School Place Planning

November 2026

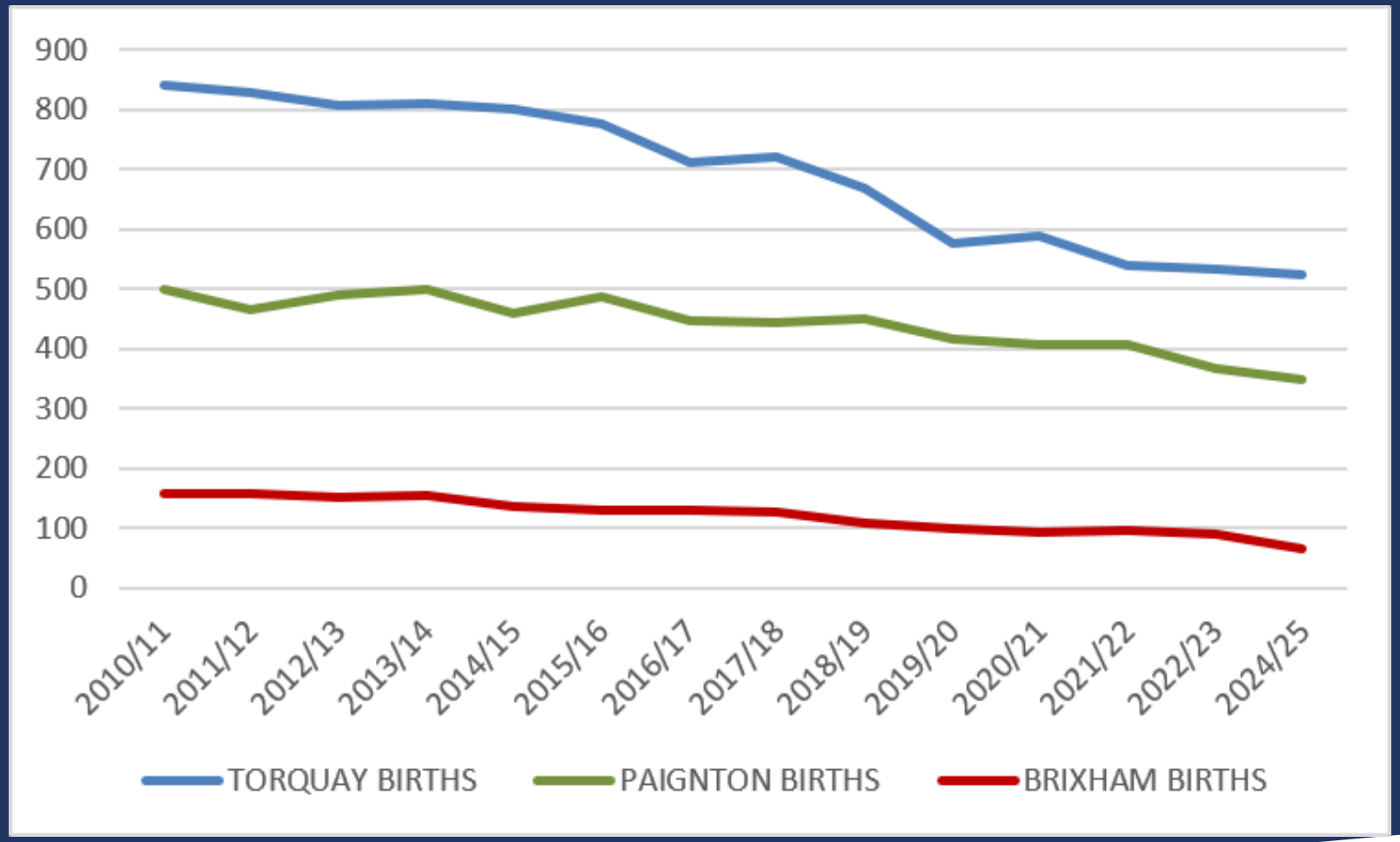
Clare Talbot

TORBAY COUNCIL

Influencing Factors

- Birth rate
- Housing
- Grammar Intake

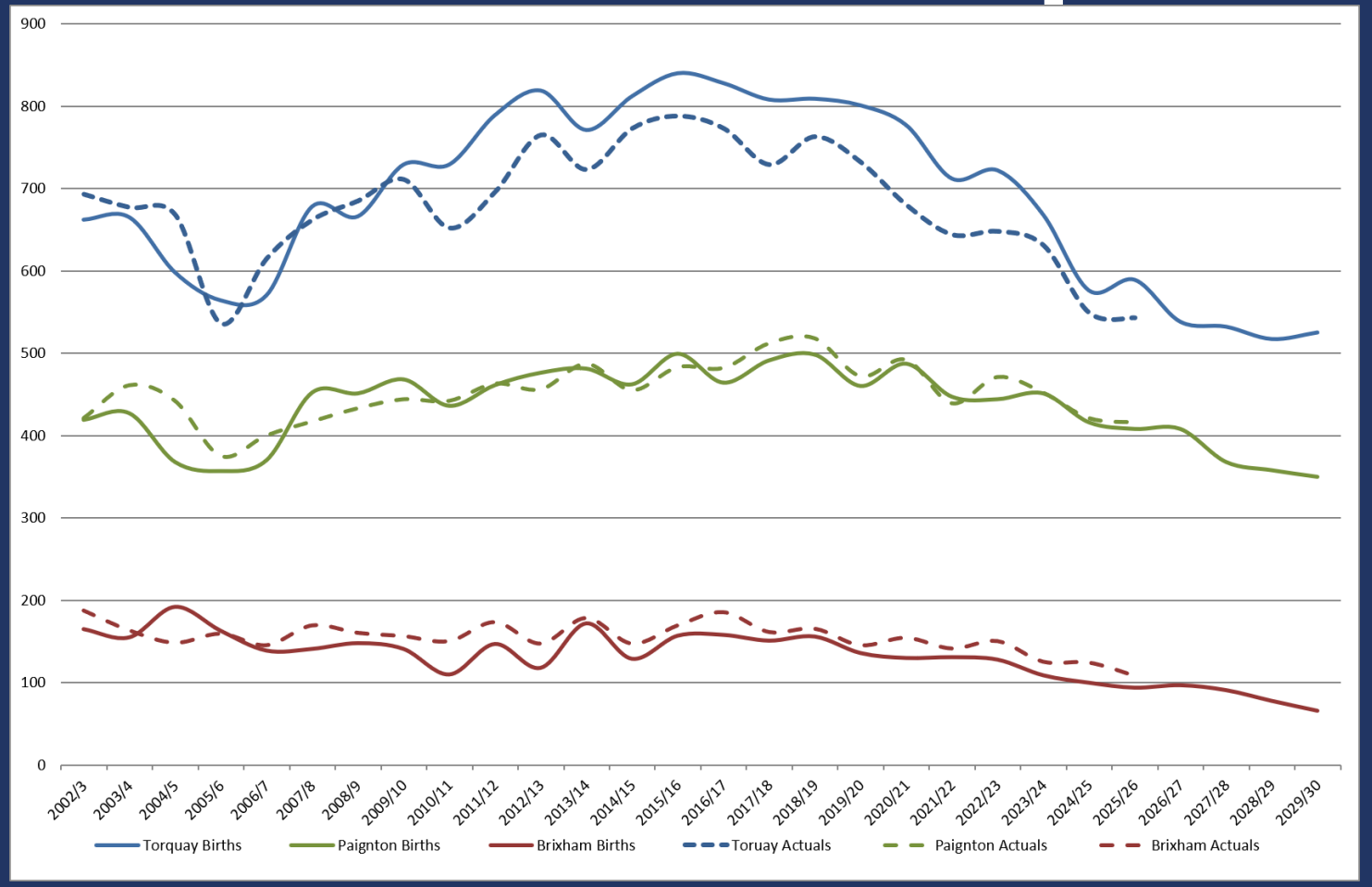
Local Birth Rates since 2010



- Birth rate shows no sign of recovery
- Stabilising at lower rates
- Birth rates peaked in 2010 (2015 admitting year) & steadily dropped since:
  - TQY dropped by 315 (10.5 FE)
  - PGN dropped by 149 (5FE)
  - BRX dropped by 91 (3FE)
- Housing not generating sufficient growth to mitigate impact

