


Cabinet 27 November 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Steve Reddy, Corporate director Children's Services	Classification: Unrestricted
Planning for School Places 2024/25 Review and Recommendations	

Lead Member	Councillor Maium Talukdar, Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning
Originating Officer(s)	Catherine Grace, Head of School Admissions and Place Planning Lisa Fraser, Director of Education
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	Yes
Reason for Key Decision	Significant impact on wards
Forward Plan Notice Published	30/08/2024
Exempt information	N/A
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	Accelerating Education

Executive Summary

This report presents the annual review of the council's planning for school places. It informs cabinet on the latest position and key factors influencing the borough's pupil population change and the impact on projected pupil numbers for Tower Hamlets schools. It explains the steps being taken to manage the sufficiency and sustainability of mainstream school places, alongside the medium to longer term delivery of places for children and young people with SEND.

Recommendations:

This report summarises the action the council has taken, or is planning, to monitor and manage the supply of school places. The Mayor in Cabinet is therefore recommended to note:

1. the factors influencing pupil population change in Tower Hamlets;
2. the current position on the provision of school places in the borough;
3. the projected demand for school places in future years;
4. the steps being taken to manage the sufficiency and sustainability of school places in accordance with the council's school organisation strategy.

5. latest position on SEND, current provision and sufficiency planning;
6. the specific equalities considerations as set out in Paragraph 5 of the report.

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The council is legally responsible for the planning and provision of school places across its local area. This responsibility includes:
 - Ensuring there are sufficient school places (Education Act 1996).
 - As far as possible, complying with the preferences expressed by parents (School Standards and Framework Act 1998).
 - Increasing opportunities for parental choice (Education and Inspections Act 2006).
 - Provide fair access to educational opportunity (Education and Inspections Act 2006).
 - Keep its SEND provision under review and consider if it is sufficient to meet the needs of children and young people in its area (Children and Families Act 2014).
- 1.2 In meeting its responsibility to ensure sufficiency the council is required to address both deficit and surplus school places across the education estate. The council will therefore consider how best to organise schools for the efficient and effective delivery of education.
- 1.3 Proposals to provide additional school places will often require long-term planning to implement e.g. opening a new school, expanding an existing one or increasing provision for children and young people with special educational needs. Evidence about the projected need for places must therefore be robust and reviewed regularly, in order to identify emerging need and new projects to inform the council's sufficiency strategy.
- 1.4 The content of this report aligns with the functions of the council as a Local Planning Authority, and the approach taken to make best use of the future school development sites identified in the Tower Hamlets Local Plan.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

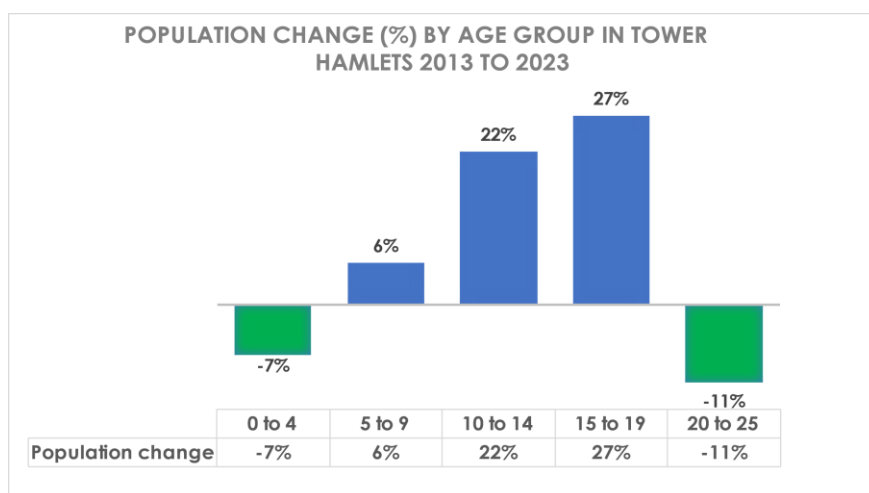
- 2.1 An alternative would be to do nothing to manage the supply of school places. This would likely result in the council having to take a number of short-term measures. Dealing with over-provision would require action to financially support schools who are unable to balance their budgets to maintain quality education. Dealing with under-provision would require action to quickly provide additional places in the form of bulge classes at existing schools or expansions into temporary buildings.
- 2.2 These measures can address issues in the short-term, but they do not provide best value and should not be viewed as a sustainable approach to managing demand for school places.

