

School Organisation Review

Public Consultation in the Newmarket area

22nd September 2008 – 15th December 2008



Give your views at:
www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor/group2

This booklet contains important information about possible changes to schools in the Newmarket area. Please read it carefully and tell us what you think of the options. Your views will help us develop a pattern of schools in which children and young people can prepare for their future.

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1. Introduction

Our vision for children and young people is to:

“Enable all children and young people in Suffolk to aspire to, and achieve, their full potential, giving them the basis for a successful life as active members of the community.”

Schools are at the heart of delivering that vision. Outside of the family, nothing else offers greater opportunities or has greater responsibility for making sure children stay safe and healthy, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution to their communities, and are able to get the most out of life now, and into the future.

We want the very best for Suffolk’s children, starting with early years through to their transition into adulthood. We are working with our partners in Suffolk’s Children’s Trust to ensure that all agencies and efforts are harnessed to that common aim. Achieving a great start in life for all our children will do a great deal to contribute to the wider aspirations for Suffolk to have a prosperous and sustainable economy and to ensure community well-being.

There are many challenges for schools and the local authority to ensure we can deliver the very best education now and into the future, to respond to the changes ahead of us, and to make the best use of the huge investment which will come to Suffolk over the next few years under the Building Schools for the Future programme (BSF).

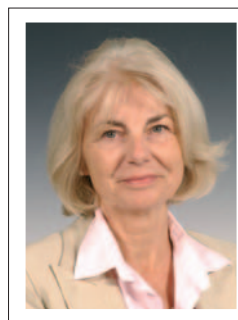
Expectations of schools are high, both locally and nationally, to deliver a modern and relevant curriculum and to achieve even higher standards. There needs to be a thread of learning and continuity from when children first start school to when they leave. There will be more choices available from the age of 14, and schools are being encouraged to work together with colleges and others to ensure all young people remain within education or training up to the age of 18. Information technology offers new ways of learning and of delivering individual programmes tailored to the needs of each child.

Schools are also increasingly expected to provide a range of extended school opportunities for their children, their parents and the wider community, and to ensure there is support for every child to achieve their very best. Our school leaders, governors and staff are responding magnificently to these challenges. It is the local authority’s role to support them and to ensure we have a school system, and structure, which can meet future needs.

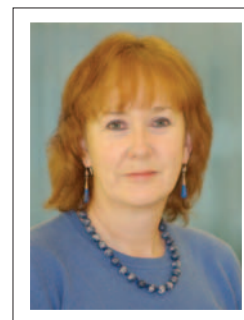
Please read this booklet carefully so that you will be able to respond to the consultation. There will also be a series of meetings at each individual school where you can ask any questions you may have.

Please ensure you have your say. Thank you for taking the time to get involved.

September 2008



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2. Summary of possible changes in the Newmarket area

Options for the future pattern of schools in the Newmarket area must follow the principles agreed by Suffolk County Council in March 2007. These are set out in section 5. Among other factors, the options must also take into account the number of children expected to be living in the area and the capacity of school buildings and sites. Options for each school are discussed in more detail in section 8.

Number of pupils

In common with most parts of Suffolk and the rest of England the number of children starting school has been falling for some years. The county council is encouraged to reduce the number of surplus places in schools because money spent on maintaining empty classrooms cannot be spent on books or other equipment directly related to learning. Forecasts indicate that in the future up to 195 places will be required in each primary school year group in this area.

Planning for secondary school provision needs to take into account the children who attend Ditton Lodge First School in Cambridgeshire who have traditionally transferred to middle and upper schools in Newmarket. This would add up to 30 children each year to the total. However, there is also a history of children leaving primary schools in Newmarket for secondary school in Bury St. Edmunds or elsewhere for denominational or other reasons. In the secondary phase, there is strong desire to increase the proportion of local young people attending Newmarket College rather than opting for provision elsewhere. Offering up to 210 places in each year group would balance these factors.

Should housing development in the area lead to the need for more school places, they will be provided when they are required.

Early years

Suffolk County Council is committed to ensuring effective and local early years services are provided. In the Newmarket area there is currently one children's centre. Three schools also have nursery classes and four have pre schools on site. These proposals would maintain that provision. There are currently sufficient places to meet local demand.

Summary of options

In accordance with the council's school organisation review principles, the options below set out a pattern of primary schools for children aged up to 11 and a single secondary school for young people aged 11–19. All village primary schools are retained as part of these options.

Local headteachers have suggested for some time that the town could offer improved provision, if the number of primary schools were reduced as larger schools can use their resources more effectively for the benefit of pupils. A possible merger of Houldsworth Valley and Paddocks primary schools is included in these options.

