

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Warwick Area Committee  
**Date of Committee** 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> September 2005
  - Letter from the DfES dated 18<sup>th</sup> November 2004
  - DfES 'School Organisation Decision Makers Guidance' published 2<sup>nd</sup> 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  8<sup>th</sup> December 2005
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....

## Warwick Area Committee – 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> December.

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Although the statutory requirement to produce a School Organisation Plan was repealed nationally on 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Central Area

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

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

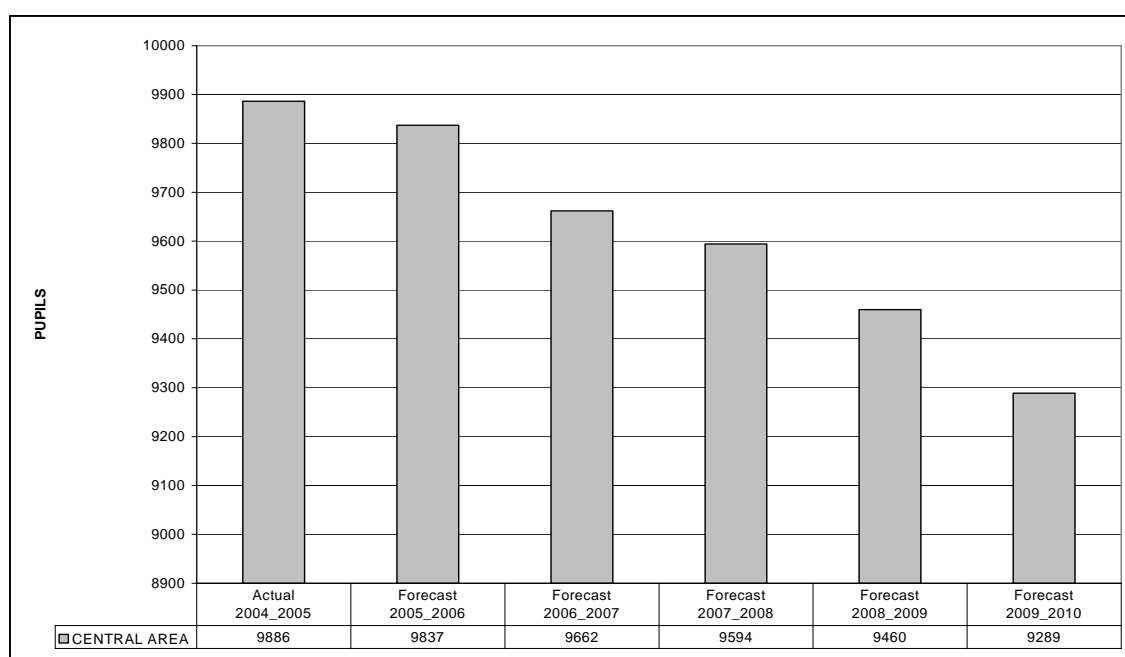
		Actual 2004_2005	Forecast 2005_2006	Forecast 2006_2007	Forecast 2007_2008	Forecast 2008_2009	Forecast 2009_2010	Capacity
<b>Primary</b>	<b>CENTRAL AREA</b>	<b>9886</b>	<b>9837</b>	<b>9662</b>	<b>9594</b>	<b>9460</b>	<b>9289</b>	<b>11255</b>
	WARWICKSHIRE TOTAL	40072	39464	38290	37597	36972	36352	44403
<b>Secondary</b>	<b>CENTRAL AREA</b>	<b>8614</b>	<b>8541</b>	<b>8443</b>	<b>8245</b>	<b>8105</b>	<b>8011</b>	<b>9462</b>
	WARWICKSHIRE TOTAL	34329	34392	34041	33432	33075	32794	36412

### 4.2 Primary

- 4.2.1 Across the Central Area there are currently some 1,369 surplus places (12.2%) and the demographic trend suggests that this would increase to 1,966 (17.5%) by 2009/10. This will be offset to some extent in Warwick by the large housing development at South West Warwick.
- 4.2.2 The Kenilworth area has experienced a sudden and significant fall in pupil numbers for September 2005 and the forecast indicates that surplus places could increase from just 97 (4.8%) in 2004 to 316 (15.6%) by 2009/10. There is no significant housing development planned for the town although pupil numbers in Kenilworth have sometimes proved difficult to forecast accurately due to the higher than average mobility of the town's population.
- 4.2.3 Pupil numbers in Leamington are generally in decline, with surplus places due to increase from around 12% to 15%. The Warwick Gates housing development is now completed and the additional demand for places has been met.

