

The Research Group

Cambridgeshire LA

Annual pupil projections



July 2011

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Introduction

This report focuses on total pupil numbers at maintained primary and secondary schools across Cambridgeshire. It does not include pupils in Nursery Classes, Nursery and Special Schools or the Pupil Referral Units.

These forecasts project pupil numbers up to 2020/21 at local authority district level. The forecasts are trend-based which means they assume that past trends continue in the future. Pupil numbers for the school year 2010/11 are taken from the January 2011 School Census. These forecasts can be expected to give a more accurate picture of overall trends than an aggregation of the individual school forecasts produced for finance or planning purposes. The main reasons for this are that:

1. No individual schools are forecast to have more pupils than their Published Admission Number (PAN). Aggregating individual forecasts for schools can underestimate total pupil numbers in an area if there are more pupils than the combined capacity of the schools in question. The LA-wide forecast is not tied to current capacities, so the forecast will not undercount pupils in areas under pressure.
2. Individual primary school forecasts have future additions for children moving into new housing developments but these children are not removed from the rolls of the primary schools they have left elsewhere within the authority (since these cannot be identified in advance). A single LA-wide forecast allows movement of children between schools in the area to cancel out.

The forecasts given in this paper can therefore be expected to give a more accurate picture of overall trends than the aggregated individual school forecasts.

1. Primary School Pupils

1.1. Background (from PLASC)

The January 2011 School Census shows that 98% of primary aged pupils on roll at a Cambridgeshire school are currently living in the county, while 0.8% come from Suffolk, 0.7% from Norfolk, and 0.3% from Peterborough. Castle Camps, Ditton Lodge, Kennett, and Linton Infants/Linton Heights Junior are all popular with pupils from Suffolk, while Beaupre, Elm and Clarkson Infants/St Peters Junior are popular with pupils from Norfolk. For the 136 pupils from Peterborough, the most popular Cambridgeshire schools are Fourfields (28 pupils), Elton (25), Yaxley Infants and Junior (22), Farcet (12) and Alderman Jacobs (10). Figures from 2010 suggest that around 130 primary aged pupils are living in Cambridgeshire and on roll at a Peterborough school.

1.2. Primary pupil numbers (aged 4-10)

1.2.1 All year groups

Figure 1 shows the actual and forecast number of primary aged pupils across Cambridgeshire. Trends in primary numbers broadly follow recent trends in births, at both a local and national level. Since 2002, annual numbers of births have increased both locally and nationally. Key points are:

- Primary numbers in Cambridgeshire have been fairly stable over the last five years. There are currently around 43,340 primary aged pupils in Cambridgeshire compared with around 43,050 the same time last year.
- Overall, cohort change between 2009/10 and 2010/11 resulted in a loss of 109 children. 5 to 6 year olds were the only group to gain pupils (23). Significant losses were seen in the 6 to 7 (28 pupils) and 8 to 9 cohorts (87), possibly reflecting the transfer of children to independent schools.
- Cohort change within the districts varies considerably; bringing additional children to Fenland (13 pupils) and South Cambridgeshire (43), and losses from Cambridge City (73), East Cambridgeshire (50) and Huntingdonshire (42).
- The forecasts given here suggest an increase in total primary aged pupils over the next 10 years by 20% in Cambridgeshire, to a total of around 52,000 in 2020/21.
- Cohort change is forecast to result in a loss of 40 pupils per year as year groups move through the schools. While the 4 to 5 year olds are forecast to gain 44 pupils, significant losses are forecast to continue in the 6 to 7 and 8 to 9 cohorts.

Figure 2 compares actual and forecast trends in primary aged pupils across Cambridgeshire's districts. Increases in pupil numbers are most pronounced in the next 5 years; however future trends across the county are not uniform.

In five years' time, total primary rolls are forecast to be around 16% higher than current numbers in the authority as a whole, compared to 26% higher in the City and 9% higher in Huntingdonshire. Furthermore, while total primary numbers at the LA level are forecast to become stable from 2017/18, in the City numbers continue to rise and in 10 years' time are forecast to be 46% higher than present. However, this high growth assumes higher numbers of births due to the delivery of significant levels of house-building; if house-building is lower than planned then this growth figure will be lower.

1.2.2 Reception pupils

- This year's primary reception year-group of around 6,470 is the highest since 1996/7; given current NHS registrations, reception year-groups are forecast to continue increasing until 2013/14 (Figure 3). The forecasts show a decline in total reception numbers from 2013/14, reflecting a forecast

decline in birth rates following their recent high, before an increase again in 2017/18, reflecting a forecast rise in births due to house-building.

- For the LA as a whole, the number of reception age pupils is forecast to be around 13% higher in 5 years' time than current numbers, while in the City numbers are forecast to be 25% higher. In East Cambridgeshire, reception numbers are forecast to increase by 7% in the next 5 years and then decline by 5% in the following five years.

