

Planning School Places for Luton

Forward View 2024

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Version: 6.0 (published)

Last updated: 12 December 2024



LUTON
2040

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Executive Summary

Access to high quality education is a key component of Luton Council's 2040 Vision for a healthy, fair and sustainable town where everyone can thrive, and no one has to live in poverty.

This Plan outlines the Council's strategy to ensure there are sufficient school places for the town's children over the next five years. The Council aims to work collaboratively with headteachers, governing bodies and academy trusts to balance its sufficiency duties with the long-term financial sustainability of schools.

This Plan is focused on provision for Years R-11. A sufficiency plan for early years provision can be viewed [here](#). A separate strategy will be developed for September 2025 for post 16 provision for pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Producing accurate pupil forecasts is challenging in Luton due to its transient population. Luton has excellent transport connectivity, both internationally through the airport and via direct rail routes into London. Its proximity to the M1 attracts commuters to the town. House prices are lower in Luton in comparison to London, Hertfordshire and Central Bedfordshire.

The town tends to be at the forefront of new migration trends which can be difficult to predict and often have a disproportionate impact on urban areas. For this reason, this plan will be updated on an annual basis as pupil forecasts can vary considerably in a short period of time.

Since Autumn 2022 Luton has experienced a significant increase in the number of families arriving from abroad and settling in Luton. The increase in pupils has disproportionately impacted on the south and High Town areas of Luton. The pupil forecasts and this strategy document assume that the latest migration trends and population growth will continue.

This Plan sets out the pupil projections for the town and considers demand at local place planning areas. The primary planning areas replicate the current neighbourhood partnerships in Luton. The secondary planning areas are based on geographical groupings of school catchment areas which reflect parental preference patterns, walking distances and admissions trends. Special schools are grouped as one planning area as all schools serve the whole town.

Pupil forecasts indicate there will be a significant shortfall in capacity in the next five years, both in the mainstream and special school sector. The Council will need to work in partnership with headteachers, governing bodies and academy trusts to utilise all built capacity and develop further school places. The Council's ability to develop additional school places, over and above the current built capacity, is dependent on receiving adequate capital funding from the DfE.

Legal Obligations

The Local Authority has a statutory duty¹ to ensure there are sufficient school places for all children in the area (including special education provision). It must discharge this function with a view to securing diversity in the provision of schools, fair access to educational opportunity and increasing opportunities for parental choice.

Local authorities have a legal duty to identify and assess the special educational needs of children and young people for whom they are responsible. This includes keeping education provisions under review and considering if they are sufficient to meet the needs of children and young people in their area and, if not, ensuring that children and young people's needs are appropriately met by schools outside of the Borough.

¹ Education Act (1996), Section 14

Pupil Place Planning Principles

- To undertake at least annual updates to pupil projections to forecast demand for the next five years.
- To ensure there are a sufficient number of school places for Luton's children.
- Recognition that the DfE expects that built capacity in schools (where an admissions number has previously been reduced) to be fully utilised before capital funding is provided to the LA to increase school places.
- That all organisation changes should promote the inclusion of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) within mainstream settings.
- Specialist school places in the independent sector are only utilised when alternative appropriate options are not available in state funded schools.
- The development of any new provision will be located (as far as practicable) close to the areas where there is a shortage of school places.
- Any statutory proposals will be informed by an integrated impact assessment. Any negative impacts together with mitigation proposals will be considered by the Council's Executive as part of the decision-making process.

Education Provision in Luton

Table 1: Education Provision in Luton

Type	School	Phase
Community Schools	Chapel Street Nursery School	Nursery School
	Gill Blowers Nursery	Nursery School
	Grasmere Nursery School	Nursery School
	Hart Hill Nursery School	Nursery School
	Pastures Way Nursery School	Nursery School
	Rothsay Nursery	Nursery School
	Hillborough Infant School	Infant School
	Warden Hill Infant School	Infant School
	William Austin Infant School	Infant School
	Hillborough Junior School	Junior School
	Somerles Junior School	Junior School
	Warden Hill Junior School	Junior School
	William Austin Junior School	Junior School
	Beech Hill Community Primary	Primary School
	Beechwood Primary School	Primary School
	Bramingham Primary School	Primary School
	Bushmead Primary School	Primary School
	Denbigh Primary School	Primary School
	Downside Primary School	Primary School
	Foxdell Primary School	Primary School
	Icknield Primary School	Primary School
	Maidenhall Primary School	Primary School
	Norton Road Primary	Primary School
	Parklea Primary School	Primary School
	Pirton Hill Primary School	Primary School
	Putteridge Primary School	Primary School
	Ramridge Primary School	Primary School
	St Matthew's Primary School	Primary School
	Stopsley Primary School	Primary School
	Surrey Street Primary School	Primary School
	The Meads Primary School	Primary School
	Waulud Primary School	Primary School
Wigmore Primary School	Primary School	
Avenue Centre for Education	Secondary Alternative Provision	
Lady Zia Wernher School	Special primary School	
Richmond Hill School	Special primary School	
Woodlands Secondary School	Special Secondary School	
Academy Schools	The Ferrars Academy	Infant School
	Whipperley Infant Academy	Infant School
	Farley Junior School	Junior School
	Ferrars Junior School	Junior School
	Wenlock CE Academy	Junior School
	Chantry Primary Academy	Primary School
	Dallow Primary School	Primary School
	River Bank Primary School	Primary School
	Sacred Heart Primary School	Primary School
	Southfield Primary School	Primary School

	St Margaret of Scotland Primary	Primary School
	St Martin de Porres Primary School	Primary School
	Tennyson Road Primary School	Primary School
	The Linden Academy	Primary School
	Whitefield Primary School	Primary School
	Cardinal Newman Catholic School	Secondary School
	Challney High School for Boys	Secondary School
	Challney High School for Girls	Secondary School
	Chiltern Academy	Secondary School
	Denbigh High School	Secondary School
	Icknield High School	Secondary School
	Lea Manor High School	Secondary School
	Putteridge High School	Secondary School
	Stopsley High School	Secondary School
	The Chalk Hills Academy	Secondary School
	The Stockwood Park Academy	Secondary School
Windmill Hill School	Secondary Special School	
Foundation Schools	Crawley Green Infant School	Infant School
	Somerles Infant School	Infant School
	Leagrave Primary School	Primary School
	Lealands High School	Secondary School
	Queen Elizabeth School	Secondary School
Voluntary Aided School	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Primary School

Pupil Place Planning - National Context

Data from the DfE² shows that there was a 0.1% national change in primary and secondary pupil numbers between 2009/10 and 2023/24.

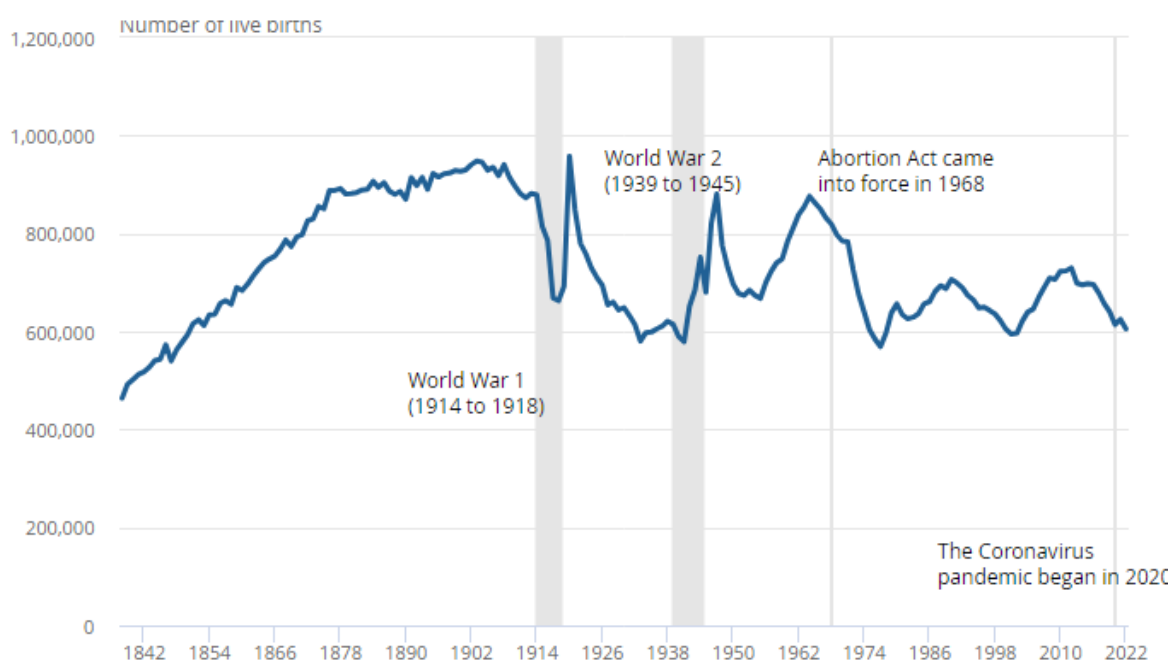
In addition, nationally there were 11.7% of unfilled primary places in 2022/23 compared to 11.5% in the secondary sector.

In January 2024, 43.5% of all schools were academies, with 81.9% of secondary schools, 42.7% of primary schools, and 46.8% of special schools being academies or free schools. This means that over half of all pupils (56.2%) were attending an academy.

Academy Trusts, foundation and voluntary aided schools hold the responsibility for admission arrangements, including setting Published Admission Numbers (PANs). This system can conflict with the local authority statutory duty to ensure a sufficient supply of school places.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) report that in 2022 there were 605,479 live births in England and Wales, a decrease of 3.1% compared with 2021 (624,828). The number of live births in 2022 was the lowest number seen since 2002. The graph below shows that the number of live births has decreased over the last decade.

Number of live births, England and Wales, 1838 to 2022



Source: Births in England and Wales from the Office for National Statistics

The position in Luton differs from the national context as outlined in the commentary below.

² DfE Explore Education Statistics webpage – Quantity of School Places in England for 2023

Luton Context

Luton is a diverse, densely populated town in Bedfordshire, located approximately 30 miles north of London. The following provides a summary of key features and contextual data reflecting the community and education provision in Luton.

Population:

- The estimated population of Luton is 231,000 with a younger than average population.
- In Luton 28% of the population are under 19 which is higher than the national figure of 22%.
- Luton is the most densely populated area outside of London with a density of 53 people per square kilometre. This is projected to grow to 57 per km² in the next ten years.
- Luton's population increased by 11 per cent between 2011 and 2021, whilst nationally the population increased by 6.3%.
- Luton's population is projected to increase by 14% over next 20 years.
- Luton is an ethnically diverse town with more than half of the population not being white British and with no single ethnic group being greater than 50%.
- There are an estimated 150 languages and dialects spoken in Luton.
- Life expectancy is lower in Luton than the national figure for both males and females. Female life expectancy is higher than male life expectancy in Luton.