School	Present			Proposed		
	Age Range (Y=Year) (R=Reception)	Pupils on Roll (Jan 2008)	PAN (Maximum number of pupils in each year group)	Age Range (Y=Year) (R=Reception)	Total number of pupils if full	PAN (Maximum number of pupils in each year group)
All Saints CEVAP School	YR-Y4	118	30	YR-Y	210	30
Exning Primary School	YR-Y4	88	27	YR-Y6	105	15
Houldsworth Valley Primary School	YR-Y4*	92	30	YR-Y6*	420	60
Paddocks Primary School	YR-Y4	134	30			
Laureate CP School	YR-Y4	130	33	YR-Y6*	210	30
Moulton CEVCP School	YR-Y4	134	30	YR-Y6	210	30
St Louis RCP School	YR-Y4	167	36/45	YR-Y6	210	30
Scaltback Middle School	Y5-Y8	341	100	–	–	–
St Felix CEVC Middle School	Y5-Y8	372	115	–	–	–
Newmarket College	Y9-Y13	442 (+151 6th Form)	210	Y7-Y13	1050 (excl 6th Form)	210

*The school also has a maintained nursery class

Ditton Lodge First School is in Cambridgeshire and currently takes up to 30 pupils per year in YR-Y4. It is proposed that this school will increase its age range at the same time as the Suffolk schools to include Y5 and Y6.

3. Why are we proposing change?

As part of our overall 'Transforming Learning with Communities' programme we carried out a review of school organisation in 2006. This developed a policy framework and principles that meet the vision, aims and challenges for the future.

Based on these principles, which are set out in section 5, the county council has adopted a preferred model of primary and secondary schools across the Suffolk, rather than the current mixed provision that includes middle schools. We are now testing these principles through area based reviews. The first areas to be reviewed were Haverhill and Lowestoft. Work in these areas is progressing well.

Pupil achievement

Children and young people in Suffolk generally perform well compared to national averages. However, the results for 11 year old pupils have been below the national average for a number of years. There are not enough young

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people staying on after the age of 16 and students in some of our sixth forms do not make the progress we would expect given their good GCSE results.

We need to improve performance for all age groups, but particularly at age 11 and after the age of 16. This will help ensure that our young people have the skills they need to compete in an increasingly global economy.

Building Schools for the Future

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is a national programme of investment in secondary schools (including special schools). This significant and possibly unique programme could mean investment of at least £600 million for Suffolk over the next 10 to 15 years. The programme aims to:

- Create learning environments which inspire young people to strive for the very best they can achieve
- Provide teachers with 21st Century work places and;
- Provide access to facilities that can be used by all members of the local community

The first areas to benefit from BSF investment are Felixstowe, and south and west Ipswich. Investment in those areas will be in the region of £150 million. We expect to hear when funding will be available for the Forest Heath area early in 2009.

How are Suffolk schools currently organised?

Suffolk currently has two structures for its schools, two tier and three tier.

What are two tier schools?



In the two tier structure pupils complete Key Stages 1 and 2 at primary school before moving to secondary school for key stages 3 and 4.

What are three tier schools?



In the three tier structure pupils complete Key Stage 1 at primary school and begin Key Stage 2. At middle school, pupils complete Key Stage 2 and begin Key Stage 3. Pupils complete Key Stage 3 at upper/high school, where they also complete Key Stages 4 and 5.

14 to 19 education and training

The government is introducing radical changes to the curriculum for pupils aged 14 to 19. This includes entitlements for young people to access a wider range of courses, including a greater emphasis upon vocational learning. It is also proposed to raise the age for compulsory participation in some form of learning or training from age 16 to 18 by 2015. These changes will require close collaboration between schools, colleges, and other

organisations if they are to be implemented successfully. The county council and the Learning and Skills Council in Suffolk are committed to meeting these challenges.

To do this we need to think carefully about how we organise our schools because this will affect what our students can do after the age of 16. We have the opportunity to develop our schools and post-16 provision at the same time as developing a new university for Suffolk. Doing this together will enable us to get all these things right.

More information about the Learning and Skills Council and University Campus Suffolk can be found by visiting their websites www.lsc.gov.uk and www.ucs.gov.uk

Local Government Review

The current consultation by the Boundary Committee concerning the future structure of local government has not altered Suffolk County Council's focus on providing an education system which helps to raise levels of achievement and encourages children and young people to reach their full potential. Views received during this consultation will inform planning for schools under any future local authority established by the Boundary Committee. All of the existing local authorities are very aware of the county council's plans for schools. For example, Suffolk Coastal District Council and Ipswich Borough Council are fully involved with our Building Schools for the Future plans.