Figure 1: Actual and forecast primary aged pupil numbers in Cambridgeshire, 2000/01 to 2020/21

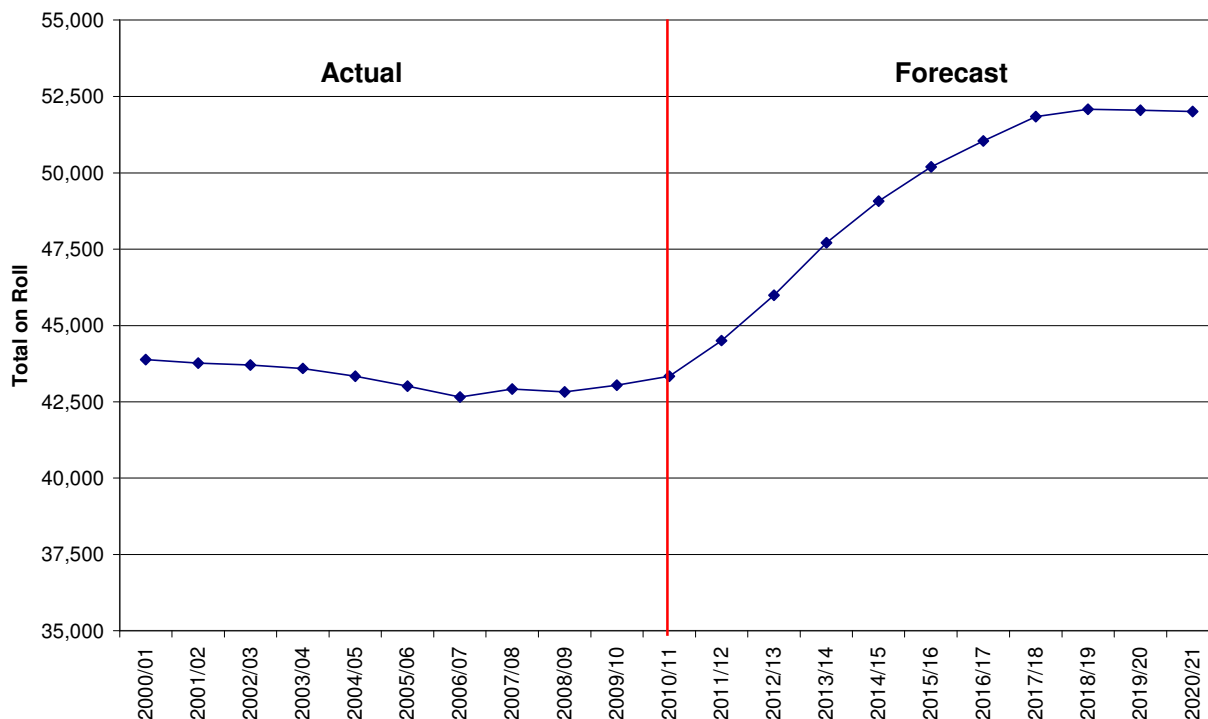


Figure 2: Actual and forecast primary aged pupil numbers by District, 2000/01 to 2020/21