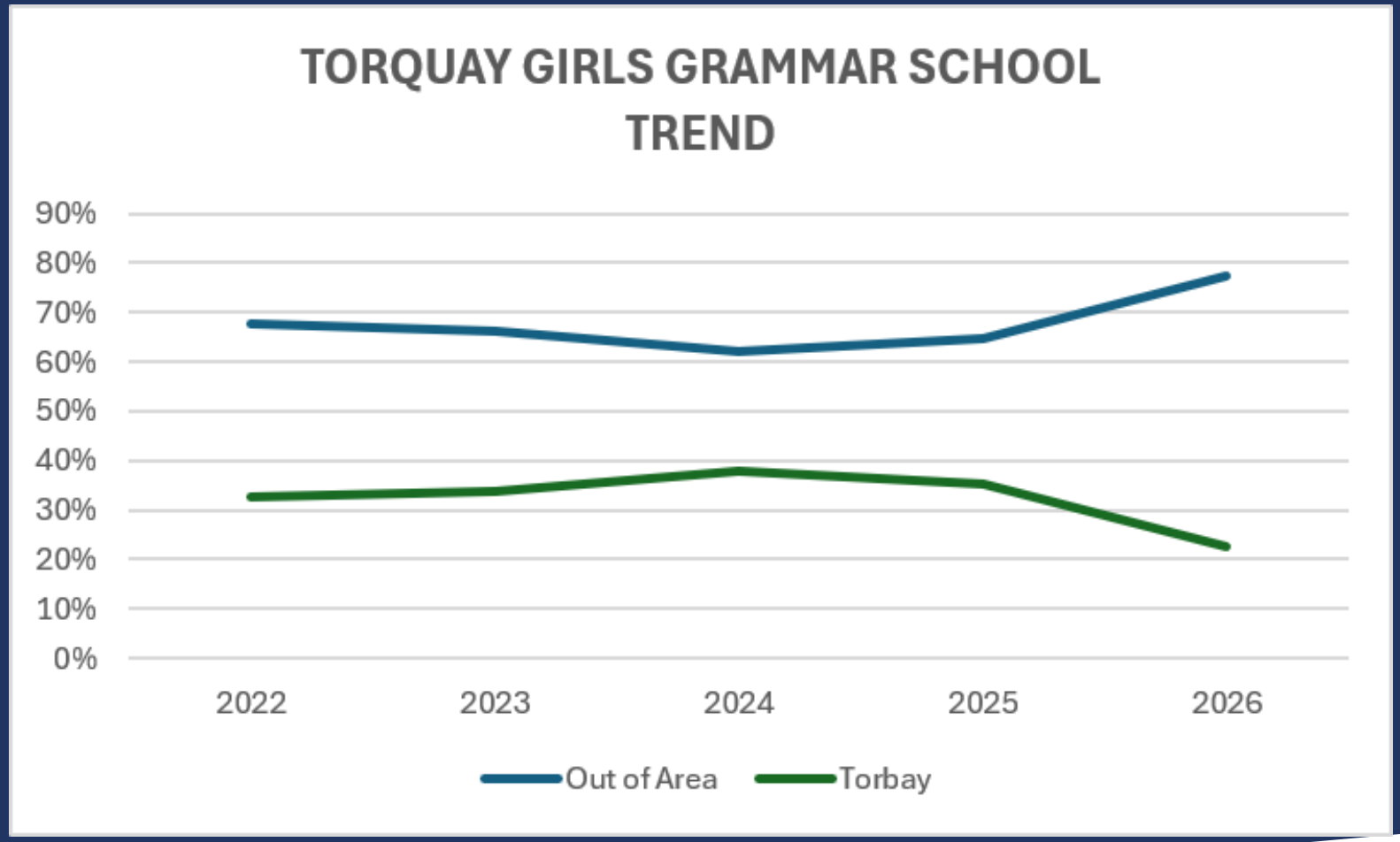
Source: Office National Statistics

Birth Rates & Reception Cohort



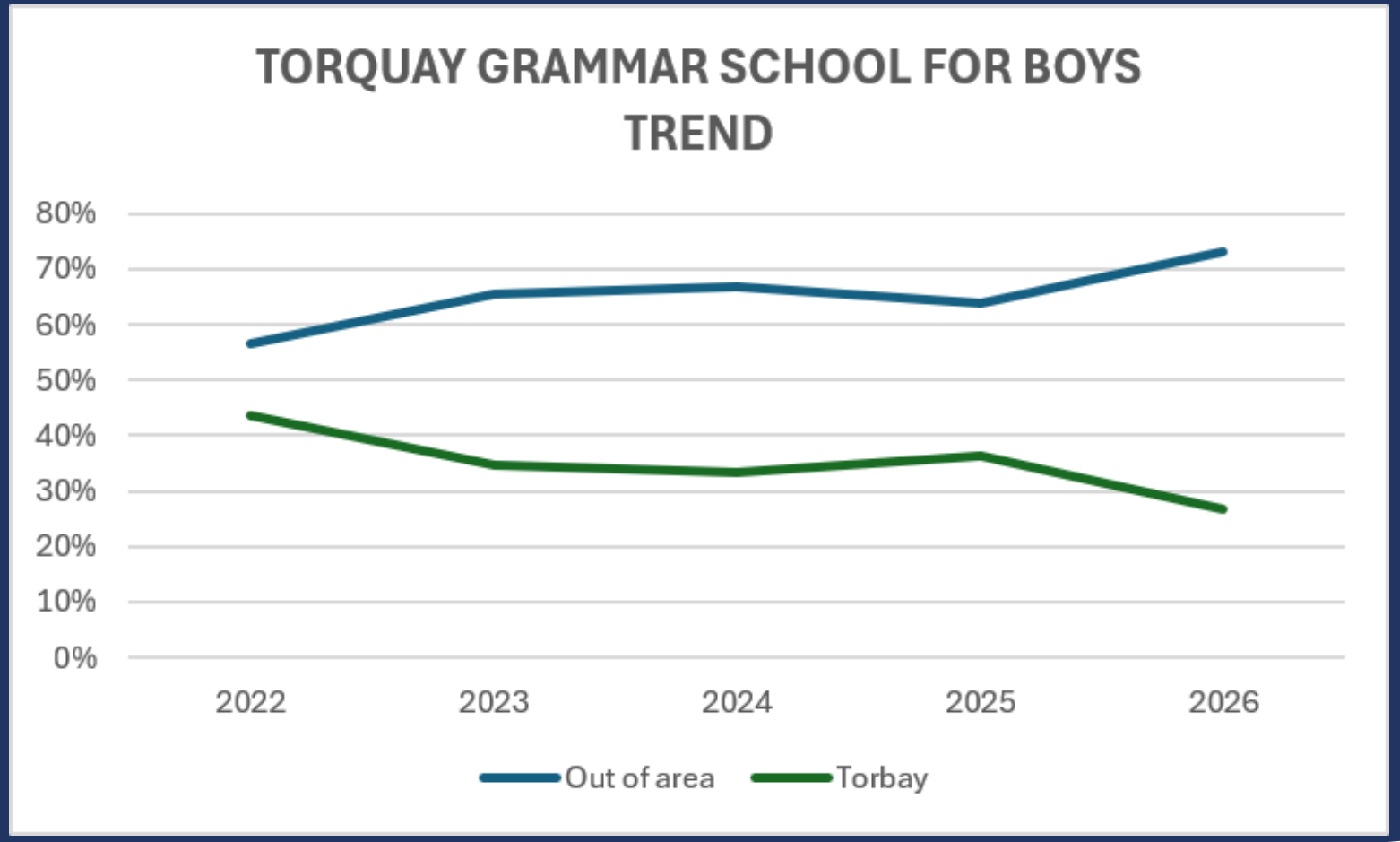
- Direct correlation between falling birth rate & NOR
- Peaks in birth rate led to high intakes in 2015
- Steady decrease in numbers from 2018 onwards

