
School Places Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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Please read this document carefully and retain it for future reference

Context

A1 Statutory Duties

Wiltshire Council has a statutory duty to plan the provision of school places and to ensure that there are sufficient places for all 4 to 16 year old young people in the County. This includes the provision of suitable accommodation to support the promotion of high educational standards, ensuring an admissions process to allocate school places and ensure fair access to educational opportunities. The Council manages the impact of rising and declining pupil numbers and helps to create a diverse community of schools. This document has been prepared as a planning tool to respond to the continuing need to review the number and nature of school places alongside any new housing developments, any changes in the birth rate and in line with any government policy change. It supplements the Wiltshire Council's Children's Trust Plan and supports the implementation of its principles.

A core ambition of Wiltshire Council is that all children and young people living in Wiltshire are entitled to the highest quality education so that they are able to fulfil their potential. Through the commissioning of school places, as outlined in this School Places Strategy, the aim is to produce an effective match between pupils and places by providing an infrastructure of high quality school buildings and facilities, where all schools, regardless of status, are of an appropriate size and standard to deliver the curriculum effectively.

It should be noted that use of the term 'school' throughout this document refers to schools of all status including academies, UTC's, Free schools etc.

A2 What is the School Places Strategy?

Commissioning is the overall process by which services are planned and delivered. The Strategy pulls together the information required to form a strategic view of the need for school places across Wiltshire and provides a revised and updated policy framework for considering statutory proposals, (opening, closing and defining the size of schools); implementing new school competition arrangements; facilitating the development of collaborative and federated arrangements and where appropriate encouraging all through school models.

To be effective, the commissioning process requires the strategic planning of services based on an analysis of need, a set of policies and principles by which decisions will be made and well defined processes for the implementation of proposals. The full Strategy therefore sets out demographic trends in Wiltshire, including a summary of new major house building, details of current school and post-16 provision, an analysis of the latest pupil projections, emerging proposals and guiding policies and principles upon which decisions will be informed.

A3 Who is the Strategy for?

The Strategy is intended to help key stakeholders and partners in Children's Services, including the Local Authority, schools, governors, parents, the churches, local communities, business, and other providers of education, to understand what school places are needed in Wiltshire, now and in the future, and how they will be provided.

A4 Geographical and population context

The planning and organisation of school places in a Local Authority is a complex task, not least because of the size and diversity of the County.

Wiltshire is a predominantly rural county. It has a population of approximately 471,000, nearly half of whom live in towns or villages with fewer than 5,000 people. A quarter of the county's inhabitants live in settlements of fewer than 1,000 people. The areas of greatest deprivation in Wiltshire, as determined by the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, are parts of Trowbridge, Salisbury, Westbury, Melksham and Calne. Whilst the greatest concentrations of poverty are in particular neighbourhoods in towns, there is a more dispersed, often hidden, incidence in the rural parts of the county.

As at the 2011 Census, 74% of Wiltshire's working age population were in employment. This is higher than the employment rate for both the South West (70.3%) and England (73.3%). The armed forces have a significant presence, particularly in the south of the county, currently there are around 34,000 military personnel and dependants in Wiltshire. The development of the Salisbury Plain Super Garrison involving the relocation of a significant number of military personnel to Wiltshire from 2016 and the change of use of RAF Lyneham will have significant socio-economic implications and impact on local communities across the county.

Wiltshire Council is one of the largest unitary authorities in England. The authority's area covers approximately 3,255 square kilometres and has a population of approximately 471,000 people. Wiltshire adjoins the local authorities of Dorset, Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, West Berkshire, Hampshire, Swindon and Bath and North East Somerset. Wiltshire is a largely rural area encompassing many natural and historic features which make it distinctive, including parts of three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, part of the New Forest National Park, over 16,000 listed buildings, over 240 conservation areas and a World Heritage Site. Wiltshire also includes an element of the Western Wiltshire Green Belt, which protects the openness of the countryside between Bath, Bradford-on-Avon and Trowbridge. The urban area of Swindon, while predominantly within Borough, has expanded into Wiltshire. Deprivation is generally low and communities benefit from safe environments. Wiltshire enjoys strong sub regional links and is within commutable distance of London, Bristol, Swindon, South Wales and the south coast. The largest settlements in Wiltshire are the historic cathedral city of Salisbury in the south, the county town of Trowbridge in the west, and the market town of Chippenham in the north. The city of Salisbury serves a large surrounding rural area.

Wiltshire is made up of three larger settlements, a number of market towns and numerous villages and small settlements reflecting the rural nature of the county and a considerable variety of school buildings in terms of age and type. In addition, The Designation of Rural Primary Schools (England) 2014 Order came into force on 1st October 2014 which determines that 114 (68%) of Wiltshire's primary schools are 'rural' with a presumption against their closure.

A5 Major contextual issues

Wiltshire Council faces three specific issues in managing school places:

- The demographic trend in the school population age range is largely driven by the birth rate - births in Wiltshire averaged 5400 births per year between 2005 and 2014. The pressure on primary school places since 2009 has been significant and will continue to be so as the peak 2005 to 2011 birth years feed through primary and secondary education. These figures do not account for the high number of children moving into the County due to house moves, army relocations etc. All these issues are covered in more detail under the School Organisation and Planning Issues section of this document.
- Significant housing development across the county – 42,000 houses by 2026. These developments are predominately concentrated in urban areas and will require additional school places or the take up of remaining surplus places. Timing of some of these developments is uncertain but the extent of housing is detailed in the

Wiltshire Core Strategy which can be found via the following link:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/core-strategy-adoption.pdf>

- The Army Basing Review announced by the Secretary of State for Defence on 5 March 2013, takes its lead from the new Army 2020 Plan outlined in July 2012. An additional 4,200 military personnel and their dependants will be relocated into Tidworth, Ludgershall (specifically Perham Down), Bulford, and Larkhill. They will relocate between 2016 and 2019, the bulk of which will enable the withdrawal of units from Germany. Additionally a significant number of army families are expected to buy houses in the surrounding towns and villages and therefore the influx of military families with their children will have an impact on a range of schools and areas.

