

Cabinet

Thursday, 28 March 2024, 10.00 am, County Hall

Membership

Councillors:

Cllr Simon Geraghty (Chairman), Cllr Marc Bayliss, Cllr Adrian Hardman, Cllr Marcus Hart (Vice Chairman), Cllr Adam Kent, Cllr Steve Mackay, Cllr Karen May, Cllr Richard Morris, Cllr Tracey Onslow and Cllr Mike Rouse

Appendices Supplement

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All the above reports and supporting information can be accessed on the Council's website

Date of Issue: Wednesday, 20 March 2024

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MARKET POSITION STATEMENT
ADULT SOCIAL CARE

2024 – 2029

People Commissioning

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Foreword

Worcestershire is home to more than 600,000 people. It covers 672 square miles within the West Midlands in central England and presents a diverse mix of vibrant urban areas and idyllic rural communities and one of England's historic Cathedral cities at its heart.

Our county is one of the fastest growing local economies in the country; this growth being supported through significant investment in road, rail and digital infrastructure and economic "game changing" sites are on course to provide employment land where it is most needed. Worcestershire enjoys relatively low levels of unemployment and fewer young people not in education, employment or training than many in the region. So, whilst Worcestershire provides a great quality of life for Children and Families, we know we can still do more.

The County Council supports some of the most vulnerable people in society with a revenue budget for social care services for vulnerable adults (financial year 2023/24) of some £156.8m which equates to 39.1% of the County Council overall net budget. People are living longer, with more complex needs, and, we have more children who need our care. This means that managing the transition from childhood to adulthood and developing opportunities for fulfilment and independence as well as caring for older people and the frail is particularly important.

Worcestershire County Council's [Plan for Worcestershire 2022-2027](#) describes our vision for a connected County, where everyone can prosper, be healthy and happy. It is our priority, working with partners, to ensure Worcestershire residents are healthier, live longer, have a better quality of life and remain independent for as long as possible. We aim to achieve this by working collaboratively with partners and communities to enable Worcestershire residents to make responsible choices when planning their lives to achieve the best possible outcomes. We are focussed on enabling individuals to become or remain independent, self-reliant and an integrated part of their local communities.

With a growing number of adults needing care and support and with funding that is struggling to keep pace with price inflation and care demand, we continue to drive a preventative approach that supports people to help themselves, as well as growing communities to support people with care and support from family, friends, volunteers and the whole community.

Success will require a joined-up approach to health, care and well-being that encourages people to take greater responsibility for their own health and plan for their future, so that we can support those who really need it – we saw how this worked well throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and we are building on this to take our services forwards, making the most effective use of resources available across both health and social care as an active partner within the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care System. By working together, we can develop and deliver a sustainable, high quality, diverse and cost-effective adult social care marketplace for the citizens of Worcestershire.

Inevitably there will be some people who need long term care services. We will need to be clear about the options available so that people understand who is eligible for support and who will need to pay for it, and work with our partners and providers to ensure that when people do require support, we can offer quality and safe services that meet people's needs that also help people maintain their independence and ability to enjoy life in their local communities as much as possible.

This approach requires changes in the market for care services and this work has already begun with, for example, the launch of the zonal approach to home care via the new independence focussed

domiciliary care contract, the launch of positive days day services and the implementation of a framework for older people’s replacement care, together with the launch of invitations to join a framework for older peoples residential and nursing care that will create opportunities for “first choice” providers in the county. This suite of market position statement documents help us to meet our legal duty to sustain and shape the market at a time when it is adapting to meet the changing health and social care needs of local people alongside a number of financial, workforce recruitment and retention and other key challenges and, importantly, set out what we believe we will need from the market over the next 3 years in order to inform business decisions by providers. They set out details of current services, our understanding of adult social care needs now and, in the future, our commissioning intentions, and how we would like to work with the market.

We will continuously review progress on our journey in the light of the ever-changing national landscape in which we deliver services. We have tried to present information in a way that is accessible and can be updated with changes in commissioning intentions, market opportunities, market feedback and intelligence. We hope that it will become a vital reference point for the adult social care market in Worcestershire.

We welcome your feedback on how useful this information is to your business and any suggestions for how we might continue to improve it. Please forward any comments in this regard via email to asc@worcestershire.gov.uk placing the words **MARKET POSITION STATEMENT 2024 - 2029** in the subject line.

We next plan to update this document in 2028.



Councillor Adrian Hardman
Council member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care



Mr Mark Fitton
Strategic Director, People
Director, Adult Social Services

1. The Strategic Direction in Worcestershire – an overview

The County Council Corporate Plan ([Plan for Worcestershire 2022-2027](#)) covers four key priorities:

- Championing Open for Business
- Supporting Children and Families
- Protecting the Environment
- Promoting Health and Wellbeing

In relation to health and well-being and key to the commissioning of Adult Social Care services, the Council prioritises working with partners, to ensure Worcestershire residents are healthier, live longer, have a better quality of life and remain independent for as long as possible by:

- Promoting healthy and active lifestyles
- Enabling vulnerable people to live as independently and safely as possible with the support of their families, friends and communities.
- Continuing to work with partners to make sure all health and social care services are evidence based, effective, and good value for money.
- Judging progress by:
 - Increase in healthy life expectancy.
 - Increase in the number of active residents (30 mins exercise per day)
 - Increase in the number of people aged 65 or more living independently for longer.
 - Minimising the number of people who need to go into permanent/residential nursing placements.

The People Directorate brings together the services for all aspects of adult social care and communities and is led by a Strategic Director, supported by Assistant Directors and their professional teams. The People Directorate strategy for Adult Social Care is aligned to the Corporate Plan and the [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\)](#) and provides support to the implementation of other health and care county-wide strategies. It also responds to national requirements and changes in best practices.

The key facets of the Adult Social Care strategy are as follows:

- A single strategy for people and communities, with a clear vision and a focus on outcomes for people;
- Developed and co-produced with people, staff and partners to meet need by maximising the use of our assets, resources and workforce; and
- Provide an offer to people which is clear, simple and easy to access or use and which reduces duplication in buildings, systems, processes, commissioning, service responses to cut waste; by

We will therefore constantly design and implement a series of continuous improvement activities that are people-centred and which shape services to delivery our aspirations within a sustainable, effective market.

For Adult Social Care, we have 3 key priorities:

- Right support, right place, right time
 - Offering care and support that is coordinated and enables individuals to live as they want to, being seen as a unique person with skills, strengths and goals.

- Enabling people to make informed choices to manage their health and wellbeing at a time and place that's right for them.
- Working in partnership with local people
 - Working together across Place (Worcestershire) to provide a holistic approach to the health and care needs of our community.
 - People feel connected to their community and their feedback and experience is used to shape and make changes.
- Future-focused
 - Understanding and responding to the many changes and opportunities on the horizon for social care.
 - Working with people and our partners to maintain safe systems of care, making safeguarding personal by concentrating on improving people's lives.

Our vision, as a Directorate, is to put people at the heart of everything we do, allowing us to support individuals to live the lives they choose in a place they call home. This means that we will:

- Do things differently to ensure we are making the best use of our resources.
- Utilise our communities' strengths, capacity, skills and resources to prevent, reduce and delay further needs from arising.
- Continue to improve access and support, whilst ensuring we put people at the forefront of decisions around their care, with a key focus on person-centred care and strengths-based practice.
- Promote inclusion and our understanding of diversity, so that everyone has equal access to care as well as moving towards integrating health and social care to improve the customer journey.

And we will clearly demonstrate our approach via our Guiding Principles in all we do:



People Directorate
Guiding Principles

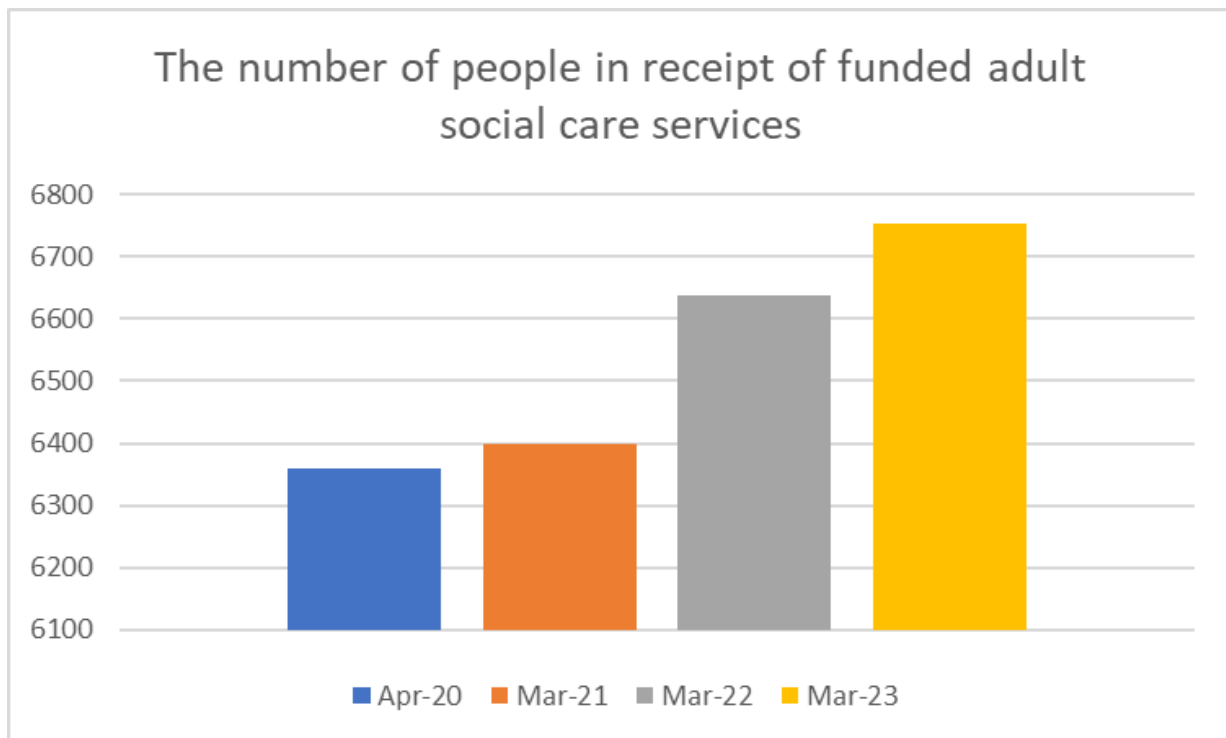
- Partnership** Listening to and engaging with people, communities and partner organisations
- Enabling** Empowering people to have control over their lives
- Accountable** Being accountable and transparent in the service we provide
- Respectful** Respecting diversity in our communities and workplace
- Strengths** Working with people's strengths and assets to determine outcomes

Worcestershire County Council's People Directorate and its partners will co-produce ways of working with citizens to enable them to:

- Be well and stay safe.
- Be independent and connected.
- Be supported.

The number of contacts within adult social care are increasing year on year resulting in more adult residents requiring social care services and it is therefore important to ensure that residents can access the right service for them, at an affordable price, delivered through a sustainable market, and within the financial parameters set.

**The number of clients receiving adult social care services funded by Worcestershire County Council
April 2020 - March 2023**



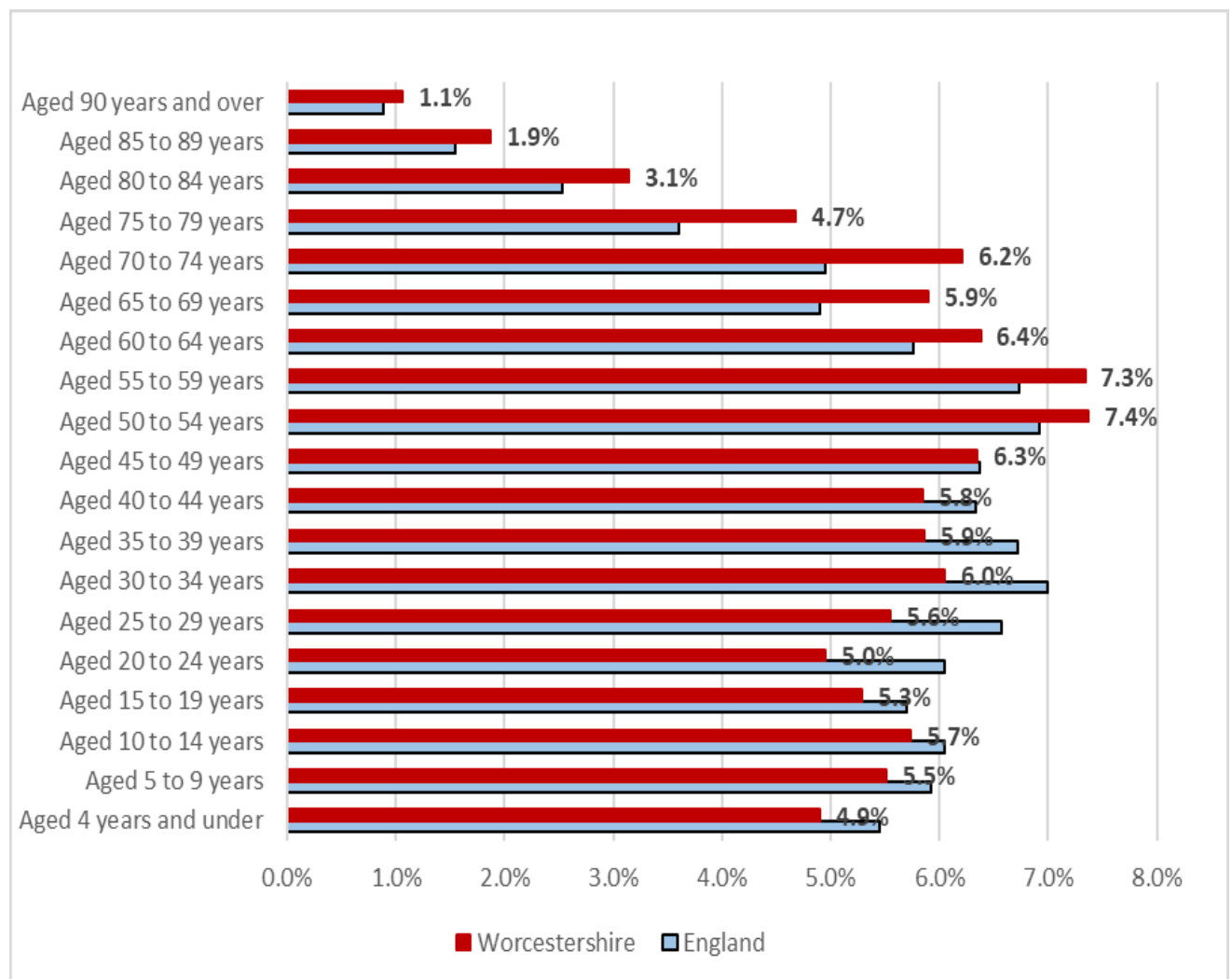
2. Worcestershire demographics

2.1. Our population

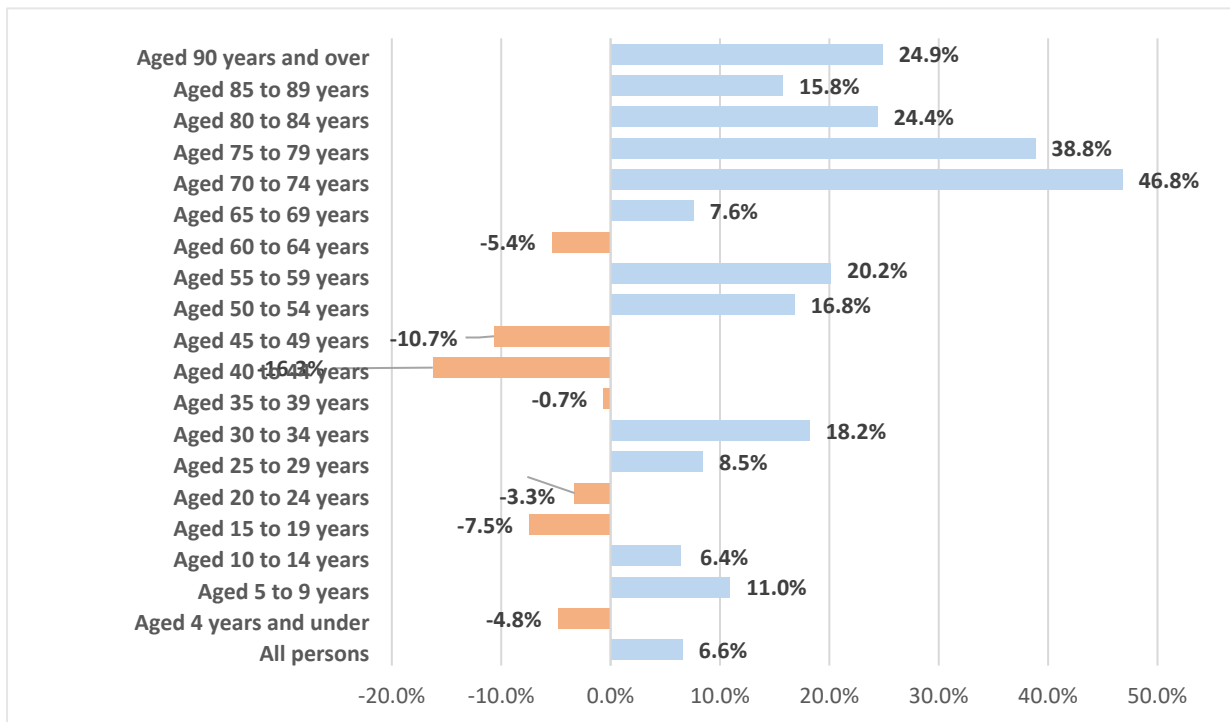
From the 2021 census, we know that in Worcestershire the population has increased by 37,400 since 2011, rising from 566,200, to 603,600. This represents an increase of 6.6%, identical to the national % increase, and slightly higher than the regional (West Midlands) increase which is 6.2% overall. As a proportion of the population in England, this remains unchanged at 1.07%.

Worcestershire has a higher proportion of older people than the national average, and a lower proportion of children and younger adults. The difference in proportions between Worcestershire and England are particularly prevalent in the 20 to 39 age range, (a significantly lower proportion of the population are within this age group in Worcestershire), and the 65 to 79 age range, where this group forms a significantly high proportion of the county population. Of particular note is the number of people aged 65-plus in Worcestershire at 138,000, almost 23% of all people living in the county. The following information is taken from the 2021 census data.

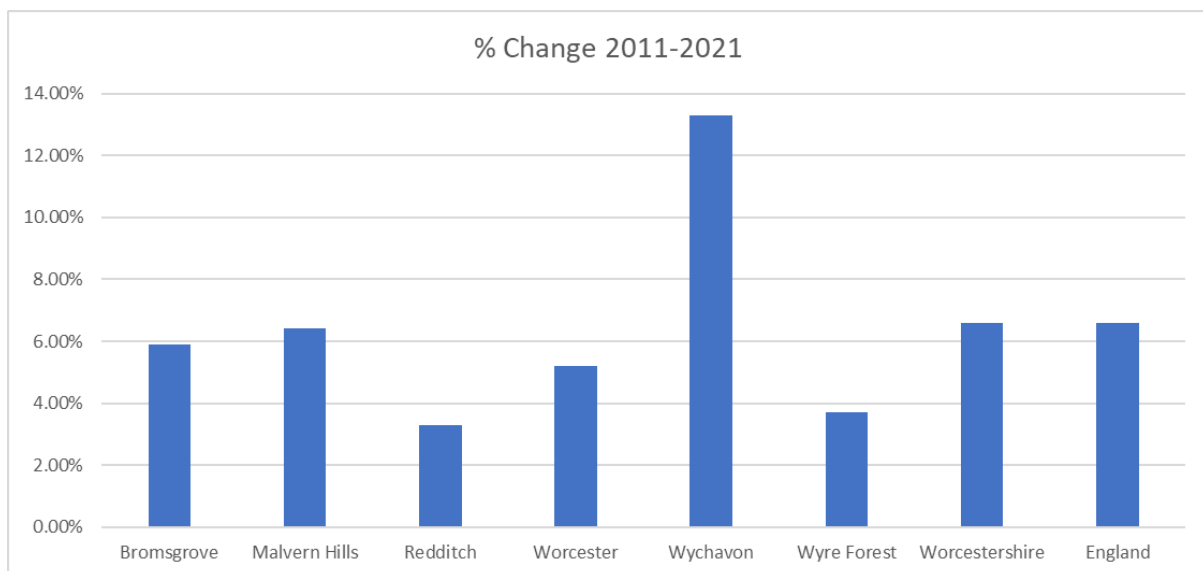
Worcestershire population proportion by 5-year age group, 2021



Proportional Change in population by 5-year age group in Worcestershire 2011-21



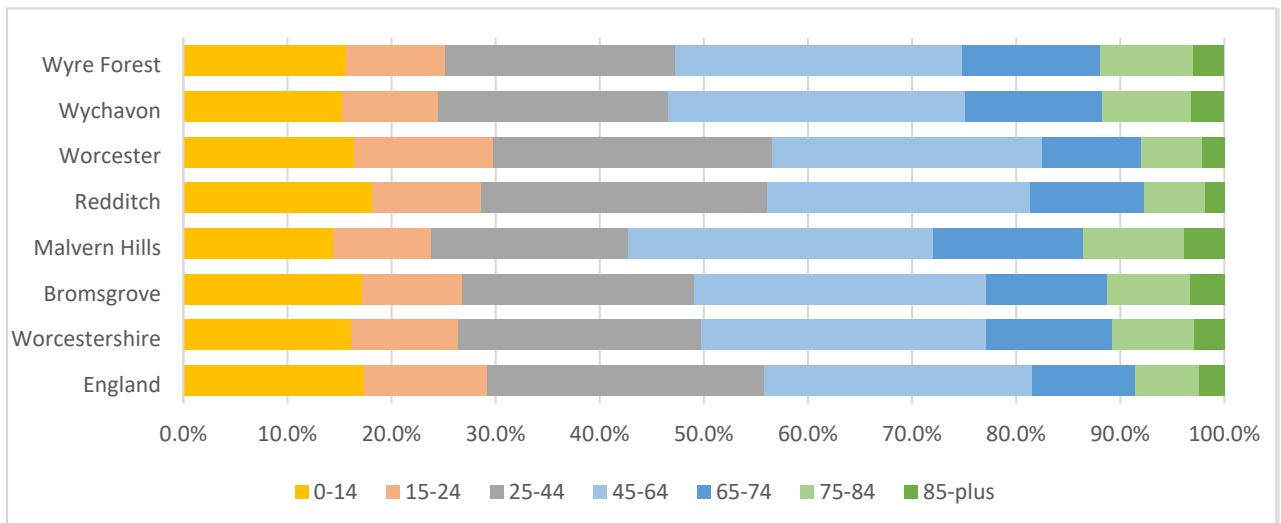
Change in population by district (all age groups), 2011-21



The number of people aged 65-plus in Worcestershire has increased by almost 29,000 since 2011, a rise of almost 27% (compared to a rise of just over 20% nationally). Increases in the 65-plus age group are particularly high in Redditch (over 36%) and Wychavon (almost 32%). The 75-plus population has increased by over 14,400 persons (almost 29%) since 2011.

The proportions of people aged 65-plus are particularly high in Malvern Hills (around 28%) and in Wychavon and Wyre Forest, both at around 25%.

Worcestershire and districts population proportion by broad age group, 2021



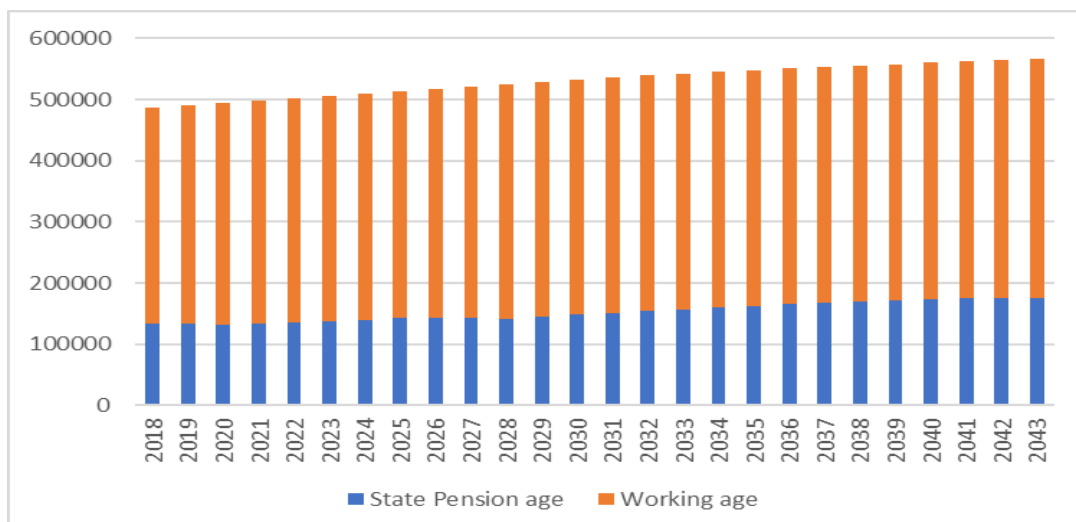
Population projections estimate an increase in Worcestershire residents who are of state pension age in the order of 31.2% and in the working age group of adults, an increase of 10.9% by 2043.

By District, in terms of state pensioners, the greatest impact on change is within Wychavon which is forecast to see an increase of 47% by 2043. Malvern Hills is projected to increase by 38.7% and Worcestershire as a whole, by 31.2%. The lowest rate of increase for the state pension age group is Redditch, at 11.2%. No districts are projected to decrease. Increases in the 85-plus population are projected to be over 40% in Malvern Hills, Redditch, Wychavon and Wyre Forest. This has potentially a significant impact on the future provision of Adult Social care services

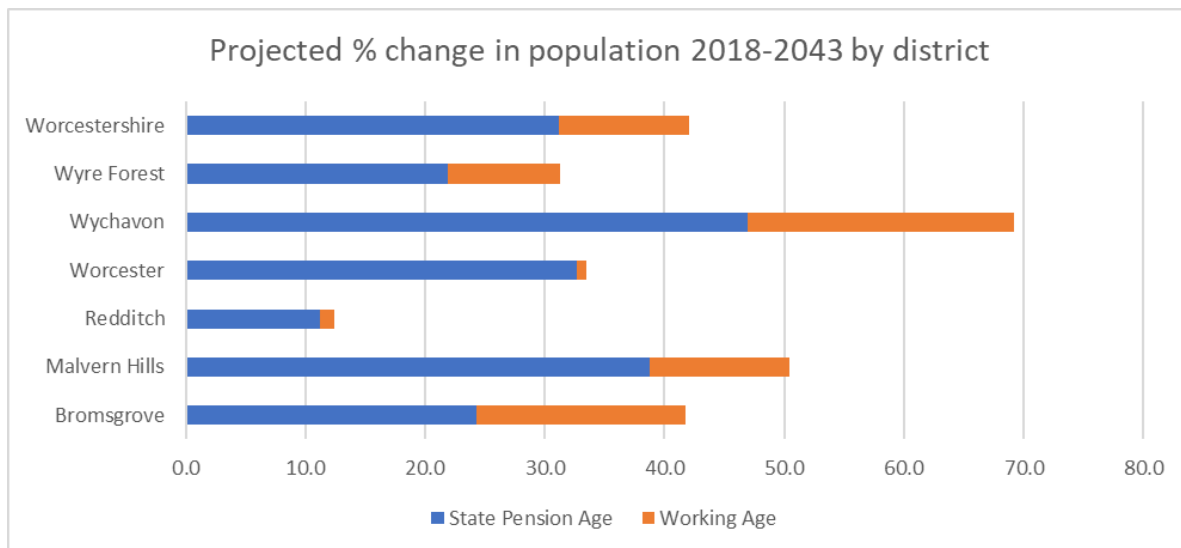
Regarding the working age population, the greatest level of increase projected over this period (2018-2043) is again Wychavon at 22.2%, followed by Bromsgrove at 17.5%. The lowest projected change (increase) is within Worcester at 0.8%, with the projected change for the whole county estimated to increase by 10.9%. No districts are projected to decrease.

Data Source for the following three graphs: Office for National Statistics, Subnational population projections for England

Worcestershire County Population Projection by age group (2018-2043)

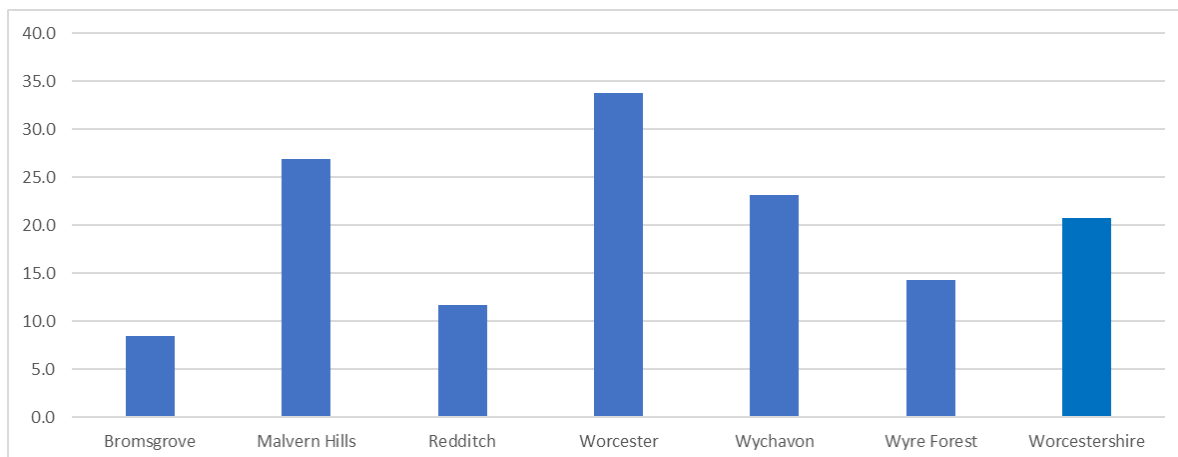


Worcestershire Districts Population Projection by age group (2018-2043)



The projected population changes give rise to a marked impact on old age dependency over the period as shown by the chart over page. The greatest increase in dependency is within Worcester, followed by Malvern Hills

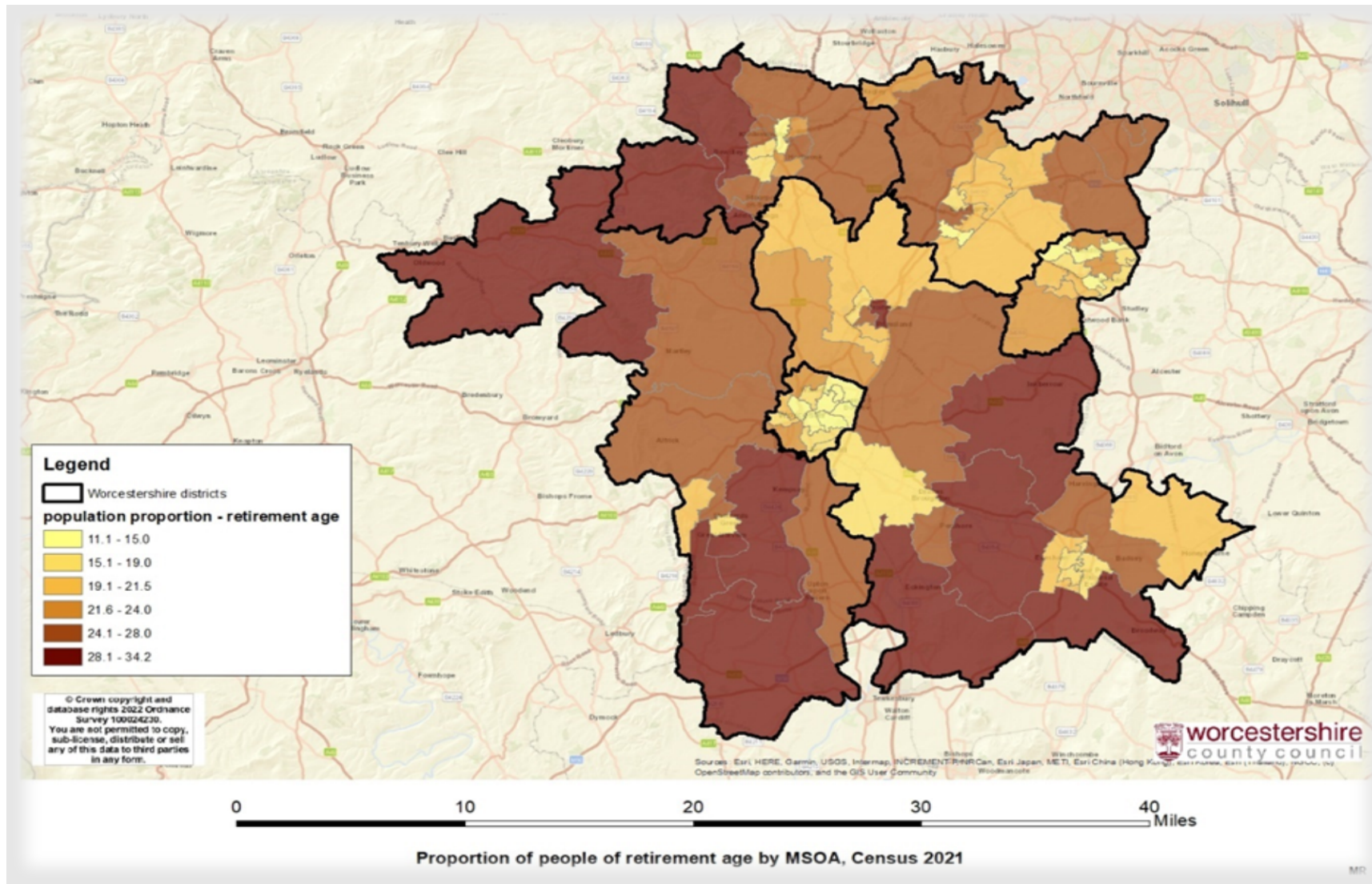
Projected old age dependency (% change 2018-2043) by District



- The ratio of working age to retirement age in Worcestershire currently stands at 2.71 compared to 3.55 nationally. The proportion in Worcestershire was close to the national average in 2001 but has decreased notably since then, in contrast to the picture nationally, where the change in retirement age has resulted in a higher ratio in 2021 than in 2001.
 - The working age to retirement age ratio is particularly low in Malvern Hills, at less than 2.1, and in Wyre Forest and Wychavon, at less than 2.5.
 - The working age to retirement age ratio is notably higher in Worcester at over 3.8 (higher than the national average) and Redditch at just under 3.5 (similar to the national average).
- (See also the illustration over page)

The Council and its partners will need to be innovative in the way we deliver Adult Social Care throughout the County, including working to build new capacity across the voluntary and community sector.

Proportion of the Worcestershire population who are at (or above) retirement age (by Mid-layer Super Output Area)



2.2 Ethnicity

This dataset from the 2021 census provides estimates that classify usual residents in England and Wales by their country of birth.

Table 1: Country (region) of birth by county and district

Country of birth %	Bromsgrove	Malvern Hills	Redditch	Worcester	Wychavon	Wyre Forest	Worcestershire	England
UK	95.2	94.2	88.6	87.2	91.8	95	92	82.6
EU14	1.2	1.4	1.1	2.2	1.2	1.1	1.4	2.8
EU 8	0.4	0.8	4.7	2.7	2.6	1.1	2.1	2.1
EU 2	0.1	0.2	1.2	1.9	1.6	0.6	1.0	1.2
All other EU	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
All other NON-EU	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.9
Africa	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.2	0.8	0.4	0.8	2.8
Middle East & Asia	1.8	1.3	2.8	3.4	1.0	1.2	1.8	5.7
Americas & Caribbean	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	1.4
Antarctica, Oceania & Other	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3
British Overseas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total population	99,183	79,489	87,037	103,872	132,494	101,607	603,673	56,490,049

EU14 Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden.

EU 8 Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia

EU 2 Andorra, Cyprus, Greece (including Greek Isles), Malta, Spain (including Balearic and Canary Islands), Switzerland and Turkey.

Approximately 92% of people living in Worcestershire were born in the UK compared to the national average of almost 83%. The proportions are slightly lower in Worcester and Redditch districts, at 87% and 89% respectively.

Table 2 (over page) shows a more detailed breakdown of individual countries of birth. Proportions for many countries are small and countries with proportions in Worcestershire or districts that are lower than 0.3% have been omitted. Proportions of more than 2% are highlighted in red, proportions of more than 1% highlighted in blue, and proportions of more than 0.5% are highlighted in yellow so higher percentages can be easily picked out.

- With the exception of those born in England, the country of birth with the highest proportion of population in Worcestershire is Poland, at 1.5%, representing more than 9,200 people in the county.
- Over 4,700 people living in Worcestershire were born in Romania, representing 0.8% of the population.
- People born in India and Pakistan represent 0.5% and 0.4% of the population of Worcestershire respectively. These proportions are both notably lower than the national averages.

Table 2: Detailed country of birth data, by county and district

	Worcestershire	Bromsgrove	Malvern Hills	Redditch	Worcester	Wychavon	Wyre Forest	England
Total	603,676	99,180	79,484	87,037	103,866	132,486	101,607	56,490,051
England (%)	89.3	93.0	90.3	86.7	84.2	88.8	92.9	80.3
Poland (%)	1.5	0.2	0.5	3.7	1.9	2.0	0.7	1.3
Wales (%)	1.5	1.2	2.4	0.9	1.7	1.7	1.2	0.8
Scotland (%)	0.9	0.8	1.1	0.7	0.9	1.1	0.7	1.1
Romania (%)	0.8	0.1	0.2	1.1	1.6	0.9	0.6	0.9
Other countries that joined the EU between April 2002 and March (%)	0.7	0.2	0.3	1.0	0.9	1.2	0.3	1.0
India (%)	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.7	0.8	0.2	0.3	1.6
Pakistan (%)	0.4	0.1	0.1	1.4	1.0	0	0.1	1.1
Ireland (%)	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.6
Germany (%)	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.4
Northern Ireland (%)	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3
South Africa (%)	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.4
Portugal (incl. Madeira and the Azores) (%)	0.2	0	0.1	0	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.3

Source: Office for National Statistics: Census 2021

Table 3: Proportion of people in households with English as a main language – Worcestershire and districts

	Worcestershire	Bromsgrove	Malvern Hills	Redditch	Worcester	Wychavon	Wyre Forest	England
All adults in household have English as main language	95.0%	98.0%	97.8%	91.4%	91.2%	94.9%	97.1%	89.3%
At least one but not all adults in household have English as main language	1.8%	1.1%	1.2%	2.9%	3.3%	1.5%	1.2%	4.3%
No adults in household, but at least one person aged 3-15 years has English as main language	0.6%	0.2%	0.3%	1.0%	1.1%	0.8%	0.3%	1.4%
No people in household have English as main language	2.5%	0.6%	0.8%	4.6%	4.5%	2.8%	1.4%	5.0%
Total population	259,932	41,265	34,892	36,378	44,722	57,356	45,320	23,436,085

Source: Office for National Statistics: Census 2021

Table 4: Proficiency in English – Worcestershire and districts

	Worcestershire	Bromsgrove	Malvern Hills	Redditch	Worcester	Wychavon	Wyre Forest	England
Main language is English	95.6%	98.5%	98.1%	92.4%	92.2%	95.3%	97.6%	90.8%
Main language not English but can speak English very well	1.8%	0.9%	1.0%	2.8%	2.8%	1.8%	1.0%	4.0%
Main language not English but can speak English well	1.8%	0.4%	0.6%	3.4%	3.4%	2.0%	1.0%	3.3%
Main language not English. Cannot speak English well	0.7%	0.2%	0.2%	1.2%	1.2%	0.8%	0.3%	1.6%
Main language not English. Cannot speak English	0.1%	0	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%
Total population	586,538	96,248	77,730	84,112	100,690	128,895	98,863	54,686,091

Source: Office for National Statistics: Census 2021

In conclusion, from the 2021 Census, high level indicators of ethnicity in the county can be summarised as follows:

- 88.7% of people in Worcestershire were White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British. This has reduced from 92.4% in 2011.
- The number of people from ethnic minorities in Worcestershire represents 11.3% of the population and is notably lower than the national average of over 26%. The proportion of ethnic minority groups in the county in 2021 has grown from 7.6% in 2011.
- Proportions of ethnic minorities are relatively high in Redditch and Worcester, at almost 18% and just over 17% respectively. Proportions are notably lower in Malvern Hills, at less than 7%. Proportions of ethnic minorities in all districts are lower than the average across the whole of England.
- The population of 'Other White' ethnic group has increased from 2.6% in 2011, to over 4% in 2021. This is now the second largest ethnicity group in the county. It contains many people from Europe including eastern Europe. Proportions in the 'White Other' ethnicity are lower than the national average of just over 6%. Redditch and Worcester both have relatively high proportions of population who are in the 'White Other' ethnic group, both at almost 7%, as well as in Wychavon, at over 5%.

2.3 Employment and economic activity

From the JSNA 2022 summary, we know that:

- The population of Worcestershire is generally healthy, performing consistently better than the national average across several health-related measures. However, there are some pockets of Worcestershire where people's health is not good and the average masks inequality. Social determinants of health may influence health seeking behaviour in deprived populations.
- Worcestershire is, generally, not a deprived county, but 10% of our residents live in the most deprived quintile. Proportions living in 30% most deprived areas are particularly high in Redditch at almost 40%, and Wyre Forest at 35%
- Almost 5% of the Worcestershire population live in the 10% most deprived areas in England, with proportions particularly high in Worcester at almost 12%, and Redditch at over 8%. Almost 21% of the Worcestershire population live in the 30% most deprived areas in England, with proportions particularly high in Redditch at almost 40%, and Wyre Forest at 35%

(See Key indicators, over page)

Key indicators (Source: JSNA)

<p>Well performing indicators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy •Under 75 mortality rates for cardiovascular disease, cancer and respiratory disease •The crime rate in Worcestershire is lower than the national average. •The claimant count in Worcestershire is decreasing and is lower than the national and regional rates. •Cancer screening coverage indicators, e.g. for cervical cancer and breast cancer. •Emergency admissions for falls among people 65 -plus is lower than nationally
<p>Emerging focus indicators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cost of living (fuel poverty, healthy eating) •Inequalities in mental health & wellbeing, and lifestyle risk factors •Changing demographic profile (inc. ageing population, asylum seekers) •Lower use of preventive services by most deprived & ethnic groups •Challenges within the health and care system (inc. waiting lists, emergency department pressures) ••Oral health •Not in education, training or employment •SEND •Affordability of homes
<p>Poor performing indicators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Excess weight in adults & children & associated consequences eg diabetes •Alcohol related admissions •Breastfeeding initiation •Smoking status in pregnancy •School readiness •Hip fractures •Infant mortality •Low dementia diagnosis rate

2.3.1. Deprivation

The 2021 Census classifies households in England and Wales by four dimensions of deprivation: Employment, education, health and disability, and household overcrowding, and these dimensions are based on four selected household characteristics.

- Education - A household is classified as deprived in the education dimension if no one has at least level 2 education and no one aged 16 to 18 years is a full-time student.
- Employment - A household is classified as deprived in the employment dimension if any member, not a full-time student, is either unemployed or disabled.
- Health - A household is classified as deprived in the health dimension if any member is disabled.
- Housing - A household is classified as deprived in the housing dimension if the household's accommodation is either overcrowded, in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating.

The data does not allow us to identify which characteristics are deprived and which are not, with only the number of dimensions in which households are deprived available.

In Worcestershire, 0.2% of households are deprived across all 4 dimensions which is similar to the national rate. Proportions are highest at a district level in Redditch.

2.3.2. Economic activity

Employment and economic activity rates are higher in Worcestershire than the West Midlands and Britain as can be seen by the data below (Source: Nomisweb.co.uk):

Table 5: Employment and unemployment data for Worcestershire, the West Midlands and Great Britain (all people) between January 2022 and December 2022

	Worcestershire %	West Midlands %	Great Britain %
Economically active	80.2	77.5	78.5
In employment	77.3	73.8	75.6
Employees	68.3	65.1	65.1
Self-employed	8.6	8.3	9.3
Unemployed (as a proportion of economically active people)	3.7	4.6	3.6

Table 6: Economic inactivity (Jan 2022-Dec 2022) by reason

	Worcestershire %*	West Midlands %*	Great Britain %*
Student	24.2	27.1	26.3
Looking after family/home	15.8	22.3	19.8
Temporarily sick	N/A	2.3	2.2
Long term sick	23.7	24.8	25.8
Discouraged**	N/A	N/A	0.3
Retired	18.5	11.3	13.8
Other	16.3	11.8	11.7
Want a job	15.4	17.3	18.1
Do not want a job	84.6	82.7	81.9
TOTAL	19.8	22.5	21.5

* % is a proportion of those economically inactive, except total, which is a proportion of those aged 16-64

** This is the term used by ONS to describe people not in employment who have not been seeking work within the last 4 weeks and/or are unable to start work within the next 2 weeks.

The high number of retired persons is reflective of the county age profile.

- The proportion of workless households in the county that have at least one person aged 16-64 is 10.7%. This is lower than the West Midlands (14.2%) and the national figure (14.0%)

Table 7: Employment by occupation (Jan 2022-Dec 2022) as a proportion of persons age 16+ in employment

	Worcestershire %	West Midlands %	Great Britain %
Soc 2020 Major Group 1-3:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managers, directors, senior officials; Professional occupations; Associate professional occupations 	49.7	47.0	51.6
Soc 2020 Major Group 4-5			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative and secretarial occupations Skilled trades occupations 	16.8	19.5	18.8
Soc 2020 Major Group 6-7			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caring Leisure and other service occupations Sales and customer service occupations 	15.4	13.9	14.5
Soc 2020 Major Group 8-9			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process plant and machine operatives Elementary occupations 	18.2	19.6	15.1

Job density in Worcestershire (2021), i.e. the ratio of total jobs to population aged 16-64, including employees, self-employed, government-supported trainees and HM Forces is 0.80. This is comparable to the job density in the West Midlands region (0.81) but lower than the national figure (0.85).

Table 8: Median gross weekly earnings for Worcestershire residents (2022)

	Worcestershire £	West Midlands £	Great Britain £
Full time workers	622.8	613.3	642.2
Full time male workers	670.5	661.0	687.5
Full time female workers	554.1	550.0	584.5

Table 9: Median gross hourly earnings, excluding overtime for Worcestershire residents (2022)

	Worcestershire £	West Midlands £	Great Britain £
Full time workers	15.83	15.41	16.37
Full time male workers	16.31	16.05	16.97
Full time female workers	14.936	14.46	15.49

Out-Of-Work Benefits

- Under Universal Credit a broader span of claimants are required to look for work than under Jobseeker's Allowance. As Universal Credit Full Service is rolled out in particular areas, the number of people recorded as being on the Claimant Count is therefore likely to rise.
- As of June 2023, 10,870 Worcestershire residents aged 16-64 are claimants representing 3% of our population. This figure is lower than the regional and national figures of 4.9% and 3.7% respectively. 3.4% of Worcestershire claimants are male and 2.6% are female. Across the West Midlands, the ratio of claimant's male: female is 5.7%:4.2% and nationally, 4.3%:3.1%

Table 10: Claimant count by age - not seasonally adjusted (June 2023)

	Worcestershire %	West Midlands %	Great Britain %
Age 16-17	0.2	0.2	0.2
Age 18-24	4.4	6.6	4.8
Age 25-49	3.5	5.7	4.2
Age 50+	2.1	3.5	2.7

Table 11: Unemployment levels by District

Area	Claimant Count	Rate	Change since July 2022	% change since July 2022
England	1,353,460	3.8	41,855	0.1
West Midlands	182,200	4.9	6,285	0.2
Worcestershire	10,915	3.0	-45	0.0
Bromsgrove	1,500	2.6	-75	-0.1
Malvern Hills	1,170	2.6	-5	0.0
Redditch	2,030	3.8	55	0.1
Worcester	2,385	3.6	90	0.1
Wychavon	1,985	2.5	-50	-0.1
Wyre Forest	1,840	3.1	-60	-0.1

Source: ONS Claimant count (July 2023)

2.3.3. Socio-economic impacts

Fuel Poverty

- Approximately 29,000 households in Worcestershire (11.5%) are living in fuel poverty, this is above the national rate. The issue disproportionately affects older people. Nationally, a fifth of households affected by fuel poverty have household members that are all over 60. If Worcestershire follows this pattern 5,000 households would fall into this category

Loneliness

- Only half (49%) of adult social care users in Worcestershire have as much social contact as they would like (Public Health England estimates)
- In Worcestershire it is estimated that 15,160 males and 28,350 females aged 65 and over are living alone. By 2035 these numbers are expected to rise by 36% for both genders. While there is no direct relationship between living alone and loneliness, it is clearly could be a contributory factor.

Unpaid Care

- It is estimated that in 2019, 20,110 people aged 65 and over were providing unpaid care in Worcestershire, this is forecast to grow by 28% to 25,670 by 2035 (a person is a provider of unpaid care if they look after or give help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of long-term physical or mental ill health or disability, or conditions related to old age).
- Over a third of older people (7,345, 36.5%) in Worcestershire providing unpaid care are doing so for 50 or more hours a week.

2.3.4. Housing & homelessness

The affordability ratio is a measure of the house price to income ratio in an area. It can be used to compare affordability over time and geographies. A larger number reflects a less affordable area. By using a ratio a comparison over time can be made without the need to adjust for inflation. The ratio of median house price to median gross annual residence-based earnings in Worcestershire currently stands at 8.66. this is slightly higher than the national average of 8.28. The affordability ratio comparing median house prices to median residence-based earnings in Worcestershire has increased from 5.58 in 2002 and from 8.04 in 2019. The ratio of lower quartile house price to lower quartile gross annual residence-based earnings in Worcestershire is 8.29, higher than the national average of 7.36. Affordability ratios are particularly high in Wychavon, Malvern Hills and Bromsgrove for both the median and lower quartile ratios. In the financial year 2022-23, 1,654 households in Worcestershire were assessed as homeless, 6.31 per 1,000 total households in the county. At a district level, proportions are particularly high in Worcester (10.29 per 1,000 households) and Redditch (9.00 per 1,000 households).

2.4. Health and social care (from JSNA 2022 report)

The following statistics identify key health issues within the county that may impact on health and care support needs for adults and/or their families and should be considered alongside the projected population demographics.

18% of people in Worcestershire have reported having a long-term illness or disability under the Equality Act in the 2021 Census. This is significantly higher than the national average of 17.3%. Proportions with a long-term illness or disability were particularly high in Wyre Forest (20.1%) and 27 Malvern Hills (19.1%).

- Nearly half of older people in Worcestershire have an illness that affects their daily activities. This equates to 63,000 people currently and numbers are projected to increase by 38% in the next 15 years.
- The numbers are projected to increase by 28%-56% between 2019 and 2035. This increase in numbers is likely to lead to a substantial rise in the demand for social care and health services in future years.

Worcestershire has a higher life expectancy than England for both males and females but has a higher mortality for certain causes of death. Neonatal deaths, breast cancer, strokes (among females) and suicide (among males) all have a higher mortality in Worcestershire compared to the national average.

Falls are often the reason that someone has to leave their own home. There are over 2,300 falls per year in the over 65s in Worcestershire.

Table 12: Projected Numbers of Older People with Key Health Conditions

Condition	2019	2035	% change
Dementia	9560	15330	56%
Depression	11630	15330	32%
Living alone	43500	59180	36%
Limiting Long term illness	62910	66960	38%
Mobility	24780	36310	47%
Hearing loss (moderate or severe)	93310	144810	55%
Visual impairment (75+)	4010	6070	51%
Stroke	3170	4280	35%
Bronchitis/Emphysema	2300	3040	32%
Provision of unpaid care	20110	25670	28%

Drugs & Alcohol

- The age-standardised mortality rate from drug misuse in Worcestershire for 2018-20 was 4.2 per 100,000 population, similar to the national average and is notably higher among males than females.
- Admissions to hospital for alcohol-specific conditions in Worcestershire stand at 473 per 100,000, lower than the national average of 587 per 100,000. Admissions are higher in Redditch (609 per 100,000) and Wyre Forest (570 per 100,000) than other Worcestershire districts.
- The age-standardised mortality rate from drug misuse per 100,000 population in Worcestershire is 4.2, similar to the national average of 5.0. The rate for males is again notably higher than the rate among females.

Smoking Prevalence

- According to the Annual Population Survey smoking prevalence in Worcestershire is 11.1% in 2020 (9% in females, 13.2% in Males). This compares to the national average of 12.1%. Smoking levels are particularly high among those in routine and manual occupation, as well as those who have never worked or a long-term unemployed.
- The proportion of mothers known to be smokers at the time of delivery is 11.5% in Worcestershire, significantly worse than the national average of 9.6%. Smoking attributable hospital admissions for diseases that are wholly or partially attributed to smoking is 1,426 per 100,000 in Worcestershire, similar to the national average.

Adult Obesity and Physical Activity

- Physically active adults, i.e. those aged 19 and over doing at least 150 moderate intensity equivalent (MIE) minutes physical activity per week in bouts of 10 minutes or more in the previous 28 days stands at 67.2% of the population, similar to the national average of 65.9%. Proportions are significantly better than the national average in Bromsgrove, but significantly worse than the national average in Redditch.
- Over 64% of adults in Worcestershire are classified as overweight or obese, similar to the national average of 63.5%. The proportion of overweight or obese adults is particularly high in Redditch, at almost 69%. The other districts within Worcestershire have a similar proportion of overweight or obese adults as the national average.

Long Term Conditions

- The percentage of patients with hypertension registered with a Worcestershire GPs is 16.3%. This proportion is increasing and compares to 13.9% nationally. At a district level, levels of hypertension are particularly high in Wyre Forest and Malvern Hills, at over 18%.
- 13,287 people registered with Worcestershire GPs are recorded as having had a stroke or transient ischaemic attack (TIA).
 - The standardised mortality ratio of deaths from stroke for all ages in Worcestershire is 104.5 per 100 over the period 2016-20. This is similar to the national average of 100. Deaths due to stroke are higher than the national average in Malvern Hills, Worcester and Wyre Forest.
- The recorded prevalence of depression in Worcestershire among people aged 18-plus is 14.7%. This is significantly higher than the national average of 12.3%. The proportion with depression in Worcestershire is increasing. Proportions with depression are particularly high in Wyre Forest, at over 18%, Redditch at almost 16%, and Bromsgrove at 15%.
 - Depression in later life can be a major cause of ill health and can have a severe effect on physical and mental wellbeing. Older people are particularly vulnerable to factors that can lead to depression such as bereavement, physical disability and illness and loneliness. Depression is estimated to affect 11,630 people aged over 65 in Worcestershire (2019; POPPI)

Dementia

Dementia will be a significant issue in future years as the population in the oldest age groups grows and this will be reflected in the adult social care services commissioned by the County Council.

- The number of people living with dementia in Worcestershire is forecast to increase by 56% between 2019 and 2035 from 9,560 to 14,905.
- This is a bigger increase than that expected for England (51%).
- The estimated dementia diagnosis rate for those aged 65 and over in 2018 at 59.7% was lower than the England level (67.5%). A timely diagnosis helps people living with dementia, their carers and healthcare staff to plan ahead and work together to improve health and care outcomes.

3 Our commissioning approach

Commissioning is the strategic activity of identifying need, allocating resources and procuring a provider to best meet that need, within available means, by focussing on the things that make a significant difference to our residents.

This is what we mean by **outcome-based** commissioning. Commissioning is about achieving positive outcomes for our residents and communities, based on their needs and aspirations within the resources available. The current economic climate means that we must look at service delivery in different ways, innovate and look for alternative solutions. Through commissioning we can make sure that we use available resources in a variety of ways to improve outcomes in the most efficient, effective and sustainable way.

We support an integrated approach to understanding our residents and communities. This means using the insight we have about our communities to ask questions about what and how we should be commissioning to best meet their needs. This will involve challenging ourselves about how well we know our communities and asking ourselves whether we are using our resources in the most effective ways. Through co-production, we can ensure that our services are better targeted and more likely to achieve good outcomes.

Our residents and communities have changed – and significantly as a result of the Covid pandemic - as have their needs and how they want to engage with public services and get support. Adapting to these changes requires strong, ambitious and visionary leadership from politicians and public sector staff as well as from residents and communities.

We believe it will be important to keep our approach flexible so that it can work at all levels - strategic or operational; covering the whole county, a district or a locality; meeting the needs of different communities or groups of people, a family or an individual.

We are taking an innovative approach to commissioning, finding new ways of seeing old problems and using new solutions. The result will be a shift in the type and efficiency of the services on offer.



This approach uses interdependencies between residents, communities, organisations and service providers and will involve changes in the way we think and work and how we relate to our partners and communities. Commissioning allows us to embed democratic leadership at every stage, involving everyone in setting the strategic direction so that we can rebalance the contribution from public

services, communities and residents to improve lives and the places where we live. It is not about doing more of the same for less, but making the most of what we have to achieve our shared goals.

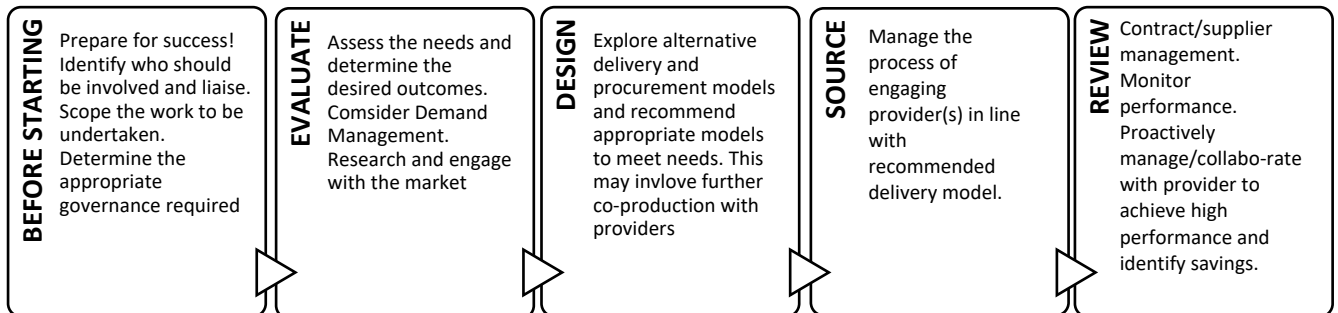
3.1 The importance of partnerships and local leadership

Successful commissioning is dependent on good partnerships and effective “system” leadership to make an impact, avoid duplication of activity and to generate efficiencies.

Leadership, at strategic and local level, can often rest with organisations other than the County Council. We are looking to develop productive working relationships to positively influence how collective resources are best used.

As a democratic organisation, we will ensure the voices of our residents, directly and through their elected members, are heard at every stage. We want to make sure that everyone can contribute and have their say.

Commissioning is therefore undertaken by a multi-disciplinary team working together throughout the four stages of Evaluation, Design, Source and Review.



4 Our commissioning intentions

In line with the People Directorate strategy for Adult Social Care and its 3 key priorities (outlined below)

- Right support, right place, right time
 - Offering care and support that is coordinated and enables individuals to live as they want to, being seen as a unique person with skills, strengths and goals.
 - Enabling people to make informed choices to manage their health and wellbeing at a time and place that's right for them.
- Working in partnership with local people
 - Working together across Place (Worcestershire) to provide a holistic approach to the health and care needs of our community.
 - People feel connected to their community and their feedback and experience is used to shape and make changes.
- Future-focused
 - Understanding and responding to the many changes and opportunities on the horizon for social care.
 - Working with people and our partners to maintain safe systems of care, making safeguarding personal by concentrating on improving people's lives.

Commissioners will work with the market to enable our citizens to

- Be well and stay safe;
- Be independent and connected; and
- Be supported.

Commissioners will develop a person-centred approach to shape services and to shape an effective market.

We set out below a summary of our overarching commissioning intentions for the coming period. Further detail is provided within section 6 of this report.

4.1 Be Well and Stay Safe

4.1.1 The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic

Activity throughout 2020 to 2022 was of course shaped by the Covid pandemic, resulting in much of the work already started to improve commissioned adult social care services ceasing, or at very best, slowing down during this period.

However, the pandemic “pause” has in some areas of work, accelerated the design and development of different ways of working, developed partnerships that previously were barely existent and has reshaped our thinking about what is needed for the future and what may be achieved.

4.1.2. Reducing the pressure on the care system by commissioning targeted prevention services

We have already contributed to the development of access to preventative activities that support the most vulnerable and divert them from higher-level services, enabling people to take control of their own wellbeing and reduce their need to access other services in the future.

The Council has developed an Early Intervention and Prevention strategy which outlines the preventative work in place and in development for adults. There will be clear links to the Councils Health and Wellbeing Strategy which brings greater emphasis to prevention activity being 'everybody's business'. There will be increased focus on encouraging people to be more proactive about their health and wellbeing which will increase independence and reduce or delay the need for care and support services.

4.1.3. Mental Health Services

Our priority is to work with partners to reduce incidence of mental ill-health and the prevalence of common mental ill health conditions.

We have completed a needs assessment and developed an action plan (including the commissioning of new services and re-shaping of the market) to support a Mental Health Recovery Pathway for Social Care. This pathway aims to enable recovery, reduce longer term dependency, and increase focus on community and employment-based activity.

4.2 Be Independent

4.2.1 Maximising independence

Linked to the Adult Front Door service and the system-wide programme of work regarding Reablement and Intermediate Care (the Discharge Pathway), we will re-design the onward care services to ensure that, following accident, illness or other crisis, people have access to a period of recovery before making decisions about long term services and placements. We will also improve and invest in ways to help people get equipment, adaptations and Assistive Technology solutions to enable them to regain and retain their independence and feel safe at home.

The aim is to maximise independence and in doing so, reduce the long-term care costs for individuals and reduce the numbers of people entering long term care homes or having very expensive services at home.

This means that in future, no-one will be admitted to long-term care without us having assessed the opportunity for reablement, technology and equipment under the Home First principle.

The aim is to ensure that we only assess people who appear that they may have a need for services, place a strong focus on safeguarding, positive risk taking and promoting choice and control. We have statutory duties to assess people who may have a need for care and support as well as people with a Safeguarding risk and those who may need protection under the Mental Capacity Act (2005).

Worcestershire County Council is working collaboratively to improve how we do this, with the consequent impact on commissioned services.

- We will consider support at home or housing with support services (supported living, extra care, shared lives) for each person and only use long term residential services where an alternative is not available or appropriate.
- We will support people to make use of local community and mainstream services and encourage our commissioned day services to support people to make use of local networks and services.
- We will promote Direct Payments as a choice to access services.

By doing this we better target the use of resources and ensure that people have a stake in maintaining their independence.

4.2.2. Reduction in the overall number of placements of Older People in residential and nursing care

Worcestershire continues to adopt the strategic approach of council-funded residential and nursing care home placements for Older People i.e. adults aged 65+, being limited to people with the highest level of need, including people with dementia, frailty and complex needs and that people should only be placed in these services when all other options have been exhausted.

The number of long-term placements funded by Worcestershire County Council varied between 2019/2020 to 2022/2023. This was mainly due to the impact of the COVID pandemic, with a significant reduction in placements during 2020/2021/ and 2021/2022. By April 2023 the number of placements was broadly the same as in 2019/20. Accepting the potential for some variations in demand levels over the period, it is predicted that, in general terms, the number of long-term care home placements will not increase in proportion to the projected increase to the population of people over 65 and over 85 within Worcestershire and if the in-year placement numbers continue at the current rate that there will be a reduction in placements overall. However, it is recognised that the proportion of those placements for people living with dementia and other complex needs will increase across all Older People's placements.

Longer term therefore, the total amount of money spent each year on Older People's residential and nursing care home placements will decrease in relative terms, with some of this resource being redirected to support more people in their own homes, either within Extra Care housing or with domiciliary care that can meet their specific needs, but we anticipate the total cost of provision of care for more complex needs will become a higher proportion of that total residential care cost.

To increase the resilience of the care market for 'Care with Nursing', dementia and complex needs care, in the medium- to long-term we propose to enter dialogue with the NHS and with providers and regulators to develop a more resilient, safe, care market for the growing numbers of very frail people with complex needs of all ages.

4.2.3. Increased use of Assistive Technology, equipment and minor adaptations to enable people to live independently

Commissioners are working with the District Councils and the NHS to scope and promote services that enable independent living, providing individuals with access to appropriate and timely adaptations to remain in their own homes.

Commissioners will continue to support the development of new supported living services to meet demand, aiming to ensure that there is a range of services to support individuals to live as independently as possible.

Commissioners will develop strategies to accelerate the availability of 'accommodation with care', for example, Extra Care housing for older people, and supported living for younger people with disabilities.

4.3 Be supported

4.3.1 Supporting people with Complex Needs and at the end of life

This means that we will target social care resources on working with the NHS and others to provide expert care and support to the most frail and vulnerable people in Worcestershire.

- We will collaborate with the NHS to provide care and support in advance of crisis to keep people at home and reduce the need for residential care or hospital admissions.
- We will arrange residential and nursing care for people with the highest levels of need: typically those with frailty, complex needs, multiple long-term conditions and/or dementia, where those needs cannot be met at home.
- We will work with partners to increase the numbers of people supported with end-of-life care at home rather than hospital and to prioritise resources for this.

4.3.2. Learning disabilities and autism

Working collaboratively with partner organisations throughout Worcestershire, we will develop services for people with disabilities that plan to meet needs through the whole of people's lives.

There is a new Learning Disability Strategy for Worcestershire, which has been co-produced by Worcestershire's Learning Disability Partnership Board. The strategy sets out the priorities for the future to improve the lives of people with Learning Disabilities. Commissioners will work with the Partnership Board to implement and monitor the strategy and its action plan. The Strategy can be located here: [Worcestershire's Learning Disability Strategy 2023-2028](#)

The Integrated Care System (ICS) All-age Autism Strategy is under development and due to be published early 2024. This will also set out plans and priorities and be monitored through the multi-agency partnership board.

Commissioners from Adult Social Care and Worcestershire Children First have set up structures to track young people who will transition to adult services in the future. We will continue to strategically plan services to ensure plans are in place for individuals prior to the transfer to adult services.

This will include ensuring we target our resources effectively in order to meet the needs of the small but growing number of people with highly complex needs.

Two new provider frameworks are in place to ensure that our supported living and day services promote independence and reduce long-term dependency where possible; with a focus on people being active in their own communities.

The new complex needs framework is under development and will aim to put just enough support in place for those with complex needs to ensure they live fulfilling lives without unnecessary restriction.

Work is planned to also develop a learning disability and mental health residential care framework.

5 Preparing the market

5.1 Position as at 2023/2024

Work within the adult social care market in the last three years has focussed on maintaining stability in a climate of increasing pressure on resources and rising demand.

Close working relationships established during the COVID-19 pandemic have been maintained and built upon, through the mechanisms of regular provider forums and partnership boards, two-way communication networks for disseminating important information and gathering feedback, and in-depth market engagement to inform tender exercises.

Commissioning exercises completed during the period 2021-2023 include:

- Recommissioning day services for all client groups as part of a new “Positive Days” strategy and a re-designed DPS contract.
- Recommissioning of the “Having a Voice” contract for Adults with Learning Disabilities, building on the significant co-production work, vision and aims of the new Worcestershire Learning Disability Strategy
- Publication of the Supported Living Market Position Statement
- Recommissioning of the Supported Living DPS contract
- Development and procurement of 3 new cluster flat developments creating increased capacity for Mental Health and Vulnerable Adults
- Successful capital bid for a new complex needs development (now going through the planning process)
- Completion of a Social Care Mental Health Needs Assessment and development of an associated action plan
- Commissioned a Framework of Providers for Older People Residential Replacement Care
- Completion of the Independence Focussed Domiciliary Care tender.
- Carers Strategy for Worcestershire and commissioning of the Carers HUB
- A Direct payment support service commissioned and implemented.
- Commissioning and implementation of a support service to develop micro-organisations and to develop a market of small providers and self-employed individuals to offer care services.

5.2 The Government Insights report

The Government published its [local authority market sustainability plans insights report](#) which collates the market sustainability plans submitted by local authorities as part of the grant conditions in respect of the Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care grant, issued in 2022. Worcestershire County Councils plans are published on the County Council website under the heading [Cost of Care exercise](#) and were accepted by DHSC. Note, this section draws from the text of the report.

The plans were required to provide

- an assessment of current market sustainability
- anticipated impacts on market sustainability
- strategies for improving market sustainability over the next 1 to 3 years
- the cost of care for the local area and an explanation of how the exercise was carried out, including provider engagement

- a reflection on the data and positions of the local authority between March 2022 and March 2023.

Many of the themes identified by local authorities across the country are similar to those experienced and identified in Worcestershire. As such, this refreshed Market Position Statement incorporates those proposals and the report itself provides opportunity for further market considerations over the next 5 years:

- the ability of their 65 years and over residential nursing care markets and their 18 years and over domiciliary care markets, to deliver enough care and support for their local populations
- the diversity of provision
- provider exits from local markets
- underpayment within the sector and workforce supply

The Department identified the following themes as key to local authorities strategic approaches to improving market sustainability which were, in summary:

- to expand domiciliary care markets and secure greater supply
- to stabilise and adapt their care home markets to the changing needs of local populations by:
 - recognising the need for residential and nursing care that can cater to specialist needs
 - investing in alternatives to standard residential care, to expand provision that supports person-led care and support
- that market sustainability is dependent on a wide range of factors, including:
 - embracing the growing role of technology in delivering care and support
 - identifying the importance of working in closer partnership with health services, especially on discharge commissioning
 - investing in proactive quality management processes to improve and maintain standards of care and support
 - workforce recruitment and retention in both local authority roles and, but most acutely in, frontline social care delivery was highly constrained across all local authorities

5.2.1 Worcestershire's position

Worcestershire County Council concurs with the report statement that:

“High-quality, personalised care and support can only be achieved where there is a vibrant, responsive market of service providers. The role of the local authority is critical to achieving this, both through the actions it takes to commission services directly to meet needs and the broader understanding of, and interactions it undertakes with, the wider market for the benefit of all local people and communities.”

Table 13 details the key risks identified by local authorities nationally along with Worcestershire position in relation to these.

It should be noted that these reports majored on assessment of the 65+ general residential and nursing care and 18+ domiciliary care markets.

Table 13: National local authority concerns as summarised in the DHSC Insights report and the Worcestershire position

Risk Indicators	65+ residential care	65+ nursing care	18+ domiciliary care	Worcestershire position
% expressing concern over limited capacity	24	67	61	Worcestershire has an over capacity in the 65+ bed-based markets. Following actions taken in 2021/2 and 2022/3 the domiciliary care market is stable and the new contractual arrangements are now fully in place although the very rural locations can always present a challenge
% expressing market exit concerns	28	29	28	It is anticipated that there will be some consolidation within each of these markets over the next 3 to 5 years
% expressing diversity of provision concerns	43	N/A	26	With the drive for independence, in line with the views expressed in the 2021 Market Position Statement, it is recognised that the capacity for accommodating more complex care needs (including dementia) in the 65+ bed-based markets will continue to grow. Within domiciliary care, the challenge will be to introduce a greater focus on reablement rather than general care and support.
% expressing concerns with the fair cost of care calculation	56	55	54	Worcestershire accepted the process as set by DHSC but was concerned by the changing data entry requirements for the 65+ bed-based care settings and also the disappointing numbers of providers responding overall which down-graded the analysis statistically
% expressing concerns with workforce supply	93	86	93	Worcestershire concurs that some providers have struggled with retention and recruitment, especially during and immediately post covid and in the most rural locations.

The detail of our future commissioning intentions may be found in section 6 of this document.

5.3 Market considerations

The ‘reshaping’ phase for our market is focussed on the following and is largely in line with other local authority considerations as identified in the Insights report.

- Investment and stability – investing existing resources into the care sector in a more structured way to provide stability of care, but also recognising the role of the social care and health economy in the region and to allow all parties to plan their businesses, including proposals to move to a fixed fee approach.
- Commissioner-led support – a package of support from commissioners across the system that promotes quality improvement. Including ways in which social value will be delivered by the care sector and other partners.
- Efficiency and modernisation – developing integrated systems and processes that are efficient and fit for the future.
- Robust contract management – clear specifications focussed on enablement and that make clear the requirements, with robust and consistent management against these.
- Market shaping – developing mechanisms and specifications that support a stable and sustainable marketplace.

In support of this, commissioning activities that will commence/complete in 2023/24 include:

- Commissioning a Framework of Providers for Long-Term Older People Residential and Nursing Care Homes to include the options of replacement care and further potential for Continuing Health Care or more complex older people's care.
- Commissioning of services to support people back home, this includes the Short Term Enhanced Domiciliary care service, the Wrap Around Service and Extra Care step-down flats.
- Re-commissioning of a service provider for Learning Disability Replacement Care services at Lock Close, Redditch
- Commissioning of Positive Behaviour Support Services for people with complex behavioural needs
- Implementation of the Mental Health Action plan (including commencement of commissioning of specialist services)
- Preparation for the development of a framework for U65 residential care
- Needs assessment to assess the demand for specialist U65 residential services for Autism and Mental Health
- Preparation for the re-procurement of Promoting Independent living services (home improvement agency)

This will mean that in Worcestershire, we will be progressing our journey to establishing a health and social care system where we can balance the budget, and where there is:

- a sustainable price for care based on quality of services.
- an increase in care and support being focused on improving outcomes and increasing independence.
- independent providers incentivised to work within their local communities to promote health and wellbeing and reduce the need for commissioned social care services.
- a systematic approach to promoting what choices are available to people locally, the service they choose and that it is value for money.
- quality processes and procedures that promote active involvement of service users.
- a systematic, transparent and proportionate approach to assessing and managing quality across the health and social care system.
- an increase in the number of independent providers that achieve high standards of care.
- market intelligence that enables us to raise quality standards.
- open, respectful and honest relationships with providers and proactive provider engagement.
- development of systems, processes and relationships that integrate with our health partners, those within the wider Integrated Care System footprint and other commissioners within the Herefordshire/Worcestershire region.
- development of closer links with regional commissioning colleagues across health and social care within the wider West Midlands area, via close working with regional networks.
- development of a performance framework used to regularly assess the effectiveness of services in line with desired outcomes and to ensure changes are made where necessary.
- Work with partners to develop a consistent outcomes framework to monitor the performance of our services.

As the various work programmes go live and become embedded, the successful impact of the commissioning activities may be measured through:

- Partnership with providers – having transformed our relationship with the market by being open and transparent, the Council will have a range of providers who are clear about what is required and who want to work with us to deliver, and further innovate and develop services for the future.
- Integration with health – Commissioners will continue to maximise all opportunities to integrate services and transform the market to enable services to be jointly commissioned, with shared risk and cost as appropriate.

- Reduced reliance on commissioned social care services – Commissioners will have commenced work to innovate and to develop alternatives to more traditional models of care commissioning and delivery which will incentivise providers to enhance the independence of citizens as well as support the development and understanding of, and access to, community-based services.
- Only doing business with the best – the Commissioning unit will have significantly progressed the transformation and incentivisation of service quality improvement, reducing reliance on the team to ‘make quality happen’. As a result, our future aim will be to only do business with Gold and Silver rated providers.
- Employment, skills and independence – commissioners will have actively supported county-wide strategies that as an economic driver for change, ensuring that our citizens are enabled to live healthily and independently in appropriate accommodation, to be supported in achieving life skills and employment.

6 Key Detail – our commissioned services

6.1 Care Quality

Of our registered care providers, in September 2023, the following ratios held a good, or outstanding rating from the care quality commission:

Table 14: Ration of good and outstanding ratings for Worcestershire CQC registered providers (September 2023)

Metric	%
Care homes, good or outstanding	70.4
Care homes safe outstanding or good	69.9
Care homes effective outstanding or good	85.5
Care homes caring outstanding or good	89.8
Care homes responsive outstanding or good	85.5
Care homes well-led outstanding or good	64.0
Community based locations, good or outstanding	75.9
Community based locations safe outstanding or good	75.9
Community based locations effective outstanding or good	81.6
Community based locations caring outstanding or good	82.3
Community based locations responsive outstanding or good	80.9
Community based locations well-led outstanding or good	72.3

The County Council monitors care quality against the contract via the Quality Assurance (QA) team. The team has established processes and monitoring tools in place. There is a risk matrix of all providers which alerts the QA team to monitor a provider. The QA team also works jointly with colleagues from the Integrated Care Board (ICB)/NHS to support nursing homes in improving standards of quality.

6.2 Community and Well-being

6.2.1 Advocacy

Current position

This service provides independent advocacy for vulnerable people who find it difficult to have their say, who need support to understand care processes, challenge decisions and be able to make a complaint. The advocacy is provided by an independent organisation that is separate from social care and the NHS, supporting those residents who may have substantial difficulty in being involved in their care and support package, may not have a suitable adult to advocate on their behalf (who is willing and/or able or are not appropriate to act on the individuals and in their best interests), lack capacity, may have their liberties deprived and/or have severe mental health needs. Some people need an Appropriate Adult if detained in police custody. For the period July 2022 – June 2023, the service accepted 1386 referrals. The total number of 'active' cases within this 12-month period totalled 2,491 individuals in receipt of services.

Future commissioning Intentions

The Council is developing an Advocacy Strategy, this will be further co-produced and consulted on in 2023/24. The strategy will inform commissioning intentions. It has also been confirmed that the Liberty

Protection Safeguards (LPS) bill has been delayed and previous re-commissioning was delayed to better understand the impact of LPS. The Council intends therefore to begin work in 2024 to re-commission the Advocacy service in Worcestershire.

6.2.2. Information and Advice

Current position

The Information and advice service is currently provided by [Worcestershire Advice Network](#) (WAN), a partnership of eight local providers. Almost 11,000 clients were helped during the period January – March 2023. The quarterly average has increased from 8716 per quarter from July to March in 2021/22 compared to 10330 during the same period of 2022/23. This significant increase can be accounted for as a result of the impact of the increase in the cost of living and delayed impact of the Covid 19 pandemic.

The four Citizens Advice partners continue to support the people via Adviceline, the national telephone service available from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, and other methods of contact such as via their websites, text and ring back, voice messaging, through local outreach/offices and e-mail.

Age UK Worcester and Malvern and Age UK Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest, plus two DIAL partners continued to offer a local telephone service to clients as well as other methods of contact via their websites. Face to face services are also available in some areas.

Throughout the lifetime of the current service, benefits and tax credits have been the most prevalent area for support requests by a considerable margin, with debt and housing being the next two most frequently requested.

The WAN partners have also been involved in the delivery of some of the DWP funded Household Support Fund (HSF) schemes, including support through Post Office cash vouchers for pensioners, people with a disability or carers, and also recruited four part time money management advisors, that are aligned to the energy support scheme funded through HSF and delivered by Act on Energy.

Further information may also be found in the Information and Advice Strategy for Wellbeing, Care and Support.

Future commissioning Intentions

The service is currently being retendered alongside a sensory impairment information and advice service. The new services have been developed to contribute to the fulfilment of the council's Care Act requirements, whilst acknowledging the need to focus on those seldom seen and under-represented residents, ensuring the service is fit for purpose. Stakeholder and resident engagement undertaken in the summer of 2022 which has contributed to the new service specifications. These new services will be in place in the October 2023.

6.2.3. Carers

Current Position.

A carer is someone who provides unpaid support and care to a relative, partner or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental ill-health or substance misuse problems. They may provide emotional support, medical care, personal care, physical care and/or domestic tasks.

Unpaid carers are crucially important to the health and social care system, playing a vital role in supporting family members and friends to live in the community and reducing the impact on NHS and social care services.

It was estimated that in 2019, 20,110 people aged 65 and over were providing unpaid care in Worcestershire. This is forecast to grow by 28% to 25,670 by 2035. The 2021 census results show there are 52,741 individuals self-identifying as a carer. We know this is the 'tip of the iceberg' as many individuals do not recognise that they are a carer. There is an increase in the number of carers providing 20 or more hours of care and 50 or more hours of care and the complexity of the care being provided.

The Council has developed an [All Age Carers Strategy 2021-2026](#) which is monitored through the Worcestershire Carers Partnership (quarterly) and by Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board (annually). The commissioning of an Integrated Carers Hub for Worcestershire was completed in 2023 and Worcestershire Association of Carers were identified as the provider for this service. The contract remains in place until 2026. The Integrated Carers Hub will continue to undertake Carers Assessments on behalf of the Council as a delegated duty.

Future commissioning Intentions

The Council and partners will continue to implement the All-Age Carers Strategy focussing on four key outcomes for Carers:

- To feel recognised and valued
- Enabled to have a life of their own
- Supported with their physical and mental health, and wellbeing
- Staying safe

The Council will work alongside the Integrated Carers Hub to deliver a valued service for Carers.

6.2.4. Micro-enterprises

Current position.

The Council is delivering a programme, supported by Community Catalysts to develop the community microenterprise market in Worcestershire. Microenterprises are generally defined as a small business with eight or less (full time equivalent) people. In this context it is likely to be enterprises that provide activities and hobbies and personal assistants (delivering support and personal care tasks). This creates diversity of choice for individuals needing care and support both in the types of organisations delivering care and support and the types of support and activities available. In June 2023, 25 new microenterprises have been delivered. The services which have been developed in Worcestershire can be found here: [Small Good Stuff](#). There are also 20 existing social care related microenterprises supported (to ensure sustainability) or to expand (as of March 2023). The additional capacity will expand the breadth of options for Direct Payment recipients and self-funders.

Future commissioning Intentions

The microenterprise contract is due to cease in March 2024. The Council does not intend to re-commission the contract but commissioners are actively exploring how to embed the ongoing development of the community enterprise market with the business development team so that this may become part of Worcestershire County Council's "business as usual" activity. Support provided to small businesses can be found on the Council's website via these links: ([Support for businesses](#)) and [Community Micro-enterprises](#).

6.2.5. Supported Employment

Current Position

Worcestershire County Council Supported Employment Service was set up in April 2016 and replaced historic work-related schemes for people with Learning Disabilities.

The team employs two members of staff who offer employment related support to people with Learning Disabilities in receipt of Adult Social Care and to Vulnerable Adults with long-term conditions.

Types of Support offered:

- Signposting, information and advice – work activity related.
- Vocational Profiling – conversational assessment to realise skills, gaps, support needs and motivations, suitable goals within the labour market.
- Referral to training and development such as group activity, volunteering, vocational training.
- Support with job search and bespoke job creation
- Support with recruitment and selection interventions e.g. applications, interviews, documentation
- Support with applications and documentation
- Support with interviews
- Support Shadowing Opportunities, Work Interviews and Placements.
- Advice and support on navigating benefits and starting work.
- In Work Support e.g. mentoring, advocacy and reviews at work.
- Support people to access funding to support job opportunities/maintain employment e.g. DWP Access to Work Fund
- Provide organisations and employers with advice and guidance. For example, reasonable adjustments, tailoring job descriptions, referral to Disability Confidence, support with training, setting up systems and mentoring people at work.
- Support with health and wellbeing at work e.g. travel, safety, timekeeping, socialisation, health and working.
- Provide advice, information and interventions to retain people in employment.

The Supported Employment Service has been successful in increasing the percentage of people with a Learning Disability in paid Employment as monitored by the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) Indicator 1E as shown in the comparator with our nearest neighbours in the chart over page, based on March 2022 data.

During the pandemic the service has worked to maintain the employment, work activity and health and wellbeing of existing participants. Due to fluctuations in restrictions and positions for employers, the service has been unable to create new placements or engage with new referrals during the pandemic. There are currently 66 individuals with a Learning Disability and in receipt of Adult Social Care in paid employment. The ASCOF indicator shows this is currently 4.8% of our Learning Disability population.



Local Authority ASCOF map

Select a measure, council and grouping to view councils alongside their region or CIPFA nearest neighbours.
For more details of CIPFA see the Guidance page.

[Return to contents](#)

CIPFA Nearest Neighbour

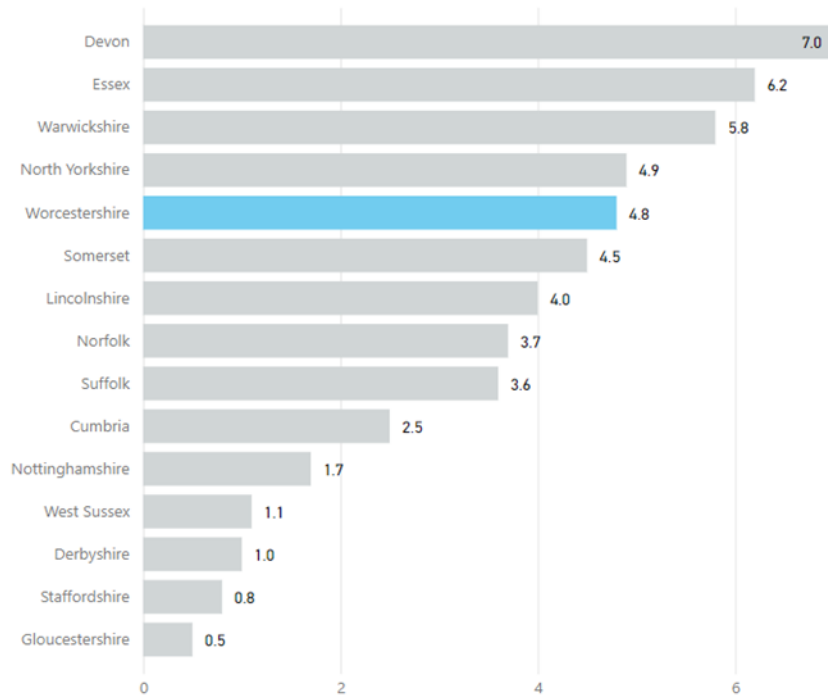
Region

Select an ASCOF measure

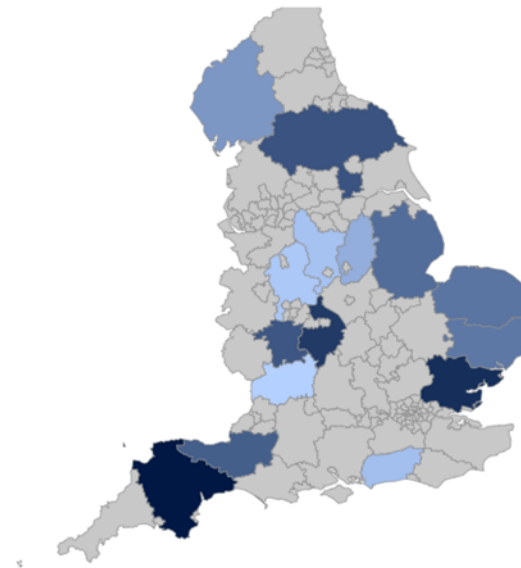
Select a council

1E: Proportion of adults with learning disabilities in paid employment

Worcestershire



Region value	England value
-	4.8



Council name	National rank
Devon	33
Essex	41
Warwickshire	48
North Yorkshire	62
Worcestershire	64
Somerset	69
Lincolnshire	78
Norfolk	85
Suffolk	90
Cumbria	112
Nottinghamshire	130
West Sussex	139
Derbyshire	141
Staffordshire	145
Gloucestershire	147

The result for March 2023 is 4.95% with 68 individuals in employment.

The service is now working to adapt and change to support people to maintain and find work in the new economic climate.

Work has been completed to further integrate the supported employment systems with social work processes; ensuring referrals and support information are collected on the client-based system.

Materials have been produced to publicise the work types and support on offer.

Future commissioning Intentions

The Supported Employment Service aspires to achieve eight new starts in employment per annum and to continue to maintain the existing population in work.

The Supported Employment Service is adapting its delivery plan to include new ways of working and a strengths-based approach to support vulnerable people to get the support they need to access and maintain paid employment.

A communication campaign will further publicise positive outcomes and the support on offer.

6.3. Home First

6.3.1. Promoting Independent living Services

Current position

There are several services commissioned by Social Care, Health and the six District Councils across Worcestershire to support people to remain at home for as long as possible. Worcestershire County Council commissions or directly supports the commissioning of the services below: -

Promoting Independent Living Service/Home Improvement Agency

Worcestershire County Council and the six District Councils commission Millbrook Healthcare to provide the following service elements to support independence at home:

- Information and advice
- Housing options
- Minor adaptations/Handyperson
- Making homes healthier
- Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG)
- Occupational Therapy/Trusted Assessor development
- Assistive Technology
- Able to pay customers.

In the first year of the contract the service has achieved the following outcomes:

Table 15: Promoting Independent Living Services – key outcomes

Outcome	2022/23
Facilitate hospital discharge	336
Prevent hospital admission	201
Reduce pressure on informal carers	294
Reduce/delay package of care	397
Reduce/prevent falls	2756
Promote independence	2449
Support to remain in own home	397

Work is underway to re-commission this contract in partnership with the District Councils in 2024.

Independence at Home

The current service is provided by Age UK Herefordshire and Worcestershire and supports people, using a mix of paid staff and volunteers, to remain independent at home after a stay in hospital or following a referral to social work or neighbourhood teams. It is funded jointly by the ICB and Public Health.

From January 2021 to June 2023 there were 1,954 referrals into the service of which:

- 33% were from the Acute Hospital, reablement service and community hospitals.
- 77% of people started to receive a service within 48-hours following a referral.
- 75% of people who accessed the service were aged 70 and over, and 8% were over 90 years of age.
- 73% of people received the service for between 1 and 6 weeks.
- 27% of people received the service for less than a week, and
- 99% of people using the service felt their outcomes were achieved.

The service is due to cease in March 2024. There are no current plans to re-commission the service.

Integrated equipment

Worcestershire County Council and NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire commission Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care Trust to provide the Worcestershire Community Equipment Service (WCES) for adults. Separate commissioning arrangements are in place for Children’s equipment and for the Wheelchair Service, which the adults service works alongside. WCES has a critical role in supporting a range of services across the Worcestershire Health and Social Care system. Professionals work together to assess and prescribe a range of equipment that:

- Helps to support people in their own home, including End of Life (EoL) care.
- Prevents or delays admission to hospital or residential care.
- Facilitates timely discharge from hospital.

The service encompasses a range of functions including:

- The procurement of an appropriate range of equipment
- The delivery of equipment
- The maintenance and servicing of equipment (contracted to Prism Medical by WCC)

- The collection of equipment
- The decontamination of equipment
- The refurbishment of equipment for reuse
- The storage of equipment.

Each year WCES receives over 35,000 referrals and delivers more than 60,000 items of equipment, with the proportion delivered within three days exceeding 85%.

Wrap Around Service

The service provides people with the opportunity to make decisions about their long-term service needs whilst in their home environment. The service is delivered using live-in carers with the aim of each person receiving the service for between 48 and 72 hours to each person as a minimum. This will allow future care / support requirements to be identified. On occasion the service may be required for a longer time to a maximum of two weeks.

The Council will commission, on behalf of the Health and Social Care system, a Wrap Around Service which is required to be fully operational by April 2024. The service will build on the learning from the pilot and will comprise ten carers.

Extra Care (Step Down service)

The Council has piloted the approach with two providers within Worcestershire in 2023. The intention of the pilot is to explore the opportunity to support people who have been in hospital within an Extra Care scheme providing suitable opportunity to identify their long-term needs and assess whether Extra Care is a suitable long-term option. The learning from the pilot is being used to explore whether there may be further opportunities to develop the approach to include replacement care. This is being considered by a wider range of professionals encompassing health, social care and housing.

Future commissioning Intentions

The strategic vision for Promoting Independent Living Services is for close partnership working between Social Care, Health and District partners to create a marketplace or alliance that enables a seamless pathway for services to support independence at home. Over the next two years partners will work together to identify the most effective way to commission these services to achieve better outcomes for customers.

6.3.2. Domiciliary Care

Current position and Future commissioning Intentions

Between 140 to 150 DPS (Dynamic Purchasing System) providers are used at any one time to deliver Council-funded Domiciliary Care within Worcestershire. The domiciliary care market has increased by 5% (clients) and 2% in hours since September 2023, with the biggest increase in Wychavon, a more rural area of the County. The capacity supplied by the market has ensured most care needs are met quickly with 70% of care packages being sourced within 1 week.

Analysis of the primary support reason for people receiving this service shows that the volume of work in Worcestershire for Domiciliary Care providers is with people who primarily have physical support needs.

Table 16: Change in Client cohorts and hours of care delivered receiving a domiciliary care service September 2022 – September 2023

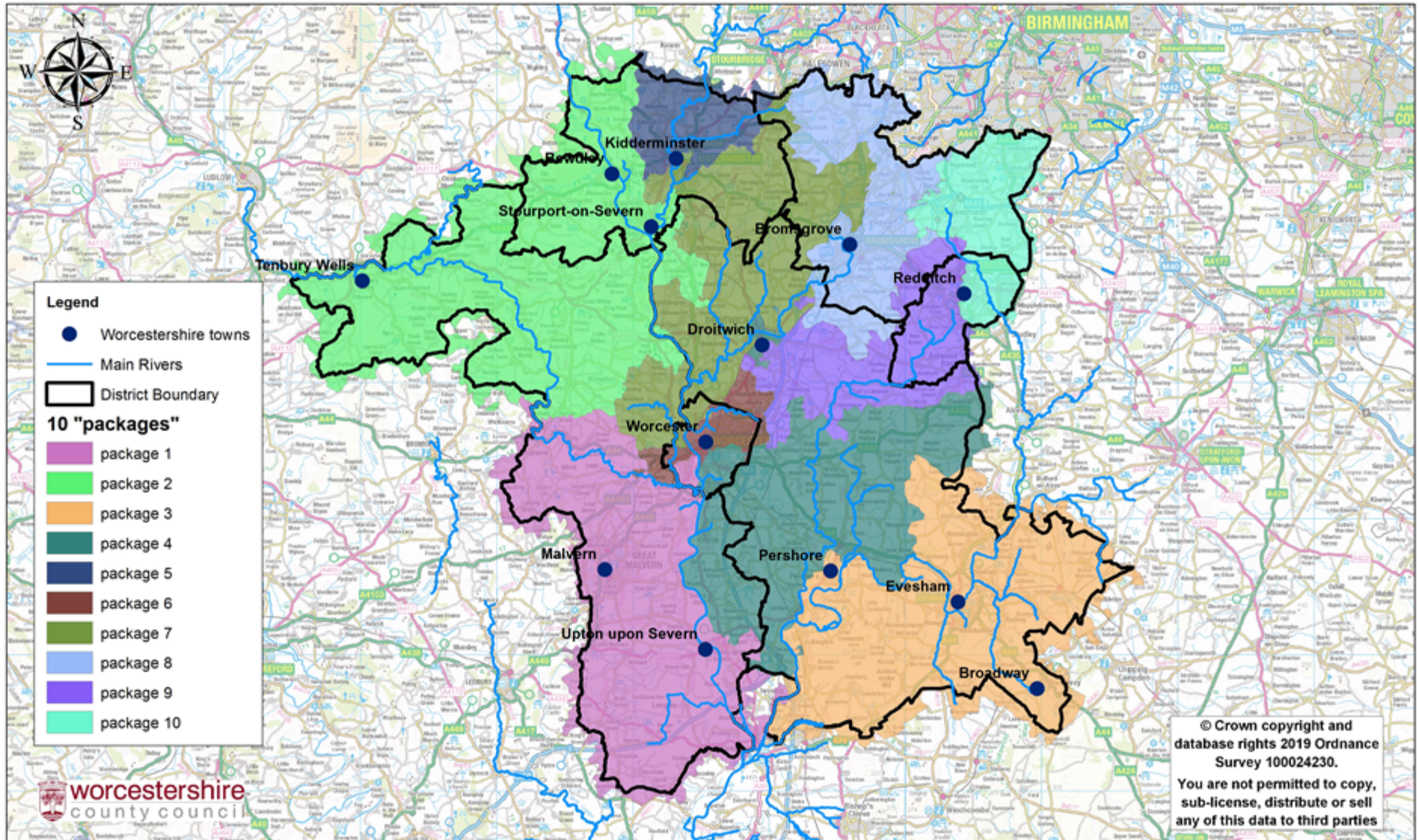
Primary Support Reason	People (2022)	People (2023)	% change
Learning Disabilities	126	128	2%
Mental Health	145	151	4%
Physical Support	1907	2024	6%
Sensory Support	22	30	36%
Social Support	49	40	-18%
Support with Memory and cognition	109	105	-4%
Total	2358	2478	5%

Primary Support Reason	Hours per week (2022)	Hours per week (2023)	% change
Learning Disabilities	2279	2237	-2%
Mental Health	1473	1447	-2%
Physical Support	31322	32083	2%
Sensory Support	272	390	43%
Social Support	478	395	-17%
Support with Memory and cognition	1269	1178	-7%
Total	37093	37730	2%

The Council has completed the recommissioning of Domiciliary Care to shift the focus of delivering domiciliary care away from ‘time and task’ based care to delivery of Independence Focussed Domiciliary Care (IFDC).

The IFDC approach complements the work of the Reablement service and will continue to support people to achieve their outcomes whilst living in their own home. There are 15 providers who will deliver the IFDC service across 10 zones within Worcestershire (see map over page, showing the contractual “packages”, or “zones” that were offered to the market).

Further work is planned in 2024/25 to develop the IFDC approach, ensuring these providers are delivering on their contracts and are linked into the system partners including the Carers Hub, Reablement Service and voluntary agencies to support people to remain at home for as long as possible. The Council will work with the IFDC providers to develop the skills and knowledge of staff, particularly in relation to frailty (physical support) and ensuring even better support to people with memory and cognition issues. The use of Assistive Technology to help deliver the IFDC approach will be a key component.



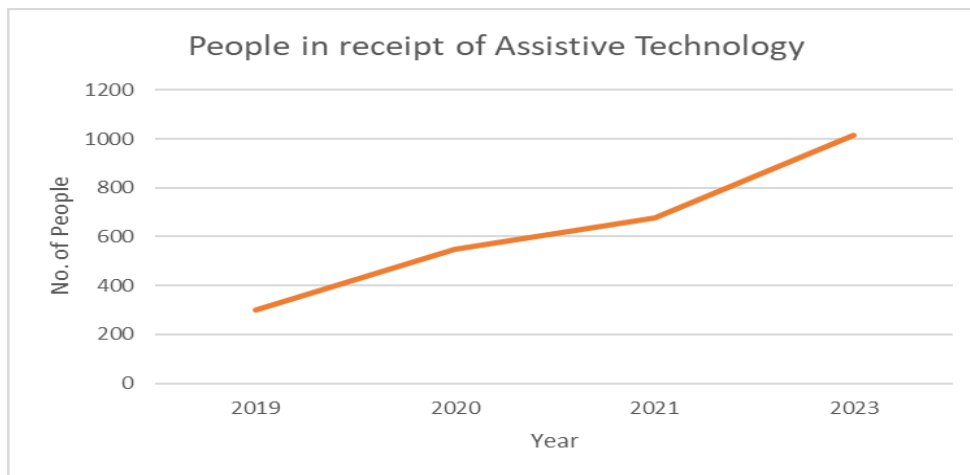
Providers who were unsuccessful as part of the IFDC tender will retain the packages of care already placed with them, but no new Council funded work will be offered to the wider market. People who take a Direct Payment may still be able to choose to use other domiciliary care providers, other than those who have been awarded the IFDC contract.

The Council's care requirements account for around 50% to 60% of the total domiciliary care market. Of people over the age of 65 and who live in Worcestershire 0.54% receive Domiciliary Care. This has increased from 0.51% in March 2020.

6.3.3. Assistive Technology

Current position

The Council has followed a technology enabled care approach since 2019. There are now 1,015 people whom the council support through the use of technology. The Council will develop this approach further during 2021/22 as technology is one of the key tools for social work teams to use in supporting people to remain at home. The Council has seen an increase of over 50% of people in receipt of technology since 2019 (see below).



The Council will refresh its approach with the use of technology, ensuring the least restrictive approach to delivering support to people, and technology will continue to form part of the initial conversation either at the Adult Front Door or with a social worker/social care worker. The technology enabled care approach complements the more traditional models of care delivery. The approach is not restricted to any specific group of people, including carers. The council currently has a relationship with key partners to source, install and monitor the technology. The technology partners are the technology experts and provide advice and support on a day-to-day basis to Adult Social Care teams ensuring the technology used is best in class and person centred.

Future commissioning Intentions

The technology enabled care market appears to be moving toward a platform-based delivery model, where staff source the technology through proprietary websites. The model, whilst efficient, does not support one of the key requirements of the Council: to support people in receipt of services, staff and carers to better understand and develop trust in technology. The Council will want to encourage the providers of technology enabled care to deliver a holistic service offering advice, technology, and support.

The Council intends to commission an Assistive Technology partner in 2024. The partner will be required to, as a minimum:

- Directly support Adult Social Care staff to broaden their understanding of what is possible through technology.
- Support social workers, social care workers, carers and people receiving services to identify the most appropriate and least restrictive technology which will enable them to live their best life.
- Advise people, who may not be social care funded, on which technology is most suitable for them and how to purchase the technology.
- Source the latest, most effective, and cost-efficient technology to support people to remain at home.
- Install, manage, monitor, and, where required, remove the technology, in people's homes.
- Support the development and delivery of the new smart living apartments which are a key component of the Technology Enabled Care Academy.

6.3.4. Reablement

Current position and Future commissioning Intentions

The Council will continue to implement a model and structure which promotes independence for the residents of Worcestershire and avoids the need for long-term care and support. The Short Term Enhanced Domiciliary Care (STED) Service, commissioned in 2023, will support people out of hospital and provide a service to people living in the community. The current contract will be in place until September 2024. The service supports people as part of the 'Home First' approach to remain at home for as long as possible, focussing on people to recover or maintain activities of daily living wherever possible. The service supports around 130 people discharged home from hospital in any one week.

The service is funded by Health and Social Care and is commissioned to support current discharge and community-based requirements.

The STED service sits alongside other work delivered by the Council which includes the Community Reablement service, domiciliary care in prisons and supporting any urgent and unplanned work (service of last resort).

6.4. Shared Lives

Shared Lives is a highly flexible form of housing and support where individuals are supported to live within a family, in the Shared Lives Provider's own home. Providing support within a family setting matched to the individual's needs means that individuals get truly person-centred and bespoke support.

Current Position

Worcestershire County Council operates its own in-house Shared Lives Scheme. The Council employs a team to support a network of self-employed Shared Lives Providers. There are currently 96 individuals supported in the scheme long term. The scheme also provides replacement care for a small but growing number of individuals.

The scheme has introduced an electronic monitoring system to improve recording and streamline processes.

Future commissioning Intentions

Shared Lives fits with our strategic priorities for adult social care and housing as a flexible and economical vehicle for providing incredibly person-centred care. Growth of the scheme is difficult to do quickly as a limited number of people prepared to welcome adults with social care needs into their homes. However, recruitment campaigns continue and commissioners work closely with the in-house provider on plans to expand provision both for long-term support and replacement care.

6.5. Supported Housing

6.5.1. Supported Accommodation

Worcestershire is a two-tier Authority, so the County Council does not have responsibility for housing. However, we work closely with the District Councils and are an active member of the Worcestershire Strategic Housing Group. In supported housing, accommodation is provided alongside support to help people live as independently as possible in the community. This includes:

- older people
- people with a learning disability
- people with a physical disability
- autistic people
- individuals and families at risk of or who have experienced homelessness
- rough sleepers
- people recovering from drug or alcohol dependence
- people with experience of the criminal justice system
- young people with a support need (such as care leavers or teenage parents)
- people with mental ill health
- people fleeing domestic abuse and their children.

These are not always distinct groups; many individuals may have multiple needs.

Current position

Commissioners led a multi-agency production of a supported accommodation needs assessment which will be taken forward by Worcestershire Strategic Housing Group.

6.5.2. Supported living

Supported living enables individuals with a wide range of needs to be independent and supported in their own home. Individuals have their own tenancies (or may become home-owners), with the flexibility to move to a new house, or remain in the same house, but change their support provider if they wish to.

Current Position

Worcestershire County Council commissions Supported Living support via an open Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS). The DPS has been recommissioned in September 2023 with a co-produced updated and

improved outcome focused specification. The new DPS has removed historic zone prices to enable providers to have equitable pricing and recruitment across the county.

Providers on the DPS are expected to have a track record of delivering outcome focused Supported Living and the housing/tenancies must be provided by a separate registered social landlord. Worcestershire has a well-established market for Supported Living for People with Learning Disabilities, which is now being expanded to support those with Mental Health issues. Commissioners and operational teams work to manage the voids in supported living alongside the market, proactively matching individuals to appropriate service voids. This means the work that comes through the DPS is ordinarily tenders for new services as opposed to individual packages of care. There will be long periods where Supported Living DPS Providers do not receive any offers of work. Providers can apply to the DPS via [Intend](#).

Table 17: Standard hourly rates for the DPS 2023-24

Tier 1 – ordinary support	£18.20
Tier 2 - higher level support	£19.50

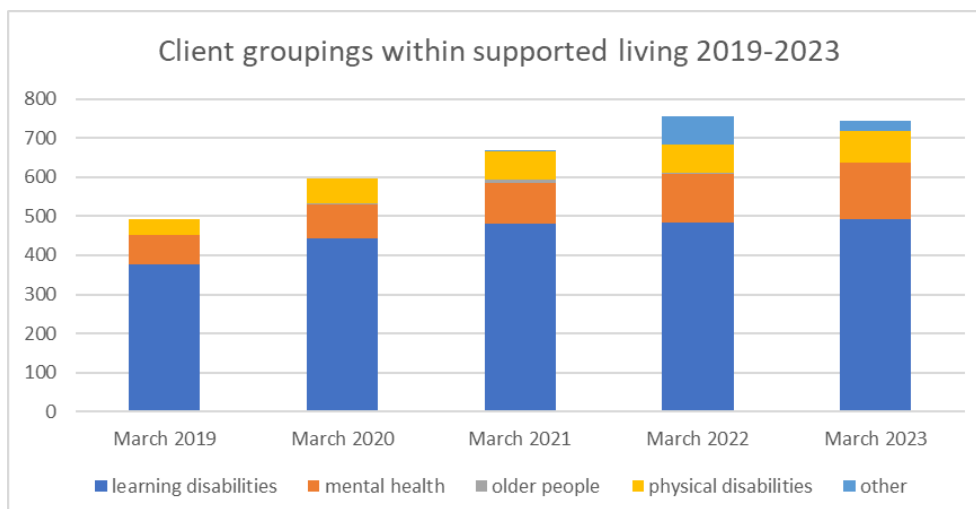
From data collated so far, our hourly rates are comparable with other authorities.

Supported Living packages are purchased differently depending on the type of service. Some are funded in one funding package; others are split into core service and separate 1:1 support.

Table 18: Numbers of people in supported living 2023

Client group	Number of people
Learning Disability	493
Mental Health	147
Physical Disability	80
Older People	1
Young Adults	28
Total	749

The expansion of supported living services 2019-2023 for each client group is highlighted below:



There are currently 11 commissioned cluster flats for under 65s with capacity to support 141 individuals.

Future commissioning Intentions

Worcestershire continues to grow its supported living provision as an independence focussed alternative to residential care.

In development

- There is a gap for complex Autism services with an immediate need for an additional 13 units, due to be delivered before the end of the financial year.
- There is a gap for Emerging Personality Disorder services; commissioning has commenced for an additional 8-12 units to support future needs.
- For individuals coming through transition there will be a need for an additional 8 units of shared accommodation/shared lives provision in 2023/24.

Future commissioning intentions

Our current separate market position statement for supported living assesses demand up to 2025. [Supported Living Market Position Statement 2021 – 2024 \(worcestershire.gov.uk\)](https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk)

Initial demand estimates show that the following additional supported living units will be required by 2028 but a specific Supported Living Market Position Statement will be updated and published in 2024.

Table 19: Future supported living accommodation requirements

Year	Complex Needs Provision (core and cluster)	Mental health higher level support	Cluster Flats	Shared Houses
2023/24	13	8	26	8
2024/25	10	8	16	16
2025/26	5	8	16	15
2026/27	4	8	16	14

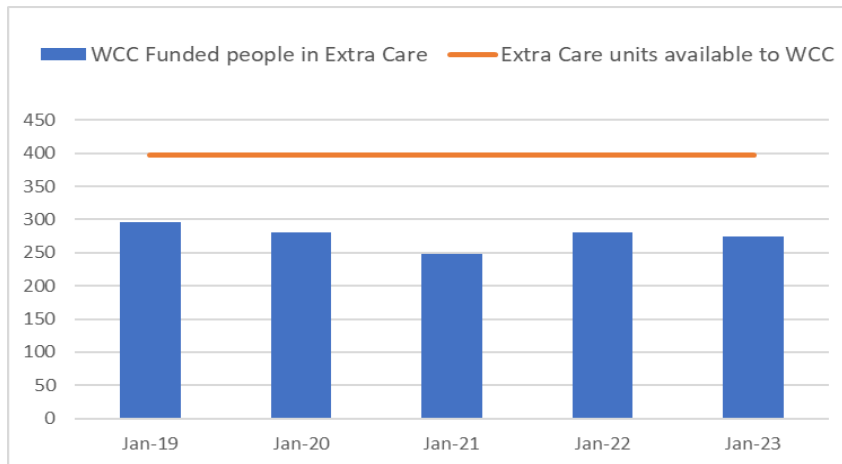
6.5.3. Extra Care

Current position

The term ‘extra care housing’ (ECH) has become one of the most widely used and adopted as the generic term for purpose designed, self-contained, housing for older and disabled people with care and support needs.

The Worcestershire ECH Strategy 2012-2026 was developed in 2011/12. The strategy estimated that an additional 4,703 units of ECH would be required across Worcestershire. 3,450 units were suggested as being required for sale (including shared ownership) and 1,253 units were suggested as being required for rent. There are currently 14 schemes (869 ECH units in total) the Council contracts with to deliver ECH services. The Housing Needs Assessment, due in 2023, will provide further insight into the growth required in the ECH settings within Worcestershire.

The Council has nomination rights to 397 units across the ECH schemes and, at the time of producing this report, utilises 73% of this capacity. ECH costs the Council c£3.5m in total of which £0.75m is in Core service funding, ensuring all people within the scheme have access to support, with £2.75m allocated for care costs. Care costs increase or decrease in line with people’s changing care needs.



Future commissioning Intentions

The Council views housing related support, including ECH, as a key component in supporting people to remain at home for as long as possible.

The Council will continue to ensure it is achieving best value in relation to the Core funding, the use of the Council’s nomination rights and the achievement of outcomes for people. This may require some Extra Care providers to deliver services for people with higher needs and who are suitable for Extra Care living.

The Council wants to engage further with providers to ensure there is suitable supply, particularly of units for rent, to meet overall increasing demand. The Council wishes to further understand innovative funding models for the delivery of ECH which minimises the cost to the Council but ensures a sustainable and outcome focussed service. The Council, with health and housing partners, will explore the use of Extra Care in supporting people to be discharged from hospital and also when a short-term stay or replacement care may be required for people who do not require a care home.

The Council will work directly with the care providers who support people with their care needs within an extra care scheme to ensure they have sufficient capacity to support all current and predicted future care needs within the scheme and wherever possible transferring the care delivered by other care providers to the onsite care provider.

The Council will also work with the Extra Care schemes to ensure that the mix of care needs within the scheme remains balanced, including those people who have higher needs, and that all care needs are considered as part of the allocation criteria. For clarity the balance within the scheme is expected to be 30% high needs, 30% medium care needs and 40% low care needs.

The Council, initially for one ECH scheme, will commission the care provider directly. This model will be explored with other ECH schemes. Any opportunities will be advertised by the Council.

6.6. Day Services

Current Services and Position

Day services for adults with care and support needs in Worcestershire are currently provided via a mix of internal (Worcestershire County Council-provided) day services and externally commissioned services. Following the closure of the Council’s in-house “Connect” services in 2021/22, WCC in-house provision now focusses on meeting the needs of adults with Learning Disabilities with more complex needs in four “Resource Centres”.

Externally provided day services are commissioned using a Dynamic Purchasing System (“DPS”) contract, which enables WCC to have contracts with providers of day activities and day opportunities for any type of care and support need (including Learning Disabilities, Physical Disabilities, Dementia and Mental Health).

WCC’s Positive Days contract has been in place since 1st October 2022. The DPS remains open for new applicants, which enables new entrants to the market to provide services to WCC-funded clients once a relatively straightforward application process has been completed. Individual packages are then sourced from contracted providers via WCC’s Brokerage system, as needs arise. Providers who do not wish to apply to the DPS are still able to operate in Worcestershire and provide services to WCC-funded clients, but this has to be via a client’s Direct Payment rather than directly paid by WCC.

In July 2023, there were 43 providers contracted through the “Positive Days – Day Services” DPS contract, and a further 10-15 Worcestershire-based providers known to WCC although not currently contracted. The market consists of a diverse range of small, locally based providers. Providers are all voluntary and community sector organisations, with the majority being registered charities, although there are also some who are established under other voluntary sector regulatory structures e.g. Community Infrastructure Companies.

The current expenditure on external day service provision, across all service user groups, is approximately £3.7 million per annum. The Council’s 2023/24 budget for the provision of internal day opportunities is £3.8 million, of which c£0.6 million relates to central recharges including costs such as HR, Legal and Finance support.

Table 20: Day care service commitments provided by external contracted day services week beginning 31st March 2023

	Learning Disabilities	Older People, People with Physical Disabilities & Sensory Impairments	People with Mental Health conditions	Total
No of people	365	128	14	507
Weekly spend	£64,480	£13,490	£1,137	£79,107

There are also currently 94 individuals who attend WCC Learning Disability internal day services (Resource Centres).

These services provide individuals with a diverse range of daytime activities in the county from which to choose. The different types of service include community-based activities, catering opportunities and craft-based activities, as well as many services offering outdoor activities, such as farming, horticultural and grounds maintenance. Some services are specifically aimed at providing vocational experience and development, as well as volunteering opportunities. Services for older

people and adults with profound and multiple disabilities tend to be more building based, although the Positive Days contract encourages and supports maximising access to the community and the promotion of increased independence for all, irrespective of levels of support need, and this approach has been welcomed and embraced by the provider market.

Although primarily a service for the individual, day services can and should provide invaluable support for family carers, enabling carers to take a break from their caring role and/or access their own employment or other activities during the day.

Geographically, Worcestershire's day services are well spread, although with some localities more vibrant (in terms of number and range of providers) than others. Additional services in Malvern and Evesham/Pershore have developed in recent years; however, Bromsgrove still has a more limited availability of provision, although this has developed somewhat over the last 12-18 months, following the closure of the Council-provided Connect services.

There is a good range of day service providers in Worcestershire for people with mild to moderate support needs but relatively limited provision for people with more profound and multiple disabilities and those with behaviours which may challenge services. There are only two external services identified which specialise in working with people with profound and multiple disabilities. One is based in Worcester and another in Droitwich resulting in significant journeys for some of their clients from around the county. A small number of our external providers provide a service to some people with behaviours that challenge services, but we no longer have a provider who specialises in this area. WCC's in-house Resource Centres currently fill the gaps in the market for people with higher levels of need.

Future Commissioning Intentions

The Council will continue to advertise opportunities to join the Positive Days Dynamic Purchasing System contract, which remains open for new applicants and can be found here: <https://intendorganiser.co.uk/worcestershire.aspx/ITLogin.aspx> .

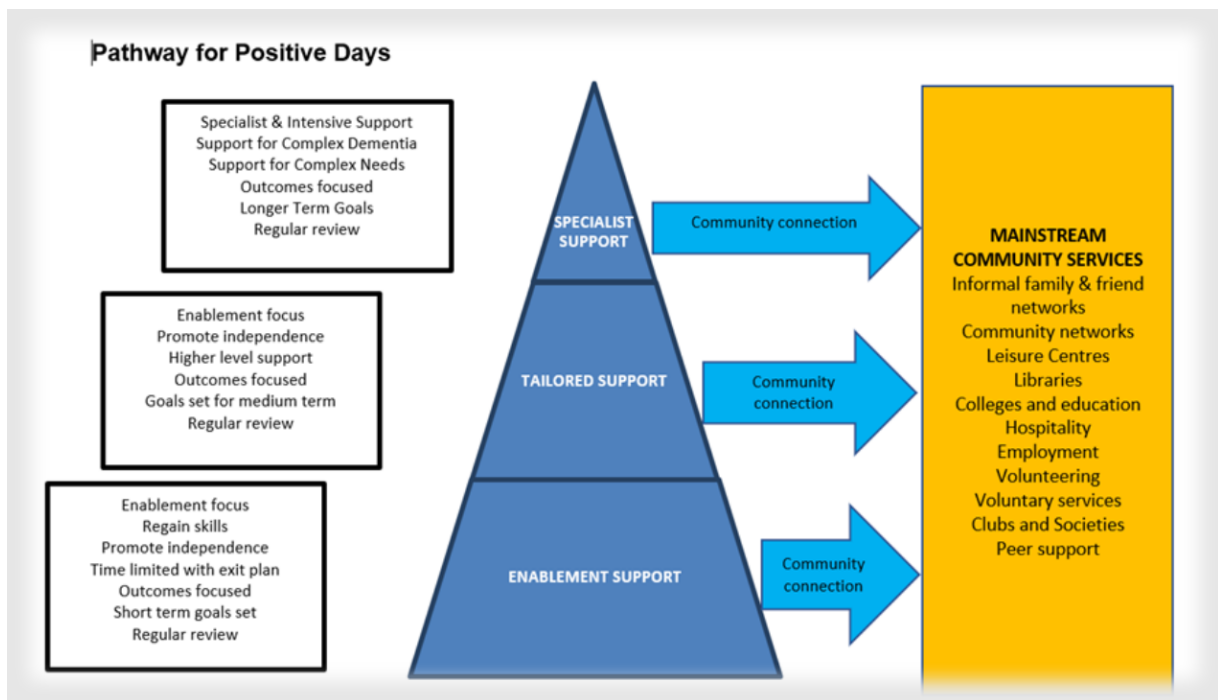
The Positive Days strategy is based on the WCC vision that all individuals should live in an inclusive society where mainstream opportunities like leisure, entertainment, pursuing hobbies, developing skills, volunteering and employment are accessible to all, irrespective of their care and support needs. Everyone should have the opportunity to feel part of their community and to lead a meaningful and purposeful life in the way that they choose to do so. Some people will require varying levels of support to lead the life they want to live. We believe our day Service Providers have a key role here and we want to work in partnership with our commissioned providers to deliver this vision in the future.

In line with the key priorities for Adult Social Care, Worcestershire County Council has implemented a shift in the delivery of Day Services for all client groups, based on the above overarching aims, on feedback as well as national and local priorities and good practice evidence. The proposal is to move away from approaches of predominantly providing building-based day care towards supports driven by the aims outlined above.

We want individuals to live as independently as they can, build resilience and skills, enjoy good standards of health and wellbeing, and have access to mainstream services and activities within their local communities. Day services can help people to have a fulfilling life, enable development of new skills, gain employment, pursue interests, make friends, gain relationships, peer support, and make a positive contribution to the community. Day services can be provided through building-based

services and increasingly in alternative ways such as people commissioning a Personal Assistant (PA) using a direct payment, supported employment and volunteering opportunities. People also access a variety of community activities such as lunch clubs and activity-based clubs and services. It is our vision that in the future more people will access the available community options to be able to lead fulfilling and purposeful days, taking a full part in the community where they live.

Whilst it is recognised that building-based Day Services may be an appropriate mechanism to deliver Day Services for some, less intensive, community-based provision or enablement and reablement may be better suited to others, supporting them to maximise their independence and effectively meet their outcomes. The model of day opportunity we want to see develop is described below.



Mainstream Community Services

People will be encouraged to recognise their existing strengths and support networks and be supported or signposted to access community support options to maintain their wellbeing and prevent a deterioration in their health and wellbeing that may lead to longer-term or more intensive support needs. This includes the routine use of community resources such as leisure services, libraries, colleges, and open access groups to provide activities and social contacts for people within a community setting. It could also include mainstream support into work or volunteering. Any of the support levels can and should be trying to maximise people's use of the mainstream, but additional support may be required to do so depending on people's individual support needs.

Enablement Support (Level 1)

At the point of entry to the day service, there would be a focus on what people want to achieve (outcomes) and help for them to achieve their personal aspirations. The enablement phase would be time limited (for example up to 12 weeks) and focussed on regaining skills, promoting independence, and helping people connect to their communities. If a person is eligible for Adult Social Care this phase could help them plan and utilise their personal care budget to meet their

desired outcomes and look at potential for pooled budgets. This stage could form part of a transition from or between services and would be suitable for people with lower-level support needs. Outcomes would include/supporting skill development to achieve specific goals.

Tailored Support (Level 2)

Some people may need a little longer to regain skills and feel confident and need a higher level of support to achieve their outcomes. In this level there would be a focus on enabling people to regain their independence, supporting them to connect to their communities over a longer period. This could involve a programme of support within a day centre environment which aims to enable people to achieve greater independence over a longer time. As for Level 1, but longer term. Outcomes would include increased connectivity and inclusion in community, increased independence.

Specialist Support (Level 3)

A focus on developing specialist intensive support for people with complex needs. This would involve long term support with a focus on an individual's health and wellbeing and can contribute to hospital avoidance for those who might otherwise see a deterioration in their physical or mental health. Individuals would be supported to be able to access the community like everyone else, but this service may also involve an element of building-based support. This level would be suitable for people with more complex specialist needs for example people living with complex dementia, people with behaviours which challenge services and those with profound and multiple disabilities. Outcomes include maximising health and wellbeing, as well as carer respite.

Community Connections

It is expected that at all levels people are supported to be part of their community.

