

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee **The Cabinet**

Date of Committee **12th January 2006**

Report Title **Changes to Indicated Admission Numbers**

Summary This paper informs Cabinet about current Admission Numbers in three schools and seeks authorisation for formal consultation to change those numbers.

For further information please contact: Phil Astle
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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision] No

Background papers

- School Organisation Framework Document 2005/10
- Stratford Area Committee report 21.9.05 (Provision of school places – Stratford-upon-Avon town)

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s) Cllr Jill Dill-Russell – Stratford Avenue & New Town
Cllr Bryan Levy – Lawford & New Bilton
Cllr Richard Grant – Hartshill
- Other Elected Members O&S Spokespersons for information:
Cllr Helen McCarthy – *“these seem sensible alterations to the admission numbers and can be explained and defended”*
Cllr Richard Grant – *“agree to consult”*
Cllr Jill Dill-Russell – *“no comment”*

- Cabinet Member Cllr John Burton – “noted”
- Other Cabinet Members consulted Cllr Izzi Seccombe – “approved for Cabinet”
Cllr Peter Fowler
- Chief Executive
- Legal Jane Pollard / Richard Freeth – “no comment”
- Finance David Clarke, Strategic Director of Resources –
“no comment”
- 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
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee Subject to Cabinet’s recommendation, Stratford Area Committee re Thomas Jolyffe Primary School (15.3.06), Rugby Area Committee re Oakfield Primary School (8.3.06), and North Warwickshire Area Committee re Nathaniel Newton Infant School (22.3.06)
- Further Consultation Subject to Cabinet’s recommendation, the School Admissions Forum, Diocesan Authorities, other local Admissions Authorities, other stakeholders

The Cabinet – 12th January 2006

Changes to Indicated Admission Numbers

Report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families

Recommendation:

That Cabinet authorise the County Education Officer to consult stakeholders on proposals to:

- (1) increase the Admission Number of Thomas Jolyffe Primary School, Stratford, from 45 to 60 pupils per year
- (2) increase the Admission Number of Oakfield Primary School, Rugby, from 25 to 30 pupils per year
- (3) decrease the Indicated Admission Number of Nathaniel Newton Infant School, Hartshill, from 90 to 60 pupils per year.

1. Background

- 1.1 Since September 2004 school capacities have been calculated according to the Department for Education and Skills', 'Net Capacity methodology'. The physical capacity assessments indicate the number of children each school could be expected to admit the Indicated Admission Number (IAN). The IAN has effectively replaced the Standard Number of the school as the guide to the admission limit that can be published.
- 1.2 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). 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'.
- 1.3 Although the DfES originally stated that it would expect Admission Authorities to re-assess the capacity of schools on a regular basis, any significant changes in school capacities and therefore IANs should be updated as part of the annual admission cycle. Changes of no more than 26 pupils per year group

can be approved by Cabinet. In order that stakeholders, including parents, local schools, Diocesan Authorities, neighbouring authorities and Area Committees are aware of proposed changes all proposals are the subject of formal consultation before reporting to Cabinet for a final decision.

- 1.4 The following changes to school capacities and IANs are proposed for consultation.

2. Thomas Jolyffe Primary School, Stratford-upon-Avon

- 2.1 Thomas Jolyffe Primary School serves mainly the northern part of Stratford. The town of Stratford has grown significantly in recent years, with the increased population resulting in a higher demand for school places in the eight primary schools located close to and within the town. It is forecast that some 970 houses will be built in the town between 2006 and 2009. Developments at Birmingham Road, Bishopton, are close to the school and the increase in new houses generally has led to a rise in demand for pupil places at Thomas Jolyffe Primary School in recent years and the expectation that this demand is likely to increase as new housing is built.
- 2.2 Table 1 below shows the numbers on roll at this school over the last five years and illustrates both the high demand for places at the school in the period 2001/05 as well as an increase in pupils on roll in the year 2005/06 as the additional space from the new buildings at the school becomes available:

Table 1
Number of pupils on roll at Thomas Jolyffe Primary School

	School Year				
	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06 (Sept.05)
Pupils on roll	323	317	323	321	367

- 2.3 Thomas Jolyffe Primary School currently organises on two classes per year group. The numbers in each class are shown in Table 2:

Table 2
Class sizes at Thomas Jolyffe Primary School (12.12.05)

School Year	Class 1	Class 2	Total
Reception	29	27	56
Year 1	25	26	51
Year 2	25	28	53
Year 3	24	26	50
Year 4	27	29	56
Year 5	27	25	52
Year 6	27	26	53

- 2.4 As part of the County Council's strategy for meeting the demand for primary school places in the town, three additional classrooms have been added to the

school. A single classroom has been built on to the junior school and a two classroom extension, larger staffroom and additional toilet facilities have been added to the infant building.

