

- Cabinet Member Cllr John Burton
- Other Cabinet Members consulted
- Chief Executive
- Legal Richard Freeth – no comments to make
- Finance David Clarke, Strategic Director of Resources – no comments to make
- Other Strategic Directors
- 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 Rugby Area Committee 25.1.07 (subject to Cabinet’s decision)
- Further Consultation All stakeholders (subject to Cabinet’s decision)

The Cabinet – 23rd November 2006

Changes to primary school priority areas in North Rugby

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

Recommendation:

That Cabinet authorises the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families to consult stakeholders on proposals to change the priority areas of four primary schools in North Rugby.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A major phase of a large housing development is planned within the priority area of Clifton-upon-Dunsmore C of E (Controlled) Primary School. Clifton Primary School currently takes children from its priority area, principally the villages of Clifton and Newton. It is full across all age groups and will be unable to accommodate the likely demand for places arising from the development. However, the nearest schools (Brownsover Community Infant School, Boughton Leigh Infant School and Boughton Leigh Junior School) all have significant numbers of places across all age groups. The Boughton Leigh schools have been extended in recent years to accommodate pupils from the Coton Park development.
- 1.2 It is suggested that stakeholders are consulted on a proposal to re-designate part of the Clifton priority area as a shared area of Brownsover Community Infant School and Boughton Leigh Infant School at the infant phase, and Boughton Leigh Junior School at the junior phase.

2. Background

- 2.1 A school priority area is a geographical area defined by the school's admission authority, in this case the County Council, because all the schools directly involved are community or voluntary controlled. If a school does not have space to accept everyone who applies, the County Council's admission policy will ensure that children living in the priority area are given places before all other applicants.

- 2.2 There is no guarantee that all pupils living within a school's priority area will be admitted, but parents will understandably have a strong expectation that places will generally be available at their priority area school.
- 2.3 Changes to the school priority areas of community and controlled schools are determined by the Area Committee following formal consultation with stakeholders.
- 2.4 The priority area of Clifton covers the parishes of Clifton-upon-Dunsmore and Newton and Biggin. A large housing development of some 877 units is in progress, in a number of phases at Coton Park, mostly located in the west of the parish of Newton and Biggin. A further part of the development extends into the parish of Churchover in the priority area of The Revel C of E (Aided) Primary School. To date some 293 houses have been completed but a further 584 houses are planned in the next phase in the Newton and Biggin parish and within the priority area of Clifton Primary School. It is forecast that this next phase could require some 15-25 places per year group across all primary school year groups.
- 2.5 In terms of meeting the demand for places, Clifton Primary School is currently full with 218 pupils for just 210 places and occupies a restricted site in the village of Clifton which cannot be expanded. The school is approximately 3½ miles from the proposed development through Brownsover.
- 2.6 Brownsover Community Infant School, Boughton Leigh Infant School and Boughton Leigh Junior School however have spare places in all year groups and are located less than a mile from the development on an adjoining housing estate. Brownsover Community Infant School feeds mainly into Boughton Leigh Junior School at age seven years. Details of capacities and current and forecast pupil numbers for the four schools are given in the table below:

Table 1

School	School capacity	NOR	Forecast			
		Sept 2006	Sept 2007	Sept 2008	Sept 2009	Sept 2010
Brownsover Community Infant	180	148	135	132	130	130
Boughton Leigh Infant	240	125	117	119	131	131
Boughton Leigh Junior	400	255	266	271	275	272
Clifton-upon-Dunsmore C of E Primary	210	218	214	212	211	211

3. The proposal

- 3.1 The proposal is to change the priority area of Clifton Primary school by transferring an area of the parish of Newton and Biggin which covers the new estate, but not including the village of Newton, to a shared priority area with

Brownsover Community Infant School, Boughton Leigh Infant School and Boughton Leigh Junior School. If approved, following formal consultations, the change would take effect from September 2008.

- 3.2 It is also proposed that an undesignated area between the railway line and the existing priority area of Boughton Leigh Infant School and Boughton Leigh Junior School be designated part of the Boughton Leigh Infant School and Boughton Leigh Junior School priority area. This area is the subject of an outline planning permission to develop 770 housing units of an unknown type up to 2011. It is considered that these schools can also meet the likely demand from this development.
- 3.3 A map showing the current priority areas and the location of the Coton Park estate is attached at **Appendix A**.

4. The Impact of the proposal

It is not anticipated that the proposal would have any negative effect on Clifton Primary School and parents of pupils living in the new re-designated area will still be able to apply for a place at the school but would have a lower priority than pupils living in the priority area. The proposal should significantly reduce the current spare places retained at Brownsover Community Infant School, Boughton Leigh Infant School and Boughton Leigh Junior School in order to meet such developments. The attractiveness of these three schools will be further enhanced by the development of a flagship Children's Centre at the Boughton Leigh site.

5. Recommendation

Members are asked to authorise formal consultation with stakeholders on proposals to change the priority areas of four primary schools in north Rugby.

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8th November 2006