Wiltshire Council, the Dioceses of Salisbury, Bristol and Clifton, the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and the governing bodies/trusts of schools and academies are all key partners and have important roles in school place planning. With 237 schools and over 65,000 pupils to consider, finding workable strategies for planning sufficient school places is demanding and challenging for all concerned.

Planning for school places is based on probabilities and while pupil projections are derived from sound methodology they are often dependent on external factors such as sociological and economic changes, parental preference for certain schools, new government policy and the need to raise standards. Planning also has to respond to external and internal findings on the quality of schools as well as the need to ensure that limited resources are used efficiently.

As a result, Wiltshire Council will need to respond to changes in demand over time by:

- Negotiating the expansion of (or increasing the PAN of) existing schools and academies
- Commissioning new schools as academies/Free schools
- Improving facilities at existing schools
- Reducing places at existing schools to ensure that provision matches demand
- Closing and amalgamating schools as well as facilitating federation when numbers fall

The School Places Strategy provides comprehensive information on school place planning in the county and outlines how the local authority, in securing the provision of primary, secondary and special education, will support the promotion of:

- raising standards
- improved outcomes for all pupils
- diversity of provision
- increased collaboration between schools
- greater community cohesion

The Strategy provides the context for the future organisation and commissioning of school places in each secondary school pyramid (defined as the primary schools that feed into a particular secondary school or town) in Wiltshire and sets out the principles that need consideration when planning school places. It will help Wiltshire Council, schools, academy trusts, promoters, parents and local communities to understand the rationale behind the provision of school places and establish future demands. The Strategy will be reviewed and updated biennially, to ensure that provision continues to be matched with demand.

The anticipated scale of expansion of population in Wiltshire will require the review of school

provision in some areas. The timescale and order of priority for such reviews is significantly influenced by the Core Strategy, military rebasing, changes in the birth rate etc.

Reviews in rural areas will focus on establishing an organisational structure that promotes the continuity of village schools. Federations, amalgamations and Multi Academy Trust provision and Free Schools will be promoted where appropriate. The re-designation of space for other services in rural schools, to reduce surplus places, will also be considered in all such reviews.

B Policies and principles relevant to the provision of school places

B1 Corporate aims

Wiltshire Council's vision, identified in the Children's Trust Plan is to improve outcomes for children & young people in Wiltshire, promote safeguarding, reduce the effects of child poverty and enable resilient individuals, families and communities.

The Children's Trust Plan states that more children and young people will be educated in high quality buildings as a result of the implementation of the vision. This can only be achieved by careful management of the estate, of school place supply and of funding streams such as:

- Maintenance and Basic Need capital allocations
- Targeted Capital – e.g. Priority School Building Programme (PSBP)
- School Contributions and Devolved Formula Capital Funding
- Developer contributions – Section 106, CIL etc and other capital receipts

B2 Principles of school place planning

In areas where pupil numbers are increasing the LA will identify where additional places may be required, either by expanding existing schools or by commissioning new schools on new sites within the community.

As a local authority (LA) Wiltshire Council is responsible for planning and providing sufficient school places in appropriate locations. In order to do so the LA must monitor the supply of school places against forecasts of future demand. The size of the revenue budget for distribution to all schools is determined by pupil numbers. This means that where pupil numbers reduce schools may have insufficient budget to maintain standards and retain and recruit teachers, particularly head teachers. By taking out surplus places and facilitating the closure or amalgamation of schools that are unviable, the LA can ensure effective overall provision within an area and within the school system as a whole.

School place planning and ensuring schools are of the right size for the future, enables (where appropriate) surplus space to be considered for alternative uses, including community purposes, although the level of surplus in more urban areas is low. Promoting the 'extended school' concept remains a national and local priority. Accommodation released can be re-allocated to a wide variety of purposes including for additional early years and child-care places, health care, libraries, adult and children's services bases and youth facilities.

Falling rolls in rural areas have already necessitated the closure or amalgamation of some village primary schools. The LA would consider the concept of 4-19 all through schools to serve some rural areas, particularly where numbers of secondary pupils are low and a local school would serve the whole community. Where possible the use of expensive transport to

alternative schools will be avoided so that funds can be devoted to educational purposes.

The LA will in all cases consult with the headteacher and staff, governors, Academy Trustees, the relevant Diocesan Authority (where appropriate) and the local community where any major reorganisation of provision is proposed. Such factors as the number of available and required places, school performance, the condition and suitability of the school buildings as well as parental choice and community issues will be considered in respect of both general and specific places planning.

B3 School performance

Raising achievement for all learners is one of the key priorities for the LA and all school planning decisions should promote the improvement of educational standards. This means that the performance of an existing school, or group of schools, is an important factor to be taken into consideration when proposals to add or remove capacity or make other structural changes are being formulated. Any proposals for reviewing school organisation will take account of OFSTED inspection reports and other relevant performance data on the school(s) involved.

The LA works with head teachers and Governors to ensure that schools and settings are supported in the development and planning of facilities in the form of information, advice and guidance in order to improve outcomes for young people and support high quality learning.

B4 Place Planning

School Planning Areas

The planning of school places in Wiltshire is based on the geographical areas defined by the secondary school catchments and feeder schools aligned to them. These are the same demographic planning areas that the Council is required to report on annually to the Department of Education (DfE) to inform future capital basic need allocations. Whilst all schools are included in the Strategy, they may not be grouped according to Area Board areas.

Place planning can be influenced by parental preference in terms of selecting a school. Applications for school places are considered in line with the relevant Admission Authority Admission Policy and oversubscription criteria.

