

EDUCATION AND LEARNING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN



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Section 1 – Suffolk’s Education and Learning Landscape

The vision of Suffolk County Council’s Children and Young People’s Service is to encourage and enable all children and young people in Suffolk to aspire to and achieve their potential. A key priority for the Council is improving attainment and accelerating progress in Suffolk schools so that we exceed national attainment and progress at all key stages. To that end, we aspire to be able to provide sufficient, high quality places within a school organisation system which offers good schools for all children within their local communities.

Suffolk has seen recent improvements in GCSE results and the development levels of five-year-olds being ahead of National averages. However, Suffolk is still performing poorly in some areas in comparison with national averages and its statistical neighbours. Raising the Bar is a combined response to tackle this issue – its focus is on the continued raising of attainment and aspirations across young people in education throughout Suffolk. It is about linking the skills we have in the county with the job opportunities available from employers, by improving connections between the educator and employers.

This work is being done in parallel with a significant shift in the way education and learning is delivered and funded. The increased freedoms being exercised by Academies and Free Schools have seen the Local Authority role in education become a mix of provider, commissioner and strategic partner to the schools within the county.

As at October 2014, Suffolk’s learning and education was provided by:

Early Learning - Learning provision in the early years is offered by a mix of private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers, school nursery classes and one nursery school. Suffolk has a total of 430 PVI providers and 95 maintained nursery classes, these are categorised as:

119	private nurseries
171	voluntary managed provision
10	independent schools
130	childminders
95	maintained nursery classes

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities - Currently Suffolk has the following facilities for SEND provision:

9	special schools
14	pupil referral units
8	specialist support centres
4	hearing impaired units
3	speech and language units

Schools – As at October 2015, Suffolk has a total of 251 maintained schools, 74 academies and 6 free schools, these are categorised as:

213	primary schools	39	primary academies
8	middle schools	2	middle academies
11	secondary schools	29	secondary academies
4	special schools	4	special academies
14	pupil referral units		
		1	sixth form school
		6	free schools

Combined, the education and learning providers in Suffolk provide for approximately 98,300 children with 54,000 of primary school age, 36,000 of high school age, approximately 1,700 in Special/Alternative Education and 7,000 in post-16 education.

Section 2 – The Infrastructure Plan

The aims of this infrastructure plan are to provide:

- A joined up approach to planning the county-wide infrastructure needs for all education provision in the county.
- Key stakeholders with an understanding of place planning and the role the Local Authority statutorily has to discharge.
- Local Planning Authorities with an understanding of the issues and pressures faced and our shared responsibilities in sourcing sufficient places for education in areas of housing growth and development.

A new shared approach to this work is pivotal to meeting the needs outlined later in this document. Traditionally this work has taken place for many years but has mostly assumed the role of a technical or office based exercise involving those officers with the professional skills and knowledge required to complete the calculation and undertake the detailed planning. We want the document to have a new focus as a plan that is informative to, and informed by, our partners and key stakeholders.

This document has been designed to be the driver for a new way of working, a new Infrastructure Planning group has been set up to carry out the strategic planning with operational groups feeding in to that planning group continuing to maximise the use of the expertise and knowledge of officers that have carried out this work for a number of years. The plan will be a 'living document' due to the fluidity and uncertainty of the countywide development, and reviewed annually by Cabinet.

This plan was developed to move away from terminology that has historically defined pupil movement such as 'catchment areas' or 'pyramids' of schools. This is not to say that these areas are not necessary to make decisions in other areas of work, such as Admissions, but whilst we strive to provide local schools for local communities there is also a strong element of parental choice that impacts upon our decision making.

Section 3 – School Place Planning

3.1 The Local Context

In contrast to Suffolk’s rural areas, the main urban areas and market towns are expected to accommodate major growth in the form of urban extensions or new communities. These developments are usually on the periphery of towns and often some distance from existing schools and other community infrastructure.

Patterns of population change will also affect Suffolk’s local communities. In some areas inward migration is a major factor, particularly where new development is planned. There is also inconsistency across the county in terms of future birth rates with some areas of the county seeing a decreasing population whilst other areas spike.

All of these factors, including changes in population age structure and new development rates, are difficult to forecast with any degree of certainty. However, we have to be able to respond flexibly to changing patterns of need and ensure that new investment takes place in the most appropriate way and in the most appropriate location.

3.2 Opening new, or extending existing schools

Schools are grouped into planning areas and where individual schools are forecast over the Published Admissions Number (PAN), the overflow is redistributed across the neighbouring schools with spaces. If there are insufficient spaces across an area then there is a need for more places. Once this need for additional places is identified, mainly due to natural population growth or new housing developments, there are a number of issues that need to be taken into consideration before solutions are identified.

We look at all the local schools to determine the most appropriate for expansion. Criteria for this decision include:

- Where do the children live?
- Where are any major housing developments located?
- Which schools have space to expand?

Whilst quality of provision is taken into account when exploring expansion options, in some areas the solutions have to be driven by geographical and financial constraints and whilst we would give serious consideration before deciding to expand a poorly performing school, we do need to assess local need for local pupils. In some cases growth may be a catalyst for school improvement but we would ensure this expansion does not detract from the school plans and aspirations towards raising attainment and the quality of teaching.