6.7. Residential and Nursing Care Home Provision

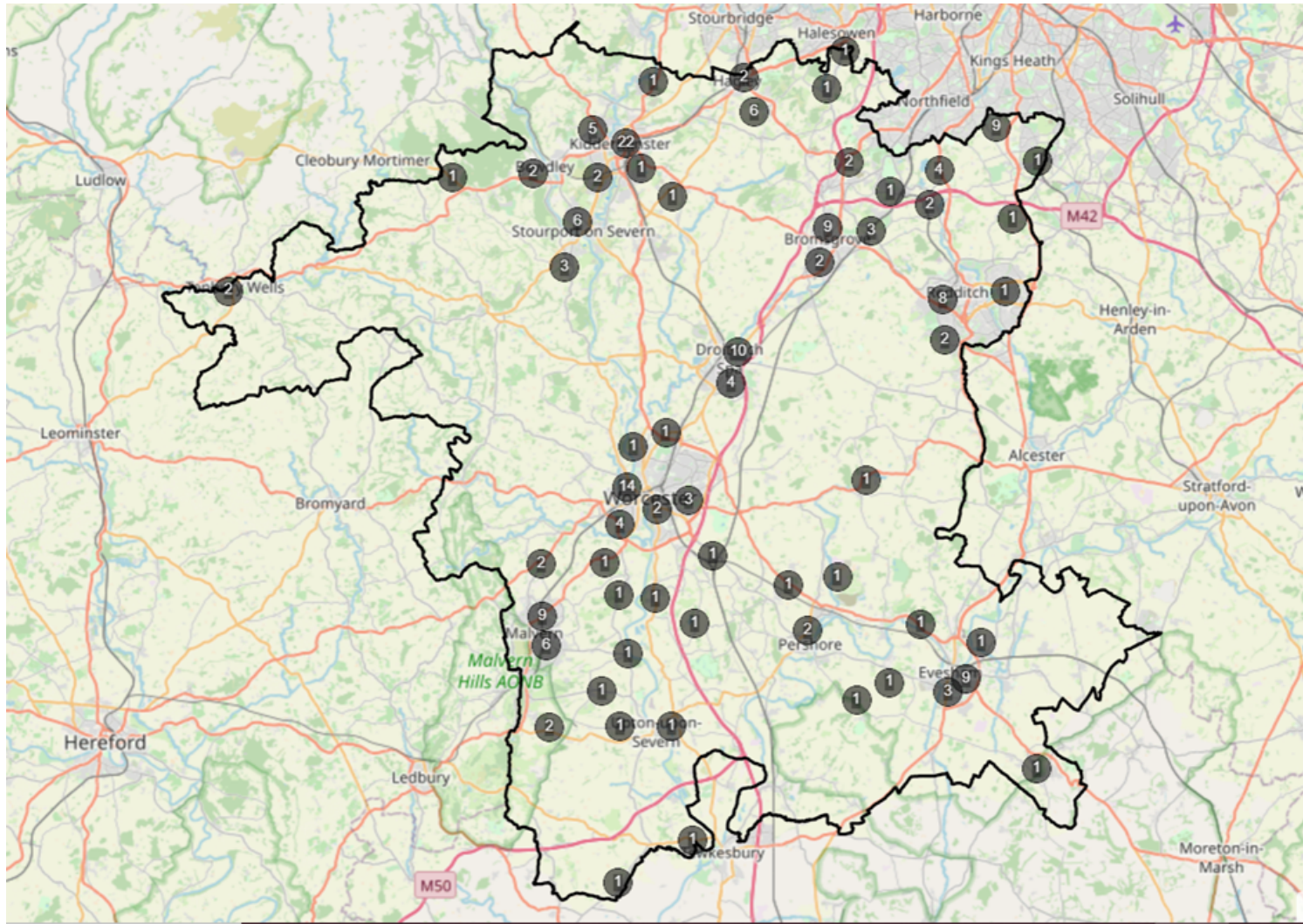
“Care homes” provide accommodation with personal care for people who need extra support in their daily lives and, according to their registration with the regulator (the Care Quality Commission, CQC) may also provide nursing care. There are currently 179 care homes providing these services within the boundaries of Worcestershire County Council although this varies constantly with new registrations and temporary / permanent home closures.

Care homes are inspected by the regulator and awarded ratings for 5 “key questions” and an “Overall” rating.

Table 21: Current overall CQC ratings for care homes in Worcestershire (Autumn 2023)

	Inadequate	Requires Improvement	Good	Outstanding	Not yet inspected
Nursing	0	21	36	4	1
Residential	1	19	85	4	4
Total	1	40	121	8	5
Percentage	0.6%	22.4%	68%	5%	3%

The following map (over page) illustrates the distribution of those homes. However, placements of Worcestershire-funded individuals may also be made in homes outside Worcestershire as indicated in Table 22.



6.7.1. Bed-based care benchmarking data and activity

Table 22: Long term (permanent) Residential and Nursing Bed nights by district + those in post hospital beds (step down, DTA)

Long Term Nursing bed nights in-County by year:

	Bromsgrove	Malvern Hills	Redditch	Worcester	Wychavon	Wyre Forest
2020/21	31,940	63,300	17,619	23,140	38,821	39,002
2021/22	35,481	67,972	20,148	26,255	43,060	46,605
2022/23	34,869	59,396	17,742	29,833	44,313	43,788

Long Term Nursing bed nights out of County by year:

2018/19	28,815
2019/20	30,813
2020/21	26,698
2021/22	26,391
2022/23	24,895

Long Term Nursing total bed nights by year

2018/19	272,024
2019/20	289,578
2020/21	240,520
2021/22	265,912
2022/23	254,836

Long Term Residential bed nights in-County by year:

	Bromsgrove	Malvern Hills	Redditch	Worcester	Wychavon	Wyre Forest
2018/19	56,849	95,699	31,807	52,913	59,283	88,687
2019/20	62,520	94,004	32,761	54,884	58,916	90,341
2020/21	64,338	86,328	31,920	50,321	53,415	83,344
2021/22	61,955	84,957	31,764	49,110	58,262	85,589
2022/23	59,066	88,177	30,471	49,570	61,092	86,247

Long Term Residential bed nights out of County by year:

2018/19	80,418
2019/20	78,417
2020/21	71,250
2021/22	68,137
2022/23	68,285

Long Term Residential total bed nights by year

2018/19	465,656
2019/20	471,843
2020/21	440,916
2021/22	439,774
2022/23	442,908

Post Hospital Care Home bed nights in-County by year:

	Bromsgrove	Malvern Hills	Redditch	Worcester	Wychavon	Wyre Forest
2018/19	3,717	5,972	1,460	2,115	2,664	2,367
2019/20	6,103	5,594	872	2,443	2,908	3,244
2020/21	8,928	9,787	4,944	13,735	11,659	11,760
2021/22	1,549	3,115	1,094	3,011	3,439	3,120
2022/23	1,604	2,342	167	761	953	888

Post Hospital Care Home bed nights out of County by year:

2018/19	14
2019/20	123
2020/21	1,755
2021/22	183
2022/23	0

Post Hospital Care Home total bed nights by year

2018/19	18,309
2019/20	21,287
2020/21	62,568
2021/22	15,511
2022/23	6,715

Overall total long term (permanent) Residential and Nursing Bed nights by year

2018/19	755,989
2019/20	782,708
2020/21	744,004
2021/22	721,197
2022/23	704,459

Data produced by NHS Digital provides an insight into Adult Social Care Activity and Finance in Worcestershire as a comparator with others. These are illustrated on the following two pages:

Adult Social Care Activity and Finance: Comparator Report

Final data for the selected reporting period

Unit costs for clients accessing nursing long term care, by age band (£ per week)

This data relates to T52 of the reference tables. For data quality information specific to this data, please view the related reference table.

Select a year

2021-22

Select a grouping

CIPFA

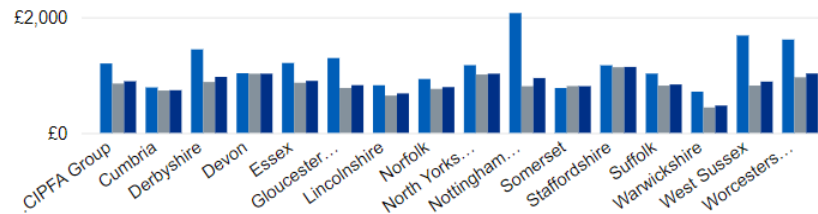
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- Wolverhampton
- Worcestershire
- York

Unit costs for long term nursing care by CASSR(s) and age group

Age Band ● 18 to 64 ● 65 and Over ● Total



CASSR Name	18 to 64	65 and Over	Total
Essex	£1,207	£866	£898
Gloucestershire	£1,293	£776	£824
Lincolnshire	£822	£644	£681
Norfolk	£931	£760	£790
North Yorkshire	£1,169	£1,009	£1,022
Nottinghamshire	£2,069	£806	£948
Somerset	£775	£808	£806
Staffordshire	£1,167	£1,134	£1,139
Suffolk	£1,024	£816	£836
Warwickshire	£712	£438	£471
West Sussex	£1,682	£817	£885
Worcestershire	£1,612	£960	£1,025

Unit costs for long term nursing care by region and age group

Age Band ● 18 to 64 ● 65 and Over ● Total



Region Name	18 to 64	65 and Over	Total
England	£1,132.12	£810.10	£849.32
East Midlands	£1,254.33	£744.70	£822.08
East of England	£1,150.38	£794.93	£836.06
London	£1,018.75	£742.52	£777.40
North East	£973.89	£732.46	£769.98
North West	£1,106.92	£741.84	£794.73
South East	£1,225.84	£928.70	£953.80
South West	£1,205.38	£870.39	£896.78
West Midlands	£1,080.60	£813.72	£847.19
Yorkshire and The Humber	£1,256.53	£808.03	£885.71

Source: ASC-FR Collection, Unit Costs
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Adult Social Care Activity and Finance: Comparator Report

Final data for the selected reporting period

Unit costs for clients accessing residential long term care, by age band (£ per week)

This data relates to T52 of the reference tables. For data quality information specific to this data, please view the related reference table.

Select a year

2021-22

Select a grouping

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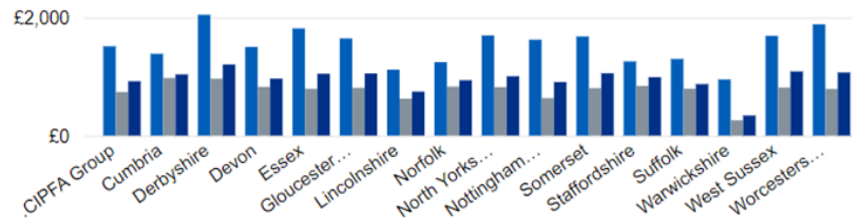
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- Wolverhampton
- Worcestershire
- York

Unit costs for long term residential care by CASSR(s) and age group

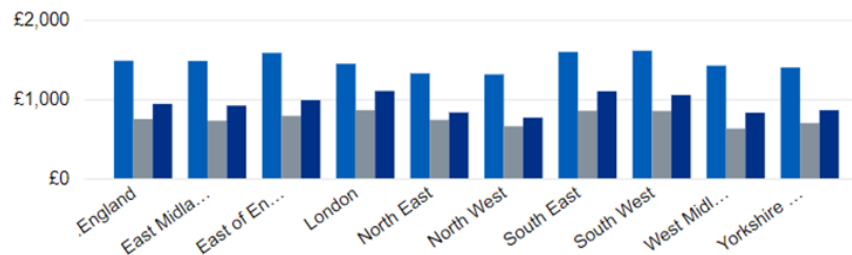
Age Band ● 18 to 64 ● 65 and Over ● Total



CASSR Name	18 to 64	65 and Over	Total
Essex	£1,813	£793	£1,047
Gloucestershire	£1,644	£808	£1,053
Lincolnshire	£1,116	£625	£744
Norfolk	£1,243	£830	£937
North Yorkshire	£1,696	£820	£1,003
Nottinghamshire	£1,622	£635	£907
Somerset	£1,678	£803	£1,056
Staffordshire	£1,255	£841	£988
Suffolk	£1,298	£794	£872
Warwickshire	£951	£259	£341
West Sussex	£1,687	£812	£1,085
Worcestershire	£1,882	£790	£1,068

Unit costs for long term residential care by region and age group

Age Band ● 18 to 64 ● 65 and Over ● Total



Region Name	18 to 64	65 and Over	Total
England	£1,481.26	£747.42	£937.99
East Midlands	£1,478.77	£725.98	£916.75
East of England	£1,580.31	£787.18	£985.27
London	£1,443.03	£859.77	£1,101.00
North East	£1,322.72	£736.61	£830.09
North West	£1,309.49	£657.54	£765.31
South East	£1,592.72	£851.55	£1,097.52
South West	£1,607.45	£849.06	£1,049.73
West Midlands	£1,419.34	£627.05	£827.45
Yorkshire and The Humber	£1,396.04	£695.99	£859.32

Source: ASC-FR Collection, Unit Costs
 Copyright © 2022 NHS Digital.

6.7.2. Residential Care and Nursing Care for older people

Current Position

Residential care refers to long term care given to people in a residential setting. In August 2023 there were 1,376 social care funded older adults living in residential and nursing care:

Table 23: Older peoples residential and nursing care volume (January 2024)

Number of individuals in Nursing Care	Number of individuals in residential care	TOTAL
718	1086	1718

During 2021/22, the number of older people admitted to long-term residential and nursing care in Worcestershire was higher than the average for other authorities/regions at 532.6 (compared to 607.9 for the West Midlands and 560.8 nationally).

Table 24: ASCOF 21/22 results: 2A2 Long-term support needs of adults aged 65 and over met by admission to residential and nursing care homes, per 100,000 population.

	Comparators	England	West Midlands
WCC Rank	7	72	4
CASSR Count	15	151	14
Result / Average	520.20	560.80	607.9
Min	349.30	84.3	358.10
Max	764	1514.2	1043.3

Note: WCC – Worcestershire County Council;
CASSR – Councils with Adult Social Care Responsibility

Worcestershire’s average costs for residential and nursing care for older adults (aged 65+) are higher than the regional and national average (see Table 25).

Table 25: The Social Care and Finance Activity - Comparator Report for 2022/3

Weekly Care Costs	Worcestershire	West Midlands	England
Older adults Residential Care	£768.49	£665.61	£733
Older adults nursing care	£855.13	£810.81	£859.00

The potential for authorities to vary in their approach to submitting this data, however, must be acknowledged.

Indicative unit costs (October 2023) for current placements give an average of £920.98 for nursing placements and £633.29 for residential placements. As of 31st March 2023 on average Worcestershire was paying £768 for OP residential placements, and £855 for Nursing placements.

Future commissioning Intentions

The current market position has been significantly impacted upon by COVID-19 and there is a high level of capacity within the market. The established approach to purchasing care home placements is one of spot purchase with the rates determined by the market. This results in a range of rates within the market with a variation of cost between historical and more recent placements for the same type of care provision. To address this and to focus on working with providers who want to accept council funded placements, a framework of accredited providers is being developed and will be mobilised in early 2024 with the intention to stabilise rates and agree rate levels.

A further gap in provision in the County has been identified as the provision of care for individuals with complex needs and behaviours which challenge and require 1:1 specialist care. This may or may not include people living with dementia, a service is required to care for individuals who exhibit behaviours that challenge (physical aggression, verbal aggression and sexually disinhibited), compulsive behaviours (eating, drinking, hoarding). Appropriate placements for these individuals can currently take time to source as they are usually provided by specialist providers and this is a poor outcome for them and their families and also impacts upon hospital discharge arrangements and the overall flow of individuals through the health and care system. It is the intention of Commissioners to consider increasing access to such services but, as the same time, ensuring that they are of the quality required.

6.7.3. Residential Care and Nursing Care for under 65s

For under 65s residential care and nursing care can range from large 24-hour individual packages of care to shared care with sleep-in support. Nursing care means that there are registered nurses providing part of the care package within the setting.

Current Position

In June 2021 there were social care funded individuals in a Younger Adult category living in residential and nursing care (see Table 20)

Table 26: Younger Adults volume

Client group	Individuals in Nursing Care	Individuals in residential care
Learning Disability	22	229
Mental Health	80	199
Physical Disability	50	41
Total	152	469

Residential and Nursing Care provision for the under 65 age group is commissioned via a framework contract to which new providers can be added if required.

Numbers of Adults in Worcestershire aged 18-64 in long-term residential and nursing are slightly higher than the average regionally and nationally, as shown in Table 26.

Table 27: ASCOF 21/22 results: 2A1 long term support needs of younger adults aged 18-64 met by admission to residential and nursing care per 100,000 population

	Comparators	England	West Midlands
WCC Rank	11	106	9
CASSR Count	15	151	14
Result / Average	15.3	13.9	15.2
Min	9	0	3.8
Max	26.9	157.5	35.1

Source: ASCOF NHS Digital powerbi (RArgent)

Table 28: Social Care Comparator rates

Weekly Care Costs	Worcestershire	West Midlands	England
18-64 Residential Care	£1,882	£1,419	£1,481
18-64 Nursing care	£1,612	£1,081	£1,132

There are variances in the way the unit cost is calculated from authority to authority and we do know that the Worcestershire Supported Living Strategy has meant that more people who would have been in lower cost residential placements are now in Supported Living. However, further work is required to understand the Worcestershire cost base for residential and nursing for the 18-64 client group.

Future commissioning Intentions

There is an emerging need for additional short-term recovery focussed residential capacity for people with mental health needs. Commissioners are undertaking needs assessment work to ascertain the level of capacity required.

Our supported living agenda means that the need for long-term residential for the under 65 cohort has been reducing. However, the ageing population and increasing complexity of our learning-disabled population means that the existing level of capacity is required. Affordability is an issue due to low capacity for specific areas of needs: mainly autism or forensic services. Commissioners aim to review whether more locally commissioned residential care for these service areas would support increased affordability and quality.

6.8. Replacement care and respite services

6.8.1. Replacement care (all sectors)

Current Position

Replacement care is the support provided to an individual due to a family carer having a break from their usual caring role. It was previously known as "respite" from caring or "short breaks" for carers. The change in terminology is in line with the Care Act 2014.

Replacement care supports family carers to fulfil their caring commitments without putting themselves under unnecessary pressure or stress, and usually involves overnight care for one or more nights. These can be planned breaks or short notice in emergency situations.

Under the Care Act, local authorities must have regard to the wellbeing principle, as it may be the case that the carer needs a break from caring responsibilities to look after their own physical/mental health and emotional wellbeing, social and economic wellbeing and to spend time with other members of the family and personal relationships. Analysis evidences the financial value of family carer support to the public purse, with family carer packages of care for Learning Disabilities for example typically costing about 50% of the average cost of support in other settings (Residential Care, Supported Living etc.).

Planned replacement care is identified in an individual's needs assessment and support plan for people who are eligible for Council-funded services under the Care Act. The support plan sets out the number of nights of replacement care required for that individual per year, which can then be taken at times which are best suited to the individual and their carer/s, in arrangement with the care provider. For example, an individual may choose to have replacement care one weekend per month, or alternatively a longer break/holiday could be planned, or a combination of these.

Emergency replacement care is also offered, where for example a family carer may need to go into hospital at short notice, or in some cases where needs of an individual have escalated to a point where family carer support is no longer sustainable in the long-term and where replacement care is offered pending longer-term plans being put in place.

To meet Care Act-eligible needs, the Council has two main types of replacement care offer – an offer for Older People and an offer for adults with Learning Disabilities. This report gives an overview of the current offers for both of these groups, along with a description of the future direction of travel, based on recent needs analysis of current and future needs.

There is also a limited requirement for replacement care for other service user groups, specifically Mental Health and Physical Disabilities, which is met by the use of existing provision (for example in the Council’s in-house provision) or spot-purchased if required.

6.8.2. Replacement care (learning disabilities and other working age)

To meet the replacement care needs of adults with Learning Disabilities, the majority of provision is commissioned on a block/fixed price basis, either from in-house (Council) providers or from external providers. This type of provision amounts to 33 beds for use throughout the year, mainly on a planned basis.

In addition, a small number of people attend different provisions, either through a “spot purchase” contract, through a direct payment, or through the Council’s Shared Lives scheme (Shared Lives carers are professional carers who support adults with support needs in the carer’s own family home). Most Shared Lives replacement care referrals are for people who themselves live in Shared Lives, supporting the resilience of the Shared Lives carers as well as supporting the individual to remain as independent as possible living in the community.

There is no designated physical disabilities or mental health provision for Replacement Care, but specific needs are met either through the Council’s existing offers or through spot-purchased placements or direct payments.

Table 29: The number of adults with learning disabilities in receipt of commissioned replacement care from 2021 to 2023.

Care type	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023
Emergency replacement care	3	1	4
Planned replacement care	173	161	162

Table 30: The number of other adults of working age in receipt of commissioned replacement care from 2021 to 2023.

Care type	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023
Emergency replacement care	3	5	7
Planned replacement care	10	9	9

Future commissioning Intentions

Recent commissioning needs analysis work has highlighted a number of areas for development which can be summarised as follows:

- For general needs provision, analysis has demonstrated that the current net number of beds contracted and provided in-house is sufficient to meet both current need and future need, taking into account individuals entering adulthood who will need services and those leaving services. However, there may be a review needed of the way current provision is organised, particularly as there is evidence of lower occupancy levels in some units.
- There is currently a shortage of provision for people with complex needs and particularly individuals whose behaviour may challenge services. Options are currently being explored to address this gap, including whether in-house services could adapt to meet these needs, and the feasibility of proactive market development followed by an external commissioning exercise, which could either be on a spot-purchase or block basis.

There is also some evidence that, although additional beds are not required overall, there is a need for a greater proportion of accessible beds, which can be accessed by individuals with physical support needs.

The current block provision meets both planned and emergency replacement care needs. There is some evidence that the use of beds for emergencies is restricting the availability of beds for planned replacement care, leading in some cases to short-notice cancellations. This situation has also been exacerbated by recent staff shortages in some provisions, partly due to ongoing COVID-19 impacts, although these are being addressed and rectified by the relevant operational managers. Commissioners therefore intend to review options for emergency provision, and whether needs could be met in a different way (e.g. with dedicated beds).

6.8.3. Replacement care (people over 65 years of age)

Current Position

Planned replacement care for older people is currently sourced via a dynamic purchasing framework agreement and comprises of two types: general care and dementia care.

To ensure that replacement care is available for people with nursing needs and to have all contractual arrangements for older people within one framework agreement, replacement care will be included in the Dynamic Purchasing System Framework for Older People Nursing and Residential Care Home Placements due to be mobilised early 2024.

The 2021/22 budget for replacement care for older people is £170,060 for nursing and £524,640 for residential (emergency and planned combined).

Table 31: The number of older adults in receipt of commissioned replacement care from 2021 to 2023.

Care type	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023
Emergency replacement care	32	30	26
Planned replacement care	21	27	9

Future commissioning Intentions

The Council's strategic approach outlined in section 4.2 above will increase the number of people with care and support needs who are supported in the community rather than in long term bed-based care. This may increase demand for planned replacement care to provide breaks for unpaid carers and this potential influence will also be factored into modelling around demand and budget forecast. Provision of care home replacement care for older people will be part of a framework agreement. The Council will also consider the use of Extra Care for replacement care purposes, this would offer an excellent opportunity for people to understand what is on offer within an Extra Care scheme ahead of considering any longer-term accommodation-based options.

We will consider this in detail in the short / medium term. We will undertake market / stakeholder engagement to assess the way forward and work collaboratively with providers to develop the type of responsive and accessible replacement care, which is cost-effective and meets the needs of individuals and their carers, going forward.

This might include different types of replacement care i.e., not bed based.

6.9. Transport

Current Position

Worcestershire County Council has a duty under the Care Act 2014 to assess adults' social care needs and a duty to meet the identified eligible needs. As part of the assessment and support planning process, the assessor must ensure that the adult is able to access facilities and services in the local community to meet assessed needs. This includes making suitable arrangements for transport training to provide maximum independence and benefit, or, if the assessed transport needs cannot be met by an individual and their family (for example through public transport or their own mobility vehicle) they may be met by a variety of different types of provision, as follows:

- Transport commissioned and provided by Worcestershire County Council's Transport Operations Department
- Transport commissioned from contracted day services as part of the Dynamic Purchasing System contracts for Day Opportunities
- Transport arranged directly by the adult in receipt of care and support (or their representative) using a Direct Payment

The Transport Operations Department commissions a range of assisted transport in the form of specially adapted mini-buses and taxis, as well as providing some services through the in-house Fleet Service.

There are currently 256 adults in receipt of commissioned transport. The largest spend on commissioned transport is for adults with Learning Disabilities who make up over 92% of the total cohort. Provision of transport is used either for transport from an individual's home to their day service (and return journey), from day service to replacement care or from home to replacement care. Day service provision is on a weekly basis whereas replacement care provision is more ad hoc to meet the needs of that type of service.

Table 32: Individuals in receipt of commissioned transport in May 2023:

Type of need	No. in receipt of WCC Transport Operations Team commissioned transport	No. in receipt of transport commissioned via day services	Total
Learning Disabilities	124	113	237
Other (Vulnerable Adult/ Mental Health/ Older People/ Physical Disabilities)	9	10	19
Total	133	123	256

Future Commissioning Intentions

In line with the Council's strategy and Care Act duties, the overriding principle of Worcestershire's Transport Policy is that the decision to provide transport is based on promoting an adult's independence and wellbeing, taking into account needs, risks and outcomes. Therefore, when assessing transport needs, universal services within an individual's community will always be considered as the first option. Adults will be encouraged to use the resources around them to meet their travel requirements and staff will be proactive in promoting the range of options available. Where it is determined that an adult requires funded support from the Council, the provision of funding through a Direct Payment should be the first option offered, before consideration of a commissioned transport option if a direct payment is not appropriate.

Future strategic alignment will be achieved by the development and application of transport policy and provision in a manner which as far as possible enables adults in receipt of social care to regain and maintain independence whilst meeting Care Act duties and enabling clients to be well and stay safe.

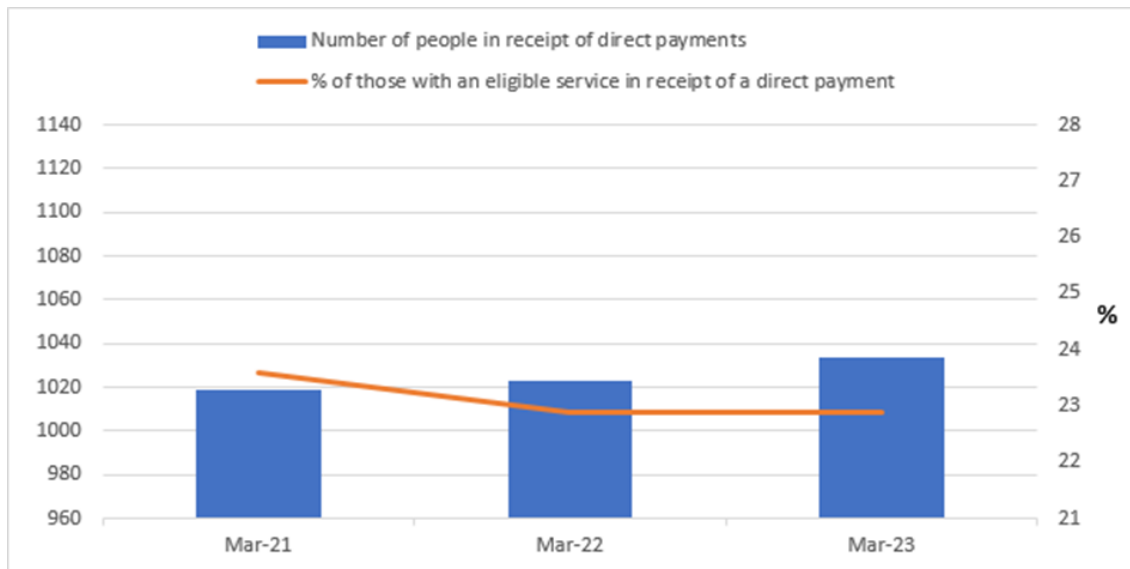
We know that the cohort of young people with disabilities transitioning into adult services is likely to increase during the next ten years. Adults with disabilities make up the large majority of transport provided by WCC, and this is therefore likely to represent a growth in need.

Use of Direct Payments for transport provision is currently relatively limited, compared with WCC-commissioned provision. We aim to increase Direct Payment take-up for transport and explore a wider range of options for transport with clients, as part of support planning and review, in line with the aims of the Adult Social Care Strategy. We want to grow different and innovative provision options, including community transport, assistive technology, independent travel training and the development of micro-enterprises and the Personal Assistant market.

6.10. Direct payments

There is much documented evidence that direct payments provide greater individual and carer satisfaction, sense of wellbeing and outcomes. Individuals have greater choice and control of their care by choosing and purchasing from the wider market, without the restrictions of only being able to choose or be selected a provider(s) from the Councils contracted list of providers.

Trend in take up of direct payments 2021 - 2023



To change the 'DP offer' will require a change to the care market e.g. more self-employed personal assistants and microenterprises.

To support people who are in receipt of a direct payment the Council contracts a single provider to deliver the Direct Payment and employment hub, a managed account support service and a payroll service. The contract for these services ceases in September 2024. The Council will determine how best to deliver the direct payment support in the future, either as a single contract or as separate contracts.

The County Council has invested in growing the capability within the micro enterprise and sole trader market with 28 community micro enterprises starting and a further 6 near to going live (autumn 2023). The aim is that 40% to 50% of the capacity of these business should be supporting Adult Social Care funded people. To enable this the Council will review its direct payment approach creating a more efficient process by which a direct payment is identified, created signed off and delivered. The approach may result in a move away from the Council using Domiciliary Care or day care providers to deliver low level support and place/centre-based day opportunities as it is difficult to accommodate individual interests in such settings.

The Council will support the approach by ensuring there is a skilled and knowledgeable workforce of social care workers who will work on a strengths-based approach and who are able to promote direct payments as part of the first conversation with individuals. A managed list of community assets will also be held by the Adult Front Door and shared wherever required ensuring people are making best use of micro enterprises and self-employed providers in their area.

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PEOPLE COMMISSIONING

**Our Approach and Strategy to
Support the Delivery of Services in
Adult Social Care**

2024 - 2029

December 2023

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1. Introduction

In Worcestershire we are committed to ensuring the services we commission make a difference to our resident's lives.

This document sets out our vision, strategic intentions and principles for the commissioning of services for adults in Worcestershire for the next five years (2024-2029). It provides a guide for the commissioning of adult social care services across the county, by identifying the drivers and influencers shaping services and the way in which we provide and commission and demonstrates how these parts fit together. It will be reviewed annually.

The commissioning approach and strategy sets out at a high level how Worcestershire County Council People Directorate proposes to shift the balance of care to meet the growing needs of local people within the levels of funding available, and in doing so how the Council will focus on the promotion of wellbeing through the commissioning of Adult Social Care, contributing to the delivery of Worcestershire's Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It sets out the challenges that the Council faces in delivering adult social care in the next five years. These include the following.

- Significant demographic growth, especially within Worcestershire's older population;
- Increased complexity of need, including for children and young people transitioning into adult services and for older adults with complex co-morbidities;
- Unprecedented financial challenge posed by increased demand for services and the limited growth in financial resources for the Council as a whole at a time of economic fragility nationally and globally;
- The wider social and health challenges presented following the Covid pandemic, including impacts on mental and physical health and the NHS recovery plan for elective services;
- Increased national expectations of councils with adult social services responsibilities under the Care Act 2014 and the embedding of the CQC assurance framework;
- Well-defined national and local demand for individualised, personal service approaches amongst those who receive social care and support;
- The growing opportunities for integration within the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Service (ICS) under the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB). Commissioning is central to service delivery and becoming an excellent commissioning organisation won't just happen without changes to our culture, structures, processes and skills through a programme of continuous improvement within commissioning, quality assurance and social work practices.

Delivering great services means working across organisational boundaries to achieve greater efficiency and better outcomes.

Working this way enables us to:

- Take an integrated view of what people and communities need;
- Understand what the market can provide (or could be stimulated to do);
- Identify how services should be configured; and so
- Buy these services from the most effective provider;
- Stimulate local communities/universal services to welcome and support individuals with social care needs.

However, we will not commission in isolation from delivery. Commissioners will learn from our experience of delivering services to inform our planning and decisions.

Service delivery will operate on a ‘mixed economy’ model. This means services will be delivered via a robust contract by the most appropriate provider based on their ability to achieve results and quality and give us value for money. This will include private sector companies, voluntary organisations or using our own in-house service.

We will work hard to ensure we are focussed on outcomes and so work in co-production with key stakeholders, people and families who use services, and with our partner organisations across Worcestershire.

2. Context

This strategy has been designed to complement local and national priorities and outline how, by sensible investment in the right projects, effective prioritising of spending to best meet the needs of local people and leveraging the close partnership working already in place, we can continue to improve outcomes and meet the challenges faced by public sector organisations today.

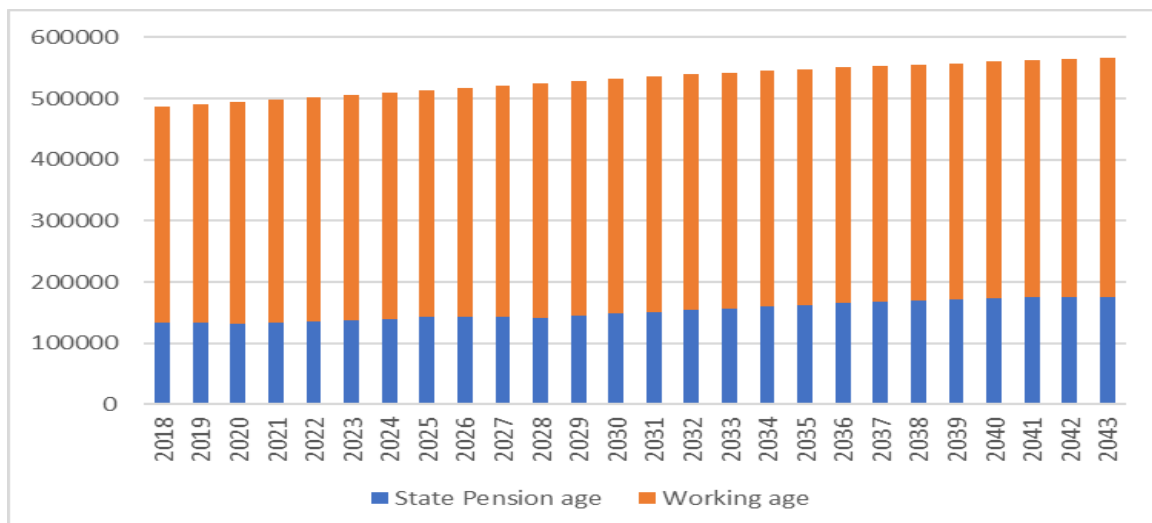
There are several national and local factors influencing the commissioning of services which should be considered when providing a sustainable, locally determined offer that meets the needs of service users in Worcestershire:

2.1. Demographics

From the 2021 census, we know that in Worcestershire the population has increased by 37,400 since 2011, rising from 566,200, to 603,600. This represents an increase of 6.6%, identical to the national % increase, and slightly higher than the regional (West Midlands) increase which is 6.2% overall. As a proportion of the population in England, this remains unchanged at 1.07%.

Worcestershire has a higher proportion of older people than the national average, and a lower proportion of children and younger adults. The difference in proportions between Worcestershire and England are particularly prevalent in the 20 to 39 age range, (a significantly lower proportion of the population are within this age group in Worcestershire), and the 65 to 79 age range, where this group forms a significantly high proportion of the county population. Of particular note is the number of people aged 65-plus in Worcestershire at 138,000, almost 23% of all people living in the county. The following information is taken from the 2021 census data.

Worcestershire County Population Projection by age group (2018-2043)



The population of Worcestershire is generally healthy, performing consistently better than the national average across several health-related measures. However, there are some pockets of Worcestershire where people’s health is not good and the average masks inequality. Social determinants of health may influence health seeking behaviour in deprived populations.

Worcestershire is, generally, not a deprived county, but 10% of our people live in the most deprived quintile. Proportions living in 30% most deprived areas are particularly high in Redditch at almost 40%, and Wyre Forest at 35%

Almost 5% of the Worcestershire population live in the 10% most deprived areas in England, with proportions particularly high in Worcester at almost 12%, and Redditch at over 8%. Almost 21% of the Worcestershire population live in the 30% most deprived areas in England, with proportions particularly high in Redditch at almost 40%, and Wyre Forest at 35%

Employment and economic activity rates are higher in Worcestershire than West Midlands and Britain as can be seen by the data below (Source: Nomisweb.co.uk):

Table 1: Employment and unemployment data for Worcestershire, the West Midlands and Great Britain (all people) between January 2022 and December 2022

	Worcestershire %	West Midlands %	Great Britain %
Economically active	80.2	77.5	78.5
In employment	77.3	73.8	75.6
Employees	68.3	65.1	65.1
Self-employed	8.6	8.3	9.3
Unemployed (as a proportion of economically active people)	3.7	4.6	3.6

2.2. Legislative environment

The Care Act 2014 sets out a requirement for councils with adult social services responsibilities to provide oversight of the care market, to work with providers to develop high quality services, to assure capacity to meet local needs and ensure people who use services are safe. This applies to the whole population, not just support for the people who access services through councils. The strategy helps the Council to fulfil this duty by setting out our commissioning intentions.

2.3. The strategic direction in Worcestershire

2.3.1. The County Council Corporate Plan

Worcestershire is home to more than 600,000 people. It covers 672 square miles within the West Midlands in central England and presents a diverse mix of vibrant urban areas and idyllic rural communities.

The County Council supports some of the most vulnerable people in society, spending approximately 60% of our net revenue budget on social care services for vulnerable children and adults. People are living longer, with more complex needs, and, we have more children who need our care. This means that managing the transition from childhood to adulthood and developing opportunities for fulfilment and independence as well as caring for the frail elderly is particularly important.

The County Council Corporate Plan ([Plan for Worcestershire 2022-2027](#)) covers four key priorities:

- Championing Open for Business;
- Supporting Children and Families;
- Protecting the Environment;
- Promoting Health and Wellbeing.

In relation to health and well-being and key to the commissioning of Adult Social Care services, the Council prioritises working with partners, to ensure Worcestershire people are healthier, live longer, have a better quality of life and remain independent for as long as possible by:

- Promoting healthy and active lifestyles;
- Enabling vulnerable people to live as independently and safely as possible with the support of their families, friends and communities;
- Continue to work with partners to make sure all health and social care services are evidence based, effective, and good value for money;
- Judging progress by:
 - Increase in healthy life expectancy;
 - Increase in the number of active people (30 mins exercise per day);
 - Increase in the number of people aged 65 or more living independently for longer;
 - Minimising the number of people who need to go into permanent/residential nursing placements.

2.3.2 The People Directorate Strategy

The People Directorate brings together the services for all aspects of adult social care and communities and is led by a Strategic Director, supported by Assistant Directors and their professional teams. The Directorate strategy (Adult Social Care) is aligned to the Corporate Plan and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and provides support to the implementation of other health and care county-wide strategies. It also responds to national requirements and changes in best practices.

The key facets of the People Directorate strategy are as follows:

- A single strategy for people and communities, with a clear vision and a focus on outcomes for people;
- Developed and co-produced with people, staff and partners to meet need by maximising the use of our assets, resources and workforce; and
- Provide an offer to people which is clear, simple and easy to access or use and which reduces duplication in buildings, systems, processes, commissioning, service responses to cut waste.

2.3.3 Market Position Statement

The recently revised Market Position Statement 2024-2029 is published here and provides a detailed analysis of Worcestershire demographics and economic data along with key commissioning intentions for the period. Linked to all internal strategies and those already created system-wide, it should be read in tandem with this strategy.

The programme of work designed to deliver the future service design may be visualised as three themes, or pillars of change, namely Developing a Person-Centred Approach, Shaping Services and Shaping an Effective Market and has been designed to achieve these objectives, which in turn, are directly aligned to the Corporate Plan and JSNA.

2.3.3 Introducing the Integrated Care System (ICS)

The Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care System came into being in April 2022, and the ICB took over the responsibilities of the former NHS Clinical Commissioning Group in July of that year.

The NHS defines integrated care as being ‘about giving people the support they need, joined up across local councils, the NHS, and other partners. It removes traditional divisions between hospitals and family doctors, between physical and mental health, and between NHS and council services. In the past, these divisions have meant that too many people experienced disjointed care’.

The purpose of the legislation (the Health and Care Act 2022) is to remove the barriers that prevent local NHS, Public Health and Social Care services from being truly integrated. It will create the opportunity to plan and deliver services that are wrapped around the needs of individuals.

Over time, this will fundamentally change how we work and commission services, working collaboratively to set an agreed strategic direction for services to be delivered seamlessly to those in receipt, that meet the needs of the individual for best outcomes, and, by working closely together enable more effective services to be delivered within the total available resource envelope.

2.3.4 Worcestershire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

The Worcestershire Health and Well-being Board under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 has a duty to undertake a [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\)](#). The JSNA facilitates the improvement of health and well-being and the reduction of inequalities for the local community and is used to determine what actions local authorities, the NHS and other partners need to take to meet people's health and social care needs to address the wider determinants that impact on their health and well-being.

A number of key indicators have been identified through the JSNA and these are illustrated below.

<p>Well performing indicators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy •Under 75 mortality rates for cardiovascular disease, cancer and respiratory disease •The crime rate in Worcestershire is lower than the national average. •The claimant count in Worcestershire is decreasing and is lower than the national and regional rates. •Cancer screening coverage indicators, e.g. for cervical cancer and breast cancer. •Emergency admissions for falls among people 65 -plus is lower than nationally
<p>Emerging focus indicators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cost of living (fuel poverty, healthy eating) •Inequalities in mental health & wellbeing, and lifestyle risk factors •Changing demographic profile (inc. ageing population, asylum seekers) •Lower use of preventive services by most deprived & ethnic groups •Challenges within the health and care system (inc. waiting lists, emergency department pressures) •Oral health •Not in education, training or employment •SEND •Affordability of homes
<p>Poor performing indicators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Excess weight in adults & children & associated consequences eg diabetes •Alcohol related admissions •Breastfeeding initiation •Smoking status in pregnancy •School readiness •Hip fractures •Infant mortality •Low dementia diagnosis rate

3 How the People Commissioning Unit will deliver for the directorate, the council and the community

Commissioning activities are defined below:

Commissioning is about achieving agreed outcomes by deciding what service is needed, how it should be delivered, and which public, private or third sector organisation should deliver within effective use of resources.

Decommissioning is the process of planning and managing a reduction or cessation in service activity or terminating a contract in line with commissioning objectives. This could be as a result of the passage of time, which often results in change of need; budgetary constraints and a need to prioritise services and/or reduce some activities; inadequate service provision/poor outcomes or change in local or national political emphasis.

Re-commissioning Commissioning is a cyclical process, and one option is to re-commission a service when it ends and it is a good opportunity to review the service, look again at outcomes, and re-design where necessary. A service can be re-commissioned if it is the same service, but from a different provider, or can be redesigned to improve outcomes (service needs may have changed through time).

Joint commissioning is where several agencies carry out commissioning together.

The principles underpinning our commissioning activity are to:

- Work in partnership, wherever possible, with care providers to co-produce and deliver care to people;
- Reduce demand by better early help, increasing self-reliance, community resilience or independence;
- Develop shared values, including a commitment to inclusion, tackling inequalities and closing gaps in outcomes caused by social disadvantage;
- Focus on achieving sustainable outcomes through commissioning and working in partnership, rather than commissioning on activity and relying on contract management;
- Work in collaboration with local and regional partners to foster relationships, jointly commission services and make best use of resources across the system;
- Implement joined up approaches that strengthen safeguarding and embed a professional responsibility to the individual, their carer(s) and the whole family;
- Commit to a drive for efficiency within a best value context in line with The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012. This is about making sure we get the biggest gain for the population from the budget available;
- Listen to and act on the voices of adults who use our services, carers and their families.

Whilst some of these principles are more embedded than others, they underpin how we envisage commissioning services in the future to meet the changing local and national landscape.

Future developments are expected to be towards a more fully integrated commissioning model - through a single integrated approach where objectives, plans, decisions and actions are arrived at through a single organisation or network – in order to support greater personalisation of services and further efficient use of resources.

Finally, for commissioning to be effective, we need to...

- Spend money wisely.
- Put the needs of the user first.
- Work in partnership
- Lead at the highest level.
- Equip people with the right skills.
- Work constructively with providers.
- Develop a long-term view.
- Continuously evaluate and develop.

3.1 Our approach

Commissioning is the strategic activity of identifying need, allocating resources and procuring a provider to best meet that need, within available means, by focussing on the things that make a significant difference to people within Worcestershire.

This is what we mean by outcome-based commissioning. Commissioning is about achieving positive outcomes for people and communities, based on their needs and aspirations within the resources available. The current economic climate means that we must look at service delivery in different ways, innovate and look for alternative solutions. Through commissioning we can make sure that we use available resources in a variety of ways to improve outcomes in the most efficient, effective and sustainable way.

We support an integrated approach to understanding people and communities. This means using the insight we have about our communities to ask questions about what and how we should be commissioning to best meet their needs. This will involve challenging ourselves about how well we know our communities and asking ourselves whether we are using our resources in the most effective ways. Through co-production, we can ensure that our services are better targeted and more likely to achieve good outcomes.

Good examples of co-production are [Worcestershire All-Age Carers Strategy](#) and the [Learning Disability Strategy](#).

People and communities have changed – and significantly so during the Covid pandemic - as have their needs and how they want to engage with public services and get support. Adapting to these changes has required – and continues to require - strong, ambitious and visionary leadership from politicians and public sector staff as well as from people and communities.

We also believe it is important to keep our approach flexible so that it can work at all levels - strategic or operational; covering the whole county, a district or a locality; meeting the needs of different communities or groups of people, a family or an individual.

We are taking an innovative approach to commissioning, finding new ways of seeing old problems and using new solutions. The result will be a shift in the type and efficiency of the services on offer.

This approach uses interdependencies between people, communities, organisations and service providers and will involve changes in the way we think and work and how we relate to our partners and communities. Commissioning allows us to embed democratic leadership at every stage, involving everyone in setting the strategic direction so that we can rebalance the contribution from public services, communities and people to improve lives and the places where we live. It is not about doing more of the same for less, but making the most of what we have to achieve our shared goals.

(See The Commissioning Cycle for further detail)

3.2 The importance of partnerships and local leadership

Successful commissioning is dependent on good partnerships and effective “system” leadership to make an impact, avoid duplication of activity and to generate efficiencies.

Leadership, at strategic and local level, can often rest with organisations other than the County Council. We are looking to develop productive working relationships to positively influence how collective resources are best used.

As a democratic organisation, we will ensure the voices of people, directly and through their elected members, are heard at every stage. We want to make sure that everyone can contribute and have their say.

3.3 What commissioning is not

It's not all about money.

Securing better outcomes relies on a mix of activities often from many different sources. Supporting a family, for example, could involve the resources and assets of many agencies (public, voluntary, private), the local community and buy-in from the family themselves. We will often look to commission jointly with others, using an integrated approach to achieve the best outcomes.

It's not all about outsourcing.

Services aimed at ensuring better outcomes should be delivered by those best placed to do so at the best value. This does not always mean using a provider external to the Council.

It's not just about us.

By involving everyone in the design stage, including current and potential service users, staff and providers, we can be confident that we are commissioning in a way that will make the most impact.

It's not all about procurement.

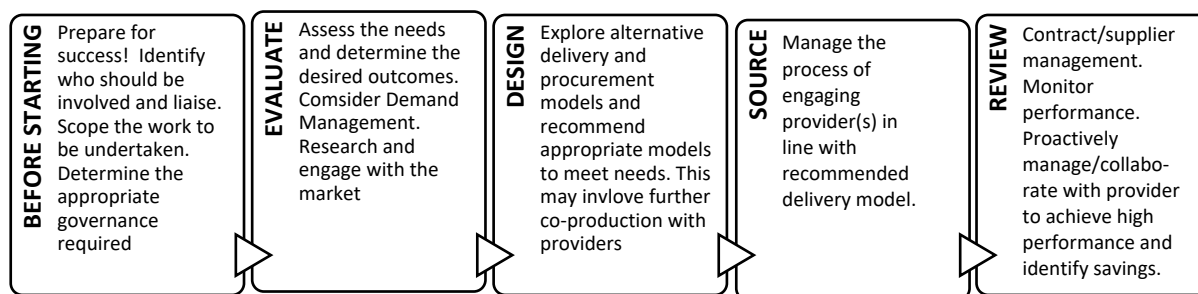
Commissioning is much wider than procurement processes and contracts. The majority of time is spent on agreeing the purpose for commissioning, developing options with a wide range of stakeholders, and crafting the specification. This will be informed by an understanding of the market and of procurement best practice but not constrained by them.

Services

Commissioning is not purely about services. Our strategic work with partners also focusses on creating the right conditions for individuals to be supported within their community without a need for bespoke adult social care services.

4 The commissioning cycle

Commissioning is undertaken by a multi-disciplinary team working together throughout the four stages of Evaluation, Design, Source and Review.



The Commissioning Cycle outlines the processes involved in commissioning and puts service user engagement at the heart of the process and is illustrated in detail on page 16. There are 4 stages:

Stage 1 – Evaluate

The ‘evaluate’ stage of the commissioning cycle is used to ensure the right outcome is being commissioned. It involves taking a step back and asking what we are commissioning, what problem we are trying to solve, what gaps need filling and what future demand we are trying to meet. In answering these questions, we will work to shape thinking and facilitate the conversations that need to happen to make sure commissioners feel confident that they have understood the requirement.

Most important is to think innovatively, move away from the status quo and constructively challenge to understand how outcomes can be genuinely improved by listening to everyone, not just existing service users and those who shout loudest.

Evidence is key at the evaluate stage. We will use a range of sources, including community engagement, surveys, consultations, customer relationship management data (CRM) and analysis of social trends.

Our Council officer colleagues and Members will provide a key link into this process by engaging communities and identifying local issues and understanding how these activities will relate to local priorities.

Insight will enable us to test the relevance of our proposed outcome and make sure it resonates with the stakeholders, partners and people.

During this phase we will investigate delivery models through working with different suppliers, new and existing operators as well as the full range of partners in Worcestershire, embracing the opportunity to co-create potential solutions.

Stage 2 – Design

With a clear sense of the scope of the questions that need to be addressed through the process, along with the outcomes we are working towards achieving, commissioners will work with all relevant parties to ensure that the commissioning plan will deliver the vision. Here we can apply a consideration of our commissioning levers and look for opportunities to engage and influence partners and to add value.

Undertaking an Impact Assessment at this stage will help ensure this is done as sensitively as possible and minimise any negative impact on existing users of the local community. In addition, activity at this stage should take account of:

- The commissioning intentions of other organisations, including national bodies e.g. NHS Commissioning Board;

- The distinctiveness of groups or local areas and the evidence base;
- The policy context of the Council and the need to future proof the final solution through including scope for innovation and flexibility.

Our approach across this stage may involve several the following elements:

- Devolving commissioning or parts of the process to communities or individuals;
- Influencing others to deliver the outcomes, including joint commissioning with partners;
- Focussed use of grants;
- Being willing to change our own practices or to persuade others to change theirs;
- Incurring the spend but recovering full or part-cost via charging;
- Choosing to decommission/stop doing things;
- Managing demand through the use of information, advice and guidance to prompt behaviour change;
- Being open to innovation.

Stage 3 – Source

With the commissioning plan developed, we will now take account of where we are now and what activity is needed to achieve detailed outcomes. This could involve short term actions, as well as medium to long term plans such as developing the market. Commissioning is much wider than a single organisation and there will typically be a ‘mixed economy’ involved in the delivery of outcomes and ensuring that the delivery mechanism supports the local community and economy. The [Commissioning Proposal](#) will be finalised and approved:

At this stage, if we are purchasing a service then the type and length of contract will need to be decided alongside service specifications. This will need to take into account quality and value for money as well as broader issues such as the impact on the local economy (availability of workforce, for example).

The agreed outcomes and priorities must directly answer the question, reflect the insight and be deliverable within the available resources. Continuous engagement and dialogue with providers will be used to test and refine. This includes the determination relevant performance measures.

Working within the resources available, options could involve supporting community led delivery, creating, developing and influencing markets or redesigning to achieve the best balance of cost, health, social economic and environmental benefits.

This approach could mean that an existing service is decommissioned as it no longer meets the priorities, or where a provider has underperformed.

Stage 4 – Review

Effective performance management, appropriate to the commissioning plan, is essential at this stage to ensure that outcomes are being improved as a result of our commissioning. Customer experience and feedback will be a key part of these performance measures.

Working with colleagues from across the organisation commissioners will think carefully about how to develop meaningful measures of success that will allow us to use leading indicators to monitor progress, as well as assessing whether outcomes have been achieved. Performance and evaluation measures will have been developed and agreed at the point of commissioning, ideally in conjunction with providers and users to make sure we are measuring what matters.

At this stage we will consider how we will measure the return on our investment, both qualitative and quantitative and we will ensure that we take note of any lessons learnt and use them in our future commissioning activities.

Through effective monitoring, commissioners will be able to effectively decide if activities are meeting the outcome, review the process and, if appropriate, make recommendations which will lead to improved outcomes.

5 Excellence in commissioning

Our ambition is to achieve and maintain an excellence in commissioning. Success will be demonstrated by:

- Every decision – strategic, commissioning and delivery – being insight based;
- Being outcomes driven – confident about what is important to people and communities and that our resources are focused on achieving those outcomes;
- Delivering efficient and effective services that make the best use of resources;
- Recognising the interdependencies between people, communities, organisations and services;
- Ensuring democracy is embedded in everything we do and the voices of people and communities are sought and listened to;
- Understanding our strategic and community leadership role and the resources and assets available through working with partners, providers and communities;
- Our team understand what we are trying to achieve and their role in this and their contribution is valued and recognised;
- Our Members and communities understanding what we are trying to achieve and their role in this and their contribution is valued and recognised.

Commissioning provides a route to deliver the change and excellence. Success is dependent on colleagues at all levels believing that a better understanding of people, communities and localities will ensure the right support and services are commissioned to improve lives.

For our commissioning team within the People Directorate, we will develop a competency framework for commissioning and quality assurance that will drive the ways of working required for successful delivery of modern, fit for purpose services that represent value for money, and which provides the on-going development of relevant skills that meet the needs not just of today, but for the future.

6 Governance

The County Council is led by its elected Members. Decisions about outcomes and how they can best be met are made by Cabinet, with the involvement of other Members at critical points. Members on Overview and Scrutiny Committees will scrutinise plans openly as they emerge and challenge delivery and performance.

Elected Members have a key role to play at a local level in building relations with communities and local partners as well as with local people and service users when designing or promoting local solutions and allocating local funds and grants.

Cabinet Members will take the bigger decisions within their area of responsibility and will focus on how outcomes are best achieved and funded and when to pursue alternative solutions. They will use clear principles to guide council officers, including commissioners and ensure decisions are coherent and open.

Commissioning decisions and performance management will be delegated to senior officers.

A single scrutiny committee of members will be responsible for checking the effectiveness of commissioning arrangements. Individual scrutiny committees will hold the Executive to account on the performance of contracts when looking at whether specified outcomes are being delivered.

Regarding *process*, our activities will be governed by the following:

- Public Procurement Regulations which set out procedures for the tendering, evaluation and award of contracts for works, services and supplies;
- Financial procedure rules - aim to ensure that the council manages its affairs with high standards of financial integrity and accountability and have an appropriate balance between sensible caution, creativity and innovation as well as meeting statutory duties;
- Contract procedure rules - provide the legal and procedural framework for the procurement of works, goods and services. These form part of the council's constitution;
- Contract guidance - details the correct practice in implementing the councils contract procedure rules, compliance with other council strategies and best practice in relation to procurement arrangements;
- Codes of Conduct - set out guidelines for employees and members to help maintain and improve standards and to protect them from misunderstanding and criticism. They cover areas such as personal interests and the separation of roles during tendering;
- Equality and Diversity - to promote procurement practices and policies which contribute to priorities on equality and diversity by providing information on equality issues and making sure all tenders are treated equally. Equality policies show the council's commitment to robust equalities recording and monitoring, and the advancement of equality of opportunity for all. This ensures full compliance with the Equality Act 2010;
- Information Governance - ensures the council and its contractors comply with the relevant information and data governance policies and standards, including the data protection act.

7 Our commissioning intentions

In line with the People Directorate strategy for Adult Social Care and its 3 key priorities (outlined below),

- Right support, right place, right time
 - Offering care and support that is coordinated and enables individuals to live as they want to, being seen as a unique person with skills, strengths and goals.
 - Enabling people to make informed choices to manage their health and wellbeing at a time and place that's right for them.
- Working in partnership with local people
 - Working together across Place (Worcestershire) to provide a holistic approach to the health and care needs of our community.
 - People feel connected to their community and their feedback and experience is used to shape and make changes.
- Future-focused
 - Understanding and responding to the many changes and opportunities on the horizon for social care.
 - Working with people and our partners to maintain safe systems of care, making safeguarding personal by concentrating on improving people's lives.

Commissioners will work with the market to enable our citizens to

- Be well and stay safe;
- Be independent and connected; and
- Be supported.

Commissioners will develop a person-centred approach to shape services and to shape an effective market.

We set out below our overarching commissioning intentions for the next five years but the reader is directed to the detailed Market Position Statement for full information.

7.1 Be Well and Stay Safe

Managing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic

Activity throughout 2020/21 has of course been shaped by the Covid, with much of the work already started to improve commissioned adult social care services by necessity, ceasing, or at very best, slowing down during this period.

However, the pandemic “pause” has in some areas of work, accelerated the design and development of different ways of working, developed partnerships that previously were barely existent and has reshaped our thinking about what is needed for the future and what may be achieved.

The impending decision for reporting mortality in care homes through the pandemic via the Care Quality Commission, along with the UK Governments proposed regulation on mandatory coronavirus vaccination in residential care settings and its planned subsequent consultation on the extension of this regulation to home delivered care will undoubtedly continue to prolong the impact of Covid on care services in the immediate and medium term.

Reducing the pressure on the care system by commissioning targeted prevention services

We have already contributed to the development of access to preventative activities that support the most vulnerable and divert them from higher-level services, enabling people to take control of their own wellbeing and reduce their need to access other services in the future.

The Council is developing an Early Intervention and Prevention strategy which outlines the preventative work in place and in development for adults. There will be clear links to the Councils Health and Wellbeing Strategy which brings greater emphasis to prevention activity being 'everybody's business'. There will be increased focus on encouraging people to be more proactive about their health and wellbeing which will increase independence and reduce or delay the need for care and support services.

Mental Health Services

Our priority is to work with partners to reduce incidence of mental ill-health and the prevalence of common mental ill health conditions.

We have completed a needs assessment and developed an action plan (including the commissioning of new services and re-shaping of the market) to support a Mental Health Recovery Pathway for Social Care. This pathway aims to enable recovery, reduce longer term dependency, and increase focus on community and employment-based activity.

7.2 Be Independent

Maximising independence

Linked to the Adult Front Door service and the system-wide programme of work regarding Reablement and Intermediate Care (the Discharge Pathway), we will re-design the onward care services to ensure that, following accident, illness or other crisis, people have access to a period of recovery before making decisions about long term services and placements. We will also improve and invest in ways to help people get equipment, adaptations and Assistive Technology solutions to enable them to regain and retain their independence and feel safe at home.

The aim is to maximise independence and in doing so, reduce the long-term care costs for individuals and reduce the numbers of people entering long term care homes or having very expensive services at home.

This means that in future, no-one will be admitted to long-term care without us having assessed the opportunity for reablement, technology and equipment under the Home First principle.

The aim is to ensure that we only assess people who appear that they may have a need for services, place a strong focus on safeguarding, positive risk taking and promoting choice and control. We have statutory duties to assess people who may have a need for care and support as well as people with a Safeguarding risk and those who may need protection under the Mental Capacity Act. Worcestershire County Council is working collaboratively to improve how we do this, with the consequent impact on commissioned services.

We will consider support at home or housing with support services (supported living, extra care, shared lives) for each person and only use long term residential services where an alternative is not available or appropriate.

We will support people to make use of local community and mainstream services and encourage our commissioned day services to support people to make use of local networks and services.

We will promote Direct Payments as a choice to access alternative services.

By doing this we better target the use of resources and ensure that people have a stake in maintaining their independence.

Reduction in the overall number of placements of Older People in residential and nursing care

Worcestershire continues to adopt the strategic approach of council-funded residential and nursing care home placements for Older People being limited to people with the highest level of need, including people with dementia, frailty and complex needs and that people should only be placed in these services when all other options have been exhausted.

The number of long-term placements funded by Worcestershire County Council varied between 2019/2020 to 2022/2023. This was mainly due to the impact of the COVID pandemic, with a significant reduction in placements during 2020/2021/ and 2021/2022. By April 2023 the number of placements was broadly the same as in 2019/20. Accepting the potential for some variations in demand levels over the period, it is predicted that, in general terms, the number of long-term care home placements will not increase in proportion to the projected increase to the population of people over 65 and over 85 within Worcestershire and if the in-year placement numbers continue at the current rate that there will be a reduction in placements overall. However, it is recognised that

the proportion of those placements for people with dementia and other complex needs will increase across all Older People's placements.

Longer term therefore, the total amount of money spent each year on Older People's residential and nursing care home placements will decrease in relative terms, with some of this resource being redirected to support more people in their own homes, either within Extra Care housing or with domiciliary care that can meet their specific needs, but we anticipate the total cost of provision of care for more complex needs will become a higher proportion of that total residential care cost.

To increase the resilience of the care market for 'Care with Nursing', dementia and complex needs care, in the medium- to long-term we propose to enter dialogue with the NHS and with providers and regulators to develop a more resilient and higher quality care market for the growing numbers of very frail people with complex needs of all ages.

Increased use of Assistive Technology, equipment and minor adaptations to enable people to live independently.

Commissioners are working with the District Councils and the NHS to scope and promote services that enable independent living, providing individuals with access to appropriate and timely adaptations to remain in their own homes.

Commissioners will continue to support the development of new supported living services to meet demand, aiming to ensure that there is a range of services to support individuals to live as independently as possible.

Commissioners will develop strategies to accelerate the availability of 'accommodation with care', for example, Extra Care housing for older people, and supported living for younger people with disabilities.

7.3 Be supported.

Supporting people with Complex Needs and at the end of life.

This means that we will target social care resources on working with the NHS and others to provide expert care and support to the most frail and vulnerable people in Worcestershire.

We will collaborate with the NHS to provide care and support in advance of crisis to keep people at home and reduce the need for residential care or hospital admissions.

We will arrange residential and nursing care for people with the highest levels of need: typically those with frailty, complex needs, multiple long-term conditions and/or dementia, where those needs cannot be met at home.

We will work with partners to increase the numbers of people supported with end-of-life care at home rather than hospital and to prioritise resources for this.

Learning disabilities and autism

Working collaboratively with partner organisations throughout Worcestershire, we will develop services for people with disabilities that plan to meet needs through the whole of people's lives.

There is a new Learning Disability Strategy for Worcestershire, which has been co-produced by Worcestershire's Learning Disability Partnership Board. The strategy sets out the priorities for the future to improve the lives of people with Learning Disabilities. Commissioners will work with the

Partnership Board to implement and monitor the strategy and its action plan. The Strategy can be located here: [Worcestershire's Learning Disability Strategy 2023-2028](#)

The Integrated Care System (ICS) All-age Autism Strategy is under development and due to be published early 2024. This will also set out plans and priorities and be monitored through the multi-agency partnership board.

Commissioners from Adult Social Care and Worcestershire Children First have set up structures to track young people who will transition to adult services in the future. We will continue to strategically plan services to ensure plans are in place for individuals prior to the transfer to adult services.

This will include ensuring we target our resources effectively in order to meet the needs of the small but growing number of people with highly complex needs.

Two new provider frameworks are in place to ensure that our supported living and day services promote independence and reduce long-term dependency where possible; with a focus on people being active in their own communities.

The new complex needs framework is under development and will aim to put just enough support in place for those with complex needs to ensure they live fulfilling lives without unnecessary restriction.

Work is planned to also develop a learning disability and mental health residential care framework.

8 Preparing the market

8.1 Position as at 2023/2024

Work within the adult social care market in the last three years has focussed on maintaining stability in a climate of increasing pressure on resources and rising demand.

Close working relationships established during the COVID-19 pandemic have been maintained and built upon, through the mechanisms of regular provider forums and partnership boards, two-way communication networks for disseminating important information and gathering feedback, and in-depth market engagement to inform tender exercises.

Commissioning exercises completed during the period 2021-2023 include:

- Recommissioning day services for all client groups as part of a new “Positive Days” strategy and a re-designed DPS contract.
- Recommissioning of the “Having a Voice” contract for Adults with Learning Disabilities, building on the significant co-production work, vision and aims of the new Worcestershire Learning Disability Strategy
- Publication of the Supported Living Market Position Statement
- Recommissioning of the Supported Living DPS contract
- Development and procurement of 3 new cluster flat developments creating increased capacity for Mental Health and Vulnerable Adults
- Successful capital bid for a new complex needs development (now going through the planning process)
- Completion of a Social Care Mental Health Needs Assessment and development of an associated action plan
- Commissioned a Framework of Providers for Older People Residential Replacement Care
- Completion of the Independence Focussed Domiciliary Care tender.

- Carers Strategy for Worcestershire and commissioning of the Carers HUB
- A Direct payment support service commissioned and implemented.
- Commissioning and implementation of a support service to develop micro-organisations and to develop a market of small providers and self-employed individuals to offer care services.

8.2 The Government Insights report

The Government published its [local authority market sustainability plans insights report](#) which collates the market sustainability plans submitted by local authorities as part of the grant conditions in respect of the Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care grant, issued in 2022. Worcestershire County Councils plans are published on the County Council website under the heading [Cost of Care exercise](#) and were accepted by DHSC. It should be noted that these reports majored on assessment of the 65+ general residential and nursing care and 18+ domiciliary care markets.

The plans were required to provide

- an assessment of current market sustainability
- anticipated impacts on market sustainability
- strategies for improving market sustainability over the next 1 to 3 years
- the cost of care for the local area and an explanation of how the exercise was carried out, including provider engagement
- a reflection on the data and positions of the local authority between March 2022 and March 2023.

Many of the themes identified by local authorities across the country are similar to those experienced and identified in Worcestershire. As such, our refreshed Market Position Statement incorporates those proposals and the report itself provides opportunity for further market considerations over the next 5 years:

- the ability of their 65 years and over residential nursing care markets and their 18 years and over domiciliary care markets, to deliver enough care and support for their local populations
- the diversity of provision
- provider exits from local markets
- underpayment within the sector and workforce supply

The Department identified the following themes as key to local authorities strategic approaches to improving market sustainability which were, in summary:

- to expand domiciliary care markets and secure greater supply
- to stabilise and adapt their care home markets to the changing needs of local populations by:
 - recognising the need for residential and nursing care that can cater to specialist needs
 - investing in alternatives to standard residential care, to expand provision that supports person-led care and support
- that market sustainability is dependent on a wide range of factors, including:
 - embracing the growing role of technology in delivering care and support
 - identifying the importance of working in closer partnership with health services, especially on discharge commissioning
 - investing in proactive quality management processes to improve and maintain standards of care and support

- workforce recruitment and retention in both local authority roles and, but most acutely in, frontline social care delivery was highly constrained across all local authorities

8.3 Worcestershire's position and market considerations

Worcestershire County Council concurs with the Insights report statement that:

“High-quality, personalised care and support can only be achieved where there is a vibrant, responsive market of service providers. The role of the local authority is critical to achieving this, both through the actions it takes to commission services directly to meet needs and the broader understanding of, and interactions it undertakes with, the wider market for the benefit of all local people and communities.”

The ‘reshaping’ phase for our market is focussed on the following and is largely in line with other local authority considerations as identified in the Insights report.

- Investment and stability – investing existing resources into the care sector in a more structured way to provide stability of care, but also recognising the role of the social care and health economy in the region and to allow all parties to plan their businesses, including proposals to move to a fixed fee approach;
- Commissioner-led support – a package of support from commissioners across the system that promotes quality improvement. Including ways in which social value will be delivered by the care sector and other partners;
- Efficiency and modernisation – developing integrated systems and processes that are efficient and fit for the future;
- Robust contract management – clear specifications focussed on enablement and that make clear the requirements, with robust and consistent management against these.
- Market shaping – developing mechanisms and specifications that support a stable and sustainable marketplace.

In support of this, commissioning activities that will commence/complete in 2023/24 include:

- Commissioning a Framework of Providers for Long-Term Older People Residential and Nursing Care Homes to include the options of replacement care and further potential for Continuing Health Care or more complex older people's care;
- Commissioning of services to support people back home, this includes the Short Term Enhanced Domiciliary care service, the Wrap Around Service and Extra Care step-down flats;
- Re-commissioning of a service provider for Learning Disability Replacement Care services at Lock Close, Redditch;
- Commissioning of Positive Behaviour Support Services for people with complex behavioural needs;
- Implementation of the Mental Health Action plan (including commencement of commissioning of specialist services);
- Preparation for the development of a framework for U65 residential care;
- Needs assessment to assess the demand for specialist U65 residential services for Autism and Mental Health;
- Preparation for the re-procurement of Promoting Independent living services (home improvement agency).

This will mean that in Worcestershire, we will be progressing our journey to establishing a health and social care system where we can balance the budget, and where there is:

- a sustainable price for care based on quality of services;

- an increase in care and support being focused on improving outcomes and increasing independence;
- independent providers incentivised to work within their local communities to promote health and wellbeing and reduce the need for commissioned social care services;
- a systematic approach to promoting what choices are available to people locally, the quality of the service they choose and that it is value for money;
- quality processes and procedures that promote active involvement of service users.
- a systematic, transparent and proportionate approach to assessing and managing quality across the health and social care system;
- an increase in the number of independent providers that achieve the highest standards of care;
- market intelligence that enables us to raise quality standards;
- open, respectful and honest relationships with providers and proactive provider engagement;
- development of systems, processes and relationships that integrate with our health partners, those within the wider Integrated Care System footprint and other commissioners within the Herefordshire/Worcestershire region;
- development of closer links with regional commissioning colleagues across health and social care within the wider West Midlands area, via close working with regional networks;
- development of a performance framework used to regularly assess the effectiveness of services in line with desired outcomes and to ensure changes are made where necessary;
- Work with partners to develop a consistent outcomes framework to monitor the performance of our services.

As the various work programmes go live and become embedded, the successful impact of the commissioning activities may be measured through:

- Partnership with providers – having transformed our relationship with the market by being open and transparent, the Council will have a range of high-quality providers who are clear about what is required and who want to work with us to deliver, and further innovate and develop services for the future;
- Integration with health – Commissioners will continue to maximise all opportunities to integrate services and transform the market to enable services to be jointly commissioned, with shared risk and cost as appropriate;
- Reduced reliance on bed-based care services – Commissioners will have commenced work to innovate and to develop alternatives to more traditional models of care commissioning and delivery which will incentivise providers to enhance the independence of citizens as well as support the development and understanding of, and access to, community-based services;
- Only doing business with the best – the Commissioning unit will have significantly progressed the transformation and incentivisation of service quality improvement, reducing reliance on the team to ‘make quality happen’. As a result, our future aim will be to only do business with good and outstanding CQC rated providers (where CQC registration is required);
- Employment, skills and independence – commissioners will have actively supported county-wide strategies that as an economic driver for change, ensuring that people are enabled to live healthily and independently in appropriate accommodation, to be supported in achieving life skills and employment.

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Project Screening

Impact Assessment Id: #661

1. Your Details

Name of person completing screening assessment

Rebecca Wassell

Job Title

Assistant Director - People Commissioning

Directorate

People

Service Area

Commissioning

Email Address

RWassell@worcestershire.gov.uk

Connection to project (e.g. project manager)

N/A

2. Project Summary

For the purposes of the impact assessment screening, we will refer to the activity or area being assessed as a project.

Project Name

Commissioning Strategy

Name of Project Sponsor

Mark Fitton

Name of Project Manager

Rebecca Wassell

Name of Project Lead

Rebecca Wassell

Project Reference (if known)

N/A

Please give a brief description of the project

This is not a project. It is a strategy prepared to provide transparency on how the county council commissions adult social care services and relates to the Market Position Statement (Commissioning intentions based on relevant information from the 2021 census and the forward demographic projections re the County population, plus the direction of travel as detailed in the approved Corporate plan, the Adult Social Care Strategy and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment in order to ensure that care markets are sustainable and able to deliver the care needs required

3. Data Protection

We need to establish if the proposal involves processing personal data. Personal data is information that relates to an identified or identifiable individual.

Name of Information Asset Owner

Rebecca Wassell

Senior officer responsible for the project's information assets

Does the project, any project work stream or project outcome involve any personal data? Some examples of personal data are given below. **No**

Appearance:

photograph, physical description

Basic Identifiers:

name, date of birth, age, biometric data, ethnic origin, gender, genetic data, race, sex

Contact Details:

address, email address, home phone number, mobile phone number, postcode

ID Number:

National Insurance Number, driving licence number, NHS number, online identifier, other general identifier

Employment:

work related training/awards

Financial:

income/financial/tax situation

Lifestyle:

health or social care, living habits, marital status, philosophical beliefs, political opinions, religion, sex life, trade union membership

Technology:

login/username, device MAC address (wireless network interface), device IMEI number, IP Address, location data (travel/GDPS/GSM data), website cookies

As you answered 'No', please explain your reasoning below:

This document does not relate to individuals. It relates to how we commission adult social care services for the adult population of the county as a collective. It contains no personal information or data from which any individual may be identified.

4. Equality

We need to determine whether the project could affect residents and/or Council staff because they share any of the Protected Characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010 namely Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage/Civil Partnership, Pregnancy, Race, Religion/Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation.

Does the project relate to an area where data/research indicates that inequalities are already known to exist? Yes

Could this project have any effect on, service delivery or usage, other aspects of daily life or community participation levels for people because they belong to any of the groups below?

Age Yes

e.g. a person belonging to a particular age group (for example 18 – 30-year olds).

Disability No

e.g. A person has a disability if she or he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Gender Re-Assignment No

e.g. The process of transitioning from one gender to another.

Marriage/Civil Partnership Status No

e.g. Marriage is a union between a man and a woman or between a same-sex couple. Same-sex couples can also have their relationships legally recognised as 'civil partnerships'. Civil partners must not be treated less favourably than married couples (except where permitted by the Equality Act).

Pregnancy/Maternity No

e.g. Pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant or expecting a baby. Maternity refers to the period after the birth and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth, and this includes treating a woman unfavourably because she is breastfeeding.

Race No

e.g. Refers to the protected characteristic of race. It refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins.

Religion or Belief No

e.g. Religion refers to any religion, including a lack of religion. Belief refers to any religious or philosophical belief and includes a lack of belief. Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live for it to be included in the definition.

Sex No

Sexual Orientation No

e.g. Whether a person's sexual attraction is towards their own sex, the opposite sex or to both sexes.

Health Inequalities Yes

e.g. Any preventable, unfair & unjust differences in health status between groups, populations or individuals that arise from the unequal distribution of social, environmental & economic conditions within societies.

5. Public Health

We also want to understand if the project will have any impacts on public health.

The social, economic, cultural and physical environment in which people live their lives has a significant effect on their health and wellbeing. Although genetics and personal behaviour play a strong part in determining an individual's health, good health starts where we live, where we work and learn, and where we play.

Improving public health requires taking a broader view of the conditions that create health and wellbeing, from how we plan and develop our urban spaces and places, to the opportunities for employment, recreation, and social connection available to all who live in them.

Health inequalities are the preventable, unfair and unjust differences in health status between groups, populations or individuals that arise from the unequal distribution of social, environmental and economic conditions within societies, which determine the risk of people getting ill, their ability to prevent sickness, or opportunities to take action and access treatment when ill health occurs.

Could the project have an impact on any of the following factors?

Social and Economic No

e.g. culture, social support (neighbourliness, social networks/isolation), spiritual participation, employment opportunities.

Physical Health Yes

e.g. physical activity is expected to increase, influenza vaccination uptake increase

Mental Health & Wellbeing Yes

e.g. benefits to children's mental health, benefits to adult carer wellbeing.

Access to Services Yes

e.g. access to (location/disabled access/costs) and quality of primary/community/secondary health care, child care, social services, housing/leisure/social security services; public transport, policing, other health relevant public services, non-statutory agencies and services.

5. Environmental Sustainability

We want to understand if the project activity and project outcomes will have an impact on environmental sustainability. Please be mindful that the Council has committed to reduce its emissions to net-zero by 2050 and most projects are likely to have an impact on this target. This should be a key consideration in your project delivery and should be reviewed when completing these screening documents.

Could this project have an impact on the categories listed below?

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions (including CO2) No

e.g. increased GHG emissions as a result of project implementation, which may also be linked with efficient use of resources in WCC buildings; transport; emissions from waste; and procurement.

Efficient Use of Resources No

e.g. consumption of energy resources, water, electricity, gas and heating fuels.

Transport No

e.g. number of people travelling, alternative transport modes.

Waste No

e.g. increase in waste generated or an increase in waste recycling.

Wildlife and Biodiversity No

e.g. impacts on the natural environment or enhancements to the natural environment.

N.B. This refers to any direct or indirect modifications to landholdings, including but not limited to removal of vegetation, alteration or demolition of buildings or modification of watercourses or lighting (not limited to just green space/trees).

Pollution to Land or Water No

e.g. risk of pollution to the local environment.

Pollution to Air No

e.g. risk of pollution to air, activity which may adversely affect air quality or increase emissions to air

Resilience to climate change No

e.g. risks of extreme weather and climate impacts on the project.

Historic Environment No

e.g. impacts on Historic Environment or enhancements of the Historic Environment.

Procurement No

e.g. could procurement associated with the project result in an increase of natural resources (such as long-distance shipping of goods); could use be made of local resources or work forces to support delivery of the project.

As you answered 'No' to all the questions, please explain your reasoning below:

The document relates to the commissioning of social care services for adults aged 18 and over. The services may be provided to young people transitioning from childhood, older people and those of working age. All services can provide care and support for people with a diverse range of needs (people with a learning disability or physical disability, older people, people with mental health conditions, people who are neurodiverse, people living with dementia and other long term conditions such as frailty). The aims of care and support provided by these services centre around the promotion of the well-being of the individual and, as far as practicable, their independence to live their own life. The services are not centred around environmental issues.

7. Results of Screening

Data Protection	Does not need a full impact assessment
Equality and Public Health	Will require a full impact assessment
Environmental Sustainability	Does not need a full impact assessment

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Project Screening

Impact Assessment Id: #659

1. Your Details

Name of person completing screening assessment

Rebecca Wassell

Job Title

Assistant Director - People Commissioning

Directorate

People

Service Area

Commissioning

Email Address

RWassell@worcestershire.gov.uk

Connection to project (e.g. project manager)

N/A

2. Project Summary

For the purposes of the impact assessment screening, we will refer to the activity or area being assessed as a project.

Project Name

Market Position Statement

Name of Project Sponsor

Mark Fitton

Name of Project Manager

Rebecca Wassell

Name of Project Lead

Rebecca Wassell

Project Reference (if known)

N/A

Please give a brief description of the project

This is not a project. It is a document prepared for the providers of adult social care services which gives a summary of relevant information from the 2021 census and the forward demographic projections re the County population. It draws on the direction of travel as detailed in the approved Corporate plan, the Adult Social Care Strategy and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to provide guiding principles under which services will be commissioned over the next 5 years. The document therefore identifies the key indicators that providers may consider in ensuring that markets are sustainable and able to deliver the care needs required.

3. Data Protection

We need to establish if the proposal involves processing personal data. Personal data is information that relates to an identified or identifiable individual.

Name of Information Asset Owner

Rebecca Wassell

Senior officer responsible for the project's information assets

Does the project, any project work stream or project outcome involve any personal data? Some examples of personal data are given below. **No**

Appearance:

photograph, physical description

Basic Identifiers:

name, date of birth, age, biometric data, ethnic origin, gender, genetic data, race, sex

Contact Details:

address, email address, home phone number, mobile phone number, postcode

ID Number:

National Insurance Number, driving licence number, NHS number, online identifier, other general identifier

Employment:

work related training/awards

Financial:

income/financial/tax situation

Lifestyle:

health or social care, living habits, marital status, philosophical beliefs, political opinions, religion, sex life, trade union membership

Technology:

login/username, device MAC address (wireless network interface), device IMEI number, IP Address, location data (travel/GDPS/GSM data), website cookies

As you answered 'No' , please explain your reasoning below:

This document does not relate to individuals. It relates to the adult population of the county as a collective. It contains no personal information or data from which any individual may be identified.

4. Equality

We need to determine whether the project could affect residents and/or Council staff because they share any of the Protected Characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010 namely Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage/Civil Partnership, Pregnancy, Race, Religion/Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation.

Does the project relate to an area where data/research indicates that inequalities are already known to exist? Yes

Could this project have any effect on, service delivery or usage, other aspects of daily life or community participation levels for people because they belong to any of the groups below?

Age Yes

e.g. a person belonging to a particular age group (for example 18 – 30-year olds).

Disability No

e.g. A person has a disability if she or he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Gender Re-Assignment No

e.g. The process of transitioning from one gender to another.

Marriage/Civil Partnership Status No

e.g. Marriage is a union between a man and a woman or between a same-sex couple. Same-sex couples can also have their relationships legally recognised as 'civil partnerships'. Civil partners must not be treated less favourably than married couples (except where permitted by the Equality Act).

Pregnancy/Maternity No

e.g. Pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant or expecting a baby. Maternity refers to the period after the birth and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth, and this includes treating a woman unfavourably because she is breastfeeding.

Race No

e.g. Refers to the protected characteristic of race. It refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins.

Religion or Belief No

e.g. Religion refers to any religion, including a lack of religion. Belief refers to any religious or philosophical belief and includes a lack of belief. Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live for it to be included in the definition.

Sex No

Sexual Orientation No

e.g. Whether a person's sexual attraction is towards their own sex, the opposite sex or to both sexes.

Health Inequalities Yes

e.g. Any preventable, unfair & unjust differences in health status between groups, populations or individuals that arise from the unequal distribution of social, environmental & economic conditions within societies.

5. Public Health

We also want to understand if the project will have any impacts on public health.

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Waste No

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Equality and Public Health	Will require a full impact assessment
Environmental Sustainability	Does not need a full impact assessment

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Environment Improvement Plan Working with Worcestershire



Foreword – Cllr Richard Morris

As the Cabinet Member for Environment, it gives me great pleasure to present the Worcestershire Environment Improvement Plan.

We have a wonderful County, an outstanding environment with beautiful landscapes and high quality assets that are valued by residents, businesses and visitors. We recognise that we cannot improve our local environment and tackle climate change alone, collaboration and working together with partners in national and local government, alongside our communities and businesses is key.

By working together, we will foster a sense of collective responsibility drawing on our combined resources, expertise, and enthusiasm to drive positive impact.

This plan will also support the delivery of Worcestershire County Council’s Corporate Plan priority of protecting the environment which will deliver:

- A greener future;
- Our commitment to achieve Net Zero by 2050,
- A resilient transport network and
- Reducing our waste.

The Environment Plan brings together the key strategies under eight priorities which support positive impact on our environment and will deliver our ambition of becoming Net Zero by 2050, by focusing on the improvement of our environment, promoting clean growth and the development of a low carbon economy, we can create a healthier environment that both accelerates the transition to Net Zero whilst improving Worcestershire’s resilience for the future.

Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment



Cllr Richard Morris





Introduction

Worcestershire has an ideal blend of urban and rural environments. 85% of our County is classed as rural, with urban areas having good access to parks, open spaces and public rights of way. Worcestershire includes two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; The Cotswolds and Malvern Hills.

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There is easy access to the countryside wherever you live in the County, promoting outdoor activities which support healthy lifestyles and attracting visitors from across the country.

Our urban areas, with their rich fabric and strong historic and cultural offers, provide a good quality of life and encourage people to live in, work and visit our County. From the splendour of Worcester Cathedral to the beauty of our varied countryside, our towns and city have something for everyone.

Worcestershire County Council (WCC) has been working to reduce its carbon emissions for over a decade now, with some significant results across many service areas within the Council.

“ Our urban areas, with their rich fabric and strong historic and cultural offers, provide a good quality of life and encourage people to live in, work and visit our County. ”

We deliver our community leadership role by improving our environmental protection and enhancement through partnership working with District Councils, our public sector partners, the private sector, the voluntary sector, local communities of interest and for the benefit of all residents.

Our Council’s corporate plan sets out the Council’s core priorities, with environment being one of the four key areas that people want to see the Council deliver on.



Photo image of Malvern Quarry Lake



The Environment Improvement Plan brings together our commitment to continue our strong progress across a number of key areas:



The Natural Environment



Low Carbon energy generation



Resources and Waste



Net Zero Council



The Green economy



Communities and wellbeing



Transport



Reducing the impact of environmental hazards and climate change

We will continue to invest in environmental measures that protect our natural environment, enhance our biodiversity and reduce our carbon footprint. We recognise there is more to be done to achieve our ambition as quick as possible, with an aim to be net zero in all our operations by 2050. We will learn from best practice from elsewhere and share our experiences and expertise with local, regional and national partners.



This Plan sets a framework, which takes into account the Government’s 25 year Environment Plan and the recent published review in 2023.

It recognises the Council’s strategies across the eight key themes and provides an overview of our objectives by theme, what we will do, how we will measure our performance and how we will work with partners and the wider community to go further, quicker by exploiting opportunities to preserve and protect our environment for future generations.

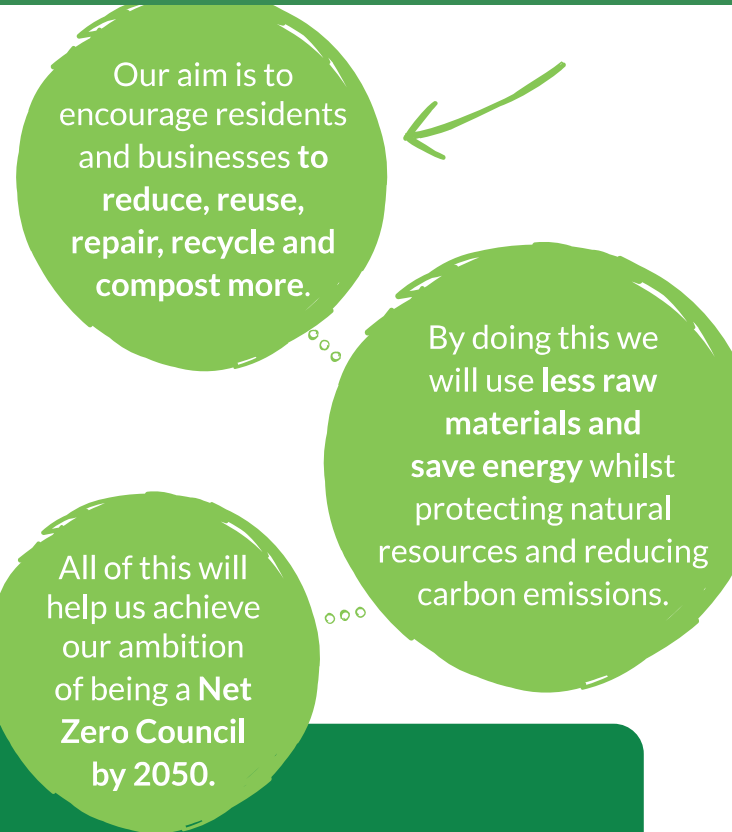
Page 107

The County Council has already halved our emissions over the last decade and has a strong track record of delivering environmental improvements. Striving to go further we have now agreed a Net Zero plan which will focus our efforts to reduce our environmental impact even further. We will continue to invest in environmental measures that protect our natural environment, enhance our biodiversity and reduce our carbon footprint.

We continue to work with partners to protect our communities from the adverse impacts of extreme weather, including flooding, and ensure

future developments meet national and local standards and are resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Our aim is to encourage residents and businesses to reduce, reuse, repair, recycle and compost more. By doing this we will use less raw materials and save energy whilst protecting natural resources and reducing carbon emissions. All of this will help us achieve our ambition of being a Net Zero Council by 2050. The Environment Act 2021 has introduced new measures which will help transition to a more circular economy and increase waste and resource efficiency.



How will we measure this:

- Reduce kg of waste production per person.
- Improve the condition of our roads and pavements to be among the best nationally.
- Additional increase in the number of homes and businesses protected from flooding.
- Reduce Council’s carbon emissions towards Net Zero by 2050.
- Cut Journey times and improve journey time reliability along key rail and road routes.

 The Environment Act 2021 has introduced new measures which will help transition to a more circular economy and increase waste and resource efficiency.

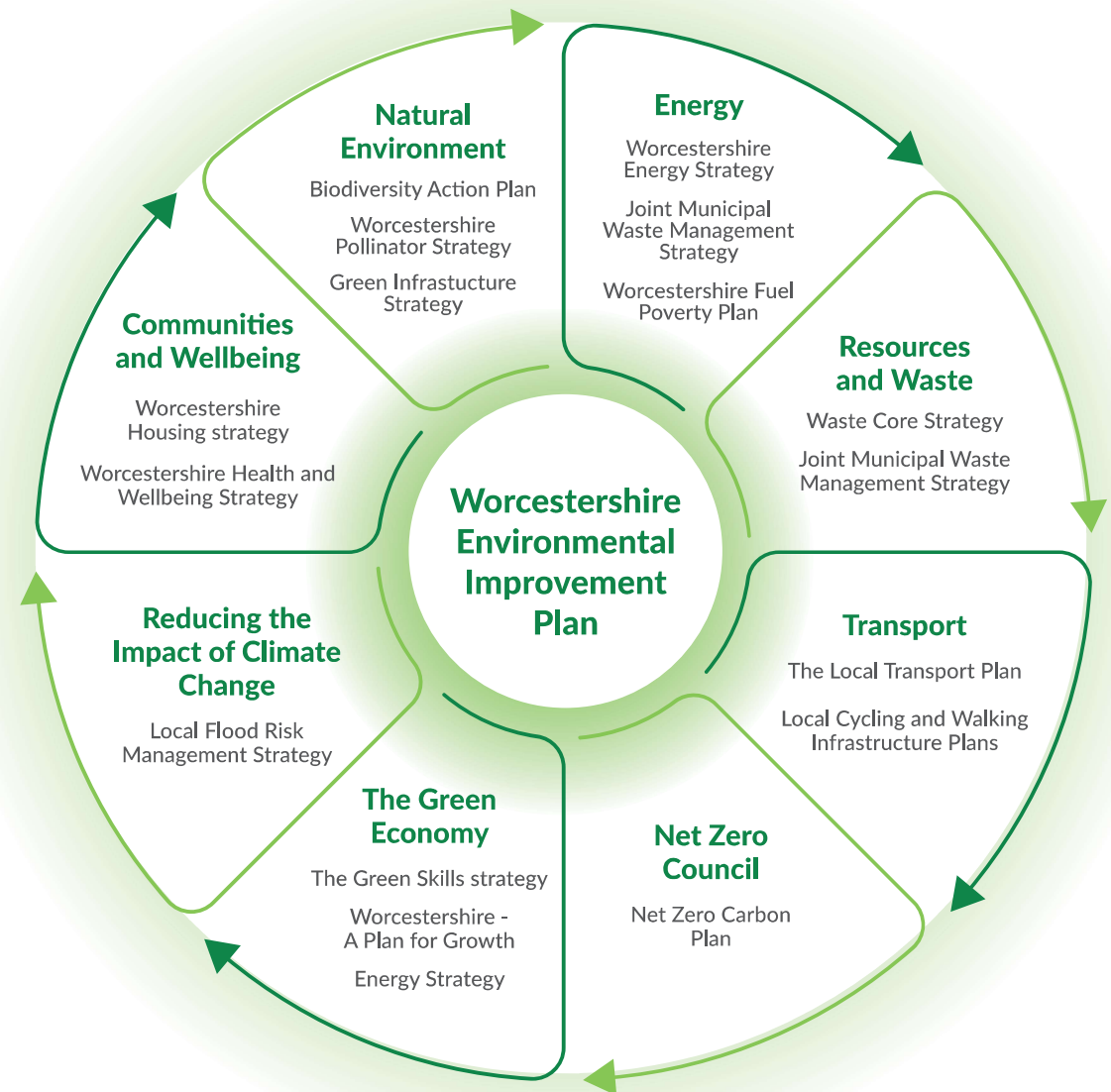


Our strategies working together

The purpose of this plan is to illustrate how Worcestershire County Council is taking action to improve the county’s environment, ensuring that policies across eight priority areas are working together to:

Page 108

- Enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure.
- To reduce waste.
- Improve active travel infrastructure and reliability of travel times along key rail and road routes.
- To reduce the carbon emissions of the council and its supply chain.
- To support businesses with decarbonisation plans and expand the low carbon economy.
- To protect the county against the impact of climate change through flood mitigation and adaptation, managing and minimising the likelihood and impact of flooding.
- To improve health and wellbeing.





Working in Partnership

We recognise that we cannot improve our local environment and tackle climate change alone, collaboration and working together with partners in national and local government, alongside our communities and businesses is key. By working together, we will foster a sense of collective responsibility drawing on our combined resources, expertise, and enthusiasm to drive positive impact.

Photo image of Wild Flowers in bloom at Worcestershire county Hall



Working in Partnership



Our partners include:

- Act on Energy
- Active Travel England
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Canal & Rivers Trust
- Department for Transport
- Defra (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)
- District Councils (should we list indiv)
- Environment Agency
- Education Sector
- Forestry Commission
- Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce
- Local Bus Operating Companies
- Local Nature Partnership
- Midlands Connect
- Midlands Net Zero Hub
- National Farmer Union
- National Highways
- Natural England
- Network Rail
- Our Communities
- Parish Councils
- Severn Trent Water
- Sustainability West Midlands
- Train Operating Companies
- Volunteer Groups
- Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership
- Worcestershire Regulatory Services
- Woodland Trust
- Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

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Natural Environment

Introduction

The natural environment is valued by residents and visitors alike. The majority of the council area is classed as rural and also includes:

- Two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- Four National Nature Reserves (NNR).
- Two Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's).
- 114 Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSI's).
- 553 Local Sites (LS's).
- 44 Roadside Verge Nature Reserves (RVNR's)

Strategies supporting delivery

The protection and enhancement of the natural environment is delivered through a number of plans, policies and strategies with further strategies to follow because of the Environment Act. Many of these have been developed and delivered in partnership with the district councils, government agencies and other partners.

The council is also a leading member of the Worcestershire Local Nature Partnership which provides strategic leadership and guidance on natural environment matters.

Current adopted strategies include:

- Landscape Character Assessment and Supplementary Guidance.
- Worcestershire Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Pollinator Strategy.
- Worcestershire Woodland Guidelines.
- Green infrastructure strategy (produced by the Green Infrastructure Partnership of which WCC is a leading member).

In addition, development has commenced on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and local biodiversity net gain plans and policies, requirements for both of which arise from the Environment Act.

These strategies are supplemented further by planning policies which are included in district local plans and Worcestershire's Minerals Local Plan and Waste Core strategy.



Photo image of Natural field in Worcestershire





Natural Environment

Objectives

Overarching objectives for the Environment are:

- Planting 150 000 trees across the county.
- To become a pollinator friendly council.
- To develop a framework of principles and priorities for green infrastructure in Worcestershire which meets the integrated needs of business, the natural & historic environment, and our communities.
- To support the development of natural environment policies in local plans.
- To protect and enhance priority habitats and species in the county.
- Embed the benefits and services provided by the natural environment in the successful growth of Worcestershire's economy and the health and well-being of its communities.



Photo image of
New Bush Orchard



Natural Environment



What we have delivered

- 2018 delivery of traditional orchards regeneration.
- 2019 Worcestershire's second Biodiversity Action Plan adopted.
- 2020 Pollinator Strategy adopted.
- 2021 Worcestershire Habitat Inventory refresh complete.
- 2020 revised biodiversity and green infrastructure policies developed for the South Worcestershire Local Plan review.
- 2022 adoption of the Minerals Local Plan (green infrastructure led).
- 2022 secured Treescapes funding and Woodland Creation Accelerator.
- 2023 Development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy commenced.
- 2023 consultation on Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- 2023 Natural Networks programme delivered 98 ha of biodiversity enhancements.



What we will do:

- Implement the Biodiversity Net Gain requirements.
- Commence monitoring of Biodiversity Net Gain and Biodiversity reporting.
- Continue to develop, monitor and deliver the Local Nature Recovery Strategy alongside our partners.
- Commence delivery of Treescapes and Woodland Creation Accelerator programmes to improve landscape connectivity outside and between woodlands, and provide benefits to ecosystems and society, such as carbon absorption, flood protection and support for biodiversity.
- Endorse the Green Infrastructure Strategy which will inform planning and planning decisions, providing policy for local plans, with the aim to enhance, create and maintain green infrastructure in the county.
- Support the revised Green Infrastructure policy at Examination of the South Worcestershire Development plan review.
- Commence delivery of Natural Networks 2.0, Natural Networks is a partnership between Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, Worcestershire County Council and District Councils. It aims to help create and enhance wildlife corridors across the county. The programme offers advice and grants, to projects that aim to restore wildlife-rich habitats.

Natural Environment



Page 114

Photo image of Volunteers

How we will measure performance

- Number of trees planted.
- Hectares of biodiversity net gain delivered.
- Hectares of biodiversity enhancements delivered.
- Development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy in line with agreed timetable.



How we will work with partners / wider community

We work with partners and the wider community through a number of different ways:

- Local Nature Partnership which WCC currently chair provides strategic direction and guidance on environmental matters. WCC is a founder member and provides the secretariat. Other members include the district councils, Defra family, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, voluntary groups, Earth Heritage Trust and landowner representation. The natural environment is one of the three areas of focus for the Local Nature Partnership.
- A series of partnerships have been developed on specific topic areas such as Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity Action Planning. We continue to work with these groups to deliver the natural environment objectives.
- A Local Nature Recovery Strategy Steering Group has been established for the development of this new strategy. This includes both environmental interests and landowners.
- We will continue to develop our approach to Biodiversity Net Gain, working in partnership with developers, landowners and districts.
- We will work in partnership with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, Malvern, Worcester, Wychavon & Wyre Forest councils to deliver the Natural Networks biodiversity improvement project.



Natural Environment



What can you do?



Volunteer

Countryside site work party volunteering | Worcestershire County Council.

Volunteer | Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.



Gardening for wildlife

Wildlife gardening | Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

Photo image of Volunteers

Energy

Introduction

WCC has for many years been helping residents and enterprises across the county to heat and power their homes and businesses efficiently through a range of advice and grant funding programmes.

Page 116

WCC coordinates Warmer Worcestershire: a network of Worcestershire's Councils, local energy efficiency charity and other agencies working together to improve home energy efficiency and tackle fuel poverty. The council has been recognised for its work by the **National Energy Efficiency Awards**.

As the UK moves towards a zero-carbon energy system, the council is supporting delivery of Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership's (LEP) Energy Strategy, with its focus on access to affordable clean energy and overcoming infrastructure and development barriers.

Relevant strategies/plans

- Worcestershire LEP Energy Strategy.
- Worcestershire Fuel Poverty Plan.



Targets

WCC's work contributes to achieving the following Worcestershire Energy Strategy targets:

- Reduction in county carbon emissions of 50% on 2005 levels by 2030.
- Tripling the county's energy production from renewable generation by 2030 from 5% to 15%.
- 2000 energy efficiency interventions per year for fuel poor households.

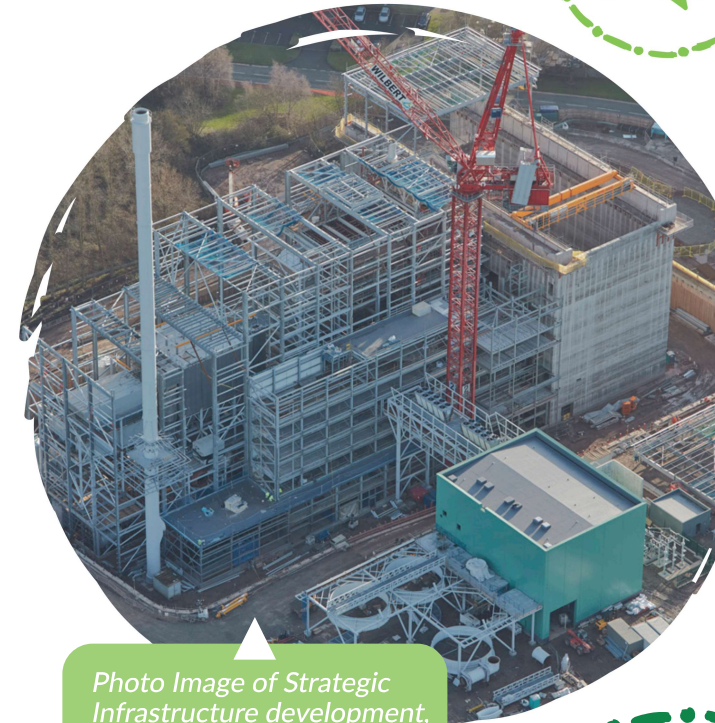


Photo Image of Strategic Infrastructure development, from Waste Facility in Hartlebury

Objectives

WCC is seeking to:

- Help develop the ability of Worcestershire residents, businesses and public sector to access affordable, zero carbon energy.
- Help reduce instances of fuel poverty and reduce the overhead cost on small business that energy provision entails.
- Help remove barriers to development by encouraging alternative means to achieve secure energy supply e.g. through smart systems.

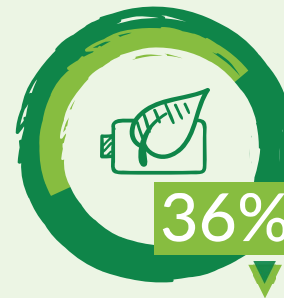
Photo Image of Strategic Infrastructure development, from Waste Facility in Hartlebury



What we have delivered

WCC has:

- Led a number of countywide home energy efficiency programmes including:
 - Solid wall insulation installed in 750 privately owned homes through the Green Deal communities grant programme.
 - 1,526 vulnerable residents with warmer and more energy efficient homes through a range of support programmes, such as 'Boilers on Prescription'.
- Overseen the provision of energy and debt advice, and fuel vouchers for households struggling to afford to heat their homes.
- Provided warm spaces for local residents across Worcestershire's libraries.
- Offered Worcestershire residents the opportunity to bulk bid for solar panel and battery technology to help drive down the price. The council worked with iChoosr and Worcestershire District Councils to offer the Solar Together Worcestershire scheme. More than 5000 residents registered an interest.
- Commissioned research into heat networks and deep geothermal heat across the county.
- Generated over 135,000 MWh electricity a year from WCC's Energy from Waste plant and landfill site, the equivalent to 29 windmills. This power is supplied to the National Grid.

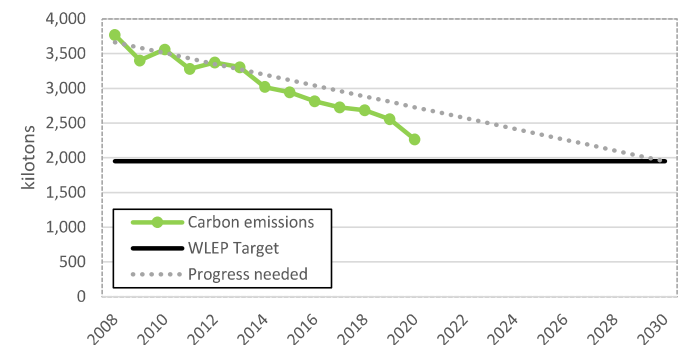


Reduction in Worcestershire's carbon emissions since 2005
(latest data: 2021)



of Worcestershire's electricity demand generated from renewable energy sources
(latest data: 2021)

42% reduction in carbon emissions - Target 50%



Energy



What we will do:

- Continue to coordinate the Warmer Worcestershire home energy efficiency & fuel poverty network.
- Coordinate the provision of the Home Upgrade Grant scheme (HUG2) funding energy efficiency and zero carbon heat measures for more than 300 vulnerable households in Bromsgrove, Redditch, Malvern & Wychavon by 2025, in collaboration with district councils.
- Provide advice and grant funding for energy efficiency and decarbonisation measures for 130 Worcestershire businesses by March 2025 (see green economy section).
- Continue to explore the opportunities to generate renewable energy on our own estate and explore the utilisation of heat generated from WCC’s Energy from Waste Plant.
- Continue to invest in and seek external funding for further initiatives.

How we will measure performance

- County carbon emissions.
- Number of Worcestershire homes benefiting from energy advice and grant programmes.
- Number of Worcestershire businesses benefiting from energy advice and grant programmes.
- % of Worcestershire’s energy demand met from renewable energy generation.
- Amount of renewable energy generated by WCC.



How we will work with partners / wider community

- Work with LEP partners and energy network providers to review the county Energy Strategy including assisting in the development of Worcestershire’s Local Area Energy Plan (a plan to identify the most effective route for Worcestershire to meet its net carbon reduction targets).
- Lobby government for increased funding and powers through groups such as the County Councils’ Network and Midlands Net Zero Hub, to support wider net zero carbon objectives.

What can you do?



At Home

Reduce your energy bills -
Worcestershire County Council



At Work

Sustainability grants & support -
Worcestershire County Council



Resources and Waste

Introduction

Resources and waste services are undergoing major reforms bringing huge changes. It is not an option to stay still as our services need to respond and evolve to meet the new requirements.

Page 121

For example, food waste has to be collected separately, we need to improve the quality and quantity of our recycling.

We have to consider how a future Deposit Return Scheme, where some drinks containers can be returned to the retailer to redeem a deposit, will change what we do. Extended Producer Responsibility means that packaging producers will be paying us in the future to deal with the packaging that we collect, and we have to ensure that our services are as efficient and effective as possible.

As a growing economy, with more businesses and homes forecast, we know the importance of reducing our carbon footprint and ensuring new developments support a sustainable future.

We will encourage and grow our communities' capacity to reduce and recycle waste through the right services, support and provision.

Our Relevant strategies/plans

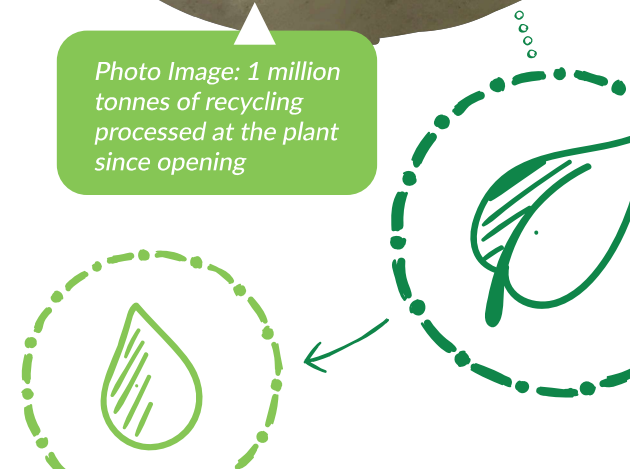
- National Resources and Waste Strategy (2018).
- Maximising Resources, Minimising Waste, the waste prevention programme for England (July 2023).
- Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Herefordshire and Worcestershire 2004 – 2034.
- Worcestershire County Council's Net Zero Carbon Plan.



We know the importance of reducing our carbon footprint and ensuring new developments support a sustainable future.



Photo Image: 1 million tonnes of recycling processed at the plant since opening



Resource and waste

Objectives

Our aim is to encourage residents to reduce, reuse, repair, recycle and compost more. By doing this we will use less raw materials and save energy whilst protecting natural resources and reducing carbon emissions. All of this will help us achieve our ambition of being a Net Zero Council by 2050.

New measures introduced through the national Resources and Waste Strategy and Environment Act 2021 will help transition to a more Circular Economy and increase waste and resource efficiency. This means major changes to the way in which waste is created in the first place, with new measures to reduce packaging and the way waste is collected, disposed of and treated.

Plan like a pro

Planning your meals is one of the easiest ways to keep good food from going to waste.

Download a weekly meal planner via our website.

Try using a chalkboard in the kitchen to write up a meal plan. Make it fun to write down meals that they would like to eat.

Store it right

Keep cool, dark and dry - bread, onions, potatoes, mushrooms (keep onions separate from other food)

Use your freezer - its like a pause button for everything from slices of bread to cartons of milk and much more

Keep it in the fridge - vegetables, fruit, eggs, leftover meals, dairy, meat, gravy

Love your leftovers

Turning leftover meals into a delicious new meal or a tasty snack is one of the best ways to help tackle food waste.

Cool leftovers as quickly as possible, then store them in the fridge or freezer (if saving for a later date).

Eat them within two days if stored in the fridge (one for rice) and reheat until piping hot.

For more information on being more #FoodSavvy visit www.lets Wasteless.com/foodsavvy

LET'S WASTE LESS | HUBBUB | worcestershire county council

20 million slices of bread are wasted every day in the UK

Use your loaf

CRUMBS, THAT'S A LOT OF DOGGAL!

Start saving food and money today

www.lets Wasteless.com/foodsavvy

LET'S WASTE LESS | #FoodSavvy | worcestershire county council

Scan for more #FoodSavvy

Savvy Shopper

Are you #FoodSavvy?

Top tips to save food and money

- Plan like a pro
- Store it right
- Love your leftovers

For more information on being more #FoodSavvy visit www.lets Wasteless.com/foodsavvy

LET'S WASTE LESS | HUBBUB | worcestershire county council

Resource and waste



Targets

Our Strategy includes targets to reduce residual waste per household, increase recycling and the amount of waste sent for energy recovery. A new target to reduce residual waste by 50% by 2042 has been agreed as part of a new suite of national targets. We are reviewing our targets alongside the Strategy to ensure these reflect the new reforms and national policies.

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What we have delivered

WCC has:

- Over the last six years we have made significant progress by diverting waste which can't be recycled to our local Energy Recovery Facility rather than to landfill. The facility produces enough electricity to power approximately 32,000 homes each year.
- Last year (2022/23) 90% of the waste we handled was reused, recycled, composted or used to generate energy.
- Last year we carried out analysis looking at what is going into the general waste stream to inform our future campaigns. This showed that an average black wheelie bin in Worcestershire contains 35% food waste with over 40% of that waste still in its original packaging. Almost 70% of the food waste (or 25% of the average black wheelie bin) was avoidable – i.e. it could have been eaten. This highlights that food waste is an issue that we can all do something about.
- We have continued to promote waste prevention through campaigns and initiatives including FoodSavvy, subsidised compost bins and reusable nappies.



Resource and waste



What we will do:

- We are working with our Local Authority partners to deliver the requirements of Resources and Waste Strategy and Environment Act 2021 in the most efficient and effective way. We are reviewing our Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy to ensure that it reflects the changes and helps us move closer towards a Circular Economy.
- We will continue to make it easier for people to do the right thing to maximise the use of these resources and minimise their waste.
- We will continue to communicate with our residents and customers to ensure that they are aware of the services provided to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost.

How we will measure performance

- Joint Municipal Waste Strategy strategy targets.
- How much residual waste is produced by each household.
- How much is recycled.



How we will work with partners / wider community

- Working with our local authority partners through delivery of the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy is a cornerstone of our resources and waste services. We have achieved consistency in the core services that are provided, and we are working closely to ensure that we maintain that consistency in delivering the efficient and effective services of the future.
- Working with our local community is essential to meeting our plan to make it the norm to reduce, reuse, and recycle so we can reduce waste and make our economy truly circular and sustainable. We will do this by, providing good quality information in a range of formats and listening views about how we can make things easier.

Resource and waste

What can you do?

Let's waste less

Resources are finite and precious. Their extraction and manufacture can cause environmental harm. We want to make it easier for people to do the right thing to maximise the use of these resources and minimise their waste.

Our plan aims to make it the norm to reduce, reuse and recycle so we can reduce waste and make our economy truly circular and sustainable.

Our dedicated website "Let's Waste Less | Worcestershire County Council provides a wealth of information about how to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost in Worcestershire.



Transport

Introduction

Worcestershire’s transport network which includes road, rail and active travel is essential to our location in the heart of the country and provides economic connectivity to the important neighbouring regional economies plus those of London and the South East and Wales.

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The key objectives for transport are set out in our Local Transport Plan 4, which targeted investment in 3 broad areas:

- Travel choice
- Transport Technology
- Capacity Enhancement

In addition to the County Council who are the local highways authority, motorways (M5, M50 and M42) and trunk roads (A46) are the responsibility of National Highways.

The train operating companies and Network Rail are responsible for train services and rail infrastructure.

How we choose to move in the County has a significant impact on carbon emissions and the wider environment. Around 34% (2021) of carbon emission in the County are from transport, although this does include strategic traffic on the motorway network which is passing through the county.

Our Relevant strategies/plans

- Local Transport Plan 4.
- Worcestershire Rail Investment Strategy 2.
- Rights of Way Improvement Plan 3
- Transport Asset Management Plan 3.
- Network Management Plan.
- Passenger Transport Strategy.
- Bus Service Improvement Plan.
- Road Verges Habitat Action Plan.



Photo image: Arrow Valley Country Park in Worcestershire





What we have delivered

Rail

- Worcestershire Parkway Rail Station.
- Kidderminster Rail Station rebuild.
- Enhanced regional train services to Bristol.
- Secured options for future accessibility enhancements at Alvechurch and Blakedown rail stations.

Verge management

- Designation and management of Roadside Verge Nature Reserves.
- Programme of less intensive management of verges to enhance biodiversity.

Active Travel

- National productivity investment funded seven active travel routes in Bromsgrove.
- Active travel England funded routes in Redditch, Worcester and Kidderminster.
- Active Travel routes in Worcester (in partnership with Worcester city and funded through the Towns Fund).
- Active travel routes in Kidderminster (in partnership with Wyre Forest DC and funded through Levelling Up Fund).
- Additional County investment in public rights of way and footways.
- A programme of cycle parking provision across the County.
- Active Travel stakeholder group.
- A annual programme of dropped kerbs and crossing points to support walking and cycling.
- Commenced development of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans for key towns and City.

Highways

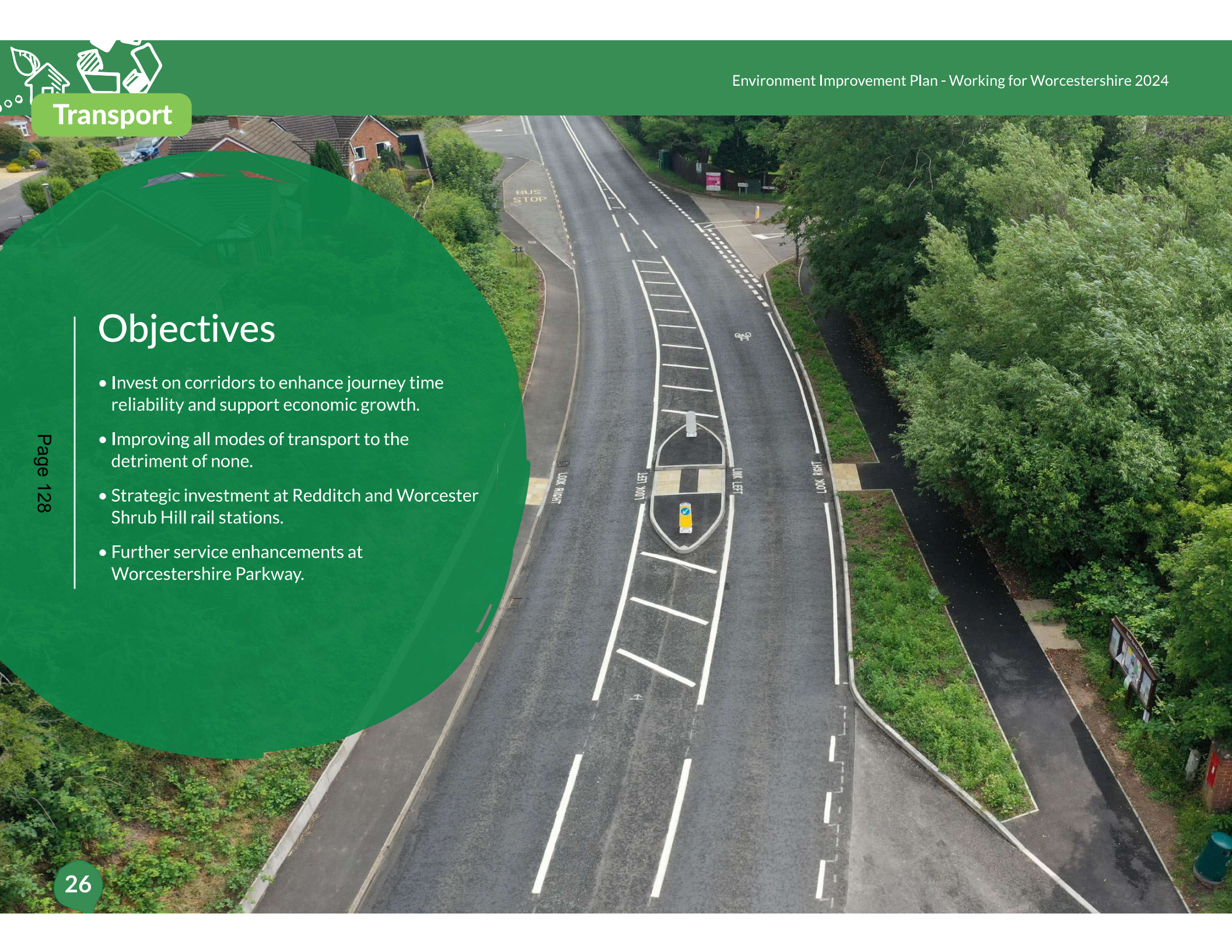
- Completed the dualling of the A4440, including the new Carrington Bridge and causeway.
- Secured funding for capacity enhancement of the A38 Bromsgrove Route Enhancement Programme.
- Hoo Brook Link Road delivered.
- A38 Upton improvements delivered.
- Pershore infrastructure improvement scheme delivered.

Bus

- Subsidy for core routes across the county.
- Worcestershire on Demand - Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) in Bromsgrove and Malvern.
- A programme of Real Time Infrastructure Improvements.

Objectives

- Invest on corridors to enhance journey time reliability and support economic growth.
- Improving all modes of transport to the detriment of none.
- Strategic investment at Redditch and Worcester Shrub Hill rail stations.
- Further service enhancements at Worcestershire Parkway.





Transport



What we will do:

- Develop Local Transport Plan 5.
- Publish a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for each of the main urban areas in Worcestershire 2023-2024.
- Produce an Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy 2023/24 and a delivery project (subject to funding).
- Continue to secure funding for and invest in the delivery of active travel routes.
- Work with Worcester City on the delivery of a bike share scheme.
- Deliver Hampton Active Travel Bridge, Evesham.
- Complete the delivery of Kepax Bridge, Worcester.
- Deliver the Worcester Shrub Hill masterplan.
- Deliver Redditch rail station redevelopment.
- Deliver Worcestershire Enhanced Bus Partnership.
- Continue to develop the North West Worcestershire Corridor business case.
- Work with partners to develop and deliver the Worcestershire Air Quality Action Plan.

How we will measure performance

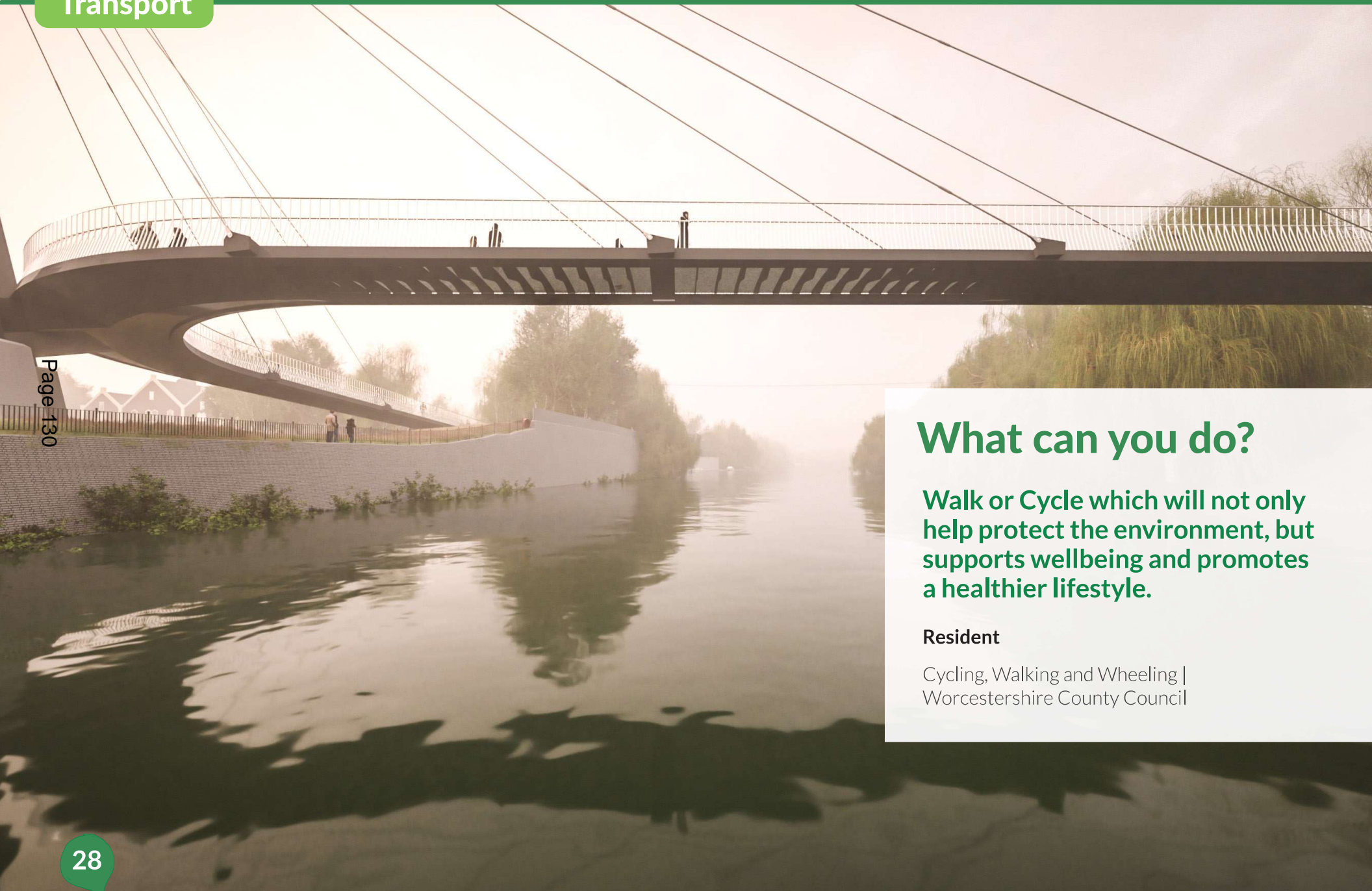
- Cut journey times and increase journey time reliability along key road and rail routes (from corporate plan).
- Delivery of active travel routes.