B5 Access and diversity

Categories of Schools

Wiltshire has a wide diversity of mainstream school provision with:

- Community schools (infant, junior, primary, special and secondary)
- Voluntary aided schools (primary and secondary)
- Voluntary controlled schools (infant, junior and primary)
- Foundation schools (infant, junior, primary and secondary)
- Academies (primary, secondary and special)
- Free schools (UTC + Post 16)

As at January 2015, there are 179 maintained schools, 57 academies and 2 Free schools in Wiltshire giving a total of 238 schools overall. The table below gives a breakdown of schools in Wiltshire by category

Category	Primary	Secondary	Special	Total
Community	41	3	4	48
Foundation	11	4	0	15
Academy	35	20	2	57
Voluntary Aided	48	2	0	50
Voluntary Controlled	66	0	0	66
Free school(UTC/Post16)	0	2	0	2
Total	201	31	6	238

Encouraging diversity

Wiltshire Council is committed to providing children and young people with equal access to high quality education provision. It recognises that local communities are diverse and supports the local management of schools to help reflect this diversity. Schools need to serve their local community and if the needs of the community are best served by some specialisation or federated/trust type governance, Wiltshire Council will support it. Wiltshire Council is committed to maintaining the current diversity of provision and extending it where possible.

The development of new schools, including the academy conversion programme, is coordinated by members of the School Place Commissioning Team. Wiltshire Council is supportive of schools as self governing institutions and is committed to raising standards. The LA believes if schools can work collaboratively with other schools to improve the life chances of all children and young people within the local area then this will support the raising of standards.

The current pattern of school provision includes a number of schools with a religious foundation and/or background. The Diocesan authorities work closely with Wiltshire Council in the planning of school places to provide opportunities for parents to express a preference for denominational education.

When establishing new schools Wiltshire Council acts as a commissioner of high quality school provision through the operation of a competition to determine the best provider in line with current DfE policy and in consultation with the Regional Schools Commissioner. The final decision on provider rests with the Secretary of State.

There are two selective single sex grammar schools in Salisbury and there are no plans to change the current organisation of selective schools. Any change would be subject to regulations that allow for ballots to be initiated by parents or proposals to be brought forward by the respective governing body. However, Wiltshire Council does not support any new proposals by schools to select by ability.

B6 Re-organisation of schools

Primary schools

The preferred size for new primary schools is within the range of 210 places to 630 places (1FE to 3FE) and Wiltshire Council will only seek to open new primary schools of full or half forms of entry.

Where a new primary phase school is required this will be built as an all through primary school, rather than as separate infant or junior schools. Wiltshire Council will continue to seek opportunities to amalgamate separate infant and junior schools where the combined

numbers are less than 420 and the sites lend themselves to a single institution.

Wiltshire Council recognises the government's presumption against the closure of village schools, and will only bring forward proposals to close a village school where it can be demonstrated that one or more of the following criteria can be met:

- There is only very limited demand for places at the school from children coming from the designated area
- Surplus places at the school exceed 25%
- Standards are low and there is low confidence in the likelihood of improvement
- Recruitment of a headteacher has not proved possible
- The necessary improvements to the school accommodation are either not possible or not cost effective
- The school has a deficit budget without realistic prospects of recovery

For all schools with fewer than 90 pupils on roll Wiltshire Council will actively encourage the governors of the school to consider further collaboration and, ultimately, federation or amalgamation with one or more neighbouring schools or by joining a Multi Academy Trust.

Secondary schools

The optimum size for an 11 to 16 secondary school is (6FE) 900 to (9FE) 1200 pupils. Wiltshire Council however recognises that in some communities provision may fall outside the ideal size of secondary school and demand for additional places could be met either by expanding existing schools if there is sufficient capacity on the site, or by new provision located within a new housing community.

Special schools

Special schools need to be of sufficient size to provide appropriate facilities and opportunities to meet the needs of the range of pupils they admit and to act as resource and outreach centres for other schools and pupils. Their size will depend on the age range of pupils and the type/nature of special educational needs that they cater for. Work is currently ongoing to review special needs provision across the County to ensure future demand can be met moving forward. It is anticipated that there will be a need to provide additional places at Special schools that provide support for children with complex needs and increase the level of Resource Base provision in key areas as the population grows.

School size

Whilst Wiltshire Council does define optimum sizes for schools it recognises that there will be many schools falling outside this range which provide excellent education. Factors that can affect the size of a school include local pupil population, site constraints, availability of funding and deployment of revenue resources.

Wiltshire Council will plan to provide school places in schools of sizes that promote:

- Sufficient curriculum coverage and, where appropriate, adequate curriculum choice
- Viable and sustainable schools which do not require disproportionate financial support
- Viable class organisation structures
- Adequate non-contact time for staff
- Sustainable sixth form provision where appropriate

B7 Academies

An academy is a public funded independent school (not maintained by a LA), accountable to the Department for Education (DfE) and funded directly by the Education Funding Agency (EFA). Academies have freedoms to set their own pay and conditions of service for staff, are free to deliver the curriculum as they see fit and can vary the length of school terms and the length of the school day. Academies must follow the same admissions guidance, exclusion processes and meet the statutory processes for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) however they may set their own admissions criteria. Academies are inspected by OFSTED using the same framework as other state funded schools.

The Council works closely with the Regional Schools Commissioner to ensure all new school proposals are supported by academy trusts that understand the needs and aspirations of the community.

B8 Free Schools

A Free school is an all ability state funded school set up on a not for profit basis and can be set up by groups like:

- Businesses
- Academy Trusts
- Charities
- Universities
- Independent Schools
- Teachers
- Parents

A Free school has the freedoms of an academy; however, teachers in free schools do not necessarily need to have Qualified Teacher Status (QTS.) Free schools are funded on a comparable basis to other state funded schools and are inspected by OFSTED. Free schools cannot be academically selective. They have to take part in locally co-ordinated admissions so applications follow the same process.

Free schools (including UTC's and Studio schools) are not defined by size or location; they can be primary, secondary, post-16 or all-through schools as there is not a one size fits all approach. They are able to teach a post 16 curriculum. Free schools can be located in traditional school buildings, offices or other buildings for example, church halls.

B9 Location of new schools

The fundamental aim in planning school places is to provide places near to where children live, in order to meet parental preferences as far as possible, to place schools at the heart of their communities and to minimise travel to school distances. Wiltshire Council believes that where additional school places are needed as a consequence of new housing development, as far as possible the costs should fall on the landowners and/or developers, by way of contributions falling within the concept of planning obligations. Wiltshire has an agreed methodology for calculating the infrastructure needs arising from new development. A policy for requesting contributions from developers and for the use of such funding is in place.