Grammar School Analysis



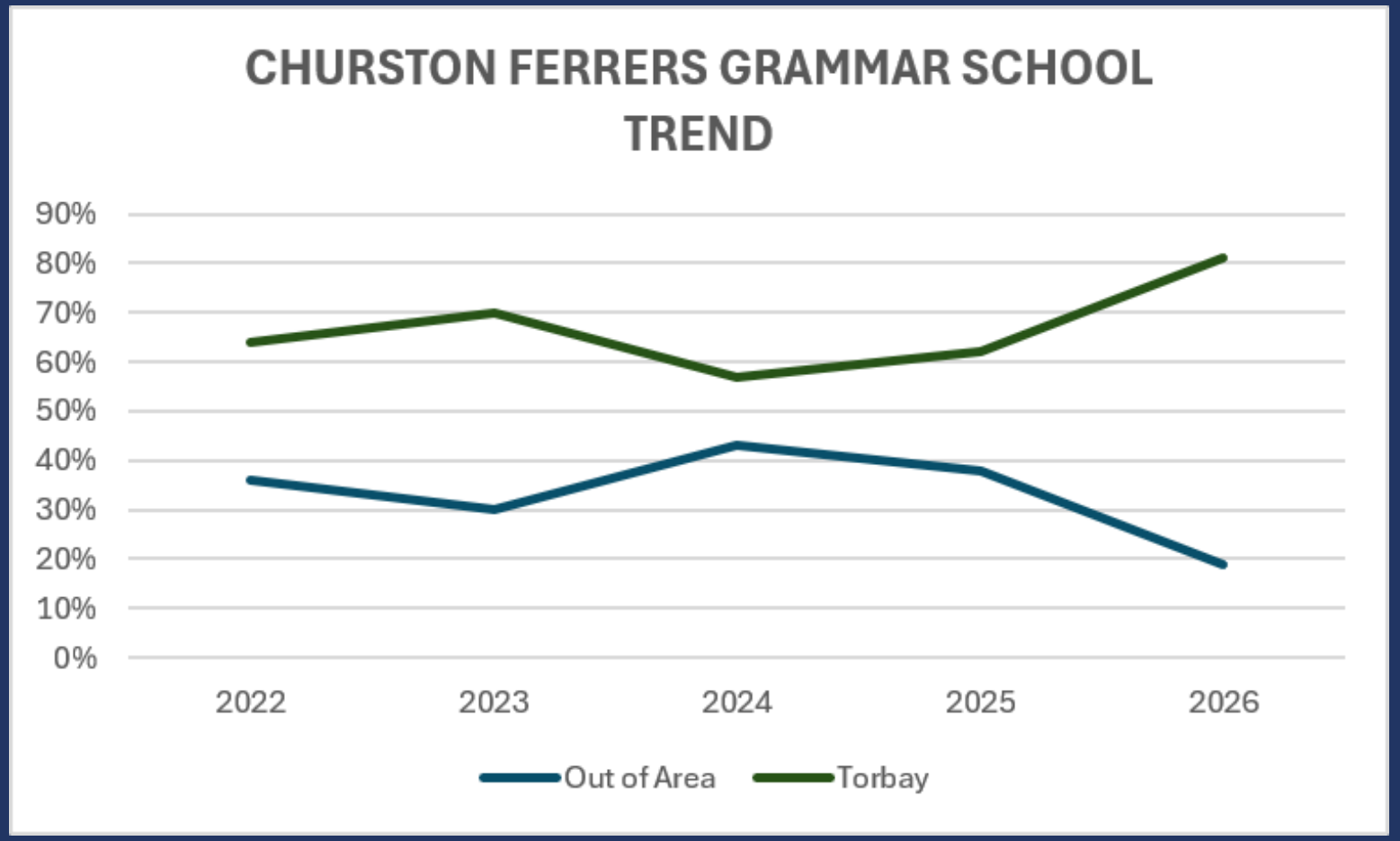
- In 2022 68% of pupils were from out of area, this increased to 77% in 2026
- Increase of 9%
- Analysis shows majority of 2026 in area pupils are from Torquay

Grammar School Analysis



- In 2022, 57% of pupils were from out of area, this increased to 73% in 2026
- Increase of 16%
- Analysis shows majority of 2026 in area pupils are from Torquay

