

Appendix 2 - GLA School Roll Projections Model

Tower Hamlets Council commissions school roll projections from the Greater London Authority (GLA). Projections are run each year in May by the GLA, using information based on the most recent demographic trends (e.g. births, migration); the borough's housing development trajectory; school census data; and the flow of pupils from their ward of residence (including those out of borough) to each school. Based on the GLA's population projections, the school roll projection model then produces a roll projection for each school, per ward.

The proportion of the children attending each mainstream state school is calculated, using the National Curriculum year (R to year 11), and sex, per every ward of residence in London. These proportions are carried forward as the pupils age through the school in the years being projected. For new pupils entering a school in future years, for example at reception, proportions are calculated as averages over the latest years of actuals, with 4 being the standard number of years used (2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022). The same approach is used at years 7 and 12, even if the school is an all through school as it is assumed that there will be significant changes in the cohort at this point.

For the current round (2022), the school level rolls submitted by London Boroughs to the GLA have no information on wards of residence of the pupils. The number of pupils from the roll attributed to each ward are estimated by averaging over the previous years' patterns, with the default being the last 3 years, and scaling to ensure that the total numbers at each school for each age and sex match the submitted rolls. This change to methodology adds an additional risk to Tower Hamlets' pupil projections going forward, given the currently observed variances at Planning Area level.

The rolled forward and calculated new intake proportions for future years are applied to the population projections to give projections of the number of children on roll by school by age and sex. Due to lower retention rates, sixth form projections are calculated using a survival ratio as the cohort ages through sixth form. School level projections are then aggregated to planning areas and borough totals.

The can choose from six sets of pupil projections based on high, medium and low migration; and on a one-year or four-year historical reference. The council uses the high migration set; as this produces a more modest pupil growth projection, in line with current local and national trends.

Figure 1 The flow of the Tower Hamlets projections model

