



ALFREDSON YORK
ASSOCIATES

Land at Stoney Lane
Whiston
Education Impact Technical Note
for Taylor Wimpey North West

7th July 2026

Note **v1-0** prepared by **John Powell**
for

Alfredson York Associates Ltd

The Henley Building
Newtown Road
Henley-on-Thames
Oxfordshire
RG9 1HG

Tel: 01491 578159

1. Introduction

1.1. Report Purpose & Scope

- 1.1.1. I have been asked to consider the development for its likely impact on social infrastructure in the local area.
- 1.1.2. The purpose of this Technical Note is to provide an update on matters referenced in the Education Impact Assessment dated 21st May 2026 (attached at Appendix ATN01) to address matters raised in email correspondence from Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (KMBC), attached at Appendix ATN02.
- 1.1.3. This Technical Note does not comment further on matters pertaining to primary education which is dealt with in the original Impact Assessment.
- 1.1.4. It is acknowledged that if the impacts of the development legitimately call for a S106 contribution due to capacity problems, that meet the requirements of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) regulations, then it is accepted that a contribution should be offered.

1.2. Intended Audience

- 1.2.1. The intended audience is the Client and, potentially, the local planning and education authorities relevant to this report.

1.3. Research Sources

- 1.3.1. The contents of this Technical Note are based on publicly available information, including relevant data from central government and the local authority. Research for this note was conducted in June and July 2026.

2. The Local Position

2.1. The Trend in Annual Local Birth Numbers

2.1.1. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) birth rate figures show the total annual births within Knowsley at their lowest levels in the last eleven years.

2.1.2. Births specifically within the Whiston area are also at their lowest levels in the last eleven years, and remain well below their peak, which happened in 2017.

2.1.3. This is best illustrated by the table below:

Live births in England and Wales for small geographic areas												
ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 16 May 2026]												
Area	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Knowsley MBC	1,816	1,892	1,930	1,933	2,018	2,009	1,954	1,807	1,986	1,932	1,875	1,758
Prescot South	115	133	116	126	103	122	112	119	122	129	130	107
Whiston and Cronton	105	105	95	92	107	98	101	90	105	88	93	89
Rainhill	82	88	88	92	112	75	86	93	77	89	89	69
Local Ward Total	302	326	299	310	322	295	299	302	304	306	312	265

2.1.4. Those children born in 2014 would now be in Year 6 and the 2021 births will be due to start primary school in September 2026 (approximately, given the discrepancy between calendar and academic years).

2.1.5. **Within the local area, births are at their lowest levels within the last 11 years. They have fallen by over 2 forms of entry since a peak in 2017.**

2.1.6. **Across the borough as a whole births have fallen by 260 since the peak in 2017.**

2.1.7. Commentary on the relevance of this position with regards to the education mitigation strategy is set out later in this Technical Note.

2.2. Childcare Sufficiency & Contribution Request.

2.2.1.KMBC's most recently published Childcare Sufficiency Audit dates from 2020/21 and is therefore outdated. Such documents are meant to be updated at least biannually to ensure they remain relevant.

2.2.2.KMBC is in the process of preparing an updated version but that is not available at the time of preparing this Note.

2.2.3.The email at Appendix ATN02 sets out the position adopted by KMBC, and is set out below:

- The Whiston and Cronton ward has 2 childcare providers and 6 childminders with a combined current net capacity of **134 FTE** childcare places but with overall **33 FTE** vacancies. Of these **23 FTE** vacancies are for 3- and 4-year-olds within the 6 school provisions.
- Current data continues to show that Whiston and Cronton ward is currently a high demand ward in need of additional places being created. Demand is growing for 0- to 2-year-old places currently across the whole borough.
- The estimated pupil yield, based on the bedroom mix provided to me and the average pupil yields per household for Knowsley (using data provided by Department for Education) is as follows:

No. of Bedrooms	No. of Houses	EY Yield	EY Pupils
1		0.04	
2	31	0.09	2.79
3+	173	0.08	13.84
Total	204		17 (16.63)

- With **17** additional children, this would equate to an additional **9** Full Time Equivalent (FTE) places required within the Whiston and Cronton ward.

Therefore, an Early Years contribution would be sought in respect of **9 FTE** childcare places due to the current demand. There would also need to be provision included for breakfast, afterschool, and wraparound provision.

2.2.4.Commentary on the relevance of this position with regards to the education mitigation strategy is set out later in this Technical Note.

3. Mitigation of the Development

3.1. AYA Assessment of Mitigation Requirements

3.1.1. KMBC's response indicates an overall level of vacancies of **33FTE** of which **23FTE** are in school settings (for 3- and 4-year olds). This leaves vacancies of **10FTE** in the childcare sector.

3.1.2. KMBC has assessed this site as giving rise to a demand for **9FTE** of early years places.

3.1.3. This effectively means that the existing vacancies would reduce to **1FTE** but there are sufficient vacancies to accommodate the impact of the development without any expansion requirements.

3.1.4. **As a result, this contribution request cannot meet the statutory test (a) that it is "necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms".**

3.1.5. It should be noted that the providers do not have a set "capacity" figure, but use a measure of "registered places". This statistic is not necessarily a measure of built-form capacity but may reflect a staff/child ratio limit.

3.1.6. In this situation, sufficient additional demand will enable additional staffing resources to be recruited and additional places to be offered without the need for additional built-form.

3.1.7. Additionally, according to the DfE Early Years statistics, over 80% of 2-year old places, over 62% of 3-year old 15 hour places and over 70% of 3-year old 30 hour places are provided within the PVI sector and do not require additional capital funding to be provided.

3.1.8. These sectors would not provide places where there is no demand, but are able to respond to increases in demand by increasing the provision of services.

3.1.9. KMBC is not under a duty to provide all necessary places itself, and does not currently do so. To assume that KMBC requires contributions for all such places arising from this development is therefore unreasonable, as not all such funds would be necessary.

3.1.10. **As a result, this contribution request cannot meet the statutory test (a) that it is "necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms".**

4. Conclusions

4.1. Commentary & Conclusion on Requested Mitigation

4.1.1. there are sufficient vacancies to accommodate the impact of the development without any expansion requirements.

4.1.2. **As a result, this contribution request cannot meet the statutory test (a) that it is "necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms".**

4.1.3. Additionally, there is no evidence, even if there were a forecast shortfall in registered places, that this is as a result of lack of built-form capacity that would require a contribution to mitigate.

4.1.4. **Again, as a result, this contribution request cannot meet the statutory test (a) that it is "necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms".**

4.1.5. KMBC's contribution request therefore fails the tests set out in the CIL regulations and it should be withdrawn.

5. Appendices

5.1. The following Appendices accompany this document:

- APPENDIX ATN01 – AYA Education Impact Assessment, May 2026;
Please note only the report is appended. If any of the appendices of the original report are required please email info@alfredsonyork.co.uk
- APPENDIX ATN02 – KMBC email response, June 2026.