

Date of issue: Wednesday, 5 April 2023

MEETING:	CABINET	
	Councillor Swindlehurst	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Council Recovery, Forward Strategy & Economic Development
	Councillor Mann	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning
	Councillor Ajajib	Customer Services, Procurement & Performance
	Councillor Akram	Leisure, Culture & Community Empowerment
	Councillor Anderson	Financial Oversight & Council Assets
	Councillor Bains	Public Protection, Regulation & Enforcement
	Councillor Hulme	Children's Services, Lifelong Learning & Skills
	Councillor Nazir	Transport & The Local Environment
	Councillor Pantelic	Social Care & Public Health
DATE AND TIME:	MONDAY, 17TH APRIL, 2023 AT 6.30 PM	
VENUE:	COUNCIL CHAMBER - OBSERVATORY HOUSE, 25 WINDSOR ROAD, SL1 2EL	
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER: (for all enquiries)	NICHOLAS PONTONE	07749 709 868

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are requested to attend the above Meeting at the time and date indicated to deal with the business set out in the following agenda.



STEPHEN BROWN
Chief Executive

AGENDA

PART I

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>WARD</u>
	Apologies for absence.		
1.	Declarations of Interest	-	-
	<i>All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary or other Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in Section 9 and Appendix B of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed.</i>		
2.	Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th March 2023	1 - 6	-
3.	Process to Procure DSO Vehicles	7 - 12	All
4.	Garden Waste Disposal (Composting) Contract	To Follow	All
5.	Re-commissioning of Berkshire East Specialist Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health Service	13 - 40	All
6.	School Places Strategy 2023-27	41 - 82	All
7.	Procurement forward plan for services in excess of £180,000 and works in excess of £1 million in 2023/24	83 - 116	All
8.	References from Overview & Scrutiny	-	All

Press and Public

Attendance and accessibility: You are welcome to attend this meeting which is open to the press and public, as an observer. You will however be asked to leave before any items in the Part II agenda are considered. For those hard of hearing an Induction Loop System is available in the Council Chamber.

Webcasting and recording: The public part of the meeting will be filmed by the Council for live and/or subsequent broadcast on the Council's website. The footage will remain on our website for 12 months. A copy of the recording will also be retained in accordance with the Council's data retention policy. By entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings.

In addition, the law allows members of the public to take photographs, film, audio-record or tweet the proceedings at public meetings. Anyone proposing to do so is requested to advise the Democratic Services Officer before the start of the meeting. Filming or recording must be overt and persons filming should not move around the meeting room whilst filming nor should they obstruct proceedings or the public from viewing the meeting. The use of flash photography, additional lighting or any non hand held devices, including tripods, will not be allowed unless this has been discussed with the Democratic Services Officer.

Emergency procedures: The fire alarm is a continuous siren. If the alarm sounds Immediately vacate the premises by the nearest available exit at either the front or rear of the Chamber and proceed to the assembly point: The pavement of the service road outside of Westminster House, 31 Windsor Road.

Cabinet – Meeting held on Monday, 20th March, 2023.

Present:- Councillors Swindlehurst (Chair), Mann (Vice-Chair), Ajaib, Anderson, Bains, Hulme, Nazir and Pantelic

Apologies for Absence:- Councillor Akram

PART 1

146. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

147. Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th February 2023 and 7th March 2023

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 27th February and 7th March 2023 be approved as a correct record.

148. Slough Borough Council's Implementation of the Recruitment Direction

The Lead Member for Customer Services, Procurement & Performance introduced a report that updated the Cabinet on the steps taken by the Council since 1st September 2022 when Commissioners were given new reserve powers to appoint to the top three tiers of SBC management.

It was acknowledged that the Council's initial response to the direction was not sufficient in quality or pace and the steps undertaken to address this were detailed. The Chief Executive and Executive Director posts were all now fully recruited to with permanent appointments made in line with the procedure rules set out in the Constitution. Commissioners had been directly involved in the recruitment processes for these posts. Other actions taken included ensuring Commissioners were appropriately involved in future recruitments by strengthening the recruitment control process for posts covered by the direction and work to make improvements to the HR function and practice across the organisation.

The Cabinet welcomed the recent progress that had been made and confirmed its commitment to demonstrating the Council was effectively responding to the recruitment direction. The report would also be considered by the Employment & Appeals Committee to ensure wider Member oversight of process. At the conclusion of the discussion the report was noted.

Noting the fact that two of the Commissioners, Max Caller and Margaret Lee had recently left their roles with SBC, the Leader placed on record his thanks for the contribution they had made to the Council's recovery and improvement since December 2021 and stated that Members looked forward to working with any new commissioners appointed in the future.

Resolved – That the contents of the report be noted.

149. ICT & Digital Strategy 2023-2026

The Lead Member for Customers Services, Procurement & Performance introduced a report that set out the proposed new strategy for all ICT & Digital services at Slough Borough Council for the period 2023 to 2026.

An “adaptive strategy” was proposed that provided sufficient flexibility to respond to the Council’s changing needs, operations and technological advances over the coming years. The strategy had clear outcomes and would support the delivery of the corporate plan and respond to the direction relating to IT. The report set out the three core themes which were technological infrastructure and support service improvements; a refreshed approach to digital channels for residents; and a new structured approach to the platforms that would bring together data from across the authority and partners to inform decision making.

The Cabinet discussed a range of issues including the progress on resolving the connectivity issues at Observatory House, the move to a new telephony system and particularly the importance of moving from strategy to implementation to ensure the key outcomes were achieved and ICT was in a position to support the Council’s recovery. It was asked whether the leadership and resources were in place to delivery the strategy. The Lead Member highlighted a high quality leadership team was now in place on a permanent basis, notably the AD Chief Digital & Information Officer, and the team was confident the strategy could be successfully implemented. The next phase of improvements included a laptop refresh and working with each individual service to assess their specific requirements and put in place the necessary provision.

The Cabinet highlighted the importance of improving the use of data in informing decision making at all levels of the Council. The Chief Digital & Information Officer responded that a Data Strategy Group had been established and was leading this work. The progress and next steps for the housing system was cited as an example of the joint work between ICT and services.

After due consideration, the strategy was approved.

Resolved – That the refreshed strategy for ICT & Digital services as detailed in the report and the full strategy document as attached at Appendix 1 be approved.

150. Contract Award for Voluntary and Community Sector Contracts

The Lead Member for Social Care & Public Health introduced a report that sought approval to award contracts to two providers for the delivery of voluntary and community sector services and information and advice services following a procurement by open tender.

Contracts would commence in July 2023 and would be for three years plus two optional extensions of one year each, subject to satisfactory performance. The contracts would be funded through the Better Care Fund and Public Health Grant.

The Part II appendices that included details of the successful bidders and pricing schedules were noted during Part I of the meeting without disclosing any of the exempt information. The contracts for the two remodelled services would be more fully aligned to the strategic aims of the Council and its partners, significantly reduce demand for adult social care and deliver best value.

Lead Members asked how the outcomes would be monitored and to which body of the Council would receive updates. The services would be monitored through a formal contract management approach on a quarterly basis and reports would be made annually to Cabinet regarding performance. The new Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committee would be able to consider any formal scrutiny arrangements of this or any other contract when it put together its work programme for 2023/24.

The recommendations were agreed.

Resolved –

- (a) Agreed to the award of a contract to Supplier A for the delivery of Lot 1: Voluntary and Community Sector services for the period of 5 years (three- year contract plus two optional extensions of one year each subject to satisfactory performance) from 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2028. This would be at a total contract value of £2,041,255.
- (b) Agreed to the award of a contract to Supplier B for the delivery of Lot 2: Information and Advice Services for the period of 5 years (three- year contract plus two optional extensions of one year each subject to satisfactory performance) from 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2028. This would be at a total contract value of £600,000.
- (c) Delegated authority to the Executive Director for People (Adults) in consultation with the Lead Member for Public Health and Social Care to complete the final negotiations and enter into contracts with Supplier A and Supplier B.

151. Simplified Planning Zone - Slough Trading Estate

The Lead Member for Housing & Planning introduced a report on the background to the Simplified Planning Zone (SPZ) for the Slough Trading Estate and sought authorization to notify the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities that the Council intended to work with SEGRO on a new SPZ.

SPZs were defined areas that granted planning permission for a range of pre-agreed uses for a period of ten years. The Lead Member highlighted that notifying the Secretary of State did not bind the Council to enter into an SPZ and this was the start of the process. The current SPZ expired at the end of 2024 and starting the process now would provide sufficient time to engage with SEGRO on the conditions applied to the SPZ in terms of the scale and uses permitted within the SPZ and the Section 106 that would accompany it to mitigate the impacts of the developments that would take place over the decade. The SPZ area was likely to slightly increase as outlined in the maps in the appendix.

The Cabinet agreed to work with SEGRO and to notify the Secretary of State. Lead Members discussed some of the likely planning issues that would arise during the discussions including the growth sectors that would shape future uses and the contours of the trading estate particular where it met residential areas. In relation to the package of mitigations issues such as skills and sustainable transport would be areas for discussion.

Resolved – That it be agreed that the Council work with SEGRO to develop a new SPZ and to notify the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities of the Council's intention to do so.

152. Recommendations from the Cabinet Committee on Asset Disposals

The Cabinet considered the recommendations of the Cabinet Committee for Asset Disposals from its meeting on 16th March 2023 relating to Nova House/Ground Rent Estates 5 Limited (GRE5).

The report included the GRE5 business plan for the five years to March 2028 and an update on the refurbishment works at Nova House to address the fire safety defects identified. The Executive Director Property & Housing summarised the current position and stated that works had been paused until the funding issues had been resolved. The refurbishment had taken longer and cost more than the Council had originally envisaged due to the scale of defects identified. The Council was being asked to increase the loan facility by £5m to enable works to continue. The current total cost estimate for the works and all other costs was £28.4m. It was noted that Homes England had provided funding and had indicated it would put more in if the Council's contribution was agreed. The status of the insurance claim was noted and was set out fully in the exempt appendices which were considered without disclosing any of the confidential information. The loan would be required to be repaid to the Council from any settlement on the legal claim. Assurance was provided that all legal and other options to minimise the financial exposure to the Council were being pursued.

The Cabinet was given a verbal update of the detailed discussion that had taken place at the Cabinet Committee meeting. Lead Members reiterated the concerns they had previously expressed about the original acquisition and the condition of the building. However, it was recognised that in the existing circumstances it was important to finish the works and the only viable option

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to fund the remainder of the refurbishment included increasing the loan from the Council as well as pursuing the other funding options set out in the report and appendix. Lead Members asked about the engagement that was taking place with the residents to make sure they were well informed about the situation and it was noted the GRE5 directors were conducting regular liaison with them.

At the conclusion of the discussion the recommendations from the Cabinet Committee were agreed.

Resolved –

- (a) That the Business Plan for GRE5, as at Appendix 1 to the report be approved.
- (b) Approved an increase in the loan facility by £5m to allow the work programme to continue in advance of any recovery via the legal proceedings, future grant from Homes England or leaseholder recovery.
- (c) Agreed to regular, at least quarterly, reports being presented to the Cabinet Committee updating on progress and risks and for a future report recommending approval of an updated shareholder agreement.

153. References from Overview & Scrutiny

There were no references from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee or scrutiny panels.

154. Exclusion of Press and Public

All business was conducted in Part I without disclosing any of the information in the exempt appendices. It was therefore not necessary to exclude the press and public who were in attendance for the duration of the meeting.

155. Contract Award for Voluntary and Community Sector Contracts - Appendices

Resolved – That the Part II appendices be noted.

156. Recommendations from the Cabinet Committee on Asset Disposals - GRE5 (Nova House) Appendices

Resolved – That the Part II appendices be noted.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.31 pm and closed at 7.37 pm)

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Slough Borough Council

Report To:	Cabinet
Date:	17 th April 2023
Subject:	Process to Procure DSO Vehicles
Lead Member:	Cllr Nazir, Transport & Local Environment Cllr Ajaib, Customer Services, Procurement & Performance
Chief Officer:	Richard West
Contact Officer:	Nigel Jakubowski
Ward(s):	All
Key Decision:	No
Exempt:	No
Decision Subject to Call In:	Yes
Appendices:	None

1. Summary and Recommendations

- 1.1 The council's environmental services team (DSO) provide waste collection, waste disposal, grounds maintenance, street cleansing and minor highways works and services. These teams require specialist and bespoke vehicles to enable delivery of these services.
- 1.2 The council has been leasing a fleet of vehicles through a contract with Enterprise since 2017 but this contract is due to terminate at the end of November 2023 for 32 vehicles and at the end of November 2024 for 4 vehicles. A twelve-month extension has already been taken for vehicles expiring in 2023. The vehicles are end of life and procurement of replacement vehicles now needs to take place.
- 1.3 Our preferred operating model is to continue to lease these vehicles, but this may be unaffordable. The alternative to leasing is to buy and maintain vehicles. This report proposes seeking prices for each of these two options. The findings will inform a contract award report which will be submitted to July Cabinet 2023.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended to: -

- a. Approve the use of the national ESPO framework and mini competition for the procurement of leased/contract hire vehicles where this provides best value.
- b. Approve the use of the CCS framework and mini competition for the purchase of vehicles where this provides best value noting that vehicle maintenance would be provided by Dennis Eagle under our existing vehicle maintenance contract.
- c. Note that a contract award report will be submitted to July Cabinet 2023.

Reason:

The current contract with Enterprise for the leasing of 32 specialist DSO vehicles terminates on 30 November 2023 and the contract with Enterprise for the leasing of 4 specialist DSO vehicles terminates on 30 November 2024.

Commissioner Review

Commissioners support the approach set out in this report to ensure best value at the time of contract.

2. Report

Introduction

- 2.1 Slough Borough Council has a statutory duty to collect and dispose of waste, to keep a predominantly litter free environment and to ensure that our roads are maintained to a safe standard. The Council is committed to healthy lifestyles and part of this is to encourage the use of our parks and open spaces by keeping them safe and well maintained. The teams that we have in place to deliver these services rely on the provision of suitable vehicles which have come to the end of their vehicle lease period and need to be replaced. This can be done by taking out new leases for vehicles inclusive of maintenance or by buying vehicles and arranging, separately, for vehicle maintenance through our current vehicle maintenance provider, Dennis Eagle, based at our Chalvey Depot. The decision as to which approach to take needs to balance revenue, capital and operational considerations.
- 2.2 The council's Corporate Plan includes two priorities which are supported by the decisions described in this report:
 - **A council that lives within our means, balances the budget, and delivers best value for taxpayers and service users** – the proposal in this report balances the opportunity to buy and maintain vehicles verses the opportunity to lease vehicles inclusive of maintenance for a range of vehicle types and recommends which of these options to take for each vehicle type.
 - **An environment that helps residents live more independent, healthier and safer lives** – these vehicles are needed to provide essential services to collect and dispose of waste, to maintain an adequate standard of visual amenity within the public realm across the borough and to provide emergency and urgent repairs to our highways.

Options considered: -

Option	Description
A	Lease all required vehicles. This is our preferred operating model but soft market testing suggests that this may be unaffordable.
B	Purchase all required vehicles and maintain them through our existing vehicle maintenance contract with Dennis Eagle who operate from the vehicle maintenance facility at our Chalvey Depot. The purchase of vehicles is a capital cost and we have insufficient provision in our capital programme to purchase all of the 36 vehicles needed.
C	Market test both leasing vehicles and buying and maintaining vehicles (new or second hand) to enable a decision by vehicle type, balancing revenue, capital and operational considerations. Recommended.

Background

2.3 The DSO was created on 1 December 2017 following the decision to end the Amey Contract. The council procured vehicles to ensure the newly created DSO was able to perform the range of services within its remit, including refuse collection, street cleansing, ground maintenance, highways maintenance and household waste recycling.

2.4 Broadly speaking the Council can choose to buy vehicles and make separate arrangements to maintain them, or we can lease vehicles inclusive of vehicle maintenance. In 2017 the following choices were made: -

- **Buy and maintain vehicles** - Eighteen 26 tonne refuse collection vehicles and two 32 tonne hook lift vehicles were purchased and are maintained at the Chalvey depot by our vehicle maintenance contractor, Dennis Eagle, using a 1 to 2 bay workshop facility. These vehicles need to be replaced in 2027/28.
- **Lease vehicles inclusive of maintenance** - Forty-nine vehicles were leased, including 1 tonne panel vans, 3.5 tonne tippers, 7.5 tonne caged tippers, road sweepers and gulley tankers. The leased vehicle supplier was procured through a mini competition using a national framework (ESPO). The contract was awarded to SHB LTD who were acquired by Enterprise in 2021.

2.5 The vehicles which the Council leased in 2017 are now end of life and cannot be extended further. The Council needs to decide whether to enter new leases or, alternatively, whether to buy new or second hand and make separate vehicle maintenance arrangements. This decision needs to balance revenue, capital and operational factors.

2.6 The Council downsized its leased vehicle fleet in 2021/22 and in 2022/23 through implementation of service reductions / savings plans and now needs the 36 vehicles listed in the table below rather than the original 49. Of these, 32 vehicles need to be replaced in November 2023 and 4 in November 2024: -

Generic Vehicle Type	Number	Year of Replacement
Mechanical road sweeper	2	2024
LGV 18t Gully sucker	1	2024
7.5t Caged tipper/tail lift	3	2023
3.5t Caged tipper	4	2023
7.5t Arboriculture vehicle	1	2024
3.5t Highways flatbed tipper	1	2023
LWB Panel van	1	2023
3.5t Grounds double cab tipper	2	2023
3.5t Grounds single cab tipper	12	2023
Van Type 1	5	2023
Van Type 3 - Automatic	2	2023
Double cab 4x4 pick up	2	2023

- 2.7 While vehicle leasing inclusive of maintenance remains our preferred operational model for these vehicle types, soft market testing indicates a significant increase in leasing costs and long lead-in times for vehicle delivery. For this reason, it may be that we are better off buying and maintaining some of these vehicles, rather than leasing, particularly if we buy second hand. We need to test this by formally asking for prices to both lease inclusive of maintenance or alternatively to buy and make separate arrangements to maintain them using Dennis Eagle, our vehicle maintenance provider based at our Chalvey Depot.

3. Implications of the Recommendation

3.1 Financial implications

- 3.1.1 Our 2023/24 budget to lease DSO vehicles is £366k. Soft market testing suggests that if we continue to lease vehicles it may cost the Council £364k in 2023/24, giving an underspend of £2k, and that it may cost £442k in 2024/25 and if so this would bring a £76k pressure if we continue to lease all vehicles.
- 3.1.2 Competitive tendering needs to be carried out to obtain firm offers to lease vehicles inclusive of maintenance. This will determine the extent of any budget pressure, if any.
- 3.1.3 As a contingency, competitive tendering will also be carried out to establish whether it would be beneficial (compared to leasing) to buy new or second hand and to arrange for vehicle maintenance through our existing contract with Dennis Eagle.
- 3.1.4 The capital programme includes £500k for procurement of DSO vehicles and plant in 2023/24 and £500k in 2024/25 if needed.
- 3.1.5 The contract award report, to be brought to Cabinet in July 2023, will compare and contrast the price of the two approaches for each vehicle type to determine best value to the Council and identify any pressures that need to be managed to fit the affordability envelope.

3.2 Legal implications

3.2.1 The Council has statutory duties in relation to waste collection and street cleansing. Where these services are delivered in-house, it is necessary for the Council to procure vehicles to facilitate these services. The Council is required to comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and its own contract procedure rules in relation to the procurement of vehicles, whether such purchase is outright or via a leasing arrangement. Using a suitable framework is a compliant route to market.

3.3 Risk Management Implications

The following key risks have been assessed.

Risk	Assessment of risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Loss of continuity of service if vehicles cannot be replaced within given timescales	Medium Vehicles could be hired but specialist vehicles tend to be built to order and are not available to hire	Explore hiring options or extend current contract	Medium
No one bids for the contract if we go out to the market	Low Unlikely if national framework is used	Negotiate with incumbent provider for continued service	Low
Costs exceed estimated financial envelope	High Current market is volatile and demand significantly exceeds supply leading to long lead in times. Specialist vehicles are manufactured to order	Look at purchasing second hand vehicles to bring costs down and to access supply	Medium
Procurement timetable cannot be met	Medium Delays caused by preferred supplier not able to meet deadlines.	Mitigation plan to include contract extension and use of hire vehicles.	Medium

3.4 Environmental Implications

3.4.1 Newer vehicles will be better for the environment due to newer engines resulting in lower emissions and better fuel efficiency.

3.4.2 Options to lease / purchase electric vehicles will be investigated as part of this procurement with preference being to procure electric vehicles where they bring best value and are sufficiently operationally robust / reliable.

3.5 Equality implications

3.5.1 There are no direct equality impact implications arising from this report, particularly in relation to our residents.

3.6 Procurement Implications

3.6.2 Cabinet approval is required to go out to procurement and award a contract where the contract value is more than £1million for capital expenditure. The value is calculated over the term of the contract.

3.6.3 It is recommended to use a national ESPO framework and mini competition for the procurement of the leased/contract hire vehicles to achieve the best all round results, particularly regarding achieving the very best value for money. The ESPO national framework has been used previously.

3.6.4 It is recommended to use the CCS framework and mini competition for the purchase of vehicles.

3.6.5 It is recommended that the authority source and procure suitable used vehicles where it is economically suitable to do so.

3.6.6 The council's constitution and the PCR 2015, clearly define the approaches which the council can take when buying goods and services.

3.7 Workforce implications

3.7.1 There are no workforce implications because of this report.

3.8 Property implications

3.8.1 The existing vehicle maintenance facility at our Chalvey Depot is contractually committed to Dennis Eagle until 30 November 2027 so any requirement to maintain additional vehicles bought by the Council needs to take this into account. Prices to maintain vehicles cannot be guaranteed beyond 30 November 2027.

