 | 360 | 60 | 359 | 365 | 365 | 359 |
9 | SOUTH WIGSTON PARKLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL | Academy | 406 | 525 | 75 | 512 | 516 | 514 | 509 |
10 | OADBEY LAUNDE PRIMARY SCHOOL | Academy | 360 | 360 | 60 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 |
11 | WIGSTON LITTLE HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL | Community | 360 | 360 | 60 | 359 | 355 | 355 | 355 |
12 | OADBEY WOODLAND GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL | Community | 370 | 340 | 55 | 372 | 372 | 372 | 372 |
13 | WIGSTON ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL & C.C. | Voluntary Aided | 202 | 312 | 50 | 195 | 200 | 201 | 197 |
14 | WIGSTON ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC PRIM SCH | Academy | 200 | 210 | 90 | 206 | 213 | 214 | 214 |
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Total | 4226 | 4469 | 720 | 4290 | 4335 | 4333 | 4321 |

#### Map Ref | SCHOOL | Status | Number on Roll | Net Capacity | Admission Number | Pupil Forecast 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
15 | OADBEY GARNTREE HIGH SCHOOL | Academy | 772 | 780 | 10 | 780 | 780 | 780 | 780 |
16 | OADBEY MANOR HIGH SCHOOL | Academy | 859 | 920 | 68 | 906 | 881 | 859 | 836 | 841 |
17 | WIGSTON MARINA BUSHLEY HIGH SCHOOL | Academy | 647 | 702 | 111 | 697 | 697 | 697 | 697 |
18 | WIGSTON ABINGDON HIGH SCHOOL | Academy | 633 | 638 | 171 | 633 | 638 | 638 | 638 |
19 | WIGSTON MARINA GUTHLAXTON COLLEGE | Academy | 1000 | 1454 | 490 | 894 | 911 | 901 | 895 | 890 | 918 | 910 | 564 |
20 | OADBEY THE BEAUCAMP COLLEGE | Academy | 410 | 2109 | 565 | 2268 | 2290 | 2290 | 2290 | 2290 | 2290 | 2290 |
21 | SOUTH WIGSTON HIGH SCHOOL | Academy | 759 | 840 | 190 | 837 | 804 | 811 | 803 | 803 | 803 |
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Total | 6822 | 7510 | 1416 | 6991 | 6960 | 7067 | 7090 | 6991 | 6959 | 6930 | 6916 | 6925 |

**In the right place** | A strategy for the organisation of school and other learning places in Leicestershire 2014-2018 | 69
## Appendix 3

### Summary of Sustainable Urban Expansions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>School Type</th>
<th>No of places</th>
<th>Expected year of development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bardon Grange Phase 1</td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>2017 √ 2018 √ 2019 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barndon Grange Phase 2</td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>2017 2018 √ 2019 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barndon Grange Phase 3</td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>2017 2018 2019 2020 √</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barkby NE Leics Phase 1</td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>2017 2018 2019 2020 √</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barkby NE Leics Phase 2</td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>2017 2018 2019 2020 √</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barkby NE Leics Phase 3</td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>2017 2018 2019 2020 √</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barkby NE Leics Phase 4</td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>630 Secondary 930</td>
<td>2017 2018 2019 2020 √</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barwell</td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>2017 2018 2019 2020 √</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castle Donington</td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>2017 2018 2019 2020 √</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earl Shilton</td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>2017 2018 2019 2020 √</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harborough</td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>2017 2018 2019 2020 √</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loughborough 1</td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>2017 2018 2019 2020 √</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loughborough 2</td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>2017 2018 2019 2020 √</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lubbesthorpe Phase 1</td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>2017 2018 2019 2020 √</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lubbesthorpe Phase 2</td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>2017 2018 2019 2020 √</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North of Birstall, Broadnook</td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>2017 2018 2019 2020 √</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 4

Procedure for establishing new schools

The Local Authority does not have to seek Secretary of State's approval for the creation of a maintained school under the following circumstances:
- Proposals for a new voluntary aided school
- Proposals for a new community or foundation primary school that is to replace a maintained infant and maintain junior school
- Proposals for a new school resulting from the reorganisation of existing faith schools in an area, including an existing faith school losing or changing its religious designation, or
- Local authority proposals for a new foundation or community school, where suitable academy/free school proposals have not been identified and a competition has been held but did not identify a suitable provider.
Appendix 5

Statutory Procedures for Significant Changes to Maintained Schools

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**LA Proposes**

1. Research options:
   - Curriculum performance
   - Pupil numbers
   - Capital needs
   - Staffing
   - Transition arrangements
   - Budget impacts

2. Governors resolution to proceed

3. Notify LA of intention to change age range

4. Assemble Business Case**
   - Allow 6-9 weeks, if necessary in parallel with consultation

5. LA agreement to proceed

6. Consult with stakeholders:
   - Advise 6 weeks open meeting, FAQs, website

7. Seek Cabinet approval to publish statutory notice

8. Representation period for statutory notice (min 4 weeks)

9. Cabinet/Director – determine statutory notice

10. Advise DfE & Secretary of State

11. Notify LA/Parents etc

**Governors propose**

1. Research options:
   - Curriculum performance
   - Pupil numbers
   - Capital needs
   - Staffing
   - Transition arrangements
   - Budget impacts

2. Governors resolution to proceed – consider options

3. Advise LA of intention to change age range

4. Consult with stakeholders:
   - Advise 6 weeks open meeting, FAQs, website

5. Assemble Business Case

6. Share Business Case with the LA

7. Governors resolution to proceed (consider consultation responses)

8. Notify LA of intention to change age range

9. Advise DfE & Secretary of State

10. Notify LA/Parents etc

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**Age Range Changes**

Where the above proposals form part of an age range change, the process will need to be aligned with consultation on any admission changes (between 1st November and the following 1st March), prior to the commencement of the admission round at the 1st September in the year proceeding the effective date of change.

For example, if the effective date is 1st September 2016, and the admission round commences 1st Sept 2015, then admission consultation will need to be completed between 1st November 2014 and 1st March 2015 after the above statutory process has been followed.