

The Research Group

## Cambridgeshire LA

### Annual pupil projections



September 2012

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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 2021/22 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 2011/12 are taken from the January 2012 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 2012 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, 0.6% from Norfolk, and 0.3% from Peterborough. Castle Camps, Ditton Lodge, Kennett, Meadow, Burrough Green and Linton Infant/Linton Heights Junior are all popular with pupils from Suffolk. Beaupre, Elm, Clarkson Infants/St Peters Junior and Townley are popular with pupils from Norfolk. For the 144 pupils from Peterborough, the most popular Cambridgeshire schools are Elton (34 pupils), Fourfields (31), Yaxley Infants and Junior (24), Alderman Jacobs (12) and Farcet (11). Figures from the 2012 Peterborough PLASC suggest that around 120 primary aged pupils are living in Cambridgeshire and on roll at a Peterborough school. Data from the DfE also indicates that around 120 Cambridgeshire pupils go to Suffolk, 80 go to Hertfordshire, and 80 go to Essex.

## 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 on an upward trend in recent years. They have increased from a low point of 42,650 in 2006/07 to around 44,180 in 2011/12. There were around 43,340 primary pupils the same time last year.
- Overall, cohort change between 2010/11 and 2011/12 resulted in a loss of 106 children. 4 to 5 year olds saw the biggest gain of 70 pupils. The 5 to 6 and 7 to 8 cohorts also gained pupils. Significant losses were seen to the 8 to 9 (100 pupils) and 9 to 10 cohorts (50), possibly reflecting the transfer of children to independent schools.
- Cohort change within the districts varies considerably; bringing additional children to Fenland (14 pupils) and Huntingdonshire (10), and losses from Cambridge City (51), East Cambridgeshire (9) and South Cambridgeshire (70).
- The forecasts given here suggest an increase in total primary aged pupils over the next 10 years by 25% in Cambridgeshire, to a total of around 55,340 in 2021/22.
- Cohort change is forecast to result in a loss of 58 pupils per year as year groups' move through the schools. While the 4 to 5 year olds and 7 to 8 year olds are forecast to gain 44 and 23 pupils respectively, 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 18% higher than current numbers in the authority as a whole, compared to 24% higher in East Cambridgeshire and 13% 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 38% 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.