Other issues that need to be taken into consideration involve the school's capacity to expand. This is not just focused on the infrastructure, such as hall space, playing fields or access, for example, but the management and staffing structuring of the school which would likely need to change if a school were to expand.

Any new school that opens in the county must be an academy, free school or voluntary aided school. If an academy, this requires the Local Authority to seek proposals from the Department for Education (DfE) approved academy sponsors to run a new school. This process is run by the Local Authority, who assesses submitted proposals, and shares the results with the Secretary of State, including the steps taken to seek proposals.

3.3 Challenges to meet statutory duties

Early Years

The LA is required to secure sufficient early learning places for eligible 2 year olds, estimated at 40% of the total 2 year old population, and all three and four year olds. An early learning place is defined as 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year and eligible children are entitled to take up the place in the term after their 2nd birthday. This entitlement is aimed at our more disadvantaged families and impacts on the ability of the current market to deliver enough places in the localities where most needed.

In May 2015 it was announced that the government was doubling the provision of free childcare from 15 to 30 hours a week for three and four year-olds. The offer, being introduced in 2017, will be available to families where both parents are working or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family. This has huge infrastructure implications for Suffolk and work is underway to establish how this demand can be met.

Special Educational Needs

Suffolk is an inclusive authority with the majority of children and young people with a statement of special educational need placed in mainstream settings. However there has been a sharp increase in the demand for out of county placements for children and young people with an increased level of additional requirements. There are particular pressures across the county on the availability of Behavioural Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD) and Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) provision.

The collection of timely, robust and meaningful LA & partnership needs assessment data has proved difficult to access and as such the ability to predict the future needs of the children and young people across Suffolk has been problematical. However, there is work being currently undertaken to remedy this and provide Suffolk County Council and its partners with the ability to better quantify with greater certainty, the future demands for specialist places. This work can then be used to develop plans to address

any shortfall in meeting demand through changes to existing infrastructure or imbedding new facilities, as appropriate, across Suffolk.

Vulnerable learner access to existing specialist provision is also inconsistent and unequitable across the county. For example 6 of the 7 Specialist Support Centres are in Ipswich, Felixstowe and Martlesham, with none located in the north of the county. Due to the sporadic nature of the SEND facilities as a whole, a large number of children and young people have to travel across the county to access suitable provision or go outside of Suffolk in order to do so, costing Suffolk County Council and its partners millions of pounds per year. Post-16 provision is also insufficient with significant gaps in provision for young people with particular types of SEND who are leaving mainstream school at 16 but are wishing to stay on in education or training.

Schools

The number of school aged children and young people is growing as the county sees spikes in localised population growth, net increases in immigration and a large amount of new developments for the revitalised housing market. Our pupil forecasts show the total school population will increase by over 4,500 (5%) in the next 5 years (primary age increasing to over 6%; secondary starting to increase in the next couple of years and continuing for at least the next 10 years). Within this growth there are particular growth 'hot spots' such as Ipswich, North Lowestoft and Forest Heath.

Funding is always a constraint but this is more than ever becoming a significant problem. Our main source of funding is the annual 'Basic Need' grant from the DfE. This will be £10.9 million in 2014/15 reduced to only £1 million in 2015/16 and £2m 2016/17. This decrease in an important source of capital funding is partly due to a change in distribution methodology devised by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) which has hit Suffolk, and similar authorities, hard. We have found sources of funding from corporate reserves to close the gap in the short term that will ensure building projects already on site can be completed; in the longer term this drop in Basic Need funding will have an impact on the capital programme. We can also no longer rely on the proceeds of asset sales from surplus sites to gain a capital receipt to fund new build. These sites could be required for a free school, a decision made by the Secretary of State, or community use (e.g. a new care home) and so are not available for sale.

In some cases where there is sufficient capacity within an area this is not always evenly distributed, leading to some parents being unable to get a school place for their child in the school of their choice, as there could be surplus places overall but not in that particular sought after year group.

3.4 Our new approach

This changing landscape will require a new approach to school capacity planning and lies behind the new attempt to do so collaboratively. As we develop our new plans they are likely to show a number of key changes from the previous approach.

Firstly a new collaborative and public approach, an example of this being increased working with colleagues across the Districts and Boroughs to share data and intelligence that informs our decision making. For example the LA providing feedback to their Local Plan documents on the impact on local schools from potential new housing developments. In some of the larger planned schemes, new schools may be required.

There will, by necessity, be a greater emphasis on the use of high quality temporary accommodation whilst schools are growing. Although these should not be viewed as a long-term option, it will reduce costs in the short to medium term to accommodate pupils as they move through the year groups until a permanent build is required.

Due to reduced capital funding there is an ever increasing importance on securing appropriate developer contributions towards the cost of school development and the new Community Infrastructure Levy. In some cases this may also require the developer to pay for additional land to allow a school to expand where new developments are agreed. These will need to be prioritised to meet the costs of school and early years provision as without this there is unlikely to be sufficient funding.

There will be a need to introduce a stricter process for prioritising school building projects so that the limited funding achieves best value and acceptance of the new 'off the peg' school designs introduced by the DfE which, although cost effective, are more basic than Suffolk is perhaps used to. Any new school building will facilitate Early Years and SEND provision as appropriate, based on demand, so that young children and pupils are able to attend their local schools. Expansions to existing schools will have to be considered on a case by case basis in liaison with colleagues from the respective teams. If there is already early Years or SEND provision at the school this could be expanded, alongside the mainstream provision, if there is the local need.

