

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL  
REPORT

To: <b>Education Resources Sub Committee</b>	Subject:  <b>School Roll Projections</b>
From: <b>Director of Education</b>	
Date: 30 November, 2006	
Ref: MON/NR	

**Purpose of Report**

This report describes the procedure for projecting future school rolls and the factors to be considered.

**Recommendations**

The education resources sub committee is recommended to note the procedures followed in projecting future school rolls.



Members wishing further information please contact:

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# NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL – DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## School Roll Projections

### Report by the director of education

#### 1. Background

- 1.1. A report on the procedures for projecting school rolls was requested following the recent need to extend the PPP schools in Glenboig and at St David's, Plains. This report described the revised procedures implemented following discussions with planning and environment colleagues.

#### 2. Existing current and projected rolls

- 2.1 The current and projected pupil rolls and places are summarised in table 1. Projected pupil numbers show a decrease despite recent small increases in the national birth rate. The primary school intake fell by c.600 from 2005 to 2006, the equivalent of c.3 primary schools.
- 2.2 Table 1 also shows the projected provision of school places, taking account of proposed school closures and changes in class size limits.

Table 1: School rolls and places

		2005 / 06	2011 / 12 (Est)
<b>SECONDARY</b>	<b>Places</b>	32830	30642
	<b>Pupils</b>	22124	21759
	<b>% Surplus</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>PRIMARY</b>	<b>Places</b>	36894	35490
	<b>Pupils</b>	27993	27428
	<b>% Surplus</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>SPECIAL</b>	<b>Places</b>	820	820
	<b>Pupils</b>	800	800 (est.)
	<b>% Surplus</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

#### 3. Existing roll projection model

- 3.1 Roll projections are made annually for each school, and more regularly in response to housing development proposals or in preparation for rationalisation planning. The projection model takes account of the following key elements.
- (i) current birth rate and projected trends based on Register General information
  - (ii) current school intake - where intakes fluctuate a 3-year average figure is used in calculations
  - (iii) the ND / RC split in the local area. This is updated annually
  - (iv) the intake from future housing developments.
  - (v) placing requests - other than previously enrolled placing requests the calculation does not include any anticipated requests.
  - (vi) recent increase in migration into North Lanarkshire, particularly from Poland.

- 3.2 There is greater certainty in secondary school projections because information about the next 7 intakes is already available from primary rolls.
- 3.3 A software package has been developed to calculate the projections.

#### 4. Key elements

- 4.1 The key elements in the projections are discussed in this section. Account has been taken of discussions with planning and environment.
- 4.2 Non-denominational/Roman Catholic balance

The model assumes that new pupils in a given area will follow the existing ND-RC balance. This is detailed for the primary and secondary sector in tables 2 and 3.

Table 2: RC / ND Primary pupils by area

Area	ND	RC	TOTAL	ND %	RC %
<b>Airdrie</b>	2928	1776	4704	<b>62</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Bellshill</b>	1811	1499	3310	<b>55</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Coatbridge</b>	1702	2364	4066	<b>42</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Cumbernauld</b>	4920	2404	7324	<b>67</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Motherwell</b>	2610	1695	4305	<b>61</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Wishaw</b>	2785	1499	4284	<b>65</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	16756	11237	27993	<b>60</b>	<b>40</b>

Table 3: RC / ND Secondary pupils by area

Area	ND	RC	TOTAL	ND %	RC %
<b>Airdrie</b>	2054	1360	3414	<b>60</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Bellshill</b>	678	1028	1706	<b>40</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Coatbridge</b>	1288	2702	3990	<b>32</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Cumbernauld</b>	3966	1997	5963	<b>67</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Motherwell</b>	2242	1472	3714	<b>60</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Wishaw</b>	2120	1217	3337	<b>64</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	12348	9776	22124	<b>56</b>	<b>44</b>

For new housing developments this assumption is becoming less accurate, particularly where there is in-migration to the area. As a result, the revised model will take account of both the local and the authority-wide ratios.