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

Background and Context

- 3.1 The demand for school places is driven by pupil population growth, birth rates, migration levels and housing development. In the ten year period between 2013 and 2023 Tower Hamlets saw 24% growth in its secondary school age population (10-19), which was consistent with the 24% growth in the borough’s general population. However, the same period saw further decline in the borough’s pre-school population and a significantly lower growth in its primary school population (0 – 9) when compared to last year’s projections.

Fig. 1. Population change by age group, Tower Hamlets, 2013 – 2023 (ONS)



(i) Birth Rates

- 3.2 The reasons for the change in the pre-school and primary population is the decline in the number of births in Tower Hamlets, which fell by 10% (481) in the ten-year period from 2013. This was despite a brief revival in 2021. London birth rates fell at a similar rate over the same 10-year period.

Table 1. LBTH Births Actual Births 2013 to 2022 (ONS)

Area	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
LBTH	4,608	4,622	4,560	4,592	4,604	4,381	4,307	4,291	4,381	4,127
London	128,332	127,399	129,615	128,803	126,308	120,673	117,897	111,688	110,961	106,696

National pupil projections 2023 (DfE.gov.uk)

- 3.3 The latest borough projections, produced by the Greater London Authority (GLA), estimates that the Tower Hamlets birth rate will stabilise, between 4000 and 4100 over the next five-year period, before steadily increasing from 2028 onwards.

Table 2. Projected Births 2023 – 2032 (GLA)

Area	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
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LBTH	4,043	4,065	4,075	4,080	4,094	4,120	4,158	4,209	4,256	4,303
London	107,646	107,822	107,810	107,723	107,839	108,208	108,876	109,851	110,889	112,032

[GLA Population Projections \(london.gov.uk\)](https://www.london.gov.uk)

(ii) Pupil Migration

3.4 A further, significant factor, in the decline in the borough’s pre-school and primary population is pupil migration. The chart below is the GLA’s most recently published data on the borough’s previous and projected pupil net migration rate for its pre-school and primary age range. It shows the negative (outward) net migration rate for these age groups, confirming that over the previous ten years more pre-school and primary aged children have moved out of the borough than have moved in. This trend is projected to continue for the foreseeable future.

Fig. 2. Total Net Migration Projection: Tower Hamlets (age 0-4)

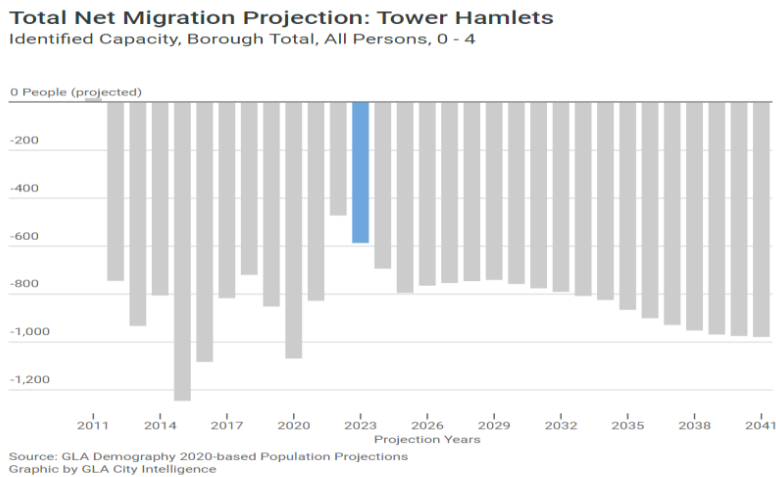
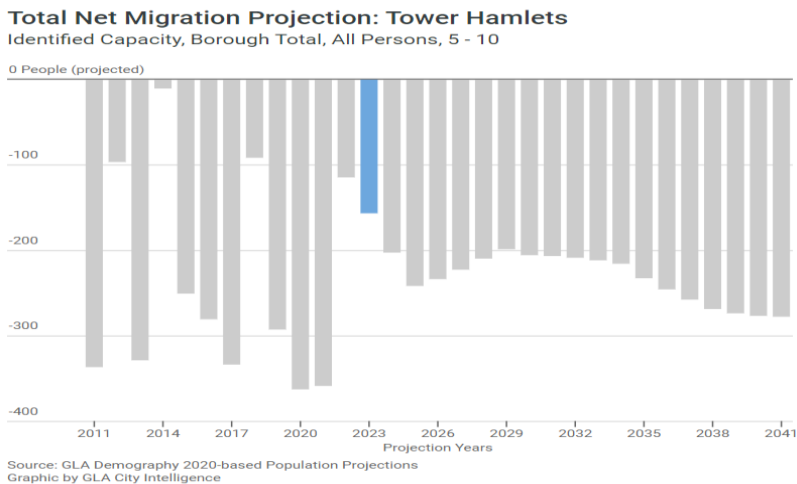
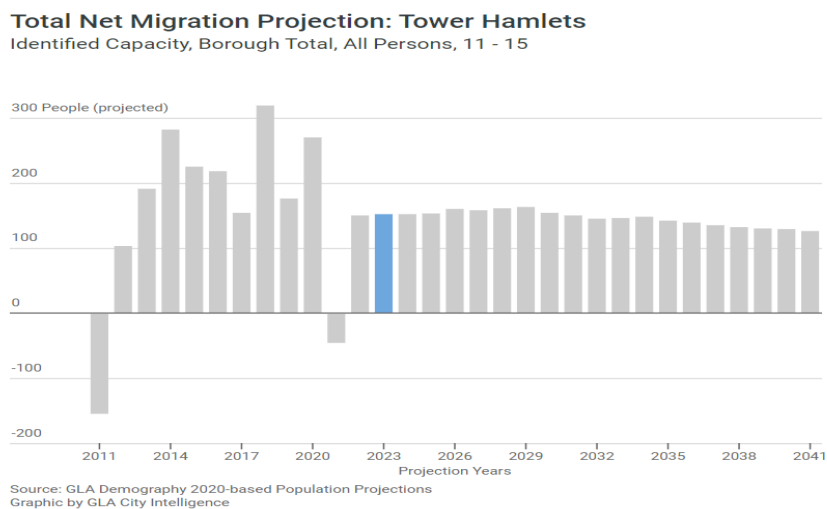