For larger scale developments there may be the need to find standalone solutions to SEND provision. Approximately 20% of young people in Suffolk access SEND provision and/ or support, with around a third of those requiring a place in a Special School setting. Therefore, for example, a 1,000 unit housing development could potentially yield 50 young people with SEND with 15 of these young people requiring provision not accessible in a mainstream school setting.

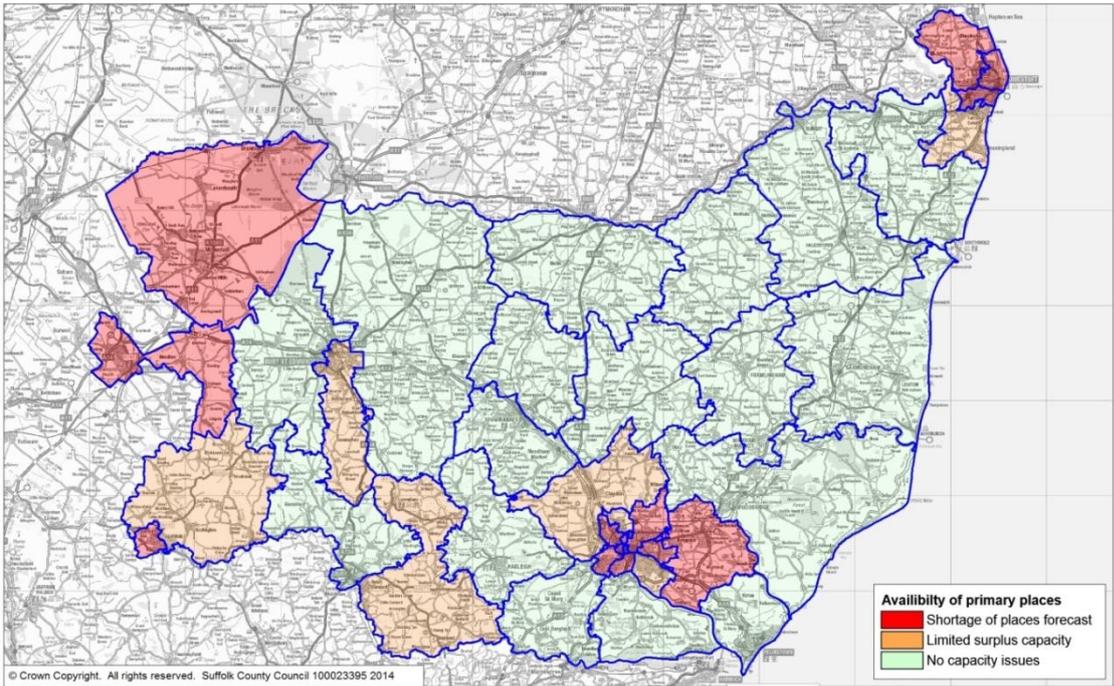
We will continue to work in partnership with neighbouring Local Authorities on the issues of standards for school designs and share good practice at a technical level. In some parts of the country, two or more LAs have introduced economies of scale by collaborating on school design and building projects that affect young people on the borders of their respective authority areas.

In appropriate circumstances, there may be the need to hand over the design and construction of a new school to the housing developers. Developers are becoming more challenging of Suffolk’s design and construction costs for schools and would like the opportunity to explore this further with us using the appropriate benchmarking data. This route of delivery would need careful consideration given the current system is offering good quality, on time delivery, and cost at or below national and regional benchmarks. Any new school would be built to the required ‘Building Bulletin’ standards, as set out in the DfE designs, and to the agreed timescales.

Section 4 – Identified Issues

4.1. County-wide place planning headlines

Below is a map of the ‘hotspot’ areas of the county. The shaded areas are identified as having the biggest need for additional places across the county based on natural population growth, these areas being North Lowestoft, Ipswich, Forest Heath and an area of Haverhill. This does not take into account future housing development needs.



Appendix 1 shows two graphs outlining predicted increases/decreases in primary and secondary pupils across the county. These figures are for illustration purposes only and are not specifically used for local planning or education planning purposes. This is trend-based data taken from the Office of National Statistics 2012- based sub-national population projections and do not include specific assumptions about growth from new housing developments. Being trend-based, these are no policy assumptions on housing growth for example. Furthermore, this data is based on patterns over the last five years which were influenced by the recession and lower levels of national migration.

According to the graphs, the demand for primary places is due to increase significantly over the next few years to 2017/18 and then level off, before a slight decline toward the middle of the next decade. Secondary places however are currently in decline until the next academic year. Following this, the increases seen in the primary sector will begin to filter through to the secondary provision and will see rolls increase for the next ten years. Once again, this is trend-based and does not specifically include population increases through new housing developments or pre-recession levels of national migration, so we expect these increases to be higher than those indicated.

In the individual issues listed in this section the 'demand increase' is the year that the first houses of the development are likely to be built and as such the first pupils from that development may need a school place. However, it must be noted that this is not likely to be the year that a solution is required and/or completed as the local schools may have the capacity to accommodate the early flows of pupils. Within the solution element of the issues listed will be the date, if available, of when the infrastructure changes are planned to take place.

