

Cambridgeshire County Council

Annual pupil projections



September 2013

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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 2022/23 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 2012/13 are taken from the January 2013 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.

Please note that these forecasts do not include expected pupil numbers from major new developments such as those around the fringes of Cambridge, Northstowe, and Alconbury Weald.

1. Primary School Pupils

1.1. Background (from PLASC)

The January 2013 School Census shows that 98% of the 45,191 primary aged pupils on roll at a Cambridgeshire school currently live in the county, while 0.8% come from Suffolk, 0.6% from Norfolk, and 0.3% from Peterborough. Ditton Lodge, Castle Camps, 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 141 pupils from Peterborough, the most popular Cambridgeshire schools are Elton (41 pupils), Fourfields (27), Yaxley Infants and Junior (24), and Farcet (10).

Figures from the 2013 Peterborough PLASC suggest that around 120 primary aged pupils are living in Cambridgeshire and on roll at a Peterborough school; of which the most popular are Orton Wistow, Oakdale and Southfields. Data from the DfE also indicates that the number of Cambridgeshire pupils going to a maintained school in Suffolk is up this year at around 130 (compared to 120 last year). Around 80 pupils go to a maintained school in Hertfordshire, and 70 go to a school in 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 45,000 in 2012/13. There were around 43,340 primary pupils the same time last year.
- Overall, cohort change between 2011/12 and 2012/13 resulted in a loss of 323 children. This is attributable, in part, to the closure of the barracks at Waterbeach and Bassingbourn.
- 4 to 5 year olds gained 3 pupils; the only cohort to see a gain. Significant losses were seen to the 5 to 6 (66 pupils), 6 to 7 (110) and 8 to 9 cohorts (82), possibly reflecting the transfer of children to independent schools alongside the effects of the aforementioned barracks closure.
- All districts saw a loss of pupils overall. Losses were lowest in Fenland (23 pupils) and highest in South Cambridgeshire (147). Huntingdonshire lost 37 pupils, Cambridge City lost 54 pupils and East Cambridgeshire lost 62 pupils.
- The forecasts given here suggest an increase in total primary aged pupils over the next 10 years by 20% in Cambridgeshire, to around 54,000 pupils in 2022/23, which is lower than previously forecast.
- Cohort change is forecast to result in a loss of 135 pupils per year as year groups' move through the schools. While the 4 to 5 year olds gain 43 pupils, all other cohorts are forecast to lose pupils. Significant losses are forecast to continue in the 6 to 7 (53 pupils) and 8 to 9 cohorts (85 pupils).

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 13% higher than current numbers in the authority as a whole, compared to 21% higher in Cambridge City and 13% higher in Huntingdonshire. Primary rolls are currently forecast to be 3% higher in South Cambridgeshire in five years' time due to the effects of the barracks closures. In ten years' time, City numbers are forecast to be 36% higher than present, followed by 25% higher in Fenland resulting from forecast increase in births. Growth in total primary numbers at the LA level is forecast to slow after 2017/18.

Figure 1: Actual and forecast primary aged pupil numbers in Cambridgeshire, 2002/03 to 2022/23

