# CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM 5

**REPORT TO CABINET** 

9 MARCH 2006

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

# CABINET DECISION

# Children and Young People-Lead Cabinet Member - Councillor Cunningham

# SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2006-09

# 1. <u>Summary</u>

In accordance with statutory requirements, the Council published an annual School Organisation Plan (SOP) each year from 1999 to 2003. The SOP set out, for the information of schools, parents and the general public:

- the Council's policies in relation to the provision of early years and school places;
- data including the number of places in schools maintained by the Authority, the number of pupils in them, and projections for future pupil numbers;
- general conclusions on any need to add or remove school places.

The Children Act 2004 repealed the statutory requirement for a SOP, but the need to plan the provision of school places remains. The Authority is under a duty to ensure a sufficient supply of early years and school places, and the level of surplus school places is monitored by the DfES and as part of CPA and Joint Area Review (JAR) processes. (The JAR will be a single wide ranging inspection, including the Council's education and social care services, replacing the previously separate regimes by Ofsted and the Commission for Social Care Inspection). Much of the data previously published in the SOP will therefore continue to be gathered and analysed, and there seems no good reason to withhold this information from publication.

The preparation of a new SOP for 2006 affords an opportunity to review Council policy on school provision, which has remained essentially unchanged since 1999. There is a need to review policy in the light of national developments such as integrated services for children and young people, extended school opening, developments in the curriculum, reform of the school workforce, and increasing autonomy for schools. This report is accompanied by a draft SOP that has been circulated for consultation among schools and colleges. It includes a new statement of policies and principles (Chapter 2) which reflects the changing national context and which is offered for the consideration of Members.

It is proposed that this School Organisation Plan will be part of a network of service plans that will support the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). The SOP therefore adopts the same approach as the CYPP by looking over a three-year timescale at demand for school places in the five geographical integrated service areas: Billingham, Stockton north, Stockton central, Eaglescliffe and Yarm, and Ingleby Barwick and Thornaby. Like the CYPP, the SOP will be updated annually for publication in April.

# 2. <u>Recommendations</u>

Members are asked to agree that the draft School Organisation Plan 2006 to 2009 attached to this report be adopted and published on the Borough Council website on 1 April.

# 3. <u>Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)</u>

Although there is no longer a statutory requirement to publish a School Organisation Plan, it is suggested that schools and colleges, parents, the dioceses and the wider community will welcome access to the information contained in the attached draft. Publication will help to establish a context in which any proposals to change school organisation may be judged.

# 4. <u>Members' Interests</u>

Members (including co-opted members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (paragraph 8) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (paragraph 10 of the code of conduct).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting is being held, whilst the matter is being considered; not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (paragraph 12 of the Code).

#### AGENDA ITEM

#### 9 MARCH 2006

#### REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

# **CABINET DECISION**

# SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2006-09

#### SUMMARY

In accordance with statutory requirements then in force, the Council published an annual School Organisation Plan (SOP) each year from 1999 to 2003. The SOP set out, for the information of schools, parents and the general public:

- the Council's policies in relation to the provision of early years and school places;
- data including the number of places in schools maintained by the Authority, the number of pupils in them, and projections for future pupil numbers;
- general conclusions on any need to add or remove school places.

The Children Act 2004 repealed the statutory requirement for a SOP, but the need to plan the provision of school places remains. The Authority is under a statutory duty to ensure a sufficient supply of early years and school places, and the level of surplus school places is monitored by the DfES and as part of CPA and Joint Area Review (JAR) processes. (The JAR will be a single wide ranging inspection, including the Council's education and social care services, replacing the previously separate regimes by Ofsted and the Commission for Social Care Inspection). Much of the data previously published in the SOP will therefore continue to be gathered and analysed, and there seems no good reason to withhold this information from publication.

The preparation of a new SOP for 2006 affords an opportunity to review Council policy on school provision, which has remained essentially unchanged since 1999. There is a need to review policy in the light of national developments such as integrated services for children and young people, extended school opening, developments in the curriculum, reform of the school workforce, and increasing autonomy for schools. This report includes a new statement of policies and principles (Chapter 2) which reflect the current national context and which is offered for the consideration of Members.

It is proposed that this School Organisation Plan will be part of a network of service plans that will support the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). The SOP therefore adopts the same approach as the CYPP by looking over a three-year timescale at demand for school places in the five proposed integrated service areas: Billingham, Stockton north, Stockton central, Eaglescliffe and Yarm, and Ingleby Barwick and Thornaby. Like the CYPP, the SOP will be updated annually for publication in April.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Members are asked to agree that the draft School Organisation Plan 2006 to 2009 attached to this report be adopted and published on the Borough Council website on 1 April.

# DETAIL

- 1. School Organisation Plans were introduced under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 in order to provide information on:
  - the Council's policies in relation to the provision of early years and school places;
  - the number of places in schools maintained by the Authority, the number of pupils in them, and projections for pupil numbers over a five-year timescale;
  - general conclusions drawn from the data on any need to add or remove school places during the following five years.
- 2. Regulations prescribed the content and manner of publication of the SOP. Authorities were required to publish a draft SOP for general consultation, and then to submit the Plan to the local School Organisation Committee for approval. The approved Plan would then be published and would provide a context in which any proposals to change school provision might be judged. Plans were prepared and published in this way from 1999 to 2003. The last SOP for Stockton-on-Tees (2003-08) remains in force.
- 3. New regulations in 2003 required a full SOP only every third year. An update of the demographic data was recommended in the intervening years. Such an update to the Stockton-on-Tees SOP was published on the Council website in 2004.
- 4. The Children Act 2004 repealed the requirement for a School Organisation Plan. This has not, however, removed the need for local authorities with responsibility for education to plan the provision of early years and school places. There is still a statutory duty to ensure sufficient places to meet demand. The level of surplus school places is monitored annually by the DfES, and will be scrutinised as part of CPA and Joint Area Reviews. Much of the data previously published in the SOP will still be collected and analysed, and would normally be available on request under the Freedom of Information Act. There seems no good reason for not continuing to publish this for the information of schools, colleges, parents, the dioceses and the general public.