4.2. Babergh

The figures below are predicted population only and do NOT include data on new housing.

	2014	2016	2018	2020	2025
Pre-School Age Children (0-3)	3,311	3,182	3,142	3,109	3,039
Primary Age Children (4-10)	7,000	6,902	6,786	6,619	6,414
Secondary Age Children (11-15)	5,168	5,194	5,398	5,489	5,394

- Taken from the Office of National Statistics 2012- based sub-national population projections

No. of Primary Schools	Primary School Capacity	No. of Secondary Schools	Secondary School Capacity
38	6,728	5	4,981

- Pupils included in the population figures may attend local schools in neighbouring authorities.

Encouragement of small scale development in towns and villages may lead to a number of developments which do not generate enough developer funding for school expansion. In some areas any additional pupils generated by these developments may be easily accommodated in existing schools, and indeed may help smaller schools remain viable. In other areas these pupils may not be able to be accommodated in these schools and may have to be transported to other schools that have capacity.

a) Wolsey Grange

Issue: Proposed 475 houses on large development site opposite Suffolk One, adjacent to London Road and Poplar Lane, Ipswich.		
Solution: Preferred option for a new 210 place primary school to open in 2018/19, with capability to expand, on the site of the development to be funded in part by developer contributions. Existing primary provision in the area is nearing capacity and is some distance away. Further growth may arise in this area.		
Demand Increase from: 2017	Funding: SCC and Developer Funding	RAG*

*RAG (Red-Amber-Green) ratings relate to the urgency of the solution being confirmed and progressed.

b) Brantham

Issue: A potential housing development scheme for approx. 320 houses.		
Solution: Funding from developer contributions required to extend Brooklands Primary School from 1 Form of Entry (FE) to 1.5 FE. This expansion could happen in situ as the school site can cope with the school doubling in size.		
Demand Increase from: 2018	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

c) Chilton Woods - Sudbury

Issue: Potential development of up to 1,250 houses on the northern side of Sudbury.		
Solution: Former site of All Saints Middle School is available for a new 315 place primary school depending on confirmation of the masterplan. Building to be paid for by developer contributions.		
Demand Increase from: 2018	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

d) Great Cornard

Issue: Potential development of 166 houses in the area.		
Solution: Need to look at expanding local primary provision by 0.5 FE, particularly Wells Hall Primary School, if additional places are required for the initial 166 dwellings.		
Demand Increase from: 2017	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

e) Holbrook Locality

Issue: New developments at Shotley and Holbrook of 260 and 78 units respectively.		
Solution: Although there is spare capacity in the locality there is a need to investigate the impact on the local primary provision, particularly Shotley Primary.		
Demand Increase from: 2016	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

f) Sproughton

Issue: Redevelopment at Elton Park (SHLAA site) for approx. 150 houses.		
Solution: Investigate impact on local primary provision.		
Demand Increase from: 2017	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

g) Hadleigh

Issue: Strategic allocation for 250 homes.		
Solution: Expand existing primary provision and ensure secondary capacity is available.		
Demand Increase from: 2018	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

h) East Bergholt Locality

Issue: Potential cross-border demand from new housing in North Essex needs to be monitored.		
Solution: There is spare capacity in the locality so no additional places needed at this stage but this needs to be monitored longer term. Also need to ensure local secondary provision is sufficient to take pupils from a number of small developments.		
Demand Increase from: 2020	Funding: None at this stage	RAG

i) East of Sudbury

Issue: Minimum of 500 new units as set out in Babergh's local plan.		
Solution: A development of this size would require a primary school site to be reserved and build costs to come from developer contributions.		
Demand Increase from: 2018	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

4.3. Forest Heath

The figures below are predicted population only and do NOT include data on new housing.

	2014	2016	2018	2020	2025
Pre-School Age Children (0-3)	3,914	3,887	3,950	3,953	3,886
Primary Age Children (4-10)	5,376	6,002	6,440	6,743	6,856
Secondary Age Children (11-15)	3,080	3,221	3,483	3,827	4,695

- Taken from the Office of National Statistics 2012- based sub-national population projections

No. of Primary Schools	Primary School Capacity	No. of Secondary Schools	Secondary School Capacity
16	4,035	3	3,172

- Pupils included in the population figures may attend local schools in neighbouring authorities.

Forest Heath remains one of the fastest growing districts in the country with a predicted increase in population of nearly 16% from 2011 to 2021, although caveated due to military personal in the area. This trend will be magnified by the number of significant, potential new housing developments under discussion with the district planners.

