

SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING

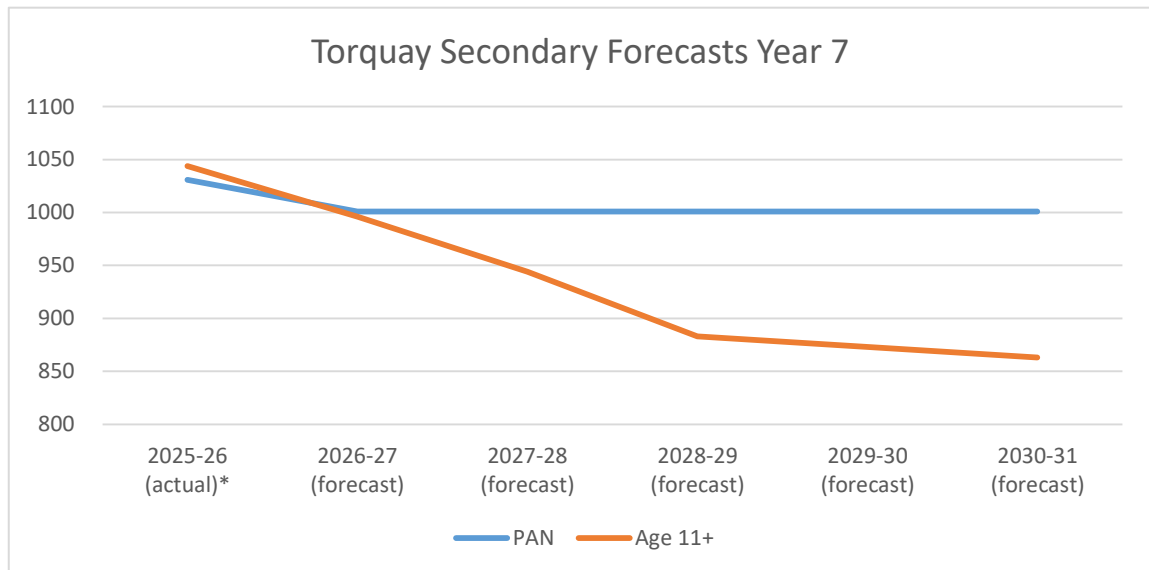
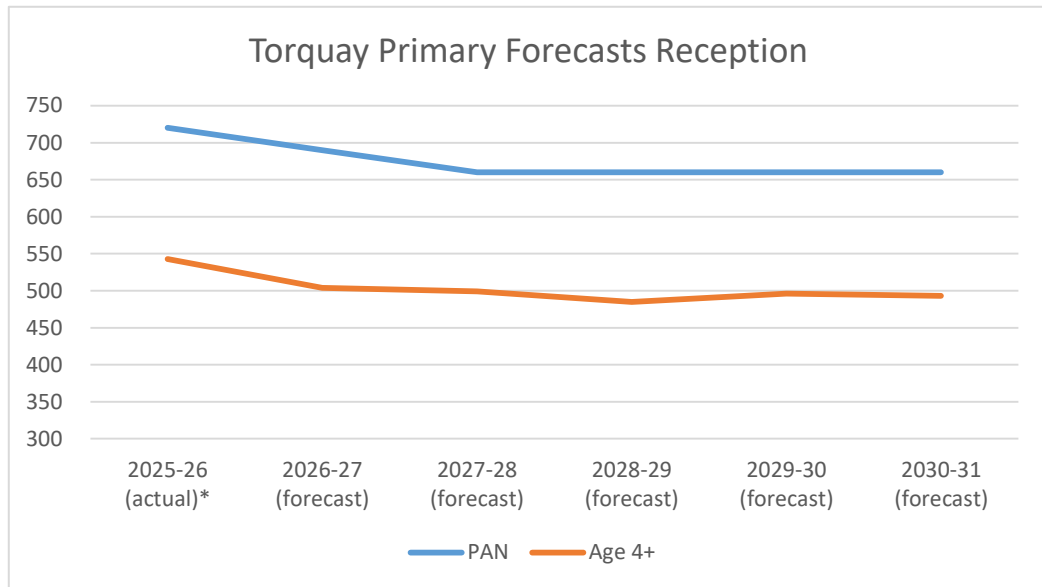
INTRODUCTION

