

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee North Warwickshire Area Committee
Date of Committee 16th November 2005
Report Title Draft School Organisation Framework 2005/10

Summary This report seeks comments on the draft School Organisation Framework 2005/10.

For further information please contact: Phil Astle
 Education Officer (School Organisation)
 Tel: 01926 412820
 philastle@warwickshire.gov.uk

Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision] No

Background papers

- Draft School Organisation Framework 2005/10 (available at <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolorganisation>)
- Cabinet report 8th September 2005
- Letter from the DfES dated 18th November 2004
- DfES 'School Organisation Decision Makers Guidance' published 2nd August 2005

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

- Other Committees Warwickshire School Organisation Committee
- Local Member(s)
- Other Elected Members
- Cabinet Member Cllr John Burton
- Chief Executive
- Legal Jane Pollard / Richard Freeth – *fine*

- Finance
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION **NO**

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet 8th December 2005
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

North Warwickshire Area Committee – 16th November 2005

Draft School Organisation Framework 2005/10

Report of the County Education Officer

Recommendations:

- (1) That the Area Committee consider and comment on the draft School Organisation Framework 2005/10.
- (2) That the Area Committee's comments be forwarded to the Cabinet at its meeting on 8th December.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Although the statutory requirement to produce a School Organisation Plan was repealed nationally on 1st March 2005, Cabinet has agreed that a dedicated, non-statutory, policy framework should be produced in order to ensure that an effective basis for planning school organisation continues.
- 1.2 In particular, the need for a policy framework for school organisation is needed because:
 - school organisation matters will necessarily form just a small part of the wider Children and Young People's Plan when it is introduced to drive the Every Child Matters Agenda.
 - the Warwickshire School Organisation Committee will still need to take account of local plans on school organisation
 - school organisation planning will form part of the Joint Area Review of Education and Children's Services, also introduced by the Children Act 2004
 - the County Council remains under a duty to ensure that sufficient primary and secondary school places are provided within its area.
- 1.3 Cabinet also agreed that Area Committees and key stakeholders including schools, Diocesan Education Authorities, the School Organisation Committee, the Local Learning and Skills Council and neighbouring Local Education Authorities should be consulted on the new draft document.

- 1.4 The final School Organisation Framework will be approved by Cabinet. It is further proposed that, although the demographic information would be updated each year, the framework itself would only be changed and consulted upon every four years or if there was a major policy change.

2. Content of the School Organisation Framework

- 2.1 The Framework document, which can be found on the website <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolorganisation>:
- provides the latest pupil forecast trends for the primary and secondary phases by area
 - sets out a broad overview of the strategic context for school organisation planning
 - clarifies the key policy areas such as special education and asset management that impact on school organisation
 - identifies planning principles that should be taken into account when reducing or increasing the number of places or changing the pattern of school provision
 - recommends a target for reducing school places and a strategy for moving toward meeting that target.
- 2.2 School organisation planning within Warwickshire takes place against a background of falling pupil numbers in primary schools and the need for the County Council to continue to raise levels of achievement, secure value for money, make the best use of resources and respond to and develop a range of new initiatives including the 'Every Child Matters' agenda.
- 2.3 When planning the pattern of school provision in order to reduce or increase the number of places, there are a number of factors to be considered. These factors are detailed in the Framework document.

3. Proposed action for reducing surplus places

The Framework document also sets out broad principles for addressing the issue of surplus places:

- (a) a target of 7% surplus places for primary and secondary schools by the end of the planning period 2010 be set
- (b) all very small primary schools (30 pupils or less) are reviewed
- (c) priority for the amalgamation of separate infant and junior schools be given where there are falling rolls, where the schools occupy the same site or share adjacent sites, and/or where the cost of the amalgamation is either self-financing or the cost has been identified as a spending priority

- (d) schools are consulted on the use of their accommodation in the light of the development of Children's Centres or other early years provision, the Extended Schools programme and Workforce Re-Modelling
- (e) temporary accommodation is removed as soon as it is no longer required and new temporary accommodation only provided where there is a short-term necessity to deliver the curriculum.