Housing:

- Luton has a higher-than-average proportion of residents privately renting.
- There are high levels of accommodation deemed to be over-crowded in the town.
- House prices and rental costs have been rising, putting pressure on household budgets.
- Luton has high levels of homelessness.

Economy and employment:

- Luton's economy had been growing strongly prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. The airport has contributed to this.
- There had been strong wage growth in Luton, but wage growth has not kept up with inflation.
- Low paid, unstable work has also increased in the town leading to an increase in in work poverty.
- There is a higher proportion of low skilled jobs in Luton than the nationally. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a strong impact on Luton with unemployment increasing at a faster rate than nationally and impacting the more deprived areas most severely.

Poverty and deprivation:

- Luton is ranked as the 70th most deprived (out of 317) local authority in England.
- Areas in Farley, Northwell and South wards are in the 10 per cent of most deprived areas in the country.
- Luton has high levels of child poverty with more than 30 per cent of children in Biscot, Dallow and Saints wards estimated to be living in poverty.

Education:

- 93% of Luton schools are graded good or outstanding by Ofsted, compared to 90% nationally and 90% in the Eastern Region.
- A fifth of all Luton schools (14 schools) are graded outstanding by Ofsted.
- Pupils achieve well. They perform better than national, especially in maths, by the end of primary school, and in line with the national average by the end of secondary school.
- Progress scores for Luton schools are significantly higher than the national average.

- Disadvantaged children consistently do better in Luton than disadvantaged children nationally at every key stage.
- Children’s personal development is very strong in Luton with a range of well-planned trips, clubs and preparation for adulthood, including careers education, in all schools.

Education information correct as at July 2024

Recent migration trends - new arrivals from abroad

Since mid-2022 Luton has experienced a significant influx of new arrivals from abroad. Table 2 summarises data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) illustrating the increase in net international migration into Luton.

Table 2 – Luton population components of change 2018-2023 (source: ONS)

Luton	mid-2018	mid-2019	mid-2020	mid-2021	mid-2022	mid-2023
Population	221,532	223,106	224,132	224,958	227,298	231,028
International In	5,592	7,107	6,931	6,906	8,908	10,893
International Out	2,942	3,396	5,217	4,042	3,050	3,223
International Net	2,650	3,711	1,714	2,864	5,858	7,670

The impact of this new trend is demonstrated by the net gain in pupils in the October 2023 census illustrated in tables 3 and 4 below.

Table 3 sets out the net loss or gain of pupils as cohorts move through the primary phase. For example, the net gain of 137 pupils in October 2023 relates to the difference in pupil numbers overall between Year R in October 2022 and Year 1 in October 2023 as measured by the October school census. The net gain in primary pupils (373) between October 2022 and October 2023 was considerably higher than in previous years.

Table 3 - Net loss/gain in pupil cohorts							
Year	Yr R -> 1	Yr 1 -> 2	Yr 2 -> 3	Yr 3 -> 4	Yr 4 -> 5	Yr 5 -> 6	Total
October 2021	132	39	22	14	-29	-14	164
October 2022	91	32	4	35	-14	1	149
October 2023	137	41	71	49	27	48	373

Table 4 illustrates the net loss or gain of pupils as cohorts move through the secondary phase, for example, the net gain of 11 pupils in October 2023 relates to the difference in pupil numbers between Year 7 in October 2022 and Year 8 in October 2023 at the October school census. The net gain in secondary pupils (136) between October 2022 and October 2023 was also considerably higher than in previous years.

Table 4 - Net loss/gain in pupil cohorts					
Year	Yr 7 -> 8	Yr 8 -> 9	Yr 9 -> 10	Yr 10 -> 11	Total
October 2021	26	-12	38	41	93
October 2022	6	-2	-9	16	11
October 2023	11	30	36	59	136

Table 5 shows that national insurance registrations, from foreign nationals, resident in Luton, significantly increased in 2021/22, continued to grow in 2022/23 and has continued to remain high. The data provides further evidence that the net gain in pupils between October 2022 and October 2023 can be attributed to a significant and sustained increase in the number of families moving to Luton from abroad. The data for 2023/24 indicates that this migration trend is continuing, albeit at a slightly reduced level.

Increases in national insurance registrations are most noticeable, from new arrivals, from the following countries:

- India
- Pakistan
- Nigeria
- Bangladesh
- Ghana

Year	NI registrations issued to overseas nationals (NINOs)	Great Britain NINOs issued
2017/18	5,742	624,543
2018/19	5,482	611,940
2019/20	6,973	723,516
2020/21	2,916	218,692
2021/22	8,999	742,943
2022/23	12,540	1,030,451
2023/24	11,381	874,207

An increase in the number of children, in the town, is also reflected in GP registrations, which are summarised below:

Table 6 - Percentage increase in Luton GP registrations between August 2022 and July 2024			
Age	Male	Female	Total
0 to 4	12.8%	9.4%	11.1%
5 to 9	5.0%	7.5%	6.2%
10 to 14	6.1%	3.3%	4.7%
15 to 19	10.8%	10.9%	10.9%

The 0-4 age group has experienced the largest increase suggesting a growth in demand for Reception Year places.

The Council's Education and Learning Reset Strategy will consider the additional education support required for increased numbers of new arrivals from abroad.

Surplus 'Built' Capacity

Due to demographic changes, some primary schools have reduced their Published Admission Numbers (PAN) to help manage pupil population changes over time, whilst also attempting to reduce financial challenges where classes do not fill. This has led to a number of primary schools and academies having surplus built capacity against their numbers on roll. In the primary sector the following schools have surplus accommodation following reductions in their School's PAN, creating space for an additional 1200 pupils across the town.

Table 7 – Surplus built capacity as at September 2024

School	Built capacity	Admissions Limit	Surplus places as per 'built' capacity in Sept 24	Planning Area
Bushmead Primary School	840	90 (Yrs R, 1, 2 5) 120 (Yrs 3, 5, 6)	120 places	Central
William Austin Infant School	450	120	90	Central
William Austin Junior School	600	120 (Yr 3) 150 (Yrs 4-6)	30	Central
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	840	90 (Yrs R – 2) 120 (Yrs 3-6)	90	Central
Maidenhall Primary School	840	90 (Yr R-4, 6) 120 (Yr 1, 5)	150	Central
Pirton Hill Primary School	630	60	210	West
Stopsley Primary School	630	60	210	East
Surrey Street Primary School	630	60	90 (90 places have been repurposed into a SEN Unit and 30 places have been repurposed into nursery provision)	South
St Margaret of Scotland Primary School	630	60	210	South
Total additional capacity			1200 places	

In the secondary sector there is very little surplus capacity which is not utilised. The surplus capacity at Queen Elizabeth School was repurposed for sixth form provision at a time when pupil projections were more stable. Stopsley High School's building can accommodate 1370 pupils (nine forms of entry). It currently operates eight forms across all year groups and has sufficient accommodation for an additional 170 pupils.

The Department for Education (DfE) will not allocate Luton any additional funding to develop school places until existing surplus capacity, in a planning area, has been utilised, regardless of whether the school is using the accommodation for other purposes or whether existing built capacity is located close to localities where there is deemed to be a shortage of places.

Managing Surplus Capacity

Surplus capacity is not equally distributed across schools and localities in Luton. This results in the following challenges:

- Holding a disproportionate amount of surplus capacity can threaten a school's financial sustainability.
- Often surplus capacity is located some distance from areas of the town experiencing a shortfall in provision. This means that parents often need to travel across town and have longer journeys to and from school. Many parents do not have access to a car and are reliant on walking or on public transport. Longer journeys can lead to increased pupil mobility at these schools as parents will often look to move their children to a school closer to home as soon as a place becomes available.
- Accessing places further afield is unpopular with parents, particularly where they are reliant on public transport and have more than one child. It can be the case that a local school place is available for one child, but not for their siblings. Travel assistance (on public transport) will only be offered where a school place cannot be offered to a child within the statutory walking distance³. It is sometimes the case that not all siblings will qualify for travel assistance as a place can be offered locally for some of the children.

Approaches to managing this issue are set out below:

- Where there is sufficient capacity in the local area (and overall in the town) the Council will work with schools to discuss 'capping' year group capacity. Capping involves setting a lower admission limit for a year group(s) in a school. Admission limit caps are a flexible option available to schools that can be promptly implemented or removed at any time, in partnership and following engagement with the Council. Caps can be applied individually to particular year groups. The Council will seek assurance from governors and the School's leadership team that this capacity will be protected and made available at a later date if there is sufficient demand in the future.
- Where possible, the Council will initially work with schools that have reduced their PAN in, or close to the areas where there is a shortage of school places. This capacity will be reintroduced into the system in a phased way that does not unduly destabilise other local schools but increases admissions to fill the built capacity of schools.
- Schools creating additional classes at the Council's request will be offered growth funding from any allocation approved by the Schools Forum on an annual basis.
- Where there remains a shortage of school places, the Council may ask other local schools where they have sufficient accommodation to open an additional bulge class.
- Due to the need to demonstrate to the Department of Education (DfE) that existing capacity is utilised, new build extensions to existing schools will only be considered when all available built capacity (within the planning area and other local areas) has been utilised.

³ The statutory walking distance is two miles for a child under the age of eight and three miles for children aged eight and over. There are also extended rights designed to support low-income families (where children are eligible for free school meals or a parent, with whom they live, receives maximum Working Tax Credit). These rights are explained below:

- (1) Children aged 8 or over, but under 11 are eligible for travel assistance where the nearest suitable school is over two miles from their home
- (2) Children aged 11 to 16 years, and attend one of their nearest suitable schools provided it is more than 2 miles but not more than 6 miles from their home; or
- (3) Children aged 11 to 16 years, who attend a school that is more than 2 but not more than 15 miles from their home that their parents have chosen on the grounds of their religion or belief if, having regard to that religion or belief, there is no suitable school nearer to their home.

The Council's ability to build new school places is dependent on the provision of capital funding from the DfE.

- Parents will be provided with advice and support by the Council's Admissions Team, Transport Team and Access to Education Team where they are struggling to access a school place. These teams will signpost parents and carers to those schools where places remain.
- The School Place Planning Team will request a slot at primary neighbourhood partnership meetings and the secondary headteachers group at least annually to consult with headteachers. Updates will be provided in the newsletter to schools.
- The Local Authority has a responsibility to ensure that there are sufficient school places for Luton's children. The Council will always try to accommodate parental preference as far as possible. Where parental preference cannot be accommodated, pupils will be offered a place at the nearest school to the family home with places available.

Forecasting methodology

For school place planning purposes, the town is divided into planning areas to forecast demand at a local level. The primary planning areas reflect the current neighbourhood partnerships (see map at Appendix A). There are four secondary planning areas as illustrated at Appendix B. All special schools are included in one planning area as set out in Appendix C.

Our methodology uses a breadth of data to compile pupil forecasts. Whilst there is an element of assurance across much of the data referenced, it has to be recognised that some data is based on recent migration trends and there is no assurance that the current trends will continue into the future. The data informing this *Planning School Places for Luton* document will be updated annually.