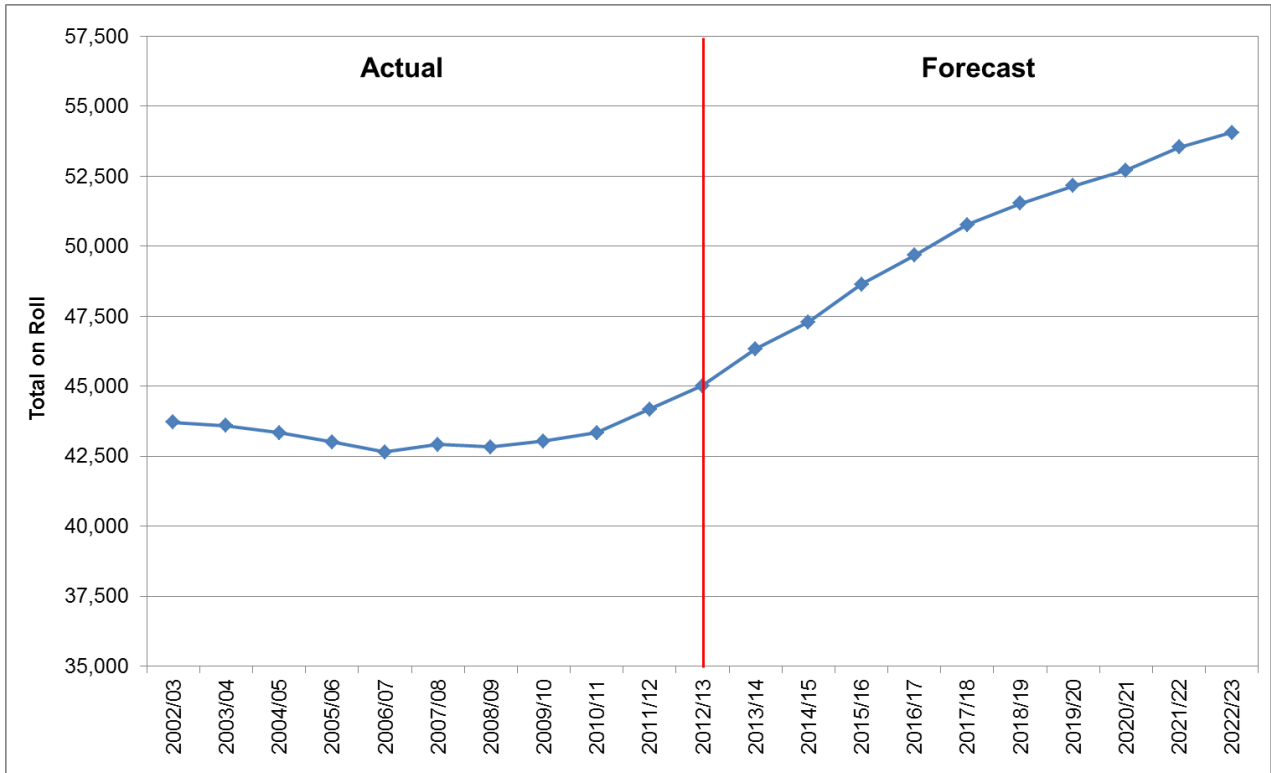
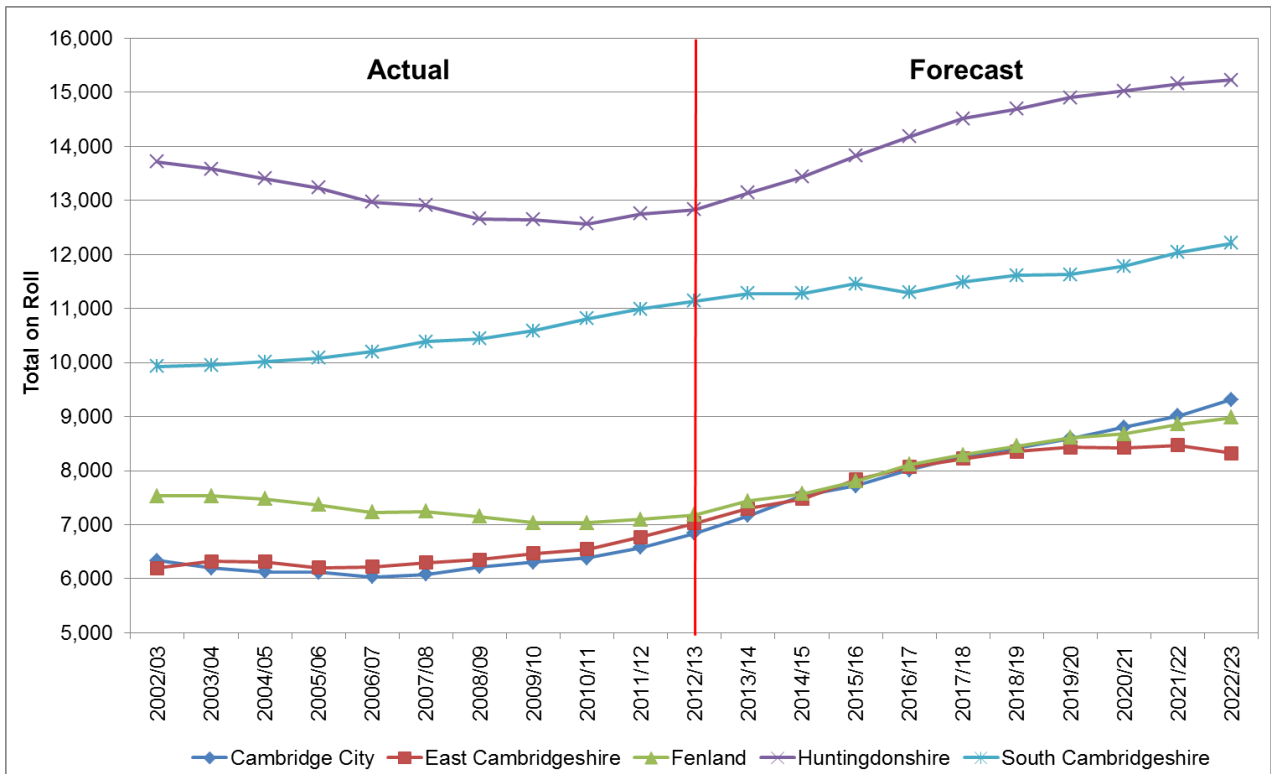