You can find out more about the local government review by visiting the Boundary Committee's website, www.boundarycommittee.org.uk

4. Vision for learning

Our aim, as set out in the vision for learning which was adopted by Suffolk County Council in March 2008 is for 'Suffolk's education to be amongst the best in the country, to be innovative and high achieving.'

Our Vision will inform developments across the 0 – 19 age range in all learning settings. We aim to make learning in Suffolk successful, enjoyable, accessible to all, inclusive and ethically-based, to ensure learners are confident and responsible citizens. The vision has been developed after listening to the views of children and young people, and consultation with parents and carers, teachers, support staff, head teachers and governors. Local authority officers, councillors, representatives of the dioceses, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and Further Education (FE) colleges have also been involved.

The full version of the vision is available at www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor

Transforming learning

The major programmes that are helping us to deliver our vision for learning include:

- Building Schools for the Future
- The School Organisation Review
- The Development of special educational provision
- The Primary Capital Programme (government money for rebuilding and refurbishing primary schools)
- The developing strategy for 14-19 year olds
- The children's centre and extended schools programmes

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Transformation is also taking place through curriculum development, improving teaching and learning and the use of new technologies.

Every Child Matters

The vision for learning is directly linked with the overall priorities for Suffolk's children and young people set out in the Suffolk Children and Young People's Plan. They are grouped into five main areas based on the government's national initiative 'Every Child Matters'. 'Every Child Matters' aims to bring together all the services needed to support children and their families. This includes education, social care, health, police and young people's services.

We are looking at ways to use our school buildings better, to enable clubs and other activities to flourish for children and the wider community outside school hours. We are also building 48 children's centres around the county, where a range of services for the under 5's and their families will be based. To succeed, we need to plan where these services should be and we can only do this if we are clear about the way schools are organised.

Review of Special Education Needs Provision

Our aim for the long-term is that children and young people with special educational needs should:

- Either be able to attend their local school;
- Or access specialist provision in their own community, co-located on a mainstream school site;
- Or, if they have complex needs that require intervention from more than one agency, they should be able to access a complex needs school where learning can take place and where young people can be supported by a range of multi-agency services.

This review is also underpinned by a set of principles, which can be found at www.suffolk.gov.uk/sen. The county council has agreed that in the future special schools should serve children and young people with complex needs and that there should be more local provision where it is needed. We also propose to increase provision for those students who have autism, dyslexia or social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

5. Policy framework

During 2006, the county council carried out a review of school organisation in Suffolk. This review was focused on three key themes:

- How well pupils perform in school
- How well we use our resources
- How we can build a successful school system for the 21st Century.

At the end of this process, in March 2007, the county council agreed a series of principles and criteria for the future organisation of schools in Suffolk. The options within this booklet have been developed to meet these criteria. The principles are outlined below:

The county council has adopted a preferred option to move to a 2 tier system of primary schools covering the 4-11 age range and secondary schools covering the 11-6 or 11-18 age range. These schools will:

- Provide engaging and enjoyable learning experiences that deliver the highest possible standards for children and young people
- Ensure a single line of accountability for each Key Stage and minimise the number of points of transfer from one school to another within the statutory age range.

- Ensure all schools have the capacity, by working together with our key partners, to deliver a broad range of learning opportunities
- Develop Suffolk as a centre of professional excellence for all staff
- Ensure that schools provide suitable support for all children and young people, including those with additional educational needs
- Ensure that schools are able to develop a range of services, working together with our key partners that meet local needs, including where applicable, integrated early years and child care
- Ensure that all our schools promote social cohesion and harmony

The county council also intends that:

- Priority be given to safeguarding the position of village schools, recognising their place at the heart of their communities, with the possibility of federation or other measures where their viability is at risk
- The preferred size for secondary schools should be in the range of 6 to 10 forms of entry, with an optimum size of 1200, excluding sixth form. The size of the sixth forms should be no less than 200 in number in 11 to 18 schools.
- Consideration should also be given, where there are compelling local reasons, to the option of all-through schools. This would be subject to the principles established for school structures, and a clear consensus of support within the local community arrived at by thorough local consultation. It may also require majority support from the governing bodies involved, and consideration of the effect on other schools.

The full list of principles can be found on our website at www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor

At their meeting in March 2007, the county council agreed to proceed to a second stage of the review. At this second stage, specific proposals for schools in the county would be considered in detail in the light of the principles referred to above. Because of the number of schools potentially affected, the county council decided to carry out the review in three phases:

Group 1: Lowestoft and Haverhill

Group 2: Beccles, Bungay, Leiston and Mildenhall and Newmarket (Forest Heath area)

Group 3: Bury St Edmunds, Thurston, Sudbury, Stowmarket

6. Timetable for change

It is important that any changes to schools are the right ones and they are carried out carefully. Therefore, changing the pattern of schools is a long process.