# Changes to the content of the SOP

- 5 Chapter 2 of the attached draft contains a new statement of policies and principles relevant to the provision of early years and school places. These are set out in a different format from previous versions of the School Organisation Plan, which carried separate chapters relating to early years, primary schools, secondary schools, post-16 and provision for pupils with special educational needs. It is hoped that bringing the policies and principles together on a single page will remove duplication and enhance clarity.
- 6. The references in previous Plans to preferred sizes for primary or secondary schools have been removed. These statements had been taken by some smaller schools to imply that closure proposals might be triggered if pupil numbers were to fall below the preferred minimum (and for that reason alone). The Authority would not wish to give the impression that such a simplistic approach would be taken. For similar reasons, the previous practice of placing schools in order by a scoring method based on a range of potential trigger factors is no longer recommended. A mechanistic approach of this kind now seems incompatible with the degree of autonomy delegated to school governing bodies, and with the high level of expertise demonstrated by many of them in managing responsibilities that include curriculum, staffing, discipline, budgetary and premises issues.
- 7. Chapters 5 to 9 in the new SOP set out school capacity and demographic information in the five geographical areas that have been proposed for the delivery of integrated services. Three of those areas are readily identified by the corresponding Renaissance Area Partnerships: Billingham, Eaglescliffe/Yarm, and Ingleby Barwick/Thornaby. Chapters 6 and 7 define the areas of Stockton North and Stockton Central in terms of the secondary schools whose admission zones lie within them.

# Demographic trends reported in the SOP- Primary age pupils

- 8. Pupil numbers in Ingleby Barwick continue to rise, and capacity is being further increased. New premises have been constructed for Ingleby Mill Primary School, and an additional 420-place primary school will open in its former building in September 2006. On the basis of current projections, this should ensure sufficient capacity to meet the peak in demand in Ingleby Barwick over the next four years.
- 9. Pupil numbers in other parts of the Borough have continued to fall as projected in previous years. Action to reduce significantly the number of surplus places has included removal of temporary classrooms; creating computer suites, foundation units, staff workplaces and family learning rooms; and releasing school accommodation for other uses in accordance with the developing agenda for extended schools and integrated services. More than 1000 places have been removed since 2003, and further action is planned for the next two years.
- 10. The level of surplus places overall as reported in the Plan exceeds our target of 10% by a small margin, and two primary schools appear overcrowded by more than 10%. This is because this Plan records schools' net capacity figures as they were in 2004. Net capacity reflects the ways in which spaces are used, and there have been many changes of use since 2004. These will be reflected in updated capacity assessments required by the DfES this summer. The updated figures will bring the level of surplus places comfortably below 10% overall, and ensure that no school is actually overcrowded by more than 10%.

# Demographic trends reported in the SOP- Secondary age pupils

- 11. Pupil numbers in secondary schools have remained stable, as predicted in the 2003 SOP. If numbers begin to decline from 2007-08 as projected, the Authority will need to consider some reduction in secondary capacity near the end of this decade.
- 12. The future pattern of secondary school provision in the Borough is likely to be influenced by *Building Schools for the Future (BSF)*, the long-term Government programme intended to fund the replacement or refurbishment of all secondary school buildings in England. This promises an opportunity to remove surplus places in the secondary phase with Government funding support. The DfES has indicated that the schools in Stockton town will enter this programme between 2008 and 2010, and the other areas of the Borough some years later. Timing may be confirmed after the next Government spending review. The Authority will be required to develop (in consultation with schools, colleges and other stakeholders) a new local strategy for transforming secondary education through BSF.

#### Pupils with special educational needs

- 13. The Authority has a statutory duty to keep provision for pupils with special educational needs under review. A priority in the Children and Young People's Plan is to improve provision for pupils with complex needs, and this is likely to be the subject of a separate report to Cabinet later in the year.
- 14. Following an earlier review of provision for pupils temporarily out of school, the Thorndale Pupil Referral Unit was moved to the refurbished premises of the former Elm Tree Infant School. The unit was named Greengates.
- 15. 2005 saw the completion of a £1.6 million project to replace the Norton Annex of Abbey Hill School with a new building to provide facilities for pupils in the 14-19 age range on the main Abbey Hill site.

# FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS: -Financial

16. All capital works related to the provision of additional school places or the removal of surplus places will be funded from existing budgets.

# Legal

17. No legal implications have been identified.

# **RISK ASSESSMENT**

18. A risk assessment has been carried out and the planning processes used to meet the statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places reflected in the School Organisation Plan 2006-09 are categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to monitor and control risk.

# COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

#### **Education and Lifelong Learning**

19. The School Organisation Plan 2006-09 sets out how the Authority plans to meet its duty to ensure sufficient early years and school places, and to avoid an excess of surplus capacity.

# Arts and Culture

20. No significant impact.

# **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

The draft Plan has been offered for consultation to the headteachers of all schools and to the principals of the three FE colleges. No responses have been received.

#### Ann Baxter Corporate Director for Children, Education, and Social Care

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Background Papers School Organisation Plan 2003-08

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: Not Ward-specific

# **Property**

Any changes to Council-owned buildings have been carried out in accordance with the policies and priorities identified in the Education Asset Management Plan.