Mainstream schools

Year R pupil forecasts

Birth data is the key dataset underpinning the forecasts for the Reception Year. This data is received at postcode level and is mapped to school catchment areas. The ratio between births and previous Reception Year intakes is calculated for each planning area.

In the south and central planning area the most recent (one-year) ratio has been used to forecast future Reception Year numbers as these areas are continuing to experience high levels of inward migration from abroad.

The most recent two-year average ratio (births to Year R number on roll), has been used to forecast Reception Year intakes for the west planning area.

For east and north planning areas, a three-year average ratio (births to Year R number on roll) has been used to forecast Reception Year numbers. This is because these areas are currently least affected by the recent high numbers of new arrivals from abroad.

Estimated future births are taken from Luton Council's Business Intelligence Team's population projections.

Primary Cohort Progression

Cohort change data from the January school census is used to forecast pupil numbers in subsequent years with adjustments made if there are outlying change figures leading to an unrealistic trend. For the south and central areas, the most recent one-year cohort progression rate has been used. Whereas a three-year average (covering 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 academic years) was used for the north, east and west planning areas. The use of a three-year average will be reviewed should migration and pupil numbers show a significant change in trend.

Year 6 to 7 transition

The take up rate between Year 6 and 7 for September 2023 was used to calculate future Year 7 intakes from the Year 6 forecasts. This methodology takes into account those pupils who opt for schools outside of Luton, those who move to the private sector and also inward migration.

Each school's percentage share of previous Year 7 cohorts is calculated. The four-year average is applied to calculate the size of future Year 7 cohorts.

Secondary Cohort Progression

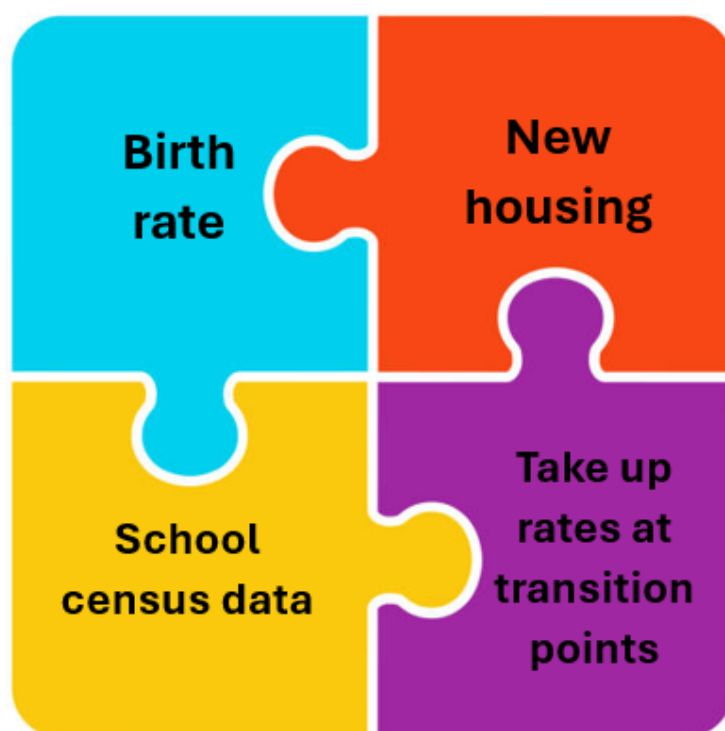
A two-year cohort progression ratio has been used to project the size of year groups as they move through the secondary phase.

Housing Developments

A list of new developments, likely to come forward in the next 5-7 years, was compiled from the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) together with data from the Planning Department in relation to other smaller developments. During 2023-24, the Council sourced the latest Luton pupil yield data from new developments from the DfE 'Explore Education Statistics' website. These pupil yields were applied to the list of new developments to estimate the number of pupils each development is likely to generate.

The Council has calculated the number of pupils that are usually generated by new developments using a two-year average from the local property Gazetteer.

Only pupil yields 'above the norm' (ie the number of pupils above the two-year average, using the Gazetteer data mentioned above) are factored into the projections. All other pupils generated from new developments, are already accounted for in the cohort progression calculation.



Other factors taken into account

Data showing national insurance registrations is also used to help monitor immigration trends. New GP registrations are also used as background information when formulating the projections.

Special School Projections

Reception Year demand is calculated looking at an analysis of SEND primary need data and previous growth trends of special school placements for those children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) requiring specialist provision in a special school.

Each subsequent year is calculated using a cohort progression method taking the latest three years of cohort change data from the school census to calculate the size of future year groups with adjustments made if there are outlying changes.

A three-year average of cohort change, between Year 6 and Year 7 in the special school sector, is used to forecast pupil numbers for Year 7 intakes.

Demand for mainstream primary school places

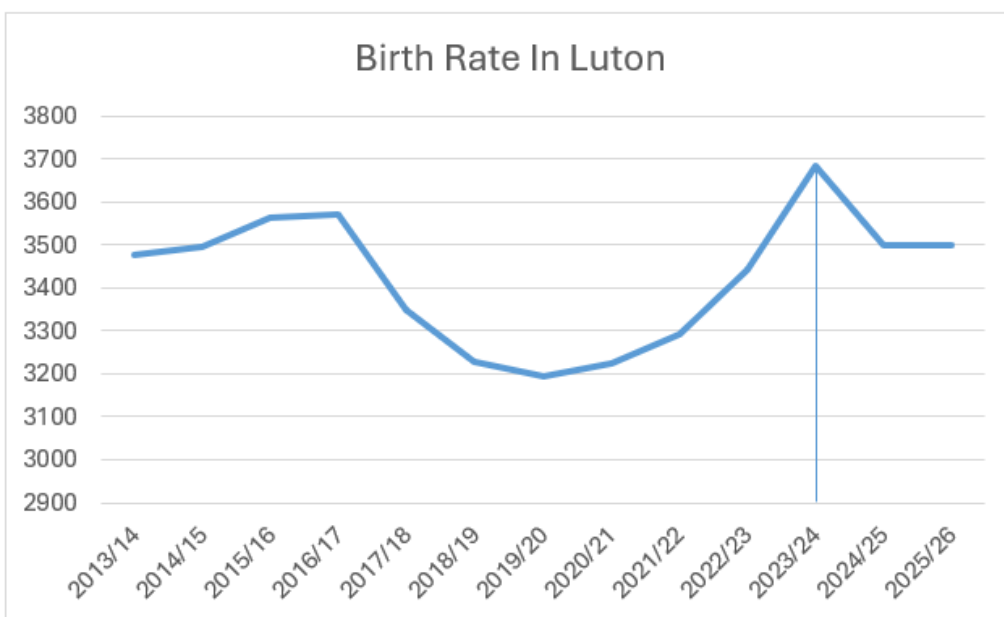
Luton (whole town picture)

Birth Rate

In contrast to much of the rest of the country, Luton's birth rate has been on an upward trend since 2020/21 and rose sharply in 2022/23. The number of children born in 2023/24 was the highest number of births in Luton since the 1960s. The birth rate is predicted to stabilise at c3500 for the next two years.

Whilst there may be several reasons for this increase in the birth rate, links with high levels of migration from abroad cannot be discounted particularly as the latest data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) shows that in 2022, 65% of Luton's births were to non-UK born mothers.

Year	Birth Rate
2013/14	3478
2014/15	3496
2015/16	3564
2016/17	3570
2017/18	3350
2018/19	3228
2019/20	3195
2020/21	3225
2021/22	3292
2022/23	3444
2023/24	3684
2024/25	3500*
2025/26	3500*



*indicates Projection

Anticipated pupil yield from new housing developments

Phase	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary
Year	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
Yield	35.32	213.67	185.11	87.01	99.83	87.67	20.54

Table 8 – anticipated primary aged pupil yield from new housing developments

Table 8 above details total predicted pupil yields from housing developments in Luton with planning permissions or those likely to come forward within the next five years. This table will be updated on an annual basis and is subject to change. There is likely to be an increase in the number of new developments in future years as the Council continues to receive new planning applications and the national priority of building new affordable homes remains a government priority. In accordance with DfE guidelines the projections take account of the pupil yield from new housing developments (above the norm).

Capacity

Built capacity in Luton's schools equates to 3522 places in most year groups, however, accessing this capacity would require all previously agreed reductions in pupil admission number to be reversed.

Pupil projections across Luton (position as at the January census)

Table 9 - Birth rate, school census data and pupil projections (position as at the January census)

Year	Birth rate	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2018/19	3478	3159	3217	3320	3346	3225	3194	3289	22750
2019/20	3496	3099	3212	3249	3291	3366	3198	3205	22620
2020/21	3564	3081	3113	3169	3214	3262	3329	3178	22346
2021/22	3570	3204	3219	3153	3211	3239	3238	3351	22615
2022/23	3350	3003	3275	3264	3190	3245	3217	3265	22459
2023/24	3228	3237	3125	3348	3330	3259	3271	3298	22868
2024/25	3195	3138	3382	3196	3441	3417	3285	3340	23199
2025/26	3225	3187	3293	3479	3290	3548	3463	3368	23628
2026/27	3292	3240	3341	3385	3593	3385	3593	3555	24092
2027/28	3444	3375	3384	3421	3485	3689	3417	3679	24450
2028/29	3684	3541	3524	3465	3524	3580	3728	3495	24857

Note – figures in bold are projections, red shaded cells highlight year groups where there is projected to be shortfall of school places across the town.

Key issues:

- The birth rate reduced for those born in 2017/18 and this resulted in a smaller cohort of pupils for the Reception Year in 2022/23. The Reception Year for 2023/24 was also expected to be a smaller cohort, given the further reduction in the birth rate for this intake. However, the table above shows that the actual number on roll for Year R in 2023/24 was much higher than was expected due to a significant number of new arrivals from abroad. Numbers of new arrivals from abroad continue to remain high, particularly in the south planning area and in some parts of the central planning area (particularly High Town). All primary schools in the south planning area tend to be full, based on current admission numbers, and new arrivals into the area are having to travel further afield to access a school place. Longer journey times are often associated with attendance and punctuality issues at receiving schools; these schools also experience higher levels of mobility as many families will opt to move their children to more local schools when places become available.
- There continues to be a high number of in-year admissions. It is not financially viable for schools to hold surplus capacity for extended periods of time; therefore, it will be necessary to create bulge classes as cohorts move through the primary phase to ensure supply keeps pace with demand. In the first instance the additional bulge classes will need to be drawn from schools that have previously reduced their PAN.
- In contrast to the national picture, the birth rate in Luton is currently rising (see graph above). This, allied with the high number of in-year admissions, will require a further expansion of places.

Action required

- The projections shaded in red, in the Table 9 above, illustrate where the pupil forecasts are expected to exceed all available built capacity (3522 places per year group). They show there is insufficient built capacity in Luton for some year groups from 2025/26. Luton Council will require further Basic Need Capital Funding from the Department for Education to build at least an additional seven forms of entry (equates to 1470 places across seven-year groups) to accommodate additional pupils between September 2025 and September 2028. This is over and above the reopening of classes previously closed following a PAN reduction.
- Luton Council will need to work with head teachers, governing bodies and academy trusts to carefully reverse PAN reductions. This action will need to be taken in a considered and phased way to avoid schools holding excessive surplus capacity which is financially destabilising. The Schools' Forum will be asked to approve growth (revenue) funding where a school has created additional classes at the request of the Local Authority.

