

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires every Local Education Authority (LEA) to prepare an annual School Organisation Plan (SOP). This document is the School Organisation Plan for Southwark for the period 2003-2008.
- 1.2 It is divided into four parts:
- an introduction, providing the background and context for the plan
 - a statement of policies and principles
 - conclusions on the need to add or remove school places
 - appendices providing data on current school rolls and projections

Background : the Statutory Framework

- 1.3 The School Organisation Plan provides the context in which the LEA undertakes its school place planning responsibilities. It provides basic demographic and other relevant information and sets out the general policies and principles that the LEA intends to adopt for school planning. It draws conclusions about the need to add or remove school places. It does not, however, identify specific schools for action. Instead, it provides the basis on which specific proposals can be brought forward. It is nevertheless recognised that individual proposals may also need to be brought forward to deal with immediate or unexpected situations not covered in the Plan.
- 1.4 This SOP is to cover a period of five years from September 2003 and will be updated at least every three years as required by Regulations.
- 1.5 Following publication, there will be an 11 week period in which statutory objections to the draft Plan can be submitted to the Council by any interested party. At the end of this period, there will be a further month for the Council to consider any objections. The Council will then submit the Plan, the objections received and its comments on the objections to the School Organisation Committee for its approval.

School Organisation Committee

- 1.6 The School Organisation Committee (SOC) brings together the key partners in education provision locally, giving each an equal voice. The role of the Committee is to consider and approve (with modifications as necessary) the SOP and to consider and decide individual proposals put forward by the LEA and other relevant bodies for change at specific schools.
- 1.7 The Southwark SOC consists of six groups, in line with statutory requirements, each group having one vote.
- i) elected members of the Council
 - ii) the Church of England, nominated by the Diocesan Board
 - iii) the Roman Catholic Church, nominated by the Diocesan Commission
 - iv) the Learning and Skills Council, nominated by them

 - v) schools (other than voluntary-aided as they are covered by ii and iii above), with a membership of serving school governors, with a balance between

- community schools and foundation schools; primary, secondary and special schools; and the different categories of governor
- vi) Southwark Black Education Forum

- 1.8 It is for the Committee to consider the LEA's submissions. The SOC may approve the Plan as presented or with modifications. In order to approve the Plan, agreement is required from each of the Committee's constituent groups outlined above. Once approved, the Plan will be published by the LEA. If the Committee is unable to reach a decision on the Plan within two months of its submission, the matter must be referred to a School Adjudicator, appointed by the Secretary of State.

The Southwark Context

- 1.9 The Plan is designed to support the objectives of the Council's Education Development Plan (EDP) with its overriding aim of raising levels of educational achievement within the context of the Council's objective of regeneration of the borough. This theme is discussed further in section 3 – Policies and Principles. The Council's initial SOP was agreed unanimously by the SOC in September 1999. The subsequent SOPs 2000-2005, 2001-2006 and 2002-2007 were approved in November 2000, December 2001 and January 2003 respectively.

Consultation

- 1.14 Following approval of the draft Plan by the Council, copies of the draft Plan will be distributed to all schools, the diocesan authorities, the Learning and Skills Council, neighbouring LEAs and other interested parties. Copies will also be made available for consultation in public libraries and Council offices. The publication of the draft Plan will also be advertised in the local press.

Further copies of this Plan can be obtained from Southwark Education at John Smith House, 144-152 Walworth Road, London SE17 1JL by writing to Martin Wilcox at that address, by contacting Martin.Wilcox@southwark.gov.uk or by telephoning on 020 7525 5018.

2 FACTS AND FIGURES

2.1 In Southwark there are:

- 72 mainstream primary schools
- 3 special primary schools
- 13 mainstream secondary schools*
- 4 special secondary schools
- 2 hospital schools
- 5 nursery schools
- 3 Pupil Referral Units (PRUs)
- 6 SEN units and resource centres in primary schools

*five secondary schools have specialist status – Archbishop Michael Ramsey and Geoffrey Chaucer are Technology Colleges; St Michael's is a Business and Enterprise College; Notre Dame and Sacred Heart are Modern Foreign Language colleges
Southwark College has 4 sites in the borough