How we will work with partners / wider community

It is essential that we continue to work with our partners, both nationally and locally to achieve transport outputs and outcomes outlined above. Without joint working many of the priorities, schemes and aspirations set out cannot be delivered.

This will include the District and City councils in Worcestershire, National Highways, Midlands Connect, Active Travel England, Train Operating Companies, Network Rail, Local Bus Operators and the Department for Transport. We will also work locally with stakeholders including Worcestershire Regulatory Services and specialist interest groups.



What can you do?

Walk or Cycle which will not only help protect the environment, but supports wellbeing and promotes a healthier lifestyle.

Resident

Cycling, Walking and Wheeling |
Worcestershire County Council



Net Zero Council

Introduction

The Council declared a climate emergency in July 2021 and reaffirmed the target of reaching net zero emissions by 2050 from council operations and activities.

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Our Relevant strategies/plans

- Net Zero Carbon Plan.

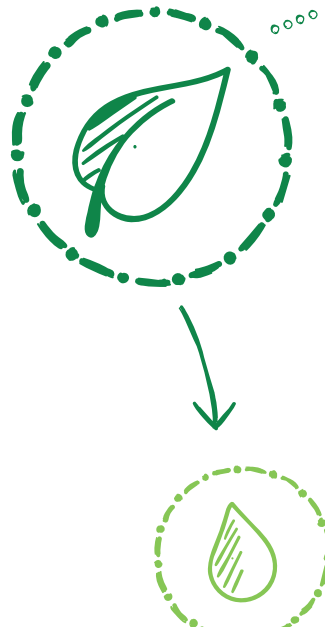


Photo image : Solar Panels, Kidderminster Library



Objectives

Net Zero emissions by 2050 from council operations and activities.

Interim targets:

- Reduce our direct net emissions by 92% by 2024/25.
- Reduce all net emissions by 49% by 2030.



Scope 1 - Direct	Scope 2 – Indirect (but WCC has direct control over how much electricity we use and what type we purchase)	Scope 3 - Indirect
<p>Direct emissions from Council activities and operations under the Council’s control including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural gas use in WCC buildings (excluding schools). • Fuel use in WCC vehicle fleet. • Residual fuel use (e.g., burning oil, LPG etc.) consumed at WCC sites (excluding schools). 	<p>Indirect emissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electricity use in WCC buildings (excluding schools) and street lighting (grid generation). 	<p>Other indirect emissions for which WCC can access data for, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electricity (grid transmission and distribution). • WCC staff business mileage and air travel. • Electricity/gas use in buildings operated by Council’s main outsourced contractors for Waste Management and Highways. • Fleet/staff mileage undertaken by main outsourced contractors for Waste Management and Highways. • Contracted fleet vehicle fuel use • Emissions from county-wide municipal waste disposal.



What we have delivered

The Council has been working to reduce its own carbon emissions over many years. Since 2009/10 the Council's own net carbon emissions have reduced by 45%. Much of this progress has been realised through improvements to Council buildings, street lighting, and a shift from landfill to energy from waste for household waste disposal.

WCC has taken significant action on our emissions reduction journey; from starting to invest in electric fleet vehicles, upgrading street lighting and traffic signals to LED and investing in renewable energy generation on our sites. Other initiatives include:

- Continued investment in the energy efficiency of Council buildings through the Council's £3m Energy Efficiency Spend to Save scheme (which has been running since 2010 making c.£400k savings a year) and the Capital Maintenance Programme.
- Solar power on several corporate properties (currently over 450kWp installed on corporate estate), and the Council has also installed Solar PV on many Worcestershire schools.
- Energy efficient new build and refurbishment programme - including refresh of the Council's Sustainable Design & Estate Principles – Working towards a Zero Carbon Estate document.
- Purchase of 100% renewable electricity for all street lighting since April 2020.
- Successful bid to Salix Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme 1 (PSDS) and investment of £817,288 grant which funded 34 discreet energy projects across 25 council sites.
- Staff training on sustainability and climate change has been provided over a number of years and has included face to face training and e-learning modules. Since 2021, the Council has been delivering Carbon Literacy training to staff.
- Use of the Joint Impact Assessment (JIA) tool that requires review of environmental impacts (including carbon emissions), and is required for all new Council projects.
- 'Zero Heroes' staff sustainability champion scheme.



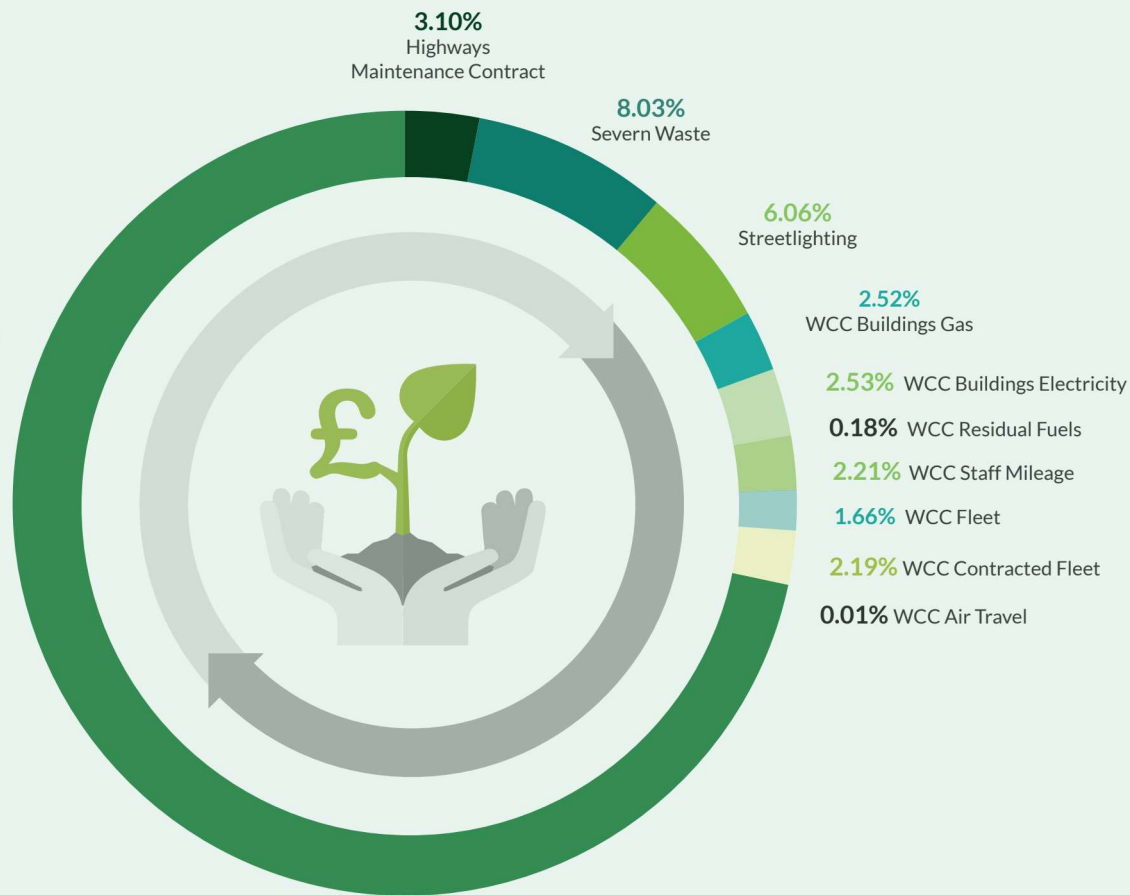
What we will do:

- Purchase 100% renewable, accredited green electricity for all street lighting.
- Complete the rollout of LED street lighting.
- Continue to review opportunities to decarbonise the Council’s buildings through energy efficiency retrofit and investment in renewable energy generation.
- Ensure that all property projects and building works follow the Council’s Sustainable Design and Estate Principles Guide to reduce emissions and adapt to future climate change.
- Ensure Council decisions consider the potential environmental impact of all WCC projects through completion of a Joint Impact Assessment (JIA), and any consequent full environmental sustainability assessment which includes assessment of carbon emissions.
- Identify replacement ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV) options for WCC fleet (taking technological advances in account).
- Review existing and future contracting requirements and develop a procurement policy for how WCC’s supply chain will support the council’s net zero ambitions.
- Keep under review the viability of carbon reducing technologies, such as carbon capture and storage, for energy from waste facilities.





WCC's Emissions: (absolute GHG emissions before application of green electricity tariff)

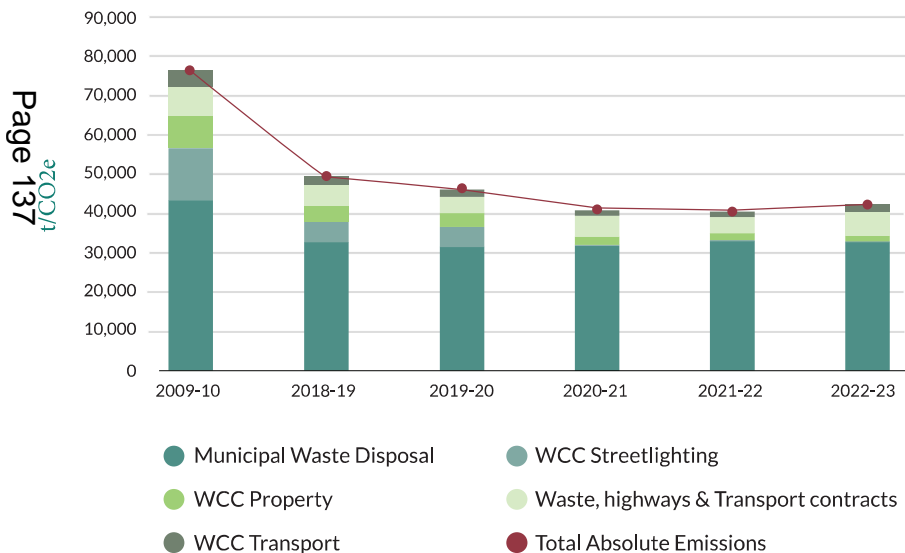


Net Zero Council

How we will measure performance

- The Council measures progress of its net zero commitments in an annual Green House Gas (GHG) report.

The progress of our emissions reduction journey to date is detailed in the graph below:



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How we will work with partners / wider community

- Convene and contribute to the Worcestershire Sustainability Joint Working Group (WSJWG) which brings together all of those working in Sustainability in the public sector/public service roles in Worcestershire, with a focus on Net Zero.
- Lobby government for increased funding and powers through groups such as the County Councils Network, Midlands Net Zero Hub Board, to support wider net zero carbon objectives.



Green Economy

Introduction

Since 2012 the council has been helping enterprises across the county to become greener and to develop new, more environmentally friendly products and services, through a wide range of advice and grant funding programmes.

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Worcestershire's environmental and low carbon goods and services sector is an area of strength, with many innovative businesses. With the Government putting clean growth at the forefront of its plans to achieve net zero carbon emissions, there is clear opportunity to maximise the local benefits of this and keep growing Worcestershire's green economy to the benefit of all in the county and beyond.

The council is supporting delivery of Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership's (LEP) Energy Strategy, which includes clean economic growth as one of its priorities.

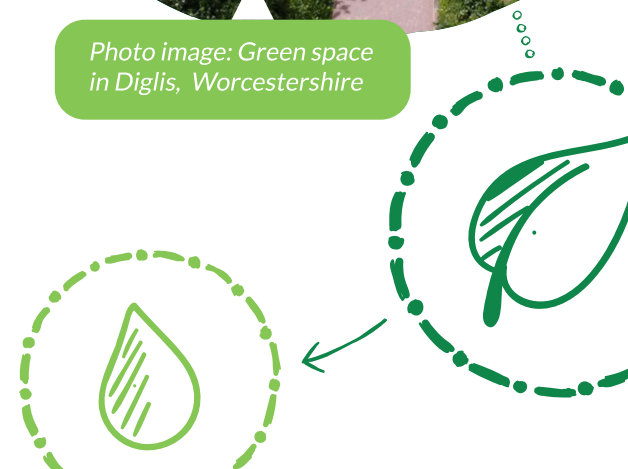
The work of the council referred to in other sections of the strategy e.g. energy, is helping to develop and grow the local market for green products and services.

Our Relevant strategies/plans

- Worcestershire Energy Strategy
- Plan for Growth - Worcestershire LEP (wlep.co.uk)



Photo image: Green space in Diglis, Worcestershire



Green Economy

Objectives

“By 2030, Worcestershire will have a thriving low carbon economy which supports the creation of high value jobs and stimulates investment and clean growth across the county...”

(Worcestershire LEP Energy Strategy)

WCC is seeking to help double the size of Worcestershire’s environmental and low carbon sector by 2030 from £1.1bn to £2.3bn by:

- supporting the ability of Worcestershire businesses to achieve growth without causing a subsequent rise in carbon emissions.
- promoting and encouraging the County’s flourishing low and zero carbon supply chain to expand further.
- Promoting and encouraging the development of skills needed to grow Worcestershire’s green economy e.g. science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).





Green Economy



Latest data 2020.

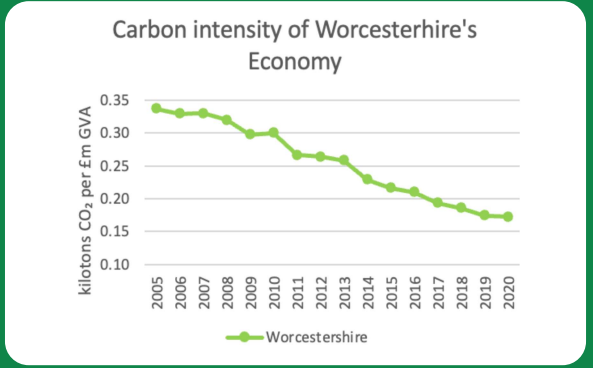
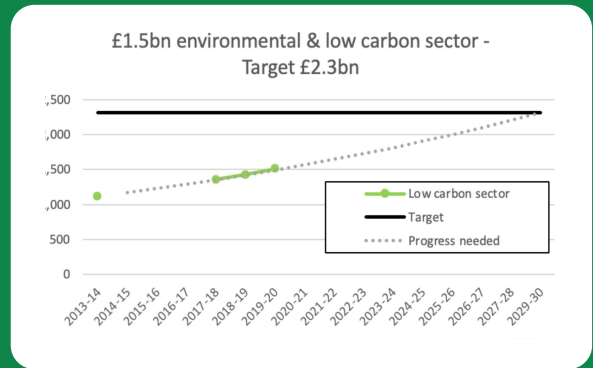
- The County is currently on track to achieve its growth target for the environmental and low carbon sector.
- Worcestershire's environmental and Low Carbon sector has outperformed the growth of the wider economy, with growth in turnover averaging 5% a year from 2014 to 2020.
- 700 Worcestershire businesses are active in the sector supporting 11,300 jobs
- While Worcestershire's overall economy has grown, carbon emissions have fallen, as shown to the right.



The County is currently on track to achieve its growth target.

What we have delivered

- Worcestershire County Council's business support programmes have provided free advice and grant funding for c 1000 local small and medium enterprises to improve their energy efficiency, support wildlife and develop greener products. C 7000 tonnes carbon have been saved and an average 25% energy savings enabled.
- WCC is offering a free web based decarbonisation portal to local businesses to help make cutting carbon easy and engaging.
- WCC is supporting development of skills for our green economy through promoting STEM skills in schools and colleges, events such as Worcestershire Green Skills Week and provision of grant funding for accreditation for roles such as energy efficient retrofit assessors.



Green Economy



What we will do:

- Provide advice and grant funding for energy efficiency, decarbonisation and wildlife measures for 210 Worcestershire businesses by March 2025.
- Fund the **decarbonisation portal** for local businesses for at least a further 2 years.
- Track the size and performance of Worcestershire’s green economy.
- Continue to support development of skills for our green economy.
- Develop the work detailed in other sections of this plan, thus continuing to develop the local market for green products and services.
- Continue to invest in and seek external funding for further initiatives.

How we will measure performance

- Numbers of local businesses supported, amount of carbon reduced and % energy reduction through WCC green business support programmes.
- Performance of Worcestershire’s low carbon and environmental goods and services sector:
 - GVA of the sector
 - Numbers of businesses in the sector
 - Numbers of employees in the sector.
- Carbon intensity of Worcestershire’s economy.



How we will work with partners / wider community

- Continue to deliver business support programmes in partnership with district councils, Worcestershire Growth Hub and partners such as H&W Chamber of Commerce etc.
- Lobby government for increased funding and powers through groups such as the County Councils’ Network, Midlands Net Zero Hub, to support wider net zero carbon objectives.



What can you do?



At Home

By sourcing a reputable local trader for your renewable energy or heat pump installations you'll help build local supply chains. It is important to thoroughly insulate your home first.



At Work

Net Zero Worcestershire support
Worcestershire County Council



Climate Change

Introduction

The very significant flood event in 2007 led to a national review and then the Flood & Water Management Act 2010. This act clarified existing responsibilities across a range of organisations and added some new ones.

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This included the designation of upper tier local authorities, Worcestershire County Council (WCC), as 'Lead Local Authorities' and gave them a wide range of new statutory duties and powers.

This led to a review of the existing flood risk management partnerships and activities in Worcestershire and established the WCC Flood Risk Management Team and the formalised partnerships with the district councils via the new shared services of the North Worcestershire Water Management team and the South Worcestershire Land Drainage Partnership.

Along with the EU-led 'Flood Risk Regulations', the Flood & Water Management Act also led to increased partnership working across the Risk Management Authorities (WCC, district councils, Environment Agency, water companies, Highway Authorities) and an increased focus on accelerated flood risk management activity.

Flood risk management remains a high priority for Worcestershire County Council and we will continue to work closely with the Environment Agency on the delivery of the large flood defence schemes and generally reducing flood risk for more residents and businesses are specifically referenced in the Corporate Plan. Climate change projections for wetter winters and increased likelihood of extremely heavy summer rainfall storms increase the importance of this adaptation and mitigation work.



Photo image of Flood in Worcester City Centre



Climate Change

Our Relevant strategies/plans

Strategies supporting delivery flood risk management is guided by the following key strategies:

- **Worcestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy:** a statutory document under the Act produced and maintained to be consistent with the National Strategy by WCC.
- **National Flood Risk Management Strategy:** a statutory document under the Act produced and maintained by the Environment Agency.
- **County-wide Surface Water Management Plan:** a detailed evidence base produced and maintained by WCC to support the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
- **Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment:** a strategic assessment under the Flood Risk Regulations of flooding produced and maintained for Worcestershire by WCC.

- **River Severn Flood Risk Management Plan:** produced and maintained under the Flood Risk Regulations by the Environment Agency with support from WCC and its partners.
- **Local Flood Risk Management Plans:** produced and maintained by WCC and partners to articulate the understanding and guide flood risk in specific geographical locations in Worcestershire.

Photo image of flood plain in Worcestershire



Objectives

The Worcestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy' articulates the following strategic aims:

- Understand and appropriately prioritise flood risk.
- Manage and minimise the likelihood and impact of flooding.
- Develop and manage effective partnerships.
- Inform, develop and implement relevant, plans, policies and strategies.
- Secure, maximise and prioritise the appropriate allocation of funding and other resources.
- Deliver sustainable environmental and economic benefits and contribute to the wellbeing of Worcestershire's communities and residents.
- Develop, maintain and implement the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy's action plan.



Climate Change



What we have delivered since 2010

WCC has:

- Strong support for the completion and development of EA-led flood alleviation schemes at Bewdley, Severn Stoke, Tenbury, Worcester, Bromsgrove, Upton, Powick, Kempsey, Pershore, Kidderminster, Broadway.
- Highway flood adaptation schemes including the raising of New Road in Worcester and the A4106 in Upton upon Severn, keeping residents connected and moving and ensuring Worcestershire remains open for business.
- A significant programme of 100s of smaller drainage, surface water and ordinary watercourse flood alleviation schemes.
- Installation of a significant number of natural interventions on upstream catchments to slow and hold back the flow.
- Support for increased community resilience including the establishment of local community flood action groups
- Scrutiny of planning applications to ensure adequate surface water and flood risk management.
- Significant contribution to the response to emergency flood events and planning and preparation for future flood events, implementing continuous improvement.
- A lead role in flood event recovery and investigation.
- Flood recovery grant support for residents, businesses and communities during significant flood incidents.
- Co-ordination of multi-agency Flood Risk Management Plan groups at locations including Bromsgrove, Hagley, Redditch, Worcester, Wythall, Droitwich.
- Discharge of Land Drainage Act responsibilities to encourage and ensure the proper maintenance and management of the significant network of ordinary watercourses.
- Gathering, management and mapping of significant flooding data including over 2000 flood spots.



Climate Change



What we will do:

We will continue to deliver and strongly support all the above activities including:

- Completion of the large EA-led flood alleviation schemes at Bewdley, Severn Stoke, Tenbury and Toronto Close.
- Implementation of the ongoing programme of small to medium scale flooding and drainage schemes.
- Implementation of the expanded natural flood management programme on a range of catchments across Worcestershire.
- Continued scrutiny of new planning applications and potential discharge of new statutory Sustainable Drainage System responsibilities.
- Establishment of more local community flood action groups and support for existing groups and the increase in community resilience.
- Continued and improved flood event preparation, response, recovery and investigation.
- Further development of partnerships.

How we will measure performance

- Schemes completed and number of properties and businesses with reduced flood risk.
- Number of catchments worked on within the Natural Flood Management programme and the number of individual interventions installed.
- Number of planning applications scrutinised and percentage responded to within statutory timescale.
- Number of community flood groups supported and the number of multi-agency meetings attended.

In addition, an annual report is produced each year and examined by the WCC Economy & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel.

District council Overview & Scrutiny Panels also examine flood risk management on an ad hoc basis.

The response to every emergency flood event is closely scrutinised by a Local Resilience Forum de-brief process and some flood events are

formally investigated by WCC under its FWMA duties. All flood events are at least informally investigated. All of these processes culminate in the production and implementation of improvement plans.



Climate Change



How we will work with partners / wider community

Partnerships within and across Risk Management Authorities and communities are completely fundamental to the successful delivery of flood risk management. This happens via constantly building relationships and daily communication and the following more formal structures:

Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC) A quarterly meeting of WCC elected member representatives, independent specialist invitees and Environment Agency officers to oversee flood risk management and administer Local Levy and Government capital funding on its six-year programme of schemes.

Worcestershire Strategic Coordinating Group: A multi-agency group to give strategic direction to flood risk management in Worcestershire.

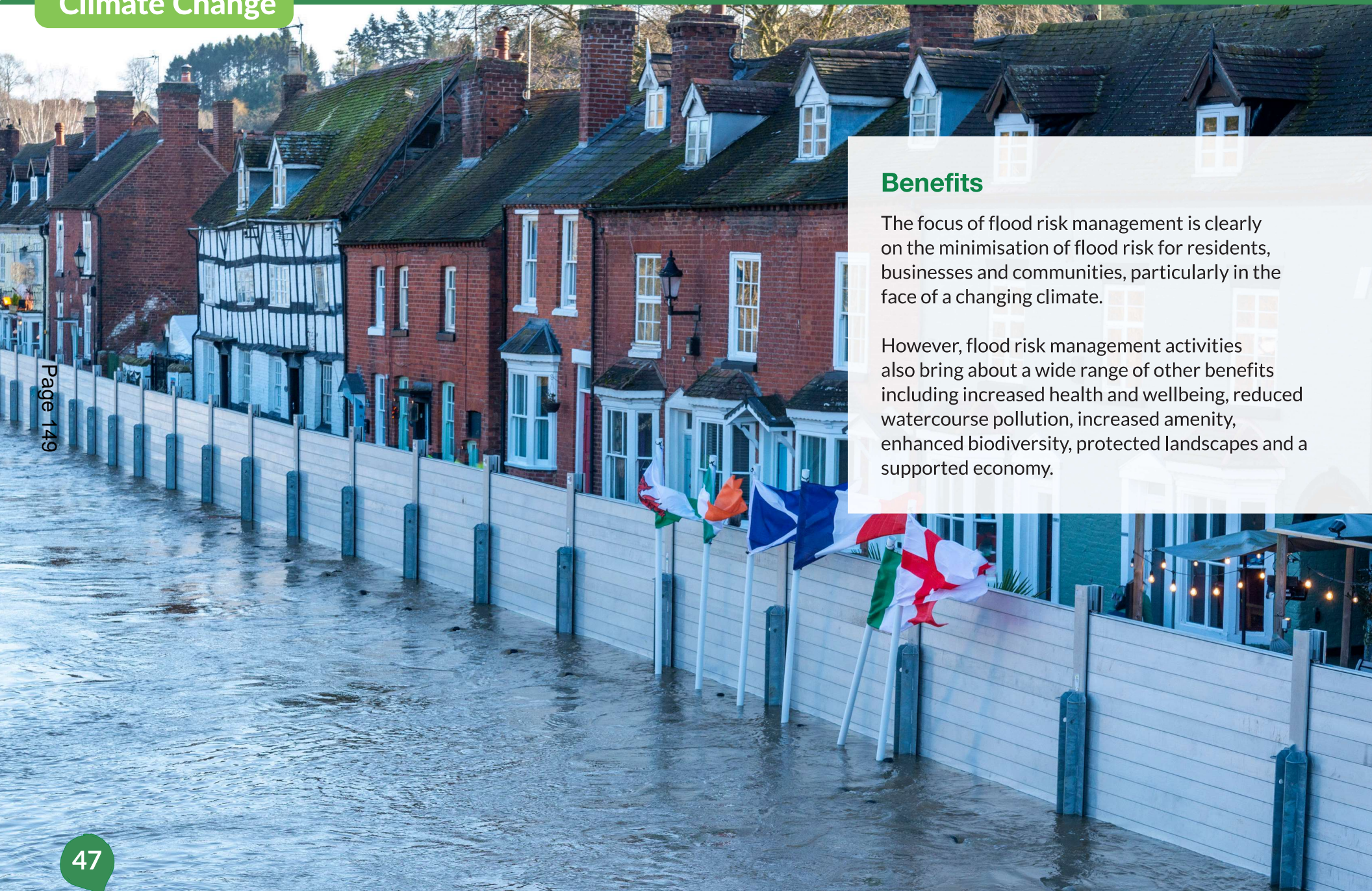
Worcestershire Land Drainage Group: A multi-agency group to give tactical and operational direction to flood risk management in Worcestershire.

District land drainage partnership boards: A meeting of district and county council officers to give direction to the land drainage partnerships.

Flood Risk Management Plan Groups: Multi-agency groups to develop and oversee implementation of Flood Risk Management Plans for particularly vulnerable locations within Worcestershire.

Tactical Co-ordination Group and Operational Cells The formal governance structure for efficient and coordinated tactical and operational response to significant flood events and subsequent recovery from them.

Local community group multi-agency meetings: meetings between communities and the range of flood risk management authorities to ensure to ensure a shared understanding and two-way sharing of priorities and actions.



Benefits

The focus of flood risk management is clearly on the minimisation of flood risk for residents, businesses and communities, particularly in the face of a changing climate.

However, flood risk management activities also bring about a wide range of other benefits including increased health and wellbeing, reduced watercourse pollution, increased amenity, enhanced biodiversity, protected landscapes and a supported economy.



Communities and Wellbeing

Introduction

The Council is helping communities to take positive action to protect and enhance the natural environment; helping residents to save money as well as improve physical and mental health in the process.

WCC is supporting residents to:

- take action to improve their local green spaces and mental wellbeing by coordinating regular volunteer activities such as woodland management.
- volunteer to encourage others, including school children, to reduce, reuse and recycle household waste through our Let's Waste Less volunteer scheme.
- cut carbon emissions and create healthier and cheaper to run homes through home energy efficiency advice and grant programmes (see energy section).

- cut air pollution, improve physical health and save travel costs through the development of a network of active travel routes and improving green infrastructure.

Relevant strategies/plans

- Worcestershire Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy
- Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Herefordshire & Worcestershire Waste Strategy
- Worcestershire Energy Strategy
- Worcestershire Fuel Poverty Plan
- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans.



Photo image of People holding energy saving icons

Communities and Wellbeing

Objectives

WCC is seeking to:

- Involve communities in the management of their greenspaces.
- Engage volunteers to learn new skills, socialise, gain physical and mental health and wellbeing benefits and deliver meaningful environmental benefit.
- Increase the provision and quality of biodiverse green spaces for Worcestershire residents.
- Help reduce instances of poor health made worse by cold homes and cut carbon emissions from housing.
- Improve air quality and promote active lifestyles.

Photo image of Wild Flowers, Worcester County Hall

Communities and Wellbeing



Targets

WCC's work contributes to achieving the following targets:

- 3,200 greenspace volunteer hours per year.
- 250 active Health Walks leaders.
- 150,000 trees planted on County Council land.
- Development of 5 new public greenspaces.
- 2000 energy efficiency interventions per year for fuel poor households (Worcestershire Energy Strategy).





Communities and Wellbeing



What we have delivered

Countywide:

- Over 4200 volunteer work party hours at WCC Countryside sites.
- 50,000 trees planted.
- Green Flag awards at Waseley Hills Country Park, Worcester Woods Country Park and St. Wulstan's Nature Reserve, recognising their welcoming environment, biodiversity and community involvement.
- 1526 energy efficiency interventions per year for fuel poor households since 2019 (2022).
- Local cycling and walking improvements.

WCC has:

- Led regular Countryside sites volunteer work parties, where members of the public can work alongside Countryside Service staff on projects such as hedge laying, woodland management, and orchard restoration. In the last year, many volunteers have had the opportunity to meet new people, get fresh air, exercise and learn new skills. Taking part provides moderate physical activity, improves muscle strength, relieves stress and can help combat depression.
- Coordinated the Worcestershire Health Walks programme providing opportunities for regular exercise with others in the county's beautiful natural environment.
- Operated the Lets Waste Less volunteer programme encouraging local communities to reduce the amount of waste they throw away.
- Through the Natural Networks programme we have provided biodiversity advice covering 2600ha, created and enhancement habitats on over 130ha, supported 170 projects providing grants of over £700,000 for biodiversity enhancements, accessible to residents and visitors.
- Led countywide home energy efficiency programmes (see energy section).
- Local cycling and walking Infrastructure Plans: One plan in consultation and seven plans in development.

Communities and Wellbeing



What we will do:

We will continue to deliver and strongly support all the above activities including:

- Continue to protect our natural environment and promote the positive benefits it has for mental health & wellbeing.
- Continue to offer volunteering opportunities in countryside management and waste prevention.
- Continue to deliver the Worcestershire Health Walks programme.
- Continue to coordinate the Warmer Worcestershire home energy efficiency & fuel poverty network offering energy efficiency advice and grant programmes.
- Continue to invest in and seek external funding for further initiatives.

How we will measure performance

- Number of countryside and Let's Waste Less volunteer hours.
- Number taking part in Health Walks.
- Area of WCC maintained public green space.
- Number of Worcestershire homes benefiting from energy advice and grant programmes.
- Miles of active travel routes.



How we will work with partners / wider community

- Work with Worcestershire's health services to offer environmental volunteering, health walks and warmth on prescription services to those in need.
- Work with Warmer Worcestershire partners to review the county fuel poverty plan.
- Lobby government for increased funding and powers through groups such as West Midlands Sustainable Housing Action Partnership and Midlands Net Zero Hub, to support wider community environmental action objectives.



Communities and Wellbeing



Benefits

- Volunteering in the countryside | Worcestershire County Council.
- Let's Waste Less volunteers | Worcestershire County Council.
- Gardening for Wildlife.
- Reduce your energy bills | Worcestershire County Council.
- Worcestershire Health walks | Worcestershire County Council.
- Worcestershire cycling and walking guides | Worcestershire County Council.



Monitoring Performance

We will monitor our performance by reporting annually on the following indicators, a full performance report will be submitted through the County Council's corporate governance process which includes the senior leadership team, corporate business board and Cabinet. The monitoring and performance against the Environment Improvement Plan will also be subject to discussion and scrutiny at the Members Advisory Board (Climate Change and Biodiversity) and Environment Scrutiny Committee.

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Indicator	Target	Current Performance	Progress
Trees Planted	150000	50000	
Hectares of Biodiversity Gain	N/A	Reporting commences Jan 2024	
Reduction of County Carbon emissions	50% Reduction on 2005 by 2030	2,264 kilotons CO2 emissions (2020) 3.8 tonnes co2 per head	
Waste produced per head of resident	To decrease the Kg er head of resident each year	474.9 KG	
Active travel Improvements	N/A	36 Improvements in 22/23	
New or Improved Cycleway (KM)	N/A	3.6km (2022/23)	
Worcestershire County Council carbon emissions	To achieve Net Zero by 2050 Interim targets: Reduce our direct (scope 1 & 2) net emissions by 92% by 2024/25. Reduce all (scope 1, 2 and 3) net emissions by 50% by 2030	Scope 1: 2,008 tonnes CO2 (22/23) Scope 2: 0 (22/23) Scope 3: 40,357 Tonnes CO2 (22/23)	
To grow the green Economy of Worcestershire	To achieve annual growth of the low carbon sector of 5%, doubling the sector by 2030	11,300 jobs (2019/20) 700 businesses (2019/20)	
To protect homes and busniesses from flooding	To increase the number of homes and busniesses protrected from flooding	5727 additional homes and busniesses protected from flooding	
Homes benefitting from Energy advice and grant programmes	2000 homes supported per year		
Homes supported through the Home energy upgrade scheme	400 homes supported by march 2025	Scheme Launches Novemebr 2023	
Healthy Walks across Worcestershire	N/A	1796 registered walkers	

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Net Zero Carbon Plan

County Council Emissions

2024- 2025

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1. FOREWORD

We want to play our role and give leadership through the Council's updated Net Zero Carbon Plan, which highlights how we, Worcestershire County Council, aim to reduce our own carbon emissions from Council operations and activities to net zero by 2050.

Unfortunately, we have seen the impact of climate change on both a global and local scale. Actions taken now to reduce carbon emissions will protect the earth, its inhabitants, and its unique biodiversity for future generations. Already we are experiencing hotter and drier summers, milder and wetter winters, and a significant increase in extreme weather events, from flooding to heatwaves and wildfires.

Reducing carbon emissions is key in the fight against climate change, and we acknowledge the Council has a significant role to play. We are committed to reducing our own emissions and using our influence to reduce countywide emissions with partners and stakeholders and supporting wider adaptation to future climatic changes. Our work on this is outlined in our Environmental Improvement Plan of which this Net Zero Carbon plan is a key theme.

We recognise the connectivity between our Net Zero commitments and other work areas and the Environmental Improvement Plan is pivotal in bringing these together under one umbrella. Impacts from the Environment Act 2021 like our Local Nature Recovery Strategy and forthcoming changes in waste and resource efficiency.

The Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2021 and as part of this, a Net Zero Carbon Member Advisory Group (MAG) was established. The MAG expanded its mandate in January 2022 to include biodiversity as the Council recognises the clear link between climate change, reducing carbon emissions and protecting biodiversity. The group, which I chair, is exploring, and seeking to develop, the role of the County Council in tackling climate change across the county.

Our updated Corporate Plan – [Shaping Worcestershire's Future – Our Plan for Worcestershire 2022-2027](#) supports our environmental ambitions under 'The Environment' priority – and reducing carbon emissions is key to this. The Corporate Plan states that we will continue to invest in environmental measures that reduce our carbon footprint.

The Council has been working to reduce our own carbon emissions over many years. Since 2009/10 the Council's own net carbon emissions have reduced by 45%. Much of this progress has been realised through improvements to our buildings, street lighting, and a shift from landfill to energy from waste for municipal waste disposal. We have taken significant action on our emissions reduction journey; from starting to invest in electric fleet vehicles, upgrading street lighting to LED and investing in renewable energy generation on our sites. Whilst this is not an exhaustive list, we realise that there is much more we need to do to reduce our emissions.

Whilst we look to show ambition and leadership our journey must be appreciative of certain constraints and practicalities

I would like to thank the cross party, Member advisory group and officers for their input and support.



Councillor Richard Morris

Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment

2. UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The United Nations introduced the international Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. Adopted by all member states, they set out 17 Global Goals to achieve by 2030 – a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

The Local Government Association (LGA) passed a motion in 2019 supporting the UN international Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and promoting the role of local government in delivering them. Worcestershire County Council identifies clear links with the SDGs to this Net Zero Carbon Plan, the Council’s [Sustainability Policy](#) and [Corporate Environmental Reporting](#).



All the SDGs go hand-in-hand and strive to deliver global prosperity whilst also protecting the planet.

3. INTRODUCTION

The Global and National Response to Climate Change

In 1995 a ground-breaking coming together of 198 countries known as The Paris Agreement set a global temperature goal to be achieved by each country. All nations acknowledged the need to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels to prevent catastrophic climate change and irreversible loss of ecosystems and disastrous impact to human health and wellbeing.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) is the leading international body to assess climate change and it provides scientific and technical guidance to the United Nations. It's 6th IPCC Assessment Report in 2021, it stressed it is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land and that widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred. The scale of these changes are unprecedented and this human induced climate change is affecting every region across the globe.

“We are on a fast track to climate disaster. Major cities under water. Unprecedented heatwaves. Terrifying storms. Widespread water shortages. The extinction of a million species of plants and animals. This is not fiction or exaggeration. It is what science tells us will result from our current energy policies.”

[UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, 2022](#)

The UK is also bound by UK law through the Climate Change Act, 2008 to reduce its emissions by at least 100% by 2050 on 1990 levels. To keep the UK on the pathway to achieving this, government set 5 yearly emissions caps or budgets with proposals and policies for meeting these carbon budgets.

In October 2021, the UK Government published their [Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener](#) which aims to reduce national emissions by 78% by 2035 from 1990 levels to meet the [Sixth Carbon Budget](#). The UK's decarbonisation trajectory is further set out in [Powering Up Britain - The Net Zero Growth Plan](#) and [Powering Up Britain - Energy Security Plan](#) which were published in March 2023 to support and identify delivery of the Net Zero Strategy.

What is Net Zero Carbon?

Net zero carbon¹ means the amount of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂^e) or other carbon compounds emitted into the atmosphere is reduced to zero because it is balanced by actions to minimise or offset these emissions, thereby achieving an overall balance between emissions produced and emissions removed from the atmosphere.

The focus of this plan is the Council's own emissions from its operations and activities. Worcestershire County Council (WCC) reports both absolute emissions and net emissions in its annual [Greenhouse Gas \(GHG\) report](#). Absolute emissions are the total emissions from Council operations and activities which do not take into account any offsetting, whereas the Council's net carbon emissions data does take into account emissions offsetting.

Dependencies

The ability of WCC to achieve net zero carbon emissions will be influenced by:

- 1) The Government ensuring a fully decarbonised electricity grid by 2035
- 2) The Governments phasedown of the gas network from 2035 to 100% by 2050
- 3) Technological development supporting availability of ultra-low and zero emission HGVs and gritter vehicles
- 4) The viability of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology for our waste facilities in line with current UK government targets
- 5) Investment by WCC in knowledge and resource to:
 - improve the energy efficiency of property and street lighting;
 - transition to new non-fossil fuelled heating systems and fleet vehicles;
 - enable the generation of more renewable energy;
 - negotiate low or zero carbon service contract requirements.
- 6) The ability to offset² carbon emissions. As the Council reduces its carbon emissions, offsetting requirements will be subsequently reduced.

Background

The Council has direct responsibility for cutting carbon emissions from its own operations and activities, and this is the focus of this Net Zero Carbon Plan. Through its own operations, WCC emits at least 1% of Worcestershire's total emissions and influences many more. WCC also plays a fundamental role in addressing countywide carbon emissions, the impact of climate change on the county and how we adapt to future climate. The council is already taking a wide range of actions on this and is looking to develop this work further with partners. The Council's Net Zero and Biodiversity Member Advisory Group is working with the Cabinet Member for the Environment to explore and seek to develop the role of the County Council in tackling climate change across the county.

WCC has [a long history of action on climate change and](#) led one of the UK's first countywide climate change strategies in 2002, agreeing with partners to set and work towards what were then ambitious targets for countywide carbon emissions reduction, and adaptation to climate change. With urgency for rapid reduction of carbon emissions never greater, the Council recognises the need to take more ambitious action. The [Worcestershire Climate Change Strategy](#)

¹ Carbon emissions - includes carbon dioxide and other carbon compound gases in terms of CO₂e – carbon dioxide equivalent. Also known as Greenhouse Gases (GHG) including methane, that have the property of absorbing infrared radiation (heat energy) emitted from Earth's surface and re-radiating it back to Earth's surface, thus contributing to the greenhouse effect.

² a Carbon offset is a reduction of emissions of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gas made in order to compensate for emissions made elsewhere

ended in 2020 and WCC is now working with the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to deliver the [Worcestershire Energy Strategy](#), which aims to halve countywide carbon emissions from 2005 levels by 2030.

Throughout the life of the Worcestershire Climate Change Strategy and the Council's own carbon management plans (of which, this is the fifth plan), the Council has gained regional and national recognition through its work on generating hundreds of thousands of kilowatt hours of renewable energy, supporting residents and businesses to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and lobbied Government and worked with partners to improve the resilience of the county to the impact of climate change.

On 15th July 2021, [Worcestershire County Council declared a Climate Emergency](#), resolving the following :

“Council declares a climate emergency and commits to doing the following:

- *Endorse the Council's ambitious Net Zero Carbon Plan.*
- *Continue to work with our partner authorities to review and update all relevant strategies.*
- *Establish a Member Advisory Group to assist with the future revision of plan and report annually on actions taken.*
- *This Council reaffirms the target of reaching net carbon neutral by 2050 in line with the Government's target.”*

This plan outlines how WCC is seeking to cut carbon emissions from its property, transport and street lighting, as well as emissions from contracts, such as highways maintenance and municipal waste management, to net zero by 2050. The Council reports both absolute emissions and net emissions in its annual [Greenhouse Gas \(GHG\) report](#). A total emissions reduction of 40% has been achieved in terms of absolute emissions, and a reduction of 45% has been achieved in terms of net emissions since 2009/10. For clarity, this Net Zero Carbon Plan will focus on the Council's net carbon emissions.

This document sets out progress to date and outlines the action that the Council will take to deliver on these net zero commitments during 2024/25. It builds upon the Council's work over many years, taking into account new scientific information, policy developments and new technology to further respond to the climate emergency.

Everyone in the Council has a role to play in achieving net zero carbon emissions, and adaptation to future climate change, from deciding if and how to travel for work, to factoring carbon reduction and adaptation measures into service planning, procurement and service delivery.

4. WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S CARBON EMISSIONS

WCC publishes an annual Greenhouse Gas Report which includes the Council's:

- 1) absolute emissions; and
- 2) net emissions which account for offsetting (e.g. purchasing REGO³ accredited green electricity).

The Council measures progress of the Net Zero Carbon Plan against the latter, which accounts for offsetting and the overall progress towards the net zero target.

The Council monitors and reports on carbon emissions from the following sources in line with the [Greenhouse Gas Protocol](#):

SCOPE 1 - DIRECT	SCOPE 2 – INDIRECT <i>(but WCC has direct control over how much electricity we use and what type we purchase)</i>	SCOPE 3 - INDIRECT
Direct emissions from Council activities and operations under the Council's control including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural gas use in WCC buildings (excluding schools) - Fuel use in WCC vehicle fleet - Residual fuel use (e.g., burning oil, LPG etc.) consumed at WCC sites (excluding schools) 	Indirect emissions: Electricity use in WCC buildings (excluding schools) and street lighting (grid generation)	Other indirect emissions for which WCC can access data for, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electricity (grid transmission and distribution) - WCC staff business mileage - Electricity/gas use in buildings operated by Council's main outsourced contractors for Waste Management and Highways - Fleet/staff mileage undertaken by main outsourced contractors for Waste Management and Highways - Contracted fleet vehicle fuel use - Emissions from county-wide municipal waste disposal

WCC GHG Emissions

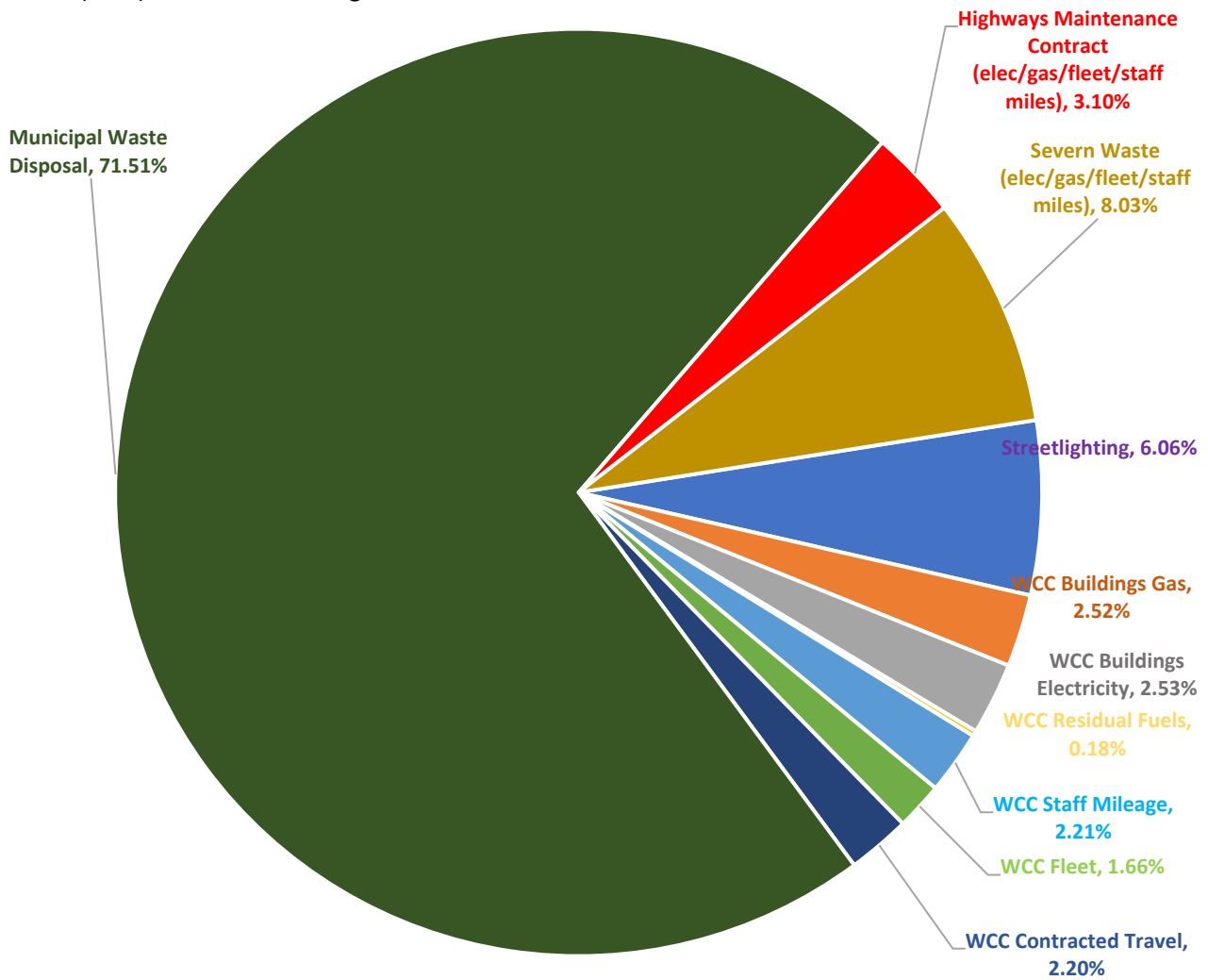
The baseline year for WCC's carbon emissions reporting is 2009/10:

SCOPES	Net GHG Emissions (tonnes/CO ₂ ^e) 2009/10 (baseline)	Net GHG Emissions (tonnes/CO ₂ ^e) 2022/23
Scope 1	4,598	2,008
Scope 2	16,672	0
Scope 3	55,266	40,357
Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions (tonnes/CO₂^e)	76,536	42,365

³ 100% renewable electricity with REGO (Renewable Energy of Guarantees of Origin) certification can be reported as zero emissions in Scope 2 (electricity generation) under the GHG Protocol.

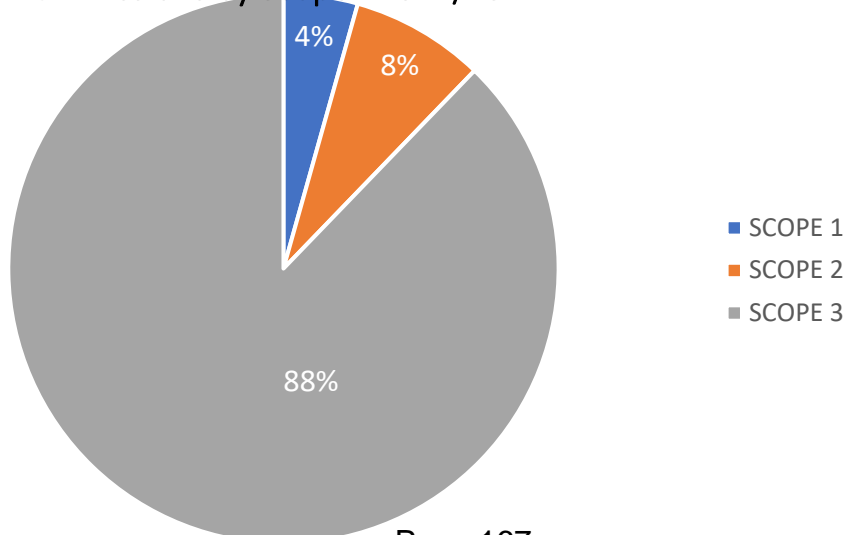
WCC Absolute GHG Emissions Sources – 2022/23

In 2022/23 Worcestershire County Council was responsible for absolute emissions of 45,984 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂^e) from the following sources:

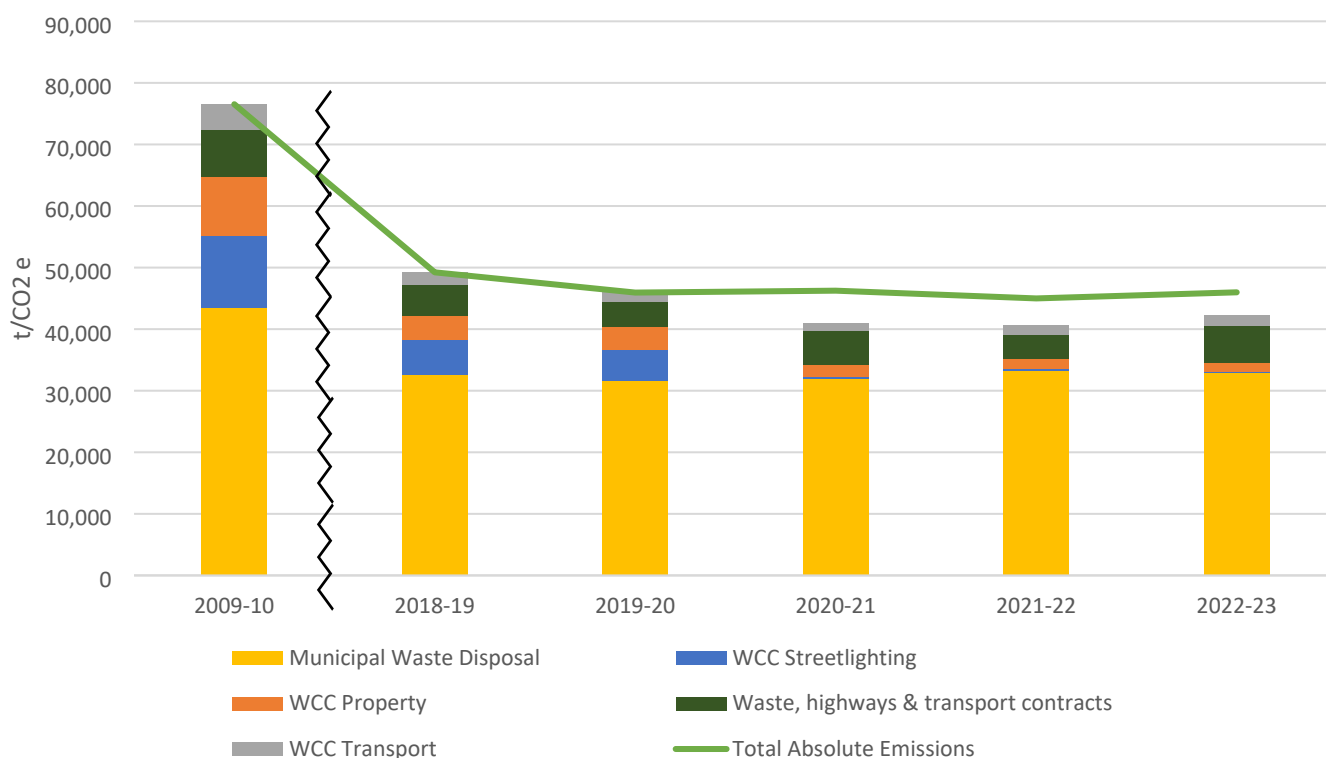


12% of these emissions were in the Council's direct control (Scope 1 and 2), the remaining 88% were associated with sources not owned or controlled by WCC (Scope 3):

WCC Absolute GHG Emissions by Scope – 2022/23



Progress of WCC Net and Absolute Emissions from Baseline⁴



To date, a net emissions reduction of 45% has been achieved since 2009/10.

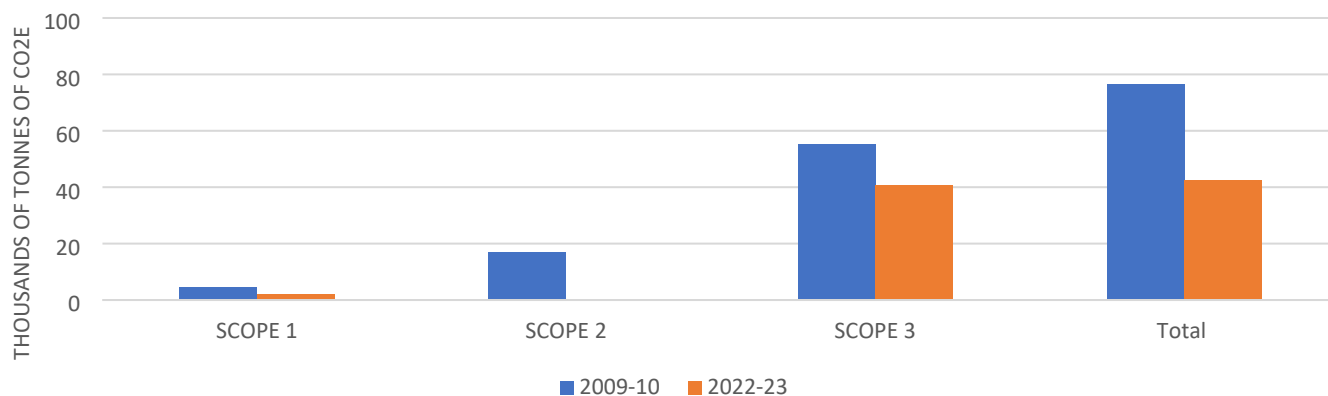
Between April 2020 and March 2024, WCC committed to purchase accredited renewable electricity. During this period, all scope 2 emissions associated with the generation of this electricity is classed as a carbon offset for reporting purposes. From April 2024, WCC will review on an annual basis the best value option for procuring electricity.

The Council has reduced net Scope 1 emissions by 56%; Scope 2 emissions by 100%; and Scope 3 emissions by 27% respectively since 2009/10:

Scope	Net GHG Emissions (tonnes/CO ₂ e)	Net GHG Emissions (tonnes/CO ₂ e)	Reduction (tonnes/CO ₂ e)	% Net Reduction
	2009/10	2022/23		
1	4,598	2,008	2,590	56%
2	16,672	0.00	16,672	100%
3	55,266	40,357	14,839	27%
TOTAL	76,536	42,356	34,180	45%

⁴ For the period from 2010 to 2018 it is not possible to extract gas and electricity data for schools from corporate property data. This inability to extract data means it is not possible to accurately provide comparable emissions data with the baseline; for this reason, these years have been omitted from this report.

Net Emissions by Scope



The Council has direct control over emissions under Scope 1, and to an extent has some direct control over how much electricity it uses and what type of electricity it purchases under Scope 2. When accounting for these scopes, the Council has achieved a net emissions reduction of 91% since 2009/10:

Scope	Net GHG Emissions (tonnes/CO ₂ e)	Net GHG Emissions (tonnes/CO ₂ e)	Reduction (tonnes/CO ₂ e)	% Reduction
	2009/10	2022/23		
1	4,598	2,008	2,590	56%
2	16,672	0.00	16,672	100%
TOTAL	21,270	2,008	19,262	91%

Carbon Emissions Currently Not Reported

WCC do not currently report on emissions from the following sources due to limited data availability and reliability:

- other contracted services e.g. care providers, financial services, construction, IT 'cloud' systems
- employee commute
- employee business travel by public transport
- WCC waste disposal from own corporate sites
- emissions from closed landfill sites
- production and transportation of procured goods
- investments, including employee pension fund
- leased WCC properties for which the Council do not pay the energy bill

WCC will work to establish reliable figures for these sources where possible. Where this is not possible, the Council will work to establish estimated emissions.

Emissions from schools are not reported⁵. As schools transition to Academy status, energy consumption data for these sites is not always possible for WCC to obtain.

⁵ The Council fully appreciates that schools contribute a significant amount of carbon emissions. Property Services currently supports and advises schools on energy efficiency and reducing associated carbon emissions through Service Level Agreements with county schools

5. The Council's Approach to Net Zero

The Council's approach to achieving net zero carbon emissions is set out below.

WCC will:

- **ensure Council decisions consider the potential environmental impact of all WCC projects** - Council reports will include information on the environmental impact of all proposed projects. The completion of a Joint Impact Assessment (JIA), and any consequent full environmental sustainability assessment, will be required for all proposed projects. This will include assessment of carbon emissions
- **seek to reduce the Council's carbon emissions as far and as fast as possible and practical** by seeking first to:
 - avoid use of energy and other resources, then
 - use energy and other resources as efficiently as possible
 - use renewable energy where feasible
 - explore carbon capture and storage where appropriate
 - offset remaining carbon emissions as a last resort
- **offset emissions where necessary, prioritising local approaches to carbon offsetting** which lead to local environmental and/or social improvements
- **be flexible in its approach** - recognising there may be solutions for reducing emissions that are not yet available, or are not yet market ready or cost effective, which may become so in the future
- **seek to make Council operations zero-carbon ready**, for example, by making cost effective changes to heating systems and building fabric to ready Council buildings for heating by heat pumps or hydrogen, by installing further electric vehicle charge points etc.
- **seek to take the most cost-effective measures it can and not cost more to the taxpayer whilst seeking opportunity to generate income where possible**
- **communicate the challenge of climate change**; raising the awareness of residents and staff of the need to cut carbon emissions and improve resilience to climatic change, the Council's role in this and how everyone can play their part; linking into the Council's staff network of sustainability champions – the 'Zero Heroes'
- **share best practice with partners, working together with them where possible**
- **continue to play its role in cutting carbon emissions and promoting environmental improvement across the county**, initiating, leading and contributing to projects with partners, businesses and communities to achieve this aim
- **lobby Government** to provide the powers and resources needed to achieve its aim.

Dependencies

For each source of WCC carbon emissions, the following sections outline a carbon reduction target⁶, current status, progress made to date and actions to be taken over the next two years.

The Net Zero Carbon Action Plan (Annex 1) details short term (up to 2 years) and longer-term actions required to achieve net zero emissions from the Council's operations and activities.

⁶ Baseline is 2009/10

6. The Council's Estate – Property & Land

5% of the Council's absolute carbon emissions are from electricity and gas consumption in Council buildings. WCC operates from approximately 100 buildings, including offices, libraries, depots, care homes and Country Park visitor centres. As property owner, landlord and lessee, WCC's property management decisions have a significant impact on carbon emissions.

Energy prices have significantly increased over the last few years, particularly over the last 18 months. Heating and powering WCC buildings (excluding schools) cost £1.6 million in 2022/23, which, despite reducing gas and residual fuel consumption, was an increase of almost 25% on the previous year's fuel costs. Further action is needed to reduce the burden of increasing energy prices and the risk this poses to Council budgets.

Sustainable design⁷ and decarbonisation reports⁸ will support work on WCC's estate going forward, to continually progress decarbonising property and provide a greater understanding of the carbon impact of work carried out.

What have WCC achieved so far?

Net carbon emissions from energy use in WCC properties have reduced by 86% since 2009/10, due to:

- a move from higher to lower carbon heat sources e.g., from oil to gas, from gas to biomass
- reduction in carbon intensity of UK grid electricity⁹
- contraction of WCC's property portfolio
- continued investment in energy efficiency of buildings through the Council's £3m Energy Efficiency Spend to Save scheme (which has been running since 2010 making savings of c£400k a year¹⁰) and the Capital Maintenance Programme
- investment in renewable energy systems:
 - wood fuelled biomass boilers in some properties, including County Hall and The Hive, generating approximately 1,700 MWh annually
 - solar power on several corporate properties (currently over 446kWp installed on corporate estate generating 296MWh per annum), and the Council has also installed Solar PV on many Worcestershire schools.
 - river water cooling and ground source heat
- energy efficient new build and refurbishment programme - including refresh of the Council's Sustainable Design & Estate Principles
- purchase of 100% renewable electricity for all Council buildings between April 2020 and March 2024.
- successful bid to Salix Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme 1 (PSDS) and investment of £817, 177 grant

Project Spotlight - Salix Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS)

The Council applied for grant funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy measures from the Government-funded Salix PSDS in early 2020. WCC successfully secured £817,177 for 34 discreet energy efficiency and renewable energy projects across 25 WCC sites. Measures installed included LED lighting improvements, glazing, insulation, solar PV panels on 2 sites, and Building energy management systems (BEMS) upgrades. All



⁷ Use of sustainable materials, sustainable design, durability, energy efficiency and reduction and minimising carbon in the construction process etc

⁸ Funded by PSDS, these reports have been carried out on the majority of the corporate building estate

⁹ The UK Government publishes updates on energy and emissions projections. The latest full update is from 2019 - [Updated energy and emissions projections: 2019](#). Low carbon generation sources (renewables, gas carbon capture and storage, and nuclear) are all set to increase. Renewables generation is projected to provide 56% of total UK grid electricity by 2040.

¹⁰ As of 2022 energy prices

projects combined will result in annual financial savings of c.£55,000 and annual carbon savings of 167 tonnes CO₂^e.

Photo - Additional solar panels installed at Kidderminster Library utilising grant funding from Salix

To achieve net zero emissions, WCC will:

- Review existing decarbonisation reports for WCC properties.
- With focus on underperforming EPCs in rental properties produce business case for proposed work to enable necessary EPCs for continued rental
- Identify Energy saving and decarbonisation measures in planned programmed works of WCC properties.
- Review options to purchase renewable electricity for 2025-26
- Update and implement Sustainability Design Guide
- Produce a Heating and Cooling policy for WCC properties

7. Street Lighting and Traffic Signals

6% of the Council's absolute carbon emissions are from electricity used to power the Council's 79,000 illuminated assets. This includes streetlights, illuminated signs, bollards and traffic signals. WCC purchase 100% renewable electricity (REGO accredited) and all Scope 2 emissions from electricity use are offset via this measure.

Powering Worcestershire's streetlights and traffic signals cost £3.38 million in 2022/2023.

What have WCC achieved so far?

Energy consumption has reduced, although the number of streetlights and lit assets continue to increase on previous years due to new residential developments in the county. Net carbon emissions from energy use in street lighting have reduced by 98% since 2009/10, despite an increase in the number of actual streetlights. The decrease is due to:

- replacement of street lighting luminaires with more energy efficient LEDs – switching to LEDs significantly reduces energy consumption and running/maintenance costs
- all new traffic signals are now extra low voltage and LED – this makes it safer for maintenance as the equipment on site is only 48 volts and uses 79% less energy
- 85% of the traffic signal asset is now LED.
- de-illumination of traffic signs during maintenance or replacement works and where regulations allow.
- procurement of 100% renewable (REGO accredited) electricity for all streetlights and illuminated assets
- reduction in carbon intensity of UK grid electricity

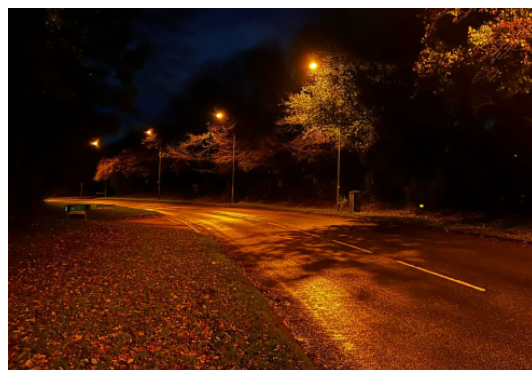
To continue achieving net zero emissions, WCC will:

- Continue to purchase 100% renewable (REGO accredited) electricity (current contracted to March 2026).
- Light on demand where feasible
- Replace all traffic signals with LEDs by 2025
- Review further opportunities to invest in technology. e.g., smart lighting controls and management systems
- Review opportunities for green energy creation on street lighting assets, e.g., solar power.

Project Spotlight - Papermill Drive Redditch

Papermill Drive in Redditch is a small new residential development and was selected as one of the locations to install Amber LED lanterns. A countywide review was undertaken by WCC's ecology team and their consultants Jacobs, to highlight areas where blue light from LED's had potential to negatively impact on the ecological landscape. An LED conversion programme where 21,000 Led conversions so far have taken place, aims to reduce the impact on the ecological landscape whilst maximising energy and carbon savings without compromising highway safety.

To help mitigate against the impacts of blue light in sensitive areas, TRT Lighting (based in Redditch) were approached to source Amber LEDs which emit zero blue light. TRT supplied a range of Amber LED lanterns which also have a facility for manual on-site power adjustment within the lanterns negating the need for costly remote programming systems.



8. Fleet Vehicles

1.6% of the Council's absolute carbon emissions are from WCC's 200 fleet vehicles, and fleet management and transport decisions have a significant impact on the Council's emissions.

Fuelling fleet and other Council-owned vehicles with petrol and diesel cost £441,500 in 2022/23. With significant fuel price increases experienced over the last few years, action taken now to reduce fuel consumption will lessen the financial impact of this trend. Investment in lower maintenance vehicles, such as electric vehicles, will also reduce maintenance costs significantly.

Gritters, followed by welfare minibuses, are the most significant sources of Council fleet emissions. Less than a quarter of WCC fleet vehicles meet EURO 6 standard. NOx and particulate emissions from the Council's vehicles are contributing to poor air quality. There are several air quality management areas in Worcestershire, including the whole of Worcester City.

Current UK legislation requires all new cars and vans to be 100% zero emission at the tailpipe by 2035.

What have WCC achieved so far?

Carbon emissions from WCC fleet transport have reduced by 43% since 2009/10 due to:

- reduction in number of fleet vehicles
- replacement of fleet vehicles with lower emission models, including 2 electric pool cars and an electric courier van. The Council installed chargepoints on County Hall campus to power these vehicles, and took part in a vehicle to grid electric vehicle (EV) charging trial at County Hall, in partnership with Cenex
- since 2020, 12 older minibuses have also been replaced with Euro 6 models, and 6 new more energy efficient gritters have replaced older models in the fleet.
- Incorporated energy efficient technique training within the services
- Developed a ULEV-first (ultra-low emission vehicle¹¹) procurement policy and fleet investment decision process, developed and implemented through the Fleet Procurement Panel

To achieve net zero emissions, WCC will:

- Identify replacement ULEV vehicle options for WCC fleet
- Produce a fleet replacement schedule compliant with Government transport decarbonisation plans^{12 13}
- Where replacement with an Ultra Low Emission Vehicle is not viable, WCC to replace with a minimum EURO 6 standard vehicle

9. Staff Business Travel

During 2022/23, staff travelled a total of 3,717,410 miles for work purposes in their own vehicles. Where staff use their own vehicles for work related travel, it is referred to as the Grey Fleet, this represents 2% of the Council's overall emissions. Grey fleet cost the Council £1.58 million in 2022/23. Grey Fleet had dramatically reduced in previous years due to the Covid-19 pandemic however, mileage has now increased back to pre-pandemic levels.

What have WCC achieved so far?

Carbon emissions from WCC staff travel for business purposes have reduced by 65% since 2009/10 due to:

- reduction in numbers of WCC staff claiming mileage
- adopted a hybrid model of working
- increased online meetings where appropriate
- provision of safe cycle storage and shower/changing facilities for staff to support active travel to work at County Hall campus

¹¹ An Ultra Low Emission Vehicle uses low carbon technology and currently defined as having less than 75 grams of CO2 per kilometre (g/km) from the tailpipe.

¹² Cars and vans (under 3.5t): all new cars and vans significant zero emissions from 2030 and 100% zero emissions at the tailpipe from 2035. Heavy Goods Vehicles (above 3.5t): new trucks up to and including 26t to be zero emissions from 2035, with above >26t zero emission by 2040

¹³ where replacement with an Ultra Low Emission Vehicle is not possible, WCC to replace with a minimum EURO 6 standard vehicle

- Launched a Green Car Scheme - a salary sacrifice initiative to assist staff to adopt low and zero emission vehicles (56 active subscriptions)

To achieve net zero emissions, WCC will:

- Commence a county hall travel plan review – to promote sustainable travel to campus
- Review the number of electric vehicle chargepoints required in WCC car parks to allow staff to transition to electric vehicles.
- Update the existing Travel & Subsistence Policy to include a sustainable travel hierarchy for work related travel
- Secure a fully funded electric vehicle chargepoint operator for WCC estates

Project Spotlight - WCC Cycle to Work Scheme

The Council’s Cycle to Work scheme supports staff to purchase a new bicycle and cycling gear. Employees save 26-40% on the price and spread the cost, interest free, by enabling them to pay monthly through a salary sacrifice. WCC have increased the limit to £3,000 to enable employees to have a wider choice, including electric bikes.



10. Municipal Waste Disposal

72% of the Council’s absolute carbon emissions are from municipal waste disposal. This is by far the largest proportion of emissions WCC account for and currently appears one of the most difficult to reduce. WCC’s role as a Waste Disposal Authority means the Council have control over how municipal waste is disposed of through the Waste Management Service contract. Currently, 42% of the County’s household waste is recycled or composted and most of the remaining waste is disposed of at EnviRecover, the Council’s Energy from Waste (EfW) plant. Only a small proportion of the County’s municipal waste is landfilled. The amount of waste produced by Worcestershire’s households is increasing as the number of homes and population of the County grows. Close working with the Council’s residents, waste management contractor and constituent Waste Collection Authorities is required to find a zero-carbon solution to municipal waste. There are plans to build thousands more homes in the county over the next few decades and this will place an upward pressure on the amount of municipal waste generated and significant additional resources will be needed to prevent and reduce waste arisings.

Managing municipal waste, costs the Council approximately £30 million a year. Action taken to prevent municipal waste will reduce this cost as well as reducing carbon emissions associated with its disposal. Waste prevention is a cornerstone of the council’s [Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy](#). The National Resources and Waste Strategy (RWS) and Environment Act 2021 have introduced significant changes to the way the Council will be required to manage municipal waste in the future to support Net Zero. These measures include extended producer responsibility for packaging, a deposit return scheme and consistency in household and business recycling, which all aim to bring environmental benefits to the management of municipal waste. The Council and partner authorities will undertake a review of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy to reflect the requirements of the new policy and legislative framework and reduce waste arisings. Understanding and calculating carbon impacts so that these can be reduced and mitigated will be a key part of that process.

There are a range of potential technologies that could be employed to reduce carbon emissions associated with municipal waste disposal. These include Carbon Capture and Storage¹⁴ (CCS) technology, which could potentially be retrofitted to EnviRecover in the future and could effectively reduce emissions by approximately 90%. Globally, this technology is emerging from development stage and will hopefully be market ready in the near future.

What have WCC achieved so far?

Carbon emissions from the disposal of the county's municipal waste have reduced by 25% since 2009/10. This is mainly due to a significant reduction in waste sent to landfill following the opening of the EnviRecover EfW plant.

EnviRecover generates 135,000 MWh pa electricity, which is supplied to the National Grid. This is enough to power more than 38,500 homes the equivalent energy generation of around 29 on shore wind turbines.

Methane gas captured from the Hill and Moor landfill site is used to generate electricity.

A Mids net zero funded feasibility study is looking at the application of a CCS unit on our EnviRecover facility.

To achieve net zero emissions, WCC will:

- integrate requirement for carbon reduction into the Council's waste contract
- keep under review the viability of carbon reducing technologies (including CCS) for EfW with the aim of integration into EnviRecover
- Produce a feasibility study to identify carbon capture and storage options for EnviRecover
- Work in partnership with districts to implement changes to household waste collection outlined in Environment Act 2021
- Continue to promote waste prevention initiatives to households

Project Spotlight - Waste Reduction in Wychavon

Food waste is one of the biggest contributors to carbon emissions globally (if food waste was a country, it would be the third highest emitter of carbon after China and the USA!). With over a third of Worcestershire's black bin waste being food, WCC is looking at new and innovative ways to encourage residents to cut the amount of perfectly edible food that ends up in the bin and teamed up in 2021 with environmental charity Hubbub and Wychavon District Council to trial fun and playful messaging to help people save money by eating all of the food they buy. The results speak for themselves, with 93% of the people who took part in a #FoodSavvy challenge as part of the campaign now wasting less food.



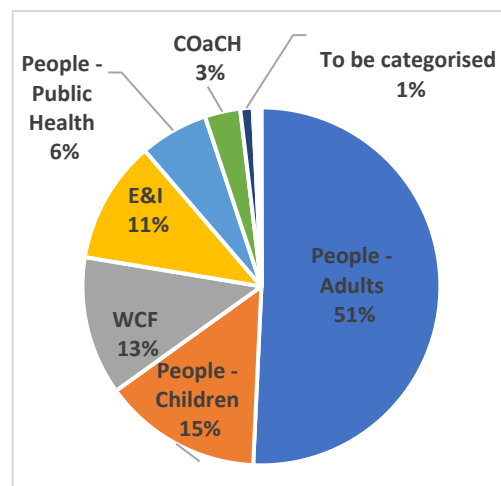
11. Supply Chain

Work with suppliers to cut associated carbon emissions

¹⁴ Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is the process of capturing and storing carbon dioxide (CO₂) before it is released into the atmosphere. The technology can capture up to 90% of CO₂ released by burning fossil fuels in electricity generation, industrial processes such as cement production and waste to energy plants. Based on [recent research](#) it is estimated this technology could be viable for installation before 2040.

13% of the Council's accounted absolute carbon emissions are from three major contracts: highways maintenance, waste management, (excluding emissions from waste disposal), and contracted fleet. The Council is aware there will be significant emissions associated with many other contracts and WCC investments too. For example, we understand that emissions from the Council's social care contracts would be extremely significant based purely on costs alone. The Council's procurement and investment decisions have the potential to make a significant impact on WCC's attributed emissions and have a far wider reach into the community.

An initial review ¹⁵ indicated that the Council's additional Scope 3 emissions come predominantly from the areas of Council delivery in the pie chart opposite. Moving forward, WCC will look to improve its reporting on supply chain emissions under Scope 3 over the lifetime of the Net Zero Carbon Plan. These initial estimates provide an insightful guide to the task ahead in terms of how the Council reports on, and seeks to reduce, supply chain emissions.



The carbon intensity and exposure to companies with fossil fuel reserves of the Worcestershire Pension Fund investment portfolio is detailed in its [Climate-Related Disclosures Report](#). (see project spotlight below)

What have WCC achieved so far?

Accounted net carbon emissions from the Council's highways maintenance, waste management and fleet contracts have reduced collectively by 20% since 2009/10, due in part to:

- reduction in carbon intensity of UK grid electricity
- replacement of contractor's vehicles with more energy efficient models.
- Removed disposals and single use plastics from contract for Lakeside Restaurant

To achieve net zero emissions, WCC will:

- Review existing and future contracting requirements and develop a procurement policy for how WCC's supply chain will support the councils net zero ambitions.
- Where appropriate, signpost WCC suppliers to support with regards to carbon reduction.

Project Spotlight - Worcestershire Pension Fund responsible investment

Worcestershire Pension Fund, administered and managed by WCC, is a £3.6billion Local Government Pension Scheme fund. The Fund has moved forward with responsible investment and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) activity since the previous Net Zero Carbon Plan in 2020.

In mid-2020, the Pension Fund agreed to focus on investments that contributed towards a number of agreed UN SDGs. A mapping exercise in 2020 highlighted how much of the Fund's assets were contributing towards the SDGs and it showed that £1.4billion of its £2billion of listed assets had exposure to SDG13 - Climate Action - through some of the most influential global companies contained within the World Benchmarking Alliance's SDG2000 benchmark. Further progress continues and is illustrated in our [Climate Risk Report](#). In addition, the Fund held an ESG workshop on 8th February 2023 with one of its external ESG partners [Pensions For Purpose](#) to reaffirm its ESG beliefs which are detailed in its [Climate Change Risk Strategy](#), review updates from investment Fund Managers and explore internal target-setting.

¹⁵ Carbon review conducted by 4C Associates 2022

Partly to reduce its climate-related risks, the Fund transitioned out of a very carbon intensive passive equity fund and invested £200million in a climate multi-factor fund in 2021. This fund tilts away from companies that are carbon intensive or own fossil fuel reserves and directs investment towards companies that generate green revenues. The Fund has delivered on its commitment to invest £150million into a Forestry Growth and Sustainability Fund and further invested into sustainable equity assets during 2022.

12. Staff and Member Awareness

The decisions that WCC staff and councillors make, from day-to-day activities to service planning, procurement and project development, have a significant impact on how far and fast the Council can reduce its emissions, and can also influence countywide carbon reduction to a greater or lesser degree.

What have WCC achieved so far:

- Staff training on sustainability and climate change has been provided over a number of years and includes face to face training and e-learning modules. Since 2021, the Council has been delivering Carbon Literacy training to staff
- Use of the Joint Impact Assessment (JIA) tool that requires review of environmental impacts (including carbon emissions), and is required for all new Council projects
- 'Net Zero sustainability champion scheme, including section on staff intranet and briefing sessions.

WCC will:

- Review options for sustainability training for WCC staff, Senior Management, and Councillors.

13. Carbon Sequestration and Offsetting

Where the Council is unable to cut emissions fast enough, consideration will need to be given to offsetting or sequestering carbon emissions¹⁶. Offsetting WCC's unavoidable emissions would involve compensating for emissions by paying for an activity that reduces or removes emissions elsewhere. Offset schemes must be independently verified and deliver additionality and permanence in the removal of carbon.

Where offsetting is necessary, local approaches to carbon offsetting, which lead to local environmental and or social improvements, will be prioritised. Options include:

- Increase carbon storage capabilities through land restoration and planting schemes.
- Investment in renewable energy generation either on WCC land, elsewhere in the county or the UK review of land holdings in consultation with partners

Project Spotlight - New Farm Tree Planting

The Council has committed to planting 150,000 trees on its own land up to 2025. To date, over 50,000 trees have been planted with more due to be planted winter 2023/24.

¹⁶ Carbon Sequestration - the removal and storage of carbon from the atmosphere in plants, soils and geological formations

Worcestershire County Council has created the New Farm (Project ID: 104000000028723) to reduce the net greenhouse gas balance of the estate. The project has listed 8,986 Pending Issuance Units (PIU's) representing 8,986 tonnes of carbon dioxide which is expected to be sequestered between 27 Feb 2007 and 27 Feb 2122.¹⁷

Once verification has taken place to ensure the scheme is performing as expected, the PIU's are converted to Woodland Carbon Units (WCU's) and can be used to offset emission in the allotted verification years.



This programme will sequester 8,986 tonnes of CO₂ over the 100 lifetime of the scheme an average of 89 tonnes CO₂ a year over 100 years (0.2% of current emissions)

Offsetting through the use of tree planting is a highly monitored system with only certified schemes being included. WCC have registered its scheme with the Woodland Carbon Code and is therefore able to offset the prescribed amount of carbon in this way. This will bring extensive benefits for the wider Worcestershire area including improving air quality, resilience to future climate change and supporting biodiversity.

Verification years ¹⁸	Verification date	PIUs to Project*
5	27.02.2027	46
15	27.02.2037	494
25	27.20.2047	2,215
35	27.20.2057	2,224
45	27.20.2067	1,398
55	28.20.2077	949
65	28.20.2087	477
75	28.20.2097	336
85	28.02.2107	315
95	28.02.2017	426
100	27.02.2122	106
	Total	8,986

* 1 PUI is equal to 1 WCU and 1Tonne of CO₂.

14. Resources

. The council recognises that financial investment will be required over the lifetime of the journey to become Net Zero by 2050 and acknowledges that financial pressures on local government are significant. We will therefore develop

¹⁷ The Units registered are Pending Issuance Units which must be verified before they are turned into Woodland carbon units (WCU's). A WCU is a tonne of CO₂e which has been sequestered in a WCC-verified woodland. WCU's can be used to offset, an organisation's current Greenhouse Gas emissions.

¹⁸ Years since project start date

business cases for all activities which will be prioritised by the council and funding sought, ensuring we explore all possible funding mechanisms to enable us to deliver this strategy including:

- Build a pipeline of fundable projects to take advantage of external funding opportunities as they arise.
- Make applications for grant funding to central government programmes e.g Public Sector decarbonisation Scheme
- Investigate the feasibility of using local climate bonds as a potential route of investment for Net Zero projects
- Consider all investment opportunities including private sector investment, Green bonds and public sector borrowing
- Work with partner to develop funding applications and joint projects where appropriate.

15. Governance

This plan is overseen by the Council's Sustainability Board, which acts as the main programme board for sustainability, carbon and biodiversity action across the organisation. The Board meets regularly to review progress of actions, with updates provided by officers of the Council where appropriate.

The board has senior level representation from each directorate, including key functions such as: Waste Management, Property Management, Fleet, Procurement, Finance, IT, Communications, Learning and Development, and the Countryside Service. Members of the Board provide a strategic level review role to ensure the Net Zero Carbon Plan (amongst other Sustainability objectives of the Council) are realised. The Sustainability Board reports to the Council's Senior Leadership Team (SLT). An annual report is also presented to Full Council by the Cabinet Member for the Environment, which includes an update on progress of the Net Zero Carbon Plan. The Cabinet Member also chairs the Member Advisory Group on Net Zero Carbon and Biodiversity, which has clear links to the Sustainability Board.

A live ongoing action log will be kept detailing progress on short/medium-term actions from the Net Zero Carbon Plan; new actions will also be added to the log as time progresses. The action log will be reviewed by the Board at their regular meetings. WCC also publish an [annual GHG emissions report](#) to track progress towards the net zero target.

The Council's Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel also examines the Council's work on Net Zero Carbon, and the Council's Internal Audit is also part of the programme of governance of the Net Zero Carbon Plan.

This plan will undergo a risk assessment and Joint Impact Assessment, as all new Council projects, programmes and plans do, to assess the potential impacts of the Plan in respect of data protection, equality, public health and environmental sustainability.

ANNEX 1

Worcestershire County Council – Net Zero Carbon Action Log 2024-2025

The action log is a live document which will be maintained, detailing progress on short/medium-term actions from the Net Zero Carbon Plan. Actions may be amended and added as time progresses, due to projects being subject to external conditions, changes in policy and funding availability. The action log will be reviewed by the Sustainability Board at regular meetings, and the board will take decisions on the amending, removal and addition of new projects to the action log in line with the approved Net Zero Carbon Plan.

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Function	Action Description	Resources	Completion Date
Estate Buildings	Review existing decarbonisation reports for WCC properties.	Property Services Team	Jun 2024 (Qtr1)
	With focus on underperforming EPCs in rental properties produce business case for proposed work to enable necessary EPCs for continued rental	Property Services Team	Sep 2024 (Qtr2)
	Identify Energy saving and decarbonisation measures in planned programmed works for WCC properties.	Property Services Team	Mar 2025 (Qtr4)
	Review options to purchase renewable electricity for 2025-26	Commercial Team	Sep 2024 (Qtr2)
	Update and implement Sustainability Design Guide	Property Services Team	Jun 2024 (Qtr1)
	Produce a Heating and Cooling policy for WCC properties for review and implementation.	Property Services Team	Sept 2024 (Qtr2)
Street lighting & lit assets	Purchase 100% renewable electricity for 2024-25	E&I Revenue Budget	Apr 2024 (Qtr1)
WCC Fleet	Identify replacement ULEV vehicle options for WCC fleet (taking technological advances into account)	Fleet Management	Dec 2024 (Qtr3)
	Produce a fleet replacement schedule compliant with Government transport decarbonisation plans ¹⁹	Fleet Management	Mar 2025 (Qtr4)

¹⁹ Cars and vans (under 3.5t): all new cars and vans significant zero emissions from 2030 and 100% zero emissions at the tailpipe from 2035. Heavy Goods Vehicles (above 3.5t): new trucks up to and including 26t to be zero emissions from 2035, with above >26t zero emission by 2040

Grey Fleet (staff business travel)	Update the existing Travel & Subsistence Policy to include a sustainable travel hierarchy for work related travel	HR Operations & Delivery Team	Mar 2025 (Qtr4)
	Commence a county hall travel plan review – to promote sustainable travel to Campus	Transport Planning Team	Mar 2025 (Qtr4)
	Review the number of electric vehicle chargepoints required in WCC car parks to allow staff to transition to electric vehicles.	Property Services Team	Jun 2024 (Qtr1)
	Secure a fully funded electric vehicle chargepoint operator for WCC estates	Property Services Team	Jun 2024 (Qtr1)
Waste	Produce a feasibility study to identify carbon capture and storage options for EnviRecover	Waste Management Team	Mar 2025 (Qtr4)
	Work in partnership with districts to implement changes to household waste collection outlined in Environment Act 2021 (food waste, streamlined recycling etc)	Waste Management Team	Mar 2025 (Qtr4)
	Continue to promote waste prevention initiatives to households	Waste Management Team	Mar 2025 (Qtr4)
Procurement, Supply Chain and investments	Review existing and future contracting requirements and develop a procurement policy for how WCC's supply chain will address the councils net zero ambitions.	Procurement	Mar 2025 (Qtr4)
Carbon Offsetting	Undertake tree planting registered with the Woodland Carbon Code accredited scheme	Countryside and Green space Team	Mar 2025 (Qtr4)
Awareness and training	Review options for sustainability training for WCC staff, Senior Management, and	Sustainability Team	Dec 2024 (Qtr 3)

ANNEX 2

WCC CARBON REDUCTION TO DATE AND PROJECTED

Baseline & 2021/22 Net Emissions

Net Emissions Reduction Milestones to 2050

ALL	2009/10	2022/23	% Change	2024/25	% Change	2029/30	% Change	2049/50	% Change
Municipal Waste	43,566	32,884	-25%	32,883	-25%	33,965	-22%	3,600	-92%
Waste, Highways & transport contracts	7,494	6,120	-18%	5,655	-25%	3,498	-53%	0	-100%
WCC Property	9,707	1,343	-86%	1,263	-87%	1,874	-81%	0	-100%
WCC Transport and staff travel	4,221	1,784	-58%	1,554	-63%	514	-88%	3	-100%
WCC Street Lighting	11,547	234	-98%	227	-98%	189	-98%	0	-100%
Total	76,535	42,365	-45%	41,581	-46%	39,183	-48%	3,603	-95%
Scope 1&2	2009/10	2022/23	% Change	2024/25	% Change	2029/30	% Change	2049/50	% Change
WCC Property	9,235	1246	-87%	1,205	-87%	1,017	-89%	0	-100%
WCC Fleet Transport	1,335	762	-43%	488	-63%	67	-95%	0	-100%
WCC Street Lighting	10,700	0	-100%	0	-100%	0	-100%	0	-100%
Total	21,270	2008	-91%	1,693	-92%	1,085	-95%	0	-100%

N.B. Assumptions:

- Continued purchase of 100% REGO accredited renewable electricity for street lighting
- Average 3% annual improvement in property energy efficiency ²⁰
- Fully decarbonised electricity grid by 2035
- Phasedown of gas network from 2035 to 100% by 2050
- Aspiration to achieve 3% annual emissions reduction of contracted services and additional reductions resulting from UK grid decarbonisation and ULEV targets
- Projected municipal waste emissions related to projected number of households in the County to 2040 inline with current predictions
- Carbon Capture and Storage operational at Energy from Waste plant

²⁰ to be achieved via rationalisation of the estate and reduced energy demand

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Project Screening

Impact Assessment Id: #629

1. Your Details

Name of person completing screening assessment

Anna Wardell-Hill

Job Title

Programme Manager Corporate Sustainability

Directorate

Economy & Infrastructure

Service Area

Economy

Email Address

AWardellHill@worcestershire.gov.uk

Connection to project (e.g. project manager)

Programme Manager

2. Project Summary

For the purposes of the impact assessment screening, we will refer to the activity or area being assessed as a project.

Project Name

WCC Net Zero Carbon Plan 2023

Name of Project Sponsor

Gary Woodman

Name of Project Manager

Sue Crow

Name of Project Lead

Anna Wardell-Hill

Project Reference (if known)**Please give a brief description of the project**

This is a review and update to the County Council's Net Zero Carbon Plan, which sets out how the Council will meet net zero emissions from its operations and activities by 2050

3. Data Protection

We need to establish if the proposal involves processing personal data. Personal data is information that relates to an identified or identifiable individual.

Name of Information Asset Owner

John Hobbs

Senior officer responsible for the project's information assets

Does the project, any project work stream or project outcome involve any personal data? Some examples of personal data are given below. **No**

Appearance:

photograph, physical description

Basic Identifiers:

name, date of birth, age, biometric data, ethnic origin, gender, genetic data, race, sex

Contact Details:

address, email address, home phone number, mobile phone number, postcode

ID Number:

National Insurance Number, driving licence number, NHS number, online identifier, other general identifier

Employment:

work related training/awards

Financial:

income/financial/tax situation

Lifestyle:

health or social care, living habits, marital status, philosophical beliefs, political opinions, religion, sex life, trade union membership

Technology:

login/username, device MAC address (wireless network interface), device IMEI number, IP Address, location data (travel/GDPS/GSM data), website cookies

As you answered 'No', please explain your reasoning below:

The Net Zero Carbon Plan 2023 does not include any personal information or data

4. Equality

We need to determine whether the project could affect residents and/or Council staff because they share any of the Protected Characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010 namely Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage/Civil Partnership, Pregnancy, Race, Religion/Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation.

Does the project relate to an area where data/research indicates that inequalities are already known to exist? Yes

Could this project have any effect on, service delivery or usage, other aspects of daily life or community participation levels for people because they belong to any of the groups below?

Age No

e.g. a person belonging to a particular age group (for example 18 – 30-year olds).

Disability No

e.g. A person has a disability if she or he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Gender Re-Assignment No

e.g. The process of transitioning from one gender to another.

Marriage/Civil Partnership Status No

e.g. Marriage is a union between a man and a woman or between a same-sex couple. Same-sex couples can also have their relationships legally recognised as 'civil partnerships'. Civil partners must not be treated less favourably than married couples (except where permitted by the Equality Act).

Pregnancy/Maternity No

e.g. Pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant or expecting a baby. Maternity refers to the period after the birth and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth, and this includes treating a woman unfavourably because she is breastfeeding.

Race No

e.g. Refers to the protected characteristic of race. It refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins.

Religion or Belief No

e.g. Religion refers to any religion, including a lack of religion. Belief refers to any religious or philosophical belief and includes a lack of belief. Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live for it to be included in the definition.

Sex No

Sexual Orientation No

e.g. Whether a person's sexual attraction is towards their own sex, the opposite sex or to both sexes.

Health Inequalities Yes

e.g. Any preventable, unfair & unjust differences in health status between groups, populations or individuals that arise from the unequal distribution of social, environmental & economic conditions within societies.

5. Public Health

We also want to understand if the project will have any impacts on public health.

The social, economic, cultural and physical environment in which people live their lives has a significant effect on their health and wellbeing. Although genetics and personal behaviour play a strong part in determining an individual's health, good health starts where we live, where we work and learn, and where we play.

Improving public health requires taking a broader view of the conditions that create health and wellbeing, from how we plan and develop our urban spaces and places, to the opportunities for employment, recreation, and social connection available to all who live in them.

Health inequalities are the preventable, unfair and unjust differences in health status between groups, populations or individuals that arise from the unequal distribution of social, environmental and economic conditions within societies, which determine the risk of people getting ill, their ability to prevent sickness, or opportunities to take action and access treatment when ill health occurs.

Could the project have an impact on any of the following factors?

Social and Economic Yes

e.g. culture, social support (neighbourliness, social networks/isolation), spiritual participation, employment opportunities.

Physical Health Yes

e.g. physical activity is expected to increase, influenza vaccination uptake increase

Mental Health & Wellbeing Yes

e.g. benefits to children's mental health, benefits to adult carer wellbeing.

Access to Services Yes

e.g. access to (location/disabled access/costs) and quality of primary/community/secondary health care, child care, social services, housing/leisure/social security services; public transport, policing, other health relevant public services, non-statutory agencies and services.

5. Environmental Sustainability

We want to understand if the project activity and project outcomes will have an impact on environmental sustainability. Please be mindful that the Council has committed to reduce its emissions to net-zero by 2050 and most projects are likely to have an impact on this target. This should be a key consideration in your project delivery and should be reviewed when completing these screening documents.

Could this project have an impact on the categories listed below?

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions (including CO2) Yes

e.g. increased GHG emissions as a result of project implementation, which may also be linked with efficient use of resources in WCC buildings; transport; emissions from waste; and procurement.

Efficient Use of Resources Yes

e.g. consumption of energy resources, water, electricity, gas and heating fuels.

Transport Yes

e.g. number of people travelling, alternative transport modes.

Waste Yes

e.g. increase in waste generated or an increase in waste recycling.

Wildlife and Biodiversity Yes

e.g. impacts on the natural environment or enhancements to the natural environment.

N.B. This refers to any direct or indirect modifications to landholdings, including but not limited to removal of vegetation, alteration or demolition of buildings or modification of watercourses or lighting (not limited to just green space/trees).

Pollution to Land or Water No

e.g. risk of pollution to the local environment.

Pollution to Air No

e.g. risk of pollution to air, activity which may adversely affect air quality or increase emissions to air

Resilience to climate change Yes

e.g. risks of extreme weather and climate impacts on the project.

Historic Environment No

e.g. impacts on Historic Environment or enhancements of the Historic Environment.

Procurement Yes

e.g. could procurement associated with the project result in an increase of natural resources (such as long-distance shipping of goods); could use be made of local resources or work forces to support delivery of the project.

7. Results of Screening

Data Protection	Does not need a full impact assessment
Equality and Public Health	Will require a full impact assessment
Environmental Sustainability	Will require a full impact assessment

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Equality and Public Health Full Impact Assessment

Impact Assessment Id: #628

1.0 Screening Information

Project Name

WCC Net Zero Carbon Plan 2023

Name of Project Sponsor

Gary Woodman

Name of Project Manager

Sue Crow

Name of Project Lead

Anna Wardell-Hill

Please give a brief description of the project

This is a review and update to the County Council's Net Zero Carbon Plan, which sets out how the Council will meet net zero emissions from its operations and activities by 2050

Data Protection screening result

Does not need a full impact assessment

Equality and Public Health screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

Environmental Sustainability screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

1.1 Background and Purpose

Background and Purpose of Project?

To support your answer to this question, you can upload a copy of the project's Business Case or similar document.

WCC Net Zero Carbon Plan has been reviewed and updated and sets out how the Council will aim to meet its zero carbon target by 2050, with an appended shorter-term action plan to achieve emissions reductions over the next 2 years. Draft Net Zero Carbon Plan and action plan document attached for reference. Due to go to Cabinet for approval November 2023.

Upload Business Case or Support documents

[□ Draft WCC Net Zero Carbon Plan Review V13 FINAL.docx](#)

Project Outputs

Briefly summarise the activities needed to achieve the project outcomes.

Action Plan within the attached details the proposals to achieve net zero emissions by 2050

Project Outcomes

Briefly summarise what the project will achieve.

The plan will achieve emissions reductions, and associated energy reductions from the Council's own operations and activities and ensure WCC is resilient to future energy cost increases. The plan includes WCC buildings, street lighting, fleet, staff mileage, waste disposal; as well as emissions from contractors for Waste, Fleet and Highways (where we have access to the data). The Council has operated a carbon/energy management strategy since 2002. To date, the Council has reduced its net carbon emissions by 41% from 2009/10 baseline. The Net Zero Carbon Plan aligns with the national Government target to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

Is the project a new function/service or does it relate to an existing Council function/service?

Existing

Was consultation carried out on this project?

No

1.2 Responsibility

Directorate/Organisation

Economy & Infrastructure

Service Area

Economy

1.3 Specifics

Project Reference (if known)

Not Recorded

Intended Project Close Date *

October 2025

1.4 Project Part of a Strategic Programme

Is this project part of a strategic programme?

No

2 Organisations Involved

Please identify the organisation(s) involved:

Worcestershire County Council

Details of contributors to this assessment:

Name	Anna Wardell-Hill
Job title	Programme Manager - Corporate Sustainability
Email address	awardellhill@worcestershire.gov.uk

Name	Katie Bruton
Job title	Senior Sustainability Officer
Email address	kbruton@worcestershire.gov.uk

3.0 Who will be affected by the development and implementation

Please identify group(s) involved:

Service User

Staff

Communities

3.1 Information and evidence reviewed

What information and evidence have you reviewed to help inform this assessment? *

The UN has undertaken research on the impact of climate change and social inequality - https://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2017/wp152_2017.pdf

Available evidence indicates that this relationship is characterized by a vicious cycle, whereby initial inequality causes the disadvantaged groups to suffer disproportionately from the adverse effects of climate change, resulting in greater subsequent inequality.

Climate Change and Social Inequality; S Nazrul Islam and John Winkel - UN / DESA working paper 152, page 2:

"Needless to say, there are many types of inequalities to consider even in a within-country setting. On the one hand, there are inequalities based on demographic characteristics, such as gender, race, ethnicity, religion, and age. A second type of inequality is regarding assets and income. A third type of inequality is regarding public decision making (political power) and access to public resources, such as publicly financed health, education, housing, financing, and other services. Needless to say, these different types of inequalities are interrelated.

We use the term "social inequality" to refer to all these different types of within-country inequalities. This is, first of all, in the interest of parsimony. Second, the term "social inequality" gets to the heart of the matter more directly and intuitively than the term "within-country inequality" does. Third, regional (spatial) inequality within a country often overlaps with inequality regarding race, ethnicity, and religion, and finds expression in the form of inequality in income and assets. Hence, within-country spatial inequality can also be subsumed under social inequality. It should be noted that important inequalities exist within households too. Amartya Sen, for example, highlighted the intra-household bias against girls and women (see, for example, Sen 1990). In this paper, however, we do not extend the discussion to intra-household inequalities as this will clearly stipulate who / what we are specifying by using the term 'inequalities'."

3.2 Summary of engagement or consultation undertaken

Who and how have you engaged, or why do you believe engagement is not required? *

Engagement and consultation undertaken with internal WCC Sustainability Board Members on the content of the Net Zero Carbon Plan

3.3 Summary of relevant findings

Please summarise your relevant findings. *

The UN has undertaken research on the impact of climate change and social inequality - https://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2017/wp152_2017.pdf

Available evidence indicates that this relationship is characterized by a vicious cycle, whereby initial inequality causes the disadvantaged groups to suffer disproportionately from the adverse effects of climate change, resulting in greater subsequent inequality.

4 Protected characteristics - Equality

Please consider the potential impact of this activity (during development & implementation) on each of the equality groups outlined below. **Please select one or more impact box(es) below for each equality group and explain your rationale.** Please note it is possible for the potential impact to be both positive and negative for the same equality group and this should be recorded. Remember to consider the impact on e.g. staff, public, patients, carers etc. who are part of these equality groups.

Age

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The proposals within the Net Zero Carbon Plan are specifically around WCC reducing its own emissions from its activities and operations. This in turn will have a positive impact for all in terms of emissions reduction in the local area, and consequential support in reducing national and global emissions, which will support addressing any negative impacts on social and health inequalities presented by carbon emissions in the atmosphere and the consequences of global warming and future impacts of climate change.

Disability

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The proposals within the Net Zero Carbon Plan are specifically around WCC reducing its own emissions from its activities and operations. This in turn will have a positive impact for all in terms of emissions reduction in the local area, and consequential support in reducing national and global emissions, which will support addressing any negative impacts on social and health inequalities presented by carbon emissions in the atmosphere and the consequences of global warming and future impacts of climate change.

Gender reassignment

Potential neutral impact selected

Explanation of your reasoning:

The proposals within the Net Zero Carbon Plan are specifically around WCC reducing its own emissions from its activities and operations. This in turn will have a positive impact for all in terms of emissions reduction in the local area, and consequential support in reducing national and global emissions, which will support addressing any negative impacts on social and health inequalities presented by carbon emissions in the atmosphere and the consequences of global warming and future impacts of climate change.

Marriage and civil partnerships

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The proposals within the Net Zero Carbon Plan are specifically around WCC reducing its own emissions from its activities and operations. This in turn will have a positive impact for all in terms of emissions reduction in the local area, and consequential support in reducing national and global emissions, which will support addressing any negative impacts on social and health inequalities presented by carbon emissions in the atmosphere and the consequences of global warming and future impacts of climate change.

Pregnancy and maternity

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The proposals within the Net Zero Carbon Plan are specifically around WCC reducing its own emissions from its activities and operations. This in turn will have a positive impact for all in terms of emissions reduction in the local area, and consequential support in reducing national and global emissions, which will support addressing any negative impacts on social and health inequalities presented by carbon emissions in the atmosphere and the consequences of global warming and future impacts of climate change.

Race including travelling communities

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The proposals within the Net Zero Carbon Plan are specifically around WCC reducing its own emissions from its activities and operations. This in turn will have a positive impact in terms of emissions reduction in the local area, and consequential support in reducing national and global emissions, which will support addressing any negative impacts on social and health inequalities presented by carbon emissions in the atmosphere and the consequences of global warming and future impacts of climate change.

Religion and belief

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The proposals within the Net Zero Carbon Plan are specifically around WCC reducing its own emissions from its activities and operations. This in turn will have a positive impact for all in terms of emissions reduction in the local area, and consequential support in reducing national and global emissions, which will support addressing any negative impacts on social and health inequalities presented by carbon emissions in the atmosphere and the consequences of global warming and future impacts of climate change.

Sex

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The proposals within the Net Zero Carbon Plan are specifically around WCC reducing its own emissions from its activities and operations. This in turn will have a positive impact for all in terms of emissions reduction in the local area, and consequential support in reducing national and global emissions, which will support addressing any negative impacts on social and health inequalities presented by carbon emissions in the atmosphere and the consequences of global warming and future impacts of climate change.

Sexual orientation

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The proposals within the Net Zero Carbon Plan are specifically around WCC reducing its own emissions from its activities and operations. This in turn will have a positive impact for all in terms of emissions reduction in the local area, and consequential support in reducing national and global emissions, which will support addressing any negative impacts on social and health inequalities presented by carbon emissions in the atmosphere and the consequences of global warming and future impacts of climate change.

5 Characteristics - Public health

Other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The proposals within the Net Zero Carbon Plan are specifically around WCC reducing its own emissions from its activities and operations. This in turn will have a positive impact in terms of emissions reduction in the local area, and consequential support in reducing national and global emissions, which will support addressing any negative impacts on social and health inequalities presented by carbon emissions in the atmosphere and the consequences of global warming and future impacts of climate change.

Health inequalities

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The proposals within the Net Zero Carbon Plan are specifically around WCC reducing its own emissions from its activities and operations. This in turn will have a positive impact in terms of emissions reduction in the local area, and consequential support in reducing national and global emissions, which will support addressing any negative impacts on social and health inequalities presented by carbon emissions in the atmosphere and the consequences of global warming and future impacts of climate change.

Social and economic

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The proposals within the Net Zero Carbon Plan are specifically around WCC reducing its own emissions from its activities and operations. This in turn will have a positive impact in terms of emissions reduction in the local area, and consequential support in reducing national and global emissions, which will support addressing any negative impacts on social and health inequalities presented by carbon emissions in the atmosphere and the consequences of global warming and future impacts of climate change. Positive social and economic outcomes are key to achieving true sustainable development, which is one of the main objectives of the Net Zero Carbon Plan. The Plan is aligned to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The drive to achieve Net Zero emissions will also support development of the local green economy and further job opportunities in the area.

Physical health

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The Net Zero Carbon Plan will achieve an all-round better environment, supporting improvements in mental and physical health for all.

Mental health and wellbeing

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The Net Zero Carbon Plan will achieve an all-round better environment, supporting improvements in mental health and well-being for all.

Access to services

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The Zero Carbon Plan sets out how the Council will improve the energy efficiency (and consequently comfort of) our own building stock; make improvements to our fleet vehicles and introduce zero-emission fleet vehicles which will have a positive impact on local air quality.

6 Actions to mitigate potential negative impacts

You have confirmed that there are no negative impacts for equality protected characteristics and public health characteristics.

7 When will you review this equality and public health estimate(EPHIA)?

The Net Zero Carbon Plan will go through a full review and update in 2025. If any impacts on equality and public health are identified during review a new EPHIA will be completed.

8 Declaration

The following statement has been read and agreed:

- All public bodies have a statutory duty under the Equality Act 2010 to set out arrangements to assess and consult on how their policies and functions impact on the 9 protected characteristics: Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage & Civil Partnership; Pregnancy & Maternity; Race; Religion & Belief; Sex; Sexual Orientation
- Our Organisation will challenge discrimination, promote equality, respect human rights, and aims to design and implement services, policies and measures that meet the diverse needs of our service, and population, ensuring that none are placed at a disadvantage over others
- All staff are expected to deliver and provide services and care in a manner which respects the individuality of service users, patients, carers etc, and as such treat them and members of the workforce respectfully, paying due regard to the 9 protected characteristics

I confirm to the best of my knowledge that the information I have provided is true, complete and accurate

I confirm that I will make sure that Equality and Public Health have been and continue to be considered throughout the project life cycle and that, if circumstances change in the project, a further Equality and Public Health Impact Assessment Screening will be carried out.

8 Application Details

Last Updated Date Time

09/11/2023 11:45:19

Screening Submitted Date Time

06/11/2023 17:00:00

Last Reopened Date Time

09/11/2023 11:30:45

Full Impact Submitted Date Time

09/11/2023 11:45:19

Approved/Rejected Date Time

No Date Recorded

Current User Dashboard Request Status

Submitted

9.0 People with access to the original screening

[Anna Wardell-Hill \(AWardellHill@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:AWardellHill@worcestershire.gov.uk)

9.1 People with access to this equality and public health assessment

[Anna Wardell-Hill \(AWardellHill@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:AWardellHill@worcestershire.gov.uk)

10

Direct Questions

Question:

Hi Anna, unfortunately the comments in the protected characteristic categories, we have not evidenced due regard to each, and subsequently cannot yet be signed off. Happy to chat through and provide feedback this week. I will reopen the assessment for amends.

Kind regards,
Maddy

Asked by Maddy Cameron (MCameron@worcestershires.gov.uk) at 07/11/2023 08:24:29

Anna Wardell-Hill (AWardellHill@worcestershires.gov.uk) has been asked this question.

Currently Unanswered

Add Response

Question:

Hi Anna, thanks for making the relevant amends. I will copy the questions from the previously signed off #419 for clarity:

Hi Katie, (I will also send this information directly to you via email)

You have said that the impact on disabled people, (and those who share all other protected characteristics) will be positive, however you have not answered as to what that positive (potential) impact will be, or why those identifying in this / each group, will specifically benefit from the strategy / decision made. Please amend and update the impacts section accordingly, in order for this to be signed off as acceptable. Any queries, please let me know and we can discuss.

Thanks, Maddy

Asked by Maddy Cameron (MCameron@worcestershires.gov.uk) at 12/10/2022 10:46:18

Katie Bruton (KBruton@worcestershires.gov.uk) has been asked this question.

Response:

As agreed via email exchange, I will amend all to 'potential neutral impact' instead, as the outcomes of the actions within the Net Zero Carbon Plan (ultimately reducing the council's emissions and subsequent climate change impacts) will benefit everyone, including those with protected characteristics. Those with protected characteristics will not necessarily benefit any more than anyone else in society from the delivery of the Council's Net Zero Carbon Plan.

Katie Bruton (KBruton@worcestershires.gov.uk) at 13/10/2022 09:55:09

and:

Hi, might be worth adding the following section from research paper: Climate Change and Social Inequality; S Nazrul Islam and John Winkel - UN / DESA working paper 152, page 2, to the summary section above, or abbreviate / link to paragraph numbers.

Both questions and all amends have been made from an equality aspect. Thank you.

Asked by Maddy Cameron (MCameron@worcestershires.gov.uk) at 09/11/2023 12:44:23

Anna Wardell-Hill (AWardellHill@worcestershires.gov.uk) has been asked this question.

Response:

Many Thanks Maddy

Anna Wardell-Hill (AWardellHill@worcestershires.gov.uk) at 09/11/2023 13:08:13

Add Response

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Environmental Sustainability Full Impact Assessment

Impact Assessment Id: #628

1.0 Screening Information

Project Name

WCC Net Zero Carbon Plan 2023

Name of Project Sponsor

Gary Woodman

Name of Project Manager

Sue Crow

Name of Project Lead

Anna Wardell-Hill

Please give a brief description of the project

This is a review and update to the County Council's Net Zero Carbon Plan, which sets out how the Council will meet net zero emissions from its operations and activities by 2050

Data Protection screening result

Does not need a full impact assessment

Equality and Public Health screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

Environmental Sustainability screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

1.1 Background and Purpose

Background and Purpose of Project?

To support your answer to this question, you can upload a copy of the project's Business Case or similar document.

WCC Net Zero Carbon Plan has been reviewed and updated and sets out how the Council will aim to meet its zero carbon target by 2050, with an appended shorter-term action plan to achieve emissions reductions over the next 2 years. Draft Net Zero Carbon Plan and action plan document attached for reference. Due to go to Cabinet for approval November 2023.

Upload Business Case or Support documents

[□ Draft WCC Net Zero Carbon Plan Review V13 FINAL.docx](#)

Project Outputs

Briefly summarise the activities needed to achieve the project outcomes.

Action Plan within the attached details the proposals to achieve net zero emissions by 2050

Project Outcomes

Briefly summarise what the project will achieve.

The plan will achieve emissions reductions, and associated energy reductions from the Council's own operations and activities and ensure WCC is resilient to future energy cost increases. The plan includes WCC buildings, street lighting, fleet, staff mileage, waste disposal; as well as emissions from contractors for Waste, Fleet and Highways (where we have access to the data). The Council has operated a carbon/energy management strategy since 2002. To date, the Council has reduced its net carbon emissions by 41% from 2009/10 baseline. The Net Zero Carbon Plan aligns with the national Government target to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

Is the project a new function/service or does it relate to an existing Council function/service?

Existing

Was consultation carried out on this project?

No

1.2 Responsibility

Directorate/Organisation

Economy & Infrastructure

Service Area

Economy

1.3 Specifics

Project Reference (if known)

Not Recorded

Intended Project Close Date *

October 2025

1.4 Project Part of a Strategic Programme

Is this project part of a strategic programme?

No

2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Could the project result in an increase in GHG emissions (including CO2)? No

Please be mindful that the Council has committed to reduce its GHG emissions to zero by 2050 and most projects are likely to have an impact on this target. This should be a key consideration in your project delivery and should be reviewed when completing the assessment.

Have you undertaken an assessment of the project to know if there will likely be an increase in GHG emissions? Yes

Please explain your answer below:

The Net Zero Carbon Plan is specifically looking to achieve a reduction in emissions and actions are proposed to achieve net zero emissions, not to result in any increase in emissions from Council activities and operations.

3 Resources

Will the project result in increased consumption of electricity, gas or other heating fuels? No

e.g. project may require use of additional buildings, lighting and heating in buildings, additional ICT equipment, etc.

Will the project reduce energy needs and result in reduced consumption? Yes

e.g. disposal of WCC property assets

Will the project require additional water resources leading to an increase in water consumption? No

e.g. increased use of water through construction processes

Might there be a decrease in water consumption? Yes

e.g. will the project involve water saving measures or initiatives

Please explain your answer below:

Potentially, but water is not currently included in the Net Zero Carbon Plan - should further water data become available WCC may wish to include our water carbon footprint in future reviews of the plan.

Will the project result in the use of other resources, materials or minerals? Yes

e.g. use of natural resources such as wood; or use of aggregate minerals?

Please explain your answer below:

The plan includes proposals to further invest in renewable energy on the Council's own estate. Many solar panels are produced overseas, particularly in Asia, so there will be an impact with regard to the transport and manufacture of such products.

The procurement process for each of the discrete actions within each of the sections of the plan will ensure sustainable product choices which aim to reduce associated emissions.

4 Transport

Will the project result in more people needing to travel? No

e.g. will there be additional cars on the road

Have alternative transport modes been considered? Yes

e.g. could use be made of public transport/walking/cycling etc.

Please explain your answer below:

The Plan fully supports active travel, and includes reference to the County Hall staff travel plan which promotes sustainable travel choices for staff, and will include grey fleet (staff travel for business purposes) during its current review. The plan also includes proposals to reduce emissions from the Council's own fleet - please see attached plan for full details.

5 Waste

Is there likely to be an increase in waste as a result of the project? No

e.g. construction waste, packaging waste etc.

Have opportunities to prevent, minimise, reuse or recycle waste been identified and considered? Yes

e.g. will recycling facilities be available as part of the project

Please explain your answer below:

Proposal to include actions for suppliers and contractors on meeting the objectives of the Net Zero Carbon Plan through contract negotiations and renewal, this will include reference to waste minimisation.

6 Wildlife and Biodiversity

Will there be any negative impacts on the natural environment? Yes

e.g. will the project involve removal of green space/trees; have wildlife surveys been considered; result in enhancements to green infrastructure; increased biodiversity opportunities etc.?

Please explain your answer below:

Enhancements to biodiversity - plan includes proposals to plant a number of trees over the coming years, which will act as carbon sequestration.

Possible impacts on biodiversity regarding installation of solar PV and other renewable energy installations - will ensure that the Council's Planning Team and County Ecologists are involved in the process to assess any potential impacts upon wildlife and biodiversity and seek advice and recommendations from them to ensure that any impacts can be mitigated. Will also ensure all relevant surveys and planning prerequisites are met.

Has a preliminary ecological appraisal been undertaken? No

Please explain your answer below:

Not recorded

Has there been consideration of statutory assessments? No

e.g. Sustainability Appraisals, Strategic Environmental Assessments and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening?

N.B. This is a matter of legal compliance - All plans and projects (including planning applications) which are not directly connected with, or necessary for, the conservation management of a habitat site, require consideration of whether the plan or project is likely to have significant effects on that site. This consideration – typically referred to as the 'Habitats Regulations Assessment screening' – should take into account the potential effects both of the plan/project itself and in combination with other plans or projects.

7 Pollution to land/air/water

Is there a risk of pollution to the local environment? No

e.g.

- will there be surface water run-off or discharge into local water source?
- will there be any impact on local water quality?
- will any waste water require treatment?
- is there the potential for spillage of chemicals?
- is there the potential for emissions to air from combustion processes resulting in poor air quality?

8 Resilience to climate risks

Could climate risks affect your project? Yes

N.B. some projects may be more sensitive to future changes in the climate e.g. hotter and drier summers; milder and wetter winters; increased likelihood of extreme weather events. These climate risks may affect project delivery and should be considered at the early stages of project development.

Please explain your answer below:

The Net Zero Carbon Plan is specifically trying to reduce any future climate risks by reducing emissions now.

Has the impact of extreme weather events on the project been considered? Yes

e.g. heat waves and flooding.

Please explain your answer below:

The Net Zero Carbon Plan is specifically trying to reduce emissions and reduce the impacts of future climate change, such as extreme weather events. Climate risks will need to be a consideration for each discrete project within the action plan during the delivery phase.

Is there a business/project continuity plan in place to ensure climate risks are minimised? Yes

e.g. can you ensure that the project is resilient to climate risks and can continue to deliver on outcomes.

Please explain your answer below:

The Net Zero Carbon Plan is, in itself, a continuity plan, acting now to reduce emissions from Council activities and operations to reduce future climate impacts. The Net Zero Plan's focus is on the Council's own carbon emissions and mitigating the impacts of climate change. Whilst acknowledging that adaptation to future climate change is just as important, it is not the focus of the Net Zero Carbon Plan. Adaptation to future climate will need to be a consideration for each discrete project within the action plan during delivery phase.

Could the project exacerbate climate risks? No

e.g. increase flood risk or worsen temperature extremes in the locality.

Will the project result in the use of other resources, materials or minerals? Yes

e.g. use of natural resources such as wood; or use of aggregate minerals?

Please explain your answer below:

The plan includes proposals to further invest in renewable energy on the Council's own estate. Many solar panels are produced overseas, particularly in Asia, so there will be an impact with regard to the transport and manufacture of such products.

The procurement process for each of the discrete actions within each of the sections of the plan will ensure sustainable product choices which aim to reduce associated emissions.

9 Historic Environment

Have you checked with the WCC Historic Environment team as to whether there are any impacts on the Historic Environment (negative or positive)?

No

Check every development with the Historic Environment Team at the planning stage of each project. Further assessment may be required depending on the nature and scale of development. There may also be design options that would negate any need for further assessment (and lessen costs), or even opportunities to enhance heritage assets or their setting through the development.

Does the development have the potential to result in any impacts to the historic environment or opportunities for enhancement?

No

If yes, then further assessment will be required. This could take the form of a watching brief during groundworks if the potential is clearly understood and relatively low, or a more comprehensive desk-based and/or field investigation prior to development.

10 Procurement

Could any procurement associated with the project have a detrimental environmental impact? Yes

e.g. procurement of goods from overseas that have to be shipped; use of unsustainable materials or materials that cannot be recycled at the end of their use?

Please explain your answer below:

Actions included within the Net Zero Carbon Plan to specifically reduce emissions associated with the Council's procurement activities.

We acknowledge the plan includes proposals to further invest in renewable energy on the Council's own estate. Many solar panels are produced overseas, particularly in Asia, so there will be an impact with regard to the transport and manufacture of such products

Is there likely to be increased Greenhouse Gas emissions from products purchased for the project? Yes

e.g. carbon emissions from transport and manufacturing

Please explain your answer below:

There is potential for an increase in emissions through the supply chain, but the procurement process will aim to ensure emissions are reduced where possible. WCC is also trying to improve its accounting of scope 3 (supply chain) emissions, so we can monitor the impacts of our contracts and procurement activity.

Will you be able to make use of sustainable products? Yes

e.g. recycled, local, ethical etc.

Please explain your answer below:

Procurement decisions encouraged to source local, sustainable, low carbon products where possible to do so

Have you considered the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012? Yes

All major contracts let by the Council (those of more than £100,000 in total value) will be expected to deliver a meaningful contribution to our vision of Social Value in the county. The Act requires us to consider how the services we commission and procure might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the local area.

– please see: [Social Value](#)

Please explain your answer below:

Associated procurement for projects within the action plan will take into account the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

11 Declaration

I have confirmed that to the best of my knowledge that the information I have provided is true, complete and accurate

I have confirmed that I will make sure that Environmental Sustainability has been and continues to be considered throughout the project life cycle and should circumstances change in the project a further Environmental Sustainability Assessment Screening will be carried out.