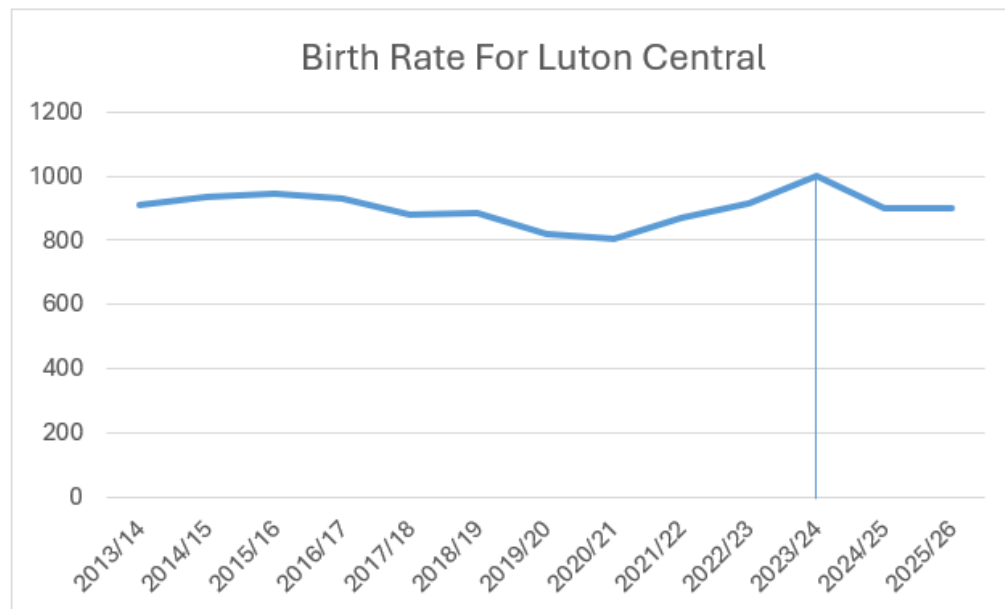
- Based on current demand, it would be prudent to locate the vast majority of new school places in, or close to, the south of Luton and the High Town area.

Central Planning Area (Primary Phase)

Schools:

Bushmead Primary School, Denbigh Primary School, Maidenhall Primary School, Norton Road Primary School, River Bank Primary School, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, St Matthew's Primary School, William Austin Infant School and William Austin Junior School.

Birth Rate



Year	Birth Rate
2013/14	908
2014/15	934
2015/16	944
2016/17	933
2017/18	881
2018/19	885
2019/20	821
2020/21	807
2021/22	872
2022/23	915
2023/24	1002
2024/25	901*
2025/26	901*

*indicates Projection

The actual birth rate dipped for 2020/21 and subsequently increases rapidly thereafter.

Anticipated pupil yield from new housing developments

New Housing Development	Academic Year when the development is likely to be occupied	Catchment area of the development	Anticipated Primary Pupil Yield
Chaucer House, 134 Biscot Road	2024 - 2026	Denbigh	3
High Town plots 1 - 6	2024 - 2031	St Matthews	66
19-21 Burr Street	2025/26	St Matthews	5
Britannia Estate	2026 - 2029	Denbigh	13
25 - 27 Brunswick Street Luton	2026 and 2029 - 2031	St Matthews	27
Land at Stockingstone Road	2026/27	St Matthews	11
Land adjacent to 102 Hitchin Road	2027/28	ST Matthews	1
Total			126

Table 10 – anticipated primary aged pupil yield from new housing developments (central planning Area)

Table 10 above details total predicted pupil yields from developments in the central planning area with planning permissions or those likely to come forward in the next five years. This table will be updated on an annual basis and is subject to change.

There are a significant number of new housing developments planned for the High Town area which could intensify pressure on places at St Matthew's Primary School, a school already full in all year groups (and currently operating two bulge classes).

Capacity

For new Reception Year intakes, the central planning area currently has provision for 750 school places. A further 120 places have previously been removed via PAN reductions at the following schools:

Bushmead Primary School
Maidenhall Primary School
St Joseph's Primary School
William Austin Infant and Junior Schools

The total built capacity equates to 870 places (ie 750 + 120).

Pupil projections (position as at the January census)

Table 11 - Birth rate, school census data and pupil projections (position as at the January census)

Year	Birth rate	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2018/19	908	812	809	857	890	825	787	796	5776
2019/20	934	824	832	828	865	889	829	784	5851
2020/21	944	773	814	820	816	862	887	822	5794
2021/22	933	776	785	810	820	809	848	882	5730
2022/23	881	721	804	782	802	811	790	864	5574
2023/24	885	751	747	823	798	839	816	811	5585
2024/25	821	696	782	763	842	837	848	838	5606
2025/26	807	684	722	799	778	882	846	872	5585
2026/27	872	740	710	739	816	815	892	870	5582
2027/28	915	776	768	726	755	855	827	916	5623
2028/29	1002	849	806	786	742	792	867	852	5693

Note – figures in bold are projections, red shaded cells highlight year groups where there is projected to be shortfall of school places across the town.

The projections indicate there will be a shortfall of capacity in the central primary planning area in some Key Stage 2 year groups from September 2025. The projections shaded red in Table 11 (above), illustrate where pupil numbers are expected to exceed all available built capacity (870 places) in the central planning area.

Action required

The data suggests that previous PAN reductions will need to be reversed as follows:

- Year R in September 2026 or Year 1 in September 2027 - will require a further 30 places.
- Year R in September 2027 or Year 1 in September 2028 - will require a further 30 places.
- Year R in September 2028 - will require a further 60 places.

All of the above capacity can be provided by uplifting PANs, which were previously reduced.

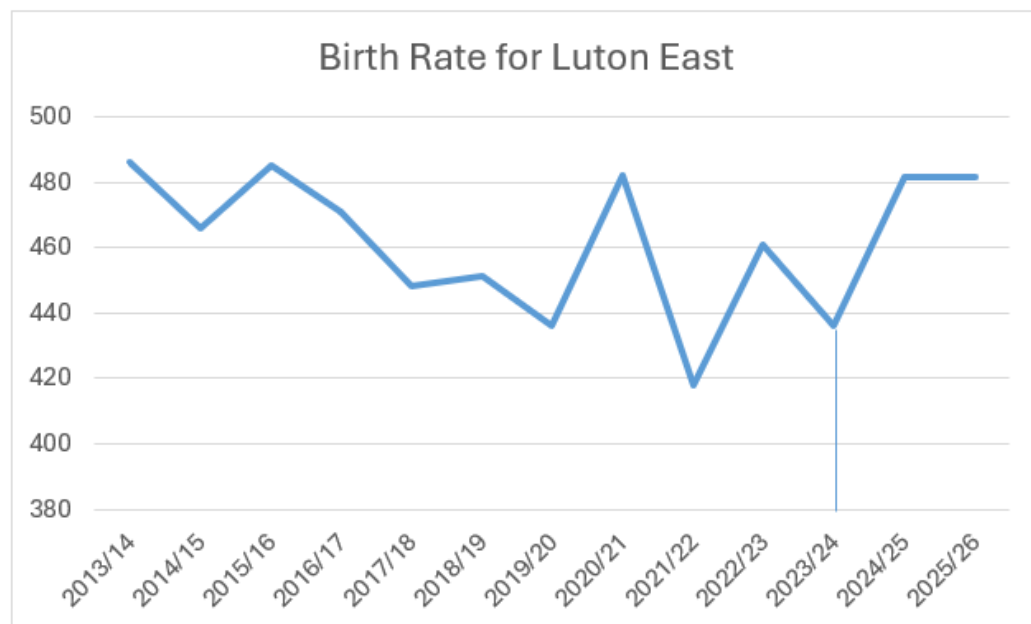
Where there is insufficient capacity accessible elsewhere in Luton, bulge classes may need to be created to ensure there is sufficient capacity for Year 4 and above from 2025/26.

East Planning Area (Primary Phase)

Schools:

Crawley Green Infant School, Wenlock CoE Academy, Putteridge Primary School, Ramridge Primary School, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Someries Infant School, Someries Junior School, Stopsley Primary School and Wigmore Primary School.

Birth Rate



Year	Birth Rate
2013/14	486
2014/15	466
2015/16	485
2016/17	471
2017/18	448
2018/19	451
2019/20	436
2020/21	482
2021/22	418
2022/23	461
2023/24	436
2024/25	481*
2025/26	481*

*indicates Projection

The actual birth rate for the east planning area fluctuates and is expected to stabilise at the higher level over the next two years.

Anticipated pupil yield from new housing developments

New Housing Development	Academic Year when the development is likely to be occupied	Catchment area of the development	Anticipated Primary Pupil Yield
69 Felstead Way	2024/25	Stopsley	9
Garage court rear of 59 Mangrove Road	2025/26	Ramridge	1
Total			10

Table 12 – anticipated primary aged pupil yield from new housing developments (central planning area)

Table 12 above details total predicted pupil yields from developments in the east planning area with planning permissions or those likely to come forward in the next five years. This table will be updated on an annual basis and is subject to change. There is currently very little additional housing scheduled to come forward in this area of the town, however, this planning area borders large new developments proposed in the south planning area.

A development in North Hertfordshire, to the east of Luton, is currently at the master planning stage. The first occupation of new housing could occur from 2026 with the first of two new

primary schools potentially opening in 2028/29. It is envisaged that the new development could be completed by 2037 with the second primary school potentially being required from early to mid 2030s. Luton Council will continue to work closely with Hertfordshire County Council to try to ensure that the timing for opening the new schools does not de-stabilise Luton schools.

Capacity

The east planning area currently has 510 school places available for new Reception Year intakes. A further 30 places were removed via a PAN reduction at Stopsley Primary School. The total built capacity equates to 540 places per year group (ie 510 + 30).

Pupil projections (position as at the January census)

Table 13 - Birth rate, school census data and pupil projections (position as at the January census)

Academic Year	Birth rate	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2018/19	486	489	504	508	497	462	479	494	3433
2019/20	466	490	496	507	491	519	465	474	3442
2020/21	485	472	489	480	493	480	514	447	3375
2021/22	471	476	488	494	491	496	480	516	3441
2022/23	448	467	482	491	504	496	500	482	3422
2023/24	451	519	483	510	506	509	515	509	3551
2024/25	436	465	534	495	523	511	518	520	3567
2025/26	482	514	478	547	507	529	521	523	3620
2026/27	418	446	529	490	561	513	538	526	3603
2027/28	461	492	459	542	502	567	522	544	3628
2028/29	436	460	506	470	555	507	577	527	3602

Note – figures in bold are projections, red shaded cells highlight year groups where there is projected to be shortfall of school places across the town.