Appendix 1



# STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

# CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE

# **SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2006-09**

This Plan is intended for publication in April 2006. Throughout the Plan, pupil numbers for 2006 are actual numbers on roll as recorded at the annual census in January 2006. Forecasts for future pupil numbers are based on projections supplied by the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit in May 2005.

During spring and early summer, all schools will be asked to review their net capacity assessments in order to comply with a request from the DfES for updated capacity information. At the time of publication of this Plan, that work has not yet been completed. This means that by summer 2006 some schools will have net capacity figures that differ from those shown in this Plan.

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# Summary

# The first non-statutory School Organisation Plan

Local authorities with responsibility for education are no longer required to publish a School Organisation Plan. The Council has chosen to publish this new Plan in the belief that parents, school staff and governors, and all with an interest in education in Stockton-on-Tees will welcome the information it contains.

# Integrated services for children and young people

The Children Act 2004 placed a new duty on local authorities to ensure that all local services for children and young people, including education, health and social care, are provided in an integrated way. On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 a Children's Trust will be established to oversee the provision of all services for children and young people in Stockton-on-Tees. On the same date, the first Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) for the area will be published. This School Organisation Plan is part of a network of service plans that will support the CYPP, and it has adopted the same approach as the CYPP by looking over a three-year timescale at demand for school places in five geographical areas: Billingham, Stockton north, Stockton central, Eaglescliffe and Yarm, and Ingleby Barwick and Thornaby. Like the CYPP, it will be updated annually for publication in April.

# Policies and principles relevant to the provision of school places

Integrated service delivery is only one example of developments in national policy that will change the ways in which schools work. Extended school opening, a new 14-19 curriculum and school workforce reform will also influence the planning of school provision. Schools now have powers to create federations. The Authority has reviewed its policies on school organisation in consultation with schools and other partner organisations to take account of this changing context. The new policies are set out in Chapter 2. A Government white paper published in October 2005 offers the prospect of further change to the status of schools and their relationship with local authorities. Future revisions of this School Organisation Plan will reflect any changes in legislation that may follow.

# Planning for continuing demographic decline

The decline in pupil numbers reported in previous School Organisation Plans has continued. More than 1000 primary school places have been removed in the last two years, and further action is planned to avoid an excess of surplus places. The rate of decline in the primary school population is now beginning to slow, and the fall is starting to affect secondary schools.

# **Building Schools for the Future**

The need to remove up to 1400 secondary places will be addressed when we prepare our local strategy for *Building Schools for the Future*, the Government funding programme that promises to rebuild or refurbish all secondary school buildings across England. The schools in Stockton town are expected to enter this programme between 2008 and 2011. Billingham, Eaglescliffe, Ingleby Barwick, Thornaby and Yarm will join at a later stage. In consultation with schools, colleges and other partners, the Authority will shortly begin to draw up a strategy for *Building Schools for the Future*, and future annual updates to this School Organisation Plan will include reports on progress in developing that strategy.

# New housing developments

In addition to continuing development at Ingleby Barwick, major housing regeneration schemes are under way in the Mandale area of Thornaby and the Hardwick area of Stockton. New developments are also planned on brownfield sites, some of them as part of the Stockton and Middlesbrough Initiative. Information on known developments has been taken into account in the pupil number projections used in the preparation of this Plan.

# **1** Introduction

# The purpose of this new School Organisation Plan

School Organisation Plans were introduced in 1999 to provide the local community, parents and schools with information on:

- the policies and principles that the Authority follows when considering how to meet the need for school places;
- the number of places available in our schools, the number of pupils in them, and projections for pupil numbers for the next five years;
- and a general description of any need to add or remove school places in particular areas.

The duty to publish a School Organisation Plan has been repealed by The Children Act 2004, but the Authority has decided to publish this new updated Plan for the information of all with an interest in education in Stockton-on-Tees. Schools and other partners have been consulted before publication. The local School Organisation Committee no longer has a role in approving a School Organisation Plan, but may wish to refer to this document while carrying out its function to determine proposals for change.

#### Integrated Service Areas and The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)

The Children and Young People's Plan is a strategic plan prepared by the Council on behalf of the Children's Trust. It describes a local vision for children and young people, and defines the key priorities agreed by the Children's Trust for improving services for children and young people in the Borough, with particular emphasis on the five outcomes defined in *Every Child Matters*. The CYPP is a three-year plan that will be reviewed annually.

Among the strategic priorities agreed by the Children's Trust is the development of integrated services for children and young people based on five geographical areas. These areas coincide with the four Renaissance Area Boards, with the Central Board area (Stockton town) sub-divided into two smaller areas. This School Organisation Plan is part of a network of service plans that will support the Children and Young People's Plan. In order to be consistent with the CYPP, it will be a three-year plan revised annually, published for 1<sup>st</sup> April each year. Information about school provision, capacities and pupil numbers, is presented in relation to the same five geographical integrated service areas.

# "Higher Standards, Better Schools for All" education white paper

This document, published in October 2005, proposes the abolition of the School Organisation Committee as the decision-making body for determining school organisation proposals. Future revisions of this School Organisation Plan will need to reflect any changes in legislation that may follow the white paper proposals.

It is likely that any school organisation proposals published before new legislation comes into effect will be determined under the existing procedure for local consultation and decision-making laid down in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. This procedure, and the statutory guidance that must be taken into account before a decision is made, can be seen at www.dfes.gov.uk/schoolorg

# 2 Policies and Principles relevant to the provision of school places

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council will apply the following principles when planning the provision of early years education and school places.