2.2 Key facts and figures are included in the following Appendices:

- Appendix 2 Location of primary schools in Southwark
- Appendix 3 Location of secondary schools in Southwark
- Appendix 4 Location of special schools, units and resources centres in schools in Southwark
- Appendix 5 Primary rolls - Actual 1992-2003 and Projected 2004-2008
- Appendix 6 Primary school rolls January census 2003
- Appendix 7 Secondary rolls - Actual 1994-2003 and projected 2004-2011
- Appendix 8 Year 7 Actual rolls 1994-2003 and projected 2004-2011
- Appendix 9 Secondary school rolls January census 2003
- Appendix 10 Secondary schools and 16-19 provision – Capacity and Surplus Places
- Appendix 11 Special and Hospital schools January census 2003 and surplus places
- Appendix 12 Pupil referral units January census 2003
- Appendix 13 Southwark Diocesan Board of Education – Statement of Planning Principles
- Appendix 14 Archdiocese of Southwark – Statement of Planning Principles
- Appendix 15 Places in School Nursery classes, Nursery schools and Early Years centres and projected free part-time early education places taken up by 3 and 4 year olds
- Appendix 16 Key data on secondary schools from neighbouring LEAs
- Appendix 17 Map of Southwark primary schools and planning areas
- Appendix 18 Primary schools rolls and capacities by planning area

Pupil numbers and projections

2.3 For planning primary and secondary school provision, it is necessary to project pupil numbers:

- to ensure that sufficient places are available for pupils reaching school age, both overall and more locally

- to assess the extent of surplus accommodation and to plan appropriate action to keep any surplus within acceptable limits
 - to assist in developing an overall pattern of provision which is both educationally efficient and responsive to parental preference.
- 2.4 Projections of pupil numbers are prepared for the Council by the Data Management and Analysis Group of the Greater London Authority (formerly the London Research Centre) as part of a school roll projection model developed in association with other London authorities. The model has two main components-
- **a cohort-survival method**, where the actual number of pupils in each age group on school rolls is “rolled forward” with an adjustment for average gains/losses between years
 - **a catchment ratio method**, where the number of pupils in each year group is estimated as a given percentage of the population of that age living in the area.
- 2.5 The two methods are combined to give a single projection. Projections are made of borough-wide totals and for each planning area, but it would be problematical to produce accurate figures for individual schools. The overall projected numbers are monitored against actual rolls, and the error rate for the whole borough year on year is within the range accepted as satisfactory by the Audit Commission. The projection error rate for individual planning areas, for specific age groups or for longer time-scales can, however, be greater than this.
- 2.6 The 2003 school roll projections have been based on information from the 2001 Census data (rather than the previously updated 1991 Census information) to assess the ward level populations for the borough (these are based on the previous ward boundaries). The ward-level population projections include allowances for local births, migration and housing data. This updated population data has been used to ensure the school roll projections are based on the most up-to-date information. (It should be noted that the overall impact of applying the Census 2001 data for Southwark is an increase in the borough’s total population, when compared to the 1991 Census projections.)
- 2.7 Despite the proven reliability of projections in the past, they must always be approached with some caution. They are projections based on known factors and trends and are not predictions. They cannot forecast the effect of future popularity or unpopularity of individual schools or the movement of groups or categories of children, such as refugees. New academies in Bermondsey and Peckham will have a significant impact on recruitment patterns and the projections have been adjusted in an attempt to incorporate this impact. In addition major regeneration projects can have a potentially substantial effect on individual schools when large scale re-housing of local residents takes place. With major new regeneration projects proposed for the north of the borough at Bermondsey Spa, Canada Water and the Elephant and Castle, and the consequent provision of considerable additional housing, the impact on school rolls and the future demand for school places will need to be kept under close review.
- 2.8 The projections for the secondary sector are particularly susceptible to the kind of factors referred to above. The continuing cross-borough movement of pupils in the secondary age group means that the secondary projections require particularly close examination and need to be kept under review as new schools are opened and the major redevelopment of the borough continues.

2.9 The projections included in this draft Plan are based on January 2003 pupil numbers. It is the case that at any one time, there are pupils not attending a maintained school and therefore not included in the statistics in this Plan. These will range from pupils attending Pupil Referral Units, through pupils educated at home and young offenders in secure provision, to pupils educated in the private sector. The planning assumption made in the projections is that the number of such young people will continue to remain broadly at current levels.

Measurement of school capacity

2.10 In measuring the capacity of schools, two different methods are used in this Plan. It should be noted that these are both based on the new 'Net Capacity' assessment of the sizes of schools which was introduced by the DfES in 2003:

- **Net Capacity (NC):** this is a formula developed by the DfES and applied from January 2003, which is related to the physical accommodation at the school, from which an Indicated Admission Number is derived.
- **Published Admission Number (PAN):** this is the published admission number for the school, which can be greater than the Indicated Admission Number, or smaller if notice is given when consulting on admission numbers. Since Published Admission Numbers apply only to a single year group, it is necessary to multiply the relevant PAN by the number of year groups in the school's normal age range in order to determine the overall capacity.

