

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

***To ensure every young person can
achieve more than they thought possible***



***A strategy to transform secondary education in
Bath and North East Somerset***

Making Bath & North East Somerset
an even better place to live, work and visit

Introduction

Bath and North East Somerset is a small Unitary Authority with a total population of 175,000. There are currently 13 mainstream secondary schools and three special schools serving a secondary age population of 11-16 pupils and 16-19 pupils. Within the Local Authority area there are two colleges of further education and two universities. Standards are high and compare well with National Averages and Statistical Neighbour Authorities at all key stages and are particularly strong at Key Stage 3 and GCSE.

Excellent progress is being made to ensure our children with special needs get the best possible start in life. In 2002 special school provision was fragmented and inefficient. Following a review, three schools in Bath were closed and our new Three Ways special school was opened in September 2007. Department for Children, Schools and Families funding, sale of properties/land assets, together with smaller sums from the PCT and devolved capital enabled the school to be completed within the budget of £12.2m. Parallel investment of £7m has been made at Fosse Way School, our second generic special school in Midsomer Norton. In addition we have closed, remodelled and re-opened our Emotional, Behavioural & Social Difficulties (EBSD) special school in Bath. Together these developments have provided an excellent foundation for our special school provision.

We have undertaken a review of all our secondary schools engaging schools, governing bodies, colleges, parents, pupils and the wider community. We are now ready to make the step change required in our mainstream secondary provision to further raise standards.

Our Six Guiding Principles

All Bath and North East Somerset secondary schools offer a high standard of education enabling young people to achieve more than they thought possible.

Parents and carers have a good choice of high quality local schools. The local school should be the natural and easy choice for parents.

Each secondary school will form the heart of a learning centre for the local community. Our secondary schools and colleges co-operate to ensure the widest range of courses are provided in the most efficient way.

Schools should be on sites and in buildings fit for the 21st Century. Facilities and resources, especially ICT, are available to all children and young people so that they are motivated to learn.

There are sufficient school places to provide for all the young people in Bath and North East Somerset. No school should have more than 25% surplus places.

Schools should be of sufficient size (at least four forms of entry per year) to sustain their long term educational and financial viability.



Councillor Francine Haerberling
Leader of the Council



Councillor Chris Watt
Cabinet Member for Children's Services



Councillor Sally Davis
Chair of Children & Young People
Overview and Scrutiny Panel



John Everitt
Chief Executive

'We are delighted to present this strategy which has been developed from the excellent work of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

The review process followed has been open, inclusive and thorough and has provided a strong foundation from which to establish our strategy to further raise standards in our secondary schools.

This strategy is hugely significant for children and young people, parents and carers and all those who work in our secondary schools and the wider Children's Service. This sets the scene for our pattern of schooling for the next 25 years and will be critical to delivering our ambitions for excellence and inclusion for all our children and young people.

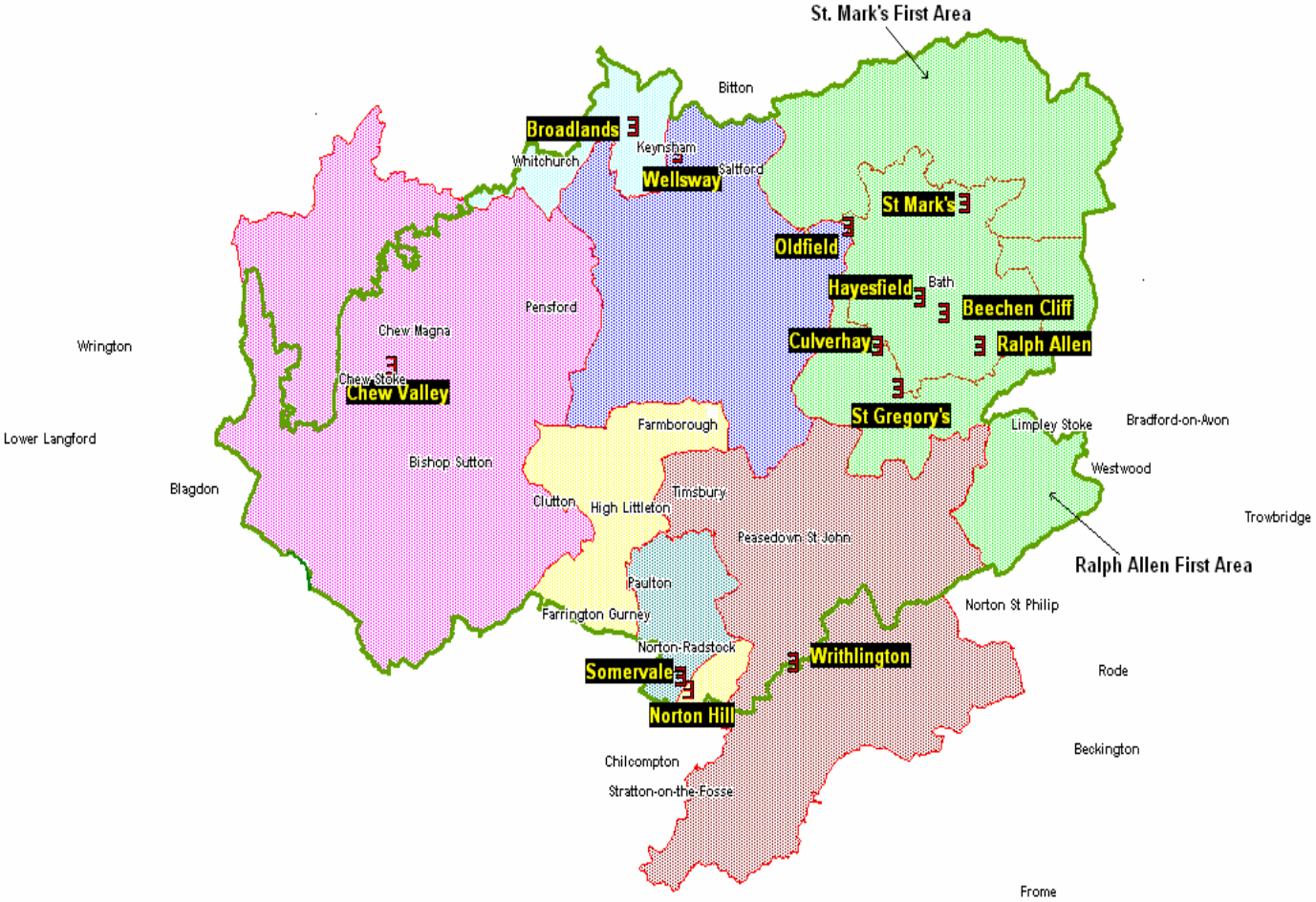
We do not intend to use the opportunity provided by Building Schools for the Future to simply build new 'old schools', but to transform our schools so that all our young people are inspired to learn, now and throughout their lives.

This strategy will make a significant contribution to delivering on two of the Council's eight newly established corporate priorities; improving our school buildings and improving the life chances of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.'

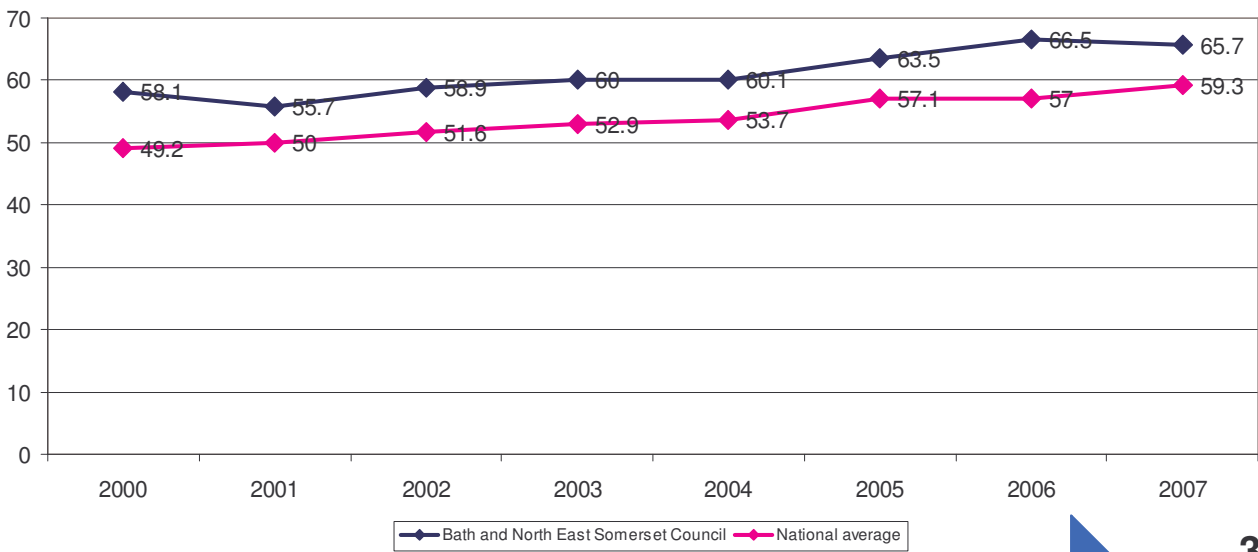
Our Schools

Secondary Schools

SCHOOL NAME	TYPE	AGE	NOR	CAPACITY	PAN	KEY
Broadlands	Co-ed	11 to 18	1060	1050	214	
Chew Valley	Co-ed	11 to 18	1157	1178	196	
Norton Hill	Co-ed	11 to 18	1343	1243	216	
Somervale	Co-ed	11 to 18	740	953	162	
Wellsway	Co-ed	11 to 18	1347	1319	210	
Writhlington	Co-ed	11 to 18	1183	1165	216	
Greater Bath Area						
Beechen Cliff	Boys	11 to 18	1076	1035	162	
Culverhay	Boys	11 to 18	430	603	115	
Hayesfield	Girls	11 to 18	1229	1165	210	
Oldfield	Girls	11 to 18	881	983	192	
Ralph Allen	Co-ed	11 to 18	1073	1034	175	
St. Gregory's	Co-ed	11 to 16	792	775	160	
St Marks	Co-ed	11 to 18	320	540	108	



GCSE % 5 A*-C - Consistent High Performance



Special Schools

SCHOOL NAME	TYPE	AGE	NUMBER OF PLACES	NOR
Fosse Way	Complex Learning Needs	3 to 19	140	148
The Link Centre	Emotional, Behavioural and Social Difficulties	9 to 16	50	32
Three Ways	Complex Learning Needs	2 to 19	155	151

Key Challenges

While standards are high overall, we have identified a number of key challenges which need to be addressed if we are to continue to raise standards and provide the opportunities that our children and young people deserve in the 21st Century.