Grammar School Analysis

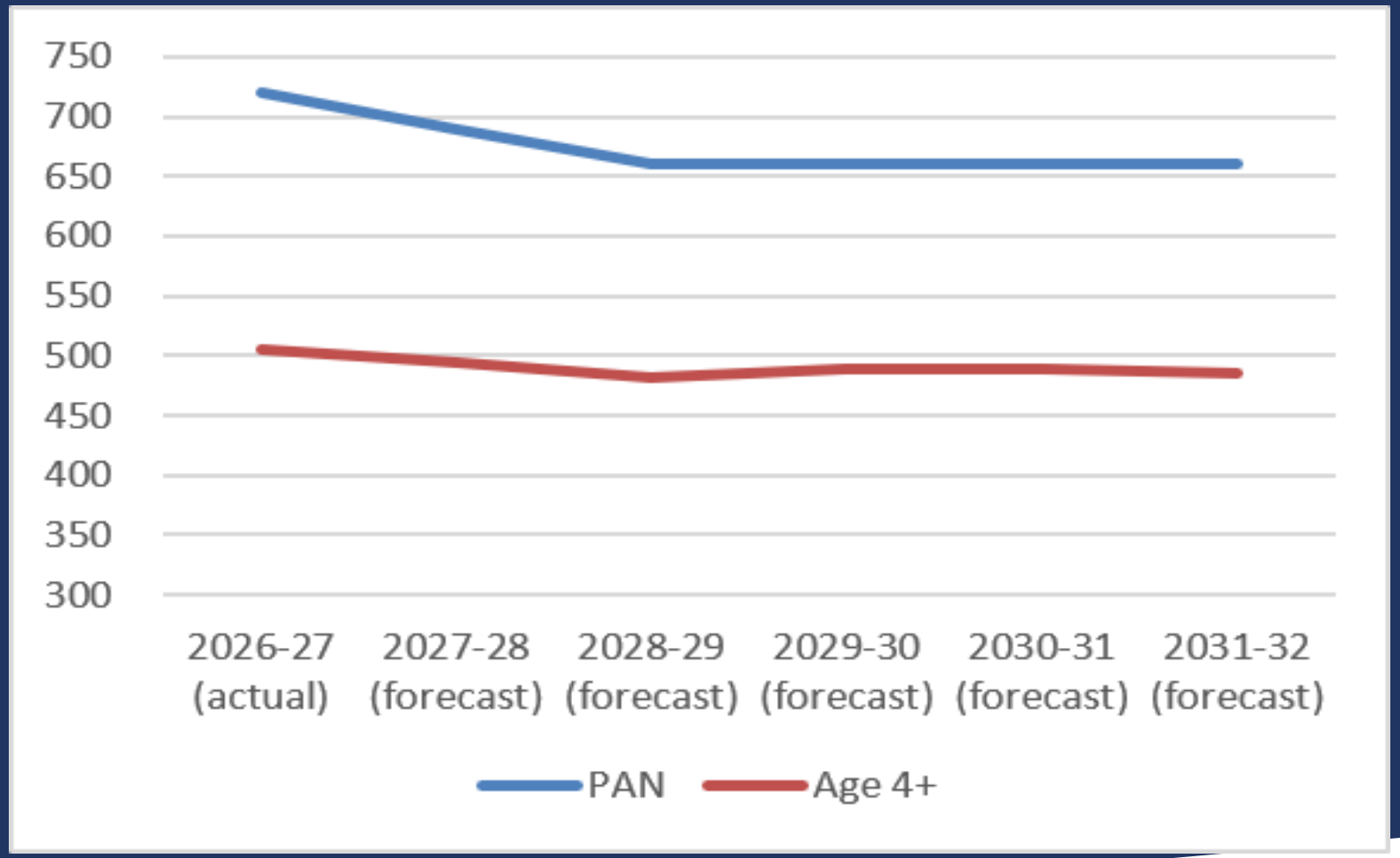


- In 2022, 36% of pupils were from out of area, this decreased to 19% in 2026
- Decrease of 17%
- Analysis shows majority of 2026 in area pupils are from Paignton, followed by Brixham

Conclusion of Grammar School Analysis

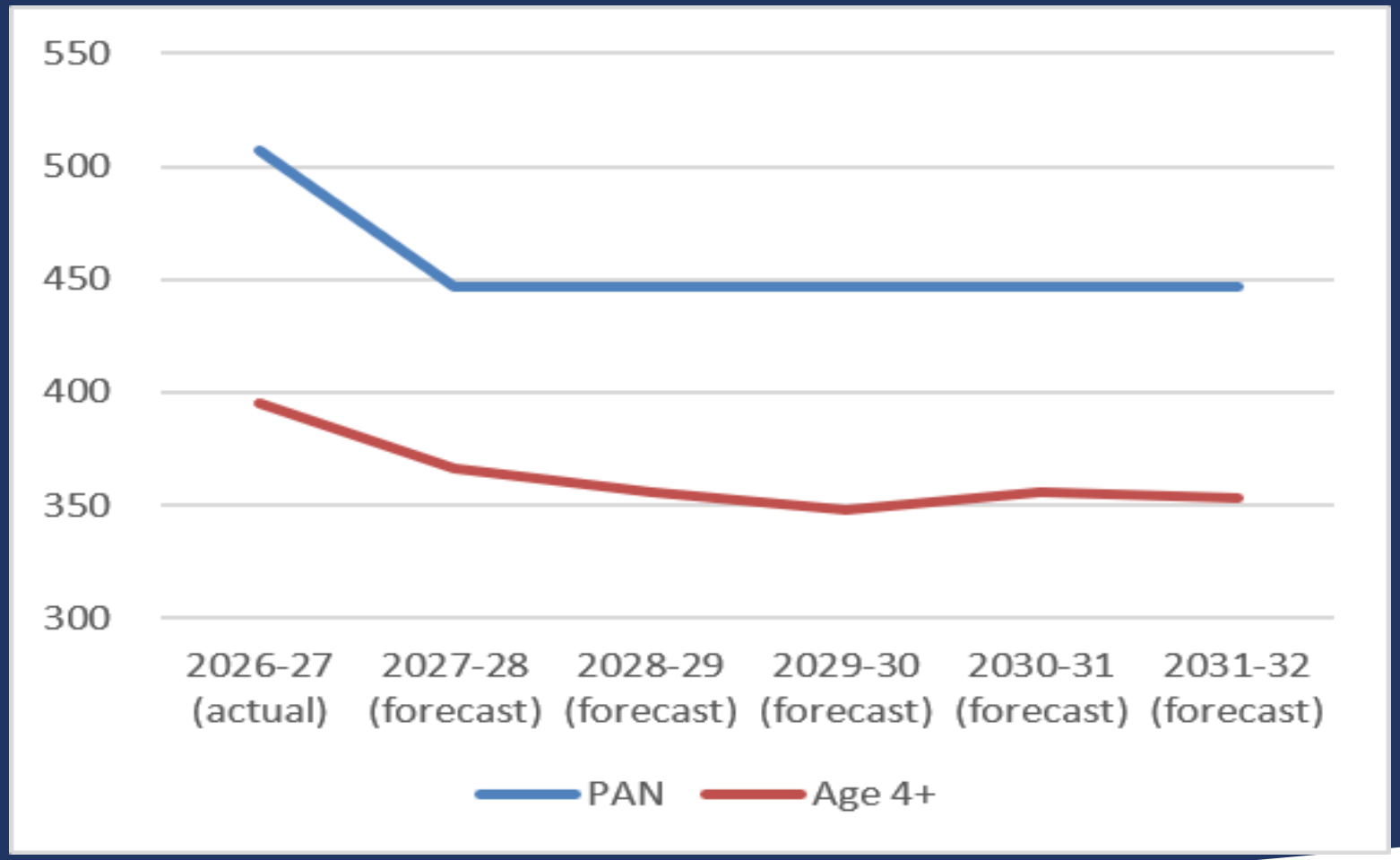
- Over the last 5 years, the trend is for the Torquay Grammar Schools to admit more out of area pupils, whilst Churston Ferrers admit more Torbay pupils. *Churston Ferrers has recently changed its admission policy to give priority to 'feeder primary schools' in the local Torbay area*. This is expected to change again for September 2027.
- There is an expectation that the popularity of all the grammar schools will ensure they will fill to capacity.
- This will have a positive impact on future projections and help to mitigate against falling secondary numbers due to the smaller birth cohorts moving through.
- In 2026 the Torquay Year 7 cohort grew by 43% and in Brixham it grew by 109%