2.11 The NC measure will be used by the DfES to calculate overall surplus capacity within each LEA, for which there is an annual data return. The Published Admission Number sets the point at which the admissions authority must accept all parental preferences for a school in a given year.

3 POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES

3.1 The strategic aim of Southwark Education is:

to give everyone in Southwark the chance, through education, to realise their full potential and thus play a valuable and valued role in their community and in the wider society.

3.2 Underpinning this aim are the following five objectives:

- to raise levels of educational achievement amongst learners of all ages
- to respond to technological, economic and social change by empowering more people in lifelong learning
- to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of schools and LEA services
- to develop strategic partnerships to improve learning opportunities, promote equality of opportunity and combat social exclusion
- to put education at the heart of the regeneration of the borough

It will be a function of the School Organisation Plan – and the Council's other strategic plans for education – to support the successful achievement of these objectives.

3.3 The fundamental education objective of the Council is to work with schools to raise levels of educational achievement. This is reflected in the Council's Education Development Plan (EDP). This sets out targeted programmes that provide the focus of the Council's work with schools. The Plan's priorities are:

- to raise attainment in early years and primary education
- to improve attainment in literacy and numeracy
- to improve teaching and learning
- to support the self-improving school and schools causing concern
- to improve inclusion
- to ensure a high quality of education is provided for all, through development of effective self-managing schools.

3.4 Other key Council plans that help define the context in which the SOP must be considered include:

- Policy Statement for Special Educational Needs - outlining a strategy for pupils with special educational needs (SEN). This provides a set of principles to inform strategy and practice, with a central theme of inclusion of pupils with SEN within mainstream schools wherever possible. Under the Policy, resourced facilities would be developed at mainstream schools in order to promote such inclusion.

- Southwark Childcare First Strategic Plan 2001-2004 and Implementation Plan 2001-2002, providing the context for accessible, affordable, high quality early years education and childcare for children from birth to 14 years old, (16 for SEN).
 - Lifelong Learning Development Plan (LLDP), outlining the Council's support for ensuring all residents of the borough have the opportunity to continue learning throughout their lives.
 - Asset Management Plan (AMP), reviewing the Council's school premises in relation to their condition, suitability and sufficiency.
- 3.5 The SOP and these other Plans seek to provide a coherent framework in which the Council's education objectives can be delivered. The new DfES initiative 'London Challenge' provides a major new context in which the SOP needs to be developed in future. Southwark has been specifically included in London Challenge and the DfES propose to develop investment plans with the LEA to make a step change in provision and expectations. These plans will aim to transform the borough by, among others, significant investment in new academies, providing new schools and increased sixth form provision.
- 3.6 The specific relationships between the SOP and the other Plans are brought out in the planning principles that follow.
- 3.7 In considering key issues relevant to school place planning, the promotion of educational achievement is top of the list. Other factors that contribute to the objectives of the Education service include:
- meeting demand for places
 - surplus places
 - parental preference
 - gender and denominational balance
 - size of school
 - class size
 - 16-19 provision
 - early years provision
 - SEN inclusion
 - wider community needs
 - fitness for purpose
- 3.8 In reality, many of these factors are interlinked. Some apply more to one phase (primary or secondary) than the other. These basic principles, or propositions, have been widely accepted and approved unanimously by the SOC for the last four years. Because they have been fully set out in previous years' Plans, this section of the SOP provides a summary of the key points involved. A fuller explanation of the propositions is contained in Appendix 1.

Educational Achievement

Proposition 1 *That the School Organisation Plan establishes a framework that encourages all schools in Southwark to become centres of*

excellence, including where appropriate the introduction of academies and specialist schools.

Proposition 2 *That in principle, and where circumstances permit, consideration is given to the expansion of high performing and popular schools.*

Proposition 3 *That where it is unlikely that a school can be removed from the categories of special measures or serious weaknesses through the policy and time frame set out in the EDP, closure or a “fresh start” is considered.*

3.9 These focus on the key objective of educational achievement.

Surplus Places

Proposition 4 *That, in line with Audit Commission recommendations, the Council adopts a target for the removal of surplus places in primary schools over the period of this School Organisation Plan.*

Proposition 5 *That, in line with Audit Commission recommendations, there should be no schools with more than 25% surplus places – other than new schools where initial recruitment is limited to specific year groups.*

Proposition 6 *That where there is a continuing need for a school, surplus places are addressed by securing alternative complementary uses for space not required by the school.*

Proposition 7 *That in appropriate cases, closure or amalgamation may need to be considered to address surplus places.*

Proposition 8 *That school place planning should seek to reduce the need for schools to accommodate more pupils than their capacity assessment allows.*

3.10 These relate to the need to avoid large numbers of surplus places and address those schools that are required to take more pupils than the assessment of their accommodation capacity.