4. **Background Papers**

- None

Slough Borough Council

Report To:	Cabinet
Date:	17 th April 2023
Subject:	Re-commissioning of Berkshire East Specialist Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health Service
Lead Member:	Cllr Pantelic, Lead Member for Social Care and Public Health
Chief Officer:	Marc Gadsby, Executive Director People – Adults
Contact Officer:	Jonathan Lewney, Deputy Director of Public Health, Slough Borough Council Jonathan.lewney@slough.gov.uk (to 29 th March 2023) Rebecca Willans, Consultant in Public Health for Berkshire East and lead joint consultant for the re-commissioning process for Bracknell Forest, Windsor and Maidenhead and Slough Rebecca.willans@bracknell-forest.gov.uk (from 1 st April 2023)
Ward(s):	All
Key Decision:	YES
Exempt:	NO, except Appendix D which is exempt under paragraph 3, Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972 due to it containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of the Council.
Decision Subject To Call In:	YES
Appendices:	<u>Appendix A: HIV testing rates in South-East England</u> <u>Appendix B: Initial Equalities Screening Record Form</u> <u>Appendix C: Sexual and Reproductive Health – Options appraisals for recommissioning</u> <u>Appendix D: Maximum estimated financial value of the contract and annual breakdown</u>

1. Summary and Recommendations

- 1.1 Sexual health services (contraception and testing/treatment for sexually transmitted diseases) are one of a few prescribed functions that local authorities in England must fund through the public health grant. Sexual health accounts for the third largest area of public health grant spend in England and this is often delivered mainly through a single specialist Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Provider¹.
- 1.2 Slough Borough Council has secured this provision through a joint arrangement with other Berkshire local authorities since the transfer of public health to local government in 2013. The contract with the current specialist provider expires on the 30th June 2024.
- 1.3 This report sets out a request for approval for recommendations about how Slough Borough Council can secure provision of a new specialist SRH Service contract by 1st July 2024.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Agree to the re-procurement of the Berkshire East Integrated SRH Service led by Bracknell Forest Council on behalf of Bracknell Forest Council, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, and Slough Borough Council as a continuation of joint commissioning arrangements.
2. Approve the funding envelope for the Slough Borough Council element of the service to a maximum value of £6,256,691 over 5 years.
3. Agree that Bracknell Forest Council will lead the procurement process, with representation from Slough Borough Council Public Health Team on the assessment and evaluation panel.
4. Delegate authority to the Executive Director People - Adults in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial and Lead Member for Social Care and Public Health, to take any action necessary and to sign all related legal and contractual documentation to enter into the new specialist SRH Service contract as a member of the Berkshire East joint commissioning arrangement.

Reason:

- 1.4 The contract for the specialist SRH service for residents in the local authorities across Berkshire East² (Bracknell Forest Council; the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) and Slough Borough Council) is due to expire on the 30th June 2024.
- 1.5 The most beneficial route to secure a new contract by 1st July 2024 is by competitive tender (under the 'lite' regime); this is because the service specification requires updating to align it with current SRH needs in Slough and

¹ Specialist SRH provision refers to providers who are able to deliver SRH services for more complex issues e.g. recurrent Sexual Transmitted Infections or management of complex contraceptive problems, in addition to more routine SRH provision.

² Hereafter the term 'Berkshire East' is used to refer to the populations of these three local authorities.

the other Berkshire East local authorities. It is also attractive to secure continuation of what has been a successful model of service, that is, a single specialist SRH service rather than seeking to expand the scope of the model at this time.

- 1.6 The current service model offers benefits to Slough residents in terms of good SRH outcomes such as better under 18 conception rates and HIV testing rates compared to statistical neighbours. It offers a fully comprehensive specialist sexual and reproductive health clinic in Upton Hospital in the centre of Slough, which is unusual for a town of Slough's size.
- 1.7 The service model includes the hosting of the contract (and procurement process) by Bracknell Forest Council and a joint commissioning arrangement between Bracknell Forest Council, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Slough Borough Council with a single specialist SRH provider. This represents benefits in terms of economies of scale, a more attractive service for the market and retention and training of scarce sexual health doctors, nurses, and healthcare professionals due to the larger service.

Commissioner Review

This report has been reviewed by the Commissioner and approved for consideration.

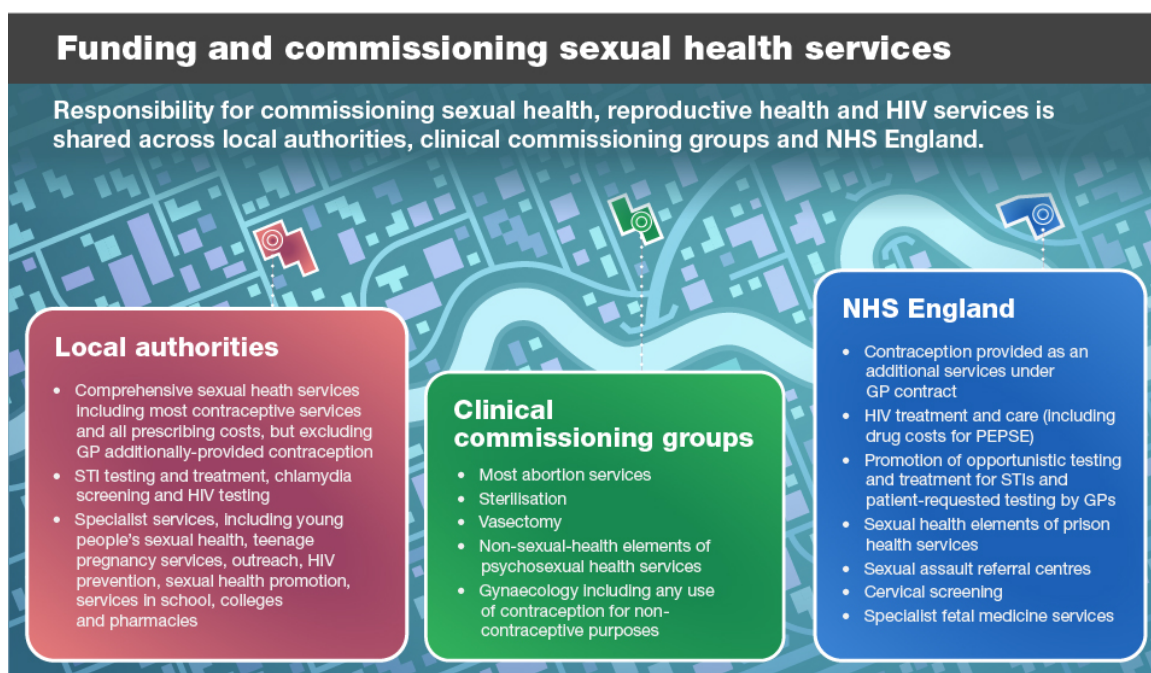
2. Report

Introductory paragraph

Background

- 2.1.1 Sexual health includes health matters impacted by sexual relationships and sexual experiences; reproductive health refers to all matters relating to the reproductive health system. This includes the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so.
- 2.1.2 In England, SRH services are commissioned to reduce harm caused by sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV and provide access to contraceptive advice and services. Such services also act as safeguarding and supportive points of contact to help protect those experiencing or at risk of abuse and help people manage their sexual and reproductive wellbeing.
- 2.1.3 Responsibility for commissioning most SRH services is mandated to local authorities, although some SRH commissioning is held by NHS commissioners (Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and NHS England). The services and commissioning responsibilities are described in figure 1. Please note that Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) have now replaced Clinical Commissioning Groups but the model remains the same.

Figure 1: funding and commissioning sexual health responsibilities in England



- 2.1.4 Nationally most SRH service models deliver the bulk of the local authority commissioned elements through specialist SRH service providers. These providers have the facilities and staff mix needed to deliver services such as Genitourinary Medicine “GUM” (including diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections) and specialist elements of reproductive health care (RHC). These are intricately linked to wider structures and services that address SRH needs such as contraceptive services in primary care.
- 2.1.5 An effective specialist SRH service will assist the Council in its strategic commitments to deliver the best value for taxpayers and service users and helping residents live more independent, healthier, and safer lives.
- 2.1.6 Slough’s Corporate Plan (<https://www.slough.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/corporate-plan>) acknowledges *the impact of poverty on disparities in health and people being able to reach their full potential*. SRH outcomes are correlated with poverty; including under 18 conceptions, rates of STIs and HIV, and rates of unplanned pregnancies. SRH can be both a contributor to and a symptom of poverty. For instance, access to contraceptive advice and contraception affects timing of first pregnancy and spaces between pregnancies, which affect opportunities to access employment and to access accommodation that is appropriate to the size of the household. This is important for Slough where 15.8% of households live in overcrowded accommodation (4.4% in England) and a third of those who are economically inactive report this is due to family / home responsibilities (22% in England).
- 2.1.7 The Corporate Plan also aspires for *Slough to be a borough for children and young people to thrive, where all children and young people should be able to access services that keep them safe and secure*. Young people are a group at higher risk of poor SRH. This is because at this life stage, common STIs such as Chlamydia are more prevalent, the impact of unplanned pregnancy is significant on future physical health, mental health and socio-economic outcomes and

children and young people are vulnerable to sexual abuse. According to Slough's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) ([Berkshire East JSNA \(berkshirepublichealth.co.uk\)](http://BerkshireEastJSNA.berkshirepublichealth.co.uk)) Slough's population is one of the youngest in England with nearly 28% of the population aged under 18. Accessible contraception and STI testing and treatment services are particularly important for young people who may be less able to travel to received advice, preventive services or treatment. Having a specialist SRH service in the centre of Slough contributes towards this.

2.1.8 Slough has commissioned its integrated³ specialist SRH services through joint arrangements in Berkshire for over ten years, meaning the local authorities in the area commissioned a single provider through a joint commissioning process. Following the split in public health governance arrangements for Berkshire in 2019, this continued but, on a Berkshire East, and Berkshire West arrangement, mirroring the Clinical Commissioning Group geographies at the time. The current commissioning geography for the service is coterminous with the Berkshire East geographies of the Frimley Integrated Care Board boundaries.

2.1.9 The contract with the current specialist SRH provider has been in place since the 1st July 2019 and the contract is managed by the Berkshire East Shared Public Health team. The contract expires on the 30th June 2024 and the contract terms do not include provision for further extensions (the current contract was commissioned as a 3 + 2 year, with review at year 3). It is necessary to re-procure the specialist SRH service.

2.1.10 To support this, a Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs Assessment (HNA) will be undertaken in two parts; the first to inform the re-procurement of the specialist SRH provision and services most aligned with that. The second part will provide insights to inform quality improvement programmes and improve care pathways associated with SRH services. The second part of the HNA also provides an opportunity to explore themes identified in part one that require additional stakeholder engagement and / or analysis.

2.2 Why a jointly commissioned service represents the best option for Slough

2.2.1 Better access to services for Slough residents

- i. The current service model includes a comprehensive specialist service based in Slough; this service includes testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and more complex options for contraception. Very few towns of Slough's size have this level of service; this is made possible because the clinic is part of a larger service, meaning Slough receives a higher proportion of specialist clinical staff within its geography than would be possible for the Slough budget alone.
- ii. There are national workforce shortages for specialist doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals working in sexual and reproductive health. These can severely impact on access to services for patients. Being the main centre of a larger service increases the stability, retention and resilience of the specialist workforce and ensures greater training opportunities and a wider range of expertise.

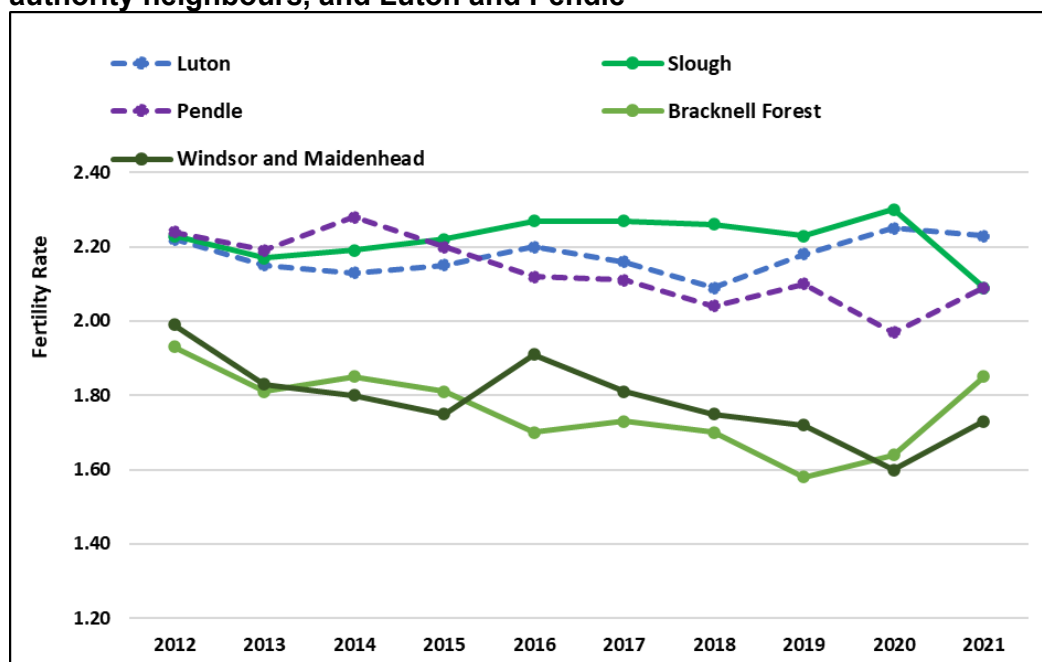
³ 'Integrated' refers to the provision of both GUM and specialist elements of Reproductive Healthcare

- iii. Engagement with GPs in the Slough area has revealed that for some, their patients are pleased to have a specialist provider offer them Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (rather than accessing through their GP).
- iv. The current service is on a block contract meaning additional activity seen in the specialist setting rather than general practice or “out of area” is cost neutral, while patient choice to access elsewhere is paid on a payment by results basis, which could represent cost increases.
- v. One of the pre-requisites of the service specification refresh therefore, that underpin decisions made as part of this proposal, are that there will be a continuation of a specialist site in Slough and that the contract shall continue primarily on a block basis.

2.2.2 Good outcomes for Slough residents

- i. A key element of sexual and reproductive health services is provision of contraception and pre-conception advice. In recent years Slough has had the highest fertility rates (the average number of children each woman will have) of any local authority in England. Luton now has the highest fertility rates in England and Slough is joint second. Higher fertility rates are generally found in areas of higher deprivation. This is largely based on various inequalities including differences in accessing services both pre- and post-conception, different educational levels and cultural differences.
- ii. Figure 2 below shows that there is a general trend for this to decrease in Slough over recent years whereas this has tended to increase in other areas with high fertility rates and in other areas in East Berkshire. Good access to contraceptive services is crucial in this trend. It also shows that Slough has far higher fertility rates than Bracknell Forest and Windsor and Maidenhead, highlighting the far higher need for contraception services in Slough.

Figure 2: Fertility Rate in Slough 2012 to 2021, compared to Berkshire East local authority neighbours, and Luton and Pendle



- iii. If the fertility rate is above 2 that means the average woman is having more than one child. This leads to much more rapid population growth. Rapid population growth requires increased resources, including financial. Good access to contraceptive services is therefore very important in the strategic goal of becoming a council which lives within its means.
- iv. The JSNA highlights that Slough is one of the most ethnically diverse local authorities in England with 64% of the population coming from ethnic minority backgrounds (excluding white minorities) in 2021. The health of Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) mothers and infants can be optimised through pre-conception advice, which includes access to advice about contraception and contraceptive services. This is a priority for Frimley Integrated Care System (ICS) since local data shows health markers or risk factors are worse for this population characteristic. This is important for Slough where 72.3% of live births are to non-UK parents. Engaging these populations early in planning for pregnancy or preventing pregnancy is important for future physical, mental and socio-economic health. For instance, across Frimley ICS, uptake of folic acid before pregnancy (important to reduce the risk of foetus development problems such as spina bifida) is lowest in Slough (17% compared to 27% National average). Trust data for 2020/21 shows high BMI rates of greater than 35, are particularly prevalent amongst Black / Black British mothers.
- v. Under 18 pregnancy rates in Slough are around the average for other LA's which are deemed similar in terms of population ('CIPFA statistical neighbours'). These neighbours include places which are much less deprived than Slough, such as Bracknell Forest. Under 18 pregnancy is much more common in more deprived areas. Under 18 pregnancy rates in Slough could therefore be expected to be higher than they are and again, good access to contraceptive services is very important, particularly for under 18s who may not be able to travel easily.
- vi. Slough also has very good HIV testing rates compared with other local authorities in the South-East. This is shown in Appendix A. This is important because Slough has the fourth highest prevalence of HIV in England; ensuring local communities at higher risk of HIV know how to access HIV testing, feel able to access timely HIV testing and prevention measures such as Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, is an important factor in reducing the risk of transmission.

2.2.3. Better value in terms of commissioning

- i. The clinical and specialist nature of sexual and reproductive health services can limit the provider market. These are NHS services commissioned by local authorities and the current model is attractive to NHS providers. The size of the current contract also enhances the attractiveness of the contract to the market, meaning a higher likelihood of receiving multiple responses to this tender process. This is important because there are some service elements that would benefit from strengthening such as health promotion and sexually transmitted infection testing triage to support demand management of the services. It also planned that the commissioning team will strengthen the requirements to monitor and respond to inequalities in access and outcomes as certain groups are less likely to attend for

preventive and screening services. This would particularly benefit Slough's population.

- ii. By having a single team (currently the Public Health Hub or 'hub' team) commissioning the service on behalf of three local authorities, there are economies of scale presented in the management of the contract and leadership for the sexual and reproductive health agenda with Frimley ICS. This is useful because there are interdependencies between some allied NHS commissioned services. For instance, the hub team also host a maternity and infant health lead post who works with Frimley ICB on the local maternity and neonatal system equity improvements. Maternal health and infant health is strongly linked to preconception care and so a strong contraceptive service offer can create system savings and support better health outcomes. This is particularly important for the Slough population, which has been highlighted as a focus area for the ICB on this agenda.
- iii. The hub team also host the Child Death Overview Panel Coordinator and have a leadership role in CDOP; this is relevant to the Slough population due to the relatively higher rates of consanguinity (children being born to parents who are related, which increases the likelihood of infant death). Having CDOP hosted alongside the leadership for sexual and reproductive health therefore also supports the innovative work taking place regarding genetic counselling and pre-conception care for populations affected.

2.3. Options considered

- 2.3.1. Appendix C offers a summary of options explored, which were taken to the Berkshire East Public Health System Management Group (SMG) for consideration.
- 2.3.2. There is no option to extend the contract so commissioning options were explored to understand how to secure a new contract by the 1st July 2024.
- 2.3.3. The most beneficial option and the one recommended to secure a new contract within the current contract length with a refreshed service specification is to re-procure the service under the lite regime and to continue to do so as a joint arrangement.

2.4. Background

- 2.4.1. While SRH outcomes in Slough (and across Berkshire East) indicate the current SRH offer is mostly working well at a population level, inequalities are not completely understood. Furthermore, in line with national trends, it is anticipated that demand for SRH services will continue to increase due to behaviour changes in the population. Innovations in approaches to SRH prevention, triage and online services are necessary to sustain an effective and equitable service.
- 2.4.2. For the reasons above, it is necessary to refresh the specialist SRH service specification, which is being informed by a Health Needs Assessment (HNA) focussing on SRH inequalities and enhancing access in response.

2.5. Engagement informing the options and preferred approach

- 2.5.1. In addition to the re-procurement process, there is already collaboration with local stakeholders to support a whole system approach to SRH; something that is advocated through national SRH commissioning guidance ([Making it work Main guide revised March 2015.pdf](#) ([publishing.service.gov.uk](#))). The current model is important because collaboration can ensure service use patterns across pathways are understood, innovation is fostered and best value obtained from limited resources and there are ways we can enhance this.
- 2.5.2. For example, the HNA is being delivered in two parts; part one to inform the specialist SRH service specification, which has included a survey of professionals (e.g. from primary care, other relevant directly commissioned services, public health, drug and alcohol services, education, children and young people services). Part two will be informed by part one and will focus more on service use patterns across pathways and will allow the time needed for effective service quality improvement collaboration.
- 2.5.3. The Berkshire East Shared Public Health team collaborate with NHS colleagues in primary care as they deliver some contraceptive services in the community and have been collaborating at practice level to enhance the quality of this offer.
- 2.5.4. The Berkshire East Shared Public Health team host a Maternity and Infant Public Health specialist, whose role is funded by the Integrated Care Board to facilitate collaboration between local maternity services and aligned services such as SRH.
- 2.5.5. The Slough public health team are working with the Berkshire East Shared Public Health team to explore opportunities in the design of the new Health Visiting and School Nursing service models to enhance SRH outcomes. For example, access to contraceptive advice post birth and access to effective sexual, reproductive health and relationships education in school settings.

3. Implications of the Recommendation

3.3. Financial implications

- 3.3.1. The specialist SRH service will be funded through use of Slough's public health grant; this is appropriate and necessary since SRH services are one of a few prescribed functions for use of the grant money.
- 3.3.2. It is proposed that the service is commissioned on a 5 year (3+2) basis, continuing as a joint arrangement between the Berkshire East local authorities. The 3+2 contract essentially offers a 'break clause' after 3 years as this allows time to review the service for at least a year before considering re-commissioning (which takes around 2 years from start to finish). Initial contracts less than this length are not attractive to bidders. A high-level forecast for the maximum contract value has been prepared (Appendix D) and is based on maintaining the current contract value with a maximum uplift of 5% per annum or the Consumer Price Index (whichever is the *lower* of the two values at the time; i.e. 5% will be the maximum annual increase if the Consumer Price Index is higher than 5%). This forecasting has been produced to ensure the tender is competitive and can secure good quality responses and also because demand

for SRH services is anticipated to increase inline with national forecasts of approximately 3% per annum.