Figure 2: Actual and forecast primary aged pupil numbers by district, 2002/03 to 2022/23



1.2.2 Reception pupils

- This year's primary reception year-group of around 7,100 is the highest since at least the early 1990s; given current NHS registrations, reception year-groups are forecast to continue increasing with some fluctuations (Figure 3), reflecting increases in birth rates, linked to house-building.
- For the LA as a whole, the number of reception age pupils is forecast to be around 7% higher in five years' time than current numbers, while in the Fenland numbers are forecast to be 11% higher. Cambridge City is the only district forecast to see smaller growth in the next five years (5%) than between 2017/18 and 2022/23 (29%); it is the reverse for all other districts.
- Figures 3 and 4 below show a fall in reception intake in 2016/17. We believe that part of the reason for this is because of changes to the way that the NHS records births. Children are now only registered to the area responsible for the GP practice not the area of residence. Hence, we may miss some children living in the county but registered with a GP outside the county. We are in contact with the data providers to try to obtain records for all children living in the county.

Figure 3: Actual and forecast reception numbers in Cambridgeshire, 2002/03 to 2022/23

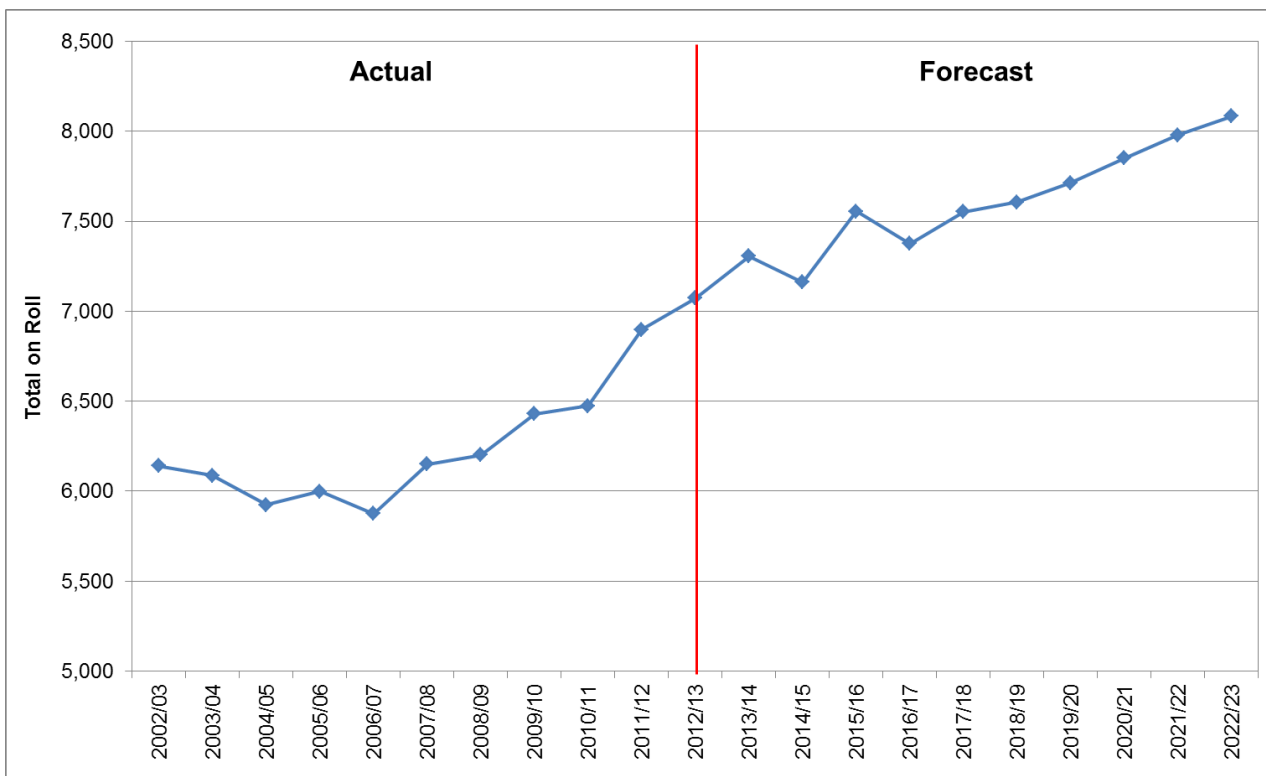
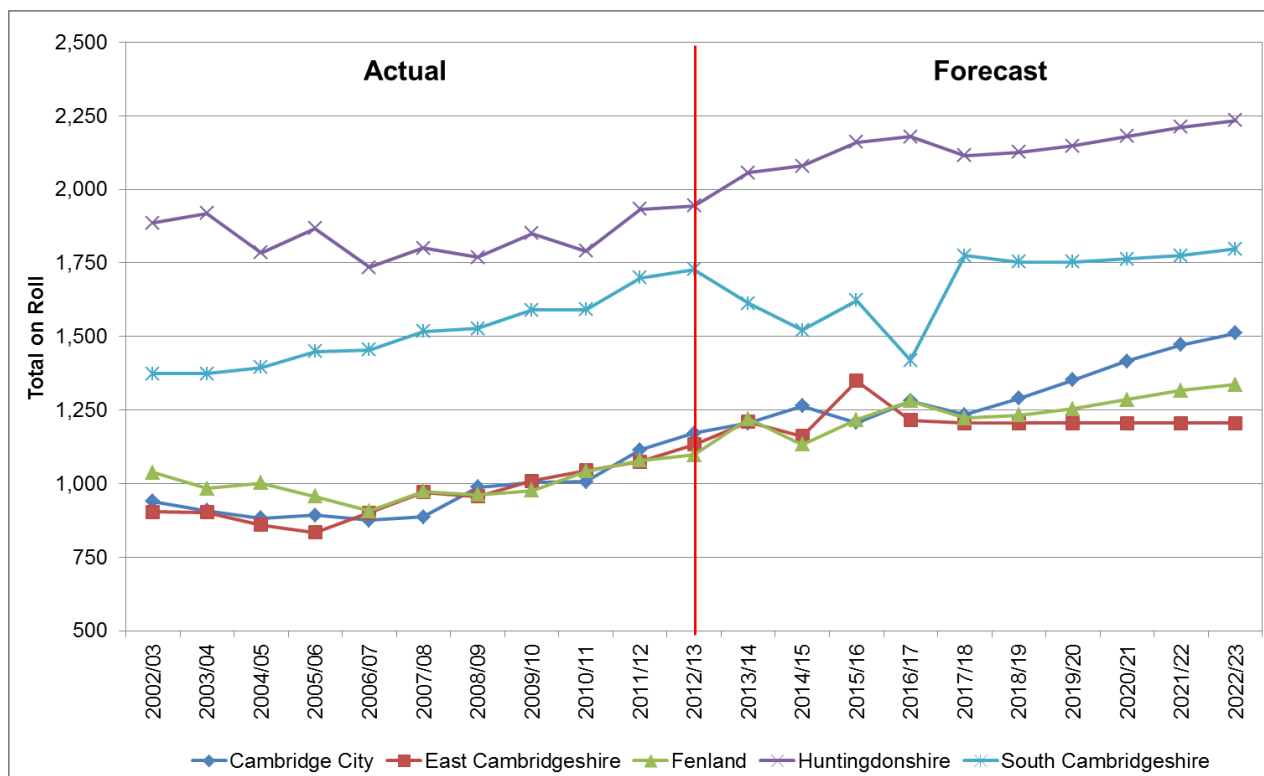