- Approximately 1,500 pupils a days attend Bath and North East Somerset secondary schools from surrounding Authorities. This makes their education system inefficient (eg. in South Gloucestershire more boys and fewer girls attend some schools) and there are difficulties in Bath and North East Somerset in providing support and extended services in schools where the pupils live in communities some distance away.
- There are significant numbers of surplus places in two schools in the City of Bath.
- Substantial investment is needed to address poor condition and temporary buildings.
- Standards have varied over the last five years in a small number of schools.
- Capital receipts from sale of any surplus land or sites may not raise sufficient funds to cover shortfalls in funding as we rebuild and remodel our secondary schools.
- We must plan for the future, particularly the increase in housing and therefore pupil numbers within the Regional Spatial Strategy.
- There is strong demand for more co-educational places in the City of Bath (only one non-denominational co-educational school – Ralph Allen).
- Careful planning is required to ensure our schools and colleges have the most efficient pattern of specialisms and 14-19 courses.



• Without early Building Schools for the Future (BSF) funding we will not be able to address the core problems of surplus places and poor condition secondary stock. Funds will continue to be drained away on repairs and maintenance.



Above and Right: images from Wellsway Secondary School.



Essential Planned Maintenance

- Current works required total £12.5 million in the secondary sector.
- Six schools have in excess of £1 million of essential maintenance work. Current resources enable approximately £600,000 a year to be allocated to Planned Maintenance.

First Priority Temporary Building Replacement

Current priorities for immediate replacement total £5.3 million in four schools. Funds available in 2008 to 2010 total £5 million for all schools and therefore only the most urgent priorities can be met.

64% of Secondary School blocks require demolition

We commissioned a survey of all our secondary school assets in 2006. The 13 reports identified that of all accommodation 64% required demolition and rebuilding and 36% refurbishment.

ICT

Substantial investment is required to provide the facilities required for all secondary pupils to have easy access to computers.

Recent achievements



Trinity / St Nicholas Primary Schools are two new schools that replaced four existing schools as part of the reorganisation of primary and early years education in Radstock. The schools were given aspirational briefs in order to set a benchmark for future school buildings in Bath and North East Somerset.



Three Ways Special School in Bath opened its doors for the first time in September 2007. It replaced three smaller Bath special schools in far from ideal buildings. The new school brings together staff and children into a purpose built 21st century environment.



St Keyna Primary School is located in Keynsham. Its innovative design gives maximum flexibility for the children and staff. The school will provide places for 240 Children in May 2008. It will also incorporate a nursery class, as well as providing breakfast and after school clubs and will be available for use by the local community.



Writhlington BSF One School Pathfinder Planning permission was gained in December 2007 and the school is scheduled to open in Spring 2010. The design of the new school follows wide consultation with students, parents and staff and the community. It is being built with the latest energy efficient materials using sustainable resources wherever possible.



Fosse Way Special School Phase 1 commenced in July 2005 and was completed in May 2006. It involved new build, remodelling and refurbishment of existing accommodation. As well as new technology classrooms it includes improvements to circulation and a new reception. The Phase 2 extension of this school is currently being designed and is scheduled to start early 2008.



Whitchurch Primary: this project provides a reception classroom extension, refurbishment of the adjoining classroom and remodelling of existing accommodation to form an early years base. Construction started in February 2005 and was completed in August 2005.



A six class infant block was provided at **Combe Down Primary** to replace poor condition temporary buildings housing five classrooms. The school funded the sixth classroom and contributed to the fitted furniture and external play. The project started in June 2005 and was completed March 2006.



Westfield Primary A six class Key Stage 2 block replacing poor condition temporary classrooms. The new block opened in November 2005, The children report that they love their 'light and airy building' based around an atrium.

Preparing our Vision

In order to engage the wider community, ensure that we accurately reflect the needs of parents and carers and are ready and able to make the greatest use of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) we have:

- Identified our area of greatest need (SEN), reviewed provision and invested in improving the environment for learning. With £20 million of investment our special schools will require limited additional investment under the BSF programme.
- Reviewed all of our mainstream secondary schools through a structured approach by our Overview and Scrutiny Panel. This review was undertaken in three geographical areas and involved open public meetings and formal reports to the Executive Member for Children's Service. As a result we know the type of provision required in each of our three main communities.
- Commissioned analysis of parental demand for secondary provision in Bath to ascertain the proportion of single sex boys and girls places required.
- Commissioned a review of the whole secondary building stock so that we know block by block in each secondary school what should be replaced, remodelled and refreshed.
- Held a series of meetings and conference with secondary headteachers, diocesan boards, colleges and LSC representatives so that there has been strong partnership in achieving our vision.
- Updated our pupil distribution and trend analysis, so that we can be sure that our key proposals are fit for the next 25 years not just the next five years.
- We have recently engaged a dedicated planning officer for Children's Service planning applications.
- Programmed a full Council meeting to confirm our BSF strategy.
- Undertaken site option appraisal for each of our secondary school sites.
- Progressed our Pathfinder secondary school on budget and to programme. From initial announcement of funding in June 2006 we have achieved:
 - Identified school and Council decision to endorse by September 2006.
 - Appointed Architect March 2007.
 - Planning Permission December 2007.
 - We aim to start on site by May 2008 and complete by April 2010.

We are ready to invest

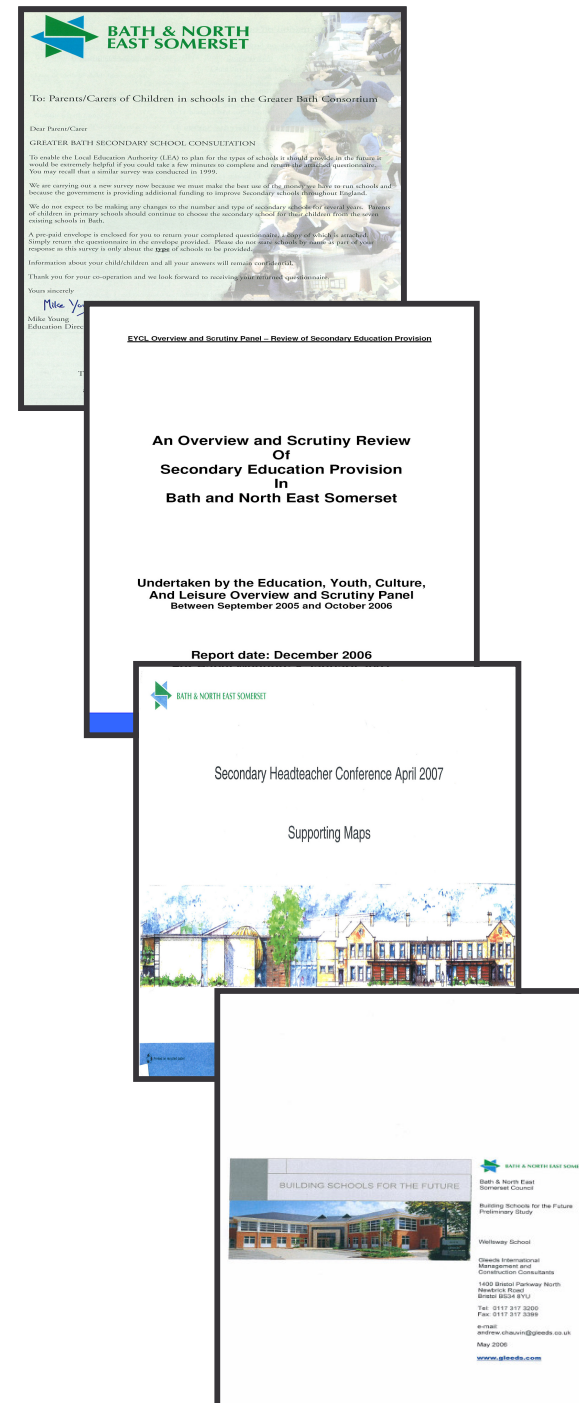
Full consultation concerning co-educational school places has taken place with the Parents/Carers of children in schools in the Greater Bath Consortium.

A complete review of all secondary schools has been undertaken by the Education, Youth, Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Panel. All schools, parents and carers and wider community involved.

Secondary headteachers have been fully engaged, for example a Conference took place in April 2007, to review all historical information, future trends and possible options.

