

- 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

Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee – 23rd 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- 1.1 Although the statutory requirement to produce a School Organisation Plan was repealed nationally on 1st March 2005, Cabinet has agreed that a dedicated, non-statutory, policy framework should be produced in order to ensure that an effective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 Southern Area

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

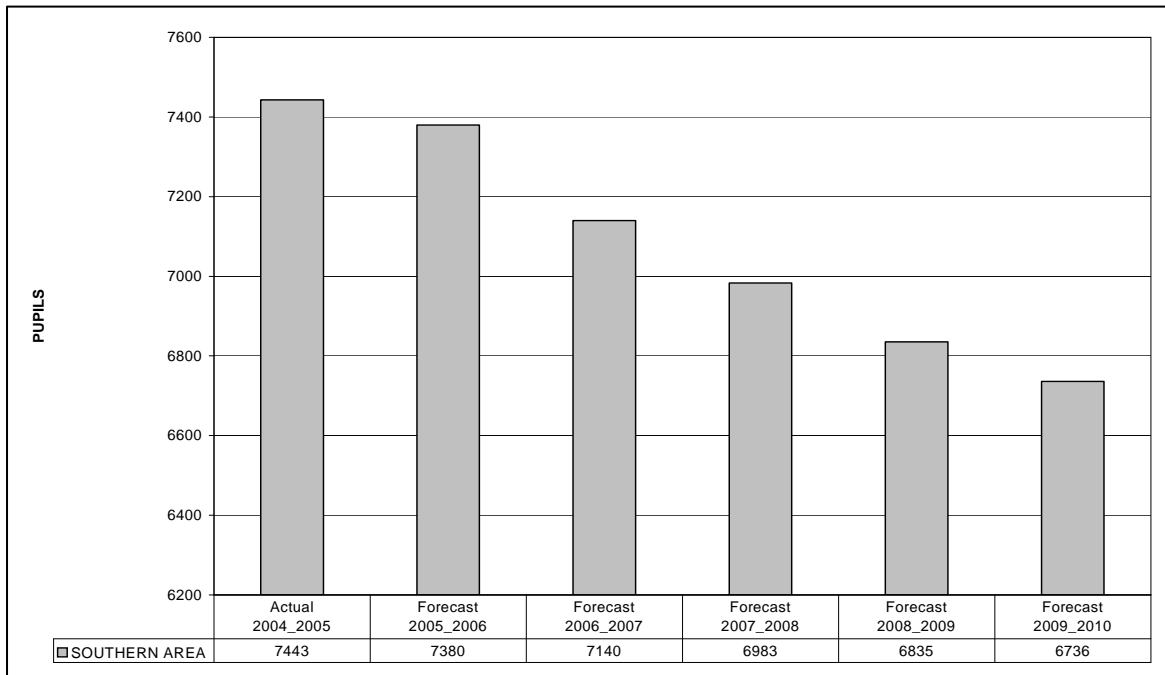
Table 1
Pupils on roll – Actual at January 2005 and Forecast 2005/10

		Actual 2004_2005	Forecast 2005_2006	Forecast 2006_2007	Forecast 2007_2008	Forecast 2008_2009	Forecast 2009_2010	Capacity
Primary	SOUTHERN AREA	7443	7380	7140	6983	6835	6736	7726
	WARWICKSHIRE TOTAL	40072	39464	38290	37597	36972	36352	44403
Secondary	SOUTHERN AREA	7182	7276	7296	7268	7328	7318	7488
	WARWICKSHIRE TOTAL	34329	34392	34041	33432	33075	32794	36412

4.2 Primary

- 4.2.1 Demographic information indicates that pupil numbers are forecast to fall by 707 (10%) over the next five years. There are currently 283 (3.7%) surplus places and this would be forecast to rise to 990 (12.8%) by 2009/10. However, the impact of significant new housing developments and the effects of the Greenwich Judgement should keep the school population relatively stable overall. As the impact of falling rolls and new housing occurs inconsistently across the area it will be necessary to review the provision of school places to reduce surpluses where they exist and to provide additional school places where they are needed. In particular additional school places are being provided in existing schools in Stratford because of extensive housing development across much of the town. It is also intended that a new site will be identified on the proposed Shottery housing development to re-locate an enlarged Shottery St. Andrew's C of E Primary School.
- 4.2.2 In the rural Southern Area surplus places are forecast to grow from 243 (4.6%) at present to 662 (12.5%) by 2009, with most schools in the area experiencing falling roles.

