

## STRATEGY FOR REVIEW OF THE SCHOOL ESTATE

The first stage in the strategy is aimed at encouraging the viability of individual schools, and only where this is unsuccessful is a second stage review to be carried out. Even then, it is recognised that it will be necessary to balance the educational case with the wider benefits to a community of retaining a local school.

The Council's strategy for the review of the school estate is as follows:-

### First Stage Review

2.1 A first stage review will be carried out when a school roll falls to 60% of capacity.

2.2 The following issues will be taken into account in the first stage review:-

- Actual occupancy rate
- Forecast trend in school roll
- Potential for alternative uses of excess capacity
- Review of future housing development in school catchment area

2.3 The first stage review will canvas the views of local stakeholders and community planning partners in order to identify any other issues which would have a material impact on an individual school's roll. Details of any future plans by the Royal Air Force and the Enterprise Company, in particular, should be reviewed in order to gauge their potential impact.

### Second Stage Review

2.4 It is proposed that the following factors are taken into account at the second stage of a review:-

- The educational case for retention of the school
- Pupil and population projections (paying attention to trends)
- The role of the school in the local community
- Sustainability and development of rural communities
- Travel Distances and Times
- Extended Use of Schools
- Financial considerations – including the cost per pupil
- Condition of the building
- Any unique local factors

2.5 Local stakeholders and the local community should be engaged and involved in this process.

2.6 The outcome of the second stage review will be reported to the Council recommending how the capacity issue should be dealt with. Following this review, potential recommendations could be :-

- Retention of the school
- Retention of the school and utilisation of spare capacity for other services
- Retention of the school with a physical reduction in its overall capacity
- A mothballing of the school and/or areas of the school pending any potential or
- anticipated population increase.
- Closure/ merger