Fig. 3. Total Net Migration Projection: Tower Hamlets (age 5-10)



- 3.5 In the secondary age range the net migration situation is reversed, with a positive net migration between 2013 and 2022. This meant more secondary aged children moved into the borough than moved out. It is projected that this positive net migration will continue for secondary.

Fig. 4. Total Net Migration Projection: Tower Hamlets (age 11-15)



(iii) Housing

- 3.6 Alongside birth rates and migration is the ‘pupil yield’ from new housing development, i.e. the average number of pre-school and primary aged pupils that new housing in the borough is able to generate.
- 3.7 Tower Hamlets saw a significant reduction in its pupil yield from new housing developments, from 0.14 per dwelling in 2013 to 0.12 per dwelling in 2022. This has meant that, for every 1500 new homes in the borough, the number of school aged children reduced from 210 to 180. The equivalent of one form of school entry. This reduction in the pupil yield, along with the fall in birth rates and negative net migration, are the main reasons for the decline in the pre-school population.
- 3.8 Going forward the borough’s plans to provide more social and affordable housing, may see its pupil yield factor increase back to 2013 levels.

Impact of Population Change on the Current Demand for School Places

(i) Nursery Schools and Classes

- 3.9 In line with the fall in birth rates and the other factors affecting the pupil population growth in the borough we have seen an overall decline in the number of children requiring nursery places at Tower Hamlets maintained nursery schools/classes over the last five years..

Table 3. Applications to Nursery Schools and Classes (Sept Entry)

No of children offered places at nursery schools/classes (Sept Entry)	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	2306	2303	2238	2232	2076

(ii) Primary Schools

3.10 The decline in the pre-school population is also reflected in the downturn in demand for primary school places at the point of entry in the reception year. Reception numbers have been declining since 2016/17. This is now the lowest reception year roll in the borough for over fifteen years.

Table 4. Reception School Rolls 2018 – 2024

Reception Year Admissions	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	3,347	3,340	3,230	3,347	3,316	3,139	3,055

3.11 The additional factor of the negative net migration in the 0 – 10 year old age range, has also seen the overall pupil numbers in primary schools falling since 2016. In 2024, the total number of primary school children in Tower Hamlets remains below 22,500.