The projections indicate there will be a shortfall of built capacity in the east primary planning area in some year groups from September 2025. The projections shaded in red in the table above illustrate where pupil numbers are expected to exceed all available built capacity (540 places per year group) in the east planning area.

Action required

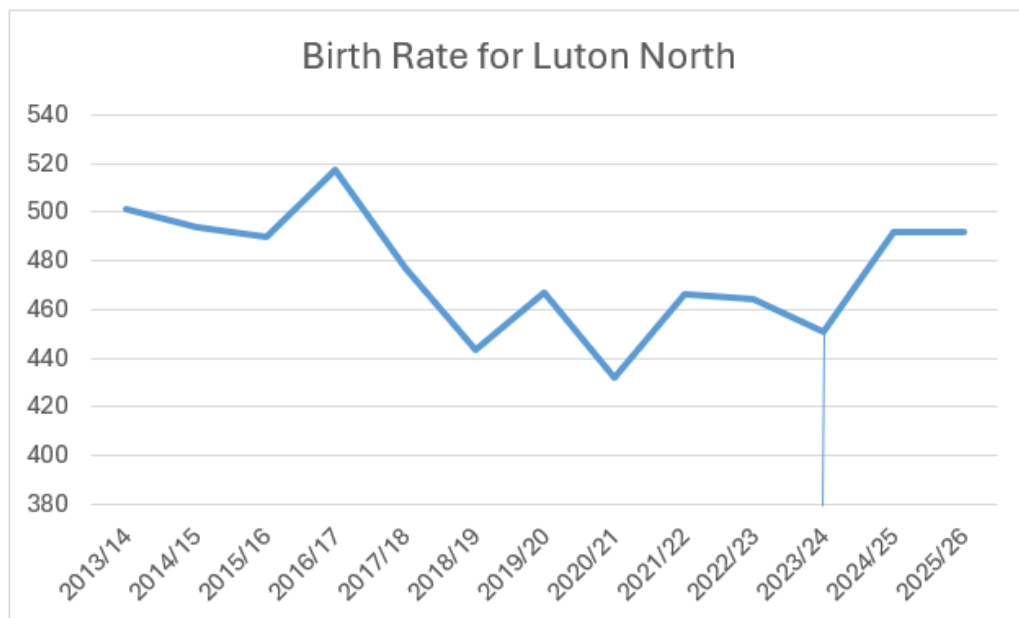
Additional capacity will need to be sourced from 2025/26 as some year groups are expected to exceed the 510 places per year group currently available. Even when all built capacity (540 places per year group) is utilised, action will be required to address the predicted shortfall of places for Year 2 cohorts in September 2025 and September 2027.

North Planning Area (Primary Phase)

Schools:

Bramingham Primary School, Parklea Primary School, Icknield Primary School, The Meads Primary School, Warden Hill Infant School, Warden Hill Junior School, Waulud Primary School and Whitefield Primary Academy.

Birth Rate



Year	Birth Rate
2013/14	501
2014/15	494
2015/16	490
2016/17	517
2017/18	477
2018/19	443
2019/20	467
2020/21	432
2021/22	466
2022/23	464
2023/24	451
2024/25	492*
2025/26	492*

*indicates Projection

The birth rate has fluctuated slightly in recent years but is predicted to increase in 2024/25.

Anticipated pupil yield from new housing developments

New Housing Development	Academic Year when the development is likely to be occupied	Catchment area of the development	Anticipated Primary Pupil Yield
The Old School House, Trinity Road	2026/27	Icknield	1
Total			1

Table 14 – anticipated primary aged pupil yield from new housing developments (north planning area)

Table 14 above details the predicted pupil yields from developments in the north planning area with planning permissions or those likely to come forward in the next five years. This table will be updated on an annual basis and is subject to change. There is currently very little additional housing scheduled to come forward in this area of the town at present.

Capacity

The north planning area has 570 school places per year group. There have not been any PAN reductions in this planning area.

Pupil projections (position as at the January census)

Table 15 - Birth rate, school census data and pupil projections (position as at the January census)

Academic Year	Birth rate	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2018/19	501	505	512	540	513	530	478	533	3611
2019/20	494	510	502	526	538	513	506	491	3586
2020/21	490	534	500	499	519	541	515	497	3605
2021/22	517	540	551	520	503	530	536	519	3699
2022/23	477	495	551	558	522	514	525	536	3701
2023/24	443	518	501	549	557	525	488	531	3669
2024/25	467	505	531	509	551	567	513	491	3667
2025/26	432	467	517	540	511	561	556	516	3668
2026/27	466	503	478	525	542	521	549	561	3679
2027/28	464	501	516	486	528	551	510	553	3644
2028/29	451	475	513	524	488	537	540	514	3591

Note – figures in bold are projections, red shaded cells highlight year groups where there is projected to be shortfall of school places across the town.

The projections indicate that there should be sufficient capacity in the north planning area in the next five years. Whilst capacity in this area of the town could help to offset demand in other planning areas, in practice parents are usually very reluctant to travel across town to access a school place.

Action required

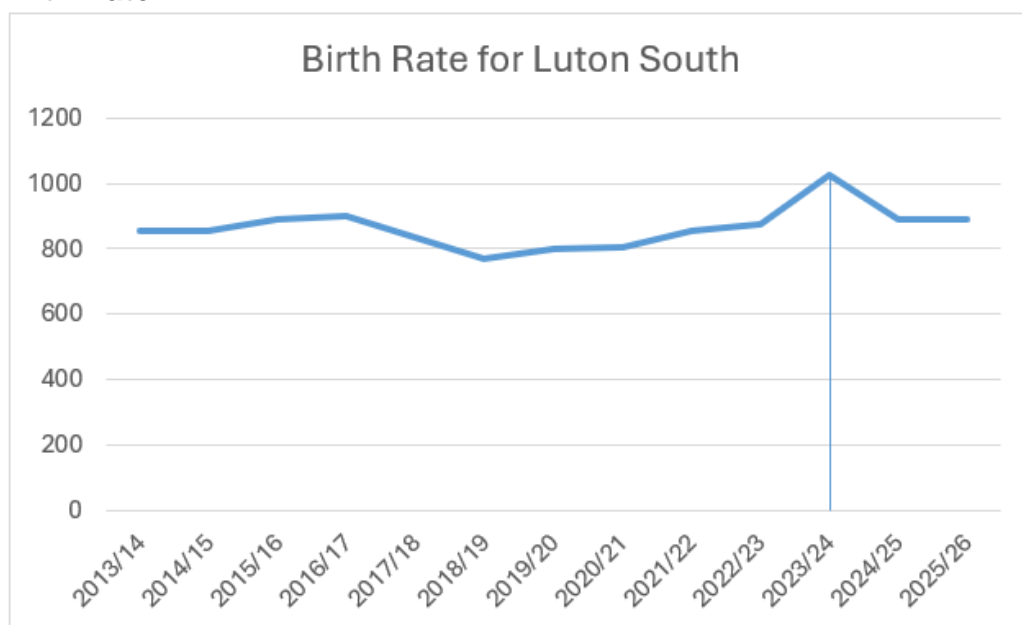
Consideration will need to be given on how best to encourage/support parents to travel from other neighbourhoods where access allows.

South Planning Area (Primary Phase)

Schools:

Beech Hill Primary School, Dallow Primary School, Foxdell Primary School, Hillborough Infant and Junior Schools, St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Primary School, Surrey Street Primary School, Tennyson Road Primary School, The Linden Academy, Whipperley Infant School and Farley Junior Academy.

Birth Rate



Year	Birth Rate
2013/14	855
2014/15	855
2015/16	890
2016/17	901
2017/18	837
2018/19	771
2019/20	802
2020/21	807
2021/22	856
2022/23	874
2023/24	1026
2024/25	888*
2025/26	888*

*indicates Projection

There was a slight decrease in the birth rate in 2018/19, thereafter it has been steadily increasing and peaked in 2023/24 (impacting on the September 2028 Reception Year intake).

Anticipated pupil yield from new housing developments:

New Housing Development	Academic Year when the development is likely to be occupied	Catchment area of the development	Anticipated Primary Pupil Yield
28 Dunstable Road	2024/25	Dallow	3
Lester Hall 48 - 54 John Street Luton	2024/25	Surrey Street	2
Dalroad Industrial Estate	2025 - 2027	Dallow	13
Land Adjacent To Caddington Road & Newlands Road	2025 - 2027	Surrey Street	73
Land opposite Whitbread House, Flowers Way	2025 - 2027	Surrey Street	81

Kimpton Road (Napier Park) - Eaton Green Heights	2025 - 2030	Surrey Street	159
13-31 Dunstable Road	2025 to 2027	Dallow	36
80 - 88 Collingdon Street	2025/26	Dallow	1
27-37 Chapel Street	2025/26	Surrey Street	4
39-51 John Street	2025/26	Surrey Street	12
Lawrence Hall 40 - 46 John Street	2025/26	Surrey Street	2
The Windsor Castle, 12 Albert Road	2025/26	Surrey Street	26
39 Castle Street	2025/26	Tennyson	7
Bute Street Shoppers Car Park	2026 - 2029	Surrey Street	39
Power Court	2027 - 2030	Surrey Street	64
Cresta House, Alma Street	2027/28	Dallow	11
27A Upper George Street	2028/29	Dallow	6
22 to 36 Hastings Street	2028/29	Hillborough	2
Total			541

Table 16 – anticipated primary aged pupil yield from new housing developments (south planning area)

Table 16 above details total predicted pupil yields from developments in the south planning area with planning permissions or those likely to come forward in the next five years. This table will be updated on an annual basis and is subject to change. There is significant housing development expected in this planning area (particularly within Surrey Street Primary School's catchment area) which will require the opening of new school places.

Capacity

The south planning area has 762 school places for new Reception Year intakes.

Built capacity not currently utilised:

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Primary School – 180 places

Surrey Street Primary School – 90 places in KS2

Total built capacity equates to 792 places (ie 762 + 30) per year group, although Surrey Street Primary School has built capacity for a further three classes in key stage 2.

Pupil projections (position as at the January census)

Table 17 - Birth rate, school census data and pupil projections (position as at the January census)

Academic Year	Birth rate	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2018/19	855	743	755	750	759	745	778	741	5271
2019/20	855	673	761	751	720	744	725	779	5153
2020/21	890	693	679	745	744	703	720	737	5021
2021/22	901	762	745	679	746	758	687	739	5116
2022/23	837	699	772	761	691	753	754	695	5125
2023/24	771	788	757	788	791	708	758	783	5373
2024/25	802	820	854	773	824	811	712	788	5582
2025/26	807	842	905	891	816	863	834	754	5904
2026/27	856	888	925	938	948	848	883	882	6312
2027/28	874	894	960	947	985	979	854	923	6542
2028/29	1026	1030	967	982	994	1017	989	890	6869

Note – figures in bold are projections, red shaded cells highlight year groups where there is projected to be shortfall of school places across the town.

The population in this area of town increased by over 20% between the 2011 and 2021 census.

Asylum seeker families tend to be placed in this planning area by the Home Office. Twenty one of the 35 sites for dispersal accommodation are in the south planning area. The largest of the dispersal sites, housing 125 asylum seekers, is in this planning area.