Step 1 – developing options

Schools in the Beccles, Bungay, Leiston and Forest Heath areas joined the review in 2008. Headteachers, school governors, parents, councillors and other stakeholders have been discussing options during the summer term. They have considered many factors and based on their discussions the options in this paper have been developed.

Step 2 – public consultation

From September to December 2008, parents, teachers, young people and many other groups will have the opportunity to say what they think about the options. As well as this booklet, there will be meetings at schools in the area to explain what is being put forward.

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Anyone will be able to send in their views using a questionnaire, by letter, on-line or by making comments at one of the meetings. This is not about voting, one well argued letter can have more effect than a petition.

All responses will be analysed and taken account of.

Step 3 – Statutory proposals

In February 2009, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet will review the options in the light of consultation responses. They will then begin the legal process of making changes to schools by publishing statutory notices. You will find these in the local paper and at schools and libraries. They will also be available on our website, www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor. There will be six weeks in which anyone can comment on the final proposals for each school.

Step 4 – Decision making

In most cases the final decision on the proposals will be made by the county council. However, in some cases the Schools Adjudicator will be asked to make the final decision. The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families appoints the Schools Adjudicator. Final decisions for the Bungay and Halesworth area are expected by the end of 2009.

Step 5 – Implementation

Even before decisions are made, we will be working with schools to prepare the staff and buildings for their future role.

For children the first changes would happen in September 2011 when children currently in Y2 would not transfer to middle schools, but would stay as Y5 in their primary schools. The following year, September 2012, these pupils would become Y6 in their primary schools.

Middle schools would close at the end of the summer term 2012 and in September 2012 their pupils would transfer to secondary school.

The diagram below shows this.

September	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
2008	P	P	P	P	P	M	M	M	M	H	H	H
2009	P	P	P	P	P	M	M	M	M	H	H	H
2010	P	P	P	P	P	M	M	M	M	H	H	H
2011	P	P	P	P	P	P	M	M	M	H	H	H
2012	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	H	H	H	H	H
2013	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	H	H	H	H	H

P –primary school M- middle school H- high school

Pupils in Y5 and above in September 2008 will spend four years at middle school before transferring to high school in September 2012 aged 13.

Pupils in Y4 in September 2008 will transfer to middle school in September 2009 and after three years transfer to high school in September 2012 aged 12.

Pupils in Y3 in September 2008 will transfer to middle school in September 2010 and after two years transfer to high school in September 2012 aged 11.

Pupils in Y2 and below in September 2008 will spend seven years in their first school before transferring to high school in September 2013 aged 11.

We intend to keep to this timeframe. It will be kept under continual review in the light of consultation responses and implementation planning. Issues that may affect the timeframe could include:

- a) If a new school is required, Government rules are likely to require us to run a competition to determine who will set up the school. This process may take up to nine months. Where this is also followed by the need to build new accommodation, the combined impact could be a delay to the timeframes set out above.
- b) Some options may require phased implementation to minimise disruption to pupils, to enable building projects to be completed or to coordinate with implementation in neighbouring areas. This may cause some changes to the published timeframes. Schools and parents will be informed if any such issues arise.