12 Application Details

Last Updated Date Time

09/11/2023 16:22:25

Screening Submitted Date Time

06/11/2023 17:00:00

Last Reopened Date Time

No Date Recorded

Full Impact Submitted Date Time

08/11/2023 13:37:41

Approved/Rejected Date Time

09/11/2023 16:22:25

Current User Dashboard Request Status

Complete

13.0 People with access to the original screening

[Anna Wardell-Hill \(AWardellHill@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:AWardellHill@worcestershire.gov.uk)

13.1 People with access to this environmental sustainability assessment

[Anna Wardell-Hill \(AWardellHill@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:AWardellHill@worcestershire.gov.uk)

14 Direct Questions

No Questions Asked

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WORCESTERSHIRE
CHILDREN FIRST



Proposal for new Special Free School in Worcestershire

October 2022

Background

- On 30th March 2022 the **Department for Education** (DfE) published the SEND Review
- The **SEND Review** sets out government's proposals for a system that offers children and young people the opportunity to thrive, with access to the right support, in the right place, and at the right time, so they can fulfil their potential and lead happy, healthy and productive adult lives.
- Excellent provision from early years to adulthood including delivery of more new special and alternative provision free schools in addition to 60 already in the pipeline
- June/ July 2022 pre-registration for local authorities to apply for new special free school

Opportunity for all:
strong schools with great
teachers for your child



Commits to improve specialist
provision through investment to
deliver new places and improve
existing provision for children and
young people with SEND



Priorities for DfE

The investment in new special free schools aims to provide children and young people with **good quality provision in their local area**, which in turn will **reduce the time and money spent on transport**. Investing in new special free schools will **reduce the use of more expensive provision**, with a view to **delivering a local system** which both **meets local authority needs and is financially sustainable**.

Applications will be prioritised which:

- are in areas where a new school **fits with the local authority's wider SEN and high needs strategy**
- make a strong strategic case for why a new special free school is needed, and **will better meet the needs and achieve better outcomes for children and young people in the area**
- demonstrate that a new special free school will help local authorities **reduce their dedicated schools grant (DSG) deficit**
- demonstrate that a new school will be financially sustainable and that local authorities **will commit to commissioning, funding and supporting places**
- will **contribute to the wider aims of the SEND green paper**
- include details of **a viable site** which is likely to secure value for money, in a timely manner, and with an acceptable level of risk

What is a Free school?

- All new schools are classified as free schools.
- This reflects the fact that ‘free school’ is the department’s term for any new provision academy.
- ‘Academy’ is the legal term for state-funded schools that are independent of local authority control and receive their funding directly from the government.
- The Education Act 2011 changed the arrangements for establishing new schools and introduced section 6A (the ‘free school presumption’) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 which requires that, where a local authority identifies the need for a new school in its area, it must seek proposals to establish an academy (free school).
- There are two routes for Local Authorities to opening a Free School:

Page 2/12

DfE Free School Waves	Local Authority Presumption Route
The DfE free schools programme targets specific areas or needs e.g. Special and AP	Where a LA identifies the need for a new school to meet basic need for additional school places, section 6A of EIA 2006 places the LA under a duty to seek proposals to establish an academy (free school)
New schools approved through this process are part of the central free schools programme and will be delivered and funded as such.	The local authority is responsible for providing the site for the new school and for delivering the capital programme for building the new school.
Applications are welcomed from new providers e.g. Academy Trusts, a diocese or charitable trust etc	The site be made available free or on a peppercorn basis by the local authority to the trust.
	The local authority are responsible for associated capital and pre/post-opening revenue costs.
	Basic need capital funding is provided on an un-ringfenced basis, so that local authorities can provide the places that they need, including through new presumption schools

Worcestershire's SEND Strategy and vision

SEND Strategy Vision - *In Worcestershire we want all children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities to be truly seen and respected as individuals and to be the best they can be.*

Local Area Partnership SEND Strategy Priorities:

Priority 2: There is sufficient and effective SEND provision

Priority 5: CYP with autism achieve positive outcomes & the support required to enable this to be in place

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“Children and young people in Worcestershire with SEND have been placed in specialist settings when their needs could have been met in mainstream school ...

*This has led to not having enough places for those children and young people with complex needs. **It has also led to too many children and young people being placed in settings outside of Worcestershire and in independent settings”***



CYP with SEND said they would like education to be within their communities where they want to feel trusted, respected and included. They want equality opportunities in their communities including access to employment.

Multi-agency partners and families said a priority is for an effective range of provision that improves outcomes for CYP, offers value for money and ensures that wherever possible CYP can live and learn in their local communities.

SEND Strategy Co-production Group (2021)



How will this proposal contribute to aims of SEND Green paper?

The proposed school will:

- Ensure that children and young people can access the right support in the right place at the right time.
- Appropriate provision to be made available for different types of needs.
- Provide support to CYP when it is required.
- Make available excellent provision to support Autistic Children and Young People.
- Enable parents to make an informed choice for a provision that can meet their child's needs

Worcestershire's rationale for a new school

- This proposal will support the local authority to meet its **statutory responsibilities** with regard to the provision of special school places across Worcestershire.
- It will positively impact on children and young people up to the age of 19 years with an EHCP with Autism, by providing **choice of provision within the local area**.
- The new **National Autism Strategy 2021-2026**, published in July 2022 incorporates both children and adults into the National Strategy ambitions. The following priorities are of relevance to this application:
 - Improving autistic children and young people's access into education and support positive transitions into adulthood.
 - Building the right support in the community.

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The **Worcestershire All-Age Autism Strategy** will align with national and local priorities. The **Worcestershire multi-agency Autism Partnership Board** provides critical oversight and challenge to our Autism work and reports jointly to the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Integrated Care System Learning Disability and Autism Programme Board.

- The Director of All Age Disability in Worcestershire is leading on the priority 'improving autistic children and young people's access into education and support positive transitions into adulthood' and is also the joint.
- The **Worcestershire Education and Skills Strategy**: Ensuring a good education for every child in Worcestershire refers to ensuring that there is 'a curriculum and approach which inspires and helps children and young people develop the skills, knowledge and attributes to become successful citizens'.
- Worcestershire is part of the **Delivering Better Value in SEND** which will support the transformation on how services are delivered. The focus being on improving outcomes for children, and young people, ensuring value for money, and a sustainable clear trajectory showing how a more sustainable financial position can be achieved. This proposal will support the planned transformation within Worcestershire.

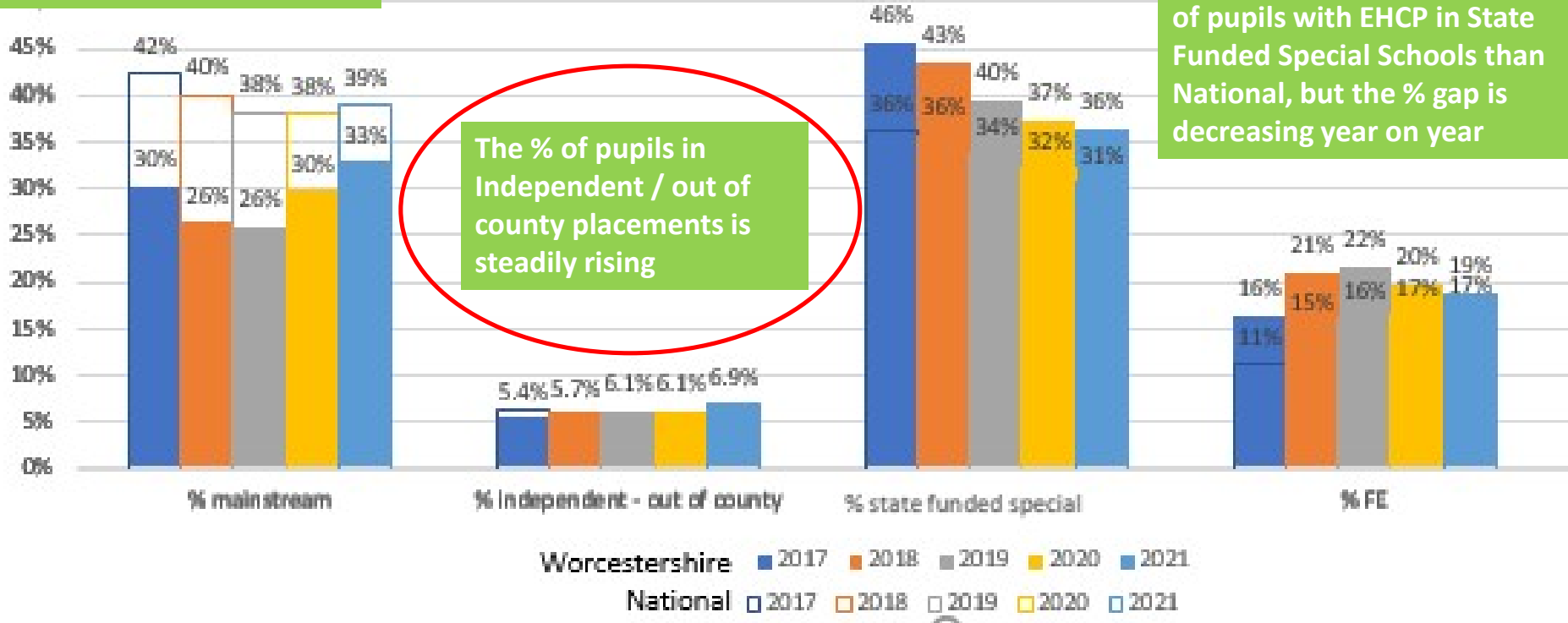
Where do Worcestershire children with EHCPs access their education?

Since 2020 Worcestershire has seen an increase in the % of pupils with EHCPs placed in mainstream provision

% EHCP Children by placement

Worcestershire has a higher % of pupils with EHCP in State Funded Special Schools than National, but the % gap is decreasing year on year

The % of pupils in Independent / out of county placements is steadily rising



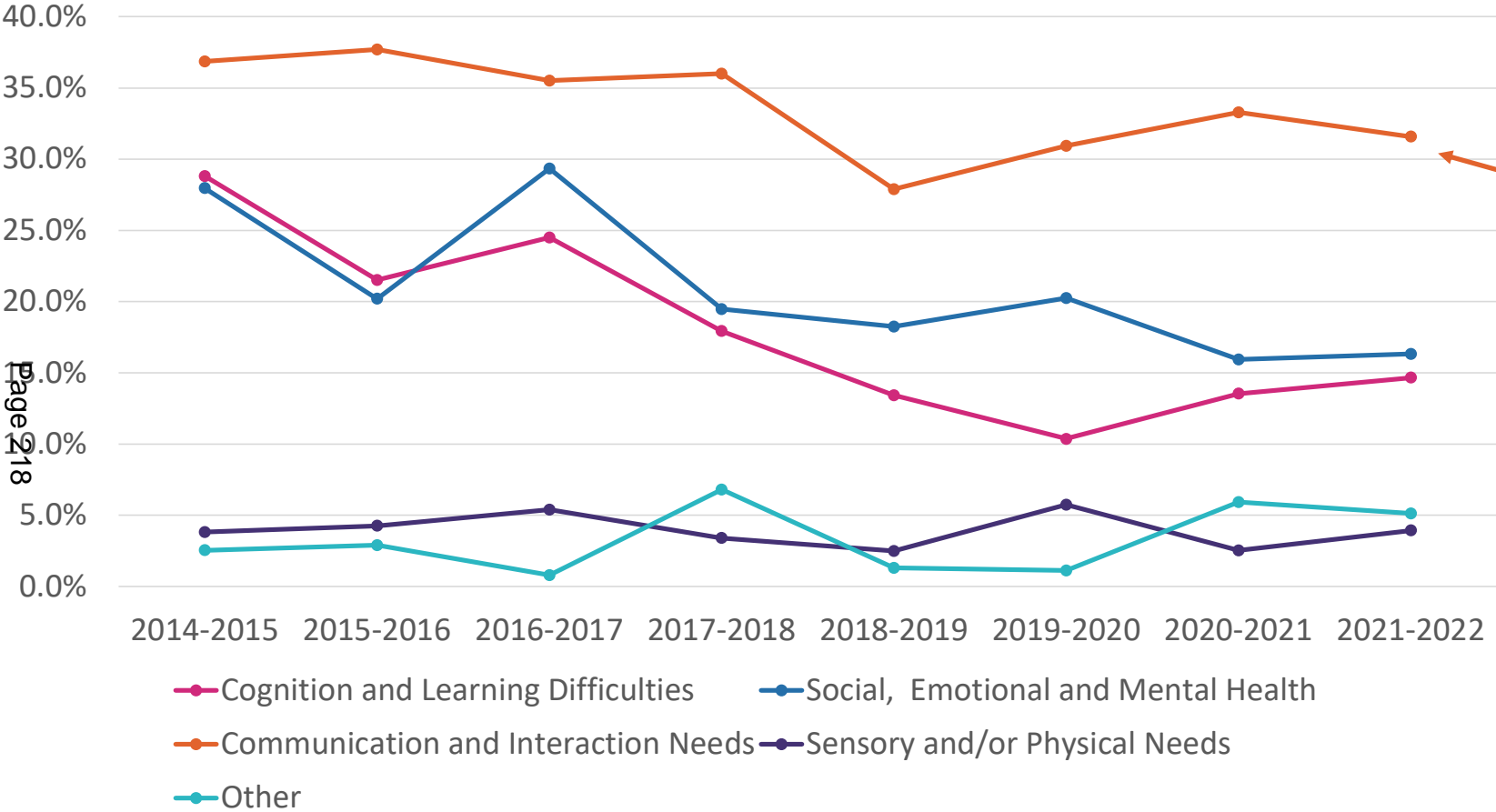
Children with EHCPs in Independent, Non-Maintained Special Schools in and out of County by Primary Need

Providers	Cognition and Learning				Social, Emotional and Mental Health			Communication and Interaction Needs		Sensory and / or Physical Needs				Other		Grand Total
	SpLD	MLD	SLD	PMLD	BESD	SEMH	ADHD	SLNC	ASD	VI	HI	MSI	PD	Complex medical	Other	
Education Otherwise - not School (EOTAS)	2	8	5	0	3	20	0	10	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	51
Independent Special, Non-maintained Special and Out of County Special	0	29	4	0	10	62	0	22	83	0	0	0	1	0	5	441
	33				72			105		1				5		

There are 83 children and young people with a primary ASD need attending Independent Special, Non-maintained Special or out of County Special Schools

Education Other than at School means all forms of education that take place outside the formal school environment and meet the specific needs of children who cannot attend a mainstream or special school.

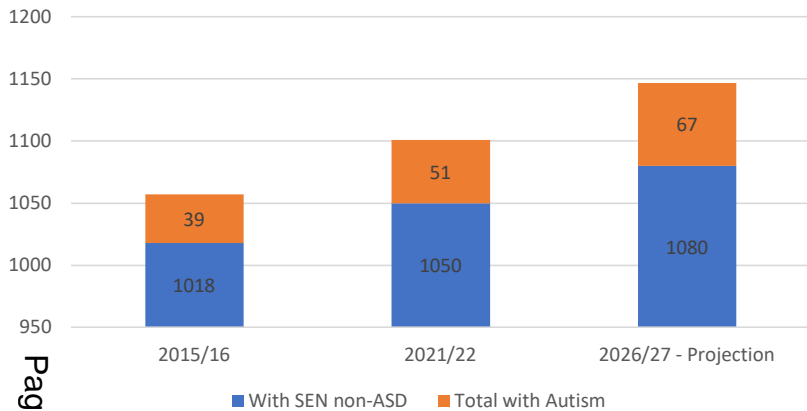
New EHCPs by SEN Category 2014 - 2022



The highest percentage of all new EHCPs in Worcestershire fall under Communication and Interaction needs including Autistic Spectrum Disorder

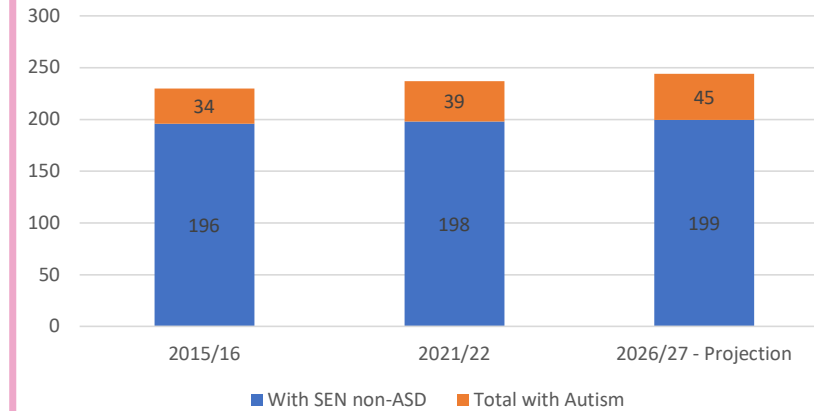
Autistic Children and young people in Worcestershire

Pre-School age children



In 2015/16 7% of the total 5 - 16 year olds with SEN had a primary need of ASD
 In 2021/22 this increased to 9%
 By 2026/27 this is projected to be at least 12%

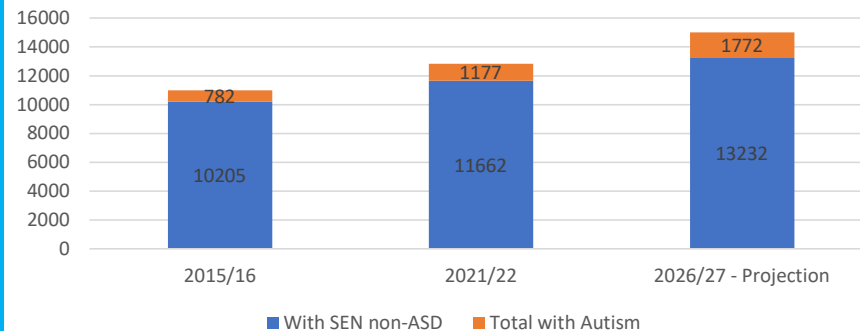
Young people 17 years +



In 2015/16 15% of the total 17 + year olds with SEN had a primary need of ASD
 In 2021/22 this increased to 16%
 By 2026/27 this is projected to be at least 18%

In 2015/16 4% of the total pre-school age children with SEN had a primary need of ASD
 In 2021/22 this increased to 5%
 By 2026/27 this is projected to be at least 6%

Children age 5 - 16 years



Needs analysis of current Autistic children and young people in Independent, Non-Maintained Special Schools in and out of County

The new ASD Special Free School would provide an education for children and young people that:

- may experience high anxiety and / or demand avoidance as a result of Autistic presentation;
- are unable to access mainstream education provision with support;
- have the cognitive ability to access a mainstream curriculum;
- need smaller class sizes (e.g. 6 - 8 group sizes); and
- need a whole school and staff dedicated to a holistic Autistic approach.

How will this school better meet the needs and achieve better outcomes for children and young people in the area?

A new ASD Special Free School in Worcestershire will:

- Provide more good quality education provision for children and young people in Worcestershire
- Provide a suitable learning environment in Worcestershire
- Reducing travel times to education provision for more Worcestershire children and young people
- Build social networks in local communities for more children and young people with SEND including holistic support with emotional health and physical health
- Reduce the demand for out of county and/or independent specialist education provision on the High Needs budget

How will this proposal reduce the dedicated schools grant (DSG) deficit?

- The current total annual cost of education places for the 83 Autistic children and young people with EHCP and ASD primary need in the Independent Special, Non-Maintained Special in and out of County =

£4.8m

- An average of £58k per place per annum (Indep / Non-Maintained Special)
- The average cost of a place in the new ASD Special Free School will be £25k (dependent on level of need)
- An annual saving of circa £2.7m

Transport costs and travel times for Autistic children to Independent, Non-Maintained Special Schools in and out of County

The total cost of transport for the 83 children travelling to Independent, non-maintained and Special schools in or out of county is **currently £476k per annum**

Opportunities to reduce transport cost include the use of shared transport to single destination

Distance / Duration	0-10min	11-20min	21-30min	31-40min	41-50min	51-60min	>1hr	>3hrs	(blank) *	Grand Total
0-5miles	4	1								5
5-10miles	1	14	1							16
10-15miles		5	18	2						25
15-20miles			14	2				1		17
20-25miles				6	2					8
25-30miles			1		2	1				4
30+miles					2	1	2			5
(blank)									3	3
Grand Total	5	20	34	10	6	2	2	1	3	83

The majority of children are travelling 21-30 minutes to provision, with most travelling between 10-15miles.

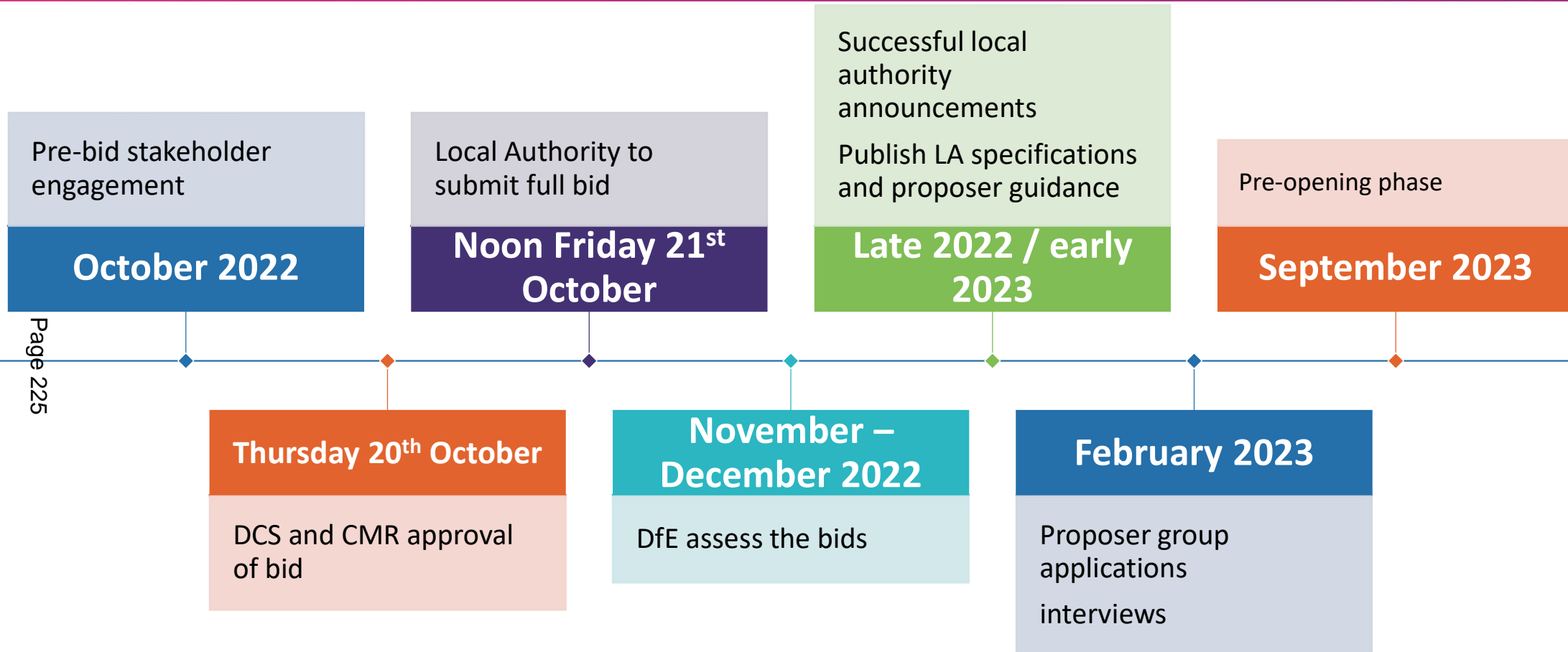
* Those blank within the table below are either in Residential or virtual provision.

What is the proposal for?

A 120 place ASD Special Free School for 5 – 19 year olds (Reception to Year 14):

- located in Malvern at a suitable site owned by the Local Authority;
- offering full-time placements;
- With group sizes of 6 – 8 pupils;
- Opening in a phased approach to fill places over a period of 5 years
 - 6 places per year group Reception – Key Stage 2
 - 12 places per year group – Key Stage 3 – Key Stage 4
 - 18 places for Post 16
- With room to expand to circa 162 longer term if needed
- Delivering targeted and creative support to children and young people at transition points
- Support integration / re-integration into mainstream settings where appropriate

What is the timeline for bids and decisions?



Questions?

You will receive a short survey by email asking your views on this proposal, your views are important to us, please do reply by 9am Wednesday 19th October 2022.

How would you like to continue to contribute?

HARRIETT BALDWIN MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Sarah Wilkins
Director for Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Education Place Planning
Worcestershire Children First
Spetchley Road
Worcester WR5 2NP

October 19, 2022

Dear Sarah

As you know, we have spoken at length about the need for enhanced provision to support children with special educational needs, their parents and carers, and in particular what appears to be a cluster of households living in and around Malvern that require additional support.

I met with teachers at Dyson Perrins Academy in 2017 to hear about their proposals to set up a stand-alone autism teaching provision and supported the school's ambitions. The teachers felt that there was increased demand for such a provision supporting families living in Malvern and across the Malvern District and, from my postbag and from conversations with local parents, I agreed with that assessment.

I am therefore ^{very!} pleased that you have started a bid for central Government funding to create a new free school focusing on supporting children with autism and offer you my full support. I would be happy to meet to hear of your plans in more detail and would be very willing to champion your bid with the relevant Ministers when required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "H. Baldwin".

Harriett Baldwin MP
Member of Parliament for West Worcestershire

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Free school application form

For local authorities seeking to establish new special free schools

Published: June 2022

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The application form explained

This free school application form is for local authorities seeking to establish a new special free school.

Local authorities (either as a lead or sole applicant) can submit an application for one special and one AP school in total in their area. Given the limited number of new schools we will create in this wave, it is highly unlikely that we will approve more than one special free school in any one local authority area. In the most exceptional of circumstances where you plan to make the case for two new schools in your area, you will need to complete a separate application form for each school, although you should cross-reference where appropriate.

The overview section on the second tab asks for information about the number of applications you are submitting (i.e. one or two), the priority of each application (if you are submitting two), what (if any) other applications you are supporting, and your expected future need for new special schools (and when they are needed). If you are submitting two applications, you only need to complete the overview page on one form.

If your application is successful, the opportunity will be advertised nationally, and if a strong proposal comes forward, the new school will be delivered and funded as part of the department's central free schools programme.

Before completing your application, please ensure that you have read the ['guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special free schools'](#) carefully, as this sets out the criteria by which your application will be judged. Please provide all the information required.

The form should be completed by a local authority representative (or representatives, if it is a joint application) with the approval of the Director(s) of Children's Services (DCS).

This application form consists of 12 tabs in total (including this one). Please ensure you read all tabs carefully. You must complete the following tabs in full: overview, confirmation, A1, A2, B, C1, C1i C2, C3, and D. You will also need to complete tab 'A2 continued' if applicable.

Completed application forms, specifications, and any supporting documentation (e.g. site plans, letters from commissioners) **should be submitted by midday on 21 October 2022. Submit your bid by email to: FS.applications@education.gov.uk.** Please title your email as follows: **Special free school application – [insert name of local authority (or lead local authority if joint application)]**. Your email should not exceed 9 megabytes in size; anything larger will not be delivered. **If the application is larger than 9 megabytes**, please split the documents and send two (or more) emails clearly indicating that the emails are connected (e.g. email 1 of 3).

Free school application forms should:

- maintain the pre-set printing format;
- not include any comments; and
- not include photographs, images or logos.

This opportunity **does not replace the [presumption](#) process and does not replace a local authority's sufficiency duties.**

Annex A of the [guidance](#) sets out how the information you provide will be used.

[Next tab](#)



1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one application, you only need to complete this section once (on the form of your preferred application).
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

Overview

This application is for local authorities wishing to apply to open a new special free school in their area. A separate wave for AP free schools also launched on 10 June 2022. Local authorities can apply for both a special and AP free school in these waves.

Overview table	
Name of your local authority	Worcestershire County Council
List the application(s) you are submitting this wave, as either the lead or the sole local authority (including type of school e.g. special) – please list these in priority order so that the first is your preferred application	1. Sole Local Authority - Special
List the application(s), if any, that another local authority is leading on and that you are supporting (including the name of the lead local authority)	N/A
Optional: brief description of your expected future need for new special schools, and when they are needed	<p>Worcestershire currently have 83 children with EHCPs and primary ASD accessing their education in independent specialist, non-maintained specialist in and out of county. A new ASD Special Free School will ensure this number does not increase and over time will reduce significantly.</p> <p>A new special school will be required if the South Worcestershire Development Plan delivers the 39,400 homes planned in Worcester City, Malvern Hills and Wychavon up to 2041. One of the strategic sites includes 5,000 new homes at Worcester Parkway up to 2040 and an additional 5,000 homes after 2041. A Special School will be required to meet the demand from the new settlement.</p>

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Confirmation

1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one application, you must complete this section for each application.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

Confirmation

This confirmation must be signed by the relevant Director(s) of Children's Services at the local authority(ies) putting forward this bid.

I am/we are the Director(s) of Children's services at **[INSERT LOCAL AUTHORITY NAME(s)]** and I/we have seen this application and support it.

I/we confirm that the information provided in this application form is correct to the best of my/our knowledge.

I/we further confirm that the local authority(ies) and, if applicable, other commissioners named in section A of this application have developed this proposal in partnership and, if the application is successful, will commit to commissioning the number of places at the school as specified in this application, and to paying the relevant top-up funding (indicative funding specified in this application, to be confirmed by the local authority(ies) if the application is successful).

I/we also confirm that I am/we are aware of the financial consequences of the commissioning on our high needs budget(s).

In addition, I/we intend to commission places beyond the first two years, as per the proposed school growth profile (pupil/capacity build up).

An electronic signature is acceptable. If multiple local authorities are submitting this bid, complete a signature box for each local authority.

Signed:	
Position:	Director of Children's Services at Worcestershire County Council
Print name:	Tina Russell
Date:	20.10.2022

Signed:	
Position:	Director of Children's Services at [INSERT LOCAL AUTHORITY NAME]
Print name:	
Date:	

Signed:	
Position:	Director of Children's Services at [INSERT LOCAL AUTHORITY NAME]
Print name:	
Date:	

Signed:	
Position:	Director of Children's Services at [INSERT LOCAL AUTHORITY NAME]
Print name:	
Date:	



A1 - who is putting the application forward

1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one application, you must complete this section on each application form.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

Table A1 - local authority(ies) putting forward this application		
Name of local authority	Name of person leading	Contact details
Lead local authority: [select name of lead local authority in cell C21 below. This would be the local authority in which the school would be located] Worcestershire	Sarah Wilkins - Director for Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Education Place Planning	Telephone: 01905 846082 Mobile: Email: swilkins@worscschilrenfirst.org.uk Address: County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NR
[If applicable, select name of second local authority in cell C27 below]		Telephone: Mobile: Email: Address:
[If applicable, select name of third local authority in cell C33 below]		Telephone: Mobile: Email: Address:
[If applicable, select name of fourth local authority in cell C39 below]		Telephone: Mobile: Email: Address:
Drop down		
[If applicable, select name of fifth local authority in cell C45 below]		Telephone: Mobile: Email: Address:
Drop down		

Box A1 - if this application is from a single local authority, please explain why

Worcestershire is a large geographically diverse county, with a range of types of education provision.

Worcestershire have existing demand and projected future demand to sustain a 120 place ASD Special Free School with Worcestershire children and young people. We do not believe a school larger than 120 - 162 places would be a suitable learning environment for these pupils.

We have contacted our border Authorities of Herefordshire, Gloucestershire, Shropshire, Warwickshire and West Midlands with the proposal. Herefordshire and Gloucestershire responded informally and were supportive of the proposal but did not commit to commissioning places at the school.

Since 2017 birth rates have been stable with a small decrease in 2019, between 1 Sep 2019 and 31 Aug 2020 (2024 reception cohort) birth rates fell by 480 across Worcestershire. This has not resulted in a reduction of pupil forecasts as in some areas this has coincided with substantial house building which has increased local pre-school cohorts from birth to school age.

Worcestershire is expected to experience substantial new housing growth over the next 10 to 20 years. The South Worcestershire Development Plan sets out Worcester City, Malvern Hills and Wychavon District Councils vision up to 2041. 28,400 new homes are already planned up to 2030 with an extra 11,000 being considered. In total we expect these new homes to yeild an additional 21,590 school age pupils in Worcestershire. On average in Worcestershire 3% of all school age pupils have an EHCP, therefore we project an increased need for Specialist provision places.

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A2 - evidence of commissions

1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one application, you must complete this section on each application form.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

Section A2 – evidence that the new school will be fully commissioned

You must complete table A2 on this tab, showing how many places you would use at the school for the first two years of the school's operation. If there are multiple commissioners, you also need to complete the larger table on tab 'Table A2 continued'.

Table A2 - evidence that the new school will be fully commissioned							
Commissioner	Year of operation	Number of EY places	Number of KS1 places	Number of KS2 places	Number of KS3 places	Number of KS4 places	Number of 16-19 places
Worcestershire County Council	First year of opening	6	12	24	24	12	18
	Second year of opening	6	12	24	30	12	18

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1. *This table must be completed if there are multiple commissioners.*
2. *If you are submitting more than one application, you must complete this section on each application form.*
3. *Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.*

Table A2 continued

You must complete table A2 on the previous tab, showing how many places you would use at the school for the first two years of the school's operation. If there are multiple commissioners, you also need to complete the table on this tab.

Table A2 continued - evidence that the new school will be fully commissioned							
Commissioner	Year of operation	Number of EY places	Number of KS1 places	Number of KS2 places	Number of KS3 places	Number of KS4 places	Number of 16-19 places
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						
[NAME OF COMMISSIONER. COMPLETE A LINE FOR EACH COMMISSIONER]	First year of opening						
	Second year of opening						

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1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one application, you must complete this section on each application form.
3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

Section B – what type of school is wanted

There are no assessment criteria for section B. Please provide key information about the school you would like to commission in table Bi. Additionally, please set out the expected pupil build up (how the school would fill year-on-year once it opens) in table Bii.

Table Bi - what type of school is wanted	
Type of school	All-Through (Primary, Secondary and Post 16)
Category of provision/needs (if more than one type, with different top-up rates, please explain)	An ASD Designated School
Age range	5 - 19 years (NCY R - 14)
Per-pupil revenue funding you would expect to pay (if a range of rates, please explain)	<p>We have given three possible models, with the lowest level having an addition £5,600 (E2), middle level would be £10,300 (E3) and the highest level would be £21,400 (E4).</p> <p>1) a 50% split on E2 & E3 would provide the school with top-up funding of £954 000; 2) E2 (30%), E3 (70%) would provide the school with top-up funding of £1 066 800; or 3) E2 (30%), E3 (60%) and E4 (10%) would provide the school with top-up funding of £1 200 000. 4) E2 (30%), E3 (40%) and E4 (30%) would provide the school with top-up funding of £2 666 400</p> <p>With all of these models they would also receive £1 200 000 for the commissioned place funding (£10k per place - base funding).</p> <p>The proposal has included potential top up funding up to £22k per pupil plus an additional £3k per pupil for the pay and pension on-costs. The higher level is expected as the average per pupil.</p>
Gender (co-educational/boys/girls)	Co-educational
Total number of proposed full time equivalent places (once school is at full capacity - including 16-19 places, but not including nursery places)	120
Type of places offered (e.g. full time, short term, part time)	Full-time
Number of nursery places, if applicable	None
Number of 16-19 places, if applicable	18

<p>Describe any planned outreach, training and/or reintegration support (including details of funding that will be made available to support the school with this)</p>	<p>The new ASD school will provide an outreach service which works with WCF, complementing their vision of school improvement across the county. The new school will have a remit to provide outreach, which will focus on practical, specific strategies and resources to improve Quality First Teaching across Worcestershire settings. It will not be an assessment service, as it will be tasked with providing practical support on specific strategies (e.g., Task Management boards, etc.) that compliment and support the embedding of advice from service that provide assessment (e.g. WCF Autism and CCN team, WCF EPS)</p> <p>The new ASD outreach service will be staffed by Teaching Assistants who will be skilled in strategies and interventions and supporting staff in their use. The Teaching Assistants will be supervised by a teacher; it is expected that this teacher will be a Specialist Teacher from the WCF Autism/CCN team.</p> <p>The new ASD school Teaching Assistants will be practitioners skilled in using, modelling and training with evidence-based interventions.</p> <p>Referrals to the new ASD school outreach service will come via professionals (e.g.: Autism/CCN Specialist Teachers, EPs, Worcestershire Autism Champions) and will be triaged via an agreed process to ensure that the referral is appropriate and prioritised; referrals that do not meet criteria will be signposted to appropriate services.</p> <p>Referrals will focus on practical support from the new ASD school to model and train in specific techniques and support with implementing the advice given by other agencies.</p> <p>Work with WCF in a multiagency manner to prioritise strategies and resources to promote inclusion; it is expected that the new ASD school and WCF will agree focus strategies and resources to best need the needs of Worcestershire schools as identified by gap analysis. Modelling and training in agreed areas (in collaboration with and supported by WCF Autism/CCN team) to be offered in-person and virtually.</p> <p>It is expected that the new ASD school outreach team will have a training offer developed in collaboration with WCF Autism/CCN team that seeks to: Focus on developing QFT in schools and embed the Graduated Response; Focus on agreed specific strategies as agreed collaboratively with WCF Autism/CCN team to meet the overall needs of Worcestershire schools, as identified from a strategic level; Model and train in agreed areas (in collaboration with and supported by WCF Autism/CCN team) to be offered in-person and virtually.</p> <p>All pupils coming to the new ASD school will require transition/integration support. Some pupils to the new ASD school will have a history of ESBA or similar presentation and will need significantly enhanced support. It is therefore expected that the new ASD school will have an approach to transition/integration which is thoughtful, individualised and well-planned.</p> <p>A core expectation of the new ASD school will be targeted and creative support around supporting students in the transition to and from mainstream schools to the new provision. It is expected that an understanding of the factors around a successful transition for ASD pupils (such as working with families, staff and peer relationships, motivators, pre-warning etc) would inform an approach which is individualised for each child with particular support given to children who have experienced school attendance difficulties.</p> <p>School staff, including a Family support Worker would be expected to engage in a multiagency approach with WCF and other relevant agencies.</p> <p>Where appropriate, and usually agreed via the Annual Review process, children at the new ASD school would be expected to reintegrate into mainstream school, either on a part time or full-time basis. The new ASD school will have a policy/procedures on defining and then monitoring children in the new school against a set "exit criteria" which would indicate that a mainstream reintegration would be an appropriate consideration. This reintegration would be based on child need and would be a fully consultative process, involving the parent/carer. In order to make the chances of reintegration as successful as possible, it is expected that the new ASD school will seek to: Have a creative approach to timetabling and delivery, particularly around access to mainstream learning opportunities; Ensure that, where appropriate, supported integration/ re-integration into a mainstream setting (full or part time) is well-planned and staffed; outreach Teaching Assistants would be used to "pave the way" for children by training mainstream staff in understanding individual need and in particular techniques; would support the receiving school through focused and purposeful transition meetings and information about the child; Use the expertise of the ASD school outreach staff to support students in mainstream settings for an agreed amount of time, as per the transition needs of the individual child; Where supporting the student in mainstream, targeted support and training centred around the individual student is expected; Support WCF and the WCF Autism team in improving Quality First Teaching in mainstream schools by understanding Graduated Response expectations and supporting mainstream schools with this when integrating named students into mainstream; Establish good working relationships with WCF and, in particular, the WCF Autism team to identify and develop mainstream settings to meet the needs of the majority of autistic learners; and work in a multiagency way (with school staff and Family Support Workers) with professionals and parents to create a bespoke and purposeful transition reintegration package</p>
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Table Bii - pupil build up							
	Year of opening	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5	+6
Nursery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reception	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Key stage 1 (Y1-2)	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Key stage 2 (Y3-6)	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
Key stage 3 (Y7-9)	24	30	36	36	36	36	36
Key stage 4 (Y10-11)	12	12	12	18	24	24	24
16-19: commissioner referred	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
Totals	96	102	108	114	120	120	120

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[Next tab](#)



1. This section must be completed.
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3. Please refer to the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

Section C – current context and strategy for SEND provision in your area

We are looking for applications in areas where a new school will support local authorities to manage current and/or anticipated pressures on special school places or on the overall high needs budget, so that the needs of children can be better met. We are also looking for applications which can demonstrate that any new school will be a strong strategic fit with the local SEND strategy. We will not be inclined to approve applications that have the side effect of decreasing the inclusion in mainstream schools of children with SEND, where a mainstream school is able to meet their needs, or of creating excess spare capacity in existing special schools.

Applications will score more highly if they can demonstrate that a new school will be filled by pupils who would otherwise be going to more expensive or poor performing provision.

Please use box C1 to provide information about existing provision in your area, future expected growth, use of your high needs budget.

In addition, please use table C1i - found on the next tab - to describe the recent, current, and projected trends in pupils living in your area with an EHC plan ,

Box C1 - the current context in your area

(your response to this section should be no more than 2000 words, excluding your entries on table C1i)

In Worcestershire we want all children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities to be truly seen and respected as individuals and to be the best they can be. The Local Area Partnership SEND Strategy (2022 – 25) priorities include: Priority 2: There is sufficient and effective SEND provision; and Priority 5: Children and Young People with autism achieve positive outcomes & the support required to enable this to be in place. The Worcestershire multi-agency Autism Partnership Board provides critical oversight and challenge to the All-Age Autism Strategy work. The Director of All Age Disability (0-25) is leading on the priority 'improving autistic children and young people's access to education and support positive transitions into adulthood'. The proposal for a 120 ASD Special Free School for 5 – 19-year-olds (Reception to Year 14) will better meet the needs of a cohort of children and young people who have the potential to be high achievers and currently receive their education at high cost independent or non-maintained special schools in or out of county. The new ASD Special Free School would provide an education for children and young people that:

- may experience high anxiety and / or demand avoidance as a result of Autistic presentation;
- are unable to access mainstream education provision with support;
- have the cognitive ability to access a mainstream curriculum;
- need smaller class sizes (e.g., 6 - 8 group sizes); and
- need a whole school and staff dedicated to a holistic Autistic approach.

In January 2022 (Census), there were 83 Worcestershire children and young people with EHCs and a primary need of ASD who fit within the above cohort of pupils. These 83 children and young people who were accessing their education provision in Independent, Non-Maintained Special schools in or out of county, cost on average £58k per place, a total of £4.8m per annum. The new special free school will reduce the average cost of a place to £25k (dependent on level of need) an annual saving of £2.7m. This will support the reduction in spend needed to reduce the current High Needs deficit. The number of children with a primary need of ASD who require a more suitable education placement to meet their needs is 26. We have reduced this number however the provision of this school would enable us to achieve the intention and principle that there is sufficient SEND Provision and support available for children and young people with Autism and that we are improving autistic children and young people's access to education, and supporting positive transitions into adulthood. There are currently 34 children with an EHC who are electively home educated 3 of these children have a primary need of ASD. The number of children and young people receiving their education through alternative provision including home tuition increased last year. We have reduced this number however the provision of this school would enable us to achieve the ambition that no child should need to wait for a school place. The Local Area SEND Re-Visit Inspection in November 2021 found that the concern about lack of suitable specialist provision remained a concern with "too many children being placed in settings outside of Worcestershire and independent settings ... and too many children without a school place". We have developed our plan for specialist provision continuum as part of the Local Offer including the development of provision for autism in mainstream settings. We have 4 workstreams to respond to the Accelerated Progress Plan (DFE). Taking coordinated action to forecast and develop our specialist provision is one workstream of this plan. This free school bid represents a sustainable mid to long term plan for addressing this particular need. This proposal fits with the Worcestershire SEN Strategy to provide sufficient SEND Provision and support children and young people with Autism. We know that the percentage of pupils in independent, non-maintained out of county placements is steadily rising. The highest cohort of those in this provision are those with a Primary need of ASD (January 2022 Census and Feb 2022 SEN2). We do not project this demand will decrease due to the highest percentage of new EHCs in Worcestershire since 2014 falling under Communication and Interaction including ASD. We also know that the percentage of pre-school, school-age and Post 16 children and young people with ASD is increasing year on year, we predict that by 2026/27 at least 12% of the total 5 – 16-year-olds with SEN in Worcestershire will have a primary need of ASD. We know there are 954 children on the Umbrella Pathway awaiting an assessment for ASD. The umbrella pathway is an assessment and diagnostic pathway which assesses children and young people for autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The Umbrella Pathway Team includes Community Paediatricians, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Specialist Autism/CCN Teachers and Clinical Psychologists. The service accepts referrals only for children and young people up to the age of 18. For a referral to be considered there must be evidence of significant difficulties, impacting on the child/young person's daily life, across the 4 areas of their development associated with ASD. There are currently 11 Mainstream Autism Bases across 12 schools covering each of the phases. Provision is predominantly in the north of the county, with Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest having seven bases between them. There is very little capacity within our current specialist provisions to provide the additional places required to meet the needs of pupils with ASD. There are currently no special free schools in Worcestershire and no state funded special schools with an ASD designation. There is no Special School in the district of Malvern in Worcestershire. The new school will help improve the range of provision available in Worcestershire and support financial sustainability through delivering better value for money. Our analysis, as stated above evidences the need we have in Worcestershire. Should this new school not be approved the local area would experience challenges. This would include for some children delays in finding a suitable provision which could result in missed education. We would also continue to be in the position where high-cost placements are having to be used and, in some cases, where children are not receiving an appropriate education where they are given the opportunity reach their potential. Worcestershire County Council is one of the 55 Authorities taking part in the Delivering Better Value in SEND – with a High Needs deficit of forecast to be around £20m at the end of 2023/24. The DBV programme aims are to support local authorities to improve delivery of SEND services for children and young people while ensuring services are financially sustainable. We are pleased to be part of the programme which will identify opportunities and create shared learning and understanding of common themes and trends which will inform best practice. The provision of a new ASD schools in Worcestershire would have significant tangible benefits including reduced travel costs and more cost-effective unit price which would provide better value for money and provide savings to marginally reduce the current deficit and be re-invested to meet increased demand. We have held a stakeholder engagement focus group (slides attached) to share the rationale for the new school proposal along with the evidence base and principles of both DfE and Worcestershire SEND Strategy and specialist provision development needs. We have also held a regular working group that has SEND, Education, Finance and All Age Disability Social care representation including the adult social care commissioner. We are also pleased to have received a letter of support from Harriet Baldwin MP. At the stakeholder focus group we had attendance from the Hereford and Worcestershire SENDIASS – representing parent voice and experiences, mainstream FE provider, special schools and both Hereford and Worcestershire NHS provider and Integrated Care System commissioners. The focus group as a whole were supportive of the proposal based on needs and the prospect of being able to provide education locally in the community and therefore link young people as they prepare for adulthood to the broader community offer of independence, training, supported internships and employment. Special School representatives' feedback that this new school could provide for children that they are not currently able to offer an appropriate environment or curriculum for. Health colleagues are concerned about demands for additional health services and stressed the importance of needing a multi-agency approach to supporting these children around their education. We also circulated a short survey for wider responses. There have been 22 responses to this survey. Respondents included: Families in Partnership and SENDIASS – parent voice; mainstream and special education settings of both primary and secondary and FE type; Health providers and health commissioners including the ICB lead for autism. Most respondents are supportive of the proposal 19/22 with the remaining 3 stating 'maybe'. No-one was 'not supportive' of the proposal. The main reason for this support was in relation to the proposal meeting identified needs. Where respondents answered 'maybe' this was in relation to needing more information about collaboration with health providers and evidence that the proposed school could resolve the issue of children traveling out of the area to access provision for specific needs. A further respondent wanted to have more information before providing a considered response. Most respondents 20/22 agreed the designation of the proposed school stating meets needs as the reason. The 2 respondents that answered 'maybe' to this question referred to wanting more information and meeting the needs of children with complex communication needs who may not be diagnosed with autism. Additional comments included further supportive representations including being in the right place and requests to be further involved and informed. Further to this was the opportunity for a new school to link in with 19-25 offer in the community and through local FE provision.

Word count:

1842

1. This table must be completed if you are submitting an application for a special free school. If you are submitting a joint bid, this table should be completed by the lead local authority.
2. If you are submitting more than one application, you must complete this section on each application form.
3. Please refer to tab 'C1 - current context' as well as the 'guidance and criteria for local authorities seeking to establish new special free schools' for information about what to include in this section.
4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

Table C1i – trends in your specialist provision for all children with EHC plans																	
Type of provision	Number of providers used	Please indicate the number of pupils with an EHC plan living in your local authority who are placed within these settings, and the total cost (including base, top-up and transportation if applicable) of all placements at each setting															
		2018				2022				Projected figures without the new school you want				Projected figures if your application for a new school is successful			
		2018 (pupils)	2018 (cost)	2022 (pupils)	2022 (cost)	2025 (pupils)	2025 (cost)	2029 (pupils)	2029 (cost)	2025 (pupils)	2025 (cost)	2029 (pupils)	2029 (cost)				
Resourced provision and units inside local authority	2018 - 17 2022 - 14	108	£ 1,999,000	145	£ 1,657,000	173	£1,974,116	210	£2,396,936	173	£1,974,116	210	£2,396,936				
Resourced provision and units outside local authority	2018 - 1 2022 - 5	4	£ 81,200	6	£ 121,800	8	£152,250	10	£192,850	8	£152,250	10	£192,850				
Special schools (either maintained or academies) inside local authority	2018 - 9 2022 - 9	1628	£ 24,030,642	1910	£ 30,297,695	2122	£35,405,800	2404	£42,760,360	2122	£35,405,800	2404	£42,760,360				
Special schools (either maintained or academies) outside local authority	2018 - 22 2022 - 20	64	£ 760,339	78	£ 1,053,776	89	£1,303,799	103	£1,677,089	89	£1,303,799	103	£1,677,089				
Independent / non-maintained special schools inside local authority	2018 - 7 2022 - 11	92	£ 2,537,094	198	£ 5,793,431	278	£8,469,780	384	£12,350,377	221	£6,741,030	313	£9,538,041				
Independent / non-maintained special schools outside local authority	2018 - 21 2022 - 30	44	£ 1,975,545	64	£ 2,873,519	79	£3,547,001	99	£4,444,975	39.64	£1,779,786	50	£2,244,937				
Mainstream schools inside local authority	2018 - 227 2022 - 41	1191	£ 3,020,462	1720	£ 8,190,559	2117	£13,613,589	2646	£22,904,904	2117	£13,613,589	2646	£22,904,904				
Mainstream schools outside local authority	2018 - 29 2022 - 3	46	£ 546,494	72	£ 455,540	92	£578,915	118	£743,416	92	£578,915	118	£743,416				
General FE colleges (if relevant) inside local authority	2018 - 3 2022 - 3	384	£ 669,457	572	£ 2,064,339	713	£3,570,839	901	£6,193,291	713	£3,570,839	901	£6,193,291				
General FE colleges (if relevant) outside local authority	2018 - 6 2022 - 13	54	£ 44,935	54	£ 244,682	54	£394,493	54	£594,240	54	£394,493	54	£594,240				
Specialist FE providers (if relevant) inside local authority	2018 - 1 2022 - 1	9	£ 460,217	11	£ 732,230	13	£976,746	15	£1,356,777	13	£976,746	15	£1,356,777				
Specialist FE providers (if relevant) outside local authority	2018 - 10 2022 - 11	72	£ 3,681,744	82	£ 6,116,848	90	£8,251,093	100	£11,507,310	90	£8,251,093	100	£11,507,310				

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Section C2 – rationale for the new special free school and how it fits with your strategy and the local education offer

You must use this section to tell us about how your proposed school fits with your local strategy for high needs provision and local education offer. The purpose of this section is to help us understand your plan for children with SEND and make a judgement about whether the school you are proposing fits within your strategy.

Box C2 - rationale for the new special free school and how it fits with your strategy and the local education offer (your response to this section should be no more than 750 words)

Worcestershire has no specific special school that caters for the needs of pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Our current state funded provision includes 9 special schools and 14 mainstream schools with resource bases designated as mainstream autism bases (MABs).

The new Special Free school for pupils with ASD would fill a gap in provision. The MABs have limited capacity and are catering for pupils with an increased level of need. All special schools within Worcestershire have a large cohort of pupils with ASD and associated difficulties, however they also have limited capacity to provide support for the increased number of children with ASD and MLD.

In February 2022 there were 472 children and young people in our special schools with a diagnosis of ASD as well as a further 83 in independent special, non-maintained special or out of county provision. There are 149 pupils placed in Mainstream Autism Bases. There is very little capacity within our current specialist provisions to provide the additional places required to meet the needs of pupils with ASD and MLD.

There had been a year-on-year growth since 2014 of pupils requiring an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in schools - an additional 2354 pupils since 2014. In line with the trend experienced in the mainstream sector, we expect this figure to continue to rise with the growth of the general school population. There has also been an increase in children with EHCP's being diagnosed with ASD, with a further 954 children awaiting diagnosis. We know and there is evidence that a growing number of children and young people are being diagnosed with autism. We also know that a growing number of children and young people find school environments overwhelming. Worcestershire continues to take steps to ensure inclusivity in our mainstream schools but also recognise the importance of the right school provision being available and for some this will require a provision specifically for children with autism.

Primarily the places would be filled from the population that would currently be placed in out of county specialist schools, which would enable the Local Authority to reduce the use of out-of-borough placements over time, our special schools and MABs. This would relieve current pressures on special schools as places would become available for children with other complex needs. It would also relieve pressures on schools with MABs as the more complex students with ASD + MLD could be accommodated in special schools.

This proposal will support the local authority to meet its statutory responsibilities with regard to the provision of special school places across Worcestershire. It will positively impact on children and young people up to the age of 19 years with an EHCP with Autism, by providing choice of provision within the local area. It will also release some capacity within the boroughs other specialist settings to meet the different needs of other children and young people with an EHC plan.

This application aligns with a number of strategies in Worcestershire as detailed below:

The new National Autism Strategy 2021-2026, published in July 2022 incorporates both children and adults into the National Strategy ambitions. The following priorities are of relevance to this application:

- Improving autistic children and young people's access into education and support positive transitions into adulthood.
- Building the right support in the community

Ensuring the right support in the community.

At the time of writing Worcestershire are updating their All-Age Autism Strategy which will be in line with national and local priorities. The Worcestershire multi-agency Autism Partnership Board provides critical oversight and challenge to our Autism work and reports jointly to the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Integrated Care System Learning Disability and Autism Programme Board.

A systems approach is being used to ensure the delivery plan is owned and embedded into future practice and delivery routes.

The Director of All Age Disability in Worcestershire is leading on the priority 'improving autistic children and young people's access into education and support positive transitions into adulthood' and is also the joint.

The Worcestershire Education and Skills Strategy: Ensuring a good education for every child in Worcestershire refers to ensuring that there is 'a curriculum and approach which inspires and helps children and young people develop the skills, knowledge and attributes to become successful citizens'.

Finally, Worcestershire is part of the Delivering Better Value in SEND which will support the transformation on how services are delivered. The focus being on improving outcomes for children, and young people and consequently sustainably improving financial performance. This application will support the planned transformation within Worcestershire.



C3 - expected outcomes

1. This section must be completed.
2. If you are submitting more than one application, you must complete this section for each application.
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Section C3 – expected outcomes for the new special free school

To be approvable, applications must demonstrate that the new school will:

- Help to achieve better outcomes for children and young people (compared with existing options); and,
- Will support the development and effectiveness of a local inclusion system.

Please use box C3 to describe the impact you expect the school to have, as well as the potential risks and how you would mitigate those.

Box C3 - expected outcomes

(your response to this section should be no more than 500 words, excluding risks and mitigations)

The proposed school aligns with many of the outcomes of the SEND Green Paper including ensuring: that children and young people can access the right support in the right place at the right time; that provision to be made available for different types of needs; that support to children and young people is available when it is required; it will make available excellent provision to support Autistic Children and Young People; and enable parents to make an informed choice for a provision that can meet their child's needs.

A new ASD Special Free School in Worcestershire will provide more good quality education provision for children and young people in Worcestershire (Worcestershire SEND Strategy Priority 2: there is sufficient and effective SEND Provision). The identified cohort of pupils currently have to access their provision in Independent or Non-Maintained Specialist provision in or out of county. Some of the existing Independent / Non-Maintained provision is of not good quality (Ofsted) and therefore we will improve the quality for more pupils with the delivery of the new school. The Local Authority will be able to monitor and support the free special school to ensure better quality. The new school will provide a suitable learning environment in Worcestershire (Worcestershire SEND Strategy Priority 5: CYP with Autism achieve positive outcomes and support required to enable this to be in place) for Autistic children and young people that are unable to access mainstream education provision with support, need smaller class sizes and need a whole school and staff dedicated to a holistic Autistic approach. The new school will reduce travel times to education provision for more Worcestershire children and young people. It will also build social networks in local communities for more children and young people with SEND including holistic support with emotional health and physical health. The new school will also help to reduce the demand for out of county and/or independent specialist education provision on the High Needs budget

The risks and mitigations we have considered as part of this proposal are:

-Will we be able to recruit Academy Sponsor – WCF/WCC will be possible to recruit an Academy Sponsor - recent successful academy sponsor competition in Worcestershire for secondary that received a very high level of good quality application. We have relevant local and wider interest in this proposal for sponsoring academies with the relevant experience/credentials and deliver education linked to community provision that will enable young people to develop independence and transition to adulthood accessing appropriate training, employment.

-Will we have an influx of pupils from other areas not identified (e.g. mainstream pupils who don't fit the criteria) - WCF are clear on the cohort of pupils this school would provide for, this will be made clear in the Designation and offer of the new school

-There has been historical parent carer reluctance for in house provision - we believe this school will provide more choice of provision to meet more children and young people's needs

-It may be difficult to move pupils from existing provision especially with the needs of this cohort - WCF will work with families and providers to identify those that could move, offering transition support. There will be new pupils identified through Provision Panel suitable for this school.

Word count:

534



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4. Please complete the form as provided, do not create any new fields. The text boxes can be made bigger by increasing the row height. To insert a new line in a text box, press alt + enter.

Section D – the proposed location and site

Finding a suitable site is an essential part of opening a free school. As part of preparing your application you should investigate potential sites for the school and tell us about them in your bid. In this wave we will undertake a desktop assessment of site and consider the value for money, timescale and delivery risks in securing a site for the proposed school in the proposed area.

We will prioritise applications which include a site which we deem to be viable. We will assess the viability of the site using the information you provide in Section D. We may consider applications which do not have a site if we deem the application to be strong.

Please complete table D to tell us about where the school would be located and the preferred site.

Please also provide the name and contact details for the main local authority lead for sites. FSC may contact this person to ask questions about the site. **If you know any of these site details before submitting your bid, please let DfE know (by emailing FSC.EOI@education.gov.uk) so we can start conversations with you.**

.....
Please tick the box below to confirm that the relevant Lead Member for Corporate Property has seen this bid and is content with the information provided about site (if provided).

I confirm that the Lead Member of Corporate Property at [INSERT LOCAL AUTHORITY NAME] has seen this expression of interest and supports it.

Table D - the proposed location and site

<p>Please describe the location in which you propose to set up your school being as specific as possible. This could include the name of the area in which you would like to put the school, the part of a city, town or suburb. Please also consider how flexible you are - how far from your preferred location are you willing to go? Please include an annotated map as an additional file and send it to FS.applications@educations.gov.uk, if possible. If applicable, please also describe the potential impact of any specialism that you plan for your school to have on the site requirement.</p>	<p>The Poolbrook area of the Malvern district - please see attached maps. An Local Authority owned site is identified and suitable for a 120 place ASD designated school. A feasibility report has been produced to show the size and location of the school on the site. The ASD specialism has been accounted for within the feasibility study provides group rooms for 6 - 8 pupils with float for storage and plant within the overall footprint of the building.</p>
<p>Please tell us the postcode of a central location in your preferred area. You need to provide this even if you have already identified a preferred site. It must be a full postcode e.g. SW1P 3BT, not SW1.</p>	<p>WR14 3SW</p>
<p>Your calculated building space using the ESFA formula (see section D in the guidance) and any comments on this.</p>	<p>The Building Bulletin 104 guidance (calculated from the respective formulas) requires a new school build space of 3,617m2</p>
<p>If you have identified a preferred site, please complete the rest of the table:</p>	

Full address and postcode of preferred site. It must be a full postcode e.g. SW1P 3BT, not SW1.	Poolbrook Centre, Bluebell Close, Malvern, WR14 3SW
In which local authority is your preferred site?	Worcestershire
Please tell us how you found the site.	Owned by the Local Authority
Please confirm the tenure.	The land is owned by Worcestershire County Council, the site will be available on a 125 year lease and peppercorn rent.
Please include information on purchase or lease price if known.	Owned by the Local Authority
Who owns the site?	Worcestershire County Council
Is the site available/on the market? (Please attach agents' particulars as an additional file and send it to FS.applications@education.gov.uk if available)	N/A
Name and contact details of owner and/or the agent or local authority representative	Janette Beckett, Strategic Asset Manager, County Property. Jbecket@worcestershire.gov.uk
If the site is local authority owned, which local authority owns it?	Worcestershire County Council
If the site is local authority owned, please state if the local authority have confirmed that, if successful, the site may be used by the free school. Please include terms (e.g. 125 year peppercorn lease). Please also provide details of any other local authority contribution towards the capital costs of the project (e.g. developer contributions).	The delegated approvals from Corporate Landlord Board (Local Authority) have confirmed that if successful the site may be used as a special free school. This site will be available on a 125 year lease and peppercorn rent.
What kind of site is it?	Open space with an existing building occupied by local community services
What is the current use?	Site is the land of former Malvern Hills primary school. The former school buildings are occupied by a children's centre, social care offices and private nursery. The land is surplus to requirements and is separate from the buildings.
Why have you chosen this site? What makes it suitable?	The site is owned by the Local Authority in an area of the county will no Special School provision. The site was previously a primary school, therefore has adjoining playing fields. There are options to either co-locate or re-locate the provisions / services utilising the existing building on site. The proposal can accommodate the retention of the existing facility during construction phase of the project. There is existing highways access to the site, the site is allocated for educational use. The site provides sufficient viable space for the new school, parking, drop of and collection points.

<p>If known, how big is the building and the site? Please attach any site and building plans as an additional file and send it to FS.applications@education.gov.uk</p>	<p>The total site area is 2hectares, the site area excluding the existing buildings and nursery play area is 1.7 hectare. The total GIA of the buildings on site is approx. 500sqm. The site and existing building plans are included in the Feasibility Study attached.</p>
<p>Please comment on the condition of the building. Please attach photos if available as an additional file and send it to FS.applications@education.gov.uk</p>	<p>The existing site has a former primary school building with adjoining playing fields. The building is divided into accommodation for a children's centre, nursery, and social care offices. Photographs of the existing building and site are included in the Feasibility report.</p>
<p>If the named site is part of a housing development or the school is attracting Section 106 contributions, please give as much detail as possible, including: the development and developer, timing and programme of build, number of housing units, status of planning application and any links to planning applications/decision notices, extent of funding coming from the developer plus confirmation of the local authority's position in relation to your free school using this site.</p>	<p>No existing S106 agreements in place.</p>

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Department
for Education

Worcestershire Special Free School

**Contextual information for applicant
groups applying to open a new
Special Free School**

Worcestershire County Council

May 2023

OVERVIEW

The Department for Education is inviting applications from proposer groups to open a new special free school in Worcestershire.

Applicant groups can access the key school specification information, along with the full 'How to Apply' guidance, on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). You should read these documents carefully before completing mandatory pre-registration.

The school specification document sets out the key factual details about the proposed school, including the proposed size, SEND designation, age range, suggested top-up funding, and proposed site.

This document provides applicant groups with additional contextual information provided by Worcestershire County Council, which includes:

- The rationale, context and need for the school;
- Details on the commissioning of places, including the involvement of any other LAs commissioning places;
- A brief description of the existing provision in the area;
- Future expected growth in pupil numbers; and
- How the LA expects places within the school to be filled.

RATIONALE, CONTEXT AND NEED FOR THE SCHOOL, INCLUDING PROPOSED COMMISSIONING ARRANGEMENTS

In Worcestershire we want all children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities to be truly seen and respected as individuals and to be the best they can be.

The Local Area Partnership SEND Strategy (2022 – 25) priorities include: Priority 2: There is sufficient and effective SEND provision; and Priority 5: Children and Young People with autism achieve positive outcomes & the support required to enable this to be in place.

The proposal for a 120 ASD Special Free School for 5 – 19-year-olds (Reception to Year 14) will better meet the needs of a cohort of children and young people who have the potential to be high achievers and currently receive their education at high cost independent or non-maintained special schools in or out of county.

In January 2022 (Census), there were 83 Worcestershire children and young people with EHCPs and a primary need of ASD who fit within the above cohort of pupils. These 83 children and young people who were accessing their education provision in Independent, Non-Maintained Special schools in or out of county, cost on average £58k per place, a total of £4.8m per annum. The new special free school will reduce the average cost of a place to £25k (dependant on level of need) an annual saving of £2.7m. This will support the reduction in spend needed to reduce the current High Needs deficit.

The Local Area SEND Re-Visit Inspection in November 2021 found that the concern about lack of suitable specialist provision remained a concern with “too many children being placed in settings outside of Worcestershire and independent settings ... and too many children without a school place”. We have developed our plan for specialist provision continuum as part of the Local Offer including the development of provision for autism in mainstream settings. We have 4 workstreams to respond to the Accelerated Progress Plan (DFE). Taking coordinated action to forecast and develop our specialist provision is one workstream of this plan. This new free school represents a sustainable mid to long term plan for addressing this particular need.

EXISTING PROVISION, EXPECTED FUTURE GROWTH IN PUPIL NUMBERS, AND HOW PLACES IN THE NEW SCHOOL WILL BE FILLED

Worcestershire has no specific special school that caters for the needs of pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Our current state-funded provision includes 9 special schools and 14 mainstream schools with resource bases designated as mainstream autism bases (MABs). The new Special Free school for pupils with ASD will fill a gap in provision. The MABs have limited capacity and are catering for pupils with an increased level of need. All special schools within Worcestershire have a large cohort of pupils with ASD and associated difficulties, however they also have limited capacity to provide support for the increased number of children with ASD and MLD.

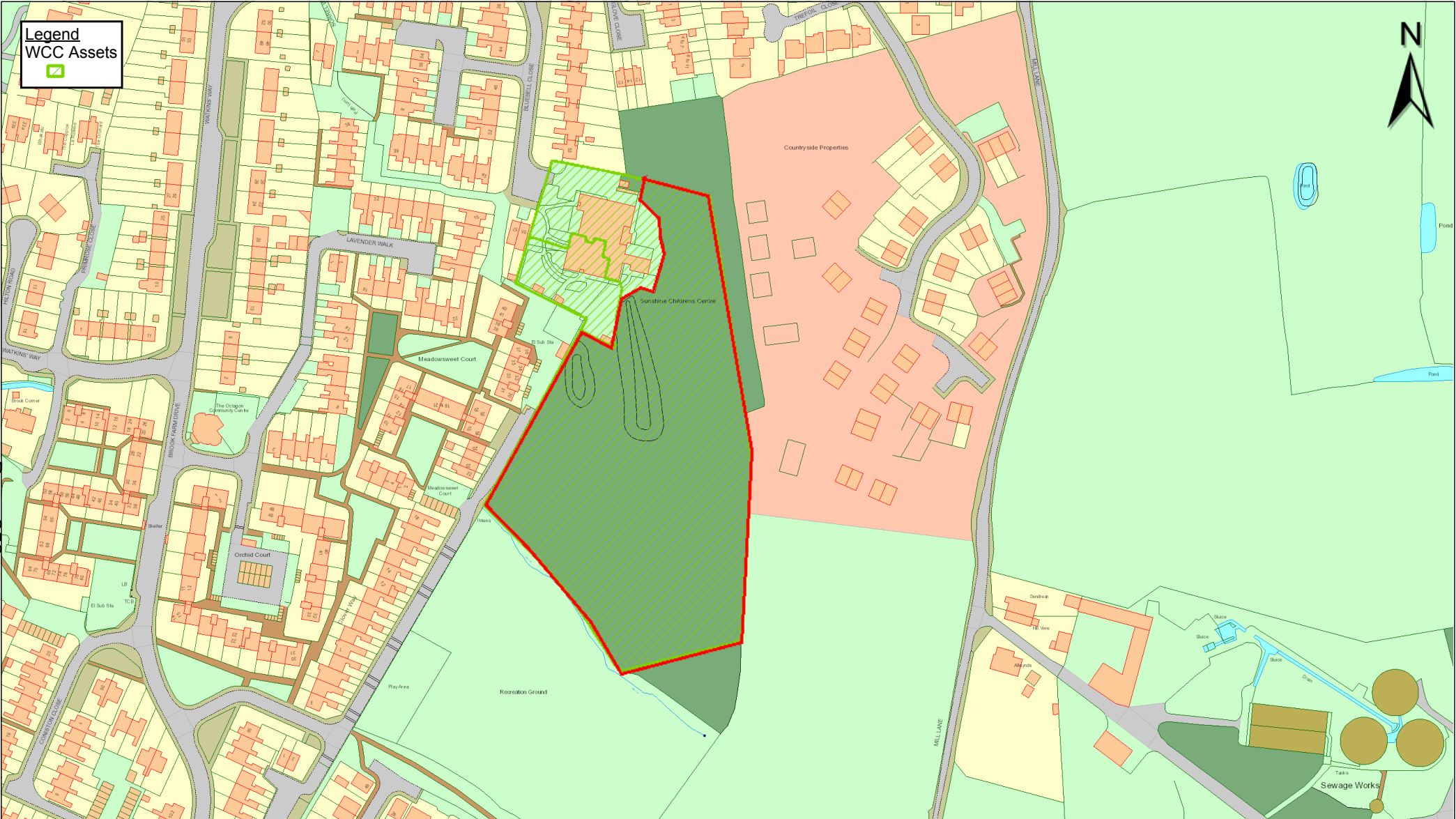
In February 2022 there were 472 children and young people in our special schools with a diagnosis of ASD as well as a further 83 in independent special, non-maintained special or out of county provision. There are 149 pupils placed in Mainstream Autism Bases. There is very little capacity within our current specialist provisions to provide the additional places required to meet the needs of pupils with ASD and MLD.

There had been a year-on-year growth since 2014 of pupils requiring an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) in schools - an additional 2354 pupils since 2014. In line with the trend experienced in the mainstream sector, we expect this figure to continue to rise with the growth of the general school population. There has also been an increase in children with EHCP's being diagnosed with ASD, with a further 954 children awaiting diagnosis. We know and there is evidence that a growing number of children and young people are being diagnosed with autism. We also know that a growing number of children and young people find school environments overwhelming. Worcestershire continues to take steps to ensure inclusivity in our mainstream schools but also recognise the importance of the right school provision being available and for some this will require a provision specifically for children with autism.

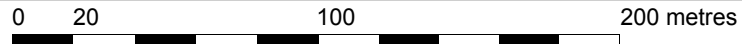
Primarily the places will be filled from the population that would currently be placed in out of county specialist schools, which will enable the Local Authority to reduce the use of out-of-borough placements over time, our special schools and MABs. This will relieve current pressures on special schools as places will become available for children with other complex needs. It will also relieve pressures on schools with MABs as the more complex students with ASD + MLD could be accommodated in special schools.

This proposal will support the local authority to meet its statutory responsibilities with regard to the provision of special school places across Worcestershire. It will positively impact on children and young people up to the age of 19 years with an EHCP with Autism, by providing choice of provision within the local area. It will also release some capacity within the boroughs other specialist settings to meet the different needs of other children and young people with an EHC plan.

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 Ordnance Survey 100024230.



Poolbrook Centre, Malvern
 Green hatched - leased areas
 red outline - residual site, former playing field

Indicative Scale: 1:2,500

Date Printed: 16/8/2022



Worcestershire County Council
 County Hall
 Spetchley Road
 Worcester
 WR5 2NP

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Equality and Public Health Full Impact Assessment

Impact Assessment Id: #440

1.0 Screening Information

Project Name

New ASD Special Free School

Name of Project Sponsor

Sarah Wilkins

Name of Project Manager

Louise Hawker

Name of Project Lead

Louise Hawker

Please give a brief description of the project

A new special school will be required if the South Worcestershire Development Plan delivers the 39,400 homes planned in Worcester City, Malvern Hills and Wychavon up to 2041. One of the strategic sites includes 5,000 new homes at Worcester Parkway up to 2040 and an additional 5,000 homes after 2041. A Special School will be required to meet the demand from the new settlement.

Data Protection screening result

Does not need a full impact assessment

Equality and Public Health screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

Environmental Sustainability screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

1.1 Background and Purpose

Background and Purpose of Project?

To support your answer to this question, you can upload a copy of the project's Business Case or similar document. There are currently no special free schools in Worcestershire and no state-funded special schools with an ASD designation. There is no Special School in the district of Malvern in Worcestershire. The new school will improve the range of provision available in Worcestershire and support financial sustainability through delivering better value for money. Without this new school, the local area would experience challenges, including, for some children, delays in finding a suitable provision which could result in missed education. We would also continue to be in the position where high-cost placements are having to be used and, in some cases, where children are not receiving an appropriate education where they are given the opportunity reach their potential.

Upload Business Case or Support documents

No files uploaded

Project Outputs

Briefly summarise the activities needed to achieve the project outcomes.

Delivery of a new 120-place special free school for pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder, open to any child with autism as a special educational need for whom the school is judged to be the most appropriate provision.

Project Outcomes

Briefly summarise what the project will achieve.

Positive outcomes for children and young people with autism and an Education and Health Care Plan, in a purpose-built setting with a holistic approach to education including emotional health, physical health, and mental health, at lower cost. This proposal fits with the Worcestershire SEN Strategy to provide sufficient SEND Provision and support children and young people with Autism. We know that the percentage of pupils in independent, non-maintained out of county placements is steadily rising. The highest cohort of those in this provision are those with a Primary need of ASD (January 2022 Census and Feb 2022 SEN2). The new special school will be able to accommodate these children.

Is the project a new function/service or does it relate to an existing Council function/service?

Existing

Was consultation carried out on this project?

No

1.2 Responsibility

Directorate/Organisation

Worcestershire Children First

Service Area

Education and Early Years

1.3 Specifics

Project Reference (if known)

Not Recorded

Intended Project Close Date *

September 2028

1.4 Project Part of a Strategic Programme

Is this project part of a strategic programme?

No

2

Organisations Involved

Please identify the organisation(s) involved:

Worcestershire County Council

Details of contributors to this assessment:

Name	Louise Hawker
Job title	Provision Planning Officer
Email address	lhawker@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Name	Nicola Parkin
Job title	Provision Planning Officer
Email address	NParkin1@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

3.0

Who will be affected by the development and implementation

Please identify group(s) involved:

Service User
Carers
Staff
Communities

3.1

Information and evidence reviewed

What information and evidence have you reviewed to help inform this assessment? *

Analysis of education need by the local SEND team at Worcestershire Children First. Detailed analysis of data relating to children and young people with autism - trends in numbers of children with Education & Health Care Plans, where they live, what their needs are, what education provision they currently access, their journey times and transport costs, the costs of current provision. Department for Education's priorities for new special free schools, Worcestershire's SEND Strategy and vision, specialists within WCF who work with pupils with autism and their families, and with other agencies involved, who can provide expert input.

3.2

Summary of engagement or consultation undertaken

Who and how have you engaged, or why do you believe engagement is not required? *

Submitted a bid to the DfE and awaiting final decision. Consultation will follow after obtaining a successful application.

3.3

Summary of relevant findings

Please summarise your relevant findings. *

See above

4

Protected characteristics - Equality

below. **Please select one or more impact box(es) below for each equality group and explain your rationale.** Please note it is possible for the potential impact to be both positive and negative for the same equality group and this should be recorded. Remember to consider the impact on e.g. staff, public, patients, carers etc. who are part of these equality groups.

Age

Potential positive impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The new school will improve the availability of specialist provision for all Worcestershire-resident children and young people with autism, from age 5 to 19. This will mean that more pupils in this group will have improved access to purpose-built facilities within Worcestershire, and there will be less need for travel to schools across Worcestershire or in other counties.

Disability

Potential positive impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

Children and young people living in Worcestershire with autism as a special educational need will have improved access to specialist facilities and better educational outcomes.

Gender reassignment

Potential neutral impact selected

Explanation of your reasoning:

All children and young people with autism and an Education Health & Care Plans in Worcestershire will have improved access to specialist facilities and better educational outcomes, regardless of gender, as is the case now.

Marriage and civil partnerships

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

Neutral impact - the school will cater for children and young people aged 5 to 19.

Pregnancy and maternity

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

Neutral impact - the school will cater for children and young people aged 5 to 19.. The holistic approach to teaching will include emotional and physical health, but there is no direct link to pregnancy or maternity issues.

Race including travelling communities

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

Places at the school will be open to any child with autism as a special educational need for whom the school is judged to be the most appropriate provision, regardless of the race of any pupil.

Religion and belief

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

Places at the school will be open to any child with autism as a special educational need for whom the school is judged to be the most appropriate provision, regardless of the religion and beliefs of any pupil.

Sex

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

Places at the school will be open to any child with autism as a special educational need for whom the school is judged to be the most appropriate provision, regardless of the sex of any pupil.

Sexual orientation

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

Places at the school will be open to any child with autism as a special educational need for whom the school is judged to be the most appropriate provision, regardless of the sexual orientation of any pupil.

5 Characteristics - Public health

Other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups

Potential positive impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The new school will be open to all Worcestershire-based children and young people with autism based on their need. This means that any such pupils from vulnerable or disadvantaged groups will have the same access as pupils from any other social group.

Health inequalities

Potential positive impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The new school will be open to all children and young people with autism based on their need. This means that any such pupils from disadvantaged groups or populations will have the same access as pupils from any other group or population, and the educational approach will include a focus on mental, physical and emotional health, so will help to address any inequalities experienced by any pupil.

Social and economic

Potential positive impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The new school will be built within a community setting, offering the opportunity for pupils to build social networks with their peers and with the school's neighbours, and the tailored educational approach will improve outcomes for students and accordingly enhance their employment opportunities. The new school will also create jobs for teaching and support staff.

Physical health

Potential positive impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The holistic approach to teaching will include a focus on physical health (activity, diet and hygiene) and so is likely to have a positive impact on the physical health of pupils.

Mental health and wellbeing

Potential positive impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The holistic approach to teaching will include a focus on mental and emotional health and so is likely to have a positive impact on the wellbeing of pupils. They will be surrounded by their peers, in a school located in a community setting, so will be in a positive and supportive environment. The new provision should also have a positive impact on the mental health and wellbeing of parent carers, as additional places will be available, meaning that more children and young people will get the support that they need, and those places will be within Worcestershire, which will reduce journey times for many pupils and parent carers.

Access to services

Potential positive impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

There is currently no special school provision in the Malvern area, and the new school will add more specialist places within Worcestershire, so Worcestershire-based pupils with autism will have better access to specially designed services within the local area, reducing the need for travel across Worcestershire or into neighbouring counties to access special school places. The teaching approach will be designed specifically for students with autism, so the quality of education they will receive will improve their educational outcomes, their mental and physical health and wellbeing, and potentially their employment prospects.

6 Actions to mitigate potential negative impacts

You have confirmed that there are no negative impacts for equality protected characteristics and public health characteristics.

7 When will you review this equality and public health estimate(EPHIA)?

Following the next stage of the project, selection of the Trust who will run the new school.

8 Declaration

The following statement has been read and agreed:

- All public bodies have a statutory duty under the Equality Act 2010 to set out arrangements to assess and consult on how their policies and functions impact on the 9 protected characteristics: Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage & Civil Partnership; Pregnancy & Maternity; Race; Religion & Belief; Sex; Sexual Orientation
- Our Organisation will challenge discrimination, promote equality, respect human rights, and aims to design and implement services, policies and measures that meet the diverse needs of our service, and population, ensuring that none are placed at a disadvantage over others
- All staff are expected to deliver and provide services and care in a manner which respects the individuality of service users, patients, carers etc, and as such treat them and members of the workforce respectfully, paying due regard to the 9 protected characteristics

I confirm to the best of my knowledge that the information I have provided is true, complete and accurate

I confirm that I will make sure that Equality and Public Health have been and continue to be considered throughout the project life cycle and that, if circumstances change in the project, a further Equality and Public Health Impact Assessment Screening will be carried out.

8 Application Details

Last Updated Date Time

18/05/2023 11:38:20

Screening Submitted Date Time

14/12/2022 10:31:56

Last Reopened Date Time

17/05/2023 15:06:17

Full Impact Submitted Date Time

17/05/2023 15:55:27

Approved/Rejected Date Time

18/05/2023 11:38:20

Current User Dashboard Request Status

Complete



Mainstream school-age Education Sufficiency Report 2023

Sufficiency of Education Provision in Mainstream schools in Worcestershire

Document Details

Status: Draft v1.0 for CBB 12.03.2024

Date: March 2024

Contact: Justin Kirby, Provision Planning Analyst jkirby1@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

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Statutory Duties to mainstream pupils and schools

Under s13-14 Education Act 1996, Worcestershire County Council (WCC) has a duty to ensure there are sufficient school places to accommodate the children and young people who reside in the county and to ensure these places are of good quality, with sufficient capacity to promote parental preference and diversity. In addition, S315 of the Education Act 1996 requires that arrangements for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) be kept under review.

The 2011 Education Act requires that, where the need for a new school is identified, the Council should invite proposals to establish a free school, with the final approval given by the Secretary of State for Education.

Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on Local Authorities to secure educational provision made for pupils aged 16 to 18 and over 19 years for those with special educational needs.

School place planning is crucial to ensuring the Council is able to meet its responsibility and support children within Worcestershire to access a good education. Forecasting is at the forefront of this process and ensures that we are able to work with key partners to build our education provision around the demands of a changing demographic landscape.

The Sufficiency & Place Planning (SPP) team carry out an annual forecast of pupil places based on information from the NHS known children data, school census information, Admissions and planned housing data, and this forms the basis for our School Capacity Return (SCAP).

The scope of this report

This report will assess the sufficiency of mainstream education provision for children aged 5 – 16, or National Curriculum year groups Reception to Year 11, who reside in Worcestershire. (For information about the sufficiency of provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, see the SEND Sufficiency Report 2023).

For the purpose of this report, sufficiency of provision is deemed as the schools being able to provide places for the children living in the planning area. This may not include all parental preferences, as some schools are oversubscribed due to parents applying from outside a school's catchment. Where provision is forecast to be significantly below the forecast demand it will be shown as 'insufficient'. Where there are repeated years forecast with numbers on roll less than half of total places available (Published Admission Numbers, or PANs) it will be deemed an 'oversupply' of provision.

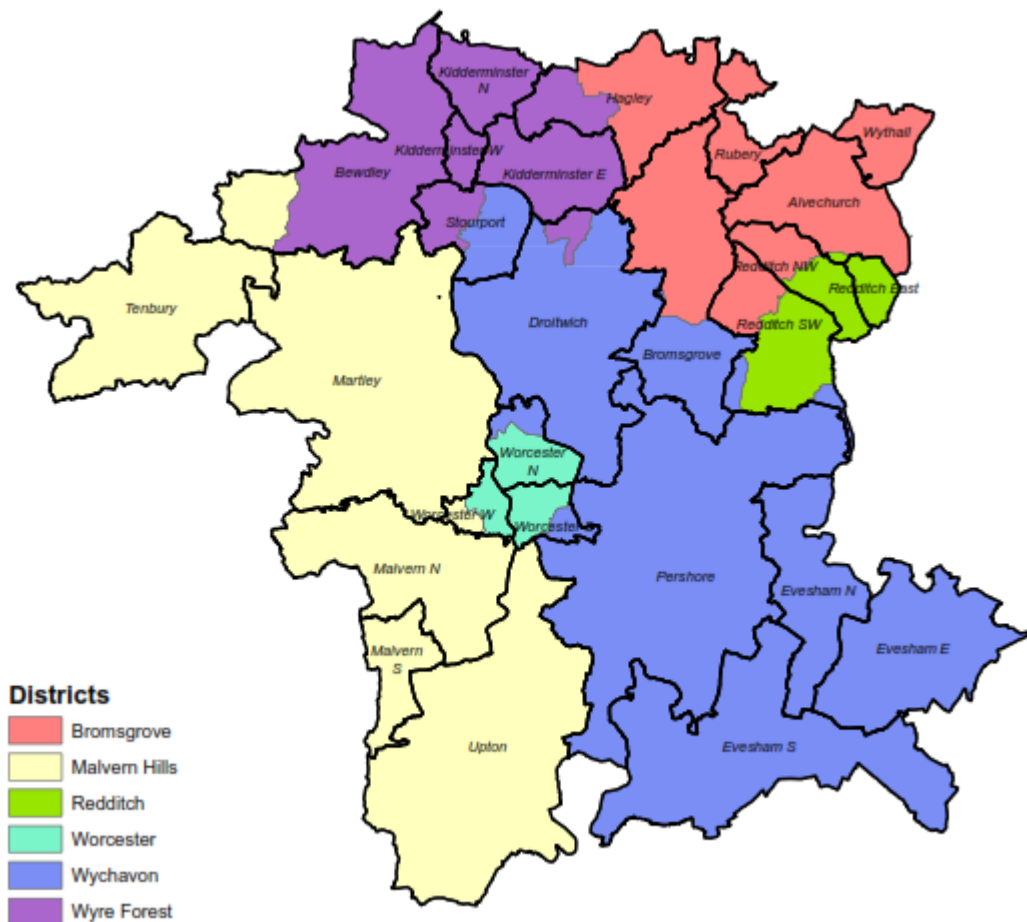
This report details by each phase of education in each Education Planning Area (EPA) where forecasts indicate sufficient, insufficient or an oversupply of school places to meet the forecast demand based on known children living in the areas, five-year trends including parental preferences, and the additional pupil yields expected from approved housing growth applications.

For First and Primary forecasts, we have 5 years' worth of pre-school aged 'known children' numbers – this known children data is based on registrations with GP surgeries in Worcestershire, and supports the forecasting of numbers for the next 4 academic years. For Middle, High and Secondary we have many more years' worth of known children data and numbers on roll in the First, Primary and Middle Schools to understand trends and parental preference – this data supports the forecasting of pupil numbers further into the future.

The organisation of mainstream education provision in Worcestershire

Worcestershire currently operates 26 Education Planning Areas (EPAs) that are made up of schools located in close proximity to each other, which pupils could reasonably attend. The use of EPAs allows WCF to assess more accurately the current and future pupil demand for school place provision. Map 1 below shows how these Education Planning Areas relate to District Council boundaries.

Map 1 - Education Planning Areas



Worcestershire is unique in the range of education tier structures available to families in the county. In areas which operate a two-tier model, children enter primary school at reception and transfer to a secondary school at the start of Year 7. Other areas operate a three-tier model, where children enter first school at reception, transfer to a middle school at the start of Year 5 or 6, depending on the age range of the middle school, and then transfer to high school at the start of Year 8 or 9, depending on the age range of the high school.

Some EPAs operate both two tier (primary and secondary) and three tier (first, middle and high) in the same area, providing families with a choice. This includes some catholic school provision and some other schools that have sought to change their age range. In addition to this, a number of secondary and high schools in the county also offer sixth form provision.

The table below summarises the predominant model in operation in each Education Planning Area:

Figure 1 Worcestershire Education Tiers by EPA

Two-tier model Primary Years R-6 Secondary Years 7-13	Three-tier model A First Years R-4 Middle Years 5-8 High Years 9-13	Three-tier model B First Years R-4 Middle Years 5-7 High Years 8-13	Three-tier model C First Years R-5 Middle Years 6-8 High Years 9-13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bewdley • Hagley • Kidderminster • Malvern • Martley • Rubery • Stourport • Tenbury • Upton • Worcester • Wythall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alvechurch • Bromsgrove • Redditch*† 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Droitwich* • Pershore* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evesham*

*EPA also has primary school(s)

†EPA also has a secondary school

Operational surplus of provision

Worcestershire County Council aims to maintain a 5% surplus capacity in any Education Planning Area, in line with recommendations from the National Audit Office¹. A level of surplus places should be maintained to offer a degree of parental choice while still ensuring efficient but also flexible provision planning.

In addition, a surplus allows for in-year migration of pupils into and out of schools and reduces the number of school place appeals. In 2023, 3.1% of first/primary pupils enrolled at their school after the start of the Autumn term – this pupil mobility was less for middle schools (1.6%) and high/secondary schools (2.1%) but for all phases, mobility rates have increased over the last four years, underscoring the need for spare places in at least one of the schools in each phase in each EPA for such pupils.

¹ [2013-nao-school-places.pdf \(education-uk.org\)](https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/2013-nao-school-places.pdf)

Demand for provision of Mainstream education across Worcestershire

Birth rates in Worcestershire have been falling since a peak in 2012 of 6,400 babies under 1 year old registered with GPs in the county. There was a dip in 2020 of 5,305, most likely related to COVID, then births returned to usual numbers. In 2023 there were 5,408 babies under 1 year old in Worcestershire.

There were 86,158 children between 0-19 years of age in total in Worcestershire in 2015-2016 rising to 89,648 in 2021-2022. Of these, 76,828 were in state-funded mainstream primary and secondary schools in 2015-2016 rising to 80,164 in 2021-2022.

This is 89.4% of the total number of children living in Worcestershire as opposed to a national average over the same years of 91.3%. The difference is mainly a larger percentage of pupils in independent schools.

In 2021 there were 7,509 pupils in mainstream independent schools, making up 8.5% of the total resident in the county. This proportion is stable, slightly less than the 8.7% in 2017. The national proportion is 6.5% of pupils in independent schools.

2.5% of all pupils (aged 5-16) resident in the county attend special schools or alternative provision (both public funded and independent). This increased from 1.7% in 2017. Both are over the national average of 1.4%. Much more on this subject can be found in the SEND Sufficiency Report.

Figure 2 Summary of pupil numbers in Worcestershire by type of establishment (gov.uk)

Type of education provision	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
State Funded Nursery*	69	69	80	118	113	107	112	98
State Funded Primary	41,406	41,916	42,450	42,660	42,783	42,541	42,354	42,496
State funded Secondary	35,422	35,512	35,436	35,946	36,510	37,212	37,810	38,164
Non-maintained Special	79	74	71	67	64	70	74	70
State-funded Special†	1,289	1,372	1,228	1,332	1,385	1,517	1,524	1,641
Alternative Provision	85	151	131	142	150	119	108	141
Independent	7,808	7,610	7,482	7,449	7,310	7,213	7,509	7,588
Total	86,158	86,704	87,089	87,862	88,464	88,851	89,648	90,285
Mainstream funded %	89.2%	89.3%	89.4%	89.5%	89.6%	89.8%	89.4%	89.4%
Special	1.5%	1.6%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.8%	1.9%	1.9%
Independent & Non- Maintained Independent Special Schools	9.2%	8.9%	8.7%	8.6%	8.3%	8.2%	8.5%	8.5%

*Maintained nursery classes and school only

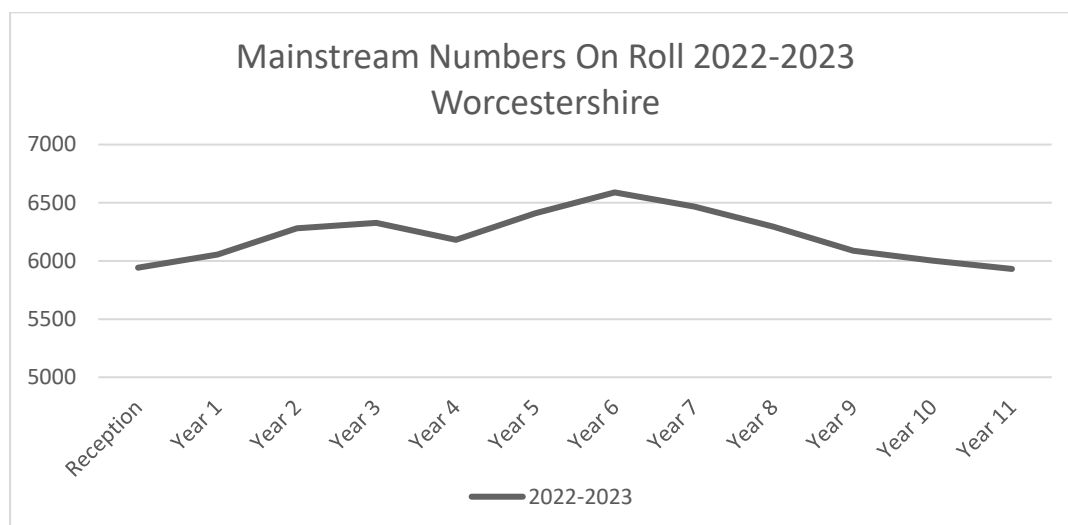
†See SEND Sufficiency Report 2023

The steady rate of general population growth contributes to a steady rise in numbers at both primary and secondary mainstream schools. This is slightly offset by the numbers of pupils also attending independent, special and alternative provision schools.

These figures do not include pupils on roll in secondary schools in sixth form, years 12 and 13. Most secondary or high schools in the county have sixth forms, but there are also sixth form colleges which fall outside the school census.

In 2022, there were a total of 970 children of compulsory education age (5-16) being Electively Home Educated, of which 55 had Education & Health Care Plans. There were also 424 children of compulsory education age listed as missing education.

Figure 3 Numbers of pupils on roll at mainstream schools in Worcestershire 2022-23



The pupil numbers on roll from October 2022 show a peak number of pupils in year 6, which is now in year 7 (academic year 2023/24). This peak, seen below in figure 4, will move through middle schools and secondary schools and in some planning areas this cohort will reach the high school intake year 9 (for Bromsgrove, Evesham and Redditch) in September 2025.

Figure 4 Number of pupils on roll in Worcestershire secondary age groups (Year 7 – 11) 2010 – 2022, with forecast numbers on roll 2024-2028

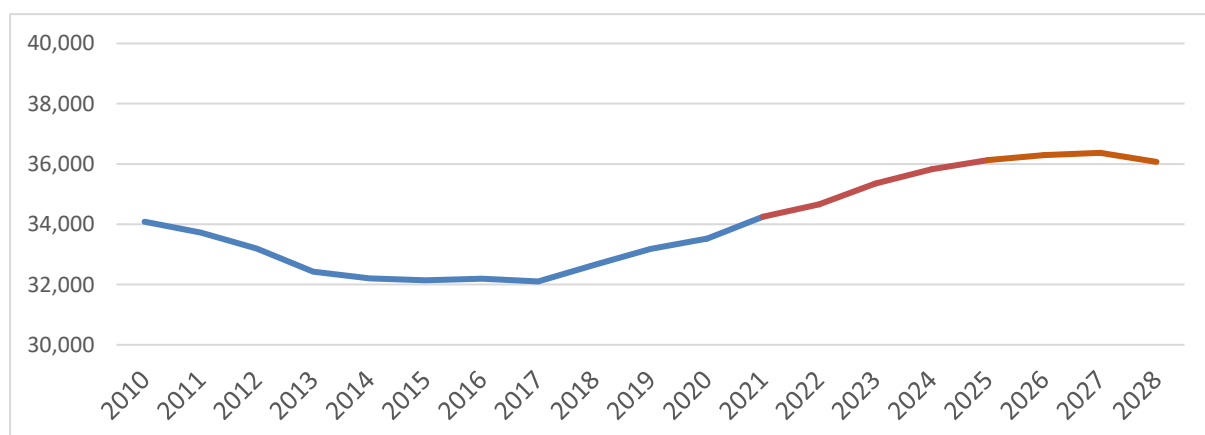
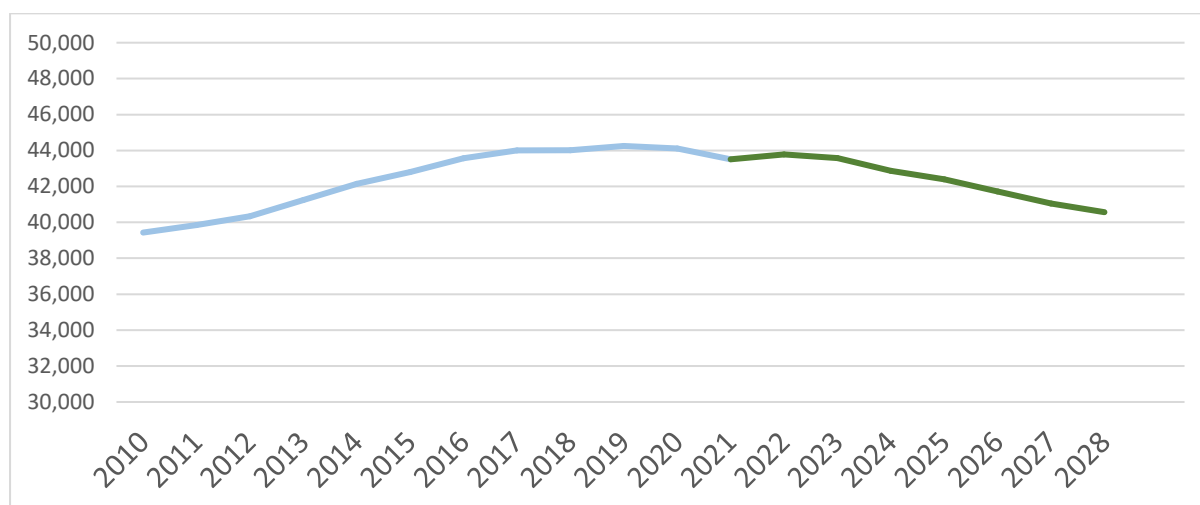


Figure 5 Number of pupils on roll in Worcestershire primary age groups (Reception to Year 6) 2010 – 2022, with forecast numbers on roll 2024-2028



Conversely, the numbers on roll in first and primary schools are falling, as shown in figure 5 above. This is a national demographic trend at the moment, though it is offset by large numbers of local housing in specific areas, which is discussed later in the report. Housing developments of a reasonably large scale, with 2 or more bedrooms per dwelling, tend to attract young families, where we can predict an additional 5 pupils per year group per year per 100 dwellings.

The county is mostly rural with thinly spread population and 82 primary or first schools classed as small² or rural. Two (2) first or primary schools have fewer than 30 pupils on roll and a further three (3) have fewer than 50 pupils.³ Much of the mainstream school population is concentrated in the urban areas around Worcester (19%) and Redditch (15%) and to a lesser extent, Bromsgrove and Kidderminster (both 9% of the total county).

Migration

Between May and November 2022, an additional 275 school-aged pupils arrived in Worcestershire and applied for a school place where their originating country was known to be outside Europe. It is possible that other pupils came from outside the country but did not apply for a school place.

Of these pupils, 7 came via the Afghan Resettlement Programme, all of whom were placed in Bromsgrove (where they were offered housing). 45 pupils originated in Africa, 16 of which were admitted to schools in Worcester. 28 pupils from the Middle East (Syria to the Gulf States) similarly included 14 who were admitted to schools in Worcester. 95 pupils arrived from Ukraine, dispersed widely throughout the county with some concentrations in Bromsgrove, Malvern and Worcester. 60 pupils arrived from India, mostly admitted to schools in Redditch.

² Schools with 100 pupils or fewer – DfE March 2019 research brief and The National Association of Small Schools

³ Total Number on Roll from October 2023 school census

Cross-border Admissions

These tables show migration between local authorities. Worcestershire has several county neighbours including Warwickshire, Birmingham and Dudley which have the most pupils commuting to and from Worcestershire for their school provision. More details concerning the most significant cross-border pupil flows are discussed by planning area later in this report.

Map 2 Worcestershire's neighbouring Local Authorities



Figure 6 Cross border home to school migration – 2021 – Primary Age group

From LA	To LA	Phase	Pupils
Birmingham	Worcestershire	Primary	503
Worcestershire	Birmingham	Primary	347
Dudley	Worcestershire	Primary	181
Worcestershire	Dudley	Primary	108
Solihull	Worcestershire	Primary	22
Worcestershire	Solihull	Primary	227
Warwickshire	Worcestershire	Primary	110
Worcestershire	Warwickshire	Primary	497
Gloucestershire	Worcestershire	Primary	162
Worcestershire	Gloucestershire	Primary	181
Herefordshire	Worcestershire	Primary	118
Worcestershire	Herefordshire	Primary	154
Shropshire	Worcestershire	Primary	81
Worcestershire	Shropshire	Primary	76

Figure 7 Cross border home to school migration – 2021 – Secondary Age group

Birmingham	Worcestershire	Secondary	799
Worcestershire	Birmingham	Secondary	316
Dudley	Worcestershire	Secondary	461
Worcestershire	Dudley	Secondary	41
Solihull	Worcestershire	Secondary	46
Worcestershire	Solihull	Secondary	60
Warwickshire	Worcestershire	Secondary	69
Worcestershire	Warwickshire	Secondary	1061
Gloucestershire	Worcestershire	Secondary	114
Worcestershire	Gloucestershire	Secondary	352
Herefordshire	Worcestershire	Secondary	257
Worcestershire	Herefordshire	Secondary	46
Shropshire	Worcestershire	Secondary	139
Worcestershire	Shropshire	Secondary	128

Housing

New housing developments will also have an impact on demand for provision to meet the needs of children who come to live in these developments. Worcestershire is seeing a significant level of new housing either being built or planned as the popularity of the county grows. The sufficiency assessments in this report take account of the 5 year land supplies of the six District Councils in Worcestershire (specific sites listed for housing development over a five year period).

The DfE provides guidance on the securing of contributions from housing developers to fund additional education infrastructure to mitigate the impact of their developments. Worcestershire County Council’s [Education Planning Obligations Policy](#) (‘section 106 policy’), which is approved by Cabinet, details how required contributions are calculated for early years, mainstream school, SEND and post-16 provision needs. Contributions can be spent on enhancing provision at existing settings, or where the impact of very large developments is of a scale to warrant it, the creation of new establishments.

Overview of current assessment of sufficiency

Mainstream school provision across Worcestershire is currently sufficient overall.

- First and Primary phase provision is forecast to be sufficient in 13 of 26 EPA sub-divisions across the county. There is forecast to be insufficient provision in 7 areas, and overprovision in 6 areas.
- Middle phase provision is forecast to be sufficient in 6 of 10 EPA sub-divisions across the county. There is forecast to be insufficient provision in 3 areas, and overprovision in 1 area.
- High & secondary phase provision is forecast to be sufficient in 11 of 14 EPA sub-divisions across the county. There is forecast to be insufficient provision in the remaining 3 areas.

See the phase by EPA maps below for details.

- 84% of schools are rated as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, compared to 82% in 2022.
- 98.4% of Primary school children received an offer from one of their three preferences for September 2023 - this is better than for September 2022 for Primary (97.9%), which was close to the 2022 England average of 98.0%.
- There was also a small increase in the percentage of children applying for a Secondary school place receiving an offer from one of their three preferences: 95.0% for September 2023 compared to 94.2% for September 2022. The national average for 2022 was 93.4%.

Figure 8 Sufficiency of First & Primary EPAs

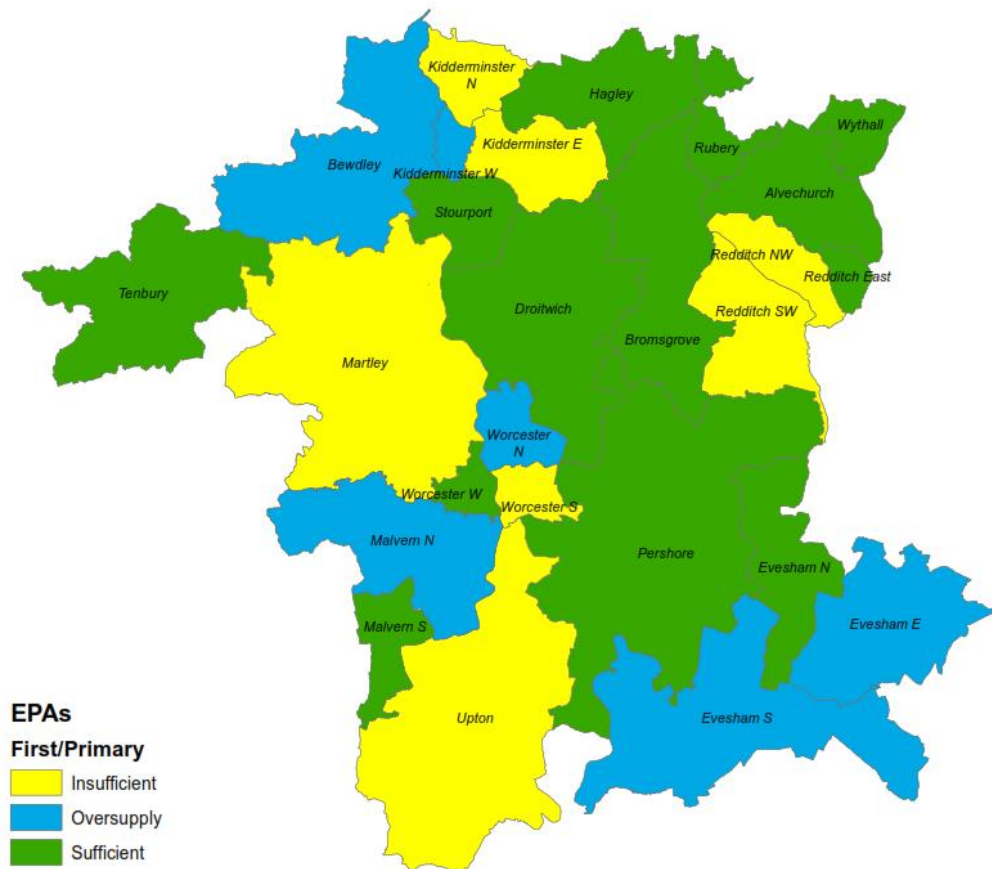


Figure 9 Sufficiency of Middle EPAs

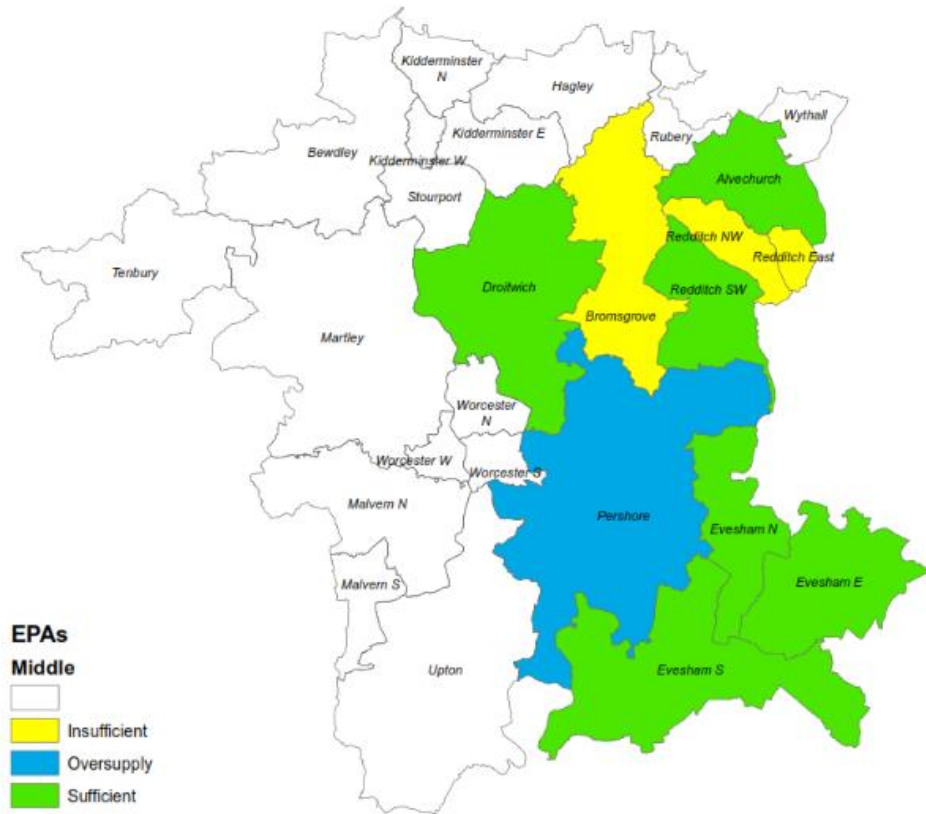
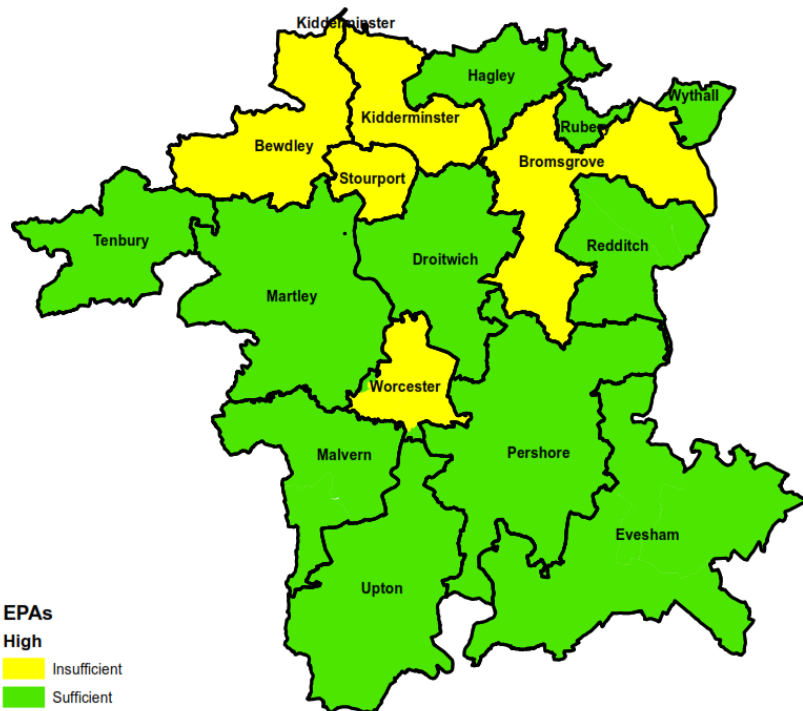


Figure 10 Sufficiency of High & Secondary EPAs



Forecasting methodology

The forecast for each EPA takes into account demographic growth in each area, new housing developments, average pupil transfer rates and pupil migration patterns. The forecasting data used for the 2023 Mainstream school age sufficiency report includes GP registrations from September 2021, the October 2021 school census and the 5 Year Land Supply Reports from each district council within Worcestershire. The forecast number of pupils generated from new housing is not as predictable as demographic growth and therefore greater care is taken when considering these forecasts. In a longitudinal study of several Worcestershire housing developments over 10 years, it was discovered that the pupil yield is higher for primary school aged pupils than for secondary school aged pupils.

Pupil place forecasting and school capacity data is provided to the DfE via the national SCAP survey (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-school-capacity>).

For further information on school place forecasting in Worcestershire please visit [School statistics and data collection | Worcestershire County Council](#), where there is a countywide forecast for 2023 and beyond using 2022 data.

Forecasting accuracy

The DfE groups local authorities into statistical neighbours where scale, demographics and population density are similar. We can expect education statistics such as forecasting accuracy to be similar. Figure 11 compares forecasts of pupil numbers for 1 year ahead and 3 years ahead at primary and secondary school levels with the actual pupil numbers in these later years, including the statistical neighbours for Worcestershire. Worcestershire ranks 10th place for 1 year ahead and 8th for 3 years ahead which suggests that there is a pattern of over-forecasting mainstream school place demand, but that this can be improved upon. We have improved the forecast methodology this year to reduce this trend.

Figure 11 Forecasting Accuracy by local authority – source DfE scorecards

Local Authority	Primary				Secondary			
	1 year %	1 year Rank	3 year %	3 year Rank	1 year %	1 year Rank	3 year %	3 year Rank
East Sussex	-0.2	3	1.5	3	0.4	3	1.8	3
West Sussex	-0.2	4	3.0	7	0.7	7	4.8	9
Leicestershire	-0.2	2	6.6	11	0.5	4	5.9	11
Dorset	0	1	2.4	6	-0.4	2	2.1	4
Gloucestershire	-0.6	7	5.2	9	0.7	6	4.0	7
Warwickshire	3.6	11	5.3	10	2.9	11	5.7	10
Essex	0.5	6	2.2	5	0.8	9	2.6	5
Hampshire	-0.5	5	2.0	4	-0.5	5	0.1	1
Kent	-0.8	9	-0.1	1	-0.2	1	0.6	2
Worcestershire	1.0	10	4.1	8	1.1	10	4.7	8
Staffordshire	-0.8	8	1.3	2	0.7	8	3.1	6

In general, the WCC forecasts have overestimated the pupil numbers for reception school places by 1% when forecasting for the following year and by 4% when forecasting 3 years ahead. The accuracy of the forecasts improves further when forecasting for middle and secondary school places; this can be expected as pupils are usually already in attendance at feeder first or primary schools.

It takes approximately two years to consult, design and build additional capacity into mainstream schools, therefore any decisions made to change the size or structure of a school is based on an average 98% accuracy of actual requirements for places. When forecasting three years into the future, this accuracy is within 95% respectively for first / primary Schools, and 95% for middle and secondary Schools. This means we are able to plan to within a 95% confidence the place requirements of all our mainstream schools over the next four years.

However, several of Worcestershire's statistical neighbours have been more accurate than this. In 2022 we amended the forecast methodology to eliminate any double-counting of additional pupils from housing growth, and we also increased the number of planning areas to help improve accuracy of forecasting at a planning area level.

For each EPA, WCF historically aimed to remain within this 95% accuracy or 0.5 Forms of Entry (FE) (15 places) for each intake point, whichever is greater. For reception intake, this was achieved in every year over the last five years in 8 out of previous 16 planning areas when forecasting two years ahead. As more recent housing completions slowed, the Droitwich reception forecast was overestimated. Pershore and Upton, like Droitwich, had overestimated pupil number growth when housing completions slowed. At times, reception numbers fell in Evesham further than forecast. Martley actual numbers of pupils have varied by up to 20% year on year. The border planning areas, Hagley, Wythall and Rubery, were over forecast based on significant demand for places from out of county pupils, but there are sufficient places for in-area pupils. Forecasts for middle school intake for all three-tier planning areas were accurate within this margin over the last five years.

This was achieved in 3 out of the previous 16 planning areas. In Pershore in 2019 90% of year 6 pupils from 2 years previous progressed into the year 8 intake at Pershore High School. In 2021 this dropped to 80%, contributing to an over-forecast in this planning area. Tenbury High, a solo rural high school, was under-forecast but on two occasions admitted more out-of-county pupils than expected. Conversely Wythall High, another border solo high school, was over forecast on the basis of out-of-county demand, but there are sufficient places for in-area pupils. When out-of-area demand is not likely to increase capacity, the methodology for forecasting is now to cap the forecast at the Published Admission Number (PAN)⁴.

The annual School Capacity Return (SCAP) submits to the DfE the numbers of forecast pupil places and each school's current capacity (pupil places available). This data underpins the DfE's basic need funding allocation, which is a grant to the local authority to finance the creation of new school places to meet demographic growth.

The number of primary pupils in Worcestershire LA has grown by 11.3% since 2010, the number of secondary pupils by 2.1%.

⁴ Published Admission Number (PAN) is the number of pupils in each year group that the admission authority has agreed will be admitted without causing problems for the school

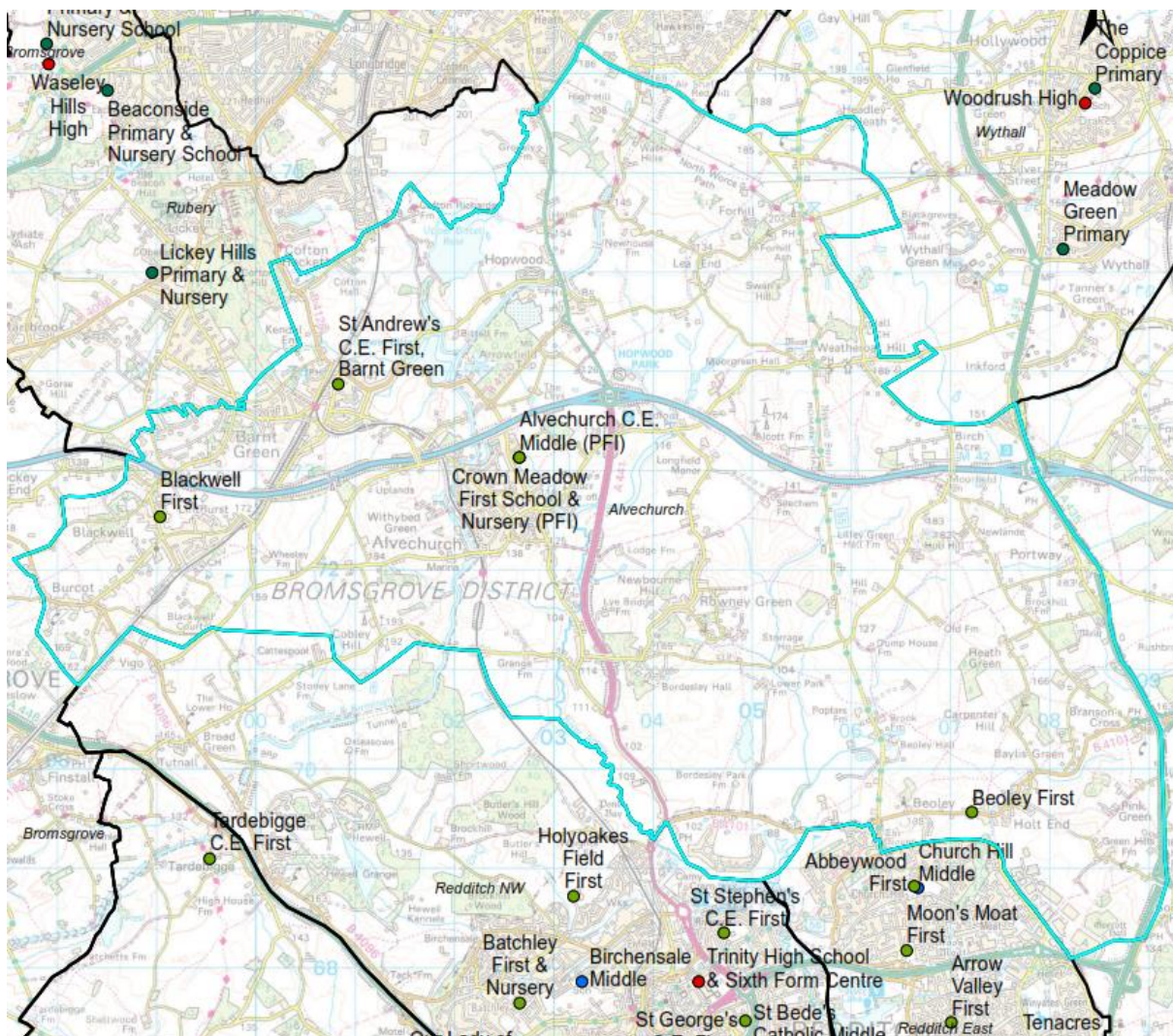
Across the county there are forecast to be 12% spare primary places and 11.5% spare secondary places in 2024/25. Since pupils can be expected to travel only so far to their school it is possible to have both a basic need for more places in one location and spare places in another nearby.

Worcestershire LA estimated that an additional 133 primary and 139 secondary places are required for the academic year 2024/25. This resulted in the basic need funding allocation of £5.3m for 2024/25.

Bromsgrove District

The district of Bromsgrove has 5 Education Planning Areas (EPAs), with Bromsgrove itself having the largest number of schools and pupils. Bromsgrove and Alvechurch are 3 tier, with Alvechurch middle feeding into one combined Bromsgrove High EPA. Hagley, Rubery and Wythall are all 2 tier EPAs.

Alvechurch Education Planning Area



2% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in Alvechurch EPA, with two schools deemed as 'Outstanding' and the rest deemed as 'Good'.

This is a large area of mainly greenbelt between Birmingham, Bromsgrove and Redditch. Birth rates are falling. There are no large housing developments approved in this area.

Alvechurch – First

First school places are forecast to be sufficient in Alvechurch EPA

There are few schools, but they are all popular and take in many pupils from outside the catchments. Over 5 years, there were on average 4 pupils per year attending Blackwell First School from the Lickey Hills catchment and 15 attending St Andrew’s CofE First School, Barnt Green.

Beoley First School is just outside Redditch and typically hosts an average of 13 pupils from Redditch per year, two-thirds of its PAN. The Redditch pupils usually go on to attend Redditch middle and High schools.

Numbers on roll are high but are forecast to decrease over time. As many pupils on the roll of schools within the Alvechurch EPA continue to apply from outside of area there are no forecast sufficiency issues.

Figure 12 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Alvechurch First EPA

PAN 155	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4
Oct-17	156	155	153	150	145
Oct-18	154	154	155	153	150
Oct-19	155	156	155	153	156
Oct-20	154	154	152	153	153
Oct-21	154	154	151	146	154
Oct-22	155	154	154	150	149
Oct-23	142	155*	153	152	151
Oct-24	146	143	154	151	154
Oct-25	133	146	141	152	153
Oct-26	123	132	145	139	154

*Yellow cells have forecast numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN

Alvechurch – Middle

Middle school places are forecast to be sufficient in Alvechurch EPA

There is one middle school within the Alvechurch Education Planning Area, Alvechurch CE Middle School. The Middle School feeds into both North and South Bromsgrove High schools, which are in the Bromsgrove EPA.