Table 5. Primary School Rolls 2018 – 2024

LBTH Primary School Rolls	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	23,472	23,509	23,270	23,344	23,441	22,995	22,399

3.12 The decline in the pupil population has presented an ongoing challenge for primary schools, given the rising number of surplus places. A few of the borough's primary schools are struggling with falling rolls, leading to a smaller budget allocation and them having to make significant efficiency savings as well as consider other measures to maintain financial sustainability and quality education standards. Later in this report is a summary of the steps the council is taking to support and strengthen the school system during this period of volatility in the pupil population.

(iii) Secondary Schools

3.13 There has been a steady increase in demand Year 7 entry in line with the growth in secondary.

Table 4. to Year 7 Rolls 2018 - 2024

Year 7 Rolls	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	2,952	2,908	3,007	2,974	2,919	2,904	3,021

3.14 Overall secondary school pupil numbers have seen a 2% growth since 2017/18. Secondary school rolls have been helped by the high level of positive net migration in this phase. However, this growth is now understood to have peaked in 2023/24. As the current primary pupils progress through into secondary we expect to see a steady decline in secondary numbers.

Table 5. Secondary Rolls 2018 - 2024

LBTH Secondary School Rolls	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	14,193	14,487	14,565	14,733	14,903	15,038	14,950

(iv) Post 16

3.15 In line with the increase in the 11 to 16 pupil population we have seen a significant increase in demand for Post 16 provision. Post 16 rolls at secondary schools in the borough have increased since 2016. In response to this rise in demand a number of Tower Hamlets schools have opened new 6th Form provision or expanded/developed their existing 6th Forms. The borough has 14 secondary schools with 6th Forms.

Table 6. Post 16 Rolls 2018-2024

LBTH Post 16 School Rolls	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	2,715	3,130	3,348	3,737	3,942	4,110	4,186

- 3.16 The Borough's current 6th Form capacity is at 4,790 (2024/25) and this will increase further with the new 6th Form provision at Mulberry Academy London Dock, the 6th Form to be added at Canary Wharf College 3 School and the expansion of the 6th Form at Central Foundation Girls.
- 3.17 Notwithstanding the increases, the council has identified a need to take measures to improve the current levels of Post 16 attainment and university progression. It is therefore moving forwards with proposals for a new 'Elite' 6th Form provision with the aim of accelerating young people's entry into Oxbridge and Russell Group universities and improving Post 16 education in the borough.

Projected Demand for School Places in Future Years

(i) Planning Areas

3.18 For primary school place planning purposes, Tower Hamlets is divided into six planning (catchment) areas. For secondary schools, we use the whole borough as a single planning area. Maps for the school planning areas are included as Appendix One.

(ii) Pupil Numbers Forecasting (Projections Methodology and Approach)

- 3.19 The council commissions school roll projections from the Greater London Authority (GLA), along with most other London boroughs. GLA have access to data on all pupils in London (via the National Pupil Database) which enables them to model movements across borough boundaries in a way that would be difficult for an individual local authority. Projections are run each year in May/June using information based on demographic trends (e.g. births, and migration); the borough's housing development trajectory; and the flow of pupils from their ward of residence (including those out of borough) to each school.
- 3.20 The council uses six sets of pupil projections based on high, medium and low migration and on a one year or four-year historical reference. The council prefers the high migration set, which produces a more modest pupil growth projection in line with the current local and national trends.