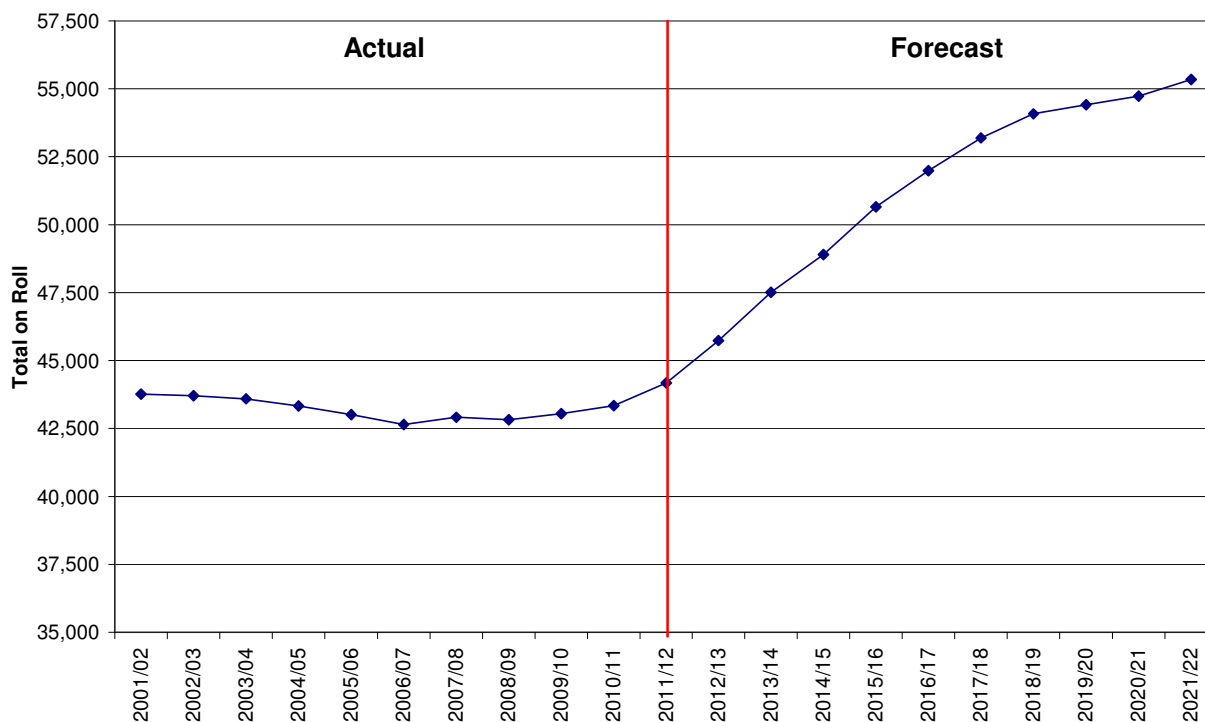
### 1.2.2 Reception pupils

- This year's primary reception year-group of around 6,900 is the highest since at least the early 1990s; given current NHS registrations, reception year-groups are forecast to continue increasing

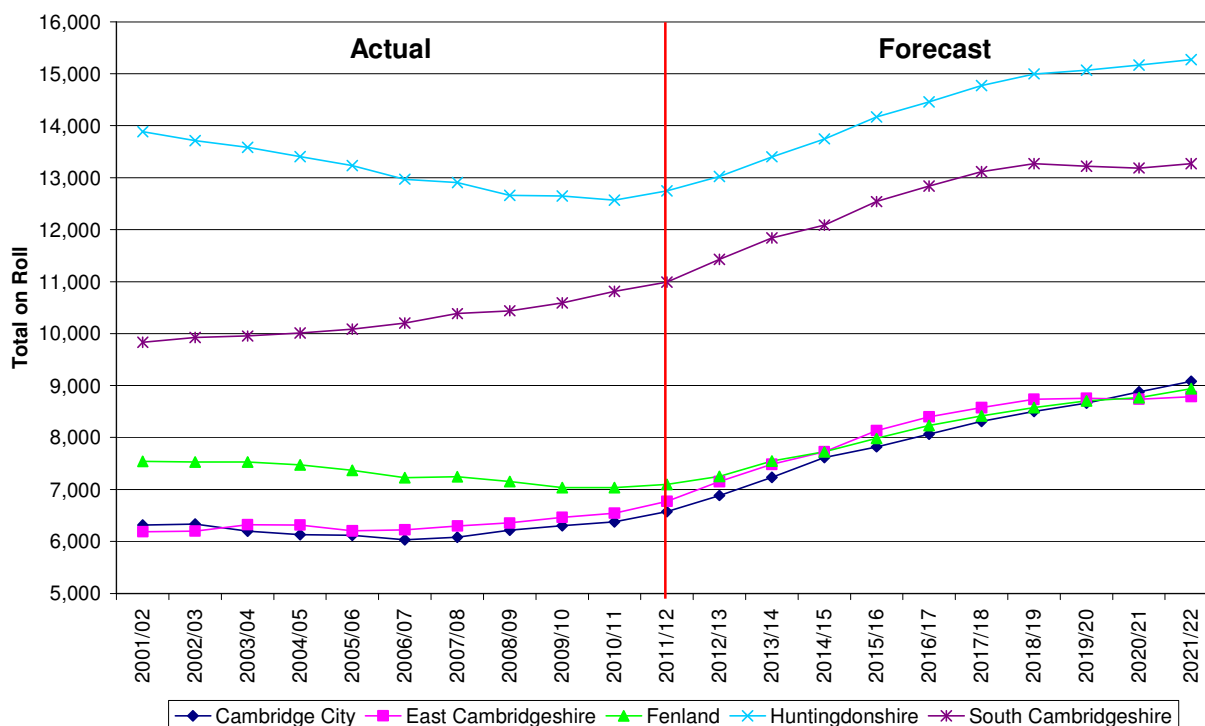
until 2013/14 (Figure 3). The forecasts show a decline in total reception numbers from 2013/14, reflecting a forecast decline in birth rates following their recent high, before an increase again in 2017/18 after a short period of fluctuation, reflecting a forecast rise in births due to house-building.

