

- Legal Jane Pollard / Richard Freeth
- Finance David Clarke, County Treasurer
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION **NO**

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet 2nd February 2006
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee Rugby Area Committee 11 January 2006
- Further Consultation

The Cabinet – 6th October 2005

Rokeby Primary Schools

Report of the County Education Officer

Recommendation:

That the County Education Officer be authorised to conduct formal consultations with relevant stakeholders concerning a proposal to:

- a) close Rokeby Infant School and Rokeby Junior School.
- b) establish a new primary school for children aged 4 -11 years on the site of the existing junior school.

1. Background

- 1.1 Warwickshire's School Organisation Plan supports the amalgamation of separate infant and junior schools on educational grounds. All through primary schools generally add value to school achievement because of the continuity and progression they provide for pupils and the greater economies of scale and access to specialised teaching that can be achieved. It is also acknowledged that there are circumstances in which separate infant and junior schools are more appropriate e.g. when it would mean that the school would be too large.
- 1.2 Rokeby Infant School and Rokeby Junior Schools are Community schools which share a site on the South West of Rugby. A map showing the location of the school is attached.
- 1.3 Rokeby Infant School has an admission number of 60 and a physical capacity of 180 pupils. At the start of the Autumn Term in September 2005 the School had a total of 139 pupils on roll. This means that the School has some 22.8% surplus places.
- 1.4 Pupil numbers at the Infant school have fallen by approx 9% over the last three years and forecast pupil numbers for the Rokeby area indicate that over the next four years pupil numbers may be expected to fall by a further 27%.
- 1.5 The Nursery Class at the Infant School is a 31 place unit (31 part-time places in the morning and 31 in the afternoon). In January 2005 there were 41 nursery children attending part-time split between the morning and afternoon sessions.

- 1.6 Rokeby Junior School serves pupils from the ages of 8 to 11 years, has an admission number of 60 and a physical capacity of 240 pupils. At the start of the Autumn Term in September 2005 the School had a total of 166 pupils on roll giving 30.8% surplus places. Forecast pupil numbers indicate a further slight fall to 159 pupils by September 2009.
- 1.7 Total pupil numbers at the two schools are forecast to fall from 377 in January 2002 to 260 by September 2009.
- 1.8 A detailed breakdown of pupil numbers is set out in **Appendix A**.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 The proposal is to amalgamate Rokeby Infant School and Rokeby Junior School to form a new primary school, with nursery provision, on the current site. It is proposed that the school would provide for a one form of entry (30 pupil places per year) rather than the current capacity of 2 forms of entry (60 pupils per year) which would dramatically reduce the number of surplus places. The existing nursery unit would continue but with 26 places per year instead of 31 places in order to reflect required staffing ratios and the forecast demand for places. The new school would be based on the existing junior school buildings and surplus land would be sold and the proceeds re-invested in the refurbishment of that building.
- 2.2 The Governing bodies of Rokeby Infant School and Rokeby Junior School have indicated that they would support a formal consultation to explore the proposal.
- 2.3 It is anticipated that, if approved, the earliest date an amalgamated school could be established would be September 2007.

3. Funding

- 3.1 It is proposed that resources to finance the necessary re-modelling of the retained buildings and any necessary refurbishments would be a first call on the receipts from the sale of the surplus buildings and land. However, it will be necessary to complete the proposed building works before the sale of surplus land can be achieved. In order to facilitate the disposals and achieve the income, it is proposed that this project is prioritised within the overall management of the education capital programme to maximise capacity from slippage and underspends elsewhere to avoid or minimise any cash flow shortfall.

4. Statutory Implications

- 4.1 Technically, the proposals involve the closure of the two schools and the creation of a single primary school for children aged 4 –11 years (both of which are statutory processes).

- 4.2 Prior to statutory consultations it will be necessary to consult key stakeholders including staff, existing parents and the parents of prospective pupils, governors of the School, Diocesan Authorities schools, other local admission authorities, neighbouring Local Education Authorities and the Rugby Area committee.
- 4.3 The outcome of formal consultations would be reported back to Cabinet for its consideration.

5. Planned Timescale

- 5.1 The key milestones, subject to responses at each stage, is as follows:.
- Consultation on proposals: 31 October – 12 December 2005
 - Rugby Area Committee: 11 January 2006
 - Report to Cabinet: 2 February 2006
 - Publication of Statutory Notices: End of objection period: 30 March 2006
 - School Organisation Committee (if necessary): June 2006
 - Implementation of proposals: September 2007

6. Summary

- 6.1 The report sets out the reasons for formally consulting on a proposal to amalgamate Rokeby Infant School and Rokeby Junior School to form a single 'through' primary school with nursery unit from September 2007. The outcome of the formal consultation would be reported to Cabinet for its consideration in due course.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 That the County Education Officer be authorised to conduct formal consultations with relevant stakeholders concerning a proposal to:
- a) close Rokeby Infant School and Rokeby Junior School.
 - b) establish a new primary school for children aged 4-11 years with a nursery unit based in the existing junior school buildings.

