

A G E N D A

School Organisation Committee

Date: **Tuesday, 21st October, 2003**

Time: **3.00 p.m.**

Place: **Brockington, 35 Hafod Road,
Hereford**

Notes: For any further information please contact:

Sally Cole

Committee Services

Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford

Tel: 01432 260249 Fax: 01432 260445

e-mail scole@herefordshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

for the Meeting of the School Organisation Committee

To: Councillor	Mrs. M.D. Lloyd-Hayes, J. Stone and J.P. Thomas
Others	Rev. M. Smith (Church of England), Mr. C. Jones (Roman Catholic Church), Mr. A. Curless (Learning and Skills Council).
School Governors	Mrs. J. McColl (Primary Schools), Mr. P. Williams (Secondary Schools), Mrs. K. Rooke (Special Schools), Mr. H. Cullen (Special Education Group).

	Pages
1. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN	
To appoint a Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.	
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
To receive apologies for absence.	
3. NAMED SUBSTITUTES	
To receive details of any Member nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Committee.	
4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest by Members in respect of items on the Agenda.	
5. MINUTES	1 - 4
To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2003.	
6. SCHOOL ORGANISATIONAL PLAN 2003 - 2008	5 - 14
To inform the committee of the results of the consultation on the draft School Organisation Plan, to allow the Committee to consider approving the plan for the 2003-2008 period.	
7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
To confirm the date, time and venue of the next meeting as 4 February 2004 at 3.00 pm at the Council Chamber, Brockington.	

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MINUTES of the meeting of the School Organisation Committee held at the Shirehall, Hereford, on Monday 7 July 2003 at 3.00 pm.

Present:

Local Education Authority	Councillors Mrs MD Lloyd-Hayes, J Stone, JP Thomas.
Church of England	Rev M Smith.
Roman Catholic Church	Mr C Jones.
Learning & Skills Council	Mr A Curless.
School Governors – Primary	Mrs J McColl.
School Governors – Special	Mrs K Rooke.
Special Education Group	Mr H Cullen.

In attendance: Councillor D Rule Cabinet Member (Education).

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED: That Councillor JP Thomas be appointed Chairman for the ensuing year.

(Councillor JP Thomas in the Chair)

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED: That Reverend M Smith be appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr H Cullen.

4. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

There were no named substitutes.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED: THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2002 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7. SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN: REVISED GUIDANCE

The Head of Policy and Resources informed Members that the revised guidance was more prescriptive and aimed at all authorities with differing types of schools and varying racial backgrounds. He pointed out paragraph five of the revised guidance on the development of a strategic vision - 'to increase diversity and to encourage collaboration between schools, in order to raise standards and promote community cohesion'. He stated that for Herefordshire he felt this could mean increasing the number of high schools applying for specialist college status.

In relation to the point on expansion of popular schools, the Head of Policy and Resources stated that he did not think this would apply to Herefordshire, due to the fall in numbers in the primary and secondary schools in the County. Members were advised that consultants were being employed to look into the drop in primary school numbers and to look at comparisons with other LEAs. Discussion was held on the need to try to maintain village schools with the drop in primary school numbers and to examine the possibility of a confederation of schools in the future. He added that further information on this would be provided at a future meeting.

Members agreed that emphasis needed to be put on equal opportunities for all children in schools within the County. Members were advised that racism was an issue of concern for the government and had been put forward as an item on the plan in conjunction with showing the varying ethnic backgrounds within schools. The Committee noted that the largest ethnic group for Herefordshire was travelling families. It was pointed out that 96% of children were classed as white British and therefore Members felt it was important that pupils were taught from an early age about racism and the differing ethnic backgrounds that were throughout the Country. Members were informed that after a recent inspection, Ofstead had stated that they were happy with the current teaching in the schools on racism and different ethnic backgrounds.

RESOLVED: THAT the revised DfES guidance in relation to the Local Education Authority's School Organisation Plan be noted.

8. SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2003 - 2008

The Head of Policy and Resources explained to Members that this years plan was similar to the previous plan but with a focus on special education needs and inclusion. He added that there were the same amount of pupils as last year with a wide spread of pupil numbers across county schools from very small village schools to quite large secondaries. A discussion was held on special schools and Members were informed that less than 1% of pupils were involved with special schools and this was mostly boys with statements. However, it was noted that pupil numbers for these schools were actually rising across the county rather than falling as with the primary and secondary schools.

