

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee North Warwickshire Area Committee

Date of Committee 16th January 2008

Report Title Changes to primary school priority areas in North Nuneaton

Summary This paper seeks authorisation to undertake formal consultation on proposals to change the priority areas of primary schools in North Nuneaton.

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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 13.7.06

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

Other Committees

Local Member(s) Cllr Richard Grant – Hartshill – “noted”
Cllr Mick Jones – Nuneaton Galley Common
Cllr Sid Tooth – Nuneaton Camp Hill – “noted”

Other Elected Members Spokespersons for information:
Cllr Heather Timms
Cllr Richard Grant
Cllr John Whitehouse

Cabinet Member Cllr John Burton – “noted”

Other Cabinet Members consulted Cllr Izzi Seccombe

- Chief Executive
- Legal Diane Nation – comments to be taken into account
- Finance
- 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 Nuneaton & Bedworth Area Committee – 30.1.08
- Further Consultation All stakeholders, subject to the decision of the two Area Committees

North Warwickshire Area Committee – 16th January 2008

Changes to primary school priority areas in North Nuneaton

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

Recommendation:

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

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In June 2006 Cabinet agreed to reduce the admission number of Nathaniel Newton Infant School and asked for a review of the priority areas of the school and the surrounding area. The purpose of the review was to clarify the boundaries of priority areas in the north of Nuneaton.
- 1.2 This report sets out the results of that review and proposes limited changes to address the issues raised.

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 voluntary controlled schools are determined by the Area Committee following formal consultation with stakeholders.

- 2.4 The schools and their priority areas covered by the review are Michael Drayton Junior School, Nathaniel Newton Infant School, Galley Common Infant School and Camp Hill Primary School.
- 2.5 A series of formative meetings have been held during the Autumn Term 2007 with all the schools included in the review to establish a shared understanding of the current priority area boundaries and to identify issues.

3. Issues arising from the review

- 3.1 The review identified three areas to be examined:
- Could the review establish an agreed view of the current priority area boundaries?
 - The designation of a priority area for 'The Shires' housing development.
 - Any proposals to change the existing priority area boundaries.
- 3.2 The review firstly established an accurate picture of the current priority area boundaries. It was discovered that much of the apparent complexities of the boundaries had been largely to do with the difficulties in technically mapping them. In fact there was consensus between the schools and the County Council about the actual addresses contained in each priority area and, when re-drawn using a different technique, the boundaries have proved more coherent than appeared to be the case.
- 3.3 'The Shires' housing development, near Plough Hill Road, comprises some 265 units and is complete and fully occupied. The development does not currently belong to the priority area of any school. Although the estate is closer to Nathaniel Newton an analysis of schools attended by pupils living on the development shows that approximately half of the infant-aged pupils attend Nathaniel Newton and approximately half attend Galley Common. Given the reduction in the admission number of Nathaniel Newton Infant School it is proposed that 'The Shires' be included in the Galley Common Infant School priority area at the infant phase. At the junior phase it is proposed that Michael Drayton Junior School be the designated school as both Nathaniel Newton and Galley Common Infant Schools feed into that school and the overwhelming number of junior-aged pupils on the development already attend Michael Drayton.
- 3.4 Thirdly the review acknowledged that a small triangle of the Camp Hill Primary School priority area, including part of Coleshill Road plus Chancery Lane, Willow Close, Lincoln Avenue and Salisbury Drive, is bounded north and south by the Nathaniel Newton priority area at the infant phase and the Michael Drayton priority area at the junior phase. Currently, none of the pupils living in the area concerned attends Camp Hill Primary School and the overwhelming majority attend Nathaniel Newton Infant and Michael Drayton Junior Schools which are also the nearest schools. It is therefore proposed to redesignate this area as in the priority areas of Nathaniel Newton Infant and Michael Drayton Junior Schools.

4. The proposal

- 4.1 The proposal is to change the priority area of Camp Hill Primary School by transferring part of Coleshill Road plus Chancery Lane, Willow Close, Lincoln Avenue and Salisbury Drive to the priority areas of Nathaniel Newton Infant and Michael Drayton Junior Schools and to designate 'The Shires' estate to the priority area of Galley Common Infant School.
- 4.2 If approved, following formal consultations, the change would take effect from September 2009.
- 4.3 A map showing the proposed changes to the infant phase priority areas and the location of the 'The Shires' development is attached as **Appendix A**. A second map showing the proposed changes to the junior phase priority areas and the location of the 'The Shires' development is attached as **Appendix B**.