- 3.3.3. The opportunity of continuing to jointly procure the specialist SRH service across Berkshire East with the resulting larger total contract value (as opposed to single local authority tenders) creates opportunities to procure differently and manage demand to ensure best value. This will be informed by the HNA, which will shape the service specification particularly regarding innovative models of care for communities at higher risk of poor SRH; online triage and SRH services to enhance access for those who prefer online and ensure face to face services are prioritised for those who need this offer the most. This can help balance the predicted increase in demand against service costs, resulting in a proportionally smaller uplift in the grant spend on SRH.
- 3.3.4. In ensuring best value from the overall spend on sexual health it's important to highlight that sexual health services are unusual in that if services are not available in one area, then residents are free to use services in any other area in England. The costs of this, termed 'out of area' costs, are then recharged to the local authority area of residence. This is usually at a higher cost than the block contract but with no way of ensuring quality or service continuity for residents (through links between GPs and the specialist service for example). Having an accessible, local, quality assured service therefore offers a far better value (in addition to simply lower cost) service for residents. Out of area use is also demand-driven with no option of capping so can be highly variable and difficult to budget for. Essentially, residents are able to choose the most suitable provider for their needs and any reduction in the budget for the local specialist service would likely result in both higher costs and worse value.
- 3.3.5. Patients are also able to access certain services at their local GP practice (particularly Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives' or 'LARC' services such as coils and implants). These are charged separately to local authorities. This is outside of the block contract and demand driven. As Slough has the main clinic within the town centre, far more Slough residents use the main (block contract) service than services in GPs or outside of the area. Because these are generally lower for Slough, this portion of the budget can go towards the annual uplifts.
- 3.3.6. Additional reductions in the overall SRH budget come from a Memorandum of Understanding agreed between Berkshire West and Berkshire East Hubs which ensures that there is no recharge applied for any Berkshire resident or registered user into either party's provider, which is compensated for at a flat rate per annum. This has been in effect since April 2022. It has eliminated significant cross border costs and reflects a substantial reduction in out of area activity.
- 3.3.7. In terms of funding, in a change to pre-COVID trends, the Public Health Grant has increased each year since 2021 with an average increase in the total public health grant for Slough of 3.1 %. In line with this, the grant allocation for 2023/24 has been announced and for Slough there will be an increase of 3.26%. An implication of the forecasted total SRH contract value for Slough on the proportion of the grant that would need to be allocated to SRH is an increase per annum of 2%. Not all elements of the total public health spend will have an inflationary uplift and as above there are some areas of SRH spend that are lower for Slough due to reduced 'out of area' costs and GP costs. Therefore, the assumption is that 2% per annum, which is the maximum amount forecasted,

(based on the flexibility within other elements of the spend) will be covered by increases in the public health grant.

- 3.3.8. The specialist sexual health services currently only represent 14% of the total public health grant for Slough. Nationally it is the third largest single aspect of the of public health spend and this is also the case for Slough. Several FOI requests have been received requesting the % spend on SRH services but to date none of these FOI's have resulted in anything publicly available for comparison with other local authorities
- 3.3.9. There is a risk that after 2023/24, the Public Health Grant reduces, or does not increase, over the length of the contract. If this were to happen, then this would be seen in other local authorities too. This could be mitigated by prioritisation exercises with services but this would be a national issue and would not affect Slough's ability to be competitive within the market.
- 3.3.10. The Slough proportion of the overall service cost is approximately 51% of the overall contract value. This is worked out proportionately by level of demand and size of population. This process has been in place for the duration of the current contract.
- 3.3.11. At this time there are no immediately available evidence-based options available to the Council to reduce the contract price without reducing the current level or stability of service delivery, or to retain the current cost with an expanded service.
- 3.3.12. In summary, the East Berkshire service needs to be competitive with services in other areas in terms of both contract value and annual inflationary uplifts. There are assumptions based on the public health grant increasing each year, but if this does not occur then this would be a national issue. This would then need mitigating factors such as prioritising exercises, but these would be across other local authorities and providers and would not make Slough less competitive specifically. There is an additional risk that if service provision in Slough is not optimised for Slough residents, then residents will access services elsewhere which will increase both absolute costs and variability of costs to SBC. The refresh of the service specification is being informed by a health needs assessment process, which is a robust means of ensuring the service design reflects population health needs. In particular, ensuring there is a specialist site in Slough, that monitoring of and response to inequalities in access and outcomes is regularly addressed and that the model (including block elements and triage) ensure anticipated increases in demand for sexual and reproductive health services are affordable and prioritise those communities with the greatest capacity to benefit.

3.4. Legal implications

- 3.4.1. Section 2B of the National Health Service Act 2006 (the "2006 Act") requires each local authority to take such steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of the people in its area.
- 3.4.2. The procurement of Sexual and Reproductive Health Services enables SBC to meet the following Public Health statutory duties under the Health and Social Care Act 2013 : The mandatory provision of Open Access Sexual and

Reproductive Health services by all Local Authorities – HSC 2013.

- 3.4.3. All procurement must comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and Bracknell Forest Councils' contract procedure rules as the host commissioning organisation.
- 3.4.4. Currently the commissioning arrangement forms part of a wider Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SBC and the Berkshire East Public Health Hub linked to the joint Director of Public Health who is an officer of both SBC and Bracknell Forest Council. The wider MOU for the Berkshire East Public Health Hub expires before the end of the new specialist integrated SRH contract. Bracknell Forest Council's legal team have therefore advised that a separate MOU will be needed for the SRH service. This is being developed at present and will set out how outcomes will be monitored, accountability by Bracknell Forest as the host versus that held by the local authority public health teams (including Slough's) and governance arrangements to ensure arrangements are genuinely working for residents.
- 3.4.5. The provisions of the Transfer of Undertakings for Protection of Employment Regulations (TUPE) may apply on expiry of the current contractual arrangements if the contract is awarded to a new service provider.

3.5. *Risk management implications [Mandatory]*

- 3.5.1. There are a range of risks associated with the procurement itself. Risks identified are listed in table 1, with the mitigations to manage these.

Table 1: risk associated with the SRH re-procurement and mitigating actions

Description of Risk	Risk/mitigation owner	Current review of risk	Mitigation	Risk after mitigation
Insufficient funding available from the Public Health budget for proposed costs (including risk of no increase in the Public Health grant).	SBC Public Health/ Bracknell Forest Council (as hosts)	Medium	There are a number of other public health contracts (commissioned directly by SBC) due for renewal or reprocurement in 24/25. SBC Public Health colleagues work closely with finance partners to ensure the overall cost of public health services remains within budget.	Low
Suppliers bid at rates which are higher than those anticipated, placing a pressure on the Public Health Grant. The market is facing significant economic pressures. This includes increases in national insurance contributions, inflationary pressures and wage competition from other providers.	Bracknell Forest Council (as hosts)	Medium	Approaches to inflationary uplifts will be included within tender documents.	Medium/low
Suppliers do not bid	Bracknell Forest Council (as hosts)	Medium	Market engagement will take place prior to release of the ITT, but at this time the expectation is that the current provider would be bidding.	Low
Providers offering a lower price will result in a lower quality	Bracknell Forest Council	Medium	Tenders will be required to meet a minimum quality threshold. Failure to meet the threshold will result in a failed bid and exclude them from evaluation on pricing.	Low

3.5.2. Timescale: The procurement project plan allows for a six-month mobilisation period which should ensure that the incoming provider is fully ready and prepared for going live on the contract's start date.

3.5.3. The risk of poor performance by the specialist SRH provider and / or failure of the new service to respond adequately to Slough's unique population needs will be mitigated by comprehensive contract management. Also, the new service specification is being developed based on a health needs assessment that has prioritised exploring inequalities in access and outcomes, with the intention to have a more robust service specification to hold the SRH provider to account.

3.5.4. Comprehensive contract management is undertaken by the Berkshire East Public Health Hub. It is proposed that regular update meetings between the lead

commissioner in the hub, the Deputy Director of Public Health for Slough Borough Council, and the lead member are established to review performance and to hear any feedback from residents via members.

- 3.5.5. The 3+2 contract length allows a year to review performance plus the required time to recommission a service if necessary.
- 3.5.6. With respect to the comments from the Best Value Commissioner about Public Health capacity for oversight of the procurement:
- i) This is a helpful comment and it is acknowledged that the Slough Public Health Team is one of the smallest in terms of its statistical and geographical neighbours.
 - ii) The Public Health Team is an integral part of the Berkshire East Public Health Hub and the structure is set up such that regular meetings are in place to ensure all areas of joint work have the required input and oversight from the Public Health team. This structure is regularly reviewed to ensure a balance between opportunities for close working and the demands of the Public Health teams within individual local authorities.

3.6. Environmental implications

- 3.6.1. During the procurement process, potential suppliers will be requested to provide a copy of their environmental impact assessment and impact management measures.
- 3.6.2. Environmental Impact Management Measures
- i. Carbon emissions from staff travelling will be minimised due to work being delivered on site, and with staff in a fixed base.
 - ii. Recruitment is centred on specialist provision, but where possible will be locally resident.
 - iii. Hazardous Waste management, including i.e. sharps and clinical waste will be the responsibility of the provider and the process for undertaking this will be a part of the model along with requested information on process during the tender. (we will also be considering i.e. pathology etc, so this would fit with this).
 - iv. Infection control policies and procedures. Staff will be required to be trained in infection control not least to manage local outbreaks of STIs and infectious disease and its management.
 - v. Office and equipment waste management – this will be considered as part of the management process and requests will be made to ascertain the corporate policy on waste, disposal, management and carbon footprint both of the service and the organisation as a whole.

3.7. Equality implications

- 3.7.1. The Council has a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between protected groups and other groups.
- 3.7.2. An Equalities Impact Assessment is being conducted as part of the Health Needs Assessment which will inform the commissioning of the service. The Initial Equalities Screening is included as Appendix B. This service is critically important and impacts on particular protected groups to a greater extent than others. In particular the commissioning approach is intended to have a positive impact on people with learning disabilities, who have particular risk factors, particular racial groups who have a higher prevalence of HIV and where there may be issues of stigmatisation, women from certain Black and Ethnic Minority groups who are more at risk of poorer maternal and infant health outcomes and for females who will particularly benefit from access to good quality and safe information, advice and treatment. There is no data in relation to sexual orientation and it is recommended that the new contractual arrangement ensures that good quality equality data is collected and regularly monitored.

3.8. Procurement implications

- 3.8.1. This procurement falls within Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR). The procurement will be via an initial Prior Information Notice, which will be followed by an open, single stage tender. A single provider will be selected which will provide SRH services across the tri-boroughs. Figures are based on the total costs per annum, but these are shared proportionately by size of population and need across the 3 boroughs, with SBC as the single largest allocation, and BFC the single smallest allocation.
- 3.8.2. Advertising: the opportunity will be advertised on the following websites: Find A Tender Service (FTS); Contracts Finder (CF); Southeast Business Portal (SEBP)
- 3.8.3. A HNA is being completed with part one due for completion in May 2023, which will inform the service specification and part two due for completion in October 2023, which will inform wider system collaboration and pathway design.
- 3.8.4. Tender Evaluation: This procurement falls within Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR). The procurement will be via a PIN followed by an open, single stage tender.
- 3.8.5. The tenders will be evaluated based on 80% Quality, and 20% Cost. The quality to cost weighting is usually 40% Quality and 60% Cost. The rationale for this weighting is based on the importance of identifying the right partner to work with the councils to adapt the service over time. The increased weighting for quality assurance aims to support us in identifying a high-quality partner that will be able to work with us strategically in a flexible and proactive way.
- 3.8.6. Individual quality thresholds will be included and some quality questions to ensure that the high levels of quality the Council expects will be maintained. Detailed evaluation criteria will be finalised by the project team and issued with the ITT (Invitation to Tender). Due Diligence will also be conducted with regards

to financial and core policies e.g., Safeguarding, Health & Safety, finances, business continuity and so forth.

- 3.8.7. The ITT will include a Selection Questionnaire (SQ) to establish and assess the capability of bidders to provide the service, with a pass/fail score and minimum economic standing threshold.
- 3.8.8. Tenderers will be invited to provide Method Statements focusing on quality and safety, service user outcomes, workforce, mobilisation, partnership working and service development.
- 3.8.9. The Pricing Schedule will ask bidders to set out their total pricing and financial breakdown, for the whole contract.
- 3.8.10. The evaluation panel will include key stakeholders from the Berkshire East local authorities, including Slough Borough Council, and commissioners along with specialist external clinical support. Evaluation panellists will sign declarations of interest and confidentiality agreements. The pricing schedules will be reviewed by the Council's Finance and Procurement officers separately until the quality scoring has been completed.

3.9. *Workforce implications*

3.9.1. Staffing– including TUPE

The mobilisation phase will give an incoming provider time to complete TUPE for any employees of an outgoing provider wishing to transfer to a new provider. Where TUPE does not apply, the mobilisation phase allows sufficient time for recruiting and training new (or and existing) staff. There is no anticipated impact for staff employed by BFC. Employee liability information about the employees will be sought from the current employer for inclusion in the tender pack, in line with legal advice provided.

3.10. *Property implications*

3.10.1. Not applicable.

4. Background Papers

4.1. None

Appendix A: HIV testing rates in South East England

HIV testing coverage, total 2021

Proportion - %

Area	Recent Trend	Count	Value	95% Lower CI	95% Upper CI
England	↓	478,203	45.8	45.7	45.8
South East region	↓	60,257	44.0	43.8	44.3
Milton Keynes	↓	1,900	69.6	67.8	71.3
Buckinghamshire UA	↗	6,086	68.9	67.9	69.8
Crawley	↓	1,247	63.7	61.5	65.9
Isle of Wight	↗	679	62.4	59.4	65.2
Spelthorne	↓	523	59.6	56.3	62.9
Worthing	↓	988	58.4	56.0	60.8
Horsham	↓	762	57.6	54.8	60.2
Slough	↓	1,745	56.5	54.7	58.2
Mid Sussex	↓	759	56.2	53.5	58.9
Windsor and Maidenhead	↓	1,041	56.1	53.8	58.4
West Berkshire	↓	1,421	55.9	54.0	57.9
Reading	↓	3,595	54.6	53.4	55.8
Adur	↓	422	54.2	50.6	57.7
Wokingham	↓	1,732	53.8	52.0	55.5
Arun	↓	821	53.1	50.6	55.7
Southampton	↓	2,185	52.0	50.5	53.5
Surrey Heath	↓	377	51.9	48.2	55.6
Bracknell Forest	↓	842	49.6	47.2	52.0
Chichester	↓	615	49.6	46.7	52.4
Oxford	↓	3,234	49.2	48.0	50.4
Mole Valley	↓	278	49.1	44.9	53.3
Portsmouth	↓	1,931	48.8	47.2	50.4
Tandridge	↓	348	48.1	44.4	51.8
Guildford	↓	685	47.6	45.0	50.3
Waverley	↓	401	47.6	44.2	51.0
South Oxfordshire	↓	1,095	47.4	45.4	49.5
Hart	↓	382	47.3	43.8	50.8
Rushmoor	↓	672	47.1	44.4	49.7
Test Valley	↓	622	46.7	44.0	49.4
Eastleigh	↓	502	46.3	43.3	49.3
Havant	↓	549	45.4	42.5	48.2
Basingstoke and Deane	↓	990	45.2	43.1	47.3
Fareham	↓	487	45.1	42.1	48.1
Runnymede	↓	377	44.9	41.5	48.3
Brighton and Hove	↓	4,734	44.4	43.5	45.4
West Oxfordshire	↓	775	44.2	41.9	46.6
Woking	↓	402	44.1	40.9	47.4
East Hampshire	↓	375	42.9	39.5	46.2
New Forest	↓	491	42.8	40.0	45.8
Winchester	↓	416	42.8	39.6	45.9
Vale of White Horse	↓	927	42.4	40.4	44.5
Reigate and Banstead	↓	660	40.1	37.7	42.5
Epsom and Ewell	↓	311	38.0	34.6	41.4
Cherwell	↓	1,487	36.6	35.1	38.1
Gosport	↓	419	36.5	33.7	39.3
Elmbridge	↓	479	30.5	28.2	32.8
Dartford	↓	523	30.0	27.9	32.3
Gravesham	↓	489	30.0	27.8	32.3
Lewes	↓	398	29.3	26.9	31.8
Canterbury	↓	781	29.1	27.4	30.9
Ashford	↓	415	27.5	25.2	29.8
Sevenoaks	↓	264	26.5	23.8	29.4
Medway	↓	1,217	25.7	24.4	26.9
Maidstone	↓	528	25.1	23.3	27.0
Folkestone & Hythe	↓	412	24.4	22.4	26.5
Dover	↓	324	24.1	21.8	26.4
Thanet	↓	410	24.0	22.0	26.1
Tunbridge Wells	↓	239	23.9	21.3	26.7
Swale	↓	473	23.5	21.7	25.5
Tonbridge and Malling	↓	299	23.4	21.1	25.8
Rother	↓	279	20.6	18.5	22.9
Wealden	↓	409	19.2	17.5	20.9
Hastings	↓	516	17.4	16.0	18.8
Eastbourne	↓	512	16.4	15.1	17.7

Appendix B: Initial Equalities Screening Record Form

Date of Screening: 10/02/2023	Directorate: Place Planning and Regeneration		Section: Shared Public Health Team
1. Activity to be assessed	Retendering process for the Specialist Integrated Sexual & Reproductive Health (SRH) service across Berkshire East (Bracknell Forest, Windsor and Maidenhead and Slough)		
2. What is the activity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy/strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function/procedure <input type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Review <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Organisational change		
3. Is it a new or existing activity?	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing		
4. Officer responsible for the screening	Rebecca Willans		
5. Who are the members of the screening team?	Consultant in Public Health and Public Health Strategic Commissioning Manager		
6. What is the purpose of the activity?	<p>Please describe briefly its aims, objectives and main activities as relevant.</p> <p>The activity aims to ensure a specialist SRH contract is in place with a suitable provider by 1st July 2024 so there is no gap in service provision following the end of the current service on 30th June 2024. The main objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - undertake a SRH needs assessment to inform the refreshed SRH service specification - develop a service specification for the SRH service - go out to tender, including undertaking a market engagement event - develop assessment criteria to allow marking of bids submitted - contract award to the highest scoring service provider - oversee transition from the old service model and potentially, provider, to the new service model (outlined in the service specification) 		
7. Who is the activity designed to benefit/target?	The activity is designed to benefit the populations of Bracknell Forest, Windsor and Maidenhead and Slough aged 18 and over; also, those aged under 18 only eligible if they are determined as 'Gillick / Fraser' competent. This applies to the population resident and / or registered within Berkshire East.		
Protected Characteristics	Please tick yes or no	Is there an impact? What kind of equality impact may there be? Is the impact positive or adverse or is there a potential for both? If the impact is neutral, please give a reason.	What evidence do you have to support this? E.g., equality monitoring data, consultation results, customer satisfaction information etc Please add a narrative to justify your claims around impacts and describe the analysis and interpretation of evidence to support your conclusion as this will inform members decision making, include consultation results/satisfaction information/equality monitoring data

<p>8. Disability Equality – this can include physical, mental health, learning or sensory disabilities and includes conditions such as dementia as well as hearing or sight impairment.</p>	Y	<p>A positive impact.</p> <p>The current service specification recognises people with a learning disability as a priority group and requests equalities monitoring annually, however the HNA process is being used to identify the SRH needs of population groups living with a disability and will build objectives into the service specification to ensure good access such as ensuring physical sites are accessible, written information is available in alternative formats and closer working between the VCSE sector and the specialist provider to strengthen referral pathways into and from the service regarding the sexual and reproductive health needs of people living with a disability in the area.</p>	<p>The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Summaries (JSNA) for Berkshire East identify that the proportion of people reporting they have a long term health problem or disability is 14.5% (Bracknell); 12.4% (RBWM) and 15.1% (Slough). National evidence indicates that stigma and misinformation about sexual relationships among people living with different disabilities can limit the ability of caregivers and family to have conversations with them about safe, healthy behaviours in this respect. It also impacts service access either indirectly (e.g. lack of accessible information) or inadequate staff training.</p> <p>For people living with a learning disability, there is another consideration regarding consent both for engaging in a sexual relationship and in consent for services such as Termination of Pregnancy or choice regarding contraception. Under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, somebody with a learning disability may not have the capacity to refuse involvement in a sexual activity and therefore the person they are intimate with is breaking the law; which will also raise safeguarding issues around exploitation.</p> <p>The SRH needs assessment has included local disability charities as stakeholders to complete the SRH professionals survey and will draw on national evidence regarding what service provisions in specialist provider settings for SRH enhance the quality of the offer for each disability type.</p> <p>Feedback from stakeholder engagement undertaken so far (via various GP and Place Committee meetings) has indicated there may be poor provision for people living with a disability including one of the specialist sites not being wheelchair accessible and that information available online isn't accessible to people living with a learning disability. These insights will be explored in the needs assessment and used to inform the service specification.</p>
<p>9. Racial equality</p>	Y	<p>A positive impact.</p> <p>First, in reaching communities currently not accessing HIV testing and Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). This especially important for Black African communities where rates of HIV prevalence among the heterosexual population are relatively higher compared to all other</p>	<p>The ethnic diversity of the populations in Berkshire East varies, with the following proportion of black and minority backgrounds (excluding white non British populations in the statistics shown): 14% (2% Black African) (Bracknell); 20% (1% Black African) (RBWM); and 64% (5% Black African) (Slough).</p>

		<p>ethnic groups. The new service specification will be seeking to develop a stronger health promotion offer to reduce stigma and raise awareness of HIV testing and PrEP.</p> <p>Second, Frimley's perinatal equity strategy highlights that women of Black and Minority Ethnic Groups (BAME) have poorer maternal and infant health outcomes when compared to White British populations locally. A risk factor for this is poor pre-conception care, including advice about and access to contraception. The new service specification will ensure the settings in which the specialist SRH service is available, information about contraceptive services and referral pathways proactively engages BAME populations locally.</p>	<p>The health needs assessment includes analysis of service uptake by ethnicity where this is available. This includes PrEP and contraceptive uptake. The data will be used to explore low uptake by BAME groups and aligned with evidence regarding what can improve the service offer for BAME populations.</p> <p>In addition, regarding contraception, a survey is being undertaken among community members contributing to Frimley's engagement tool regarding contraceptive access locally.</p> <p>The professionals survey mentioned earlier in this EIA screening tool, also explores access to PrEP and contraception.</p> <p>With regard to contraception, Frimley's Perinatal Equity Strategy has highlighted there are ethnic inequalities concerning risk factors for good maternal and infant health that could be addressed with improve pre-conception care. Almost one third (31.1%) of all pregnancies in Frimley ICS were in Slough, which is a borough that has high ethnic diversity. The ethnic group with the highest proportion of births across Frimley were to mothers of Black / African / Caribbean ethnicity (18.5% of borths at Wexham Park Hospital and 22.4% at Frimley Park Hospital). Health needs are higher among the BAME population accessing maternity care in Frimley; for instance, use of folic acid before pregnancy (important to reduce the risk of foetus development problems such as spina bifida) is lowest in Slough (17% compared to 27.3% National average). Trust data for 2020/21 shows high BMI rates of greater than 35, are particularly prevalent amongst Black / Black British mothers.</p> <p>The health needs assessment that is informing the new service specification is exploring contraceptive uptake to understand how service design could improve timely access for BAME women.</p>
10. Gender equality	Y	Yes – positive.	Different groups of women have different reproductive health needs; the National Women's Heath Strategy identifies that in later adulthood, women find their reproductive and