Figure 4: Actual and forecast reception numbers by district, 2002/03 to 2022/23



2. Secondary School Pupils

2.3. Background (from PLASC)

The January 2013 School Census shows that 97% of the 32,315 secondary aged pupils on roll at a Cambridgeshire school currently live in Cambridgeshire. Of those on roll, 1% are from Suffolk, 0.5% are from Hertfordshire, and 0.4% are from Peterborough. Linton Village College is popular with Suffolk pupils (191), while Sawtry (73) is popular with pupils from Peterborough. Figures from January 2013 indicate that around 750 secondary aged pupils living in Cambridgeshire are on roll at a Peterborough school; the most popular schools being Stanground College (336), The King's School (209), and Hampton College (53). Data from the DfE indicates that 221 (higher than last year at 180) Cambridgeshire children go to a secondary school in Norfolk, while around 140 go to school in Central Bedfordshire and 64 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 forecast to continue doing so in 2013/14. The current total secondary roll in Cambridgeshire is around 32,320 (150 lower than last year).

Cohort change between 2011/12 and 2012/13 led to a net loss of 83 pupils. The 12 to 13 year olds and 14 to 15 year olds saw the greatest cohort change, losing 38 and 45 pupils respectively, while the 13 to 14 year olds gained 10 pupils. East Cambridgeshire was the only district to gain pupils overall (5), all others lost. The greatest losses were seen in South Cambridgeshire at a loss of 40 pupils. Fenland lost 28 pupils, while Huntingdonshire lost 20 and Cambridge City lost three.

The forecasts presented here suggest that secondary numbers will decrease again next year, before starting to increase again as larger primary cohorts' age through. The increase is particularly rapid from 2016/17 onwards; between now and 2022/23 there is a 17% increase in numbers to around 37,680 pupils. This is lower than previously forecast due to the implications of the barracks closures.