It is Wiltshire Council policy that new primary schools should be provided, wherever possible, within major new housing developments. These should be within walking distance and Wiltshire Council will seek, through the planning processes, to provide for safe routes to school for pedestrians and cyclists. Sites will be sought where the school can provide a natural focus for the local community, possibly in association with other local facilities such

as shops or other community buildings.

Where a new secondary school is planned a site will be sought that provides safe pedestrian and cycling routes and also good safe access for those that have to arrive by public and school transport. In order to discourage the use of private cars schools expected to prepare and maintain a Travel Plan. The Council has a Schools Travel Plan officer to support schools to implement their plan.

Wiltshire Council recognises the importance of considering distance of travel from homes to schools when planning new developments in order to reduce dependence on subsidised bus travel and encourage safe walking and cycling to schools. The Wiltshire Local Transport Plan - LTP Strategy 2011-2026 lists a number of Strategic Objectives which are adhered to when planning school places:

- A reduction in air pollution
- A reduction in commuting
- The means of regular exercise for pupils
- A reduction in travel costs for parents and Wiltshire Council
- A reduction in congestion on Wiltshire's roads

B10 Capital investment

It is recognised that pupils benefit from high quality learning environments and equipment. Capital investment priorities are based on requirements to:

- Provide sufficient places to meet the need of local communities
- Provide healthy and safe environments
- Meet curricular and organisational needs
- Enhance physical access to buildings
- Replace temporary accommodation with permanent where possible
- Implement key strategic initiatives

Condition Surveys are used alongside Net Capacity assessments to determine investment priorities. Government grant, Council resources and developer contributions are used to fund the necessary capital investment alongside any centrally acquired monies through a national bidding process. Capital resources are however becoming increasingly stretched.

At present there are two main funding streams allocated by DfE for school building projects, one which is solely for maintenance (condition) and the other is for providing additional pupil places including special school places (Basic Need). The Priority School Building Programme (PSBP) is a separate funding stream (bids required) for replacing or refurbishing schools in the worst condition, Wiltshire currently has a handful of projects funded by the PSBP phases I & II.

B11 Accessibility of school buildings

Improving access to education and securing educational achievement for pupils with a disability is essential to ensure equality of opportunity, full participation in society, access to employment opportunities and inclusion within mainstream schools. Wiltshire's inclusion vision is that every disabled child and young person in the county should achieve their potential educationally, socially and in their personal life. The Accessibility Strategy is a core component in realising this vision. Wiltshire Council is committed to increasing the accessibility of schools, wherever possible and where reasonable adaptations can be made, to wheelchair users and pupils with sensory impairment.

An audit of all schools established a baseline from which progress can be measured. The audit concentrates on the physical access to communal facilities and teaching accommodation as well as the provision of any specialist facilities such as toilets. The Accessibility Strategy for Educational Settings in Wiltshire 2013 – 2016 provides further details and is available upon request.

B12 Meeting special educational needs

The local context for the planning of school places for children with special needs is based on a strategy that includes a commitment to:

- Work with mainstream schools to develop their capacity to provide for as wide a range of individual needs as possible and to raise the level of inclusion and achievement of those with special needs
- Work with and develop special schools and resource bases to enable them to provide directly for some pupils
- Manage available resources effectively, efficiently and transparently to support the realisation of shared objectives

Within this strategy the size, location and nature of non-mainstream provision is regularly reviewed. Resource bases on school sites will be enhanced or designations reviewed so that the most appropriate facilities are in place, including sensory environments, to enhance pupils' learning and experience.

Special schools and resource bases should be of sufficient size to provide a wide range of experience and expertise amongst the staff, not only to provide appropriate opportunities to meet the needs of all pupils at the school, but to act as resource and outreach centres for their respective geographic areas.

B13 Provision for permanently excluded students

In its White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching," the Government raised concerns about the educational outcomes of pupils that have been permanently excluded. It expressed the view that this would be best addressed by making schools more responsible for pupils that they permanently exclude. This would ensure schools become more responsible for providing education for pupils they have permanently excluded and that such pupils should remain on the school's roll. Wiltshire Council and six other local authorities took part in a trial to test out these ideas under 'The Power to Innovate' (PTI). The trial ended in August 2014 and it was determined that the arrangements would continue on a permanent basis.

This does not remove the governors' right to permanently exclude a pupil or parental rights to appeal against any exclusion. It does mean, however, that any pupil permanently excluded will remain the responsibility of the school until alternative arrangements have been agreed. There are many secondary schools in Wiltshire that already choose not to use permanent exclusion. If a pupil acts in a way that means they can no longer be educated on the school site then the school arranges and funds appropriate offsite provision.

Primary behaviour support is largely carried out in schools and takes the form of preventative work and support for pupils as they move schools.

Wiltshire has an agreed Fair Access Protocol for hard to place pupils, full details can be found via the following links:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-in-year-fair-access-protocol-primary-schools.pdf>

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools--in-year-fair-access-protocol-secondary-schools.pdf>

B14 Schools in the wider community

Wiltshire Council recognises that schools should act as a focus for the local community in a way that extends beyond the education of children who attend the school. The Council recognises the importance of schools engaging with their local communities in order to promote social inclusion and community cohesion as an integral part of ensuring success for all children. This is particularly important for communities with a high proportion of vulnerable families.

In cooperation with agencies and other organisations, many schools have facilities that they make available to the wider community, including sports and leisure complexes, ICT facilities, playgroups, childcare facilities, adult education and youth provision. School facilities are increasingly being made available for evening, weekend and holiday use making more effective use of the resources available.

B15 The expansion of schools

Department for Education (DfE) guidance gives a strong emphasis towards the expansion of successful and popular schools where possible. Wiltshire Council is committed to examining ways of increasing parental choice in school admissions and ensuring that places are located where parents want them, ideally serving the local community.

DfE guidance makes clear that there is no single definition of a successful and popular school but suggests that the following indicators should be taken into account:

- The school's performance
- The number of applications for places and admission appeals
- Any other relevant information put forward by the school

Whilst there may be tensions between meeting parental choice for popular schools and the impact on other schools DfE guidance is quite clear that "the existence of surplus capacity in neighbouring, less popular and successful schools should not, in itself, prevent the addition of new places. Where proposals add to surplus capacity but there is a strong case for approval on parental preference and standards grounds, the presumption should be for approval if resources allow. The Local Authority in these cases will need to consider parallel action to remove the surplus capacity thereby created".