Parental Preference

Proposition 9 *That Southwark continues to provide a network of accessible local schools, with parents having a primary school within reasonable walking distance.*

Proposition 10 *That school provision is planned to take account of an increasing proportion of Southwark parents seeking Southwark schools for their children.*

3.11 These underline the need for local schools serving their local neighbourhood. A trend over recent years has been an increasing proportion of Southwark residents opting for secondary schools outside the borough, an issue that is returned to in Section 4 of this Plan. The latter Proposition reflects the Council’s expectation that a higher proportion of pupils at Southwark primary schools will transfer to Southwark secondary schools. This reflects one of the themes of London Challenge.

Gender and Denominational Balance

Proposition 11 *That the broad proportions between denominational and non-denominational schools that exist at present is retained.*

Proposition 12 *That the Council aims for a broad balance between the numbers of boys and of girls in mixed schools.*

3.12 The first of these relates to the balance between denominational and non-denominational schools in Southwark. The planning principles of the two diocesan authorities are given in Appendices 13 and 14.

3.13 The second refers to the difficult issue but strong necessity of addressing the marked imbalance between boys and girls in most of the mixed secondary schools.

Size of School

Proposition 13 *That, in principle, primary schools are based on a full, rather than ½, form entry arrangement.*

Proposition 14 *That, while recognising the positive contribution made by many one form entry schools, primary schools of two form entry and above may potentially be better placed to meet curriculum, organisational and financial demands placed on them. Consequently, where appropriate, this factor is to be considered in future proposals for extension or new build primary schools.*

3.14 Proposition 13 reflects concern over the organisational difficulties – often resulting in mixed-age classes – of schools with an entry of 45 or 75 pupils. Proposition 14 puts forward the principle that, in general, larger primary schools have potential advantages and that this should be reflected in the Council's planning for extension or new build primary schools.

Class Size Plan

Proposition 15 *That a maximum class size of 30 is adopted for junior classes as well as infants.*

3.15 The requirement to have no infant classes exceeding 30 pupils by September 2001 has been met. This extends the principle to primary aged classes.

16-19 Provision

Proposition 16 *That 16-19 provision in Southwark is offered to meet a rising staying-on rate on the basis of diversity within a coherent framework, agreed by the Learning and Skills Council after consultation with school and FE partners in Southwark's 14-19 Forum.*

3.16 This reflects the increasing trend in the Southwark staying-on rate; the target set by the Council for a further increase to 75% by 2004; developments at Southwark College; and new sixth forms to be opened at The Charter school and the two academies in Southwark. Furthermore it acknowledges the new role of the Learning and Skills Council in planning and funding 16-19 provision, which will be carried out in consultation with schools and other FE partners in Southwark's 14-19 Forum.

Early Years Provision

Proposition 17 *That primary schools along with other early years providers have a significant role in contributing to the Council's Early Years Development and Childcare Plan and that this be taken forward*

in conjunction with the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

- 3.17 This refers to the role of primary schools, along with other early years providers, in contributing to the Southwark Childcare First Early Years Development and Childcare Plan in meeting the demand for early years places.

Special Educational Needs and Inclusion

Proposition 18 *That the principle of inclusion where appropriate in mainstream provision for pupils with special educational needs is followed.*

- 3.18 This reflects the priorities of the Council's SEN Policy, Inclusion Policy and Behaviour Support Plan. It recognises the broader contributions to be made by the Education service to the Council's agenda for social inclusion, for example in reducing exclusions and in identifying and assisting those pupils in need of support.

Wider Community Needs

Proposition 19 *That schools including specialist schools constitute a local community resource and their potential for meeting a wide range of local needs should be developed. This will be progressed where possible through joint projects in support of the borough's strategies for regeneration, social inclusion and neighbourhood renewal.*

- 3.19 This puts forward the potentially valuable role of the school and specialist schools as a local resource for the entire community.