Figure 6 compares trends across Cambridgeshire's districts. In Huntingdonshire, total secondary rolls are forecast to be 5% lower than current numbers in five years' time, while in Fenland little change is forecast. In East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire they are forecast to be 9% and 8% higher. In ten years' time, however, total rolls are expected to be higher in all districts by 32% in City, 16% in Huntingdonshire, 17% in South Cambridgeshire, 14% in East Cambridgeshire and 6% in Fenland.

The sixth form forecasts assume that around 34% of 15 year olds will stay-on at local authority schools over the next ten years. This rate is lowest in East Cambridgeshire (14%) and highest in Huntingdonshire (56%). Staying-on rates have been increasing in South Cambridgeshire, following the opening of new sixth forms, and are currently 25%, while in City and Fenland they are 30% and 32% respectively.

2.4.2 Year 7 intake

The number of 11 year olds on roll in Cambridgeshire schools (Figure 7) has been decreasing over the last 10 years; there are currently 5,600 11 year olds on roll compared to around 5,700 last year. This is the lowest recorded secondary intake since 1997/98.

Numbers of 11 year olds are expected to increase rapidly over the next 10 years to around 7,080 (representing a 26% increase). This increase is particularly marked in East Cambridgeshire (64% increase from 767 to 1,256), followed by City (37% increase). The rate of increase forecast in South Cambridgeshire has dropped following the closure of the barracks to 13% with forecast numbers of 11 year olds around 300

lower than forecast last year. 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, 2002/03 to 2022/23

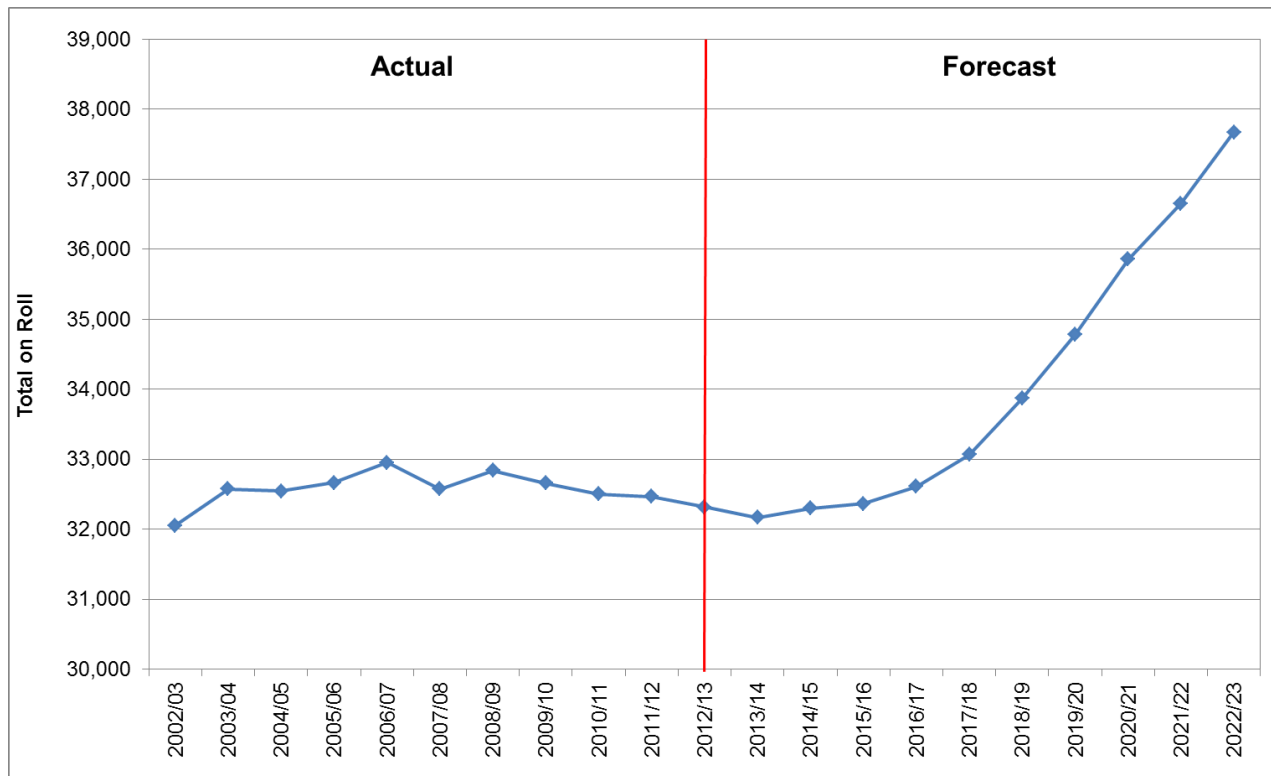


Figure 6: Actual and forecast secondary aged pupils by district, 2002/03 to 2022/23

