

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee **The Cabinet**

Date of Committee **2nd February 2006**

Report Title **Change to the Indicated Admission
Number of Whitestone Infant School**

Summary Cabinet is asked to approve the proposal to reduce
the Indicated Admission Number of Whitestone Infant
School in Nuneaton following positive feedback from
formal consultations.

**For further information
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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

- Cabinet report 21.7.05
- Consultation document, October 2005
- Nuneaton & Bedworth Area Committee report
30.11.05

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

Other Committees Nuneaton & Bedworth Area Committee 30.11.05

Local Member(s) Cllr John Ross – Bulkington – *“I wholeheartedly
support this recommendation”*

Other Elected Members O&S Spokespersons for information:
Cllr Helen McCarthy – *“the recommendations
seem sensible, particularly in the light of the
consultation”*
Cllr Richard Grant – *“support the proposed action”*
Cllr Jill Dill-Russell

- Cabinet Member Cllr John Burton
- Other Cabinet Members consulted Cllr Izzi Seccombe – *“approve report for Cabinet”*
Cllr Peter Fowler
- Chief Executive
- Legal Jane Pollard / Richard Freeth – *“fine”*
- Finance David Clarke, Strategic Director of Resources –
“fine”
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals All local schools, neighbouring Local Authorities,
Diocesan Authorities

FINAL DECISION **YES**

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
- Further Consultation

The Cabinet – 2nd February 2006

Change to the Indicated Admission Number of Whitestone Infant School

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

Recommendations:

- (1) That the feedback from stakeholders concerning the proposal to reduce the Indicated Admission Number of Whitestone Infant School be noted.
- (2) That approval be given to reducing the Indicated Admission Number of Whitestone Infant School from 120 to 90 per year with effect from September 2007 admissions.

1. Background

- 1.1 In July 2005, Cabinet agreed to consult stakeholders on a proposal to reduce the Indicated Admission Number (IAN) at Whitestone Infant School from 120 to 90 pupils per year with effect from September 2007 admissions.
- 1.2 Following the decision of Cabinet a formal consultation took place between 3rd October and 14th November. A consultation paper was sent to all local schools, neighbouring Local Authorities, Diocesan Authorities and the Nuneaton & Bedworth Area Committee. The purpose of this report is to outline the response to the consultation and determine an admission number for Whitestone Infant School from September 2007.
- 1.3 A copy of the consultation document is attached as **Appendix A** to this report.

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 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 September 2005:

Table 1 – Number of pupils on roll as at September 2005

	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Total NOR
Whitestone Infant School	92	99	117	308

- 2.2 The current admission number of 120 means that if more than 90 pupils apply for admission, it must organise its Reception year group into four classes. School budgets are based mainly on the number of pupils it has. If Whitestone Infant School were admitting 120 pupils it would have enough funding to provide four classes in its reception year group. However, the school has only been receiving in the region of 91 to 95 applicants and this does not provide enough finance to appoint an additional teacher so that a fourth class could be created. A forecast of future pupil numbers is given in Table 2 below. This forecast suggests that future pupil numbers are unlikely to reach 120 per year.

Table 2 – Forecast of Reception pupil numbers

	Admission No.	2006	2007	2008	2009
Whitestone Infant School	120	87	95	94	92

- 2.3 An admission number of 90 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.
- 2.4 It is considered that even with the lower admission number of 90 pupils per year, there would be enough places at Whitestone Infant School for all of the pupils in its priority area who wish to obtain a place at the school.
- 2.5 The lower admission limit would mean that Whitestone Infant School would take fewer pupils from the priority area of other schools and this would have a positive effect on pupil numbers in neighbouring schools. Forecast pupil numbers up to September 2009 suggest that there would be sufficient school places in the area to meet demand.
- 2.6 Parents living outside the priority area of Whitestone Infant School would still be able to apply for places but under the admissions policy of the County Council would have a lower priority for admission than pupils living in the priority area. Anyone refused a place at a preferred school would have the right of appeal to an independent appeals committee.
- 2.7 If the admission number for the school is reduced to 90 pupils per year, one less classroom will be used as a teaching base in 2007. It is intended that over the next three years, three existing classrooms will be changed to enable community use. Under the Department for Education and Skills 'Net Capacity'

regulations, changes in the use of rooms will reduce the school's capacity to 270 pupils.

3. Response to the consultation

- 3.1 There have been just three responses to the consultation, all of which are supportive. The points made in the responses are as follows:

Wembrook Primary School

The headteacher supports the proposal as 'a sensible idea'. The letter confirms that 'We foresee no concerns from Wembrook'.

A parent of Whitestone Infant School

The parent says that the proposal would be an improvement in the admission arrangements and says 'thank you for working hard to make a difference and to improve the environment at the school'. The parent also raises issues about the age of admission to schools in general, within the current education system.

Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee

The Area Committee considered the proposals at its meeting on 30th November and resolved to recommend approval of a reduction in the admission limit to Cabinet.

- 3.2 A copy of the full papers is available in the Members' Group Rooms.

4. Summary

Formal consultation has revealed full support for proposals to reduce the IAN of Whitestone Infant School from 120 to 90 pupils per year. Such reductions in admission numbers may be determined by Cabinet and it is therefore proposed that an admission number for Whitestone Infant School of 90 pupils per year be agreed with effect from September 2007 admissions.

MARION DAVIS
Strategic Director for Children,
Young People and Families

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18th January 2006