(iii) 2024 School Roll Projections

- 3.21 The latest round of the projected demand for places at schools within the borough over the next five years is provided in Appendix Two of this report, and summarised as follows.
- 3.22 When assessing the need for school places, there is an expectation that the LA includes a level of planned surplus (5 to 10%). However, all six primary planning areas are now anticipated to see a decline in pupil numbers over the next five years and three with a projected resulting surplus capacity in excess of 20%.
- 3.23 Previously, there was a marked difference between the projected numbers in the primary planning areas west of the borough (Stepney, Bethnal Green and Wapping), which experienced larger surpluses, compared to the planning areas in the east (Bow, Poplar and Isle of Dogs). This distinction between the east and west of the borough is no longer evident, as falling reception year numbers are now affecting all of the primary planning areas.
- 3.24 The demand for secondary places peaked in 2023/24. We will now see a decline over the subsequent years, resulting in surplus capacity slightly above 10% going forwards. The main reason for the fall in secondary numbers is the smaller primary cohorts that will transition into the secondary phase over the next decade.
- 3.25 Planned capacity for Year 7 entry from September 2024 onwards will provide sufficient secondary school places for children in Tower Hamlets. A further secondary school site had previously been earmarked for development in the borough. However, in view of the current capacity and projected numbers there are no current plans to take this site forward for development in the short term.
- 3.26 Based on current numbers and projections there is already sufficient 6th Form provision going forward. Therefore, plans or proposals to add further post-16 provision will only be taken forward, if it can be demonstrated that they will address a genuine need to improve the overall quality and diversity of educational provision in the area.
- 3.27 This continuing decline in the pupil population will inevitably present an ongoing challenge for school sustainability in the primary sector over the next planning period and in the secondary and post 16 sectors in the longer term. The School Organisation & Capital Investment Strategy (2023-26) sets out the framework for a schools' led plan that will enable the LA to meet its responsibility to provide and maintain sufficient high quality school places, where they are needed and when they are needed, for families in the borough.
- 3.28 An LA Strategy Group and two Area Working Groups were set up in 2023 to ensure effective engagement and collaboration across schools, multi academy trusts, diocesan boards, parents, pupils, and other key stakeholders for education in Tower Hamlets. These groups provide the membership with the information necessary to inform decision making, as well as an open and transparent framework for school organisation and place planning decision making across the early years, primary secondary, Post 16 and SEND sectors.
- 3.29 Alongside this, a School Finance led project has been set up to support with the range of issues and pressures that have led a very small number of schools to

having deficit budgets. The Tower Hamlets Licensed Deficit Application (LDA) Project has engaged external consultants to support the development, evaluation and monitoring of LDA applications, to ensure their repayment within the statutory 3years.

- 3.30 The consultants are also working with Governors and Headteachers at these schools on potential new models of organisation to ensure future sustainability and quality of education.
- 3.31 The aim of this schools' led system is to develop local problem solving to ensure quality and sustainability through partnership. A range of options for removing surplus places have been considered. This included school PAN reductions, changing school status to include SEN or AP provision, new models of school organisation e.g. informal collaborations, statutory federations or academies.
- 3.32 Further options to be considered will be school amalgamations (mergers) and closures where this is the best (and last) course of action. It is acknowledged that these decisions will have long term implications for school communities and will extend well beyond the tenure of any one headteacher or governing body.

SEND Sufficiency and Alternative Provision

- 3.33 As part of its pupil place planning responsibilities the council undertakes regular reviews of its provision and sufficiency planning for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- 3.34 The most recent review was undertaken last year as it was evident that the existing provision did not match the current need.
- 3.35 The report provided at Appendix Three details the findings and conclusions from the review, changes the Council proposes to make as a result, and what this means for children and young people with SEND in Tower Hamlets schools and other provisions.
 - (i) Summary of Findings
- 3.36 Based on modelling completed in 2023 and without any interventions, Tower Hamlets projects that the number of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) will rise from 4400 to 6750. In 2023, 9% of school-age children and young people had an EHCP. If we factor in the projected growth in EHCPs against a backdrop of a falling school-age population, this proportion is projected to rise to 16% of the school-age population by the end of the decade.
- 3.37 A significant shortfall has been identified in specialist placements available in the borough. This is projected to become more acute by the end of the decade. This reflects the national picture.
- 3.38 Autism; Speech, Language, Communication and Interaction (SLCI); and Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) continues to dominate the areas of need within the borough, with an emerging unmet need of Severe Learning Disability (SLD) coming through right now, from primary, into secondary, and through to post 16 and post 19 provision. Long-term, there is potential for a shortfall of around 260 specialist places in primary and secondary. More immediately and into the medium-term, there

is a shortfall of 125 places. The needs identified are specifically between those of greater complexity than can be suitably met within a Resource Base, but do not require what is conventionally understood as a special school placement.

- 3.39 It has been identified that there has, historically, been a lack of clarity on commissioning, agreements, funding mechanisms and the Quality Assurance of specialist provision. Current arrangements will need to be reviewed to ensure longevity, whilst new commissioning arrangements will be watertight and clear with accountability, regular review, and consistent long-term funding, to ensure good value for money and surety for all involved.
- 3.40 There is a significant shortfall in specialist post16 and post19 provision across the borough which will need to be addressed separately to school place planning. This shortfall is similar to that seen at secondary level, with a lack of local specialist placements for young adults requiring provision for Autism, SEMH, and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD)/SLD.

