

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee North Warwickshire Area Committee

Date of Committee 26th March 2008

Report Title Changes to primary school priority areas in North Nuneaton

Summary This paper seeks to inform Members of the response to the consultation with stakeholders on proposals to change the priority areas of some primary schools in North Nuneaton. It also asks for any comments that the Area Committee wishes to make to Cabinet.

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

- Cabinet report 13.7.06
- North Warwickshire Area Committee report 16.1.08

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

Other Committees

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

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

- Cabinet Member Cllr John Burton
- Other Cabinet Members consulted Cllr Izzi Seccombe
- Chief Executive
- Legal Diane Nation
- Finance
- Other Strategic Directors
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals All stakeholders

FINAL DECISION **NO**

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet Cabinet 3.4.08 for final decision
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee 26.3.08
- Further Consultation

North Warwickshire Area Committee – 26th March 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 considers:

- (1) the proposal to change the priority areas of primary schools in North Nuneaton and the responses to the consultation received from stakeholders, and
- (2) any comments it wishes to make to Cabinet.

1. Background

- 1.1 At its meeting on 16th January 2008, the Area Committee asked the Strategic Director to carry out formal consultations on proposals to change the priority areas of primary schools in north Nuneaton with effect from September 2009.
- 1.2 Formal consultations with stakeholders were conducted from 1st to 29th February 2008

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.

3. The proposals

- 3.1 The proposals address:
- the need to confirm 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 proposals reflect a consensus between the schools directly concerned and the County Council about the actual addresses contained in each priority area and their boundaries. These priority areas have proved more coherent than appeared to be the case prior to the review.
- 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 The proposals consider 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. The area 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.
- 3.5 If approved, following formal consultations, the change would take effect from September 2009.

- 3.6 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**.

4. The Impact of the proposal

- 4.1 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 redesignated 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 redesignated 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.
- 4.2 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 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 is a significant number of spare places in other local schools which would benefit from the proposal.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 A consultation paper setting out the proposals was sent to all parents/carers of pupils and prospective parents/carers of pupils, all staff, the governing body and the Pupil School Councils of Michael Drayton Junior School, Nathaniel Newton Infant School, Galley Common Infant School and Camp Hill Primary School, other schools in the area, Nuneaton & Bedworth District Council and Parish Councils in Nuneaton & Bedworth District Council, Diocesan Education Authorities, admission authorities and neighbouring Local Authorities.
- 5.2 Copies of all the responses received have been placed in the Members' Group Rooms and a summary of all the responses, with comments, is set out below:

5.2.1 Milby Primary School

It seems reasonable to change priority areas when demographics require it.

5.2.2 Parent of pupil at Galley Common Infant School

A parent raised two issues:

- The addition of the Shires Development will increase the number of vehicles parking around the immediate area of the school.

- The change will mean that pupils in the existing priority area of Galley Common Infant School will be displaced by pupils from the Shires development and have to seek places in other schools.

Comment

The proposal will not mean more pupils attending Galley Common Infant School. The maximum admission number is not being changed and the likely impact is that Shires pupils will reduce the number of 'out of area pupils' i.e. the number of pupils attending the school from outside the priority area (which is a significant number) will be reduced.

Half of the pupils living on the Shires already attend Galley Common Infants and most of the remainder choose Nathaniel Newton Infant School, and may will continue to do so. It is forecast that all pupils living in the Galley Common priority area will be able to secure a place at the school.

5.2.3 Pupil School Council of Nathaniel Newton Infant School

- Most people would like to go to the school nearest their home.
- If the children are already attending a particular school they would wish to stay there.
- The children want to go to the same school as their friends and family.
- If a brother or sister was at a particular school the rest of the family should be allowed to go there.
- There should be a choice of school. The following points were raised on this issue –
 - a. Children should be allowed to visit the schools.
 - b. They would like information on the following aspects of the school life in order to choose the one they think is best for them! –
 - The size of the classes
 - Any friends already there
 - The things you learn about
 - Clubs and activities
 - The number of teachers and their names
 - Are there plenty of chairs and tables?
 - How big is the playground?
 - What can you play there and are there areas to sit and rest?
 - c. Lunch time arrangements –
 - Do they have any particular supervisor for their class?
 - What can you bring for lunch, e.g. are there rules about fizzy drinks?
 - Do you sit with friends at dining tables?
 - How is the food cooked and served?
 - Is there a choice – can you order?
 - Are there plenty of toilets?
 - Could they have a copy of school rules?
 - They would like a list of possible schools within their area.

Comment

This very welcome response gives an interesting insight into how Infant aged pupils view a choice of schools. The major school organisation issue raised is the question of whether or not transitional arrangements should be made to accommodate some families not being able to send their younger children to the same school as siblings.