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



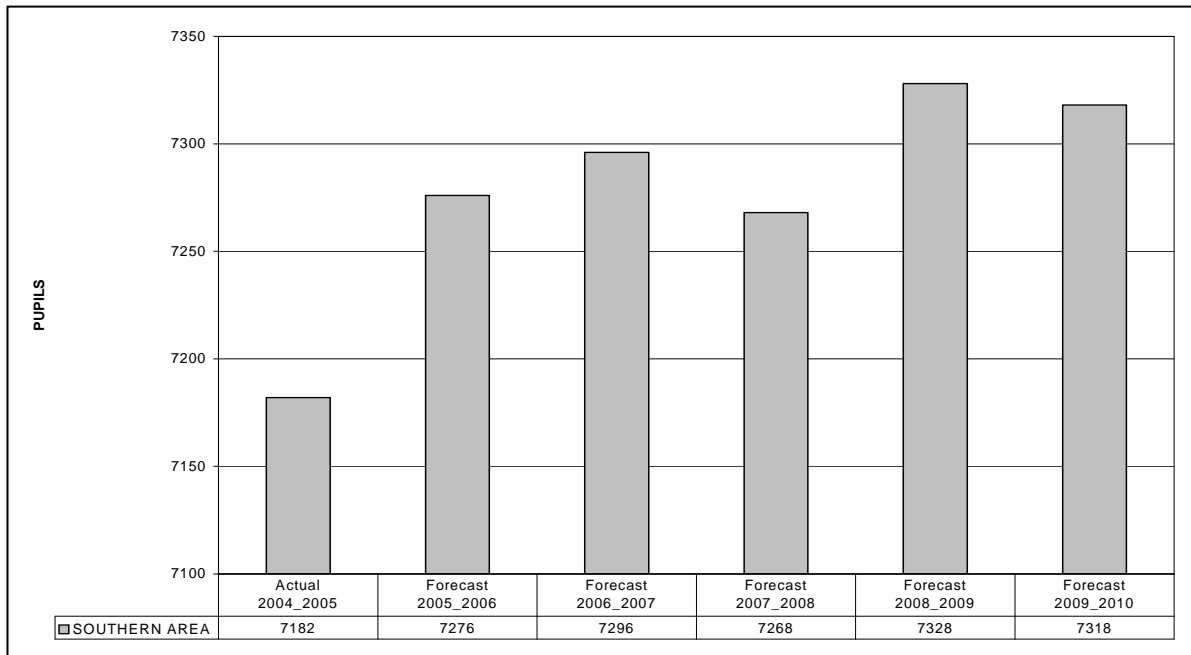
4.3 Secondary

4.3.1 Pupil numbers are forecast to remain fairly stable over the period of the framework, peaking in 2008/09. There will continue to be only between 2% and 4% surplus places over the period of the framework although the situation is expected to ease after 2009/10.

4.3.2 However, significant housing developments, notably in Stratford, are expected to further increase pupil numbers in that area. The unpredictability of the impact of housing developments and the effect of the Greenwich Judgement makes planning secondary school provision very difficult. The department reviewed secondary provision in the Area in 2003 and published its findings in the same year. Pupil places at the King Edward VI Grammar School and Stratford Girls' Grammar School were increased as a result of a decision by the Schools Adjudicator with effect from September 2004 and the number of pupil places at Stratford High School will be increased with effect from September 2006. The County Council is in advanced discussions with the Governing Body of Stratford High School with a view to adding some specialist accommodation. It is forecast that there will be enough secondary school places in Stratford until 2009 when further action may be required.

4.3.3 Schools in the Alcester area have all been expanded over the last few years.

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

10th November 2005