1. Torbay Local Authority (LA) has a statutory duty to ensure all children of school age can access education. Pupil projections enable the LA to plan and ensure it has the capacity to meet demand. By providing an indicator for the expected school population over the coming 5 years, projections enable the LA to effectively plan provision to meet demand. Projections are estimates based on historical trends; the assumption is that patterns and trends affecting current pupil numbers in the area will continue as they are. The projections are updated bi-annually to ensure they reflect the most up to date data and local intelligence.
2. This Executive Summary provides an overview of the current and projected pupil numbers for Torbay across the primary and secondary sectors. It is broken down into three Planning Areas: Torquay, Paignton and Brixham, providing an overview of the current projections, implications for school places and the LA's actions for managing future provision.
3. There are four key observations affecting Torbay's current projections:
 - Persistent low number of births across all three planning areas; consistent with national trend,
 - The reduction in population growth with a slowdown in housing and movement into the area,
 - Local secondary transfer rates remain at an all-time high as more pupils remain in area, and the increased migration at secondary level into the bays three selective schools as the local cohort size decreases and more places are offered to out of area pupils.
4. As a result, the current challenges facing the LA are managing the surplus primary capacity and planning for the future fall in demand for secondary school places as the primary surplus moves into the secondary sector.

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PLANNING AREA: TORQUAY



Proposed housing developments in Torquay with an anticipated pupil yield above historical level:

Edginswell	approx. 300 homes - mixture of starter and family homes; not yet started
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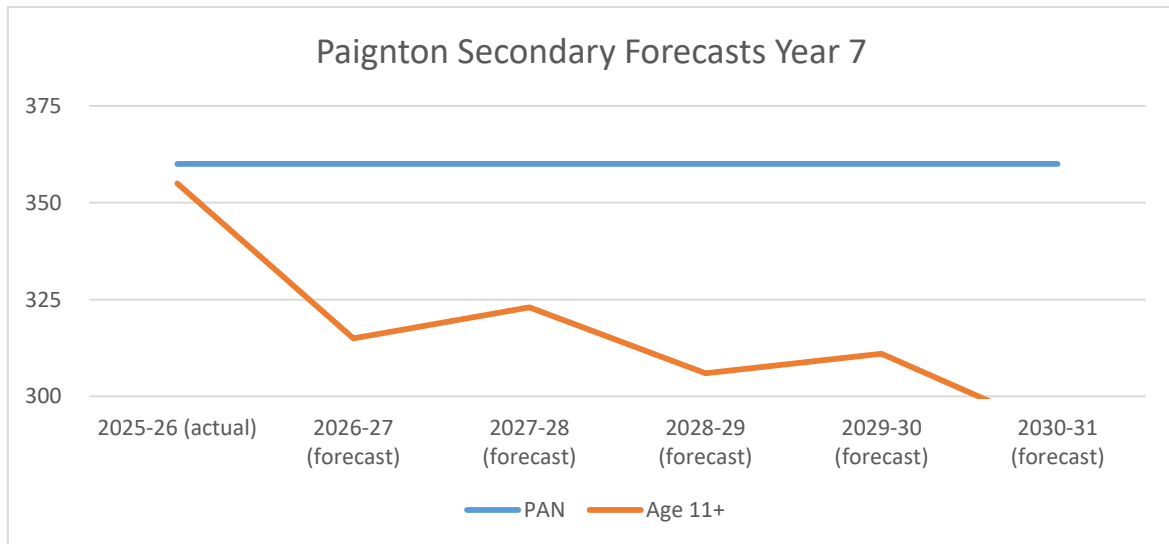
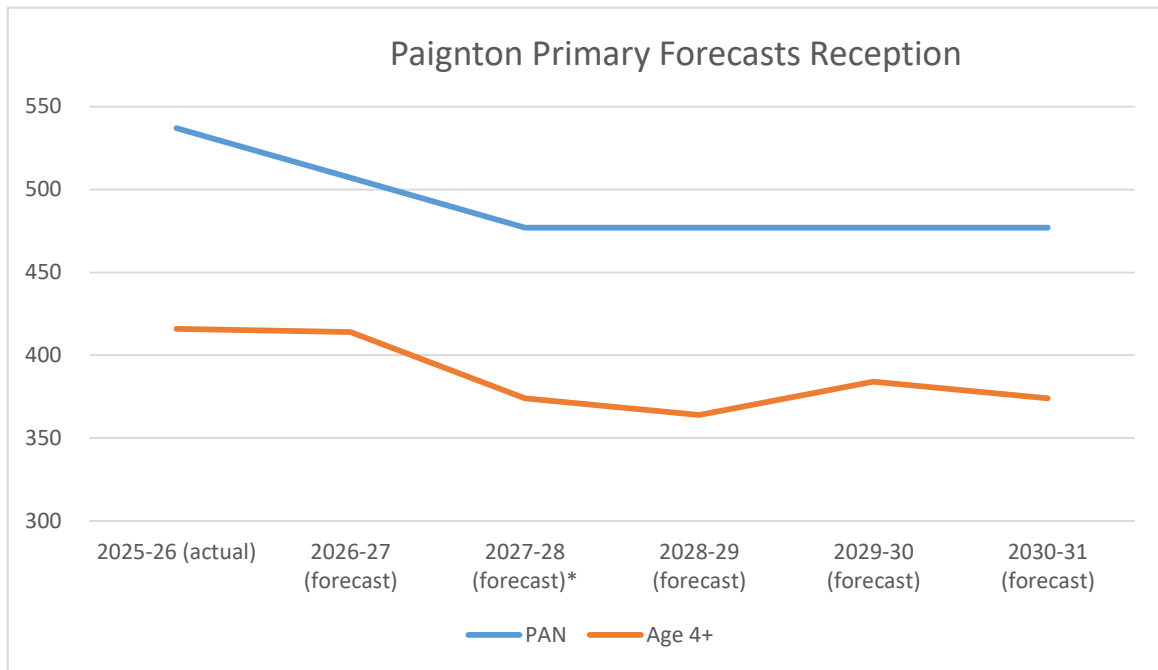
OVERVIEW