4. Pupil population trends in the North Warwickshire area

4.1 Table 1 below provides a summary of pupils on roll in the Northern Area and in Warwickshire, in both secondary and primary schools.

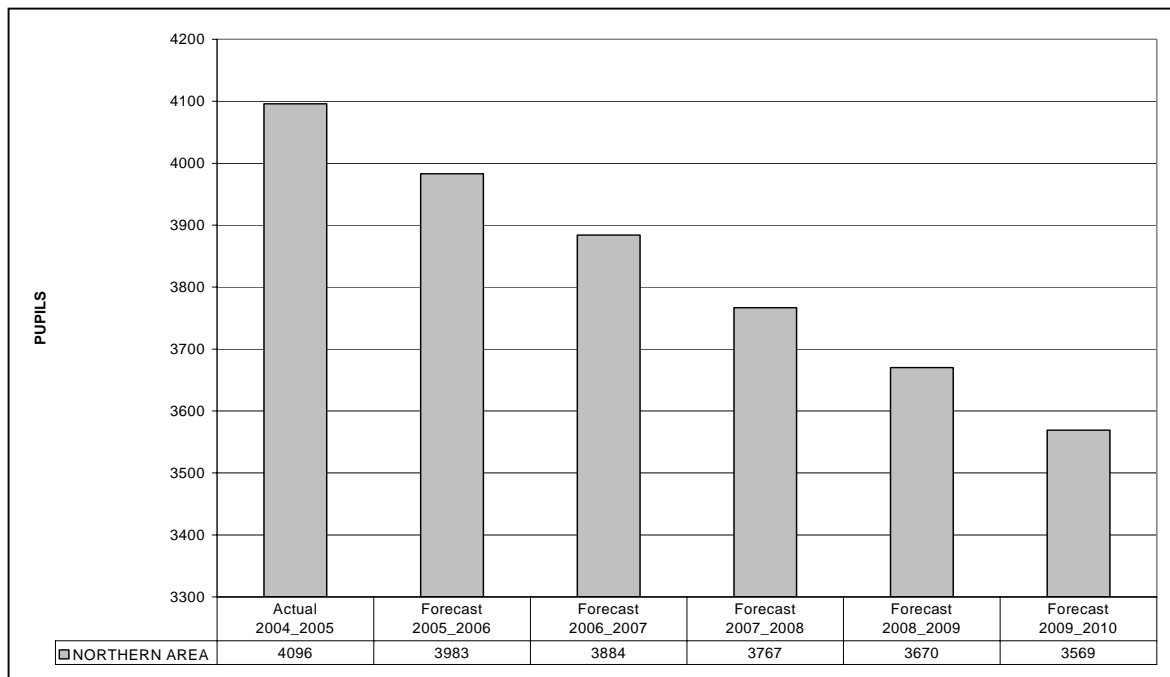
Table 1
Pupils on roll – Actual at January 2005 and Forecast 2005/10

		Actual 2004_2005	Forecast 2005_2006	Forecast 2006_2007	Forecast 2007_2008	Forecast 2008_2009	Forecast 2009_2010	Capacity
Primary	NORTHERN AREA	4096	3983	3884	3767	3670	3569	4678
	WARWICKSHIRE TOTAL	40072	39464	38290	37597	36972	36352	44403
Secondary	NORTHERN AREA	3623	3604	3519	3422	3373	3360	3692
	WARWICKSHIRE TOTAL	34329	34392	34041	33432	33075	32794	36412

4.2 Primary

- 4.2.1 In the northern area of Warwickshire pupil numbers are forecast to fall from 4,096 (12.4% surplus places) to 3,569 (23.7% surplus places) over the next five years.
- 4.2.2 Demographic forecasts suggest that surplus places in the Atherstone area could rise from 15.3% to 23.5%. The Coleshill/Water Orton area is forecast to experience the sharpest fall in numbers from 1,221 in January 2005 to 974 by 2009/10. Schools in the Polesworth area show the slowest rate of falling numbers from 8.3% surplus places in 2005 to 15.2% in 2009 and may also continue to have pupil numbers bolstered to an extent by pupils in Staffordshire travelling to Warwickshire schools. The number of surplus places in the Kingsbury area was reduced from September 2005 when Kingsbury Infant and Kingsbury Junior Schools amalgamated. Action may be needed in certain parts of the area to manage the number of surplus places.