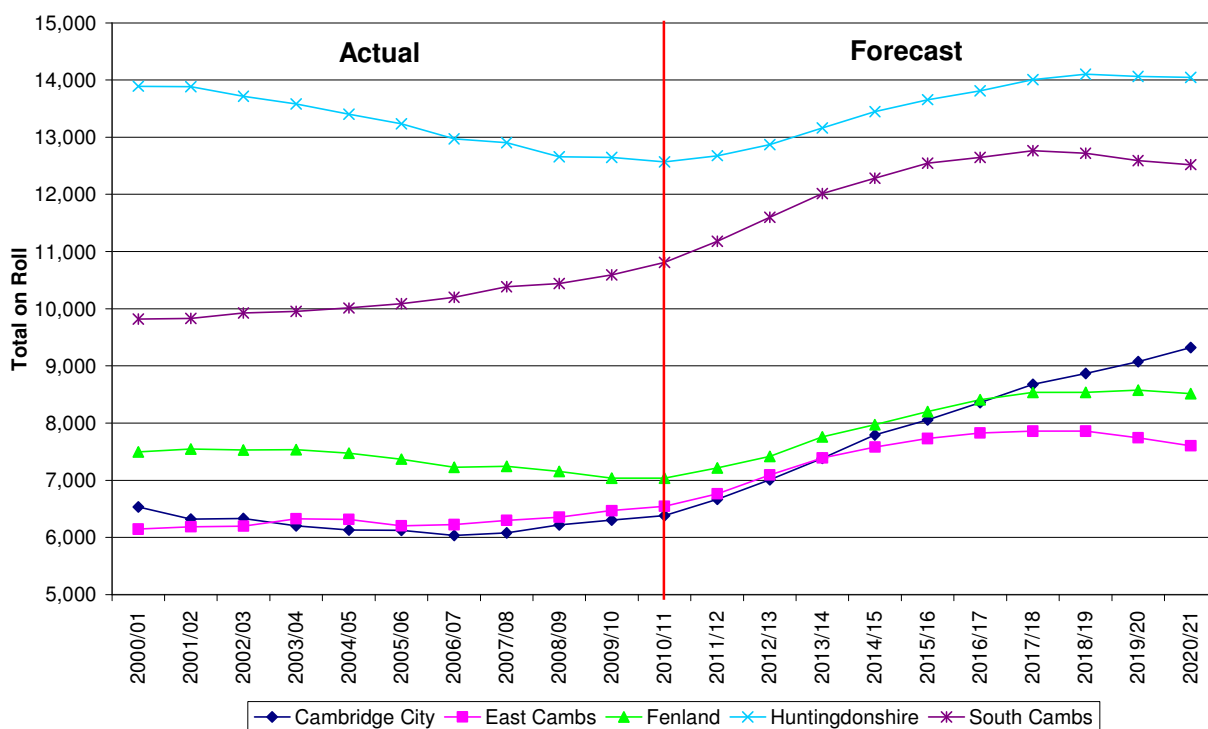


Figure 3: Actual and forecast reception numbers in Cambridgeshire, 2000/01 to 2020/21

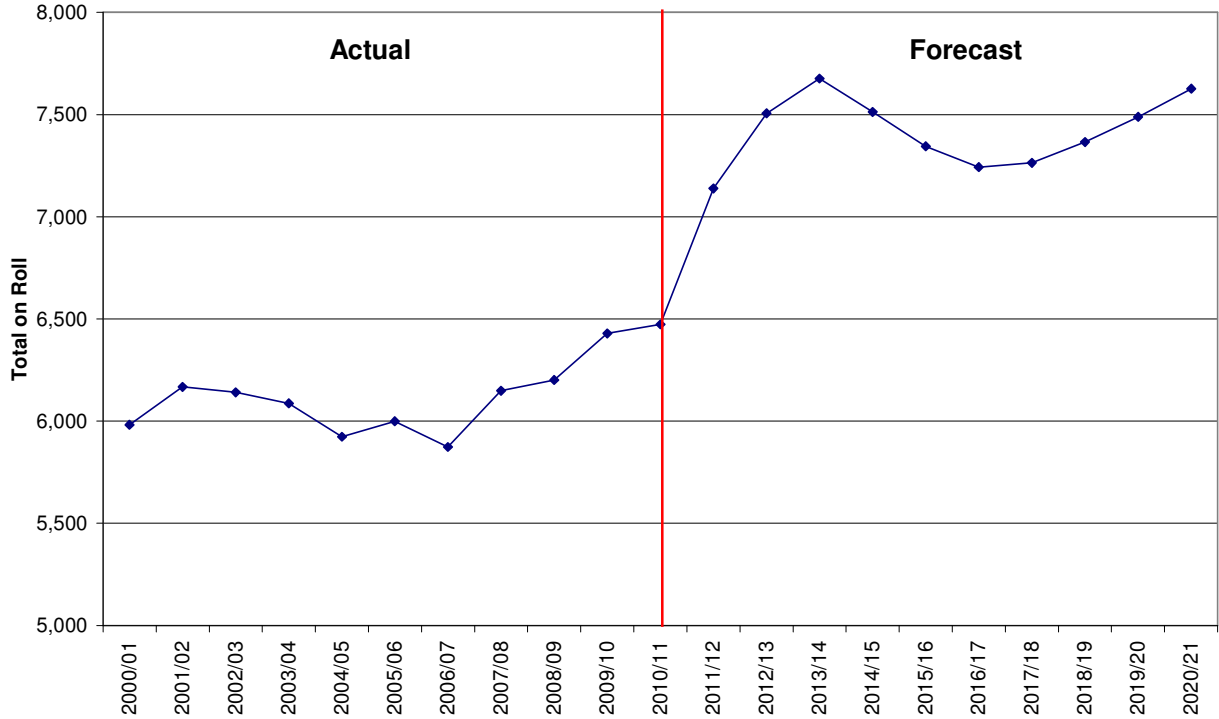
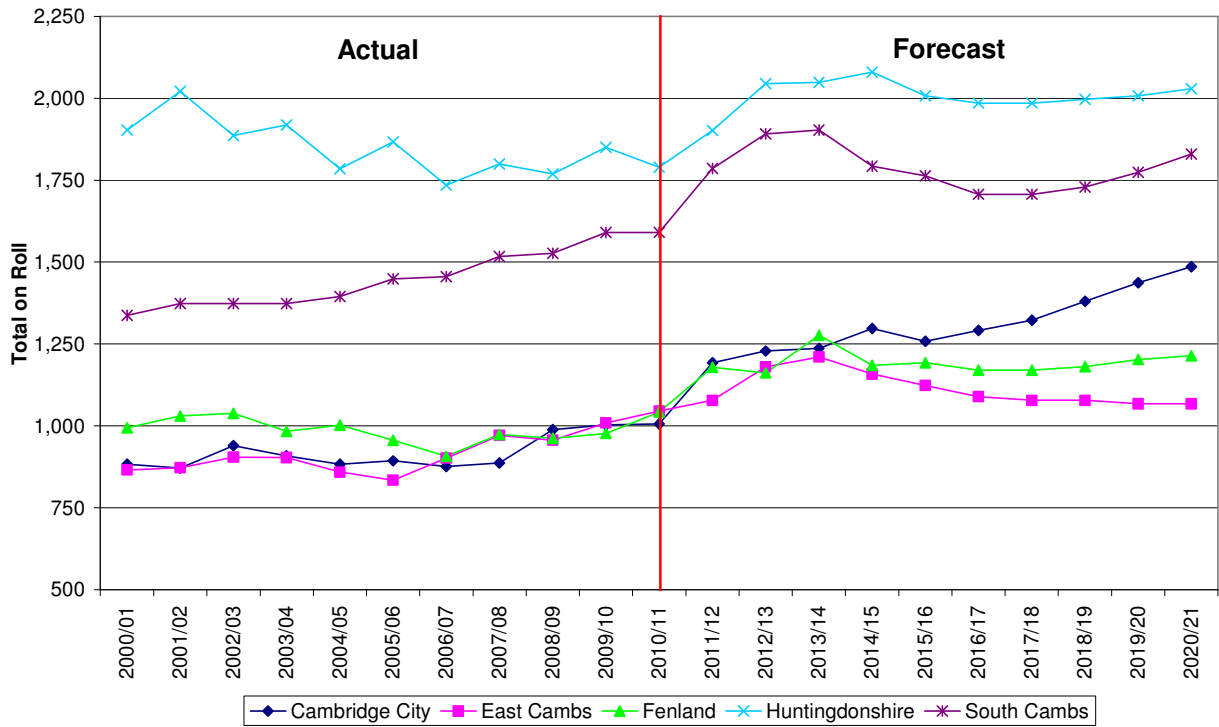