- For the LA as a whole, the number of reception age pupils is forecast to be around 12% higher in five years' time than current numbers, while in the City numbers are forecast to be 11% higher. In East Cambridgeshire, reception numbers are forecast to increase by 16% in the next five years and then decline by 1% in the following five years.

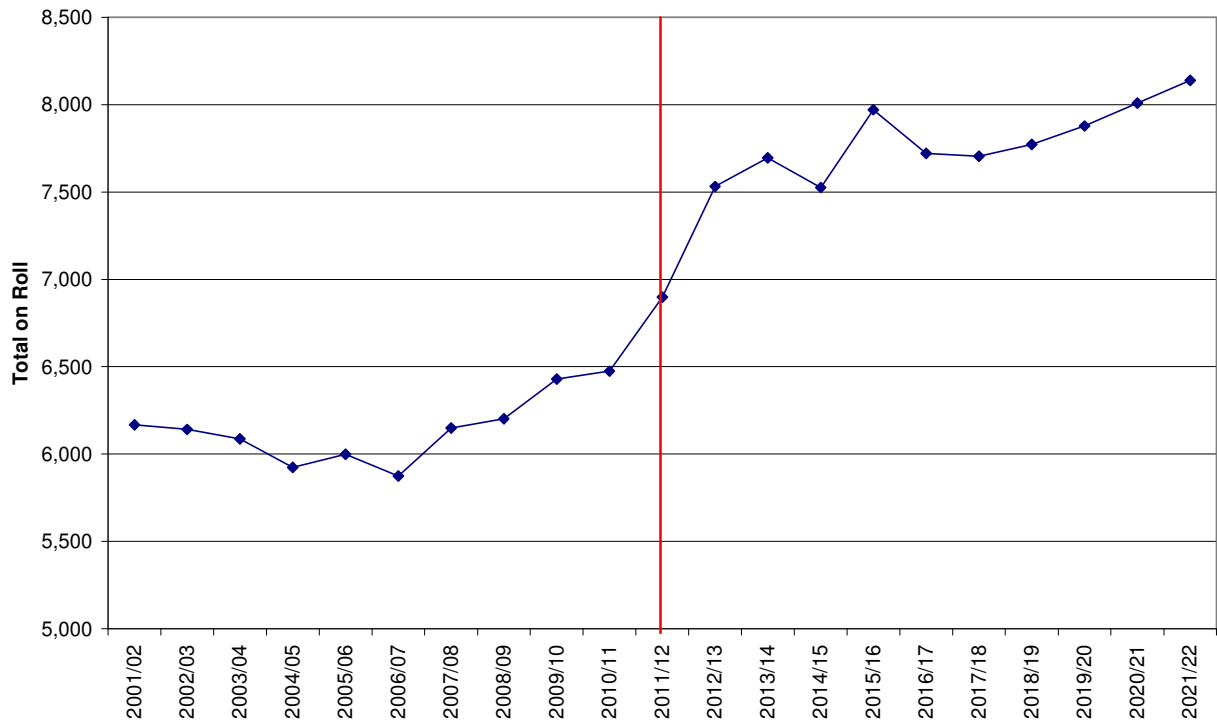
**Figure 1: Actual and forecast primary aged pupil numbers in Cambridgeshire, 2001/02 to 2021/22**