Draft Primary Projections for Torquay



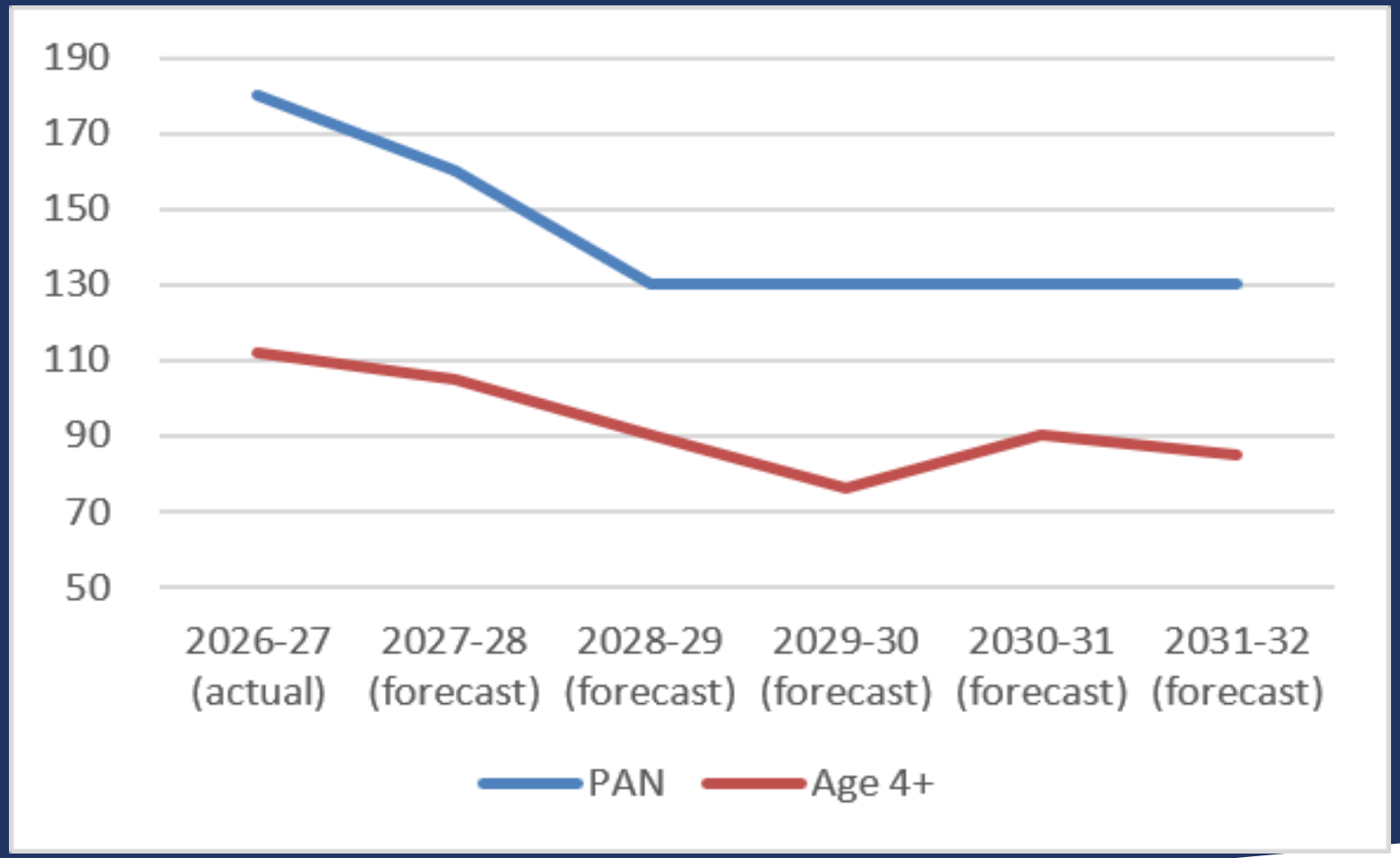
- Surplus capacity of 26% by 2031 (6FE)
- Proactive reduction of PAN by 4FE