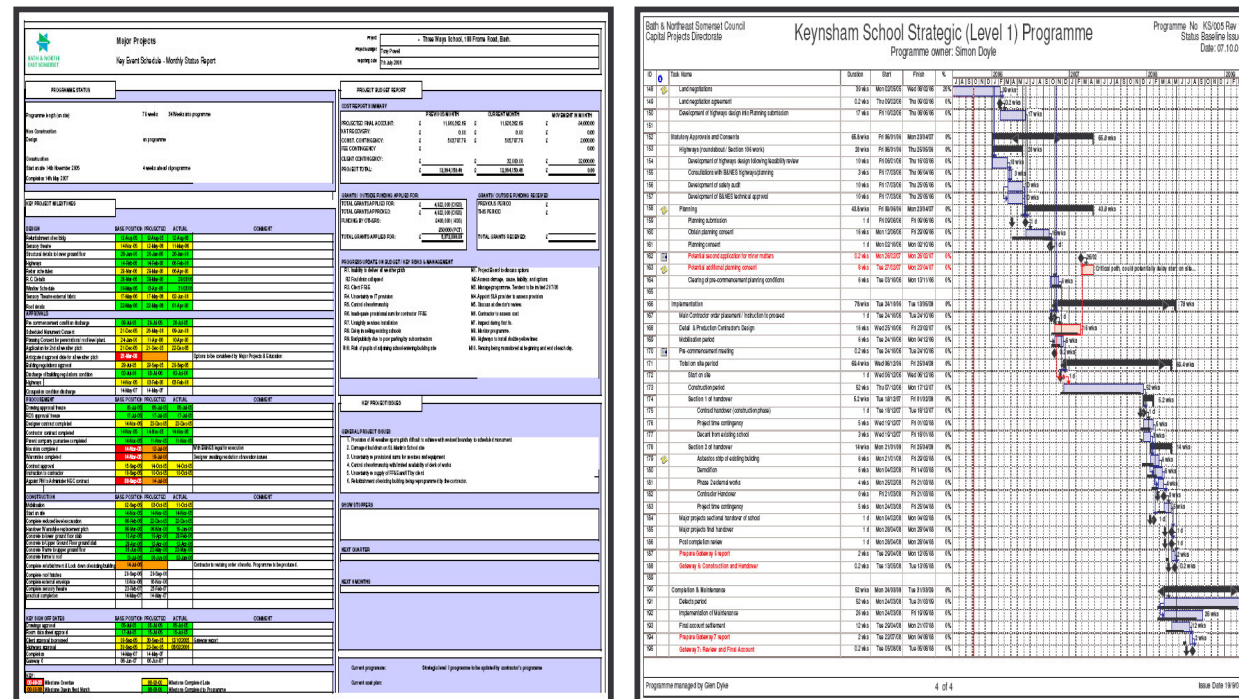
Individual 'block by block' condition surveys and reports of all 13 Schools have been carried out by consultants - Gleeds.

The Bath and North East Somerset Development and Major Projects Directorate and the Children's Service Capital Team have an excellent working relationship with the Council Planning Department. We have engaged a dedicated planning officer for Children's Services planning applications.

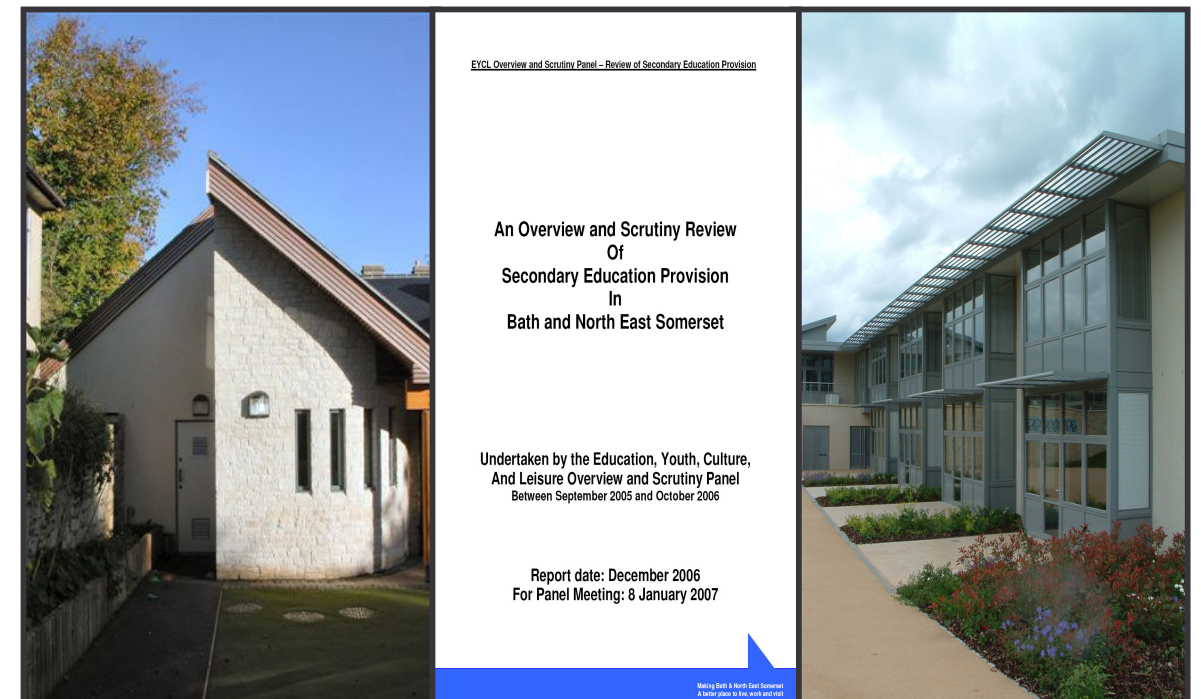


We have identified our organisation needs to deliver BSF

Development and Major Projects Directorate



Children's Service Capital Team



We have an excellent dedicated Development and Major Projects Directorate team within the Council which works in parallel with the Children's Service Capital Team providing all project management and consultancy work as required. In the current year this partnership had delivered not only our £12.2 million special school (opened September 2007) on time and on budget but also a £4.4 million primary school due to open in May 2008 on time and on budget.

The Development and Major Projects Directorate was set up to take over and deliver complex projects within the Council. The Directorate has highly qualified and experienced staff and consultancy frameworks in place to deliver all projects to a high standard. Project and commercial management systems have also been set up throughout the Directorate to ensure that progress is effectively managed and reported.

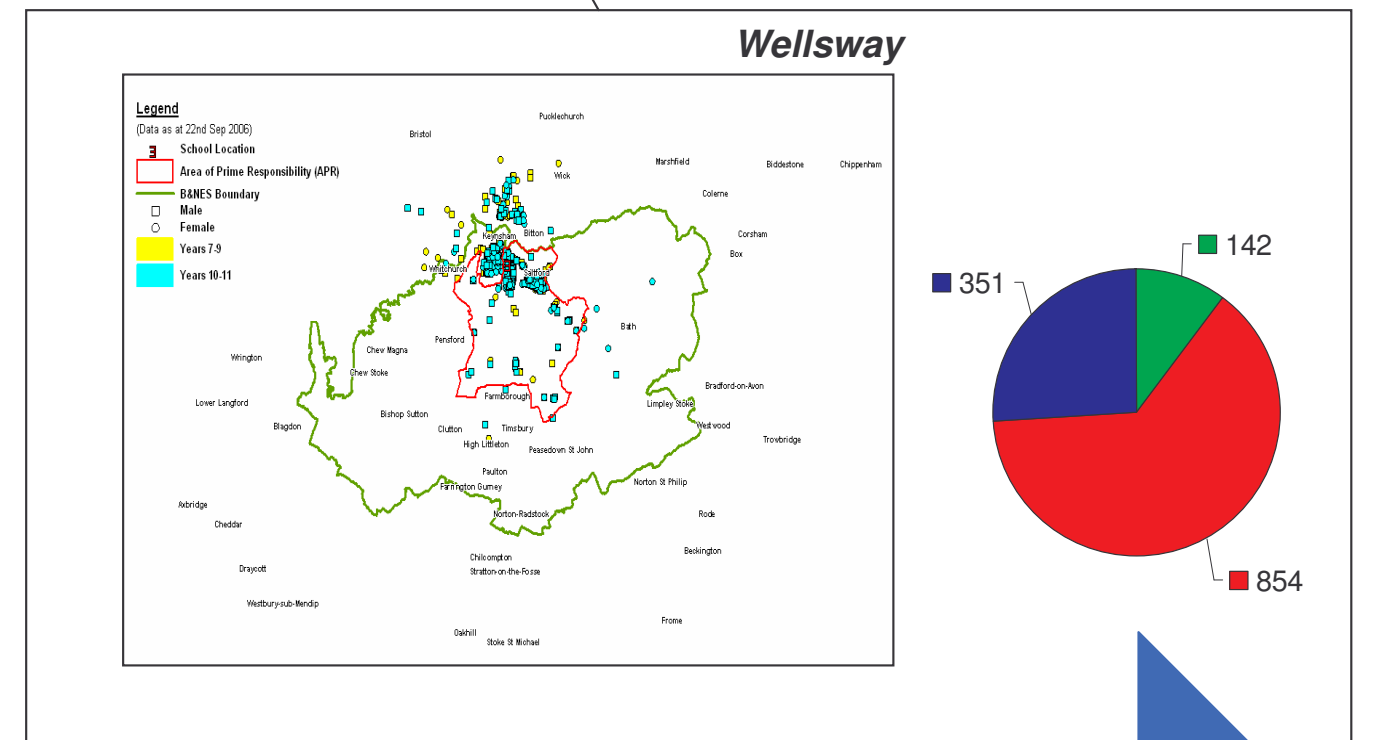
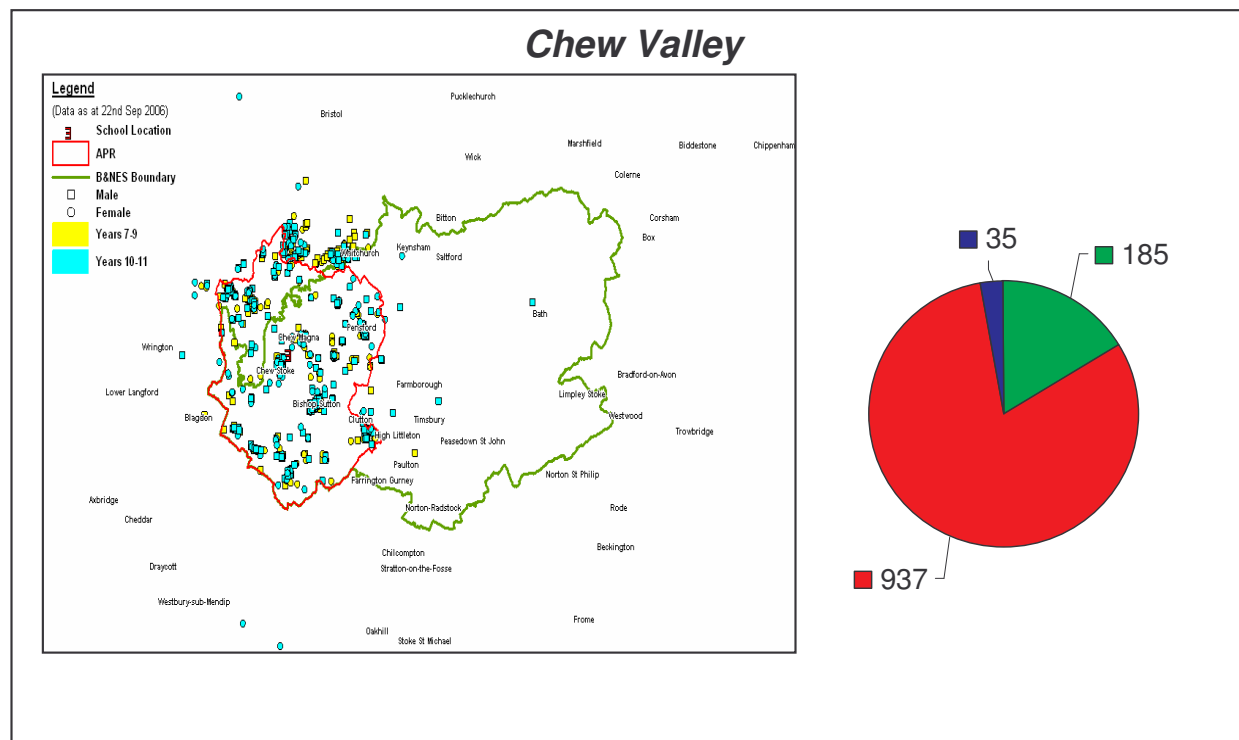
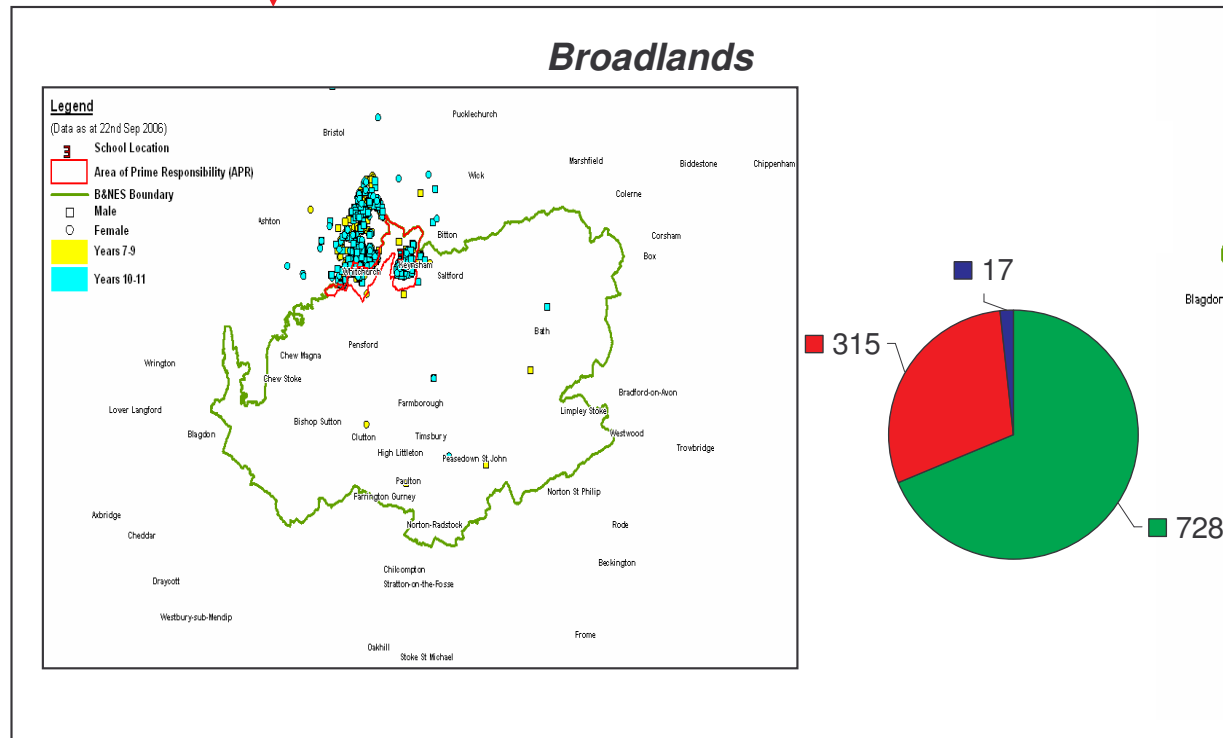
Bath and North East Somerset Council's Children's Service Capital Team has led on a number of capital projects and asset management issues such as the review of the secondary school building stock. They ensure that successful delivery is achieved in partnerships with the Development and Major Projects Directorate, architects, contractors and the end users on projects such as the BSF One School Pathfinder at Writhlington, Three Ways special school and St Keyna Primary school. The team also project manage all Children's Service primary and nursery projects.