The south of the town continues to see significantly higher demand for school places in comparison to other areas of the town. This has led to all local schools tending to be full and new arrivals having to travel further afield to access school places.

The projections indicate there will be a shortfall of capacity in the south primary planning area from September 2024. The projections shaded in red in the table above illustrate where pupil numbers are expected to exceed all available built capacity (792 places per year group) in the south planning area. This planning area is forecast to be short of eight forms of entry (1680 school places over seven-year groups) during the next five years.

Action required

To make use of all available built capacity across all schools in the south planning area and consider how unused built capacity in neighbouring planning areas can assist with meeting excess demand.

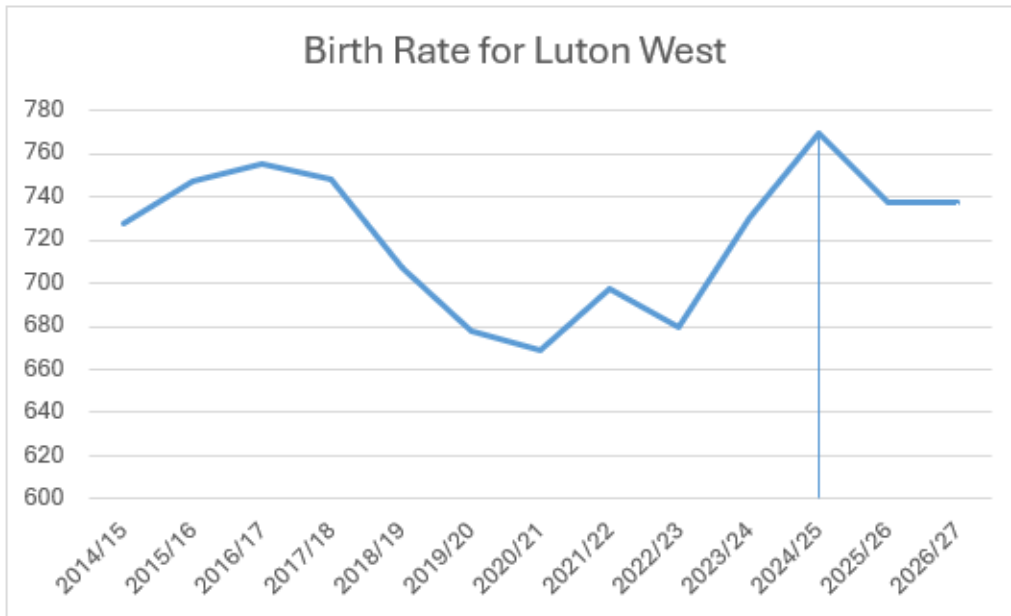
Prioritise any additional Basic Need Capital Funding from the DfE to support the provision of new school places for this area of the town and in the adjacent High Town area.

West Planning Area (Primary Phase)

Schools:

Beechwood Primary School, Chantry Primary Academy, Downside Primary School, Ferrars Academy, Ferrars Junior School, Leagrave Primary School, Pirton Hill Primary School, Southfield Primary Academy, St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School.

Birth Rate



Year	Birth Rate
2013/14	728
2014/15	747
2015/16	755
2016/17	748
2017/18	707
2018/19	678
2019/20	669
2020/21	697
2021/22	680
2022/23	730
2023/24	769
2024/25	737*
2025/26	737*

*indicates Projection

The above graph illustrates that births in this planning area have been increasing in recent years. Births for 2023/24 are at similar levels to the previous peak in 2015/16.

Anticipated pupil yield from new housing developments

New Housing Development	Academic Year when the development is likely to be occupied	Catchment area of the development	Anticipated Primary Pupil Yield
Land at the Orchard Centre, Strangers Way	2025/26	Leagrave	15
10 to 12 Caleb Close	2026/27	Beechwood	5
Leagrave Service Station, High Street	2028/29	Leagrave	9
Total			29

Table 18 – anticipated primary aged pupil yield from new housing developments (west planning area)

Table 18 above details total predicted pupil yields from developments in the west planning area with planning permissions or those likely to come forward in the next five years. This table will be updated on an annual basis and is subject to change. There is a relatively small amount of housing development expected in this planning area at present.

Capacity

The west planning area has 690 school places for new Reception Year intakes. A further 30 places have been removed via a PAN reduction at Pirton Hill Primary School. The total build capacity equates to 720 places per year group (ie 690 + 30).

Pupil projections (position as at the January census)

Table 19 - Birth rate, school census data and pupil projections (position as at the January census)

Academic Year	Birth rate	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2018/19	728	610	637	665	687	663	672	725	4659
2019/20	747	602	621	637	677	701	673	677	4588
2020/21	755	609	631	625	642	676	693	675	4551
2021/22	748	650	650	650	651	646	687	695	4629
2022/23	707	621	666	672	671	671	648	688	4637
2023/24	678	661	637	678	678	678	694	664	4690
2024/25	669	652	681	656	701	690	693	703	4776
2025/26	697	680	671	702	677	714	706	702	4852
2026/27	680	663	699	692	724	689	731	716	4914
2027/28	730	712	682	721	714	737	703	743	5012
2028/29	769	728	733	703	744	727	754	713	5102

Note – figures in bold are projections, red shaded cells highlight year groups where there is projected to be shortfall of school places across the town.

The projections indicate there will be a shortfall of capacity in the west primary planning area from September 2026. The projections shaded in red, in the table above, illustrate where the number of pupils is expected to exceed all available built capacity (720 places per year group) in the west planning area. This planning area is short of one form of entry (210 places across seven-year groups) to meet increasing demand during the next five years.

Action required

The projections indicate that unused capacity will need to be carefully brought on stream to meet demand. In addition to this, further capacity is required for some year groups where there is not sufficient capacity accessible elsewhere in Luton.

Demand for mainstream secondary school places.

Luton (whole town picture)

Anticipated pupil yield from new housing developments

Phase	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary
Year	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
Yield	3.28	49.5	22.88	10.24	38.14	7.85	1.86

Table 17 – anticipated secondary aged pupil yield from new housing developments

The table above details total predicted pupil yields from developments in Luton with planning permissions or those likely to come forward in the next five years. This table will be updated on an annual basis and is subject to change. There is likely to be an increase in the number of new developments in future years as the Council continues to receive new planning applications. In accordance with DfE guidelines the projections take account of the pupil yield from new housing developments (above the norm).

Capacity

Built capacity in Luton equates to 3288 places in each year groups.

Pupil projections (position as at the January census)

Table 20 - School census data and pupil projections (position as at the January census)

Year	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Total
2018/19	2931	2818	2749	2701	2622	13821
2019/20	3115	2944	2809	2753	2717	14338
2020/21	3056	3119	2932	2840	2792	14739
2021/22	3052	3073	3111	2970	2876	15082
2022/23	3155	3055	3086	3111	3011	15418
2023/24	3138	3205	3108	3117	3173	15741
2024/25	3170	3168	3247	3124	3167	15876
2025/26	3210	3197	3210	3268	3175	16061
2026/27	3237	3238	3236	3230	3327	16269
2027/28	3416	3265	3278	3255	3290	16504
2028/29	3536	3446	3305	3296	3311	16894
2029/30	3359	3566	3488	3324	3353	17091
2030/31	3675	3389	3610	3508	3381	17563

Note – figures in bold are projections, red shaded cells highlight year groups where there is projected to be shortfall of school places across the town.

As with the primary phase, there continues to be a high number of in-year admissions. Bulge classes are difficult to create in the secondary sector, due to the curriculum and the organisation of teaching spaces. It is not financially viable for schools to hold surplus capacity for extended periods of time to cater for future in-year admissions.

Action required

- The projections shaded in red, in the table above, illustrate a shortfall of built capacity. The forecasts show that there is a need to create the following capacity:
 - September 2027 - six forms of entry (equating to 900 places across five-year groups)
 - September 2028 – at least a further four forms of entry (equating to 600 places across five-year groups)
 - September 2030 – at least a further four forms of entry (equating to 600 places across five-year groups).
- It will be necessary to work with headteachers and governing bodies/academy trusts to consider how best to create additional capacity as cohorts move through the secondary phase to ensure supply keeps pace with demand.
- The Council will also need to work with undersubscribed schools to ensure built capacity can be utilised to accommodate new arrivals. The Schools' Forum will be asked to approve growth (revenue) funding where a school's PAN or Admissions Limit has been increased at the request of the Local Authority.
- Luton Council will require further Basic Need Capital Funding from the Department for Education to develop at least 14 forms of entry (equates to 2100 additional school places). It is important to note that Basic Need Capital (Grant) funding is unlikely to be sufficient to build a new school and will be limited whilst there is surplus capacity. If all capacity is utilised, the priority would be to expand existing schools for both efficiency and value for money.

Central Planning Area (Secondary Phase)

Schools:

This planning area includes the following schools: Denbigh High School, Icknield High School, Challney High School for Girls and Challney High School for Boys.

Anticipated pupil yield from new housing developments

New Housing Development	Academic Year when the development is likely to be occupied	Catchment area of the development	Anticipated Secondary Pupil Yield
Chaucer House, 134 Biscot Road	2024 - 2026	Denbigh	1
28 Dunstable Road	2024/25	Denbigh	1
Dalroad Industrial Estate	2025 - 2027	Challney Schools	2
13-31 Dunstable Road	2025 to 2027	Denbigh	3
Britannia Estate	2026 - 2029	Denbigh	4
The Old School House, Trinity Road	2026/27	Icknield	1
10 to 12 Caleb Close	2026/27	Challney Schools	1
Total			13

Table 21 – anticipated secondary aged pupil yield from new housing developments in the secondary central planning area.

Table 21 above details total predicted pupil yields from developments in the secondary central planning area with planning permissions or those likely to come forward in the next five years. This table will be updated on an annual basis and is subject to change. There is a relatively small level of housing development expected in this planning area at present.

Capacity

There are 967 places available per year group in the central planning area.

Pupil projections (position as at the January census)

Table 18 - School census data and pupil projections (position as at the January census)

Year	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Total
2018/19	964	956	926	882	889	4617
2019/20	962	965	959	921	889	4696
2020/21	968	961	968	958	918	4773
2021/22	970	963	957	964	962	4816
2022/23	961	969	961	957	972	4820
2023/24	963	972	965	958	959	4817
2024/25	987	968	969	964	963	4851
2025/26	1000	992	965	967	969	4894
2026/27	1008	1005	989	964	973	4939
2027/28	1064	1013	1002	988	969	5036
2028/29	1101	1070	1010	1001	993	5175
2029/30	1046	1107	1066	1009	1006	5234
2030/31	1145	1052	1104	1065	1014	5379

Note – figures in bold are projections, red shaded cells highlight year groups where there is projected to be shortfall of school places across the town.

The projections indicate there will be a shortfall of capacity in the central secondary planning area from September 2024. The projections shaded in red in the table above illustrate where pupil numbers are expected to exceed all available built capacity (967 places per year group).