		<p>The service is especially important for women to ensure good quality, safe and equitable access to preconception advice, contraception and advice about their reproductive health. Having this in place helps reduce the risk of unplanned pregnancies, which are associated with higher risk of Termination of Pregnancy, Miscarriage, low birth weight, late engagement with maternity services, poor preconception health; all of these impact the health of mothers and infants. The reproductive health offer also acts as an important safeguarding opportunity, to identify women who are experiencing abuse, including those who do not have control over their reproductive health, such as if to choose contraception, what type of contraception, when to seek support.</p> <p>The new service specification will enhance the monitoring of different groups of women and where necessary, provide outreach to communities where there is lower than anticipated engagement.</p> <p>Furthermore, the service specification will set specific objectives relevant to the health needs of HIV positive women and at different stages of the lifecourse, acknowledging the reproductive health needs vary.</p>	<p>contraceptive health needs are not met. This is reflected for instance in higher and increasing Termination of Pregnancy rates seen in women aged 35 and over.</p> <p>Meanwhile under 18 conceptions are more common among young women who have low educational attainment, are eligible for free school meals and who engage in other risk taking behaviours; much of this is associated with higher levels of socio-economic deprivation.</p> <p>Ethnicity and religion can play a role too but these are covered later in this EIA.</p>
<p>11. Sexual orientation equality</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Positive.</p> <p>The recent Monkeypox epidemic highlighted the nationally there was a lack of outreach into groups of Gay, Bisexual and Men who have sex with men (GBMSM) who engage in higher risk taking behaviours such as chem sex and have multiple sexual partners.</p> <p>The new specification for Berkshire East will include learning from the Monkeypox response to ensure the service is well set up to identify higher risk groups and respond to outbreaks quickly.</p> <p>The HNA will also explore whether the contraception and reproductive health offer for lesbian and no-</p>	<p>No data currently</p>

			Binary females meets the needs of this population group locally.	
12. Gender re-assignment	Y		Neutral - no changes anticipated; the current service specification includes gender re-assignment as a priority group that will be continued in the new specification. The health needs assessment will seek to ensure this is refreshed and aligned with current evidence on a quality offer for this group.	
13. Age equality	Y		Please see section on gender equality	Please see section on gender equality
14. Religion and belief equality	Y		<p>Neutral</p> <p>Religion can impact choices people make and in some instances their rights over their sexual relationships and reproductive health. This is a challenging subject to explore for SRH services since religion and beliefs are not well monitored and stigma can impact whether certain populations seek advice in specialist SRH settings, or are open about their SRH, impacted by their religious beliefs or those in their community.</p> <p>The specification will need to be informed by the HNA as to whether additional provisions are needed in place to enhance joint working between certain communities/faith groups and the specialist SRH offer.</p>	None
15. Pregnancy and maternity equality	Y		<p>Positive.</p> <p>A priority of the service specification refresh is to ensure the place, setting and design of specialist pre-conception advice and access to contraception is suitable for the local population to improve pregnancy and maternal health outcomes.</p>	<p>National data indicates that timely access to pre-conception advice and to contraception can reduce the risk of unplanned pregnancy, terminations of pregnancy and under 18 conceptions.</p> <p>The numbers of under 18 conceptions and ToPs are low and locally across all three LAs, rates are similar to or better than the national average. However, with regard to maternal health outcomes, as referenced in the section on ethnicity, inequalities exist for mothers locally from BAME populations</p>

			and there is an opportunity in the redesign of the service specification to address this.
16. Marriage and civil partnership equality		N	No changes anticipated
17. Please give details of any other potential impacts on any other group (e.g. those on lower incomes/carers/ex-offenders, armed forces communities) and on promoting good community relations.	The health needs assessment is also exploring data where available for populations living in relatively more socio-economically deprived areas and for inclusion health groups as these factors are risk factors for poorer sexual and reproductive health outcomes. It will be important to ensure the new service specification reflects learning from the HNA regarding the needs of these populations, especially regarding improving service access.		
18. If an adverse/negative impact has been identified can it be justified on grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group or for any other reason?	Please explain – No negative impacts are identified at this time.		
19. If there is any difference in the impact of the activity when considered for each of the equality groups listed in 8 – 14 above; how significant is the difference in terms of its nature and the number of people likely to be affected?	We are identifying improvements in access and as such outcomes for key cohorts, including (but not limited to) women, older adults, and people of black and minority ethnicity – this is in line with the national findings of UKHSA in respect of (i) access and take up of PrEP; increasing access to contraception care and better screening supports and care and better provision across the life course. All of the changes are part of the health Needs Assessment being undertaken across Berkshire east and the Frimley ICS geography.		
20. Could the impact constitute unlawful discrimination in relation to any of the Equality Duties?		N	Please explain for each equality group
21. What further information or data is required to better understand the impact? Where and how can that information be obtained?	<p>The SRH HNA is not yet complete; it is being undertaken in two parts, the first of which will be complete in May and is designed to answer key questions relevant to the design of the service specification and the care pathways attached to it. The service specification will be developed concurrently, being shaped as conclusions emerge from the epidemiological data, evidence and insights gathered. The current main source of population level data is 'fingertips', an OHID tool, which can be accessed here for the Sexual and Reproductive Health profiles. Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles - OHID (phe.org.uk)</p> <p>Please note the HNA will explore the inequalities sitting underneath these whole population metrics.</p>		
22. On the basis of sections 7 – 17 above is a full impact assessment required?		N	<p>Please explain your decision. If you are not proceeding to a full equality impact assessment make sure you have the evidence to justify this decision should you be challenged.</p> <p>We recommend a full EIA is not undertaken since the scope of the SRH HNA already includes assessment of the needs for all protected characteristics groups, inclusion health groups and populations living in socio-</p>

economically deprived areas. As such, an EIA would not add value beyond the themes offered above and the HNA process itself.

23. If a full impact assessment is not required; what actions will you take to reduce or remove any potential differential/adverse impact, to further promote equality of opportunity through this activity or to obtain further information or data? Please complete the action plan in full, adding more rows as needed.

Action	Timescale	Person Responsible	Milestone/Success Criteria
Ensure the HNA findings are reflected in the service specification for the specialist integrated SRH service.	May 2023	Rebecca Willans	The recommendations from the HNA include specific objectives for the refreshed SRH service specification and these are reflected in the specification before it goes out to the market.
Enhance the contractual requirements in the service specification to ensure equalities monitoring is undertaken and that the model allows for inequities in access and or outcomes to be responded to in the lifetime of the contract.	May 2023	Elaine Russell	The new service specification outlines how equalities impacts will be
Part two of the SRH HNA will be used to explore wider system working needed to enhance SRH outcomes for groups where inequalities are identified in part one of the HNA.	October 2023	Rebecca Willans	Stakeholders in the Frimley Integrated Care System are clear on the priority groups regarding SRH need and actions to improve outcomes locally are agreed by the relevant partners in a local SRH strategy that responds to the HNA.
24. Which service, business or work plan will these actions be included in?	The shared public health team workplan and may be reflected in the work plans of other partners (tbc during the recommendations phase of the HNA process).		
25. Please list the current actions undertaken to advance equality or examples of good practice identified as part of the screening?	Full health needs assessment being undertaken to explore the data and evidence available regarding the needs of the groups listed in this screening; this has been timed to ensure the findings inform the specialist integrated SRH service specification and quality criteria used to score tender submissions.		
26. Assistant director's signature.	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Signature: _____ Date: 06.03.23</p>		

Appendix C: Appendix C: Sexual and Reproductive Health – Options appraisals for recommissioning

Table 1 - Options to consider for retendering process

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages	Recommended
<p>Option 1:</p> <p>Separate processes for each LA and retender under the lite regime (x 3)</p>	<p>None in view of current arrangements.</p>	<p>This would be a retrograde step in view of the current joint contracting arrangement, which has worked effectively to date. This is evidenced by the overall positive SRH outcomes across Berkshire East and good working relationship between provider, commissioner and the local authority teams.</p> <p>Opportunity cost to local authority resources, in part due to duplication of process, which results in maximum costs to each local authority.</p> <p>A smaller contract value and scope would attract fewer providers; there is already a limited market place due to the complexities of clinical service delivery and going out to tender for three separate services concurrently would create competition for this market and for clinical workforce (of which there is a shortage in SRH services nationally).</p> <p>This approach would dismantle the shared systems and processes, and centralised management already in place. It also presents a loss of opportunity to share core elements and management costs for providers under shared contracting arrangements, plus loss of further collaboration with wider systems, & losing efficiency gains made previously.</p> <p>Destabilising the SRH Out of Area funding arrangement with Berkshire West public health, which currently offers cost savings to all three local authorities in Berkshire East.</p> <p>Costs involved and capacity to undertake a tender process under the lite regime, as opposed to direct NHS Award. However, the direct award option risks not having opportunity</p>	<p>NOT recommended</p>

		to test the market and achieve value for money (see option 4).	
Option 2: Continue Berkshire East joint arrangement and retender under 'lite' regime	<p>Consistent process with joint retendering and lead commissioner.</p> <p>Allows opportunity to implement new ways of working and update service specification and guidance, and improve contracting terms and conditions, with updated contract.</p> <p>Larger contract value is likely to attract a larger provider response in terms of the number of bids submitted and the innovation options made possible. This could include 'umbrella approaches' (single provider sub-contracting elements), which have worked well elsewhere in England.</p> <p>Meets procurement requirements.</p>	Costs involved and capacity to undertake a tender process under the lite regime, as opposed to direct NHS Award. However, the direct award option risks not having opportunity to test the market and achieve value for money (see option 4).	Recommended
Option 3: Direct Award	<p>Local Authorities must operate according to the Procurement Regulations 2015^[1] which allow for, and generally mandate, a competitive tendering process (as is recommended).</p> <p>There are certain circumstances in which a local authority contract can be supported onto an NHS standard contract if the provider is a local NHS Trust.</p> <p>This avoids the competitive tendering process, assuming no alternative marketplace exists, which reduces the costs of undertaking a re-tender process.</p>	The main reason this is not recommended is if a market exists, this approach would be open to challenge. It doesn't recognise the potential for other providers and assumes that there is no 'competition' within the market. It is less likely to achieve 'best value' without having first assessed market interest.	Not recommended

^[1] [The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)

Slough Borough Council

Report To:	Cabinet
Date:	17 April 2023
Subject:	School Places Strategy 2023-27
Lead Member:	Councillor Hulme, Lead Member for Children's Services, Lifelong Learning & Skills
Chief Officer:	Neil Hoskinson, Interim Associate Director: Education
Contact Officer:	Tony Madden, Development Manager
Ward(s):	All
Key Decision:	Yes
Exempt:	No
Decision Subject To Call In:	Yes
Appendices:	A - School Places Strategy 2023-27

1. Summary and Recommendations

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the School Places Strategy 2023-2027 for comment and endorsement by the Cabinet.

Recommendations:

- 1.2 The Cabinet is recommended to:

Approve the School Places Strategy 2023-2027 attached at Appendix A.

Reason:

- 1.3 The revised and updated School Places Strategy sets out the current place planning position and projected requirements for Slough for nursery, primary, secondary, post-16 and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The Strategy is a key document ensuring every resident pupil entitled to a school place is offered one.

Commissioner Review

This report has been reviewed by the Commissioner and approved for consideration.

2. Report

Introductory paragraphs

- 2.1 The School Places Strategy 2023-2027 sets out the Council's proposals for ensuring there are sufficient, suitable, high quality school places for every resident child and young person in Slough over the next 5 years. Also included are the key principles and approach taken by the Council when planning expansion or contraction of school provision.
- 2.2 Between 2001-2 and 2010-11 the number of births in Slough rose by 48%, this growth is still working its way through the school system and is the single most significant factor affecting school place planning. The impact of this growth together with the inward migration levels to the town has required a major expansion in provision across all education sectors. The primary and secondary school estates have been expanded by around 50% since 2008.
- 2.3 The number of births in Slough peaked in 2010-11 and 2011-12, both these years saw 2760 births, since then births levels have been steadily declining and there were 2157 births in 2020-21, a fall of 22%. This reduction has affected the west of Slough much more than other areas of the town.
- 2.4 The other key factor affecting demand is in-year applications from new arrivals to Slough. This continues to fluctuate from year to year, with most years seeing a net rise in cohort size. These fluctuations make forecasting future demand more challenging.
- 2.5 The latest demographics and School Census data will be monitored for changes that affect the forecasts and actions presented within the Strategy. Any significant changes will be reported back to Cabinet.

Primary Places:

- 2.6 Since the last published version of the Strategy, primary place planning has changed from a single planning area to three separate planning areas: west, central and east. This makes sense in place planning terms as there are different pressures and issues in each area. In summary:
 - **West** Planning Area: There is a growing surplus of Reception places due to this area seeing a dramatic reduction in birth numbers. All year groups have surplus capacity and this is expected to remain the situation. Priory School reduced its Planned Admission Number (PAN) from 4 to 3 forms of entry for September 2021 and St Anthony's will remove 30 places by reducing from 3 to 2 forms of entry for September 2023. Further reductions may be required. Falling numbers on roll at individual schools will lead to reduced income and could lead to schools going into a deficit and would need additional support.
 - **Central** Planning Area: There is some surplus capacity in Reception and Year 1 due to the opening of Grove Academy but other year groups are under pressure. With this area of the town likely to see significant development of new housing in coming years it is expected that there will remain a pressure on places.

- **East Planning Area:** There is a pressure for places in all year groups in the east of the town which can mean options are limited for in-year applications. Options for adding additional capacity are being developed.

2.7 A certain level of surplus is planned in all year groups to accommodate new arrivals to Slough. More surplus places are required in lower year groups to ensure there is sufficient capacity for the growth in cohort size from new arrivals to Slough from Reception to when they leave at Year 6.

2.8 A number of schools have reduced their admission number as a result of the increase in surplus capacity in lower year groups and others are likely to be considering a similar reduction. The reduction in admission numbers will need to be coordinated by the Council where possible to ensure sufficient capacity remains available in all parts of the town. Shortfalls in an area can mean pupils travelling longer distances for a school place and can increase the Council's home to school transport costs if pupils need to travel more than the statutory minimum distance.

Secondary Places:

2.9 A high number of secondary new academy schools have opened in Slough including Grove Academy which opened for September 2017: in total they have provided 22 new forms of entry (an extra 660 Year 7 places). In addition to this, the Council has funded 5.5 new forms of entry at Westgate School, Wexham School and Langley Grammar, adding a further 165 Year 7 places.

2.10 September 2023 will see the largest Year 6 cohort applying for secondary school places before numbers start to reduce as a result of the declining birth numbers – meaning this year is the expected peak in demand. There are sufficient Year 7 places available for this peak and forecasts suggest no further forms of entry are required for the period of this Strategy.

Post-16:

2.11 Post-16 numbers at Slough schools are rising year-on year and are forecast to rise by almost 500 places by 2029-30, when they are expected to reach their peak. Three academy schools have delayed the opening of their sixth forms to focus efforts on school improvement, this has meant fewer pupils than expected started in Year 12 for 2022-23. Any forecast growth is dependent on these places becoming available. Alternative places are available at local colleges.

SEND Places:

2.12 The majority of pupils with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) are educated in mainstream schools. However, a proportion require specialist provision. Those requiring full time specialist provision attend a Special School while those pupils whose needs can be met through a combination of mainstream and specialist facilities will be allocated a place in a mainstream school. Over the last 10 years the Council has significantly increased specialist provision including expanding and opening new resource bases and units; in addition Slough's existing special schools have been expanded. Some children with social, emotional and mental health needs may be placed in alternative provision (AP) where this is appropriate to meet their needs. The current places available in Slough schools are shown in Appendix 1 of the Strategy.

Alternative Provision places:

2.13 Alternative Provision caters for those pupils who have been excluded, are at risk of exclusion or cannot attend school for any reason. Some pupils can be educated in Littledown School, which is a special school that can cater for short term needs. New facilities are planned for Haybrook College who cater for secondary pupils, this will increase places for pupils with social, emotional and mental health issues where this provision best meets their needs and improve facilities for existing pupils.

Centre of Slough

2.14 Over the next 15 years the centre of Slough may see up to 9000 new flats built. Through a house-to-house survey the Council has robust data on the number of children that live in new flats built in Slough. This level of development will result in a very high number of pupils living in an area with few primary schools nearby. Current modelling suggests that the reducing pupil population, due to long term falling birth numbers, may release sufficient capacity to accommodate most, if not all, of the projected new resident pupils. Should birth rates start to rise then this would significantly change the modelling and this conclusion. A key concern is that the surplus capacity particularly for primary pupils would be more than 2 miles away, with much of the surplus in the west of Slough. This may increase home to school transport costs and mean additional traffic on Slough roads at pick-up and drop off times.

2.15 More work is required to assess the full impact on place planning and how best to address the schooling needs of primary and secondary pupils that live in this zone. One solution that will be considered is innovative transport solutions rather than building new schools close to the centre of Slough. Each development will include on-site nurseries secured through section 106 developer agreements to be operated by an independent nursery provider.

School Consultation

2.16 The draft School Places Strategy 2022-27 was circulated to all schools for comment. One comment was received from a maintained nursery "I would expect an increase in the number of children under 5 with EHCP's and additional needs. The trend in the increase of level of children needing additional support is definitely not going to change and the impact of Covid is only unfolding now."

3. Implications of the Recommendation

3.1 Financial implications

3.1.1 Publication of the School Places Strategy does not have any direct financial implications on the Council. However, any decrease in pupil numbers does have an impact on school funding.

3.1.2 Mainstream schools and academies are funded through the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) which is based on numbers on roll in each school or academy. With a falling birth rate, the expectation is that funding to individual school may decrease.

3.1.3 The Growth Fund (part of the DSG) is set aside annually to support schools while they are growing. Only Wexham School qualifies for this funding in the academic year 2023-24.

- 3.1.4 There can be transport cost implications for the council if pupils need to travel further than certain specified distances to find a suitable school place. These costs are being managed as part of the Home to School Transport savings plans for 2023-24.
- 3.1.5 The growth in pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) is funded from the High Needs Block (HNB) part of the DSG. The funding limits of the HNB are set annually by the Department for Education (DfE) and this has led to continuing pressures on the HNB caused at least in part by the rising number of pupils.
- 3.1.6 Capital requirements have been reducing year-on-year as the number of new primary and secondary school places that need to be built have reduced. Current forecasts indicate that no new primary or secondary places are required over the next 5 years. It may be necessary to respond to area specific pressures by adding bulge classes or reopening closed classrooms. The only planned expansion projects over the next 5 years relate to places for SEND pupils. Any capital projects agreed by the Council will be funded by DfE grant or section 106 developer contributions and would be subject to separate Cabinet approvals.

3.2 *Legal implications*

- 3.2.1 Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 requires a local authority to secure that sufficient schools are available at primary and secondary stages of education for their local area. Sufficient means sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education. Appropriate education means education which offers such variety of instruction and training as may be desirable in view of (a) the pupils' different ages, abilities and aptitudes, and (b) the different periods for which they may be expected to remain at school and includes practical instruction and training appropriate to pupils' different needs. A local authority must exercise its functions under this section with a view to security diversity in the provision of schools and increasing opportunities for parental choice. This duty applies to pupils of compulsory school age only. In exercising its functions under this section, a local authority shall in particular have regard to (a) the need for securing that primary and secondary education are provided in separate schools (except that this duty does not apply to special schools), (b) the need for securing that special educational provision is made for pupils who have special educational needs, and (c) the expediency of securing the provision of boarding accommodation for pupils for whom education as boarders is considered by their parents and the authority to be desirable.
- 3.2.2 The Council also have general duties under s.13 and 13A of the Education Act 1996 to contribute to the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of its community by securing that efficient primary and secondary education and further education are available to meet the needs of the population of their area and that its education functions are exercised with a view to promoting high standards, ensuring fair access to opportunity for education and training and promoting the fulfilment of learning potential.
- 3.2.3 School places are provided at a variety of state funded provision, including maintained schools (schools controlled or aided by the Council), academies (funded directed by the Department for Education). The methods of expanding, making changes and opening new schools differs depending on whether it is a maintained

school or an academy. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires that where there is a need for a new school, proposals must be sought to establish an academy. This applies for mainstream and special schools and alternative provision.

3.3 Risk management implications

Risk	Mitigating action
Legal - Challenge from parents on the basis the Council has not provided sufficient school places in accordance with its statutory duty.	Agree, publish and deliver a comprehensive school places strategy.
Planning challenges.	Sound holistic planning case to demonstrate that sites are best suited.
Equalities Issues – Rise in demand for SEND provision exceeds the availability of places leading to possible challenge and costly placements outside of the borough.	<p>Deliver the DSG Management Plan in full.</p> <p>Continue to work with schools to develop their inclusive practices.</p>
Demographics – Future demographics may change and be higher or lower than forecast.	<p>Higher than forecast:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare contingency projects that can be brought forward if required. <p>Lower than forecast:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate a reduction programme.
Traffic risks.	Sound transport planning - transport issues will be considered on a site-by-site basis as part of statutory process for expanding existing schools and as part of the planning process.
Communications and community support.	Formal consultation will take place as part of the statutory process for expanding existing schools and as part of the planning process, where planning permission is required.
Timetable for delivery – projects delivered later than required for pupils, or not delivered as planned as schools choose not to cooperate or do not have the capacity to expand.	<p>Forward planning. From approval, large projects are likely to take at least 24 months to complete and open places to pupils.</p> <p>Projects need to start in good time with the possible risk that this provides some short-term overprovision.</p> <p>Work closely with schools and heads' groups to ensure buy-in.</p> <p>Allocate adequate funding for projects.</p>

3.4 *Environmental implications*

3.4.1 There are no environmental implications as a consequence of this report. Any development required to expand school places will impact green space

3.5 *Equality implications*

3.5.1 The equality implications of individual proposals will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The positive impacts of expanding provision include:

- All Slough children (including new arrivals which comprise a high percentage of BME families) obtaining a school place with a variety of admissions choices/ options available,
- All new places being accessible to children with disabilities and additional needs, and
- SEND and alternative provision places expanding.

3.6 *Procurement implications*

3.6.1 There are no procurement implications as a consequence of this report.

3.7 *Workforce implications*

3.7.1 There are no workforce implications as a consequence of this report.

3.8 *Property implications*

3.8.1 There are no property implications as a consequence of this report. Where individual projects have land implications approval will be sought on a site-by-site basis.