Fitness for Purpose

Proposition 20 *That the Council's Asset Management Plan supports the policies and principles contained in the School Organisation Plan.*

Proposition 21 *That the need to make Southwark schools fit for purpose is central to delivery of the School Organisation Plan.*

- 3.20 These reflect the relationship between the SOP and the Council's Asset Management Plan, particularly in relation to the need for major investment to make schools fit for purpose.

- 3.21 The basic objective of the Education capital strategy is to support the raising of educational achievement. The capital programme underpins the strategy for school improvement set out in the Education Development Plan by seeking to improve the learning environment and ensure that satisfactory curriculum facilities are available for all pupils. The Government's Building Schools for the Future programme specifically addresses the needs of secondary schools and offers opportunities for considerable investment in Southwark secondary schools. Discussions are under way that would link Southwark with Greenwich and Lewisham as pathfinders in the initial implementation of the programme.

4 CONCLUSIONS

4.1 This is the section of the Plan that draws conclusions from the demographic information and the policy principles about the need to add or remove school places in Southwark. The special, primary and secondary sectors are dealt with in turn.

Special Schools

4.2 The specific proposals arising from the Council's SEN Policy are dealt with in Appendix 1 (paragraphs 1.40 -1.48). These are:

- To raise the educational, social and personal achievement of children with special educational needs so that by 2005 progress for children in Southwark compares with other LEAS who are our statistical neighbours.
- To promote inclusive education for children with special educational needs so that by 2004 at least 60% of provision is provided within a mainstream setting.
- To promote effective partnership with parents/carers and children with SEN and to involve them fully in all decisions that are made about their educational provision.
- To ensure that Southwark LEA meets all its statutory duties with regard to special educational needs.
- To establish positive and constructive working relationships with statutory and voluntary agencies
- To ensure that children with special educational needs are identified and receive provision appropriate to their needs in a timely and effective manner.
- To develop the capacity of schools to make high quality provision for special educational needs.
- To establish a continuum of high quality non-statements and statemented provision for children with special educational needs.

Primary Schools

4.11 The new primary roll projections based on January 2003 roll data show a reduction on the projections contained in last year's SOP for the next three years, but an increase after that. The total roll projection for 2007 is higher by 0.5%. One of the reasons for the difference is that the new projections have been updated by including the latest overall population projections, based on the 2001 Census. In previous SOPs the overall population projections were based on the updated 1991 Census.

4.12 The picture from the new projections is of a decrease in the total primary roll over the next two years, with an increase thereafter. The projected need for Reception class places is also projected to fall and then increase. The total proportion of surplus primary places is currently 11% and this is expected to decline as the total roll increases. There is also a forecast deficit of Reception places from 2007/08. In the light of the change in the 2001 Census population data the accuracy of the projections for future years will need to be kept under review.

- 4.13 It should be noted that the introduction of the new Net Capacity assessment has increased the overall capacity in Southwark's primary schools; this is because the new formula aims to create a workable admission number for schools, close to or the same as their former standard numbers.
- 4.14 Last year's SOP concluded that there should not be any net reduction in primary places and that planning areas where there was a projected pressure for places should be kept under review.

Planning areas

- 4.15 For planning purposes, primary schools in Southwark are grouped together into planning areas related to ward boundaries. These are not self contained in terms of transport routes and accessibility, and may cut across physical barriers such as main roads. It is acknowledged that any planning area basis is bound to produce arbitrary divisions. However, the advantage of using ward boundaries is that these correspond to demographic data that can be used to monitor trends and for pupil projection purposes. Traditionally, five areas have been used for longer-term planning purposes. As explained in paragraph 2.6 above, the primary planning projections included in this draft SOP have been prepared based on these areas using the current data bank of historic information to enable the projections to reflect births, migration and other information based on the old wards and to allow comparisons to be made with previous SOPs.
- 4.16 Southwark ward boundaries changed in 2002 and the GLA population information will be amended in 2004 to take account of the new boundaries. As a consequence it will then be necessary to reconfigure the current planning areas to take account of the new ward boundaries. Consideration will be given to linking the new planning areas with the new neighbourhood areas, in the light of the natural catchment areas that will be analysed using the new Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) data. Appendix 17 shows the current planning areas.
- 4.17 The overall primary roll trends conceal differences between geographical areas, between individual schools in an area and, sometimes, between different year groups within the same school. The following paragraphs therefore deal with these matters in relation to the five planning areas shown on Appendices 17 and 18. These enable provision to be reviewed in a way that enables local considerations to be taken into account but on a sufficiently large geographical basis that permits a strategic overview.
- 4.18 It is important to emphasise that where the following commentary contains the comment that there is no need either to reduce or to add to the overall number of places in an area, this does not mean that the status quo should necessarily continue. Consideration would need to be given in all areas to educational standards and all the other matters, including the impact of the major capital investment programme on schools' popularity, covered in Part 3 of this Plan.