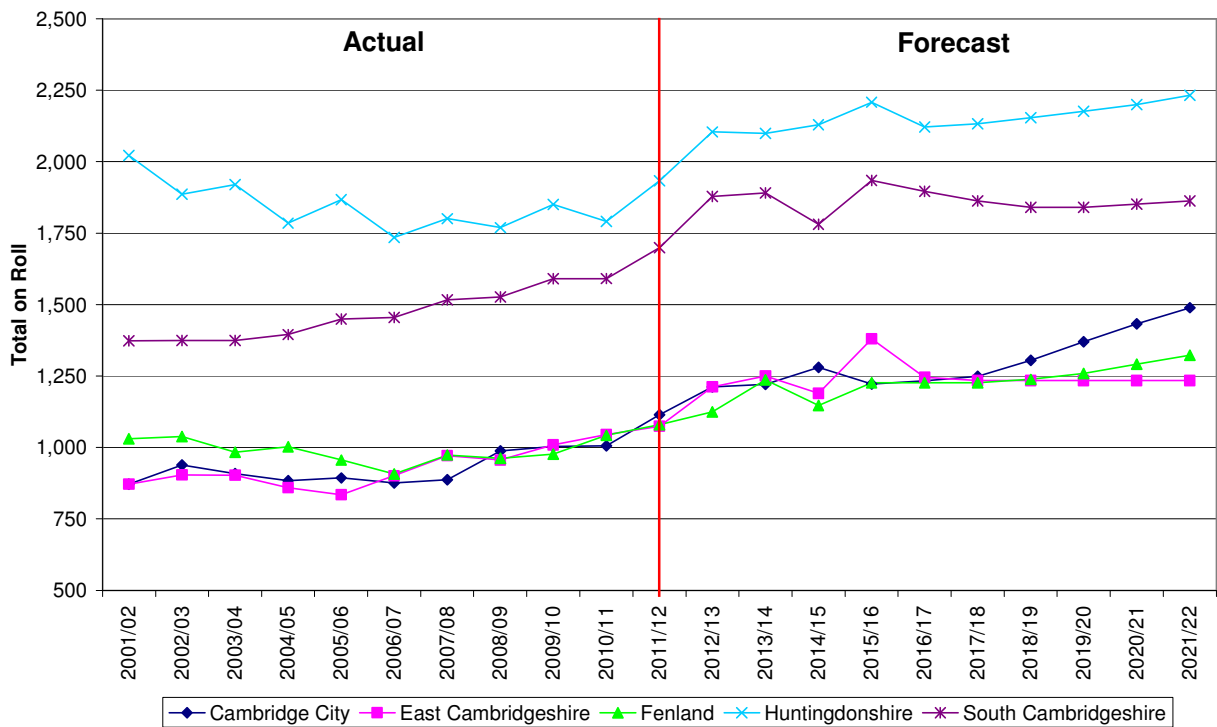
**Figure 2: Actual and forecast primary aged pupil numbers by District, 2001/02 to 2021/22**



**Figure 3: Actual and forecast reception numbers in Cambridgeshire, 2001/02 to 2021/22**



**Figure 4: Actual and forecast reception numbers by district, 2000/02 to 2021/22**



## 2. Secondary School Pupils

### 2.3. Background (from PLASC)

The January 2012 School Census shows that 97% of secondary aged pupils on roll at a Cambridgeshire school currently live in Cambridgeshire. Of those on roll, 1% are from Suffolk and 0.4% are from Peterborough. Linton Village College is popular with Suffolk Pupils (194), while Sawtry (98) is popular with pupils from Peterborough. Figures from January 2012 indicate that around 770 secondary aged pupils living in Cambridgeshire are on roll at a Peterborough school; the most popular schools being Stanground College (357), The King's School (206), Hampton College (74), and St John Fisher RC High School (45). Data from the DfE indicates that 180 Cambridgeshire children go to a secondary school in Norfolk, while around 140 go to a school in Central Bedfordshire and 60 to a school in Hertfordshire.

### 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. Between 2003/04 and 2009/10 secondary numbers were relatively stable. However, since 2009/10 numbers have been decreasing and the current total in Cambridgeshire at around 32,470 (30 lower than last year).

Cohort change between 2010/11 and 2011/12 led to a net gain of 2 pupils. The 12 to 13 year olds saw the greatest cohort change, losing 65 pupils, while the 13 to 14 year olds gained 64 pupils. South Cambridgeshire was the only district to lose pupils overall (67). Huntingdonshire saw the biggest gains at 36 additional pupils.

The forecasts presented here suggest that secondary numbers will remain broadly stable over the next three years before increasing from 2014/15 as larger primary cohorts age through. The increase is particularly rapid from 2015/16 onwards; between now and 2021/22 there is a 19% increase in numbers to around 38,580 pupils.