4. Background Papers

None

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DRAFT

School Places Strategy

2023-27



Version: 2d

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Key

FE	Form of Entry, this equates to 7 classrooms for primary schools and 5 classes (plus sixth form places) for secondary school
PAN	Planned Admission Number, the number of places available in each school year group
NOR	Number on roll, this is a count of the number of pupils in an educational facility
ESFA	Education and Skills Funding Agency (formerly EFA): national body responsible for school funding, delivering Free Schools and monitoring academies
ARP -	Additionally Resourced Provision, this is an umbrella for Resource Bases and SEN Units attached to mainstream schools. <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ RB – Resource Base, this is where pupils will be spending more than 50% of the time in mainstream classes▪ SEN Unit - Where pupils will spend the majority of their school time in the unit.
DfE	Department for Education is the national body responsible for education, children's services, higher and further education policy
SCAP	School Capacity return. This is an annual return by SBC to the ESFA to explain projected shortfalls in school places. Early years, SEND and PRU places are not captured in this return
SBC	Slough Borough Council
LA	Local Authority or Slough Borough Council
AP	Alternative Provision also known as Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) for those not willing or able to attend mainstream school for a short period or longer term
SEND	Special Education Needs and Disabilities, refers to pupils with an EHCP, these pupils may attend a mainstream school possibly in a Resourced Unit or attend a Special School
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan, document which sets out the education, healthcare and social care needs of a child or young person who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities for whom extra support is needed in school
RD	Regional Director acts on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education and is responsible for intervening when academies or sponsors are underperforming, arranging sponsors for new academies and advising on new free schools.

1. Introduction

To be completed

The Slough School Places Strategy is aligned to other key council strategies and in particular supports delivery of the following:

Council's Corporate Plan 2022-25	Priority 3: A borough for children and young people to thrive
School Effectiveness Strategy 2022-25	Outlines how the local authority will fulfil its statutory duties in relation to school effectiveness and articulates our ambitions for the school system
SEND and Inclusion Strategy	Sets out the local authority's collective ambition for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 0-25
Slough Wellbeing Strategy 2020-25	<p>Priority 1: Starting Well</p> <p>Starting Well focuses on the health and wellbeing of children and young people. The evidence tells us that when children start school with a good level of health and development, they are more likely to go on to succeed in later stages of education. Tackling health and wellbeing issues at an early stage in life prepares our young people for their future.</p> <p>Over the next 5 years, the Board will seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decrease the attainment gap between all children and the bottom 20% at Early Years Foundation Stage.• Reduce the number of Reception and Year 6 aged children classified as obese.• Improve immunisation rates amongst young people in Slough.• Improve oral health amongst children in Slough.

Signed

Sue Butcher
Executive Director for
People (Children)

Councillor Hulme
Cabinet Member for Children's Services,
Lifelong Learning & Skills

2. Place Planning Summary

Slough Borough Council (the Council) is responsible for ensuring there are sufficient school places available in its area for every child aged 5 to 16 that requires a school place. The Council also has a statutory duty to promote high standards, ensure fair access to opportunity for education and training and promote fulfilment of learning potential for children in its area and for young people who have an Education, Health and Care Plan. However, the diverse nature of the school estate means that the Council is responsible for commissioning the majority of school places rather than delivering them. Government funding is provided to local authorities for increasing the number of school places including places for children with SEND and alternative provision.

a) Primary Places:

The peak in births reached Reception in 2014-15 and 2015-16, and since then overall Reception numbers have been decreasing. The impact of this reduction in births is different for each planning area of the town:

- **West** Planning Area: There is a growing surplus of Reception places due to this area seeing a dramatic reduction in birth numbers. All year groups have surplus capacity and this is expected to remain the situation.
- **Central** Planning Area: There is some surplus capacity in Reception and Year 1 due to the opening of Grove Academy but other year groups are under pressure. With this area of the town likely to see significant development of new housing in coming years it is expected that there will remain a pressure on places.
- **East** Planning Area: There is a pressure for places in all year groups in the east of the town which can mean options are limited for in-year applications.

A certain level of surplus is planned in all year groups to accommodate new arrivals to Slough. While surplus places need to be planned by the Local Authority to ensure a sufficiency of places, it can put a financial pressure on those schools with too many empty places due to the per pupil funding model.

A number of schools, mainly in the west, have reduced their admission numbers in response to a reduced demand for places and others are considering a reduction. Any reductions will be coordinated by the Council to ensure capacity remains in place for the long-term need.

b) Secondary Places:

Over the last 10 years the number of pupils obtaining a year 7 place at a Slough secondary school has increased by just under 50%. Capacity has been increased to keep pace with this rising demand: 4 new free schools have

opened in Slough and many existing schools have increased their admission numbers.

September 2023 will see the largest Year 6 cohort applying for secondary school places before numbers start to reduce. There are sufficient Year 7 places available for this peak and forecasts suggest no further forms of entry are required.

c) Post-16:

Post-16 numbers at Slough schools are rising year-on year and are forecast to rise by almost 500 places by 2029-30, when they are expected to reach their peak. 3 new academy schools have delayed the opening of their sixth forms, this has meant fewer pupils than expected started in Year 12 for 2022-23. Any forecast growth is dependent on these places becoming available. Alternative places are available at local colleges.

d) SEND Places:

The majority of statutory age pupils with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) will be educated in mainstream schools. However, a proportion will always require specialist provision. Those requiring full time specialist provision may attend a Special School. For some pupils, a placement at a SEND Unit or a Resource Base attached to a mainstream school may be more appropriate. Some children with social, emotional and mental health needs may be placed in alternative provision (AP) where this is appropriate to meet their needs.

Over the last 10 years SBC has significantly increased specialist provision. This includes opening or expanding a number of resource bases and SEND units and both of Slough's existing special schools have been expanded.

The Council will be investing £3.5m over the next two years to continue to expand and support facilities for SEND pupils.

e) Alternative Provision (or PRU) places:

Alternative Provision caters for those pupils who have been excluded, are at risk of exclusion or cannot attend school for any reason. Some pupils can be educated in Littledown School, which is a special school that can cater for short term needs. New facilities are planned for Haybrook College who cater for secondary pupils, this will increase places for pupils with social, emotional and mental health issues where this provision best meets their needs and improve facilities for existing pupils.

3. Legal and Policy Context

The Council has statutory duties to:

- Ensure sufficient school places are available in their area (*Education Act 1996 Section 14*).
- Secure diversity in the provision of schools and increase opportunities for parental choice (S14 of the *Education Act 1996*).
- Make arrangements to enable a parent to express a preference as to the school they wish their child to be educated at (*School Standards and Framework Act 1998 Section 86*).
- Secure sufficient primary, secondary and further education to contribute to the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community and to meet the needs of the population (S13 of the *Education Act 1996*).
- Exercise functions with a view to the promotion of high standards, fair access to opportunity, fulfilment of the learning potential of children and young people in the local area (S13A of the *Education Act 1996*).

Paragraph 95 of the National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied:

“It is important that a sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing and new communities. Local planning authorities should take a proactive, positive and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement, and to development that will widen choice in education. They should:

- a) give great weight to the need to create, expand or alter schools through the preparation of plans and decisions on applications; and
- b) work with school promoters, delivery partners and statutory bodies to identify and resolve key planning issues before applications are submitted.”

The Council is obligated to offer a place to every child of school age whose parents wish them to have one. The intention is that the place offered will be within a reasonable distance from the home address and if possible, at one of the schools preferred by the parent. There is no duty to offer a place at the preferred school although every effort is made to satisfy parental preference.

4. School Place Planning Principles

School place planning, in simple terms, is the comparison of the projected future demand for school places with current school capacity.

A small oversupply of places is planned to ensure that the LA can place new arrivals, cope with higher than forecast demand and enable as many parents as possible to secure places at their preferred school.

Our principles for managing school places are:

1. Locate new schools or expand existing schools where shortfalls are forecast so pupils can walk to school. Prioritisation criteria will consider quality of education and popularity of schools (those with a high number of 1st and 2nd preferences) and those schemes that offer better value for money
2. Work closely with the Regional Director for any expansion proposals by existing academies and to secure school promoters with a proven track record in delivering high quality education in the relevant phase
3. Avoid creating an over-supply of places in any single planning area unless the places are required in the longer term
4. Retain a small level of spare capacity to permit movement between schools and for new arrivals
5. Maximise the available sources of funding for programme delivery
6. Prioritise the creation of new places that are available to all pupils.

5. Demographics and Key Issues

5.1 Demographics

Slough is an urban town in the east of Berkshire, approximately 20 miles west of central London. It is home to 45,682 children and young people, 11,774 of which are aged 0-4. Out of a total population of 158,498, 29% are below the age of 19, making the population of Slough significantly younger than the average for south-east local authorities. The borough also includes a higher proportion of young adults aged 25-44, suggesting a large number of young families are resident. (Source: ONS Census 2021-Nov 2022)

Slough unitary authority was ranked 73rd out of the 317 English local authorities for deprivation in the 2019 Indices of Deprivation, significantly more deprived than other east Berkshire areas: Bracknell Forest (284th) and Windsor and Maidenhead (304th). (Source: Department for Communities and Local Government – Sep 2019).

5.2 Slough's Schools

Like other densely populated areas Slough has a high number of schools within a small area. There is a broad range of schools including faith schools (Sikh, Islamic, Roman Catholic and Church of England), grammar schools, single sex (girls' schools) as well as non-denominational, non-selective Community and Foundation schools. In 2017 a new 'all-through' school opened which combines primary and secondary education in one setting. Slough's primary schools are comparatively large with many offering 4 forms of entry and one primary school offering 8 forms of entry split across two sites.

The status of Slough schools is shown in the table below. Slough has a higher than average number of academies, where nationally 43% of schools were academies in 2020-21 including free schools (Source: Gov.uk website) in Slough the figure is currently 78% (excluding nurseries).

Total number of schools in Slough based on type* (Jan 2023)

	Maintained				Academy	Total
	Community	Voluntary Aided	Voluntary Controlled	Foundation	Converter	
Nursery	5					5
Primary	3	3	1	2	19	28
Secondary	1	1			12	14
All-through					1	1
Special/AP					3	3
Total	9	4	1	2	35	51

* Excluding private schools

Number of schools by admission criteria (Jan 2023) – two secondary schools are recorded in more than one column

	Non-selective	Banding	Grammar	Single Sex	Faith
Nursery	5				
Primary	20				8
Secondary	6	1	4	2	3
All-through	1				
Special	3				
Total	35	1	4	2	11

Types of Schools – the descriptions below apply to Slough schools.

- **Maintained Schools** – overseen by the LA:
 - Community (C) the local authority owns the buildings and determines admission arrangements.
 - Foundation (F) the governing body own the school buildings, employ the staff and determine their own admission arrangements.
 - Voluntary Aided (VA) a trust or diocesan body own the building, employ the staff and determine their own admission arrangements.
 - Voluntary Controlled (VC) a diocesan body own the building, similar to voluntary aided schools but the local authority employs the staff and determines admission arrangements.
 - Grammar schools - select their pupils based on a test of academic ability. 3 of Slough’s 4 grammar schools are now academies, the other is VA.
- **Non-maintained schools** – independent from the local council:
 - Academies - the trust owns or has a long lease on their site, they operate under a Funding Agreement with the government and can follow a different curriculum.

5.3 Academies

Section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires local authorities to seek proposals for a new academy if it believes a new school needs to be established in its local area. As part of the process of inviting proposals, the Council would be expected to identify a site and funding for any building works. The Council is not able to determine where and when these schools open although the ESFA work closely with the LA to time openings to meet local demand. There are certain exceptions to the requirement to seek proposals for a new academy and these are set out in the legislation and expanded on in the statutory guidance “Opening and closing maintained schools – November 2019”.

Academies are able to apply direct to the Secretary of State if they wish to expand or reduce their admission numbers although the Local Authority is consulted on any changes. The Council needs to effectively plan school provision in a world where schools themselves have increasing autonomy. This strategy and local Headteacher consultative forums are the key local vehicles for influencing school plans. The Regional Director (RD) also has a role to play as their duties include advising on new school proposals and they are the decision maker when proposals for significant changes to academies are published.

5.4 School Performance

The proportion of all Slough schools judged as good and outstanding by Ofsted is 92%. This is above the national average of 88%. The proportion of good and outstanding primary schools in Slough is 100%, well above the national average of 89%. The proportion of good or outstanding secondary schools is 86% this is 6% above the national average of 80% (Ofsted inspections and outcomes Nov 2022).

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the summer 2020 and 2021 Early Year Foundation Stage Profile and Key Stage 2 assessments were cancelled.
 - For the Early Years Foundation Stage, Slough ranked 78th against all other local authorities for pupils achieving a good level of development in 2022. This is down 45 places from 33rd in 2019.
 - At Key Stage 2 Slough is ranked 31st against all other local authorities for pupils achieving the expected standards in Reading, Writing and Maths combined in 2022, which was the same rank as in 2019.
- Given the unprecedented change in the way GCSE and A-level results have been awarded in the summers of 2020 and 2021 and the resulting significant changes to the distribution of the grades received (in comparison to previous year’s exam results), pupil level attainment in 2020/21 is not comparable to that in 2019/20 or to that of the previous exam years for the purposes of measuring changes in pupil performance.
- At Key Stage 4, Slough ranked 13th for GCSE grade 5 or above in English and mathematics against all other local authorities in 2022. This is down 6 places from 7th in 2019.

- At Key Stage 5, Slough ranked 98th for average point score entry per A-Level against all other local authorities in 2022. This is up 18 places from 116th in 2019.

Performance tables and results for all schools can be found on the DfE website here: <https://www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables>

Ofsted reports for all schools can be found using the following link: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>

5.5 Site availability

Over the last decade one of the biggest challenges that Slough faced in seeking to expand the school estate by 50% was the shortage of available sites both for extensions to existing schools and for new schools. More than half of all Slough's schools have now expanded or are new schools, others are on small compact sites and others have planning constraints that mean expansion options are limited or undesirable.

5.6 Travel Patterns and Grammar Schools

Primary pupils generally attend schools close to home. Only a relatively small number of primary pupils cross into neighbouring authorities to attend school. Those who do so tend to live close to the boundary.

4 of Slough's 15 secondary schools are grammar schools. The effect of the grammar system is that cross border movement is more significant in the secondary sector. 27% of Year 7 pupils attending a Slough school were in a grammar setting as at January 2021. There are significant levels of cross border movement by secondary age pupils mainly due to the popularity of the grammar schools. The admission criteria for 3 of the 4 grammar schools now give some priority to pupils living in the Slough area and to date all Slough resident children who applied and were eligible have been offered a place. Even so, 3 of the 4 grammars have the majority of the pupils on roll from other LAs. Schools are not permitted to set admission criteria by reference to Borough boundaries or to prioritise children living with the Council's areas, although they can set a geographical area in which children will be prioritised. Of the 638 Year 7 pupils in Grammar Schools January 2021, 395 (62%) live in other authority areas. Very roughly speaking a similar number of Slough pupils travel out of borough for a school place as travel in each day.

The completion of the Elizabeth Line (Crossrail) may mean an increase in applications to Slough's grammar schools from outside Slough as travel times reduce. Although this may mean pupils travelling greater distances for a school place the effect on Slough pupils may be negligible; this will be monitored.

5.7 New Housing

Slough is a growing community with an increasing demand for additional housing. It is estimated that Slough will require an additional 17,000 homes over the next 19 years, creating a pressure on land and local services including schools. The tables below show the additional homes completed in recent years and expected to be completed by 2023/24. The increase in the proportion of flats completed in recent years is a combined result of many 'Office to Residential' conversions and a minimal number of new homes being built on greenfield sites. Flats are expected to dominate completions in the future.

	Net Additional Homes	Houses	Flats
2015/16	778	34%	66%
2016/17	521	23%	77%
2017/18	846	35%	65%
2018/19	534	19%	81%
2019/20	503	10%	90%
2020/21	501	10%	90%
2021-22	532	6%	94%

	Expected completions
2022/23to 2023/24	500 per year

The level of new housing is closely monitored due to its potential impact on demand for school places. Where new housing completions are forecast to exceed recent trends then adjustment factors will be applied to pupil forecasts.

In order to measure the impact on demand for school places the Council carries out a survey every 5 years to assess the number of pupils that live in newly built housing in Slough. The last survey was conducted during 2019. The output from this survey is a series of tables showing the number and age of pupils produced by each dwelling type and size. The numbers in the output tables are called the Pupil Product Ratios.

It is often the case that families moving into new housing developments already reside in the borough and new families to Slough move into the vacated properties. This can mean that planning school provision as a result of new housing is not straightforward as pupil growth can be across the town as well as in the area of the development. This can also mean that there is a lag before local schools see the full impact of new housing developments, as pupils can remain at their previous school for a period.

Details of Slough's current Local Plan and progress to date on an update of the plan can be found here: <https://www.slough.gov.uk/planning-policy/emerging-local-plan-slough-2016-2036>

Developer Contributions – When planning applications are received for new housing developments the Local Authority considers whether there is a shortage of school provision for children moving into the new homes. Calculations of the numbers of children forecast to be produced are based on the Pupil Product Ratios mentioned above. For any shortfalls the developer is asked to contribute the capital cost of building the new places via Section 106 planning obligations, to address the impact new development will have on public infrastructure.

Until recently the LA has been expanding education provision for most sectors, so contributions were always sought from developers. This is starting to change and currently:

- Contributions for primary places are not required for developments in the west planning area and are occasionally reduced for the central planning area
- Contributions for secondary and post-16 places are being reviewed
- Early years are assessed on a site-by-site basis
- SEND contributions are being reviewed.

Applications for larger developments may trigger the need for a full new form of entry to be funded or even a new school. Due to the existing pressure on early years provision across the town accommodation for a nursery may be requested as part of the development for both medium and large sites.

Centre of Slough – Over the next 15-20 years the Council expects that up to 9000 new homes will be built in the central area of Slough, around the High Street and beyond the current edge of the town centre. A detailed piece of work will be required to assess the impact on school places of such a large number of new homes in a relatively small area.

Using the assumption that 9000 new flats are built with a split as follows: 3000x 1-bed, 5000x 2-bed and 1000x 3-bed, and applying the most recent Pupil Product Ratios, this would generate:

- 4200 primary pupils or the equivalent of 7 new schools.
- 1330 secondary pupils or the equivalent of 1.5 new secondary schools
- 200 post-16 pupils
- 2170 early years children or a high number of large new nurseries
- 79 pupils with EHCPs requiring specialist accommodation

This doesn't mean this many places need to be built as:

- SBC's forecasts already include an assumption that 600+ homes will be built across Slough each year based on recent experience (totalling 9000+ over 15 years)
- The reduced birth rate will continue to increase the number of surplus places in existing schools. Although there is a risk that the spare capacity is repurposed by schools/ academies and can't be brought back into use when required.

The main issue for Slough is the lack of schools within or close to the Centre. There is one primary school within the zone, St Mary's CE Primary. Without a new primary school or schools located near the centre of town then pupils will be asked to travel increasing distances to find a school place, this pressure will increase as time moves on and more homes are built. For instance, the highest concentration of spare capacity at the moment is towards the western edge of the town, this could be up to 3 miles by road from the town centre. There are a number of secondary schools within a reasonable distance of the town centre although these currently have little or no spare capacity.

Without new schools being built there will be a large increase in pupil movement from the town centre each day, this will add to congestion and a lack of convenient school places could possibly affect the sale of new homes.

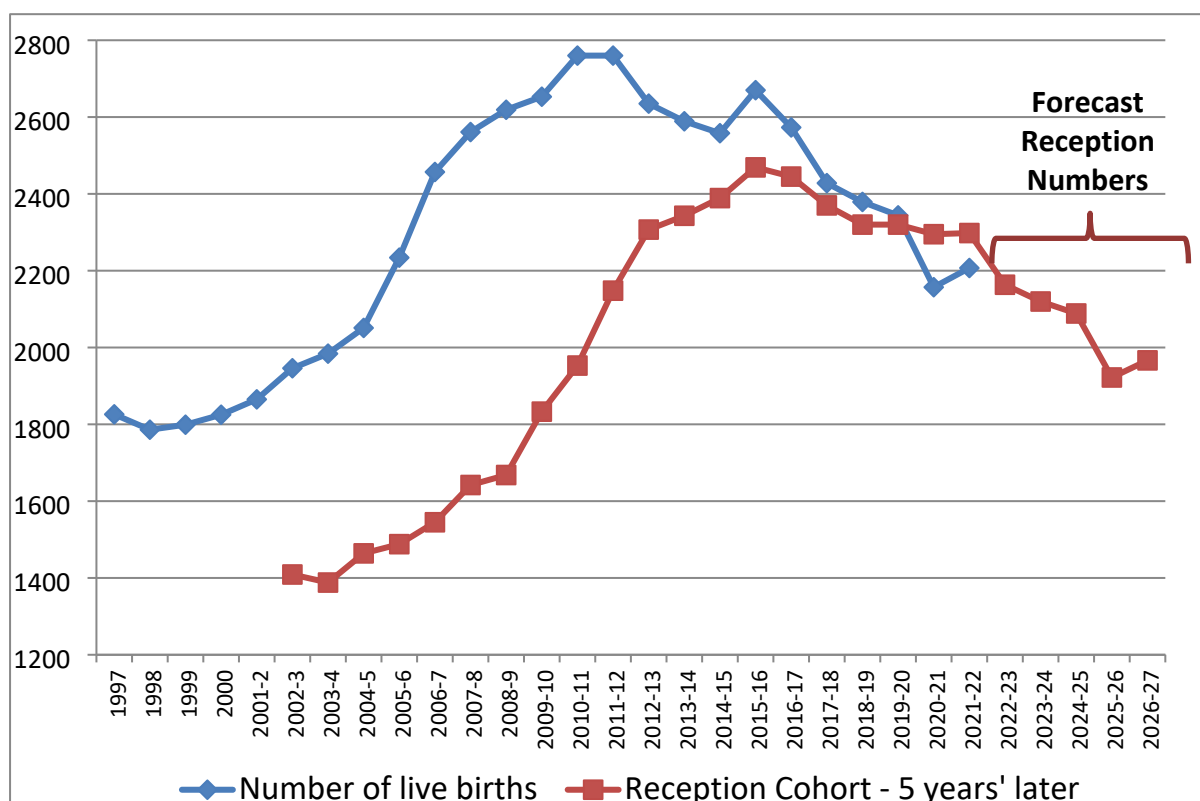
6. Pupil Forecasting

Pupil forecasts are calculated by applying recent trends to current known population data.