Area A - North Southwark

- 4.19 This area covers Cathedrals, Chaucer, Grange and Riverside wards. It contains 15 schools, none of which has more than 25% surplus places. There are at present 435 surplus places (10.1%) overall and for the Reception year there are 19 surplus places (3.1%). Projections show a continuing increase in demand for places in this area with a consequential reduction in the number of overall surplus places. In addition the Reception projections show a projected increase in Reception children such that there

would be insufficient places at schools in this area. It is likely that were this pressure to materialise then pupils would look for places in adjacent planning areas in which there are projected to be spare Reception places. **However, it would be appropriate to consider increasing the number of Reception places in this area.**

- 4.20 This area also contains part of the possible major redevelopment proposals for the Elephant and Castle area, the Bermondsey Spa regeneration area and the Tooley Street area (including Potter's Fields) and the overall situation will need to be kept under close review, as these developments (which, because they are not yet firm proposals, have not been included in the current projections) may result in the need for considerable additional places, which could be provided in new schools built as part of the major redevelopment proposals.

Area B - Surrey Docks, South Bermondsey and Rotherhithe

- 4.21 This area covers Rotherhithe, Surrey Docks, South Bermondsey, and parts of Livesey and East Walworth wards. It contains 15 schools, two of which have more than 25% surplus places. There are in total 673 surplus places (14.9% of the total). For the Reception year, there are at present 71 surplus places (11%). This area includes the Surrey Docks area, the district that has seen significant population growth over recent years and consequent expansion of education provision. The projections suggest that overall numbers in the Planning Area will decline in future years, before increasing but not to current levels. **This may need to be addressed by reductions to the number of places in the area.**

- 4.22 However, given the pressure for places in the neighbouring planning areas pupils are likely to cross planning area boundaries to attend schools in this planning area and fill some of the spare places. In addition there is the possibility of future growth in this area at Canada Water (and Bermondsey Spa in the adjacent Area A) with the possibility of high-density housing. The likely favourable impact of the new City of London Academy on the popularity of local primary schools will also need to be addressed. All these factors would have an impact on future projections of demand, which will need to be kept under review.

Area C - Walworth

- 4.23 This area covers parts of Camberwell Green, East Walworth, Faraday and Newington wards and contains 11 schools. None has more than 25% surplus places. The current number of surplus places overall is 163 (5%) and for the Reception year there are 26 surplus places (5.6%). Projections show an increase in demand in future years. This may be overstated, because the projections have not yet taken account of the reduction in the size of St John's CE primary. However, this area is also the subject of possible major regeneration proposals: the Aylesbury New Deal for Communities and parts of the Elephant and Castle SRB. **These proposals would have an impact on projections for demand in the area, which will need to be kept under review.**

- 4.24 Given the proximity of the primary schools that currently have surplus places in the adjoining planning areas, there would be scope for the adjacent planning areas to offer compensatory primary school places.

Area D - Camberwell and Peckham

- 4.25 This area covers Brunswick Park, Nunhead, Peckham and parts of Camberwell Green, Faraday, Livesey, Peckham Rye, South Camberwell and The Lane wards. It

contains 19 schools, one of which has more than 25% surplus places. The total number of surplus places is 772 (10.5%). The level of demand is projected to reduce and then increase over the next five years. The situation for the Reception year is that there are 97 surplus places (9.2%) and that this margin is likely to increase and then reduce over the coming period, so that there is not projected to be any surplus of Reception places by 2007/08.

- 4.26 There is a disparity between some schools that are recruiting to capacity (in one case over capacity) and others that are falling some way short of their admission figures. The new Academy at Peckham gives priority in its admission criteria to pupils from local primary schools in the Peckham mini EAZ. **This could increase the popularity of these primary schools and would have an impact on the future projection of demand. In view of this the situation will need to be kept under review.**

Area E - Herne Hill and Dulwich

- 4.27 This covers College, East Dulwich, Village and parts of Peckham Rye and South Camberwell wards. It contains 12 schools, two of which have more than 25% surplus places (one in excess of 50%). The total number of surplus places is 677 (13.5%) and at Reception year there are 73 surplus places (10.8%). The projections show an increase in overall demand over the next few years. Again, the Area contains a contrast between over-subscribed schools and those that are under-recruiting. In some cases this is because a school's geographical location means there are insufficient pupils in the natural catchment area to fill the school. As a result of this the Council has agreed that the Langbourne admission number is reduced to 30 in September 2004. **No further change is proposed at this stage.**