The forecasts illustrate the following shortfall in capacity:

- September 2024 – one form of entry (equates to 150 places across the five-year groups)
- September 2025 – a further form of entry (equates to 150 places across the five-year groups)
- September 2027 – a further at two forms of entry (equates to 300 places across the five-year groups)
- September 2028 - a further form of entry (equates to 150 places across the five-year groups)
- September 2030 – a further form of entry (equates to 150 places across the five-year groups)

The forecasts indicate that this planning area is short of at least six forms of entry (equating to 900 places over five-year groups) during the next seven years. It's important to note that there is sufficient built capacity in other planning areas to off-set a shortfall in capacity until September 2027 at which point there is predicted to be an overall shortfall in built capacity across the town.

Demand for places in this planning area is likely to be higher than the projections suggest. This is because some pupils living in this planning area are having to travel further afield to access school places in other planning areas (particularly the east planning area). In other words, the projections anticipate that some pupils living in the central planning area will continue to access school places in other planning areas.

Action required

It would be prudent to prioritise additional capacity from September 2027 in this planning area (as far as possible).

East Planning Area (Secondary Phase)

Schools:

This planning area includes the following schools: Queen Elizabeth School, Putteridge High School, Stopsley High School.

Anticipated pupil yield from new housing developments

New Housing Development	Academic Year when the development is likely to be occupied	Catchment area of the development	Anticipated Secondary Pupil Yield
High Town plots 1 - 6	2024 - 2031	Stopsley	29
69 Felstead Way	2024/25	Stopsley	2
19-21 Burr Street	2025/26	Stopsley	1
Garage court rear of 59 Mangrove Road	2025/26	Putteridge	1
25 - 27 Brunswick Street Luton	2026/27 and 2029 - 2031	Stopsley	3
Land at Stockingstone Road	2026/27	Stopsley	1
Land adjacent to 102 Hitchin Road	2027/28	Stopsley	1
Total			38

Table 22 – anticipated secondary aged pupil yield from new housing developments in the secondary east planning area.

Table 22 above details total predicted pupil yields from housing developments in the secondary east planning area with planning permissions or those likely to come forward in the next five years. This table will be updated on an annual basis and is subject to change. There is a small amount of development expected predominately in the High Town area of Luton, which falls within the catchment area of Stopsley High School.

A development in North Hertfordshire, to the east of Luton, is currently at the master planning stage. The first occupation of new housing could occur from 2026. It is envisaged that the new development could be completed by 2037. A site for secondary school provision has been identified, however, the timing for opening additional capacity is not yet confirmed. Luton Council will continue to work closely with Hertfordshire County Council to try to ensure that the timing for opening the new school does not de-stabilise or overburden Luton schools.

Capacity

The secondary east planning area has a built capacity of 757 school places per year group. Stopsley High School is currently operating at 240 places per year group which is less than the School's built capacity of 274 places per year group.

Pupil projections (position as at the January census)

Table 23 - School census data and pupil projections (position as at the January census)

Year	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Total
2018/19	597	682	662	606	571	3118
2019/20	638	604	673	674	610	3199
2020/21	599	638	604	688	684	3213
2021/22	618	616	661	620	702	3217
2022/23	688	624	631	653	641	3237
2023/24	701	714	656	646	699	3416
2024/25	666	720	745	660	678	3470
2025/26	675	683	752	751	694	3555
2026/27	680	692	711	760	792	3634
2027/28	718	697	720	717	801	3653
2028/29	743	736	726	726	754	3685
2029/30	706	762	766	732	764	3729
2030/31	772	724	793	772	770	3832

Note – figures in bold are projections, red shaded cells highlight year groups where there is projected to be shortfall of school places across the town.

The projections indicate there will be a shortfall of built capacity in the east secondary planning area in some year groups from September 2026. The projections shaded in red in the table above illustrate where pupil numbers are expected to exceed all available built capacity (757 places per year group) and indicate that this planning area is short of one form of entry during the next seven years (this equates to 150 places across the five-year groups). Some of this growth is fuelled by pupils who live in the central planning area who are being redirected to the east planning area due to lack of local school capacity.

Action required

The Council will need to support the careful re-introduction of unused built capacity in this planning area.

To consider options for meeting increased demand where this exceeds built capacity.

North and West Planning Area (Secondary Phase)

Schools:

This planning area includes the following schools: Cardinal Newman Catholic School, Chalk Hills Academy, Lea Manor High School and Lealands High School.

Anticipated pupil yield from new housing developments

New Housing Development	Academic Year when the development is likely to be occupied	Catchment area of the development	Anticipated Secondary Pupil Yield
Land at the Orchard Centre, Strangers Way	2025/26	Lealands	23
Leagrave Service Station, High Street	2028/29	Lealands	2
Total			25

Table 24 – anticipated secondary aged pupil yield from new housing developments in the secondary north and west planning area.

Table 24 above details total predicted pupil yields from developments in the secondary north and west planning area with planning permissions or those likely to come forward in the next five years. This table will be updated on an annual basis and is subject to change. There is a small amount of anticipated development in the catchment area of Lealands High School.

Capacity

There are 1024 places available in each group in the north and west planning area.

Pupil projections (position as at the January census)

Table 25 - School census data and pupil projections for the north and west (position as at the January census)

Year	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Total
2018/19	926	930	928	949	923	4656
2019/20	999	937	922	928	959	4745
2020/21	978	1004	917	932	952	4783
2021/22	964	972	978	937	948	4799
2022/23	980	962	978	985	954	4859
2023/24	968	992	978	989	1005	4932
2024/25	994	973	1005	986	1008	4966
2025/26	1007	999	985	1016	1005	5011
2026/27	1015	1012	1011	994	1036	5068
2027/28	1072	1020	1024	1021	1013	5150
2028/29	1109	1077	1033	1034	1041	5294
2029/30	1054	1115	1090	1043	1054	5355
2030/31	1153	1059	1128	1100	1063	5503

Note – figures in bold are projections, red shaded cells highlight year groups where there is projected to be shortfall of school places across the town.

The projections indicate there will be a shortfall of capacity in the north and west secondary planning area from September 2026. The projections shaded in red in the table above illustrate where pupil numbers are expected to exceed all available built capacity (1024 places per year group). This planning area is short of five forms of entry (750 places over five-year groups) during the next seven years.

Action required

Additional places will be required as follows:

- September 2027 – two forms of entry for new Year 7 intakes (equates to 300 places across the five-year groups)
- September 2028 – a further form of entry (equates to 150 places across the five-year groups)
- September 2030 – a further at two forms of entry (equates to 300 places across the five-year groups)

South Planning Area (Secondary Phase)

Schools: This planning area includes the following schools: Stockwood Park Academy and the Chiltern Academy.

Anticipated pupil yield from new housing developments

New Housing Development	Academic Year when the development is likely to be occupied	Catchment area of the development	Anticipated Secondary Pupil Yield
Lester Hall 48 - 54 John Street Luton	2024/25	Stockwood Park	1
Land Adjacent To Caddington Road & Newlands Road	2025 - 2027	Stockwood Park	6
Land opposite Whitbread House, Flowers Way	2025 - 2027	Stockwood Park	13
Kimpton Road (Napier Park) - Eaton Green Heights	2025 - 2030	Stockwood Park	14
80 - 88 Collingdon Street	2025/26	Stockwood Park	1
27-37 Chapel Street	2025/26	Stockwood Park	1
39-51 John Street	2025/26	Stockwood Park	6
Lawrence Hall 40 - 46 John Street Luton	2025/26	Stockwood Park	1
The Windsor Castle, 12 Albert Road	2025/26	Stockwood Park	2
39 Castle Street	2025/26	Stockwood Park	1
Bute Street Shoppers Car Park	2026 - 2029	Stockwood Park	9
Power Court	2027 - 2030	Stockwood Park	5
Cresta House, Alma Street	2027/28	Stockwood Park	1
27A Upper George Street	2028/29	Stockwood Park	1
22 to 36 Hastings Street	2028/29	Stockwood Park	1
Total			63

Table 26 – anticipated secondary aged pupil yield from new housing developments in the secondary south planning area.

Table 26 above details total predicted pupil yields from developments in the secondary south planning area with planning permissions or those likely to come forward in the next five years. This table will be updated on an annual basis and is subject to change. There

is a significant amount of development scheduled for this planning area which will require the creation of new school places.

Capacity

There are 540 places available in each year group in this planning area.

Pupil projections (position as at the January census)

Table 27 - School census data and pupil projections in the south planning area (position as at the January census)

Year	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Total
2018/19	444	250	233	264	239	1430
2019/20	516	438	255	230	259	1698
2020/21	511	516	443	262	238	1970
2021/22	500	522	515	449	264	2250
2022/23	526	500	516	516	444	2502
2023/24	506	527	509	524	510	2576
2024/25	522	506	529	514	518	2589
2025/26	529	523	508	534	508	2601
2026/27	533	529	525	513	527	2627
2027/28	563	534	531	529	507	2664
2028/29	582	563	536	536	523	2741
2029/30	553	583	565	540	530	2772
2030/31	605	554	585	570	534	2849

Note – figures in bold are projections, red shaded cells highlight year groups where there is projected to be shortfall of school places across the town.

According to national census data, Luton's south planning area has grown by over 20% between 2011 and 2021 due to population changes and new build developments.

Asylum seekers families tend to be placed, by the Home Office, in this planning area. Twenty one of the 35 sites for dispersal accommodation are in the south planning area. The largest of the dispersal sites, housing 125 asylum seekers, is in this planning area.

The south of the town has seen a significant growth in pupil numbers. Table 24 (above) indicates that this growth is projected to continue.

The projections indicate there will be a shortfall of capacity in the south secondary planning area from September 2027. The projections shaded in red in the table above illustrate where pupil numbers are expected to exceed all available built capacity (540 places per year group) in the south planning area.

Action required

The forecasts show that there is a need to create the following capacity:

- September 2027 - at least one form of entry (equates to 150 places across five-year groups)
- September 2028 - a further form of entry (equates to 150 places across five-year groups)
- September 2030 – a further form of entry (equates to 150 places across five-year groups)

Demand for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

Luton (town wide demand)

The number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in Luton have increased significantly in recent years. Whilst the majority of EHCPs are managed in mainstream schools, an increasing number of children with EHCPs require special school provision. This increase is illustrated in Table 28 below:

Luton	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	Number of cases	Number of cases	Number of cases	Number of cases	Number of cases	Number of cases
Total	1,532	1,764	1,882	2,043	2,170	2,585
% increase	10.8	15.1	6.7	8.6	6.2	19.1

Table 28 'Caseload - Age groups' for EHCP and Statement in England and Luton between 2019 and 2024, DfE Explore Education Statistics webpage (based on SEND2 data based on March 2024 data)

Table 29 below illustrates that Luton experienced a significant increase (66%) in new EHCPs between 2022 and 2023. The under 5s accounted for 39.2% of all new plans indicating a high level of demand for future Reception Year places.