- The LA's forecasts of future Reception demand are mainly based on the number of births in Slough 5 years' earlier. A weighted average ratio for recent years is applied to new birth data to forecast Reception demand.
- Forecasts for all other year groups are based on patterns of retention between year groups in recent years, for instance if Year 2 to Year 3 normally grows by 1%, then the current Year 2 cohort is increased by 1% to forecast next year's Year 3.
- Adjustments: Reasons for adjusting the data could include known changes in demographics or school organisation. NHS Primary Care Registration data is a new source of data for the LA and is used for assessing pre-school cohort changes.

6.1 Birth Data

The most significant factor affecting demand for Reception places is the number of births in Slough. The graph below shows the number of births each year since 1997. Numbers rose steadily from 1999 until 2010-11 and 2011-12 when numbers were at their peak. Since then, the trend for birth numbers has been reducing. The pupils born in 2017-18 are those that will start in Reception classes in September 2022.



Sources: ONS live birth data and School Census

Actual ONS birth data is available to 2020-21. An estimate for 2021-22 has been produced based on NHS data, this has enabled projections to be produced for Reception demand up to 2026-27 (i.e an extra year).

Reception numbers for 2020-21 were around 4 percent lower than expected and for October 2022 were about 1.5% higher than expected. Suggesting that past patterns are no longer applicable and numbers are more volatile than in the past.

6.2 In-year Growth

In-year growth is the effect of movement into the borough of pupils looking for school places. In-year growth is used here to mean new arrivals to Slough applying for school places outside the usual start points of Reception and Year 7 including those starting after September in Reception and Year 7. The level of new arrivals will be influenced by many factors including the number of dwellings built in the town, the number of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO), local policy and national issues outside Slough's control.

The table below shows the net growth of each cohort in schools between January School Censuses. The first highlighted number, 34, represents the growth in cohort size between January 2015 and January 2016 of pupils currently in Year 1. The left, coloured diagonal line follows the growth in the cohort size for one primary year group from Reception through to Year 6; this cohort grew by 66 pupils or 11 pupils on average each year.

Note that the situation is very different for secondary classes, where there is an overall reduction in cohort size.

	Year R→1	Year 1→2	Year 2→3	Year 3→4	Year 4→5	Year 5→6	Year 7→8	Year 8→9	Year 9→10	Year 10→11		
2015/16	34	40	11	13	11	14	33	16	-20	-53		
2016/17	20	13	4	18	34	23	-29	-9	-26	-56		
2017/18	5	-32	-25	-19	-7	-2	-10	-29	-28	-43		
2018/19	17	12	9	21	18	37	-18	-4	22	-31		
2019/20	29	12	-1	-10	28	11	3	18	11	-23		
2020/21	-8	-22	-18	-28	7	-5	1	-22	-19	-11		
2021/22	62	21	31	26	38	10	-1	-9	7	16		
Average growth per year for the current year 6 cohort							11	Average reduction per year for the current year 11 cohort				-4

Primary cohort growth fluctuates from year to year. Most cohorts shrank from 2017 to 2018 and between 2020 and 2021, yet all cohorts grew between 2021 and 2022. This recent net growth in primary cohorts means that the latest forecasts produced by Slough will be higher than those produced last year.

7. Primary Place Planning

The Local Authority aims to provide the right number of high-quality school places in the right part of town, at the right time to meet future need. This can sometimes mean a reduction in places as well as expansion.

Planned Surplus: Slough plans for a small oversupply of places in all year groups to ensure places for:

- cohort growth up to Year 6,
- new arrivals to Slough above those forecast to arrive and
- some pupil movement between schools to satisfy parental preference.

A small surplus of only 15 places is the target for Year 6 and each year 15 more places are added to the target so that the target surplus for Reception is 115 places. The target per planning area is a third of the overall number.

		R	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6
Target surplus:	overall	115	90	75	60	45	30	15
	per planning area	35	30	25	20	15	10	5

Oversupply: While some surplus places are required it is important not to generate an oversupply of places in a sector or one part of the town. An oversupply can be destabilising for one or more schools leading to questions of viability, quality and potentially to unplanned closures.

Flexibility: Unexpected increases or decreases in pupil demand can occur as a result of local or national changes, requiring a range of options that can be rolled out as and when required.

Gradual Opening: When new school places become available either at a new school or as part of an expansion project not all the classes are open to pupils in the first year. Usually only the lowest year group will open in the first year and this extra class or classes will gradually move up through the school one year at a time. This means that new schools or expanding schools will often have spare classes that will be needed over time. Similarly, for schools who reduce their admission number (PAN), this usually happens gradually one year at a time.

7.1 Projected Pressure on Places – Slough Overview

The following table shows the current and projected surplus places in Slough above the planned surplus level. The level of surplus places is above target in most year groups and very high for Year 3 (147 above target). The surplus is 2 below target in Reception.

Further schools are currently considering reducing their PAN by a class. If these reductions go ahead then this would reduce the future surpluses shown below.

Table showing projected surplus places across Slough to 2026/27 (May data)

Note that the planned surplus has been deducted first.

Year		Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
2020/21	Actual	5	11	142	69	26	47	80
2021/22	Actual	-2	24	33	147	62	9	60
2022/23	Projected	65	-7	-3	-14	95	50	16
2023/24	Projected	106	60	11	-25	-32	72	46
2024/25	Projected	138	104	78	-10	-43	-56	68
2025/26	Projected	307	136	123	57	-28	-67	-60
2026/27	Projected	261	309	155	103	40	-52	-70

The table highlights two distinct issues:

- a projected pressure on places for current Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 cohorts as they progress up the year groups,
- the effect of the declining birth rate creating a large and increasing surplus of places in Reception classes. More than 3 classes in 2023-24 and 10 classes by 2025-26.

7.2 Reception Classes

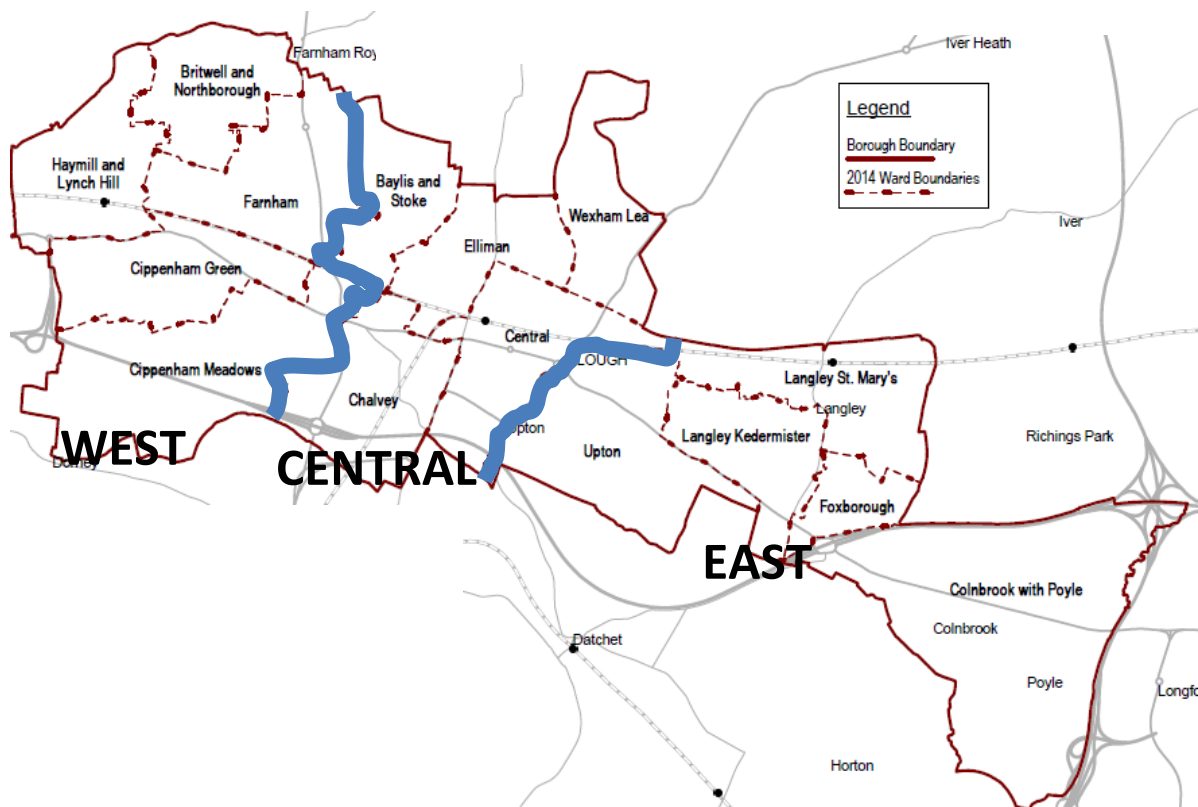
This section looks more closely at the current comparison of demand for Reception places with available capacity and forecasts to 2026-27. Currently, the surplus is close to the target of 4 classes, however the impact of reducing births mean that there may be a large surplus by 2025-26.

Year (May)	Reception demand	Available	Reception Surplus classes Target = 4	Comment
2019-20	77	83	6	+2 above target
2020-21	77	81	4	On target
2021-22	77	81	4	On target
2022-23	76	82	6	+2 above target
2023-24	73	81	8	+4 above target and increasing
2024-25	72	81	9	
2025-26	66	81	15	+10 above target
2026-27	68	81	13	

Over recent years 5 forms of entry have been closed and 2 more are expected to be closed by 2023-24. The opening of Grove Academy has replaced 4 of these forms of entry. These changes are already included in the table above.

7.3 Planning Areas

For primary school place planning purposes, the town is split into 3 planning areas: West, Central and East. The map below shows the 3 areas, each area has between 9 and 11 schools:



The table below shows which schools are in each planning area. Note that the catchment area of faith schools may cross these boundaries or even include all of Slough, however patterns are assumed to remain fairly consistent and no adjustments are made to the forecasts.

West	Central	East
Cippenham Primary School	Claycots School (Town Hall)	Castleview Primary School
Claycots School (Britwell)	Grove Academy	Colnbrook Church of England Primary School
Lynch Hill School Primary Academy	Iqra Slough Islamic Primary School	Foxborough Primary School
Our Lady of Peace Catholic Infant and Nursery School	James Elliman Academy	Holy Family Catholic Primary School
Phoenix Infant Academy	Khalsa Primary School	The Langley Academy Primary
Priory School	Montem Primary School	The Langley Heritage Primary
St Anthony's Catholic Primary School	Penn Wood Primary and Nursery School	Langley Hall Primary Academy
The Godolphin Junior School	St Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School	Marish Primary School
Western House Primary School	St Mary's Church of England Primary School	Pippins School
	Wexham Court Primary School	Ryvers School
	Willow Primary School	

7.3.1 West Planning Area

The western part of Slough has seen a large reduction in birth levels and has a growing surplus of places. Between the peak in 2011-12 and 2020-21 births have reduced by 25% or 249. The table below shows the surplus places available as at October 2022:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6
West – Surplus places	145	75	76	54	133	51	24
Surplus above target	110	45	51	34	118	41	19

All year groups have surplus places above the target. Year groups R and 4 have at least 3.5 surplus classes above the target. Current forecasts suggest that the number of surplus Reception classes will rise for the next 4 years as birth numbers continue to reduce.

St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School is reducing their Planned Admission Number from 2023 from 90 to 60. Two further reductions may be required over the next few years to assist in keeping surplus places down unless extra capacity is required to support growth in the central planning area.

7.3.2 Central Planning Area

The central planning area is seeing the most significant fluctuations in birth numbers, for instance the number of births in 2015-16 was 1161 while in 2018-19 it had fallen to 979, a reduction of 182 (-16%). Birth numbers rose to 1020 for 2019-20 then reduced again the year after.

The table below shows the surplus places available as at October 2022:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6
Central – Surplus places	68	35	0	0	13	27	2
Surplus above target	33	5	-25	-20	-2	17	-3

Highlighted in red are those year groups with less than the target surplus of places. While Reception has surplus places there is currently a pressure on places for Years 2-4.

The Centre of Slough will see up to 9000 new flats built over the next 10-15 years. The impact of this high density of new homes close to the High Street is uncertain but it will certainly lead to a large increase in demand for school places in and around the area.

7.3.3 East Planning Area

The east has not seen a decline in births, numbers have generally stayed buoyant, although the number for 2019-20 did see a dip. As a result of this 2024-25 may be the first year there will be more than 30 surplus places in Reception.

Schools in the east are popular and the planning area attracts more pupils from the central planning area than go the other way.

The table below shows the surplus places available as at October 2022:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6
East – Surplus Places	16	-10	-2	-15	3	23	6
Surplus above target	-19	-40	-27	-35	-12	13	1

There is a pressure on places in 5 of the 7 year groups, with only Years 5 and 6 having more than the target of surplus places.

7.4 Contingency Planning - Options for Primary Places

The main solution for creating places in upper year groups is to open new bulge classes or where there is a small shortage of places and a whole class is not required then larger class sizes, of up to 32 pupils, will be considered. The maximum class size for infant age pupils is limited by regulations to 30 however larger classes are permitted where there is a basic need argument. This restriction doesn't apply to junior classes.

West Planning Area – no new places are required.

Central Planning Area – it may be necessary to increase capacity for Years 2 and 3 and 4. The situation is being closely monitored. One further option is to seek to reopen a form of entry previously closed at a school in the central planning area or close by.

East Planning Area - it may be necessary to increase capacity for Years R to 4. The situation is being closely monitored. One further option is to seek to reopen a form of entry previously closed at a school in the east planning area or close by.

The main risk over the next 5 years is that the rate of new arrivals to Slough is higher than anticipated and this increases the pressure on year groups already short on capacity. While the west of Slough can accommodate an increase of in-year applications without difficulty, the other 2 planning areas are already short on capacity in many year groups.

7.5 Removing Surplus Capacity

It is not efficient for the primary school estate to operate with a large surplus in capacity. It may be necessary for the LA to coordinate further reductions in capacity in the west and over time, in other planning areas. Given the uncertainty around demographic change and the fact that once capacity is removed it may be difficult to reinstate, Slough necessarily takes a cautious approach in reducing admission numbers.

When many schools were first being expanded in 2008-12, when long term growth was uncertain Slough's strategy for expanding primary schools was to utilise 'modular' or temporary accommodation split into 2 phases. 3 infant classes were added in the form of a modular block and a few years later a 4-classroom modular block was added to complete the full form of entry. Built into the strategy was the assumption that these blocks could be removed in later years when not required or recycled for other community uses. It is expected that schools in the west will be the first to consider alternative options for their modular blocks.

7.6 Monitoring and Review

The pressure on primary school places in the centre and east may affect enrolment times for in-year applicants. This will be regularly reviewed and extra places created where required to ensure that there are no undue delays to children starting school.

8. Secondary Place Planning

The rapid expansion seen in the primary sector since 2007 has been impacting on secondary schools since 2012. Slough has kept ahead of demand by planning and supporting a large expansion of secondary places. Since 2012, 4 new secondary free schools have opened providing 22 new forms of entry a further 6.5 forms of entry have been added at existing secondary schools. In addition to these physical expansions, 3 schools are admitting an extra form of entry without significantly increasing their accommodation. This represents a growth of 56% in Year 7 capacity.

There are a number of factors affecting secondary place planning that are different from those considered for primary places:

Forecasting: While forecasting secondary demand is made easier in some respects by knowing the exact number of Year 6 pupils in Slough schools, the effect of grammar schools and cross border movement creates a higher margin for error for Year 7 forecasts than other year groups.

Transfer Ratio: The net growth in the cohort size from Year 6 to Year 7 has been reducing in recent years. While the cohort growth some years ago was consistently at about +7%, this has been closer to +2% in recent years and for September 2022 is less than +1%.

In-year growth: In-year growth does not currently affect secondary schools in the same way as primary schools, as mentioned in section 6.2. Recent experience shows a slight decline in cohort size (on average) as pupils move up through the year groups. For this reason, long term place planning focusses on ensuring the right number of Year 7 places. This is different to primary place planning where inward migration has a more significant impact.

Cross border movement: A wider radius is considered for secondary place planning than primary. Slough is a small authority with a range of schools available within a 3-mile radius in most parts of the town. A study some years ago showed that 3400 pupils a day opted to attend a school outside Slough while a similar number come into Slough each day. The majority of this movement was by secondary pupils.

8.1 The Secondary Expansion Programme

Previous versions of the School Places Strategy were focused on planning ahead for the large growth in demand that was working its way through the primary school system. Place planning was based around ensuring sufficient capacity for the peak in demand for Year 7 places in 2022-23 and 2023-24. With the first of these 2 peak cohorts having started school in September 2022, it is possible to forecast with some confidence that no new Year 7 places need to be built in Slough.

This does not mean that there won't be some pressure on places. The table below shows the projected surplus of places for secondary schools. 3 cohorts are highlighted in bold, these may experience some pressure in future years although this will be dependent on the rate of in-year applications received.

Forecast Secondary Surplus Capacity (May data)

Year		Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
2020-21	actual	93	29	109	129	23
2021-22	actual	103	54	18	104	101
2022-23*	forecast	141	70	88	42	105
2023-24	forecast	67	110	73	100	35
2024-25	forecast	98	34	113	85	93
2025-26	forecast	120	66	37	125	78
2026-27	forecast	112	89	69	50	117

* based on October 2022 School Census data

8.2 2022-23 onwards – options

If extra places are required in some year groups, the table below sets out the options available to the LA with pros and cons of each option listed.

Option	Pros	Cons
Schools admit pupils over PAN	Schools have been willing to do this in the past Can be agreed at short notice No extra capacity required No building or capital investment required Growth Fund can provide revenue funding in certain instances	Usually last minute and ad hoc
Bulge classes	Can open at short notice if spare classroom available Best solution for temporary growth Growth Funding available to support new class	Inconvenient for schools Unsuitable for permanent growth Long lead-in time and high capital cost if modular classroom required
Permanently expand existing Slough schools	No new site required Can improve financial viability of school Developer contributions may be available	DfE capital grant may be insufficient Build phase may negatively impact on teaching and learning Long lead-in time to deliver accommodation (minimum 24 months)

8.3 Monitoring and Review

Long term secondary forecasts will be sensitive to changes in the pattern of in-year growth seen in Slough's primary schools. In-year applications will be monitored closely and forecasts reviewed each year to reflect any changes in demographics.

8.4 Post-16 Place Planning

Forecasting for post-16 places is carried out in the same way as other secondary year groups and forecasts are based on the pattern of retention over the last 3 years.

The number of pupils in Year 12 in Slough schools has been steadily growing each year as the Year 11 cohort size the year before has grown. For 2022-23 however, this has remained unchanged despite the larger cohort, it is assumed this is due to the delay with opening 6th forms at 3 of the free schools (see below).

A major provider of post-16 education in the town is East Berkshire College, which provides an alternative option for pupils who do not want to stay on at school or cannot find a place at their preferred schools but want to continue studying.

School Name	Number on Roll (May 2022)	6 th Form Capacity	Future Growth – delayed opening
Baylis Court School	134	160	
Beechwood School	101	150	
Ditton Park Academy	225	200	
Eden Girls School			200
Grove Academy			200
Herschel Grammar School	320	320	
Langley Academy	250	250	
Langley Grammar School	335	370	
Lynch Hill Enterprise Academy			240
Slough & Eton C of E Business & Enterprise College	235	260	
St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School	337	250	
St Joseph's Catholic High School	196	200	
Upton Court Grammar School	291	330	
Westgate School	170	175	
Wexham School	147	225	
Totals	2741	2890	640

A significant change in recent years is the staying-on rate from Year 12 to Year 13 in Slough sixth forms. Where it used to be that less than 80% of the Year 12 cohort remained in sixth forms this has risen to over 90% for the last 3 years.

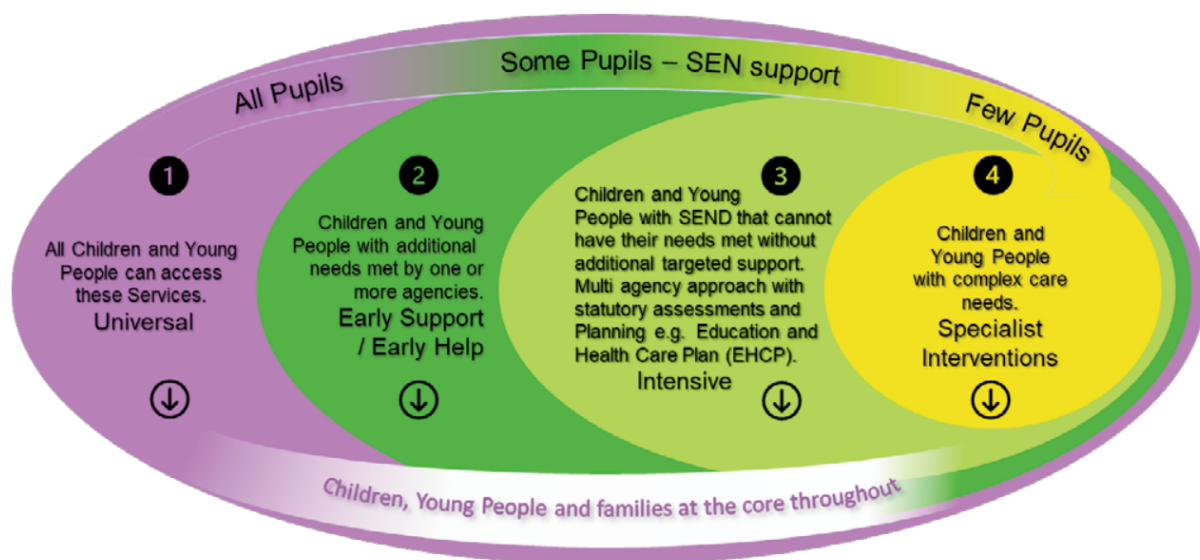
9. Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision (PRU) Places

SEND Strategy and principles for providing SEN Places:

The SEND and Inclusion Strategy sets out the LA’s strategic vision and how, through inclusive practice, all children and young people are happy, healthy, safe, take an active part in their community and have fulfilled lives.