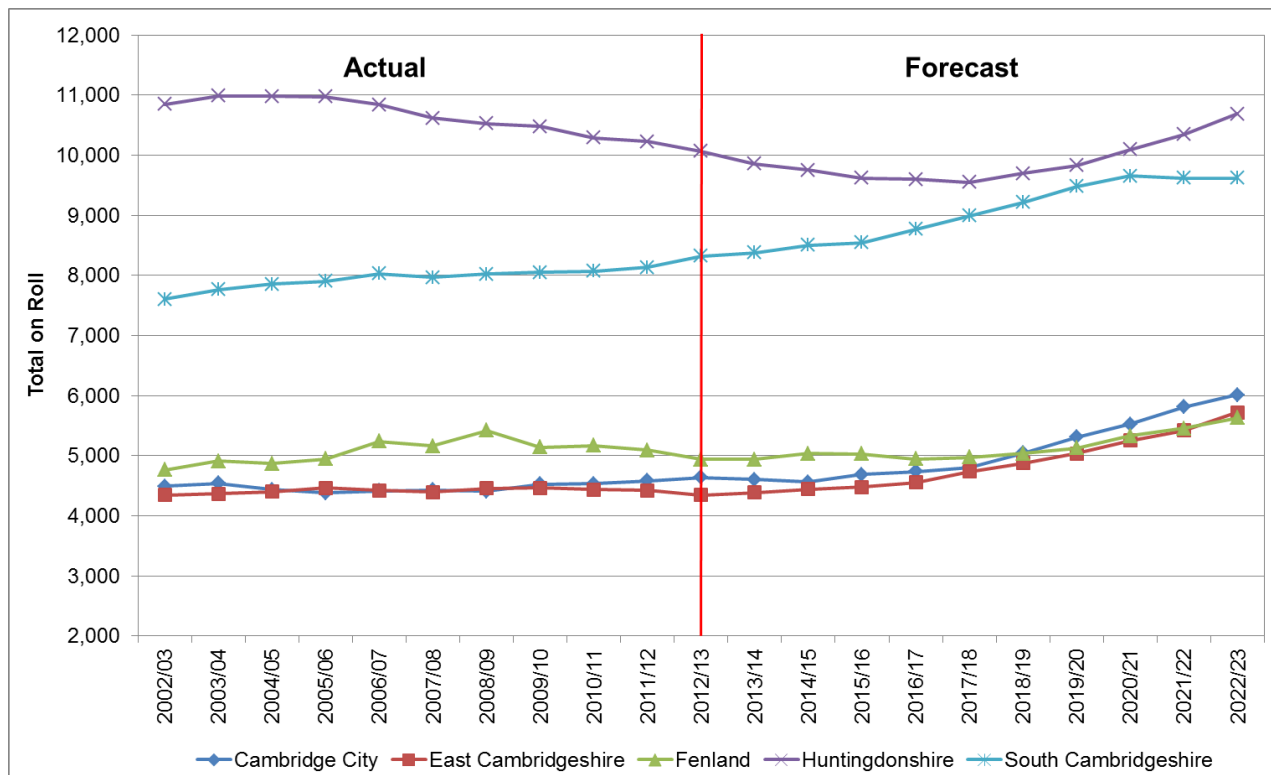


Figure 7: Actual and forecast 11 year olds in Cambridgeshire, 2002/03 to 2022/23

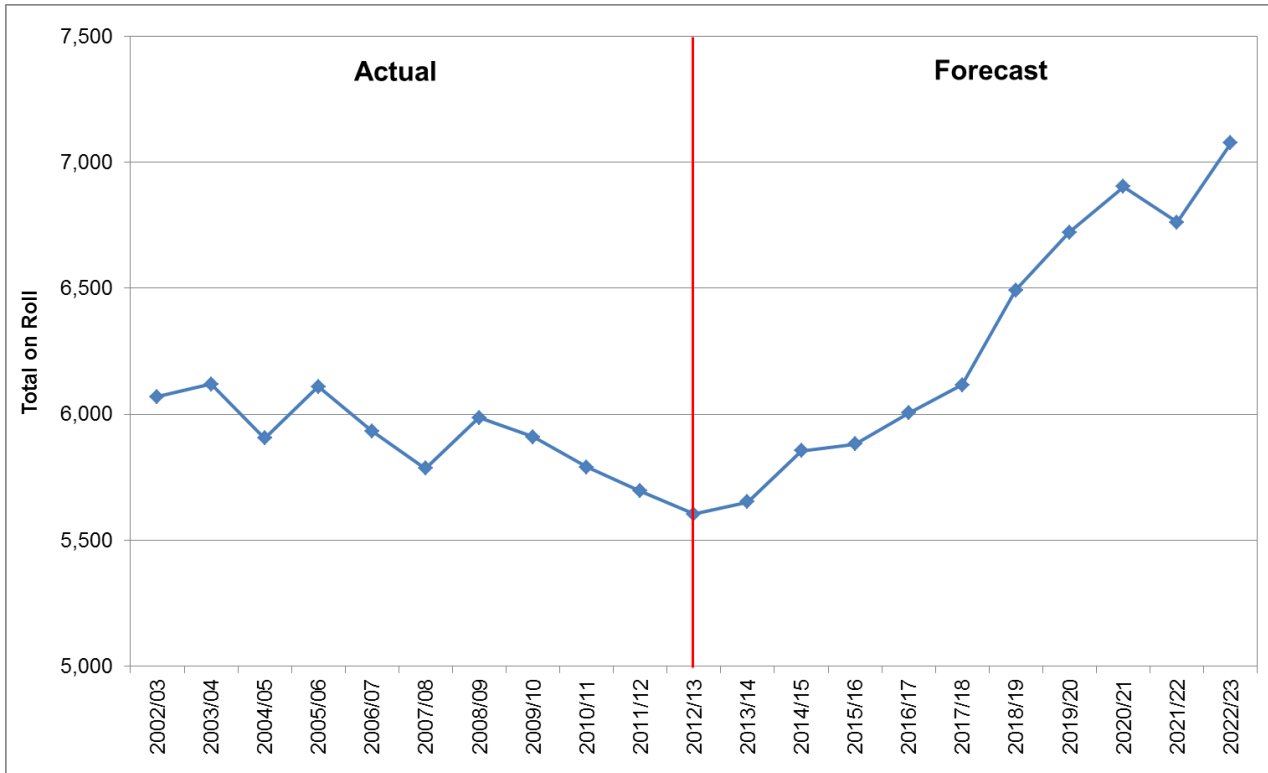
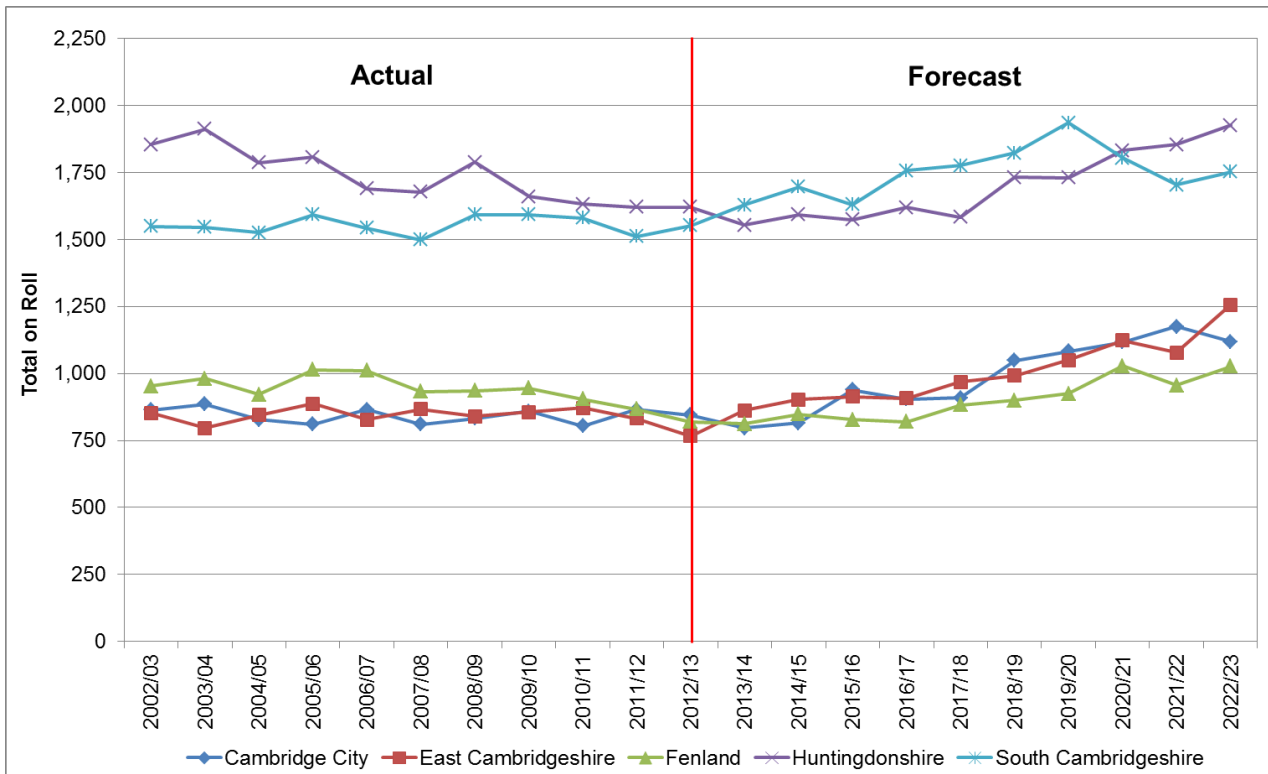


Figure 8: Actual and forecast 11 year olds by district, 2002/03 to 2022/23



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 102%. Intakes for 2016/17 onward are based on projected numbers of births in the Research and Performance Team'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 22 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 10 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 56% this year.

