

# ANNUAL REVIEW OF SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN

Report By: HEAD OF POLICY AND RESOURCES

## Wards Affected

Countywide

## Purpose

- To seek comments on the draft school organisation plan 2004-2008.

## Financial Implications

- Any financial implications arising from the recommendations in the plan would need separate approval.

## Report

- Local Education Authorities are 'strongly advised' to review annually the demographic information relating to existing and future pupil numbers, and by implication to identify if action is needed to ensure provision of school places meets need.
- The School Organisation Committee considered the information on 26th May and recommended that it be distributed to schools and other interested parties for comment.
- A copy of the information is in the Members Room or is available on request from the below named contact. The main issues identified in May were:
  - the continued fall in primary numbers;
  - admissions to high schools have peaked in the future size of Year 7 cohort will fall; sixth forms in high schools are expected to continue to grow (see table below).

School	Age	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
The Minster College	16+	49	49	46	53	47	54
	17+	37	40	40	37	43	38
	<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>92</b>
The John Kyrle High School	16+	83	91	72	87	84	83
	17+	77	71	72	57	69	66
	<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>149</b>
The John Masefield High School	16+	67	76	74	90	86	74
	17+	61	58	62	60	73	70
	<b>Total</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>144</b>
Lady Hawkins High School	16+	29	33	28	25	25	29
	17+	24	29	32	27	24	24
	<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>53</b>
Combined	16+	229	249	220	255	242	217
	17+	199	198	206	181	209	182
	<b>Total</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>499</b>

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

- (iii) the numbers of pupils from an ethnic background other than British remains small (2.3%) but there is an increase, which is also found in the additional number of requests from schools to support pupils who speak little English.
6. In light of the information provided from schools, the School Organisation Committee requested that a review of primary school provision in Hereford City be undertaken. A meeting of the head teacher of the primary schools has been arranged for Wednesday 22nd September, 2004, and an account of that discussion will be provided fully at the meeting of the Committee.
7. The main points to be discussed are:
- Overall the trend in pupil numbers which are expected to fall by 300 over the next 3 years, although admissions in reception are likely to stabilise at current levels.
  - South of the river, pupil numbers may increase. There should be no further reduction in pupil admission numbers. Planned admission levels may need to increase to cater for housing development and the known numbers of children.
  - West of Hereford, there may be advantages, after allowing for the expected increase in admission levels in 2008, in reducing admission limits to help individual school organisation and planning.
  - Outside central Hereford, no increase is expected in pupil numbers. In the absence of any large scale housing development, consideration could be given to reducing admission limits to help in school organisation and bring greater stability to school planning.
8. The School Organisation Committee also suggested that a debate be initiated on the future of primary school provision in Leominster given the way in which the town has expanded and will continue to do so towards Baron's Cross. This issue has been addressed in a meeting with the head teachers of the schools in the Leominster pyramid, in the North Herefordshire Local Area Forum, and in a combined meeting of the Governors of Leominster Infant and Junior schools. No strong support for any change to the current arrangements was given in any of these discussions. The Governors of the Junior and Infants schools felt that improved provision on the existing site would be preferable.

## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the Committee considers the issues raised, and make comments for further consideration by the School Organisation Committee prior to finalising the School Organisation Plan for 2004-2008.**

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.