Secondary Schools

- 4.28 Appendix 7 shows actual secondary rolls for the past ten years and projections for the future for the 11-16 age range. Appendix 8 shows the data for the Year 7 age group only. In January 2003, there were 757 secondary surplus places (6.9%). This, however, includes a considerable number of nominal surplus places because The Charter School opened with a capacity of 900 but, because of its phased opening, has only Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils in 2002/03. For the Year 7 in all the borough secondary schools, the surplus was 55 places (2.1%).
- 4.29 During 1998 Southwark undertook a major review of secondary school provision. The key outcomes were the closure of Dulwich High School for Boys (DHSB) in August 1999 and the opening of The Charter school in September 2000. At the time, it was considered that there could be a need for a new secondary school to serve the north of the borough by the middle of the present decade.
- 4.30 In order to help meet the demand for Year 7 places in 1999/2000, following the closure of DHSB and before the opening of The Charter, temporary increases in admissions were made at three secondary schools. As a result of the success of The Charter in attracting applications for admission, the School Organisation Committee agreed to increase its admission number from 150 to 180.
- 4.31 As a result of the projected growth in the secondary school population, and in the light of the success of The Charter, further temporary increases in admissions were made at existing secondary schools in 2001/02 and 2002/03 prior to the opening of the academies.

- 4.32 The secondary projections in this SOP have been modified to take account of the additional places available from September 2003 at the two new academies in Southwark. The Corporation of London is the sponsor of the City of London Academy, ultimately to be located on Paterson Park, Bermondsey, but temporarily located on the Waverley Lower school site. The City of London Academy will be a six-form entry all-ability secondary school catering ultimately for 900 pupils in the 11-16 age range and with approximately 300 pupils in the 16-19 age range. Admissions started with Year 7 in 2003/04 and it will recruit incrementally in successive years. The Academy gives priority admission to City and Southwark resident pupils of the appropriate age; it is anticipated that the great majority of pupils will come from Southwark. Up to 10% of the places in each year group will be on the basis of assessed aptitude for the Academy's specialism of Business and Enterprise. The City of London Academy has received over 500 applications for 180 Year 7 places for September 2003.
- 4.33 The Academy at Peckham is sponsored by Lord Harris of Peckham and is based on the current Warwick Park School site. The School Organisation Committee agreed on 20 March 2002 to the proposal to discontinue Warwick Park School to allow the establishment of the City Academy on the same site. The new City Academy will serve pupils aged 11-18 and will admit 240 pupils at age 11 in September 2003 and subsequent years. The sixth form will accommodate 250 pupils. The Academy will specialise in Business and the Performing Arts.
- 4.34 The academies will be independent of the LEA, although part of the maintained education system. The DfES has confirmed that information on academies should be included in future SOPs.
- 4.35 There are five specialist secondary schools in Southwark. Archbishop Michael Ramsey and Geoffrey Chaucer schools have Technology College status. In addition St Michael's School has been awarded Business and Enterprise College status and Notre Dame and Sacred Heart are to have language status. The Government is committed to giving every school the opportunity to develop a distinctive mission and ethos, to provide a clear focus for school improvement. All secondary schools that want to, and that achieve the necessary standards, will be funded to become specialist schools. Specialist schools are expected to collaborate with other schools, sharing the expertise that they have developed in their curriculum specialism and in other areas, to help raise standards across the system. The impact of new specialist secondary schools on the projections will be another factor to be kept under review.
- 4.36 The projections also take account of Southwark residents who had not previously had a place at a Southwark secondary. On this basis it is projected that there would be increasing pressure for Year 7 places across the borough until September 2006, after which there would be a projected shortfall of Year 7 places. This will need to be kept under close review in the light of the impact of the new academies and specialist secondary schools.**
- 4.37 Projections have in the past proved to be a reliable guide to roll trends and have been endorsed as such by District Audit. However, projections are based on the broad assumption that current trends and patterns of recruitment will continue. In the event of significant change to existing trends, demand in future years could vary substantially from that projected. There are four major factors that could affect these trends:
- i) the opening of new schools - The Charter school and the new academies
 - ii) changes in cross-borough recruitment at 11+

- iii) the geographical pattern of demand in Southwark in relation to places available
- iv) the impact of the Council's regeneration strategy and its impact on Southwark's population

Opening of new schools

4.38 The Charter school opened in September 2000 and has been very successful in attracting applications for admission – over 660 first preferences for the 180 places available in September 2003. Analysis of the applications suggests that the opening of The Charter school has stimulated a demand from parents who may not otherwise have opted for a Southwark school. The opening of The Charter has established a strong, local demand that is only now being reflected in the projections. A similar effect should be seen following the opening of the two academies in Southwark and the secondary projections have been adjusted accordingly.