(ii) Proposed changes

- 3.41 There is a shortfall in specialist places and, as outlined to Cabinet in February 2024, a number of pilot Additional Resourced Provisions (ARPs) in mainstream schools were proposed to address some of the shortfall. These would offer provision in excess of current Resource Bases, more aligned to a special school curriculum but still with opportunities for mainstream engagement.

(iii) Implementation Plan

- 3.42 Expressions of Interest were sought from primary and secondary schools and 15 schools applied. These were considered against criteria, such as:
- Strong culture of inclusion
 - Strong leadership and leadership of SEND
 - Demonstrable understanding of children's needs
 - Accommodation availability
 - Financial sustainability

Six schools were taken forward to the next stage to check accommodation feasibility and confirmation of type of provision proposed.

- 3.43 ARPs will be accommodated within the existing school estate. Feasibility studies are being undertaken this term to cost changes required to provide a safe and appropriate environment for these children. In the case of two schools, in the light of other considerations in those schools, the feasibility studies will be carried out in early Spring with the agreement of the two headteachers. It is not expected that significant building work will be required overall.

Early Years Sufficiency

- 3.44 As part of its pupil place planning responsibilities the council has undertaken a review of Early Years provision, with projections in relation to maintained nurseries.

- 3.45 Since 2021, Early Years demand across the borough has been comfortably accommodated within the available capacity, registering a 38% surplus in 2024. From April 2024, the Working Parents entitlement was extended to include 2-year-olds. Current forecasts suggest that the additional demand for 2-year-old places may result in a 12% increase to the total number of EY entitlements expected to be accessed by Spring 2025.
- 3.46 Despite an initial growth in accessed EY entitlements, the demand from 2- to 4-year-old children is forecast to reduce by 8% over the next five years due to falling birth rates and young families leaving borough.
- 3.47 The new increases in Working Parents entitlements are anticipated to predominantly effect capacity in the PVI sector, as most maintained settings are not designed to accommodate children younger than 2 years old. Consequently this may impact on the ability of PVI providers to accommodate 3- and 4-year-olds, which may result in more of these children needing to access their entitlements at a maintained setting.

4. THE LOCAL PLAN, INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY, AND FUTURE SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT SITES

- 4.2 This report reviews the current provision of school places and considers the projected downturn in pupil place demand across all sectors in the short to medium term. However, Tower Hamlets remains a borough with significant population growth, with the potential for its pupil place demand to eventually increase, particularly given the projected rise in the borough birth rate from 2028 onwards. The Council must also anticipate a significant improvement in the child yield from its future housing, given its plans to address overcrowding and set robust planning requirements aimed at increasing the volume of social and affordable homes in new developments.
- 4.3 It is therefore necessary to consider the provision of school places over the longer period and the policies and approaches in place to ensure additional school places can be delivered as and when these are required.
- (i) Local Plan
- 4.4 The Local Plan sets out the Council's planning policy. It is used to shape developments and guide decisions on where, how much, and what kind of development is needed in Tower Hamlets over a period of 10-15 years.
- 4.5 The Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan for Tower Hamlets that will replace the current Local Plan. A new Local Plan is scheduled to be formally adopted by the Council in 2025.
- (ii) Infrastructure Delivery Plan
- 4.6 The Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) is used as evidence in support of the Local Plan and identifies the infrastructure requirements for education provision throughout the Local Plan period. The IDP is reviewed on an annual basis.

(iii) Future School Development Sites

- 4.7 The Local Plan, informed by the IDP and the further evidence base i.e. site allocations methodology and spatial assessment needs for schools, sets out the Council's approach to the allocation of future school development sites.
- 4.8 The Local Plan will generally allocate more school sites than required to meet the projected need for school places, for the reasons set out in Appendix Four of this report, '*The Local Plan approach to allocating school sites*'. This approach provides the Council with the necessary options and flexibility required to manage the risks relating to school site deliverability as well as ensure it can meet its legal duty as an education provider in the medium to long term.

(iv) School Development Funding Streams

- 4.2 A summary of funding streams available for the development of new schools and improving the existing schools' estate, together with the current projects included in schools capital programme is set out in Appendix Five.