The team have demonstrated excellent team work with the Bath and North East Somerset Property Services Department, Planning and Transportation and the Development and Major Projects Directorate on the delivery of primary and secondary school projects.

Other Council areas

700 pupils from Bristol attend Broadlands school.
200 pupils from North Somerset and Bristol attend Chew Valley School.

Chew Valley and Keynsham



Key:



Inside catchment (For St Gregory's: inside Bath and North East Somerset)



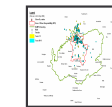
Outside catchment but within Bath and North East Somerset



Outside Bath and North East Somerset



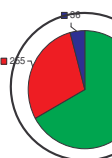
Illustrates number of pupils transferring from other Schools not within Bath and North East Somerset



Dot distribution maps of pupils attending each school. See appendix A for details.



Pie charts illustrate each school's intake by area.

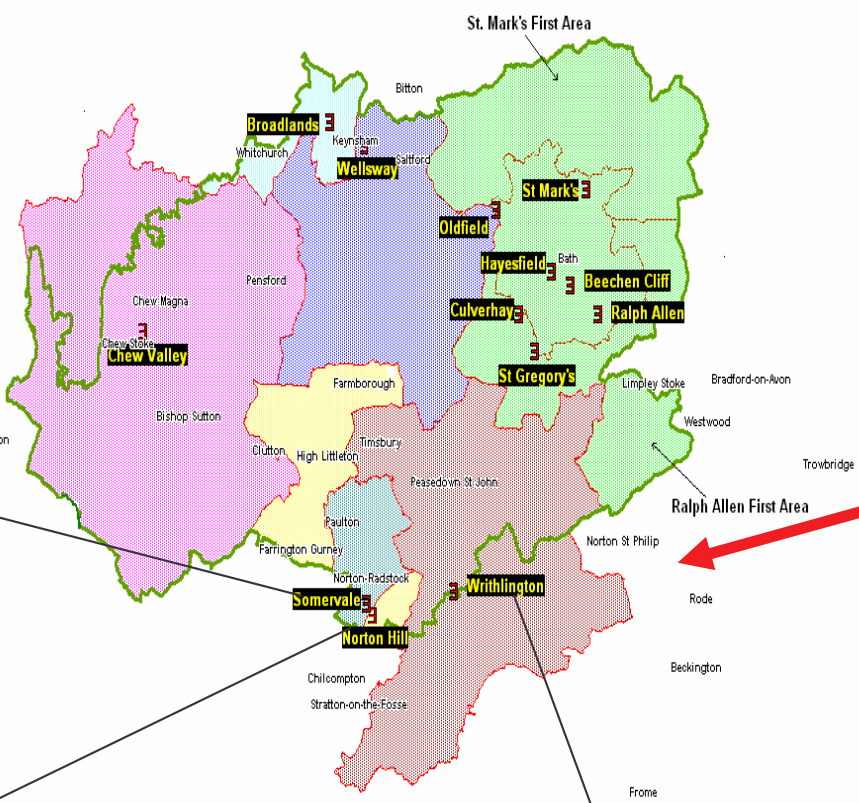
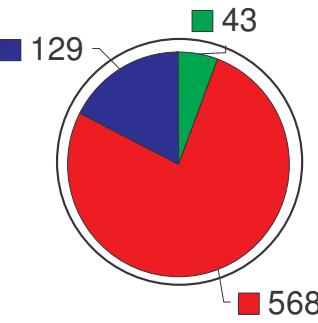
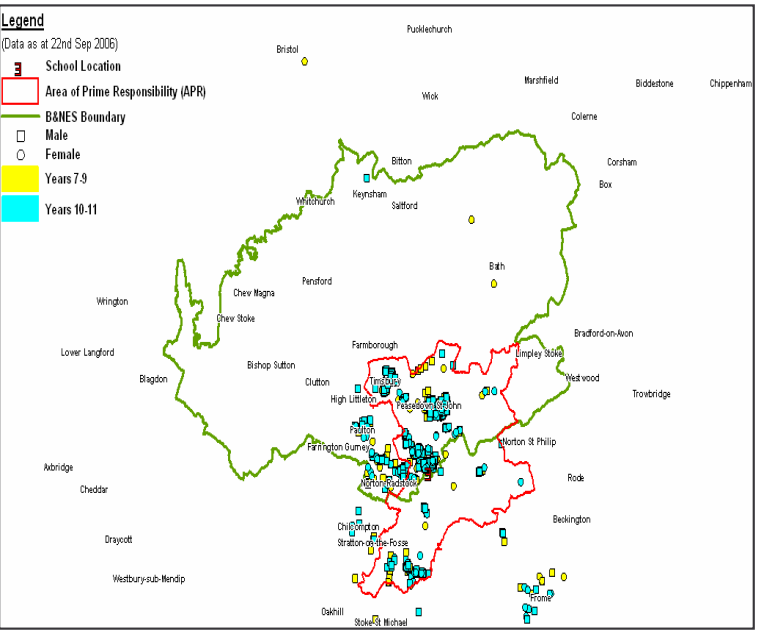


White circle illustrates additional spare capacity.