- Cross-borough movement

4.39 Cross-borough movement at 11+ has long been a feature in south London. Geographical considerations and transport links are major factors. The 2001 report by the GLA "Planning Secondary School Places in London" concluded that in 1999 some 2,954 pupils resident in Southwark attended secondary schools outside the borough while 2,552 who were resident outside the borough came into the borough. Analysis of the PLASC data (which is a sophisticated database that identifies all pupils by address and is therefore more accurate than previous surveys) for January 2002 shows 3,774 pupils resident in Southwark attending secondary schools outside the borough while 2,908 came into the borough. This is the equivalent of 3 or 4 secondary schools moving out and over 3 schools coming in. Southwark is a major "importer" of pupils from Lambeth and a significant "exporter" to Lewisham and, to lesser extent, Lambeth, Westminster and Greenwich. It is clear that future recruitment to Southwark schools will be affected by changes in neighbouring LEAs and by parental perceptions of the relative merits of the schools on offer. Current developments that are likely to impact on this include:

- i) The preference of many parents for a place at The Charter school and the City of London Academy rather than schools outside Southwark.
- ii) The reduction by Lambeth of Lilian Baylis school from 7fe to 4fe and the opening of a new academy on the former Henry Thornton site.
- iii) Increasing pressure on places in the neighbouring boroughs. Lewisham have now embarked on a secondary review with a view to increasing secondary provision, and building a new secondary school in the north of the borough

As stated earlier and reflected in Proposition 10, it is an expectation of the Council that improving educational standards in Southwark schools will encourage a higher proportion of Southwark parents to opt for a local school for their children. In any case, increasing pressure on places in adjoining boroughs is likely to increase this trend. Officers meet regularly with colleagues in neighbouring LEAs to share information on roll and projection trends. Any substantial change to the current pattern of cross-borough recruitment will have major impact on current pupil projections. Current and projected roll data for neighbouring LEAs is shown in Appendix 16.

- Pattern of geographical demand

4.3 The overall projections of secondary demand in Southwark do not take account of differences in different parts of the borough. This is not as significant a factor as in primary school planning as many parents and pupils expect to travel further to school at secondary transfer and the geographical distribution of schools is based on this. However, it is apparent that the borough-wide basis of the projections may have the effect of obscuring more local considerations – in particular, the availability of places at some schools in the south of the borough against a shortage of local places in the north.

- Impact of regeneration initiatives and population growth

- 4.40 Future demand for school places must be considered in the context of the Council regeneration initiatives for the Elephant and Castle, Canada Water, Bermondsey Spa and elsewhere, and of the planning projections for population growth in Southwark. The projections contained in this Plan are based on an overall population growth of over 3% over the next 5 years. The prospect of population increase, changes in social mix and a continuing rise in people's expectations provide a setting in which demands will be generated for new local provision and where such provision could in turn make a major contribution to the regeneration process. Included in regeneration proposals for the borough is the possibility of high density housing which would have an impact on the projections for demand in the medium term. There is likely to be increasing demand for local, easily accessible school places of high quality. This is evident in the demand for the new City of London Academy to serve the north of the borough, and for a new school to meet the needs of the East Dulwich area. The Charter School has demonstrated that such an initiative can establish a new demand from those who may otherwise opt for an out-borough school or seek alternative provision.
- 4.41 There are also indications of an increasing demand for casual admissions to secondary schools i.e. in year groups other than Year 7.
- 4.42 In order to address the previously projected shortage of places, the City of London Academy (Southwark) and the Academy at Peckham will, between them, provide an additional eight forms of entry (240) places, plus sixth forms, (although a proportion of the places at the City of London Academy will be required for residents of the City of London). In addition, consideration is being given to the need for additional secondary provision to serve the East Dulwich district as a response to parental demand in the area. Currently a feasibility study is being carried out into the option of establishing a small boys' school on the Waverley Lower site with the intention of federating with Waverley school.
- 4.43 It is not the function of the SOP to put forward specific proposals for individual schools, but to draw conclusions as to whether there is a need for additional places. It is clear that there is projected to be a future need for secondary places.**