The District Council is currently reviewing its Local Plan housing allocations, meaning that the numbers provided below are estimates at this stage.

a) Red Lodge

Issue: Population growth and further development of an initial 400 houses with potential further expansion of upwards of 2,000 units.*		
Solution: Second primary school required to cover the initial development. SCC has identified a potential site and is seeking to partly fund this from developer contributions. In the short term there may be a need to put in temporary capacity at St Christopher's CEVC Primary School until 2017/18 but a longer term permanent expansion is not a sustainable option. If additional units are approved then further options will need to be explored.		
Demand Increase from: 2015	Funding: SCC and Developer Funding	RAG

b) Mildenhall

Issue: Population growth in the area. Longer term plans include possible expansion of Mildenhall to the west of over 1,000 new homes (high growth could be 1,700).*		
Solution: Need for additional 1.5 FE to cover population growth. Great Heath Primary School has been increased by 1 FE and Beck Row Primary School can also increase by 0.5 FE. For the longer term development there will be a requirement for a new 315 place primary school. SCC will be seeking both land and building cost from the developers. Plans are also dependent on the future of the airbase which is to be progressed in 2016.		
Demand Increase from: 2018	Funding: SCC and Developer Funding	RAG

* Final housing distribution to be determined by the ongoing Single Issue Review.

c) Lakenheath

Issue: Significant housing proposed for a maximum of 975 dwellings*		
Solution: SCC is working to identify an appropriate site for a new primary school. Options for the interim are being explored with the existing school.		
Demand Increase from: 2017	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

d) Newmarket

Issue: Population growth and housing developments that could lead to 1,600 houses being built across the town.*		
Solution: SCC is in the process of delivering an additional 1 FE required to cover population increase and initial development stages. Houldsworth Valley Primary School will expand to deal with population growth. Depending on Secretary of State decision, a site will be reserved large enough for a 315 place primary school using developer contributions to cover the cost of build.		
Demand Increase from: 2017	Funding: SCC and Developer Funding	RAG

e) Brandon

Issue: Population growth and current planning application for 1,650 houses to west of town, subject to a new relief road.*		
Solution: Currently two primaries (Forest and Glade Primary Schools), one or possibly both will need to be increased by 0.5 FE likely using temporary accommodation to meet demand for places. Their sites are almost at capacity but have scope to extend. New development will require a new 420 place primary school. Also need to investigate the capacity of local secondary provision and its ability to cope with an increasing population.		
Demand Increase from: 2020	Funding: SCC and Developer Funding	RAG

f) Exning

Issue: Potential development of up to 150 houses.*		
Solution: Could add pressure to existing primary places, need to monitor and evaluate the need to expand local school. Relocation of Early Years setting will allow permanent solution to be completed.		
Demand Increase from: 2015	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

g) Kentford

Issue: Development applications for up to 150 houses in the area.*		
Solution: Plans to develop Moulton Primary School are underway to accommodate the additional places. This requires additional land to allow this to happen. Also need to monitor developments in Cambridgeshire (Kennett) that could impact on place demand within the local primary school.		
Demand Increase from: 2016	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

* Final housing distribution to be determined by the ongoing Single Issue Review.

4.4. Ipswich

The figures below are predicted population only and do NOT include data on new housing.

	2014	2016	2018	2020	2025
Pre-School Age Children (0-3)	7,792	7,725	7,785	7,787	7,660
Primary Age Children (4-10)	12,066	12,714	12,994	13,142	13,111
Secondary Age Children (11-15)	7,220	7,329	7,927	8,507	9,212

- Taken from the Office of National Statistics 2012- based sub-national population projections

No. of Primary Schools	Primary School Capacity	No. of Secondary Schools	Secondary School Capacity
32	11,751	8	10,470

- Pupils included in the population figures may attend local schools in neighbouring authorities.

Ipswich continues to be the district in Suffolk with the largest population due to a large number of births over deaths and substantial moves from elsewhere in the country. Ipswich has the highest basic need growth in the county and a large scale development planned in the north of the town.

a) Ipswich Garden Suburb

Issue: 3,500 houses planned over the lifetime of the development.		
Solution: In the short term there are available places at Westbourne and Ormiston Endeavour Academies which could provide some secondary capacity until critical mass is reached for the new high school. However, there are few empty places in local primaries although temporary accommodation could be used at a school during the transition period. SCC will be seeking full developer contributions for a new high school (approx. £15-£20 million) and three new primaries (3 x 315 place, approx. £5-£7 million each) plus sites that are suitable for expansion for each.		
Demand Increase from: 2019	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

b) Ipswich – East/Central

Issue: Population growth and potential new developments on the Ipswich Waterfront.		
Solution: Solutions to expand schools in the town are being considered with a longer term plan for a new primary school being required in the centre of Ipswich to meet required place demand. No site has yet been secured but a number of options are being explored in partnership with IBC and other organisations.		
Demand Increase from: 2016	Funding: SCC and Developer Funding	RAG

c) Westbourne Locality

Issue: Population Growth		
Solution: Whitehouse Primary School is expected to fill due to increasing population so a project is underway to provide additional places at the school. Need to monitor other local schools to identify additional capacity.		
Demand Increase from: 2016	Funding: SCC Funding	RAG

d) Developments at former St Clements and Co-op sites – East Ipswich

Issue: New housing development of up to 230 units on the site of the former St Clements Hospital and two developments around the Co-op site in Derby Road, for approx. 150 units.		
Solution: Exploring expansion of Rose Hill Primary School to 420 on land adjacent to school.		
Demand Increase from: 2016	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

e) Chantry Academy Locality

Issue: Population Growth		
Solution: Increase capacity at Ranelagh Primary School within existing building. Also an additional 1 FE needed to meet demand for primary places and small expansion of The Oaks Primary School PAN to 60. There are plans to potentially expand The Willows Primary school to alleviate demand.		
Demand Increase from: 2016	Funding: SCC Funding	RAG

f) Ormiston Endeavour Locality

Issue: 200 units being planned for development on Old Norwich Road		
Solution: Look to expand local Primary provision (Whitton Primary School).		
Demand Increase from: 2020	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

g) Ravenswood

Issue: Potential for 250-300 units being developed in the area.		
Solution: Look to expand local Primary provision possibly expanding Ravenswood Primary School to 630 places (from the current 420).		
Demand Increase from: 2020	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

4.5. Mid Suffolk

The figures below are predicted population only and do NOT include data on new housing.