Whilst the strategy stresses the need for a more inclusive approach to meeting additional needs within mainstream settings, Slough’s overarching principle is to enable all children and young people to access the educational placement best suited to their particular needs, whether that is in a mainstream setting, a specialist provision in a mainstream setting or within a specialist setting.

The Strategy confirms Slough’s commitment to maintain, improve and extend a continuum of quality provision and services for children and young people with complex needs and to develop closer partnerships between mainstream and specialist providers.



9.1 SEND Forecasts

Slough Borough Council takes a long-term strategic approach to school places planning to ensure all Slough children and young people including those requiring specialist SEND and AP provision secure a school place to 2026.

Forecasts for SEND and PRU growth are generally based on two factors:

- population projections
- detailed knowledge of individuals, local pressures and changes to provision.

However, the low numbers of pupils in any one cohort with a specific need makes it more difficult to forecast changes in the range of specialist provision needed than for mainstream primary and secondary schools.

9.1.1 Demographic trends – children and young people in Slough

The first table below shows the number of EHCPs for Slough pupils over the last 4 years by age band. Actual data is on the left side and projections are in a different colour on the right. The second table presents the same data by needs of the pupils. The third table again shows the same data, this time by provision that pupils currently attend and the projected capacity change required over time to 2026.

Total number of EHCPs by age group (with estimated future projections)

Jan	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Growth 2021-26
Under 5	89	97	101	69	80	80	78	75	75	6
Age 5 to 10	505	521	543	643	655	676	686	686	686	43
Age 11 to 15	386	430	492	570	576	590	605	615	615	45
Age 16 to 19	265	242	257	260	265	280	310	310	310	50
Age 20 to 25	50	60	78	153	169	155	138	133	133	-20
Total number of EHCPs	1,295	1,350	1,471	1,695	1,745	1,781	1,817	1,819	1,819	124

Introduction of EHCPs for 19-25 year olds is a relatively recent change and has meant this sector has grown rapidly in recent years.

Total number of EHCPs by primary need (with estimated future projections)

Jan	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Growth 2021-26
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	471	480	515	602	627	652	682	699	713	112
Hearing Impairment	46	46	50	61	62	63	64	64	64	3
Moderate Learning Difficulty	72	78	80	99	102	106	106	106	106	7
Multi- Sensory Impairment	8	6	8	9	9	9	9	9	9	0
Physical Disability	51	48	61	70	72	72	73	74	74	4
Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty	22	20	23	27	28	28	29	29	29	2
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	122	125	133	161	167	172	172	172	172	11
Speech, Language and Communications needs	211	218	233	275	285	285	285	285	285	10
Severe Learning Difficulty	45	41	57	69	70	72	73	73	73	4
Specific Learning Difficulty	37	34	37	41	41	41	42	42	42	1
Visual Impairment	24	23	26	31	32	32	33	33	33	2
Other Difficulty/Disability	77	84	84	86	86	85	85	83	78	12
SEN support (no specialist assessment of type of need)	109	147	164	164	164	164	164	150	141	-23
Total number of EHCPs by primary need	1,295	1,350	1,471	1,695	1,745	1,781	1,817	1,819	1,819	124

Total number of EHCPs by provision type (with estimated future projections)

Jan	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Growth 2021-26
Mainstream schools or academies				540	566	603	626	633	625	85
Resourced Provision or SEN Units				292	287	280	275	270	273	-19
Maintained special schools or special academies				487	496	496	496	496	496	9
NMSS or independent schools				64	60	60	60	60	60	-4
Hospital schools or Alternative Provision										
Post 16				204	228	239	267	272	277	73
Other				108	108	103	93	88	88	-20
Total number of EHCPs by placement type				1,695	1,745	1,781	1,817	1,819	1,819	124

9.1.2 Increased Demand

There has been a significant and sustained increase in the number of children and young people for whom the LA holds a statutory plan (statement or EHCP). As at January 2022, the LA held a total of 1,695 EHCPs – a growth of 667 since January 2018.

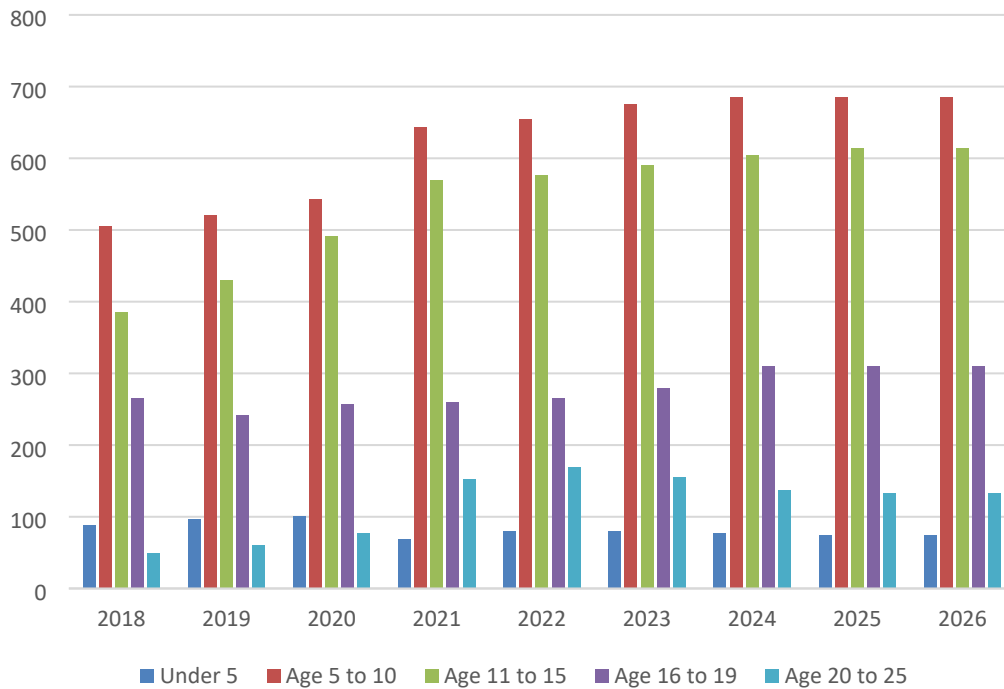
Since the introduction of the Children & Families Act 2014 and the SEND reforms, local authorities (LAs) across England have seen a year-on-year increase in the number of Education, Health and Care Plan's (EHCPs.) Whilst the increase in Slough is slightly lower than national and regional statistics (see below), the growing numbers have placed an increasing demand on statutory Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) resources.

Percentage of the School Age Population with EHCPs Over Time (DfE statistics)

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Slough	2.76	2.92	3.14	3.12	3.31	3.58	3.61
South East	2.77	2.79	2.90	3.07	3.32	3.65	3.95
England	2.93	2.97	3.09	3.26	3.53	3.87	4.23

Figure A below shows how the number of EHCPs has changed per age band since 2018 and how this is projected to change by 2026.

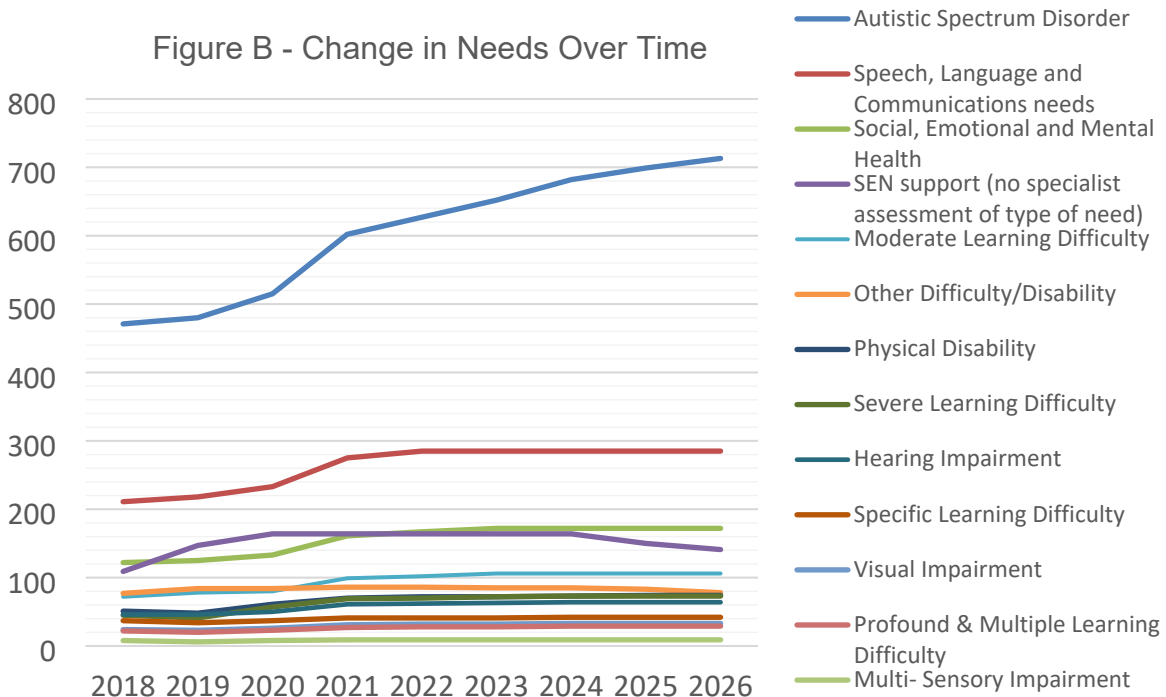
Figure A - Change In Cohort Age Band Over Time



The total primary school population peaked in 2019-20 and is forecast to reduce year on year.

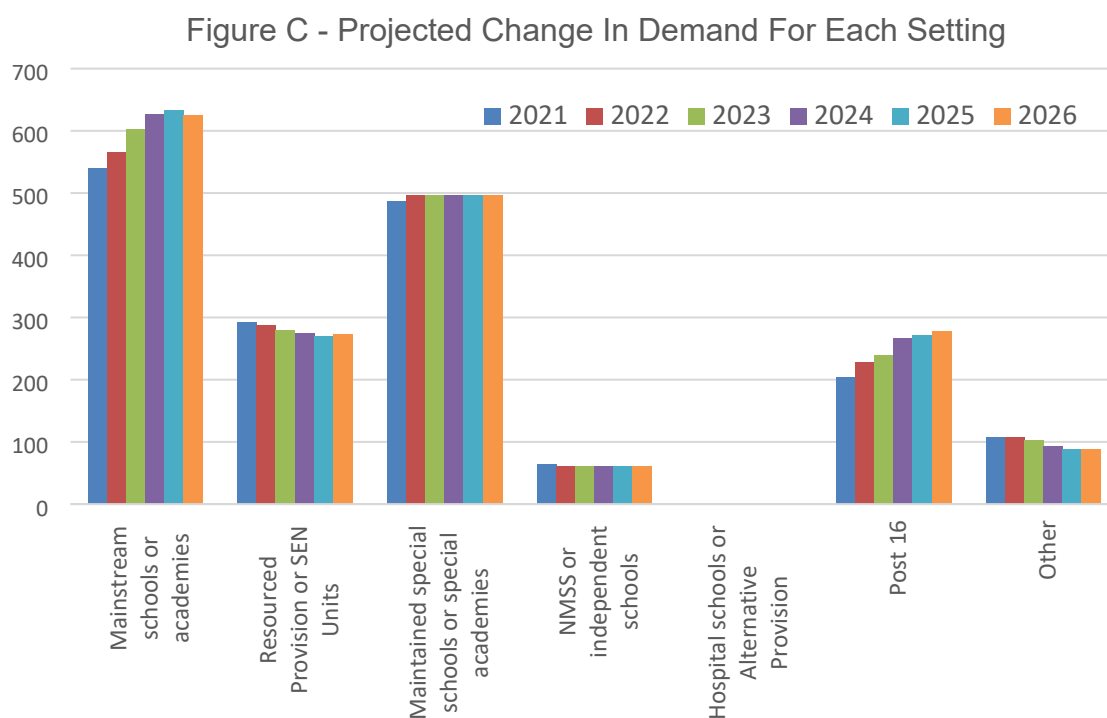
9.1.3 Changes in the pattern of demand

Figure B below shows the primary category of need for pupils for which it holds an EHCP. Consistent with national trends the largest category is ASD. Slough has seen an increase in the number of children and young people with ASD and this is forecast to continue rising until at least 2026.



9.1.3 Types of Provision

Figure C below shows that based on current forecasts there will be a slight rise in pupils in mainstream places until 2025, then a reduction for 2026. ARPs will see a steady reduction in places until 2025 due to the reduction in primary numbers (a primary Resource Base closed in 2022 due to demographic changes). Special school numbers are forecast to remain at current levels to 2026. Post-16 numbers will rise as larger cohorts work their way through the secondary school system.



9.2 Actions: Implications for SEND Provision

Planned capital investment:

- Up to £2m will be invested in Haybrook College to increase provision for pupils with EHCPs
- A new car park will be provided for Arbour Vale School to address the increased numbers on roll at the school
- Up to £1m, as a one-off, project, will be invested in improving existing provision for pupils with EHCPs – projects are being shortlisted early 2023
- Exploring potential projects for development of secondary and post-16 provision for young people with EHCPs.

Future key actions:

- Following a phase 1 review in 2020-21, the designation and commissioned places of all Resource Bases and SEN Units are being finalised, with SLAs and descriptors being developed to reflect this

- Ensure pathways in and out of resource bases are clear and well planned, ensuring pupils have appropriate support provision available at all levels of education

9.3 PRU Places – Alternative Provision

Alternative Provision (AP) is education for pupils who do not attend mainstream school for various reasons such as school exclusion, behaviour issues, school refusal or illness. Alternative Provision is delivered by Pupil Referral Units or PRUs where it is provided by the LA. It is possible to have Alternative Provision academies.

Slough's PRU provision at this time is provided by 2 schools; Littledown School (a special school) which caters for primary age children and Haybrook College which is an AP school and caters for secondary age pupils.

The number of AP places commissioned by SBC will be reduced over the next 3 years. This reflects the LA reducing its commitment back to statutory levels and its commitment to work with providers to develop a commissioning framework to support schools in identifying how best to purchase additional AP interventions and provisions.

9.4 Future Proposals

Working with local Colleges to consider proposals to develop specific provision to meet the needs of young people with social communication difficulties who have struggled to engage with the school curriculum in KS4/5. This has been identified as a gap in the Local Offer. The aim will be to see more youngsters progress from PRU provision to mainstream college.

Further development work with the local College to look at development of the Foundation courses and increase in placements to meet more young people's needs locally.

Appendix 1 Summary of Slough's current SEND provision:

Provision	Overview	Commissioned places for September 2022
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Specialist

Arbour Vale	Specialist, all-through (2-19)	325
Littledown	Primary Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs School also delivers SBC's primary AP services	38
Haybrook College	Secondary SEMH needs School also delivers SBC's secondary AP services	85
Total Specialist Provision		448

Resourced Mainstream Provision

Baylis Court Nursery		4
Chalvey Nursery		10
Slough Centre Nursery		6
Total Nursery Resourced Mainstream Provision		20
Colnbrook CE Primary		10
Castleview Primary		22
Phoenix Infant		9
Godolphin Junior		10
Marish Primary		55
Priory School		60
St Ethelbert's RC Primary		10
Total Primary Resourced Mainstream Provision		176
Ditton Park Academy		20
The Langley Academy		8
Slough & Eton College		23
The Westgate School		15
Wexham School		21
Grove Academy		9 (plus 3 each year to 15)
Total Secondary Resourced Mainstream Provision		96

Total Commissioned Specialist Places	740
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£16m was invested by SBC between 2012 and 2020 in creating new or re-provided specialist places for SEND and AP pupils. A further £3.5m will be invested from 2023 to 2025 to create new places and improve provision for SEND pupils.

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Slough Borough Council

REPORT TO:	Cabinet
DATE:	17 th April 2023
SUBJECT:	Procurement forward plan for services in excess of £180,000 and works in excess of £1 million in 2022/23
CHIEF OFFICER:	Adele Taylor – Director of Finance/Section 151
CONTACT OFFICER:	Clare Priest – Head of Commercial services
WARD(S):	All
PORTFOLIO:	Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Procurement and Performance – Councillor Ajaib
KEY DECISION:	Yes
EXEMPT:	No
DECISION SUBJECT TO CALL IN:	Yes
APPENDICES:	'A' - List of services to be procured in 203/24 in excess of £180,000 (services) and £1 million (works) 'B' - List of services to be procured in 203/24 in excess of £180,000 (services) and £1 million (works) where Cabinet authority already has been granted

1 Summary and Recommendation

- 1.1 To seek authority from Cabinet for commencement of procurement for contracts of an estimated value of over £180,000 (services) and £1 million (works), that are proposed to be let in the 2023/24 financial year.
- 1.2 Further reports will be brought to Cabinet with an updated procurement forward plan for any services or works to be procured for the remainder of the financial year or before the cabinet meeting in April 2024.

Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- (a) authorise commencement of procurement for the list of goods, works or services set out in Appendix A;
- (b) delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place and Communities, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport & The Local Environment and the Cabinet for Customer Services, Procurement and Performance to award contracts, to the best value bidder, for the Home to School Transport contracts indicated in Appendix A, as requiring delegated authority to award contracts due to tight timescales involved.
- (c) delegate authority to the Executive Director of Strategy and Improvement following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Procurement & Performance to award contracts, to the best value bidder, for the Disaster Recovery for IT Systems, Backup Solution, Adults & Children's Social Care Systems SaaS Migration , Mobile Telephony Contract contracts indicated in Appendix A, as requiring delegated authority to award contracts due to tight timescales involved.
- (d) delegate authority to Executive Director of Housing and Property following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Financial Oversight & Council Assets to award the contract, to the best value bidder for the Cornwall House Fire Safety works, as requiring delegated authority to award contracts due to tight timescales involved.

Reason

- 1.3 To ensure that Cabinet has proper oversight of planned procurement activity.

2 Report

Introduction

- 2.1 The Council has reviewed its contracts register to identify those contracts that are due for renewal or require a new procurement. This has enabled the Council to establish a procurement programme for 2023-24 and this report is seeking approval for the procurement forward plan. As service plans are developed, it may be necessary to bring an updated plan to a further meeting of Cabinet. In addition, there may be separate reports seeking approval for significant service decisions, which have procurement implications.

Options considered

Option 1:

- 2.2 Approval of a procurement forward plan. The Council's contract procedure rules require cabinet authority for procurements with a total value of over £180,000 (services) and £1 million (works). This demonstrates good governance and allows Cabinet to consider whether it wants further oversight of any specific proposals. **This is the recommended option.**

Option 2:

- 2.3 To authorise each procurement on a case by case basis. This would require separate cabinet reports setting out details of each procurement. Whilst this would allow more detail to be provided, this would result in a high number of individual reports. This is not an efficient use of Cabinet time and is not recommended. It should be noted that contracts for services valued over £500,000 and for works valued over £1million require a separate cabinet approval prior to award of contract.

Background

- 2.4 The Council's Contract Procedure Rules require that each procurement project over £180,000 (services) and £1 million (works) must be on the forward plan approved by Cabinet to authorise commencement of procurement. For projects with a total value under £500,000 (services) or £1 million (works), the award of contract following procurement is delegated to an executive director. For any contract over these sums, a separate report will be presented to Cabinet seeking authority to award the contract, or the forward plan seeks approval by cabinet that approval of award is delegated where specifically set out in the Forward Plan.
- 2.5 Contracts listed in Appendix A will be subject to detailed review with commissioners and executive directors, to challenge and seek to verify if procurement is necessary and to identify opportunities to maximise value for money through contract rationalisation and consolidation. Should the scope of a procurement exercise change significantly from that stated in Appendix A, a further report will come back to cabinet with further details for approval.
- 2.6 Cabinet forward plan can be split into categories:
- Category 1: Procurement between £180k and £500k (services) –Cabinet to authorise procurement. Delegated authority given to Executive Directors to award the contract unless Cabinet requires the award decision to be reserved to Cabinet.
 - Category 2: Procurement over £500k (services) / £1million (works) – Cabinet to authorise procurement and note that future reports will be brought back to Cabinet for approval of award of contract.
 - Category 3: Procurement over £500k/£1m where the Forward Plan clearly sets out delegation of authority to award

3 Implications of the Recommendation

3.1 Financial implications

- 3.1.1 The planned procurements set out in the Appendix are included in approved revenue budgets. For capital funded projects, the funding is included in the capital programme.

3.2 Legal implications

- 3.2.1 In accordance with the Procurement Application and Authorisation Table set out in the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, all Service Contracts over £180,000 and Works Contracts over £1 million must be on the Forward Plan presented to Cabinet

each year in order to authorise commencement of procurement. The procurement forward plan will be reviewed and updated throughout the year and update reports will be brought to Cabinet to approve further procurements once the detail of these are known.

3.2.2 Full business cases should be reviewed by the Council's internal procurement review board. IT projects should also be reviewed by the Council's internal Information Governance Group. Any project funded by capital should be reviewed by the Council's Cabinet Monitoring board and included in quarterly reporting of the capital programme.

3.2.3 All service contracts over £100,000 should be sealed and the council's legal advisors (currently HB Public Law) should advise on contract documentation. For works contracts, an appropriate model form contract such as JCT or NEC should be used and advice should be sought from HB Public Law.

3.2.4 As well as compliance with internal procurement rules, the Council must ensure compliance with procurement law. The procurement review board will consider this on a case by case basis.

3.2.5 The Council should also consider and build the following into procurement processes:

- stakeholder engagement
- efficient commissioning and sourcing arrangements
- best value considerations, including social and environmental value, as well as economic
- contract management.

3.3 Risk management implications

3.3.1 There are no specific issues arising directly from this report, however good forward planning will ensure that procurement activity is done in a timely way, which will lead to better value for money.

3.4 Environmental implications

3.4.1 There are no specific environmental implications arising directly from this report.

3.5 Equality implications

3.5.1 The equality implications will be considered on a case by case basis. The revised best value statutory guidance confirms that authorities should avoid imposing onerous contractual requirements on private and voluntary sector contractor, over and above those necessary to comply with the Equality Act 2010, as this can become a barrier to entry to the market for small and medium size firms and the voluntary sector. As part of commissioning arrangements, authorities are also expected to take steps to avoid commissioning services from individuals or organisations which actively or vocally oppose fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs; or which call for the death of members of British armed forces.