		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Under 5	Number of plans	37	31	67	92	103	200
	Percentage of plans	22.70%	11.00%	27.90%	30.30%	33.60%	39.20%
Age 5 to 10	Number of plans	102	197	122	143	158	227
	Percentage of plans	62.60%	69.60%	50.80%	47.00%	51.50%	44.50%
Age 11 to 15	Number of plans	15	41	38	47	36	65
	Percentage of plans	9.20%	14.50%	15.80%	15.50%	11.70%	12.70%
Age 16 to 19	Number of plans	9	13	13	21	10	17
	Percentage of plans	5.50%	4.60%	5.40%	6.90%	3.30%	3.30%
Age 20 to 25	Number of plans	0	1	0	1	0	1
	Percentage of plans	0.00%	0.40%	0.00%	0.30%	0.00%	0.20%
Total	Number of plans	163	283	240	304	307	510
	Percentage growth	N/A	73.62	-15.19	26.667	0.9868	66.124

Table 29 – 'New plans - Age groups' for Age 11 to 15, Age 16 to 19, Age 20 to 25, Age 5 to 10 and Under 5 in Luton between 2018 and 2023. DfE Explore Education Statistics webpage.

Table 30 below shows that 40.8% of Luton pupils with an EHCP were educated in a special school in 2023/24.

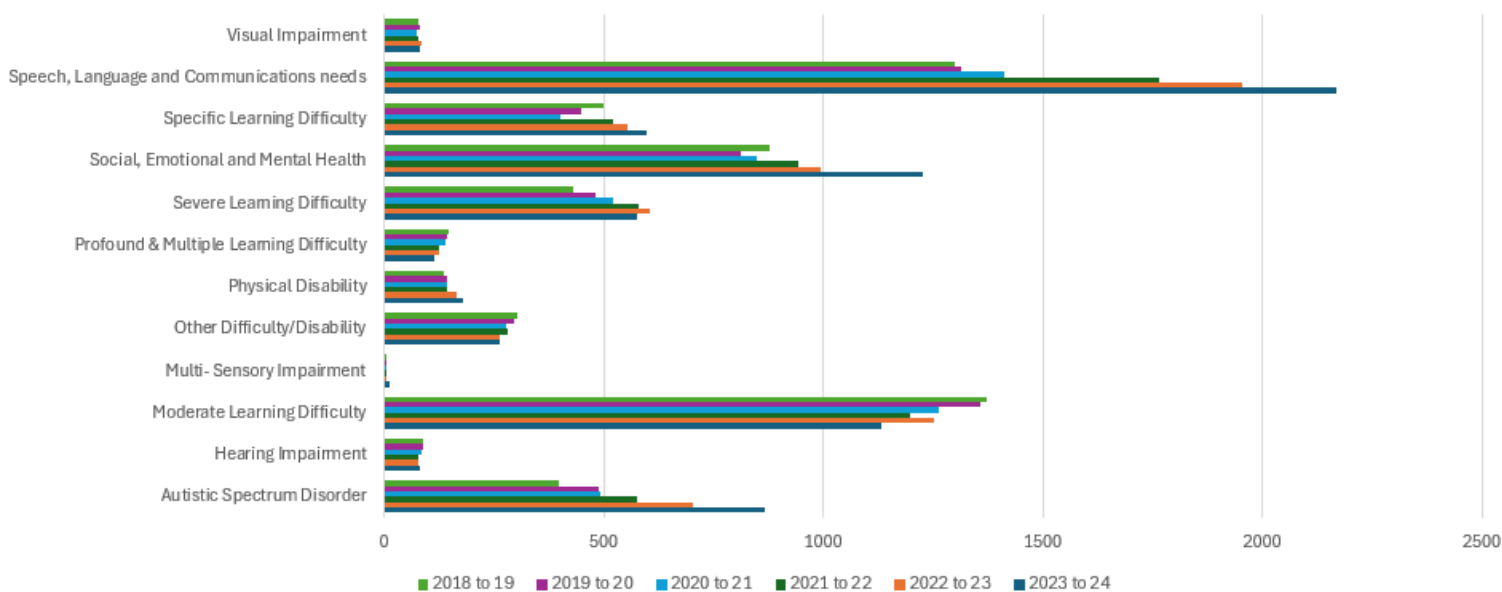
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Total	1,110	1,262	1,347	1,515	1,692	2,016
State-funded AP school	2	2	no data	3	2	2
% of pupils	0.2	0.2		0.2	0.1	0.1
State-funded nursery	9	10	3	13	13	13
% of pupils	0.8	0.8	0.2	0.9	0.8	0.6
State-funded primary	336	402	439	495	587	808
% of pupils	30.3	31.9	32.6	32.7	34.7	40.1
State-funded secondary	235	256	279	307	342	370
% of pupils	21.2	20.3	20.7	20.3	20.2	18.4
State-funded special school	528	592	626	697	748	823
% of pupils	47.6	46.9	46.5	46.0	44.2	40.8

Table 30 - Headcount for type of SEN provision for EHC plans, State-funded AP school, State-funded nursery, State-funded primary, State-funded secondary in Luton between 2018/19 and 2023/24. DfE Explore Education Statistics webpage.

The graph below and Table 31 illustrates a significant growth in EHCPs in the following areas:

- autistic spectrum disorder
- speech, language and communication
- social, emotional and mental health

Primary Pupil Need (source: Type of need in Luton between 2018/19 and 2023/24, DfE Explore Education Statistics)



Primary Need	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021/22	2022-2023	2023-2024	increase / decrease between 2018/19 and 2023/24	% increase / decrease between 2018/19 and 2023/24
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	398	488	494	577	703	866	468	117.6
Hearing Impairment	90	88	85	77	79	83	-7	-7.8
Moderate Learning Difficulty	1371	1357	1265	1199	1251	1132	-239	-17.4
Multi- Sensory Impairment	3	7	5	5	6	14	11	366.7
Other Difficulty/Disability	304	298	278	283	264	264	-40	-13.2
Physical Disability	136	142	144	144	164	181	45	33.1
Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty	147	143	139	127	124	114	-33	-22.4
Severe Learning Difficulty	430	482	520	579	604	577	147	34.2
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	879	812	850	943	994	1226	347	39.5
Specific Learning Difficulty	498	449	401	523	553	597	99	19.9
Speech, Language and Communications needs	1300	1313	1411	1766	1955	2170	870	66.9
Visual Impairment	79	81	76	79	84	82	3	3.8

Table 31 - Type of need in Luton between 2018/19 and 2023/24 DfE Explore Education Statistics

Special School Places (Primary Phase)

Schools: Lady Zia Wernher School and Richmond Hill School

Capacity

There have been significant expansions of both primary special schools which cater for pupils with severe learning difficulties and profound and multiple learning difficulties.

Lady Zia Wernher School increased from 120 in 2020/21 to 240 in 2024/25, with a further increase of 40 places expected in 2025/26.

Richmond Hill School has also increased from 120 in 2015/16 to 280 in 2022/23, representing a capacity increase of 133%.

Both schools have expanded onto a second school site and operate across two campuses.

Pupil projections (position as at the January census)

Table 32 - School census data and pupil projections in the primary special school planning area (position as at the January census)

Year	Yr R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Total	Capacity
2019/20	30	51	59	53	52	50	44	339	350
2020/21	29	55	59	64	54	51	46	358	394
2021/22	31	52	63	64	68	55	54	387	407
2022/23	33	76	63	70	67	69	55	433	435
2023/24	34	64	93	71	71	68	66	467	495
2024/25	35	58	77	102	74	72	69	488	520
2025/26	36	60	70	82	107	76	73	504	560
2026/27	37	62	72	73	86	109	77	516	560
2027/28	38	64	74	75	77	88	110	526	560
2028/29	39	66	76	77	79	79	89	506	560
2029/30	40	68	79	80	81	81	80	509	560
2030/31	42	70	81	82	83	83	83	524	560
2031/32	43	72	83	85	86	86	85	539	560

Action required

Pupil projections indicate that, following the further expansion of Lady Zia Wernher Primary School, there should be sufficient special school provision for pupils with severe learning disabilities in the primary phase.

Pupils with an EHCP for social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) special needs are currently placed in mainstream schools or in out of borough specialist placements. The following actions are required to ensure there is sufficient capacity for this growing cohort of pupils:

- Develop a SEMH Additional Resourced Provision attached to a mainstream school for children up to Year 5.
- Develop a SEMH special school provision on land at Bishopscote Road for pupils from Year 5 and above.

A working group has been established to undertake further detailed analysis of demand and develop a five-year strategy to ensure there is sufficient specialist education provision (in

addition to special school provision) for children and young people aged 0-25 with SEND which is affordable in terms of capital and revenue budgets.

Special School Places (Secondary Phase)

Schools:

Woodlands Secondary School and Windmill Hill School (for pupils with severe learning disabilities and profound and multiple learning difficulties)

Capacity

There has been a significant expansion of Woodlands Secondary School from 150 places in September 2015 to 265 places currently available, representing a 77% increase in spaces.

In addition, Windmill Hill School was opened as a new school in September 2021 with a capacity to offer 120 spaces.

Pupil projections (position as at the January census)

Table 33 - School census data and pupil projections (position as at the January census)

Year	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13	Total	Capacity
2020/21	45	61	44	36	42	34	18	280	265
2021/22	59	39	62	42	38	41	35	316	305
2022/23	64	58	44	62	42	34	37	341	325
2023/24	64	68	57	48	60	38	31	366	345
2024/25	78	65	71	58	48	24	38	381	385
2025/26	80	78	67	72	58	18	24	398	385
2026/27	85	81	81	68	72	11	18	417	385
2027/28	89	86	84	83	69	32	11	454	385
2028/29	129	90	89	86	83	40	32	549	385
2029/30	106	130	93	91	86	37	40	583	385
2030/31	116	107	135	94	91	38	37	619	385
2031/32	119	117	111	137	95	41	38	659	385

Note – figures in bold are projections, red shaded cells highlight year groups where there is projected to be shortfall of school places across the town.

The projections shaded in red in the table above illustrate where the demand is forecast to exceed all available built capacity of 385 secondary special school places.

Action required

A further 112 secondary special school places are scheduled to be built by September 2026 on a site at Kestral Way in the west of Luton. This will provide a total capacity for 497 places; however, further places could potentially be needed from September 2028.

The Council is seeking to create additional SEMH special school provision on land at Bishopscote Road for pupils from Year 5 and above.

A working group has been established to undertake further detailed analysis of demand and develop a five-year strategy to ensure there is sufficient specialist education provision (in addition to special school provision) for children and young people aged 0-25 with SEND which is affordable in terms of capital and revenue budgets.

Conclusion

This strategy is based on pupil projections which assume that the high levels of inward migration from abroad, experienced since 2022, will be sustained. Any reduction or increase in international migration or any other new population trend will affect the accuracy of the projections.

The pupil forecasts show that the Council will need to work with headteachers, governors and academy trusts to:

- reverse PAN reductions in a careful and planned way
- develop new school places as close as practical to the areas experiencing the greatest demand.

The Council's ability to develop new school places is dependent on the provision of capital funding from the Department for Education.