	2014	2016	2018	2020	2025
Pre-School Age Children (0-3)	3,955	3,882	3,880	3,876	3,810
Primary Age Children (4-10)	7,839	7,886	7,765	7,660	7,551
Secondary Age Children (11-15)	5,703	5,617	5,808	5,990	5,966

- Taken from the Office of National Statistics 2012- based sub-national population projections

No. of Primary Schools	Primary School Capacity	No. of Middle Schools	Middle School Capacity	No. of Secondary Schools	Secondary School Capacity
45	7,380	4	1,938	7	6,471

- Pupils included in the population figures may attend local schools in neighbouring authorities.

Having seen a large increase in population to 2011 the district still has areas of growth and a number of expanding or new developments in the Gipping Valley area that will focus need for additional places on the schools in Stowmarket and Needham Market.

a) Ashes Farm - Stowmarket

Issue: Potential development of 400 houses.		
Solution: The housing will generate approximately 100 primary pupils. Chilton Primary School would require an increase to 315 places.		
Demand Increase from: 2018	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

b) Lake Park – Needham Market

Issue: Potential development of up to 300 new houses, this could be closer to 450 across Needham Market as a whole.		
Solution: SCC believes expansion of Bosmere Primary School, including taking on middle school playing fields, is a viable long term solution for the growth in the area.		
Demand Increase from: 2016	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

c) Cedars Park - Stowmarket

Issue: Potential continued development at Cedars Park, possibly a further 100 houses. Developer aspiration for further 150 new units in the area.		
Solution: Likely need for further primary places as the Cedar Park development continues to grow. The primary school site is restricted. Some of these places will be provided at Trinity CEVA Primary School, as the school can expand by 0.5 FE if needed.		
Demand Increase from: 2017	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

d) Chilton Leys - Stowmarket

Issue: Potential developments at Chilton Leys and land south of Union Road of over 1,000 houses when sites are combined. 215 are approved with over 800 to follow from 2019.		
Solution: Need for a new 210-315 place primary school to mitigate the impact of two housing sites identified in the Stowmarket Area Action plan. Chilton Primary School could take places in the interim period. Phase 1 will see 215 units built.		
Demand Increase from: 2017	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

e) Papermill Lane, Bramford

Issue: Proposed housing development of 175 houses at Papermill Lane, Bramford		
Solution: Expansion of Bramford Primary School.		
Demand Increase from: 2018	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

f) Elmswell

Issue: Redevelopment of Former Grampian Harris for 190 dwellings.		
Solution: Investigate primary provision capacity in the area once the School Organisation Review (SOR) changes have been imbedded. Liaising with Parish Council on this as part of their Neighbourhood Plan, which might bring forward additional development to necessitate a second primary school.		
Demand Increase from: 2017	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

g) Thurston

Issue: Potential development of 200 houses.		
Solution: Investigate primary provision capacity in the area once SOR changes have been imbedded.		
Demand Increase from: 2021	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

h) Eye

Issue: Potential development of 250-290 houses.		
Solution: Expand local primary provision in the area (St Peter & St Paul) and ensure local secondary provision is also able to accommodate additional numbers.		
Demand Increase from: 2017	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

i) Great Blakenham

Issue: 500 houses currently being built in the area.		
Solution: Investment going ahead at Claydon Primary School to expand. Also need to monitor numbers at Claydon High School.		
Demand Increase from: 2014	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

j) Stowupland

Issue: Development of 175 houses refused and has gone to appeal.		
Solution: Some capacity at local Primary (Freemans) but would need to monitor.		
Demand Increase from: 2017	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

4.6. St Edmundsbury

The figures below are predicted population only and do NOT include data on new housing.

	2014	2016	2018	2020	2025
Pre-School Age Children (0-3)	5,175	5,063	5,064	5,055	4,958
Primary Age Children (4-10)	9,102	9,329	9,367	9,286	9,122
Secondary Age Children (11-15)	6,084	6,093	6,336	6,592	6,848

- Taken from the Office of National Statistics 2012- based sub-national population projections

No. of Primary Schools	Primary School Capacity	No. of Middle Schools	Middle School Capacity	No. of Secondary Schools	Secondary School Capacity
36	7,829	6	2,727	6	5,998

- Pupils included in the population figures may attend local schools in neighbouring authorities.