#### 4.3 Placing requests

- 4.3.1 The departmental policy is to approve placing requests unless all places are already occupied or there is a need to reserve places in anticipation of pupils moving into the school, for example where there is substantial house building. Roll projections, particularly for school extension or rationalisation planning, do not include new placing requests on the grounds that provision is already made for them in their designated schools.
- 4.3.2 The department is currently analysing the pattern of placing requests to identify these circumstances where the pattern is the result of unsatisfactory catchment area boundaries.

## 4.4 Housing developments

- 4.4.1 Information on proposed housing developments is issued to the education department at a number of stages in the progress from land being designated for housing to full planning applications. Once available, the details include the number of units proposed and the department is invited to comments on the implications for school capacities.
- 4.4.2 For new housing developments, the roll projection is based on an aggregate estimate of 25 pupils per 100 houses for both primary and secondary stages. However, this has been further refined to take account of the age of the development. The formulae now used are detailed in table 4.

Table 4: pupils per house formulae

Year	Primary Formula	Secondary Formula
1	0.15	0.11
2	0.18	0.12
3	0.21	0.13
4	0.23	0.15
5	0.25	0.17
6	0.27	0.19
7	0.28	0.21
8	0.30	0.22
9	0.30	0.23
10	0.30	0.25

- 4.4.3 The following improvements to the model have been discussed with planning and environment.
- (i) the stage at which a potential housing development should be included in roll projections.
  - (ii) liaison with housing builders to gather information about the type of housing and the relationship between size of family and type of house.

## 5. Other considerations

- 5.1 The inspection report on the education service criticised the council for the substantial number of surplus places in schools and the Audit Scotland financial evaluation of the PPP plans emphasised the need to avoid excess accommodation in the new schools. More generally, Scottish councils have been criticised for making slow progress in rationalising school estate.
- 5.2 It is anticipated that school rationalisation will continue to be necessary in North Lanarkshire and the Education 2010 phase 2 makes provision for this in principle. However, in some local areas, housing development will put pressure on existing provision and it is suggested that in these instances contributions from developers should be sought to support investment in the estate.
- 5.3 The impact of roll changes on school capacities is also influenced by other educational changes. For example from 2007 class size limits in primary 1 and secondary 1-2 in English and Maths will be reduced, thereby putting further pressure on accommodation or reducing the number of surplus places according to the local circumstances.

## **6. Coping with roll projection difficulties**

6.1 A number of strategies are available for coping with situations where increasing rolls create accommodation difficulties. These are outlined below.

- (i) permanent extension: where resources and space permits this is the preferred option. The cost of a primary 2-class extension with associated facilities is £0.25m
- (ii) temporary extension: hatted accommodation was traditionally used to provide additional places, particularly when resources were limited. In recent years falling rolls have allowed the removal of huts.
- (iii) rezoning of part of the catchment to adjacent schools.
- (iv) bussing pupils to non-local schools. This was the strategy adopted by the previous authority for Cumbernauld north of the A80.
- (v) more restrictive admission policy. This strategy has been applied at Dalziel High School and St Ambrose High School
- (vi) school management action, including reviewing class structures, and redeploying other educational accommodation in the school.

6.2 With the exception of the Glenboig schools and St David's, Plains, it is anticipated that all the PPP schools will accommodate all zoned pupils taking account of all known housing developments. In some cases, for example Clarkston, existing placing requests will put pressure on accommodation in the very early years. The policy of designing the PPP schools with very limited spare accommodation has allowed more schools to be included in the package and maximised the overall value for money from the project. However, should these be major housing developments in the catchment areas of the schools it may be necessary to adopt one of the strategies outlined in 6.1.

## **7. Revised procedures**

7.1 Following discussion between education and planning and environment, the following changes to roll projection procedures have been implemented.

- (i) close liaison between named staff to ensure all proposals with a potential impact on school rolls are reported to the education department.
- (ii) arrangements for evaluating the impact, of new housing on pupil numbers and individual catchments and timescales for these.
- (iii) arrangements for identifying the strategy options for coping with any accommodation difficulties.

7.2 To further improve the roll projection procedures discussions with the health board about local births and with house builders about the type of housing are proposed.

## **8. Recommendations**

8.1 The education resources sub committee is recommended to note the procedures followed in projecting future school rolls.