- 4.2.4 In Warwick there were 340 (16.3%) surplus places in September 2005 and demographic data would indicate that this could grow to 487 (23.4%) by 2009/10. However, the large South-West Warwick housing development will help to offset the number of spare places during the life of this Plan. The Hatton Park housing development is virtually complete and with the addition of one classroom at both The Ferncumbe C of E Primary School and Budbrooke Primary School, which serve the area; the demand for pupil places arising from the development has been successfully met.
- 4.2.5 In the rural Central Area surplus places are forecast to grow from 240 (14.1%) at present to 487 (23.7%) by 2009, with most schools in the area experiencing falling roles.

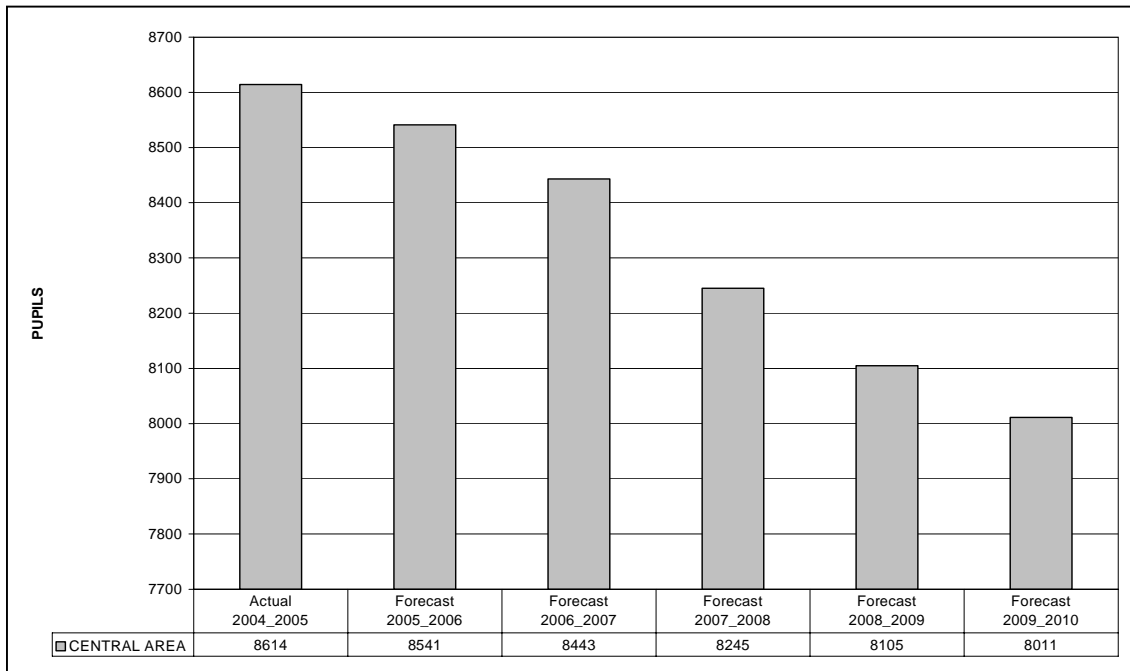
**Chart 1**  
**Primary pupils on roll – Actual at January 2005 and Forecast 2005/10**



### 4.3 Secondary

- 4.3.1 Demographically the Central Area secondary school population is forecast to decline steadily throughout the planning period from 8,614 in January 2005 to 8,011 by September 2009, a fall of 7%.
- 4.3.2 This will be offset to some extent by new housing in Warwick, Leamington, Hatton and South Sydenham (Leamington). In total, new housing could add a further 230 pupils over the life of this Plan. Aylesford School has been expanded to accommodate the additional pupils resulting from the South-West Warwick development. Champion School is collaborating with Warwickshire College to broaden still further the range of opportunities in KS4 and post 16 to students at the school. Plans are being developed to bring the whole of North Leamington School on to one site in a new purpose-built complex.

**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

10<sup>th</sup> November 2005