Bury St Edmunds is the final area of the School Organisation Review and as such any place planning needs to be considered alongside that project. There is also a significant housing development planned for the east of the town. Haverhill is also due to experience sizeable expansion.

a) Bury St Edmunds

Issue: School Organisation Review and significant planned housing development of over 5,000 units.		
Solution: New high school required in the Moreton Hall area. Phase 1 to provide 600 places, with infrastructure to support 900 pupils as agreed by Cabinet, to meet demand from School Organisation Review. Planning for the school is underway and funding is in place. Subsequent phases of the school's expansion will be in reaction to future basic need requirements and when the five strategic housing sites come forward, three of which will require new primary schools. Discussions also being held with Abbots Green Primary School as that school will be affected by initial developments and exploring options of additional primary provision in the town centre (on former St James Middle site)		
Demand Increase from: 2015	Funding: SCC and Developer Funding	RAG

b) Haverhill

Issue: Proposed long term developments to the north and west of 1,100 houses. A further 2,500 new homes to be developed to the north east of the town by 2031.		
Solution: Requirement for one new primary school for the initial development in the north west of the town and a further two new primary schools for the second development on the north east of the town, plus appropriate sites to build these upon. Also need to ensure local secondary provision is able to cope with additional population growth.		
Demand Increase from: 2020	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

c) Barrow

Issue: Approved development for 100 houses plus a further 75 allocated.		
Solution: Currently exploring solutions but expansion of Barrow Primary is possible..		
Demand Increase from: 2015	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

d) Ixworth

Issue: Potential development of 170 houses, although this number could significantly rise.		
Solution: Options are being considered for the area as certainty of the size of any potential development becomes available.		
Demand Increase from: 2021	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

e) Great Whelnetham

Issue: Potential development of 80 houses (dependent on further consideration of Development Briefs covering allocated sites).		
Solution: We are currently exploring solution to expand Gt Whelnetham Primary if required.		
Demand Increase from: 2017	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

f) Kedington

Issue: 60 houses being built with a further 40 allocated.		
Solution: We are currently exploring solutions to expand Kedington Primary if required.		
Demand Increase from: 2015	Funding: SCC Funding	RAG

g) Stanton

Issue: Potential housing developments in the area.		
Solution: The primary school is moving to the middle school site to improve facilities and to guard against anticipated future housing growth in the area which is likely but not yet agreed.		
Demand Increase from: 2015	Funding: SCC Funding	RAG

4.7. Suffolk Coastal

The figures below are predicted population only and do NOT include data on new housing.

	2014	2016	2018	2020	2025
Pre-School Age Children (0-3)	4,558	4,476	4,457	4,433	4,355
Primary Age Children (4-10)	9,502	9,518	9,387	9,229	9,026
Secondary Age Children (11-15)	7,073	6,895	7,176	7,404	7,344

- Taken from the Office of National Statistics 2012- based sub-national population projections

No. of Primary Schools	Primary School Capacity	No. of Secondary Schools	Secondary School Capacity
50	10,162	6	8,509

- Pupils included in the population figures may attend local schools in neighbouring authorities.

Suffolk Coastal is not predicted to grow through natural population at the same levels as the rest of Suffolk; however planned developments on the periphery of the large towns will create a need for additional primary places in areas where the schools are at capacity. Smaller rural developments will also require expansion of some of our rural primary schools.

Suffolk Coastal District Council will shortly be publishing a site allocations document; this infrastructure plan will then be updated to reflect this.

a) Framlingham

Issue: New housing developments proposed for the area for 600 houses or more.		
Solution: Sir Robert Hitchams CEVC Primary School to be expanded now that site solution has been found and agreed.		
Demand Increase from: 2015	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

b) Aداstral Park - Martlesham

Issue: Proposed development of approximately 2,000 new houses.		
Solution: Requirement for land and developer contributions to meet the needs of primary places (420 place primary school) arising from such a large development, and land to be reserved for secondary school which might be needed in the future depending on future development. Site identified for both in initial plans.		
Demand Increase from: 2018	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

c) Felixstowe/Trimleys

Issue: Proposed housing developments of circa. 1,800 houses across the town and outlying areas (of which a significant proportion are already permitted).		
Solution: The distribution of these houses in the Area Solutions Action Plan will be important in determining the impact on primary schools in the area and where new places and/or new schools will be required.		
Demand Increase from: 2017	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

d) Rendlesham

Issue: Proposed additional housing of up to 100 units in the area with the potential for a further 100 units at a later date.		
Solution: Require developer contributions to increase capacity of local school to 420.		
Demand Increase from: 2018	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

e) Leiston

Issue: Proposed development of up to 500 houses in the town.		
Solution: Investigate local primary provision in the area to ensure capacity is available or local schools are able to expand to accommodate growth.		
Demand Increase from: 2021	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

f) Woodbridge/Melton

Issue: Potential housing of up to 500 houses in the longer term.		
Solution: Investigate local primary provision in the area to ensure capacity is available or local schools are able to expand to accommodate growth. Also ensure that local secondary provision, already at capacity, is able to expand as appropriate.		
Demand Increase from: 2019	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

g) Saxmundham/Kelsale/Benhall

Issue: Planned additional housing in the area with consent given for a further 170 at Saxmundham.		
Solution: Increased the capacity of all three local primary schools to meet demand from new housing in Saxmundham. Any further growth would likely need to be met at Saxmundham Primary as required.		
Demand Increase from: 2015	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

4.8. Waveney

The figures below are predicted population only and do NOT include data on new housing.