Every child and young person up to the age of nineteen resident in the Borough will have access to appropriate educational provision.

The Authority will monitor trends in pupil numbers against the capacity of schools in each part of the Borough and will publish its findings for the information of parents, schools and local communities.

Where any significant deficit or surplus of school places is identified, the Authority will involve its partners in considering what action might be appropriate. These partners will include:

- school governing bodies and headteachers
- children and young people, parents and carers
- the Anglican and Roman Catholic dioceses (where denominational schools are involved)
- further education colleges and the local Learning and Skills Council (in the case of provision for pupils aged 14-19)
- the Children's Trust.

When considering any action to change school provision, the Authority and its partners will take account of:

- the likely impact on standards of education
- the provision of integrated services to meet the needs of local communities
- securing value for money
- promoting sustainable means of home to school travel.

The Authority supports these principles in school organisation:

- primary schools in preference to separate infant and junior schools
- the inclusion of the majority of pupils with special educational needs within mainstream schools
- a range of provision for pupils with more complex special needs, where such needs cannot be met within a mainstream school
- diversity of provision, including denominational schools and specialist secondary schools.

The Authority does not support the selection of pupils by academic ability.

The Authority will support the governing bodies of schools wishing to form federations where this is clearly in the interest of pupils, parents, and school staff.

The Authority aims to support schools in making cost-effective education provision, by ensuring that no school should have 25% or more surplus places, and that the overall level of surplus places should not exceed 10% in either the primary or secondary phase.

School buildings are a valuable community resource that can offer services in addition to education during and outside the school day. The planning of school places will be set in the context of providing integrated services for children, young people and families.

# 3 Present school provision in Stockton-on-Tees

# Primary schools

In the primary phase of education, the Authority currently maintains:

- two infant schools for children aged 4 to 7\*
- two junior schools for children aged 7 to 11\*

\* these numbers do not include Rosehill Infant School and Holy Trinity Junior School. On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 these schools will close and a new primary school will open in the same buildings.

- fifty-seven primary schools for children aged 4 to 11 (*including the new primary school referred to above*), of which twelve are additionally resourced:
  - o one for children with complex physical and medical needs
  - two for children with spoken language difficulties
  - three for Key Stage 1 pupils with complex learning needs
  - o six for children at Key Stage 2 with a range of learning difficulties
- one special school for children aged up to 11 with a range of special educational needs (Ash Trees School)
- one special school for children aged 5 to 16 with a range of emotional and behavioural difficulties, including children with Autism (Westlands School)
- one pupil referral unit for primary-age pupils temporarily excluded from school (Greengates).

In September 2006 an additional primary school will open in the premises previously occupied by Ingleby Mill Primary School.

Every infant and primary school contains a nursery unit. The Authority also maintains the Children's Development Centre, a specialised unit for pre-school children with complex special needs. Further provision for pre-school children is available through SureStart local programmes and Children's Centres.

# Secondary schools

In the secondary phase, the Authority maintains:

- twelve schools for pupils aged 11 to 16, of which two are additionally resourced:
  - o one for children at Key Stage 3 and 4 with complex physical and medical needs
    - $\circ~$  one for Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils with visual impairment
- two schools for pupils aged 11 to 18
- one special school for pupils with a range of complex special educational needs (Abbey Hill School)
- one special school for children at Key Stage 3 and 4 with behavioural, social and emotional difficulties (King Edwin School)
- one special school for children aged 5 to 16 with a range of emotional and behavioural difficulties, including children with Autism (Westlands School)
- one pupil referral unit for pupils temporarily excluded from school (Bishopton Centre).

There are three Further Education colleges located within the Borough funded by the Tees Valley Learning and Skills Council:

- Bede College
- Stockton Sixth Form College
- Stockton Riverside College.

# **Categories of School**

Maintained schools in Stockton-on-Tees fall into one of three categories.

<u>Community schools</u> are owned by the Local Authority. The Authority employs staff and controls the admission of pupils to community schools.

<u>Voluntary Controlled schools</u> are also owned by the Authority and operate largely in the same way as community schools. The main difference is that the school governing body has some members appointed by a voluntary body (in this case the Church of England) to represent its views.

<u>Voluntary Aided schools</u> belong to a voluntary body (usually one of the Churches) although the Local Authority normally owns their playing fields. The governing bodies of Voluntary Aided schools employ all their staff and control the admission of pupils. The Governing Body of a Voluntary Aided school normally contributes 10% towards the cost of any capital work on the school buildings, with the remainder funded by Government. The running costs of aided schools are funded by the Local Authority in the same way as other schools.

This table shows the number of each type of school in Stockton-on-Tees on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006, following the amalgamation of Rosehill Infant and Holy Trinity Junior schools.

Category	Infant	Junior	Primary	Secondary
Community	2	2	36	9
C of E Voluntary Controlled	0	0	4	0
C of E Voluntary Aided	0	0	5	2
Catholic Voluntary Aided	0	0	12	3
Total	2	2	57	14

There are currently no Foundation Schools in Stockton-on-Tees.

#### **Collaboration and Federation**

The governing bodies of maintained schools have powers under the Education Act 2002 to establish formal arrangements for working together.

<u>Collaboration</u> allows the governing bodies of two or more separate schools to agree that some of their functions may be discharged jointly. Many governing body functions may be delegated to a committee. Collaboration allows a joint committee to take on such functions on behalf of both (or all) collaborating schools.

<u>Federation</u> allows two or more schools to operate under a single governing body. Federated schools continue to exist as separate entities with a delegated budget for each school, but the single governing body may pool those budgets. Staff may be appointed to work across the schools in the federation, and one headteacher may take responsibility for more than one school in a federation. A federation of up to five schools may be formed by governing bodies after consulting interested parties including parents, staff and the local authority. Federations of six or more schools require consent from the Secretary of State for Education and Skills.