5 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Providing access to good quality school places is essential to raising achievement and addressing poverty and inequality in the long term. The council undertakes its role in the planning of school places with the aim of ensuring efficient, effective, and sustainable provision. Any reorganisation of school places will have a positive impact on all groups by improving accessibility, increasing parental choice and promoting inclusive education.
- 5.2 When the Council undertakes its plans to consult on changes to existing schools, seeks to establish new provision, or works with the DfE to appoint new school providers, it will ensure that the offer is universally applicable to children and young people of school age and there is no unequal impact on different groups. This is particularly relevant to children and young people with SEND, ensuring that, as far as possible, they can be educated in mainstream settings with adapted, relevant, and bespoke support that ensures they can learn.
- 5.3 An Equalities Impact Screening has been completed in Appendix 7. In planning for school places across the borough, there is no risk that any one group is disproportionately impacted. In the event of a reorganisation process, an Equalities Impact Assessment will take place to ensure that this risk is fully considered.

6 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

(i) Best Value Implications

- 6.1 The report sets out plans for managing the supply of school places and meeting future need. These plans seek to make the best use of existing and future council assets as well as opportunities to secure maximum funding from central government.

6.2 Any proposals for expanded or new provision will be subject to consultation as they are developed and before implementation. Implementation of capital schemes will be subject to competitive procurement.

(ii) Environmental (including air quality)

6.3 The proposals to provide additional school places to meet the needs of the population will be implemented taking account of sustainable design standards and materials. Any organisational changes to school provision will ensure that children can access a local school place and so minimise travel.

(iii) Risk Management

6.4 The council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient and sustainable school places. In order to plan to meet this requirement pupil population projections are obtained annually and reviewed each year against the known school capacity. It is clear that the projections indicate that significant changes in the need for places must be planned for. There will likely be regular variations in the projections, given the current volatility of the population across London. It is therefore essential for the council to retain some operational flexibility to respond, according to its sufficiency and or sustainability requirements.

6.5 The plans required to meet the need for school places can often require the balance of complex and competing considerations, for example for other social infrastructure requirements. Because of the length of time that is required to implement capital projects, decisions need to be taken in sufficient time to plan the use of resources and to identify potential shortfalls.

6.6 The council has to manage the risk of failing to meet its statutory duties by having a number of options available for implementation and also by keeping the changing circumstances under regular review.

6.7 (iv) Safeguarding

The report deals with the council's approach to providing school places for the local population. The supply of good quality school places contributes to the safeguarding of children by ensuring their early and continued access to appropriate education.

(v) Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment

6.8 When implementing plans for school organisation changes, the council will undertake a full public consultation. All comments received through these mechanisms or made direct to council officers or members will be collected to be included in the analysis of the feedback received. Responses will only be used to assess the community's view of the proposals and not for any other purpose.

6.9 Tower Hamlets Council will handle information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 2018 and is the data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 2018. For more information, the privacy notice for Pupil Services can be accessed [here](#).

7 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications in this report. However, it should be noted that the revenue costs of meeting School places are met through the Dedicated Schools grant (DSG) which are based on pupil count. The Capital costs of delivering extra capacity are met through different sources, which are detailed in Appendix six. There would be no expectation of the costs of Schools places being met from General Fund resources.
- 7.2 Governing bodies have responsibility for the management of the school's budget. For schools which are facing financial difficulty, there are measures to help support schools to move back into a balanced financial position. The Local Authority reviews the 3-year budgets set by schools and regularly monitors the schools' forecasted financial positions. In the event of a school closure (as a last resort), the write-off of a school deficit balance would need to be met from the General Fund resources.

8 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 8.1 This is a noting report setting out the steps that the Council has taken or is proposing to take with respect to the provision of school places in the borough. The Council has a statutory duty under the Education Act 1996 to ensure that there are sufficient school places in the borough and, as far as possible, to accommodate the preferences expressed by parents under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. There are further statutory requirements imposed by the Education and Inspections Act 2006 around parental choice and fair access to educational opportunities.
- 8.2 The Council is also required, by the Children and Families Act 2014 to keep its SEND provision under review and consider if it is sufficient to meet the needs of the children and young people in the borough. The report identifies that further work is required to ensure the sufficiency of SEND places.

Appendices

- Appendix One LBTH Primary and Secondary School Planning Areas
- Appendix Two LBTH School Roll Projections 2024
- Appendix Three LBTH SEND Sufficiency Review 2023
- Appendix Four Early Years Sufficiency Report 2024
- Appendix Five The Local Plan approach to allocating school sites
- Appendix Six Funding streams available for the development of school sites
- Appendix Seven Equalities Impact Analysis Screening

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

- NONE.

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A

Linked Reports and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Officer contact details for documents: N/A