Figure 4: Actual and forecast reception numbers by district, 2000/01 to 2020/21



2. Secondary School Pupils

2.3. Background (from PLASC)

The January 2011 School Census shows that 97% of secondary aged pupils on roll at a Cambridgeshire school currently live in Cambridgeshire. Of those on roll, 1% come from Suffolk and 0.5% are from Peterborough. Linton Village College is popular with Suffolk Pupils (196), while Sawtry (118) is popular with pupils from Peterborough. Figures from January 2010, suggest that around 820 secondary aged pupils living in Cambridgeshire are on roll at a Peterborough school; the most popular schools being Stanground College, The King's School, Hampton College, and St John Fisher RC High School.

2.4. Secondary pupil numbers

2.4.1 All secondary pupils (11-16+)

Figure 5 shows the actual and forecast number of secondary aged pupils. Since 2003/04, secondary numbers have remained relatively stable, with the current total in Cambridgeshire at around 32,500 (160 lower than last year).

Cohort change between September 2009 and September 2010 led to a loss of 34 pupils. The 12 to 13 year olds saw the greatest cohort change, losing 69 pupils, while the 11 to 12 year olds gained 31 pupils. Cambridge City was the only district to gain additional pupils overall (14).

The forecasts presented here suggest that secondary numbers will remain broadly stable over the next three years before increasing from 2013/14 as larger primary cohorts age through. The increase is particularly rapid from 2015/16 onwards; between now and 2020/21 there is a 14% increase in numbers to around 37,180 pupils.

Figure 6 compares trends across Cambridgeshire's districts. In East Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire, total secondary rolls are forecast to be 1% and 7% lower, respectively, than current numbers in five years' time, while in South Cambridgeshire they are about 8% higher. In ten years' time, however, total rolls are expected to be 28% higher in South Cambridgeshire, 25% higher in the City, and 2% lower in Huntingdonshire in comparison to current numbers.

The sixth form forecasts assume that around 28% of 15 year olds will stay-on at local authority schools over the next ten years. This rate is lowest in South Cambridgeshire (7%) and highest in Huntingdonshire (54%) and Fenland (43%).

2.4.2 Year 7 intake

The number of 11 year olds (Figure 7) has remained relatively stable over the last 10 years, and is forecast to continue this way for the next three years. There are currently 5,790 11 year olds on roll in Cambridgeshire schools, which is down from last year (around 5,910).

Numbers of 11 year olds are expected to increase rapidly over the next 10 years to around 7,340 (representing a 28% increase). This increase is particularly marked in the City (44% increase), East Cambridgeshire (30% increase) and South Cambridgeshire (38% increase). Most of this increase occurs from 2015/16 onwards, reflecting larger cohorts coming through from primary school.

