

### **Population Projections**

The Guernsey Economic Modelling (GEM) system has been utilised to provide population forecasts to inform the secondary school (and Post-16) population projections.

In June 2017 the Policy and Resources Committee agreed a set of core assumptions to be used as standard in the analysis of policy. Those relative to population projections were:

- Fertility rate 1.6%
- Net migration +100

The Policy and Resources Committee also agreed that these assumptions should be reviewed periodically to ensure that they remain valid. The original intention was that these would be reviewed on an annual basis.

Education projections over the medium to long term are particularly sensitive to fertility rates. Given the current debate regarding secondary education and the heavy reliance that these place on very specific information about pupil numbers, a review of fertility rates was brought forward in order to ensure that the assumptions used for forecasting school population projections are as valid as possible.

Following this review it was recommended, and the Policy and Resources Committee agreed that the standard assumption of fertility be revised upwards to a rate of 1.7.

The increase in the fertility rate assumption does not affect the projected peak in demand – these pupils are already in the education system. It does significantly delay the long term reduction in pupil numbers, keeping the secondary school population higher for longer. Indeed the projected peak secondary school population has reduced slightly as the data and analysis unit has also identified a few individuals per school year who were previously flagged in the electronic census as present in the Island but who have either left or are not educated on island. The latter had led to a very slight overestimate in the peak in the previous school population data (less than 15 pupils per year). Provided that the proportion of students attending the Grant-Aided Colleges remains the same, this decrease is likely to be sufficient for the Committee to recommend 19 forms of entry at year 7 going forward, rather than the 20 previously proposed.

The graph below shows a comparison of pupil numbers without allowance for any spare capacity and assuming the current proportional buyout to the private system continues. Using the revised assumption of a fertility rate of 1.7 the period over which the pupil numbers would exceed the capacity of an 18 form entry school (where the

average size for these forms of entry is a maximum of 24 per school under current education policy) would be significantly extended.

Figure 1: Projection of State funded secondary school population assuming no spare capacity and a continuation of historic proportional buyout to private schools

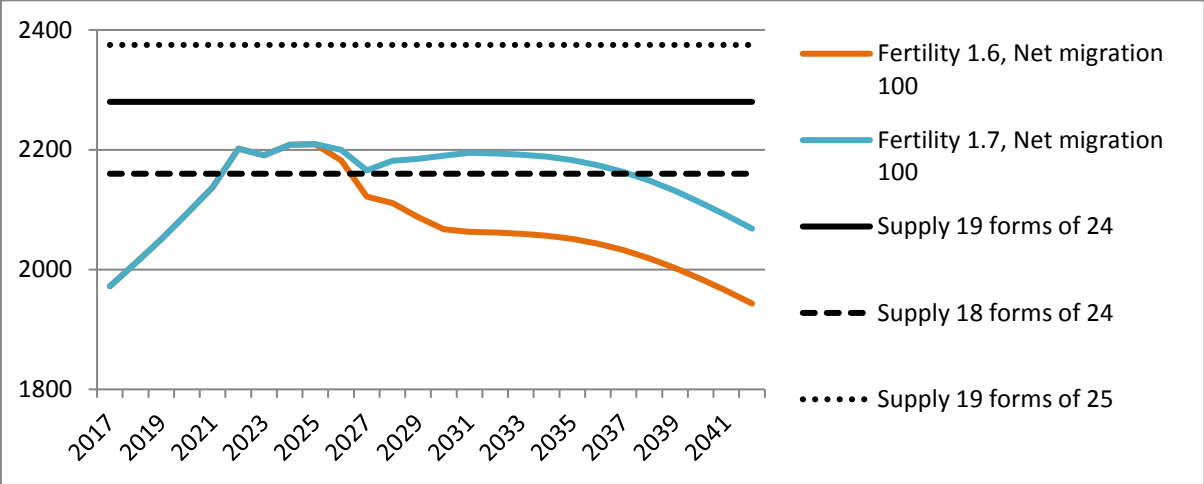
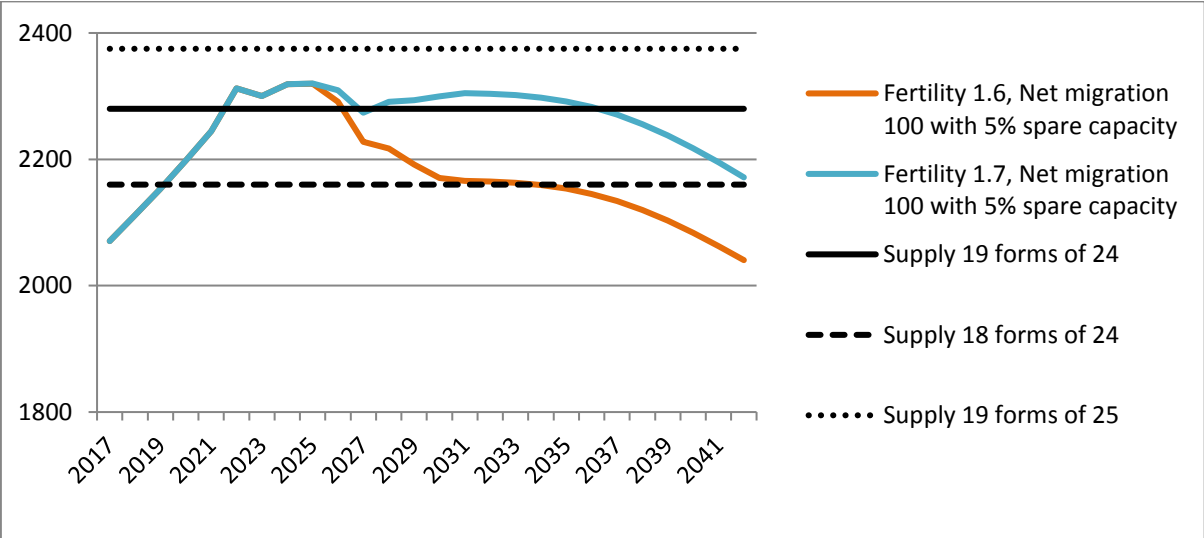


Figure 2 below displays the same data but with an allowance of a need for a full 5% spare capacity to provide the flexibility needed to manage the school population effectively (e.g. year to year variations, variations in population numbers by catchment and children moving into and out of the Island). This shows that while there is spare capacity within the 19 form entry model at a form size of 24, it is not sufficient to meet the full 5% under an assumption of fertility of 1.7 and there is a manageable risk that with 19 forms of entry, the average form size at some schools may need to increase to 25 or 26 or possibly 27 in one year at one school. There is also a need to consider contingencies (for example a possible reduction in the proportion of learners moving out of the States sector to the Grant-Aided Colleges) or a change to future population policy and migration.

Figure 2: Projection of State funded secondary school population assuming 5% spare capacity and a continuation of historic proportional buyout to private schools



The above analysis has led the Committee *for* Education Sport and Culture to recommend that the secondary education estate proposals should be based on 19 forms of entry at year 7 for 11-16 education spread across the education estate, assuming that the current percentage of 11-16 year olds attending the Grant-Aided Colleges continues (approximately 30% in total made up of approximately 10% attending the private primary schools and approximately an additional 20% moving out of the States sector at age 11).