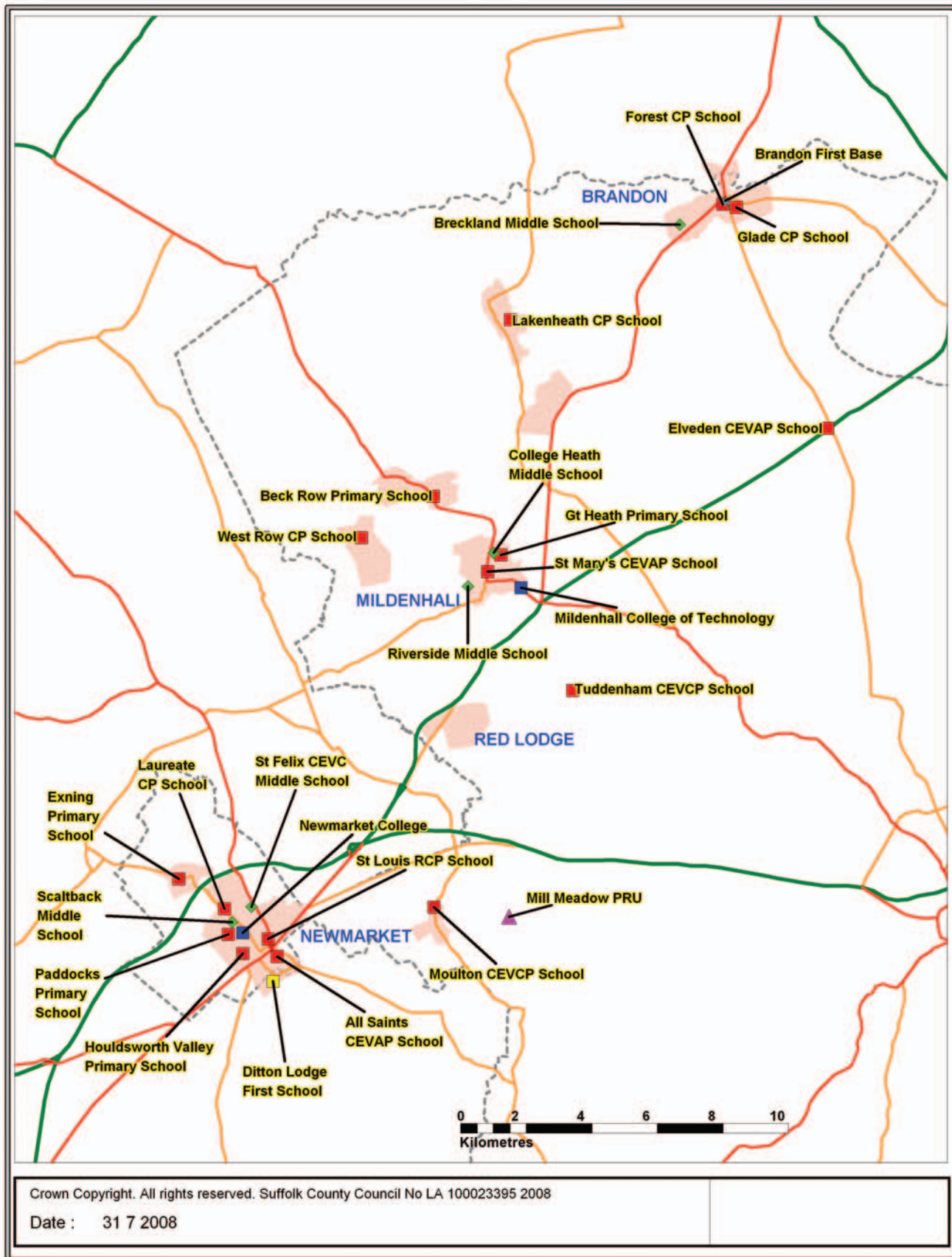
Managing change

We are committed to managing change carefully and well, to minimise disruption and to ensure continuity of education and support for all children and young people. We have included a two-year period during which the changes can be planned with schools. Schools in this area are already planning together for change.

High quality staff

To manage change successfully we need support and commitment from high quality staff. Change can be unsettling for all those involved so we are working with trade unions, staff representatives, head teachers and governors on employment stability and professional development programmes. The county council has developed a staffing protocol which encourages primary and secondary schools to consider appointing staff from middle schools first before advertising more widely. The protocol also sets out details of salary protection. The protocol can be viewed on the School Organisation Review web pages www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor

7. Map of area



8. Options for schools in the Newmarket area

As well as the principles agreed by the county council, a local stakeholder forum consisting of, headteachers, governors, parents, councillors and others also identified things that were important to them. These have informed the review at a local level. In Forest Heath local priorities are:

Learning

1. High quality vocational and academic post-16 provision in the locality
2. Outstanding early years' provision: continuity of provision 0-11 years
3. Fit for purpose SEN provision in the locality
4. Inspirational and creative learning in the primary years
5. Extended services and multi-agency engagement with schools

Structures

6. A commitment to excellence: well-staffed and well-led schools across all ages
7. Diversity of provision maintained in the locality
8. A flexible infrastructure designed to facilitate learning: learning environments which are fit for purpose and for the future
9. Collaborative structures to support learning and extended services including multi-agency engagement
10. Sustainable, environmentally sensitive provision which addresses the challenges of pupil transport in the locality
11. A smooth transition: well managed and well communicated

Aspirations

12. Happy and successful children
13. Raised aspirations, improved standards and participation for all children and young people in the locality
14. An education system able to provide the workforce and learners of the future

Moulton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School (CEVCP)

The option for Moulton CEVCP School would be to extend its age range to include Y5 and Y6. This will give the school accountability for all of Key Stage 2 and retain the pupils at the local school for two more years.

Currently the school admits up to 30 children into each year. Keeping this at 30 is expected to be sufficient to meet forecast local demand and allow a degree of parental preference to be met for children living outside of the area.