A number of factors will, therefore, need to be taken into account when considering any proposal brought forward by successful and popular schools to expand:

- Are additional places needed in the area?
- Are the proposals achievable in site terms?
- Would the proposal raise or damage overall standards of education in the area?
- Are there alternative proposals that might have a more positive impact on overall standards of education in the area?
- What are the views of all those who would be affected or who have an interest in the proposal?
- What would the transport implications be?
- What impact on diversity of provision across the area would there be?
- What are the capital resource implications for the proposal and any resultant action and does it represent a cost-effective use of public funds?

B16 Admissions policy

The admissions team administers Wiltshire's Co-ordinated admissions scheme. This includes admissions to all schools including academies as well as 'In Year Admissions'. The team also deals with the admission of hard to place pupils under the Fair Access Protocol, which is used to ensure these pupils are placed in a school quickly and with the appropriate support. The Protocol also ensures that no school receives any more than their fair share of difficult or challenging pupils by working with Head teachers to ensure the equitable distribution between schools.

There are a wide range of admissions authorities as each Academy, Foundation or Voluntary Aided School has its own Admission Policy. The admissions team coordinates all applications in order to place in excess of 19,000 children each year, including those of returning service personnel in schools. The knowledge, understanding and data that the team holds contributes to successful school organisation and planning. Admissions statistics, which are produced annually, are used to support the school place planning process, ensuring that sufficient places are provided to meet parental preference where possible.

The Council has an Admissions Forum consisting of the representatives of the different admissions authorities. The Forum discusses the Wiltshire arrangements for admissions and makes recommendations to admission authorities, including the LA, on all matters relating to admissions and Fair Access. Admission authorities, including the LA, must have regard to their advice in determining their admission arrangements, which includes expansions and contractions of school capacities.

Up to date details of the Wiltshire schools' admissions processes can be found on the Wiltshire Council website via the following link:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schoolseducationandlearning/schoolsandcolleges/schooladmissions.htm>

B17 Early years and childcare

In Wiltshire all three and four year old children are currently entitled to 15 hours funded part-time nursery education. By 2017 the 15 hours funded hours will increase to up to 30 hours for working parents. These places are available in pre-schools, full day-care nurseries, independent schools, nursery classes in schools and Childminders. Access to Free Entitlement funding by settings is dependent on the settings OFSTED Judgement. These can be school- located or privately run and many in Wiltshire are run through the voluntary sector. They are often situated on school sites; however use is also made of local facilities such as community and church halls and through private accommodation. The Government also provides part-time education for the most disadvantaged two year olds in the County and since 2014, 40% of disadvantaged two year olds have been entitled to 15 hours early education per week, in Wiltshire this funding is known locally as 'Better 2gether Funding.'

Wiltshire Council has established Sure Start Children's Centres, in each locality in Wiltshire. These are run by the voluntary sector and support a programme to deliver the best start in life for every child by bringing together early education, childcare, health and family support provision. Sure Start provision will be subject to review in 2015.

B18 14-19 Education and Skills (to 25 years for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities)

Wiltshire Council remains committed to working in partnership with all providers (schools, academies, college, and training providers) to review and develop educational provision in the

county. Providers continue to work collaboratively within three partnership areas (The North Federation, The West Wilts Alliance and The Wessex Partnership) on joint strategies for developing 14-19 education and training opportunities. Collaborative approaches between schools, academies, college and work-based learning providers will continue to underpin this approach in Wiltshire.

Wiltshire currently has one Further Education provider, Wiltshire College, which has four delivery hubs providing education for learners aged 14 plus including specialist provision for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities. There are 21 secondary schools that provide post 16 education where the majority of students follow Level 3 qualifications.

The raising of the age of participation (RPA) to 18 should be factored into school place planning. Although some 5,000 students aged 16-18 years attend a school or academy based sixth form provision, many learners choose to attend Wiltshire College, other work-based learning providers or access provision beyond the county boundaries. The previous and current government agenda focusing on increasing apprenticeship provision is currently impacting on the range of opportunities available within Wiltshire and will require continued close working with employers to create opportunities and places.

The introduction of the RPA has led to a growth in learners staying at school or seeking full-time educational placements. The Education Funding Agency is responsible for allocating and funding post 16 places including capital developments. Wiltshire Council will work with schools to support the establishment of new, or expand existing, sixth forms based on the individual school circumstances of each proposal but is not responsible for approving or funding developments. The current number of Wiltshire 16-18 year olds in education, employment and training is 96.1% with 3.9% not in employment, education and training (NEET).

In all cases the aim of the Council will be to develop plans which ensure that adequate, high quality facilities are available to support learners aged 14-19 (25).

B19 Post 16

Many of the secondary schools in Wiltshire have sixth forms for post 16 academic and vocational courses. Alongside these there are four colleges and a 6th form college in Salisbury. Whilst the Local Authority has a statutory responsibility for ensuring sufficient school places of statutory school age (5-16), responsibility for the planning and funding of post 16 places rest with the Education Funding Agency (EFA) School organisation and planning issues

C School Organisation and Planning Issues

C1 Influencing factors

There are three general factors likely to have the greatest influence on managing school places across the county over the next 5 years – the birth rate, housing development and the presence of the Armed Services in Wiltshire.