Midsomer Norton and Radstock

Please see Page 8 for full key

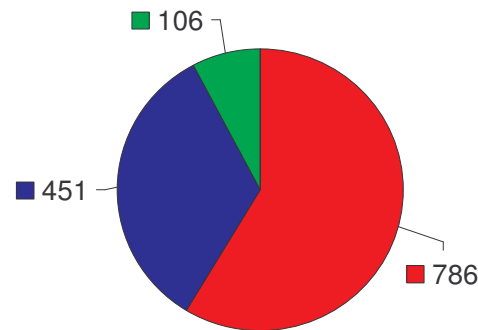
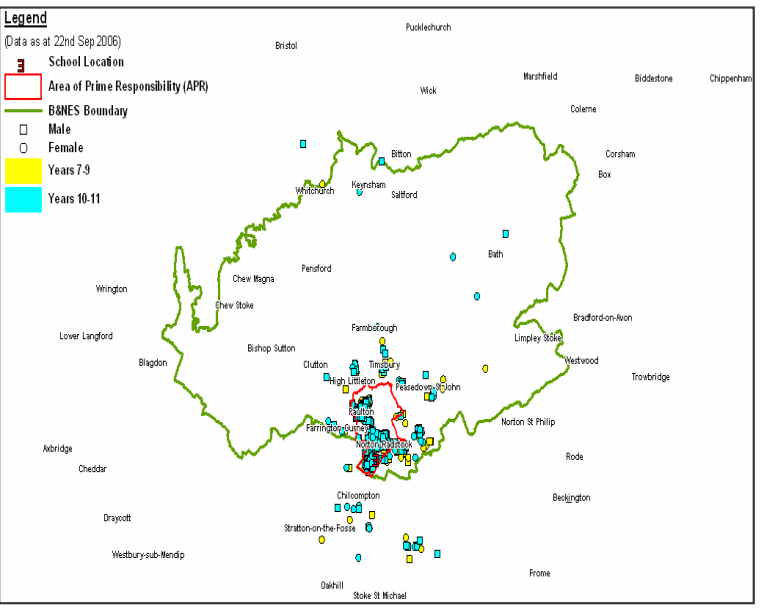
Somervale



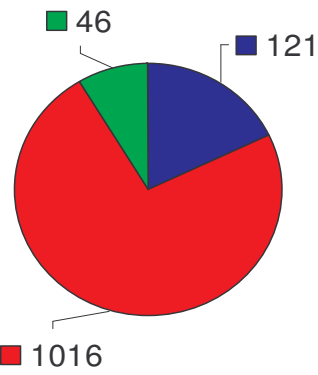
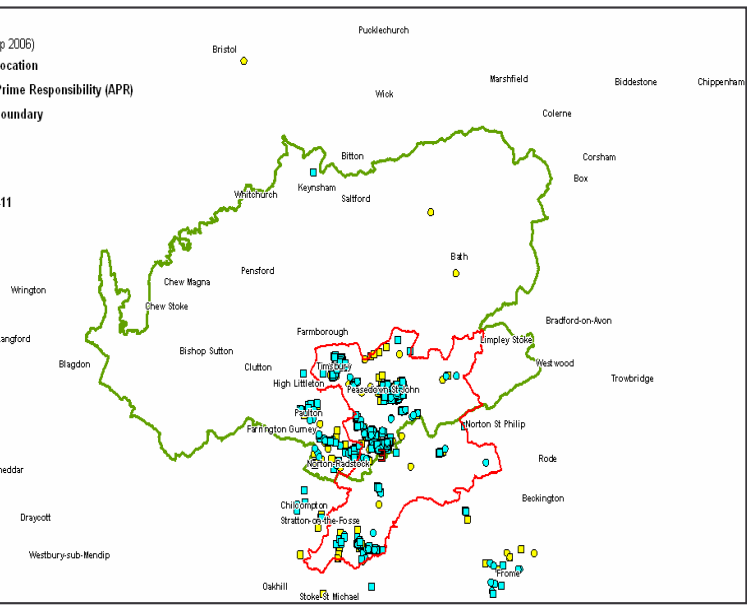
Somerset Council

200 pupils from Somerset Council attend Norton Hill, Writhlington and Somervale Schools.