	2014	2016	2018	2020	2025
Pre-School Age Children (0-3)	4,991	4,917	4,905	4,865	4,720
Primary Age Children (4-10)	8,649	8,919	9,036	8,942	8,848
Secondary Age Children (11-15)	6,003	5,867	5,985	6,258	6,480

- Taken from the Office of National Statistics 2012- based sub-national population projections

No. of Primary Schools	Primary School Capacity	No. of Secondary Schools	Secondary School Capacity
35	9,561	7	8,177

- Pupils included in the population figures may attend local schools in neighbouring authorities.

Waveney remains the area of the county where least growth is predicted although even that small growth will begin to push levels of primary places to capacity in the next few years. Added to this are one or two larger developments that will require new primary provision in Lowestoft.

a) North Lowestoft

Issue: Planned development of 800 new homes at Woods Meadow.		
Solution: Need for a new 210 place primary school funded through developer contributions (and land). There will, however, probably be a need for temporary places in the area to cater for this development in the short term until the new school is built. Oulton Broad Primary School may require expansion in the interim period until the new primary school is built.		
Demand Increase from: 2017	Funding: SCC and Developer Funding	RAG

b) Lake Lothing

Issue: A proposed large development mainly along the southern bank, of mixed commercial and residential use (up to 1,350 dwellings) up to 2025. To date 150 units have consent.		
Solution: A new primary school site has been identified in the Area Action Plan with land and build costs to be provided by developers.		
Demand Increase from: 2020	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

c) Bungay

Issue: New development of 150 houses proposed for the area.		
Solution: Investigate local primary provision in the area to ensure capacity is available or local schools are able to expand to accommodate growth.		
Demand Increase from: 2020	Funding: Developer Contributions	RAG

Section 5 – Suffolk’s Strategy for School Sustainability

5.1 Overview

Suffolk’s schools dramatically vary in size, in the primary sector Suffolk has schools ranging from below 30 pupils in rural areas, to well over 600 in urban areas; such as Ipswich. Secondary provision also varies in size from around 200 in free schools to nearing 2,000 pupils in the larger high schools.

Suffolk has 11 primary schools serving our extensive rural areas which accommodate fewer than 50 pupils and a further 57 with fewer than 100 pupils. These schools are predominantly in the rural areas that will likely not see large population growth or housing developments leaving these schools potentially at risk in the future.

A number of smaller village schools are facing financial and sustainability pressures, exacerbated by a recent programme of national changes to schools funding which has reduced the flexibility of local authorities to provide financial support to smaller schools. A number of these schools are also facing problems recruiting head teachers and other staff. Whilst federation has provided security for a number of village schools a few small schools have closed in the past few years with more potentially at risk.

5.2 Risk Assessment

In order to determine which schools are at risk of not being sustainable in the future, the County Council have assessed which schools are facing the greatest challenges and pressures. This was done using a risk assessment matrix that provides a risk level score for each school in the county based on the factors below:

- Size of school roll
- Forecast numbers (inc. upcoming developments)
- Surplus places/capacity
- Budget deficit/surplus
- Minimum Funding Guarantee
- Education and Learning Risk Rating
- Ofsted category

Each risk factor carries a score that allows us to identify those schools most at risk of not being sustainable now or in future years. Based on the score of each school the County Council can begin to assess where support and intervention is needed to secure the sustainability of individual schools across the county facing significant risk. In turn this allows the County Council to establish options to address the risk factors for such schools.

5.3 Future process

The points attributed to each school from the risk assessment provide a basis for the Council to determine which schools are at risk of not being viable now, or in the future, and so will require support and intervention. The Council is also capable of assessing the type of support or intervention necessary by analysing the factors by which the school is at risk, and further identify possible solutions to maintain high quality, sustainable education provision.

The Council has identified broadly applicable solutions, which would have to be assessed and applied on a case by case basis; however they provide a guide to supporting those schools at risk. For example, where a school is at risk from low numbers on their roll the Council may support the school in changing the admissions arrangements allowing a school to become more sustainable. This may then ensure that the school will be able to more accurately predict the number of pupils on roll allowing them to manage resources more effectively.

Furthermore it may look to encourage the collaboration of two or more schools to address common issues. This could see the schools pooling their leadership and management roles to work towards shared solutions that would lessen the risk to the sustainability of the schools in the area.

If there is no viable future for a school, for example due to falling school age population in that area, declining standards and an inability to recruit staff and if collaboration is not a viable option, we will seek to close the school in a managed and responsible way, finding alternative provision for the remaining pupils and working with the community to plan the future use of the school site.

Section 6 – Surplus Places

As Suffolk experiences levels of high growth across large parts of the county there are also areas that will experience a potential reduction in the school age population. This is not just due to an ageing population in certain parts of Suffolk, there are also the issues of successful schools expanding, or the opening of Free Schools that could also change the pupil flows in certain areas of the county as competition for places increases.

These issues could lead to a number of schools facing significantly falling rolls, the likelihood of surplus places and the financial vulnerabilities that come with that. The loss of pupil revenue would not only affect the levels of teaching staff and resources available to cover the running of the entire buildings and wider site when parts of it may not be required.

In Suffolk we have to monitor this closely and see this as an opportunity where parts of our school estate could be used to assist with other children's services that are experiencing infrastructure issues. However, we also have to be mindful that the population in those parts of the county could just as easily expand again through a significant housing development or parental preference changing. Therefore any plans for use of buildings would need to reflect this and be reviewed regularly.

Section 7 – Appendices

Appendix 1 – Projected School Rolls

