

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee **Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee**

Date of Committee **30th 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
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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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warwickshire School Organisation Committee |
| Local Member(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other Elected Members | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cabinet Member | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cllr John Burton |
| Chief Executive | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Legal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jane Pollard / Richard Freeth – <i>fine</i> |
| Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other Chief Officers | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| District Councils | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Health Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Police | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other Bodies/Individuals | <input type="checkbox"/> |

FINAL DECISION **NO**

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- | | |
|---|---|
| Further consideration by this Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To Council | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To Cabinet | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8 th December 2005 |
| To an O & S Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To an Area Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Further Consultation | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee –
30th 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 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, a hard copy of which will be sent to all County Councillors under separate cover, can be found on the website <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolorganisation>. It:
- 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 Nuneaton/Bedworth Area

- 4.1 Table 1 provides a summary of pupils on roll in the Nuneaton and Bedworth area and in Warwickshire, in both secondary and primary schools.

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

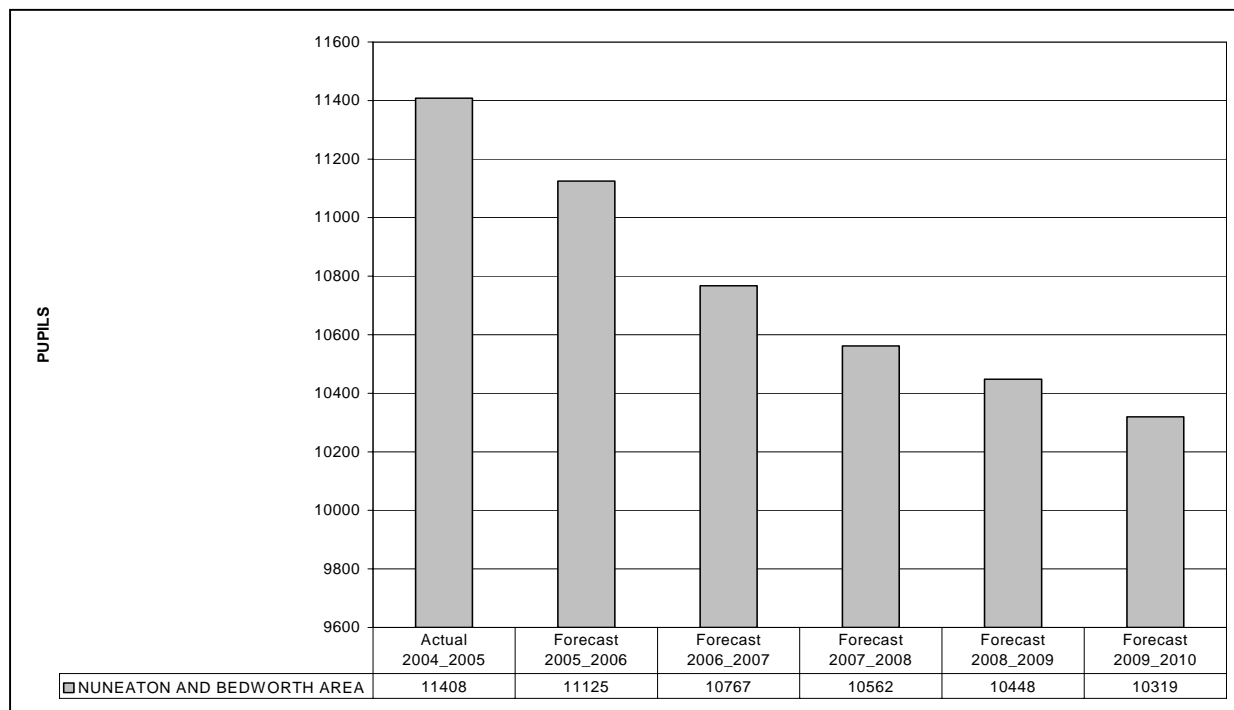
| | | Actual 2004_2005 | Forecast 2005_2006 | Forecast 2006_2007 | Forecast 2007_2008 | Forecast 2008_2009 | Forecast 2009_2010 | Capacity |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Primary | NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH AREA | 11408 | 11125 | 10767 | 10562 | 10448 | 10319 | 12638 |
| | WARWICKSHIRE TOTAL | 40072 | 39464 | 38290 | 37597 | 36972 | 36352 | 44403 |
| Secondary | NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH AREA | 8727 | 8731 | 8565 | 8363 | 8238 | 8149 | 9147 |
| | WARWICKSHIRE TOTAL | 34329 | 34392 | 34041 | 33432 | 33075 | 32794 | 36412 |