Norton Hill



Writhlington

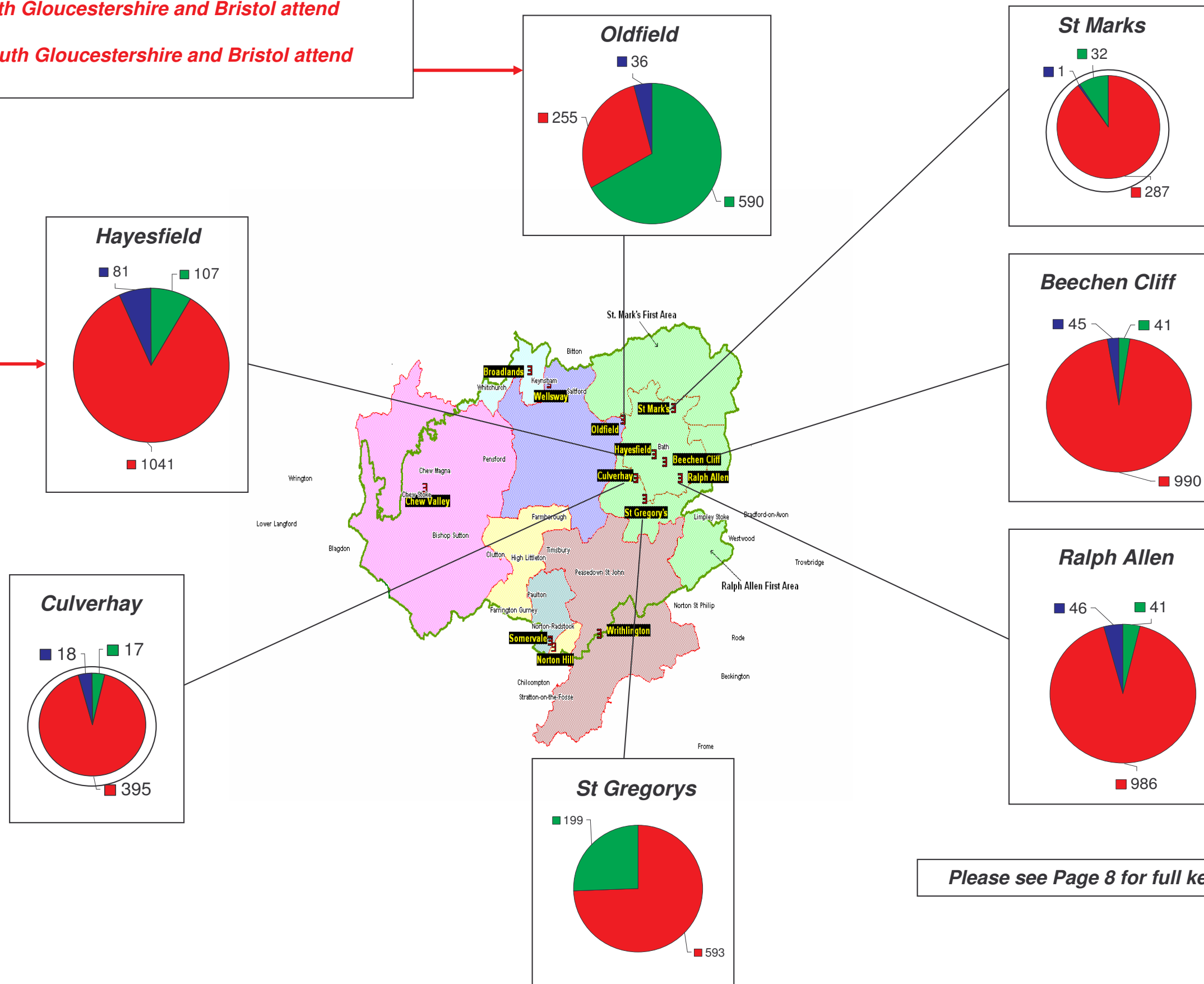


Making Bath & North East Somerset an even better place to live, work and visit

Other Council areas

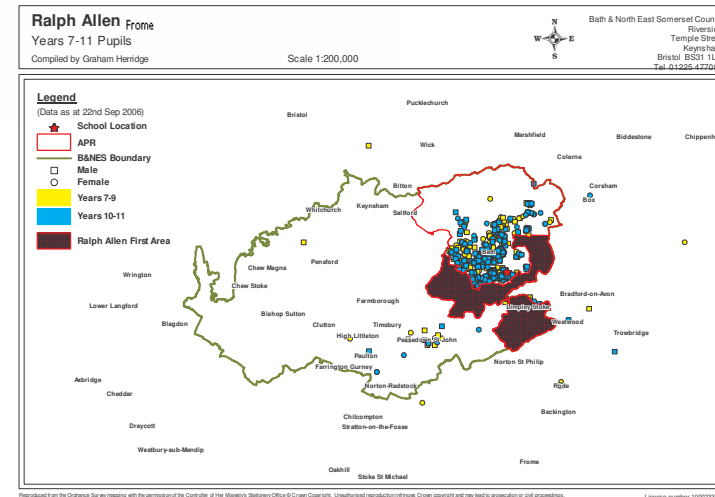
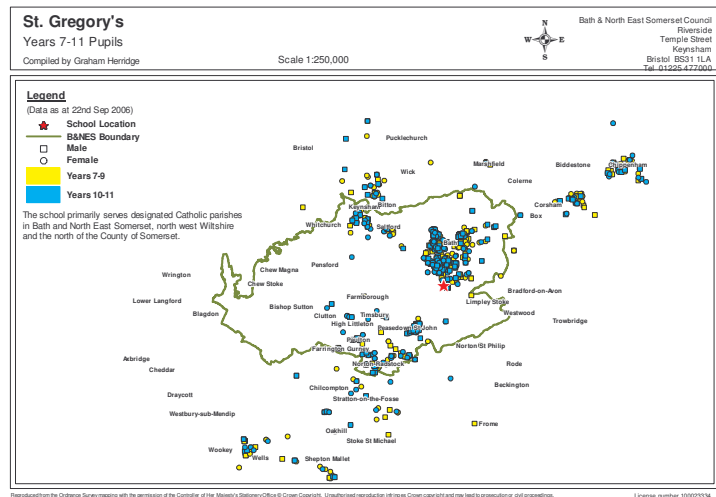
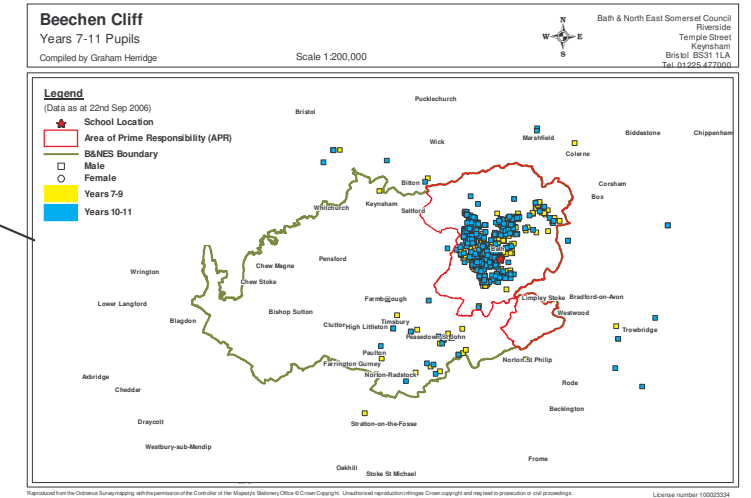
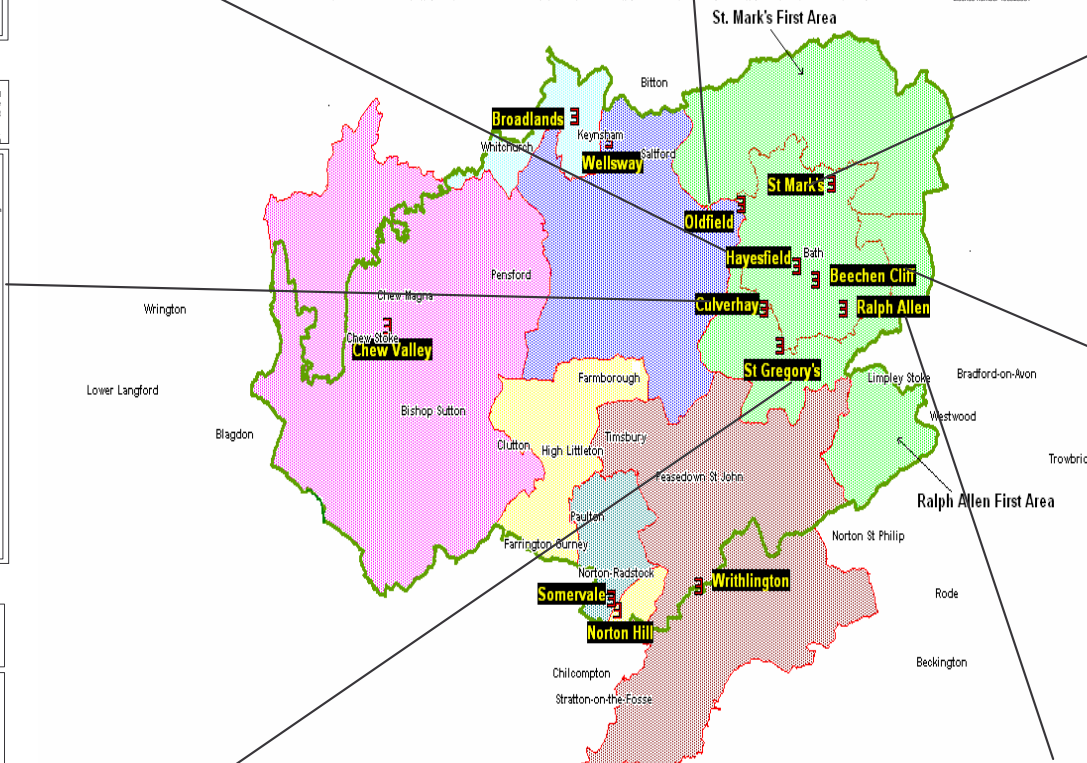
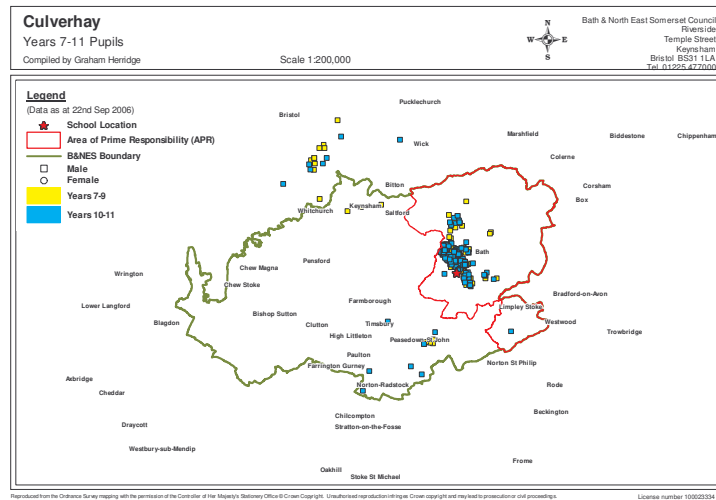
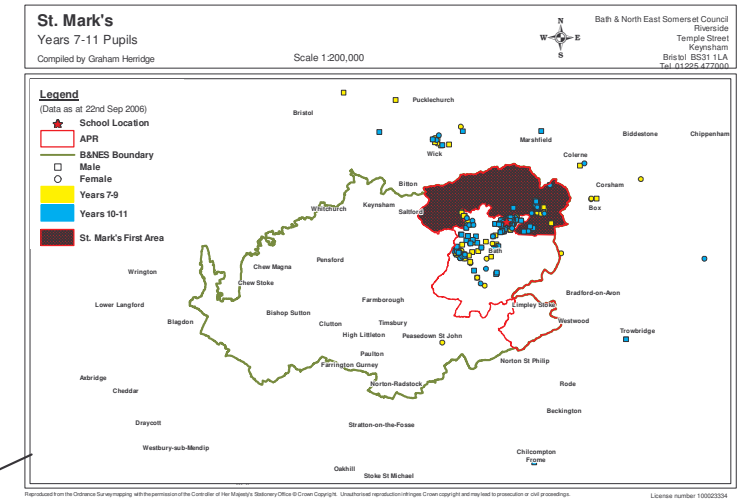
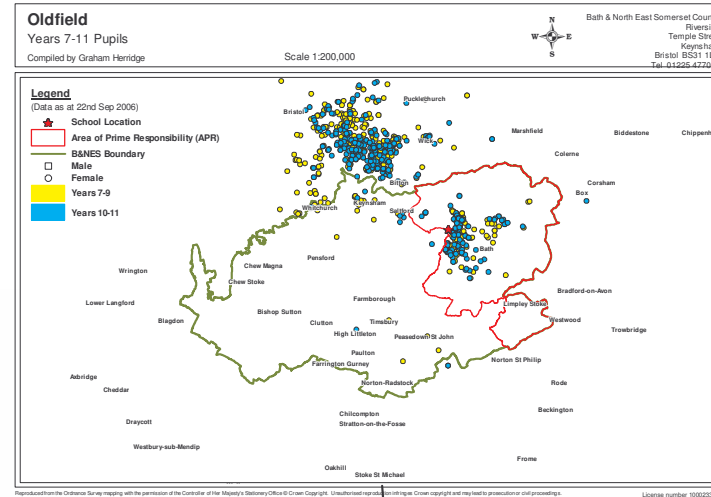
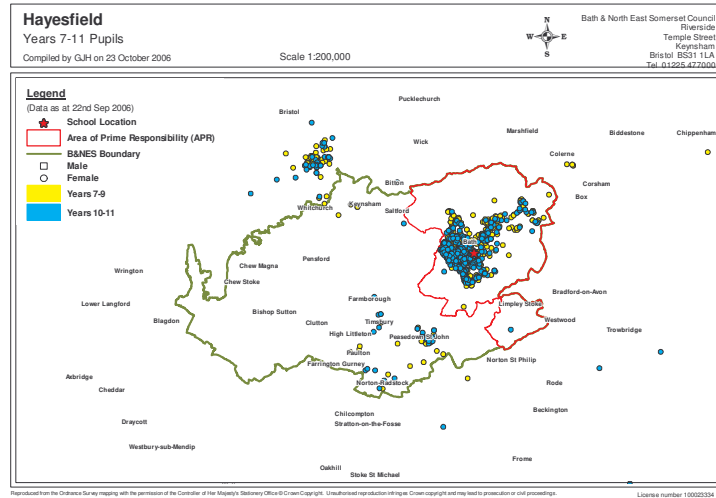
600 pupils from South Gloucestershire and Bristol attend Oldfield.
100 pupils within South Gloucestershire and Bristol attend Hayesfield.

Greater Bath (page 1 of 2)



Please see Page 8 for full key

Greater Bath (page 2 of 2)



Please see Page 8 for full key

Keynsham and Chew Valley

Keynsham

- Keynsham is served by two 11-18 co-educational secondary schools, Wellsway (PAN 210) and Broadlands (PAN 214).
- Together these two schools have a total of 2,120 places available for pupils aged 11-16. There are 2,129 pupils on roll in these age groups and therefore both schools are full.
- However, only about 1,100 pupils attend the schools from Keynsham, Salford, Whitchurch and Marksbury. Almost 1,000 pupils aged 11-16 attend Broadlands and Wellsway from Bristol and South Gloucestershire.
- In the draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) the Government office for the South West proposes up to 3,000 new dwellings for Keynsham by 2026. This might generate up to 500 pupils aged 11-16 by 2026.
- During the recent Review of Secondary Education Provision in Bath and North East Somerset, the possibility of rebuilding Wellsway to serve the whole of Keynsham was raised.
- If the Whitchurch area was designated as an area for pupils to attend Chew Valley then the remaining pupils could be catered for at a single school in Keynsham.
- The RSS south east Bristol urban extension of 6,000 homes in the Whitchurch to Hicks Gate area may generate up to 1,000 pupils aged 11-16 by 2026. This would mean that a new secondary school would be required in the centre of this area.
- **Proposal:** It is therefore proposed to consult on establishing one secondary school for Keynsham based on the Wellsway school site.

