
ESSEX SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2004-2009

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks Members' comments on the draft Essex School Organisation Plan 2004-2009 and highlights the implications for Rochford District.
- 1.2 The Plan is prepared by the Local Education Authority and is intended to fulfil the requirements of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 relating to the process of planning and organising school places. A copy of the plan has been placed in the Members' Library.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Local Education Authority is required to publish an annual five-year plan indicating how it proposes to meet the need for school places. The plan provides statistical data and a summary of policy statements and principles as a context for the conclusions regarding the future need for school places across the county. However, the plan is not intended to identify changes that are required for named schools, but the School Organisation Committee will take the information included in the plan into account when it considers such issues.
- 2.2 The plan is divided into three main sections, as follows:
- Analysis of demographic information
 - Statement of policies and principles
 - Management of supply of school places

3 DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

- 3.1 The Plan indicates that population growth will continue in most districts, except for Epping Forest, Maldon and Rochford for the period until 2011. In the case of Rochford, the forecast is for a decrease of 1.5% between 2001 and 2011 (from 81,500 to 80,300). The decrease is expected to occur equally between the two five year periods.
- 3.2 The Plan explains that whilst there is a falling number of places required due to population decrease, this will only be felt in the medium term. Indeed the plan identifies a small shortfall of secondary places given the current and proposed levels of housing provision.
- 3.3 However, Members should be aware that whilst the current and 2nd deposit draft of the Rochford District Replacement Local Plan proposes modest house building, figures cascaded as part of future Regional Planning Guidance will be likely to increase the dwelling requirements for the District.

This fact has not been taken into account in the preparation of the School Organisation Plan.

4 STATEMENT OF POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 This section of the Plan has remained largely unchanged from previous versions.

5 MANAGEMENT OF SUPPLY OF SCHOOL PLACES

- 5.1 The final section looks at both the availability of places, by school, and also the impact of housing schemes resulting in a net increase of 12 units or more. The results of this, combined with the changes in population, are shown in the table below:

TYPE OF SCHOOL	PUPILS 2004	PUPILS 2009	PUPILS 2009 WITH HOUSING
PRIMARY	7,031	6,575	6,333
SECONDARY (11-19)	5,522	5,565	5,696

6 IMPLICATIONS FOR ROCHFORD

- 6.1 Whilst the details shown indicate the overall position, it is also necessary to show where there may be shortfalls in provision. The draft Plan indicates that four schools (all primary) will have deficits by 2009. If Greensward College expands as planned (which is subject to a successful basic need bid) then it will not be in deficit. These figures do not take account of proposed housing developments. The full table can be found in Appendix A.
- 6.2 The draft Plan indicates that up to six primary schools will have deficits by 2009 (of 12 or less places; totalling 50 places) and one secondary school – Sweyne Park (a deficit of 73), when housing developments are taken account of. The full table can be found in Appendix A. Rawreth St Nicholas CE Primary is one of the schools identified, although the plan hopes that a new primary school with 120 places, will be provided by 2009.
- 6.3 The Rochford District Replacement Local Plan Second Deposit Draft identifies a mixed use development on the former Park School site, which will ensure provision of a new primary school catering for the educational needs of some young people in western Rayleigh. This may have implications for Rawreth St. Nicholas CE Primary, which may close as part of the restructuring of educational provision following this development.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Notwithstanding the above, the Council should make its concerns felt to the Local Education Authority with particular respect to the deficits in rural

education provision and possible secondary shortfalls at Sweyne Park and Greensward College. The Local Education Authority should also be warned that a step change in the numbers of housing being provided in the District might occur over the period 2001-2021, subject to Regional Planning Guidance.

8 RECOMMENDATION

8.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That, subject to comments from Members, this report forms the basis of a response to the Local Education Authority on the draft Essex School Organisation Plan 2004-2009. (HPS)

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Background Papers:

None.

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APPENDIX A

The four schools expected to have deficits by 2009, notwithstanding any extra housing provision.

PRIMARY SCHOOL	DEFICIT
• Glebe Junior	10
• Hawkwell St. Teresa's Catholic Primary	12
• Stambridge Primary	2
• Barling Magna Community Primary	10
TOTAL	34

The 20 schools expected to have deficits by 2009, when proposed housing developments are taken account of.

PRIMARY SCHOOL	DEFICIT	SECONDARY SCHOOL	DEFICIT
• Down Hall Primary	4	• Sweyne Park	73
• Glebe Junior	10		
• Hawkwell St. Teresa's Catholic Primary	12		
• Stambridge Primary	2		
• Barling Magna Community Primary	10		
• Rawreth St. Nicholas CE Primary	12		
TOTAL	50	TOTAL	73
GRAND TOTAL		123	