In relation to early years development, the Head of Policy and Resources stated that LEA nurseries did not have all available places taken up, this was due mainly to the start and finish times of the nurseries not fitting in with parents' working hours, which created a significant under use. Therefore the LEA was looking to reduce the capacity of their 13 nurseries. Concerning denominational school places, the Head of Policy and Resources stated that it was difficult to assess the voluntary aided school places as these were now not only restricted to children who attended church, but catchment area children were also a main concern. Members discussed the demographic trends both nationally and locally, which showed a decrease in pupil numbers. Members were reassured that the army base in Hereford and their attached families had been taken into account when compiling the information for the plan. The Head of Policy and Resources advised that further statistics and demographic information would be provided at the next meeting of the Committee in October.

Members felt that within the plan the item dealing with racial harassment needed to be expanded upon to ensure that a full understanding of the issue was provided along with a study of the various ethnic backgrounds within schools. Likewise there was a need to emphasis equal opportunities for all children within the County schools. It was pointed out that school buildings were now taking on a wider role

within the community and were not used solely for schooling, but for community use as well.

In summary Members agreed that there was unlikely to be any significant changes to the plan that would result in reconsidering the way in which educational provision was made within the County. However, the Head of Policy and Resources advised that within the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) it was proposed to require developers to donate £1,000 to a local school when carrying out housing development in the area.

Members of the Committee expressed their thanks for the hard work undertaken by members of staff involved in the compiling of the School Organisation Plan.

RESOLVED:

- That (a) **the draft School Organisation Plan 2003-2008 be approved for further consultation;**
- (b) **it be noted that the special educational needs provision within schools was increasing rather than decreasing;**
- (c) **the plan reflect the different ethnic backgrounds and take into account the large number of travelling families within the County;**
- (d) **equal opportunities be provided for all children within the school system;**
- and**
- (e) **the plan expands upon the information provided to schools on racial harassment.**

9. SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE – SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Head of Policy and Resources informed the Committee of the statutory requirement to put forward a schedule of future meetings. In compliance with recent government guidance, two meetings a year must be held. In the past schools and other interested parties had expressed concern that they had not always been aware in advance of when the School Organisation Committee meetings were to be held and felt that they had lost the opportunity to feed in any comments. Therefore a schedule of meetings for the year had been prepared.

RESOLVED: THAT the programme of future meetings for October 2003 and February and May 2004 be approved subject to sufficient business.

The meeting ended at 4.30 pm

CHAIRMAN

SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2003-2008**Report By: Head of Policy and Resources****Wards Affected**

Countywide.

Purpose

1. To inform the committee of the results of the consultation on the draft School Organisation Plan, to allow the Committee to consider approving the plan for the 2003-2008 period.

Financial Implications

2. None in terms of the plan itself. The consequences in the implementation of the plan will be managed through the Education Capital and Revenue Budgets during the plan period.

Report

3. A draft School Organisation Plan was presented to the last meeting for approval for consultation. The consultation period ended on 10th October. The list of consultees is given as Appendix 1.
4. Four written comments have been received, including one identifying two minor typographical mistakes.
5. St. Francis Xaviers Primary School and Archdiocese of Cardiff have suggested minor rewording. The former wished to make it clear that the statement in paragraph 1.2 that 'admission arrangements in the 19 aided schools are such that the applications from the catchment area are given priority over applications on denominational reasons' did not apply to St. Francis Xaviers Primary School. This is accepted and the 19 schools are now described as Church of England aided primary schools.
6. The Archdiocese of Cardiff wished to make it clear that St Mary's R.C. High School, Lugwardine serves the whole county, and not just the South, and this is now made clear in paragraph 1.5.
7. The final significant comment has been received from the Forward Planning Section of the Environment Directorate. These very helpful comments provide an accurate statement of the up to date position on housing allocations and it is proposed to adopt all the amendments suggested. These amendments are listed in Appendix 2.
8. The Committee may wish to consider the suggested policy on contributions to educational infrastructure from housing developments. In the draft School Organisation Plan, a blanket policy seeking £1000 per dwelling was put forward. In part this attempted to provide developers with some certainty on what was expected of them. The proposed policy suggests that contributions will be required 'where they are required and reasonably related'. This does have the strength in that this is the

For further information on the subject of this report is available from
George Salmon, Head of Policy and Resources on (01432) 260802

approach in planning guidance notes and in the legal framework of development control. It also is an improvement on the current position in which there is no clear statement on the need for developers to contribute to education infrastructure. However, it will entail detailed discussion and negotiation on each development on 'what is required and reasonably related'. In a period of falling rolls, the ability to negotiate significant contributions maybe weakened.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the School Organisation Committee:

- (i) considers the comments received and approves the Plan amended in light of those comments**
- (ii) considers if further comment should be made on the UDP in light of the proposed policy on contributions to education infrastructure from housing developers.**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Early Years Childcare Unit, Property, Planning, Policy and Community

NEIGHBOURING LEAS

Worcestershire County Council
Shropshire County Council
Gloucestershire County Council
Powys County Council
Monmouthshire County Council

LIBRARIES

Belmont, Bromyard, Colwall, Hereford, Kington, Ledbury, Leintwardine, Leominster, Ross, Weobley and Young People Services

Learning and Skills Council

COLLEGES

College of Art and Design, College of Technology, Sixth Form, Royal National College for the Blind, College of Agriculture, Ludlow Sixth Form

DIOCESES

Hereford and Cardiff

All Primary, Secondary, Special Schools and Pupil Referral Units.

Education Scrutiny Members, Members of School Organisation Committee,

Teaching and Support Staff Unions

Members Room

Appendix 2.

The following text amendments to the School Organisational Plan ARE recommended by Planning.

i) Paras 1.28 & 1.29

- 1.28 The link between in-migration and new housing will also be analysed. ~~The housing allocations suggested in the draft UDP have not as yet been formally adopted. The allocations are listed in Appendix 2.~~ **The new housing growth is identified in the Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan (UDP). Whilst the UDP has not yet been formally adopted, the amount, location and phasing of new housing development is listed in Appendix 2.**
- 1.29 The level of housing proposed will not require any new schools, but depending on the location, size, timing and type of housing additional investment at existing schools is likely to be required. ~~A policy of requiring £1000 per dwelling has been proposed within the Unitary Development Plan. This is based on Previous experience in the County which suggests that new housing generates on average no more than 0.3 children of school age per unit. Thus, it requires at least 100 houses for 30 additional children or 1 class. The cost of an additional classroom, with associated cloakroom space, and toilets is £100,000. Therefore, a sum of £1,000 per unit is sought.~~ **Accordingly, the UDP includes a planning obligation policy requiring financial contributions from housing developments towards educational facilities where they are relevant and reasonably related. Other Plan policies will require new developments to be sustainably located and address safe routes to school.**

ii) Para 2.58

- 2.58 It has been recognised for many years that schools do play a vital role in their communities especially in rural areas such as Herefordshire. This policy has produced the major joint use facilities at Leominster, Ledbury, Kington, Wigmore and Ross. It is hoped that sports halls at Kington and at Weobley will be completed in the plan period to enhance to the current provision. **The new Whitecross High School at Three Elms could provide recreational/educational opportunities to the community out of school hours.** On a smaller scale joint use village halls exist at Peterchurch, Shobdon, Wellington, Marden and Little Dewchurch. Community facilities are planned in the new school at Sutton St Nicholas, **whilst the new housing proposed at Barons Cross, Leominster is required to make provision for nursery accommodation for early years education.** Community Learning Centres have been developed at Haywood, The Minster, Clifford and Longtown. Private and voluntary pre school provision and before and after school care is also found on 33 school sites. This experience will be helpful in developing other community use under the extended school initiative.

iii) Appendix 2

UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (UDP) PROPOSALS

The UDP will provide the planning policy framework for the County up until 2011. The Plan is currently being prepared and is expected to be fully adopted late 2004. The UDP's housing chapter provides a hierarchical approach to the allocation of housing concentrating a large amount of growth within Hereford city and the market towns, followed by main villages and to a lesser extent smaller settlements with a general policy of restraint in the open countryside.

Appendix 2.

Table 1 below shows the phasing of new housing proposed in Herefordshire between 1996 and 2011 in the draft UDP. It is noticeable that the most rapid period of development was in the 1996-2001 period. ~~The majority of~~ Future development will arise from 'windfalls' or ~~small sites~~ **allocations, windfalls and commitments.**

Table 1: Dwelling completions 1996-2011 by phase, Herefordshire.

1996-2001 Dwelling completions	2001-2011 Anticipated dwellings from:	2001-2006	2006-2011	Total 1996-2011
	2001 commitments*	875	342	
	Windfalls	1355	1636	
	UDP allocation	1330	1175	
4993	Total	3560	3153	11,706

*Sites with planning permission at April 2001, including sites allocated in Local Plans where development was commenced at that date and adjusted to include a 5% lapse rate.

i) Hereford City and the Market Towns

Table 2: shows how housing developments ~~is~~ **are** anticipated ~~to taking~~ **take** place in Hereford City and the 5 market towns

1996-2001 Dwelling completions	Anticipated dwellings from:	2001-2006	2006-2011	Total 1996-2011
Hereford				
	2001 commitments	187	60	
	Windfalls	343	420	
	UDP allocation	642	605	
938	Hereford Total	1172	1085	3195
Leominster				
	2001 commitments	51	6	
	Windfalls	85	103	
	UDP allocation	300	170	
287	Leominster total	436	279	1002

Appendix 2.

