

- Cabinet Member Cllr John Burton
- Other Cabinet Members consulted Cllr Izzi Seccombe – *“approved for Cabinet”*
- 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 Warwick Area Committee 23.1.07 (subject to Cabinet’s decision)
- Further Consultation All stakeholders (subject to Cabinet’s decision)

The Cabinet – 23rd November 2006

Change to the Indicated Admission Number of Southam College

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:

- (i) to increase the Planned Admission Number of Southam College, and
- (ii) to decide whether they wish to consult on a PAN of 210 or 221 pupils per year.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Following improvements to the accommodation at Southam College, the physical capacity of the school has been reassessed in accordance with the 'net capacity' formula set out by the Department for Education and Skills formula.
- 1.2 The re-measurement of the school's capacity indicates that the admission number (PAN) should be increased from 200 to 210 pupils per year.

2. Background

- 2.1 The capacities of all schools in England are assessed according to the 'net capacity' formula set out by the Department for Education and Skills. This is the only accepted measurement for calculating the capacity of schools. The formula produces a capacity figure (expressed as the number of available workplaces) which translates to an Indicated Admission Number (IAN) for Year 7. The legal situation is that the County Council determines the physical capacity and IAN of all schools and that the admissions authority, which in the case of Southam College is also the County Council, determines the Planned Admission Number (PAN). In setting the PAN the admission authority must take account of the IAN (which in turn reflects the physical capacity of the school).

- 2.2 Southam College is a popular, high achieving, 11 to 18 community secondary school serving the town of Southam and surrounding villages. When the capacity of the school was previously assessed in 2002, the IAN was 186 pupils per year but it was agreed to set the Admission Number at 200 to take into account changes to the accommodation which were in progress, but not completed, at the time of the calculation.
- 2.3 In January 2006 the school had 1,102 pupils on roll. Tables 1 and 2 below give a detailed breakdown of pupil numbers at Southam College:

Table 1 : Year 7 intake and total number on roll 2001/05

| | Jan 2001 | Jan 2002 | Jan 2003 | Jan 2004 | Jan 2005 | Jan 2006 |
|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Year 7 | 171 | 202 | 208 | 187 | 202 | 193 |
| Total | 879 | 941 | 991 | 1,046 | 1,080 | 1,102 |

- 2.4 The total number of pupils in the school has increased in this period largely because the Year 7 entry has been higher than the numbers of pupils progressing through Year 11 at the school:

Table 2 : Number of pupils on roll – January 2006*

| NCY | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | Total |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-------|
| NOR | 193 | 203 | 192 | 204 | 188 | 71 | 51 | 1,102 |

* Statistics based upon the January 2006 PLASC return

- 2.5 The demographic forecast for pupil numbers from the school's priority area is as follows:

Table 3 : Pupils living in Southam secondary priority area and attending WCC primary schools

| Year 7 in: | Sept 2004 | Sept 2005 | Sept 2006 | Sept 2007 | Sept 2008 | Sept 2009 | Sept 2010 | Sept 2011 | Sept 2012 |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Corresponding primary cohort | 199 | 188 | 209 | 202 | 232 | 187 | 190 | 194 | 192 |

- 2.6 Taking into account this demographic picture and current patterns of admissions the following pupil demand up to 2010 is forecast. The projected numbers include pupils from outside the school priority area. There is no further significant housing building planned for this area.

Table 4 : Year 7 pupil forecast

| September | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Number of pupils | 214 | 207 | 213 | 213 | 211 |

3. Reviewing the Planned Admission Number of Southam College

3.1 The calculation of the admission number

The formula produces a new physical capacity of 1,224, which translates to an Indicated Admission Number within the range of 198 to 221 pupils per year, and taking into account this calculation and forecast pupil demand from the area, a Planned Admission Number (PAN) of 210 has been proposed to the school.

A PAN of 210 pupils would be appropriate in terms of the capacity of the school and also of pupil demand from the school's priority area.

3.2 The position of Southam College

In early discussion the school have said that they would wish the PAN to be set at 240 on the basis that:

- they have the capacity to take 240 pupils in each year group
- they would then operate on eight forms of entry
- they are a popular school and they and the Local Authority would be better able to meet parental preference.

Following further discussion, including with other local secondary head-teachers, the school have proposed consultation on a PAN of 221, which is at the top end of the range of capacity applying the DfES formula.

3.3 School organisation implications

An increase in the PAN of Southam College to 210 pupils should result in a close match with demand from within its priority area and siblings. The impact on other secondary schools would be likely to be minimal. A PAN of 221 is likely, however, to affect other local schools since the school would be admitting from outside its catchment area. This point was made by other Central Area secondary headteachers. Whilst it can be argued that the LA should respond to parental preference, the effect of even a small loss of pupils, for example for a school like Campion, could significantly affect the offer that school is able to make to its pupils and the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum. The Authority is, therefore, in its role as an advocate and champion for parents and students to take a view of the admission system as a whole and to strike a balance between the conflicting interests of parents seeking a place at Southam College and those of parents and students at other local schools.

Members should be aware that as a popular school, the Governors of Southam College could make a proposal themselves for an admission number in excess of 226 on which the Authority would be a consultee.

3.4 Process and timetable for affecting any change

Amending the PAN to 210 from the current 200 would be subject to formal consultation by the County Council with parents, neighbouring schools, other

admission authorities, neighbouring local authorities, the Local Learning & Skills Council, Diocesan Authorities and the Area Committee. Any consultation would need to be concluded by 1st March 2007, with a final determination by April 2007 for the number to apply to admissions to the school in September 2008. If there is no local consensus then it is possible for the matter to be referred to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator for decision.

4. Summary

- The capacity and admission number of Southam College has had to be reassessed following significant improvements to the school's accommodation.
- The formal assessment indicates that an admission number of 210 would both reflect the changes in the accommodation and the demand for places from within the school's priority area.
- The Children, Young People and Families Strategic Director is concerned to ensure that any increase in the admission number of Southam College does not have an unacceptable impact on other Warwickshire secondary schools and believes that an increase to a PAN of 210 would be appropriate.

5. Recommendation

Members are asked to authorise formal consultation with stakeholders on proposals to increase the Planned Admission Number of Southam College and to decide whether they wish to consult on a PAN of 210 or 221. Officers would recommend a PAN of 210.

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8th November 2006