Figure 6 compares trends across Cambridgeshire's districts. In Fenland and Huntingdonshire, total secondary rolls are forecast to be 1% and 4% lower, respectively, than current numbers in five years' time, while in South Cambridgeshire they are about 11% higher. In ten years' time, however, total rolls are expected to be 30% higher in South Cambridgeshire, 28% higher in the City, and 6% higher in Huntingdonshire in comparison to current numbers.

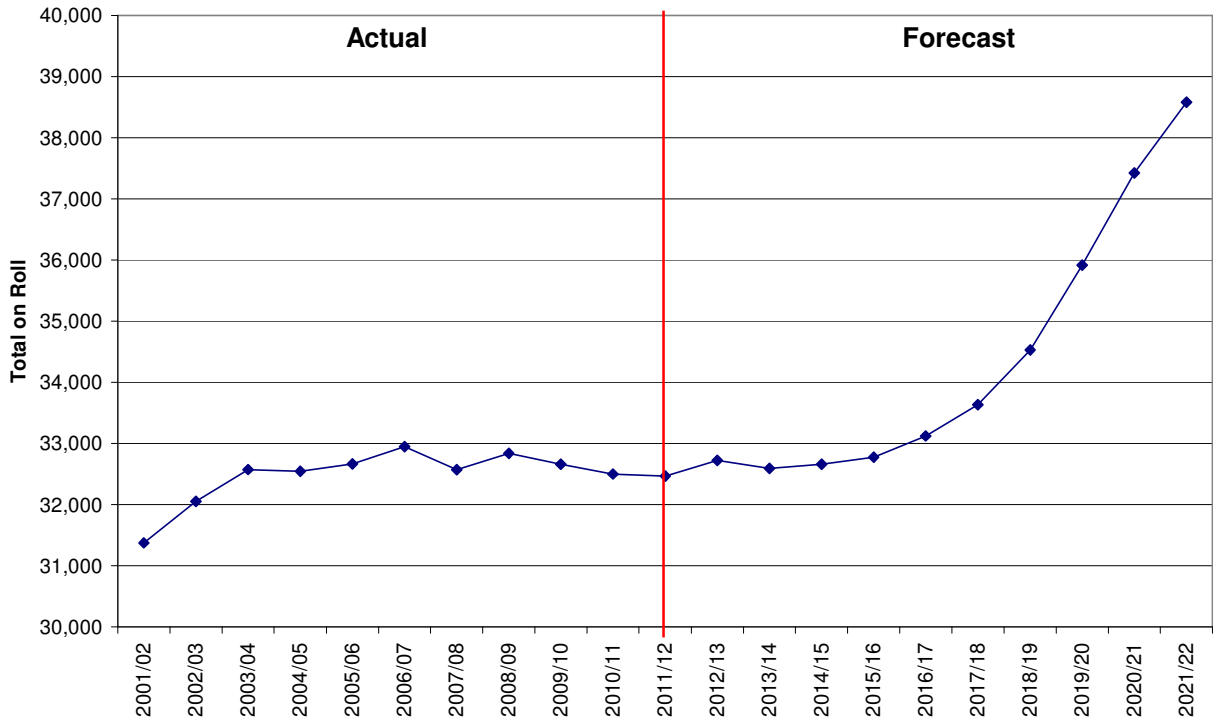
The sixth form forecasts assume that around 35% of 15 year olds will stay-on at local authority schools over the next ten years. This rate is lowest in South Cambridgeshire (20%, although this is higher than previous years due to the opening of new sixth forms) and highest in Huntingdonshire (58%) and Fenland (43%).