In this instance the only situation where an established priority area is being reduced is in relation to the small area of the Camp Hill Primary School priority area around the Coleshill Road where it is proposed to redesignate the area to Nathaniel Newton Infant School and Michael Drayton Junior School. However, in this instance, no pupils in the area currently attend Camp Hill Primary School and, therefore, it will not affect the future claims of parents to priority area status.

Other than this, the only impact which could affect the ability of younger siblings to attend the same school as older brothers or sisters would be where the older pupil is attending a school from outside its priority area. Transitional arrangements would not normally be extended to out-of-area pupils.

6. Final decision

Decisions on proposals relating to school priority areas are delegated to the local area committee to determine. In this instance, as this proposal affects schools in both Nuneaton and North Warwickshire, the matter is being considered by both Area Committees. The North Warwickshire Area Committee is also meeting to consider the proposal on 26th March. Therefore, in order to avoid a situation where the Area Committees reached different determinations, the legal advice received indicates that the matter should be referred to Cabinet with recommendations from each Area Committee. It is therefore intended that the this report, together with comments from the Area Committees, will be taken to Cabinet on 3rd April for final decision.

7. Summary

The review of the priority areas has gained a consensus of support amongst the schools directly involved and support for the three proposals.

8. Recommendation

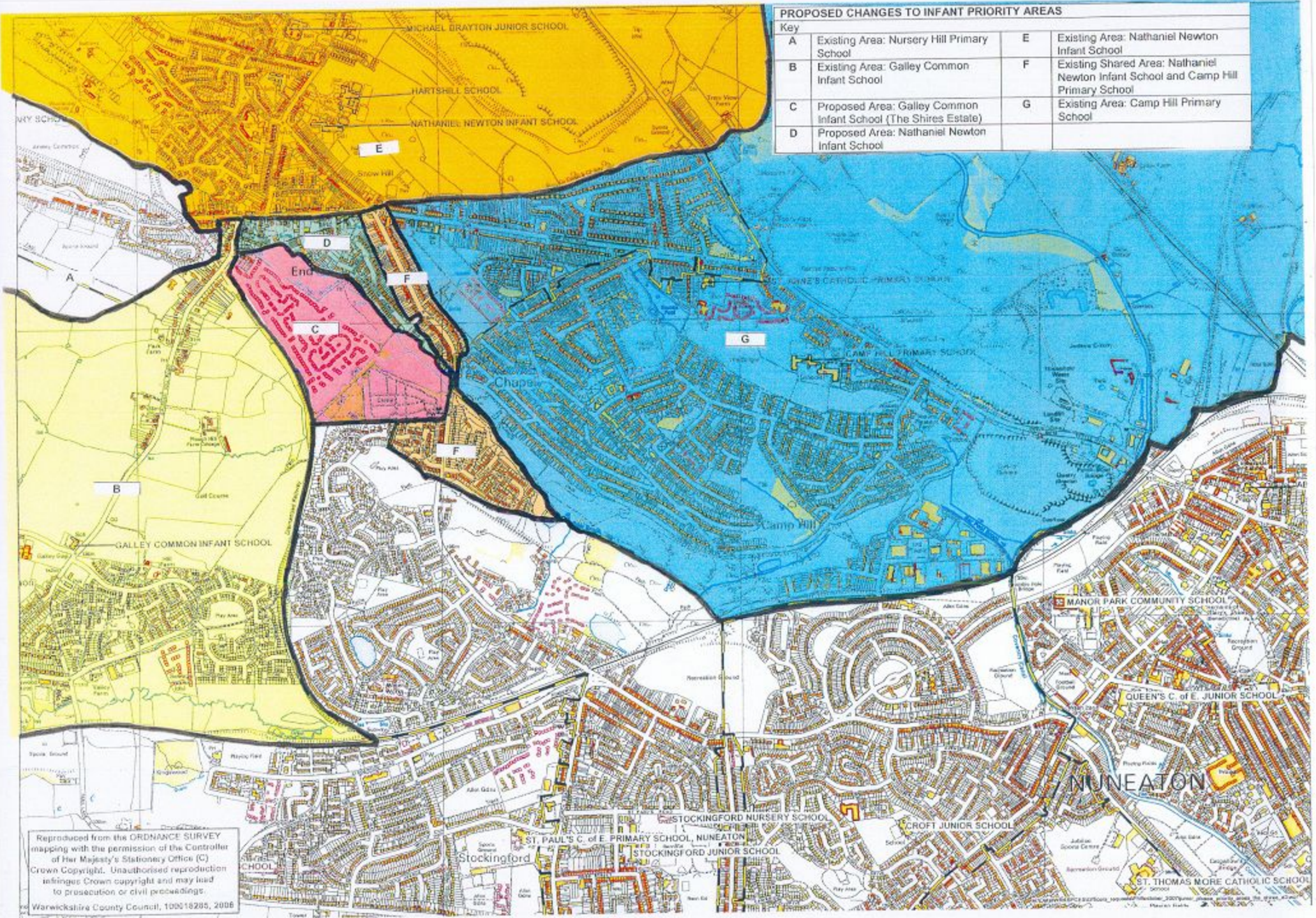
The Area Committee is asked to consider the proposal and the responses to the consultation and any comments it wishes to make to Cabinet.

