

More funding sought to deal with rising school rolls

The capital could be left with a “gaping hole” and a bill for hundreds of millions of pounds to provide enough school places for children amid a projected population explosion.

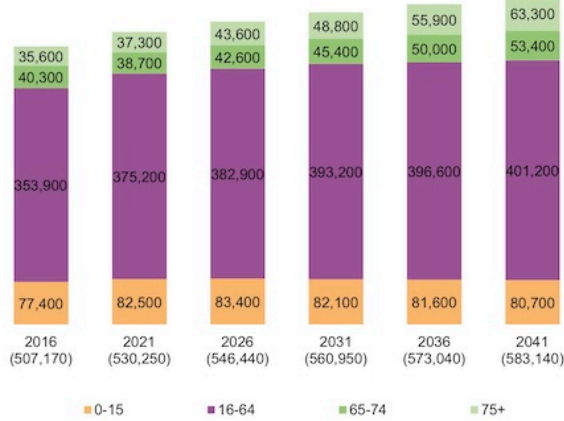
Education chiefs are set to bid for a share of £1bn of additional funding from The Scottish Government to build or expand schools in preparation for rising numbers of people living in Edinburgh.

Around £0.5bn would be needed to provide enough space for a growing population in Edinburgh – with housebuilders putting up part of the cost.

Edinburgh is expected to grow by around 40,000 people between 2016 and 2026 and a further 36,000 increase by 2041. A rise in primary school rolls is expected to impact on secondary education as pupils move to high schools. Currently, secondary schools have a capacity of 22,200 pupils – but pupil numbers are expected to rise from 19,812 next year to almost 25,000 by 2028.

People

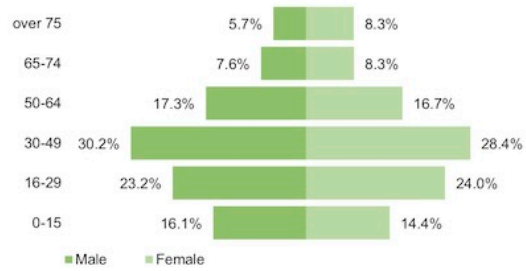
5 Projected population of Edinburgh by age band 2016 to 2041 (2016 based projections)



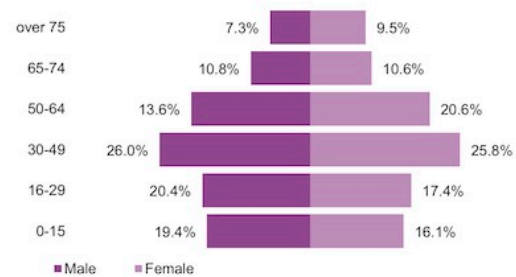
KEY FACTS

Edinburgh population is projected to grow to 583,140 by 2041.
 In 2017 Edinburgh has a higher proportion of people aged 16 to 49 than Scotland. Over half of males and females in Edinburgh are aged 16-49 year old (Male 53.5% and Females 52.4%).
 In Scotland less than half of population are aged 16-49 year old (Male 46.4% and females 43.2%)

6 Edinburgh male and female age structure 2017 (% of male and female population)



7 Scotland male and female age structure 2017 (% of male and female population)



Source: [National Records of Scotland](#)

The council's projections are included in Edinburgh by Numbers 2018

Primary schools will also experience rising rolls in the coming years – largely down to new housing developments.



Official opening at Boroughmuir High School in June 2018

At the new Boroughmuir High School, which opened its doors in February, additional accommodation for rising rolls is already required. In the meantime, the school will accommodate all pupils through “more efficient timetabling” and changes to the catchment area may be considered in the long-term.

There are also expected to be rising rolls at The Royal High School which moved to its current premises 50 years ago – but any new accommodation will not be in place until at least August 2021. Firrhill High School may also require space for more pupils.

The council predicts that an extra capacity for up to 600 pupils will be needed at James Gillespie’s High School over the next 10 years – while primary Gaelic Medium Education places at Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pairce is expected to rocket from 376 this year to 721 by 2028 amid a current capacity of 434.



Bun-Sgoil Taobh na Pairce

Projects to tackle rising rolls in high schools in west Edinburgh will also need to be considered, along with 14 primary schools across the Capital.



Councillor Ian Perry

Education, children and families convener, Cllr Ian Perry, said: “Edinburgh is growing and that comes with more families, more young people and therefore puts pressure on schools.

“In the south and west, there’s five new primary schools being built to accommodate the house-building that has been agreed by the planning committee.

He added: “The price tag is massive – you are talking about half a billion pounds of infrastructure.

“For primary schools it comes from developers so you can take about half of that out while the others, the council and the Scottish Government will pay for. We will bid into the £1bn that the Scottish Government have made available, individually for each school.”

Last month, the Scottish Government announced it will invest an additional £1bn in rebuilding and refurbishing schools from 2021.



Green Group Cllr
Mary Campbell

Green education spokesperson, Cllr Mary Campbell, said: “Up to 20 schools either need to be built or to be extended to cope with rising pupil numbers. That is quite apart from the need to revamp or rebuild existing schools which have come to the end of their shelf-life. Add to that the commitment to almost

double nursery provision by 2020 and the pressure is obvious.

“The city has to make sure it is geared up to deliver what is needed for schools or risk a gaping hole in places over the next 10 years.”

The process for building a new primary school can take between three and four years and up to five years for a secondary school in order to secure funding and carry out consultations before construction.