Draft Primary Projections for Paignton



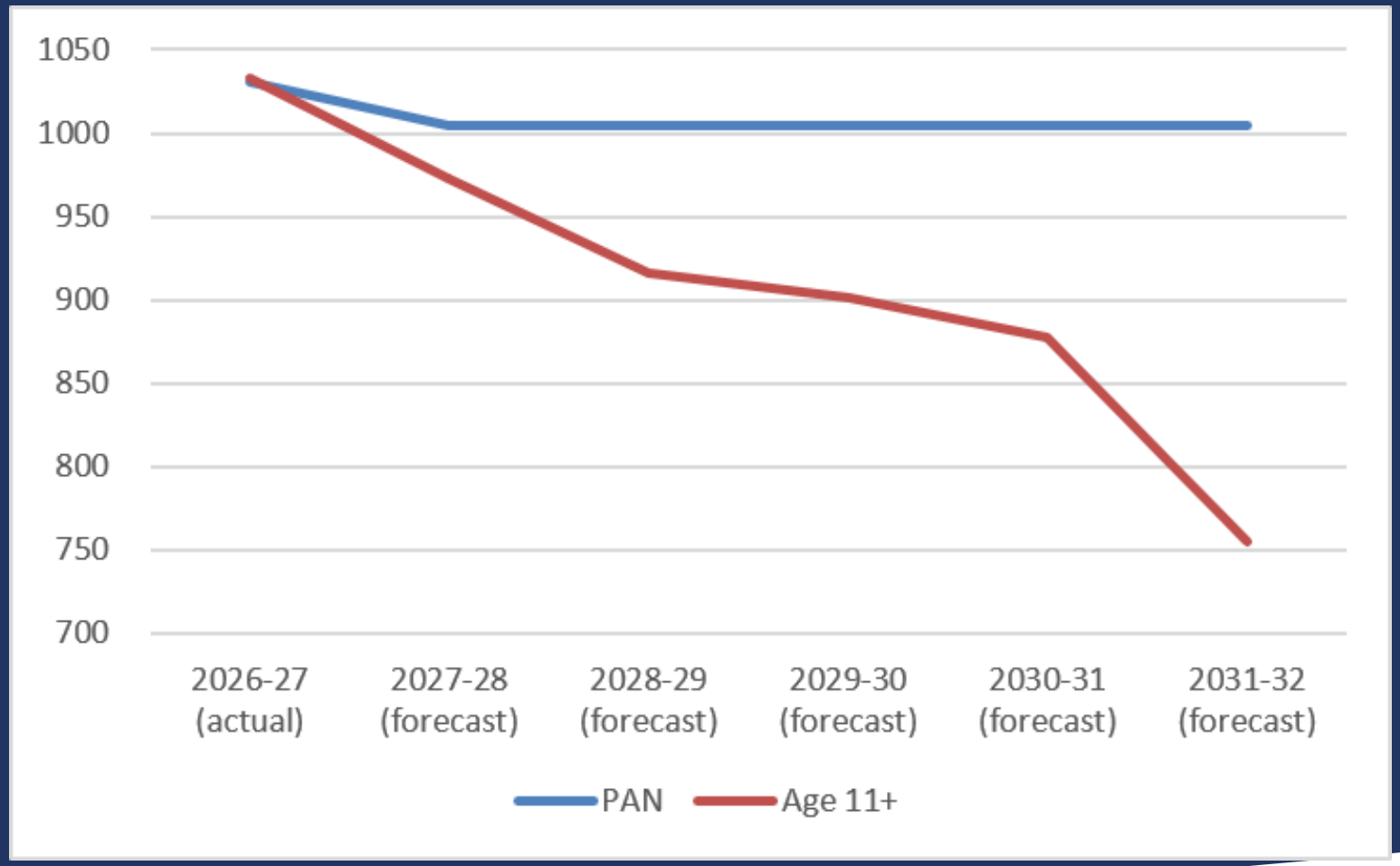
- Surplus capacity of 21% by 2031 (3FE)
- Proactive reduction of PAN by 3FE

Draft Primary Projections for Brixham



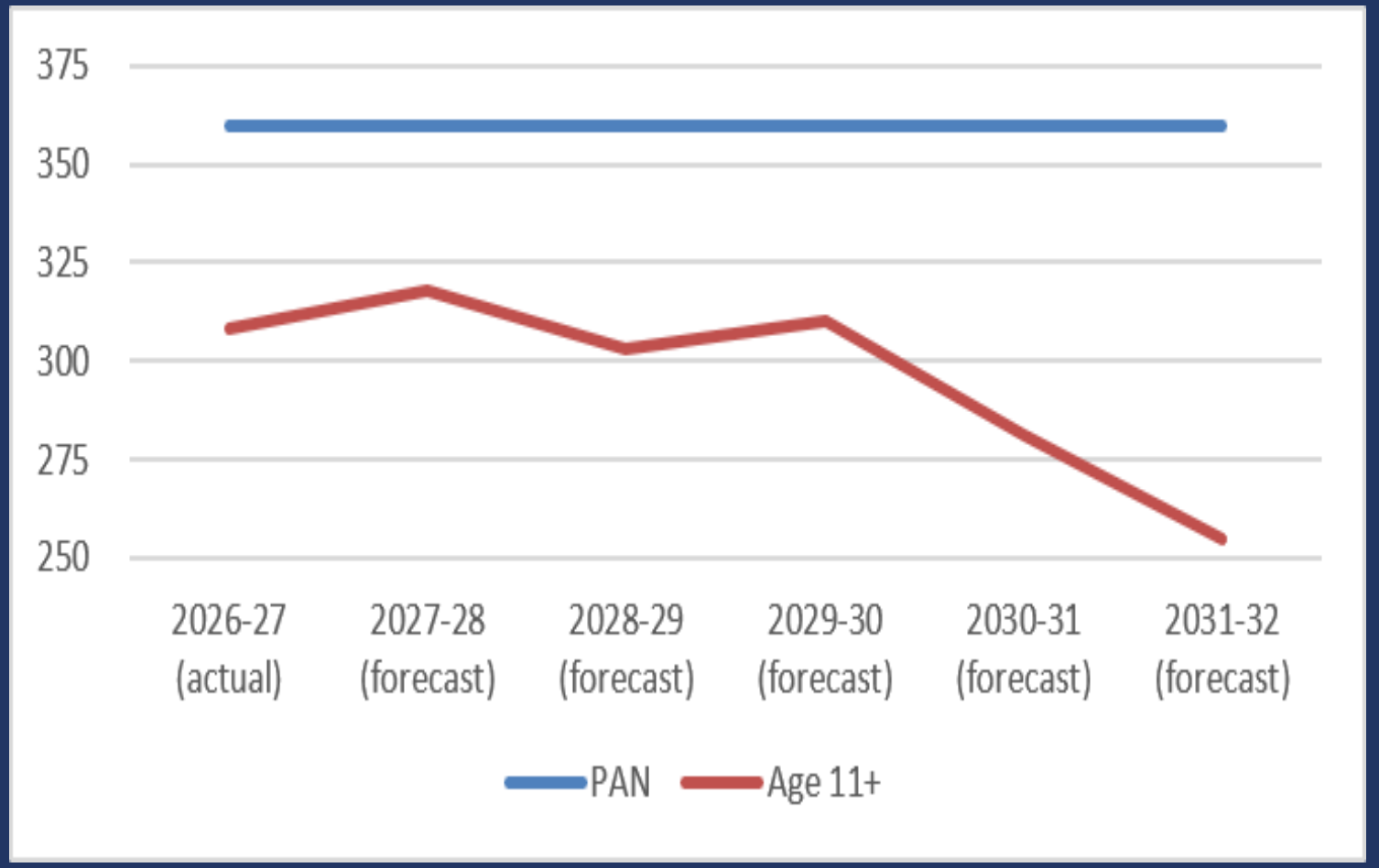
- Surplus capacity of 35% by 2031 (1FE)
- Proactive reduction of PAN by 2.5FE