Figure 5: Actual and forecast secondary aged pupil numbers in Cambridgeshire, 2000/01 to 2020/21

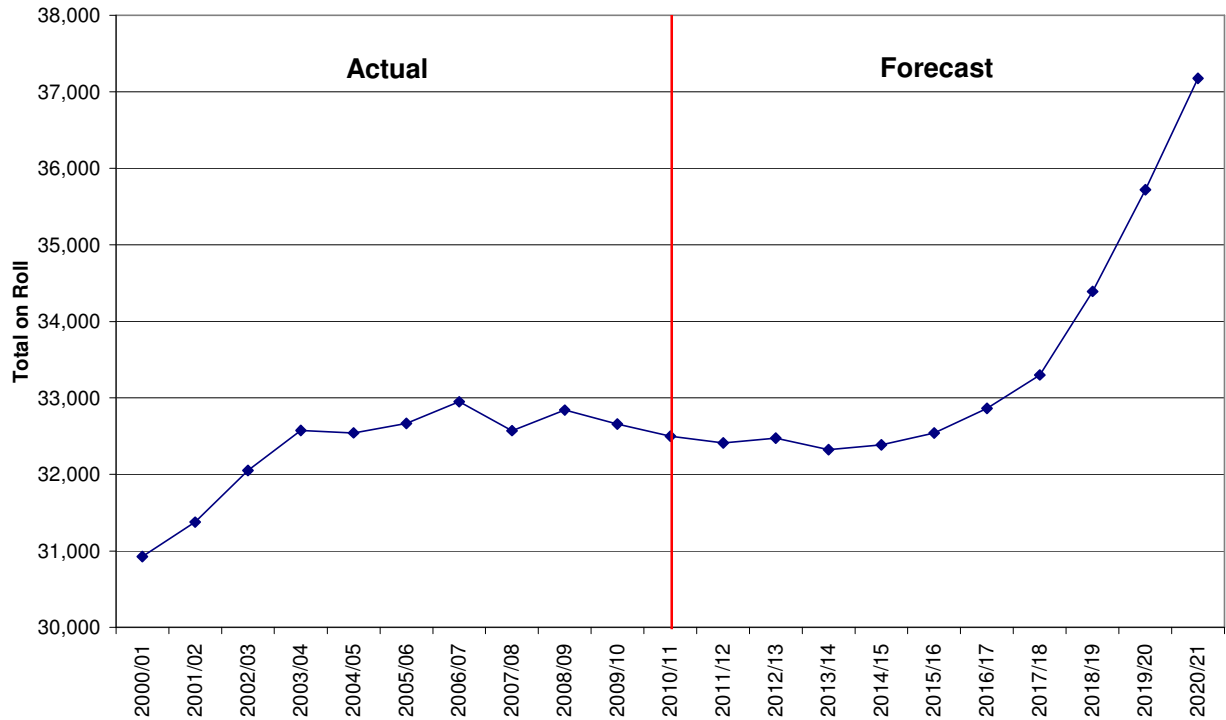


Figure 6: Actual and forecast secondary aged pupils by district, 2000/01 to 2020/21