Staying-on rates have been increasing in all districts. Staying-on rates in City have been increasing steadily by two to three percentage points since 2007/08. However, following the opening of a new sixth form at Parkside (and Coleridge) in September 2011, staying on rates in City increased from 18% in 2010/11 to 28% in 2011/12. The opening of sixth forms at Comberton and Cottenham in September 2011 saw staying-on rates increase in South Cambridgeshire from 7% in 2010/11 to 20% in 2011/12 and to 25% in 2012/13.

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 75%, 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>							
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
2012/13	7,073	6,902	6,478	6,320	6,209	6,136	5,899	45,017
	<i>Forecast</i>							
2013/14	7,305	7,116	6,889	6,425	6,318	6,165	6,111	46,329
2014/15	7,161	7,348	7,103	6,836	6,423	6,281	6,140	47,292
2015/16	7,556	7,204	7,335	7,050	6,834	6,400	6,256	48,635
2016/17	7,376	7,599	7,191	7,282	7,048	6,797	6,375	49,668
2017/18	7,552	7,419	7,586	7,138	7,280	7,025	6,772	50,772
2018/19	7,607	7,595	7,406	7,533	7,136	7,255	7,000	51,532
2019/20	7,713	7,650	7,582	7,353	7,531	7,108	7,227	52,164
2020/21	7,851	7,756	7,637	7,529	7,351	7,506	7,082	52,711
2021/22	7,980	7,894	7,743	7,584	7,527	7,325	7,479	53,532
2022/23	8,085	8,023	7,881	7,690	7,582	7,500	7,298	54,059

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>									
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
2012/13	5,604	5,682	5,749	5,885	5,963	1,991	1,441	28,883	3,432	32,315
	<i>Forecast</i>									
2013/14	5,651	5,609	5,625	5,777	5,870	2,049	1,485	28,532	3,534	32,066
2014/15	5,855	5,656	5,552	5,653	5,762	1,998	1,529	28,478	3,527	32,005
2015/16	5,881	5,860	5,599	5,580	5,638	1,952	1,489	28,558	3,441	31,999
2016/17	6,005	5,886	5,803	5,627	5,565	1,916	1,456	28,886	3,372	32,258
2017/18	6,116	6,010	5,829	5,831	5,612	1,906	1,427	29,398	3,333	32,731
2018/19	6,492	6,121	5,953	5,857	5,816	1,883	1,421	30,239	3,304	33,543
2019/20	6,721	6,497	6,064	5,981	5,842	1,945	1,403	31,105	3,348	34,453
2020/21	6,903	6,726	6,440	6,092	5,966	1,948	1,450	32,127	3,398	35,525
2021/22	6,762	6,908	6,669	6,468	6,077	1,993	1,450	32,884	3,443	36,327
2022/23	7,077	6,767	6,851	6,697	6,453	2,007	1,483	33,845	3,490	37,335

Appendix 3: Summary of actual and projected pupil numbers, January 2013 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>					
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
2012/13	45,017	28,883	3,432	32,315	77,332
<i>Forecast</i>					
2013/14	46,329	28,532	3,534	32,066	78,395
2014/15	47,292	28,478	3,527	32,005	79,297
2015/16	48,635	28,558	3,441	31,999	80,634
2016/17	49,668	28,886	3,372	32,258	81,926
2017/18	50,772	29,398	3,333	32,731	83,503
2018/19	51,532	30,239	3,304	33,543	85,075
2019/20	52,164	31,105	3,348	34,453	86,617
2020/21	52,711	32,127	3,398	35,525	88,236
2021/22	53,532	32,884	3,443	36,327	89,859
2022/23	54,059	33,845	3,490	37,335	91,394

About the Cambridgeshire County Council Research and Performance Team

The Research and Performance Team is the central research and information section of Cambridgeshire County Council. We use a variety of information about the people and economy of Cambridgeshire to help plan services for the county. The Research and Performance Team also supports a range of other partner agencies and partnerships.

Subjects covered by the Research and Performance Team include:

- Consultations and Surveys
- Crime and Community Safety
- Current Staff Consultations
- Data visualization
- Economy and The Labour Market
- Health
- Housing
- Mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Population
- Pupil Forecasting

For more details please see our website:

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