- Torquay has experienced the lowest drop in birth rates; only 517 births in 2024 compared to 770 in 2015.
- Current projections show there is sufficient capacity at primary level for the foreseeable future; however, increasing concern over the level of surplus which is expected to reach 27% by 2029.
- Several primary schools have taken proactive action and reduced their PAN; other schools are considering taking the same action to manage the impact of falling rolls.
- Potential growth expected from the Edginswell development but not at sufficient level to utilise all surplus.
- Last year of pressure at secondary level as the LA manages large cohorts of pupils moving up alongside the high levels of inward migration to the selective schools; 2025 data shows that the Year 7 cohort increased by 125% through the intake of out of area pupils. This is the highest it has ever been.
- Secondary intake numbers expected to peak in 2025 before dropping to more manageable levels from 2027 onwards.

ACTIONS

- To continue discussions with local heads and Trusts regarding utilising surplus accommodation for SEND and Early Years provision – capital funding has been made available for both options by the DfE who recognise primary falling rolls as a national issue.
- There are currently no proposals to permanently remove any accommodation; all unfit accommodation has been removed during previous periods of falling rolls pre-2010
- The LA will continue a dialogue with planners over the proposed Edginswell development to understand the size of the development and delivery dates to ensure sufficient capacity is maintained.
- Officers will continue to closely monitor applications for 2027 intake to ensure there is sufficient capacity to meet demand.
- Latest position following Secondary Allocation Day in March is that all pupils that have applied, to date, have been offered a place for this September.

PLANNING AREA: PAIGNTON



Proposed housing developments with an anticipated pupil yield above historical level:

Inglewood	373 houses mixture of starter and family homes – currently being delivered
Collaton Area	Total of 539 houses; permission has been granted for phase 1