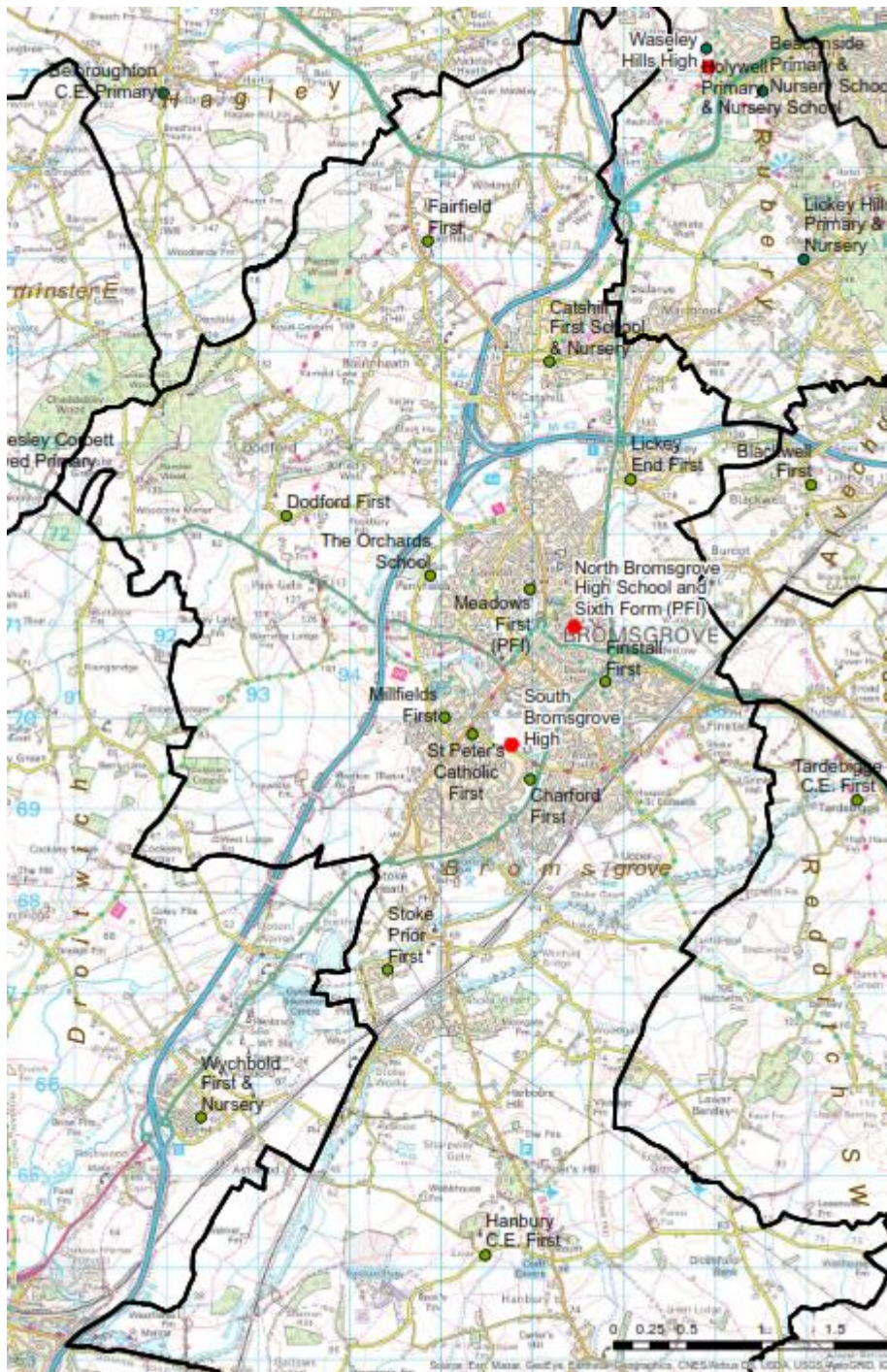
The middle school attracts pupils from its feeder schools which include some pupils from outside the area. The total numbers of known children are less than its PAN of 110, therefore the school has sufficient provision. Since few pupils currently travel from Bromsgrove to Alvechurch, the provision of additional places in Alvechurch are unlikely to mitigate demand pressure in Bromsgrove.

Figure 13 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Alvechurch Middle EPA

PAN 110	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7	Yr 8
Oct-17	112	111	106	104
Oct-18	110	113	101	103
Oct-19	114	111	107	107
Oct-20	111	110	104	109
Oct-21	115	110	105	102
Oct-22	112	115	111	103
Oct-23	111	111	109	111
Oct-24	113	111	107	110
Oct-25	114	112	105	107
Oct-26	113	114	107	106
Oct-27	114	113	108	107
Oct-28	104	113	107	108
Oct-29	107	104	108	108
Oct-30	97	106	99	108

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Bromsgrove Education Planning Area



The Bromsgrove Education Planning Area is made up of the town of Bromsgrove and the surrounding rural areas. The majority of the area sits within Bromsgrove District Council but also covers a small area of Wychavon. The planning area is served by twelve (12) First Schools (Years R-4), four (4) Middle Schools (Years 5-8) and two (2) High Schools with Sixth Forms (Years 9-13).

9% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in Bromsgrove EPA, with 35% of schools deemed as 'Outstanding', with a further 59% deemed as 'Good'.

Bromsgrove – First

First school places are forecast to be sufficient in Bromsgrove First EPA up to 2026, however major new housing will require additional school places

There are high numbers of pupils in the town of Bromsgrove and a strong parental preference for those living in the town to attend schools outside the town. Birth rates have been stable for the last 5 years.

Figure 14 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Bromsgrove First EPA

PAN 585	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4
Oct-17	544	579	530	551	510
Oct-18	528	549	579	541	555
Oct-19	561	535	559	580	544
Oct-20	555	557	530	552	583
Oct-21	543	557	561	526	541
Oct-22	540	558	569	563	533
Oct-23	541	545	562	570	564
Oct-24	555	546	549	563	571
Oct-25	551	567	558	557	572
Oct-26	552	562	578	565	565

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Figure 15 - Forecast demand for Reception places in Bromsgrove Town 2022 – 2026

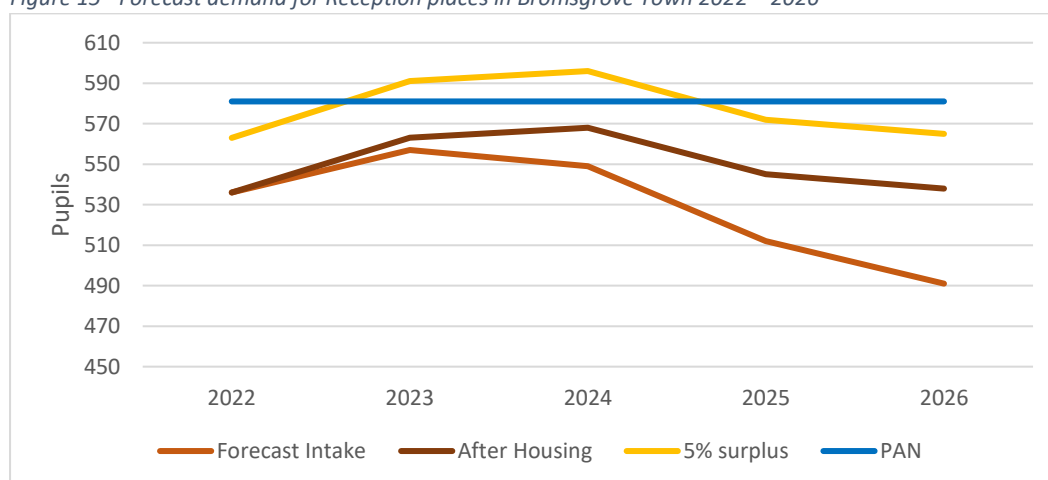


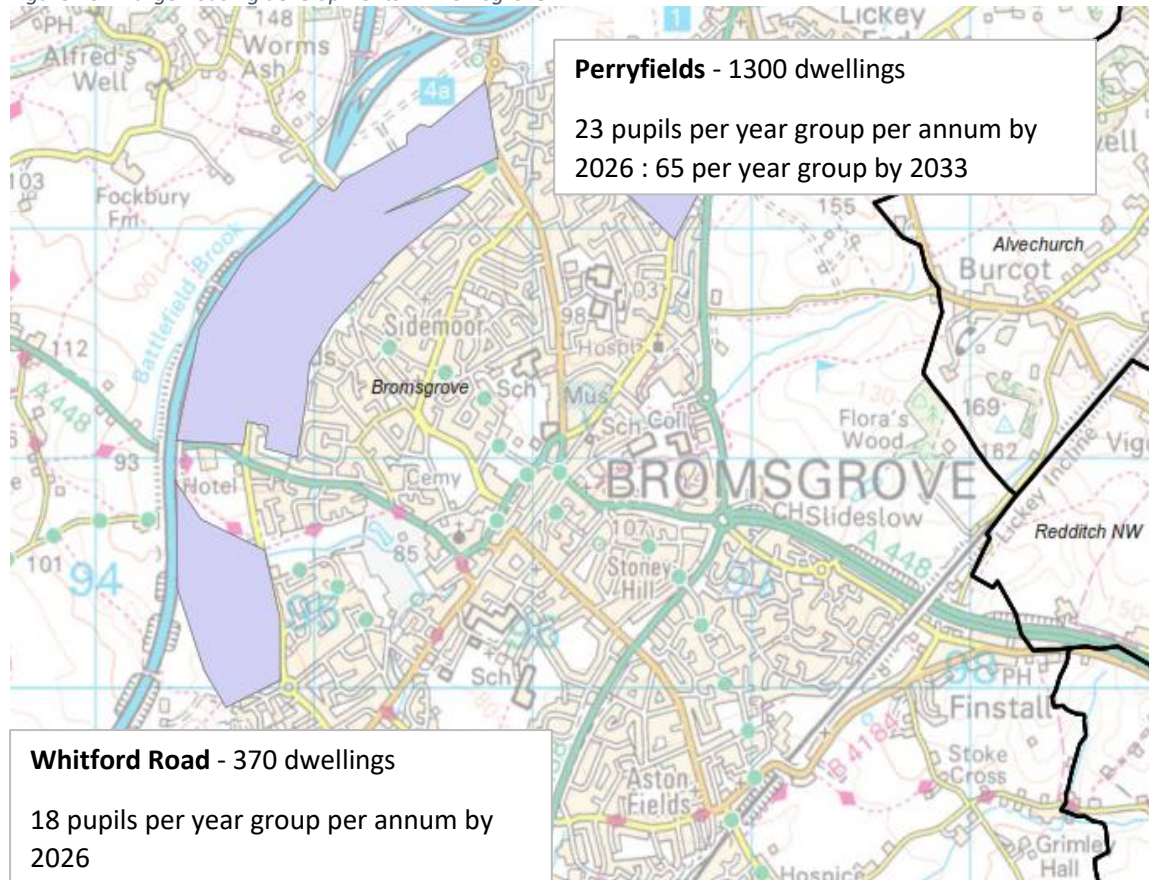
Figure 15 shows a forecast for the Bromsgrove EPA including expected impacts from housing up to 2026.

Housing

There are two major housing developments in Western Bromsgrove on Perryfields Road and Whitford Road, totalling circa 1530 new homes. The legal agreement detailing the contributions required from the developer ('Section 106 Agreement') was signed for Perryfields on 12th July 2021 to include a new 2FE First School with nursery. The building of houses has begun with the social

housing being built out first. Completions of marketable homes are expected towards the beginning of Autumn 2024.

Figure 16 – Large housing developments in Bromsgrove



1,530 new dwellings are expected to yield an additional 70 pupils per First School year group by 2031, 26 (1 form of entry, or FE) of these by 2025 and 56 (2FE) of these by 2029. These forecast additional pupils will exceed the places available at the local schools from 2025, particularly the Orchard First School and Meadows First School. Ahead of the new school being delivered, the mitigation for places will include some pupils having to be offered school places further than 2 miles from home, therefore incurring transport costs for the LA.

Therefore, a new First school will be delivered on the Perryfields site to serve families moving onto this development currently planned for 2028. WCF aims to deliver a new school alongside the build-out of the Perryfields and Whitford Road development, to ensure the school is delivered in line with need and to ensure other local schools are not adversely affected.

The PAN of the schools in figure 15 does not include the planned Perryfields first school as it is not likely to open before 2026.

Bromsgrove – Middle

Middle school places are forecast to be insufficient in Bromsgrove Middle EPA

Figure 17 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Bromsgrove Middle EPA

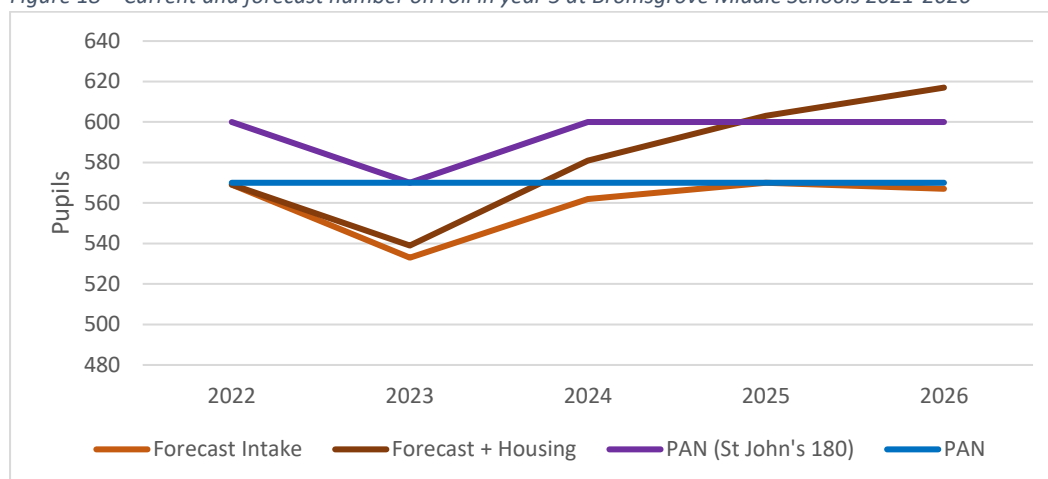
PAN 570	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7	Yr 8
Oct-17	546	539	500	493
Oct-18	533	543	528	486
Oct-19	566	542	551	522
Oct-20	543	568	539	550
Oct-21	606	545	559	533
Oct-22	564	610	544	554
Oct-23	548	567	606	537
Oct-24	581	551	564	599
Oct-25	595	591	556	564
Oct-26	595	605	594	555
Oct-27	588	604	607	593
Oct-28	590	591	601	600
Oct-29	604	593	588	594
Oct-30	593	608	590	582

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

The middle schools in Bromsgrove were full in October 2023 and likely to be full or nearly full for the next few years and there are predicted to be more pupils arising from the new housing to the west of the town. The LA is working with the middle schools in Bromsgrove to identify options to create additional places by 2025 or 2026 (depending on St John’s Middle School).

Figure 17 shows the forecast number of pupils requiring a Year 5 place in Bromsgrove Middle Schools. The published total PAN for Year 5 in Bromsgrove is 570 and by 2024 the forecast number of pupils, including forecast additional pupils from new housing, requiring a Year 5 place is expected to exceed this. St John’s Middle School has taken 1FE (30 pupils) over the PAN of 150 for 2 of the past 3 years but is unable to increase to 180 every year. If St John’s Middle School can take up to 180 pupils in September 2024 and September 2025, the demand will not exceed the operating PAN of 600 until 2026.

Figure 18 – Current and forecast number on roll in year 5 at Bromsgrove Middle Schools 2021-2026



Recent pupil growth in Bromsgrove First Schools is now feeding through into the Middle Schools, especially St John’s and Aston Fields. Catshill Middle School has fewer pupils in feeder school year 4’s than its PAN.

An additional 1 Form of Entry (30 places) will be needed at one of the Bromsgrove town middle schools by 2026 and longer term a further 1FE may be required due to housing growth. Full feasibility studies have been completed at St John’s Middle and Aston Fields Middle School which confirm neither can be expanded further to meet demand. A feasibility study has concluded that Catshill Middle School can be expanded. The feasibility report for Parkside Middle School has recently been received. Parkside Middle School is one of the PFI schools in Bromsgrove. The costs and timescales for Catshill and Parkside now need to be considered fully against the available funding and demand for places to be available. The capital programme will be updated to reflect which schemes will be delivered.

Bromsgrove – High

High school places are forecast to be insufficient in Bromsgrove High EPA

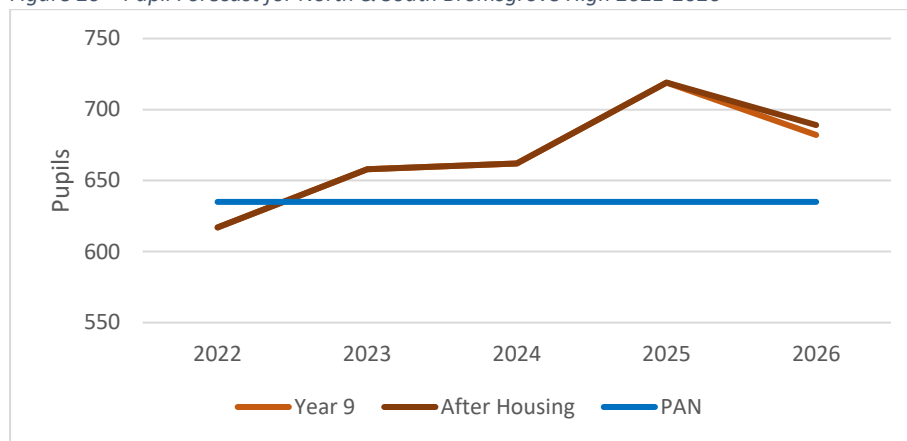
Figure 19 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Bromsgrove High EPA

PAN 635	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13
Oct-17	615	569	512	236	239
Oct-18	587	608	558	190	213
Oct-19	586	569	597	243	180
Oct-20	602	577	565	259	230
Oct-21	611	597	576	266	246
Oct-22	615	598	589	305	253
Oct-23	639	609	596	266	291
Oct-24	639	636	610	271	258
Oct-25	705	636	637	277	262
Oct-26	679	711	647	294	278
Oct-27	680	685	721	298	294
Oct-28	712	670	678	324	281
Oct-29	720	701	663	304	305
Oct-30	713	709	693	298	287

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

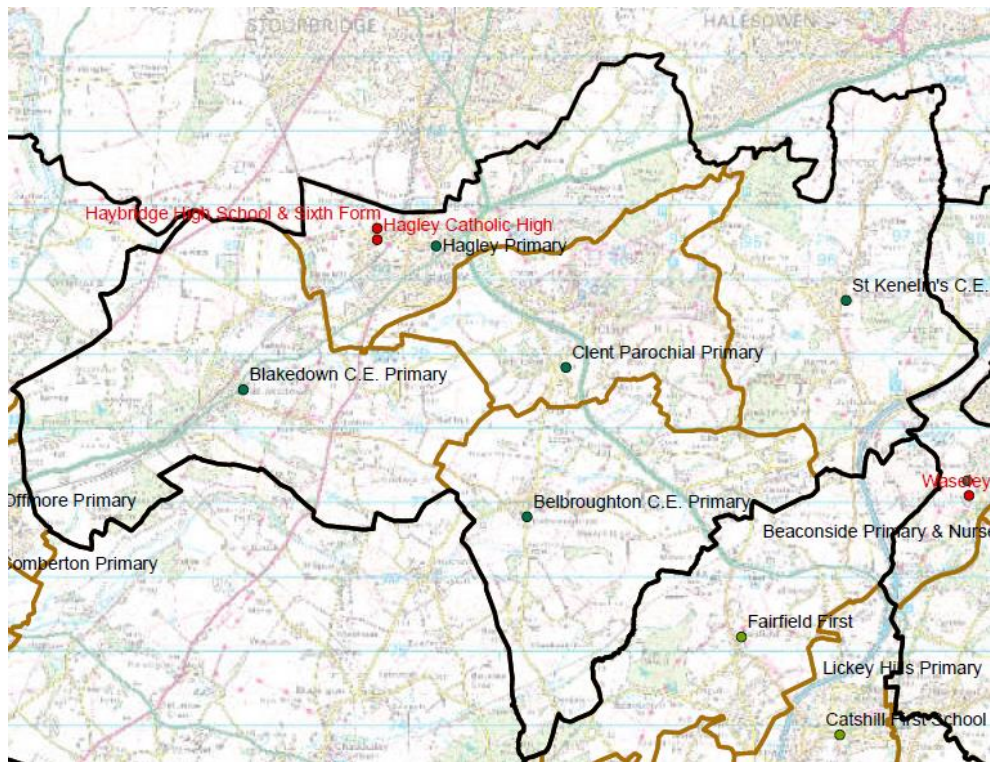
The high schools in Bromsgrove are likely to be full or nearly full for the next few years and there are predicted to be more pupils arising from the new housing to the west of the town. Based on current forecasts of pupils in middle schools, the combined PAN of both Bromsgrove High schools had insufficient Year 9 places for September 2023 and demand is forecast to continue to increase to a peak of 705 forecast Year 9 places for September 2025. There are on average 52 pupils of middle school age per year living in catchments feeding into North and South Bromsgrove High schools but attending schools elsewhere, including alternative provision and special schools, but few of these pupils are likely to attend Bromsgrove High Schools. Conversely there are on average 53 pupils per year living outside Bromsgrove catchments but attending Bromsgrove and Alvechurch middle schools. These are likely to apply to Bromsgrove High Schools and some are offered places despite the high demand at South Bromsgrove High. This is because many parents across both catchment areas apply to South Bromsgrove High. Any pupils from outside either catchment will therefore be allocated places at North Bromsgrove High should they apply here.

Figure 20 – Pupil Forecast for North & South Bromsgrove High 2021-2026



The LA is working with the high schools in Bromsgrove to identify options to create additional places for 2024 onwards. The feasibility reports for North Bromsgrove High and South Bromsgrove High have recently been received from BAM, both schools are PFI schools. The costs and timescales now need to be considered fully against the available funding and urgency for places to be available. The capital programme will be updated to reflect which schemes will be delivered.

Hagley Education Planning Area



The Hagley Education Planning Area covers the area to the Northeast of the county around the village of Hagley. The majority of the area sits within the Bromsgrove District Council but also covers a small area of the Wyre Forest. The planning area is served by five Primary Schools (Years R-6), and two Secondary Schools (Years 7-13).

Hagley – Primary

Primary school places are forecast to be sufficient in Hagley Primary EPA

4% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in Hagley EPA, with all the schools deemed as 'Good'.

Birth rates appear to be stable though there were additional children from housing in 2020-2021. There are 2 small developments of 160 dwellings in total leading to an additional 7 primary school aged pupils by 2026.

On average, 22% of the pupils at Hagley Primary School come from outside Hagley Primary School's catchment (some from Kidderminster as well as Dudley). Eleven (11) per year group come from Dudley LA. Though frequently oversubscribed, Hagley Primary EPA is forecast to have sufficient places for known Worcestershire children in the planning area over the next 4 years.

Belbroughton Primary School takes in more than half of its intake from outside catchment including Kidderminster and Bromsgrove.

Figure 21 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Hagley Primary EPA

PAN 188	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
Oct-17	178	186	188	177	173	175	175
Oct-18	170	179	190	189	182	172	178
Oct-19	168	175	182	195	195	185	177
Oct-20	185	176	177	183	191	192	187
Oct-21	184	186	179	177	186	191	191
Oct-22	187	186	189	180	181	188	187
Oct-23	167	191	189	191	183	181	189
Oct-24	181	170	194	191	194	183	182
Oct-25	187	184	173	196	194	194	184
Oct-26	198	190	187	174	199	194	195

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Hagley – Secondary

Secondary school places are forecast to be sufficient in Hagley Secondary EPA

Hagley Catholic High School provides secondary education for the catholic community for the whole of Wyre Forest and Hagley, though in practice it also hosts pupils from Dudley, Sandwell and Birmingham, due to the school's close proximity to Hagley Railway Station providing good transport links. 22% of pupils are from Wyre Forest District as opposed to Hagley and the majority, 71%, come from outside the county.

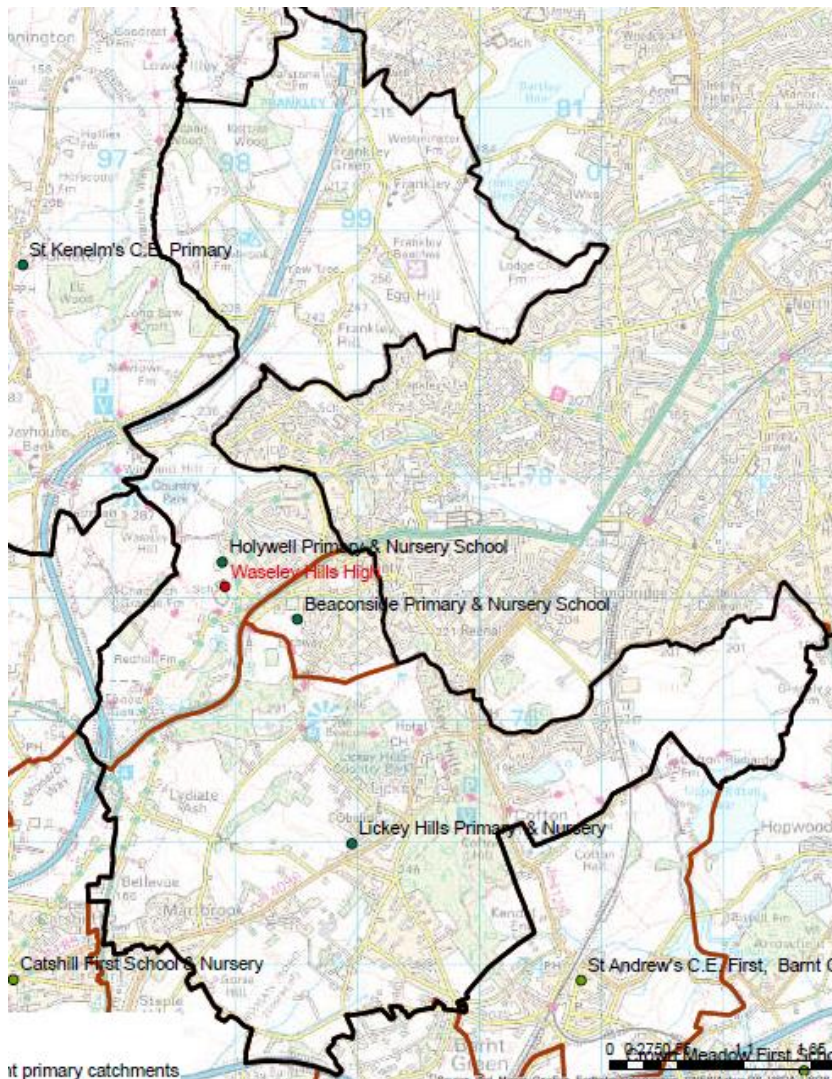
Haybridge High School is forecast to be close to full for the next 5 years, though as 15% of the intake on average comes from Dudley LA the school is sufficient for Hagley pupils. The school chose to increase its PAN from 190 to 210 in September 2023.

Figure 22 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Hagley Secondary EPA

PAN 400	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13
Oct-17	380	378	335	341	329	278	234
Oct-18	380	383	376	329	333	287	250
Oct-19	380	379	378	372	328	242	258
Oct-20	377	379	374	375	370	257	229
Oct-21	359	379	378	365	372	223	231
Oct-22	392	361	373	372	360	184	188
Oct-23	389	393	357	367	368	251	165
Oct-24	394	390	389	352	363	256	225
Oct-25	380	395	386	383	348	253	230
Oct-26	383	381	391	381	379	242	227
Oct-27	406	384	377	385	376	264	217
Oct-28	406	407	381	371	381	262	237
Oct-29	416	407	403	375	367	265	235
Oct-30	371	418	403	397	371	255	238

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Rubery Education Planning Area



The Rubery Education Planning Area is made up of the area directly north of Bromsgrove and supports much of the rural areas and villages in the very northeast of Worcestershire. The entirety of the area sits within the Bromsgrove District Council. The planning area is served by three Primary Schools (Years R-6), and one Secondary School. In total these schools offer 150 Reception places and 178 Year 7 places for 2021, along with Sixth Form provision.

Rubery - Primary

Primary school places are forecast to be sufficient in Rubery Primary EPA

2% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in Rubery EPA, with two schools deemed as 'Good'.

On the border with Birmingham, all Rubery schools receive many applications from outside of the county. Many pupils residing in Rubery attend schools in Birmingham, Bromsgrove and Barnt Green. The Lickey Hills Primary School catchment area has numbers of known children greater than the school's PAN. Last year's sufficiency report used this fact to conclude the school was insufficient for

demand. However, on average 20 children per year group choose to attend St Andrew's First School in Barnt Green, and Catshill and Blackwell First Schools in the Bromsgrove planning area. These pupils tend to remain in the Bromsgrove pyramid through to the middle and high phases. There are also, on average, 20 children from the catchment area per year attending schools in Birmingham and around 8 Birmingham children per year attending Lickey Hills Primary School.

Figure 23 – Known Children in Rubery EPA Primary School Catchments

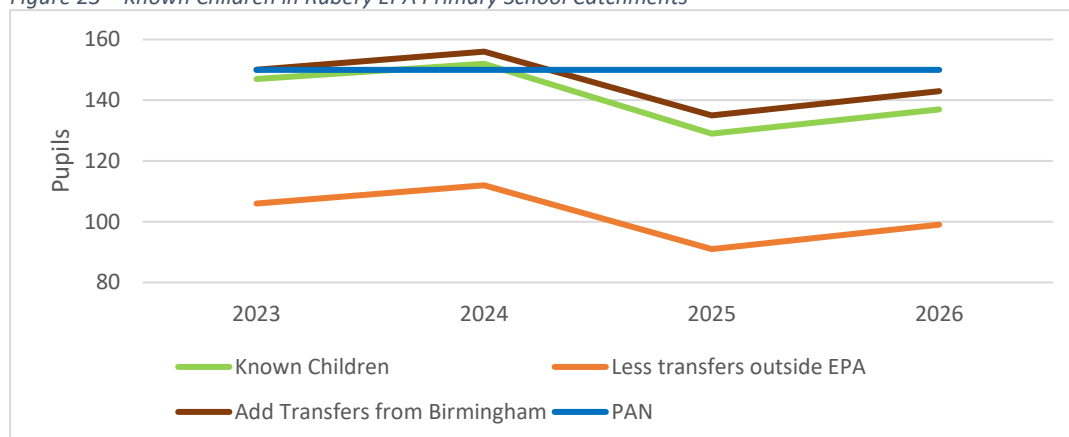


Figure 23 shows that known children numbers in the Rubery Planning Area are to be above the area's PAN in 2024. A strong parental preference for Alvechurch and Bromsgrove schools (on average 23 pupils per year group) and Birmingham schools (20 pupils per year group) means Rubery Primary EPA has sufficient places for the first preference applications from the catchment area. The light brown line on the chart shows the expected numbers of pupils from Rubery catchments. This forecast assumes a constant transfer of pupils between Rubery and Birmingham. Currently, on average attending Rubery schools, there are 91 pupils per year group resident in the EPA, 38 in Birmingham.

Figure 24 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Rubery Primary EPA

PAN 150	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
Oct-17	142	151	150	154	142	144	151
Oct-18	150	153	154	141	152	132	140
Oct-19	151	150	155	153	149	140	134
Oct-20	151	145	148	155	150	143	140
Oct-21	155	154	144	151	149	140	135
Oct-22	133	157	146	147	144	142	143
Oct-23	148	135	156	145	145	135	141
Oct-24	162	150	134	155	143	136	134
Oct-25	144	164	149	133	153	135	135
Oct-26	159	146	163	148	132	144	134

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

100 dwellings are being built in Cofton Hackett 2023-2025, adjacent to Longbridge in Birmingham. This is expected to add 5 primary pupils per year group by 2025. However, since this area is urban and near to several Birmingham schools it is unlikely the additional pupils will change pupil demand in the Rubery Primary EPA.

Rubery – Secondary

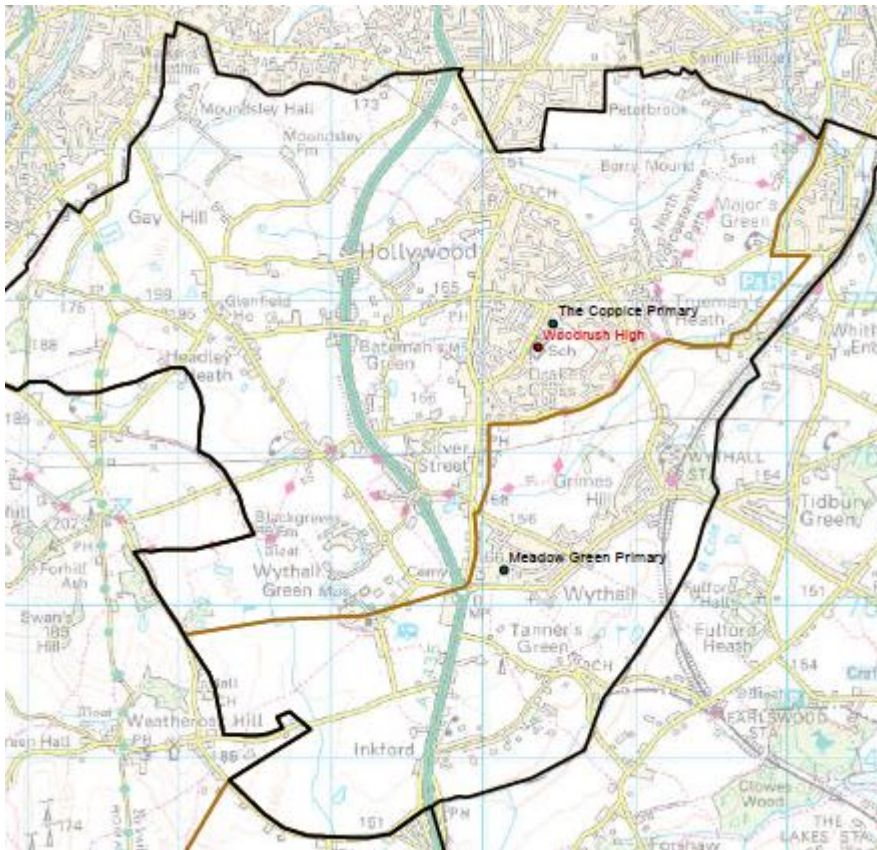
Secondary school places are forecast to be sufficient in Rubery Secondary EPA

The sole secondary school in the Rubery EPA is Waseley Hills High School with a PAN of 178. On average the school takes in all the pupils from feeder primary schools plus another 4%, with significant movements of pupils to and from Birmingham. There are sufficient places for all local pupils.

Figure 25 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Rubery Secondary EPA

PAN 178	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13
Oct-17	130	130	130	125	129	39	30
Oct-18	154	125	126	128	122	33	30
Oct-19	128	151	124	120	126	48	30
Oct-20	148	132	152	117	116	34	43
Oct-21	162	142	129	146	114	40	30
Oct-22	166	157	132	134	142	25	31
Oct-23	155	163	153	129	131	42	21
Oct-24	153	152	159	149	126	39	36
Oct-25	145	150	148	155	146	37	33
Oct-26	147	143	146	145	151	43	32
Oct-27	145	144	139	142	141	45	37
Oct-28	155	142	140	136	139	42	38
Oct-29	133	152	138	137	132	41	35
Oct-30	148	130	148	135	133	39	35

Wythall Education Planning Area



The Wythall Education Planning Area is located in the north-east of Worcestershire and is made up of the towns of Hollywood and Wythall and their surrounding rural areas. The area sits entirely within the District Council of Bromsgrove.

The area is served by two Primary Schools (Years R-6), and one Secondary School. In total these schools offer 135 Reception places and 180 Year 7 places for 2021, as well as Sixth Form provision. The area borders urbanised Solihull to the east and Birmingham to the north, both with several primary and secondary schools within walking distance. Tidbury Green Primary and Dickens Heath Primary in Solihull each feed into Woodrush High School and both attract pupils from Wythall EPA. There is also a catholic primary school in Solihull LA, Our Lady of the Wayside, which attracts pupils from Wythall EPA.

Wythall – Primary

Primary school places are forecast to be sufficient in Wythall primary EPA

2% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in Wythall EPA, with one school deemed as 'Outstanding' and the rest deemed as 'Good'.

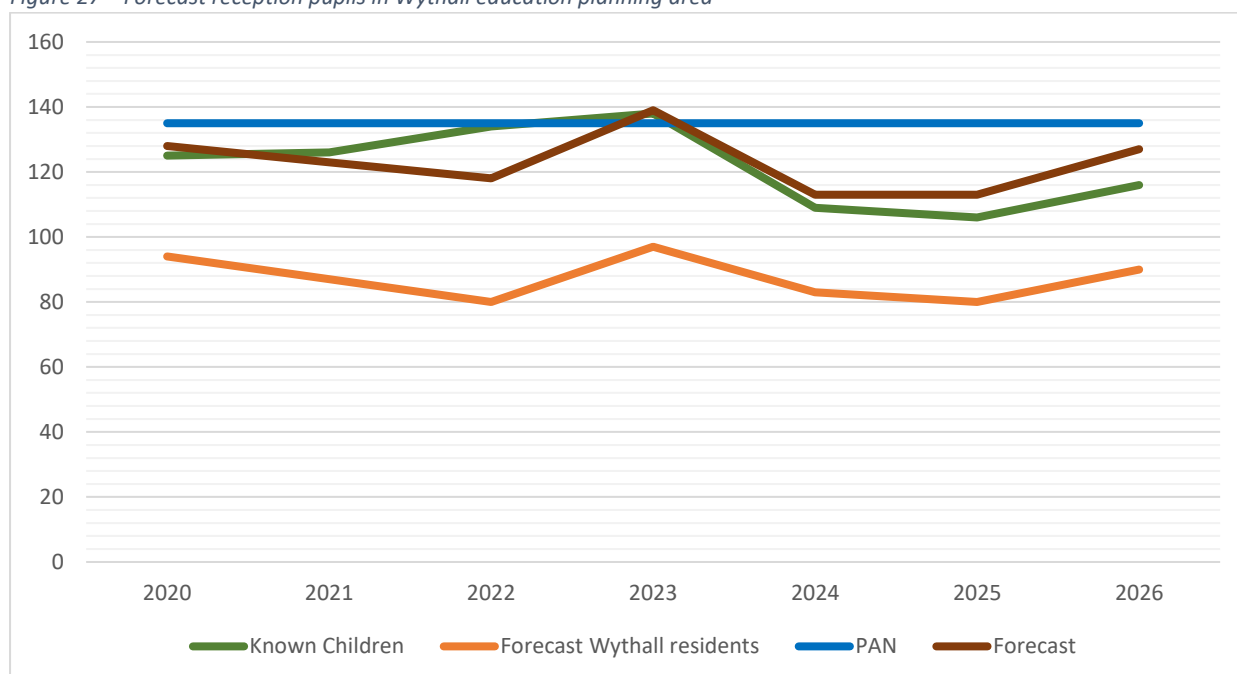
Known children and reception numbers rose steadily for some years peaking in 2023 but are since dropping.

Figure 26 – Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Wythall Primary EPA

PAN 135	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
Oct-17	125	135	129	131	135	107	106
Oct-18	128	127	133	128	136	134	106
Oct-19	120	128	130	134	127	138	139
Oct-20	128	114	126	129	136	127	137
Oct-21	123	131	113	129	127	139	128
Oct-22	118	122	131	116	131	131	137
Oct-23	139	118	122	132	117	133	131
Oct-24	113	138	117	123	133	118	133
Oct-25	113	112	138	118	124	135	119
Oct-26	127	113	112	139	119	125	135

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Figure 27 – Forecast reception pupils in Wythall education planning area



On average over 5 years, 28 pupils on roll at the two Wythall primary schools were from outside the county. Over the same period 27 pupils living in the Wythall area attended schools outside the planning area. The result is an expected lower number of pupils than the combined PAN of both primary schools. Actual combined admissions in September 2023 were 128.

Wythall – Secondary

Secondary school places are forecast to be sufficient in Wythall Secondary EPA

Woodrush High School has 2 feeder schools in the county and 3 more outside the county. It does not have sufficient capacity for all current Year 6 across all feeder schools, but it does have sufficient capacity for all the Worcestershire pupils. Over a 5-year average, 46% of the pupils at Woodrush

High School (Years 7-11) are resident outside the county and 22% of Worcestershire pupils attend schools outside the county.

Figure 28 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Wythall Secondary EPA

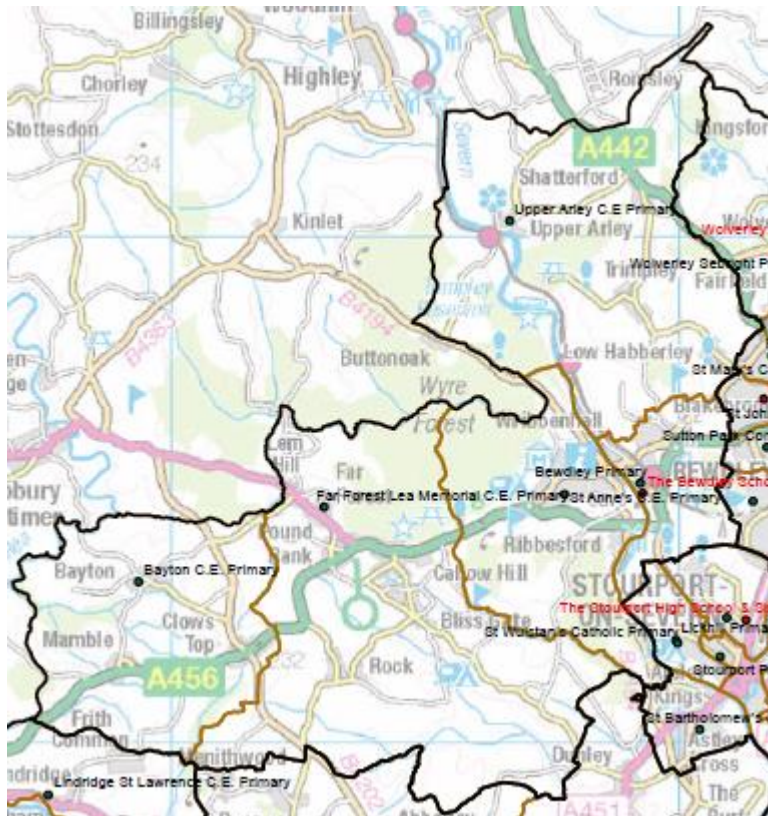
PAN 180	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13
Oct-17	182	185	179	180	169	182	185
Oct-18	180	184	185	179	174	180	184
Oct-19	182	182	180	182	176	182	182
Oct-20	200	179	183	177	180	200	179
Oct-21	179	199	176	179	171	179	199
Oct-22	180	178	198	175	174	180	178
Oct-23	207	180	177	196	171	51	38
Oct-24	199	207	178	175	191	50	47
Oct-25	201	199	206	176	170	56	46
Oct-26	180	201	197	203	172	50	51
Oct-27	205	180	200	195	198	51	46
Oct-28	190	205	178	197	190	58	46
Oct-29	183	190	203	176	192	56	53
Oct-30	216	183	188	201	172	57	51

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Wyre Forest District

This district contains three Kidderminster Primary EPAs (East, West and North) and Bewdley and Stourport Primary EPAs. Together they form the Wyre District Secondary EPA as the secondary schools are close enough together to be reasonable alternatives to each other. All the EPAs are 2 - tier.

Bewdley Primary Education Planning Area



The Bewdley Education Planning Area covers the area to the North-West of the county, around the town of Bewdley. The majority of the area sits within the Wyre Forest District Council, but also covers a small area of the Malvern Hills District Council. The planning area is served by five Primary Schools (Years R-6).

There is a forecast oversupply of primary school places in the Bewdley Primary EPA between 2023 and 2026.

2% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in Bewdley EPA, with one school deemed as 'Outstanding' and another deemed as 'Good'.

Figure 29 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Bewdley Primary EPA

PAN 140	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
Oct-17	129	117	133	135	128	131	149
Oct-18	113	131	117	133	136	127	127
Oct-19	120	116	130	127	136	137	132
Oct-20	130	117	120	133	135	143	140
Oct-21	121	136	120	122	133	130	142
Oct-22	124	118	140	123	120	138	134
Oct-23	102	127	122	146	127	123	141
Oct-24	97	108	135	131	154	134	130
Oct-25	105	99	111	139	134	156	136
Oct-26	100	107	101	115	142	136	159

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Upper Arley CofE Primary School and Far Forest Lea Memorial Primary School have lower forecast numbers compared to their PAN. Both schools could consider reducing their PAN temporarily. Blue cells below indicate forecast intakes below 50% of PAN.

However, 225 dwellings are approved to be built in the Bewdley Primary catchment. These are forecast to yield an additional 11 pupils per year group by 2026. Another 120 dwellings are to be built in the Upper Arley catchment within the next 3 years, which are expected to yield a further 6 pupils per year group.

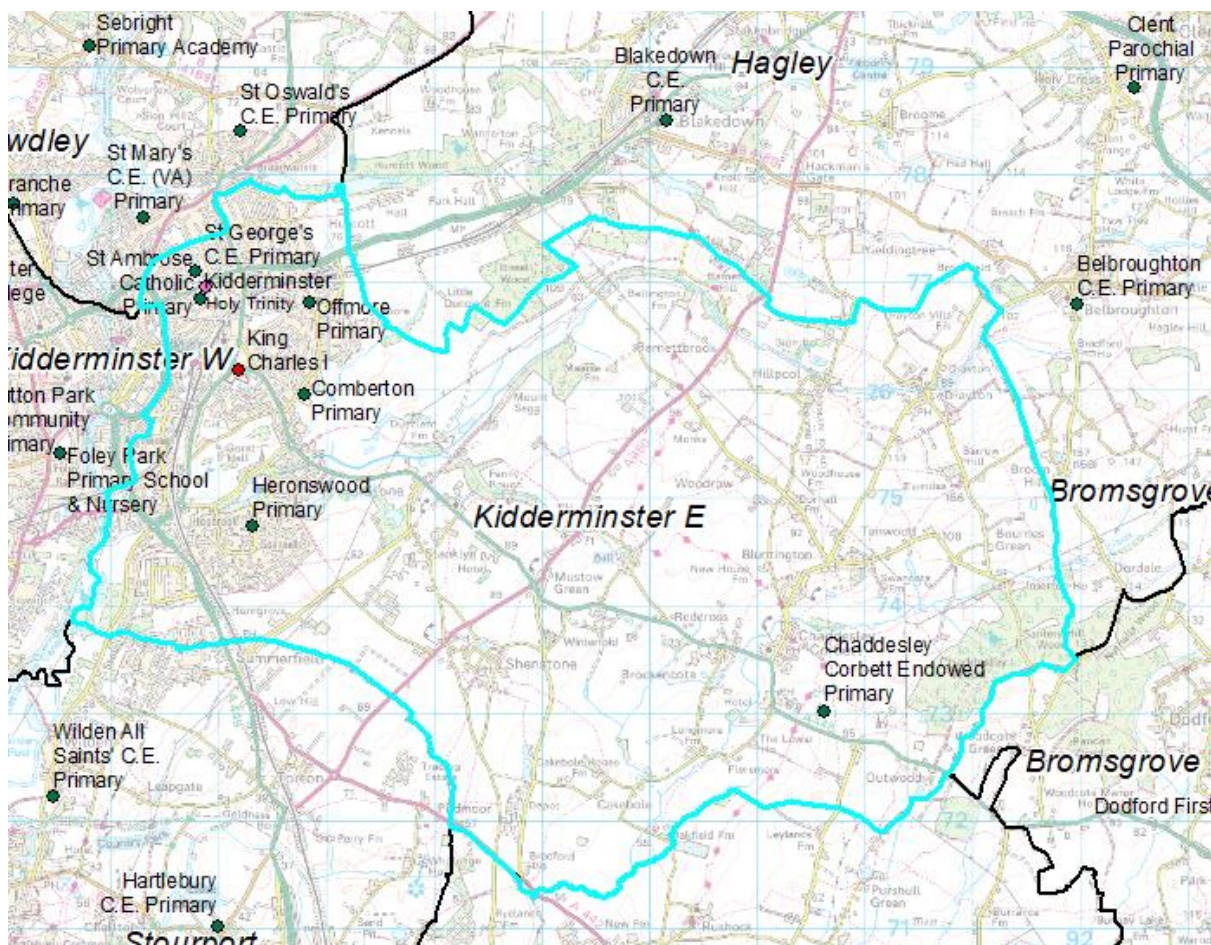
Figure 30 – Bewdley Primary School forecast

	PAN	2023*	2024	2025	2026
Bewdley Primary School	60	46	53	49	45
St Anne's CE Primary	30	20	21	27	20
Upper Arley CE Primary	15	9	4	7	3
Far Forest Lea Memorial Primary	20	8	9	9	15
Bayton CE Primary	15	9	10	13	17
Total	140	92	97	105	100
Surplus		48	43	35	40

*September 2023 admissions

Kidderminster East Primary Education Planning Area

The Kidderminster East Education Planning Area is the eastern side of the town of Kidderminster and the surrounding rural areas. The entirety of the area sits within the Wyre Forest District Council. The planning area is served by six Primary Schools (Years R-6) and one all-through Primary and Secondary School (Years R-13). The local catholic school is also in this area and while it admits pupils from the whole of Wyre Forest, the majority of pupils tend to live in this EPA.



Primary school places are forecast to be insufficient in Kidderminster East primary EPA due to major new housing

4% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in Kidderminster East EPA, with 88% of schools deemed as 'Good'.

Figure 31 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Kidderminster East Primary EPA

PAN 305	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
Oct-17	302	278	255	286	260	273	269
Oct-18	279	308	280	261	289	259	271
Oct-19	298	278	304	281	263	291	261
Oct-20	288	288	270	304	283	259	292
Oct-21	265	288	289	278	301	285	258
Oct-22	274	277	289	289	290	296	290
Oct-23	259	276	275	292	292	289	297
Oct-24	228	260	274	279	296	291	290
Oct-25	270	229	259	277	282	294	292
Oct-26	239	271	228	262	280	281	295

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

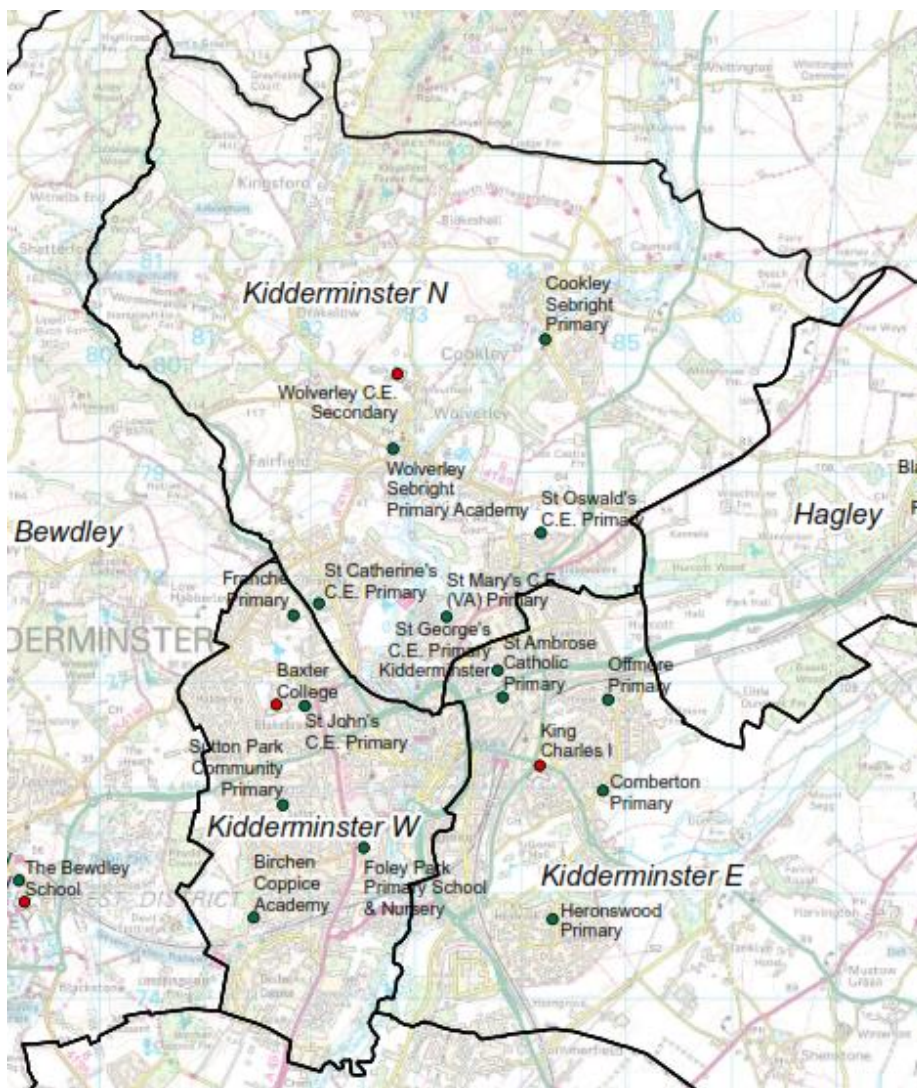
Housing

Major housing of 1,340 dwellings is approved to be built East of Kidderminster, near Comberton Primary School. The development is expected to start in 2026 and be completed in 2039. Phase 1 (900 homes) is well underway, phase 2 (900) is delayed pending signing of the S106 Agreement. The S106 Education Planning Obligations contribution includes a requirement for the developer to fund the building of a new 2FE Primary School with nursery to mitigate the impact from the new housing.

The new dwellings are expected to yield an additional 45 (1.5FE) pupils per year group by 2030, an additional 29 (1FE) by 2026. Ahead of the new school being delivered, the mitigation for places will include some pupils having to be offered school places further than 2 miles from home, therefore incurring transport costs for the LA.

Kidderminster North Primary Education Planning Area

The Kidderminster North Education Planning Area is the northern side of the town of Kidderminster and the surrounding rural area. The entirety of the area sits within the Wyre Forest District Council. The planning area is served by five Primary Schools (Years R-6).



Primary school places are forecast to be insufficient in Kidderminster North primary EPA due to major new housing

3% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in Kidderminster North EPA, with 67% of schools deemed as 'Good'.

The Kidderminster North EPA forecast includes a trend of 84% of 3-year-olds attending reception classes within Kidderminster North. Just to the south are Holy Trinity School and St Ambrose Catholic Primary which do not have catchments. Local to the development, there is a shortfall, but across Kidderminster North and Kidderminster East parental preference trends spread the demand out to schools with available places.

Figure 32 – Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Kidderminster North Primary EPA

PAN 180	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
Oct-17	157	171	163	161	164	160	165
Oct-18	166	153	168	164	161	159	161
Oct-19	163	168	159	172	169	158	159
Oct-20	172	164	168	157	170	160	158
Oct-21	160	164	163	166	164	171	163
Oct-22	165	157	164	160	165	164	171
Oct-23	163	163	157	164	162	162	165
Oct-24	123	161	163	157	165	159	163
Oct-25	147	121	161	163	159	162	160
Oct-26	148	145	122	161	165	156	163

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Housing

Major housing at Lea Castle, Kidderminster, is being built in two phases. Phase 1 (900 homes) is well underway, phase 2 (900) is delayed pending signing of the S106 Agreement. The S106 Education Planning Obligations contribution includes a requirement for the developer to fund the building of a new 2FE Primary School with nursery to mitigate the impact from the new housing. The Wyre Forest District Plan includes a new 2FE Primary school with nursery.

The new dwellings are expected to yield an additional 45 (1.5FE) primary age pupils per year group by 2030, an additional 29 (1FE) by 2026.

New pupils from the housing will be expected to attend the existing local primary schools before the new school is delivered, therefore figure 30 forecasts the impact of new pupils against the number of places available in existing primary schools within 2 miles of the development. Ahead of the new school being delivered, the mitigation for places will include some pupils having to be offered school places further than 2 miles from home, therefore incurring transport costs for the LA.

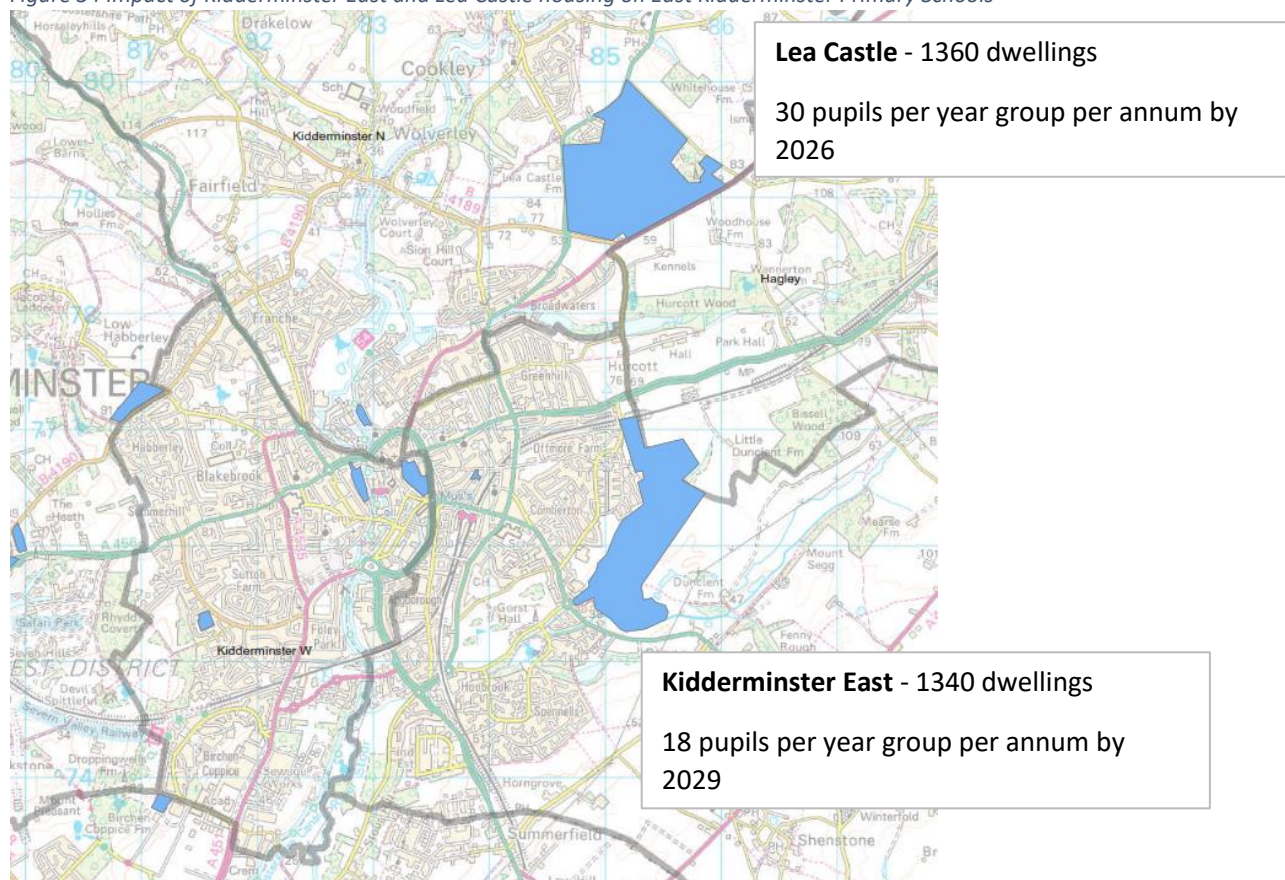
Figure 33 – Forecast number of known children at primary schools near Lea Castle 2023-2026

School	EPA	Ofsted grade	PAN	2023	2024	2025	2026
Cookley Sebright	North	Requires Improvement	30	26	24	35	26
Wolverley Sebright	North	Good	30	22	11	15	23
St Oswald's	North	Good	30	36	18	26	29
St Mary's	North	Requires Improvement	30	63	55	49	47
St George's	East	Not inspected	30	49	50	50	58
Offmore	East	Good	45	66	48	68	44
St Ambrose Catholic	East	Good	27*	-	-	-	-
Holy Trinity	East	Good	32*	-	-	-	-
Predicted additional pupils per year group from Lea Castle housing		-	-	5	12	21	30
Additional pupils from other approved local housing		-	-	12	17	17	17
Surplus / Shortfall of places		-	-	-25	19	-27	-20
Surplus within 5% of PAN		-	-	-38	6	-40	-33

*PAN adjusted to reflect these school catchments

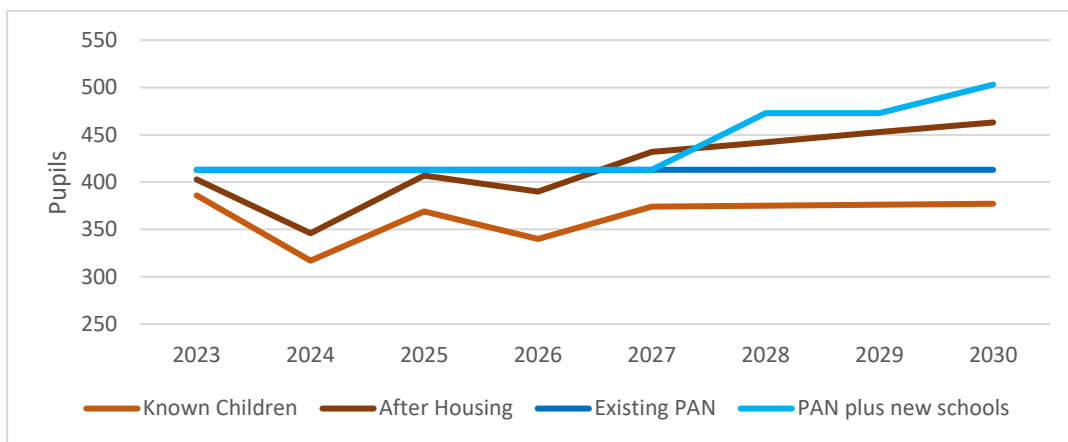
Housing

Figure 34 Impact of Kidderminster East and Lea Castle housing on East Kidderminster Primary Schools



The additional pupils forecast from these new developments prior to new schools opening are expected to fill available places in neighbouring Kidderminster Primary Schools within 2 miles. The following chart includes the impact of 1,360 dwellings to be built in the Lea Castle housing development including the new 2FE primary school, currently planned for 2028. It also includes the impact of the 1,340 Kidderminster East housing, and a proposed later opening primary school to be opened in the Comberton Road development is shown as a 1FE staged opening in 2030, though these timelines are dependent on the rate of completions on both developments. The graph uses forecasts and adjusted PANs of closest schools of North and East Kidderminster EPAs, rather than the whole EPAs. The graph shows that if new schools open as expected there will be sufficient places to meet demand (the dark brown line does not go above the light blue line).

Figure 35 – Impact of housing and new primary schools on selected North and East Kidderminster schools



Kidderminster West Primary Education Planning Area

The Kidderminster West Education Planning Area is the densely populated small area of the western side of Kidderminster town. The planning area is served by five Primary Schools (Years R-6).

3% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in Kidderminster West EPA, with 67% of schools deemed as “Good”.

Primary school places are forecast to have an oversupply in Kidderminster West primary EPA

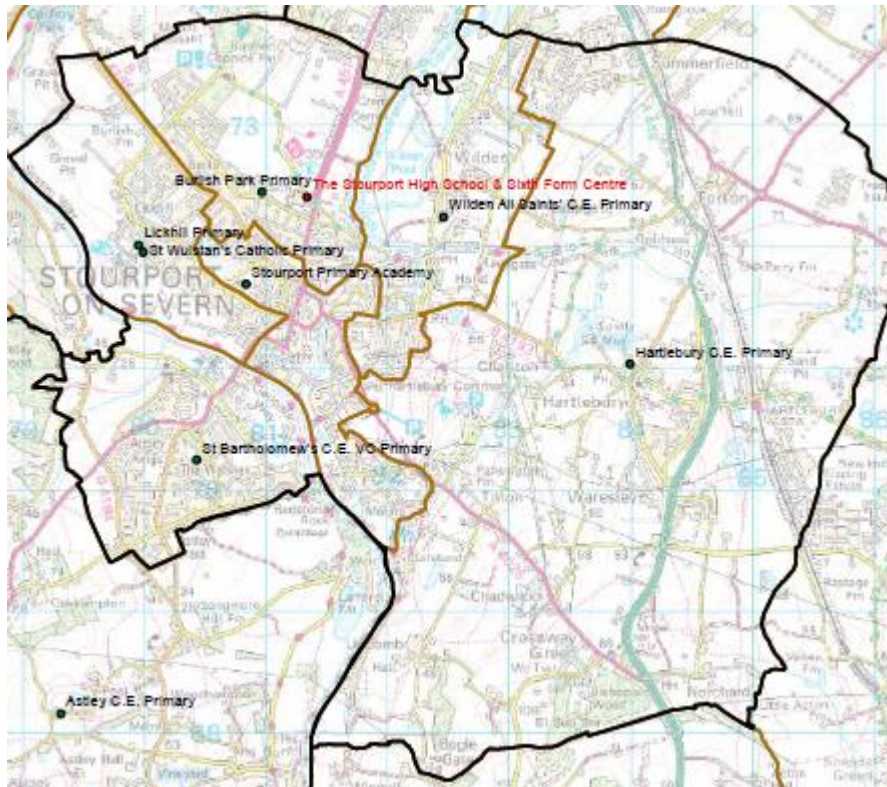
Figure 36 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Kidderminster West Primary EPA

PAN 270	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
Oct-17	266	266	271	270	234	262	252
Oct-18	264	267	271	268	262	234	258
Oct-19	246	266	264	256	272	250	229
Oct-20	217	245	263	263	262	274	252
Oct-21	220	227	244	259	269	262	274
Oct-22	224	218	216	247	257	263	259
Oct-23	212	226	216	213	248	254	261
Oct-24	197	214	223	212	214	245	252
Oct-25	199	198	212	220	213	211	243
Oct-26	189	201	196	209	221	211	210

*Blue cells are where numbers on roll are less than 75% of PAN

The primary schools in Kidderminster West have more places than the children who live in this EPA and number of pupils on roll are decreasing. On average there is a large transfer of pupils between areas in Kidderminster, however this tends to balance out movement across each area. There is also a net migration of on average of 17 pupils per year from Kidderminster to schools in Bewdley and Stourport.

Stourport Education Planning Area – Primary



The Stourport Education Planning Area is made up of the town of Stourport and the rural areas immediately surrounding it. The area is split between the district councils of Wychavon and Wyre Forest. The planning area is served by seven Primary Schools (Years R-6).

Primary school places are forecast to be sufficient in Stourport primary EPA

3% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in Stourport, with 13% of schools deemed as 'Outstanding', with a further 63% deemed as 'Good'.

Birth rates have dropped from a high of 249 in 2019 to near 190 in the last 3 years.

Figure 37 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Stourport Primary EPA

PAN 275	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
Oct-17	246	245	239	242	215	253	244
Oct-18	235	247	248	244	252	220	259
Oct-19	226	233	241	245	246	246	212
Oct-20	240	229	233	241	243	242	244
Oct-21	210	245	226	230	245	239	240
Oct-22	186	220	246	225	234	244	237
Oct-23	227	192	222	248	231	235	245
Oct-24	186	237	197	228	259	236	240
Oct-25	196	194	241	202	236	261	239
Oct-26	199	203	197	244	209	238	263

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Figure 38 – Known Children and forecast at Stourport Primary schools

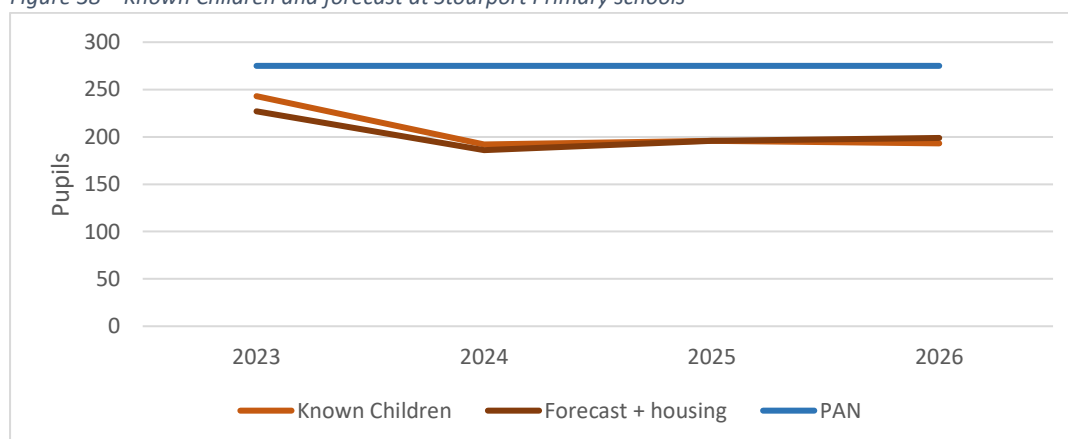


Figure 39 – Known Children plus housing at Stourport Primaries

	PAN	2023*	2024	2025	2026
Stourport Primary Academy	45	34	49	38	49
St Bartholomew's CE Primary	45	24	48	53	60
Lickhill CE Primary	30	26	29	31	29
Burlish Park Primary	60	45	43	53	39
Hartlebury CE Primary	30	29	24	29	31
Wilden All Saints CE Primary	30	20	25	27	26
St Wulstan's Catholic Primary	30	12	17	18	17
Total	275	190	189	201	204
Surplus		85	56	44	41

*2023 Allocations

There are new housing planning applications approved for over 700 dwellings over the next 4 years, which are forecast to generate additional pupils in the EPA. These additional pupils are included

within figure 39. The new dwellings are mainly in the catchment areas of St Bartholomew’s, Stourport Primary Academy and Burlish Park.

However, surplus places are forecast to continue in Stourport Primary EPA, therefore one or more primary schools in Stourport could consider lowering their PAN temporarily.

Wyre Forest Secondary Education Planning Area

The Wyre Forest Secondary Education Planning Area is the made up of the entirety of Wyre Forest District, apart from Blakedown, which is in the Hagley planning area. The planning area is served by five Secondary Schools (Years 7-13) and the Holy Trinity all-through school (Years R-13).

Secondary school places are forecast to be insufficient in Wyre Forest Secondary EPA due to major housing proposed.

Figure 40 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Wyre Forest Secondary EPA

PAN 1093	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13
Oct-17	892	888	866	892	814	892	888
Oct-18	990	888	889	857	857	990	888
Oct-19	1017	995	873	883	840	1017	995
Oct-20	929	989	909	824	805	929	989
Oct-21	999	926	982	946	849	999	926
Oct-22	1029	988	921	981	931	1029	988
Oct-23	1032	1033	978	928	967	329	245
Oct-24	1060	1039	1025	987	919	343	291
Oct-25	1025	1060	1025	1028	971	323	297
Oct-26	1024	1025	1045	1027	1010	341	280
Oct-27	1043	1023	1010	1046	1008	355	294
Oct-28	980	1035	1000	1003	1019	351	299
Oct-29	969	972	1011	993	977	355	296
Oct-30	956	961	950	1004	967	340	299

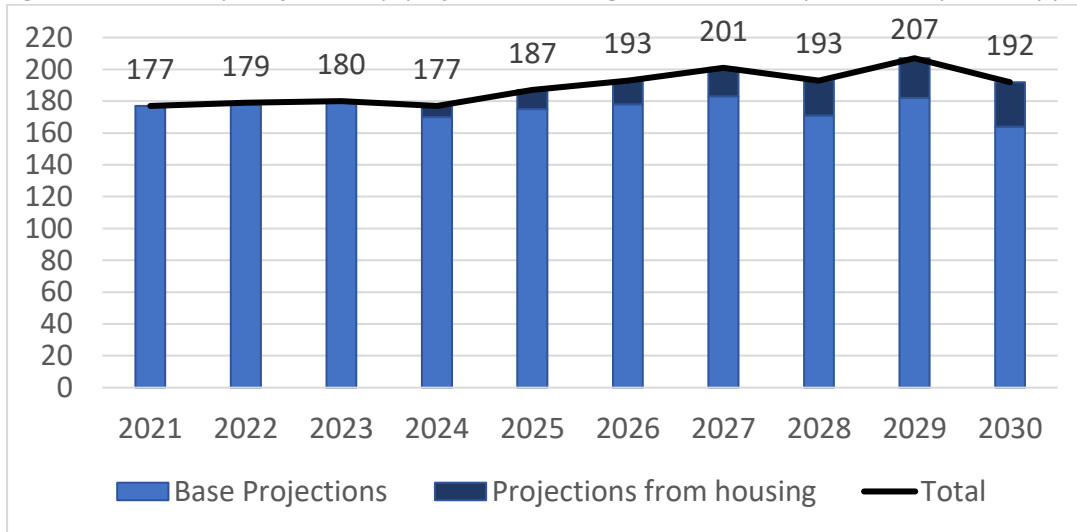
*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Housing

Lea Castle Phase 1 (900 homes) is well underway, phase 2 (900) is delayed pending signing of the S106 Education Planning Obligations agreement for the developer’s contributions. The new dwellings are expected to yield an additional 30 secondary age pupils per year group by 2028 and 51 by 2035.

Phase 1 of Lea Castle housing development required a permanent increase of the PAN at Wolverley CE Secondary School from 150 to 180 from 2023. When Phase 2 is approved, we may need to consider a further increase of PAN to 210.

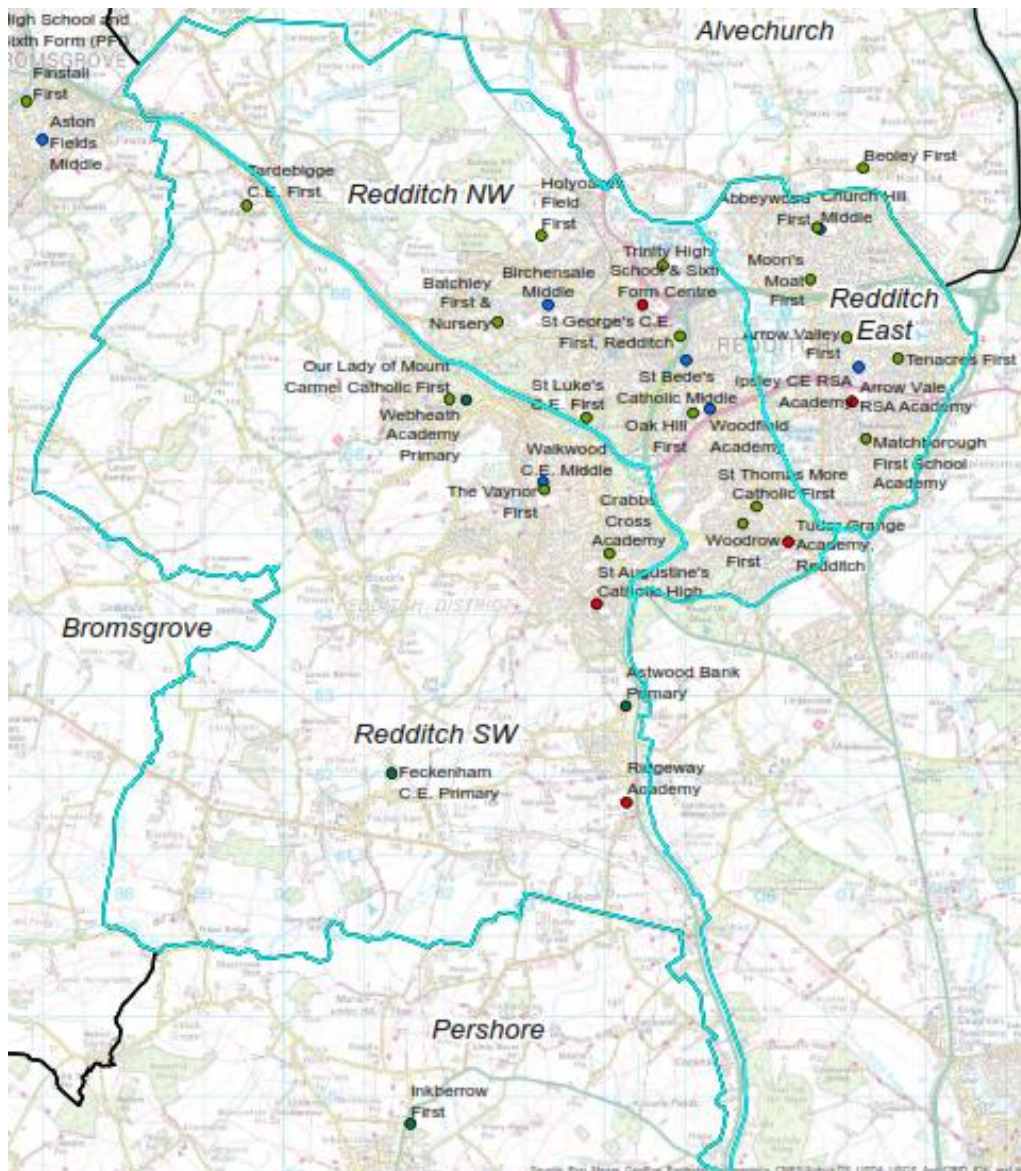
Figure 41– Relative impact of addition pupils from new housing at Year 7 Wolverley CE Secondary School by year



Pupils living in the Wolverley catchment area but already attending primary schools outside the Wolverley catchment are more likely to attend secondary schools with their peers, though they would have priority should they apply to Wolverley CE Secondary School. The pupils living outside the Wolverley catchment, but choosing Wolverley, if they cannot be admitted will find places at their catchment secondary school.

Holy Trinity does not have a catchment but frequently fills to PAN. Parental preferences have on average diverted pupils towards Wolverley CE Secondary and away from Baxter College. There are also strong parental preferences in Kidderminster towards secondary schools in Stourport and Bewdley, though across the Wyre Forest District there are sufficient places.

Redditch District

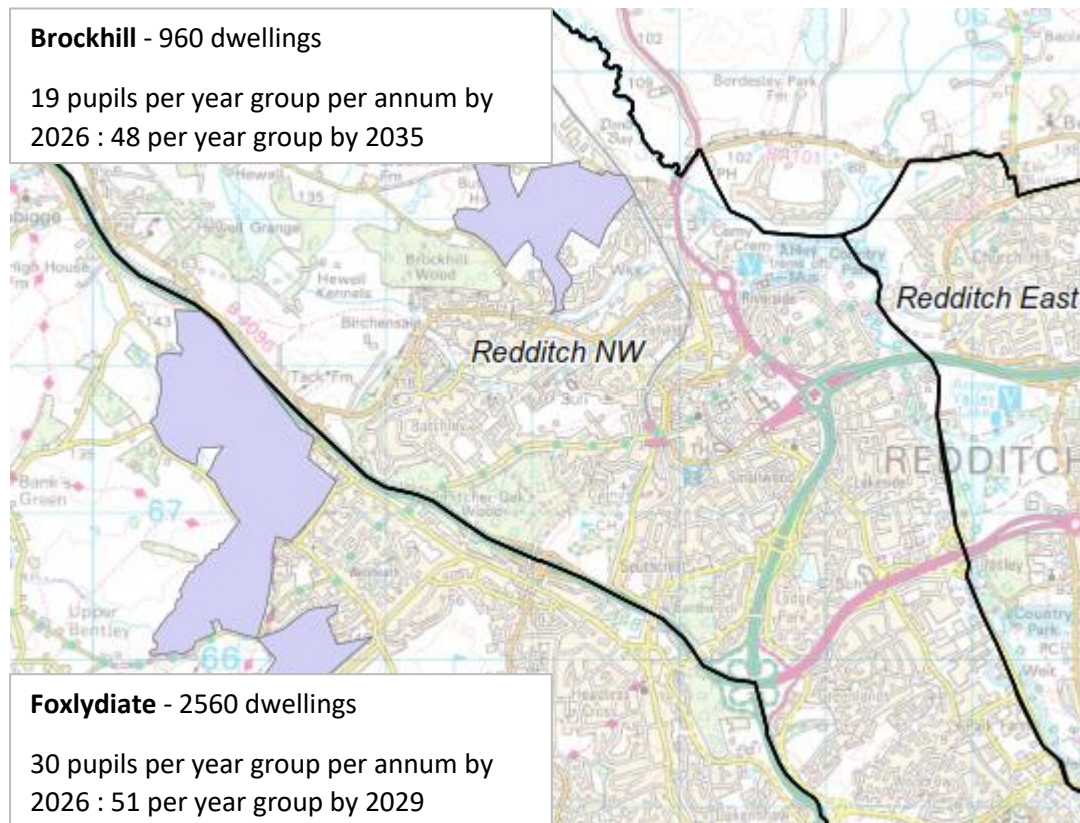


The Redditch Education Planning Area is made up of the town of Redditch and the immediate surrounding areas. The majority of the area encompasses the Redditch District Council, but also covers a small area of the Bromsgrove and Wychavon Districts.

The planning area is served by eighteen First Schools (Years R-4), two Primary Schools (Years R-6), six Middle schools (Years 5-8), three High Schools (Years 9-13) and one Secondary School (Years 7-13). These are broken down into 3 First EPAs, 3 Middle EPAs and 1 Secondary EPA.

Housing

Figure 42 – Large Housing Developments in Redditch



Redditch NW First Education Planning Area

8% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in Redditch NW EPA, with 7% of schools deemed as 'Outstanding', with a further 60% deemed as 'Good'.

First School places are forecast to be insufficient in Northwest (NW) Redditch EPA due to major housing development

Housing

The Brockhill housing development is to the north-west of Redditch. Brockhill will be built out to 960 dwellings by 2037, which is 325 by 2026. This is expected to increase demand for places at first schools in NW Redditch by 19 places in 2026. The forecast below includes this growth.

Figure 43 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Redditch NW First EPA

PAN 435	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4
Oct-17	408	439	419	416	396
Oct-18	417	401	428	417	418
Oct-19	432	413	387	420	420
Oct-20	373	433	402	387	410
Oct-21	373	390	433	405	382
Oct-22	363	388	389	435	407
Oct-23	437	372	385	392	437
Oct-24	400	448	371	390	397
Oct-25	442	407	442	372	390
Oct-26	404	449	400	442	372

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

There is a localised shortfall in the Holyoakes Field catchment related to new housing, but since applications spread between NW and SW Redditch then there are sufficient school places. In September 2023 Holyoakes Field First School was oversubscribed but had no refusals from pupils residing in the catchment. With high numbers of known children, increasing due to the Brockhill development, this means many applications spread southwards through Redditch. For the previous 5 years on average 85 pupils from NW Redditch attended schools in SW Redditch.

The new Holyoakes Field First School has sufficient land to enable a 1FE expansion. We will monitor the additional first school aged pupils and confirm when the additional places are required.

Redditch SW First & Primary Education Planning Area

4% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in Redditch SW EPA, with 13% of schools deemed as 'Outstanding', with a further 75% deemed as 'Good'.

First School places are forecast to be insufficient in Southwest (SW) Redditch EPA due to major housing growth

Housing

The Foxlydiat housing development is to the west of Redditch. Foxlydiat will be built out to 2,560 dwellings by 2037. Combined with the Brockhill development equates to a demand for 30 more reception places by 2026 and 51 more reception places by 2029. The Foxlydiat housing development sits within the Bromsgrove District Council boundary yet borders Redditch district council. The new housing development sits within the catchment areas of Tardebigge First School, Birchensale Middle School and Trinity High School and Sixth Form. We would therefore expect the majority of pupils from the new housing to choose to transition into those Middle and High schools with catchment areas including their home.

In October 2023, Cabinet approved a new 3FE (90 places per year group) First school with nursery to be delivered on the Foxlydiat site currently expected to be open in 2027 to accommodate the additional pupils from these housing developments. This addition is in line with the preferences of parents in Redditch.

Any additional places required can be supported by the other First and Primary Schools in the SW Redditch.

Figure 44 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Redditch SW First EPA

PAN 330	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4
Oct-17	327	353	344	343	315
Oct-18	332	329	352	346	345
Oct-19	320	326	336	357	345
Oct-20	346	323	330	334	355
Oct-21	331	342	322	317	331
Oct-22	321	330	343	321	310
Oct-23	342	322	334	343	321
Oct-24	319	342	326	334	342
Oct-25	322	323	349	329	337
Oct-26	362	322	326	349	328

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

The known children in southwest Redditch are 200-300 therefore this forecast includes numbers of transfers from the northwest Redditch EPA. At the same time, since only Batchley, Webheath and Our Lady of Mount Carmel are within a 2-mile safe walking route of the Foxlydiate development, the analysis below shows a more detailed look at reception provision within walking distance for pupils at the Foxlydiate development. There are insufficient first school places by 2027 within walking distance of the new Foxlydiate housing development.

Figure 45 Known 3+ Children and Housing near Foxlydiate 2023-2026

Schools & catchments within 2 miles of Foxlydiate	PAN	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Tardebigge/Batchley shared catchment*		10	15	14	19	19
Webheath	60	54	57	48	68	60
Batchley	60	46	36	36	30	36
Our Lady of Mt Carmel	20**					
Predicted pupils per year group from new housing		2	3	10	19	30
Surplus / Shortfall of places		28	9	32	4	-5

*Of the 3 Tardebigge shared catchments only this catchment is within the same walking distance of the schools shown.

Redditch East First Education Planning Area

4% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in Redditch East EPA, with 13% of schools deemed as 'Outstanding', with a further 63% deemed as 'Good'.

First School places are forecast to be sufficient in Eastern Redditch

There are forecast sufficient places in the first schools in the eastern area of Redditch. If pupil numbers in the west of the town exceed places, places are available in the eastern First schools, though some of these are beyond the 2 miles statutory walking distance limit.

Figure 46 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Redditch East First EPA

PAN 300	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4
Oct-17	240	309	249	258	244
Oct-18	262	232	310	237	253
Oct-19	235	260	242	305	234
Oct-20	273	239	265	244	307
Oct-21	209	267	240	263	244
Oct-22	235	216	268	249	268
Oct-23	255	236	221	268	250
Oct-24	234	256	241	221	270
Oct-25	259	235	262	242	223
Oct-26	235	261	241	262	244

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Redditch SouthWest Middle Education Planning Area

Middle School places are forecast to be sufficient in southwest (SW) Redditch

Ridgeway Academy School changed the age range from Year 5 to Year 8, admitting its last Year 5 in 2021 to become a Secondary School. This change reduced the number of year 5 and 6 places available in Western Redditch for pupils wishing to use the 3-tier system. Some Year 7 pupils choose to attend Studley High, a secondary school just outside the county, in Warwickshire. These trends also involve a high transfer of pupils between SW and NW Redditch.

Figure 47 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Redditch SW Middle EPA

PAN 313	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7	Yr 8
Oct-17	338	313	267	249
Oct-18	286	326	267	246
Oct-19	313	281	235	260
Oct-20	309	309	193	231
Oct-21	327	307	223	195
Oct-22	294	331	241	212
Oct-23	282	293	251	235
Oct-24	292	280	222	244
Oct-25	314	293	215	220
Oct-26	305	312	222	209
Oct-27	297	303	236	216

Oct-28	314	294	229	228
Oct-29	293	311	222	222
Oct-30	291	290	235	215

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Redditch NorthWest Middle Education Planning Area

Middle School places are forecast to be insufficient in northwest (NW) Redditch

Figure 48 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Redditch NW Middle EPA

PAN 460	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7	Yr 8
Oct-17	408	455	402	404
Oct-18	441	426	441	410
Oct-19	456	444	416	435
Oct-20	466	463	435	417
Oct-21	468	464	459	438
Oct-22	430	472	465	456
Oct-23	459	440	468	470
Oct-24	495	471	439	475
Oct-25	445	504	466	442
Oct-26	437	452	497	468
Oct-27	416	445	446	499
Oct-28	493	422	438	447
Oct-29	447	501	416	439
Oct-30	492	453	493	417

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Trends show that Walkwood Middle School and St Bede's Middle School attract many pupils who would otherwise transfer to Woodfield Academy or Birchensale Middle School. In NW Redditch the Year 5 cohort is forecast to be almost 2FE (60 places) over current PAN in 2024, and is forecast to be over PAN in future years too. Therefore, there is need for a permanent increase of 1FE (30 places) in 2024, with an extra 30 place bulge for this cohort.

The Foxlydiate housing development is to the west of Redditch. Foxlydiate will be built out to 2,560 dwellings by 2037, which is forecast to yield more middle school aged children. The new housing development sits within the catchment area of Birchensale Middle School. We would therefore expect the majority of pupils from the new housing to choose the Middle school with its catchment area including their home.

In 2023 in consultation with Birchensale Middle School and Bordesley MAT Trust, an agreement was made for Birchensale to expand by 1FE (30 places) and take an additional bulge year group into Year 5 in September 2024. A project to deliver the necessary additional accommodation is in progress.

Redditch East Middle Education Planning Area

Middle School places are forecast to be insufficient in Redditch East.

In Eastern Redditch, RSA Church Hill and Ipsley Middle Schools accommodated bulge year groups in September 2021 into Year 5. There are further forecast peaks of pupils expected in the cohort starting year 5 in 2023 and again 2025. The additional accommodation provided for the current bulge year group will be used again in 2025 after the 2021 bulge leaves, but additional accommodation is required for the 2023 higher pupil numbers. In 2023, in consultation with Church Hill Middle and Central Region Schools Trust, an agreement was made for the additional bulge year groups. A project to deliver the necessary additional accommodation is in progress.

Figure 49 – Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Redditch East Middle EPA

PAN 240	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7	Yr 8
Oct-17	232	254	212	205
Oct-18	229	227	242	214
Oct-19	241	238	229	244
Oct-20	248	236	236	233
Oct-21	299	249	238	230
Oct-22	254	301	250	245
Oct-23	268	256	301	254
Oct-24	250	270	256	305
Oct-25	270	253	270	260
Oct-26	223	272	253	274
Oct-27	244	226	272	257
Oct-28	262	244	224	274
Oct-29	240	263	243	226
Oct-30	264	241	261	245

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Redditch High Education Planning Area

St Augustine's High School is an Outstanding high school and is frequently oversubscribed. Many pupils transfer from non-Catholic First Schools to St Bede's Middle School and then on to St Augustine's High School. Since 2018 on average 70 pupils transfer from Walkwood Middle School annually to St Augustine's High School.

High School places are forecast to be sufficient in Redditch EPA.

Figure 50 – Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Redditch High EPA

PAN 1027	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13
Oct-17	856	716	710	353	268
Oct-18	824	837	703	325	281
Oct-19	864	824	818	342	259
Oct-20	933	864	811	374	307
Oct-21	892	925	853	328	348
Oct-22	861	886	901	370	289
Oct-23	913	862	877	407	325
Oct-24	959	915	855	397	358
Oct-25	1020	961	907	387	349
Oct-26	912	1017	946	408	337
Oct-27	944	919	1024	953	413
Oct-28	956	937	902	459	820
Oct-29	183	190	203	176	192
Oct-30	216	183	188	201	172

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

The forecast for the Year 9 intake into 2025 is forecast at or above 98% of the total EPA PAN.

Figure 51 – Forecast Year 9 numbers on roll for Redditch High Schools 2023-2026

School	Ofsted	PAN	2023	2024	2025	2026
Arrow Vale RSA	Outstanding	224	240	243	239	214
Trinity	Good	252	252	265	265	259
St Augustine's RC	Outstanding	235	235	232	259	259
Tudor Grange Academy	Good	180	109	139	164	137
Ridgeway Academy	Inadequate	90*	72	84	96	61
Surplus / Shortfall of places			84	34	-26	67

*Ridgeway increased PAN from 60 to 90

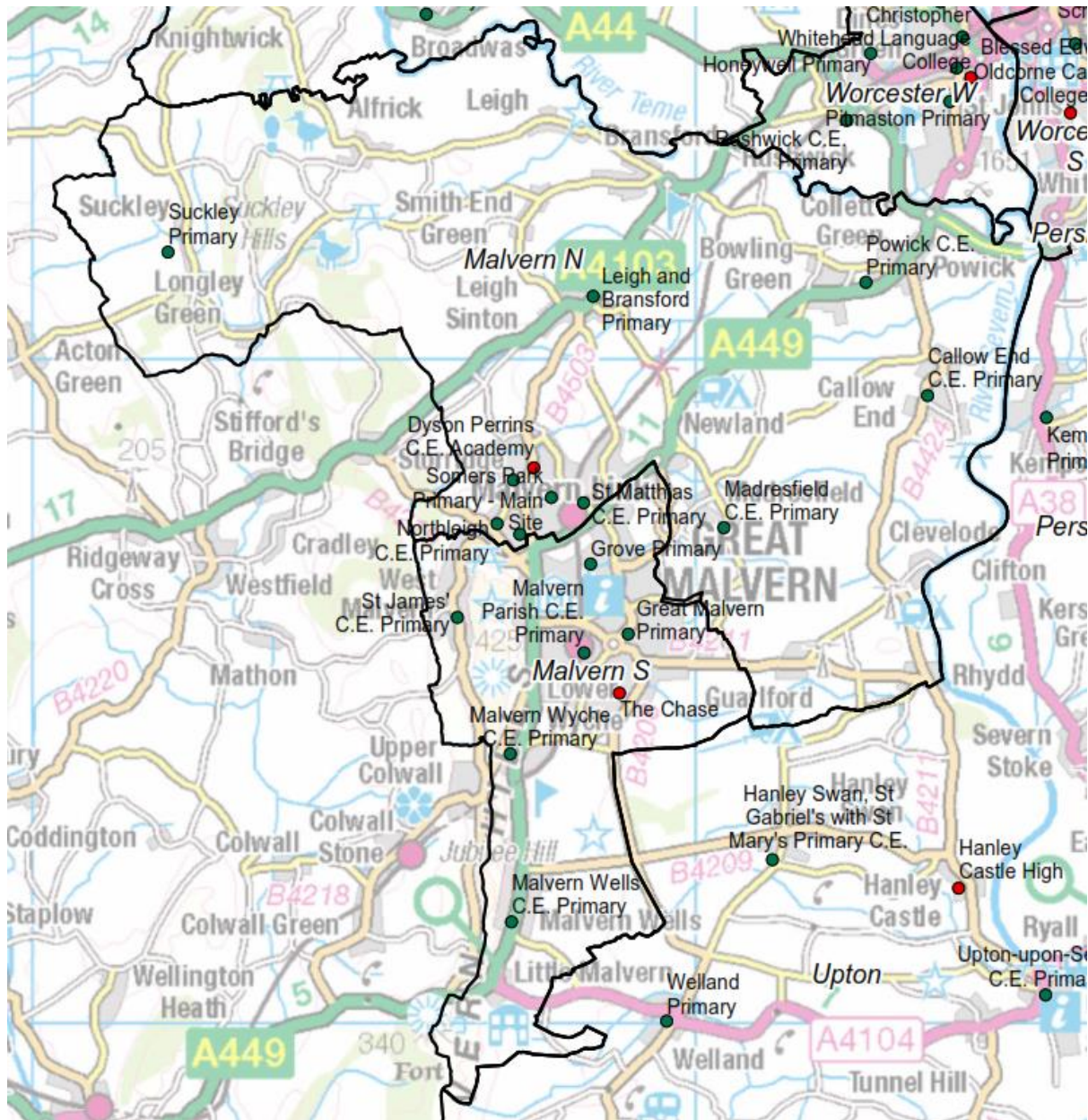
Figure 51 shows the expected numbers on roll in year 9 if pupils transferred according to their feeder schools. However, due to strong parental preferences in favour of the Trinity and St Augustine's High Schools, these are over-subscribed whilst Tudor Grange Academy and Ridgeway Academy have surplus places. This table assumes all pupils transfer to their feeder high schools but on average Tudor Grange Academy and Trinity High all have net capacity assessments over their current numbers on roll, so there are options to increase intakes in 2025-2026 if necessary.

A secondary school rated 'Outstanding' just over the county border in Warwickshire, attracts pupils from the three Redditch primary schools (Astwood Bank, Webheath and Feckenham), which would otherwise feed into Ridgeway Academy. Data from Astwood Bank, Webheath and Feckenham Primary Schools suggests the numbers transferring to Ridgeway Academy as a High School (55%) are returning to what they were when Ridgeway was a middle school (58%).

Malvern Hills District

The Malvern Hills District consists of 5 EPAs: Upton, Malvern North, Malvern South, Martley and Tenbury. They are all 2 tier.

Malvern North Primary Education Planning Area



The Malvern North Primary EPA is made up of the northern end of Malvern and the surrounding rural area. The entirety of the area sits within the District Council of Malvern Hills. The planning area is served by ten Primary Schools (Years R-6).

4% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in Malvern North EPA, with 25% of schools deemed as 'Outstanding', with a further 67% deemed as 'Good'.

There is a forecast oversupply of primary school places in the Malvern North Primary EPA between 2023 and 2026.

Figure 52 – Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Malvern North Primary EPA

PAN 265	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
Oct-17	246	259	262	250	250	241	239
Oct-18	247	254	252	256	250	253	243
Oct-19	236	254	248	254	248	238	252
Oct-20	208	239	255	241	248	246	234
Oct-21	246	214	240	258	242	242	251
Oct-22	225	257	221	249	268	245	254
Oct-23	227	238	262	227	254	271	254
Oct-24	218	244	248	273	237	262	284
Oct-25	241	228	247	252	277	238	269
Oct-26	235	250	229	249	253	275	243

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

The rural schools to the north and east of Malvern North EPA are popular and attract some pupils from the town. There are also popular schools in Malvern South EPA and recent housing developments are attracting young families and therefore higher pupil numbers. In between, in the north end of Great Malvern, are several primary schools competing for a small and decreasing number of children.

The expansion of Somers Park Primary School on the satellite site of Malvern Vale was delivered in 2019 to prepare for new families moving into the Newlands housing development (800 dwellings). However, approval for the housing development is still pending.

The Grove and Northleigh Primary schools reduced the number of places on offer per year group since 2020 by 30 (15 places each). The analysis in figure 47 shows that there is still an oversupply of places after factoring in south to north preferences and additional pupils from housing.

If the housing development in Newlands for 800 dwellings has occupied houses in 2025, the surplus in 2026 only reduces to 32 after expected south to north transfers.

Figure 53 – Comparison of Known Children to PAN of Malvern Town Primary Schools

School	EPA	PAN	Allocations 2023	2023	2024	2025	2026
St Matthias CE	North	30	23	68	53	63	57
Somers Park**	North	88	73	-	-	-	-
St Joseph's RC**	North	30	14	-	-	-	-
Northleigh CE	North	30	17	6	11	9	4
Madresfield CE	North	15	15	4	4	4	2
St James CE	North	15	3	4	7	6	7
Shared North Catchments	North			44	34	35	47
Sub-total		208	145	126	109	117	117
Expected pupils from approved housing				0	5	10	10
Surplus places after housing				82	94	81	81
After South to North Preferences.*			63	49	61	48	48
Grove	South	30	27	14	17	12	20
Great Malvern	South	48	48	1	1	0	0
Malvern Parish	South	30	30	9	9	7	17
Wyche CE	South	20	20	12	14	9	12
Malvern Wells CE	South	15	6	8	6	5	12
Shared South Catchments	South			144	112	89	84
Sub-total		143	131	188	159	122	145
Expected pupils from approved Housing				4	9	13	16
Surplus places after housing				-49	-25	8	-18
After South to North Preferences.*			12	-16	8	41	15
Combined totals for town		351	276	314	268	239	262
Surplus places after housing			75	33	69	89	63

*An average 33 pupils per year group from the south of Great Malvern attended schools in the north

**Neither Somers Park nor St Joseph's RC Primary Schools have a catchment area

St Joseph's RC Primary School has had an average intake of 13 for a PAN of 30 for the last 5 years. These low numbers are expected to continue.

Although primary schools in Malvern Town have an oversupply of places, the rural primary schools to the north of the Town (Suckley and Leigh and Bransford) are oversubscribed. Since the known children numbers for these schools are at or less than PAN, the extra demand for places is not from the local catchments but from the town catchment areas and outside the county.

Figure 54 – Known children by year of arrival in reception in Malvern Rural Primary Schools 2023-2026

School	Ofsted	PAN	2023	2024	2025	2026
Suckley	Outstanding	12	12	10	11	9
Leigh & Bransford	Good	30	29	25	27	25

Primary schools in Malvern North EPA could consider reducing their PANs.

Malvern South Primary Education Planning Area

The Malvern South Primary EPA is made up of the southern end of Malvern. The entirety of the area sits within the District Council of Malvern Hills. The planning area is served by six Primary Schools (Years R-6).

3% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in Malvern South EPA, with 67% of schools deemed as 'Good'.

Primary School places are forecast to be sufficient in Malvern South Primary EPA.

The analysis in figure 55 shows that there are similar numbers of places to pupils to 2026, though there are forecast additional pupils from housing later. There are 240 dwellings remaining to be built near Malvern Parish CE Primary School, with another 200 proposed but not approved. In total these dwellings are likely to add 12 pupils per year group per year by 2026.

Parental preference for schools in Malvern North EPA and outside Malvern leaves Malvern South with sufficient places.

Figure 55 – Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Malvern South Primary EPA

PAN 143	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
Oct-17	127	130	146	131	150	137	123
Oct-18	133	122	129	143	130	148	135
Oct-19	112	126	123	126	143	132	147
Oct-20	108	115	127	127	125	140	128
Oct-21	127	110	119	134	134	132	138
Oct-22	130	129	110	119	128	132	135
Oct-23	134	132	133	114	122	132	134
Oct-24	119	138	138	139	119	127	135
Oct-25	99	121	142	142	142	122	129
Oct-26	125	99	124	145	143	144	122

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Malvern Secondary Education Planning Area

The Malvern Secondary EPA is made up of the town of Malvern and the surrounding rural area to the north and east. The entirety of the area sits within the District Council of Malvern Hills. The planning area is served by seventeen Primary Schools (Years R-6) and two secondary schools (Years 7-11), of which one, The Chase, has a sixth form. The Chase school is in the south end of Malvern whilst Dyson Perrins College is in the north, though all the pupils within Malvern North and Malvern South feed into both schools.

Secondary School places are forecast to be sufficient in Malvern Secondary EPA.

The two Malvern secondary schools share the entire planning area and have forecast sufficient capacity for all secondary age children. There is a preference in applications for The Chase over Dyson Perrins CE Secondary. There is also a strong preference for pupils living in the south of Malvern to attend Hanley Castle in the Upton planning area.

Figure 56 – Forecast for Year 7 Malvern Secondary Schools 2023-2026

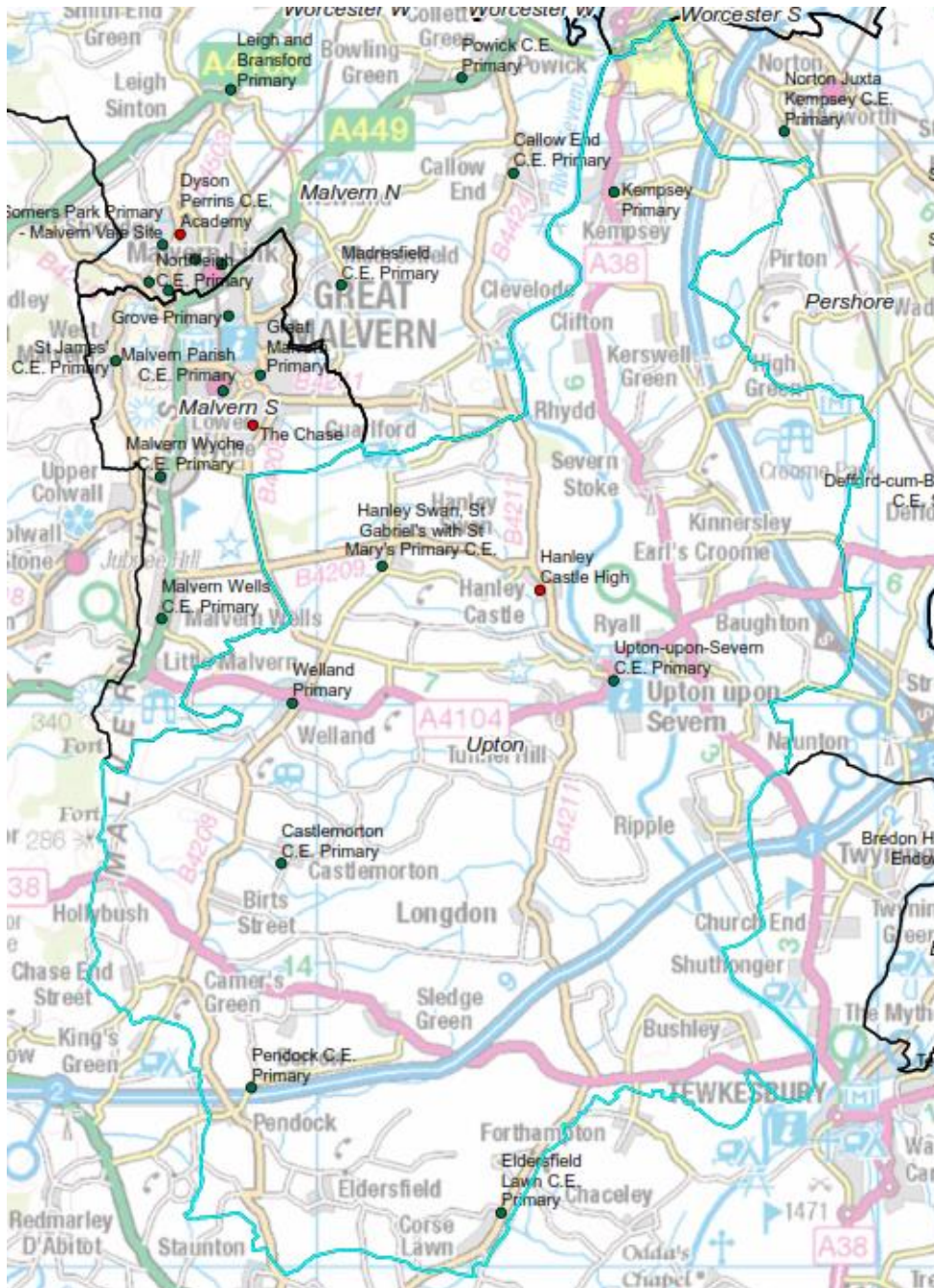
School	Ofsted	PAN	2023	2024	2025	2026
Dyson Perrins CE	Good	168	143	138	145	135
The Chase	Good	240	238	229	240	225

Figure 57 – Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Malvern Secondary EPA

PAN 408	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13
Oct-17	336	354	331	316	333	148	132
Oct-18	328	336	353	331	299	175	147
Oct-19	333	331	329	349	324	148	165
Oct-20	343	299	325	375	316	134	145
Oct-21	352	377	330	329	325	154	124
Oct-22	379	358	373	332	320	132	136
Oct-23	389	386	367	389	315	151	129
Oct-24	381	395	394	382	367	148	147
Oct-25	406	387	403	409	360	173	144
Oct-26	385	411	393	417	384	169	165
Oct-27	365	390	418	408	392	180	162
Oct-28	424	369	396	433	383	184	173
Oct-29	396	429	375	411	407	180	176
Oct-30	414	402	438	391	388	191	174

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Upton Education Planning Area



The Upton Education Planning Area is located in the southwest of Worcestershire and is predominantly made up of the town of Upton-upon-Severn and Kempsey and the surrounding rural towns and villages. The area sits entirely within the District Council of Malvern Hills. The planning area is served by seven Primary Schools (Years R-6), and one Secondary School (Years 7-13). These schools offer a total of 173 Reception places and 180 Year 7 places for 2021, as well as Sixth Form provision.

Upton - Primary

Primary School places are forecast to be insufficient in Upton Primary EPA due to major housing growth

3% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in Upton EPA, with 13% of schools deemed as 'Outstanding', with the rest deemed as 'Good'.

Castlemorton Primary School (Requires Improvement) in Upton has very low known pre-school aged children, though in the last 2 years numbers have been higher. If this trend continues the school would have more sustainable numbers on roll. The neighbouring schools do not have known children in excess of PAN. Castlemorton Primary School could consider a reduction in PAN.

Figure 58 Known children in southern Upton Primary schools

School	Ofsted	PAN	Average intake*	2023	2024	2025	2026
Castlemorton CE	Good	15	9.4	4	4	8	7
Eldersfield Lawn CE	Outstanding	15	16.4	7	7	4	5
Pendock CE	Good	8	4.4	4	3	3	4

*Average reception intake 2018-2022

Over the last 5 years, reception pupil numbers have on average been 17% higher than the number of 3-year-olds resident in the planning area in the previous year. Some of these additional children will have moved into the area since the previous year, but on average 10 pupils per year migrate from Malvern and 12 per year come from Gloucestershire.

There are forecast insufficient Primary School places in Kempsey as a result of the proposed the South Worcester Urban Expansion (SWUE) housing and developments around the village of Kempsey.

Housing

Major housing in South Worcester (Hopfields) totalling circa 5300 homes up to 2037 is planned. The SWUE housing lies in the Kempsey Primary school catchment area. The first phase of the development (238 dwellings) is complete. The Section 106 Education Planning Obligations agreement for the developer's contributions was signed for the South Worcester site on 17th October 2022 and includes the funding of a new 2FE Primary School with nursery.

1000+ new dwellings are expected to be delivered up to 2030, with an expected yield of additional 31 (1FE) of primary pupils by 2028. Ahead of the new school being delivered, the mitigation for places will include some pupils having to be offered school places further than 2 miles from home, therefore incurring transport costs for the LA.

Figure 59 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Upton Primary EPA

PAN 188	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
Oct-17	139	126	129	147	137	141	149
Oct-18	123	141	133	132	152	135	146
Oct-19	153	132	143	142	143	153	138
Oct-20	162	153	136	143	140	145	151
Oct-21	142	162	157	142	145	147	148
Oct-22	137	140	164	155	146	149	148
Oct-23	147	147	152	176	168	157	159
Oct-24	167	154	156	161	186	175	164
Oct-25	213	172	161	162	168	192	180
Oct-26	219	217	178	166	168	172	196

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Figure 60 – Forecast for Kempsey & Upton-on-Severn Primary Schools 2023-2026

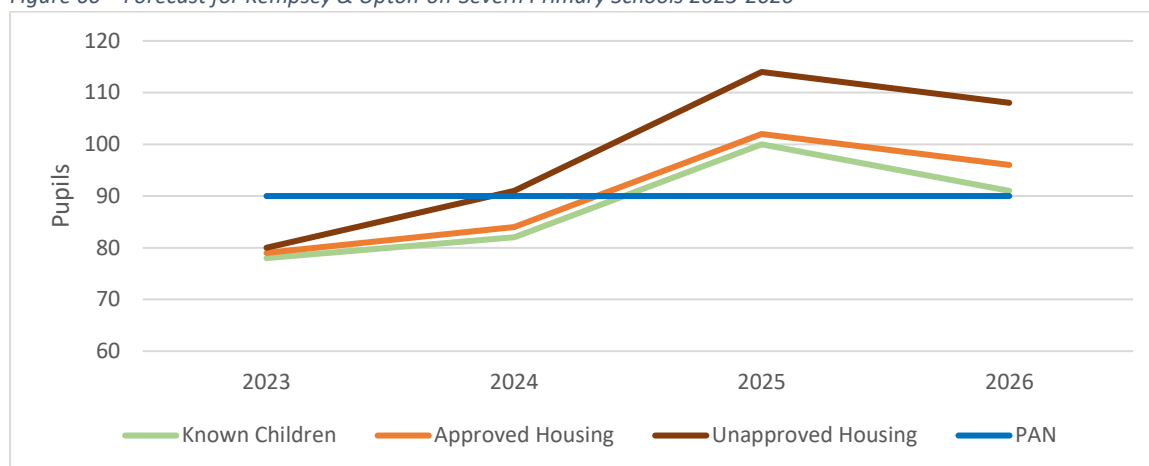


Figure 60 shows the impact of both developments already approved and those not yet agreed.

Upton - Secondary

Secondary School places are forecast to be sufficient in Upton Secondary EPA.

Over the last 5 years, 26% of the intake for Hanley Castle High School (or 47 pupils) migrate from either Malvern or outside the county.

1000+ new dwellings in the South Worcestershire Urban Expansion are expected to be delivered up to 2030, with an expected yield of additional 35 secondary pupils by 2027. This is based on a secondary age pupil yield of 0.04 pupils per 100 dwellings, though experience has shown this yield is only reached 7 years after the dwellings are completed. It is also expected that the majority of pupils from these houses will attend schools in Worcester.

The largest cohort currently in the Upton primary phase is year 2, with 164 pupils. If average growth trends continue, then this cohort would reach Year 7 at Hanley Castle High School in 2027 with 192 pupils. However, this cohort includes 24 pupils from outside the EPA. After housing growth this

cohort will be greater than 180, but those living in catchment will still be below the Hanley Castle PAN.

Figure 61 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Upton Secondary EPA

PAN 180	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13
Oct-17	176	170	171	170	153	176	170
Oct-18	181	172	169	168	169	181	172
Oct-19	178	180	174	166	168	178	180
Oct-20	178	178	178	170	165	178	178
Oct-21	184	180	175	171	166	184	180
Oct-22	183	186	174	177	173	183	186
Oct-23	193	191	192	179	184	119	104
Oct-24	203	197	193	193	183	124	115
Oct-25	205	205	198	192	195	121	118
Oct-26	224	206	204	195	193	128	115
Oct-27	243	225	205	201	196	127	121
Oct-28	218	244	223	202	201	129	119
Oct-29	218	218	242	220	202	132	121
Oct-30	222	218	216	238	220	133	124

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Martley Education Planning Area



Martley Education Planning Area is made up of the area to the North of Malvern and supports much of the rural areas and villages around Martley. The entirety of the area sits within the Malvern Hills District. The planning area is served by nine Primary Schools (Years R-6), and one Secondary School (Years 7-11). These schools offer a total of 169 Reception places and 175 Year 7 places for 2021.

Martley - Primary

Primary School places are forecast to be insufficient in Martley Primary EPA due to major housing growth.

3% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in Martley EPA, with 20% of schools deemed as 'Outstanding', with a further 80% deemed as 'Good'.

Housing

There is a new housing development in Astley of 57 dwellings and two developments in Martley of 135 dwellings.

Major housing in West Worcester Urban Expansion (WWUE) site of 2,365 new dwellings. Pupil projections indicate that the developments for the WWUE as submitted, will impact on pupil numbers within the area. A proposed site has been identified for a new two form entry (60 place per year group) primary and nursery school which is currently being planned to open in September 2028.

The new dwellings are expected to yield an additional 65 (2FE) primary age pupils per year group by 2028, rising to 91 (3FE) by 2031 and circa 118 when all are complete. Ahead of the new primary school being delivered, the mitigation for places will include pupils attending schools within the catchment area, but some pupils needed to attend schools further than 2 miles from home, therefore incurring transport costs for the LA.

The West Worcester Urban Expansion (WWUE) runs along the city boundary within the Broadheath CE Primary catchment. Currently there are forecast to be places available in West Worcester primary schools until after 2026, so Broadheath CE Primary is not expected to provide accommodation for pupils moving into WWUE.

Figure 62 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Martley Primary EPA

PAN 169	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
Oct-17	176	156	150	149	168	141	163
Oct-18	135	178	165	159	154	169	146
Oct-19	165	145	184	169	166	163	180
Oct-20	156	163	152	191	174	168	164
Oct-21	126	158	163	155	194	175	168
Oct-22	122	135	162	173	157	198	181
Oct-23	163	133	146	175	184	167	210
Oct-24	167	179	147	162	190	198	182
Oct-25	186	178	191	160	173	200	210
Oct-26	192	193	185	200	165	178	207

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Several Martley EPA primary schools have PANs below 30 and have mixed age classes. Higher pupil numbers are distributed around the primary schools in such a way that though over PAN in some years the schools are not over their capacities. Currently, 29% of pupils at Martley EPA primary schools are from outside the EPA, therefore even with additional pupils from local housing, there are currently sufficient places for resident pupils.

Martley – Secondary

Secondary School places are forecast to be sufficient in Martley Secondary EPA.

The Chantry School is predicted to receive more applications than the school's PAN from 2023 onwards. This is largely due to large intake years in some of the planning area's primary schools.

On average only 57% of The Chantry School's pupils reside within the EPA, pupils living in Stourport and Worcester also choose this school.

There is sufficient provision in Stourport Secondary EPA for pupils resident in Stourport to attend their local catchment secondary school. However, there is forecast to be insufficient secondary provision in Worcester Secondary EPA for Worcester resident Year 7 pupils to attend their catchment Worcester City Secondary School. Additional Worcester City Secondary places are required.

Figure 63 – Analysis of intake at The Chantry School 2023-2026

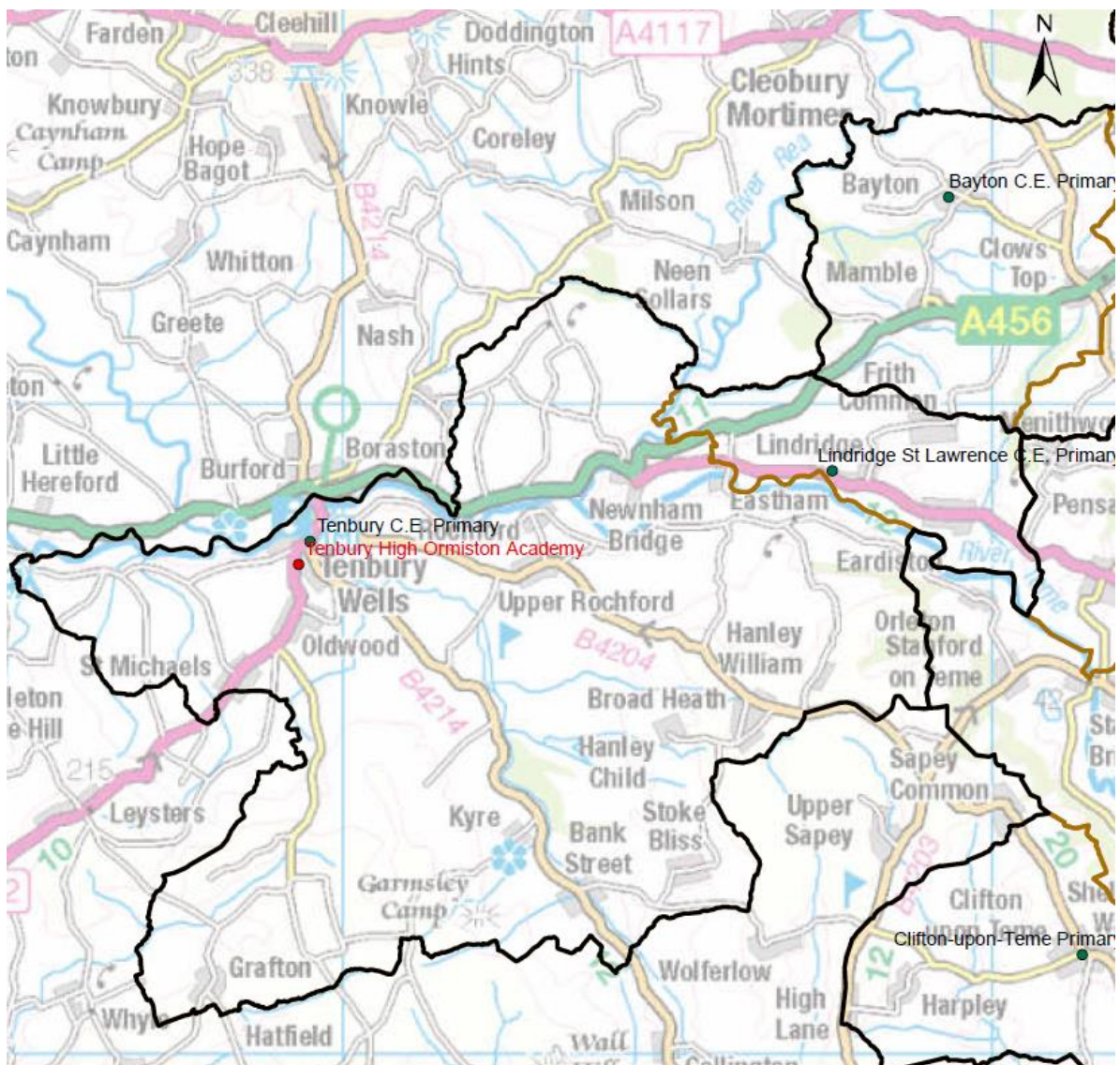
The Chantry School	2023	2024	2025	2026
Year 6 in primary schools	181	198	157	173
Y6 resident in Stourport EPA	12	15	11	15
Y6 resident in Worcester EPAs	14	11	10	12
Y6 from out of county	5	4	10	5
Y6 resident in Martley EPA	133	149	117	107
The Chantry PAN	175	175	175	175

Figure 64 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Martley Secondary EPA

PAN 175	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13
Oct-17	139	146	143	142	145	0	0
Oct-18	165	144	150	142	145	0	0
Oct-19	154	173	149	150	138	0	0
Oct-20	180	159	175	149	148	0	0
Oct-21	172	179	159	175	150	0	0
Oct-22	176	179	179	164	178	0	0
Oct-23	194	188	188	186	171	0	0
Oct-24	227	210	191	189	187	0	0
Oct-25	194	241	219	198	195	0	0
Oct-26	218	201	244	220	198	0	0
Oct-27	215	226	205	247	221	0	0
Oct-28	191	223	230	207	248	0	0
Oct-29	182	198	227	232	208	0	0
Oct-30	227	189	202	229	234	0	0

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Tenbury Education Planning Area



The Tenbury Education Planning Area covers the area in the very northwest of Worcestershire and is made up predominantly of the town of Tenbury Wells and the surrounding rural areas and villages. The area sits entirely within the District Council of Malvern Hills. The planning area is served by two Primary Schools (Years R-6), and one Secondary School (Years 7-11).

Tenbury - Primary

Primary School places are forecast to be sufficient in Tenbury Primary EPA.

1% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in Tenbury EPA, with 67% of schools deemed as 'Good'.