Draft Secondary Projections for Torquay



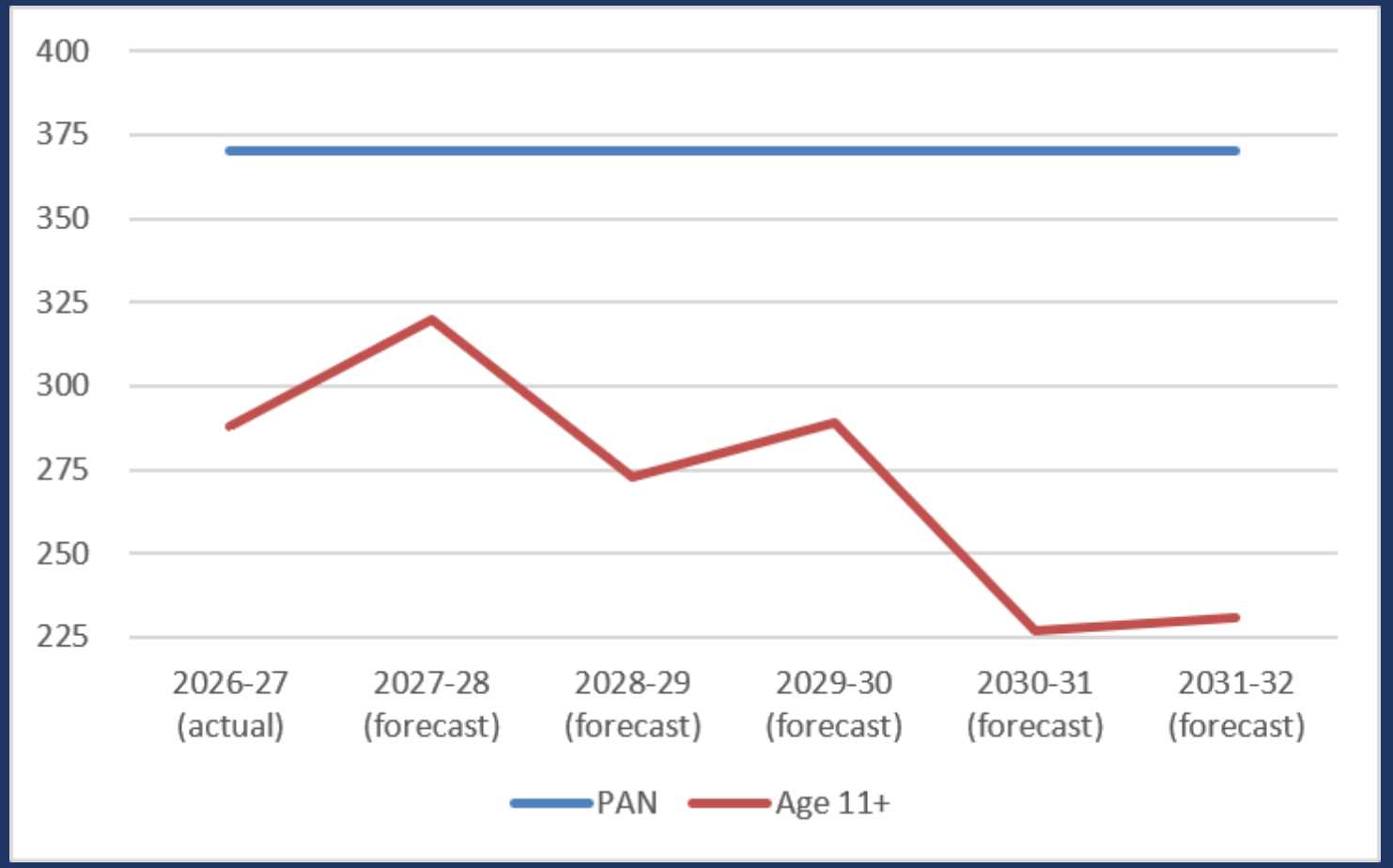
- Surplus capacity of 25% by 2031 (8FE)
- No PAN reductions proposed; expect inward migration to increase

Draft Secondary Projections for Paignton



- Surplus capacity of 29% by 2031 (3.5FE)
- No PAN reductions proposed

Draft Secondary Projections for Brixham



- Surplus capacity of 38% by 2031 (4.5FE)
- No PAN reductions proposed; expect inward migration to increase

Conclusions

- Low birth cohorts will impact ALL schools
- Any growth from planned local housing developments is already factored into projections
- Grammar schools admitting from out of area will help mitigate falling numbers

Questions

For further information:

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