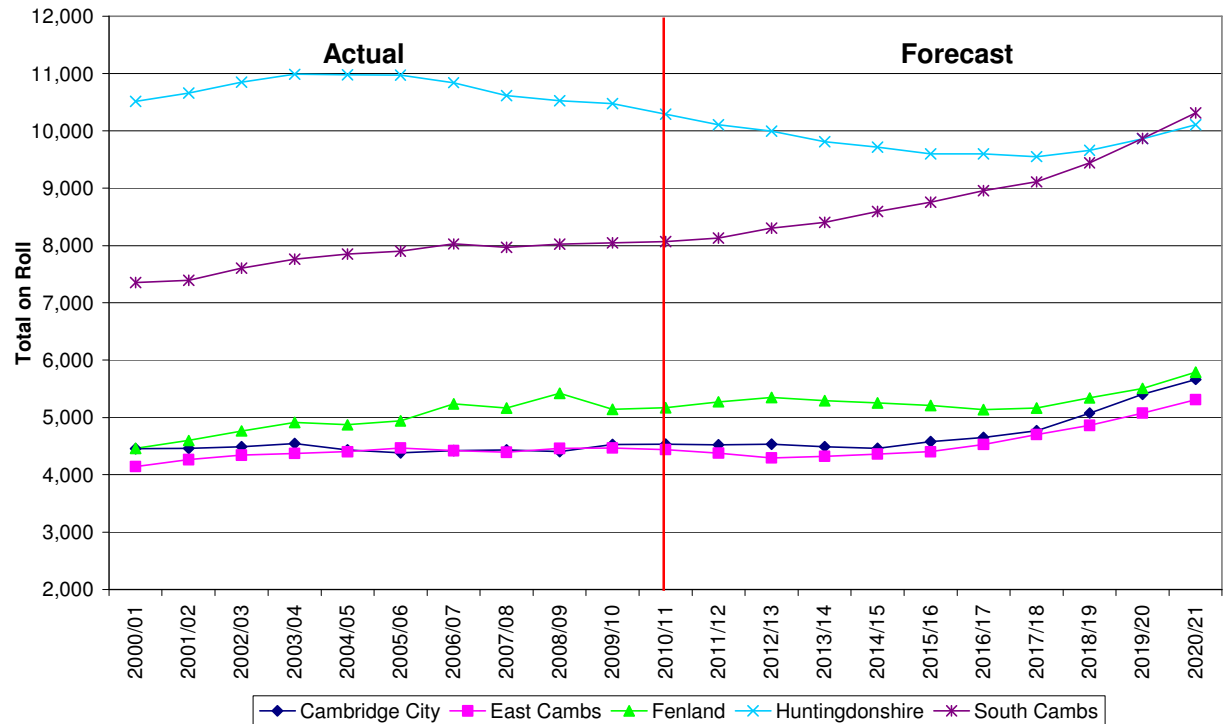


Figure 7: Actual and forecast 11 year olds in Cambridgeshire, 2000/01 to 2020/21

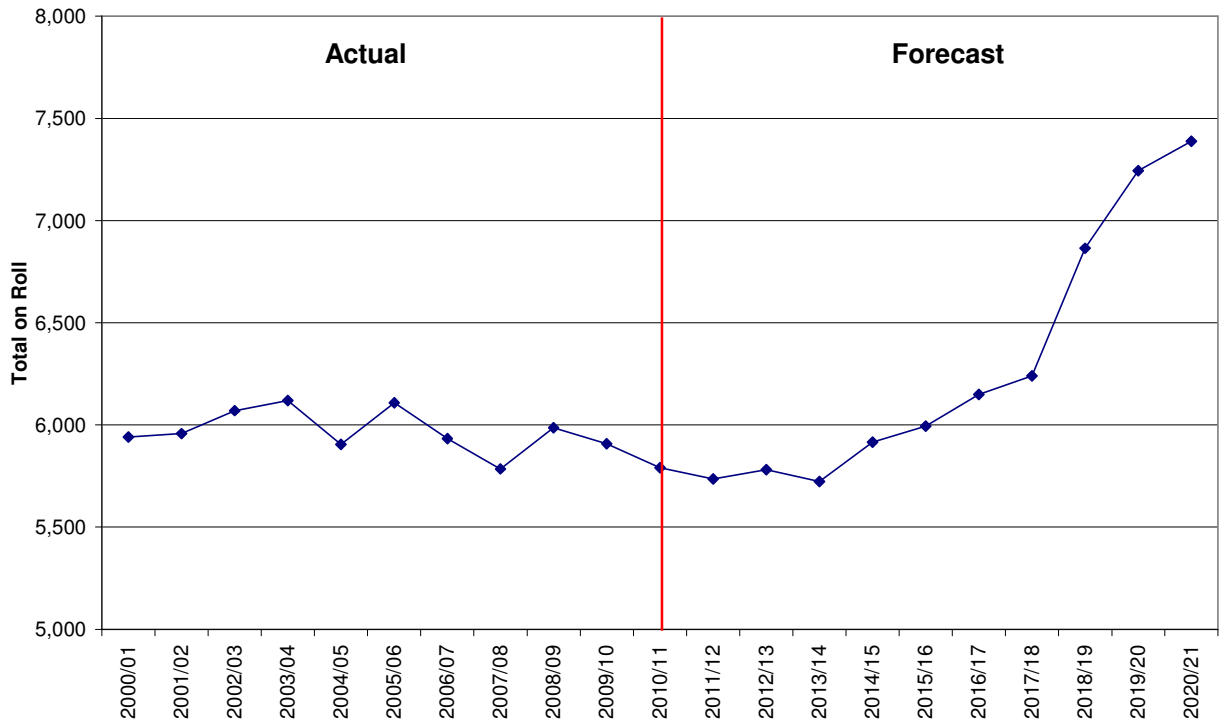
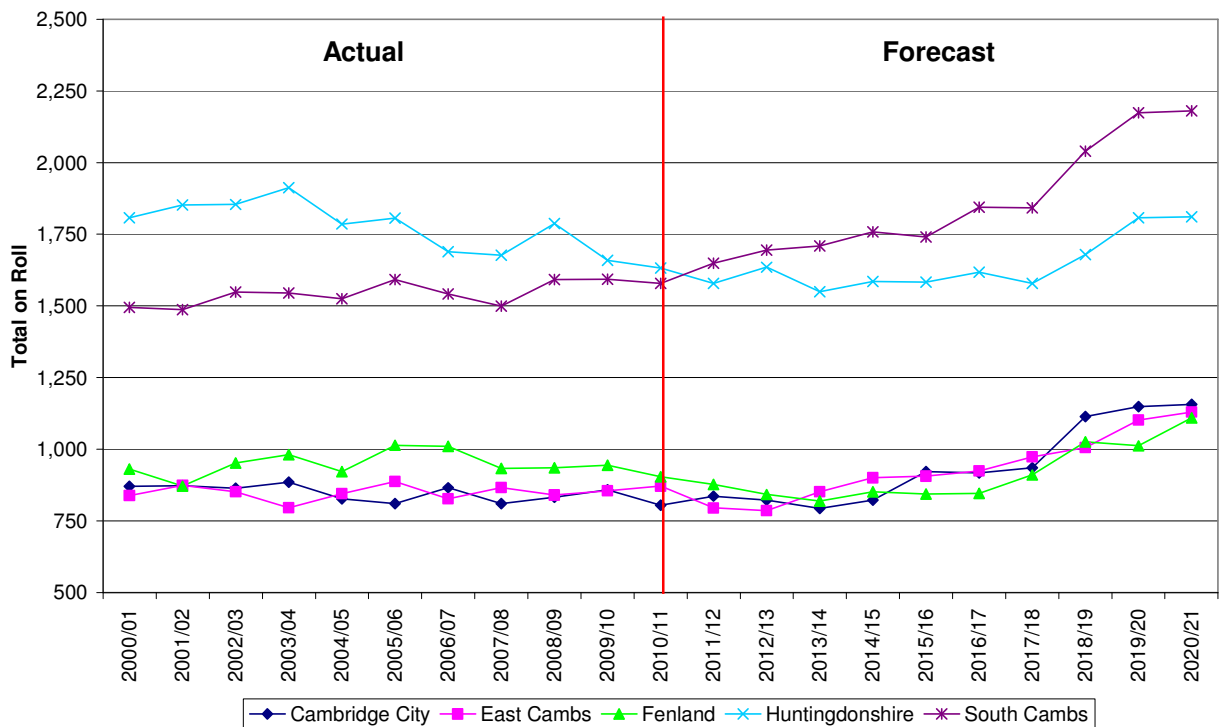