Chew Valley

- The rural communities of the Chew Valley area are served by Chew Valley 11-18 co-educational secondary school (PAN 196).
- The school has 980 places available for pupils aged 11-16. There are 967 pupils on roll in these age groups and therefore the school is full.
- Approximately 750 pupils aged 11-16 attend the school from the surrounding villages. The school has remained full because approximately 200 pupils attend the school from North Somerset and increasingly from Bristol. (Part of North Somerset is a designated APR for Chew Valley school, as children living in this area are closer to Chew Valley than to any North Somerset secondary school).
- Subject to the outcome of any consultation on the possibility of having a single school for Keynsham, consideration should be given to consulting on re-designating the Whitchurch area of Bath and North East Somerset to Chew Valley school area of prime responsibility. This would meet parental demand and reduce the number of places required in Keynsham.

General Notes:

PAN – Planned Admission Number

APR – Area of Prime Responsibility (or catchment area)

RSS – Regional Spatial Strategy

Number on roll and PAN as at September 2007

Key:



Refurbish (majority retained)



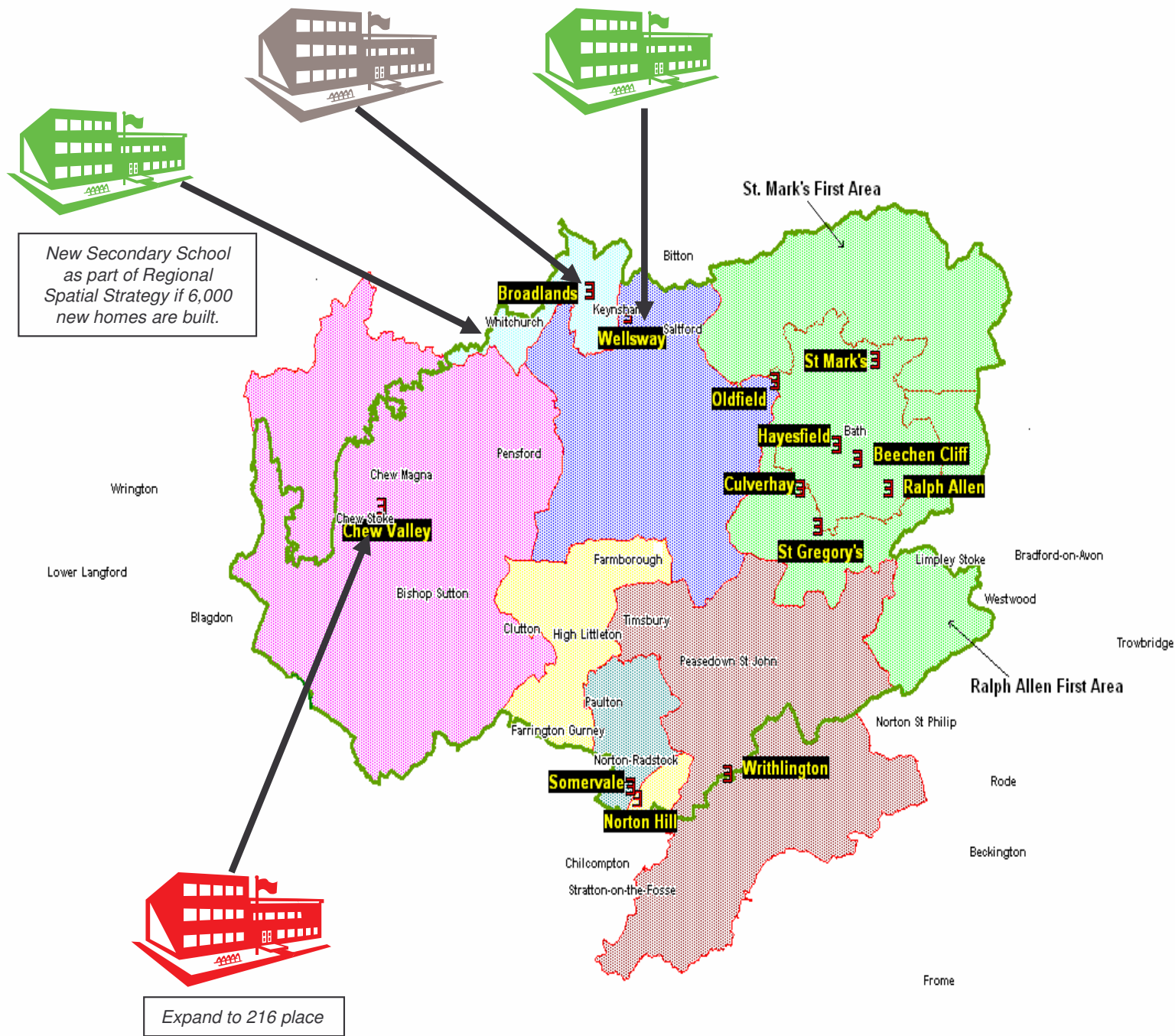
Close



Remodel (significant elements demolished and re-built)



New Build



The Future

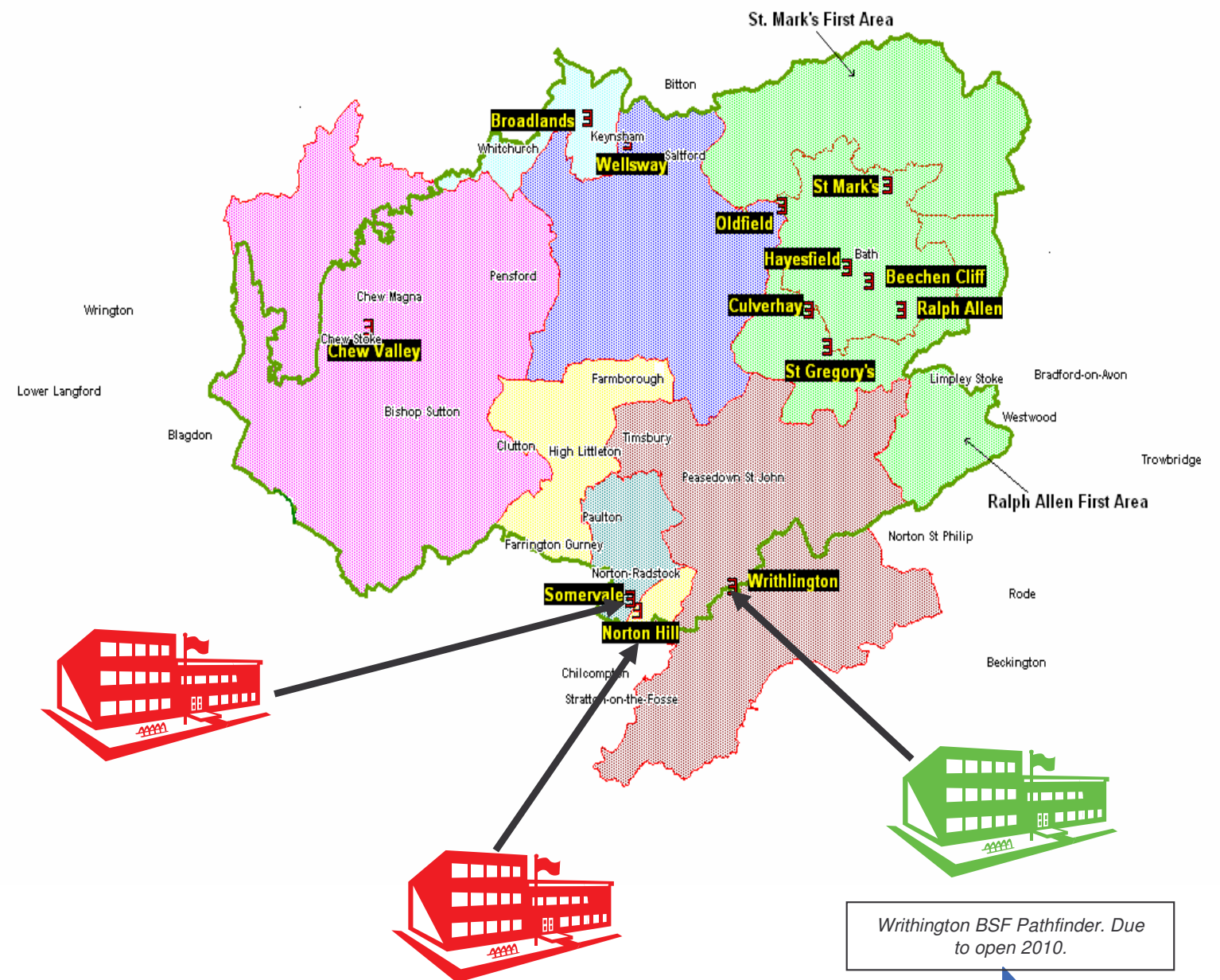
Midsomer Norton and Radstock

Midsomer Norton

- Midsomer Norton and the surrounding villages to the north are served by two 11-18 co-educational secondary schools, Norton Hill (PAN 216) and Somervale (PAN 162). Together these two schools have a total of 1,890 places available for pupils aged 11-16. There are 1,692 pupils on roll in these age groups and therefore there are 198 unfilled places in Midsomer Norton secondary schools.
- No change is proposed for Midsomer Norton.

Radstock

- Radstock and the surrounding villages to the north and parts of Somerset to the south are served by Writhlington 11-18 co-educational secondary school. (This area of Somerset is a designated APR for Writhlington, as children living in this area are closer to Writhlington than to any Somerset secondary school). The school has 1,080 places available for pupils aged 11-16. There are 1,080 pupils on roll in these age groups and therefore the school is full.
 - Writhlington is currently being rebuilt as a brand new 220 PAN 11-18 co-educational school due to open in 2010. No other changes are proposed for Radstock.
- The RSS proposes up to 2,300 new dwellings in Bath and North East Somerset outside of Bath and Keynsham. This might generate up to 350 pupils aged 11- 16. While a significant number of these might be located in Midsomer Norton and Radstock, the three schools in this area have enough places to cater for the extra pupils generated.