- 2.5 These changes to the buildings at Thomas Jolyffe Primary School have had the planned result of a change to the net capacity of the school and the IAN. Previously the IAN was 45 with a net capacity of 315. A reassessment of the capacity according to DfES Guidance (DfES/0739/2001 REV) and based on a new survey of the physical space of the school following the changes to the buildings described above indicates that the maximum IAN should now be 58, with a corresponding net capacity of 406.
- 2.6 The school has signalled its wish to set a Planned Admission Number of 60, slightly in excess of its capacity, for organisational reasons.

3. Oakfield Primary School, Rugby

- 3.1 The school has requested an increase in the admission number from 25 to 30 pupils per year.
- 3.2 A ground floor extension recently added to the main school building has added one classroom to the physical capacity of the school enabling this proposed increase in admission number. This change corresponds to a change in net capacity from 175 to 203 and would give an IAN of 29 pupils per year.
- 3.3 While the school is currently operating below its current capacity, the Bilton Court/Pavilions development on Bilton Road, is expected to produce an increased pupil demand of around 10 pupils per year group. While the new estate is not within the priority of Oakfield school, the nearest schools (St. Matthew's Bloxam and St. Oswald's) are full and so Oakfield expects to experience a 'knock-on' increased demand given its proximity to the development.
- 3.4 It is forecast that the proposed increase to the admission number of Oakfield Primary would provide sufficient places in this locality to meet forecasted additional demand for primary places.

Table 3
Numbers on roll at Oakfield Primary School – September 2005

School Year	Number on roll
Reception	21
Year 1	20
Year 2	25
Year 3	28
Year 4	24
Year 5	18
Year 6	21
Total	157

4. Nathaniel Newton Infant School, Hartshill

- 4.1 The Governing Body of Nathaniel Newton Infant School has asked to reduce its admission number from 90 to 60 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. Table 4 below sets out the current year group and class organisation at the school:

Table 4
Number of pupils on roll as at September 2005

Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Total
58	68	56	182

Table 5
Class organisation

Rec	Y1 / Y2	Y1 / Y2	Total
29, 29	22, 22, 24	28, 28	182

Current Net Capacity	290
Proposed Net Capacity	180
Current Indicated Admission Number	90
Proposed Indicated Admission Number	60

- 4.2 The current admission number of 90 means that if more than 60 pupils apply for admission, it must organise its Reception year group into three classes. School budgets are based mainly on the number of pupils it has. If Nathaniel Newton Infant School were admitting 90 pupils it would have enough funding to provide three classes in its Reception year group. However, the school has only been receiving in the region of 56 to 68 applicants and this does not provide enough finance to appoint an additional teacher so that a third class could be created. A forecast of future pupil numbers is given in Table 6 below. This forecast suggests that future pupil numbers are unlikely to reach 90 per year. As a result of several years where the school has needed to create an extra class to organise in classes of not more than 30 pupils, it has a significant budget deficit and the continuation of this situation would make a long-term resolution of the problem extremely difficult.
- 4.3 An admission number of 60 pupils year would enable the school to plan future intake groups into classes of not more than 30. This greater certainty about pupil numbers would help with the long-term planning of school finances and resources.
- 4.4 On the basis of current patterns of admissions to primary schools in the area, it is considered that there would be sufficient infant places in the locality. Both Nathaniel Newton Infant School and Galley Common Infant School are able to

meet demand from their own priority areas and have places available for pupils living outside their areas. Of the 58 children Nathaniel Newton Infant School admitted to its Reception year group in September 2005, 32 were from outside its priority area. It is considered that a reduction in the pupil intake at Nathaniel Newton Infant School may have a positive effect on pupil numbers at Camp Hill Primary School while if Galley Common Infant School needed to take additional pupils from closer to its school, there would be sufficient places in other local schools.

- 4.5 Both Nathaniel Newton and Galley Common Infant Schools are ‘feeder schools’ to Michael Drayton Junior School at Key Stage 2. Informal discussions have revealed a concern that lower numbers at Nathaniel Newton Infant School could reduce the number of pupils admitted to Michael Drayton Junior School. If those pupils not gaining a place at Nathaniel Newton Infant School were to attend a ‘through’ primary school at Key Stage 1 it is possible that they would not transfer to Michael Drayton Junior School at Key Stage 2. A reduction of six or eight pupils per year would have budgetary implications for Michael Drayton Junior School. It could be argued, however, that this would need to be balanced against budgetary and organisational impact on Nathaniel Newton Infant School as a result of not reducing its admission number. A map showing the location of schools and priority their priority areas is attached as **Appendix B**.

- 4.6 Forecast Reception year pupil numbers up to September 2009 are as follows:

Table 6

September	2006	2007	2008	2009
	59	68	67	65

- 4.7 There is a new housing estate called ‘The Shires’ comprising 265 housing units which has recently been completed. As the development is completed and occupied, the additional pupils resulting from the estate are already included in the current and projected pupil numbers for the schools. The development is in an area which is not currently designated to a school but it is located between Nathaniel Newton Infant school and Galley Common Infant School. It is suggested that the consultation on the admission number for Nathaniel Newton Infant School should also consider this issue.
- 4.8 As the lower intake numbers pass through the school, the classrooms that would no longer be needed for teaching purposes would be available for community and possible development for ‘extended schools’ purposes. 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 Nathaniel Newton Infant School.