As a result of the changes, the school would require additional accommodation. Feasibility studies suggest that the site is large enough for this to be possible. Any building work needed will be planned in partnership with the school.

All pupils who have started Y3 and Y4 in September 2008 would transfer to middle school at the end of Y4 - exactly as they would do if there was no change.

Pupils in Y2 and below would continue at Moulton CEVCP School until the end of Y6, when they would transfer to a secondary school. Pupils living in the Moulton CEVCP School catchment area would also be in the catchment area for Newmarket College.

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All Saints Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School (CEVAP)

The option for All Saints CEVAP School would be to extend its age range to include Y5 and Y6. This will give the school accountability for all of Key Stage 2 and retain the pupils at their local school for two more years.

Currently the school admits up to 30 children into each year. Keeping this at 30 is expected to be sufficient to meet forecast local demand and allow a degree of parental preference to be met for children living outside of the area.

As a result of the changes, the school would require additional accommodation. Feasibility studies suggest that the site is large enough for this to be possible. Any building work needed will be planned in partnership with the school.

All pupils who have started Y3 and Y4 in September 2008 would transfer to middle school at the end of Y4 - exactly as they would do if there was no change.

Pupils in Y2 and below would continue at All Saints CEVAP School until the end of Y6, when they would transfer to a secondary school. Pupils living in the All Saints CEVAP School catchment area would also be in the catchment area for Newmarket College.

Exning Primary School

The option for Exning Primary School would be to extend its age range to include Y5 and Y6. This will give the school accountability for all of Key Stage 2 and retain the pupils at the local school for two more years.

Currently the school can admit up to 27 children into each year, but rarely does so. Reducing this to 15 would be sufficient to meet forecast local demand and allow a degree of parental preference to be met for children living outside of the area. An admission number of 15 facilitates effective classroom organisation and relates to the way school places are planned. Exning and Laureate Primary Schools are close to each other geographically. We would encourage both schools to explore opportunities for working more closely together, formally or informally, to enhance teaching and learning.

As a result of the changes, the school may require adaptations to its accommodation. Any building work needed will be planned in partnership with the school.

All pupils who have started Y3 and Y4 in September 2008 would transfer to middle school at the end of Y4 - exactly as they would do if there was no change.

Pupils in Y2 and below would continue at Exning Primary School until the end of Y6, when they would transfer to a secondary school. Pupils living in the Exning Primary School catchment area would also be in the catchment area for Newmarket College.

St Louis Roman Catholic Primary School (RCP)

The option for St Louis RCP School would be to extend its age range to include Y5 and Y6. This would give the school accountability for all of Key Stage 2 and retain the pupils at their local school for two more years.

The local authority's preferred option for St Louis RCP School is to reduce the number of places it offers from 45 to 30 (the number of places was increased from 36 to 45 in September this year). The rationale for this option is as follows:

- We should not be providing more places than are needed in the area
- An admission number of 45 requires schools to mix year groups, while there are many examples of where this is done successfully, planning to have just one year group in a class is usually preferred
- Providing 15 more places at St. Louis, would require the size of one of the other schools in the town to be reduced by 15 places, leading to mixed age classes at that school too.
- St Louis RCP would require the addition of five extra classrooms and enlargement of other facilities on its constrained site.

The transition arrangements for pupils attending St Louis RCP School who wish to progress to the Catholic secondary school are currently being planned by the Roman Catholic Diocese. Further details will be available in the near future.

Your views on the future size of St.Louis will be welcome.

Laureate Primary School

The option for Laureate Primary School would be to extend its age range to include Y5 and Y6. This will give the school accountability for all of Key Stage 2 and retain the pupils at the local school for two more years.

Laureate Primary School currently admits up to 33 children in each year group. We propose to reduce this to 30 as it meets local needs and allows the school to meet legislation on infant class sizes more easily. Laureate and Exning Primary Schools are close together geographically. We would encourage both schools to explore opportunities for working more closely together, formally or informally, to enhance teaching and learning.

As a result of the changes, the school would require additional accommodation. Feasibility studies suggest that the site is large enough for this to be possible. Any building work needed will be planned in partnership with the school.

All pupils who have started Y3 and Y4 in September 2008 would transfer to middle school at the end of Y4 - exactly as they would do if there were no change.

Pupils in Y2 and below would continue at Laureate Primary School until the end of Y6, when they would transfer to a secondary school. Pupils living in the Laureate Primary School catchment area would also be in the catchment area for Newmarket College.

An alternative would be to merge Laureate and Paddocks schools into a new primary school on the Scaltback Middle school site, which would offer 60 places each year. However the suitability of the middle school buildings for the younger age range is questionable.