3.6 Procurement implications

3.6.1 A business case for each procurement project will be developed which will consider the most appropriate procurement route according to the Council's contract procedure rules, UK Procurement regulations and will need to follow public procurement principles of value for money, equality of treatment, transparency and proportionality.

3.7 Workforce implications

3.7.1 Workforce implications will be considered upon the letting of each contract.

3.8 Property implications

3.8.1 Property implications will be considered upon the letting of each contract.

4 Background Papers

None

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Housing and Property

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
1	Haybrook College Annex (Services)	Appointment of Architect to obtain planning approval	Expenditure Control Panel business case currently under review	New	n/a	£300k	Capital	May-23	18 months	n/a	Jul-23
2	Haybrook College Annex (Works)	Appointment of Contractor to construct new annex, expand car park and provide a new 3G pitch	Expenditure Control Panel business case currently under review. Cabinet approval required due to budget level	New	n/a	£1.8m	Capital	Nov-23	12 months	Jan-24	Jan-24
Page 89	Cornwall House Fire Safety works - £1m (Works)	To undertake necessary fire compartmentation works to the housing block	Consultant appointed to undertake fire safety survey - when results are known, will tender for the Contractor to undertake these works (Design & Build)	New	n/a	£1m (estimated)	Capital	May-23	8 months	Delegate authority to executive director – housing and property	Jul-23
4	Registered Valuer for Asset Valuations (Services)	Valuation of the Council's stock on an annual basis	Expenditure Control Panel business case approved.	New	n/a	£300k	Revenue	Jan-23	4 years	n/a	Apr-23
5	Corporate Water contract (Services)	Corporate water contract for 3 years	To be tendered as a Framework in 2023	New	Deemed Contract transferred from Thames Water (Wholesale	£270K	Revenue	May 2023	36 months	N/A	August 2023

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
					er) to Castle Water (Retailer)						
6	Planning, building control and land charges systems, including artificial intelligence and geospatial technology (Services)	Set up new contract for supply of IT applications used for the management of the building control, planning, land charges functions, to include, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • database • case management system, • document management functionality, via SharePoint or similar • geospatial plotting and analysis, • management of land charges with integration to the Land Registry • citizen portal • artificial intelligence chat bot • artificial intelligence planning validation tool 	Business case in development	New contract to bring supply of all products under one contract. Existing contracts are in place with an incumbent supplier for individual products due to expire March 2023.	April 2023	£320k over expected term of contract (4 years)	Revenue	April 2023	4 years (2+1+1)	N/A	May 2023

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
Page 91		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reporting functionality via PowerBI or similar • integration to Local Land and Property Gazetteer • integration to national Planning Portal • mobile application for management of site visits and statutory inspections <p>Ensure contract has provision for additional products as required by the council.</p> <p>Ensure best value and agree terms of support contract, including support for exit.</p>									

Finance and Commercial

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
1	Insurance (Services)	Insurance Renewal for all main insurance policies	Will be tendered during 2023/24	Current contract	31/3/24	£9.8m	Revenue	June 2023	5+2 years	February 2024	1/4/24
2	Business rates (Services)	Business Rates billing, administration, and recovery	Seeking clarification on route to procure	Current	30/06/2023	£390K	Revenue	April 2023	36-months	N/A	01/07/2023
3	Revenues & Benefits printing and post (Services)	Revenues & Benefits printing and post	Not started	Current	10/01/2024	£300K	Revenue	October 2023	36-months	N/A	11/01/2024
Page 92	Banking Services (Services)	The service required includes the maintenance of Council bank accounts, BACS transaction processing and other money transmission associated with local authority banking arrangements. The Council will also require internet banking services for balance/transaction reporting and payment initiation.	Active	Current	3/4/2024	Estimated 10 year cost of £1.2m based on current contract	Revenue	June 2023	7 +3 years (10 years)	January 2024	1/4/2024
5	Merchant acquiring services (Services)	The service required is provision of key requisite for transactional processing and	Active	Current	3/4/2024	Estimated cost of £1.3m for 10 year based on	Revenue	June 2023	7 +3 years (10 years)	January 2024	1/4/2024

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
		enables the council to accept card transactions from council customers for a range of transactions including council services like Sundry Debtors, Invoices, Council Tax, NNDR				current contract annual cost of £126k p.a.					

Place and Community

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
1	Transport Modelling to support submission of the new Slough Local Plan (Services)	SBC's 2017 transport model is required for the new Local Plan to secure agreement from National Highways (formally Highways England) that impacts of development associated with the Local Plan comply with their statutory duties. This may need updating, and will need modelling runs and air quality modelling of the outputs. The Local Plan project team expect this will primarily be to ensure safe traffic flow on the M4 and M25	Business case in development	New	N/A	£400k	Revenue	Q1	6-24 months - work is needed initially to update the Model. Following that, as the Local Plan is developed, some scenarios will need testing.	N/A	Q1
2	Highways maintenance contract (Works)	Highway Maintenance and Minor works – to undertake all maintenance work on the highway and any project work (supported through the capital programme subject to approval)	MBC submitted to recruit QS for producing and tendering Highway Maintenance contracts	N/A	May-22	£14m	Capital and Revenue	Apr-23	5+1+1	Q3	Q4
3	Contracts for home to school transport (Services)	SEND Statutory Home to School Transport services Circa 130 individual routes	Call off from the existing DPS to identify sufficient providers	Current	Sep-23	£10m	Revenue	May -23	2+1	Delegate authority to executive director - place and community	Sep -23

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
			that meet the criteria to deliver Home to School transport services								
4	Farnham road scheme (Works)	Public Realm works to improve and support businesses, address ASB issues and promote the Farnham Road as a key destination	Community Engagement and preliminary designs to be undertaken.	New	N/A	£10.2m	Capital Grant	April -23	2	September -23 For Construction contract	Oct-23
Page 95	Winter maintenance (Services)	Seasonal hire of winter machinery (Gritters)	Business case in development	Framework expired contract to be retendered		£220k	Revenue	May-23	4 years	Q3	Q4
6	Tyres (Services)	Repair, replacement of SBC vehicles fleets tyres	Business case in development	Framework expired contract to be retendered	Dec-22	£250k	Revenue	May-23	4 years	Q3	Q4
7	Cycle Training (Services)	Bikeability training for children, to encourage cycling and active travel, and reduce car usage for short journeys, this leads to health benefits for residents and environmental benefits through reduced car use.	Confirmation of grant funding received in March 2023	Current contract	6 th July 2023	£250k	Revenue	April 2023	5 years (2+2+1)	N/A	7 th July 2023

Strategy and Improvement

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
1	Temporary Labour (Services)	<p>Provision of a managed service for the acquisition of temporary labour</p> <p>Key deliverables are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill gaps caused by vacancies or absence of permanent posts • Meet peaks of workload in service areas where demand for work fluctuates • Meet the need to for short term, fixed or project work where there is no capacity in the permanent workforce <p>Provide for specific skills or capabilities required on a short or medium term basis</p>	<p>Final extension is being enacted for 2023/24. During this period the procurement service will undertake a full procurement review for value for money and consider if the services provided by the current provider are competitive in the current market</p>	Current	31.03.2024	£20m	Revenue	May 2023	from April 2024 2+1+1	<p>October 2023</p> <p>Assuming 5 months to mobile new supplier</p>	April 2024

Strategy and Improvement - IT contracts

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
1	Disaster Recovery for IT Systems (Services)	<p><u>Description</u> Recovery and operation of the Council's IT systems in the event of an outage at the data centre</p> <p><u>Deliverables:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IT Systems recovered and available per business impact assessments. 	Competitive competition due to commence shortly	New Contract	N/A	£1m	Both	Apr/May 23	5 Years	Delegate authority to executive director - strategy and improvement	01/08/23
Page 97	Backup Solution (Services)	<p><u>Description</u> Implementation of a cloud-based backup solution</p> <p><u>Deliverables:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of cloud back up service Decommission of old legacy system and hardware 	Competitive competition due to commence shortly	Current Contract	30/09/23	£500K	Both	Apr/May 23	5 Years	Delegate authority to executive director - strategy and improvement	01/10/23
3	Adults & Children's Social Care Systems SaaS Migration (Services)	<p><u>Description</u> Procurement and implementation of the cloud-based Adults & Children's Social Care system.</p> <p><u>Deliverables:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of a cloud-based Adults & Children's Social Care system 	Scoping Exercise underway	Current Contract	31/03/24	£1M	Both	Jul 23	5 years	Delegate authority to executive director - strategy and improvement	01/04/24

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migration of data from the current system to the new solution 									
4	Mobile Telephony Contract (Services)	<p><u>Description</u> Procurement of a new mobile telephony council for the Council</p> <p><u>Deliverables:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New 5 year (3 + 2) mobile telephony contract Migration of Council's mobile connections to new provider 	Scoping Exercise underway	Current contract	22/09/23	£1M	Revenue	Apr/May 23	5 years (3 + 2)	Delegate authority to executive director - strategy and improvement	23/09/23
5	Regulatory Service SaaS Contract (Services)	<p><u>Description</u> Procurement of a cloud-based regulatory services solution</p> <p><u>Deliverables:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of a cloud-based regulatory services solution Migration of data from the current system to the new solution 	Scoping Exercise underway	2 current contracts to be combined into 1 contract	31/03/24	£350K	Both	Apr/May 23	4 Years (2 +1+1)	N/A	01/08/23
6	Website & Digital Platform (Services)	<p><u>Description</u> Recontract for the Council's website and digital platform.</p> <p><u>Deliverable:</u></p>	Scoping Exercise underway	Current contract	28/02/2024	£325K	Revenue	Sep/Oct 23	4 Years (2+1+1)	N/A	01/03/24

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New 4-year contract with JADU 									
7	Cloud Hosting Contract (Services)	<p><u>Description</u> Procurement of a cloud hosting contract for the Council's IT infrastructure</p> <p><u>Deliverables:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of a cloud hosting platform Migration of the Council's on-premises infrastructure to the Cloud. 	Scoping Exercise underway	New Contract	N/A	£2.5M	Revenue	Jan/Feb 24	5 Years	N/A	01/06/24
8	Social Worker Specialist Services (Services)	<p><u>Description</u> Social care specialist to assist SBC and SCF deliver statutory services to the residents of Slough</p> <p><u>Deliverables:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A contracted social care specialist 	Scoping Exercise underway	Current Contract	31/03/24	£300K	Revenue	Jun/Jul 23	3 Years	N/A	01/04/24
9	IT Peripherals Contract (Services)	<p><u>Description</u> Contract for the purchase of IT hardware/peripheral (e.g., laptops, headsets)</p> <p><u>Deliverables:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracted Supplier for the procurement of IT hardware/peripherals 	Scoping Exercise underway	New Contract	N/A	£400K	Capital	Sep/Oct 23	3 Years	N/A	01/04/24

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
10	Secure Tape Collection & Storage (Services)	<u>Description</u> Provision of new secure tape collection and storage contract <u>Deliverables:</u> Archival storage of backup media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tape rotation and collection schedule 	Scoping Exercise underway	New Contract	N/A	£250K	Revenue	Sep 23	3 Years	N/A	01/04/24
11	Cloud Hosting of IT Systems (Services)	<u>Description</u> Provision of public cloud services to host the Council's IT systems <u>Deliverables:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosting of the Council's IT systems in the cloud 	Scoping Exercise underway	New contract	N/A	Between £537K - £1.1M	Revenue	June/July 2023	1 year	Aug 23	01/09/23

People (Adults)

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
1	ASC Accommodation with care or support for Adults with Learning Disabilities, Autism or who have Mental Health Needs (Services)	<p>Multiple Supplier contracts to deliver Accommodation with care or support e.g. Supported Living Placements for Adults within individual flats or shared houses/flats, includes placements contracts and/or nomination rights agreements to accommodation.</p> <p>Estimated 45 new placements within the year.</p> <p>Main aim is to provide more cost effective service provision from existing provision profile.</p>	N/A	New	N/A	<p>Aggregate values £17m</p> <p>(£3.4m per year over 5 years)</p>	Revenue	April 2023	Up to 5 years	To be determined as there are a number of contracts to be put in place	To be determined as there are a number of contracts to be put in place
2	Supported Living for people with profound and multiple disabilities (Services)	Supported in living in two properties for people with complex needs. 24 hour support both physical support and daily living.	Current provider has served notice. Seeking an alternative provider for TUPE transfer	Existing residents in two properties where outgoing provider has given notice.	Negotiations are ongoing – to be confirmed	£6.5M over 5 years	Revenue	To be confirmed	3+1+1	To be confirmed	1 April 2024

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
3	Accommodation based Housing Related Support (Services)	18 bed hostel to provide supported accommodation for homeless people with support needs	DLT has given approval to progress procurement. Business case going to PRB	New contract from 2 Nov 23	1 Nov 23	Up to £500k	Revenue	April 2023	Up to three years	N/A	2 Nov 23
4	Care Home block contract (Services)	Care Home Block bed provision encompassing general residential and nursing placements, and dementia residential and nursing placements. Re-procurement required to ensure sufficiency of supply to meet duties under s5 and s9 of The Care Act 2014		Current requires re-procurement of 90 beds and possible increase to 120 beds	26 July 2024	£170m over 15 years. Estimates based on 120beds rising from £8m in year 1 to £15.6m in year 15 based on a 5% increase in fees per annum.	Revenue	April 2023	15 years	June 2024	27 July 2024
5	Berkshire Community Equipment Service (Goods and services)	A contract with all local authorities across Berkshire with West Berkshire as the lead commissioner. This contract provides equipment and technology to enable people to remain independent in their home. It aims to delay the need for social care packages	West Berkshire LA are working with their legal team to agree the commissioning strategy (framework or open tender). This will be shared with the BCES operating group in the next month.	Current contract	31 March 2024	£125,628,327 Slough's annual budget is £342,000.01 Total contract value £2.4m This is across all the boroughs.	Revenue	A paper is going by West Berks to their Procurement Board to agree to use a framework. It is acknowledged that SBC will need to sign off the governance but the	Five year with possible two year extension	June 2023 to update on model	1 April 24

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
Page 103		as well as care home admissions.	Currently the BCES group are meeting to agree and review the various aspects of the tender paperwork (spec etc)			The value is gross spend for all partners. We operate a recycling model so estimated net spend is £76,379,945 for its duration (not including extension option)		procurement is undertaken by West Berks Paper going to June cabinet to seek agreement to progress procurement and procurement route which will be undertaken by West Berks			
	6	Healthy Child Programme (0-19/25) (Services)	This contract delivers the National Healthy Child Programme – delivering legally mandated targets (Health and Social Care Act 2012) Under 5 years – Universal, targeted and specialist service focused on child	Contract has been extended until Oct 2024. Cabinet Approval	Current	September 30 th 2024	TBD currently £2.8m	Public Health Ring Fenced Grant	September 2023	TBD 3-5 years	TBD

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
Page 104		development, prevention and early intervention. Touch points Antenatal 7-14 days 6-8 weeks 12 months 2 ½ years School aged 5-19/25 National Child Measurement Programme School health reviews Year R Year 6 Year 9									
	7	Stroke Association	The East Berkshire Specialist Stroke Service provides high	Contract Variation and 1 Year Contact	Current	31 March 2024	£824k across all local authorities	Revenue	April 2023	3+1+1 years	N/A

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
	(Services)	quality information, advice and support to stroke survivors and families. The service has been commissioned by Slough Borough Council on behalf of East Berkshire CCG, Windsor & Maidenhead Council and Bracknell Forest Council.	Extension now with Provider for signature This will run until 31 March 2024 This will be transferred to Frimley ICB / RBWM as lead commissioners			SBC contribution is £205k					
8 Page 105	Advocacy (Services)	The services supplied under this contract are: Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA) Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA) Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) and Relevant Person's Representatives (RPR) Litigation Friend Statutory National Health Service Complaints Advocacy (NHS – CA)	Commissioning in the early phase of governance and sign off.	Current	30 Sept 2023	£550k	Revenue	April 2023	3+1+1 years	To be confirmed	1 October 2023

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
Page 106		Statutory Care Act Advocacy (CAA) (Support / Assessment, Safeguarding, Carers and Hospital Advocacy) Non-statutory Advocacy (NSA) – Generic Community Advocacy									
	Accommodation based Housing related support (Services)	45 bed hostel to provide supported accommodation for homeless people with support needs	DLT has given approval to progress procurement. Business case going to PRB	New contract from 2 Nov 23	1 Nov 23	Up to 300k	Revenue	April 2023	Up to three years	N/A	2 Nov 23
10	Provision of Speech and Language Therapy Service (SALT) with Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust	The current contract arrangement with BHFT is part of the wider service across Berkshire. The LA and ICB have separate but interdependent commissioning arrangements with BHFT to carry out duties outlined in the Children and Families Act 2014.	This contract ends on the 31/3/24 with a potential break at 1/9/23 Agreement for this contract to be extended until the 31/3/24, if needed, was	Current	31/3/24	Existing Contract Value £309K over 3 years Value of new contract TBC following ongoing discussions	Revenue from the DSG	April 23	12 months with break at September 23 if needed to put us in line with other East Berkshire	No planned date to return to cabinet but it will need to return at a later date	1/4/23 or/sept 23 or April 24 depending on further discussions.

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
	New Contract Integrated Therapies (Services)	Under this Act · Local Authorities have a responsibility to meet the educational needs of children/young people identified in an (EHCP) Education Health and Care Plan; this often will include speech and language therapy. · Similarly ICB's have a responsibility to meet health needs through occupational therapy and physiotherapy, provided through community-based services and prevention. This includes statutory health assessments. BHFT is contracted by both the local authority and the ICB to provide a direct range of therapy services to meet the health and educational needs outlined in a child/young person's EHCP. Locally there are joint delivery arrangements for workforce development and training, an agreed pathway to assess	given on 18/11/22.			with other East Berks Authorities and the ICB around statutory delivery requirements			Authoritie s. Being discussed with other LA's		

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
		needs of children and young people, and attendance at the SEND partnership meeting and Panel.									

People (Children)

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
1	Education Management System (Services)	Slough Borough Council is seeking to procure an education management software to enable the Education Services to fulfil its statutory and safeguarding duties. For example, school admissions, attendance, exclusion, SEND Educational Health Care Plan process, Early Years two-year-old funding, home to school transport and children in entertainment licensing. The system offers users portals online which are public facing access to apply for school places, home to school transport, Early Years funding applications and SEND Educational Health Care Plan Assessments requests (in process of implementation).Slough Schools children's data is		Current	31/03/2023	£1m	Revenue	April 2023	3 years	April 2023	May 2023

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
Page 110		<p>fed into the system daily from schools which supports safeguarding duties. The system is used for end-to-end case management by LA's various Education teams for processing applications for school places, EHCP assessments and monitoring, CME, Attendance, home to school transport, Exclusions and Fair Access, Early Funding applications, Early Years providers payments and processing, Issuing applications for Chaperone Licensing and processing and recording children entertainment and employment licenses. The educational software system would also deliver data in the correct format for statutory returns such as the Alternative Provision,</p>									

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
Page 111		<p>School Preference Return Primary and Secondary, Early Years Census and the SEN 2 Person Leve Return. The Education system also generates files in a format that can be exchanged with other LA's relating to school applications and school place offers to children. The school portal allows the LA and Slough schools to share details in real time of children's allocation to their schools. Business Intelligence reporting with the option to create insights would be part of the package as this allows the services to move away from holding Excel spreadsheet and notice gaps in the system. The education software would hold the overall data of each child allowing various services a better</p>									

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
		overview and meet statutory requirements.									

Appendix B – Contracts where cabinet authority has been granted

Place and Community

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
1 Page 113	Contract for individual and group domestic abuse support (Services)	<p>New contract for domestic abuse services, delivering a range of outputs and outcomes for survivors of domestic abuse. The numbers of high risk survivors supported by the incumbent provider is around 500 per annum.</p> <p>Outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk assessed within 48 hours of referral • Safety plan is put into place. • Safeguarding alerts regarding children <p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased safety • Improved health and wellbeing • Improved stability and independence • Improved (safety, relationships, wellbeing), for children of survivors 	<p>A 'Business Case Request' has been prepared to extend the current contract (annual value £214k) from the 1st April to the 31st December 2023</p> <p>The paper for an extension (new contract), for a period of 9 months, will allow the completion of a comprehensive needs assessment. This will include comprehensi</p>	New	1 st April 2024	£1,070,000	Revenue	April 2023	3 + 2 years	May 2023	1 st January 2024

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
Page 114		<i>Victims of domestic abuse feel safe and supported and educated on breaking cycles of domestic abuse</i>	<p>ve stakeholder engagement and an equalities impact needs assessment that takes into account developments on legislation (DA Act), to enable the design of a new service specification suitable for the future, with effect from 1st January 2024.</p> <p>A cabinet paper, and full paper to procurement board will be produced, seeking permission to extend invitations to tender(ITT)</p>								

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
			for a new service. This will follow the timetable outlined in the 'Business Case Request'.								
2 Page 115	Green Waste Disposal (Services)	Disposal green waste from subscription service and Civic Amenity site	Extension approved by PRB.	Current	Sep-23	£900k	Revenue	Apr-23	1+1+1	Delegate authority to executive director place and community-verify this is possible with legal	22-Sep-23
3	DSO Vehicle and plant hire (Services)	Replacement vehicle hire contract for Fleet Management	Report being produced for Cabinet to approve appointment of contract supplier	New	N/A	£1m+	Revenue	Apr -23	1+1+1	Sep-23	Oct-23

People (Adults)

	Contract Title	Description, including deliverables and outcomes	Status update	Current or new contract	If current contract, state end date	Estimated value of new contract	Capital or revenue	Intended procurement start date	Expected contract term	Planned return date for cabinet authority	Intended start date of contract
1	ASC DPS Domiciliary care tranche 3 contract award (Services)	Multiple Supplier Contracts to deliver domiciliary care, personal assistants, and replacement care to secure sufficiency of supply to meet the council's statutory duties under s9 and s5 of the Care Act 2014.	Cabinet approval to re-procure already given at November 2022 Cabinet meeting.	Some contracts are current, and will be reprocured during 2023, 2024 and 2026, others will be new with reconfigured procurement for non-regulated service provision and procured during 2023/4.	Current contracts end dates 21/05/2023, 28/06/2024, and 01/09/2026 Reconfiguration of unregulated services being let	Aggregate values £11m £2.2m per year over 5 years) £4m (£800k per year over 5 years)	Revenue	April 2023	5 years	Authority delegated in November Cabinet report	May 2023