OVERVIEW

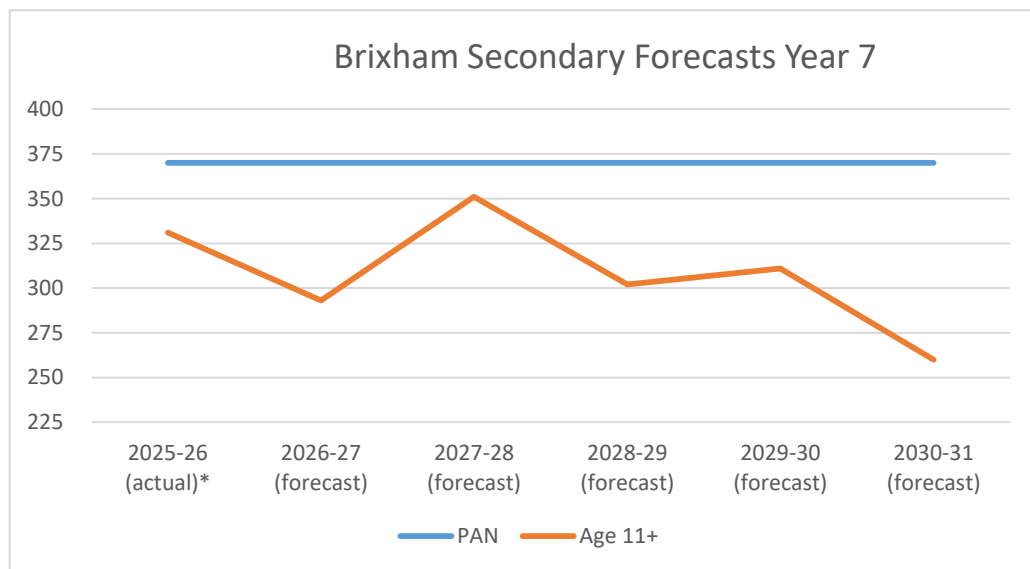
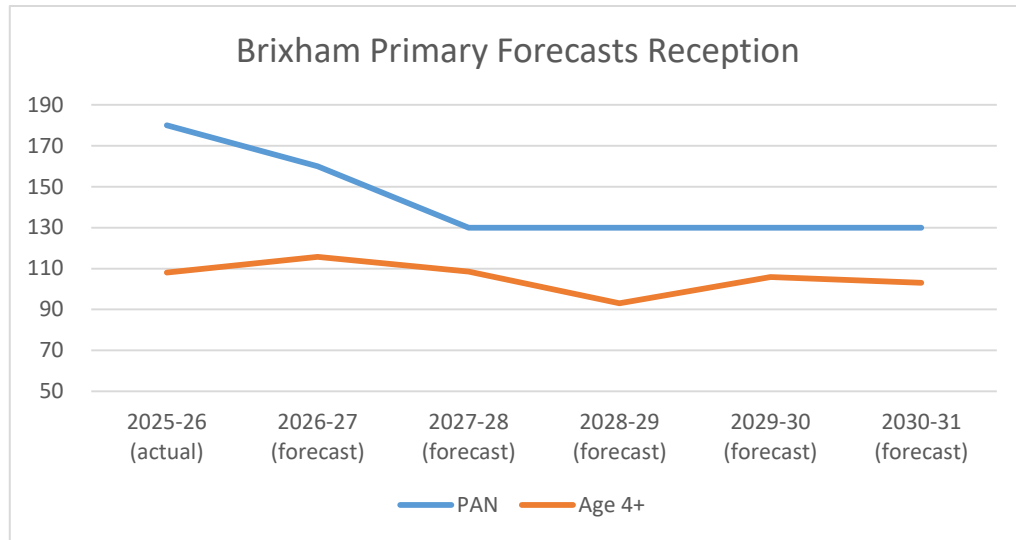
- Although Paignton continues to be an area of significant economic investment and large housing developments; the latest projections indicate that there will be a surplus of primary places for the foreseeable future.
- Any expected pupil growth from the large local housing developments has been counteracted by the low birth rate in the area. Last year, 2025, saw the lowest birth rate of 353 as opposed to 491 in 2012.
- At secondary level, demand peaks in 2025 before dropping to more manageable levels.

ACTIONS

- To continue discussions with local heads and Trusts regarding utilising surplus accommodation for SEND and Early Years provision – capital funding has been made available for both options by the DfE who recognise primary falling rolls as a national issue.
- There are currently no proposals to permanently remove any accommodation; all unfit accommodation has been removed during previous periods of falling rolls pre-2010

- To continue liaising closely with planners on the build out rate and local impact of above local developments. These are expected to utilise some of the surplus although challenge is often the location of the available places.
- With only one secondary school in Paignton the options for managing demand are limited and numbers are expected to drop from 2026.
- Historically, there is cross border movement between Paignton and Brixham at secondary level; projected surplus in Brixham from 2026 onwards will be available as an alternative to those on the edges of the Paignton area.
- The LA will maintain a watching brief on local transfer rates and the movement of pupils between areas.
- Latest position following Secondary Allocation Day in March is that all pupils that have applied to date have been offered a place for this September.

PLANNING AREA: BRIXHAM



OVERVIEW

- Brixham continues to face falling primary cohorts in line with the fall in birth rates. With no current or proposed housing developments above historical levels, this position is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future.
- Some schools have taken the proactive steps to temporarily reduce their planned admission number to better manage their roll and budgets.
- Place planning at secondary level is manageable as numbers begin to fall in line with primary numbers although worth noting the high level of inward migration to the Grammar School; in 2025 the Year 7 cohort 'grew' by 185% due to inward migration.

ACTIONS

- To continue discussions with local heads and Trusts regarding utilising surplus accommodation for SEND and Early Years provision – capital funding has been made available for both options by the DfE who recognise primary falling rolls as a national issue.
- There are currently no proposals to permanently remove any accommodation; all unfit accommodation has been removed during previous periods of falling rolls pre-2010
- No further action is needed to meet demand in the area for secondary provision; it is expected that any surplus capacity will help to meet the demand from neighbouring Paignton.