#### 2.4.2 Year 7 intake

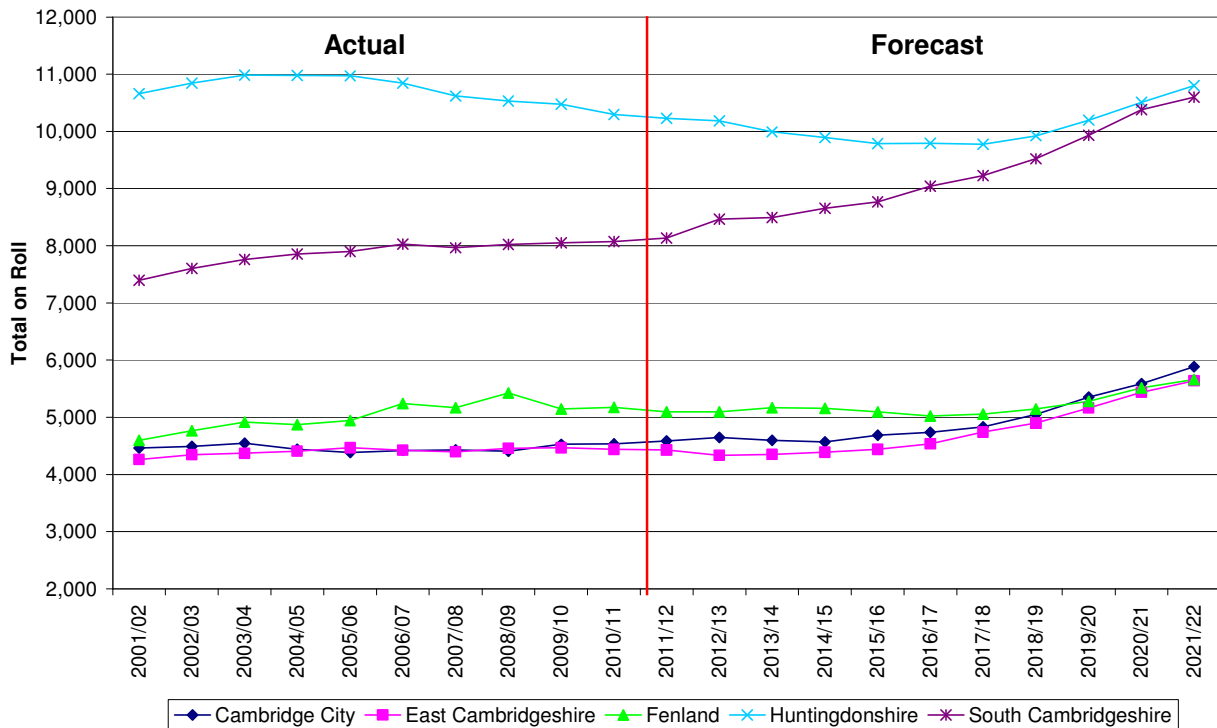
The number of 11 year olds (Figure 7) has been decreasing over the last 10 years, and is forecast to continue this way for the next two years. There are currently 5,700 11 year olds on roll in Cambridgeshire schools, which is down from last year (around 5,790).

Numbers of 11 year olds are expected to increase rapidly over the next 10 years to around 7,390 (representing a 27% increase). This increase is particularly marked in the City (37% increase), East Cambridgeshire (35% increase) and South Cambridgeshire (33% increase). This increase starts from 2014/15 and accelerates from 2017/18 onwards, reflecting larger cohorts coming through from primary school.