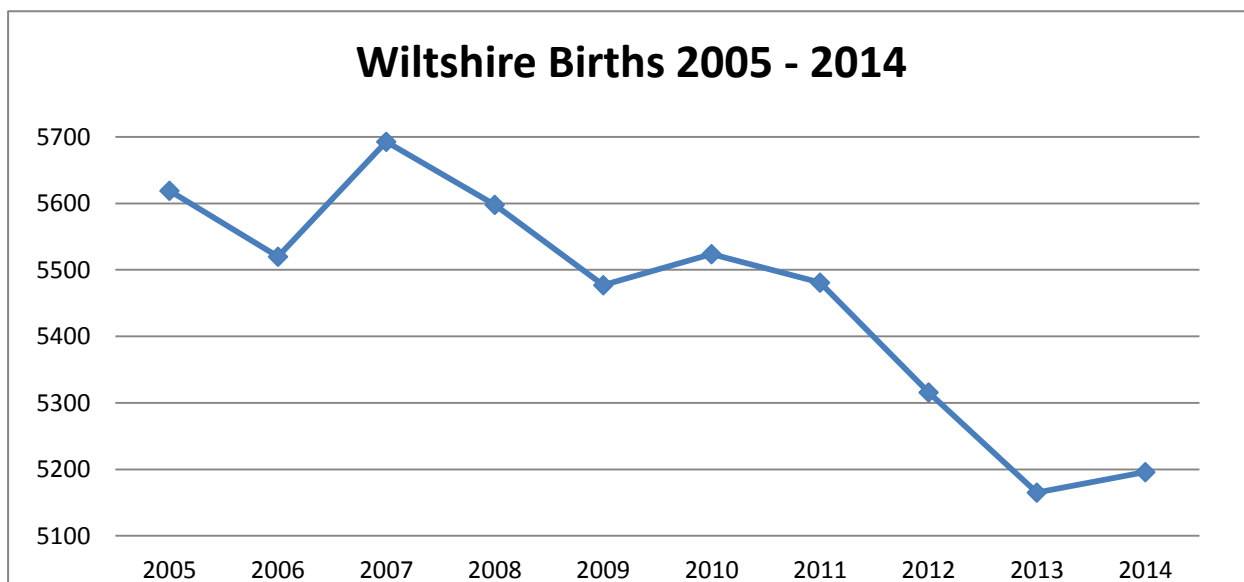
Birth rate

The demographic trend in the school population age range is largely driven by the birth rate. Interestingly and in contrast to national trends there has been a marked drop in the birth rate in the last few years, when taken as a whole across Wiltshire. In contrast, however, there has been a significant increase in the number of children moving into the County due to inward migration.

Births in Wiltshire averaged 5400 births per year between 2005 and 2014, with peaks in

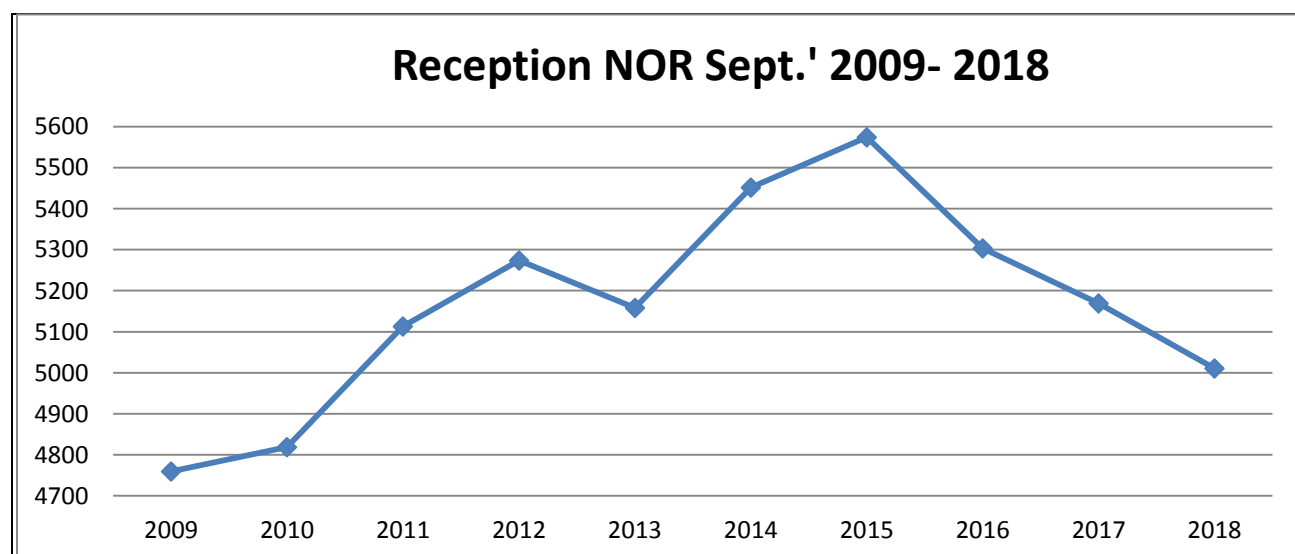
2005 and 2008 and a decline in recent years. The pressure on primary school places since 2009 has been significant and will continue to be so for the next 7 years as the peak 2005 to 2011 birth years feed through. In addition, these children will begin to feed into secondary education from September 2016.

Year of birth	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number	5619	5520	5693	5598	5477	5524	5481	5316	5165	5196



Comparison - births to NOR

Year of Birth	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	5619	5520	5693	5598	5477	5524	5481	5316	5165	5196
Reception Entry	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
(F) = Forecast	4759	4819	5113	5274	5158	5452	5574(F)	5304(F)	5169(F)	5011(F)



Housing development

The Wiltshire Core Strategy sets out the housing totals and phasing for each Community Area - it should be noted that some of these areas differ from the Secondary Planning Areas detailed in this School Places Strategy (SPS). The density of housing development varies considerably across the county as detailed in the table below:

Community Partnership Area	Number of Houses Allocated in Core Strategy
Amesbury, Bulford & Durrington	2785
Bradford on Avon	780
Calne	1605
Chippenham	5090
Corsham	1395
Devizes	2500
Malmesbury	1395
Marlborough	920
Melksham	2370
Mere	285
Pewsey	600
Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade	1455
Salisbury	6060
Wilton	255
Southern Wiltshire	615
Tidworth	1920
Tisbury	420
Trowbridge	6975
Warminster	2060
Westbury	1615
Total number of houses	41,100

The scale of the programme of work required in order to provide school places for the houses identified in the Core Strategy should not be underestimated – 41,100 houses roughly equates to 12,500 primary and 8,400 secondary places across Wiltshire up to 2026. The full Wiltshire Core Strategy document can be accessed here: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/core-strategy-adoption.pdf>

It is important that we work with Secondary School planning areas as this is required for national statistical returns on school places and basic need requirements. In producing the pupil forecasts for each Secondary School Area, account is taken of known housing allocations and planning permissions. It must be recognised, however, that the actual rate at which new housing is built depends on a mixture of economic and social factors. In forecasting the likely additional pupil product from such new housing, account will therefore need to be taken of changes in the age and household composition of the population and varying build out rates. Furthermore, a proportion of these new housing units may be taken up by families moving from elsewhere within the county and migration within the county will move the demand for places rather than simply increase the number of children.

