

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Rugby Area Committee
Date of Committee 9th November 2005
Report Title Draft School Organisation Framework 2005/10

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

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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 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

Rugby Area Committee – 9th 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- 1.1 Although the statutory requirement to produce a School Organisation Plan was repealed nationally on 1st March 2005, Cabinet has agreed that a dedicated, non-statutory, policy framework should be produced in order to ensure that an effective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 Eastern Area

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

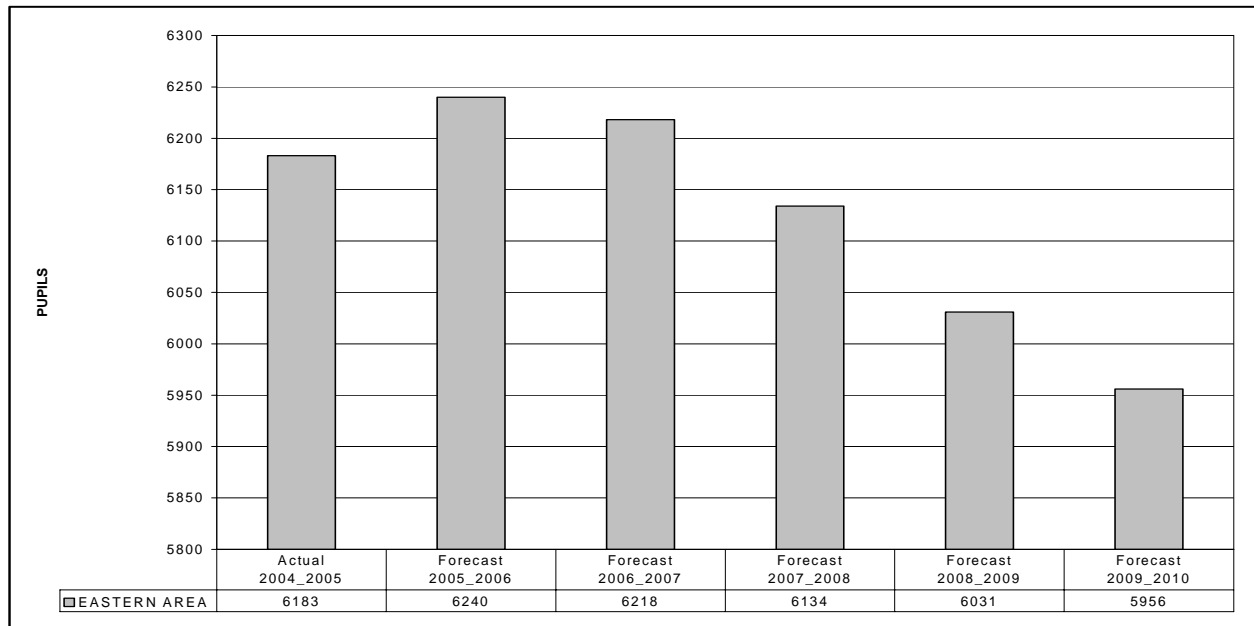
Table 1
Pupils on roll – Actual at January 2005 and Forecast 2005/10

		Actual 2004_2005	Forecast 2005_2006	Forecast 2006_2007	Forecast 2007_2008	Forecast 2008_2009	Forecast 2009_2010	Capacity
Primary	EASTERN AREA	7239	7139	6837	6691	6559	6439	8106
	WARWICKSHIRE TOTAL	40072	39464	38290	37597	36972	36352	44403
Secondary	EASTERN AREA	6183	6240	6218	6134	6031	5956	6623
	WARWICKSHIRE TOTAL	34329	34392	34041	33432	33075	32794	36412

4.2 Primary

- 4.2.1 In January 2005 there were 867 (10.7%) surplus places in the area. The demographic forecast indicates that by 2009/10 this surplus will grow to 1,667 (20.6%).
- 4.2.2 However, there is considerable new housing planned for Rugby which could add up to 273 primary-aged pupils over the next four years. The planned size of the housing development at Cawston has grown from the original 1,000 homes to 1,240 homes. With just 850 homes completed and a higher than usual number of children coming to live on the estate, there has been severe pressure on the new Cawston Grange Primary School, built in 2003 to serve the estate. The 800 dwelling development at Coton is approximately halfway through its construction and pupils from the estate have chosen to attend a wide number of Rugby primary schools.
- 4.2.3 Despite the significant level of new housing in Rugby, it will be necessary to consider some limited action to reduce surplus places to a target level of 7%.