MARION DAVIS
Strategic Director for Children,
Young People and Families
Saltisford Office Park
Ansell Way
Warwick

12th March 2008

PROPOSED CHANGES TO INFANT PRIORITY AREAS

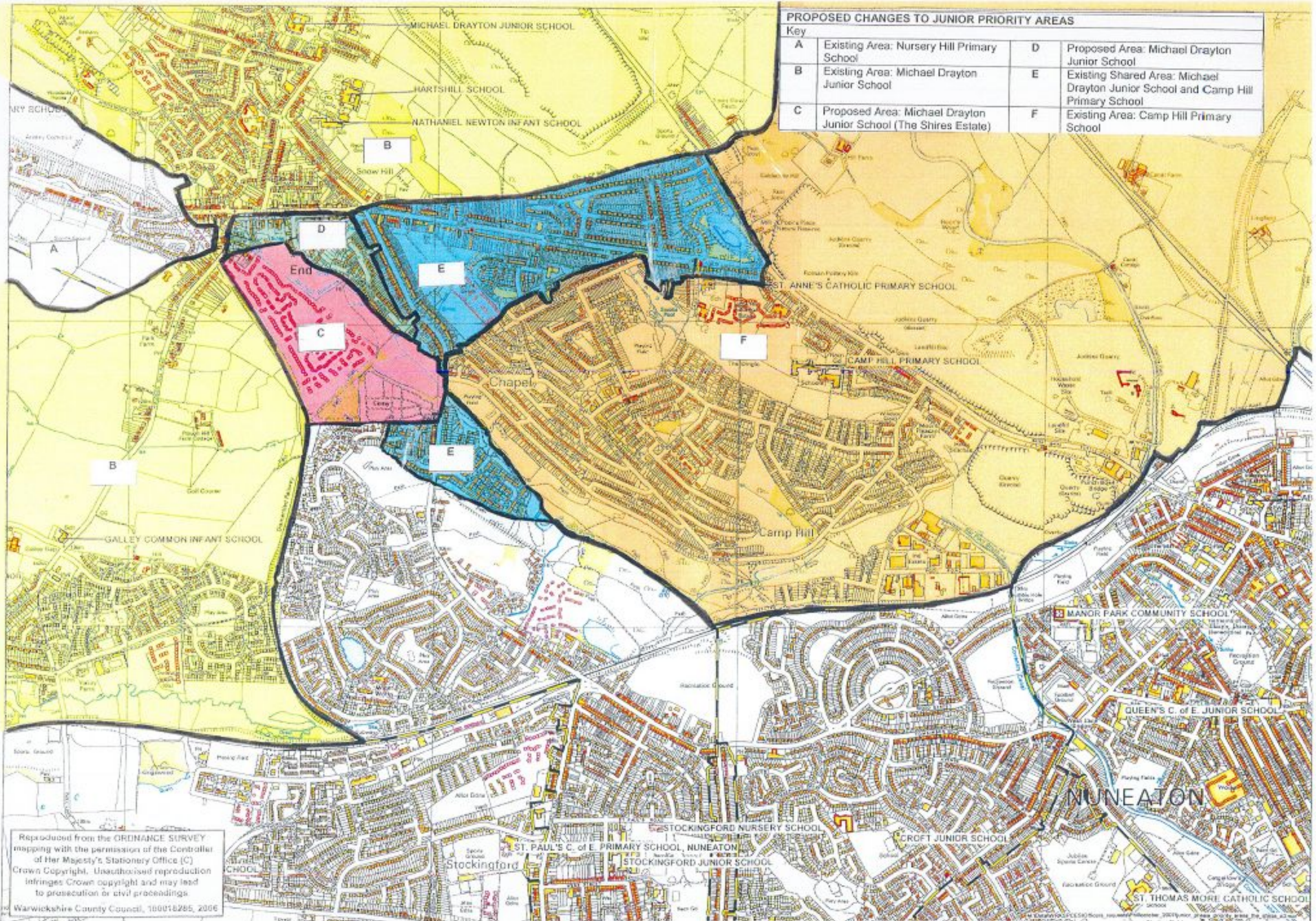
Key			
A	Existing Area: Nursery Hill Primary School	E	Existing Area: Nathaniel Newton Infant School
B	Existing Area: Galley Common Infant School	F	Existing Shared Area: Nathaniel Newton Infant School and Camp Hill Primary School
C	Proposed Area: Galley Common Infant School (The Shires Estate)	G	Existing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