5. The Impact of the proposal

- 5.1 It is not anticipated that the proposal would have any negative effect on Camp Hill Primary School as no pupils from the small area to be re-designated currently attend the school. Nathaniel Newton Infant School will be able to accommodate pupils from the area and in fact already do so, the change merely recognises the existing pattern of admissions in this area. However, parents of pupils living in the new re-designated area will still be able to apply for a place at Camp Hill Primary School, though they would have a lower priority than pupils living in the priority area of Camp Hill.
- 5.2 It is considered Galley Common Infant School would be able to accommodate pupils from 'The Shires' and continue to meet pupil demand from within the enlarged priority area. Although Galley Common Infant School is a popular school, it currently admits significant numbers of pupils from outside its priority area and the change would increase its proportion of 'in area' admissions and mean that more 'out of area' pupils would attend their priority area school. There are significant spare places in other local schools which would benefit from the proposal.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 Members are asked to authorise formal consultation on proposals to change the priority areas of primary schools in North Nuneaton. As the areas concerned span the Nuneaton and North Warwickshire administrative boundaries, this matter will also be reported to the Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee on 30th January.
- 6.2 If authorised, the consultation will include all key stakeholders, including parents, prospective parents, the governing bodies, School Councils and staff of Michael Drayton Junior School, Nathaniel Newton Infant School, Galley

Common Infant School and Camp Hill Primary School, other local schools and the Borough Councils.

- 6.3 The result of the consultation with stakeholders will be reported to the March meeting of the Area Committees for final decision.