Any school governing bodies in Stockton-on-Tees considering collaboration or federation may wish to approach the Authority's School and Governor Support Service for advice. Further information about collaboration and federation is available on the DfES website.

# 4 Overview of school places across the Borough

# Early years places

The Authority in partnership with Sure Start Stockton-on-Tees has ensured that a free part-time place is available for every three-year-old and four-year-old whose parents want to take it up. A nursery unit is attached to every infant and primary school in the Borough, and additional places are offered by providers in the private and voluntary sectors.

# **Primary school places**

This table shows the total capacity of all primary schools in Stockton-on-Tees and the actual number of pupils in January 2005 and January 2006. "Net surplus" is the difference between total capacity and total pupils on roll. Pupil numbers for 2007 to 2009 are based on projections supplied by the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit (JSU). Overall capacity will increase in September 2006 with the opening of a new primary school in the former premises of Ingleby Mill Primary School. That additional capacity appears in the table below from January 2007.

January $\rightarrow$	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
net capacity	16846	16626	17064	17064	17064
pupils	15318	14931	14741	14734	14640
net surplus	1528	1695	2323	2330	2424
surplus %	9.1%	10.2%	13.6%	13.7%	14.2%

Over the past two years more than 1000 places (net) have been removed to keep the level of surplus places below our target of 10%. We have removed temporary classrooms from twenty schools and have amalgamated two pairs of infant and junior schools. Many schools have reduced their pupil capacity by adapting former classrooms for new uses, including ICT suites, foundation units (to integrate nursery and reception children), family learning areas, wrap-around care centres and staff workspaces. Further similar action will be taken to reduce excess capacity over the next two years. More detailed information is given in the following chapters. Pupil numbers are expected to remain relatively stable after 2009.

# Secondary school places

This table gives similar information for the secondary schools in Stockton-on-Tees. Over the past two years 600 new places have been added with the opening of All Saints Church of England School in Ingleby Barwick. 198 surplus places have been removed from other schools.

January $\rightarrow$	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
net capacity	13790	13790	13790	13790	13790
pupils	12748	12614	12472	12092	11768
net surplus	1042	1176	1318	1698	2022
surplus %	7.6%	8.5%	9.6%	12.3%	14.7%

After a period of relative stability, pupil numbers in secondary schools have now begun to fall. This decline will continue for about seven years.

Chapters 5-9 below provide information for each of the five geographical areas.

Chapters 10 and 11 provide information on individual schools.

Chapter 12 summarises all the action taken since the previous Plan was published, and Chapter 13 sets out further action proposed during the life of this Plan.

# 5 Planning area: Billingham, including The Clarences, Wolviston and Wynyard

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
net capacity	3508	3478	3478	3478	3478
pupils	3130	2957	2878	2830	2782
net surplus <sup>1</sup>	378	521	600	648	696
surplus %	10.8%	14.9%	17.3%	18.6%	20.0%

#### **Primary school places**

This area has seen a particularly severe drop in pupil numbers, and the projections indicate that this decline will continue for the rest of the decade.

#### Changes made since 2003

Re-assessment of net capacity, changes of admission number and alternative uses of accommodation have removed 450 places at Bewley Infant and Junior, Roseberry Infant and Junior, Pentland, Billingham South, Oakdene, and St Joseph's Primary Schools. St Paul's RC Primary has increased net capacity by 31 in order to alleviate overcrowding.

#### Proposed changes

A major capital project at Billingham South Primary School will further reduce capacity by creating a new foundation unit in surplus classrooms and relocating the kitchen and dining area into the main building.

Billingham is the location of the Authority's first extended schools cluster project, and it is likely that some surplus accommodation in primary schools may be utilised for the delivery of other services for children and families. Rising levels of surplus places in central Billingham will be the subject of discussions with headteachers and school governing bodies.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
net capacity	3106	3106	3106	3106	3106
pupils	2924	2914	2832	2722	2581
net surplus	182	192	274	384	525
surplus %	5.8%	6.2%	8.8%	12.4%	16.9%

#### Secondary school places

#### Proposed changes

A major capital project at Billingham Campus School will replace the design block with a new technology block during 2006. Along with internal changes of use, this will remove at least 100 places, although the exact figure will not be known until the work is completed and the net capacity of the school has been re-assessed. For this reason, this change has not been included in the table.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Throughout this Plan, "net surplus" means the difference between the total number of pupils on roll and the total capacity of the schools in each area. This seems the most accurate way to measure the sufficiency of places across the Borough. The DfES measure of surplus school places is different. It ignores schools that are overcrowded (i.e. that have a negative surplus) and counts only the surplus places at those schools where there is a surplus, resulting in a slightly higher total. The DfES figures are given in the tables in Chapters 10 and 11.

# 6 Planning area: Stockton North

This area includes Bishopsgarth, Blakeston and The Norton secondary schools, and the fifteen primary schools located within their admission zones, including William Cassidi Primary School in Stillington.

# **Primary school places**

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
net capacity	4237	4184	4184	4184	4184
pupils	3747	3641	3595	3583	3503
net surplus	490	543	589	601	681
surplus %	11.6%	13.0%	14.1%	14.4%	16.3%

This area includes the Hardwick housing regeneration scheme, which will see a net increase in households as the number of new homes will be greater than the number to be demolished. Pupil numbers in that particular area may be higher than the projections indicate.