Paddocks and Houldsworth Valley Primary School

The option for these two schools would be to merge them, creating a primary school offering 60 places each year for children aged 4-11 on the Houldsworth Valley site with a maintained nursery class.

This would provide:

- The required number of places across the area
- More diversity as it would be a larger school than the others in the area,
- A school well placed geographically to serve the local housing
- Improved facilities at the amalgamated school with new building and improvements to the existing buildings and play areas offering an enhanced educational environment
- A location for the newly merged school adjacent to Newmarket College which would facilitate close working, the sharing of sporting and other facilities and the ability to develop transfer arrangements for pupils moving to the next phase of their education

Amalgamation could be achieved through the closure of both Paddocks and Houldsworth Valley Primary Schools and a competition to establish a new school. It would be possible for local groups, including local parent groups, to enter the competition.

The alternative approach to amalgamation would be to close one of the schools and extend the size of the other. However, this would leave one group of staff at a disadvantage to the other and make it more difficult for pupils from the closing school to come together as a single school.

All pupils who have started Y3 and Y4 in September 2008 would transfer to middle school at the end of Y4 - exactly as they would do if there was no change.

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Pupils in Y2 and below would continue at Paddocks or Houldsworth Valley School until the end of Y4 and in September 2011, when they would transfer to the merged school. Pupils living in new Primary School catchment area would also be in the catchment area for the Newmarket College.

An alternative option would be for both schools to remain separate, offering 30 places in each year group. However, particularly if St. Louis continued to offer 45 places each year, the viability of one school might be called into question.

Ditton Lodge First School

The option for Ditton Lodge First School would be to extend its age range to include Y5 and Y6. This will give the school accountability for all of Key Stage 2 and retain the pupils at the local school for two more years.

Ditton Lodge First School currently admits up to 30 children in each year group. Cambridgeshire County Council proposes to retain this number of places as it meets local needs and allows the schools to meet legislation on infant class sizes.

As a result of the changes the school would require additional accommodation. Feasibility studies suggest that the site is large enough for this to be possible. Any building work needed will be planned in partnership with the school.

All pupils who have started Y3 and Y4 in September 2008 would transfer to middle school at the end of Y4 - exactly as they would do if there was no change.

Pupils in Y2 and below would continue at Ditton Lodge First School until the end of Y6, when they would transfer to secondary school. Pupils living in the Ditton Lodge First School catchment area would also be in the catchment area for Newmarket College.

The legal process of changing the age range of the school and any additional accommodation would be the responsibility of Cambridgeshire County Council.

Scalback Middle School and St Felix Middle School

The county council has adopted a preferred option to move to a two tier system of primary schools covering the 4 to 11 age range and secondary schools covering the 11 to 16/19 age range. This would require the closure of middle schools.

Initial planning would see there being no admissions to Scalback Middle or St Felix Middle School in September 2011 when Y5 pupils would remain in their primary schools.

In September 2011, Scalback and St Felix Middle School would teach Y6, 7 and 8 only.

In September 2012, all year groups still remaining at the middle school would transfer to secondary school and Scalback and St Felix Middle Schools would close.

Newmarket College would have the option to use the Scalback Middle School as an annexe until the college site is redeveloped through the Building Schools for the Future programme.

The sporting facilities on the Scalback Middle School site are an important asset to the town. The county council is exploring ways of retaining these for community use.

This pattern of transition would still be possible after the recent fire at St Felix Middle School. However, St Felix Middle would need to be housed in temporary buildings until 2012.

It would be possible to work out an alternative pattern of transition where St.Felix could close earlier, reducing the length of time pupils needed to be in temporary buildings. We would like to know if there is support for looking into other options. If there is a wish to consider an alternative, we would look into it and consult on the details later on.

Newmarket College

The option for Newmarket College would be to extend its age range to include Y7 and Y8. This would allow students to complete Key Stage 3 studies in one school.

The college currently admits up to 210 students in each year. This is more places than are currently required to meet demand from the local area because a number of children attending local primary schools choose to attend secondary schools in neighbouring towns for denominational and other reasons, although some additional students transfer from Ditton Lodge First School in Cambridgeshire. Keeping the planned admission number at 210 would allow for the possible changes in the pattern of parental preference.

Tuddenham CEVP School is in the catchment area for Mildenhall College. We have considered changing this so Tuddenham CEVCP School feeds into Newmarket. This would balance the numbers of pupils attending each of the secondary schools in the area. However, no change is being proposed at this time, but it can be reviewed as the impact of the new housing at Red Lodge becomes clear.

