

## AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

<b>Name of Committee</b>	<b>Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee</b>
<b>Date of Committee</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> November 2005</b>
<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Change to the Indicated Admission Number of Whitestone Infant School</b>
<b>Summary</b>	The Area Committee is asked to consider any comments it wishes to make to Cabinet concerning the proposal to reduce the Indicated Admission Number of Whitestone Infant School in Nuneaton.
<b>For further information please contact:</b>	Phil Astle Education Officer (School Organisation) Tel: 01926 412820 philastle@warwickshire.gov.uk
<b>Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision]</b>	No
<b>Background papers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cabinet report 21.7.05</li> <li>▪ Consultation document, October 2005</li> </ul>

### CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

Other Committees	<input type="checkbox"/> .....
Local Member(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cllr John Ross – Bulkington
Other Elected Members	<input type="checkbox"/> .....
Cabinet Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cllr John Burton – “very sensible approach”
Chief Executive	<input type="checkbox"/> .....
Legal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jane Pollard / Richard Freeth – “fine”
Finance	<input type="checkbox"/> .....

- |                          |                                     |  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Other Chief Officers     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | .....  |
| District Councils        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | .....  |
| Health Authority         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | .....  |
| Police                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | .....  |
| Other Bodies/Individuals | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | All local schools, neighbouring LEAs, Diocesan Authorities |

**FINAL DECISION**

**NO**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:**

Details to be specified

- |   |                                     |  |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| Further consideration by this Committee | <input type="checkbox"/>            | .....  |
| To Council                              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | .....  |
| To Cabinet                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2006 for final decision |
| To an O & S Committee                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | .....  |
| To an Area Committee                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | .....  |
| Further Consultation                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | .....  |

**Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee –  
30<sup>th</sup> November 2005**

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

**Report of the County Education Officer**

**Recommendation:**

That the Area Committee consider any comments it wishes to make to Cabinet concerning the proposal to reduce the Indicated Admission Number of Whitestone Infant School in Nuneaton.

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Following a request by the Governing Body of Whitestone Infant School, in July Cabinet agreed to consult stakeholders on a proposal to reduce the Indicated Admission Number at the 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 3<sup>rd</sup> October and 14<sup>th</sup> November. A consultation paper was sent to all local schools, neighbouring LEAs, Diocesan Authorities. The purpose of this report is to outline the response to the consultation and seek the views of the Area Committee for forwarding to Cabinet for a final decision.
- 1.3 A copy of the consultation document is attached at **Appendix A**.

**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 less pupils from the priority area of other schools and this would have a positive effect on pupil numbers in neighbouring schools. Forecasts pupil numbers up to September 2009 suggest that there would be sufficient school places in the area to meet parental 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 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 two responses to the consultation, both 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.

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

### **4. Summary**

Any comments that the Area Committee wish to make will be reported to Cabinet when it considers the proposal.

ERIC WOOD  
County Education Officer

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Warwick

17<sup>th</sup> November 2005