

EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 16 OCTOBER 2014

School Admissions and the Supply of School Places

- The following data are from the Statistical First Release which, for the first time, includes both secondary and primary school data for England and every local authority.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS	Places	Applications	Spare places	1st prefs met	2nd prefs met	3rd prefs met	1st - 3rd prefs met
England	600,903	521,274	79,629 13.25%	85.2%	7.7%	2.5%	95.5%
Oxon	7,012	6,102	910 12.98%	90.6%	6.2%	1.0%	97.8%

- For **secondary schools**, of the c.10% of first preferences which were not met, around half were attributable to just four schools: The Cherwell, Oxford; John Mason, Abingdon; Wallingford; and The Warriner, Bloxham.
- Over half of the spare places were attributable to seven schools: Bicester Community College; Fitzharrys, Abingdon; The Oxford Academy; St.Birinus, Didcot; Oxford Spires Academy; and Wood Green, Witney.

School expansions

- Expansions of 1 Form of Entry (30 places per year group) have been agreed with Cheney School, Oxford and Bartholomew School, Eynsham and Faringdon Community College. Discussions are underway with a number of other schools where either demography, popularity or a combination of the two demonstrate that there will be a need for more places in the next few years.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS	Places	Applications	Spare places	1st prefs met	2nd prefs met	3rd prefs met	1st - 3rd prefs met
England	689,175	623,526	65,649 9.53%	87.7%	6.1%	2.0%	95.7%
Oxon	8,343	7,533	810 9.71%	89.0%	6.0%	1.7%	96.8%

- For **primary schools**, the smaller size of the schools and lower Published Admission Numbers (maximum of 90 for Windmill, Oxford cf. 320 for Lord Willimas's, Thame) means that absolute numbers of first preferences not met for any particular school tend to be lower as do the number of spare places.
- The greatest shortfall was at the Europa Free School (89 first preferences for 56 places, a shortfall of 33 or -33%) whilst the greatest number of spare places was at Tyndale Community Free School and St.Gregory the Great all-

through school, both in East Oxford (39 more place than first preferences or 65%). However, in percentage terms the range is much wider with Longcot & Fernham seeing a -112% shortfall in places (36 first preferences for 17 places) and Badgemore, Henley a surplus of 80% (6 first preferences for 30 places).

School expansions

7. A large number of primary schools, particularly in Oxford City, have already been expanded or are currently subject to expansions (13 in 2014-15, some multi-phase projects) A further 19 (again some multi-phase projects) have been identified for 2015-16.

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