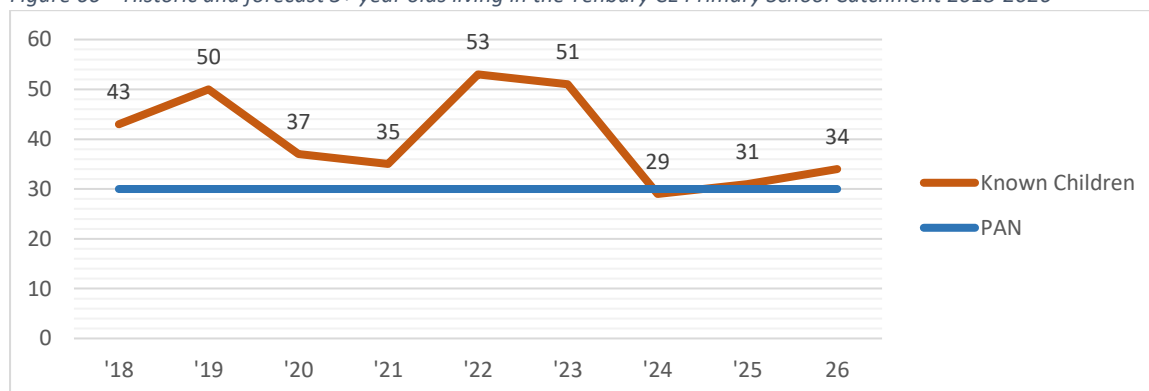
Figure 65 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Tenbury Primary EPA

PAN 45	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
Oct-17	49	39	45	33	45	33	38
Oct-18	34	47	39	45	32	44	37
Oct-19	40	34	45	41	38	34	41
Oct-20	29	39	36	45	37	40	32
Oct-21	36	31	39	38	42	40	40
Oct-22	43	38	32	41	38	45	40
Oct-23	39	44	38	33	38	40	45
Oct-24	27	40	44	40	31	40	40
Oct-25	30	27	40	46	37	33	40
Oct-26	31	31	28	42	43	40	33

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

There have been consistently high numbers of children living in the Tenbury catchment of Worcestershire for the past decade. The Shropshire primary school of Burford (PAN 20) is within walking distance of Tenbury Wells town. This school usually accepts 8 pupils a year from Worcestershire, so there are forecast to be sufficient primary places up to 2026.

Figure 66 – Historic and forecast 3+ year olds living in the Tenbury CE Primary School Catchment 2018-2026



Tenbury – Secondary

Secondary School places are forecast to be sufficient in Tenbury Secondary EPA.

The secondary school serving the area, Tenbury Ormiston Academy, draws on average 22 pupils a year from Shropshire and 27 from Herefordshire. It is forecast to be full or almost full in most year groups over the next several years but is easily able to meet the needs of in-catchment Worcestershire children.

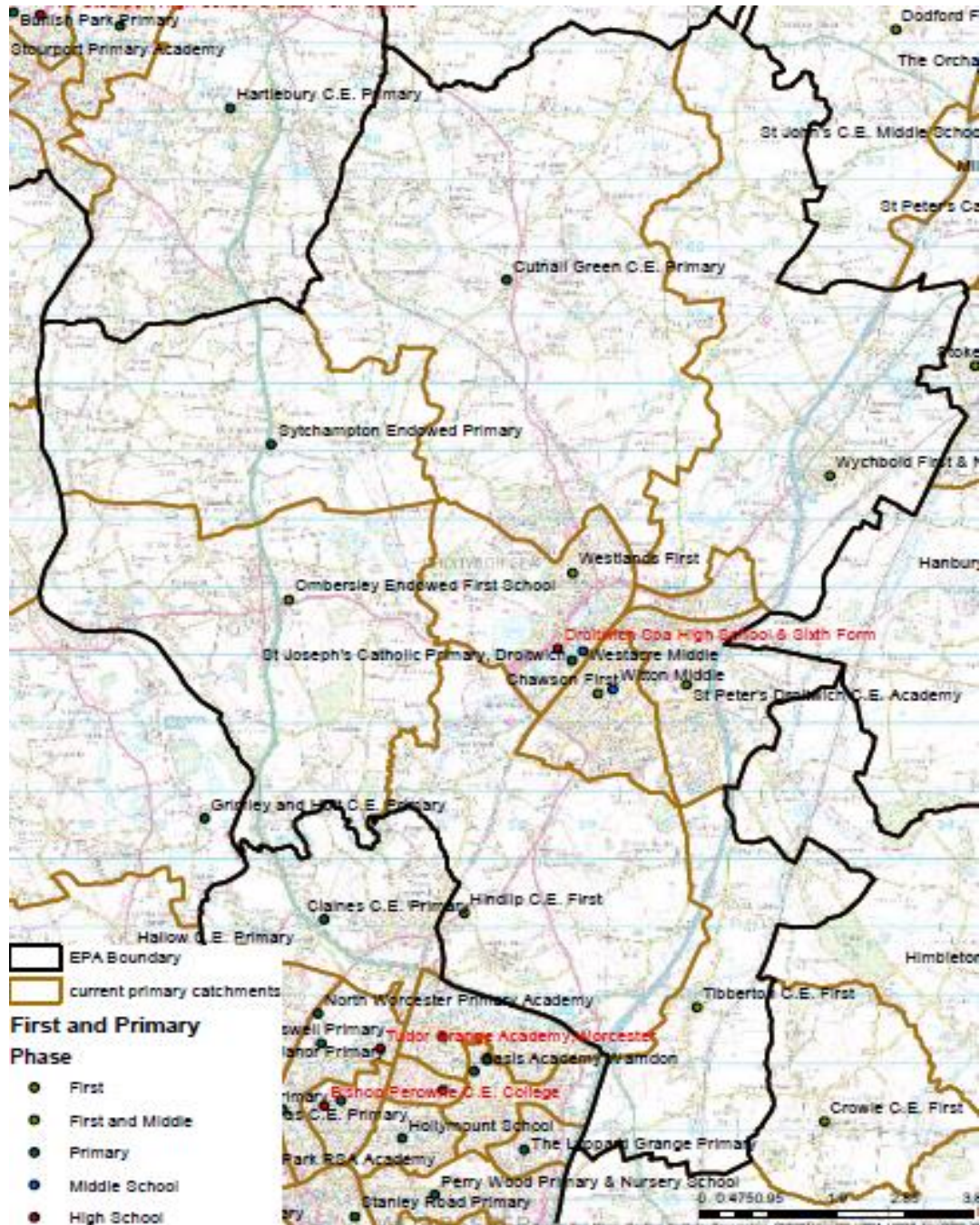
Figure 67 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Tenbury Secondary EPA

PAN 95	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13
Oct-17	78	67	84	70	58		
Oct-18	85	79	68	85	69		
Oct-19	93	84	81	72	83		
Oct-20	89	92	87	82	65		
Oct-21	111	93	87	84	79		
Oct-22	95	108	93	84	86		
Oct-23	102	95	108	93	82		
Oct-24	116	103	96	109	91		
Oct-25	103	116	103	96	106		
Oct-26	105	103	117	104	94		
Oct-27	86	105	104	118	101		
Oct-28	102	86	106	105	114		
Oct-29	117	103	86	106	102		
Oct-30	106	117	103	87	103		

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Wychavon District

Droitwich Education Planning Area



The Droitwich Education Planning Area is made up of the town of Droitwich and the surrounding rural villages. The majority of the area sits within Wychavon District Council, but also covers a small area of Wyre Forest. The planning area is served by seven First Schools (Years R-4), three Primary Schools (Years R-6), two Middle Schools (Years 5-7), and one High School and Sixth Form.

Droitwich – First & Primary

First and Primary School places are forecast to be sufficient in Droitwich Primary EPA.

5% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in Droitwich EPA, with 15% of schools deemed as 'Outstanding', with a further 62% deemed as 'Good'.

Housing

There have recently been several major development sites in Droitwich, around Pulley Lane, Copcut Lane and Newland Lane (c.1200 dwellings in total), now almost completely built out. As a result, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of first school aged children living in the area, which has increased demand for school places, particularly in the catchment areas of Chawson and St Peter's First Schools. Currently there are 107 dwellings yet to be completed in the Copcut Lane development, plus a further 100 dwellings near Tagwell Road in the St Peter's catchment, which are forecast to yield an additional 10 primary aged pupils per year group by 2026.

Figure 68 Surplus places in Droitwich EPA against known children

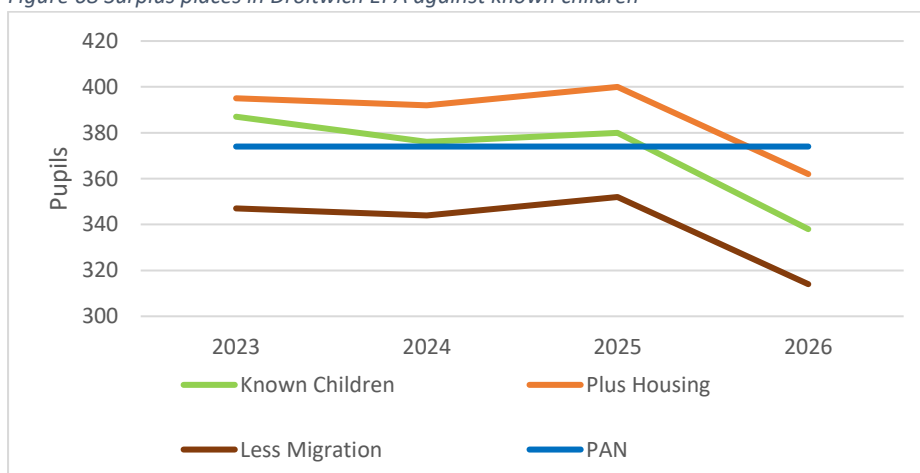


Figure 68 shows the numbers of known children living in Droitwich urban catchments are in excess of these schools' PANs. The dark brown line shows a trend of parental preferences in 2018-2022 choosing schools outside Droitwich EPA. The only refusals of pupil first preference applications in September 2023 were for Sytchampton Endowed First School, which were from families living outside of the school's catchment.

In the 2022 Sufficiency report the high numbers of known children in the forecast period 2023-2025 led to a forecasting of an insufficiency of places in the EPA. When the trend of parental preferences and transfers to special schools and to other education planning areas are considered, we no longer consider that there will be an insufficiency of provision up to 2026.

Figure 69 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Droitwich First EPA

PAN 435	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4
Oct-17	366	367	355	324	346
Oct-18	301	365	379	362	325
Oct-19	351	308	372	373	364
Oct-20	359	359	300	378	359
Oct-21	349	365	360	295	375
Oct-22	367	344	362	355	297
Oct-23	377	373	348	364	355
Oct-24	373	383	378	351	365
Oct-25	383	379	388	380	351
Oct-26	345	387	381	387	378

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Droitwich – Middle

Droitwich Middle includes two middle schools (Yr 5 – Yr 7) and also the 3 primary schools which teach to year 6. Trends show that few pupils from the primary schools tend to transfer to middle schools in year 7. This means the middle schools mainly provide for the pupils attending the first schools.

Middle School places are forecast to be sufficient in Droitwich EPA.

Figure 70 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Droitwich Middle EPA

Whole EPA	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7	Middle School Only	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7
Oct-17	324	313	292	PAN 330	283	268	292
Oct-18	327	327	261	PAN 300 in 2024	283	289	261
Oct-19	314	333	287		272	288	287
Oct-20	352	311	288		291	264	288
Oct-21	340	360	271		302	298	271
Oct-22	357	353	289		298	306	289
Oct-23	286	365	302		248	312	302
Oct-24	343	294	313		277	256	313
Oct-25	351	351	253		282	285	253
Oct-26	336	357	298		275	288	298
Oct-27	362	342	305		302	281	305
Oct-28	369	368	291		311	311	291
Oct-29	363	375	313		300	317	313
Oct-30	370	369	319		308	307	319

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

The impact of new housing on the first school forecasts over the next several years will likely impact on the requirement for additional middle school provision in the longer term. Witton Middle School reduced its PAN for 2024, though may be able to increase back to 180 in 2027 should application numbers follow the forecast.

Droitwich – High

High School places are forecast to be sufficient in Droitwich High EPA.

The impact of new housing on the first school forecasts over the next several years will likely impact on the requirement for additional high school provision in the longer term. The numbers of pupils forecast to arrive in year 8 in 2024 do not exceed the PAN of Droitwich Spa High School but do not enable the LA to retain 5% of surplus places.

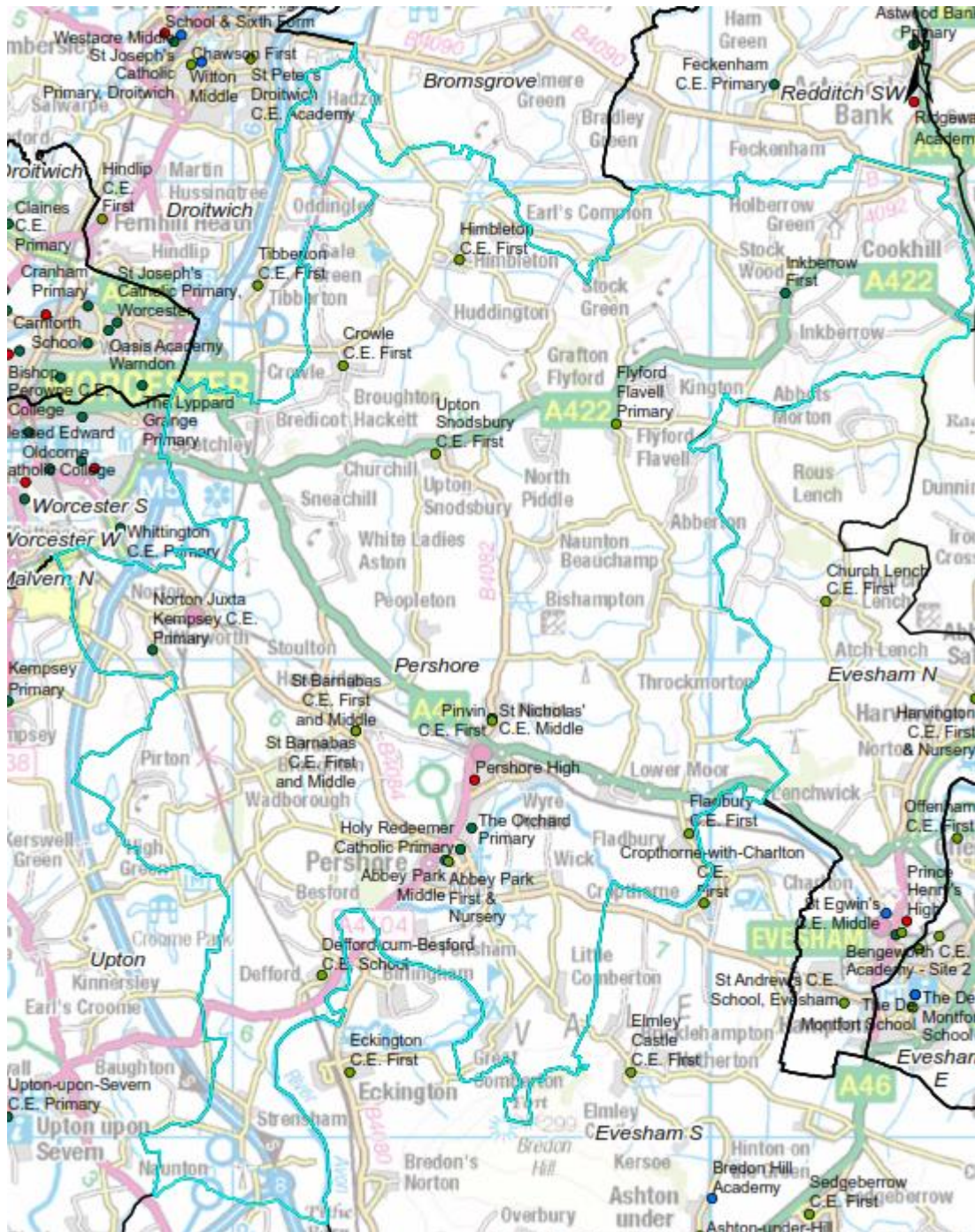
There are 299 pupils in Droitwich middle schools who will reach year 8 age in 2025. Any in-year intakes to this cohort before 2025 may take Droitwich High School over its PAN of 305. This will be monitored to consider if additional places are required.

Figure 71 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Droitwich High EPA

PAN 305	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13
Oct-17	250	256	272	222	119	97
Oct-18	271	253	264	269	99	103
Oct-19	259	270	252	266	97	88
Oct-20	267	257	266	249	91	96
Oct-21	292	271	258	270	97	81
Oct-22	269	293	270	253	96	90
Oct-23	283	273	296	272	97	90
Oct-24	297	288	277	298	104	91
Oct-25	307	301	291	278	114	98
Oct-26	245	308	302	290	105	104
Oct-27	291	247	310	302	110	97
Oct-28	296	293	248	310	114	101
Oct-29	283	298	294	248	117	105
Oct-30	305	285	299	293	94	107

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Pershore Education Planning Area



The Pershore Education Planning Area is made up of the town of Pershore and surrounding rural villages. The entirety of the area sits within Wychavon District Council. The planning area is served by seven First Schools (Years R-4), five Primary Schools (Years R-6), three Middle Schools (Years 5-7), and one High School (Years 7-13).

Pershore – First & Primary

First and Primary School places are forecast to be sufficient in Pershore First/Primary EPA.

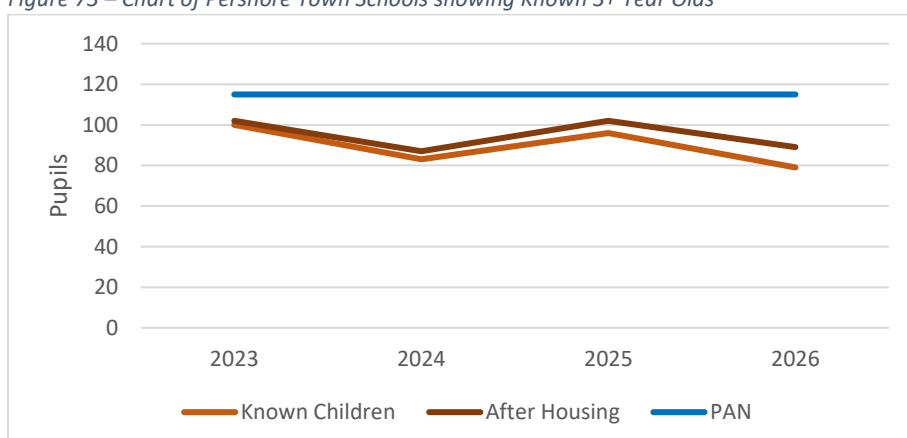
4% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in Pershore EPA, with 13% of schools deemed as ‘Outstanding’, with a further 69% deemed as ‘Good’.

There are new housing developments in the town of Pershore, close to the catchments of Orchard Primary, Pinvin First and Abbey Park First Schools. There are 220 dwellings expected by 2026, with a forecast of an addition 10 primary aged pupils per year group by 2026.

Figure 72 – Pershore Town Schools showing Known 3+ Year Olds

School	Ofsted	PAN	2023	2024	2025	2026
Orchard Primary	Good	30	47	37	41	32
Abbey Park First	Good	30	34	35	42	31
Pinvin First	Good	25	19	11	13	16
Holy Redeemer Primary	Good	30				
Additional pupils from Pershore housing			2	4	6	10
Sub-total		115	102	87	102	89
Surplus / shortfall of places			13	28	13	26

Figure 73 – Chart of Pershore Town Schools showing Known 3+ Year Olds



However, outside of Pershore town, there are some first and primary schools with overprovision of places.

Figure 74 – Pershore Schools showing low numbers of Known 3+ Year Olds

School	-	PAN	2023	2024	2025	2026
St Barnabas	Known Children	30	34	30	26	32
	Housing	-	1	2	2	2
	Sub-total	-	35	32	28	34
Crowle	Known Children	15	6	6	7	4
Himbleton	Known Children	14	2	4	6	5
Upton Snodsbury	Known Children	14	6	9	5	7
Defford-com-Besford	Known Children	12	4	8	11	9
Fladbury	Known Children	20	17	17	19	13

Blue cells show where surplus places are over 50% of PAN

Crowle, Upton Snodsbury and Defford-cum-Besford are all First Schools, taking pupils up to Year 4.

Figure 75 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Pershore First EPA

PAN 295	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4
Oct-17	266	277	271	274	255
Oct-18	234	264	278	264	275
Oct-19	265	238	256	286	268
Oct-20	249	262	238	250	286
Oct-21	259	257	266	240	254
Oct-22	231	258	263	272	236
Oct-23	262	240	266	271	280
Oct-24	244	272	249	275	281
Oct-25	295	251	279	256	282
Oct-26	276	305	261	288	265

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Pershore - Middle

There is a forecast oversupply of middle school places in the Pershore EPA from 2023 onwards.

The three middle schools of Pershore originally provided all the years 5, 6 and 7 places for the whole EPA. Five of the eleven original first schools changed age range to become primary schools including years 5 and 6 places. Pershore High school also changed age range to add 90 year 7 places from 2021, therefore there is an oversupply of middle school places in the planning area.

Figure 76 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Pershore Middle EPA

PAN 443	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7
Oct-17	247	261	222
Oct-18	248	244	227
Oct-19	284	256	220
Oct-20	278	300	222
Oct-21	291	273	239
Oct-22	255	290	227
Oct-23	247	265	254
Oct-24	293	258	234
Oct-25	290	302	225
Oct-26	294	302	265
Oct-27	279	308	267
Oct-28	304	283	264
Oct-29	278	309	243
Oct-30	326	283	265

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Pershore – High

High School places are forecast to be sufficient in Pershore High EPA.

Pershore High School has a PAN of 90 places available for year 7 pupils predominantly from the Pershore Primary Schools, and the middle schools have a total PAN of 277, therefore there are sufficient places for year 7 pupils between 2023 and 2026. Forecast numbers exceed 277 in 2027 but only by a few places.

In practice, on average 28 pupils per year travel to secondary or high schools outside Pershore EPA but this is roughly equivalent to the form of entry attending the Holy Redeemer Catholic Primary School in Pershore.

Figure 77 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Pershore High EPA

PAN 282	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13
Oct-17	247	243	227	192	63	93
Oct-18	232	249	240	224	83	61
Oct-19	236	230	246	234	101	74
Oct-20	220	230	228	241	107	100
Oct-21	219	228	239	221	106	101
Oct-22	239	224	228	234	79	103
Oct-23	238	248	232	230	100	75
Oct-24	266	239	248	227	98	95
Oct-25	243	274	246	249	99	99
Oct-26	237	245	274	240	106	95
Oct-27	279	249	255	278	107	111
Oct-28	272	282	251	251	120	103
Oct-29	269	275	284	246	108	115
Oct-30	247	272	276	279	106	104

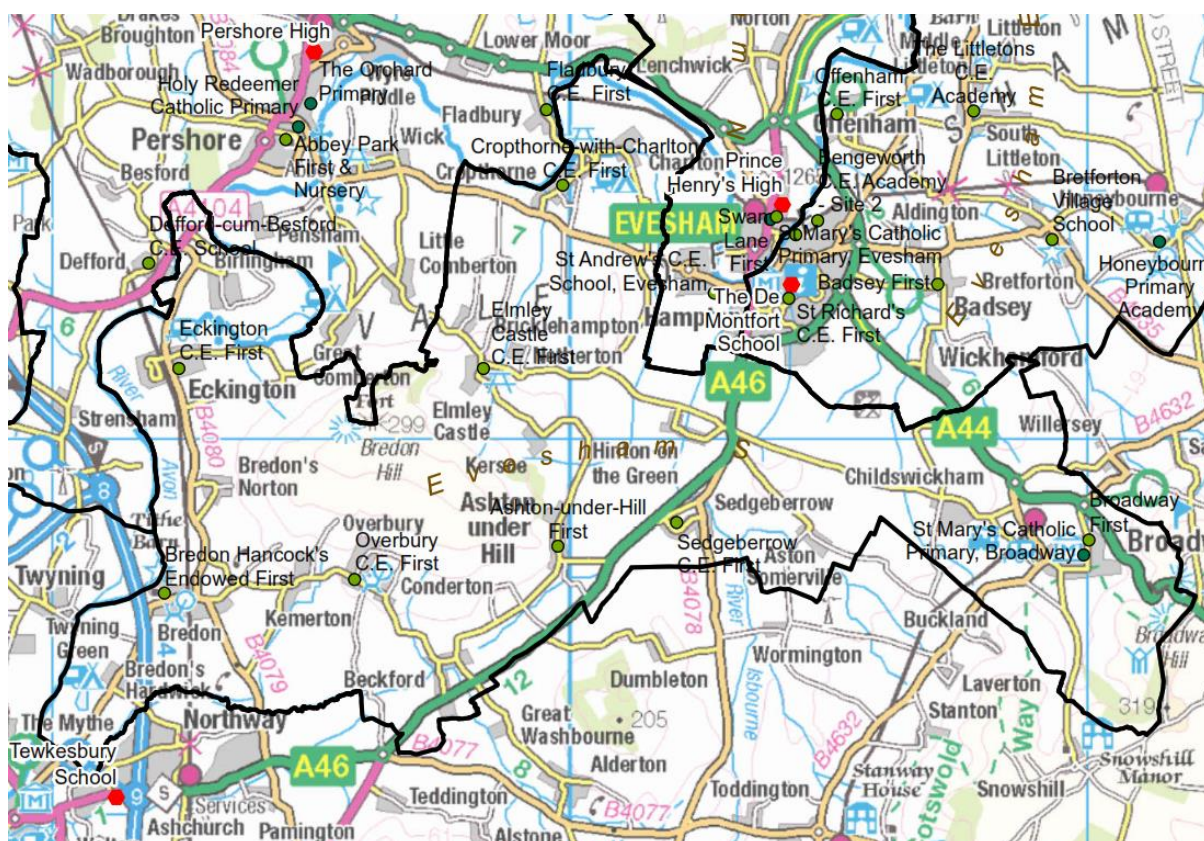
*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Pershore change of age range

A review of Pershore EPA began in 2021 to consult on whether stakeholders including parent carers had a preference to change the age range of schools in Pershore to become primary and secondary schools. In October – November 2021 all schools and Multi-Academy Trusts consulted on proposals to change age ranges and / or intake points. If the proposed age range changes are agreed, an additional 192 places for year 7 will be required at Pershore High School and all remaining First or Middle Schools will need to become Primary Schools. There was a strong preference at the time to proceed with proposing the necessary changes. The next stage was for the funding to be found to deliver the changes at some First Schools and the High School to be able to formally propose the changes. A further report will be presented to Cabinet in 2024 to update on this review.

Additional education pathways from Holy Redeemer Primary School and Inkberrow Primary School to Pershore High School are likely to be more popular than previously since it was not possible to transfer directly from Primary year 6 to the lowest year at Pershore High School (Year 8). Pupils in pyramids where the catholic school age range matches the rest of the pyramid (such as Malvern and Redditch) transfer to local high schools more frequently than those where the age range is different.

Evesham South First Education Planning Area



The Evesham South Education Planning Area is made up of the south of the Vale of Evesham just outside Evesham town. The entirety of the area sits within Wychavon District Council. The planning area is served by nine First Schools (Years R-5) and one Middle School (Years 6-8).

There is a forecast oversupply of first school places in the Evesham South First EPA.

2% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in Evesham South EPA, with 40% of schools deemed as 'Outstanding', with the rest deemed as 'Good'.

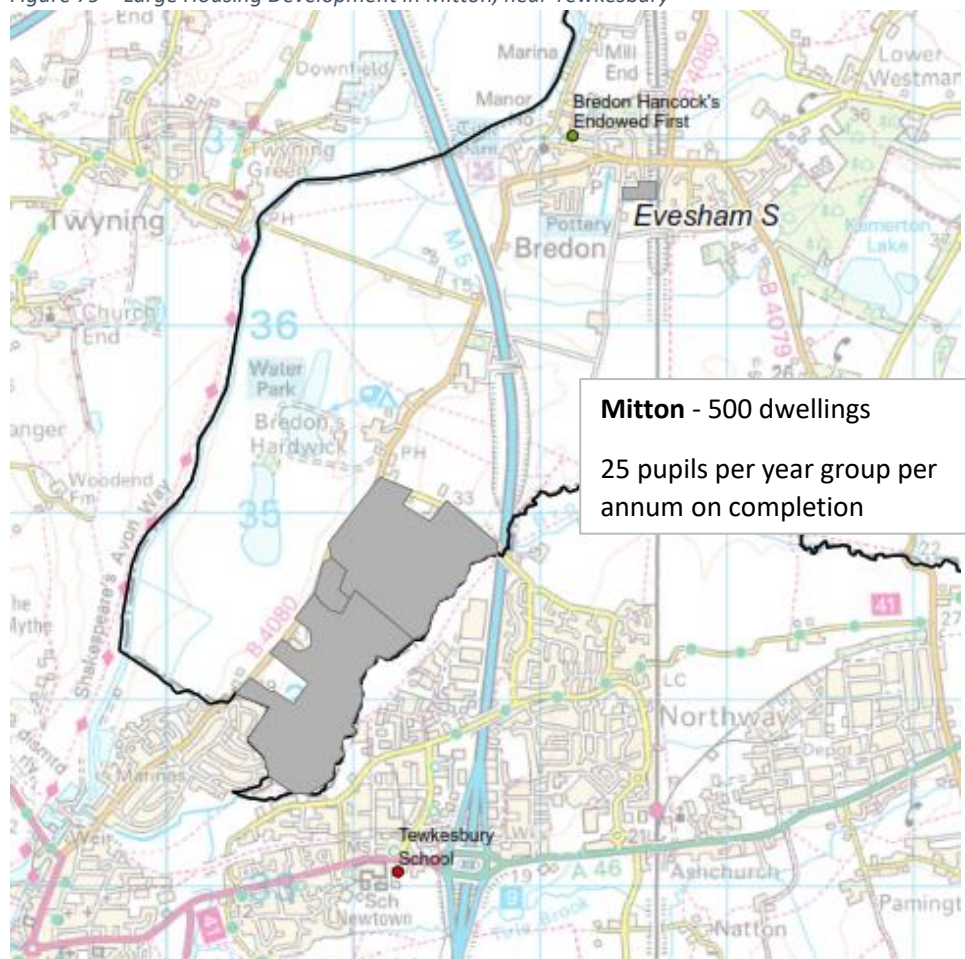
Figure 78 – Evesham South First Schools showing impact of low intakes

School	Ofsted	PAN	Allocation 2023	Forecast 2024	Forecast 2025	Forecast 2026
Ashton-under-hill	Good	18	12	9	18	18
Bredon Hancock's	Outstanding	30	25	21	26	27
Crothorne-with Charlton	Good	15	15	14	15	11
Eckington	Good	20	14	11	8	16
Elmley Castle	Good	15	13	7	12	26
Overbury	Good	15	15	15	10	16
Sedgeberrow	Outstanding	30	30	30	30	30
Broadway	Good	20	10	11	13	10
St Mary's, Broadway	Outstanding	15	11	10	13	13
Surplus places			33	50	33	11

Some First schools, including Eckington and Elmley Castle, are forecast to have surplus places for the next three years.

Crothorne-with-Charlton First School, Sedgeberrow First School and Elmley Castle First School frequently admit children from Evesham Town. Eckington First School does not receive many applications from Evesham Town as it is 8 miles away.

Figure 79 – Large Housing Development in Mitton, near Tewkesbury



Bredon Hancock's Endowed First School is close to Gloucestershire and is popular so receives cross-border applications.

Housing

A housing development at Mitton, adjacent to Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire will add 250 dwellings by 2033. A new primary school feeding into Tewkesbury secondary education is planned for this development. As such it will be independent of the Evesham South EPA.

One or more of the schools could consider lowering PAN. Crothorne-with-Charlton First School reduced its PAN from 18 to 15 from September 2023.

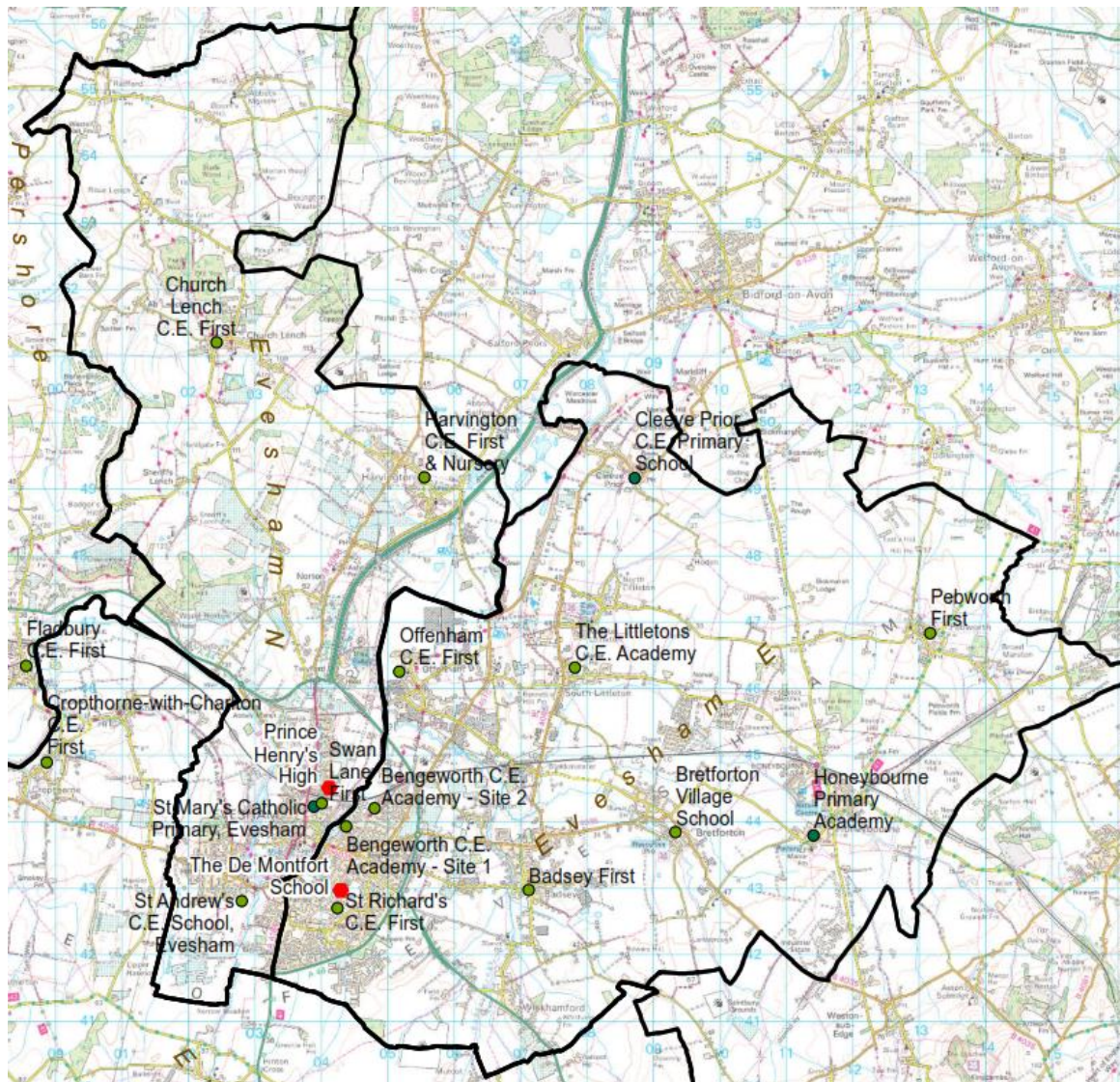
The forecast below includes a trend migration factor of 50% inbound pupils from Gloucestershire and Evesham. It suggests that not all available places will fill up, only those close to Evesham or Gloucestershire.

Figure 80 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Evesham South First EPA

PAN 178	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5
Oct-17	155	156	159	148	141	153
Oct-18	140	160	160	156	157	143
Oct-19	126	145	161	158	152	157
Oct-20	164	129	149	164	156	156
Oct-21	139	172	135	150	165	147
Oct-22	143	148	170	136	150	170
Oct-23	152	151	153	172	139	153
Oct-24	134	158	154	153	174	140
Oct-25	183	140	161	154	154	174
Oct-26	195	192	143	163	156	156

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Evesham North First Education Planning Area



The Evesham North Education Planning Area is made up of the western half of the town of Evesham plus rural villages to the north, coinciding with the catchment of Prince Henry High School. The entirety of the area sits within Wychavon District Council. The planning area is served by five First Schools (Years R-5), one Middle School (Years 6-8) and one High School (Years 9-11) with a sixth form.

First School places are forecast to be sufficient in Evesham North Primary EPA.

2% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in Evesham North EPA, with 33% of schools deemed as ‘Outstanding’, the rest deemed as ‘Good’.

Figure 81 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Evesham North First EPA

PAN 195	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5
Oct-17	155	186	178	159	169	154
Oct-18	195	153	186	175	160	169
Oct-19	140	194	155	189	185	159
Oct-20	171	144	190	153	188	182
Oct-21	177	172	144	191	156	180
Oct-22	151	183	172	140	193	157
Oct-23	156	154	184	172	144	192
Oct-24	154	159	155	184	176	143
Oct-25	165	155	158	153	187	174
Oct-26	187	168	156	158	157	186

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

There have been some additional dwellings built in Hampton near St Andrew’s CE First School with a further 160 dwellings being built between 2023-2026. These are forecast to yield an additional 8 pupils per year group per year by 2026.

Evesham East First & Primary Education Planning Area

The Evesham East Education Planning Area is made up of the eastern half of the town of Evesham plus rural villages towards the border with Warwickshire, coinciding with the catchment of The De Montfort School. The entirety of the area sits within Wychavon District Council. The planning area is served by seven First Schools (Years R-5), two Primary Schools (Years R-6), one Middle School (Years 6-8) and one Middle & High School (Years 6-11) with a sixth form.

There is a forecast oversupply of first school places in the Evesham East First & Primary EPA

2% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in Evesham East EPA, with 11% of schools deemed as ‘Outstanding’, with a further 78% deemed as ‘Good’.

Several First Schools beyond 2 miles from Evesham Town have low known pre-school aged children and low forecast intakes. Some neighbouring first schools have higher numbers of known children and therefore balance out some of the demand and supply of places.

Some First schools including Bretforton, Cleeve Prior, and Pebworth are forecast to have over 50% surplus places for the next three years.

Figure 82 – Eastern Evesham First Schools showing impact of low intakes

School	Ofsted	PAN	Allocation 2023	Forecast 2024	Forecast 2025	Forecast 2026
Badsey	RI	30	21	28	30	26
Bretforton	Good	15	15	9	6	8
Bengeworth	Outstanding	90	90	63	69	73
Cleeve Prior*	Good	15	2	6	9	1
Honeybourne*	Good	30	28	23	24	21
Offenham	Good	18	12	14	14	14
Pebworth	Good	12	1	5	7	8
The Littletons	Good	30	19	23	23	23
St Richard's	Good	60	49	51	60	54
Surplus places			63	27	16	26

*Primary Schools / Blue cells show surplus places over 50%.

On average over a 6-year period, 18% of reception pupils (55 pupils) from Evesham urban catchments attended schools outside Evesham.

Cleeve Prior First School has no schools within a 2-mile range with surplus known children that would be likely to increase its numbers on roll.

Figure 83 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Evesham East First EPA

PAN 300	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4
Oct-17	264	252	270	250	266
Oct-18	248	256	249	267	257
Oct-19	264	250	254	254	268
Oct-20	235	262	245	248	251
Oct-21	260	233	257	238	253
Oct-22	232	261	233	267	246
Oct-23	226	237	264	239	277
Oct-24	211	227	236	266	245
Oct-25	221	210	224	236	270
Oct-26	218	221	209	225	241

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

224 new dwellings are expected to be built near Pebworth First School between 2022-2025, near the Warwickshire / Worcestershire County boundary. The forecast in figure 80 assumes that 50% of the additional pupils would attend Meon Vale Primary school in Warwickshire as the development is closer to Meon Vale than to Pebworth. The next 2 years should provide more reliable trends for Pebworth First School.

WCF are working with Cleeve Prior and Pebworth First Schools to support options to sustain these schools with such low numbers.

Evesham Middle Education Planning Area

There are sufficient middle school places in the Evesham Middle EPA.

Blackminster Middle School is an Ofsted rated 'Good' school, yet pupil numbers decreased to 50% of its PAN of 130 in 2020. The 2023 intake was 111. Honeybourne and Cleeve Prior became Primary Schools before 2020, thereby increasing the total of available year 6 places and reducing the number of pupils transferring to Blackminster's year 6. The pupils from these primary schools now either transfer to Blackminster Middle School at the end of year 5 (the intake point for Blackminster Middle School), or at the end of year 6 or alternatively go to a Warwickshire or Gloucester secondary school. Chipping Camden Secondary School in Gloucestershire admitted 50 pupils per year from Worcestershire over the last 5 years.

Figure 84 – Year 5 Evesham Firsts feeding Blackminster Middle School 2022-2025

School	Ofsted	PAN	2023	2024	2025	2026
Badsey	Requires Improvement	30	22	25	31	27
Bretforton	Good	15	14	6	14	8
Offenham	Good	18	17	16	20	20
Pebworth	Good	12	6	4	3	5
The Littletons	Good	30	17	18	26	20
Cleeve Prior	Good	15	5	7	7	2
To Blackminster			2	3	3	1
Bengeworth	Outstanding	90	89	90	84	78
To Blackminster			10	10	9	9
Total			88	82	106	90

Demand for middle school places within Evesham town continues to rise, however the two schools serving the town have sufficient places to meet the needs of pupils currently at their feeder schools in most year groups.

Bredon Hill Academy (rated 'Outstanding'), St Egwin's Middle School (rated 'Good') and The De Montfort Middle School (rated 'Good') have a high demand for places over the next 4 years. Many pupils applying for these places live in the catchment of Blackminster Middle School (rated 'Good') so this does not represent a need for more middle school places in the town. In the event of oversubscription in the other middle schools, some pupils from Blackminster's catchment are likely to be offered places at their catchment school of Blackminster Middle School.

Figure 85 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Evesham Middle EPA

Whole EPA	Yr 6	Yr 7	Yr 8	Middle School Only	Yr 6	Yr 7	Yr 8
Oct-17	546	492	478	PAN 592	536	492	478
Oct-18	534	490	486		501	490	486
Oct-19	575	479	489		546	479	489
Oct-20	572	478	476		538	478	476
Oct-21	584	489	463		548	489	463
Oct-22	578	514	493		547	514	493
Oct-23	588	513	519		559	513	519
Oct-24	594	516	512		544	516	512
Oct-25	556	518	512		505	518	512
Oct-26	591	488	518		558	488	518
Oct-27	611	519	488		570	519	488
Oct-28	551	533	514		510	533	514
Oct-29	538	480	528		495	480	528
Oct-30	503	470	476		461	470	476

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

The combined PAN of the middle schools is 592 but the 4 primary schools which have a year 6, add a further 90 year 6 places, therefore total capacity of year 6 is 682 places. The right-hand side of figure 85 shows the forecast for combined middle schools only. The De Montfort School has arranged to reduce the Year 6 PAN to 120 from 150. This reduces the oversupply of places.

Evesham High Education Planning Area

High School places are forecast to be sufficient in Evesham High EPA.

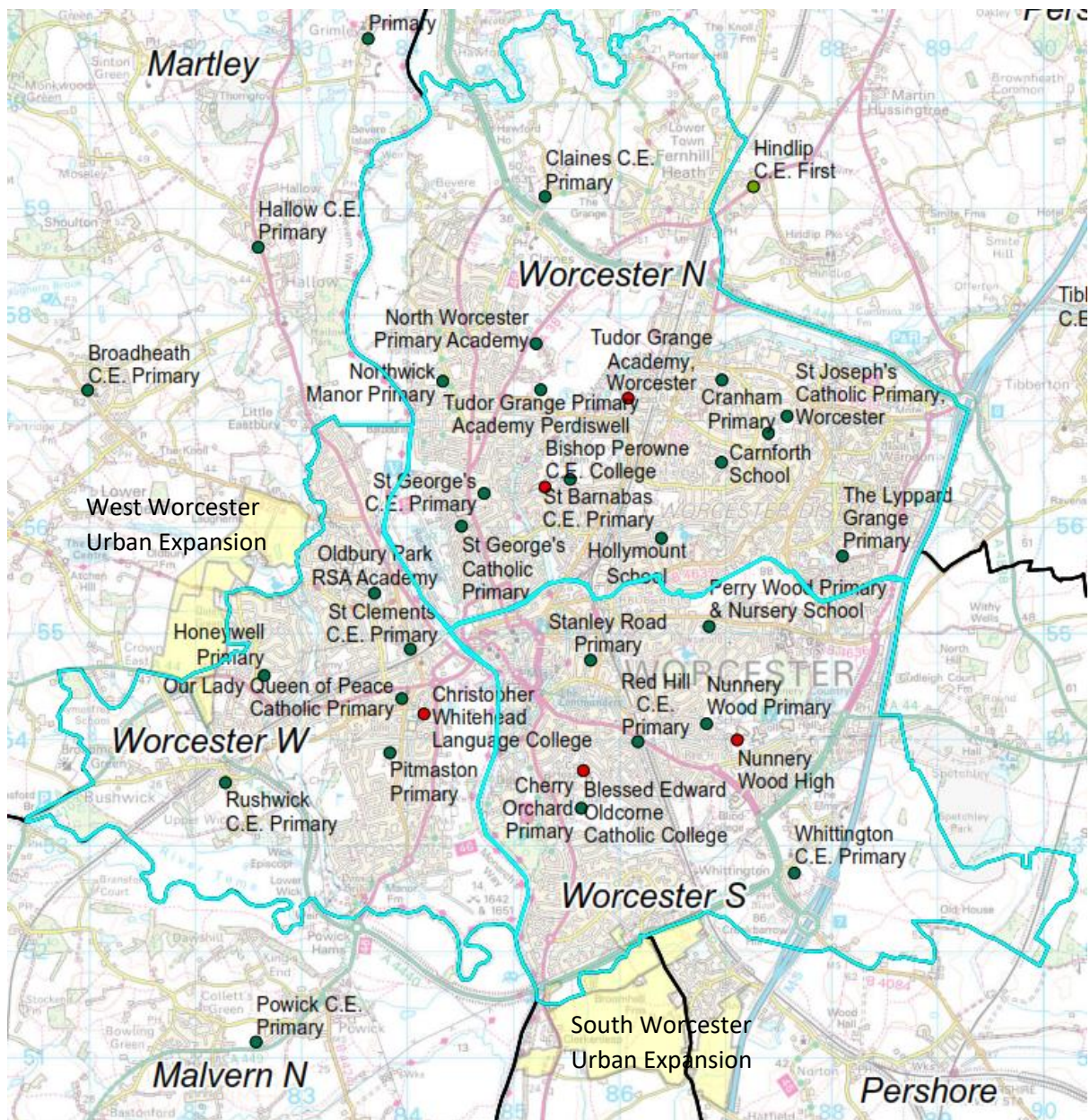
Prince Henry High School (rated 'Outstanding') continues to receive more applications than places available, including on average 30% from pupils living in The De Montfort High School's catchment. There is not an insufficiency of places, as places are available at The De Montfort High School.

Figure 86 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Evesham High EPA

PAN 565	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13
Oct-17	459	470	464	219	219
Oct-18	478	463	461	211	205
Oct-19	483	473	455	228	190
Oct-20	481	487	468	242	219
Oct-21	459	472	469	221	225
Oct-22	466	465	464	222	211
Oct-23	497	476	465	230	217
Oct-24	517	501	470	227	219
Oct-25	506	517	491	228	213
Oct-26	510	510	511	240	217
Oct-27	516	515	504	250	229
Oct-28	483	517	504	245	234
Oct-29	509	483	506	245	229
Oct-30	523	509	474	246	229

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Worcester City District



Worcester West Primary Education Planning Area

The entirety of the area sits within the city of Worcester. The planning area is served by six Primary Schools (Years R-6), and one Secondary School (Years 7-11) with a sixth form.

4% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in West Worcester EPA, with 33% of schools deemed as 'Outstanding', with a further 50% deemed as 'Good'.

Primary School places are forecast to be sufficient in West Worcester Primary EPA.

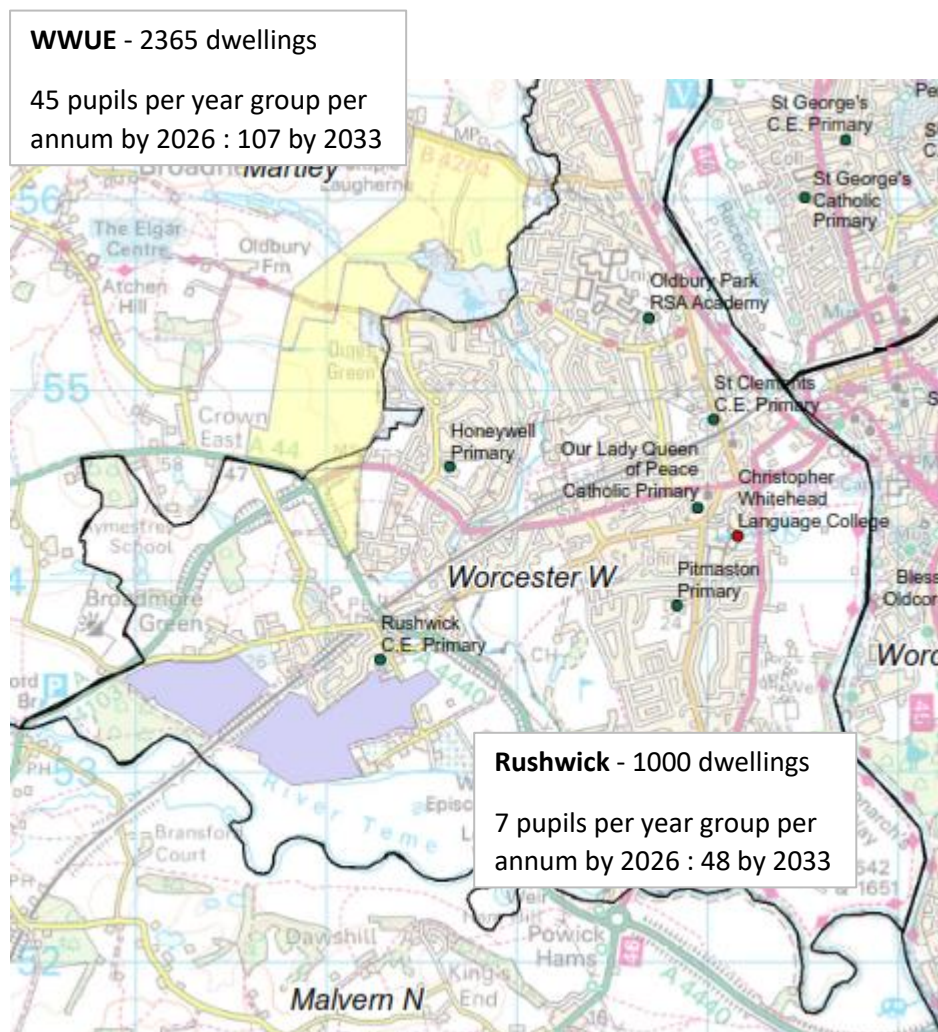
Figure 87 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Worcester West Primary EPA

PAN 270	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
Oct-17	229	244	262	254	258	255	261
Oct-18	225	232	248	268	263	263	257
Oct-19	229	234	234	255	263	263	262
Oct-20	217	229	224	234	247	264	256
Oct-21	219	223	236	226	239	246	265
Oct-22	216	222	233	240	233	240	247
Oct-23	230	231	235	247	252	245	250
Oct-24	233	245	244	249	259	264	254
Oct-25	240	247	257	256	260	269	272
Oct-26	243	252	256	267	265	268	275

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Housing

Figure 88 – Large Housing Developments in Worcester West and Rushwick



Major housing in West Worcester Urban Expansion (WWUE) site of 2,000+ new dwellings. Pupil projections indicate that the developments for the WWUE as submitted, will impact on pupil numbers within the area. A proposed site has been identified for a new two form entry (60 place per year group) primary and nursery school which is currently being planned to open in September 2028.

The new dwellings are expected to yield an additional 65 (2FE) pupils per year group by 2028, rising to 91 (3FE) by 2031 and circa 118 (4FE) when complete. Ahead of the new school being delivered, the mitigation for places will include pupils attending schools within the catchment area, but some pupils will need to attend schools further than 2 miles from home, therefore incurring transport costs for the LA.

These additional dwellings and forecast additional pupils will impact all of the schools listed in figure 86 as well as Broadheath CE Primary school.

The proposed housing development in Rushwick of 1000 dwellings will require a new 2FE primary school to be delivered on the site as the current school cannot be expanded further than its current 1FE. To date a planning pre-application has been submitted but no applications.

Figure 89 –Forecast 3+ year olds living in the catchment areas of West Worcester primary schools due to start school 2023-2026

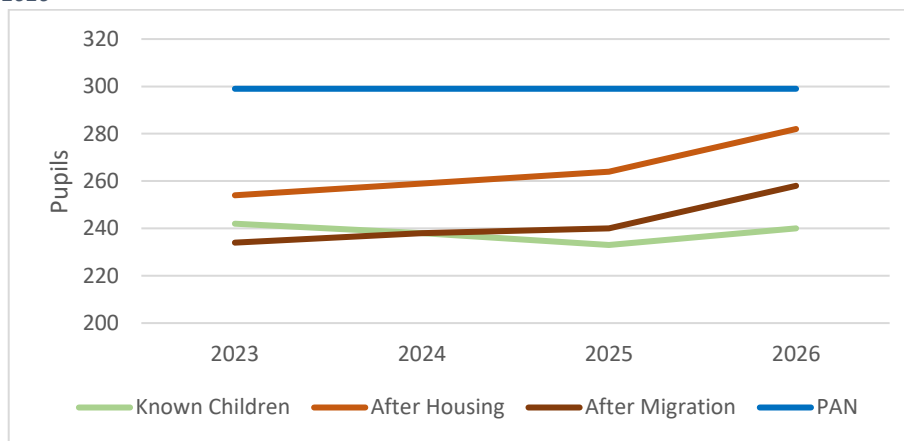


Figure 89 shows that current known children are below PAN for the EPA and many additional children are expected, but if recent trends continue, enough children will choose to attend primary schools elsewhere that there will remain surplus places. The dark brown line is likely to overtake PAN beyond 2026. Honeywell Primary school reduced its PAN from 45 to 30 in 2020, so may have sufficient accommodation to accept an increased intake in the future.

Worcester South Primary Education Planning Area

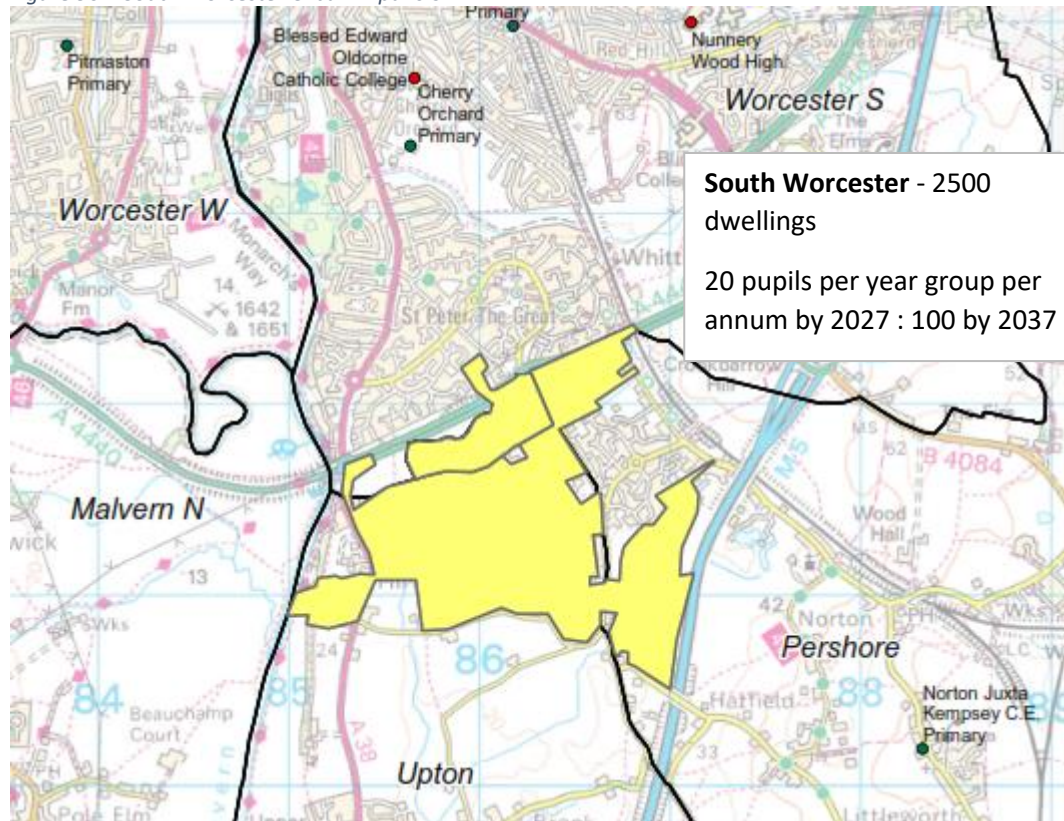
The area sits within the city of Worcester but includes a small area of Wychavon District around Whittington village. The planning area is served by six Primary Schools (Years R-6), and two Secondary Schools (Years 7-11).

6% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in South Worcester EPA, with 88% of schools deemed as 'Good'.

Primary School places are forecast to be insufficient in South Worcester Primary EPA due to major housing growth

Housing

Figure 90 – South Worcester Urban Expansion



Major housing growth is planned in the Hopfields area of South Worcester totalling circa 2500 homes up to 2037. The first phase of this scheme (238 dwellings) is complete. The Section 106 Education Planning Obligations agreement for the developer's contributions was signed for the development on 17th October 2022 and includes a new 2FE Primary School with nursery.

1000+ new dwellings are expected to be delivered up to 2030, with an expected yield of additional 31 (1FE) pupils by 2027. Ahead of the new school being delivered, the mitigation for places will include some pupils having to be offered school places further than 2 miles from home, therefore incurring transport costs for the LA.

The pupil numbers on roll are offset by 17% leaving the Southeast area of the EPA to catholic schools, special schools and schools outside the city or other areas of the city.

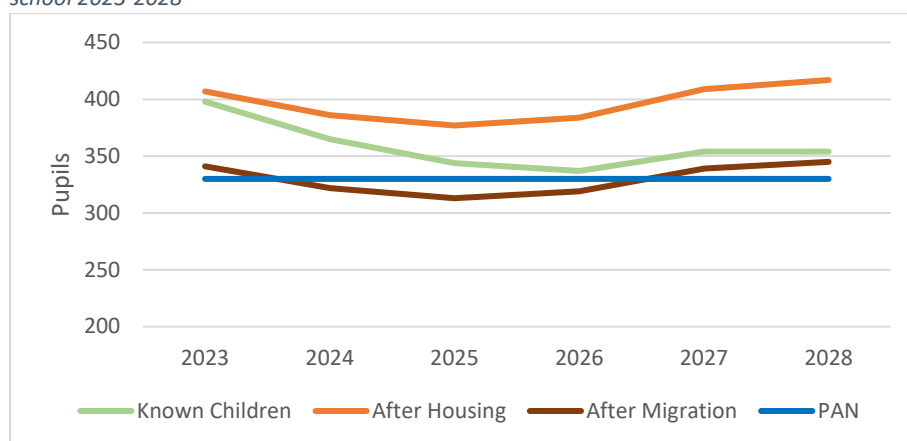
A new 2FE (60 place) Primary School will be delivered as part of the South Worcester Urban Expansion (SWUE). The school is expected to be delivered for 2028. As the SWUE housing site continues to be developed, another 1FE (30 places) will be generated every 3 years until beyond 2030-

Figure 91 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Worcester South Primary EPA

PAN 360	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
Oct-17	318	313	313	323	318	314	298
Oct-18	323	327	303	312	320	319	314
Oct-19	304	323	330	301	305	317	316
Oct-20	289	304	325	328	304	302	314
Oct-21	262	293	327	319	333	305	306
Oct-22	302	268	309	335	332	340	312
Oct-23	322	309	278	312	341	336	345
Oct-24	302	329	319	280	316	344	340
Oct-25	286	308	338	320	283	319	347
Oct-26	285	297	321	344	329	290	327

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Figure 92 –Current and forecast 3+ year olds living in the catchment areas of South Worcester primary schools due to start school 2023-2028



Allocations for September 2023 for these schools totalled 306 pupils, so the estimated transfers away from the area were conservative. Figure 90 shows Worcester South Primary EPA will be insufficient by 2027.

Worcester North Primary Education Planning Area

The entirety of the area sits within the city of Worcester. The planning area is served by twelve Primary Schools (Years R-6), and two Secondary Schools (Years 7-11), one with a sixth form.

8% of primary school aged pupils in the county are educated in the North Worcester EPA, with 14% of schools deemed as ‘Outstanding’, with the rest deemed as ‘Good’.

There is a forecast oversupply of primary school places in the Worcester North Primary EPA from 2025.

There was significant growth in the number of known children in the Claines catchment area as a result of a new housing development in Bevere but this reduced in 2020. There are 130 more

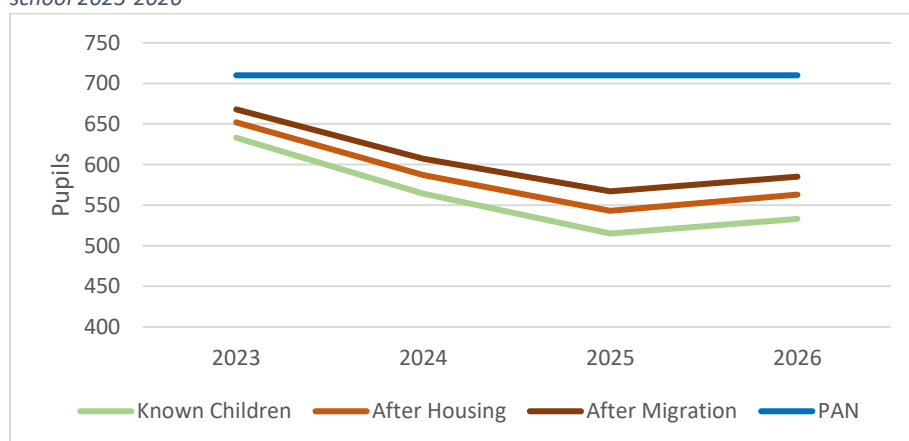
dwelling expected in the Swinesherd Way site under construction between 2022-2024. These are estimated to yield an additional 13 primary age pupils per year group by 2026.

Figure 93 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Worcester North Primary EPA

PAN 710	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
Oct-17	641	649	624	613	598	589	561
Oct-18	571	639	651	624	615	603	577
Oct-19	634	572	639	645	630	615	600
Oct-20	594	630	575	635	656	626	614
Oct-21	568	596	629	573	638	660	621
Oct-22	617	570	605	639	569	646	664
Oct-23	597	617	573	605	643	572	643
Oct-24	544	602	625	578	614	651	574
Oct-25	498	544	605	625	581	616	647
Oct-26	526	501	548	607	631	586	615

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

Figure 94 –Current and forecast 3+ year olds living in the catchment areas of North Worcester primary schools due to start school 2023-2026



Worcester Secondary Education Planning Area

Secondary School places are already, and are forecast to continue to be, insufficient in Worcester Secondary EPA.

Figure 95 - Forecast and Historic Numbers on Roll for Alvechurch First EPA

PAN 1244	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13
Oct-17	1111	1108	1037	1016	997	1111	1108
Oct-18	1158	1114	1093	1013	999	1158	1114
Oct-19	1150	1148	1089	1076	1003	1150	1148
Oct-20	1189	1135	1145	1088	1056	1189	1135
Oct-21	1203	1188	1146	1139	1073	1203	1188
Oct-22	1227	1207	1186	1136	1126	1227	1207
Oct-23	1229	1237	1214	1187	1134	171	144
Oct-24	1250	1243	1247	1218	1188	173	174
Oct-25	1166	1256	1246	1245	1212	180	170
Oct-26	1268	1179	1265	1249	1244	184	182
Oct-27	1208	1280	1188	1269	1248	189	186
Oct-28	1137	1211	1280	1183	1258	188	181
Oct-29	1230	1135	1205	1267	1168	189	175
Oct-30	1226	1227	1129	1194	1251	175	176

*Yellow cells have numbers on roll at or above 95% of PAN, orange cells have numbers on roll at or above 98% of PAN and blue cells less than 75% of PAN

The majority of the pressure for secondary school places exists within the southeast of the city, within the catchment areas of Nunnery Wood and Blessed Edward Oldcorne Secondary Schools. Appendix 1 (appendix 5 of the Cabinet report) shows the demand for secondary school places by North, West and South Worcester areas. Since Spring 2022, WCF have worked with existing Worcester City Secondary schools' leaders to identify options to mitigate the demand for Year 7 intake places and in-year admissions for other year groups. In September 2022, all existing secondary schools offered to take pupils over their PAN to accommodate the additional demand. In September 2023, one school offered to take up to one form of entry (30 pupils) above PAN, and other schools also ended up taking over PAN due to school appeals. At October 2023 Census, 1251 Year 7 pupils were recorded on roll at the five existing Worcester City secondary schools against the total PAN of 1244.

Housing

Worcester City is experiencing, and is expected to continue to experience, a large volume of housing growth. The south area is where the largest demand for places exists, and demand is expected to continue to rise. The South Worcestershire Councils are currently consulting on the requirement for an additional 14,000 dwellings across South Worcestershire up to 2041 starting delivery in 2023. Nunnery Wood and Blessed Edward Oldcorne cover the catchment area for the south of Worcester City. Forecasts are predicting a need for an additional 4FE (120 places) for September 2026 and a further 4FE (120 places) for September 2029. September 2027 and September 2028 have lower numbers of pupils forecast, but numbers still exceed the existing secondary school PANs.

In February 2021 Cabinet approved a new 4FE (120 place) secondary school to be delivered to meet the existing and ongoing demand, to open in September 2026. The 2023 Education Sufficiency Cabinet reports provides the latest update and options for Cabinet to consider to mitigate the impact of the demand for Worcester City Secondary school places over the next 6 years.

Conclusions

Although, birth rates are falling, some areas in Worcestershire have falling reception numbers, some have fluctuating numbers, and some have significant additional housing being built or planned which is forecast to yield additional families and children who will require education provision and places.

Mainstream school provision across Worcestershire is currently forecast to be sufficient overall during the period covered by this report, but we have identified a number of areas where the numbers of school places are forecast to be insufficient for the expected number of pupils in those EPAs and phases or where there will be an oversupply. We have used these forecasts to plan a number of actions in these areas and phases which are summarised below.

There will always be factors outside control measures which will impact on the actual demand for places in future years – economic changes which affect the building industry and either speed up or slow down the delivery of expected new housing, changes in patterns of migration which can mean unexpected new arrivals needing school places at short notice, and changes in parental preferences which can mean that a previously less popular school is suddenly in great demand. While it is accordingly very difficult to forecast pupil numbers totally accurately, improvements in our forecasting methodology will help us to improve the accuracy of our forecasts for 2024 and beyond. We undertake an annual review to compare forecast pupil numbers with data collated by the Admissions team on the numbers of first preferences (parents’ nominations of their preferred school for their child entering first/primary, middle or high/secondary school) and allocations of places to highlight where forecasts were less accurate and to identify the reasons why – this exercise is valuable in informing the adjustments to forecasts at an individual EPA level.

Overview of Recommended Actions

Taking the information and analysis in this report, the following tables detail the actions being taken or explored to meet the sufficiency needs for mainstream school age school places in Worcestershire over an eight-year period.

The following schemes have been approved by Worcestershire County Council’s Cabinet to respond to increased demand for school places (basic need) as outlined above and agreed with schools and Academy Trusts to be delivered.

Approved schemes	Issue	School & scheme	Delivery Year
Wyre Forest Secondary	Insufficiency	1FE (30 place) expansion Wolverley Secondary	2023
Redditch Middle - East	Insufficiency	1FE (30 place) bulge Church Hill Middle	2023
Redditch Middle - NW	Insufficiency	1FE (30 place) expansion Birchensale Middle	2024

Redditch Middle - NW	Insufficiency	1FE (30 place) bulge Birchensale Middle	2024
Redditch Middle – East	Insufficiency	1FE (30 place) bulge Church Hill Middle	2025
Worcester Secondary	Insufficiency	New 4FE (120 place) Secondary School	2026*
Redditch First - SW	Insufficiency	New 3 FE (90 place) First School & nursery – Foxlydiate	2027

*see March 2024 Education Sufficiency report for latest update

Capital funding has been approved by Cabinet to address the need for additional school places (basic need) as outlined in this report above, but the specific schools to be expanded are yet to be confirmed.

Approved schemes	Issue	Scheme	Year
Bromsgrove Middle	Insufficiency	1FE (30 place) expansion	2025 / 2026
Bromsgrove High	Insufficiency	2FE (60 place) expansion	2025

The following new schools are named within District Council plans and / or Section 106 Education Planning Obligation Agreements to mitigate the impact of new housing demand for school places. Developer contributions towards the cost of the new schools have been agreed, however, the shortfall and forward-funding will be required from existing Council capital to deliver these new schools.

Location	No. of dwellings	Provision	Indicative date required
South Worcester - Hopfields	2,500	2 FE Primary with nursery	2028
Bromsgrove – Perryfields	1,300	2 FE First with nursery	2028
West Worcester	2,365	2 FE Primary with nursery	2028
Kidderminster – Lea Castle	1,360	2 FE Primary with nursery	2028
Kidderminster East	1,340	2 FE Primary with nursery	2030
Wychavon – Mitton	500	1 FE Primary with nursery	2030
Worcester West – Rushwick	1,000	2 FE Primary with nursery	2030

In addition to the above new schools, additional education provision will be required for the new Parkway settlement.

The following areas are being monitored and may require additional provision:

EPA	Catchment School	Issue	Forecast demand	Year
Northwest Redditch First	Holyoakes Field First	Housing	1 FE expansion	2027
Wyre Forest	Wolverley Secondary	Housing	1 FE expansion	2026
Upton Primary	Kempsey Primary	Demand	Bulge	2025

Upton Secondary	Hanley Castle High	Housing	1 FE expansion	2026
Martley Secondary	The Chantry School	Demand	1 FE expansion	2026

The following EPAs have surplus places that are forecast not to reduce over the next 3 years. Discussions are taking place with certain schools over strategies for reductions or alternative uses for accommodation.

EPA
Evesham South First
Evesham East First
Bewdley Primary
Malvern North Primary
Pershore Middle
Kidderminster West Primary

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Specialist SEND Sufficiency Report 2023

Sufficiency of Education Provision for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Worcestershire

Document Details

Status: Draft v1.0

Date: March 2024

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Statutory Duties – Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities

Worcestershire County Council (WCC) has a statutory duty, under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996, to ensure there is a sufficiency of school places available to meet the needs of all children and young people living within our authority. This includes having regard to the need to secure provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). In addition, S315 of the Education Act 1996 requires that arrangements for children with SEND be kept under review.

‘Special educational needs’ is a legal definition and refers to children with learning problems or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn than most children the same age. An education, health and care plan (EHCP) is for children and young people aged up to 25 who need more support than is ordinarily available through special educational needs (SEN) support, and sets out the additional support required to meet those needs.

Worcestershire’s Children and Young People’s plan¹ outlines a belief in equity and excellence for all, and an aim to achieve the best outcomes for children and young people. This can be met with a focus for special educational needs to be assessed and met in a timely and purposeful manner. Worcestershire’s SEN strategy sets out the vision that ‘in Worcestershire we want all children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities to be truly seen and respected as individuals and to be the best they can be’². Further information regarding Worcestershire’s aims for special educational needs can also be found in the All-Age Autism Strategy³.

In pursuit of this, the SEND local offer is a source of extensive local information to enable families to access help and support at the earliest possible opportunity. Training and support are offered to staff in early-years settings, schools and colleges to enable them to develop an inclusive environment for a child with SEND, enable the child to sustain their place and remain with their local community. In cases where this cannot happen, then appropriate support is assessed and an EHCP issued. This will name the school or setting that can meet the needs of the child.

The scope of this report

In order to achieve these goals, future demand for places for children with SEND must be monitored to ensure the correct provision is in place at the correct time.

This report sets out to review historic demand for children with SEND to enable future demand to be assessed and a forecast for the next 4 years proposed (to 2026/2027).

¹ <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cypp>

² [Our SEND strategy | Our SEND strategy | Worcestershire County Council](#)

³ [All-Age Autism Strategy | Worcestershire County Council](#)

1 Changes made to SEND Provision Sept 2022-Sept 2023

Within the previous sufficiency report, it was highlighted that there was a lack of sufficient provision for children and young people with Autism (ASD), and there was no specialist provision school within the district of Malvern, meaning children with special educational needs were having to travel long distances to attend appropriate provision. Worcestershire Children First submitted a bid application to the Department for Education (DfE) for a new special free school specialising in Autism to be located within Malvern, this application was accepted, and the DfE intend for the new 120 place free school to open from September 2027.

Alongside this planned new school, further provision has been created for children with Autism with a new Enhanced Mainstream Autism Base (EMAB) opening in Worcester, at Christopher Whitehead Language College. This provision opened in September 2023. Tudor Grange Academy Redditch Treetops Enhanced Mainstream Autism Base has also been expanded to allow for an additional 25 pupils to attend from September 2023.

Previous data also showed an increase in need for provision to support children and young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH). Unity Academy in the Wyre Forest district is a new alternative provision free school, providing support and advice for up to 60 children and young people that have been excluded or are at risk of exclusion. This also opened in September 2023.

Demand for special school provision has also continued to increase, this was supported by the sufficiency analysis reported within the 2022 Sufficiency report. Four of the current nine special schools within Worcestershire have had an increase in their pupil numbers which has been in effect since September 2023. The following schools agreed to increase pupil numbers ahead of September 2023: Regency High School (32-48 places), Fort Royal School (56 places), Wyre Forest School (54 places) and Rigby Hall Schools (57 places).

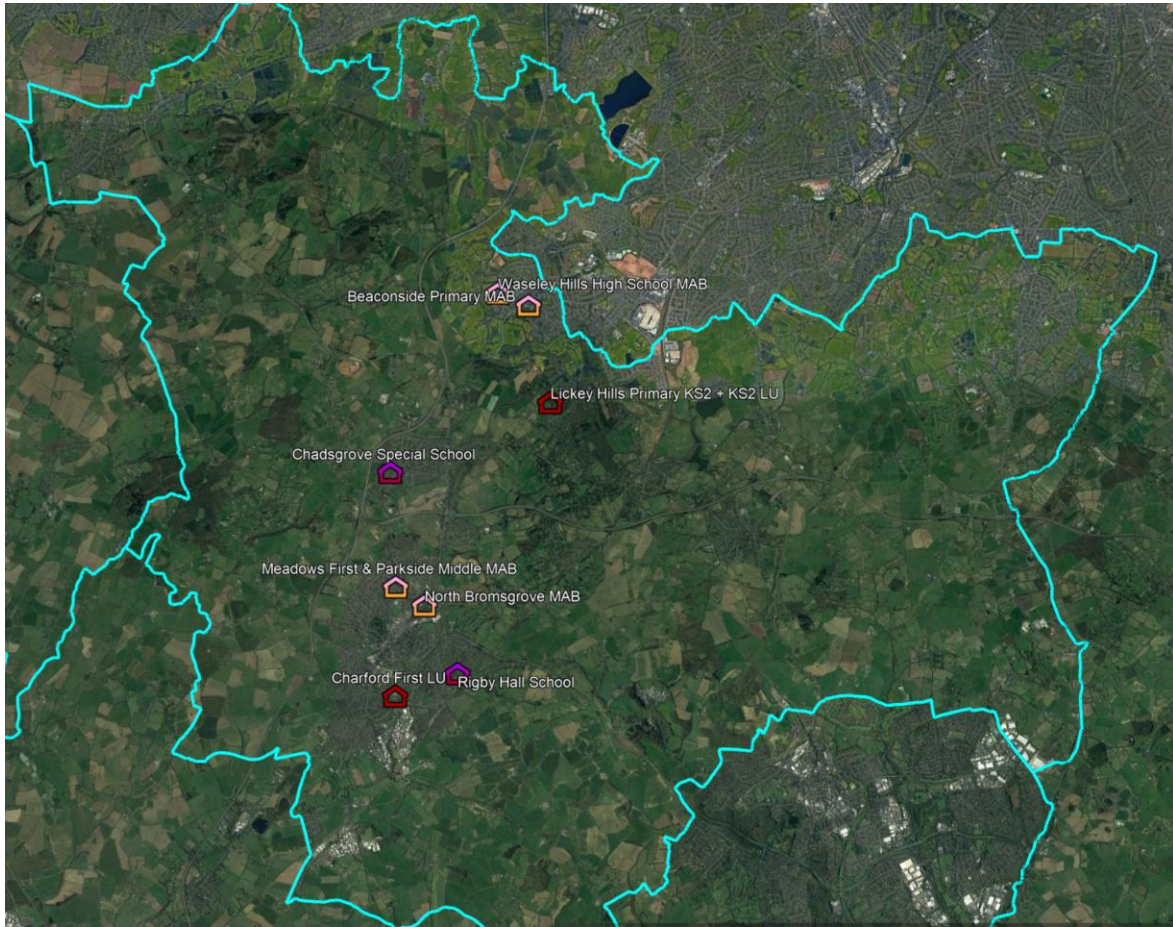
2 Worcestershire Provision for pupils with SEND

Worcestershire has a range of education provision to meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities. This ranges from mainstream schools, independent schools, mainstream schools with resourced provision or SEN Units, the Medical Education Team, Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) and Alternative Provision (AP), state-funded special schools and specialist independent provision.

There are: 9 State-Funded Special schools, 3 Pupil Referral Units, 7 Alternative Provision bases, 14 Mainstream Autism Bases of which 3 are Enhanced Mainstream Autism Bases, 5 Early Years Language Units, 5 School Age Language Units and 3 Medical Education Team bases. The areas and locations of Worcestershire's specialist provision are outlined below by district.

2.1 Bromsgrove

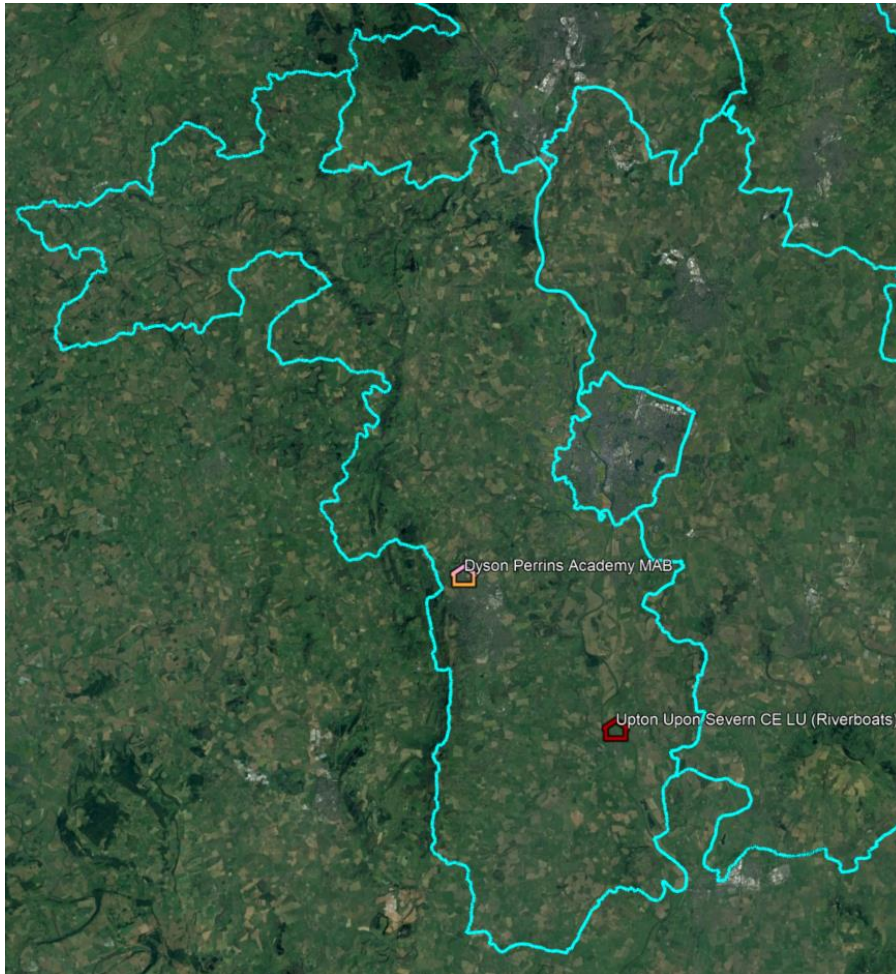
Map 1: Locations of Specialist Provision Within Bromsgrove District



Bromsgrove has 2 special schools, Chadsgrove School and College (ages 2-25) and Rigby Hall School (ages 4-19). Chadsgrove School specialises in caring for children with Physical Disabilities, Rigby Hall is a generic special catering to a variety of needs. There are 2 Language Units (Lickey Hills school age and Charford Early Years) and there are 4 MABs located within Bromsgrove supporting children through years Reception through to 11. In January 2023, there were 1,691 children and young people living in Bromsgrove requiring SEN support, and 689 with an EHCP.

2.2 Malvern

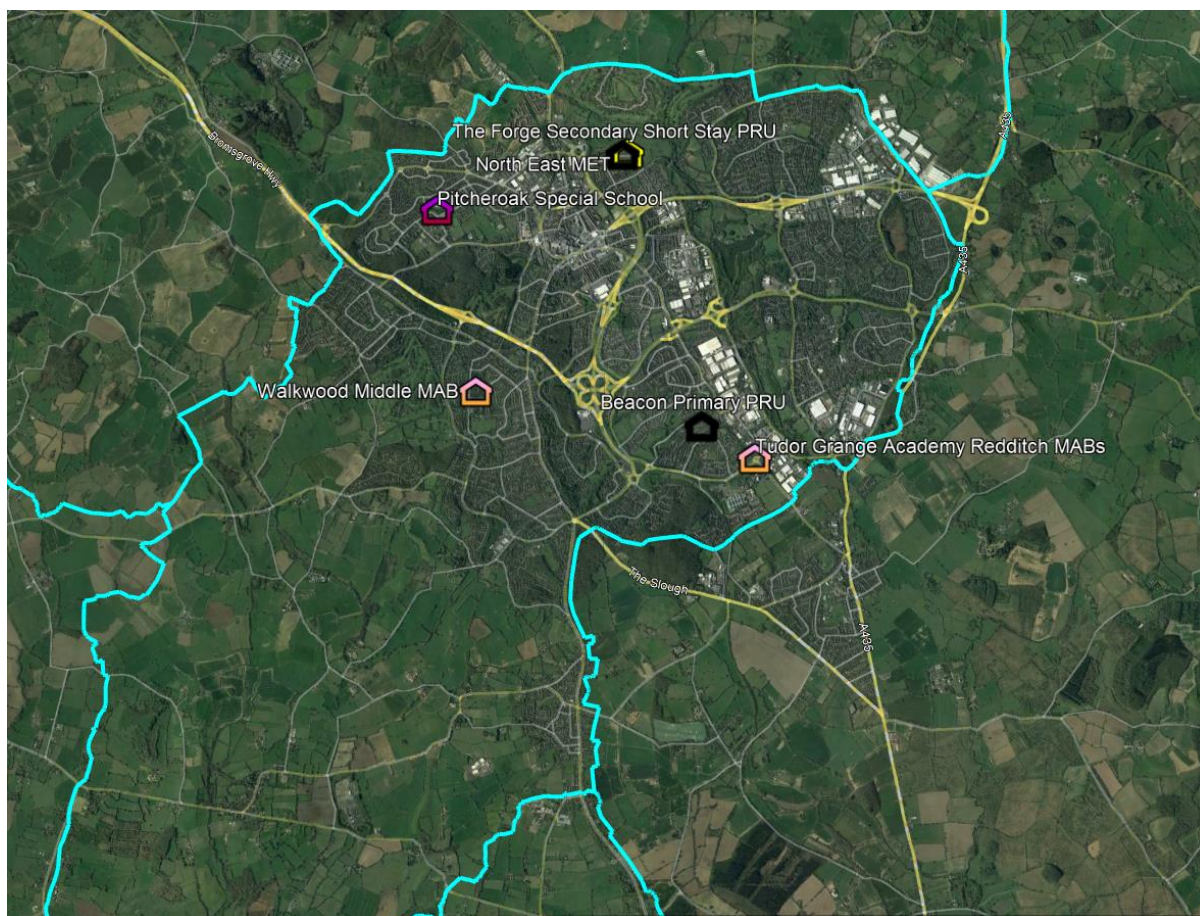
Map 2: Locations of Specialist Provision Within Malvern District



Malvern does not have any Special schools but does have a High school MAB at Dyson Perrins and an Early Years Language Unit at Upton upon Severn CE Primary school (Riverboats). 1,197 children living in Malvern require SEN Support and 623 have an EHCP. Malvern has the least amount of specialist provision across the districts. However, in September 2026, a new ASD free school is anticipated to open within the district.

2.3 Redditch

Map 3: Locations of Specialist Provision in Within Redditch District



Redditch has 2 Special schools, Kingfisher school (ages 7 to 18) and Pitcheroak school (ages 4 to 19). Kingfisher specialises in Social, Emotional and Mental Health, whereas Pitcheroak is a generic Special school. There is 1 Early Years Language Unit at Batchley First School and 1 School age Language Unit at Matchborough First School. Redditch also has 2 MABs, supporting children through years 5 to 11. There are 2 Pupil Referral Units (The Forge and The Beacon) and 1 Medical Education Team Provision. Redditch has 1,976 children and young people living within the district requiring SEN Support and 833 with an EHCP.

2.4 Worcester

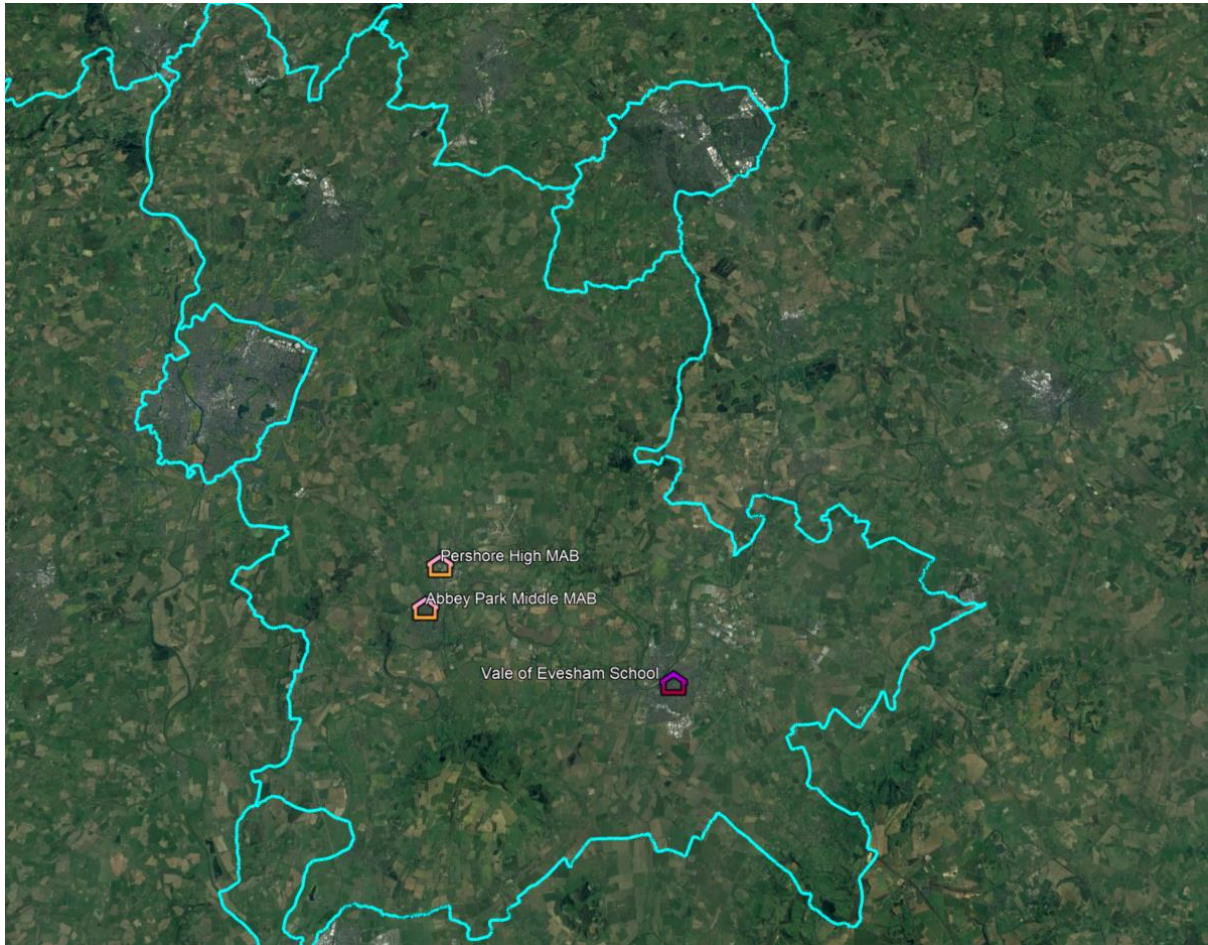
Map 4: Locations of Specialist Provision Within Worcester District



Worcester has the most Special schools within a district, Fort Royal (ages 2 to 11), Riversides (ages 7 to 16) and Regency High (ages 11 to 19). Fort Royal and Regency are both generic Special schools, whereas Riversides specialises in Social, Emotional and Mental Health. There are 2 MABs located in Worcester, supporting children in Reception to Year 11. There are 3 Alternative Provision/Pupil Referral Units, Aspire Academy AP, Perryfields Primary PRU and Newbridge Short Stay Secondary PRU. The South Medical Education Team are also located at Newbridge Short Stay Secondary PRU. There is also 1 Early Years Language Unit based at Cranham Primary school. Worcester has 1,924 children and young people living within the district requiring SEN Support and 907 with EHCPs.

2.5 Wychavon

Map 5: Locations of Specialist Provision Within Wychavon District



Wychavon has 1 generic Special school, Vale of Evesham (ages 2 to 19) and 2 MABs providing for children years 5 to 11. Wychavon has 2,089 children living within the district requiring SEN Support and 1,081 with EHCPs, the most out of all Worcestershire's districts.

2.6 Wyre Forest

Map 6: Locations of Specialist Provision Within Wyre Forest District



Wyre Forest has 1 generic Special school, Wyre Forest School (ages 3 to 19). There are 2 MABs aiding students in Reception to Year 11. There are also 2 Alternative Provision bases. Wyre Forest has the most Language Units, 3 School Age and 1 Early Years. The Medical Education Team (North) are based at Lea Street. There are 2,443 children and young people requiring SEN Support (the largest number across Worcestershire) and 824 with EHCPs.

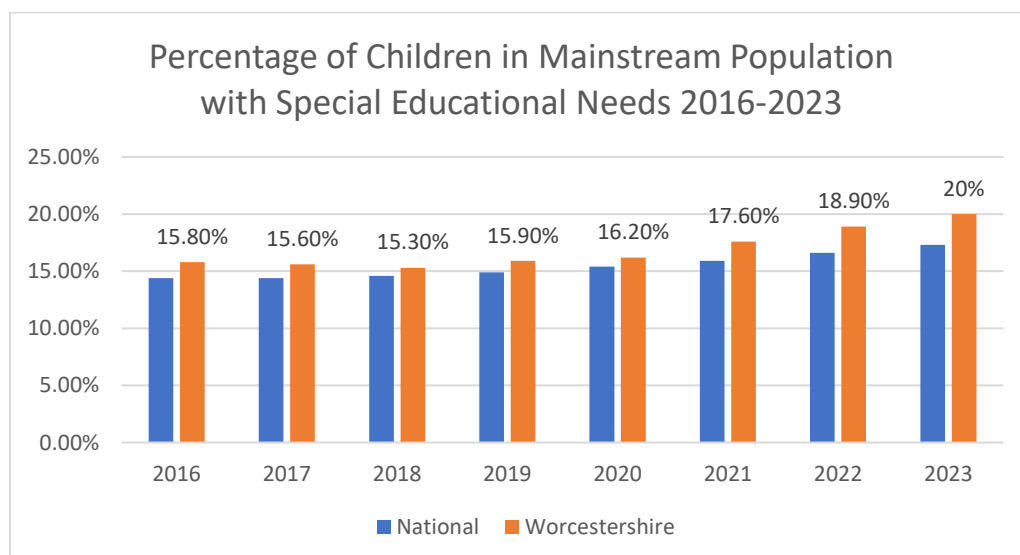
3 National Trends

3.1 Children with Special Educational Needs and EHCPs

The Spring term school census, undertaken annually in January, records the special educational needs of pupils attending state-funded schools. This submission from all state-funded schools enables Worcestershire County Council (WCC) to benchmark the needs of our school-age children against national trends and to assess changes in need. There is also data from the annual SEN2 survey which needs to be considered when assessing need across Worcestershire. The SEN2 information records every child or young person within Worcestershire with an EHCP and the setting they attend. To provide the most accurate figures for Special Educational Needs, the January Census has been combined with the February SEN2 data (duplicates removed) to ensure all Worcestershire children with EHCPs or SEN support are included in the analysis.

The school census records pre-school aged children in school nurseries, and children in Reception to Year 14 (age 4 to 19) in all types of state-funded schools including academies, free schools, alternative provision, special schools, and pupils in sixth forms linked to schools. While this will include some nursery-age children and some children over 16 years old, it will not include all those with EHCPs attending private, voluntary, or independent (PVI) early years settings, colleges, Electively Home Educated, independent schools or not on roll at a school on census day. The SEN2 data includes all children ‘for whom the local authority has a responsibility for the management of the SEN processes, under the 1996 Education Act and the 2014 Children and Families Act’⁴. The children have an EHCP including those attending independent provision or Electively Home Educated.

Figure 1: Percentage of Children in Mainstream Population with Special Educational Needs 2016-2023



A review of the school Census data from January 2023 and the SEN2 Census, shows that 20% of pupils educated in Worcestershire are identified as having special educational needs with 13.9% requiring SEN support and 6.80% have an EHCP. The current levels of pupils with an EHCP in Worcestershire is higher than the latest known national rate, which is 4.3% of the mainstream pupil

⁴ Pg6, [SEN2 2022 Guide \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

population. This includes all state-funded nursery, primary, secondary, and special schools, non-maintained special schools, pupil referral units and independent schools.

Figure 2: National DfE Returns and Worcestershire January 2023 Census and SEN2

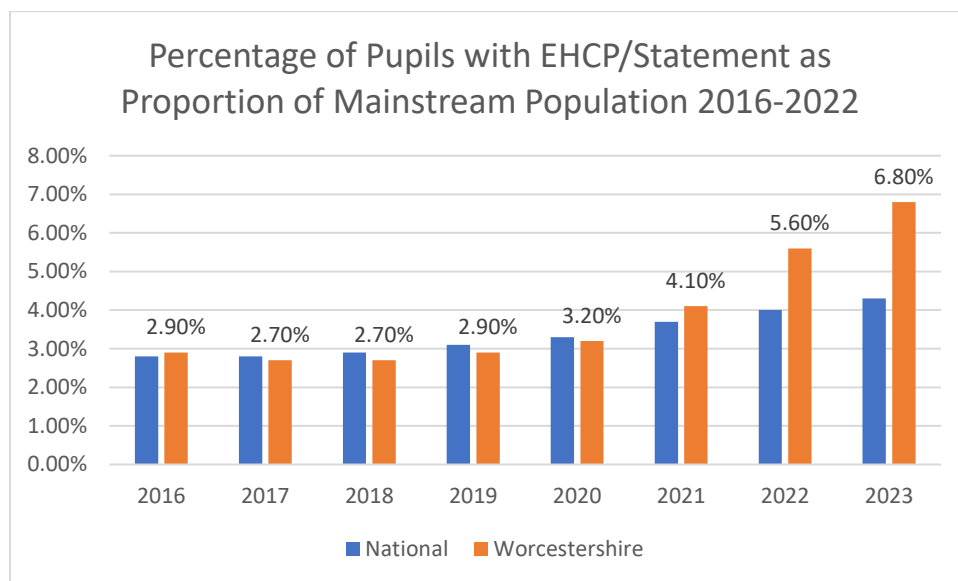


Figure 2 shows that the percentages of children with EHCPs have continued to rise. Between 2021 and 2023, there has been a more rapid rise in Worcestershire. There is a difference of 2.5 percentage points in the percentages of children with EHCP nationally and in Worcestershire.

Figure 3: National DfE Returns and Worcestershire January 2023 Census and SEN2

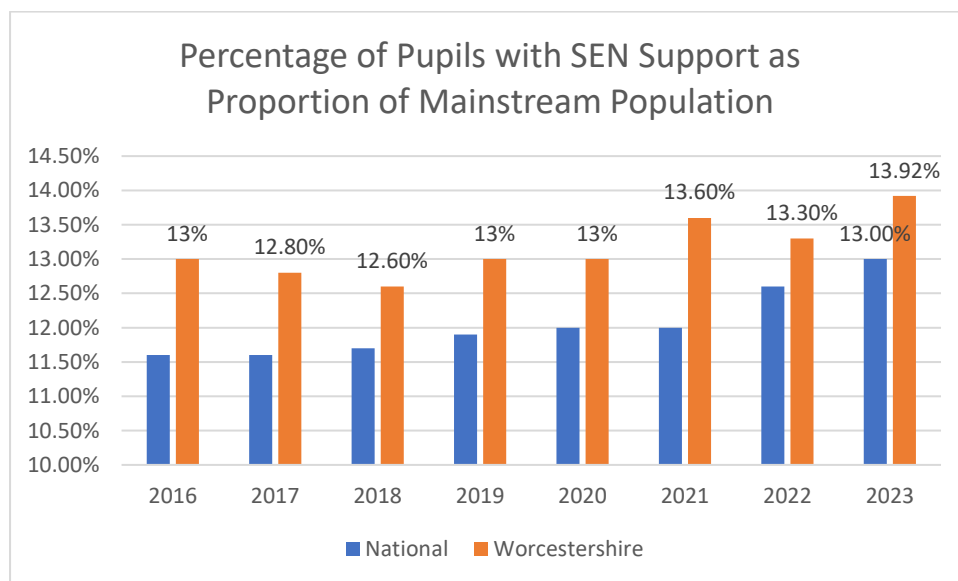


Figure 3 shows there has been an increase of 0.6 percentage points of children and young people requiring SEN Support in Worcestershire since 2022. Between 2022 and 2023, nationally the percentage points of children and young people requiring SEN Support has increased by 0.6% also.

The number of pupils educated in Worcestershire as at the January school census has grown in recent years from 78,350 in January 2016 to 82,897 in January 2023, an increase of 589 from January 2022. With the SEN2 data combined, this brings the total to 84,747. The level of children with

identified SEND is at its highest. It is therefore assumed that over the next several years, the percentages of children with identified SEND in Worcestershire will continue to increase in relation to the school population.

Migration into Worcestershire

Worcestershire has 136 children and young people that have an EHCP attending provision within the county that reside in one of the surrounding neighbouring counties such as West Midlands, Warwickshire and Herefordshire.

Of the children living out of county travelling into Worcestershire who have an EHCP, 64% travel from the county of West Midlands, this is followed by 15% travelling from Herefordshire. 55% of the children from West Midlands are attending specialist provision within Worcestershire.

The most common areas of need for children with an EHCP that live out of county but attend Worcestershire provision are children with Autism and Cognitive needs.

Forecasting methodology

The forecast used for each type of provision takes into account demographic growth in each area, and new housing developments, with the trends of the previous five years. The forecasting data used for the 2023 SEND sufficiency report includes the countywide forecast (including the mainstream forecast and the 5 Year Land Supply reports from each district council within Worcestershire) alongside a 5-year average number of new EHCPs. The forecast number of pupils generated from new housing is not as predictable as demographic growth and therefore the anticipated pupil yield is calculated as a percentage of the number of pupils by age group living in recently built housing, matching school census data to housing developments to determine actual pupil number and characteristics over time.

Forecasting accuracy

Unlike for mainstream school forecasting, the Department for Education (DfE) have not until summer 2023 required local authorities to submit forecasts and capacity data for provision reserved for pupils with SEND. Therefore, there is no comparison between Worcestershire and its statistical neighbours for forecasting accuracy.

When we compare the forecasts produced for September 2022 with the actual demand for places, we can see our forecast had shown a 1.7% difference to the actual total of special school places in January 2023.

Table 1: Special school 2022 forecast totals and actual January Census NOR

	Total	Percentage Difference
Combined Special School Forecast (Sufficiency 2022)	1,676	1.7%
Combined Special School Actual Jan Census (2023)	1,704	

3.2 Types of Needs

The 'SEND Code of Practice 2015: 0 to 25 years old' explains the duties of local authorities, health bodies, schools, and college to provide for those with special educational needs under part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014. It identifies four broad areas of special educational need as:

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health
- Sensory and/or Physical needs

Although pupils may have a combination of needs, the school census can only record a primary and secondary need.

The SEN Code of Practice⁵ emphasises that the 'purpose of identification is to work out what action the education provision needs to take, not to fit a pupil into a category. In practice, individual children or young people often have needs that cut across several areas and their needs may change over time. A detailed assessment of need should ensure that the full range of an individual's needs is identified, not simply the primary need'⁶.

Although the government wishes to move away from assumptions about pupils' needs based upon their difficulty or disability, it is still necessary to record specific categories of need to allow government and local authorities to predict levels of future resource requirements. The following categories of need are collected through the statutory school census:

Code	Type of Need
ASD	Autistic spectrum disorder
HI	Hearing impairment
MLD	Moderate learning difficulties
MSI	Multi-sensory impairment
NSA	No specialist Assessment ⁷
OTH	Other difficulty or disability ⁸
PD	Physical difficulty
PMLD	Profound and multiple learning difficulty
SEMH	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
SLCN	Speech, Language & Communication Needs
SLD	Severe learning difficulty
SPLD	Specific learning difficulty
VI	Visual impairment

⁵ [SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

⁶ Section 6.27 [SEND Code of Practice January 2015.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)

⁷ This code was introduced in 2014 and aimed at those who transferred from School Action to SEN Support but are yet to be formally assessed for their type of special educational need.

Pg6. [SEN 2018 Technical document.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)

⁸ The 'Other' category is sometimes used to classify complex cases which have aspects of ASD and either PMLD or SLD. Also, the category 'Other' may have been allocated due to delay in an official diagnosis by a healthcare professional.

The 'Other' category is sometimes used to classify complex cases which have aspects of ASD and either PMLD or SLD. Also, the category 'Other' may have been allocated due to delay in an official diagnosis by a healthcare professional.

The following charts detail the percentage distribution of primary needs for Worcestershire pupils with SEN Support or an EHCP.

Chart 1: Distribution of Primary Needs in Pupils with EHCPs, January Census and SEN2

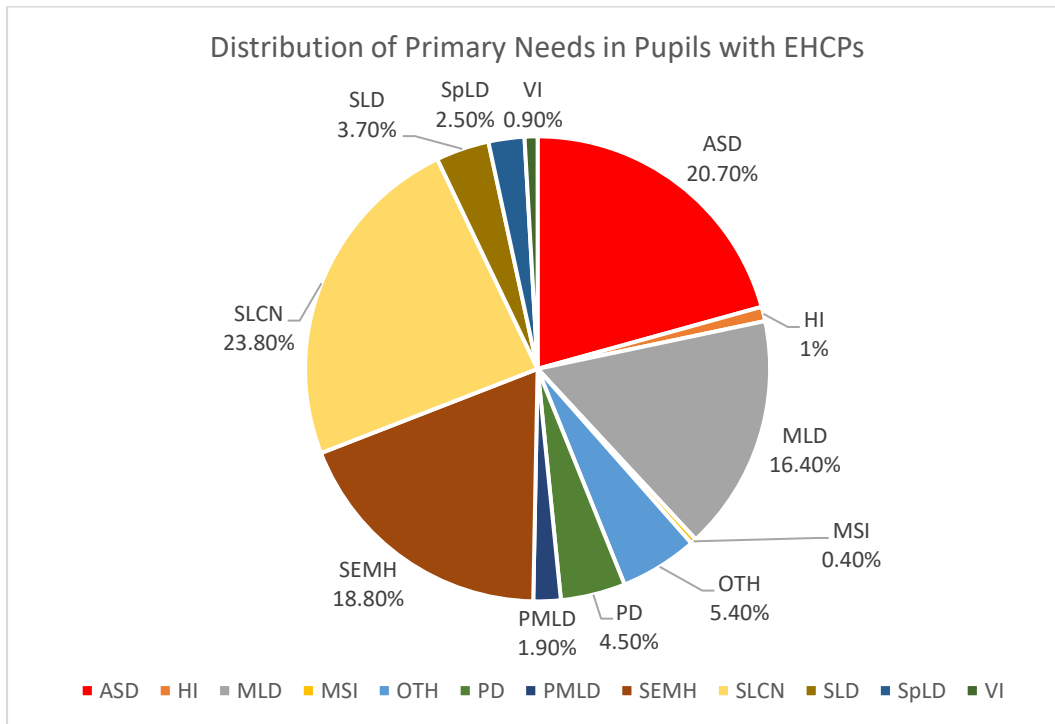
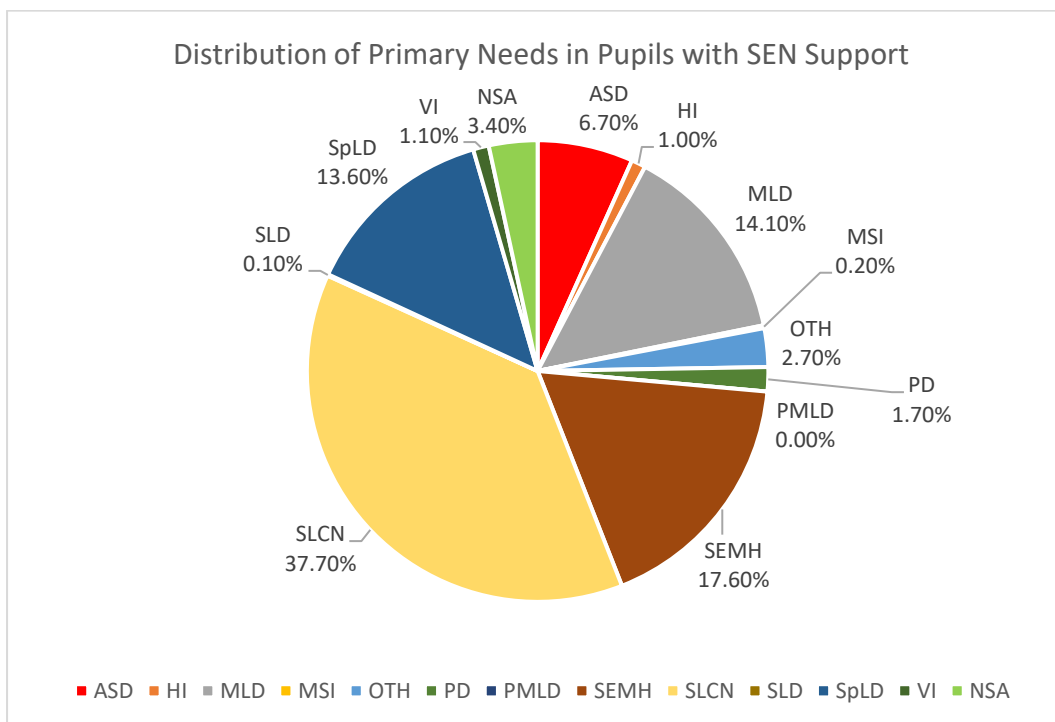


Chart 2: Distribution of Primary Needs in Pupils with SEN Support, January Census and SEN2



This proportion identifies categories of SEND that are more often supported without the need for an EHCP. There are more pupils with SEN Support that have the primary needs of Speech, Language and Communication (SLCN) and Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD). There is a much higher percentage of pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) alongside higher percentage of children with Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) who have EHCPs.

National data released by the DfE for 2023 identifies SLCN as the most common area of need for pupils receiving SEN Support at 25.5% and SEMH at 21%. Children with the primary need categorised as ASD is the most common need for pupils with EHCPs at 32.2%.

A child's primary need may not be the only special educational need of the child. There is evidence gathered by the Council for Disabled Children (CDC) whose research has found that the numbers of 'pupils with complex needs have increased dramatically by 50% since 2004'⁹. This report considers children with life limiting conditions that are now better supported by health care advances, improved survival rates of pre-term births as well as the poor recording and tracking of children with multiple needs, as leading to an increase in the understanding of children with complex needs and therefore difficulty with ensuring suitable provision for children's special educational needs. For instances, SLCN can also be a feature of a number of other areas of SEN, and children and young people with ASD may have needs across all areas, including particular sensory requirements.

Other research by the Beacon School Support¹⁰ supports the view that nationally there are higher survival rates in extremely premature babies, 60% of babies born at 24 weeks survive, half of babies born before 26 weeks will have a severe disability. Children may have more complex developmental and sensory needs identified at birth. These children are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment that affects learning, development and health and are likely to require a high level of special educational provision. The Research also suggests that more children are being diagnosed with Autism because the way ASD is diagnosed has changed, the scope of diagnosis has widened, so children who would not have been diagnosed in the past are being diagnosed now. There is also greater awareness of SEND by parent carers, and professionals.

⁹ [Understanding the needs of disabled children with complex needs or life-limiting conditions \(councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk\)](https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk)

¹⁰ <https://beaconschoolsupport.co.uk/newsletters/why-are-there-more-children-with-complex-special-needs-than-ever-before>

Figure 4: Children and Young People with EHCPs by Primary Need Attending Mainstream Provision, January Census and SEN2

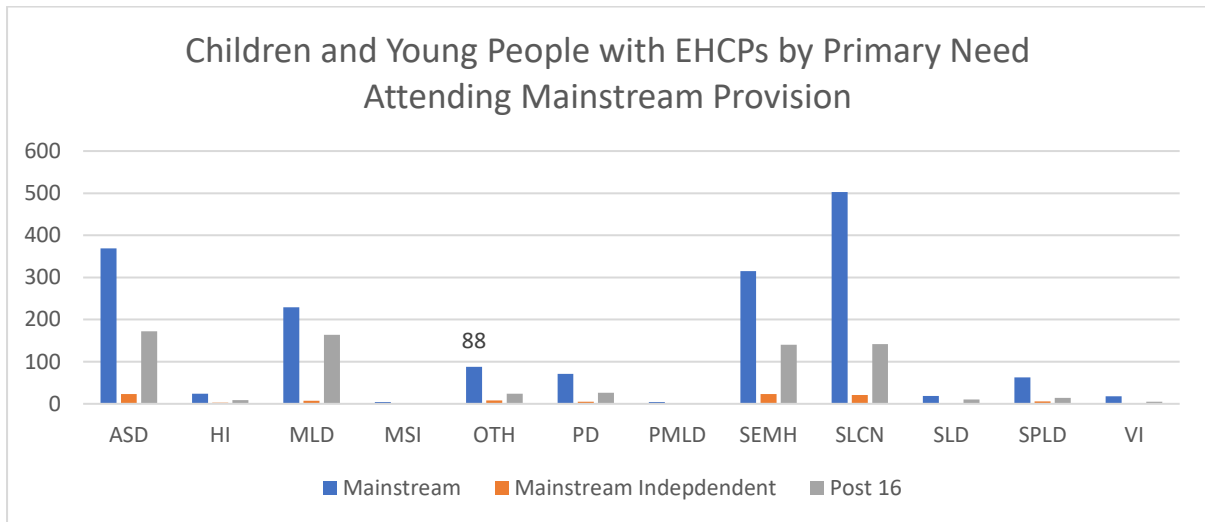


Figure 5: Children and Young People with EHCPs by Primary Need Attending Specialist Provision, January Census and SEN2

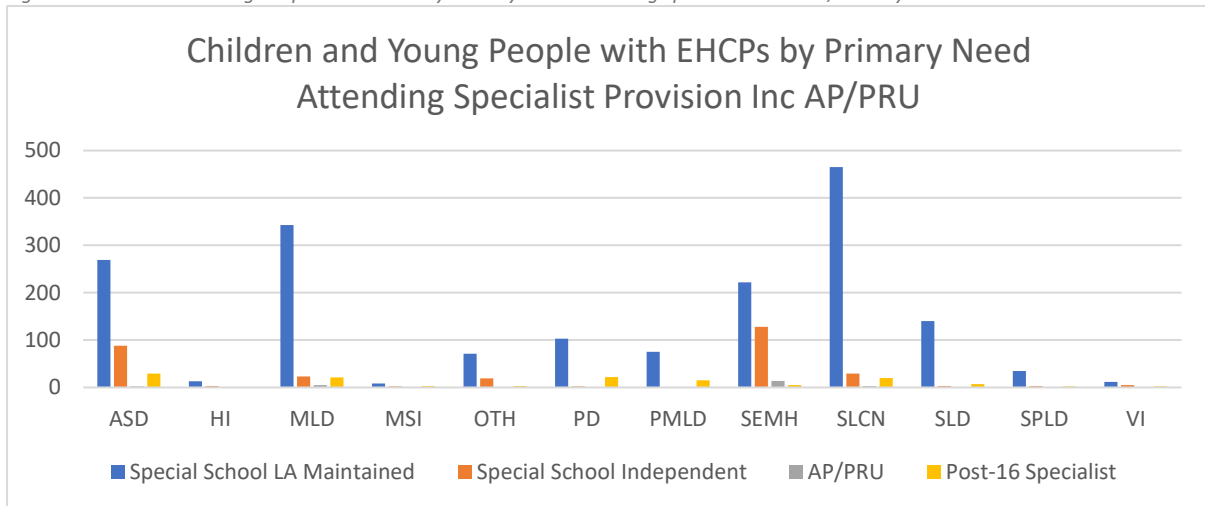
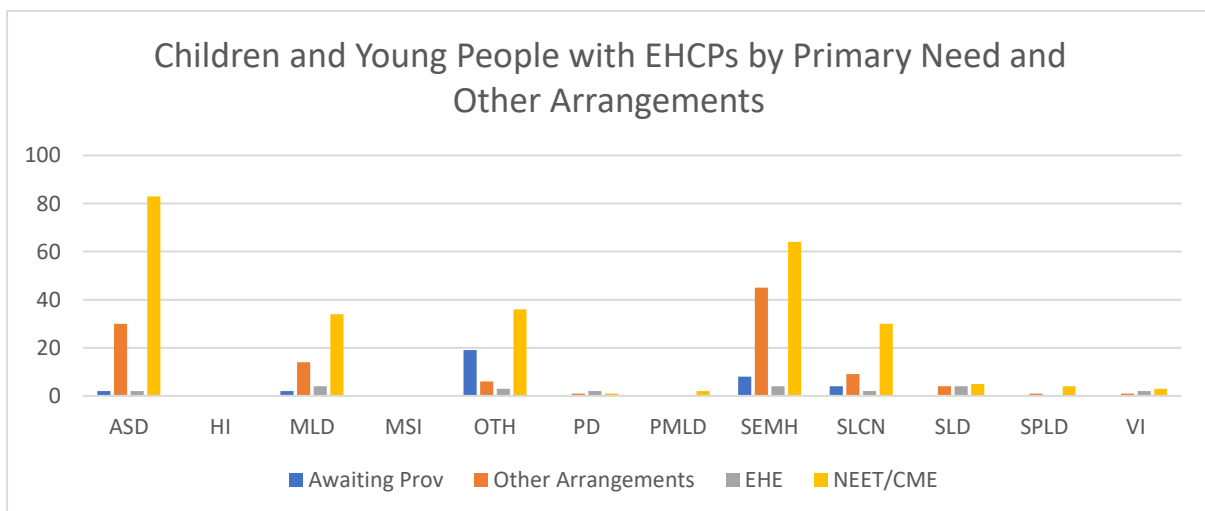


Figure 6: Children and Young People with EHCPs by Primary Need and Other Provision, January Census and SEN2



Figures 4 to 6 show the type of provision children with EHCPs are attending and their primary need. 41% of children with an EHCP and primary need of SLCN (the largest cohort) attend Mainstream schools, while 38% attend an LA maintained special school.

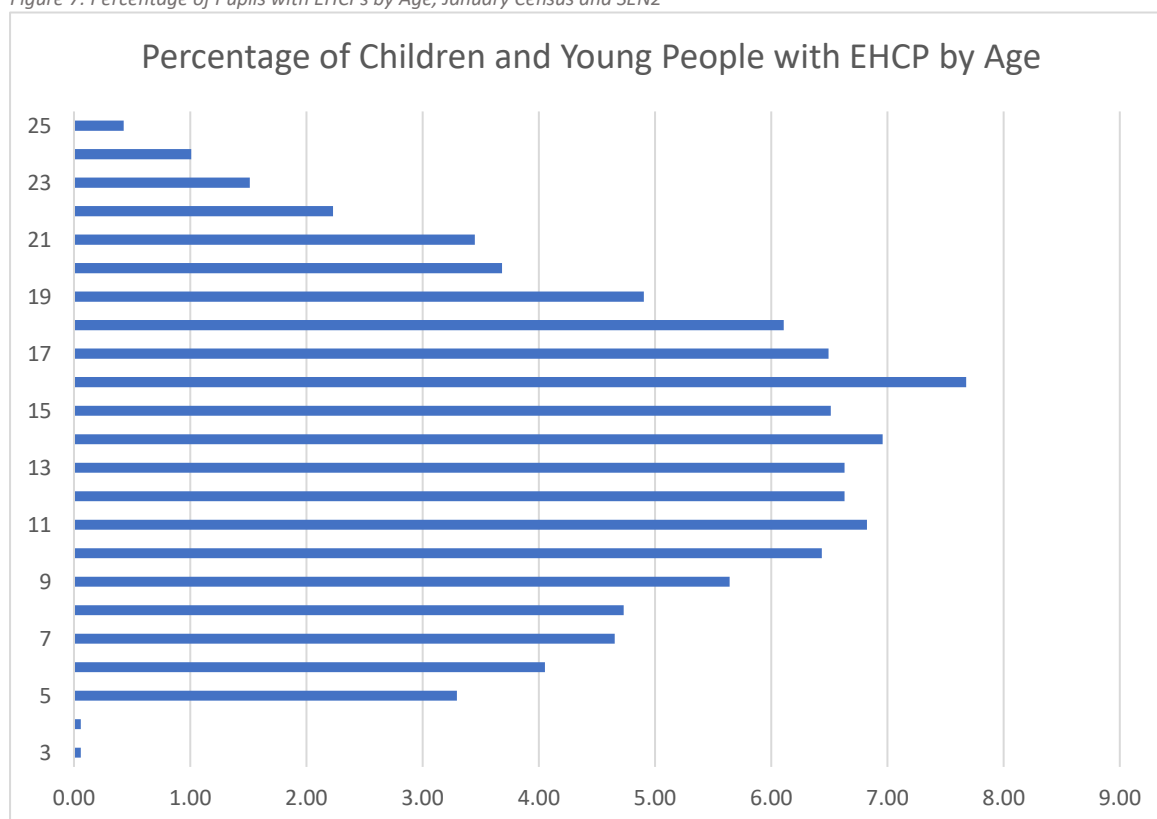
Children with the primary need of Other mostly attend mainstream provision. For children within figure 6, the 15% have the primary need classed as Other, 56% of those are NEET. SEMH is the most common primary need for children awaiting provision/other arrangements/EHE/NEET or CME, at 28%, this is followed by children with Autism at 27%.

3.3 Need by Age Group

The needs of children vary by age and often become more acute for older children due to educational or environmental challenges. There are low numbers of identified SEN needs in earlier years due to difficulty in diagnosis or even being aware there may be a need. In older years, children tend to be able to manage better with many of the needs they may have through ordinarily available support. The different profile for year groups of pupils with EHCPs and those requiring SEN Support allow us to direct resources to the correct age groups to reach the children in need of special educational support.

Further analysis of this year’s data for children in schools in Worcestershire show that those in the secondary phase have the highest percentage of pupils with EHCPs, making up 64.25%.