Key:



Refurbish (majority retained)



Close



Remodel (significant elements demolished and re-built)



New Build

Greater Bath

Greater Bath

- The city of Bath together with the surrounding villages is served by seven secondary schools.
- Beechen Cliff (PAN 162 Boys), Culverhay (PAN 115 Boys), Hayesfield Technology College (PAN 210 Girls) and Oldfield (PAN 192 Girls) are all single sex schools, although they all admit both sexes to post 16 classes.
- In addition, Ralph Allen (PAN 175), St. Mark's Church of England (PAN 108) and St. Gregory's Catholic College (PAN 160) provide co-educational places.
- Together these seven schools have a total of 5,610 places available for pupils aged 11-16. There are 4,882 pupils on roll in these age groups and therefore there are 728 unfilled places in Bath schools, mainly in St. Mark's Church of England and to a lesser extent in Culverhay.
- Approximately 4,000 of these pupils live in Bath and the surrounding villages (including approximately 80 pupils from a much wider area attending St. Gregory's Catholic College). In addition, approximately 900 pupils travel into Bath; mainly girls from South Gloucestershire to Oldfield.
- The RSS outlines proposals for 6,000 new homes in Bath by 2026. Approximately half of these will be in Western Riverside and the remainder throughout the city. However, these homes with a high proportion of one and two bedrooms might generate up to an additional 600 pupils aged 11-16 by 2026.
- In addition, an urban extension of up to 1,500 homes to the south west of Bath might generate up to 250 pupils aged 11-16. Therefore, it is important to retain two co-educational schools to the south of the city to meet this potential future demand.
- The total number of pupils, even with new homes as a result of the RSS is only enough for six secondary schools.
- City wide parent's and carer's surveys have revealed a strong demand for more co-educational places.
- It is therefore proposed to:-
 - Retain Beechen Cliff and Hayesfield Technology College as single sex boys and girls 11-18 schools with co-educational post 16 provision; each with a PAN of 160.
 - Retain St. Gregory's Catholic College as an 11-16 co-educational Catholic school with a PAN of 160.
 - Retain Ralph Allen as a co-educational 11-18 school with a PAN of 175.
- **Proposal:**
 - Consult on closing Culverhay and re-opening the school as a new 11-18 co-educational Community school or Academy on the current site with a PAN of 160.
 - Consult on the closure of St Mark's Church of England and Oldfield schools and opening a new 11-18 co-educational Church of England school in the north of the city with a PAN of 160. The consultation should determine the site for the school.

Key:



Refurbish (majority retained)



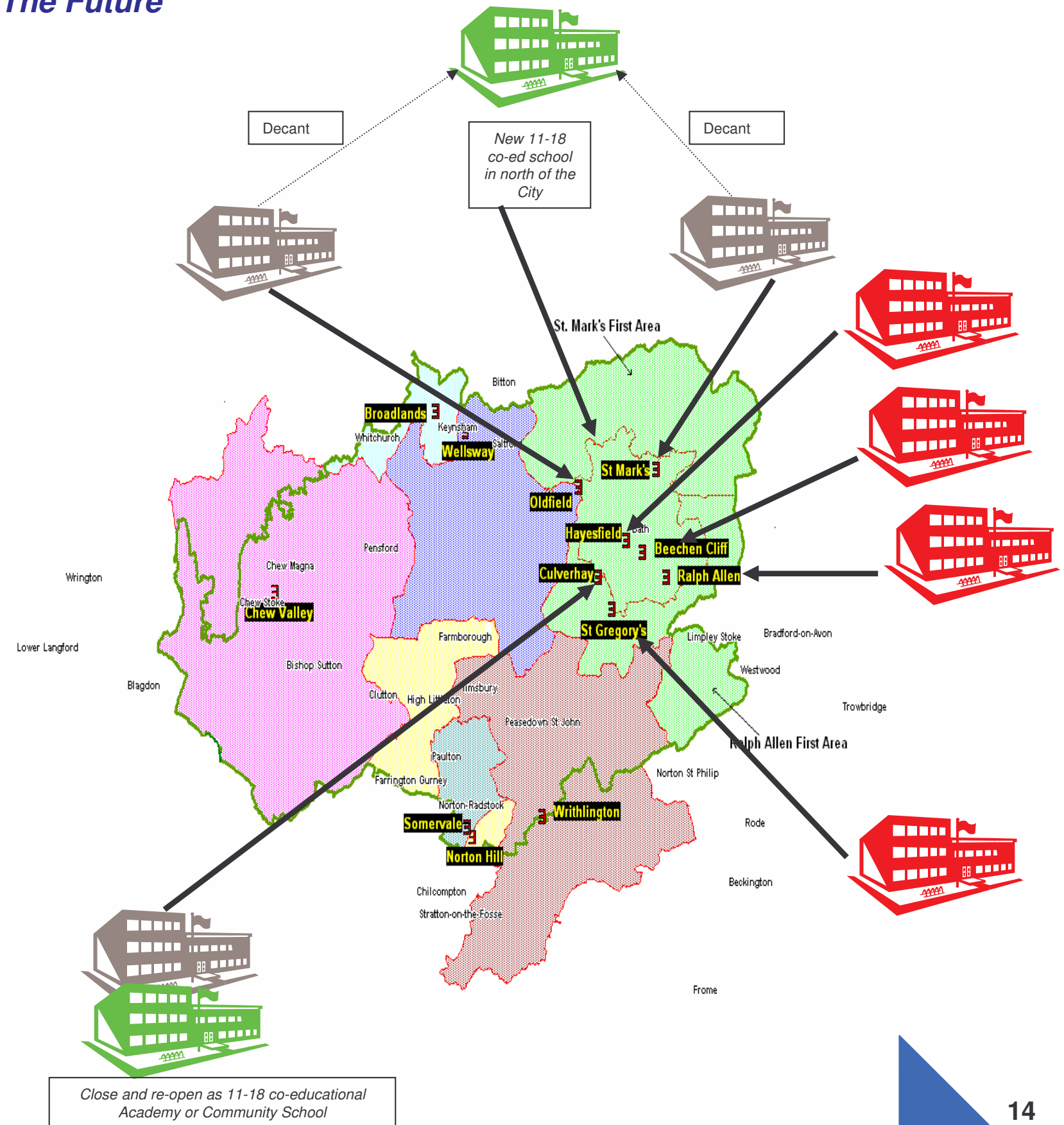
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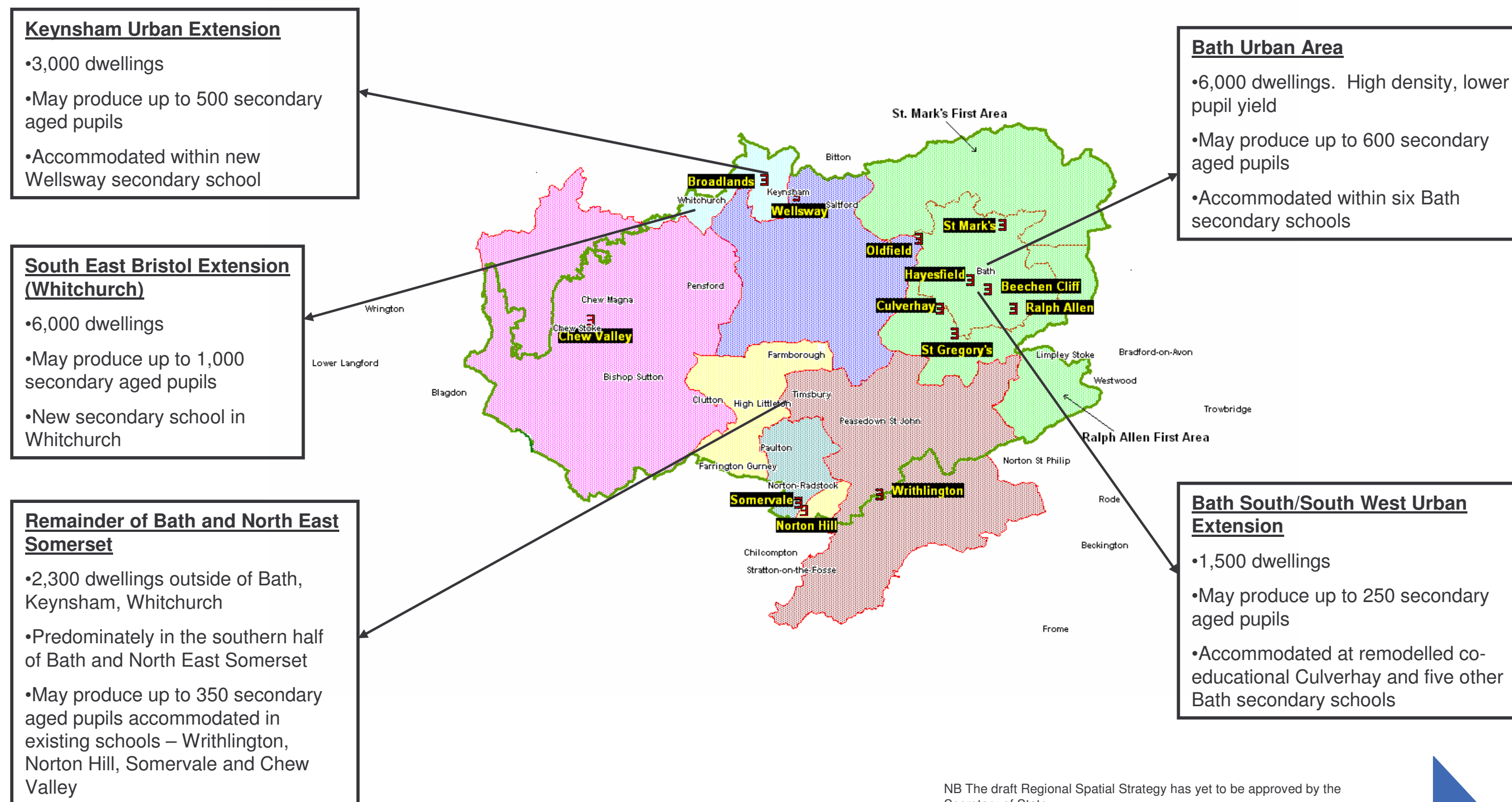
Remodel (significant elements demolished and re-built)



New Build



2026 – Future Provision – Regional Spatial Strategy Complete



NB The draft Regional Spatial Strategy has yet to be approved by the Secretary of State.

A strategic approach – ensuring everything fits