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



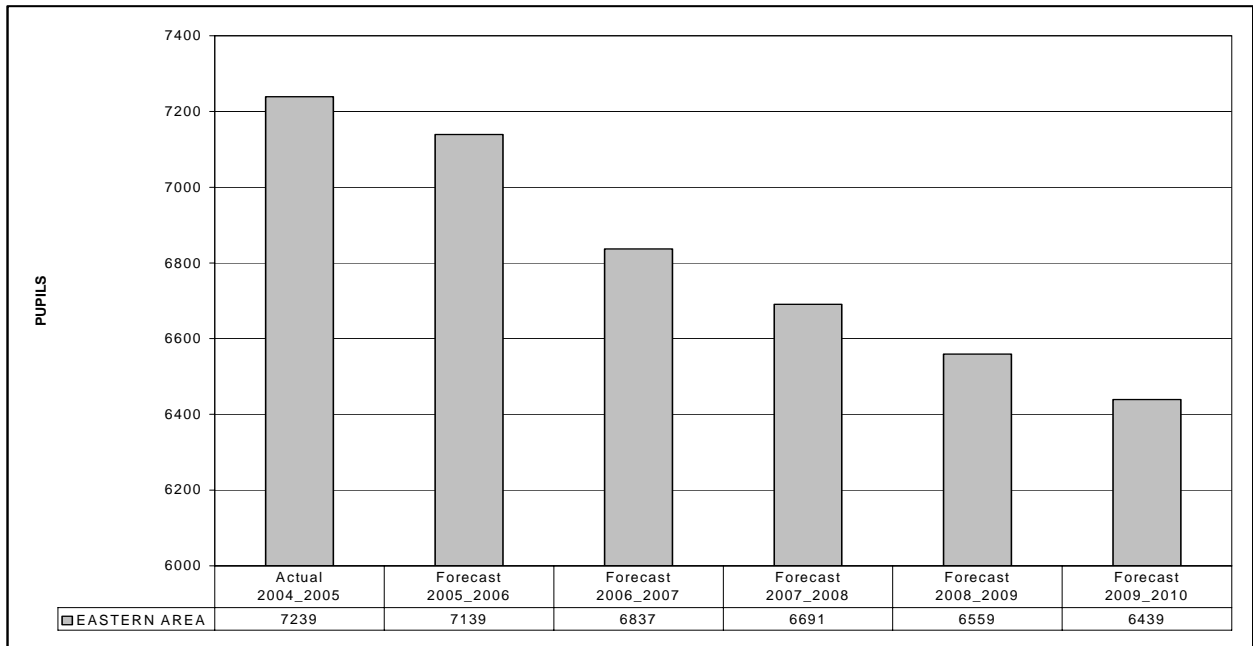
4.3 Secondary

4.3.1 In January 2005 there were 6,183 secondary-aged pupils in the area and some 440 (7%) surplus places.

4.3.2 The demographic forecast indicates that the secondary school population will peak in 2005/06 at 6,240 pupils. By 2009/10 there are 5,956 pupils forecast and surplus places will be 667 (10%). However, there is little surplus capacity in the non-denominational schools. Moreover, significant housing developments are planned for the area that could result in an additional 210 pupils of secondary age. The Greenwich Judgement continues to affect admissions to secondary schools in this area, with children attending Warwickshire schools from outside the county.

4.3.3 Avon Valley School was destroyed by fire in July 2004 and a new 1,100 place replacement school building has been agreed to replace this by 2007.

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



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

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 Warwick

28th October 2005