Armed Services

The military presence in Wiltshire is an important factor in the planning of school places in particular areas of the county. There will be a significant increase in service personnel in the county due to the development of Army Super Garrisons which will see in excess of 4200 additional military personnel and their families housed on a more permanent basis in Wiltshire. Liaison work is ongoing with the Army and Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)

to confirm the numbers, locations and timing of the troops and their families moving back to the Salisbury Plain area. The need to provide additional school places including early years, primary, secondary and specialist provision to support the returning military families is well understood and plans are underway to deliver the additional school places required. The proposals are included in the draft SPS Implementation Plan. Given the Armed Services continued involvement in conflicts abroad and the high public profile of some bases in Wiltshire it will be necessary to keep the situation under review throughout the period of the Plan.

C2 Population overview

The birth rate and numbers of children arising from military families is substantially higher than in the rest of the population. Account is taken of this when planning school places in relevant areas.

Wiltshire is predominantly a rural county. The approach of the Local Authority to school place planning must therefore be designed to support dispersed populations in rural areas, those resident in small towns and the larger populations concentrated in the urban areas.

The tables below show that there has been a significant increase in both Wiltshire's overall demographic population and of school populations since 2009 with further increases projected. The effect of the up-turn in the economy following the recent recession and its impact on the housing market, and thus population mobility, will continue to be monitored throughout the period of this Plan.

Wiltshire total population overview

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Difference 2009-2014	% Difference
Totals	457,480	461,250	464,550	466,290	479,634	482,410	+ 24,930	+ 5.17%

Wiltshire School population data 2009 to 2014

School Type	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Difference 2009-2014	% Difference
Primary	33,637	34,218	34,209	34,213	35,453	36,285	+ 2,648	+ 7.3%
Secondary	29,655	29,177	29,787	29,788	29,424	29,064	- 591	- 2.0%
Special	438	502	510	504	526	544	+ 106	+19.49%
Total School Population	63,730	63,897	64,506	64,505	65,403	65,893	+ 2,523	+ 3.83%

School population comparison to PAN

School type	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	% Average overall surplus places
Primary NOR	33,637	34,218	34,209	34,213	35,453	36,285	
Total Primary Net Capacity	40,492	40,489	40,586	40,613	41,485	41,902	15%
Secondary NOR	29,655	29,177	29,787	29,788	29,424	29,064	
Total Secondary Net Capacity	32,808	33,119	33,568	33,420	33,684	33,684	12%

Primary school numbers by year group as at January 2015

Year	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Totals	5,497	5,320	5,399	5,142	5,007	4,945	4,881	36,191

This table shows the larger cohorts currently in the younger age ranges in primary schools and the lower numbers currently feeding into the secondary schools. From 2016/2017 the situation will begin to reverse as the larger cohorts of pupils feed into secondary schools. Wiltshire Council recognises the changes in birth rate and the need to plan for the extra places where there is no capacity, but will keep places under constant review as the impact of a changing birth rate, migration and more housing becomes clearer.

Secondary school numbers by year group as at January 2015

Year	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total
Total	4,870	4,744	4,811	4,947	5,119	2,506	2,318	29,315

There has been a decline in secondary school numbers in recent years as the small cohorts move up from primary school. However, numbers begin to increase again from 2016 and will reach another peak when the present KS1 children reach secondary age – in 6 to 7 years time (2021/22 approx). These calculations and predictions do not take into account housing developments and local factors such as Armed Forces movements.

Although these tables give the overall picture in the county there will be significant variations between areas of the Local Authority with, for instance, a greater decline in primary numbers in the rural areas. Factors such as Armed Forces movement and the rate at which housing developments are built out will need to be monitored. The individual secondary area data gives greater analysis of the trends for that area.

Recent Government figures reveal that, nationally, the primary school population has been rising since 2009 and reached around 4.4m in 2015. However, the rate of increase is predicted to drop due to a reduction in births with the population projected to be broadly stable by 2024. In contrast, the secondary school population is projected to continue rising, reaching approximately 3.3m by 2024 (an increase of 20% on the 2015 population).

Full analyses of each planning area are in the Strategy document and a summary Implementation Plan can be found below.

E School Places Strategy 2015 – 2020: Implementation Plan

Area	Short term – 1 to 2 years 2015 – 2017	Medium term – 3 to 5 years 2017 - 2020	Long term – 5 to 10 years 2020 – 2025
Amesbury	<i>Expand Amesbury Christ the King school to 1.5FE and MUGA, subject to planning approval.</i>	<i>Provision of new Primary school on the Kings Gate development. New site being secured, either as a new school or satellite site for existing primary school. Will provide 1FE and possibly 2FE dependent on site size and demand.</i>	
	<i>Develop expansion scheme at The Stonehenge School.</i>	<i>Phase 1 – expand The Stonehenge School to provide 250-275 places.</i>	
Bradford-on-Avon	<i>0.5FE primary places required North of the town to cover short-term rise in pupil numbers. Need to determine whether temporary or permanent.</i>		
	<i>Initiate discussions with St. Laurence School regarding adjustment to PAN.</i>		
Calne		<i>0.5FE primary provision required on an existing school site with sufficient site area available for development.</i>	