**Figure 5: Actual and forecast secondary aged pupil numbers in Cambridgeshire, 2001/02 to 2021/22**

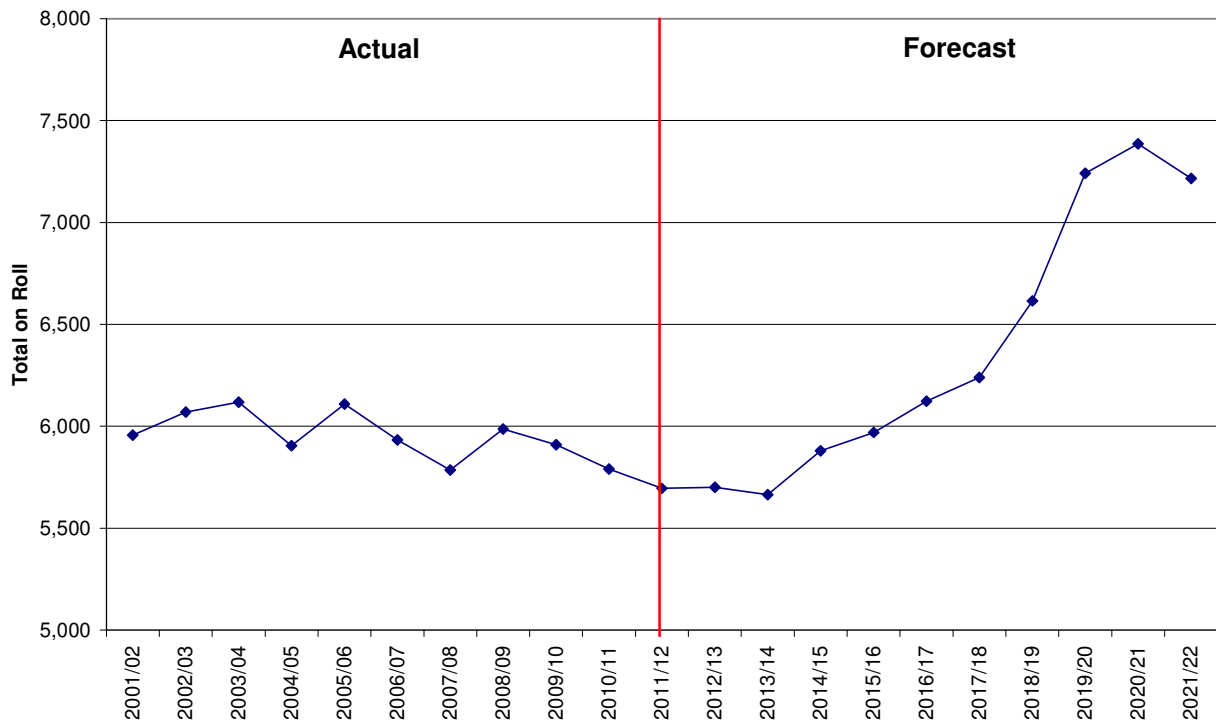


**Figure 6: Actual and forecast secondary aged pupils by district, 2001/02 to 2021/22**

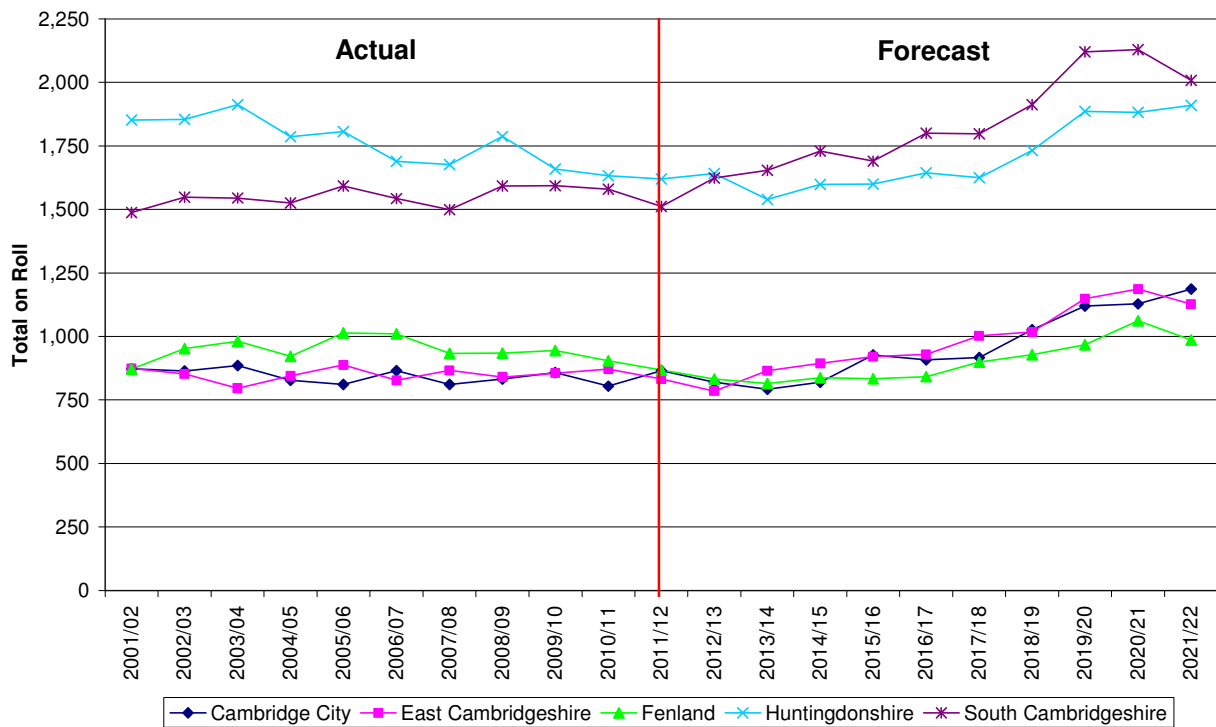




**Figure 7: Actual and forecast 11 year olds in Cambridgeshire, 2001/02 to 2021/22**



**Figure 8: Actual and forecast 11 year olds by district, 2001/02 to 2021/22**



## 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 2015/16 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 10 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 96%. The net loss of 4% 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 9 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 34%; higher due to the opening of new sixth forms. 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 58% 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. In South Cambridgeshire, staying on rates at 16 have increased from 7% to 20%.

### 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 86%, 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>							
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
2011/12	6,899	6,544	6,430	6,253	6,175	5,920	5,958	44,179
	<i>Forecast</i>							
2012/13	7,531	6,943	6,545	6,395	6,276	6,144	5,905	45,739
2013/14	7,695	7,575	6,944	6,510	6,418	6,242	6,129	47,513
2014/15	7,526	7,739	7,576	6,909	6,533	6,391	6,227	48,901
2015/16	7,971	7,570	7,740	7,541	6,932	6,519	6,376	50,649
2016/17	7,722	8,015	7,571	7,705	7,564	6,907	6,504	51,988
2017/18	7,704	7,766	8,016	7,536	7,728	7,550	6,892	53,192
2018/19	7,771	7,748	7,767	7,981	7,559	7,713	7,535	54,074
2019/20	7,878	7,815	7,749	7,732	8,004	7,541	7,695	54,414
2020/21	8,008	7,922	7,816	7,714	7,755	7,988	7,525	54,728
2021/22	8,139	8,052	7,923	7,781	7,737	7,739	7,972	55,343

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

School Year	Age:							11-15	16+	Secondary Total