Figure 8: Actual and forecast 11 year olds by district, 2000/01 to 2020/21



3. Assumptions

The projections are based on the assumption that recent trends will continue over the next ten years. The forecasts do not take specific account of individual housing developments, but are consistent with continued house building at the average rate observed over the last three years. In detail, the assumptions used are:

4 year-old pupils

Intake of 4 year-olds has been projected on the basis of the three-year average relationship between the numbers of children aged 4 arriving at school and the numbers of births five years before - an "arrival rate" of 104%. Intakes for 2014/15 onward are based on projected numbers of births in the Research Group's general population-forecasting model.

5-10 year-old pupils

Projected on the basis of changes in the size of year-groups over the past three years - an average annual net loss of 7 pupils per year-group.

11 year-old pupils

Projected on the basis of the three-year average proportion transferring from the top primary year-group to secondary school - a "transfer rate" of 97%. The net loss of 3% on transfer mainly represents moves into the independent sector.

12-15 year-old pupils

Projected on the basis of changes in the size of year-groups in the last three years - an average annual net loss of 14 pupils per year-group.

16 year-old pupils

Projected assuming continuation of the three-year average "staying-on rate" into maintained sixth forms across the whole area of around 28%. This is a relatively low figure because the two Cambridge sixth form colleges are excluded from these forecasts. In Huntingdonshire, the only part of the county where all Secondary schools have sixth forms, the staying-on rate within the maintained sector was 54% this year.

The staying on rate at Fenland is forecast to increase, reaching 55% in 2014/15 due to the Building Schools for the Future programme. New Sixth forms set to open at Parkside (and Coleridge), Comberton and Cottenham in September 2011 could result in a further increase in staying on rates, particularly in the City and South Cambridgeshire.

17 year-old pupils

Projected on the basis of the three-year average proportion of 16 year-old pupils staying on into the upper sixth - a staying-on rate of 96%, taking into account pupils staying on for a third year in the sixth form.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Primary Pupil Numbers (aged 4-10), actual and forecast

School Year	Age:							Primary Total
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
<i>Actual</i>								
2000/01	5,982	6,230	6,390	6,157	6,415	6,391	6,313	43,878
2001/02	6,168	6,086	6,212	6,342	6,164	6,398	6,393	43,763
2002/03	6,141	6,285	6,142	6,186	6,382	6,149	6,420	43,705
2003/04	6,087	6,247	6,323	6,109	6,238	6,357	6,233	43,594
2004/05	5,924	6,122	6,255	6,270	6,122	6,239	6,403	43,335
2005/06	5,999	6,011	6,167	6,235	6,264	6,068	6,268	43,012
2006/07	5,874	6,017	6,015	6,150	6,248	6,259	6,090	42,653
2007/08	6,149	5,981	6,063	5,991	6,155	6,272	6,301	42,912
2008/09	6,202	6,217	6,006	5,998	5,988	6,098	6,313	42,822
2009/10	6,429	6,268	6,195	5,969	6,060	6,004	6,119	43,044
2010/11	6,474	6,426	6,291	6,167	5,969	6,018	5,992	43,337
<i>Forecast</i>								
2011/12	7,138	6,518	6,435	6,248	6,187	5,948	6,031	44,505
2012/13	7,506	7,182	6,527	6,392	6,268	6,150	5,961	45,986
2013/14	7,676	7,550	7,191	6,484	6,412	6,232	6,163	47,708
2014/15	7,513	7,720	7,559	7,148	6,504	6,383	6,245	49,072
2015/16	7,344	7,557	7,729	7,516	7,168	6,483	6,396	50,193
2016/17	7,243	7,388	7,566	7,686	7,536	7,131	6,496	51,046
2017/18	7,264	7,287	7,397	7,523	7,706	7,515	7,144	51,836
2018/19	7,365	7,308	7,296	7,354	7,543	7,684	7,528	52,078
2019/20	7,489	7,409	7,317	7,253	7,374	7,516	7,693	52,051
2020/21	7,626	7,533	7,418	7,274	7,273	7,351	7,528	52,003