# Changes made since 2003

Re-assessment of net capacity, changes in admission number, removal of temporary classrooms and alternative use of accommodation have removed a total of 386 places at Hardwick, Harrow Gate, Frederick Nattrass, The Glebe, St John the Baptist (CE), Redbrook and Roseworth Primary Schools. With the completion of a new building at St Mark's Elm Tree Primary School, the former infant building has been released for alternative use, removing a further 87 places (net). Completion of the new St Gregory's building has reduced capacity by 53 places.

# Proposed changes

Consultation has begun on a proposal to close Roseworth Primary School and Redbrook Primary School, replacing them with a single 420-place school. This will reduce capacity by 75 places. A major capital project at Frederick Nattrass Primary School will reduce capacity by relocating the separate kitchen and dining area within the main building. A proposal to transfer Hardwick Primary School to new premises will not lead to any change in capacity there.

# Secondary school places

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
net capacity	2361	2361	2361	2361	2361
pupils	1970	1873	1829	1719	1681
net surplus	391	488	532	642	680
surplus %	16.6%	20.7%	22.5%	27.2%	28.8%

# Changes made since 2003

Net capacity at The Norton School was reduced from 800 to 700 by the removal of three temporary classrooms.

# Proposed changes

School capacity in this area is actually below the number of resident pupils, but more than 40% of those pupils currently attend other schools. This issue must be considered as the Authority and its partners begin to develop a strategy for *Building Schools for the Future*. Future updates of this School Organisation Plan will include a report on progress in developing that strategy.

# 7 Planning area: Stockton Central

This area includes Grangefield, Ian Ramsay, and Our Lady & St Bede's secondary schools, and the eleven primary-phase schools located within their admission zones.

# **Primary school places**

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
net capacity	3169	3104	3104	3104	3104
pupils	2982	2922	2780	2744	2694
net surplus	187	182	324	360	410
surplus %	5.9%	5.9%	10.4%	11.6%	13.2%

Demand for school places in this area too is likely to be affected by planned housing developments from Bowesfield to Northshore. At this stage the final numbers and types of new homes are uncertain, but it seems likely that additional school places may need to be created before the end of the decade.

#### Changes made since 2003

Re-assessment of net capacity, changes to admission numbers and alternative uses of accommodation have removed a total of 199 places at The Oak Tree, Bowesfield, Mill Lane, St Cuthbert's, and St Patrick's. Fairfield Infant and Junior Schools amalgamated in September 2004. Minor changes to the buildings and the removal of a double mobile have removed 86 places.

#### Proposed changes

The removal of the remaining temporary classrooms at Fairfield Primary will save a further 60 places. The amalgamation of Rosehill Infant and Holy Trinity Junior Schools will not affect capacity in that area. No other changes are likely until the impact of housing developments can be fully assessed.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
net capacity	3398	3398	3398	3398	3398
pupils	3262	3201	3119	3008	2943
net surplus	136	197	279	390	455
surplus %	4.0%	5.8%	8.2%	11.5%	13.4%

#### Secondary school places

No changes have been made since 2003

#### Proposed changes

The demographic decline that has affected primary schools in recent years will begin to have an impact on secondary schools towards the end of the decade. Increasing surplus capacity in these three schools may in the future draw more pupils away from other schools. This will need to be addressed in the strategy for *Building Schools for the Future*.

# 8 Planning area: Eaglescliffe, Long Newton, Yarm and Kirklevington

# Primary school places

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
net capacity	1994	1952	1952	1952	1952
pupils	1846	1796	1708	1698	1680
net surplus	148	156	244	254	272
surplus %	7.4%	8.0%	12.5%	13.0%	13.9%

#### Changes made since 2003

Re-assessment of net capacity and alternative uses of accommodation have removed 148 surplus places at The Links, Junction Farm, Yarm and Preston Primary Schools. Creation of foundation units at Layfield Primary and at Egglescliffe CE Primary have removed a further 60 places.

#### Proposed changes

Excess capacity in the Yarm area has been taken up in recent years by children unable to gain places in Ingleby Barwick. From September 2006 that need will be greatly reduced, and it is likely that new trends in the take-up of places at Yarm area schools will emerge after that date. The possibility of further housing development in the Yarm area may also influence demand for school places. If any significant need to reduce capacity becomes apparent, the Authority will consult schools and communities on possible options.

# Secondary school places

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
net capacity	2667	2667	2667	2667	2667
pupils	2798	2784	2729	2657	2575
net surplus	0	0	0	10	92
surplus %	0%	0%	0%	0.4%	3.4%

No changes have been made since 2003

# Proposed changes

Pupil numbers in this area will be monitored closely to ensure that schools can accommodate the peak population anticipated in 2007 and 2008. This part of the Borough is unlikely to receive *Building Schools for the Future* funding for perhaps ten years.

# 9 Planning area: Thornaby and Ingleby Barwick

#### Primary school places

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
net capacity	3938	3908	4346	4346	4346
pupils	3613	3615	3780	3879	3981
net surplus	325	293	566	497	365
surplus %	8.3%	7.5%	13.0%	10.7%	8.4%

The initial phase of housing clearance in the Mandale area has been completed and the first new homes are now occupied. Successive phases of demolition and renewal will follow. Other smaller housing developments may increase demand for school places in Thornaby.

Some 2000 new homes remain to be constructed at Ingleby Barwick. The pace of construction and occupation varies with market conditions, but it is likely that demand for school places will increase until the end of this decade.

#### Changes made since 2003

Alternative use of accommodation and relocation of the nursery unit has removed 89 surplus places from Mandale Mill Primary School. 93 places were removed at Bader Primary School when operation at the Tedder Avenue site ceased in September 2005. 48 places were removed at Harewood Junior School by alternative use and by bringing its admission number into line with that of its partner infant school before the two schools amalgamated in April 2005.