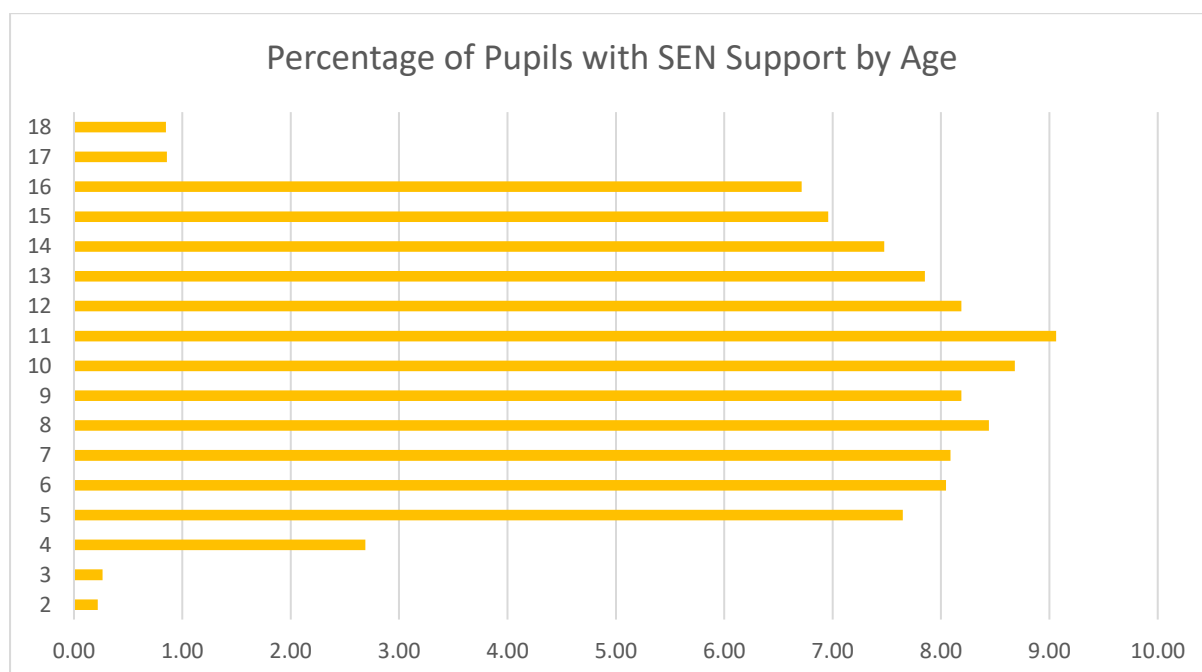
Figure 7: Percentage of Pupils with EHCPs by Age, January Census and SEN2



The percentage of pupils receiving SEN Support by age shows larger numbers in primary phase (children aged 4 to 11) compared to secondary (children aged 11 to 16) and a small percentage

where children would be in the sixth form phase. The largest percentage with EHCPs is with 16-year-olds, falling in the NCY Year 11.

Figure 8: Percentage of Pupils with SEN Support by Age, January Census and SEN2



Note, that this data is from the school census and therefore only includes a particular data set of children. The school census is a snapshot of children on the day the census is recorded. Also, there will be a number of children who are not enrolled with an education provision and therefore not registered on the census.

4 Provision for Children with Education, Health and Care Plans

4.1 Trends in EHC Plans

The 2023 January Census and SEN2 reports that there were 5,158 Worcestershire children and young people (aged 0-25) with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), for whom the Authority has responsibility¹¹. This represents a 9.5% increase from 2022, however, new plans are not written uniformly through the year. The significant increase in the number of EHCPs in Worcestershire since 2016 has in part, been a result of rising population numbers, however this does not explain the trend entirely. Over the last several years, the number of EHCPs as a percentage of the total population (including independent schools and post-16 establishments) has increased from 2.9% in January 2016 to 6.8% in 2023. A significant contribution to this has been the rise in the post-16 population with an EHCP following a change in Government legislation¹² where the educational or training

¹¹ [SEND Code of Practice 0 to 25](#)

¹² Children and Families Act 2014

outcomes of the EHCP are not achieved by age 18, the EHCP can remain in place until the young person reaches 25.

When extracting the number of children and young people with an EHCP up to the age of 25 compared to the total pupil population of Worcestershire (84,756), 6.08% of all pupils have an EHCP¹³.

Table 2: EHCPs by Age Range – January Census and SEN2

	Jan-17	Jan-18	Jan-19	Jan-20	Jan-21	Jan-22	Jan-23
Under age 5 (NCY 0, -1 & -2)	55	84	83	110	118	135	109
Aged 5 to 10 (NCY 0 – NCY 5)	842	908	992	1,214	1,293	1,475	1,612
Aged 11 to 15 (NCY 6 – NCY 10)	1,078	1,120	1,220	1,339	1,473	1,612	1,757
Aged 16 to 19 (NCY 11 – NCY 14)	628	807	966	959	939	1,055	1,166
Aged 20 to 25 (NCY 15 – NCY 19)	89	145	241	431	359	413	514
Total	2,692	3,064	3,502	4,053	4,182	4,690	5,158
Annual Increase	7%	13%	14%	15%	4%	12%	10%

The highest number of EHCPs are within the age range of 11 to 15 years old, this has been consistent since 2017. This is followed by children aged 5 to 10 years old, which has also been consistent in its positioning since 2017.

Table 3: EHCPs by type of provision in Worcestershire – January Census and SEN2

	Jan-17	Jan-18	Jan-19	Jan-20	Jan-21	Jan-22	Jan-23
All Pupils for whom the Authority maintains a statement of Special Educational Needs or EHC Plan	2,692	3,064	3,502	4,053	4,182	4,690	5,158
Special Schools – LA-funded	1,228	1,332	1,385	1,517	1,524	1,641	1,756
Special Schools - Independent	89	120	134	152	208	228	305
Mainstream Schools – LA-funded	811	808	910	1,207	1,373	1,472	1,707
Mainstream - Independent	56	54	80	97	81	125	98
General Further Education	394	553	669	702	696	752	708
Specialist Further Education	43	88	88	93	90	111	129
Electively Home Educated	37	40	39	44	48	31	23
CME/NEET	18	31	106	39	25	49	262
Alternative Provision	7	5	11	24	17	30	24
Awaiting Placement	8	9	24	45	55	28	35
Other	1	24	56	133	65	106	111
Total	2,692	3,064	3,502	4,053	4,182	4,690	5,158

¹³ Children and Young People with an EHCP, January Census and SEN2

In January 2023, of the 5,158 children with an EHCP, 34% were attending LA-funded Special Schools and 33% attending LA-funded mainstream schools.

837 young people (16.2%) are attending post-16 colleges. This corresponds to the responsibility to continue education opportunities up to the age of 25 for young people with EHCPs. Those attending specialist further education has continued to increase from 111 in 2022 to 129 in 2023. Some of the colleges will be specialist independent institutions with residential facilities based out of county.

403 children (7.8%) are in independent school, either special or mainstream. This demand is driven by the suitability of placements and parental choice but may be exacerbated by a shortage of spaces in LA-funded specialist provision.

The number of children with EHCPs attending maintained special schools has decreased from 46% in 2017, to 34% in 2023. Nationally, figures have decreased since 2018 from 35% to 28%. There has been a continued increase in the number of children with an EHCP attending independent provision, increasing in Worcestershire by 0.3% since last year. The opposite has happened nationally, decreasing by 0.3% since 2022.

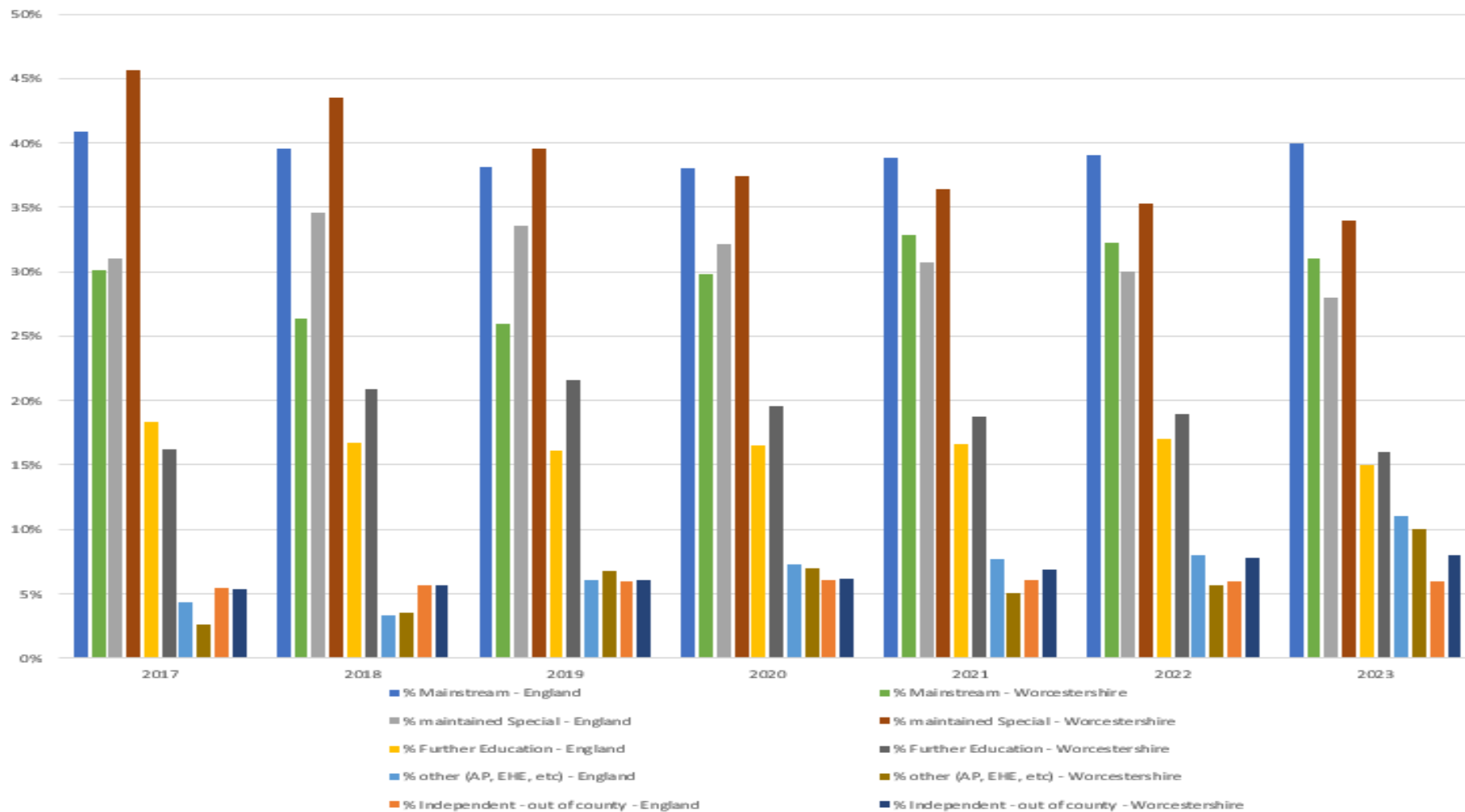
The table below compares the proportion of Worcestershire children with EHCPs attending mainstream, independent, or special schools using DfE statistics.

Table 4: Analysis of Forecast SEN Pupils (SEN2 only)

	Eng.							Worcs.						
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
EHCPs	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
All Schools	175k	279k	354k	390k	430k	468k	517k	2,692	3,064	3,502	4,053	4,182	4,555	4,904
Mainstream Schools	71,594	110.6k	135k	148.2k	167.4	186.4	206.9	811	808	910	1,207	1,373	1,471	1,538
Maintained Special	54,352	96,734	118.9k	125.3k	132.1k	140k	145k	1,228	1,332	1,385	1,517	1,524	1,609	1,676
Independent Schools	9,649	15,873	21,150	23,611	26,301	29,445	32,303	145	174	214	249	289	353	389
Further Education	32,066	46,854	57,191	64,437	71,728	73,870	76,476	437	641	757	795	786	865	805
Other	7,524	9,361	21,544	28,315	32,929	38,866	55,456	71	109	236	285	210	256	491
% Mainstream	41%	40%	38%	38%	39%	40%	40%	30%	26%	26%	30%	33%	32%	31%
% Independent	6%	5.7%	6%	6.1%	6.1%	6.3%	6%	5.4%	5.7%	6.1%	6.1%	6.9%	7.7%	8%
% Maintained Special	31%	35%	34%	32%	31%	30%	28%	46%	43%	40%	37%	36%	35%	34%
% Further Education	18%	17%	16%	17%	17%	16%	15%	16%	21%	22%	20%	19%	19%	16%
% Other (AP, EHE)	4%	3%	6%	7%	8%	8%	11%	3%	4%	7%	7%	5%	6%	10%

In 2022/23, 31% of children with an EHCP attended a mainstream school (this includes SEN units and Resource Provision), this compares with 40% nationally. 34% of children with an EHCP were attending maintained special provision, nationally, this figure is 28%. Both figures for maintained special have continued to decrease since 2018 nationally and 2017 in Worcestershire. The rate in which the percentage of children attending maintained special schools has decreased at a slower rate than nationally in comparison to last year, by 1%, whereas nationally, this was 2%. There was a significant increase (+4%) in children and young people with EHCPs in Worcestershire being Electively Home Educated (EHE) between 2022 and 2023, however, this is in line with the same increase nationally (+5%).

Figure 9: Percentage of Children with EHCP and Type of Provision – SEN2 Returns



The gap between the percentage of children attending maintained special schools and mainstream schools has remained at 3% for the last 3 years in Worcestershire. There is a difference of 9% between national (40%) and Worcestershire (31%) percentage of pupils attending mainstream schools, this has increased from 7% in 2022. There has also been a further increase in the difference of children attending maintained special, Worcestershire (34%) data is 6% higher than the nationally (28%). Again, this gap has also increased since 2022 where the difference had previously been 5%. The national percentage has decreased from 30% in 2022 and the Worcestershire percentage has decreased from 35% in 2022.

We can expect the rise in the percentage of children with EHCPs to continue over the next several years as the trends and changes in the system continue to have a positive impact on the identification of support needed by pupils to achieve their full potential. However, this has an impact on the provision that is needed and available.

Table 5 below shows the forecast number of pupils with EHCPs in county by type of provision if Worcestershire was in line with National percentages:

Table 5: Number of EHCPs in Worcestershire, Current Figures (SEN2) and Figures if in Line with National Percentage, DfE Data 2023

District	Number of pupils with EHCPs attending Maintained Special Actual (Worcs 34%)	Number of pupils with EHCPs in Maintained Special if in line with National (28%)	Difference	Number of pupils with EHCPs attending Mainstream schools Actual (Worcs 31%)	Number of pupils with EHCPs in Mainstream if in line with National (40%)	Difference
Bromsgrove	197	161	-36	242	294	52
Malvern	179	147	-32	215	261	46
Redditch	308	252	-56	234	284	50
Worcester	308	252	-56	311	377	66
Wychavon	353	289	-64	331	402	71
Wyre Forest	326	267	-59	276	335	59
OOC	6	4	-2	8	10	2
Totals	1,677	1,374	-303	1,617	1,962	345

If Worcestershire were in line with national percentages for the number of children with an EHCP in maintained special schools (28%), we would see a decrease of 304 pupils on roll at a Special School. On the other hand, the number of pupils with an EHCP attending Mainstream schools would increase by 423 if Worcestershire were inline with the national statistic of 40%.

4.2 Analysis of Current Pupils with EHCPs

For the purpose of this analysis, we assume (based on recent evidential trends) that the number of EHCPs will continue to rise with age and be more frequent among boys than girls in all areas of need except for physical/sensory. The Education Planning Areas (EPAs) with more pupils, such as Worcester, Redditch and Kidderminster, will also have more children with EHCPs. This analysis compares the actual spread of children with EHCPs against this expectation.

4.2.1 Communication and Interaction

- 1,069 children from the January Census and SEN2 data have an EHCP with a primary need of Autism (ASD).
- Wychavon continues to have the highest number of children with an EHCP for ASD (251).
- Across all the districts, boys significantly outnumber girls with an Autism diagnosis and an EHCP. 77.6% of children with ASD and an EHCP in Worcestershire are male.
- Consistent with last year's data, the highest number of children with an EHCP with the primary need of ASD across all districts are within the age range of 11 to 15 years old.
- Of the 1,069 children with an EHCP and ASD, 38.4% are Post-16, followed by 34.5% of children in KS3 (11 to 15 years old).
- Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) also falls under the communication and interaction category, there are 1,228 children in Worcestershire with EHCPs and a primary need of SLCN.
- Worcester has the highest number of children who have an EHCP with SLCN primary need. As with ASD, there are greater numbers of boys than girls with this primary need. Across all districts, the highest numbers of children with SLCN and an EHCP is in the age 5 to 10 category.
- The highest percentage of children with SLCN and EHCP is in Worcester at 20.4% of the county total, this is closely followed by Wyre Forest at 19.4%.
- Aside from out-of-county children, Malvern has the lowest percentage of EHCPs with primary needs of SLCN across the county at 9.9%.

4.2.2 Cognition and Learning

- The cognition category includes children with Moderate Learning Difficulty (MLD), Severe Learning Difficulty (SLD), Profound Multiple Learning Difficulty (PMLD) and Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD).
- There are 1,263 children and young people with cognition and learning needs and an EHCP.
- Bromsgrove continues to have the lowest number of EHCPs with primary need covering cognition and learning across the districts.
- Of the 1,263, 67% of these have the primary need of MLD. Across Worcestershire's districts, the age range of 11 to 15 has the most children with MLD needs. Children with Significant Learning Difficulties vary most between 5 to 15 years old.
- This is similar with Specific Learning Difficulties, Bromsgrove, Malvern, Worcester, Wychavon and Wyre Forest all have the largest cohort in the age range of 11 to 15. Whereas, for Redditch, it is the 5 to 10 age range.

- Numbers of children with Profound Multiple Learning Difficulty are the lowest of the cohort. Numbers across the age ranges are more spread out – however, 5 to 15 still show as most prevalent.

4.2.3 Sensory and/or Physical

- Sensory and physical disabilities include children with Visual Impairments (VI), Hearing Impairments (HI) and Physical Disability (PD). There are 334 children and young people with Sensory and/or Physical primary needs and an EHCP in Worcestershire.
- Children with PD make up 69.8% of the cohort, followed by HI at 15.6% and VI at 14.7%.
- Wyre Forest has the most children with hearing impairment needs, Wychavon with physical disability and Worcester has the highest number of children with visual impairments.
- 182 children with sensory and/or physical needs are male, closely followed by 152 females.

4.2.4 Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH)

- There are 968 children and young people in Worcestershire with an EHCP and primary need of SEMH, this is an increase from 812 EHCPs in 2022.
- Of the 968, 32.2% are post-16, followed by KS2 (years 3 to 6) at 21.6%.
- Across Worcestershire, 75.7% of the children with an EHCP and SEMH are male with the highest figures in Worcester, Wychavon and Wyre Forest.
- Across the female data, the number of EHCPs with primary need of SEMH peaks in Year 11. Whereas, for males the peak is in Year 13.

4.3 Breakdown of Needs by District

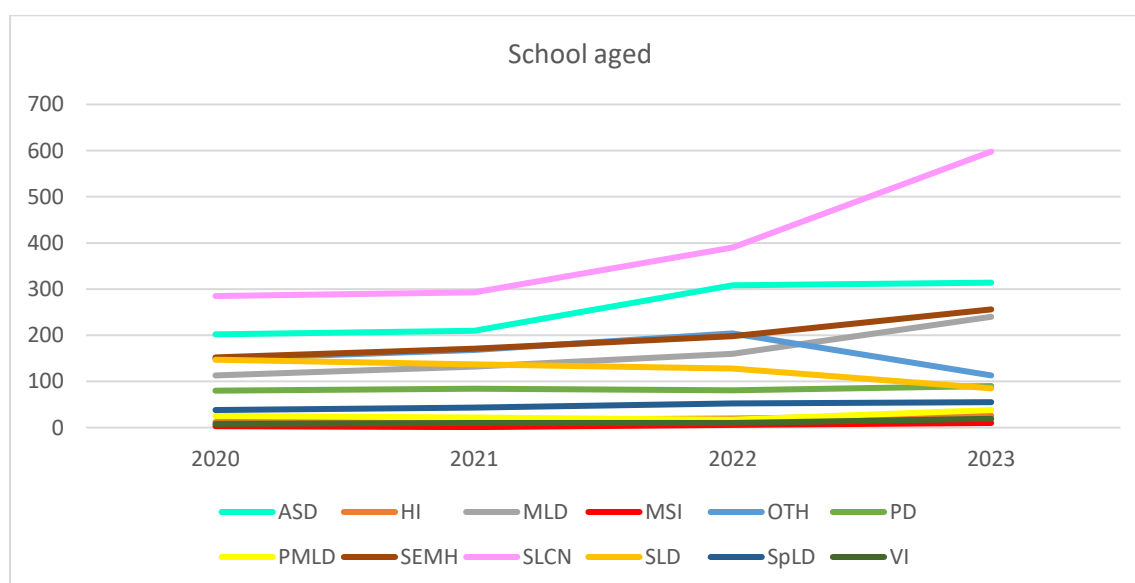
Table 6: Children with EHCP and Primary Needs by District, January Census and SEN2

Resident District	ASD	Cognition	Other ¹⁴	SEMH	Sensory/Physical	Speech
Bromsgrove	168	147	42	95	57	180
Malvern Hills	142	156	41	130	32	122
Redditch	150	230	29	175	63	186
Worcester	157	215	40	186	58	251
Wychavon	251	281	57	198	72	222
Wyre Forest	152	195	48	145	46	238
Out of County	49	39	20	39	25	29

Table 6 above shows the breakdown of the grouping of primary needs by Worcestershire districts. Wychavon has the highest number across all need groups, apart from speech and language, where Worcester has the highest number of children with this need.

4.4 Trends by Areas of Need

Figure 10: Trends by Primary Need (Primary Age) – January Census and SEN2

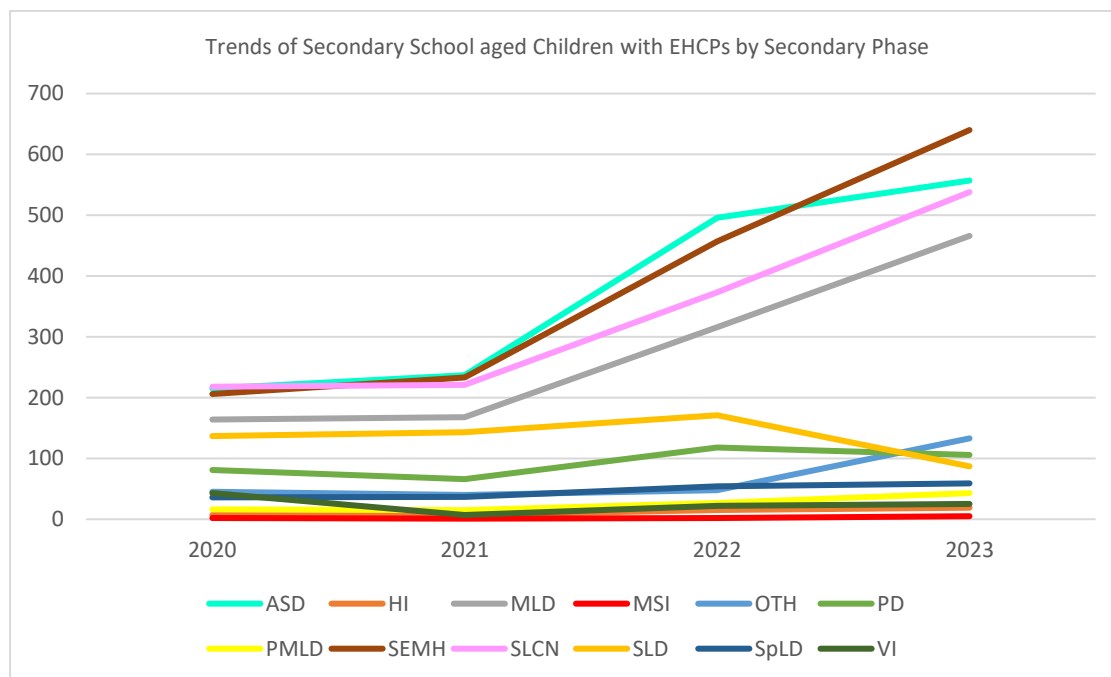


The number of pupils with ASD, SLCN, SEMH and MLD primary needs have continued to rise since 2020 for the primary phase age groups. The same types of primary needs are also continuing to rise for secondary school aged children. The most noticeable increase in the primary phase is the primary

¹⁴ The 'Other' category is sometimes used to classify complex cases which have aspects of ASD and either PMLD or SLD. Also, the category 'Other' may have been allocated due to delay in an official diagnosis by a healthcare professional.

need of SLCN, where there has been an increase of 208 EHCPs with this primary need since 2022. Speech and Language needs are highest amongst primary school aged children, however, there has also been an increase amongst secondary school aged children. There has been a decline in the primary need of Other¹⁵ since 2022 where it had peaked, the number of children with an EHCP and primary need of Other has decreased by 57% since 2022. The 'Other' category is sometimes used to classify complex cases which have aspects of ASD and either PMLD or SLD. Also, the category 'Other' may have been allocated due to delay in an official diagnosis by a healthcare professional.

Figure 11: Trend by Primary Need (Secondary Age) – January Census and SEN2



The number of pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties has had a prominent increase since 2021 and is continuing to rise in the secondary phase. The number of children with an EHCP and primary need of SEMH has now overtaken ASD in the Secondary phase. The number of secondary school aged children with EHCPs and the primary need of Other has remained fairly consistent between 2020 to 2022, however, there has been a large increase from 48 to 133 children with this primary need in 2023. Children with the primary need of Other is the fourth largest increase of cases between 2022 to 2023, following SEMH, SLCN and MLD.

4.5 Financial Considerations

The diversity of provision to support children and young people with SEN is extensive. Broadly speaking, there are 2 types of funding for SEN. Children attending mainstream and state-funded special schools attract funding from the High Needs Funding Block, related to how much additional support is necessary to meet their education needs. Children and young people attending

¹⁵ The 'Other' category is sometimes used to classify complex cases which have aspects of ASD and either PMLD or SLD. Also, the category 'Other' may have been allocated due to delay in an official diagnosis by a healthcare professional.

independent settings are provided for at a unique cost based upon the individual child’s needs and the setting’s provision. These can have similar costs to mainstream provision but are frequently much more expensive. All placements have different durations. The table below shows the total cost per placements for children attending provision 2022/2023.

Table 7: Worcestershire HNB Monitoring Costs P6 Actuals Per Placement by Setting Type

School Type	Total FTE	Total Cost Per Placement (£)	Avg. Cost Per Placement (£)
FE	566	6,450,332	11,396
Independent	42	1,289,935	31,461
Independent Special	342	16,567,611	55,042
Mainstream	2,036	10,248,520	5,033
Special	2,163	26,277,804	12,148
Specialist FE	148	8,228,429	58,357
Grand Total	5,297	69,062,631	N/A

There has been an increase in the average cost per placement across all types of provision. The average cost per placement at independent special schools has increased by around £4,000 in comparison to last year’s data. There has also been an increase in the average cost per placement for specialist FE provision.

With the addition of the new special free school in Malvern anticipated to open in September 2027, this should bring down the average cost per pupil placement for independent special as some children attending independent settings who have a primary need of ASD can then attend a Worcestershire local authority-funded special school that specialises in Autism.

Figure 12: Worcestershire Cost Per Placement in Independent Mainstream, State-Funded Special Schools and Independent Special Schools 2023

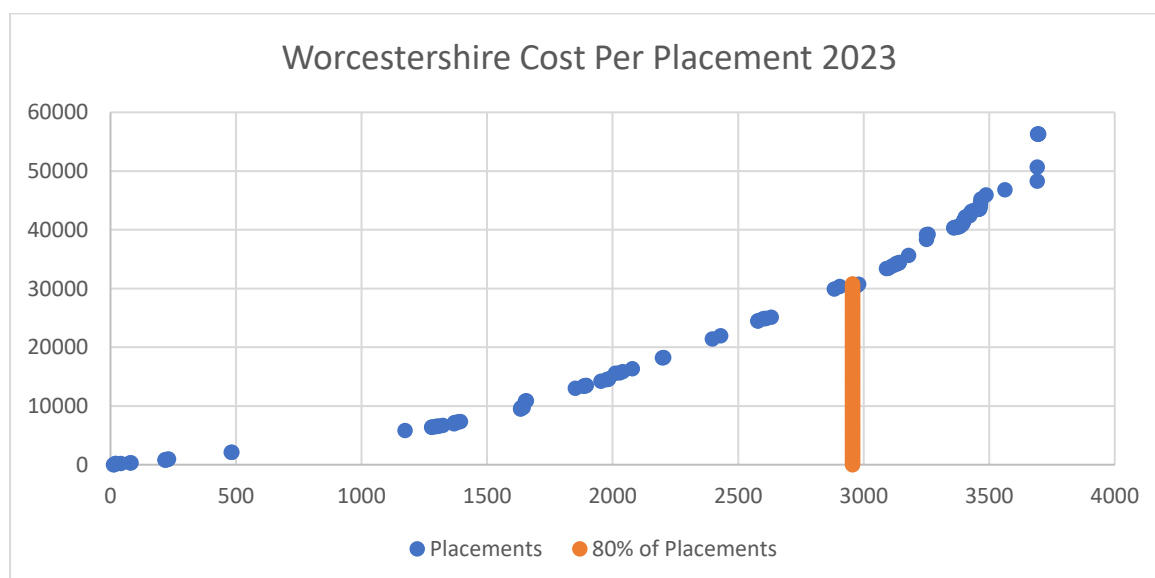


Figure 12 shows that if all placement costs are added up, with smallest first, the lowest 80% of the placements together cost £659,756. Another way of saying this is that the 80th percentile placement has a cost per placement of £22,745 per year. From here, the graph continues to curve upwards with the 90th percentile at a cumulative cost of placements at £40,364 and reaching over £50,000 at the higher end.

Table 8: Cost Per Placement by Primary Need (KS1/KS2)

Primary Need	KS1			KS2		
	FTE	Annualised Cost (£)	Avg. Cost Per Place (£)	FTE	Annualised Cost (£)	Avg. Cost Per Place (£)
ASD	96	534,208	5,564	175	1,115,608	6,374
Cognition	84	635,690	7,567	324	2,036,618	6,285
SEMH	47	260,112	5,534	211	1,420,271	6,731
Sensory/Physical	46	437,710	9,515	68	682,882	10,042
Speech & Language	223	1,353,961	6,071	392	2,393,833	6,106
Other ¹⁶	51	337,810	6,623	48	391,721	8,160
Total	547	3,559,491	6,507	1,218	8,040,933	6,601

For KS1, speech and language is the most common primary need, but has the third lowest average cost per placement. The highest cost per placement within KS1 and KS2 is for pupils with sensory or physical primary needs (visual impairment, hearing impairment, multi-sensory impairment and physical disability).

Table 9: Cost Per Placement by Primary Need (KS3/KS4)

Primary Need	KS3			KS4		
	FTE	Annualised Cost (£)	Avg. Cost Per Place (£)	FTE	Annualised Cost (£)	Avg. Cost Per Place (£)
ASD	213	1,416,720	6,651	104	727,074	6,991
Cognition	309	2,179,882	7,054	150	1,104,630	7,364
SEMH	181	1,357,063	7,497	129	1,054,234	8,172
Sensory/Physical	46	392,890	8,541	27	213,887	7,921
Speech & Language	216	1,278,654	5,919	130	816,010	6,277
Other	35	272,344	7,781	11	112,602	10,236
Total	1,000	6,897,553	6,897	551	4,028,437	7,311

The largest cohort in KS3 are those with cognitive needs 57% of this cohort are attending state-funded special schools. The largest cost per placement in KS4 is for children with a primary need recorded as 'other'¹⁷, 36% of these children are attending specialist provision, both state-funded and independent.

¹⁷ The 'Other' category is sometimes used to classify complex cases which have aspects of ASD and either PMLD or SLD. Also, the category 'Other' may have been allocated due to delay in an official diagnosis by a healthcare professional.

Table 10: Cost Per Placement by Primary Need (KS5/19+)

Primary Need	KS5			19+		
	FTE	Annualised Cost	Avg. Cost Per Place	FTE	Annualised Cost	Avg. Cost Per Place
ASD	71	768,251	10,820	10	233,693	23,369
Cognition	118	823,646	6,980	12	118,883	9,906
SEMH	80	505,474	6,318	1	1,438	1,438
Sensory/Physical	33	237,654	7,201	7	36,738	5,248
Speech & Language	135	627,004	4,644	6	8,630	1,438
Other	3	24,276	8,092	0	N/A	N/A
Total	440	2,986,305	6,787	36	399,382	10,510

There are few placements for 19+ young people, however the placements are at a very high cost. For both KS5 and 19+, cognitive primary needs were highest. Young people (19+) with ASD have the higher average cost per place, this is also the case for the KS5 cohort with ASD.

4.6 Forecasting Pupil Numbers

We have seen so far in this report detailed some of the trends and changes that are affecting the landscape of the number of pupils and type of SEND needs across the county and the impact on the provision and places therefore that are required to meet these needs.

In order to forecast the number of pupils requiring additional or specialist provision to meet their SEND needs over the next 5 years, we must firstly look at trends in the total school population.

Places in mainstream schools for the next 5 years are forecast in a DfE-approved statistical model using the October annual school census, known children (children aged from birth to 4 years resident within Worcestershire who are registered with a GP surgery), and historic 5-year average transfer rates for each year group. It also incorporates new housing assumptions for the period being considered.

Table 11 shows the forecast number of EHCPs up to 2028. The forecast methodology takes the forecast number of children and young people living in Worcestershire, the previous year's EHCP figure by age and the previous 5-year average of new EHCPs to forecast EHCP numbers for the next 4 years:

Table 11: Worcestershire EHCP Forecast 2024 to 2028

Age Range	Actual	Forecast				
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Under 5	176	164	275	279	279	279
6-10	1,316	1,394	1,341	1,376	1,376	1,365
11-15	1,731	2,022	2,251	2,478	2,686	2,852
16-19	1,489	1,516	1,746	1,955	2,111	2,300
20-25	446	721	863	1,001	1,186	1,368
Grand Total	5,158	5,810	6,476	7,089	7,638	8,164

5 Current Worcestershire Provision

To meet the needs of children with SEND, a range of education provision is available in Worcestershire, within mainstream and special schools to provide the best education to support individual needs.

Each mainstream school has a named specialist to support children at the school. The SENCo (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) works within mainstream settings and is the 'school teacher who is responsible for assessing, planning and monitoring the progress of children with special educational needs and disabilities'¹⁸. Schools can also employ additional specialist support for individual pupils.

Some schools have dedicated SEN Resourced provision or SEN Units which are specially designed to support pupils with specific special educational needs alongside a mainstream education. Pupils attending a SEN unit will spend at least half their time in this provision, most children will have an EHCP but the unit may also provide support for pupils with SEN support. SEN units are designated by the local authority specifically for making SEN provision, and sometimes accommodate pupils registered at other schools on a part-time basis. Pupils attending Resourced Provision have places reserved at a mainstream school with a specific type of SEN, and are taught for at least half their time within mainstream classes, but require a base and specialist facilities around the school. Resourced Provisions are designated by the local authority specifically for making this kind of SEN provision.

There are also a number of teams with the Local Authority who work with mainstream schools to support pupils including the Autism and Complex Communication Needs team, Learning Support Team, Medical Education Team, Sensory Impairment Team, Physical Disability Outreach and the Virtual Schools Team.

Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust are also commissioned to provide certain services such as speech and language therapy, school nursing and child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) to support vulnerable children to maintain a place in school. The demand for these services is reviewed separately, however, is in part driven by the number of children and young people living in Worcestershire.

5.1 Early Years SEND / Enhanced Provision

Under the Equalities Act 2010, local authorities must ensure they promote equality and inclusion, by removing barriers of access to funded childcare. This is achieved by working with parents to know what is available and by working with providers to support and promote best practice and provision to meet the needs of young children and working parents.

The Sufficiency and Place Planning Team received a list of known children living in Worcestershire and registered at a Worcestershire GP every year from the NHS to support education provision planning.

¹⁸ [Special Educational Needs Coordinator \(SENCo\) | The Good Schools Guide](#)

Most children aged 0-5 with SEND will be taught in local early years settings. All Ofsted-registered Nursery Education Funded early years settings, are able to claim additional funding per hour to support the needs of children with SEND, known as the graduated response.

Where a child aged 0 – 5 years is identified by either a health, education or social care professional as possibly having special educational needs, they will submit an initial notification to the Local Authority Early Years Inclusion Process (previously the Pre-School Forum). The notification should always be discussed with the parent carer prior to being submitted.

A multi-agency team meets monthly to discuss the notifications received and actions agreed to assess whether additional support or additional education provision is required in their pre-school years.

Some pre-school aged children are referred for specialist nursery provision (including special school nurseries, Nursery Plus or Early Years Language class provision) - these children are included in the School Census. Other early years providers including child minders and private nurseries return child level details on the Early Years Census and these children are included in the planning for early years and school places. More information about the [Early Years Inclusion Process](#) can be found on our website.

The table below shows the number of children for whom early years settings in Worcestershire were claiming additional Graduated Response funding to support their emerging needs in January 2023 (GR1-4 plus EHC plan¹⁹).

Table 12: 2, 3 and 4 Year-Old Known Children (KC) in Funded Early Years Settings

	Total KC (2 – 4 yrs)	%	No of 2 Yr Olds	% of 2's	No of 3 Yr Olds	% of 3's	No of 4 Yr Olds	% of 4's
No Special Educational Need	8,584	83.58	873	85.67	5,948	84.26	1,763	80.39
Graduated Response 1 (GR1)	244	2.38	29	2.85	161	2.28	54	2.46
Graduated Response 2 (GR2)	666	6.48	49	4.81	454	6.43	163	7.43
Graduated Response 3 (GR3)	224	2.18	10	0.98	149	2.11	65	2.96
Graduated Response 4 (GR4)	327	3.18	47	4.61	220	3.12	60	2.74
Exceptional Early Years Funding/EHC plan	226	2.20	11	1.08	127	1.80	88	4.01
Grand Total	10,271		1,019		7,059		2,193	

The total of known children 2-4 years old in funded early years settings has decreased from last years total of 10,637 children. However, there has been an increase in the number of funded 3-year-olds. There are an additional 1,229 funded 3-year-olds for 2023. There has been a 0.93% increase in

¹⁹ GR Ratings are explained on WCC Website - [The SEND Graduated Response | Worcestershire County Council](#)

exceptional early years funding/EHC plan for 3 year old children, another significant increase is in 3 year old children receiving graduated response 2, by 1.06%.

5.2 Early Years Enhanced Provision / Nursery Assessment Units

Two of the nine special schools have nursery assessment units attached to support in assessing the education provision required for pre-school aged children due to start school. A further unit is attached to a first school in Redditch (Batchley First School). In November 2022, WCF invited mainstream and specialist nursery providers to take part in open discussions about the future of Nursery Assessment Units (NAU). A questionnaire was also sent to providers and parent carers for their feedback on what was working well and what could be improved. The NAU Review identified a need to consider the sufficiency of places where children with complex needs could access their full Nursery Education Funding (NEF) Entitlement and a redesign of the Pre-School Forum model. The outcome of the NAU Review is that we are developing Enhanced Early Years provision, delivered by an early years provider or a school, to meet the needs of children whose identified complex needs make it difficult for them to attend an early years setting. Places will be allocated via a termly, multi-agency planning meeting for children with complex needs. The needs will have been identified through an EHCP Needs Assessment or an EHCP.

Prior to September 2023, four special schools delivered nursery assessment units across the county. In September 2023, due to an unprecedented rise in the demand for special school reception places, WCF in consultation with The Vale of Evesham school and Academy Trust and Fort Royal school had to prioritise reception places over nursery places at both schools. The Vale of Evesham school offered Outreach support to children that would have attended the Vale of Evesham and Fort Royal Nursery Assessment Units, either in their mainstream provision, or at home. This support continues whilst Enhanced Early Years providers are being identified for Worcester City/Malvern and Wychavon districts. We are now also beginning to review and consider the other districts of Wyre Forest and Redditch / Bromsgrove to develop Enhanced Early Years provision, market engagement will begin in March 2024.

Once providers have been identified to deliver Enhanced Early Years provision, statutory consultation to open and close SEN provision will begin. Capital investment may be required to deliver new provision in new locations, funding will be proposed to Capital Board and Cabinet.

5.3 Early Years Language classes (RP)

At early years stage (2-4 year olds), the main Primary need is SLCN. WCF commission Early Years Language classes (Resource Bases) at first and primary Schools across Worcestershire. This targeted intervention provides children with specialist provision for typically 6 hours per week to support their speech, language and communication needs, since early intervention with speech development can eliminate or much reduce the need for SEND support later²⁰.

The following schools provide Early Years Language Classes; Batchley First School (Redditch), Cranham Primary School (Worcester), Upton Upon Severn CE Primary School (Malvern) and St Mary's CE Primary School (Wyre Forest).

²⁰ [Bercow Review of Services for Children and Young People with SLCN](#)

There is a significant difference in the number of 3- and 4-year-olds attending Early Years Language classes by gender. 71% of children attending one of the settings listed below are male.

Wyre Forest has the highest percentage of known children (1.38%) attending an EY language class in relation to its population. The majority of children attending this setting (Kidderminster Language Centre) are 3 years old. This is closely followed by Redditch where 1.31% of the known children in the district attend the EY Language class at Batchley First School.

Children who live in the Wychavon district are travelling the furthest distance to attend an EY Language class (over 20km). 7 children travel to Riverboats Speech and Language Class in the Malvern Hills district. There are no EY Language classes within the Wychavon district, meaning more children are having to travel further distances to attend the provision from this district.

Table 13: Known 3 and 4 Year-Olds and EY Language Unit Setting They Attend as at Summer 2022/23

District	Known Children (3&4 yrs)	Children in District		Children in Setting		Total Registered	% of Known Children	Settings attending
		3 Yr Olds	4 Yr Olds	3 Yr Olds	4 Yr Olds			
Bromsgrove	1,432	1,075	357	11	4	15	1.05	1) Charford First School EY Language Class 2) Redditch EY Language Class
Malvern Hills	926	686	240	6	3	9	0.97	1) Cranham Primary EY Language Class 2) Riverboats Speech and Language Class
Redditch	1,448	1,127	321	14	5	19	1.31	1) Redditch EY Language Class 2) Charford First School EY Language Class
Worcester	1,709	1,303	406	6	6	12	0.70	1) Cranham Primary EY Specialist Language Class 2) Riverboats Speech and Language Class
Wychavon	1,865	1,425	440	12	8	20	1.07	1) Riverboats Speech and Language Class 2) Cranham Primary EY Specialist Language Class 3) Charford First School EY Language Class
Wyre Forest	1,375	1,043	332	12	7	19	1.38	Kidderminster EY Language Centre
Totals	8,755	6,659	2,096	61	33	94		

In September 2023 WCF began a review of the Language class provision in Worcestershire to best understand how we can effectively support the most children in Worcestershire and have the most impact to our children and families.

5.4 School Age Language Units

The mainstream schools listed below have Resource Base School Age Language Units to support pupils at the school who have been referred for a place within a Resourced Language Class provision based on a recommendation from their Speech and Language Therapist. The Local Authority commission 52 primary school places and 11 High school places used to provide intensive specialised teaching for children with significant Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN). As has been evidenced earlier in the report, SLCN is much more common before the age of 11, which, with the intensive support provided early on, means that there is less need for provision at Secondary/High school phase.

Table 14: School Age Language Units and Commissioned Places 2022 2022/23 by District

District	Language Units	School Type	Commissioned Places
Wyre Forest	Burlish Park Primary	Primary	10
Wyre Forest	Sutton Park Primary	Primary	10
Wyre Forest	King Charles I High	Secondary	11
Bromsgrove	Lickey Hills KS1 Primary	Primary	21
Bromsgrove	Lickey Hills KS2 Primary	Primary	
Redditch	Matchborough First	First	11

Due to the nature of speech development from birth, the discovery of an SLC need and beginning of treatment is often before age 3. Further information is provided in the section on early-years and nursery provision.

In September 2023 WCF began a review of the Language class provision in Worcestershire to best understand how we can effectively support the most children in Worcestershire and have the most impact to our children and families.

5.5 Mainstream Autism Bases (MABs) and Enhanced Mainstream Autism Bases (EMABs)

Mainstream Autism Bases (MABs) are Resource Base provision within Worcestershire Mainstream schools.

MABs are an integral part of the special education graduated response provision commissioned by WCF, providing focused educational provision for pupils whose academic needs are well matched to a mainstream setting, but who require specialised autism specific provision that is often difficult to replicate in mainstream schools.

Enhanced Autism Bases (EMABs) enables a higher level of need to be provided for with an enhanced range of provision and is anticipated that children and young people may spend more time in this provision.

Current Autism Bases across Worcestershire are listed in the table below with the total number of commissioned full-time equivalent places for 2022/23:

Table 15: MABs by Phase and 2022/23 Commissioned Places

R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
Beaconside Primary MAB (8)						Waseley Hills High School MAB (10)					
Meadows First MAB >					Parkside Middle MAB (10)			NBHS MAB (10)			
							Dyson Perrins MAB (10)				
							TGAR Hive MAB + Treetops EMAB (55)				
						Walkwood Middle MAB (8)					
Oldbury Park Primary MAB (8)						Christopher Whitehead Language College EMAB (12)					
					Abbey Park Middle MAB (10)		Persnore High School MAB (12)				
Chaddesley Corbett EMAB (10)						King Charles High School MAB (17)					

To meet an increased demand for Autism base provision, Chaddesley Corbett EMAB opened in September 2022, Christopher Whitehead Language College MAB opened in September 2023 and Tudor Grange Academy Redditch Treetops EMAB also increased its places by 25 for September 2023.

Table 16 shows the number of pupils attending MAB provision year on year.

Table 16: MABs number of pupils attending by academic year

MAB Unit	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
Meadows/Parkside (10)	12	12	11	9	9	10	9
North Brooms High (10)	8	8	10	10	10	10	9
Beaconside Primary (8)	8	9	9	8	8	7	5
Waseley Hills High (10)	7	9	11	7	10	11	6
Dyson Perrins CofE Academy (12)	13	10	10	11	12	12	14
Walkwood Middle (13)	8	7	9	13	14	14	3
TGAR Hive	8	3	8	7	10	7	6
TGAR Treetops (55)				12	18	25	24

Oldbury Park Primary (8)	8	8	8	8	8	8	5
CWLC (0)							
Abbey Park Middle (10)	11	10	8	7	8	8	9
Pershore High (12)	14	12	11	13	14	18	9
Chaddesley Corbett Endowed Primary (10)							9
King Charles I (17)	20	17	17	16	17	18	18

A place within a MAB is accessed via a current EHCP rather than normal school admissions. It is important for MAB provision to exist through all phases in an Education Planning Area as this allows children to remain with their peer group throughout their education journey.

MABs have been shown to be extremely effective at meeting the needs of children with Autism and supporting them to remain within the mainstream schools. 8 of the Mainstream Autism Bases are either at or nearing capacity. ASD is a complex area which means that some children will still be best placed in special schools, however the provision of bases such as these allow children that can, to remain with their peer group and access the benefits of mainstream schools and allow special schools to adapt more specifically to more complex needs.

Of those attending MABs during the academic year of 2022/23, 41.06% of the children have a primary need of ASD, this is followed by 15.89% that have a Primary need of SEMH and 15.23% with a primary need of SLCN.

40.4% of children attending one of Worcestershire's MABs are in KS3 (years 7 to 9), this is followed by 33.77% in KS4 (years 10 to 11). This shows a larger demand for this provision within these year groups.

Chaddesley Corbett Primary E-MAB in Wyre Forest opened in September 2022 and is already near capacity. The opening of Christopher Whitehead Secondary MAB in Worcester City will relieve pressure and demand for KS3 and KS4, as the tables above show that 5 out of 6 of the MABs that accommodate these key stages are either at nearing or at capacity if commissioned places, or over.

As of January 2024, 31% of the 248 children or young people awaiting SEND provision had a primary need of ASD. Some of these children could have their needs met within a MAB or EMAB. The Sufficiency and Place Planning Team with SEND Officers have identified schools with existing base provision to discuss options to expand the number of places available. High Needs Provision capital has been allocated to create additional provision.

5.6 Accessible Mainstream Schools

All local authorities must have an accessibility strategy²¹ for the schools it is responsible for such as local authority-maintained schools. This is a requirement of law outlined in the Equality Act 2010. The overall aim of the Accessibility Strategy is to ensure that Worcestershire Children First supports schools in meeting the needs of disabled pupils and raising their attainment. The purpose of the strategy is to ensure that accessibility of the curriculum, the physical environment and information for disabled pupils is central to the delivery of services. The strategy aims to provide information and a framework to help schools create individual accessibility plans. Schools should take account of Worcestershire Children First accessibility strategy when drawing up their own school accessibility plans.

Schools must make reasonable adjustments, including the provision of aids and services, to ensure that disabled pupils are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers. This duty is anticipatory – it requires thought to be given in advance to what disabled pupils might require and what adjustments might need to be made to prevent that disadvantage. Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinators (SENCOs) must work with the headteacher and school governors to ensure that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements.

A key consideration in the approach to addressing matters is the need to manage reasonable adjustments along with expectations, as well as school sites, and funding limitations. Because of these factors, WCC focuses on those adaptations that ensure the pupil has reasonable access to the curriculum and support accommodation. Often it is not possible to provide unimpeded access for a pupil with a disability to all parts of the mainstream school site and consequently, adjustments need to be underpinned by effective school time tabling arrangements that ensure those pupils along with their peers are located in rooms and areas that have been reasonably adapted, or have natural ease of accessibility, .e.g. use of ground floor specialist teaching rooms, etc.

The accessibility of all mainstream schools in Worcestershire is kept under review either when considering placements for individual pupils, when S106 funding is available to improve provision or when other works are planned at schools. All schools are graded depending on how accessible they are for pupils to access the curriculum and support accommodation²¹.

5.7 Medical Education Provision (MET)

Section 19 of the Education Act (1996) states that ‘each local authority shall make arrangements for the provision of suitable education at school or otherwise than at school for those children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless such arrangements are made for them’. This duty applies to all children, whether they have special educational needs (SEN) or not.

There are a variety of pathways for children who do not or cannot attend school for a period of more than 15 days, one of which is referral to the Medical Education Team. During the academic year of

²¹ [Support for children and young people with disabilities and medical difficulties | Worcestershire County Council](#)

2022-2023, the team provided education to 88 pupils of all ages on 3 sites: Lea Street in Kidderminster, Easemore Road in Redditch and Newbridge in Worcester.

Figure 13: Number of Pupils Attending MET Provision Per Academic Year

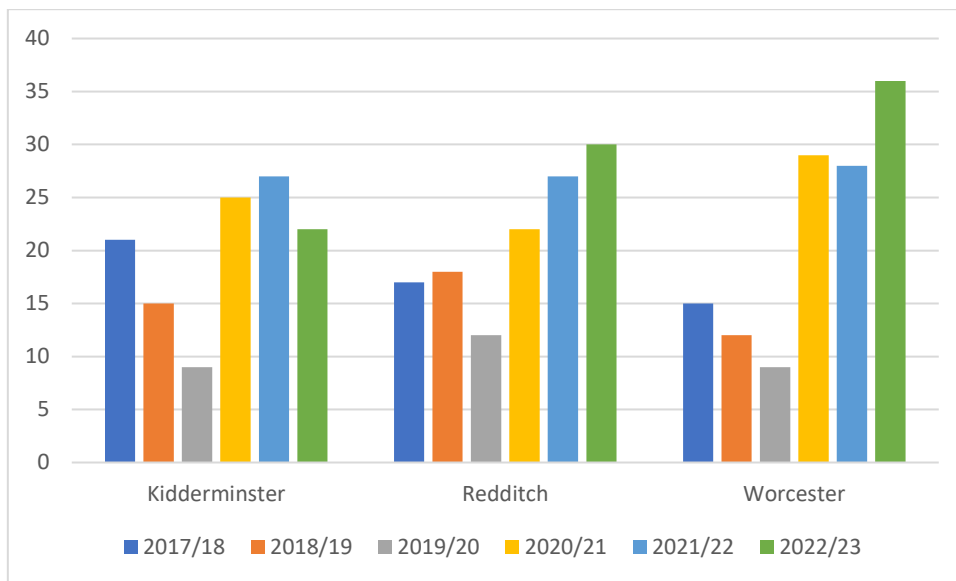
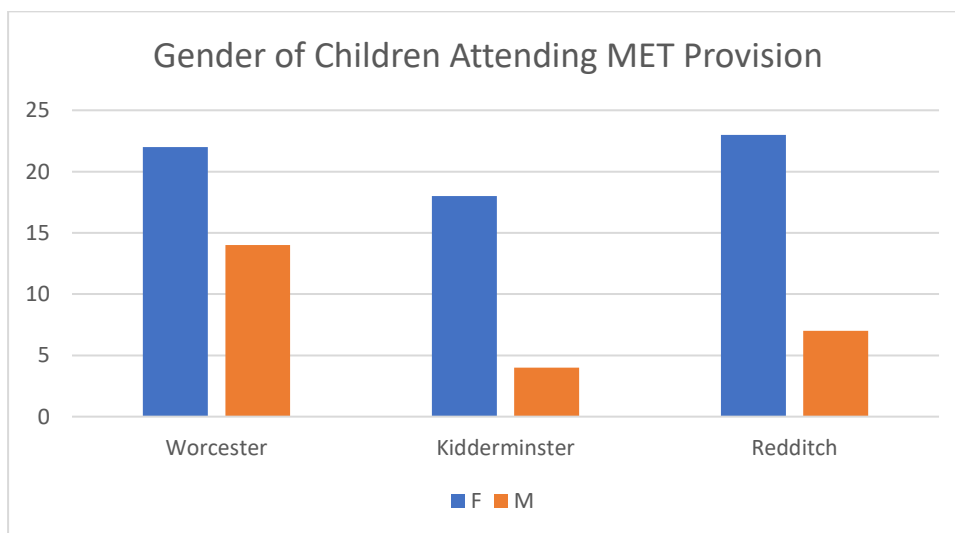


Figure 13 shows the number of children who attended one of the 3 base provisions since academic year 2017/2018. During 2022/23, 88 children accessed MET provision at some point - this is an increase on the previous years.

Figure 14: Gender of Children Attending MET Provision, MET Pupil Action Log 2022-23



More girls that attended MET provision in 2022/23 across all three locations, this is consistent with the last 9-10 years of data. 71.6% of children accessing MET provision are female.

Where data has been provided, 82% of children accessing MET provision have been referred due to Mental Health issues, the most common form of mental health for children that attended all three provisions is anxiety, alongside secondary reasons.

Just 10.2% of children that accessed one of the three MET provisions in 2022/23 had an EHCP, of the 88 children that attended, 23.9% had an ASD diagnosis.

5.8 Special Schools

If the needs of a child are more complex than reasonable adaptations can accommodate within Mainstream schools, then a place at a special school may be required to ensure a child's needs can be met.

There are 9 LA-funded special schools across Worcestershire, of which 6 provide education for children with a variety of significant needs and 3 with an identified specialism.

Two of the schools cater for nursery age children, with a further nursery assessment unit at Batchley First School in Redditch.

Table 17: Worcestershire Special Schools List

District	Special School	Age Range	Type	Designation
Bromsgrove	Chadsgrove School	2-19	Local Authority	Physical Disability
Bromsgrove	Rigby Hall School	4-19	Local Authority	Generic
Redditch	Pitcheroak School	4-19	Academy	Generic
Redditch	The Kingfisher School	7-19	Academy	SEMH
Worcester City	Fort Royal Community Primary School	2-11*	Local Authority	Generic
Worcester City	Regency High School	11-19	Academy	Generic
Worcester City	Riversides School	7-16	Academy	SEMH
Wychavon	The Vale of Evesham School	2-19*	Academy	Generic
Wyre Forest	Wyre Forest School	3-19	Local Authority	Generic

*Although Fort Royal and the Vale of Evesham still have nursery age ranges, they are unable to accommodate nursery age children on site. A change of age range will be proposed.

District	Supported Provision	Age Range	Type
Redditch	Batchley First Nursery Plus	2-4	Community mainstream

There is no set Published Admission Number (PAN) at a special school. Places are commissioned by the Local Authority with each school dependent on demand, needs of children and the physical capacity of the school.

Figure 15: Jan 2023 Number on Roll, SCAP Net Capacity 2023, September 2023 Commissioned Places for Special Schools

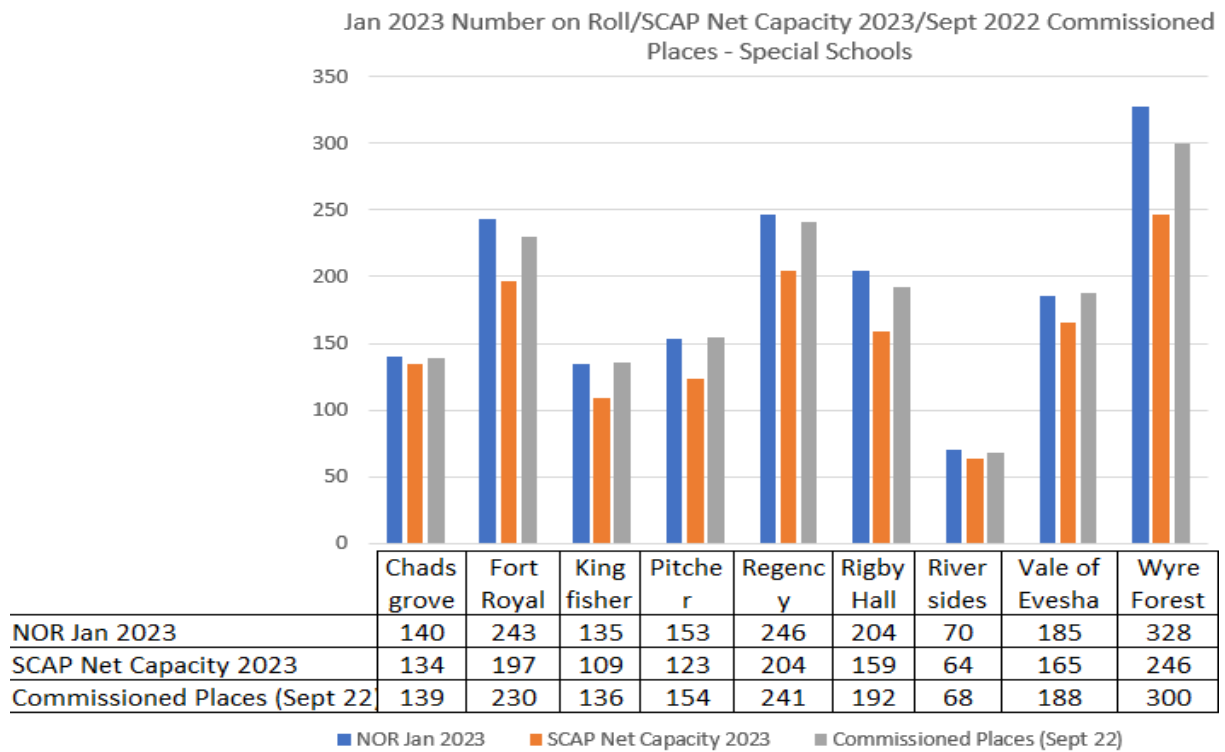
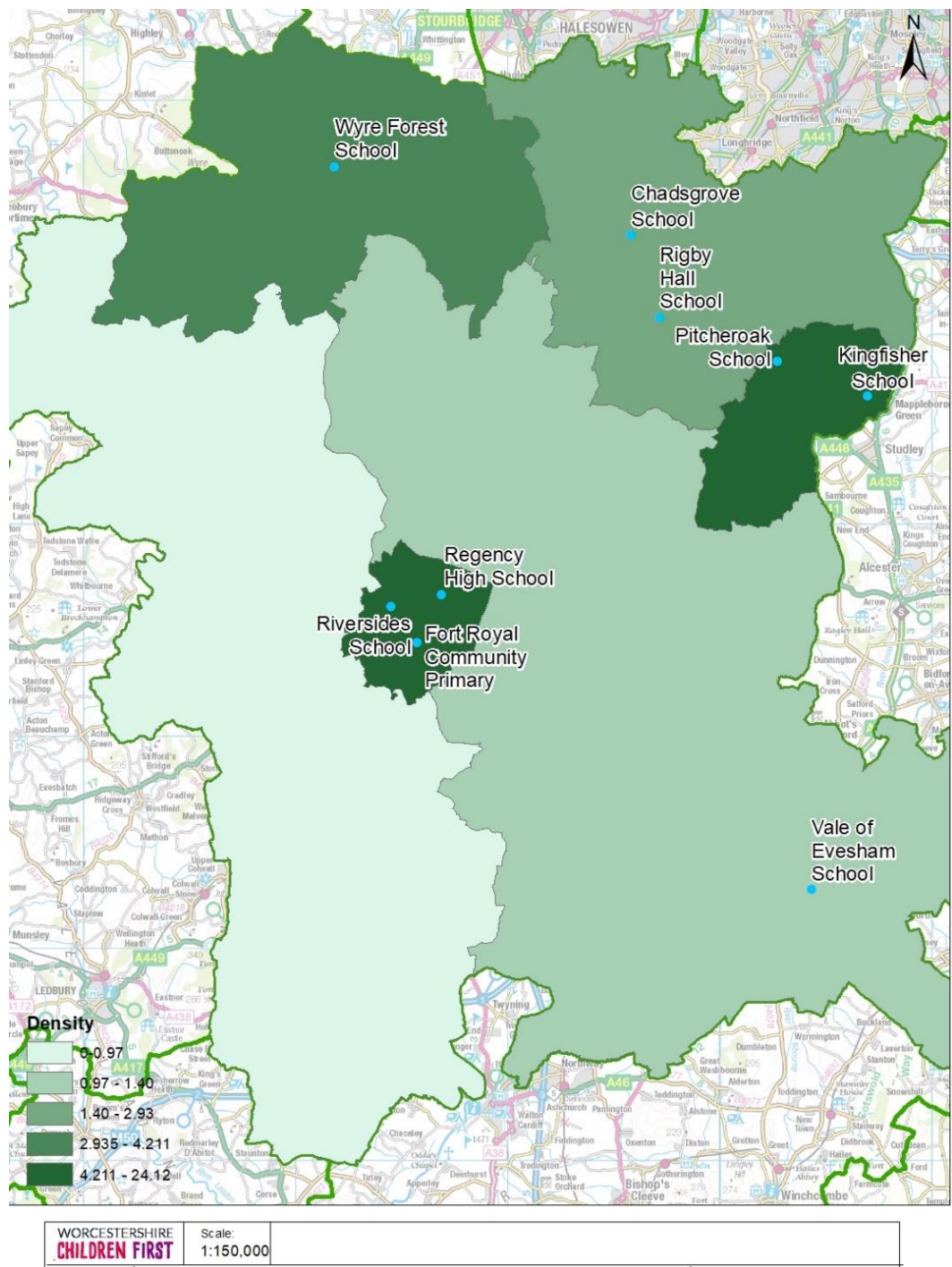


Figure 15 shows the differences between January 2023 Census number on roll against the June 2023 SCAP Net Capacity which had been carried out as a requirement for the DfE for the first time in Summer 2023. All schools have higher commissioned places and higher numbers on roll than their Net Capacity Assessments.

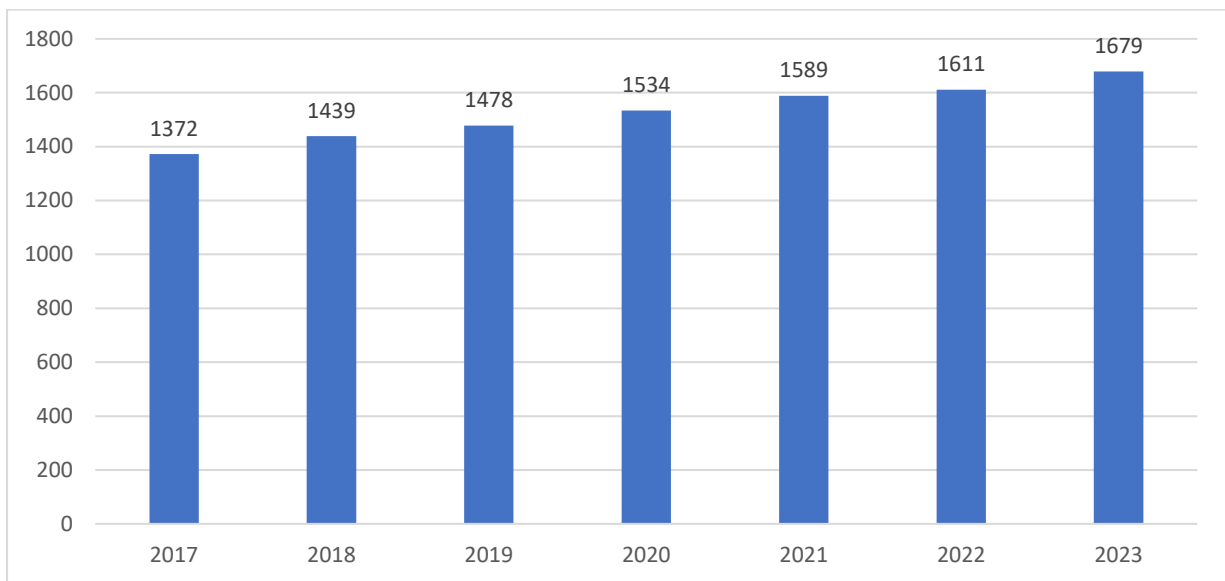
Map 6: Locations of Worcestershire's 9 State-Funded Special Schools



Map 6 shows that most of the schools are North of the county, and there are currently no state-funded special schools in the district of Malvern. However, following the successful DfE bid application for a new special free school specialising in Autism, Malvern will have Special school provision from September 2027.

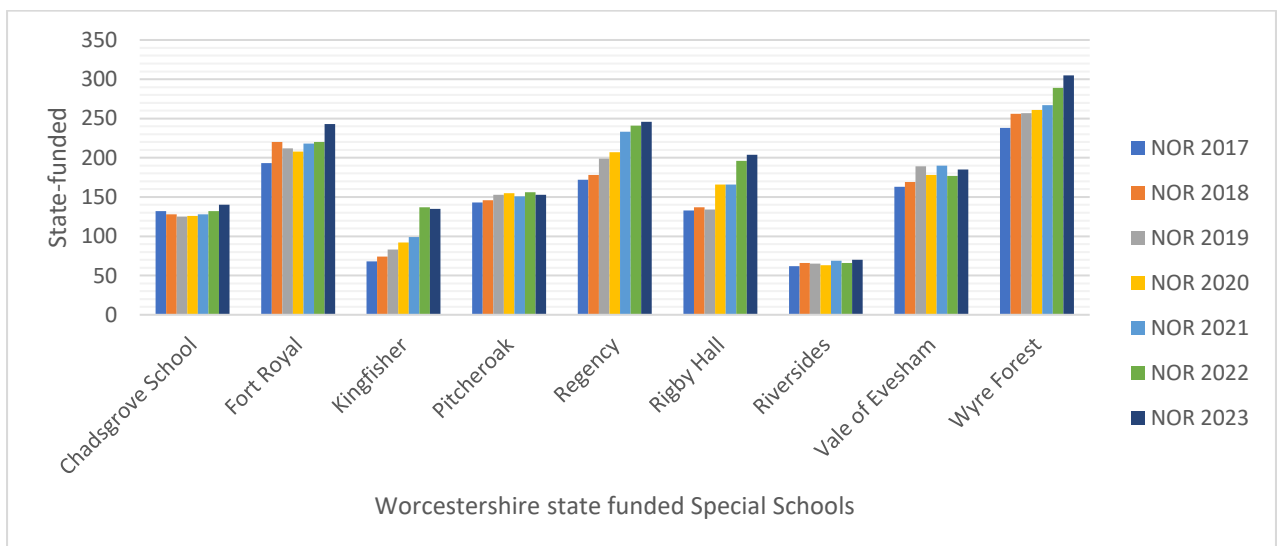
Of the 5,158 children and young people in Worcestershire with an EHCP, 1,679 (33%) are recorded to be attending one of the 9 Worcestershire state-funded special Schools.

Figure 16: Number of Pupils Attending Worcestershire Special Schools, January Census and SEN2



Year-on-year, special schools have increased class sizes or expanded provision to accommodate more pupils. Since 2017 the number of children attending Worcestershire special schools has increased from 1304 to 1681, an increase of 377 pupils. Worcestershire County Council has invested grant funding received from the DfE including Special Provision Capital funding and High Needs Provision Capital funding to create additional places where possible.

Figure 17: Number on Roll at Worcestershire Special Schools 2017-2023, January Census



Children attending special schools have differing levels of need and complexity. Each school receives consultations for placements, and usually more than one school will be consulted for the same child. However, a growing number of these consultations are responded to with either the school being able to meet the child’s need but do not have the space or the school could not meet the child’s needs. This is likely linked to the increase trend in complexity of need and the limited space due to increased class sizes in most special schools.

For September 2023, three of the nine schools were provided with capital funding to increase the number of places available. These were Regency High School (Worcester), Fort Royal School (Worcester), and Wyre Forest School. Some of the other schools were also able to accommodate additional pupils within their existing accommodation.

5.9 Independent Special Schools and Out-of-County Provision

Table 18: Children Attending Out-of-County Provision by Establishment Type, January Census and SEN2

Establishment Type	Number of Children Attending
Mainstream	140
Independent	17
Special	77
Independent Special	81
FE	207
Specialist FE	117
Total	639

Independent Special schools can provide places for pupils with very specific and often complex needs, meaning that in some instances, children will be placed in schools that are out of the county. Independent provision is not recorded on the January School Census as they are not Worcestershire LA-funded schools, however the EHCP remains the responsibility of the Worcestershire LA, the child's place of residence. The SEN2 data shows all children that live in Worcestershire with an EHCP and therefore includes attendance at independent provision.

The SEN2 data for 2022/23 shows that 305 children and young people with EHCPs were attending independent Special schools. The five schools with the highest numbers of Worcestershire children attending are: Norton College, Bridge School Malvern, Cambian New Elizabethan School, Gloverspiece and Norton College Tewkesbury. Children attending these schools make up 58% of the total.

These places are funded as needed based on very specific and individual needs, meaning they are difficult to predict or commission in a more structured long-term manner.

42% of children attending independent Specialist provision have an EHCP with the primary need of SEMH. This is followed by 28.9% with ASD. The new special Autism free school provision anticipated to be opened in September 2027 will aim to reduce the numbers of children attending independent specialist provision with an EHCP and primary need of Autism.

However, this data also suggests that more state-funded provision is needed to provide for children with an EHCP and primary need of SEMH in order to reduce the numbers of children attending independent specialist provision. This would in turn, significantly reduce the costs of independent provision for the Local Authority. The largest percentage of pupils awaiting specialist provision are those with a primary need of SEMH.

The largest cohort of children with an EHCP attending out-of-county provision are within post-16 provision. 46.2% of children attending out-of-county provision are attending specialist settings. The majority attending out of county are male (67%).

Table 19 shows the primary need of these children as:

Table 19: Children with Known Primary Need, January 2023 Census and SEN2

Establishment Type	ASD	Physical/Sensory	Cognitive	Other ²²	SEMH	Speech and Language
Mainstream	27	14	26	12	26	35
Independent	2	1	3	3	6	3
Special	22	9	23	12	2	9
Independent Special	24	2	5	4	35	10
FE	51	17	60	8	35	36
Specialist FE	29	24	38	3	5	18
Total	155	63	155	42	109	111

24% of children with an EHCP attending out-of-county provision have either ASD or Cognitive needs (MLD/SLD/SpLD/PMLD). For both these cohorts, the largest number of these are attending FE/specialist FE provision and are post-16. The top attended provisions for this cohort are Warwickshire College Group (FE) and Mencap (specialist FE).

Of the specialist independent provision, Alderman Knight (Tewkesbury) has the highest intake of Worcestershire children with an EHCP in out of county provision. 41.6% of those attending have a primary need of ASD, followed by MLD at 33.3%.

This data highlights an insufficiency in post-16 provision within the county as this is the largest cohort to be attending out of county provision – particularly for those with ASD or Cognitive needs. Details of how WCF are developing additional post 16 SEND provision are in section 5.11 of this report.

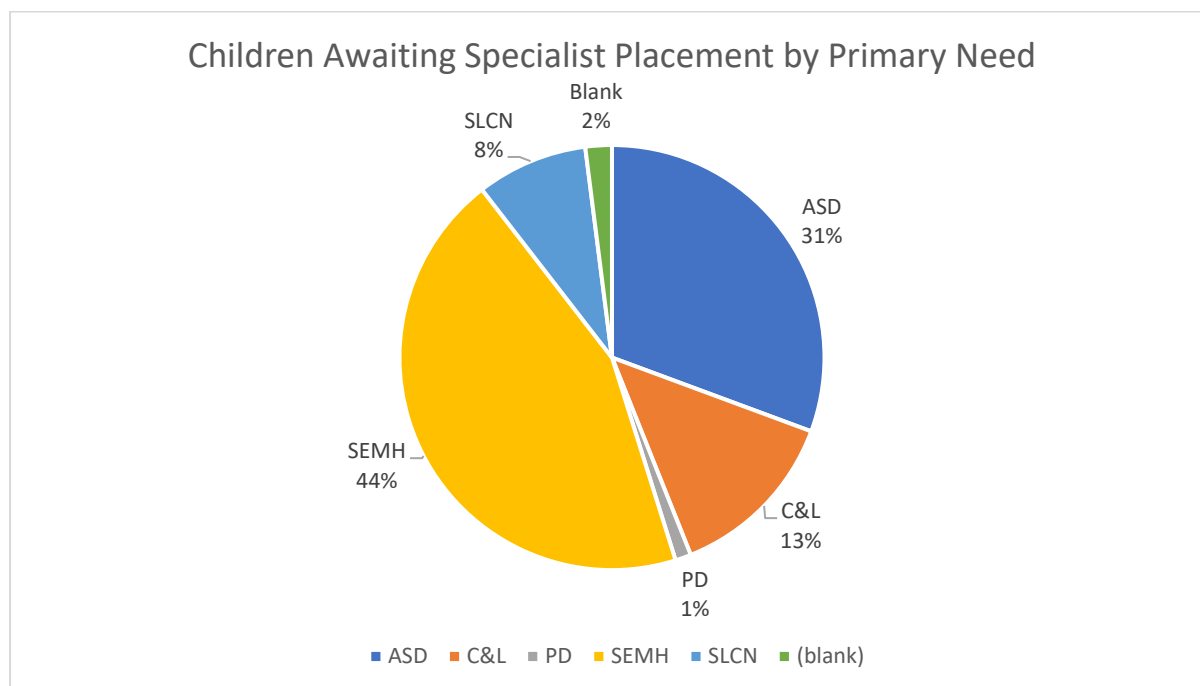
5.10 Children Waiting Specialist Placement

As of January 2024, there were 248 Worcestershire children and young people awaiting a specialist placement, 73 were not on roll at any education provision and the remaining were on roll within a mainstream or specialist provision. For a child already on roll in a specialist provision, it has been identified that they require a different type of provision to suit their needs.

Figure 18 below shows the breakdown of the primary needs of these children awaiting specialist placement:

²² The 'Other' category is sometimes used to classify complex cases which have aspects of ASD and either PMLD or SLD. Also, the category 'Other' may have been allocated due to delay in an official diagnosis by a healthcare professional.

Figure 18: Children Awaiting Specialist Placement by Primary Need, CAT1 and CAT2



Of the children awaiting a specialist placement, those with SEMH primary needs are largest cohort, this is followed by children with the primary need of Autism.

27% of children and young people waiting for a specialist placement live within the Worcester district, this is followed by 23% in Redditch.

There are three key types of specialist provision that children currently awaiting placement require to meet their needs: ASD Special (19%), MLD Special (19%) and SEMH Special (45%). Again, this highlights the need to ensure Worcestershire has sufficient provision to meet the needs of children with these primary needs, particularly children with SEMH needs.

5.11 Post-16 Specialist Provision

Most Specialist post-16 provision is not recorded as part of the January school census, unless sixth form provision is run by a school. Seven of the state-funded special schools listed above offer post-16 provisions (NCY12-13) and a few young people stay on past this age (NCY14). 32.5% of 16-25 year old young people with EHCPs in the academic year 2022/23 attended further education establishments with 24.2% in special schools and 7.67% in specialist further education.

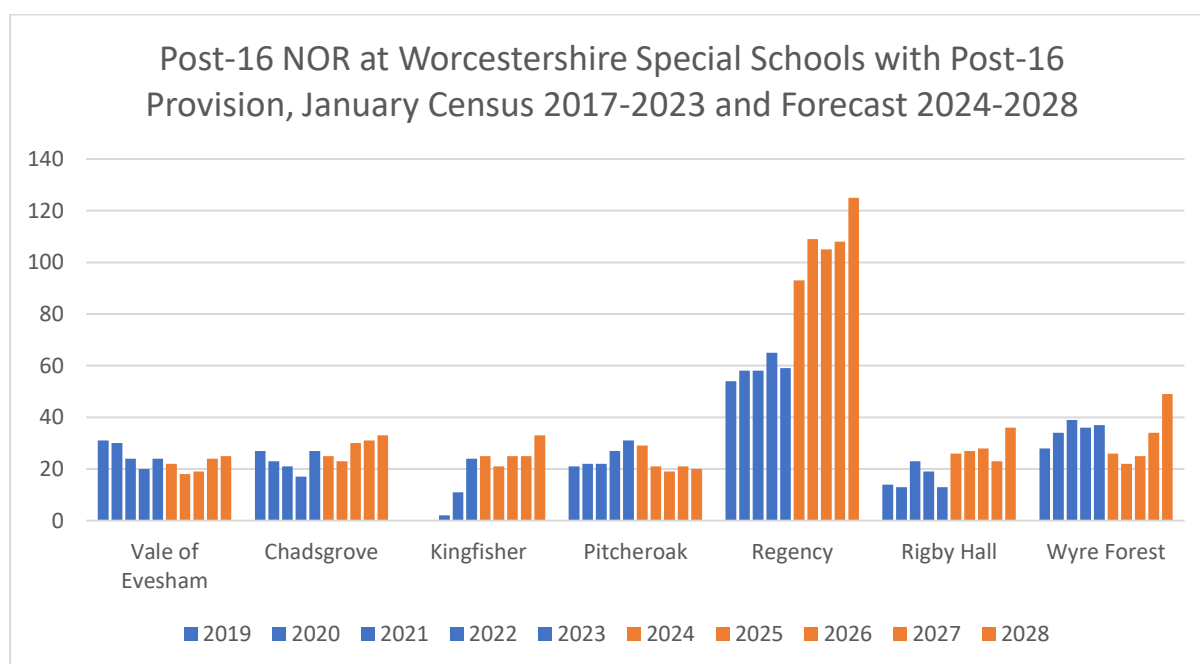
Since the SEN reforms in 2014, 19 to 25 year-olds with EHCPs should have free access to further education in the same way as 16-18 year-olds have. This provides a further 6 years beyond sixth form, to achieve agreed outcomes and to help the young person prepare for adulthood, planning that should start in Year 9 (SEND Code of Practice 2015). This means that young people need opportunities and places, beyond traditional education age, as well as support to transition to adult social care, if appropriate. There is no statutory requirement to secure education or training for young people aged 19 to 25 who do not have EHCPs.

The number of young people aged 20 to 25 with an EHCP has continued to increase from 413 in 2022 to 514 in 2023. As the number of young people with EHCPs grow, there could be an increase in the number of post-16 young people needing specialist FE provision. However, there are a small number of young people between 16 and 25 who stop attending education, many for the reason of starting in employment.

The number of EHCPs within the post-16 cohort is forecasted to continue to rise from its current level of 1,680 in 2024 to 3,668 in 2028.

The table below shows the forecast for post-16 (Years 12 – 14) numbers on roll at Worcestershire special schools:

Figure 19: Post-16 NOR at Worcestershire Special Schools with Post-16 Provision, January Census 2017-2023 and Forecast 2024-2028



6 of the 7 schools that have post-16 provision are forecasted to have their highest number on roll by 2028.

51% of young people aged 20-25 with an EHCP attend mainstream FE colleges, such as Heart of Worcestershire (HOW), Warwickshire College Group or Kidderminster College. This year’s data shows that 17% of young people in this age bracket attend specialist independent post-16 institutions such as National Star College (Gloucestershire), Queen Alexandra College (Birmingham), Mencap, Glasshouse College (Stourbridge) and Chadsgrove Educational Trust (Bromsgrove).

WCF will continue to develop and improve the working partnership with local colleges to ensure that we continue to meet our statutory obligations for young people with SEND.

In 2021/2022 WCF prioritised the £1.5m High Needs Capital allocation from the DfE to develop additional Post 16 SEND Provision in the county. Expressions of interest were received, and three providers were successful: Warwickshire Group, Pershore College; Kidderminster College and Heart of Worcestershire College. The Warwickshire College Group (WCG) Pershore Campus will create a

new Preparation for Adulthood Centre and improve existing teaching and support facilities resulting in better provision that is more accessible, creating 12-16 new places for young people aged 19-24 with complex needs by September 2024 or sooner. The project will take place within existing buildings on the Pershore College site (Avonbank, Pershore).

The HOW College will create new teaching and therapeutic accommodation for 12 young people available within one of the existing College buildings (St Wulstan's) in Worcester City Centre and would provide teaching spaces, therapy rooms, two bathrooms and inclusive built environment and all services to support this function including hoists, access door control (independent key fob access) and outdoor space for therapeutic use.

The Kidderminster College proposal was approved, however since, the college have completed a strategic estate review and are keen to review the location of the new provision. WCF are working with Kidderminster College to review a revised proposal that continues to meet the brief.

High Needs Provision Capital has been granted to all three colleges.

5.12 Travel to Specialist Provision

One way to monitor how well the needs of pupils with SEND are being met and the sufficiency of provision within the county is to analyse the distances pupils are travelling to their education settings.

Table 20: Travel Distance for Children with EHCP by Setting Type

Distance Band	Mainstream (inc. AP/PRU)	Mainstream Independent	Mainstream FE	Special	Independent Special	Specialist FE	Totals
<2km	914	8	63	390	14	0	1,389
2-5km	441	6	117	481	32	2	1,079
5-10km	198	20	96	273	46	11	644
10-15km	99	14	42	306	60	17	538
15-20km	46	16	55	118	47	12	294
>20km	32	34	324	190	104	87	771
Totals	1,730	98	697	1,758	303	129	4,715

There are similar numbers of pupils with EHCPs attending specialist and mainstream provision, however, significantly more children are having to travel over 10km to attend their specialist provision. Of the independent special cohort, 34.4% are having to travel over 20km to attend the relevant provision.

The number of young people at specialist further education settings are relatively low, however, the majority are travelling longer distances of 10km or more to access their education provision.

Table 21 breaks this pattern down by primary Need.

Table 21: Travel Distance for Children with EHCPs by Primary Need

Distance Band	ASD	Cognition	Speech	Sensory/ Physical	SEMH	Other ²³	Total
<2km	241	322	439	91	224	72	1,388
2-5km	208	312	304	60	154	41	1,079
5-10km	133	149	159	52	117	34	643
10-15km	106	150	109	60	91	22	537
15-20km	75	64	58	23	65	9	294
>20km	188	190	113	55	192	33	774
Total	951	1,187	1,182	341	843	211	4,715

Table 21 shows while a large number of children with primary needs are travelling less than 5km to their provision, there are also high numbers for children with ASD, Cognition, Speech and SEMH primary needs that are having to travel over 20km to attend their required provision. 211 children and young people have the primary need of 'Other²³', with a range of complex needs.

Table 22: Travel Distances for Children with EHCPs Attending Special Schools by Worcestershire District (Home Address)

Distance Band	Bromsgrove	Malvern Hills	Redditch	Worcester	Wychavon	Wyre Forest	Total
<2km	34	3	58	130	71	103	404
2-5km	72	18	121	150	50	97	515
5-10km	46	41	58	24	107	43	330
10-15km	55	109	57	14	103	22	383
15-20km	18	27	17	11	41	40	177
>20km	26	53	48	69	91	71	381
Total	251	251	359	398	463	376	2,190

Table 22 above shows only the travel distances across the districts to state-funded and independent special schools. It shows that children residing in the district of Wychavon are travelling greater distances (more than 10km) to a special school than children living in other districts.

²³ The 'Other' category is sometimes used to classify complex cases which have aspects of ASD and either PMLD or SLD. Also, the category 'Other' may have been allocated due to delay in an official diagnosis by a healthcare professional.

6 Combined Special School Forecast

All pupils attending the Worcestershire state-funded schools are recorded on the statutory school census completed in January each year. The demand trends can then be extrapolated forward to forecast likely future demand. Currently for all special schools, the future demand is based upon housing and admissions trends in the previous 5 years, therefore there is a risk that forecasts do not take into account any unmet demand for special school places in the county.

Over the last several years, demand for places in special schools has been high, driven by parental demand for high quality specialist education provision. Special schools in Worcestershire have very successfully adapted to high demand and increased the number of pupils attending the schools, with all 8 of the 9 schools deemed either Good or Outstanding by Ofsted. However, there are constraints to further growth - for example the physical accommodation and size of school sites available. So far, schools have managed within existing facilities with managed expansion projects at various schools, however, this growth in demand for special school places is not sustainable and broader solutions need to be considered.

Worcestershire Children First have been working closely with our special schools who provide termly data information in order to aid with providing a more accurate forecasts. Each term, each school has been provided with a template to fill in to confirm their current number on roll, the breakdown of this number by primary need, and also their expected next academic year number on roll. This data-gathering means we can use much more up-to-date figures to help with the accuracy with our forecasting.

As per the Worcestershire Local Area Partnership SEND Strategy 2023 to 2026, priority 2 there is sufficient and effective SEND provision is critical along with the priorities in the Worcestershire SEND Accelerated Progress Plan including increasing the percentage of pupils with an EHCP remaining in mainstream settings.

In 2022/23 Worcestershire's statistical neighbour authorities placed between 24% and 38% of children with EHCPs in LA maintained special schools. Worcestershire ranks second out of ten statistical neighbours, placing 34% of pupils in this type of provision. Nationally, 30% of children with an EHCP were placed in a maintained special school.

Worcestershire placed 8% of pupils in independent schools (both mainstream and special). This is ranked fifth out of ten amongst statistical neighbours.

To aid in this year's forecasting, the forecast uses either the known September 2023 number on roll as provided by the individual special school, or the most recent indicative number on roll for September 2023 if the exact number has not been provided. The next 5 years are forecast using a combination of historical numbers on roll, mainstream forecasts, and transfer rates.

The following forecasts show that if schools could accommodate more places, the demand following the previous 5 years trends against the population of Worcestershire including housing growth would continue to increase year on year.

Table 23: Combined Special School Forecast R – Year 14

	Chadsgrove	Rigby Hall	Pitcheroak	Kingfisher	Fort Royal	Regency High	Riversides	Vale of Evesham	Wyre Forest	TOTAL
2024	139	224	157	142	252	296	69	181	369	1,829
2025	138	237	151	143	263	308	65	185	396	1,886
2026	138	248	151	150	284	301	68	186	430	1,956
2027	140	257	152	155	298	303	70	192	462	2,029
2028	141	269	155	158	303	299	74	193	495	2,087

This forecasts that numbers across all schools apart from two are expected to be at their highest by 2028 as the population grows in Worcestershire, therefore, the demand for special school places is expected to continue to rise. There is forecast to be a significant rise for Rigby Hall (Bromsgrove), Fort Royal (Worcester) and Wyre Forest.

As previously mentioned in the report, nationally, 28% of children with an EHCP attend state-funded specialist schools, table 24 below shows the difference in numbers of pupils attending Worcestershire’s special schools if the percentage of population aligned with the national percentage of 28% attending special schools.

Table 24: Combined Special School Forecast (if in Line with National Statistics (28%))

Number of pupils on roll at each special school if in line with National Statistics (28%)										
	Chadsgrove	Rigby Hall	Pitcheroak	Kingfisher	Fort Royal	Regency High	Riversides	Vale of Evesham	Wyre Forest	TOTAL
2024	127	205	133	121	212	249	58	154	304	1,563
2025	126	217	128	121	221	259	55	157	312	1,596
2026	126	227	128	128	238	253	57	158	325	1,740
2027	129	235	129	132	250	254	59	164	337	1,689
2028	129	247	132	134	255	251	62	165	349	1,724

There are significant differences (circa minus 260+ children in 2024) in the numbers of children that would attend Worcestershire special schools if in line with the national 28%. The largest impact would be seen in Wyre Forest and Worcester (Regency High and Fort Royal).

This year, the DfE made it statutory for Local Authorities to complete the School Capacity Survey (SCAP) for all special schools and resourced provision. This is the first year that this information has been required.

Table 25: Worcestershire Special Schools Jan 2023 NOR and SCAP Net Capacity Figures

School	Jan 2023 NOR	SCAP Net Capacity
Chadsgrove	140	134
Rigby Hall	204	159
Pitcheroak	153	123
Kingfisher	135	109
Fort Royal	243	197
Regency High	246	204
Riversides	70	64
Vale of Evesham	185	165
Wyre Forest	328	246

Table 25 details the Net Capacity of each special school, following the DfE guidance for assessment and the most up-to-date plans available for each school. Using the Numbers on Roll from January 2023, each school has more pupils on roll than its Net Capacity. It is understood to be a national issue and not specific to Worcestershire, that most special schools have increased the number of pupils per class and therefore will have lower net capacity assessments than NOR.

For four of the nine special schools, the Local Authority agreed to increase the numbers of places for September 2023.

For September 2023, Fort Royal has increased to 256 FTE, made possible by converting a temporary double mobile classroom into three classrooms. Rigby Hall increased to 220 FTE following a project to improve accommodation onsite. Wyre Forest increased to 354 FTE, the Early Years Hub previously shared with St John’s Primary School was repurposed to accommodate additional pupils at Wyre Forest School. Additional accommodation is being provided at St John’s Primary School. Regency High increased to 298 FTE, with temporary accommodation to create four additional classrooms.

Desktop feasibilities have been completed at Rigby Hall, Pitcheroak, Fort Royal and the Vale of Evesham that determined that due to the size of the school sites, no further expansion of provision is possible. There may be opportunities at Pitcheroak and the Vale working in conjunction with adjoining school sites to investigate options further. Desktop feasibilities do suggest additional places could be provided at Regency High and Wyre Forest School.

The DfE intention to deliver the new Autism special free school in Malvern for September 2027 opening on a phased approach will provide for some of the demand for special school places, however this will not meet all of the additional demand and will not cater for in particular those children and young people with increasing complex SEMH needs.

This report details that there is significant demand for SEMH provision to meet children and young people’s needs. Riversides SEMH Special School operates from two sites in Worcester City (Thorneloe Road and City Walls Road). Thorneloe Road was previously a Design & Technology block of an FE college and has limited outdoor space. The school is commissioned for 68 FTE places, the age range of pupils attending Riversides are 7 – 16 years. The school site is limited in terms of

internal and external space, and the suitability of the site to meet the needs of the pupils. Kingfisher SEMH Special School in Redditch, expanded age range and size, increasing in September 2022 to 140 commissioned places for 7 – 19 year olds.

Ahead of September 2024, the Sufficiency and Place Planning Team and SEND Officers are reviewing the forecast demand for all special school places. Intake points and phase transfer points are being considered alongside children and young people awaiting specialist provision. WCF are meeting with each school / Academy Trust to review forecast numbers compared with available places at each school. Options will be considered where additional places are required, including temporary accommodation to mitigate demand. Options including further Resourced provision / SEN Units on mainstream school sites, will also be considered to meet the needs of children with SEND.

The SEND Specialist Provision Plan 2024/25 is currently being updated to detail the areas of demand and actions being taken to investigate options to meet demand, these are summarised in section 9 of this report. Additional funding, in excess of the current and forecast grant funding, to deliver the sufficiency of education provision will be required over the next 2 – 3 years.

7 Factors Affecting Demand for Provision

There are a number of factors that affect the demand for specialist provision. Parental preference means that ‘parents or young people have a legal right to request that a particular school or college is named in an EHCP (or to express a preference for an independent school, college or other institution)’²⁴. Parental preference for a school may not be the most local school that can meet the child’s needs.

Families are also choosing to electively-home-educate their children (EHE), this may be due to being dissatisfied with their local schools or that they are unable to get a place in their desired provision.

New housing developments will also have an impact on demand for provision to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND and a need for additional specialist provision. Worcestershire is seeing a significant level of new housing either being built or planned as the popularity of the county grows. Since 2019, Worcestershire County Council Education Planning Obligations Policy²⁵ (‘section 106 policy’), which is approved by Cabinet, requests a contribution from housing developers to fund the additional SEND provision that will be required in mitigation of the impact of the new housing. Current policy contributions are requested for SEND on developments of 50 dwellings or more and for school aged children only. The published SEND Pupil Product Ratio (PPR) is based on the average percentage of pupils in Worcestershire with an Education Health & Care plan over the last 5 years (2017 – 2021), which is 3%, with the building cost multiplier as per Government guidance. The Policy is currently being updated and will be presented to Cabinet in 2024 to take into account the changing demand for SEND provision in Worcestershire. Contributions can be spent on increasing provision to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND at mainstream

²⁴ [Choosing a school/college with an EHC plan | \(IPSEA\) Independent Provider of Special Education Advice](#)

²⁵ <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/planning-and-developments/planning-policy-and-strategy/school-planning-obligations>

schools or special schools. The Policy will be updated annually to reflect the increasing percentage of children with SEND.

The growth in new housing means there is likely to be an increase in demand for specialist provision, on top of current demand. As children’s needs can be identified at any stage, we would expect to see more children with EHCPs across new developments as they grow older.

Table 26: Percentage of EHCPs in comparison to population

Area	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change from previous year
Worcestershire	3.10	3.00	3.00	2.90	2.70	2.90	3.00	3.30	3.60	3.90	4.2	0.30
West Midlands	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.90	3.00	3.10	3.10	3.30	3.60	3.80	4.0	0.20
Statistical Neighbours	2.89	2.91	2.91	2.92	2.96	3.03	3.16	3.43	3.74	4.02	4.2	0.18
England	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.90	3.10	3.30	3.70	4.00	4.3	0.30

8 Conclusion

This report assesses the sufficiency of current provision to meet the needs of children with SEND living in Worcestershire.

Our ambition for all children is a sustainable school placement in their community and for them to receive a good education. To achieve this, a variety of provision is needed to support each individual’s unique special educational needs and disabilities and to enable them to reach their potential.

The percentage of children identified with special educational need and disabilities has increased over the last 10 years in Worcestershire. This is likely to continue to increase year-on-year as a percentage of the total population, following continual advancement in identification and diagnoses. Where previously babies with difficulties of various causes wouldn’t survive early childhood, today they are living fulfilling lives through school and beyond, with a variety of special needs.

This has meant that our reliance on providers who are able to quickly adapt to meet the needs of pupils with SEND has increased, including state-funded special schools, Specialist FE as well as specialist independent schools which are currently supporting 1,899 children and young people with EHCPs in Worcestershire.

At the same time, research is constantly being undertaken into ways to support children with various needs to remain within mainstream settings, alongside their peers, in their local communities.

Most schools report that children’s needs are becoming more complex which supports the trend seen nationally that special schools are providing places for more complex children. High level of complex needs more often require more physical space for equipment, or breakout areas or quiet rooms. As Mainstream schools develop their expertise on special needs education, they are likely to be able to accept more children with EHCPs. Resourced provision and SEN Units within Mainstream schools, enable special schools to meet the needs of pupils with more complex needs.

Changes have been made in Worcestershire to provide more places for children with special educational needs. Previously, there was an insufficiency highlighted for children with Autism. In October 2022 Worcestershire Children First successfully submitted a bid application to the DfE to create a new 120 place special free school for children with an EHCP for ASD that will be located within Malvern. This will be the first Autism specific special school in Worcestershire and will help to accommodate a large cohort of children that require this provision.

Within the last 12 months, Worcestershire Children First have also commissioned the expansion of one of the EMABs (Tudor Grange Academy Redditch), the expansion allowed for an additional 25 children and young people to attend. WCF also opened a new EMAB in Worcester, Christopher Whitehead Language College. This will allow more children with Autism to stay within mainstream provision while attending a specialist unit when required.

Four of Worcestershire’s special schools - Regency High (Worcester), Fort Royal (Worcester), Wyre Forest (Wyre Forest) and Rigby Hall (Bromsgrove) - also agreed increases in pupil numbers for September 2023, allowing more children that require special school places to receive the provision they need.

Further improvements are needed to accommodate the insufficiency highlighted within this report, with a focus on children attending out of county independent provision, particularly for the post-16 cohort and to continue to monitor and mitigate for special school place demand.

The planning process for education places will now use this data, along with current local policies and budget restrictions, to support children and young people and ensure that places are available for all children with SEND which meets their needs.

9 Overview of Recommended Actions

The following schemes were approved by Cabinet to respond to increased demand for provision to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND (High Needs Capital) as outlined above and agreed with schools and Academy Trusts to be delivered.

Approved schemes	Issue	School / College / setting	Indicative Delivery Year
Improve Medical Education provision	Accommodation not sufficient	Redditch base	2024
Improve Mainstream Autism Base	Accommodation not sufficient	Meadows First School and Parkside Middle School	2024 / 2025
Improve Mainstream Autism Base	Accommodation not sufficient	Beaconside Primary School	2025

Additional Post 16 SEND provision	Insufficient Post 16 provision	Pershore College HOW College Kidderminster College (TBC)	2024 2024 2025
Fund the abnormal costs for the DfE Free School	No Autism school	New DfE Special Autism Free School	2027

Capital grant funding has been approved by Cabinet to address the need for additional provision / places (High Needs Provision Capital allocation) as outlined in this report above, however, which schools or settings are yet to be confirmed.

Approved schemes	Issue	Location	Year
Improve Medical Education provision	Accommodation not sufficient	Wyre Forest and Worcester City bases	2025
Increase MAB / EMAB provision	Insufficiency of provision	Worcester City primary Malvern secondary Pershore First and Middle Wyre Forest secondary	2024 2024 2024 2025
Create Enhanced Early Years Provision	New provision	Worcester / Malvern Wychavon Redditch / Bromsgrove Wyre Forest	2024 2024 2025 2025
Create Resourced Provision / SEN Units for KS 1	New provision	Countywide	2024/5
Increase Special School places for age 5 – 16 years	Insufficiency of provision	Countywide	2025
Create Resourced Provision / SEN Units for SEMH	Insufficiency of provision	Countywide	2024/5

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Good education places for all Worcestershire children

Worcestershire County Council's
School Organisation Plan

2019 - 2024

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1. Introduction

Worcestershire's Corporate Plan: Shaping Worcestershire's Future 2017-22 states that "We will continue to play an essential role in managing and coordinating the school system across the county and ensuring education provision remains fit for purpose."

This plan sets out the way that Worcestershire County Council (WCC), as the responsible body for education intends to address its statutory responsibility to ensure a sufficiency of places across all areas of education provision in the period 2019-24 including:

- Early Years (0 – 5 years).
- Mainstream (5 – 16 years).
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) (0 – 25 years).
- Post-16 (16 – 19 years).

It also addresses the changing role of the Council as a strategic commissioner. This five-year strategic plan provides links to the annual updates, which will include the latest forecast information. The plan will be updated during the five-year period to take into account any changes to education policy at a national and local level.

Children entering reception classes in Worcestershire first and primary schools rose by 5% in the period 2013-17, peaking in 2016 (+8%). At this point there were an additional 487 reception pupils or 16.2 FE (forms of entry based on 30 pupils per form of entry) compared with October 2013. In the period of this plan, numbers entering reception are forecast to decline by -7.4% (2017-2021 excluding the impact of new housing). This equals 473 fewer reception pupils or 15.7 FE across the County compared with October 2017.

Numbers entering Year 7, the standard transition point for secondary education, also rose in the last five years, this time by 11.6% but from a low base. As a result there were an additional 616 children in year 7 or 20.5 FE in October 2017 compared with 2013. In the lifetime of this plan numbers are forecast to continue to increase and will peak in 2023 with an additional 11.9%. This equals an additional 702 pupils at Year 7 or 23.4 FE across the County.

Alongside this demographic growth, large scale housing developments are expected up to 2030 and beyond. This will put increased pressure on places across all phases and will be carefully monitored throughout the life of this plan. Forecasts for reception children in Worcestershire, including current housing trajectories, see numbers decline by only -2.8% by 2021. Year 7 numbers including housing rise by 19.5% in the period from 2017-23. This equals 1,154 additional pupils at Year 7 or 38.5 FE across the County, resulting in a total forecast increase in pupils at Year 7 of 1,770 or 59 FE in the period 2013-23.

This will result in the need for the creation of additional capacity in existing schools and the creation of new schools in Worcestershire which will be monitored by the team and reported annually to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Skills.

In a constantly changing education landscape this report will also identify how the Council will meet education provision need, commission new places, fund those new places and monitor the success of the plan.

2. Vision and principles

Strategic vision for education in Worcestershire

Worcestershire County Council believes that all children should have the opportunity for the best possible education to allow them to fulfil their full potential. To achieve this, we feel that local solutions offer the best way to meet the needs of all children and therefore, will encourage schools and settings to work together to build partnerships and support each other for the best interests of all our children. The County Council, for its part, will work with all types of providers to ensure there is a sufficiency of good quality education places in Worcestershire.

Core principles

Where the Council identifies the need for additional places, the decision on which provider to commission to deliver those places will be based on the aim to meet the following clear core principles:

- Improve educational outcomes for all children and young people;
- Improve the learning experience of children and young people;
- Support good or outstanding provision;
- Be sustainable in the long term; and
- Be cost effective / value for money.

Links to other council strategic documents

Worcestershire's Corporate Plan "Shaping Worcestershire's Future" has four key priorities to help guide the work of the Council over the next five years.

We are focused on improving outcomes for all children, young people and families in Worcestershire. Our ambition is to see more children and young people achieving their full potential in education and being fully prepared to live happy, healthy, independent and prosperous adult lives. This School Organisation Plan supports our priorities to:

- Provide adequate capacity by creating the right number of good or better school places to enable parental preference; and
- Support successful schools to expand in an appropriate form, to meet housing and demographic growth.

Worcestershire's Children and Young People's 2017-21 provides a framework for all agencies and organisations working with children, young people and families to make the necessary impact to improve lives (www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cypp).

The School Organisation Plan supports the following CYPP priorities:

- Support children to have the best start in life and be ready for learning;
- Provide access to a quality and appropriate education/learning experience for all;
- Prepare young people for adult life; and
- Improve outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people.

The Education and Skills Strategy is currently in development and due for publication in spring 2019.

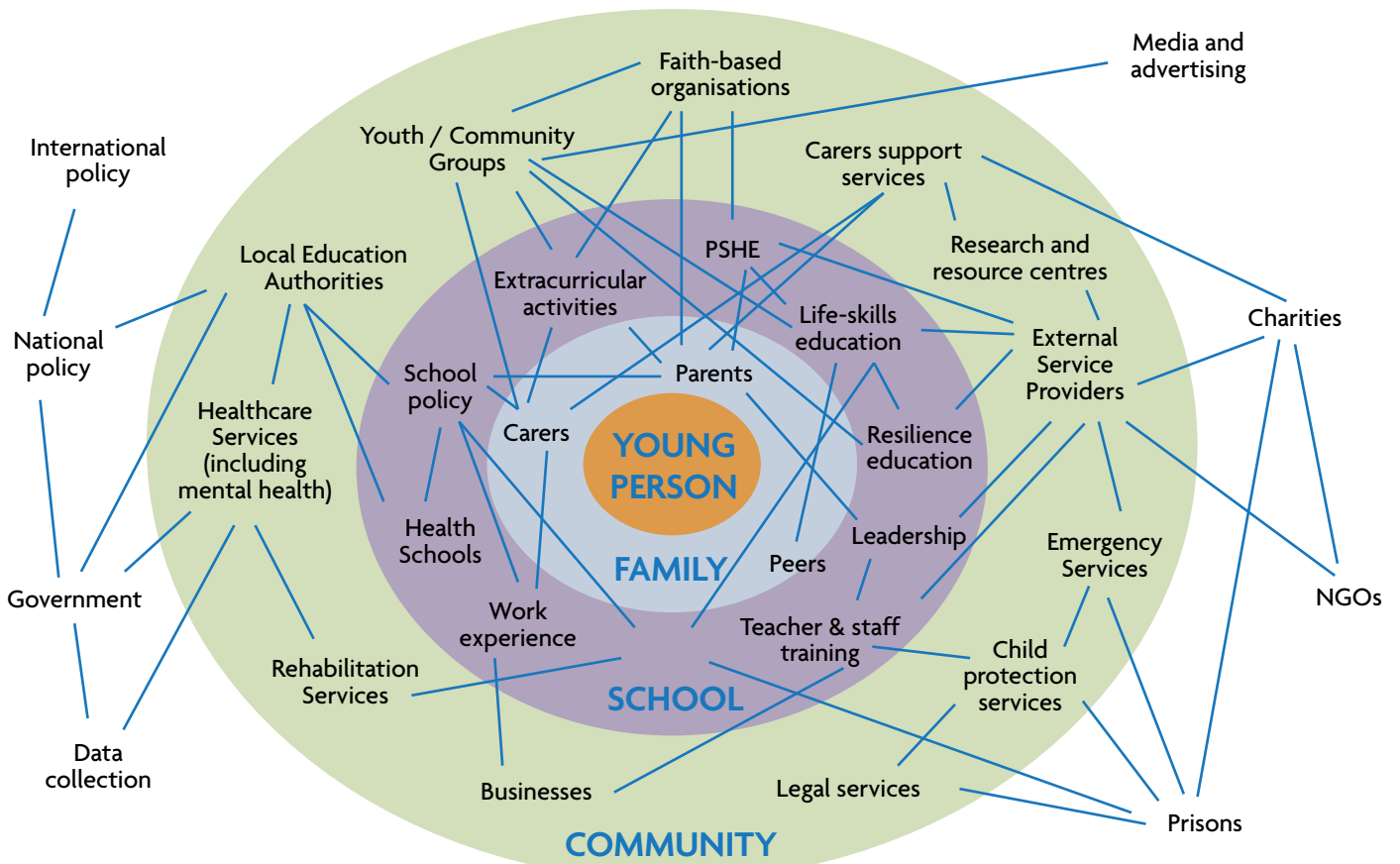
3. Roles and responsibilities

The education system is complicated and complex. The system will vary from authority to authority, and comprises all those organisations and people who have a role to play in ensuring that children can access and participate in a high quality education and achieve good outcomes.

When working with any partners, the Council will place its overarching strategic responsibility to champion children and young people and their outcomes at the heart of the process.

An example of this system is set out below (Great Educational Outcomes for Worcestershire Children – Jo Davidson – August 2017):

A diagrammatical view of an education system



Worcestershire County Council

Worcestershire County Council has a duty (under the Education Act 1996) to ensure there are sufficient school places to accommodate the children and young people who reside in the county and to ensure these places are of good quality with sufficient capacity to promote parental preference and diversity.

The 2011 Education Act requires that, where the need for a new school is identified, the Council should invite proposals to establish a free school, with the final approval given by the Secretary of State for Education.

Worcestershire County Council has a statutory duty to:

- Secure sufficient childcare, as far as is reasonably practical, to support parents to take up or remain in work or training.
- Secure free early years education for all eligible young children in their area.
- Undertake an assessment of the sufficiency of childcare places in its area at least every 3 years, with an annual update, and publish the assessments in the prescribed manner (Childcare Act 2006).
- Secure sufficient schools to provide primary and secondary education in their area through the inputting and analysis of pupil forecasts, and to complete the Annual Surplus Places Survey.
- Ensure sufficient education places are available to meet the needs of the population in the area.
- Undertake an assessment of the sufficiency of school places in its area with annual updates.
- Consider parental representations regarding the provision of schools and respond accordingly, including outlining any proposed action, or where it is considered action is not needed, to explain the reasons for this.
- Ensure the prescribed statutory process is followed when proposing to establish new schools. (As of 1st February 2012 Section 37, Schedule 11 of the Education Act 2011 applies i.e. where a new school needs to be established the Council must seek proposals for the establishment of a new academy).
- Follow the prescribed statutory process when proposing the closure of existing maintained schools.
- Follow the prescribed statutory process when proposing alterations to existing schools.
- Secure educational provision for pupils age 16 – 18 and those 19 to 25 years with special educational needs as in Section 14 of the Education Act 1996.
- Keep their arrangements for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision under review as in Section 315 of the Education Act 1996.

The co-ordination and management of all education place planning is located in the Children, Families and Communities (CFC) directorate of the County Council.

Under the County Council's Scheme of Delegation, decisions relating to PAN changes and the consultation process, at maintained schools, have been delegated to the Director for Children's Services or the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Education and Skills. The Cabinet Member may also decide to escalate the decision to the County Council's Cabinet.

Approval to the allocation of relevant capital resources is given by Council as part of its budget setting.

Provision planning and accommodation

Provision Planning and Accommodation is the team within the Council that leads on school organisation matters. Its principle outputs include:

- Annual sufficiency forecasts and forward planning for:
 - » Childcare;
 - » Mainstream;
 - » SEND; and
 - » Post-16.
- Submission of the annual School Capacity Collection (SCAP), which is a statutory return to the DfE that is used as the basis for calculating Basic Need Grant.
- Maintaining capacity information.
- Managing S106/CIL contribution requirements including negotiating contributions with developers and district councils and the collection and allocation of funding for education capital works.
- Project Management of:
 - » School reviews and school organisation changes;
 - » Development of schemes to be funded through the Education Capital Programme;
 - » Managing Education Capital Programme; and
 - » Academy Conversions.

Babcock Prime

Babcock Prime provides a number of services that support the delivery of services to early years settings, schools, academies, multi-academy trusts and post-16 providers assisting Worcestershire County Council to fulfil the duty to secure sufficient places.

Babcock Prime is a commissioned service that administers the statutory [Admissions Process](#) on behalf of and in partnership with the Council. Further information on the work of admissions can be found by clicking on the link above.

Information on the Council's [policy on Delayed and Accelerated Transfer](#) – Placement of pupils out of their chronological age group including summer born children starting school, can be found by clicking the link.

Settings

All types of providers are key to a successful school organisation system. They provide the places that allow children and young people of all ages to attend an education setting in their local area. Without this continued support from all providers and settings across Worcestershire the Council could not continue to meet its statutory duty.

The operational lead for place planning in providers and settings across Worcestershire should:

- Monitor forecasts produced by the place planning team to allow them to successfully plan for future demand;
- Undertake appropriate curriculum analysis and school development plans to allow them to identify any potential surplus accommodation that could be used to support needs of children in their area;
- Engage in collaborative working with the Council and other settings in their area to meet future demands on settings from demographic or housing growth, which makes best use of resources and supports all children and young people and settings in their local area;
- Maintain the fabric of their setting; and
- Follow any appropriate statutory guidance when instigating any organisational changes to their setting.

Place Partnership

Place Partnership is a commissioned service that provides a number of services to the Council in managing its capital assets. These services include asset and estate management, project management, building surveying services and facilities management. Place Partnership organises the asset management suitability surveys on behalf of the Council that allows us to prioritise our Condition Programme for maintained schools and to develop our capital programme and provides information on up to date costings from Building Cost Information Service (BCIS).

Place Partnership is also the data holder on behalf of the Council in respect of surveys and plans at the point of transfer.

Jacobs architects

Jacobs is the County Council's supplier of Construction Related Professional Design Services. They have offices throughout the UK and a Worcester office set up specifically to deliver services for Worcestershire County Council. This team has extensive experience in school design and offers a full multi-disciplinary design service incorporating architecture, engineering, cost control, project management and a full range of specialist survey and design services. The team undertakes condition surveys for the Council and has extensive knowledge of the Worcestershire school estate. It also offers strategic design advice in relation to national School Premises Regulations, ESFA recommended accommodation provision, and standards.

Where funding for a project comes from the Council's capital programme and a school is maintained, then Jacobs will be the Council's design team.

Contact: Andrew Stamper or Dermot Galvin - by telephone on 01905 368100

First Floor, Malvern Court, Whittington Hall, Whittington, Worcester WR5 2RA



Leigh & Bransford Primary School - Extension

Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC)

The **Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) for the West Midlands** has a strategic role in school organisation as it relates to academies. This is particularly true where an academy seeks to make a prescribed alteration. These can include:

- Significant expansion for more than 30 pupils (10% or 20 pupils, for special academies);
- Age range changes;
- Sixth form provision; and
- Changes affecting provision reserved for pupils with SEND.

For a full list and more information please read the DfE guidance on **Making Significant Changes to an Existing Academy**.

The RSC also recommends the approval of proposals for new free schools to the Secretary of State for Education and can instruct academies to expand due to basic need pressure.

The Council and the RSC work closely together to ensure that any approvals to changes at academies are in the best interest of all children and will not result in over or under supply of school places.

Where a change of age range is proposed by academies, the council will use its data to inform the RSC of the implications of any proposal, and the likely impact on other schools within the pyramid.



Blackwell First School

4. Context of Worcestershire education provision

The education provision planning landscape in 2018 is a complex one. The Council still retains direct responsibility and decision making for a majority of its schools however, the majority of our pupils are educated in academies, from which we commission places. In the childcare and post-16 sectors, the vast majority of our places are provided by institutions independent of Worcestershire County Council.

The Council retains its strategic responsibility to ensure sufficient high quality places, across all phases appropriate to the age, aptitude and ability of all learners. We will continue to build on existing partnerships, such as Diocesan Bodies, private and voluntary providers, academies, multi-academy trusts and free schools, whilst developing new relationships, with a core aim of producing the best outcomes for all children and young people in Worcestershire.

Numbers and Types of education provision

The tables below show the pattern of provision in Worcestershire:

Table 1 - Numbers and types of early years provision registered for nursery education funding September 2018

Type of Childcare Provider	Apr-14	Apr-15	Apr-16	Oct-18
Maintained Nursery Class	52	49	52	59
Governor Led Nursery				38
Independent Nursery Class	9	9	4	3
Childminder	98	147	161	211
Day Nursery	134	135	130	130
Pre-School Playgroups	151	152	148	102
County Total	444	492	495	543

Table 2 - Number and types of mainstream schools, academies and free schools by phase September 2018

School Phase and Age Ranges	LA Maintained Schools	Academies	Free Schools	Totals by Phase
Nursery Schools	1	0	0	
Nursery total	1	0	0	1
First Schools	53	18	0	
Primary Schools	63	42	1	
First/Primary total	116	60	1	177
Middle Schools – Deemed primary	3	1	0	
Middle Schools – Deemed secondary	6	8	0	
Middle total	9	9	0	18
Secondary Schools -10-18 years	1	0	0	
Secondary Schools -11-16 years	1	5	0	
Secondary Schools -11-18 years	2	13	0	
Secondary Schools -12-18 years	0	2	0	
Secondary Schools -13-18 years	1	5	0	
Secondary total	5	25	0	30
Special Schools - primary	1	0	0	
Special Schools - secondary	0	1	0	
Special Schools – all-through	4	3	0	
Special Schools total	5	4	0	9
Combined First and Middle	0	1	0	
Alternative Provision Schools	3	1	2	
All-through School	0	0	1	
Other total	3	2	3	8
Total Number of Schools in Worcestershire	139	100	4	243

Table 3 – Number and types of schools by providers November 2018

	Nursery	First/Primary	Middle	Secondary	Special	All-through & Alternative	Total
Maintained *	1	116	11	4	4	4	139
Stand-alone academies	0	7	2	15	1	3	28
Diocese of Worcester MAT (DoWMAT) *	0	10	2	0	0	0	11
The Rivers CofE Multi Academy Trust	0	10	0	0	0	0	10
Severn Academies Educational Trust	0	5	0	2	0	0	7
Advance Trust	0	0	0	0	3	1	4
Avonreach Academy Trust	0	3	0	1	0	0	4
Our Lady of Lourdes Multi-Academy Co.	0	2	1	1	0	0	4
Hanley and Upton Education Trust	0	2	0	1	0	0	3
St Nicholas Owen Catholic Multi Academy Co.	0	2	0	1	0	0	3
Victoria Academies Trust	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Bengeworth CE Academy Trust	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Black Pear Trust	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Central RSA Academies Trust	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Holy Family Catholic MAC	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Mercian Education Trust	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
RSA Academies	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
The Spire CofE Learning Trust	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Tudor Grange Academies Trust	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
The Villages Multi Academy Trust	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Redditch West School Trust	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Alvechurch C of E Multi-Academy Trust	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Bishop Anthony Trust	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Gloucester Learning Alliance	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Oasis Community Learning	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ormiston Trust	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
The Griffin Schools Trust	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
The Hill Trust	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

* One maintained school is combined middle/high and one DOWMAT school is combined first/middle but split for the purposes of this table.

Table 4 - Number and types of specialist education provision February 2018

Type of provision	Number
Special schools	9
Special School Nursery / Nursery Plus	5
Early Years specialist language classes	4
Mainstream school with nurture group funded by LA	16
Mainstream schools with language bases for children with language disorders	5
Mainstream schools with mainstream autism bases for children with ASD	14

Table 5 - Number and types of post-16 providers September 2018

Type of provision	Number
Further Education Colleges	4
Active training providers offering apprenticeships	208

School size

The size of a school is usually defined by its published Pupil Admission Number (PAN), which sets out the maximum number of pupils a school will admit at the point of entry to the school. This is sometimes represented by the number of Forms of Entry (FE) in each year group. Alternatively, the physical capacity of the school could be used, which refers to the maximum number of pupils that can be accommodated within current school facilities.

Another measure of school size is the current number on roll at the school. The numbers on roll (NOR) is the number of individual pupils a school has on roll (either full time or part time) at any one time. School Census' are undertaken termly in October, January and May to record the number of pupils on roll at a given time; these are referred to as school census days. Please see table 6 for a summary of the range of school sizes by number on roll in October 2017.

Table 6 - Type of school by number on roll (NOR) October 2017

Type of school	Smallest NOR	Largest NOR
First	38	442
Primary	43	777
Middle	179	662
Secondary (including sixth form)	329	1342
Special School	63	251

The Council has no policy on the optimum size of schools in the county. In provision planning terms we often use Forms of Entry (FE) as the basis of planning. Each FE is assumed to be 30 pupils. Accepted practice within the Council is that any new first/primary school would ideally be at least 2FE, middle school 3FE and a secondary school 6FE. This provides the best position for long term viability. However, it is recognised that in some circumstances this may not be achievable. In these situations the Council will work with any potential provider to ensure that potential smaller schools are viable, produce high quality appropriate education and deliver a varied curriculum for all their pupils.

The maximum size of a secondary school is best decided on individual circumstances and in consultation with partners. The Council is committed to ensuring that every school in Worcestershire is able to offer the best possible education for all its children and young people, irrespective of size.

Table 7 – Type of school by forms of entry (FE)

	Nursery	First/Primary	Middle	Secondary	Special	All-through & Alternative	Total
Up to 0.5FE	0	31	0	0	0	0	31
Up to 1FE	0	74	0	0	0	0	74
Up to 2FE	0	59	0	0	0	1	60
Up to 3FE	0	13	3	1	0	0	17
Up to 4FE	0	1	3	1	0	0	5
Up to 5FE	0	0	10	1	0	0	11
Up to 6FE	0	0	4	7	0	0	11
Up to 7FE	0	0	0	6	0	0	6
Up to 8FE	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
Up to 9FE	0	0	0	4	0	0	4
Up to 10FE	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Up to 11FE	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Up to 12FE	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
N/A	1	0	0	0	9	6	16

Small schools policy

Worcestershire has many small schools, particularly in villages or rural areas, which are monitored annually by the Council. Should there be the need to review a small school the [Worcestershire's policy on conducting an officer review of small schools](#), lays out the criteria and process for such a review.

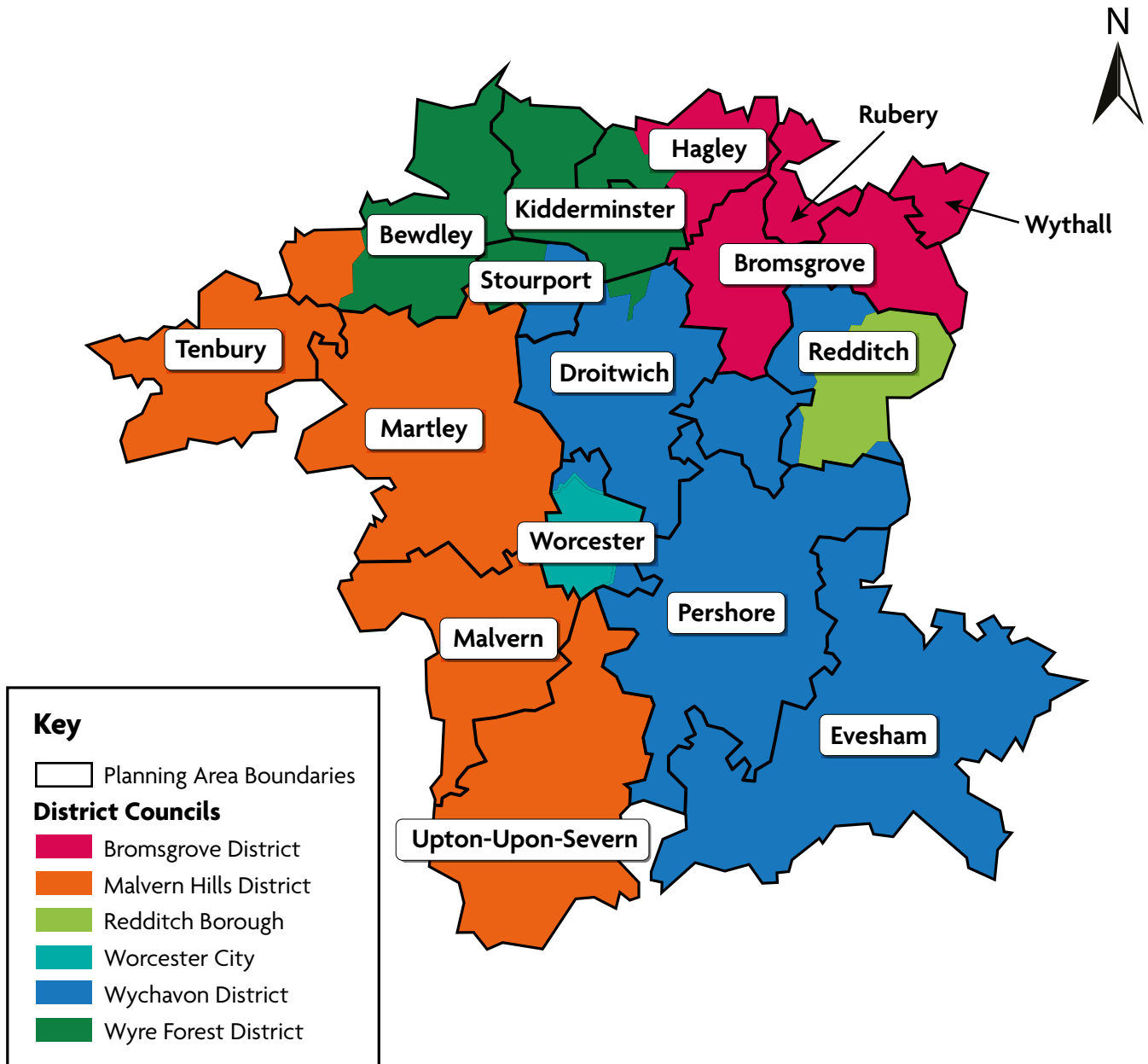
Education planning areas

Effective pupil place planning is a fundamental element of the local authority's role as strategic commissioner of good school places. Most local authorities divide their geographical regions into smaller areas for pupil place planning purposes and pupil planning areas should align with these smaller areas. Schools located in close proximity where pupils could reasonably attend, should be grouped together in one planning area. The educational planning areas (EPA) within Worcestershire are used by the Council for the purposes of assessing current and future pupil demand for school place provision.