Appendix 2: Secondary Pupil Numbers (11-16+), actual and forecast

School Year	Age:								Secondary Total	
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	11-15		16+
<i>Actual</i>										
2000/01	5,942	5,973	5,713	5,435	5,483	1,276	1,106	28,546	2,382	30,928
2001/02	5,957	5,969	5,928	5,692	5,421	1,318	1,090	28,967	2,408	31,375
2002/03	6,070	5,981	5,942	5,945	5,599	1,362	1,151	29,537	2,513	32,050
2003/04	6,119	6,136	5,966	5,978	5,878	1,335	1,163	30,077	2,498	32,575
2004/05	5,905	6,157	6,093	5,993	5,863	1,403	1,130	30,011	2,533	32,544
2005/06	6,109	5,901	6,111	6,074	5,805	1,414	1,252	30,000	2,666	32,666
2006/07	5,933	6,129	5,899	6,106	6,072	1,462	1,348	30,139	2,810	32,949
2007/08	5,785	5,980	6,118	5,925	5,997	1,495	1,272	29,805	2,767	32,572
2008/09	5,986	5,853	5,951	6,104	5,831	1,670	1,444	29,725	3,114	32,839
2009/10	5,909	6,013	5,809	5,966	6,038	1,502	1,423	29,735	2,925	32,660
2010/11	5,790	5,940	5,944	5,818	5,961	1,616	1,432	29,453	3,048	32,501
<i>Forecast</i>										
2011/12	5,736	5,832	5,893	5,948	5,763	1,694	1,547	29,172	3,241	32,413
2012/13	5,781	5,778	5,785	5,897	5,893	1,705	1,635	29,134	3,340	32,474
2013/14	5,723	5,823	5,731	5,789	5,842	1,770	1,644	28,908	3,414	32,322
2014/15	5,916	5,765	5,776	5,735	5,734	1,756	1,704	28,926	3,460	32,386
2015/16	5,994	5,958	5,718	5,780	5,680	1,708	1,701	29,130	3,409	32,539
2016/17	6,149	6,036	5,911	5,722	5,725	1,667	1,654	29,543	3,321	32,864
2017/18	6,239	6,191	5,989	5,915	5,667	1,679	1,619	30,001	3,298	33,299
2018/19	6,864	6,281	6,144	5,993	5,860	1,622	1,627	31,142	3,249	34,391
2019/20	7,244	6,906	6,234	6,148	5,938	1,673	1,578	32,470	3,251	35,721
2020/21	7,388	7,286	6,859	6,238	6,093	1,685	1,628	33,864	3,313	37,177

Appendix 3: Summary of actual and projected pupil numbers, January 2011 base

<i>School Year</i>	<i>Primary Total</i>	<i>Secondary 11-15</i>	<i>Secondary 16+</i>	<i>Secondary Total</i>	<i>Total Pupils</i>
<i>Actual</i>					
2000/01	43,878	28,546	2,382	30,928	74,806
2001/02	43,763	28,967	2,408	31,375	75,138
2002/03	43,705	29,537	2,513	32,050	75,755
2003/04	43,594	30,077	2,498	32,575	76,169
2004/05	43,335	30,011	2,533	32,544	75,879
2005/06	43,012	30,000	2,666	32,666	75,678
2006/07	42,653	30,139	2,810	32,949	75,602
2007/08	42,912	29,805	2,767	32,572	75,484
2008/09	42,822	29,725	3,114	32,839	75,661
2009/10	43,044	29,735	2,925	32,660	75,704
2010/11	43,337	29,453	3,048	32,501	75,838
<i>Forecast</i>					
2011/12	44,505	29,172	3,241	32,413	76,918
2012/13	45,986	29,134	3,340	32,474	78,460
2013/14	47,708	28,908	3,414	32,322	80,030
2014/15	49,072	28,926	3,460	32,386	81,458
2015/16	50,193	29,130	3,409	32,539	82,732
2016/17	51,046	29,543	3,321	32,864	83,910
2017/18	51,836	30,001	3,298	33,299	85,135
2018/19	52,078	31,142	3,249	34,391	86,469
2019/20	52,051	32,470	3,251	35,721	87,772
2020/21	52,003	33,864	3,313	37,177	89,180