

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee	The Cabinet
Date of Committee	21st July 2005
Report Title	Change to the Indicated Admission Number of Whitestone Infant School
Summary	Cabinet is asked to approve formal consultation with stakeholders on proposals to reduce the Indicated Admission Number of Whitestone Infant School in Nuneaton.
For further information please contact:	Phil Astle Education Officer (School Organisation) Tel: 01926 412820 philastle@warwickshire.gov.uk
Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision]	No
Background papers	Cabinet reports 26.6.03 and 17.7.04

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

Other Committees	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Member(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cllr John Ross – Bulkington
Other Elected Members	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cabinet Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cllr John Burton
Chief Executive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jane Pollard / Richard Freeth – “fine”
Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Clarke, County Treasurer – “fine”

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Other Chief Officers | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| District Councils | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Health Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Police | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Other Bodies/Individuals | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

FINAL DECISION

NO

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| Further consideration by this Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| To Council | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| To Cabinet | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| To an O & S Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| To an Area Committee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee |
| Further Consultation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | School Admissions Forum, Diocesan Authorities, other local Admission Authorities |

The Cabinet – 21st July 2005

Change to the Indicated Admission Number of Whitestone Infant School

Report of the County Education Officer

Recommendation:

That Cabinet authorise the County Education Officer to consult stakeholders on proposals to reduce the Indicated Admission Number of Whitestone Infant School from 120 pupils per year to 90 pupils per year from September 2007 admissions.

1. Background

- 1.1 In 2002 the DfES amended its guidance on the measurement of school capacities and this resulted in all Warwickshire primary and secondary schools being re-measured according to a new 'net capacity' formula. In addition to changing the assessment of school capacity methodology, the changes impacted on admission numbers and the regulations for adjusting the number of pupils schools could be required to admit. The new school capacities and resultant Indicated Admission Numbers (IANs) and Planned Admission Numbers (PANs) came into effect from September 2004.

The physical capacity assessments indicate the number of children each school could be expected to admit (Indicated Admission Number). Admission Authorities are required to take the IAN into account when publishing the admission limit for a school. The number to be published is the Planned Admission Number (PAN).

- 1.2 Although the DfES originally stated that it would expect Admission Authorities to re-assess the capacity of schools on a regular basis, the latest advice is that any significant changes in school capacities and therefore IANs should be updated as part of the annual admission cycle.
- 1.3 When Cabinet considered the new Net Capacities of schools and the resultant IANs in July and August 2003, Members wished to ensure that local schools were consulted where a change in school capacity resulted in a change in the Admission Number which might impact on a neighbouring school. The DfES

also requires that significant changes resulting in an increase in one school of more than 26 places per year is the subject of formal consultation and statutory notices.

- 1.4 A brief summary of the Net Capacity Regulations and the way it impacts on school admissions limits is attached as **Appendix A** to this report along with a paper on 'frequently asked questions'.

2. Whitestone Infant School

- 2.1 The Governing Body of Whitestone Infant School has asked to reduce its IAN from 120 to 90 pupils per year with effect from September 2007 admissions. The school's actual intake of pupils falls well below its published admission number and this together with Infant Class Size Regulations, requiring that no infant class may exceed 30 pupils, is presenting severe organisational and financial problems. The table below sets out the current year groups and class organisation at the school as at July 2005:

Numbers on roll and class organisation

	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Total
Numbers on roll:	100	118	113	331
Organised in classes of:	33, 33, 34 (3.6 teachers)	30, 30, 30, 28	29, 27, 29, 28	

Current Net Capacity	360
Proposed Net Capacity	270
Current Planned Admission Number	120
Proposed Planned Admission Number	90

- 2.2 It is considered that a reduction in the pupil intake at Whitestone Infant School would have a positive effect on pupil numbers in neighbouring schools which have surplus places, and that there would be sufficient school places to meet forecast numbers. Forecast pupil numbers up to September 2009 suggest that pupil numbers will continue at the current level. The reduced demand for classrooms at the school and the proposed use of existing rooms would allow a reduction in the school capacity to be considered under the Net Capacity Regulations. It is proposed that the Education Department enter into formal consultation with local schools concerning this request from the Governing Body of Whitestone Infant School.
- 2.3 If this way forward is agreed, the views of all local schools, neighbouring LEAs, Diocesan Authorities, the Nuneaton & Bedworth Area Committee and the School Admissions Forum will be sought and the results of that consultation will be reported to Cabinet.

3. Summary

Members are asked to approve formal consultations with stakeholders to consider a reduction in the Indicated Admission Number of Whitestone Infant School.

ERIC WOOD
County Education Officer

22 Northgate Street
Warwick

7th July 2005

Amendments to the Net Capacity and Planned Admission Numbers of Schools

The physical capacity of schools is measured according to the Department for Education and Skill's Net Capacity Regulations. The only schools to which these regulations do not apply to are maintained special schools, nursery schools and units, and pupil reintegration units.

Admission Authorities can only set a Planned Admission Number (PAN) below the Indicated Admission Number if the Admission Authority publishes its reasons for doing so in the local press.

Foundation and Aided schools must consult other Admission Authorities about the Planned Admission Number they intend to publish, including situations where the proposed PAN would be higher than the Indicated Admission Number. This can be done through the annual admissions cycle consultations.

The Local Education Authority is the final arbiter in relation to the technical calculation of the net capacity of all schools. The LEA also determines the Planned Admission Number (PAN) for all Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, though if the LEA and a school were unable to agree a PAN, the school could take the matter to the Adjudicator. In the case of Voluntary Aided and Foundation schools, the Governing Body is required to consult with the Local Education Authority before setting the PAN and if the LEA and a school were unable to agree a PAN the LEA could take the matter to the Adjudicator.

An increase in the number of pupils which it is intended to admit by 27 or more pupils requires the publication of statutory proposals by the LEA in the case of a Community school and by the governing body in other cases.

School capacities only need to be updated if physical changes are made to the usable space, such as:

- Space being removed or more space being added.
- Several small spaces being converted into one larger one.
- Changes being made that affect the type of teaching spaces in secondary schools.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do the new capacities link to admission limits?

The new physical capacity assessments indicate the number of children each school could be expected to admit (Indicated Admission Number). The Indicated Admission Number replaces the Standard Number of the school as the guide to the minimum admission limit that can be set.

Admission Authorities are required to take the Indicated Admission Number into account when publishing the admission limit for a school. The number to be published is called a Planned Admission Number (PAN).

Can a Planned Admission Number (PAN) be set below the Indicated Admission Number (i.e. below the number indicated by the capacity of the school)?

Admission Authorities will only be able to set a Planned Admission Number (PAN) below the Indicated Admission Number if the Admission Authority publishes its reasons for doing so in the local press.

Can a PAN be set above the Indicated Admission Number?

Admission Authorities may set a PAN higher than the Indicated Admission Number following consultation.