

Committee:	Date:
City of London Academies Trust Board of Trustees	9 July 2020
Subject: School Places Demand Projections	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Gerald Mehrtens, Director of Academy Development, Department of Community and Children's Services	

Summary

This report is to inform Members of the projected levels of demand for school places across the London local authorities where there are City of London Corporation (CoLC) sponsored academies since it was last reported to this committee in July 2018. These projections are based on the relevant Greater London Authority (GLA), and London local authority data.

Demand for school places in London reached record levels over the past decade with London experiencing the biggest rise in pupil numbers in the country between 2010/11 and 2017/16. However, since 2016 the Greater London Authority's (GLA) estimates for future populations in London show a lower rate of increase than estimated in previous years and in some areas, a significant decline.

In terms of primary school places, across London the demand is expected to peak by 2022/23 overall and then projected to decline in future years. However, for the geographical planning areas in Islington and Southwark, where the City sponsors three primary academies, there is predicted potential increased demand in future years, reflecting the proposed housing developments in progress or being developed in those areas.

In terms of secondary school places, the previous growth at primary schools over the last decade is now feeding through to secondary schools. The London boroughs where the City sponsors academies show there is sufficient school places for pupils, and where there is excess of supply local authorities have worked with schools to reduce their Pupil Admission Numbers (PAN) to reflect the demand. As part of their statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places, London boroughs will continue to monitor this and have discussions with relevant schools accordingly.

In addition to levels of demand for primary and secondary school places in areas relevant to City sponsored academies, ultimately parental preference will dictate if all places are filled in these schools. Attached to this report as Appendix 2 shows all City sponsored academies, where the data has been made available, will fill all available places within 1st and 2nd preferences, and for a number of schools from 1st choice preferences.

Recommendation(s)

The Board is asked to:

- Note the demand for school places for Primary and secondary schools in relation to existing City of London academies, and potential further academy expansion.

Main Report

Background

1. Local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure there is sufficient school places and that places are planned effectively. London had seen rapid growth in the number of children living in the city over the last decade. Between 2001/2 and 2011/12, annual births in London rose by almost 30,000 (28 per cent), with many individual authorities seeing much larger increases. The financial crisis of 2008 had a dramatic impact on London's patterns of migration. Outflows from London to the rest of the UK fell sharply in the aftermath of the crisis, with young families moving to the surrounding counties particularly affected. The combined impact of these factors was a rapid growth in the number of children living in the city. This growth put immediate pressure on primary school places, necessitating a huge expansion in capacity.
2. However, since 2016 the Greater London Authority's (GLA) estimates for future populations in London show a lower rate of increase than estimated in previous years and in some areas a significant decline. Many inner London local authorities are reporting fewer Reception pupils each year, which is likely to be due to a combination of changes to welfare benefits, rising rents and the possible effects of Brexit. Furthermore, projections indicate that demand for reception places is not expected to increase in the short term to the level of reception places available

Current Position - Demand for primary and secondary school places

3. **For the London Borough of Islington**, in 2019/20 there were 1952 Reception children for 2280 places available giving rise to a 328 surplus (14.4%). All six of Islington's planning areas have sufficient capacity for the foreseeable future based on current planned housing data and therefore further permanent increases to capacity are not required. Notably in Planning Area 6 where COLPAI is located, this planning area has a number of sites contributing significantly to housing projections in the EC1 postcode which include; 250 City Road of 930 homes (between 2020-2022), former Mount Pleasant Post Office of 336 homes on the Islington side (2022), 50 units delivered in Central Street, five scheme with planning permission for approximately 270 units, 25 units at Finsbury Tower on Bunhill Row (2021) and 66 units on the COLPAI development site (2023). In addition, the intended redevelopment of the Finsbury Leisure Centre is expected to deliver 120 units by 2023, half of which will be social housing.
4. In terms of Secondary sufficiency, Secondary school rolls have risen slightly, although not by as much as previously anticipated. There are sufficient places available for the future following agreed rises in admission numbers in some

schools and adjustments to admission numbers in others with PAN reductions having been agreed for Beacon High, and Arts and Media School Islington from 2020, to bring the number of surplus places below the desired 10%. **Tables 1 - 4 of Appendix 1** shows projections for demand for school places in LB Islington.

5. **For the London Borough of Southwark**, in 2019/20 there were 3,299 Reception children for 3,760 places available giving rise to a 461 surplus (12%). This figure was a surplus of 740 places in the previous year, and a programme of PAN reductions across 13 primary schools was proposed and agreed by LB Southwark Cabinet in October 2018 to address this. However, in the Planning Area 2 (PA2 – Bermondsey & Rotherhithe), where Galleywall and Redriff Primary academies are situated, some growth in reception numbers is anticipated for the future, driven by developments at Canada Water and the Old Kent Road, and that local demand will likely exceed capacity by September 2025. Births in the Surrey Docks ward (where Redriff is situated) and South Bermondsey ward (where Galleywall is situated) are both projected to increase from 2020 onwards. Southwark are currently working on revised projections. **Tables 5 & 6 of Appendix 1** shows projections for demand for school places in LB Southwark.
6. For secondary school demand, across Southwark there is sufficient supply of places as shown in **Table 7 in appendix 1**.
7. **For the London Borough of Hackney**, in 2019/20 there were 2560 Reception children for 3035 places available giving rise to a 475 surplus (15.7%). Hackney has therefore taken the decision to reduce the number Reception places by 105 across a number of schools in some schools in 2019/20 and 2020/21.
8. In terms of secondary school rolls, current projections indicate that there is no immediate demand for a new secondary school in Hackney, as earlier projections had indicated, resulting in the previous successful Free School application to the Department for Education for the City of London Academy Downs Park being subsequently withdrawn. **Tables 8 & 7 of Appendix 1** shows projections for demand for school places in LB Hackney.
9. **For the London Borough of Newham**, post-16 school places demand is more complex given applications is more governed by demand for particular institution than geographical area, and potential students can make multiple applications to a number of institutions rather than an order of preference but. For NCS the number of applications for the 300 paces available increased from 2,100 in 2017, to 3,000 applications for 300 places for September 2020. **Table 10 of Appendix 1** shows application to Newham Collegiate Sixth Form Centre against places available

Demand for places at City of London sponsored academies.

10. In addition to levels of demand for primary and secondary school places in areas relevant to City sponsored academies, parental preference will dictate if all places are filled in these schools. Attached to this report as **Appendix 2** shows all City sponsored academies, where the data has been made available, will fill all available places within 1st and 2nd preferences and for some schools from 1st choice preferences alone.

Legal Implications

11. None.

Conclusion

12. Demand for school places in London which reached record levels over the past decade are now showing a lower rate of increase than estimated in previous years and in some areas a significant decline. At primary school level in the London local authorities where there are City sponsored primary academies, these authorities have made adjustments to the PAN of some schools to address the higher than desired surplus number of places available. At secondary school level, the previous significant increase in demand at primary schools will in turn feed through to school schools for the next half decade and then projected to decline. Local authorities will continue to monitor this as part of their statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places.

13. The popularity and success of City sponsored academies means a high number of parents are choosing these schools as their first or second preference and for some schools from 1st choice preferences alone.

Appendices

- *Appendix 1: Projected demand for state-funded school places*
- *Appendix 2: Preference data for City of London sponsored academies*

Background Papers

- *School places demand projections, CoLAT Board, 18 July 2018*

Gerald Mehrtens

Director of Academy Development,
Department of Community and Children's Services
E: gerald.mehrtens@cityoflondon.gov.uk