5. Recommendation

Members are asked to authorise formal consultation with stakeholders concerning the proposed changes in admission numbers and school capacities of Thomas Jolyffe Primary School, Oakfield Primary School and Nathaniel Newton Infant School.

MARION DAVIS
Strategic Director for Children,
Young People and Families

22 Northgate Street
Warwick

23rd December 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).

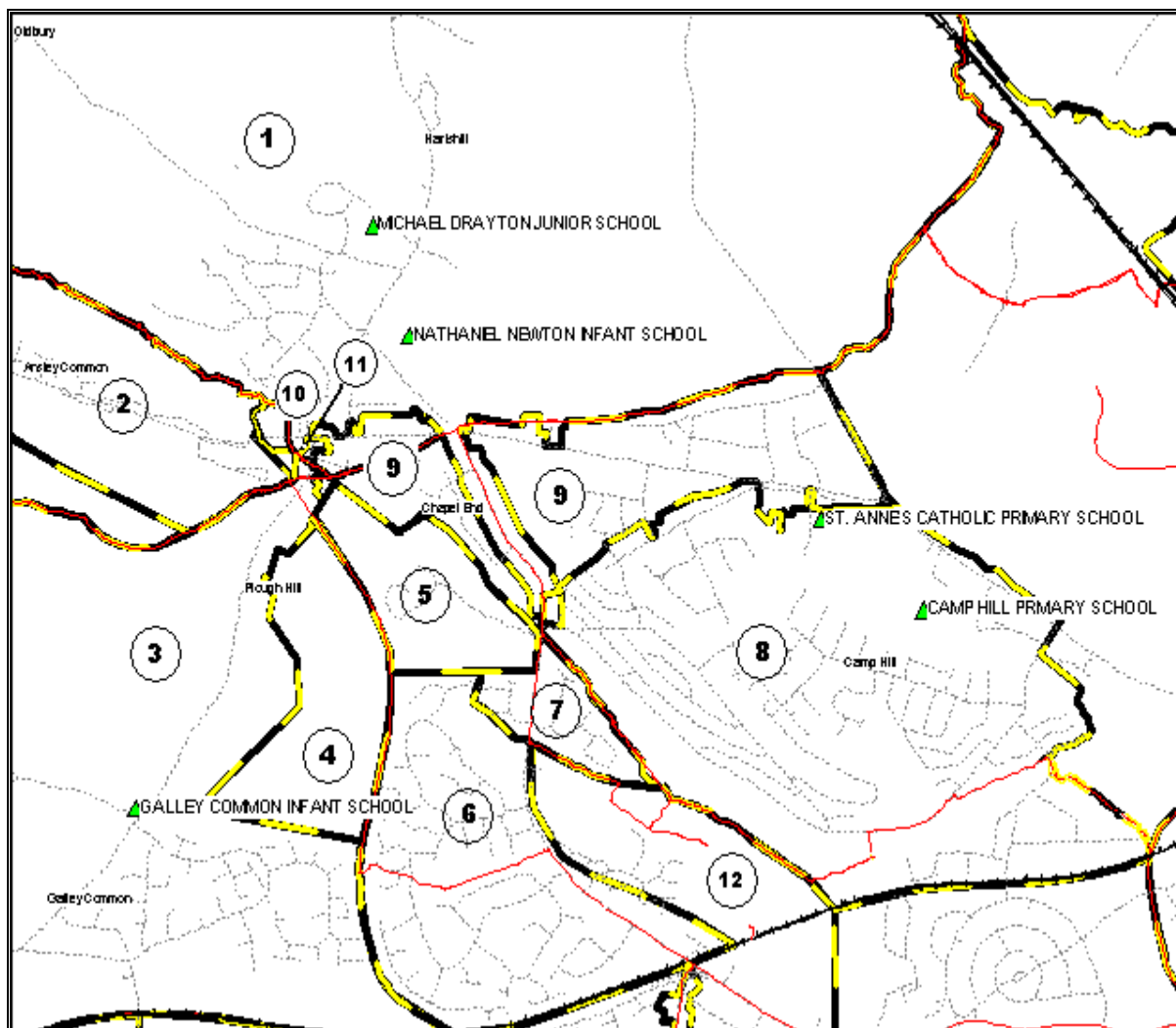
Can a Planned Admission Number (PAN) be set below the Indicated Admission Number (i.e. below the number indicated by the capacity of the school)?


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.

Priority Areas – Nathaniel Newton, Galley Common, Camp Hill



Key to priority areas (which are bounded by )	
1	Nathaniel Newton / Michael Drayton
2	Nursery Hill
3	Galley Common / Michael Drayton
4	Michael Drayton / Park Lane
5	Infant area under review / Michael Drayton Junior
6	Shared Stockingford / St. Paul's / Park Lane
7	Nathaniel Newton / Michael Drayton
8	Camp Hill
9	Shared Michael Drayton / Camp Hill
10	Michael Drayton
11	Shared Galley Common / Michael Drayton / Park Lane
12	Stockingford