4.2 Primary

- 4.2.1 In January 2005 the Nuneaton and Bedworth area had some 1,230 (10%) surplus places. Based on the demographic pupil numbers in the area, this may rise to 2,319 (19%) surplus places by the end of the period of this framework. In some parts of the Area an increase in the number of surplus places may be offset by new housing developments, which could add in the region of 210 extra pupils.
- 4.2.2 Schools on the western side of Nuneaton are likely to continue to have the largest percentage of surplus places, growing from 15% in 2005 to 21% by 2009/10. Surplus places in the centre of the town are due to grow from 10% to 19% over the same period and in the eastern area the most rapid rate of growth is seen as surplus places increase from just 3% at present to 16% by 2009/10. In Bedworth the percentage of surplus places is forecast to rise from 12% in 2005 to 18% by 2009/10.
- 4.2.3 It is not envisaged that any major reorganisation of schools is required and if a target of 3% surplus places is allowed this should allow both for a level of flexibility and parental preference. Such action that is necessary would then be

limited to supporting the quality of education and promoting the use of surplus accommodation to support the Extended Schools agenda and the development of Children's Centres where planned.

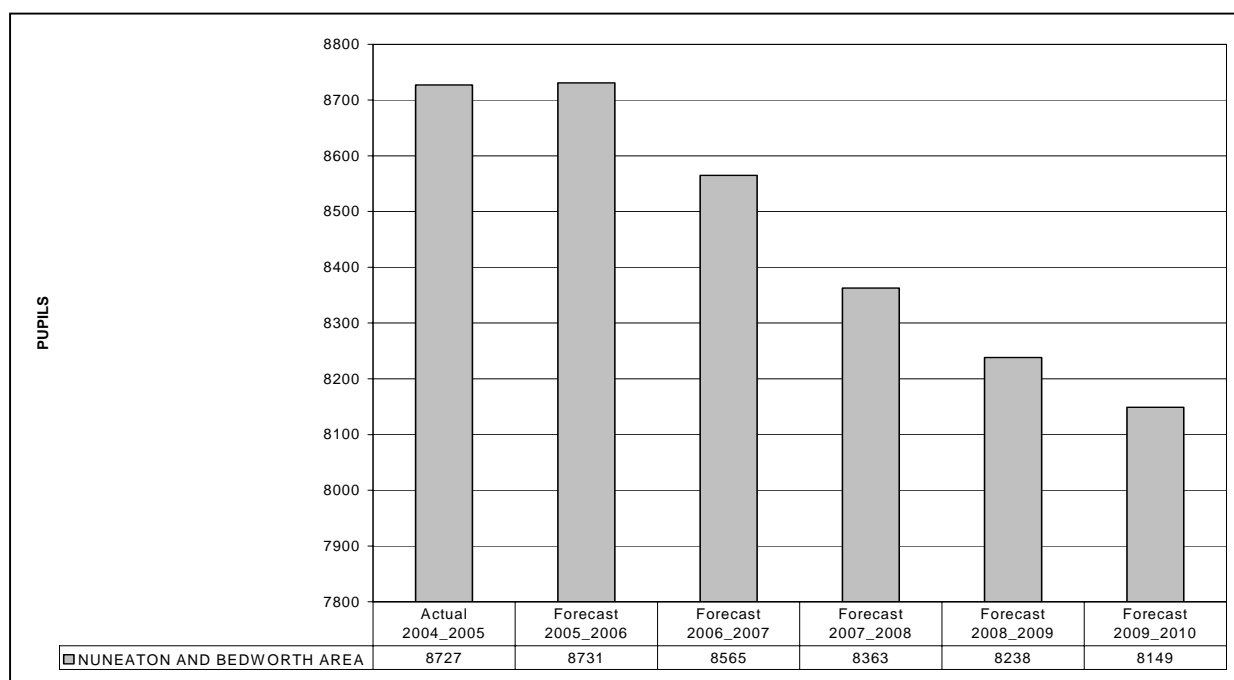
Chart 1
Primary pupils on roll – Actual at January 2005 and Forecast 2005/10



4.3 Secondary

- 4.3.1 The demographic forecast indicates that the underlying secondary school population in Nuneaton and Bedworth will fall steadily from a recent peak of 8,731 places in 2005 to 8,149 pupils by September 2009.
- 4.3.2 There are a significant number of new housing developments planned for the Nuneaton area that could produce demand for up to 150 secondary places over the time of this Plan. However, secondary schools in the area admit around 200 pupils who live outside the Warwickshire boundary, mainly from the Coventry area. The number of pupils attending Warwickshire schools from other local authorities is always subject to change and it is understood that Coventry is proposing to develop a City Academy that could affect the number of Coventry pupils seeking places in Nuneaton and Bedworth.
- 4.3.3 The Nuneaton and Bedworth area has been prioritised by the County Council for a complete review of secondary schools including the replacement or remodelling of all the secondary schools under the Building Schools for the Future scheme by 2013.

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



4.4 Summary

Although some schools will experience the impact of the lower birth rate there is no need for any reorganisation of schools at the level required in the reorganisation of 1996. The Authority will continue to work with schools to make good use of their accommodation and set appropriate admission limits. The policies suggested will support the Extended Schools and expansion of Early Years provision initiatives.

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

17th November 2005