
ESSEX SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2003-2008

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks Members' comments on the draft Essex School Organisation Plan 2003-2008 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.

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 first deposit draft of the Rochford District Replacement Local Plan proposes modest house building, figures cascaded as part of future Regional Planning Guidance may well substantially increase the dwelling requirements for the District. This fact has not been taken into account in the preparation of the School Organisation Plan, though of course future editions would be expected to do so.

- 3.4 The table below shows the change in the number of pupils in Rochford schools over the last five years. It is clear from previous and current information that there has been a steady total increase in growth over (at least) the last 9 years.

TYPE OF SCHOOL	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
PRIMARY	6,973	7,109	7,101	7,185	7,286	4.5
SECONDARY	4,985	5,121	5,265	5,370	5,473	9.8
TOTAL	11,958	12,230	12,366	12,555	12,759	6.7

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 2003	PUPILS 2008	PUPILS 2008 WITH HOUSING
PRIMARY	7,170	6,449	6,565
SECONDARY 11-16	5,122	5,184	
SECONDARY 16-19	351	405	
SECONDARY TOTAL	5,473	5,589	5,650

6 IMPLICATIONS FOR ROCHFORD

- 6.1 Whilst the details shown previously indicate the overall position, it is also necessary to show where there may be shortfalls in provision. The previous Plan showed that 9 primary and 2 secondary schools would have deficits by the end of the plan period. The draft Plan indicates that six schools will have deficits by 2008. 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 twenty schools will have deficits by 2008, when housing developments are taken into account. The full table can be found in Appendix B.
- 6.3 It is clear that several primary schools are predicted to have a significant deficit in school places by 2008. It is of concern that the plan identifies no method of dealing with this issue, though it is to be hoped that action is being taken elsewhere to address the issue. Representatives from Essex County

Council Learning Services have been invited to attend the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 16 October 2003.

- 6.4 A key initiative will be the construction of a new primary school on the former Park School site, which will ensure provision for the educational needs of some young people in western Rayleigh. However, the development programme for the new school has not yet been agreed.

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. 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 additional comments from Members, the comments in the report form the basis of a response to the Local Education Authority on the draft Essex School Organisation Plan 2003-2008. (HPS)

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Background Papers:

None.

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APPENDIX A

The 6 schools expected to have deficits by 2008, notwithstanding any extra housing provision.

PRIMARY SCHOOL	DEFICIT	SECONDARY SCHOOL	DEFICIT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glebe Junior • Rochford Primary • Hawkwell St. Theresa's Catholic Primary • Stambridge Primary • Barling Magna Community Primary 	<div>45</div> <div>4</div> <div>27</div> <div>5</div> <div>8</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hockley Greensward College 	<div>26</div>
TOTAL	89	TOTAL	26
GRAND TOTAL			115

APPENDIX B

The 20 schools expected to have deficits by 2008, when proposed housing developments are taken account of.

PRIMARY SCHOOL	DEFICIT	SECONDARY SCHOOL	DEFICIT
• Edward Francis Junior	-3	• Rayleigh - The Fitzwimarc	6
• Glebe Infant	NA	• Rayleigh - The Swayne Park	11
• Glebe Junior	NA	• Hockley Greensward College	17
• Grove Infant	NA		
• Grove Junior	NA		
• Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Primary	NA		
• Rayleigh Primary	NA		
• Wyburns Primary	NA		
• Rochford Primary	-7		
• Hawkwell St. Theresa's Catholic Primary	NA		
• Stambridge Primary	NA		
• Barling Magna Community Primary	NA		
• Canewdon Endowed CE Primary	NA		
• Great Wakering Primary	NA		
• Riverside Infant	NA		
• Riverside Junior	NA		
• Rawreth St. Nicholas CE Primary	-16		
TOTAL	89	TOTAL	26
GRAND TOTAL			115