Myton Park Primary School opened in September 2003 with 210 full-time and 78 part-time places. The transfer of Ingleby Mill Primary School to new premises, and the opening of a new school in its former building, will create 438 more full-time and 78 part-time places.

# Proposed changes

No major changes are proposed at this point, due to continuing uncertainty over the impact of housing developments.

-	-				
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
net capacity	2258	2258	2258	2258	2258
pupils	1794	1842	1963	1986	1988
net surplus	464	416	295	272	270
surplus %	20.5%	18.6%	13.1%	12.0%	12.0%

# Secondary school places

#### Changes made since 2003

All Saints Church of England Secondary School opened in Ingleby Barwick in September 2003, increasing capacity by 600 places. All these places have been included in the capacity figure in the table, but one year group (120 places) will remain unoccupied until September 2006.

Minor building works and changes of use have removed 98 surplus places at Thornaby Community School.

#### Proposed changes

With *Building Schools for the Future* perhaps ten years away, excess capacity is likely to be taken up by adapting accommodation for other uses.

# **10 Information on Individual Primary Schools**

		net	surplus	0/	%
Dillingham	NOR	capacity	places	% surplus	overcrowding
Billingham					
Community schools					
Bewley Infant	136	180	44	24.4%	
Bewley Junior	232	243	11	4.5%	
Billingham South	328	472	144	30.5%	
High Clarence	80	116	36	31.0%	
Oakdene	215	315	100	31.7%	
Pentland	316	332	16	4.8%	
Roseberry Junior	250	280	30	10.7%	
Roseberry Infant	154	180	26	14.4%	
Wolviston	113	105	0	0.0%	7.6%
Controlled schools					
Prior's Mill CE	431	504	73	14.5%	
Voluntary Aided Schools					
St John the Evangelist RC	195	195	0	0.0%	
Most Holy Rosary RC	142	175	33	18.9%	
St Paul's RC	159	171	12	7.0%	
St Joseph's RC	206	210	4	0.0%	
Billingham total	2957	3478	529	15.2%	

# **Stockton North**

Community schools					
Crooksbarn	247	268	21	7.8%	
Frederick Nattrass	204	315	111	35.2%	
Hardwick	163	210	47	22.4%	
Harrow Gate	387	413	26	6.3%	
Norton	359	388	29	7.5%	
Redbrook	125	180	55	30.6%	
Roseworth	271	315	44	14.0%	
The Glebe	256	282	26	9.2%	
Tilery	282	330	48	14.5%	
Whitehouse	332	351	19	5.4%	
Controlled schools					
St John the Baptist CE	170	208	38	18.3%	
Voluntary Aided Schools					
St Mark's Elm Tree CE	206	210	4	1.9%	
St Gregory's	217	240	23	9.6%	
St Joseph's RC	261	266	5	1.9%	
William Cassidi CE	161	208	47	22.6%	
Stockton North total	3641	4184	543	13.0%	

# Stockton Central

Community schools					
Bowesfield Lane	142	171	29	17.0%	
Fairfield Primary	388	420	32	7.6%	
Hartburn	486	490	4	0.8%	
Mill Lane	196	171	0	0.0%	14.6%

Oxbridge Lane	322	350	28	8.0%	
Rosehill Infant	163	180	17	9.4%	
The Oak Tree	413	431	18	4.2%	
Voluntary Aided Schools					
Holy Trinity CE Junior	233	240	7	2.9%	
St Bede's RC	156	182	26	14.3%	
St Cuthbert's RC	165	189	24	12.7%	
St Patrick's RC	258	280	22	7.9%	
Stockton Central total	2922	3104	207	6.7%	

# Eaglescliffe and Yarm

Community schools					
Durham Lane	199	210	11	5.2%	
Junction Farm	165	150	0	0.0%	10.0%
Kirklevington	130	168	38	22.6%	
Layfield	156	168	12	7.1%	
Levendale	180	177	0	0.0%	1.7%
Preston	138	148	10	6.8%	
The Links	178	206	28	13.6%	
Yarm	397	440	43	9.8%	
Controlled schools					
Egglescliffe CE	170	180	10	5.6%	
Voluntary Aided schools					
St Mary's CE	83	105	22	21.0%	
Eaglescliffe/Yarm total	1796	1952	174	8.9%	

# Thornaby and Ingleby Barwick

· · · · ·					
Community schools					
Bader	350	420	70	16.7%	
Harewood Primary	339	420	81	19.3%	
Mandale Mill	234	262	28	10.7%	
Village	211	210	0	0.0%	
Ingleby Mill	578	612	34	5.6%	
Myton Park	194	210	16	7.6%	
Whinstone	520	549	29	5.3%	
Controlled schools					
Thornaby CE	303	315	12	3.8%	
Voluntary Aided Schools					
St Patrick's RC	289	280	0	0.0%	3.2%
Christ the King RC	211	210	0	0.0%	
St Therese of Lisieux RC	200	210	10	4.8%	
St Francis of Assisi CE	186	210	24	11.4%	
Thornaby/Ingleby total	3615	3908	304	7.8%	
Borough total	14931	16626	1757	10.57%	
Net Surplus Places			1695	10.19%	

# 11 Information on Individual Secondary Schools

	NOR	net capacity	surplus places	% surplus	% overcrowding
Billingham				·	· <u> </u>
Community schools					
Billingham Campus	900	1121	221	19.7%	
Northfield	1107	1120	13	1.2%	
Voluntary Aided Schools					
St Michael's RC	907	865	0	0.0%	4.9%
Billingham total	2914	3106	234	7.5%	