ERIC WOOD
County Education Officer

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Warwick

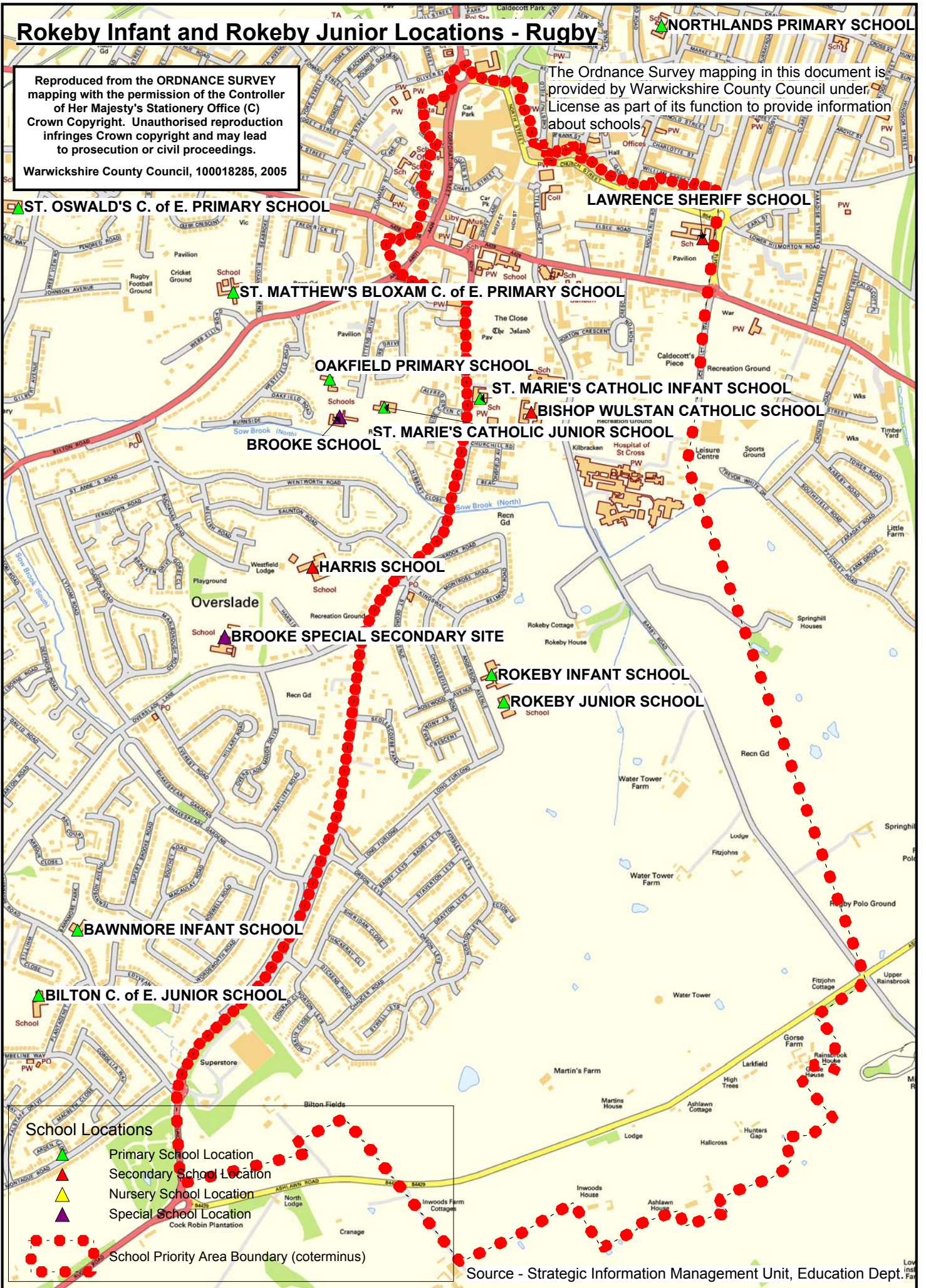
22 September 2005

Rokeby Infant and Rokeby Junior Locations - Rugby

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Warwickshire County Council, 100018285, 2005

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School Locations

- ▲ Primary School Location
- ▲ Secondary School Location
- ▲ Nursery School Location
- ▲ Special School Location

● School Priority Area Boundary (coterminus)

Source - Strategic Information Management Unit, Education Dept.

Appendix A

Table 1. Actual and Forecast numbers on roll Rokeby Infant School and Rokeby Junior School

School	Admission Number	Year Group	ACTUALS					FORECAST			
			JAN2002	JAN2003	JAN2004	JAN2005	SEP2005	FCAST 2006	FCAST 2007	FCAST 2008	FCAST 2009
Rokeby Infant School	60	Rec	54	28	46	46	43	26	36	33	32
		1	44	58	29	47	47	43	26	36	33
		2	55	40	57	28	49	47	43	26	36
Total			153	126	132	121	139	116	105	95	101
Rokeby Junior School	60	3	61	56	39	55	34	46	45	41	27
		4	44	65	57	37	51	34	46	45	41
		5	59	44	66	49	35	51	34	46	45
		6	60	63	46	68	46	35	51	34	46
Total			224	228	208	209	166	166	176	166	159
TOTAL (Infant + Junior)			377	354	340	330	305	282	281	261	260