E School Places Strategy 2015 – 2020: Implementation Plan

Area	Short term – 1 to 2 years 2015 – 2017	Medium term – 3 to 5 years 2017 - 2020	Long term – 5 to 10 years 2020 – 2025
Chippenham	<i>Construct 1 classroom extension at Ivy Lane Primary School to return school to 2FE.</i>	<i>Provision of 3 new Primary school proposals to meet DPD requirements.</i>	
	<i>Review and develop plans to expand secondary provision in Chippenham.</i>	<i>Expansion of Abbeyfield School – phase 1. Keep under review timing of any further expansion requirements.</i>	
Corsham		<i>Provision of 0.5FE Primary places in the Broadwood area.</i>	
	<i>Develop proposal for phase 1 expansion at The Corsham School.</i>	<i>Phase 1 expansion of The Corsham School on existing site.</i>	
Devizes			<i>Keep pupil numbers under review to determine both primary and secondary provision.</i>
Downton			
Durrington	<i>Expansion of Kiwi School from 1FE to 2FE – already in progress.</i>		
	<i>Expansion of St. Leonard's Primary School to 1.5FE – already in progress.</i>		
	<i>Provision of new 2FE Primary school at Larkhill (relocation of Figheldean Primary School to new site).</i>		

E School Places Strategy 2015 – 2020: Implementation Plan

Area	Short term – 1 to 2 years 2015 – 2017	Medium term – 3 to 5 years 2017 - 2020	Long term – 5 to 10 years 2020 – 2025
Durrington – cont.	<i>Progress scheme to expand Avon Valley College to meet Army rebasing timescale.</i>		
Lavington			
Malmesbury		<i>Expansion of primary provision in Malmesbury at a location yet to be determined.</i>	
	<i>Planning for small extension to Malmesbury School.</i>	<i>Delivery of expansion to secondary school provision through extension to Malmesbury School. (Note: PFI school).</i>	
Marlborough	<i>Keep watching brief/review secondary numbers.</i>	<i>Keep watching brief/review secondary numbers.</i>	<i>Review pupil numbers arising from new housing with a view to expanding primary provision across the town by 0.5FE.</i>
Melksham	<i>Develop expansion scheme for Melksham Oak School.</i>	<i>Expansion of Melksham Oak School places to meet in-area demand.</i>	
		<i>Keep primary pupil numbers under review with a view to increasing primary capacity locally on a new site.</i>	
Mere			
Pewsey			
Purton			

E School Places Strategy 2015 – 2020: Implementation Plan

Area	Short term – 1 to 2 years 2015 – 2017	Medium term – 3 to 5 years 2017 - 2020	Long term – 5 to 10 years 2020 – 2025
Royal Wootton Bassett	<i>Consider options for 0.5FE expansion of primary provision in the town.</i>	<i>Implement 0.5FE expansion project.</i>	
	<i>Review options for expansion of provision at Royal Wootton Bassett Academy.</i>		
Salisbury	<i>Already in progress - 1FE expansion at Pembroke Park Primary School to 2FE due to complete for September 2015.</i>		
	<i>Already in progress - 1FE expansion at Greentrees Primary School to 2FE due to complete for September 2015. Will also include new Resource Base.</i>		
	<i>Expand Old Sarum Primary School from 1FE to 2FE.</i>		
	<i>1CR expansion at Wilton & Barford Primary School (expansion to 1FE).</i>	<i>Provision of new Primary school on the Longhedge development, size and location to be determined dependant on size of housing development.</i>	
	<i>Progress school competitions for new primary schools in Salisbury.</i>	<i>Provision of new 1.5FE Primary school on the Fugglestone Red development.</i>	<i>Provision of new 2FE Primary school to support Churchfields and Engine Shed strategic sites development, size and location to be determined.</i>

E School Places Strategy 2015 – 2020: Implementation Plan

Area	Short term – 1 to 2 years 2015 – 2017	Medium term – 3 to 5 years 2017 - 2020	Long term – 5 to 10 years 2020 – 2025
Salisbury – cont.	<i>Strategic review of secondary school places and capacities to consider options to meet increasing demand from housing development and Army rebasing.</i>	<i>Implement recommendations from strategic review of secondary provision.</i>	
Tidworth	<i>Wellington Secondary Academy phase 1 extension is due to complete September 2015.</i>		
	<i>Construct 2 classroom extension at Ludgershall Castle Primary School to expand school to 2FE.</i>	<i>Provision of new Ludgershall 1FE Primary school at Perham Down on 2FE site.</i>	
	<i>We are currently reviewing the location of secondary provision to meet additional demand in Tidworth arising from the Army rebasing.</i>	<i>Implement phase 2 expansion of secondary provision.</i>	
Tisbury			
Trowbridge	<i>1CR expansion at Holt Primary School due to complete for September 2015.</i>		
	<i>Expand Castlemead Primary Academy from 1FE to 2FE.</i>	<i>Provision of new 2FE Primary school on the Ashton Park development.</i>	<i>Provision of a second new 2FE Primary school in the later stages of the Ashton Park development.</i>

E School Places Strategy 2015 – 2020: Implementation Plan

Area	Short term – 1 to 2 years 2015 – 2017	Medium term – 3 to 5 years 2017 - 2020	Long term – 5 to 10 years 2020 – 2025
Trowbridge – cont.	<i>Review provision at Larkrise Special School to clarify expansion options.</i>		
	<i>Commission feasibility studies at existing primary schools to clarify options for expansion.</i>		
		<i>Develop proposals for new secondary provision on the Ashton Park development.</i>	<i>Implement proposals for new secondary provision on the Ashton Park development.</i>
Warminster	<i>Renew capacity and feasibility required to determine scope for additional places.</i>		
	<i>Feasibility study to consider options for expansion of Kingdown School and associated site implications.</i>	<i>Expansion of secondary school places at Kingdown School to meet in-area demand.</i>	
	<i>Feasibility study to consider options for expansion of Princecroft Primary School to 1FE and associated site implications.</i>	<i>Provision of new Primary school to serve the West Warminster Urban Expansion. Size and location to be determined.</i>	
Westbury	<i>Feasibility for small expansion at Bitham Brook Primary School.</i>	<i>Construct 2 classroom extension at Bitham Brook Primary School.</i>	
	<i>Feasibilities for small expansions of 1 classroom each at Westbury Infant and Junior Schools.</i>	<i>Keep Matravers School pupil numbers under review to determine provision.</i>	
Wroughton			