Pupil place planning is a dynamic process in which factors such as school re-organisation, evolving local demographics or changing geographical factors can mean existing structures are no longer fit for purpose. Changes to EPAs are therefore sometimes necessary.

The Council operates 16 Education Planning Areas, based around the main population centres.

Figure 1- Education planning areas in relation to district council boundaries



Tier structure

There are both two-tier and three-tier education systems in operation in Worcestershire. In areas which operate a two-tier model, children enter primary school at reception before transferring to a secondary school at the start of year 7. In areas which operate a three-tier model, children enter first school at reception, transfer to a middle school at the start of year 5 or 6 depending on the age range of the middle school, and then transfer again to high school at the start of year 8 or 9 depending on the age range of the high school. Some schools have sixth forms and some do not. The table below summarises the predominant model in operation in each EPA as of June 2018:

Table 8 - Tier areas in Worcestershire

Two-tier model	Three-tier model A	Three-tier model B	Three-tier model C
Primary Years R-6 (Age 5 – 11)	First Years R-4 (Ages 5 – 9)	First Years R-4 (Ages 5 – 9)	First Years R-5 (Ages 5 – 10)
Secondary Years 7 – 13 (Ages 11 – 18)	Middle Years 5-8 (Ages 9 – 13)	Middle Years 5-7 (Ages 9 – 12)	Middle Years 6-8 (Ages 10 – 13)
	High Years 9-13 (Ages 13 – 18)	High Years 8-13 (Ages 12 – 18)	High Years 9-13 (Ages 13 – 18)
Bewdley	Bromsgrove	Droitwich	Evesham
Hagley	Redditch	Pershore	
Kidderminster			
Malvern			
Martley			
Rubery			
Stourport			
Tenbury			
Upton			
Worcester			
Wythall			

A small number of schools in the three-tier areas operate on a primary / secondary basis. This includes catholic school provision and some other schools that have sought to change their age range away from the three-tier model.

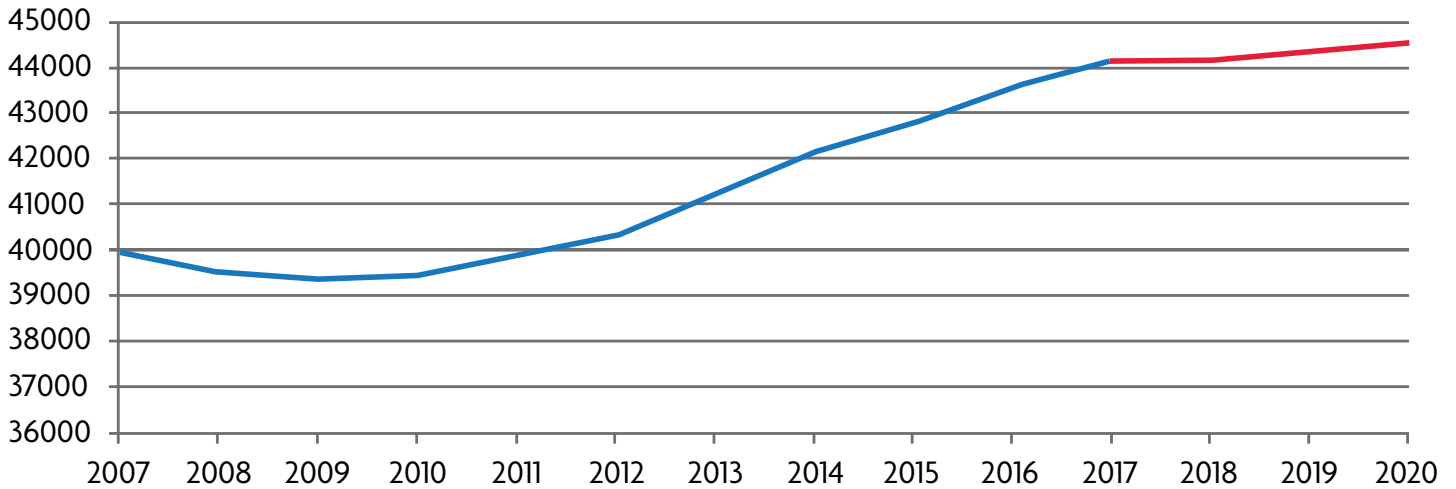
5. Demand for education provision

Demographic growth

The landscape of education provision in Worcestershire is changing. The number of primary age children (reception to year 6) in Worcestershire has altered significantly over the last several years and provision has had to adapt to ensure we are able to meet the demand for primary school places across the county. After several years of growth, we are now expecting the birth rate of children in Worcestershire to stabilise and the number of children in primary school derived from demographic growth is set to maintain at between 44,000 and 45,000 for the foreseeable future.

Graph 1 - Numbers on roll in reception to year 6 2007-2020

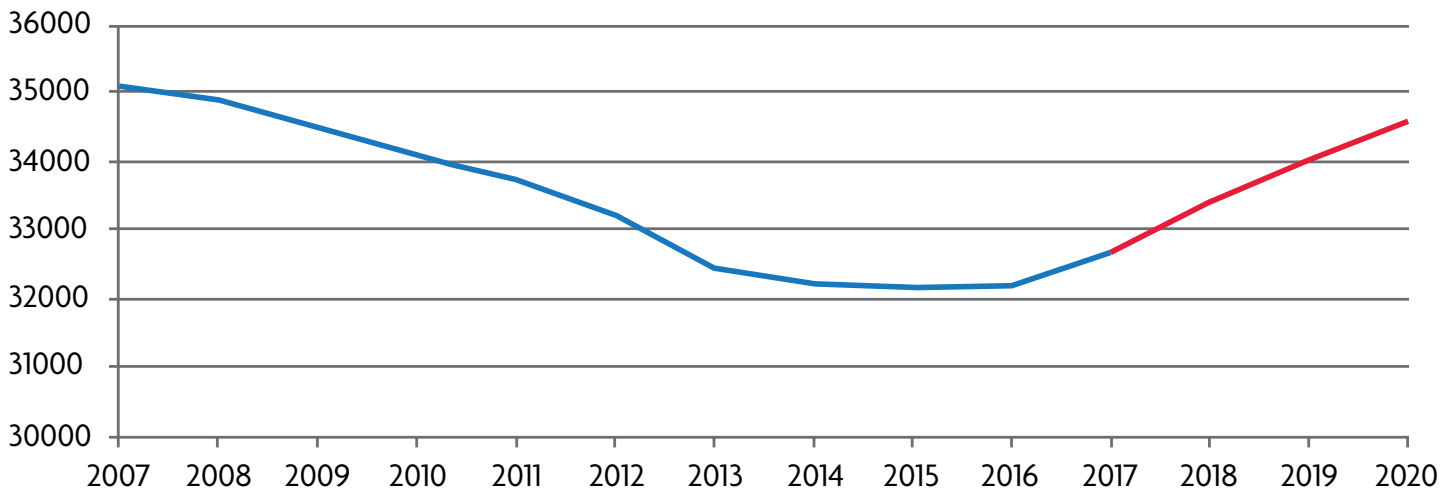
Total Number On Roll - Primary



Higher numbers of children entering primary and first schools in the county began to affect the total number of children on roll in key stage 1 and 2 from 2011. As a result, we started to see the number of secondary age children (year 7 to 11) in Worcestershire begin to rise sharply in 2017.

Graph 2 - Numbers on roll in year 7-13 2007-2020

Total Number On Roll - Secondary



Worcestershire has a mix of urban and rural areas. An increasing number of families are moving into urban areas, a trend

seen nationally, which is supported by housing growth. The challenge of ensuring there is a sufficiency of places within our urban areas, where land and space are becoming increasingly sparse, as well as ensuring small village schools are able to remain sustainable as a result of falling catchment area pupil numbers, will be a greater challenge moving forwards. This will be the case particularly over the next 5-10 years as a number of large housing developments are expected to greatly increase the numbers of families with school age children in towns and cities. At the same time, smaller developments, will see the potential for villages to increase by large percentages.

Forecast pupil numbers shown overleaf are based on children currently living in Worcestershire, new housing will generate additional demand above that which is shown above. Additional provision at primary and secondary level will therefore be required directly as a result of new housing. The Council will need to build on existing relationships with schools, developers, and neighbouring councils to tackle these challenges and ensure all children are able to access good education provision.

The housing development plan for the south of the county was adopted in spring 2016 and includes significant housing forecasts in and adjacent to the Worcester EPA. Plans for the north of the county are not yet fully adopted and will be affected by a planned Green Belt review in the early 2020's. However we are expecting a significant number of new housing in the north of the county, particularly as a result of unfulfilled housing need from Birmingham. Large new housing developments are expected to expand the Bromsgrove, Redditch, Malvern and Worcester urban areas in particular.

Migration

Migration is generally modest with some movement across county boundaries. In general, outward migration impacts on Birmingham, Dudley, Sandwell and Solihull councils to the north and on Gloucestershire and Warwickshire councils to the east.

Inward migration into Worcestershire schools is not currently considered a major factor and is not a cause for concern as, in the majority of cases, school admissions policies give priority to pupils living within the school catchment areas. Some schools are very dependent on migration from authorities outside Worcestershire particularly in the north of the county with pupils coming from Birmingham and Dudley to serve the Hollywood area, from Shropshire to serve the Tenbury area, and schools serving the Upton area with pupils coming from Gloucestershire. Isolated cases of seasonal working are a factor but there is no statistical evidence that this is putting pressure on provision.

Within post-16 education, Worcestershire has historically had a net migration out of the county and increased provision within the county is seeking to maintain higher student numbers. At the moment it is too early to identify the reasons for this. Further outcomes will be monitored as part of the post-16 sufficiency report.

None of these patterns are currently forecast to cause any major pressures on the overall provision across the County.

6. Growth as a result of new housing

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Paragraph 95 of the NPPF 2018 lays out education's role in the planning framework. It states:

It is important that a sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing and new communities. Local Planning authorities should take a proactive, positive and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement, and to development that will widen choice in education. They should:

- a) Give great weight to the need to create, expand or alter schools through the preparation of plans and decisions on applications; and
- b) Work with school providers, delivery partners and statutory bodies to identify and resolve key planning issues before applications are submitted.

The Provision Planning and Accommodation Team will support this by working with developers, district councils and schools, to create bespoke assessments taking into account pupil yields, local circumstances, the availability of good school places, costs, and potential impact on other local schools.

The following development plans operate in Worcestershire.

South Worcestershire

- Malvern Hills District Council – predominantly incorporating the Malvern, Martley, Tenbury and Upton EPAs.
- Worcester City Council – predominantly incorporating the Worcester City EPA.
- Wychavon District Council – predominantly incorporating the Droitwich, Evesham and Pershore EPAs.

The [South Worcestershire Development Plan](#) (SWDP) was adopted in February 2016 and covers the period 2006 – 2030. Worcestershire County Council contributed to the plan and set our requirements in terms of the education provision and the supply of school places as a result of the proposed housing developments.

Current proposals under the SWDP are likely to require the expansion of existing primary and secondary schools. Two cross boundary urban expansions named the South Worcester Urban Expansion and West Worcester Urban Expansion are likely to require the provision of new free schools. Further information on these and other large scale developments can be found via the [South Worcestershire Development Plan](#).



St. Andrew's First School

Bromsgrove

Bromsgrove District Council to the north of the county predominantly covers the educational planning areas of Bromsgrove, Hagley, Rubery and Wythall. The [Bromsgrove District Plan](#) 2011 – 2030 was adopted on 25th January 2017 and sets out the Council's vision and strategy for the area until 2030.

Three large scale housing developments are proposed for the Bromsgrove town area: Brom1 at Norton Farm for 316 dwellings; Brom2 at Sidemoor, known as Perryfields, for 1300 dwellings; and Brom3 at Whitford Road for 490 dwellings.

There are two further cross boundary urban expansions proposed in the Bromsgrove District to support demographic growth from Redditch. The expansions at Foxlydiate and Brockhill will see a new school at Foxlydiate and the relocation of Holyoakes Field First School for Brockhill.

Redditch

The [Redditch District Plan](#) 2011 – 2030 was adopted on 30th January 2017. The plan provides a framework approach for the growth of the Borough with cross boundary major developments as identified above.

Wyre Forest

The current Wyre Forest District Council adopted the [Core Strategy Development Plan document](#) which covers the plan period from 2006 – 2026.

A [Wyre Forest Local Plan Review](#) (WFLPR) is currently being undertaken across the Wyre Forest District Council which will span the period 2016-2036 which will cover the educational planning areas of Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport. Worcestershire County Council has been consulted on the Wyre forest Infrastructure Delivery Plan (WFIDP) and has provided a response to the options put forward in terms of education provision. The plan is scheduled to be published in the first quarter of 2020.

The extent of the development proposed under the WFIDP is likely to require additional primary schools, expansion of existing primary schools and additional school places in the secondary phase. Expansions proposed for the north and east of Kidderminster will see the largest increase in school places.



Wychbold First and Nursery School

7. Forecasting sufficiency

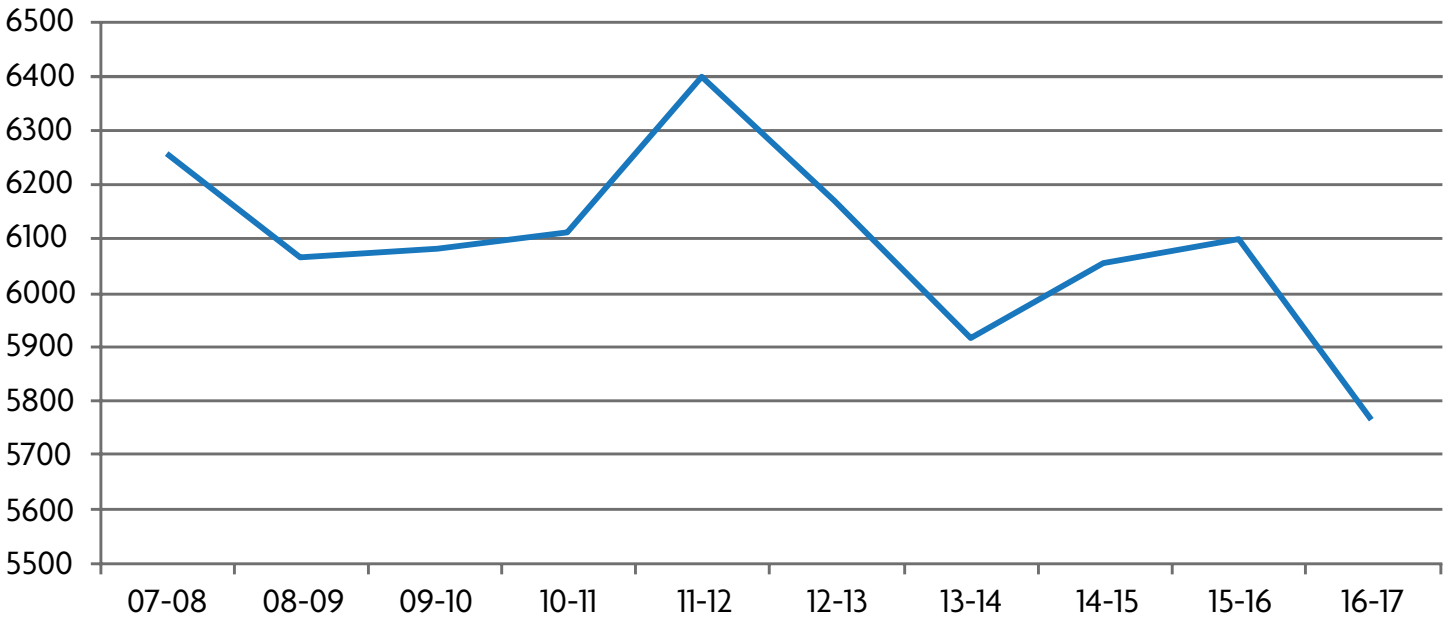
Childcare

The Council has a duty to ensure that all eligible 2, 3 and 4 year old children in Worcestershire are able to secure access to 570 hours of free early education. In September 2017 this offer was extended for families where both parents are working for 3 and 4 year olds to access an additional 570 hours a year, known as “30 hours extended entitlement”. This has increased the demand on early year provision across the county over the 2017/2018 academic year.

During this period, the total number of 2, 3, and 4 year olds in the County has fallen after a peak in the 2014/2015 academic year following a higher than average birth year in Worcestershire in 2011/2012, a trend which was also seen nationally. There has since been a decline in the number of births with 5765 children born and registered in Worcestershire between 1st Sep 2016 and 31st August 2017, a fall of 10% since 2012/2013.

Graph 3 - Numbers of children born in Worcestershire 2007-17

Children born and registered in Worcestershire 2007-2017



Despite this, the number of children seeking early education is expected to slowly increase as more families move into Worcestershire, particularly into urban areas where we see a large number of new housing developments. Housing growth is focused on the main settlements where there is existing infrastructure to support new households, however there is likely to be a need to encourage and support additional pre-school provision both from existing and new providers in areas where existing provision is insufficient.

Coupled with the new “30 hours” policy, there will likely be a higher number of early education hours being taken across Worcestershire. In order to ensure children are able to access early education hours, the Council will work ever-more closely with providers.

For further information and reports please refer to www.worcestershire.gov.uk/childcaresufficiency

Mainstream provision

School place planning is crucial to ensuring the Council is able to meet its responsibility and support children within Worcestershire to access a good education. Forecasting is at the forefront of this process and ensures that we are able to work with key partners to build our education provision around the demands of a changing demographic landscape.

The Provision Planning Team carries out an annual forecast of pupil places requirements based on information from the NHS known children numbers, school census information, admissions, and district council's five year housing land supply. This forms the basis for our School Capacity Return (SCAP) and is benchmarked by the DfE in the form of the **Basic Need scorecard**, last undertaken in 2017.

For September 2017, our primary forecast was 99.2% accurate (0.8% over forecast) for one year ahead and 99.8% (0.2% over forecast) for three years ahead. This compared to a range of -6.2% to +8.5% for other Councils at one year, and a range of -4.9% to +12.5% for three years.

Our secondary forecast was 97.9% accurate (+2.1%) for one year ahead and 97.4% (+2.6%) for three years ahead. Again this compares to other Councils' ranges from -9.3% to +4.8% for one year, and -11.3% to +16.6% for three years ahead.

The team will continue to produce a forecast based on demographic growth at countywide, education planning area, and at school level. We will also produce a second forecast model that takes into account housing trajectory information from the District Councils.

Evidence from the latest birth data is that in 2017/18, primary numbers peaked in most areas. Action has been taken to provide additional places in primary and first schools over recent years, with some further expansions still to take place to ensure sufficiency of places in Key Stage 1 and 2. Large scale housing developments will also require new schools and additional accommodation. It is currently anticipated that planned housing developments could result in the need for four new first/primary schools across Worcestershire.

Whilst growth has been felt across the county, the urban areas have experienced a much higher rate than rural areas. Most notably Worcester City, Bromsgrove, Evesham, Kidderminster and Redditch have all experienced a greater amount of pressure. Higher primary intakes from the last several years are now approaching secondary transfer and areas with three tier systems are already seeing higher numbers transferring through to middle. In most areas there is capacity to absorb the first waves of increased numbers but action will be needed to increase capacity in the long term.

It is currently forecast that in 2018 numbers in the secondary phase will start to increase, which coincides with the increase anticipated due to housing growth. Discussions have already started with secondary schools in priority areas, most of whom are academy schools. The Council has entered into agreement with four secondary academies to provide additional places, however further expansions will be needed over the coming years to support further growth. Numbers entering secondary schools are expected to peak in 2023 from demographic growth, around the time we can expect a large number of new housing developments to generate additional demand.

A significant challenge for the Council moving forwards is managing the impact of changes in school age ranges. Since 2015, permission has been given by the Regional Schools Commissioner for six changes, affecting mainly the Redditch and Evesham three-tier systems. The Council is working with local schools impacted by the approved changes to find appropriate ways forward and ensure sufficient places in a stable and viable education pyramid. At the current time we do not expect very significant changes in forecast numbers, simply a redistribution of the projected pupils across the various schools.

For mainstream forecasting reports, detailed countywide and district mainstream figures and pre-school children numbers please refer to: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/mainstreamsufficiency

Process to ensure a sufficiency of places should an academy cease

Academies are independent of the Council but the a duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places remains with the Council. Should an academy cease to provide places in Worcestershire for any reason we will follow the below process and work closely with the RSC to ensure we meet our statutory duties.

Process for ensuring a sufficiency of places should an academy close

Specialist provision

Education inclusion policy

The policy informs the practice of all Worcestershire County Council employees and those working in education settings for which the Council has a responsibility or commissioning role, as well as the standards by which the Council will be monitored against.

Table 9 - Number on Roll at special schools in Worcestershire January 2018

SPECIAL SCHOOLS	Age range	Categorisation	TOTAL NOR
Chadsgrove School & Specialist Sports College	2-19	Physical Disability	129
Fort Royal Community Primary School	2-11	Generic	188
The Kingfisher School	7-16	SEMH	67
Pitcheroak School	4-19	Generic	141
Regency High School	11-19	Generic	176
Riversides School	7-16	SEMH	58
Rigby Hall School	4-19	Generic	132
The Vale of Evesham School	2-19	Generic	159
Wyre Forest Special School	3-19	Generic	231
TOTAL			1281



Russell House sensory room



Wyre Forest School

Special school sufficiency

The number of pre-school children being referred to specialist early years provision including special school nursery places continues to rise in Worcestershire. There has been a 37.5% increase in the number of pre-school age children being referred to Pre-School Forum since 2007/08. On average between 2010 and 2016 8% of pre-school age children (3 & 4 year olds) in Worcestershire were referred to Pre-School Forum. Between January 2010 and January 2017 there has been a 42% increase in the number of children on roll in a special school nursery. The Council has supported accommodation and resources to expand the number of places available in EY specialist provision. The implementation of 30 hour early entitlement for eligible 3 and 4 year olds in September 2017 has extended the demand for places and has had a direct impact upon the sufficiency of early years specialist places.

The increase identified above will continue to have a significant impact upon the sufficiency of school-age places in special schools. The largest recorded primary need in pre-school age children in Worcestershire is Speech Language and Communication Needs. Cabinet has committed to offer Early Years Specialist Language provision in each district to support pre-school age children identified with specific speech and / or language disorder / impairment as a primary need. The areas of need showing the most significant increases in Worcestershire secondary schools have been in Moderate and Specific Learning Difficulties. Speech, Language and Communication Needs and Autistic Spectrum Disorder and Other Difficulties are also on the increase.

The number of pupils being referred for a Worcestershire special school place is continuing to increase. This has risen from 1.66% of pupils accessing a Worcestershire special school place in 2016 to 1.75% of pupils in 2017. Between January 2010 and January 2017 there has been a 17% increase in the number of children on roll in Worcestershire special schools. This does not include the numbers of children and young people also accessing Independent, non-maintained special schools or out of county provision. We have supported expansions at several of our special schools to enable more places to be available. We are now working closely with our school colleagues to assess the full time equivalent capacity of all Worcestershire special schools to further assess the requirement for places. Currently, based on the previous year forecast and the 5 year average forecast projections there is a requirement for additional special school places across all districts.

In both mainstream and specialist SEND provision in Worcestershire, there continues to be a gender gap, with more males than females with identified SEND.

Resource bases and SEN Units have a critical part to play in the education provision in Worcestershire for children and young people with SEND. The Early Years Specialist Language provision forecast projects a future need for full time equivalent places to remain consistent across the districts to those commissioned currently. Service Level Agreements details the recommended hours of input each week, therefore the implementation of 30 hours early entitlement should not directly impact this type of provision.

School-age Language Units forecasts have not identified sufficiency needs but the data as currently recorded does not show the full picture of demand for Specialist SLCN provision. Geographical gaps remain a concern to the Council, most notably in the South of Worcestershire. We are committed to further work, as part of the High Needs Commissioning Implementation, to determine provision requirements across the county.

Autism base data and immediate projections show insufficient places at Mainstream Autism Bases (MAB) in Bromsgrove, Malvern, Worcester, Wychavon and Wyre Forest. The numbers of children and young people being referred for MAB provision is increasing. Analysis of the pupils accessing the Medical Education Team, independent, non-maintained special school and out of county provision also supports the view for the need to increase MAB places.

SEND pupils attending Alternative Provision are predominantly identified with Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. A high proportion of pupils with SEND accessing the Medical Education Team, choosing Elective Home Education, and those attending independent or non-maintained Special Schools are also identified with a primary need of SEMH, along with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). 25% of pupils with SEND attending other Councils' schools (out of County) have a primary need of ASD recorded. Further analysis is required to determine whether more in-county ASD provision and/or more SEMH provision are required.

As part of the Council's obligations in relation to central funding from the Special Provision Fund, we have developed a SEND Investment Plan 2018-21 and spreadsheet, that identifies how we will use the Special Provision Fund and other Council resources to support places for children with Education Health and Care Plans. This can be found on the Local Offer page of the Worcestershire County Council website: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDupdates

For SEND Sufficiency information and reports please refer to: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDSufficiency

Post-16

The Council has a duty to secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for all young people in their area who are over compulsory school age but under 19 or aged 19 to 25 and for whom an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan is maintained. This is a duty under the Education Act 1996. To fulfil this, councils need to have a strategic overview of the provision available in their area and to identify and resolve gaps in provision.

Current places for Post-16 provision in Worcestershire are on the whole sufficient. Since 2014 on average 51% of year 11 pupils progress into mainstream school sixth form provision. Since the introduction of "Raising the Participation Age" in 2014, the number of post 16 providers has diversified and expanded with a significant increase in training providers and apprenticeships, rising from 48 to circa 208. A reorganisation of the further education sector also took place in December 2016 which has resulted in the amalgamation of establishments and a review of the delivery of course programmes.

There are however, isolated instances of demand within sixth forms at popular schools across the county. The individual schools have responded to pressure by providing additional places and have sought funding from government funding streams. Numbers are expected to continue to rise in line with current predictions for secondary places. Funding to increase places is currently available from the Education Funding Agency via the Demographic Capital Growth Fund.

For information and reports please refer to www.worcestershire.gov.uk/Post16Sufficiency

19-25 SEND places

Worcestershire County Council believes that post-19 SEND students, where possible, benefit most by being supported to enter college, training or work. The Council receives no education capital funding to support the provision of places in 19-25 facilities. For these reasons the Council does not support from within its education capital budgets the costs associated with this type of provision. The Council is currently engaging with partners to ensure a sufficiency of places for those aged 19-25 who require educational support.

8. The Council as a strategic commissioner

How we stimulate the market and ensure provision

Revenue funding

Revenue for provision is funded based on allocations agreed by the Council. For further details on these please contact Andy McHale, Service Manager – Funding & Policy amchale@worcestershire.gov.uk

Specifically for schools expanding at the request of the Council the following revenue support may be available:

Pupil growth fund

Where schools increase their Pupil Admission Number (PAN) at the direct request of the Council they may be entitled to support from the Pupil Growth Fund. This is designed to enable them to meet upfront costs such as recruiting additional teaching staff and additional resources prior to the pupil-led funding coming into their budget in the following April.

Funding is paid when the number on roll in the school increases above the current census numbers and is paid throughout the life of that cohort.

Capital funding

The Council receives two main capital grants for education:

Basic Need - To increase pupil places at all tax funded schools where the need for those places is identified by the Council.

Condition Programme – For highest priority condition work at maintained schools based on condition surveys. This is an annual grant which reduces as schools become academies.

Link to [Capital Maintenance Programme 2018-19](#)

As the Council seeks to meet the additional places required as a result of demographic and housing growth, the pressure on these grants in the next five year period will be very high. Whilst the use of s106 will support the provision of additional places, the amount received and the timeframe for payment, means the Council will often have to put in places ahead of any or all s106 receipts and also supplement them with basic need.

As such the Council will only be in the position to address the highest priorities and funding will be prioritised to creating new places. We will seek to work with our partner schools to best utilise space and maximise any grant funding available.

Early years capital funding

Capital funding was allocated by the DfE in 2017/18 to support the increase in places available for 30 hours places. The Council was able to bid for up to six providers and Worcestershire was successful with its six bids resulting in additional capital funding of £860,949.

Education capital programme

The Education capital programme currently consists of a number of funding sources:

- County Council's capital programme;
- Basic need;
- Capital maintenance;
- Special provision fund;
- Locally Controlled Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP) - this will cease in 2020;
- Section 106 / Community Infrastructure Levy (Developer Contributions); and
- Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) – School specific allocations.

The Government has occasionally released capital bidding rounds to support specific initiatives. Some of these have, in the past, included early years, Universal Infants School Meals, 14-19, and the Primary Schools Building Programme.

Further information on the principles and priorities set out and agreed by Members in December 2011, and revised in February 2015, in determining the use of capital funding in schools and settings can be found in Worcestershire's [Local Investment Plan 2018-19](#).

Other Projects - requests to support other projects will only be considered in schools where all current priority one and two needs have been met. Proposals will need to have a robust business case and where required, be supported by contributions from the school. This will be subject to approval by the CFC Leadership Team.

Any significant changes to the programme of investment are approved initially by Children Families and Communities Senior Leadership team and where necessary, will be approved by the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Skills, within the confines of the overall budget approved by Council.

Condition Improvement Fund (CIF)

The Condition Improvement Fund is aimed at academies and sixth form colleges and can be used for condition or expansion. This fund replaces the Academies Capital Maintenance Fund and the Building Condition Improvement Fund for sixth form colleges and is managed by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

Section 106/Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Where proposed new housing will impact on the sufficiency of school places, Worcestershire County Council can request a Section 106 (s106) contribution or apply for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding. Further information on housing contributions can be found by following the link - [School planning obligations](#)

Worcestershire currently uses a figure of 0.028 pupils per year group per dwelling, which for ease, is usually rounded up to 3 pupils per year group per 100 houses or 30 (1 form of entry) per year group per 1000 houses. Schools deemed to be related to the development will be named, as the Council seeks to provide places at a local school.



Burlish Primary School

Section 106 funding

Planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), commonly known as S106 agreements, are a mechanism which are used to make a development proposal acceptable in planning terms, that would not otherwise be acceptable. They are focused on site specific mitigation for the impact of development. S106 agreements are often referred to as 'developer contributions' along with highways and district council contributions and the Community Infrastructure Levy.

The County Council works closely with the district councils to produce a fair and comparable system of obligations throughout Worcestershire. Copies of the Supplementary Planning Documents for each district council are available on their websites.

The current **table of charges** is available for further details.

Any funds collected as part of the Section 106 process are used to support Basic Need provision in tax funded schools in Worcestershire. The Council retains the decision making authority on where any allocation is spent in line with CIL Regulation 122, but will consult and work with eligible schools to identify appropriate projects.

In administrative areas where CIL is in operation Section 106 obligations will continue to be collected where the development site has been specifically listed on the regulation 123 List and additionally, where it has been identified that the impact of the development will create sufficient demand for an expansion of an existing school by 0.5FE or greater, or the requirement for a new school.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a locally set charge (levy) that came into force on 6 April 2010 through the CIL regulations 2010 (as amended). The CIL is a charge that planning authorities in England (known as "charging authorities") can place on new development in their area. The money generated through the levy will contribute to the funding of infrastructure to support development growth. CIL has been introduced in the three South Worcestershire District Councils and came into effect in Malvern Hills District Council and Wychavon District Council on 5 June 2017 and in Worcester City Council on 4 September 2017.

CIL is intended to supplement other funding streams to ensure that new community infrastructure can be provided to support local growth and to give councils and communities more choice and flexibility in how infrastructure is funded. Infrastructure proposed to be funded by CIL is established through a Regulation 123 list. The primary purpose of the list is to ensure that there is no duplication between CIL and other infrastructure payments such as Section 106 agreements.

9. Supply of education provision

There are currently sufficient places for reception children entering school in most areas of Worcestershire following the expansions of a number of first and primary schools over the last several years to meet demographic growth (see Table 11). However, some areas of the county will be under more pressure for places and individual schools, due to their popularity, may not have sufficient places for all children who wish to attend.

The Council has provided capital funding to early years providers, mainstream and special schools to increase the number of places they are able to provide. This funding may have been used to enlarge premises or refurbish existing accommodation.

Table 10 - Additional places provided in early years providers in Worcestershire 2017/18

Area	Provider	Number of New 30 hour places created
Kidderminster	Chaddesley Corbett Primary	45
	Franch Primary	161
Redditch	Abbeywood Primary	40
Stourport	Lickhill Primary	40
Evesham	Evesham Nursery	26
Wythall	Wendy House Nursery	32
Total Number of New Places Created		344

Table 11 - Additional places provided in mainstream schools in Worcestershire since 2012

Area	School	Additional Forms of Entry per year group	Number of New Places Created
Worcester	Lyppard Grange Primary	0.5	105
	Nunnery Wood Primary	0.5	105
	Stanley Road Primary	0.5	105
	Red Hill CE Primary	1	210
	St Joseph's RC Primary	1	210
	Northwick Manor Primary	Bulge year	30
	Warndon Primary	1	210
	Nunnery Wood High School	1	150
	Christopher Whitehead Language College	1	150
	Tudor Grange Academy	1	150
Redditch	Abbeywood First	0.5	75
	Batchley First	0.5	75
	Matchborough First	1	150
Kidderminster	Blakedown Primary	0.5	105
	Heronswood Primary	0.5	105

Area	School	Additional Forms of Entry per year group	Number of New Places Created
Bromsgrove	Millfields First	0.5	75
	Catshill First	0.5	75
	Blackwell First	8 places	40
Evesham	Bengeworth First	1	180
	St Andrew's First	1	180
Martley	The Chantry School	1	150
Malvern	Leigh & Bransford Primary	0.5	105
	Callow End Primary	3 places	21
	Somers Park Primary /Malvern Vale	1	210
	Rushwick Primary	0.5	105
Total Number of New Places Created			3076

Table 12 - Additional places provided in special schools in Worcestershire since 2012

Area	School	Number of New Places Created
Worcester	Fort Royal Primary – Early Years (Temp)	20
	Fort Royal Primary – Key Stage 1	21
Redditch	Pitcheroak School	10
Wyre Forest	Wyre Forest School – Early Years	5 FTE places
Bromsgrove	Rigby Hall School	8
	Chadsgrove School	9
Wychavon	Vale of Evesham School	9
Total Number of New Places Created		82

The following details the current proposed school expansions for 2019/20.

Table 13 – Proposed school expansions 2019/20 and 2020/21

Summary of proposed additional school places for 2019/2021			
Area	School	Forms of Entry	Number of New Places Created
Bromsgrove	Rigby Hall School (Special)	N/A	25
Redditch	Holyoakes Field First	0.5	75
Pershore	Pershore High School	1	120
Stourport	Hartlebury CE Primary	5 places	35
	Stourport High & Sixth Form Centre	1	150
Worcester	Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College *	1	150
	Christopher Whitehead Language College *	1	150
Upton	Kempsey Primary	5 places	35
	Hanley Castle High School *	0.6	90
Total Number of New Places Created			680

* Subject to consultation and approval to funding from Council

10. School organisational changes

In January 2014 the DfE implemented proposals to amend the existing legislative and policy requirements governing school organisation changes.

Academy presumption

Should the Council identify the need for a new school in Worcestershire, the Council has a duty to seek proposals to establish an academy (free school) via the free school presumption. This will be in line with the guidance provided by the DfE in "Opening and closing maintained schools – statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers – April 2016"

The guidance about making [school organisational changes to local-authority-maintained schools](#), including school closure is published by the DfE.

The Council has developed a process for [opening a new school](#) that it will follow based on the current DfE guidance. Whilst the Council can identify a preferred proposer for the new school, the final decision will be taken by the Secretary of State upon the recommendation of the Regional Schools Commissioner.

Academies / Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs)

The Council believes schools should find the best local solution to meet its development. The DfE is supportive of Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) as Ministers feel they offer the best options for schools, especially in relation to peer-to-peer support.

The Council will continue to work closely with any school which transitions to an academy in the best interest of all children and young people in Worcestershire. Where new school places are required due to demographic growth or housing development, the Council will work with all schools in that area to achieve its statutory responsibility.

Where additional places are required to meet Basic Need, the Council will retain control of the strategic policy in its statutory role to ensure a sufficiency of places. The Council will commission additional places from schools in the area, including academies. Resulting changes in the PAN of academies will be the responsibility of the individual schools, in line with DfE guidance. Funding for these places will be provided by the Council from with its Basic Need Grant or any appropriate Section 106 or CIL contributions.

Federations

Federations offer a supportive environment for non-academies offering many of the same partnership benefits including:

- Cost savings, by the sharing of purchasing;
- Collaborative working and peer-to-peer support;
- Sharing of specialist resources;
- Opportunities for staff development across the federation; and
- Potential for Executive Head across two or more sites.

Worcestershire supports schools seeking to form federations when they are in the best interests of the children and help support the long-term viability of the schools involved.

Free Schools

Free Schools are a type of academy established when either a new school is set up, or an independent school transfers into the state system. The Council is always interested in any free school proposals for Worcestershire and is happy to discuss any proposals to ensure they align with our statutory duties. Proposers should make contact with the [Provision Planning and Accommodation Team](#).

The Council will work with free schools in the same way as other academies in the best interests of the children and young people in Worcestershire.



New Malvern Vale School

UTCs/Studio Colleges

Worcestershire does not currently have any taxpayer funded 14-18 education provision in the form of University Technical Colleges or Studio Colleges. The Council is interested in working with partners to explore options to further our aims within the Corporate Plan, "Shaping Worcestershire's Future", and our "Open for Business" priority: To improve the skills of local young people.

Any provision is likely to be for countywide learners and will be developed as part of the matrix of provision the authority has to meet the increased demand in this phase of education.

Responding to school initiated consultations

The Council will respond to school initiated consultations, such as those seeking:

- Changes to age range;
- Changes to nursery provision;
- Changes to school capacity;
- Changes to school pupil admissions number (PAN);
- Changes to sixth form provision; and
- Changes to catchment areas and other admissions changes.

Responses will be in line with our statutory duties, such as ensuring a sufficiency of school places, and in our role as parental champion. In October 2016, Cabinet agreed that change of age range proposals would be assessed on the following criteria:

- Open and fair consultation has taken place with parents and other relevant stakeholders and the school can clearly demonstrate how any objections or issues raised will be managed;
- The school has a good or outstanding Ofsted judgement, or can demonstrate how the change would support improvement at the school;
- The school involved can demonstrate the capacity to manage any curriculum changes or has secured appropriate support to do so;
- The school involved can demonstrate that appropriate facilities, staff, and systems will be in place, including how they will manage additional revenue costs;
- There is no detrimental impact on other schools i.e. it does not undermine the quality of education provided by other good or outstanding schools in the area by creating additional places where there is already surplus capacity;
- There is an agreed, clear, and practical pathway for children to move on from each school affected by the change;
- Funding for any necessary accommodation changes has already been secured;
- Any reduction in the published admission number or change in admission criteria required has been consulted upon and agreed; and
- Appropriate planning permission and any other consent required have been secured.

Where proposals relate to academies and other providers outside of the Council's control, then we will work closely with the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) to give contextual information and other advice to enable decisions to be taken.

School driven PAN changes

Where schools seek to increase or decrease their published admission number (PAN) we would request they make contact with the [Provision Planning and Accommodation](#) team. This will allow appropriate advice in respect of school organisation and admissions being provided. It will also allow us to provide contextual information on the sufficiency of places in an area to avoid oversupply or undersupply and places, and potential detrimental effect on the viability of other schools in the area.

11. Monitoring effectiveness of plan

Overall performance of the plan will be reported annually to the Director of Children, Families and Communities and the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Skills under the following criteria.

Sufficiency of places across all plans

The Council has a statutory function to ensure a sufficiency of places in schools, has a statutory duty to ensure, as far as practical, a sufficiency of childcare places, and a statutory responsibility to have a strategic overview of post-16 place planning.

From these statutory duties, the first monitoring point for the plan can be drawn. Simply put, if the Council has a sufficiency of school places for both mainstream and SEND pupils, has a sufficiency of childcare places and produces a strategic overview of Post-16 provision, then we are meeting our strategic duties and the School Organisation Plan can be said to be meeting its core function and in that respect, successful.

Sufficiency of places to meet housing growth

Housing developments will be monitored by the Provision Planning and Accommodation team and the impact on local schools clearly identified. Officers will work in partnership with developers and district councils to find appropriate solutions and ensure these are in place to meet the number of houses constructed.

Number of additional places created in a timely fashion

Worcestershire seeks to operate a 5% surplus in any educational planning area. This is to allow for parental preference and in-year moves. Where the Council anticipates that a given area or school will be under pressure for places due to demographic growth or housing developments, they may seek to expand schools to meet this need.

Any consultations on expanding schools and the construction of additional accommodation should be achieved to allow the change to be made in time for the September intake, and ahead of the forecasted pressure point. This will be rag-rated as part of the DfE dashboard.

Number of additional places created in good provision

Worcestershire will prioritise expanding 'good' or 'outstanding' early years providers and schools to meet pupil growth. This is to offer parents the choice of the best provision in line with government objectives. This will be rag-rated as part of the DfE dashboard.



Rigby Hall School - Extension

12. Future challenges

Provision Planning in Worcestershire faces many challenges throughout the lifetime of this strategic plan and beyond. These include, but are not limited to:

- Identifying sufficient capital funds required to meet our statutory obligations.
- Reaching physical capacity of some school sites and therefore being unable to expand existing schools further. This is particularly an issue for schools in rural areas and at secondary level.
- The creation of new schools as a result of housing developments.
- Uncertainty of housing trajectories and how CIL will become established within Worcestershire.
- Over or under supply of places following school organisation changes which are outside the remit of the Council.
- Supporting small schools, especially in rural areas, to remain viable.
- Supporting early years' providers to meet the needs for flexible provision.
- Creating an appropriate balance for the need for special school places and supporting mainstream schools to meet their obligations to pupils with SEND.
- Changes to the Apprenticeship Levy which has seen a decline in the offer and take-up of apprenticeship. Any reduction in the availability of which may impact post-16 provision

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Education Capital Investment Plan 2024/25

(Funding Prioritisation, Development and Implementation of
the Capital Investment Programme)

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1. Introduction

This plan reviews the principles and priorities set out and previously agreed by Members, in determining the use of capital funding for education provision. Capital funding for the provision of education placements to meet the Council's statutory duties is one element of the WCC Capital Strategy and therefore prioritisation and value in investment needs to be understood and planned for to meet residents needs and maximise benefits.

This paper refreshes the 2019 revision and sets out the terms of investment going forward from 2024/25 and lays out our priorities for Education Capital Investment. This document accords with the current understanding of Government policy. The approval of these principles and priorities will enable officers to continue to progress capital investment in the most effective and efficient way.

Unless it relates specifically to an individual bid, Government funding is not ring-fenced for particular schools or settings. The Authority must determine schemes/projects based upon national and local priorities. The Department for Education (DfE) have announced Basic Need for the current year plus two further years (2024 – 2026) which has allowed scope for supporting the forward planning of need to support the provision of school places. At the time of this update report Basic Need allocations are known up to 2025/26 (for places for September 2026). At the time of this update, the School Condition Allocations (SCA) have been announced up to 2023/24 and take into account the number of schools that have converted to academy status. High Needs Provision Capital Allocations (HNPCA) have been announced up to 2023/24, this does not support the Local Authority (LA) in forward planning future provision to meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND)

We are proposing to allocate capital funding in line with the priorities identified in section 6 below. No schemes will be formally approved unless funding sources are understood and approved. The full list of specific schemes will be included in the review of the capital programme and will be submitted to Council as part of the budget approval process for 2024/25 and annually thereafter.

This document is intended to update Members and maintain transparency in the funding of education capital schemes and the opportunities and pressures that exist and require decision making.

2. Vision and principles

Strategic Vision for Education in Worcestershire

Worcestershire County Council believes that all children should have the opportunity for the best possible education to allow them to fulfil their full potential. The County Council will work with all types of providers to ensure there is a sufficiency of good quality education places in Worcestershire, including early years and childcare, mainstream school provision, provision to meet the needs of children with SEND and post-16 provision.

Core Principles

Where WCC identifies the need for additional provision or places, the decision on which provider to commission will be based on the following clear core principles:

- Improve educational outcomes for all children and young people

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- Improve the learning experience of children and young people
- Support good or outstanding provision
- Be sustainable in the long term
- Be cost effective / value for money

3. Statutory duty for sufficiency of places

Worcestershire County Council has a duty (under s13-14 of the Education Act 1996) to ensure there are sufficient school places to accommodate the children and young people who reside in the county and to ensure these places are of good quality with sufficient capacity to promote parental choice and diversity.

Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on LAs to secure educational provision for children and young people with special educational needs. Section 315 requires LAs to keep their arrangements for SEND provision under review.

Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on LAs to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment for children aged 0-14 (or up to 25 for children with SEND) and Section 7 (as substituted by section 1 of the Education Act 2011), places a duty on English local authorities to secure early years provision free of charge for eligible 2, 3 and 4 year olds. Section 1 of the Childcare Act 2016 which places a duty on the Secretary of State to secure the equivalent of 30 hours of free childcare over 38 weeks of the year for qualifying children.

4. Capital funding

The education capital programme currently consists of a number of funding sources:

- DfE Capital Grants for:
 - Basic Need (BN);
 - High Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNPCA); and
 - School Condition Allocation (SCA)
- Section 106 (Housing Developer Contributions)
- Prudential borrowing where agreed by Council for specific schemes

The Basic Need (BN) grant allocation is based on the data collected from LAs in the annual School Capacity Survey (SCAP), the information on the capacities of schools in each education planning area (EPA) and the LAs' forecasts of pupil numbers for several years ahead. The funding is allocated on the basis of a comparison of forecast pupil numbers with school capacity, with shortfalls in capacity attracting funding. The allocations for financial year 2023/24 are based upon the projected need for new school places by September 2024. Further information on mainstream forecast methodology, known children and forecast information can be found on the website: [School statistics and data collection | Worcestershire County Council](#)

The High Needs Provision Capital Allocations (HNPCA) grant is currently allocated to LAs proportionally, based on the estimated share of future growth in the children and young people in each LA who may require High Needs provision as a percentage of the national total. HNPCA is primarily to assist LAs in delivering new places needed and to improve the suitability and sufficiency of high needs

provision. However, the funding is not ringfenced. For the first time in June 2023, the DfE, requested LAs submit Net Capacity Assessments (NCA) and forecasts for Specialist provision, including special schools and resourced provision commissioned by the LA. HNPCA funding beyond 2025 is contingent on the outcomes of future Spending Reviews and additional capital funding beyond this period cannot be guaranteed. It has not yet been confirmed if this information will be used to allocate the HNPCA longer term.

School Condition Allocation (SCA) is allocated to the LA to meet the need of schools maintained by the Council (see section 5 for further details). The grant is amended each year to take into account the number of schools that have converted to academies.

Table 1 – Capital allocations 2021/22 – 2025/26

DfE Grants	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Basic Need	£4,919,520	£8,094,871	£7,127,675	£5,302,887	£4,116,886
Condition	£4,040,055	£4,081,482	£3,845,629	£3,600,000*	£3,300,000*
HNPCA	£1,539,044	£5,284,717	£5,421,935	£2,000,000*	£2,000,000*
Totals	£10,498,619	£17,461,070	£16,395,239	£10,902,887	£9,416,886

* 2024/25 and 2025/26 condition and HNPCA allocations are indicative based on previous years but cannot be guaranteed.

The Council may elect to supplement these external funding sources with prudential borrowing, in circumstances where grant funding is insufficient to fully meet the expenditure required for an approved scheme. Borrowing to fund capital expenditure has general fund revenue implications, and as a result, must be kept to a minimum. Prudential borrowing can only be utilised with approval of the Council.

The Council may receive other education capital grants occasionally for example the School Nursery Grant or the Early Years Expansion and Wraparound Programme. These will be prioritised to meet the demand as per the conditions of the grants provided.

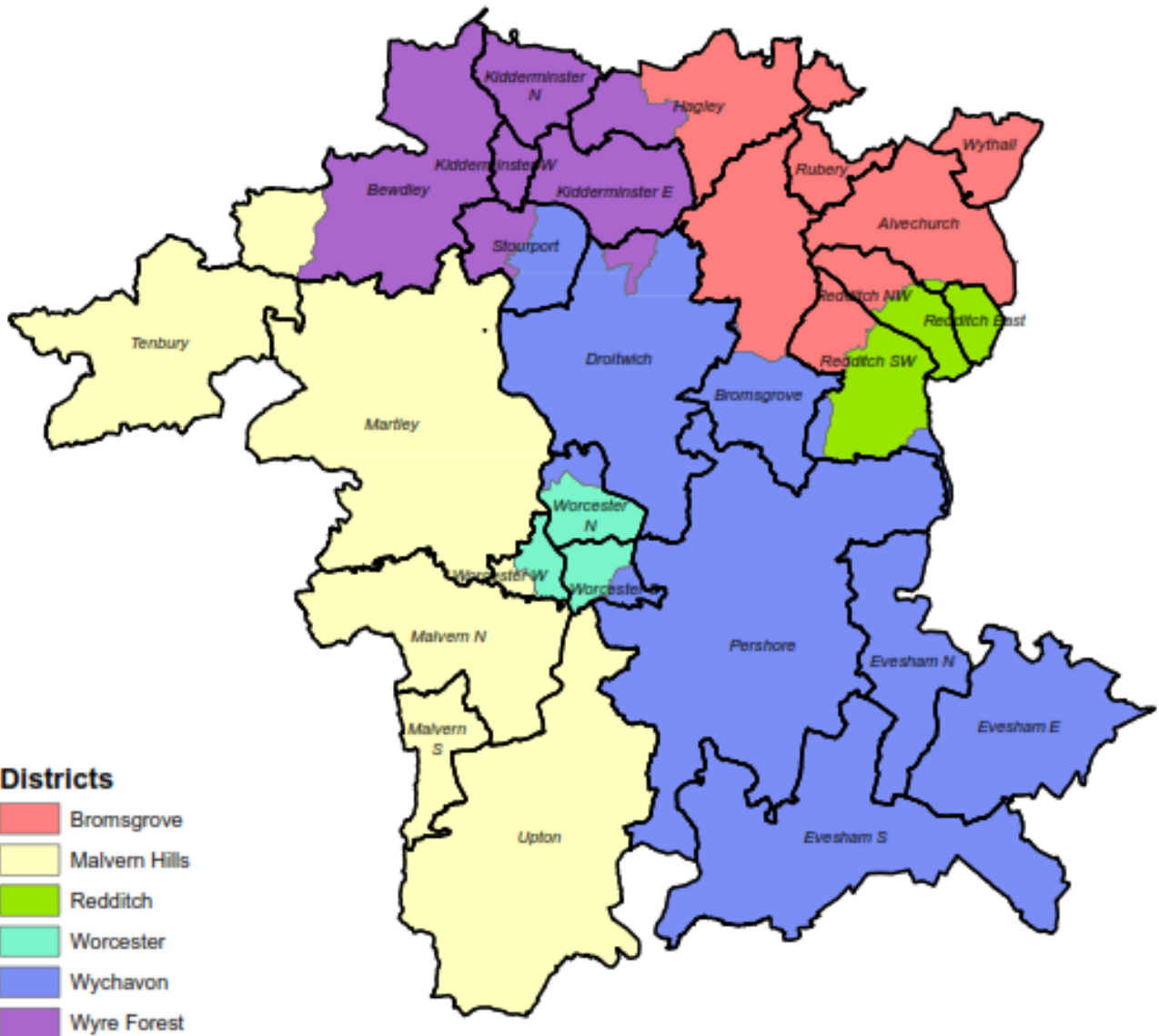
5. Establishments with access to these resources

DfE Capital Grant – School Condition Allocation (SCA)	Community, Foundation & VC Schools maintained by WCC
DfE Capital Grant – Basic need i.e. additional school places as a consequence of demographic growth	All tax-payer funded schools in Worcestershire (including Academies and Free Schools)
Section 106 Developer Contributions	All tax-payer funded schools in Worcestershire (including Academies and Free Schools) i.e. Funding identified for named establishments or specific projects in the agreement
Devolved Formula Capital	All tax-payer funded schools in Worcestershire (including Academies and Free Schools but these are funded directly) This is fully devolved to local school decision making.

6. Prioritisation of Projects for Grant Funding

Basic Need is designed to ensure that the Council can fulfil its statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places. This grant can be used to support the creation of additional places at all tax-funded school in Worcestershire, including Community, Voluntary, Academies, Free Schools and Special Schools.

Worcestershire currently operates 26 Education Planning Areas (EPAs) that are made up of schools located in close proximity to each other, which pupils could reasonably attend. The use of EPAs allows the LA to more accurately assess the current and future pupil demand for school place provision. The map below shows how these Education Planning Areas relate to District Council boundaries.



Whilst individual schools in a specific planning area may be full, the LA may not seek to address this from Basic Need if there are sufficient places in neighbouring schools from within the same planning area.

High Needs Provision Capital is designed to ensure that the Council can fulfil its statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of provision to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND. This grant can be used to support the creation of additional places at all tax-funded school and colleges, including Community, Voluntary, Academies, Free schools and Special Schools.

School Condition Allocation is to address the poor condition of an asset against a set criteria. In Worcestershire, condition surveys are commissioned on a 5-year cycle to help prioritise the capital maintenance programme. The survey data collected provides details on the condition of all school buildings where the County Council are the responsible body, from which the annual maintenance programmes are compiled.

Due to the limited funds received by the Council and that the majority of this comes from DfE grant funding, we will continue to only grant fund the top two priority areas: basic need and building maintenance. These are discussed in more detail below.

The Council will not fund maintenance works at schools undertaking the conversion process to become an Academy school, unless funds have already been committed to a scheme. The exception will be Basic Need to which they are entitled.

a. Basic Need – priority one

The County Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places across all statutory phases and ages. The Education Sufficiency and Place Planning Team will identify the need for additional provision or places and quantify the requirement. Basic Need places will be identified because of natural demographic changes. Basic Need will not apply as a result of parental preferences for particular schools, where other schools in the education planning area have surplus places.

The LA will only consider expansion of schools rated outstanding or good on their last Ofsted inspection, unless in exceptional circumstances, for example no other school within a reasonable area can be expanded further. This is because the LA believes that the focus of schools in category should be on improving and supports Government priorities to expand successful schools.

The LA will give consideration to temporary or long-term change. If it is a temporary change, then capital investment should be relevant e.g. temporary accommodation. If it is to satisfy a longer term need then permanent build options will be explored (subject to funding being secured).

The programme will fund all relevant work needed to achieve the change under this proposal, including feasibility, new accommodation and furniture and equipment. Funding will not support addressing other issues at the school even if they are seen as desirable. The school may fund works themselves, as part of the overall scheme but they will be expected to agree to these costs as part of the process.

Basic Need will not be used to fund accommodation for provision of early-years/extended services/community facilities; these will be the responsibility of the school or funded through S106

contributions. Governing bodies will be supported to explore the possibility of delivering these services using other local facilities in partnership with other providers.

b. Provision to meet the needs of pupils with SEND – priority two

The LA has a statutory duty to secure educational provision for children and young people with SEND and to keep their arrangements under review. The Education Sufficiency and Place Planning Team working with the SEND Services Team will identify the need for additional provision or places and quantify this requirement. Provision and / or places will be identified because of demographic changes and changes in complexity of need.

The LA will only consider expansion of schools rated outstanding or good on their last Ofsted inspection, unless in exceptional circumstances, for example no other school within a reasonable area can be expanded further. This is because the LA believes that the focus of schools in category should be on improving and supports Government priorities to expand successful schools.

The LA will give consideration to temporary or long-term change. If it is a temporary change, then capital investment should be relevant e.g. temporary accommodation. If it is to satisfy a longer term need then permanent build options will be explored (subject to funding being secured).

The programme will fund all relevant work needed to achieve the change under this proposal, including feasibility, new accommodation and furniture and equipment. Funding will not support addressing other issues at the school even if they are seen as desirable. The school may fund works themselves, as part of the overall scheme but they will be expected to agree to these costs as part of the process.

The LA will also respond to provision of accommodation/specific equipment associated with the admission of pupils with SEND attending schools where it is essential to support them in giving them access to the curriculum and addressing their personal needs in terms of accessibility. Investment here will be considered where the capital cost exceeds the £15,000 threshold up to which this has been deemed the responsibility of the school.

c. Building Maintenance – priority three

The priority for the LA will be to ensure that the buildings are weather-tight, meet health and safety and other regulatory standards and remain operational all year round. In accordance with the LA's Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools¹(revised September 2023) responsibility for repairs and maintenance is clearly defined.

Based on the contents of the necessary condition survey reports, priority is given to those schemes falling within the condition categories D (Bad - life expired and/or risk of imminent failure) and if funding permits, C (Poor - exhibiting major defects and/or not operating as intended) with a priority of 1 or 2. Priority 1 being urgent and normally considered an emergency repair need. Priority 2 being essential work required within two years of the date of the survey that will prevent further deterioration of the situation.

There has been substantial investment made over recent years to remove or replace temporary buildings on school sites. Following this, the few that remain will be considered either at the point of

¹ [Worcestershire Schools Forum | Worcestershire County Council](#)

renewal of necessary planning permission, and/or confirmation of their Basic Need requirement, and/or when the condition of the buildings is such that it is no longer economic to repair or maintain. Where a need for the accommodation is still identified as a Basic Need for school places, the Council will consider options for replacement including like for like or permanent build.

Proposals to rebuild school buildings (in part or fully) are few. Where such instances occur, the LA will only consider projects where a detailed business case demonstrates that the condition of the building will make it uneconomic to repair or refurbish.

Worcestershire schools have been successful in being identified for the DfE School Rebuilding Programme (SRP). Pershore High and Waseley Hills High schools were selected as part of the first 50 schools announced in February 2021. Waseley Hills High School is subject to a full re-build due to begin on site in Spring 2024. Pershore High School is a partial re-build due to begin in Autumn 2024.

In December 2022, the LA welcomed news that a further two county schools had been selected for inclusion in the SRP round four of 239 schools. Arrow Vale High School and Baxter College (Secondary) will feature for partial rebuild.

7. Section 106 (s106)

This is funding that can be received by the LA from housing developers as a result of new housing. The LA can only request this where the housing will result in additional pupils that education providers are unable to accommodate (mitigate). The funding will be subject to a legal agreement with the developers and District Councils and will often state the education provision eligible for funding, the time frame for spending, and the likely amount due. This funding possible will be used to support the LA's Basic Need Capital Programme.

The primary aim of S106 Education Contributions is to mitigate the forecasted impact of additional children forecast from new housing developments upon the existing educational infrastructure. The Worcestershire Education Planning Obligations Policy² sets out the approach the LA will take in assessing the impact of new housing developments on education provision and identifying appropriate mitigation.

S106 can only be spent on capital works to address the mitigations required to accommodate additional pupils from the new housing developments. This can include where contributions have been requested and agreed, early years provision, mainstream school age provision, provision for pupils with SEND and post-16 provision.

The LA will work with the identified (catchment / related) education settings and schools to identify options to mitigate the requirement for additional places or provision. Funding will only be released when it has been received by the LA from the developer which may not be for a number of years post S106 agreement.

Where there is large scale housing development, the S106 funding may contribute to or fund new education provision.

² <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/planning-and-developments/planning-policy-and-strategy/school-planning-obligations>

8. Free Schools

The LA has a statutory duty, where it identifies the need for a new school in its area, it must seek proposals to establish an academy (free school).

Where it is not possible to expand existing schools in an area to meet increased demand or where a large-scale housing expansion takes place, the LA is likely to commission a free school in line with Government policy. Where this expansion is as a result of Basic Need, either through demographic or housing growth, the school will be commissioned and funded from within the Council's overall Capital Programme, including s106 contributions. The LA will liaise with the Regional Schools Director (RSD) and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to identify potential partners (sponsor) to run the school on behalf of the LA, but the decision as to the sponsor will ultimately rest with the Secretary of State for Education.

The LA would procure the school via its formal procurement procedures and the specification would be in accordance with the DfE's Building Bulletin Design Guidelines. For new first or primary schools of 2FE or greater size, the LA would expect these to include nursery provision, as increased pre-school numbers are unlikely to be able to be met within existing provisions. This is in line with the DfE expectations.

The Free schools programme provides teachers, parents, charities and community groups with the opportunity to set up new, independent, state-funded schools that raise educational standards. Academy Trusts may bid to the DfE to create a free school as part of the free school programme. The LA would work with potential sponsors and supply information currently in the public domain. As these proposals are not as a result of Basic Need, the LA would not fund the capital costs.

The LA will consider any free school wave opportunities to apply for new schools, where this would benefit Worcestershire and meets the criteria set out within each wave.

9. Consultation and Communication with Stakeholders

Once a year, education sufficiency reports are written and presented to Cabinet to highlight where there are sufficiency needs and the actions being proposed to address these issues. Capital investment is recommended where additional provision or places are required to mitigate the demand.

Where additional provision or places are required, the Education Sufficiency and Place Planning Team in conjunction with County Council property officers, will consult with education providers directly and / or through open market expressions of interest to identify options to mitigate the demand.

All Directorate investment proposals are subject to review and comment by the WCF (Children's Services) Leadership Team and the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education.

WCF (Children's Services) Leadership Team meets regularly, and an Education Capital update report is submitted at least 3 times per year on the position of the overall capital investment programme. Once agreed, the main education capital programme at the beginning of each financial year is presented to Cabinet and full Council for approval, the outline is available on the County Council website.

10. Project Implementation and Performance Monitoring

For projects funded from DfE Grant funding, usually the LA will agree appropriate funding with the school / setting and a legal agreement put in place and the school / setting will manage the programme of works.

The Council still retains Landlord responsibility for schools where it is the owner of the land and/or premises, including academies who have leased the assets from the Council. In these cases, schools and academies will need to seek the LA landlord approval before undertaking any capital projects.

Schemes managed by schools / settings using their chosen property consultant must have robust project management methodology in place to ensure that projects are managed well and within agreed tolerances.

Regular monthly meetings to include relevant LA officers and school appointed property consultants take place to discuss, update and monitor progress of agreed schemes.

Updates are also provided to WCF ELT quarterly or more frequently as required as part of the Capital Investment Programme review.

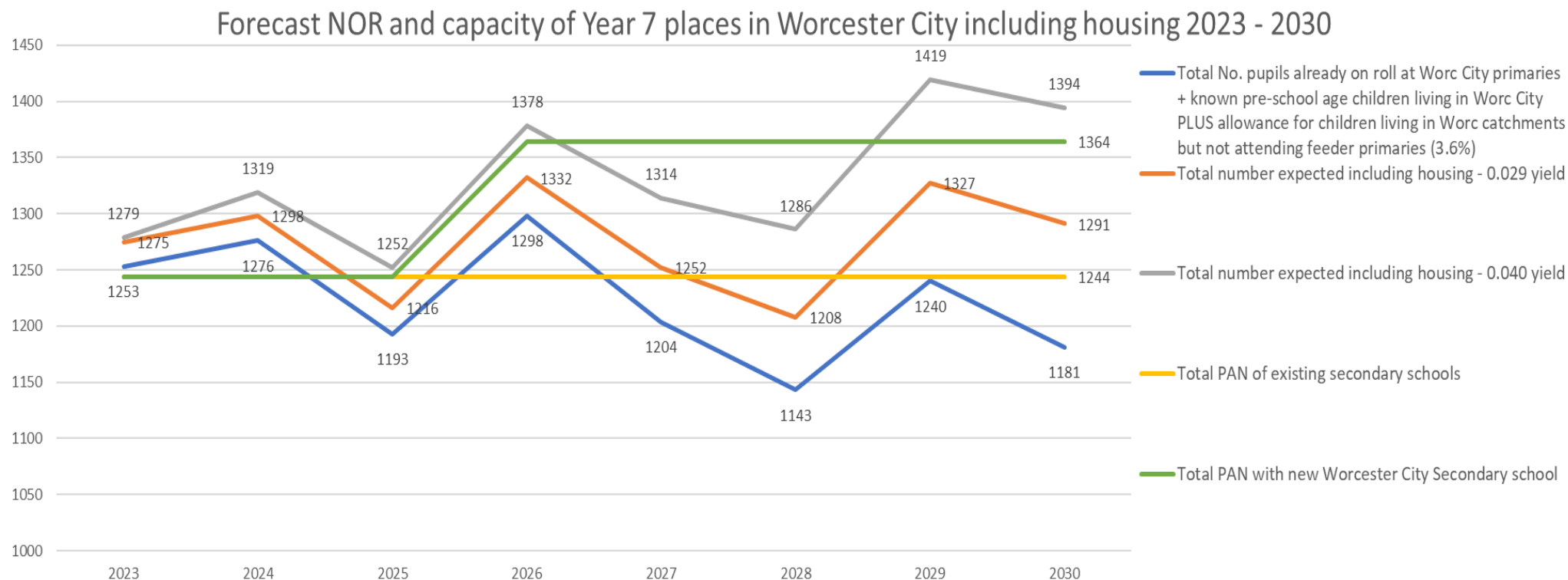
11. Education Capital Programme

The Education Capital Programme is part of the overall WCC Capital Programme. Updates to the Capital Programme, including additions, removals and funding source changes progress through a governance pathway that concludes with approval at Full Council. This is through the regular Resource Report, or the annual Budget Setting paper. The Capital Programme agreed by Council in February 2024 can be found on the [Council website](#)³.

³ [Executive Decisions by Cabinet | Worcestershire County Council](#)

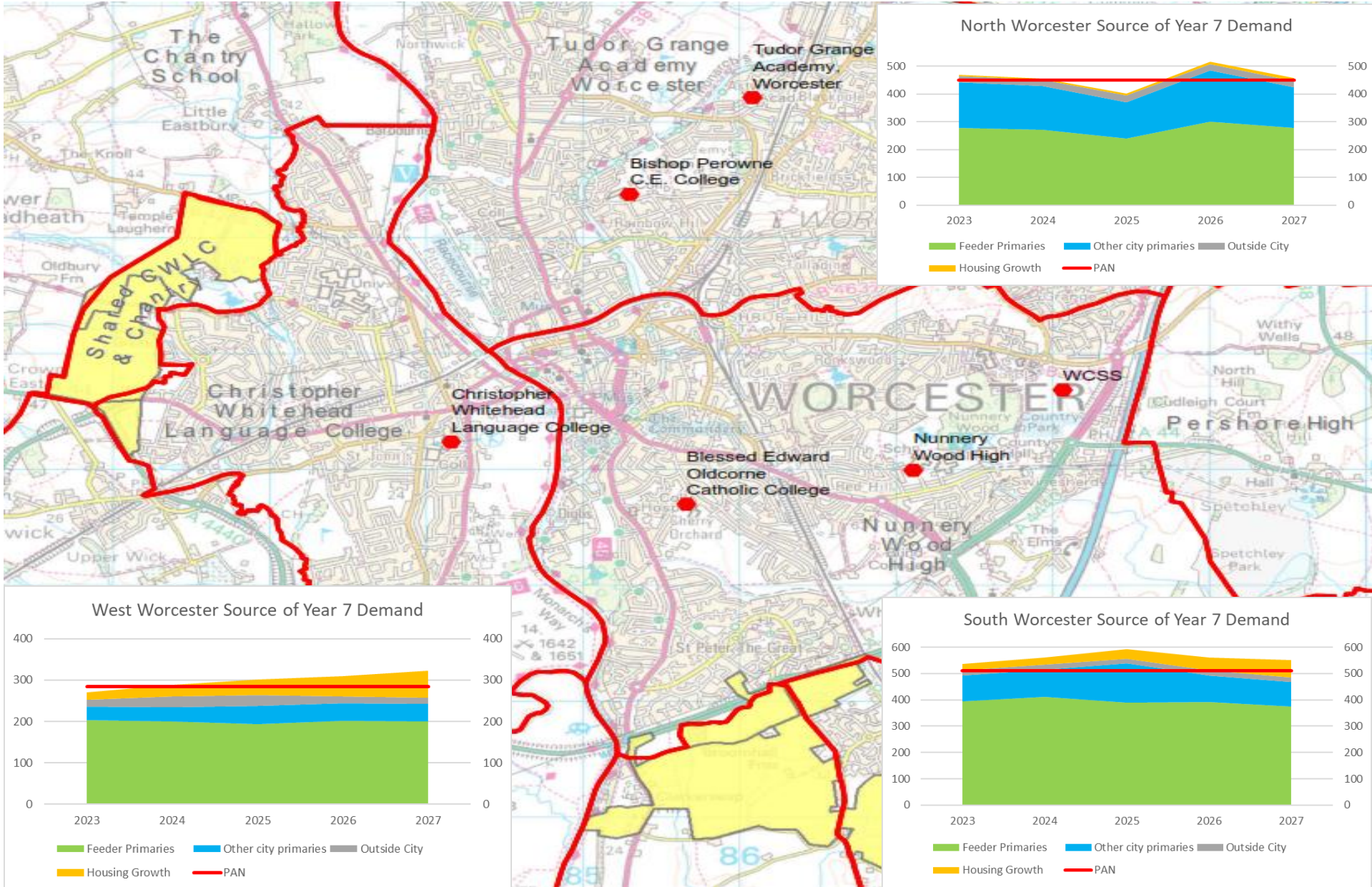
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Appendix 5 – Worcester City Secondary forecast demand



The number of pupils currently on roll in Worcester City primary schools and the known pre-school age children living in Worcester City is forecast to reduce over the next 7 years, however, the forecast number of additional children from the significant amount of new housing within and surrounding Worcester is forecast to exceed the number of secondary school places provided. For the past two years, we have already seen demand exceed supply of places and existing secondary schools have needed to admit more pupils than their published Pupil Admission Number (PAN). The requirement for additional secondary school places is certain, and the permanent delivery of an additional 120 places per year group (4FE) across the planning area would allow us to meet this requirement and enable in year movement. Therefore, we need to find solutions that ensure children living in Worcester can access a secondary school place between now and delivery of a new school.

Appendix 5 – Worcester City Secondary forecast demand



Appendix 5 – Worcester City Secondary forecast demand

The locations of existing pupils are spread across the areas of the city, as are the existing secondary schools. The demand for secondary school places exceeds the supply particularly in the South Worcester area served by Nunnery Wood High School and Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College. Additional provision in this area will support the meeting of parental preferences and also the reduction of travel times across the city. Demand in the West is also forecast to exceed supply in the longer term due to additional secondary age pupils moving into the West Worcester Urban expansion new housing.

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Appendix 6 - Worcester City Secondary Financial Summary

Capital Expenditure Profile (E) - WCSS Build (including capitalised WCC staff costs) **Note - as with all capital projects, there are inherent risks around inflationary assumptions and cost estimates.**

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36	Total Capital Spend
2028 Delivery	197,601	751,097	1,173,377	1,300,000	9,888,053	9,353,106	28,975,136	8,221,740	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59,860,110

Capital Expenditure Profile (E) - Additional Mitigations Required **Note - these are based on 'basic need cost per pupil place' figures we receive from the DfE for our Basic Need Grant. Risk to these figures as site-specific options are explored.**

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36	Total Capital Spend
2028 Delivery - lower range	0	0	0	1,038,540	1,038,540	546,600	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,623,680
2028 Delivery - higher range	0	0	0	3,662,220	3,662,220	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,324,440

Capital Expenditure Profile (E) - TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36	Total Capital Spend	Increase to Cap. Proc.
2028 Delivery - lower range	197,601	751,097	1,173,377	2,338,540	10,926,593	9,899,706	28,975,136	8,221,740	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	62,483,790	13,483,790
2028 Delivery - higher range	197,601	751,097	1,173,377	4,962,220	13,550,273	9,353,106	28,975,136	8,221,740	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	67,184,550	17,184,550

Revenue Expenditure Profile (E) - if additional Capital Spend is funded from Basic Need **Note - Borrowing costs are based on current PWLB 20-year rates of 5.58%**

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36	2036/37	2037/38	2038/39	2039/40	2040/41	2041/42	2042/43	2043/44	2044/45	2045/46	2046/47	2047/48	2048/49	Total Revenue Spend to 2049	
Transport cost forecast	0	0	0	0	0	66,044	100,472	100,472	100,472	100,472	100,472	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	568,404
Borrowing Costs	0	11,619	55,783	124,778	262,284	804,768	1,486,871	2,940,000	2,940,000	2,940,000	2,940,000	2,940,000	2,940,000	2,940,000	2,940,000	2,940,000	2,940,000	2,940,000	2,940,000	2,940,000	2,940,000	2,928,381	2,884,217	2,815,232	2,677,716	2,035,232	1,453,129	0	58,800,000	
MfP	0	9,880	47,435	106,104	223,031	769,360	1,264,346	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,490,120	2,452,565	2,393,896	2,276,969	1,730,640	1,235,654	0	50,000,000	
Total Revenue Costs	0	21,499	103,218	230,882	485,315	1,740,172	2,851,688	5,540,472	5,540,472	5,540,472	5,540,472	5,440,000	5,440,000	5,440,000	5,440,000	5,440,000	5,440,000	5,440,000	5,440,000	5,440,000	5,440,000	5,418,501	5,336,782	5,209,118	4,954,685	3,765,872	2,688,784	0	109,368,404	

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Environmental Sustainability Full Impact Assessment

Impact Assessment Id: #688

1.0 Screening Information

Project Name

New Worcester City Secondary School

Name of Project Sponsor

Sarah Wilkins And Andrew Spice

Name of Project Manager

Anna Field

Name of Project Lead

Sarah Wilkins And Andrew Spice

Please give a brief description of the project

Delivery of a new secondary school on site at Newtown Road to meet the needs of Worcester City families and allow us to provide a 5% surplus across the Education Planning Area.

Data Protection screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

Equality and Public Health screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

Environmental Sustainability screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

1.1 Background and Purpose

Background and Purpose of Project?

To support your answer to this question, you can upload a copy of the project's Business Case or similar document.

The provision of places for secondary school pupils in the Worcester City Education Planning Area is the key mainstream sufficiency risk in Worcestershire over the next five years. Mitigating this risk is necessary to meet our statutory and strategic aims over the next five years.

We have seen that the number of children seeking a year seven place in Worcester City has been consistently increasing over the last decade. The population of Worcester continues to grow, with increasing cohort numbers due to enter year seven over the next six years, as well as substantial housing planned for the City and surrounding area as part of the South Worcestershire Development Plan. In Autumn 2020 there were fewer than 10 spare places in year seven across the City, which represents a 0.7% surplus.

Across any Education Planning Area in Worcestershire we seek to maintain a 5% surplus of places. This is an important factor to meeting the strategic aims as outlined in the Worcestershire Education and Skills Strategy (2019 – 2024) and ensures:

- Families have an element of choice and increase the likelihood that families receive one of their top two preferences;
- all children who move into the City during the school year are offered provision within 20 days; and
- all children who want to access a place in their local community are able to do so, reducing school travel times.

The oversubscription criteria of schools favour pupils living closest to the school when oversubscribed from in-catchment or feeder schools. Therefore, schools on the outskirts of Worcester City are disproportionately affected by this strain, notably children living within Warndon Villages, Warndon, Claines, and looking into the future, those families moving onto housing developments on the outskirts of the City. We have seen a year on year decline in pupils at schools in these areas receiving an offer for their preference secondary school.

The growth of housing in the City will be particularly focused on the South and South East, which is supported by two secondary schools; Nunnery Wood High and Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic. The rise in population in this region is expected to continue with significant housing developments approved in the South Worcester Urban Expansion land allocation. Provision in the South is currently below forecast need for the next five years, with demand approximately four forms of entry (120 places) higher than these two secondary schools can currently support.

The level of additional places required provides us with an opportunity to deliver a new secondary school to meet short-term and long-term growth of Worcester City.

The provision of a new Secondary School in the City would meet the sufficiency needs of Worcester and allow us to provide a 5% surplus across the Education Planning Area.

The provision of a new Secondary School to meet this need was approved by Cabinet on 4th February 2021.

This project aligns to the Council's requirement to:

- The Local Authority's statutory requirements to provide a sufficiency of school places;
- The ability of the Worcestershire County Council to meet the aims agreed within the Education and Skills Strategy
- Providing local schools which can be accessed by active travel routes is key to the Council's core priorities of 'Protecting the Environment' as set out in our Corporate Plan 'Shaping Worcestershire's Future 2017 to 2022

Upload Business Case or Support documents

No files uploaded

Project Outputs

Briefly summarise the activities needed to achieve the project outcomes.

The project output will be a new 4FE secondary school in Worcester City with sports facilities available for use by the community. This will be delivered via a number of workstreams:

- Land, procurement and delivery - acquisition of suitable land and construction
- Education - Academy Sponsor selection and consideration of educational requirements of the school (e.g. inclusivity)
- Communication and engagement - stakeholder management and consultation
- Legal
- Mitigating school places - ensuring sufficiency of school places in Worcester

Project Outcomes

Briefly summarise what the project will achieve.

- Sufficiency of school places for all secondary age pupils in Worcester City
- A reduction in travel times and car use for secondary age pupils travelling to school
- Certainty that all pupils in Worcester City can attend a secondary school in their community
- Longevity of secondary school sufficiency in Worcester in line with housing growth
- Increase in jobs for school staff in Worcester

Is the project a new function/service or does it relate to an existing Council function/service?

Existing

Was consultation carried out on this project?

Yes

1.2 Responsibility

Directorate/Organisation

Worcestershire Children First

Service Area

Education and Early Years

1.3 Specifics

Project Reference (if known)

Not Recorded

Intended Project Close Date *

September 2027

1.4 Project Part of a Strategic Programme

Is this project part of a strategic programme?

No

2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Could the project result in an increase in GHG emissions (including CO2)? Yes

Please be mindful that the Council has committed to reduce its GHG emissions to zero by 2050 and most projects are likely to have an impact on this target. This should be a key consideration in your project delivery and should be reviewed when completing the assessment.

Please explain your answer below:

- The project will aim to achieve a sustainable net zero carbon building in line with the Councils's objectives by 2050
- Greenhouse gas emissions could be increased as a result of transport, build and efficiency of operation
- Construction could produce greenhouse gases, but in the operation of the school we will be using sustainable energy methods and consider opportunities through the project (procurement, meetings etc, materials storage to reduce delivery trips etc.)
- Reduction of car use by delivering the school in the local community
- Ongoing review through design/delivery of opportunities for emissions reduction
- Site waste management

Have you undertaken an assessment of the project to know if there will likely be an increase in GHG emissions? No

Please explain your answer below:

Not recorded

3 Resources

Will the project result in increased consumption of electricity, gas or other heating fuels? Yes

e.g. project may require use of additional buildings, lighting and heating in buildings, additional ICT equipment, etc.

Please explain your answer below:

The delivery of a new school will result in an increase in consumption of electricity. However, the school is required due to an increase in pupils who will result in an increase in consumption at the new school or at an existing school. It is not proposed that gas will be connected to the school - if required for science labs then a small solution will be created.

Will the project reduce energy needs and result in reduced consumption? Yes

e.g. disposal of WCC property assets

Will the project require additional water resources leading to an increase in water consumption? No

e.g. increased use of water through construction processes

Might there be a decrease in water consumption? Yes

e.g. will the project involve water saving measures or initiatives

Please explain your answer below:

We will seek to:

Low water use/ waterless fittings and appliances, while considering maintenance challenges

Provide sub metering to monitor high water use areas/ equipment

Recycled rainwater for irrigation

Recycled rainwater for flushing WCs & other potable water uses - review embodied impact and LCC

Recycled greywater for irrigation - review feasibility and embodied impact.

Grey water management - reed beds etc

Identify a surface water strategy with measures to mitigate climate change beyond statutory requirements, integrated within green infrastructure strategy.

Sustainable Urban Drainage to support biodiversity while supporting site surface water strategy - swales/ green roofs etc

Increase permeable surfaces for climate resilience.

Will the project result in the use of other resources, materials or minerals? Yes

e.g. use of natural resources such as wood; or use of aggregate minerals?

Please explain your answer below:

We will be seeking to use local resources wherever possible to reduce project resource requirements and reduce risk

4 Transport

Will the project result in more people needing to travel? No

e.g. will there be additional cars on the road

Have alternative transport modes been considered? Yes

e.g. could use be made of public transport/walking/cycling etc.

Please explain your answer below:

One of the key outcomes of this project will be for more families to have a secondary school within their local community - seeking to reduce care use and enable more pupils to travel to school by active travel routes.

A Traffic Impact Assessment has been carried out by the Council as part of the planning process for the build project.

The appointed sponsor will be required to develop a School Travel Plan encouraging safe travel to school which promotes walking and cycling.

The use of cars for students will be discouraged through the design of the school and through active management by the school. The minimum parking requirements of 1 parking space per full time member of staff will be use for the school site.

5 Waste

Is there likely to be an increase in waste as a result of the project? Yes

e.g. construction waste, packaging waste etc.

Please explain your answer below:

This project will result in construction waste as part of the construction phase. Options for mitigating this aspect will be fully explored during the pre-planning and pre-construction phases

Have opportunities to prevent, minimise, reuse or recycle waste been identified and considered? Yes

e.g. will recycling facilities be available as part of the project

Please explain your answer below:

Opportunities to prevent, minimise, reuse or recycle waste when the building is operational will be considered at an early stage in development, to ensure there is adequate bin storage facilities to deal with segregation of waste to enable ease of recycling, and also to allow for recycling areas within the classrooms/communal areas as appropriate.

6 Wildlife and Biodiversity

Will there be any negative impacts on the natural environment? Yes

e.g. will the project involve removal of green space/trees; have wildlife surveys been considered; result in enhancements to green infrastructure; increased biodiversity opportunities etc.?

Please explain your answer below:

This is a green field site and therefore there will be an impact on the natural environment. As part of planning application process full surveys have been undertaken. Ecological assessment identified large population of slow worm on site. Working with WCC and external ecologists, a reptile mitigation plan has been produced as a part of planning submission.

As part of the school design we have looked to utilise and enhance the natural environment wherever possible across the site.

Construction delivery plan and methodology was designed in line with the reptile mitigation plan, ensuring slow worms are not harmed.

Has a preliminary ecological appraisal been undertaken? Yes

Please explain your answer below:

Yes, please see answer above.

Has there been consideration of statutory assessments? Yes

e.g. Sustainability Appraisals, Strategic Environmental Assessments and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening?

N.B. This is a matter of legal compliance - All plans and projects (including planning applications) which are not directly connected with, or necessary for, the conservation management of a habitat site, require consideration of whether the plan or project is likely to have significant effects on that site. This consideration – typically referred to as the ‘Habitats Regulations Assessment screening’ – should take into account the potential effects both of the plan/project itself and in combination with other plans or projects.

Please explain your answer below:

Yes, as mentioned above, as a part of planning submission all the relevant statutory assessment have been undertaken (in line with new SWDP) inc Biodiversity Net Gain, rainwater harvesting and SUDs .

7 Pollution to land/air/water

Is there a risk of pollution to the local environment? Yes

e.g.

- will there be surface water run-off or discharge into local water source?
- will there be any impact on local water quality?
- will any waste water require treatment?
- is there the potential for spillage of chemicals?
- is there the potential for emissions to air from combustion processes resulting in poor air quality?

Please explain your answer below and include any actions that have been identified to mitigate these risks:

All the required processes and regulations have been followed as a part of a new build process and planning application submission.

8 Resilience to climate risks

Could climate risks affect your project? Yes

N.B. some projects may be more sensitive to future changes in the climate e.g. hotter and drier summers; milder and wetter winters; increased likelihood of extreme weather events. These climate risks may affect project delivery and should be considered at the early stages of project development.

Please explain your answer below:

This building is anticipated to be in use for the next several decades and therefore is likely to be impacted by climate risks. The site selection process took account of location to natural and man made hazards and flooding risk. Moreover, temperature management has been considered for the building. Also, position of the build has been considered during design stage to maximise its benefits.

Has the impact of extreme weather events on the project been considered? Yes

e.g. heat waves and flooding.

Please explain your answer below:

The impact of flooding on construction delivery and future operation of the school has been considered. The site selection process favoured this site due the absence of flood risk for the site, and appropriate attenuation to manage future extreme weather will be considered as part of detailed design.

Is there a business/project continuity plan in place to ensure climate risks are minimised? No

e.g. can you ensure that the project is resilient to climate risks and can continue to deliver on outcomes.

Could the project exacerbate climate risks? No

e.g. increase flood risk or worsen temperature extremes in the locality.

Will the project result in the use of other resources, materials or minerals? Yes

e.g. use of natural resources such as wood; or use of aggregate minerals?

Please explain your answer below:

We will be seeking to use local resources wherever possible to reduce project resource requirements and reduce risk

9 Historic Environment

Have you checked with the WCC Historic Environment team as to whether there are any impacts on the Historic Environment (negative or positive)?

Yes

Check every development with the Historic Environment Team at the planning stage of each project. Further assessment may be required depending on the nature and scale of development. There may also be design options that would negate any need for further assessment (and lessen costs), or even opportunities to enhance heritage assets or their setting through the development.

Please explain your answer below:

The WCC Historic Environment Team have identified that the risk of any historic environment or landscape issues affecting the scheme is low.

There have been a few related surveys undertaken over the last 20 years:

- 2004 evaluation on South parcel of the site: WCC have no records of the outcome of this so we are following up with Worcester City, but unlikely to be anything significant uncovered.
- 2011 Geophysical survey of the whole site: No significant matters identified on site
- 2012 Archaeological watching survey as part of the installation of the drainage system on site: No significant historic environmental issues revealed

There is a known roman settlement enclosure on land within the Country Park South of our site and adjacent to the main road so there is a risk it extends onto our piece of land. No conclusive evidence. Advice is to avoid major construction on this part of the land to alleviate risk. We are not consider construction in this area.

Does the development have the potential to result in any impacts to the historic environment or opportunities for enhancement?

No

If yes, then further assessment will be required. This could take the form of a watching brief during groundworks if the potential is clearly understood and relatively low, or a more comprehensive desk-based and/or field investigation prior to development.

10 Procurement

Could any procurement associated with the project have a detrimental environmental impact? Yes

e.g. procurement of goods from overseas that have to be shipped; use of unsustainable materials or materials that cannot be recycled at the end of their use?

Please explain your answer below:

Unable to answer at this stage but our aspiration is to use local materials and avoid importing materials.

Is there likely to be increased Greenhouse Gas emissions from products purchased for the project? Yes

e.g. carbon emissions from transport and manufacturing

Please explain your answer below:

Unable to specify at this stage, but the aspiration is to keep the green house gas emissions to minimum.

Will you be able to make use of sustainable products? Yes

e.g. recycled, local, ethical etc.

Please explain your answer below:

Unable to answer at this stage but our aspiration is to use sustainable materials.

Have you considered the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012? Yes

All major contracts let by the Council (those of more than £100,000 in total value) will be expected to deliver a meaningful contribution to our vision of Social Value in the county. The Act requires us to consider how the services we commission and procure might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the local area.

– please see: [Social Value](#)

Please explain your answer below:

The delivery of this project at its core will improve social value for the county through the delivery of essential services for the wellbeing of the community.

11 Declaration

I have confirmed that to the best of my knowledge that the information I have provided is true, complete and accurate

I have confirmed that I will make sure that Environmental Sustainability has been and continues to be considered throughout the project life cycle and should circumstances change in the project a further Environmental Sustainability Assessment Screening will be carried out.

12 Application Details

Last Updated Date Time

28/02/2024 13:04:51

Screening Submitted Date Time

26/02/2024 11:21:42

Last Reopened Date Time

No Date Recorded

Full Impact Submitted Date Time

26/02/2024 14:11:49

Approved/Rejected Date Time

28/02/2024 13:04:51

Current User Dashboard Request Status

Complete

13.0 People with access to the original screening

[Anna Field \(afield1@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:afield1@worcestershire.gov.uk)

[Daria Silva \(DSilva@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:DSilva@worcestershire.gov.uk)

13.1 People with access to this environmental sustainability assessment

[Anna Field \(afield1@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:afield1@worcestershire.gov.uk)

[Daria Silva \(DSilva@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:DSilva@worcestershire.gov.uk)

14 Direct Questions

No Questions Asked

Equality and Public Health Full Impact Assessment

Impact Assessment Id: #688

1.0 Screening Information

Project Name

New Worcester City Secondary School

Name of Project Sponsor

Sarah Wilkins And Andrew Spice

Name of Project Manager

Anna Field

Name of Project Lead

Sarah Wilkins And Andrew Spice

Please give a brief description of the project

Delivery of a new secondary school on site at Newtown Road to meet the needs of Worcester City families and allow us to provide a 5% surplus across the Education Planning Area.

Data Protection screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

Equality and Public Health screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

Environmental Sustainability screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

1.1 Background and Purpose

Background and Purpose of Project?

To support your answer to this question, you can upload a copy of the project's Business Case or similar document.

The provision of places for secondary school pupils in the Worcester City Education Planning Area is the key mainstream sufficiency risk in Worcestershire over the next five years. Mitigating this risk is necessary to meet our statutory and strategic aims over the next five years.

We have seen that the number of children seeking a year seven place in Worcester City has been consistently increasing over the last decade. The population of Worcester continues to grow, with increasing cohort numbers due to enter year seven over the next six years, as well as substantial housing planned for the City and surrounding area as part of the South Worcestershire Development Plan. In Autumn 2020 there were fewer than 10 spare places in year seven across the City, which represents a 0.7% surplus.

Across any Education Planning Area in Worcestershire we seek to maintain a 5% surplus of places. This is an important factor to meeting the strategic aims as outlined in the Worcestershire Education and Skills Strategy (2019 – 2024) and ensures:

- Families have an element of choice and increase the likelihood that families receive one of their top two preferences;
- all children who move into the City during the school year are offered provision within 20 days; and
- all children who want to access a place in their local community are able to do so, reducing school travel times.

The oversubscription criteria of schools favour pupils living closest to the school when oversubscribed from in-catchment or feeder schools. Therefore, schools on the outskirts of Worcester City are disproportionately affected by this strain, notably children living within Warndon Villages, Warndon, Claines, and looking into the future, those families moving onto housing developments on the outskirts of the City. We have seen a year on year decline in pupils at schools in these areas receiving an offer for their preference secondary school.

The growth of housing in the City will be particularly focused on the South and South East, which is supported by two secondary schools; Nunnery Wood High and Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic. The rise in population in this region is expected to continue with significant housing developments approved in the South Worcester Urban Expansion land allocation. Provision in the South is currently below forecast need for the next five years, with demand approximately four forms of entry (120 places) higher than these two secondary schools can currently support.

The level of additional places required provides us with an opportunity to deliver a new secondary school to meet short-term and long-term growth of Worcester City.

The provision of a new Secondary School in the City would meet the sufficiency needs of Worcester and allow us to provide a 5% surplus across the Education Planning Area.

The provision of a new Secondary School to meet this need was approved by Cabinet on 4th February 2021.

This project aligns to the Council's requirement to:

- The Local Authority's statutory requirements to provide a sufficiency of school places;
- The ability of the Worcestershire County Council to meet the aims agreed within the Education and Skills Strategy
- Providing local schools which can be accessed by active travel routes is key to the Council's core priorities of 'Protecting the Environment' as set out in our Corporate Plan 'Shaping Worcestershire's Future 2017 to 2022

Upload Business Case or Support documents

No files uploaded

Project Outputs

Briefly summarise the activities needed to achieve the project outcomes.

The project output will be a new 4FE secondary school in Worcester City with sports facilities available for use by the community. This will be delivered via a number of workstreams:

- Land, procurement and delivery - acquisition of suitable land and construction
- Education - Academy Sponsor selection and consideration of educational requirements of the school (e.g. inclusivity)
- Communication and engagement - stakeholder management and consultation
- Legal
- Mitigating school places - ensuring sufficiency of school places in Worcester

Project Outcomes

Briefly summarise what the project will achieve.

- Sufficiency of school places for all secondary age pupils in Worcester City
- A reduction in travel times and car use for secondary age pupils travelling to school
- Certainty that all pupils in Worcester City can attend a secondary school in their community
- Longevity of secondary school sufficiency in Worcester in line with housing growth
- Increase in jobs for school staff in Worcester

Is the project a new function/service or does it relate to an existing Council function/service?

Existing

Was consultation carried out on this project?

Yes

1.2 Responsibility

Directorate/Organisation

Worcestershire Children First

Service Area

Education and Early Years

1.3 Specifics

Project Reference (if known)

Not Recorded

Intended Project Close Date *

September 2027

1.4 Project Part of a Strategic Programme

Is this project part of a strategic programme?

No

2 Organisations Involved

Please identify the organisation(s) involved:

Worcestershire County Council

Details of contributors to this assessment:

Name	Daria Silva
Job title	Programme Portfolio Lead
Email address	dsilva@worcestershire.gov.uk
Name	Demi Parsons
Job title	Project Support Officer
Email address	DParsons2@worcestershire.gov.uk
Name	Lucy Langdon
Job title	Project Manager
Email address	llangdon@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

3.0 Who will be affected by the development and implementation

Please identify group(s) involved:

Service User

Staff

Communities

3.1 Information and evidence reviewed

What information and evidence have you reviewed to help inform this assessment? *

Demographic and forecast pupil level data

Preference information for school admissions

3.2 Summary of engagement or consultation undertaken

Who and how have you engaged, or why do you believe engagement is not required? *

So far we have undertaken a 4 week engagement exercise inviting all stakeholders to engage in what they feel is important in the delivery of a new school and their opinion on key operational matters such as admissions etc.

This was an online survey that was advertised on the website, local media, direct email, social media and through schools to engage with families.

Following from the initial engagement we have also undertaken a statutory 6 weeks consultation on the school specification.

In addition, we have also decided as a good practice, to organise a drop in session open to the public which took place in Spring 2023.

3.3 Summary of relevant findings

Please summarise your relevant findings. *

- 595 responses received plus nearly 500 individual comments
- 83% agreed or strongly agreed that a new secondary school in Worcester was needed
- The most important factors for respondents were that students felt safe in and around school, the school has strong leadership, that students feel their mental health and wellbeing is well supported, and that students make good academic progress
- The school should foster an environment of inclusivity and support, focusing just as much on mental health and wellbeing and ensuring children are well rounded citizens as much as academic success
- The school should be located within the local community it will serve and accessible by active travel routes from day one. Existing congestion within the city should be considered
- The new school should be integrated within its new community, through community use of facilities and by prioritising children living nearby in the admissions criteria
- The new build should take consideration of sustainability and energy efficiency, and use local resources where possible

Results from the formal consultation were considered when finalising the final school specification document.

Results from the public drop in session further informed list of FAQs published on our website.

4 Protected characteristics - Equality

Please consider the potential impact of this activity (during development & implementation) on each of the equality groups outlined below. **Please select one or more impact box(es) below for each equality group and explain your rationale.** Please note it is possible for the potential impact to be both positive and negative for the same equality group and this should be recorded. Remember to consider the impact on e.g. staff, public, patients, carers etc. who are part of these equality groups.

Age

Potential positive impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

Education provision for secondary school aged pupils (11-16yrs)
 More children will be able to attend a secondary school within their local community. The location of the school will also enable it to connect directly with existing walking and cycle paths. This will reduce car use, reduce travel times, and increase potential for using active travel routes to walk or cycle to school. This will improve physical activity, reduce risk of cardiovascular disease and obesity, and reduce risk of mental illness and social isolation.
 The school will also be located close to natural green spaces and benefit from natural ecology integrated into the design of the school, improving mental health and learning potential.

Disability

Potential positive impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The school specification states that the chosen Academy Sponsor will be expected to show an inclusive approach to education. It details the steps that should be taken to ensure inclusivity, including with regard to the following:

- Active engagement with the SEND and Vulnerable Learner teams and the Virtual School in WCF
- A behaviour policy that does not discriminate against pupils with SEND or vulnerable learners
- Funding
- Deployment of teaching assistants and support staff
- Appropriate training to support the individual needs of pupils
- Curriculum
- School/parent relationships
- SEND Governor
- Early Help pathway for early identification of need
- Student council

Gender reassignment

Potential positive impact selected

Explanation of your reasoning:

The management of school facilities such as bathrooms and staff facilities must link to the inclusivity policy of the school, in particular gender and self identity

Marriage and civil partnerships

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The development and implementation of the new school is not anticipated to have an impact on marriage and civil partnerships.

Pregnancy and maternity

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The development and implementation of the new school is not anticipated to have an impact on pregnancy and maternity.

Race including travelling communities

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The development and implementation of the new school is not anticipated to have a specific impact on individuals of a particular race including travelling communities

Religion and belief

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The development and implementation of the new school is not anticipated to impact on religion or belief

Sex

Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The development and implementation of the new school is not anticipated to have an impact on sex. The school will be a mixed gender school

Sexual orientation

Potential positive impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The school ethos is proposed to reflect the values of inclusivity and acceptance, and will be further determined by the Academy Trust as part of their policy development. This will also be approved/reviewed by the DfE as part of the school opening process.

5 Characteristics - Public health

Other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups

Potential positive impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

Warndon is one of our most disadvantaged areas of Worcestershire, ranking 72nd on The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) out of circa 33K LSOA in England. At present, Pupils in Warndon are some of the least likely in Worcester City to receive an offer from one of their preferred secondary schools and are often required to travel the furthest to access a school places.

The provision of a new secondary school at Newtown Road will positively impact on this community, enabling better access to education places and community facilities.

Health inequalities

Potential positive impact selected. Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

New school build will include sport facilities also open for community use, increasing sport provision within the area.

Social and economic

Potential positive impact selected. Potential neutral impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

New school build will include sport facilities also open for community use, increasing sport provision within the area. Also, new school will provide new employment opportunities and will bring social value element for young people as per contractual agreements. Education has been recognized as a key “social determinant of health.” Individuals with higher levels of education are likely to have greater health knowledge and healthy behaviours, better employment opportunities and higher incomes, and stronger social and psychological attributes, all of which reduce risks for various acute and chronic diseases.¹ People with higher levels of education are more likely to have a stable job and make a living wage, which in turn improves their ability to meet basic needs.

The creation of a new school will provide local employment opportunities, consideration of local recruitment scheme or apprenticeships would maximise the impact of these new jobs.

Physical health

Potential positive impact selected. Potential negative impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

More children will be able to attend a secondary school within their local community. The location of the school will also enable it to connect directly with existing walking and cycle paths. This will reduce car use, reduce travel times, and increase potential for using active travel routes to walk or cycle to school. This will improve physical activity, reduce risk of cardiovascular disease and obesity, and reduce risk of mental illness and social isolation. In order to maximise this we will explore options that may include:

- A separate cycle/walking access to the schools
- Well managed, raised, pelican crossing that prioritises pupils and cyclists particularly during school opening and finishing hours
- Ensure active travel routes are usable, enjoyable, and time effective to use
- Sufficient cycle parking on site which are secure and easily accessible

It will be important to ensure site safety during construction – this will be done by a full site risk assessment for construction and site security.

Traffic management measures on Newtown Road, where the majority of pupils will travel onto the site, will be considered, including zebra and pelican crossings. However, Newtown Road is a key access road for Ambulances and therefore traffic mitigation will be mindful of potential disruption to Blue Light vehicles including consideration of appropriate turning into the school site and pupil crossing.

The community use of sports facilities on the school site will provide residents in this part of Worcester access to sports facilities not currently located within their local community.

The diversion of the bridleway on site and integration of this with a green corridor will enable continued access to green and open spaces on the Countryside Centre for existing communities.

Access to hot food takeaways is limited – though a fast food establishment is located within half a mile of the site, there are no direct walking routes from the school. Also, secondary school age children are not allowed to leave the premises during school hours. Furthermore, nutritious healthy affordable meals will be served daily.

Mental health and wellbeing

Potential positive impact selected. Potential negative impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

The location of the school will enable more pupils to walk and cycle to school, increasing physical activity improving mental health and wellbeing.

The school will also be located close to natural green spaces and benefit from natural ecology integrated into the design of the school, improving mental health and learning potential by providing opportunities to integrate natural habitats and places for growing within the curriculum.

The school specification states that the Academy Sponsor is expected to have a strong approach to ensuring the health and wellbeing of pupils and teachers, in consideration of both physical and mental health. We would expect the chosen Sponsor to have:

- A clear policy which documents the approach to ensuring and improving pupil and staff health
- Safe spaces and quiet areas for pupils to access for counselling sessions or to support with emotional regulation or sensory needs
- Development opportunities for staff and a process for ensuring wellbeing is prioritised
- An ethos of pupil and staff wellbeing throughout policy and practice.

The school will focus on community cohesion by providing community use of facilities after hours and prioritising pupils living nearby to the school to support social cohesion. The design of the school will be mindful of creating an attracting environment to create a sense of pride and satisfaction.

Construction operations during the development stage including increased vehicle movement, noise etc. Disturbance and stress caused by construction activity could impact on mental health of nearby residents - Will consider options such as Limit the disturbance levels and Adjust the vehicle movement and operation hours to benefit surrounding communities. Care Home positioned adjacent to the school so sensitivity must be given to that.

This project will provide new employment opportunities for local people. On opening the school will be sufficient to accommodate 600 pupils, and the school will full by 120 pupils as it fills from year 7.

Access to services

Potential positive impact selected.

Explanation of your reasoning:

Research studies have shown direct links between education and factors such as health and life expectancy rates, with academic achievement playing a potentially significant role in reducing health inequalities by shaping life opportunities.

This project will see the improved access to education places for young people (11-16) in Worcester. The project will also see improved access to sports facilities for existing communities in the local area, which could positively impact on reducing social isolation, increase physical activity levels, reduce obesity.

6 Actions to mitigate potential negative impacts

<p>Risk identified</p> <p>Actions required to reduce/eliminate negative impact</p> <p>Who will lead this action</p> <p>Timeframe</p>	<p>Access to hot food takeaways is limited – though a fast food establishment is located within half a mile of the site, there are no direct walking routes from the school and therefore it is not expected that students will readily or easily access this facility. However, a risk remains of students risking travelling across unsafe roads to access the facility.</p> <p>The school will be required to manage this through their operations and day to day management - discussion to be held with Academy Sponsor at the next stage of design.</p> <p>Academy Sponsor And Wcf</p> <p>April 2024 - May 2027 (prior to school opening)</p>
<p>Risk identified</p> <p>Actions required to reduce/eliminate negative impact</p> <p>Who will lead this action</p> <p>Timeframe</p>	<p>Newtown Road is a key access road for Ambulances and therefore traffic mitigation must be mindful of potential disruption to Blue Light vehicles during construction and following opening of the school</p> <p>Traffic assessment has been undertaken as a part of the planning submission process. Once approved, main contractor will work with the relevant highways professionals to agree operational delivery plan.</p> <p>Graham Construction</p> <p>December 2024 - June 2025 (post planning application decision)</p>
<p>Risk identified</p> <p>Actions required to reduce/eliminate negative impact</p> <p>Who will lead this action</p> <p>Timeframe</p>	<p>Site safety during construction</p> <p>Undertake full site risk assessment for construction and site security. Appointed H&S advisor on the client site to ensure all the processes are being followed.</p> <p>Turner And Townsend & Graham Construction</p> <p>April 2024 - September 2025 (Sept 2025 proposed start on site)</p>

How will you monitor these actions?

Maintain an up to date risk spreadsheet

7 When will you review this equality and public health estimate(EPHIA)?

At risk management points identified
 Post planning application determination
 Prior to construction commencement
 Prior to school opening

8 Declaration

The following statement has been read and agreed:

- All public bodies have a statutory duty under the Equality Act 2010 to set out arrangements to assess and consult on how their policies and functions impact on the 9 protected characteristics: Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage & Civil Partnership; Pregnancy & Maternity; Race; Religion & Belief; Sex; Sexual Orientation
- Our Organisation will challenge discrimination, promote equality, respect human rights, and aims to design and implement services, policies and measures that meet the diverse needs of our service, and population, ensuring that none are placed at a disadvantage over others
- All staff are expected to deliver and provide services and care in a manner which respects the individuality of service users, patients, carers etc, and as such treat them and members of the workforce respectfully, paying due regard to the 9 protected characteristics

I confirm to the best of my knowledge that the information I have provided is true, complete and accurate

I confirm that I will make sure that Equality and Public Health have been and continue to be considered throughout the project life cycle and that, if circumstances change in the project, a further Equality and Public Health Impact Assessment Screening will be carried out.

8 Application Details

Last Updated Date Time

01/03/2024 08:27:53

Screening Submitted Date Time

26/02/2024 11:21:42

Last Reopened Date Time

29/02/2024 12:15:47

Full Impact Submitted Date Time

29/02/2024 13:01:13

Approved/Rejected Date Time

01/03/2024 08:27:53

Current User Dashboard Request Status

Complete

9.0 People with access to the original screening

[Anna Field \(afield1@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:afield1@worcestershire.gov.uk)

[Daria Silva \(DSilva@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:DSilva@worcestershire.gov.uk)

9.1 People with access to this equality and public health assessment

[Anna Field \(afield1@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:afield1@worcestershire.gov.uk)

[Daria Silva \(DSilva@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:DSilva@worcestershire.gov.uk)

10

Direct Questions**Question:**

Hi Daria

I have sent an email with some suggestions - the form is reopened should you wish to make any amendments

When you are ready resubmit the form for sign off

Best wishes

Sarah

Asked by Sarah Lawlor (SLawlor1@worcestershires.gov.uk) at 29/02/2024 12:15:38

Anna Field (afield1@worcestershires.gov.uk), and Daria Silva (DSilva@worcestershires.gov.uk) have been asked this question.

Response:

Signed off so the document can be presented at meeting

Suggested revisiting the HIA to strengthen the evidence and impact - please email should you wish to take up this offer

Best wishes

Sarah

Sarah Lawlor (SLawlor1@worcestershires.gov.uk) at 29/02/2024 16:18:34

[Add Response](#)

Data Protection Full Assessment Impact Assessment Id: #688

1.0 Screening Information

Project Name

New Worcester City Secondary School

Name of Project Sponsor

Sarah Wilkins And Andrew Spice

Name of Project Manager

Anna Field

Name of Project Lead

Sarah Wilkins And Andrew Spice

Please give a brief description of the project

Delivery of a new secondary school on site at Newtown Road to meet the needs of Worcester City families and allow us to provide a 5% surplus across the Education Planning Area.

Data Protection screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

Equality and Public Health screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

Environmental Sustainability screening result

Will require a full impact assessment

1.1 Background and Purpose

Background and Purpose of Project?

To support your answer to this question, you can upload a copy of the project's Business Case or similar document. The provision of places for secondary school pupils in the Worcester City Education Planning Area is the key mainstream sufficiency risk in Worcestershire over the next five years. Mitigating this risk is necessary to meet our statutory and strategic aims over the next five years.

We have seen that the number of children seeking a year seven place in Worcester City has been consistently increasing over the last decade. The population of Worcester continues to grow, with increasing cohort numbers due to enter year seven over the next six years, as well as substantial housing planned for the City and surrounding area as part of the South Worcestershire Development Plan. In Autumn 2020 there were fewer than 10 spare places in year seven across the City, which represents a 0.7% surplus.

Across any Education Planning Area in Worcestershire we seek to maintain a 5% surplus of places. This is an important factor to meeting the strategic aims as outlined in the Worcestershire Education and Skills Strategy (2019 – 2024) and ensures:

- Families have an element of choice and increase the likelihood that families receive one of their top two preferences;
- all children who move into the City during the school year are offered provision within 20 days; and
- all children who want to access a place in their local community are able to do so, reducing school travel times.

The oversubscription criteria of schools favour pupils living closest to the school when oversubscribed from in-catchment or feeder schools. Therefore, schools on the outskirts of Worcester City are disproportionately affected by this strain, notably children living within Warndon Villages, Warndon, Claines, and looking into the future, those families moving onto housing developments on the outskirts of the City. We have seen a year on year decline in pupils at schools in these areas receiving an offer for their preference secondary school.

The growth of housing in the City will be particularly focused on the South and South East, which is supported by two secondary schools; Nunnery Wood High and Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic. The rise in population in this region is expected to continue with significant housing developments approved in the South Worcester Urban Expansion land allocation. Provision in the South is currently below forecast need for the next five years, with demand approximately four forms of entry (120 places) higher than these two secondary schools can currently support.

The level of additional places required provides us with an opportunity to deliver a new secondary school to meet short-term and long-term growth of Worcester City.

The provision of a new Secondary School in the City would meet the sufficiency needs of Worcester and allow us to provide a 5% surplus across the Education Planning Area.

The provision of a new Secondary School to meet this need was approved by Cabinet on 4th February 2021.

This project aligns to the Council's requirement to:

- The Local Authority's statutory requirements to provide a sufficiency of school places;
- The ability of the Worcestershire County Council to meet the aims agreed within the Education and Skills Strategy
- Providing local schools which can be accessed by active travel routes is key to the Council's core priorities of 'Protecting the Environment' as set out in our Corporate Plan 'Shaping Worcestershire's Future 2017 to 2022

Upload Business Case or Support documents

No files uploaded

Project Outputs

Briefly summarise the activities needed to achieve the project outcomes.

The project output will be a new 4FE secondary school in Worcester City with sports facilities available for use by the community. This will be delivered via a number of workstreams:

- Land, procurement and delivery - acquisition of suitable land and construction
- Education - Academy Sponsor selection and consideration of educational requirements of the school (e.g. inclusivity)
- Communication and engagement - stakeholder management and consultation
- Legal
- Mitigating school places - ensuring sufficiency of school places in Worcester

Project Outcomes

Briefly summarise what the project will achieve.

- Sufficiency of school places for all secondary age pupils in Worcester City
- A reduction in travel times and car use for secondary age pupils travelling to school
- Certainty that all pupils in Worcester City can attend a secondary school in their community
- Longevity of secondary school sufficiency in Worcester in line with housing growth
- Increase in jobs for school staff in Worcester

Is the project a new function/service or does it relate to an existing Council function/service?

Existing

Was consultation carried out on this project?

Yes

1.2 Responsibility

Directorate/Organisation

Worcestershire Children First

Service Area

Education and Early Years

1.4 Specifics

Project Reference (if known)

Not Recorded

Intended Project Close Date *

September 2027

1.5 Project Part of a Strategic Programme

Is this project part of a strategic programme?

No

2.00 File(s) used instead of completing the form

[2024-02-29 DaSi Data Protection Impact assessment Id # 688 - further information requested.msg](#)

7 Application Details

Last Updated Date Time

01/03/2024 15:03:43

Screening Submitted Date Time

26/02/2024 11:21:42

Last Reopened Date Time

No Date Recorded

Full Impact Submitted Date Time

01/03/2024 15:03:43

Approved/Rejected Date Time

01/03/2024 15:04:11

Current User Dashboard Request Status

Complete

8.0 People with access to the original screening

[Anna Field \(afield1@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:afield1@worcestershire.gov.uk)

[Daria Silva \(DSilva@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:DSilva@worcestershire.gov.uk)

8.1 People with access to this data protection assessment

[Anna Field \(afield1@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:afield1@worcestershire.gov.uk)

[Daria Silva \(DSilva@worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:DSilva@worcestershire.gov.uk)

9 Direct Questions

Question:

Hello both,

Thank you for the submission. This afternoon I quickly reviewed the DPIA and am now seeking further clarifications on certain points. I would be grateful if you could respond to these:

1. It is not 100% clear from the submission about what is the purpose for capturing and processing personal data in relation to this DPIA. At least part of this processing relates to the consultation requirements for planning. Are there any other purposes for

processing personal data for this project?

2. The two lawful basis chosen were Public Task and Contract. I am confused about how Contract is relevant here - is the processing of personal data necessary for us to deliver a contractual service to them? Dependent upon the rationale for this work, Legal Obligation may also be a lawful basis for processing because we, as the planning authority in this situation, are required under The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 to undertake a formal period of public consultation.

3. What U Drive and which SharePoint site will this be stored in? Why will they be stored in two separate areas?

4. Has a completely new MS Teams site been considered for the storage of information relating to this project, so that automated retention periods can be applied?

5. Will there be any personal data that is shared with third parties?

6. Will this project require the creation of a new Privacy Notice? If not, what Privacy Notice are you intending on utilising when capturing personal data?

Many thanks,

Philip Bouchier

Asked by Philip Bouchier (PBouchier@worcestershire.gov.uk) at 28/02/2024 14:55:58

Anna Field (afield1@worcestershire.gov.uk), and Daria Silva (DSilva@worcestershire.gov.uk) have been asked this question.

Response:

1. There are no other known purposes for capturing personal data.

2. This was a misunderstanding on our behalf.

3. We use the SharePoint site for sharing information across teams. Teams may also use team only U drive areas.

4. No, not yet

5. No

6. Privacy notices are included in formal public consultations.

Regarding the 2 surveys that have been carried out for the new Worcester City secondary school there was not an opportunity for respondents to provide personal data as we only asked for postcodes. As no personal data was being requested we used the following confidentiality statement:

Confidentiality

By completing this voluntary survey, you agree to your responses being collated, processed and analysed by Worcestershire Children First and Worcestershire County Council. All the information you provide will be treated as private and confidential and held in accordance with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The results will be analysed and used for the purposes of considering the proposal for a new secondary school in Worcester. Any report published or shared with other organisations or individuals will never contain anything that could identify you.

When other surveys require some form of personal data from the respondent we use the opt-in function – eg “Do want to be kept informed about.....” with a yes/no response and those that indicate yes are then asked for contact details with the specifics about what the express purpose of the collecting the personal data is and what it will be used for. In these cases we reference the WCC full privacy notice: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/worcestershire-county-council-full-privacy-notice -(Interestingly Outlook is not allowing me to paste it in as a link today!)

Philip Bouchier (PBouchier@worcestershire.gov.uk) at 29/02/2024 08:47:49

Response:

- Can you please remind me what personal data is being processed for this project? If it is not for the consultation, is it just the school census data or anything else?

Just census data

- Following on from that question, in the DPIA it states that we are capturing information about name, age, address, email address, home phone number, mobile phone number, postcode and work related training awards. What type of records are these? For

example, is all from the school census data? Or is it possible that some of these categories of personal data are NOT being captured and processed for the purpose of this project?

The name, age, address, of all primary school children living in Worcester City is used to assess the demand for secondary school places – this is taken from the School Census. I am not aware that we capture email address, home phone number, mobile phone number, postcode and work related training awards for anyone.

- If there are future plans for further consultations, are you intending on having paper records? And if you are, what are you intending to do with these paper records (e.g. data input the information into the relevant system / scan them / store them)? As I mentioned above, Jane explained this has nothing to do with her team.

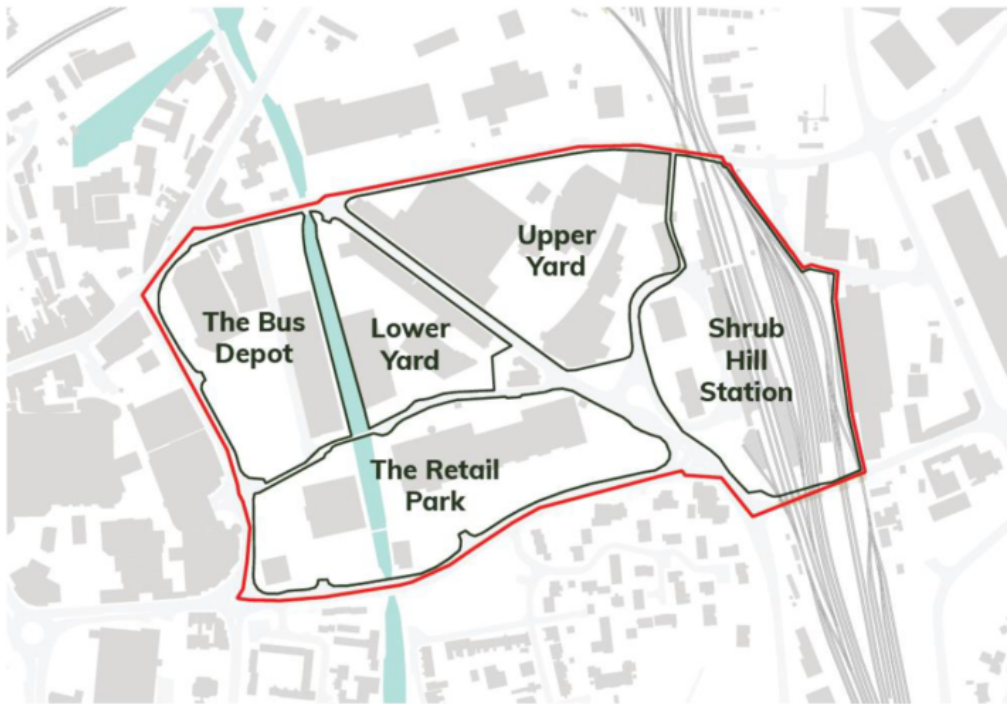
No future plans for consultation

Philip Bouchier (PBouchier@worcestershire.gov.uk) at 01/03/2024 14:55:00

[Add Response](#)

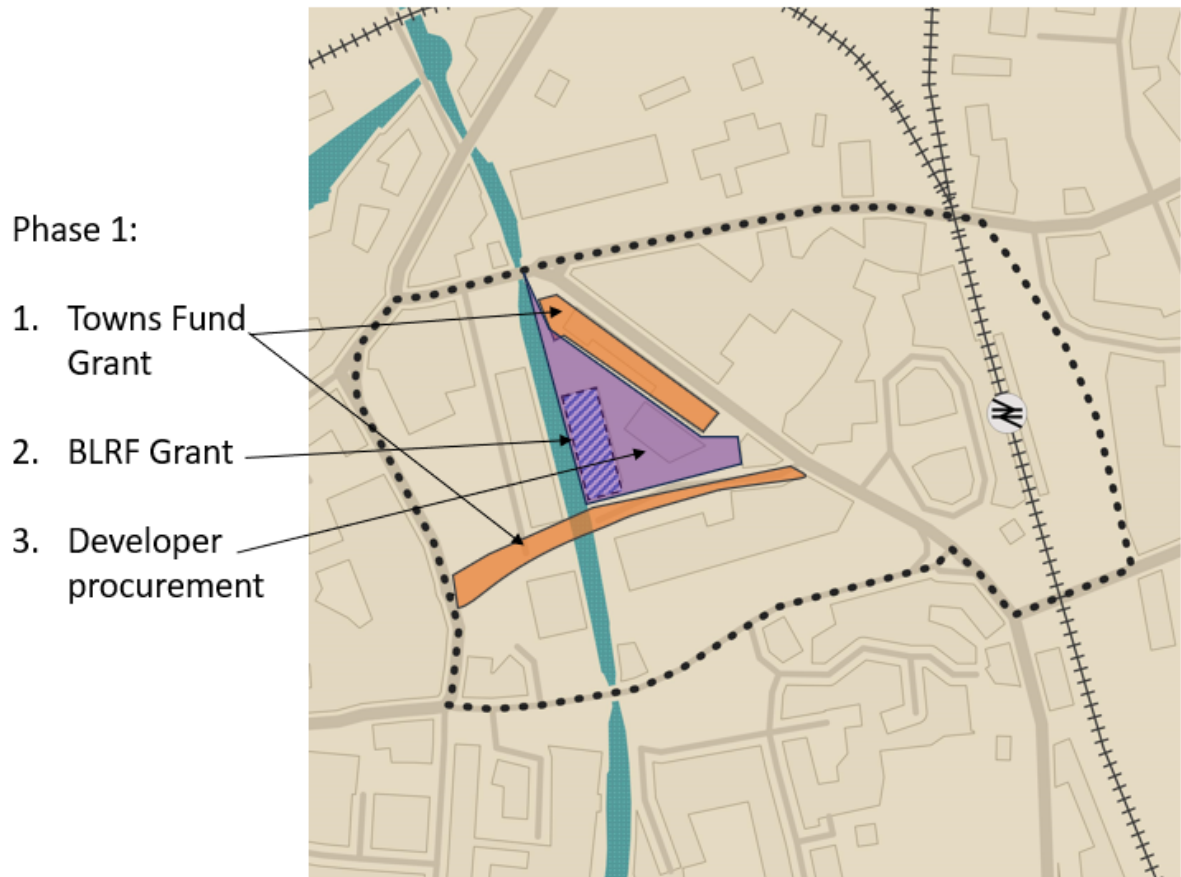
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Appendix 1: Shrub Hill Quarter plots



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Appendix 2: Phase 1 broken down by funding sources



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