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
	<i>Actual</i>									
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
2011/12	5,695	5,787	5,875	6,008	5,824	1,929	1,350	29,189	3,279	32,468
	<i>Forecast</i>									
2012/13	5,701	5,713	5,728	5,905	5,985	2,026	1,667	29,032	3,693	32,725
2013/14	5,664	5,719	5,654	5,758	5,882	2,172	1,744	28,677	3,916	32,593
2014/15	5,880	5,682	5,660	5,684	5,735	2,151	1,868	28,641	4,019	32,660
2015/16	5,970	5,898	5,623	5,690	5,661	2,085	1,846	28,842	3,931	32,773
2016/17	6,123	5,988	5,839	5,653	5,667	2,060	1,794	29,270	3,854	33,124
2017/18	6,239	6,141	5,929	5,869	5,630	2,057	1,769	29,808	3,826	33,634
2018/19	6,615	6,257	6,082	5,959	5,846	1,997	1,773	30,759	3,770	34,529
2019/20	7,242	6,633	6,198	6,112	5,936	2,070	1,728	32,121	3,798	35,919
2020/21	7,386	7,260	6,574	6,228	6,089	2,093	1,792	33,537	3,885	37,422
2021/22	7,216	7,404	7,201	6,604	6,205	2,142	1,807	34,630	3,949	38,579

### Appendix 3: Summary of actual and projected pupil numbers, January 2012 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>					
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
2011/12	44,179	29,189	3,279	32,468	76,647
<i>Forecast</i>					
2012/13	45,739	29,032	3,693	32,725	78,464
2013/14	47,513	28,677	3,916	32,593	80,106
2014/15	48,901	28,641	4,019	32,660	81,561
2015/16	50,649	28,842	3,931	32,773	83,422
2016/17	51,988	29,270	3,854	33,124	85,112
2017/18	53,192	29,808	3,826	33,634	86,826
2018/19	54,074	30,759	3,770	34,529	88,603
2019/20	54,414	32,121	3,798	35,919	90,333
2020/21	54,728	33,537	3,885	37,422	92,150
2021/22	55,343	34,630	3,949	38,579	93,922

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- Current Staff Consultations
- Data visualization
- Economy and The Labour Market
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- Housing
- Mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
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