As part of the development of the options for the area the local stakeholder forum also considered the possibility of a Church of England 11–16 secondary school on the site of the St Felix CEVC School. However, to meet the principles set out in section 5, it would be necessary for the school to offer at least 180 places each year. There are not enough children living in the area to support a school of this size as well as Newmarket College. A survey by the Church of England Diocese could not establish sufficient demand from within a 20 mile radius.

The Church of England Diocese however wishes to retain its involvement in the area and would like to work with governing bodies of both Newmarket and Mildenhall Colleges to explore opportunities.

Post 16 Provision

At 151 pupils (Jan 2008), the size of Newmarket College's 6th form is currently below the recommended size of 200 pupils set out in Section 5. As such it is difficult to provide breadth and access to the broadening 14–19 curriculum.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is currently undertaking a needs analysis of post 16 provision in the Forest Heath area. The outcome of this work may have an impact on the age range and provision offered by both Newmarket College and Mildenhall College of Technology. We will be grateful to receive views during this consultation about the future of post-16 provision to be considered alongside the data collected by the LSC.

9. How to have your say

Consultation in other areas of Suffolk has influenced the pattern of schools being proposed for the future. Your views will be carefully considered as we move to the next stage in the process.

To help as many people as possible to be involved we are using a variety of methods:

- A paper questionnaire
- An online questionnaire (log onto www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor/group2)
- Public meetings.

You can also write to the School Organisation Review team at: Suffolk County Council FREEPOST NAT18364 Ipswich IP1 2BR

Details of public meetings are on page 19 of this booklet. Posters will also be displayed in your local school and adverts will appear in local papers.

Who are we consulting?

Copies of this booklet have been sent to all parents of pupils within local schools, to staff, and to every school governing body. We are also seeking views from unions, professional associations, Catholic and Church of England Diocese, parish, town and district councils, and neighbouring local authorities. We have sent copies to local playgroups and other early years providers.

How can I find out more?

If you want more information about the review you can log onto our website www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor/group2. Further copies of this booklet and other material can be found at your local library, school, or by calling 08456 031 842.

When does consultation finish?

The consultation period lasts twelve weeks, running from 22 September 2008 to 15 December 2008.

What happens after the consultation finishes?

In February 2009 the county council's cabinet will carefully consider the responses to the consultation before making a decision about the options it wants to take forward.

Once a decision is made we will publish statutory notices detailing the changes we want to make to schools. You will be able to make representations about these notices during the six-week period after they are published. The notices will explain how you can comment on them.

Cabinet will then consider the options and the responses from the six-week statutory consultation. If the cabinet cannot agree the proposals, they will be referred to the Schools Adjudicator.

We expect a final decision before the end of 2009. Detailed planning for implementation will then be finalised for the agreed proposals.

Public Meetings

**Education is changing –
make sure you have your say.**

Newmarket area

All meetings will run from 18:30 – 20:00 unless otherwise stated

Monday 13 October	Moulton CEVC Primary School
Tuesday 14 October	Newmarket College
Thursday 16 October	Paddocks Primary School
Wednesday 22 October	St Louis RC Primary School
Thursday 23 October	Houldsworth Valley Primary School
Tuesday 04 November	All Saints CEVA Primary School
Thursday 06 November	Laureate CP School (19:30–21:00)
Monday 10 November	Scaltback Middle School (19:30–21:00)
Tuesday 11 November	Exning Primary School
Wednesday 12 November	Red Lodge Community meeting (at the Millennium Centre)
Thursday 13 November	Ditton Lodge Primary School

St Felix Middle School meeting – to be confirmed

**For more information about these meetings
www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor/group2 or call 01284 352902**

If you need help to understand this information in another language please call the number below.

إذا تحتاج إلى مساعدة لفهم هذه المعلومات في أي لغة أخرى فالرجاء الاتصال على الرقم التالي.

Arabic

এই লেখাটি যদি অন্য ভাষাতে বুঝতে চান তাহলে নিচের নম্বরে ফোন করুন

Bengali

如果你需要其他語言來幫助你了解這些資訊，請撥以下電話。

Chinese

જો તમારે આ માહિતી બીજી ભાષામાં જાણવા માટે જોઈતી હોય, તો કૃપા કરી નીચેના નંબર પર કોલ કરો.

Gujarati

بەم زانیاریەش تەنێ ئە بە تێگەشتی هە یارمەر پێویستی بە گەڕێ بەکەر، وە ی غوارەم ژمارەندی بەیو بەزمانێ کێ تر تەکایە

Kurdish

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tych informacji w swoim języku zadzwoń na podany poniżej numer.

Polish

Se precisar de ajuda para ler estas informações em outra língua, por favor telefone para o número abaixo.

Portuguese

If you would like this information in another format, including audio tape, large print or easy read, please call **08456 066 067.**