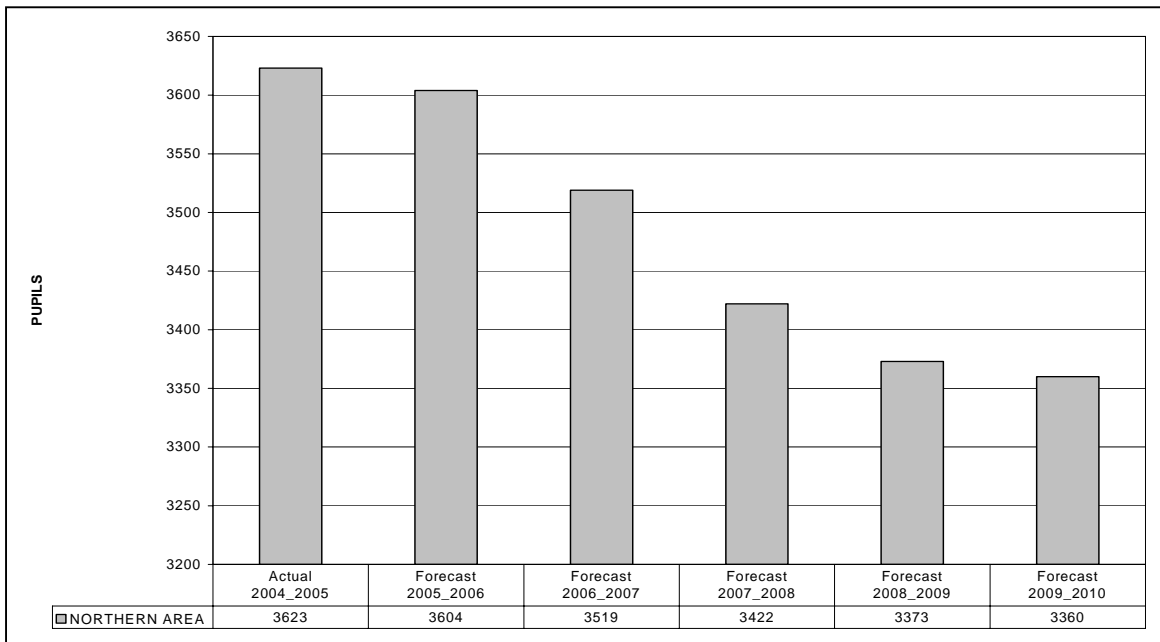
Chart 1
Primary pupils on roll – Actual at January 2005 and Forecast 2005/10



4.3 Secondary

- 4.3.1 North Warwickshire has been prioritised by the County Council for a complete review of secondary schools, including the replacement or remodelling of all the secondary schools, as the first phase of a government programme that will see the refurbishment or replacement of all secondary schools in the country. Although Warwickshire is not due to benefit from this Building Schools for the Future scheme until 2013, it is acknowledged that planning for this initiative will need to begin during the life of this document.
- 4.3.2 During the life of this framework the demographic forecast indicates that pupil numbers will decline slightly from 3,623 in January 2005 to 3,360 pupils in September 2009, a fall of 7.3%.

Chart 2
Secondary pupils on roll – Actual at January 2005 and Forecast 2005/10



4.3.3 This will be partly offset by some new housing, which could result in an additional 100 pupils up to 2009. Most secondary schools in the area are operating near their capacity at present. The Greenwich Judgement continues to affect admissions to secondary schools in this area, with children attending Warwickshire schools from outside the county.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 The Area Committee is asked to consider and comment on the draft School Organisation Framework 2005/10.
- 5.2 The Area Committee's comments will be forwarded to the Cabinet at its meeting on 8th December.

ERIC WOOD
 County Education Officer

22 Northgate Street
 Warwick

3rd November 2005