Ross-on-Wye				
	2001 commitments	22	10	
	Windfalls	54	66	
	UDP allocation	170	100	674
252	Ross-on-Wye total	246	176	
Ledbury				
	2001 commitments	29	13	
	Windfalls	32	38	938
	UDP allocation	20	0	
806	Ledbury total	81	51	
Bromyard				
	2001 commitments	20	9	465
237	Windfalls	34	41	
	UDP allocation	54	70	
Kington	Bromyard total	108	120	275
	2001 commitments	53	22	
73	Windfalls	39	48	
	UDP allocation	10	30	
	Kington total	102	100	
2593	Market towns total	2145	1811	6549

Appendix 2.

ii) Main Villages

A list of main villages in which housing development will be expected as follows.

Main villages: settlement boundaries

The following settlements are identified as main villages in the UDP. The provision of housing in the main villages will be restricted to sites within the identified settlement boundary, save for exception schemes (policy H10). Residential development will be permitted on both allocated and windfall sites within these boundaries, where proposals are in accordance with the housing design and other policies of the Plan.

Almeley	Earidsley	Much Dewchurch
Bartestree	Ewyas Harold	Orleton
Bishops Frome	Fownhope	Pembridge
Bodenham (The Moor)	Goodrich	Peterchurch
Bosbury	Kingsland	Shobdon
Brimfield	Kingstone	Staunton on Wye
Burghill	Lea	Sutton St. Nicholas
Canon Pyon	Leintwardine	Tarrington
Clehonger	Little Dewchurch	Walford (Coughton)
Colwall	Lugwardine	Wellington
Cradley	Luston	Weobley
Credenhill	Lyonshall	Weston Under Penyard
Cusop	Madley	Whitbourne
Dilwyn	Marden	Whitchurch
Earidsland	Moreton-on- Lugg	Wigmore
		Withington

Appendix 2.

Table 3: Identifies the ~~major sites~~ **Plan allocations** within these villages

In order to ensure that the housing requirements set out in policy S3 are met, the following sites are identified for development for housing up to 2011. The development of these sites will be expected to provide a mix and range of housing types to meet the variety of housing requirements of the County. An indicative affordable housing target has been set out for each of the sites which will form the basis for meeting wider identified housing needs.

Site	Estimated dwelling	Target of affordable
Frome Valley Haulage Depot, Bishops Frome	15	5
Former bus/coach depot, Canon Pyon	12	4
Covent Garden, Colwall	20	7
Land opposite the Co-op, Cusop	25	9
Land adjacent to Lower House Farm, Ewyas Harold	10	4
Land north of North Road, Kingsland	20	7
Land rear of Plough Inn, Little Dewchurch	12	4
Land north of B4352, Madley	20	7
Land adjacent to new Primary School, Marden	30	8
Land adjacent to Callow View, Much Dewchurch	10	4
Land west of Primary School, Orleton	20	7
Land adjacent to The Birches, Shobdon	30	8
Land opposite Primary School, Sutton St. Nicholas	15	5
Church Farm, Wellington	20	7
Land rear of surgery, Weobley	7	2
Land adjacent to Weobley Methodist Church	12	4
Land at Upper Weston, Weston Under Penyard	16	6
Land adjacent to Whitestone Chapel, Withington	25	9
Land adjacent to Village Hall, Withington	15	5
TOTAL	334	112

iii) Smaller Settlements

Appendix 2.

The following are identified as smaller settlements in the UDP. Housing development within these settlements is to be restricted to local need only and limited to smaller sized dwellings on infill plots.

Ashperton	Monkland
Bishopstone	Mordiford
Brampton Bryan	Much Birch
Bredenbury	Much Marcle
Bredwardine	Pencombe
Burley Gate	Pontrilas
Dorstone	Preston-on-Wye
Fromes Hill	Peterstow
Garway	Pontshill
Gorsley	Richard's Castle
Hampton Bishop	Stoke Lacy/Stoke Cross
Holme Lacy	Stoke Prior
Hope under Dinmore	Stretton Sugwas
Kimbolton	Swainshill
Kings Caple	Upton Bishop
Kingsthorpe	Woolhope
Lingen	Winforton
Llangrove	Yarpole
Longtown	