# Stockton North

Stockton North total	1873	2361	488	20.7%	
The Norton	520	700	180	25.7%	
Blakeston	810	996	186	18.7%	
Bishopsgarth	543	665	122	18.3%	
Community schools					

# **Stockton Central**

Community schools									
Grangefield	1317	1350	33	2.4%					
Voluntary Aided Schools									
lan Ramsey CE	1209	1208	0	0.0%					
Our Lady & St Bede's RC	675	840	165	19.6%					
Stockton Central total	3201	3398	198	5.8%					

# Eaglescliffe/Yarm

Community schools								
Conyers	1384	1369	0	0.0%	1.1%			
Egglescliffe	1400	1298	0	0.0%	7.9%			
Eaglescliffe/Yarm total	2784	2667	0	0.0%	4.4%			

# Thornaby and Ingleby Barwick

Community schools							
Thornaby Community	807	1102	295	26.8%			
Voluntary Aided Schools							
St Patrick's RC	559	556	0	0.0%	0.5%		
All Saints CE	476	600	237	20.7%			
Thornaby/Ingleby total	1842	2258	419	18.6%			

Borough total	12614	13790	1339	9.71%	
Net Surplus Places			1176	8.53%	

# 12 Summary of action taken since publication of the 2003 Plan

The construction phase of the Ingleby Barwick Community Campus PFI project was completed in August 2003. Myton Park Primary School and All Saints Church of England Secondary School opened to pupils in September 2003.

The completion of works to enlarge St Mark's Elm Tree Primary School in 2003 released the former Elm Tree Infant School Building. After refurbishment, this building opened in 2004 as Greengates, a new home for the Primary Pupil Support Centre (PRU) previously located at the Thorndale Centre in Thornaby.

A statutory proposal to transfer Ingleby Mill Primary School to new premises was approved by the School Organisation Committee in April 2004. Construction began on a site near Low Lane in summer 2004 and the school occupied the new building in March 2006. As part of the same proposal, the vacant Ingleby Mill building is to be refurbished before opening as a new 420-place primary school with nursery in September 2006.

Construction of new premises for St Gregory's Catholic Primary School was completed for occupation in January 2006.

At the request of the governing bodies of the schools concerned, three pairs of infant and junior schools have amalgamated to create primary schools:

- Fairfield Infant School and Fairfield Junior School closed on 31 August 2004, and Fairfield Primary School opened in the same buildings on 1 September 2004;
- Harewood Infant School and Harewood Junior School closed on 31 March 2005, and Harewood Primary School opened in the same buildings on 1 April 2005;
- Rosehill Infant School and Holy Trinity Church of England Junior School will close on 31 March 2006, and a new Voluntary Aided primary will open in the same buildings on 1 April 2006.

Major building works have begun at three schools as a result of successful bids to the DfES Targeted Capital Fund. All are due for completion during 2006:

- a new post-16 block at Abbey Hill School to replace the annex known as the Norton Workshops;
- a new technology block at Billingham Campus School, removing 100 surplus places;
- new science accommodation at Grangefield School to replace temporary classrooms.

During 2003 a Working Group including six primary headteachers prepared a strategy for coping with the decline in primary school population across the Borough. The first phase of that strategy involved taking action to remove surplus places at a large number of schools. Action has included adapting former classrooms to create specialist spaces (ICT suites, staff workspaces, science and music rooms), the removal of temporary classrooms, and the first moves towards implementing an extended schools initiative. These measures resulted in a net reduction of 1048 primary places. A total of 198 secondary places have also been removed.

A new Council service grouping of Children, Education and Social care was set up on 1 April 2005. From that point, work began on developing a Children's Trust that will oversee the planning and delivery of integrated services for children and families across Stockton-on-Tees. The planning of school places and any changes to school provision must now be seen in that context.

# 13 Summary of action to be taken during the life of this Plan

In January 2006 the School Organisation Committee approved a statutory proposal to transfer Hardwick Primary School to new premises to be constructed on the site of the former English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School. Subject to planning permission, construction is expected to begin in summer 2006 to allow occupation in September 2007. Capital funding for the new building will be taken from the proceeds of land sales in Hardwick, including the present site of Hardwick Primary School. There will be no change to the capacity of the school.

A fourth successful bid to the Targeted Capital Fund has secured £3,343,300 to support construction of a new primary school building in Roseworth. Consultation has begun on a possible statutory proposal to close Roseworth Primary School and Redbrook Primary School and establish a new community primary school in September 2008.

Major surplus place removal projects are planned at two primary schools where there is an urgent need to replace detached kitchen and dining blocks in poor condition. At both Frederick Nattrass and Billingham South Primary Schools, kitchen and dining facilities will be relocated within the main school buildings. Work will be phased in order to minimise disruption to teaching and learning. A second phase of smaller surplus place removal projects will be implemented where this is consistent with developing plans for integrated service delivery.

The strategy for reducing primary capacity developed by the Working Group in 2003 had pointed to the likelihood of a small number of school closure proposals being brought forward from 2006 onwards. This strategy has come under further review since the Council committed itself to establishing a Children's Trust, and to the delivery of integrated services for children and families in the five geographical areas referred to throughout this Plan. Any school closure proposal will need to take account of the scope for using surplus accommodation for delivering services other than education.

Account will also be taken of planned housing developments, including those that are part of the Stockton-Middlesbrough Initiative. The Council will seek to obtain financial contributions from developers where new housing is likely to increase demand for school places beyond the capacity of existing schools.

The Authority is under a duty to keep arrangements for pupils with special educational needs under review. Residential services and provision for children with complex needs are currently under review.