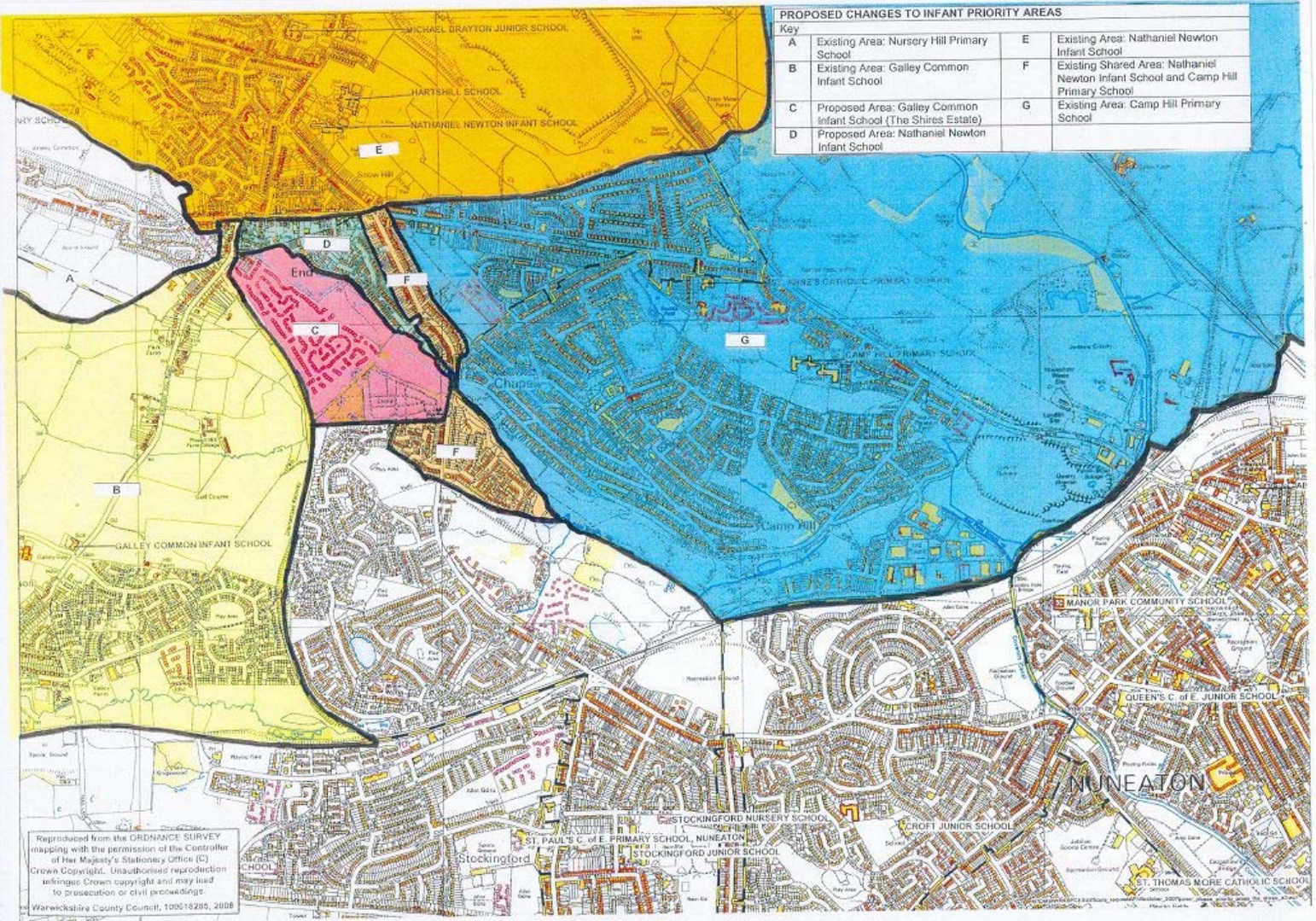
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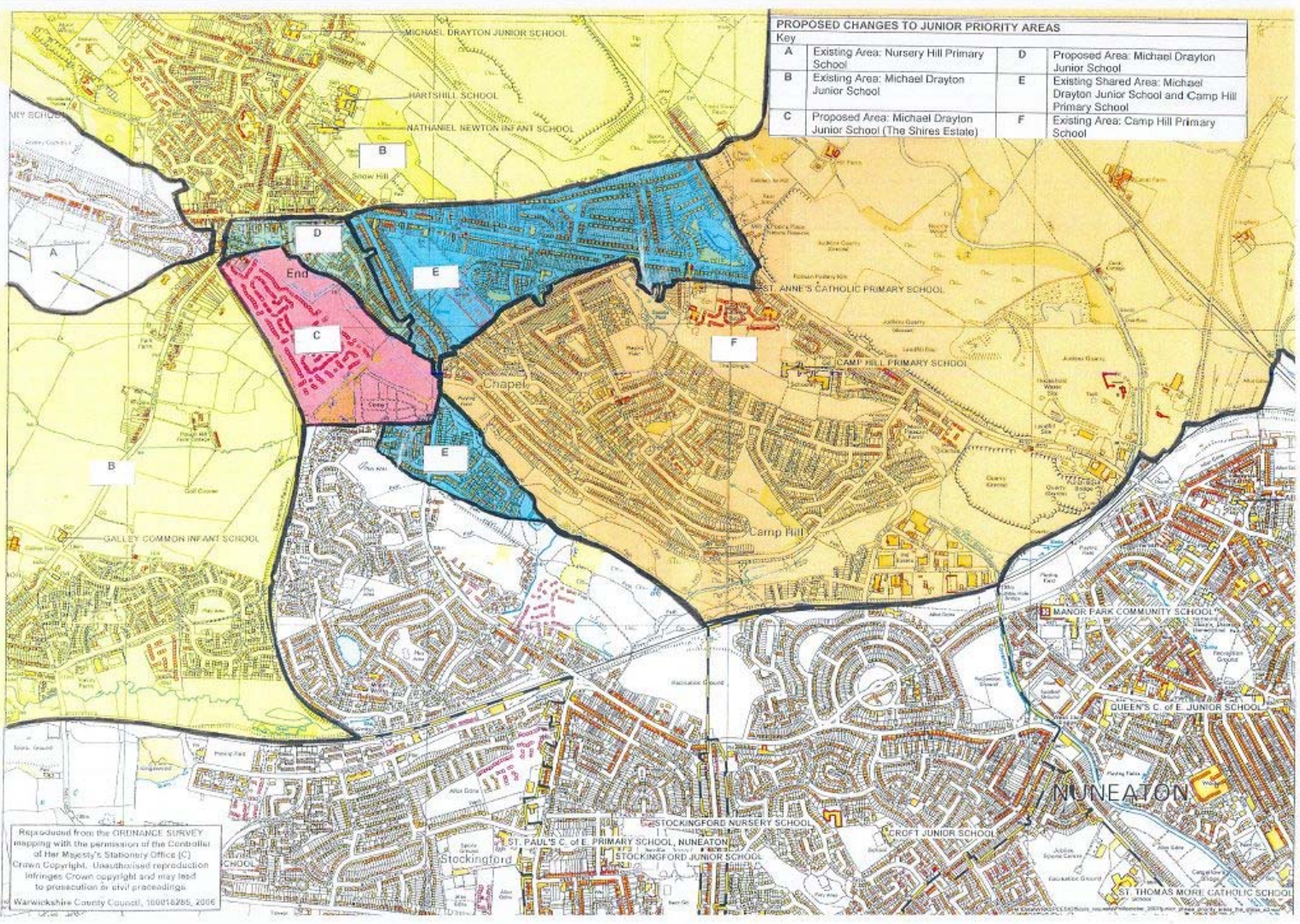
8th January 2008

PROPOSED CHANGES TO INFANT PRIORITY AREAS

Key			
A	Existing Area: Nursery Hill Primary School	E	Existing Area: Nathaniel Newton Infant School
B	Existing Area: Galley Common Infant School	F	Existing Shared Area: Nathaniel Newton Infant School and Camp Hill Primary School
C	Proposed Area: Galley Common Infant School (The Shires Estate)	G	Existing Area: Camp Hill Primary School
D	Proposed Area: Nathaniel Newton Infant School		



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PROPOSED CHANGES TO JUNIOR PRIORITY AREAS			
Key			
A	Existing Area: Nursery Hill Primary School	D	Proposed Area: Michael Drayton Junior School
B	Existing Area: Michael Drayton Junior School	E	Existing Shared Area: Michael Drayton Junior School and Camp Hill Primary School
C	Proposed Area: Michael Drayton Junior School (The Shires Estate)	F	Existing Area: Camp Hill Primary School

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