

Decision Record – Warwick Primary School Priority Areas

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision	Cllr Heather Timms Children and Schools
Date of Decision (not before: 23 rd August 2013)	23/08/2013

Decision Taken

That I, as Portfolio Holder for Children and Schools, approve that permission be granted to the Strategic Director of People Group to consult on a proposal to amend the priority areas for Newburgh Primary School, Westgate Primary School, Woodloes Primary School and Budbrooke Primary School.

Reasons for Decisions

As part of the on-going phased approach to ensuring a sufficiency of school places in the area, the proposal is to change the existing priority areas for Budbrooke Primary School, Woodloes Primary School, Westgate Primary School and Newburgh Primary School.

A school priority area is a geographical area defined for the school's Admission Authority, in this case the County Council. Where a school is over-subscribed, the Admissions Policy will ensure that children living in the priority area are given places before other applicants. There is no guarantee that all pupils living within a school's priority area will be admitted, but parents will have a strong expectation that places will generally be available at their priority school.

The Local Authority receives information from colleagues in Health regarding the number of live births across the county. This information is used to inform the pupil forecasting process. The table below shows the number of children as at May 2013 living within the current priority area and due to start school over the next four years.

Table 1 – Current priority areas

School Name	PAN	Children living within the priority area and due to start reception in			
		2013	2014	2015	2016
Budbrooke Primary School	45	25	21	22	27
Newburgh Primary School	60	91	99	108	104
Westgate Primary School	30	63	72	75	73
Woodloes Primary School	60	51	50	60	54

Maps showing the current and proposed priority areas are attached at Appendix A to the proposed decision report.

The table below shows the same information about children currently living within the area and due to enter school over the next four years. However, this table shows the information for the proposed priority areas.

Table 2 – Proposed priority areas

School Name	PAN	Children living within the priority area and due to start reception in			
		2013	2014	2015	2016
Budbrooke Primary School	45	25	21	22	27
Newburgh Primary School	60	81	86	88	83
Westgate Primary School	30	48	63	66	71
Woodloes Primary School	60	76	72	89	77

The proposed changes support a better match between the capacity of individual schools and the likely number of in area children. It must be noted that the tables above include all children and that no disregard figure has been applied for children who will not enter maintained mainstream education. It should also be noted that the tables show the number of children living within an area. The figures do not reflect parental preference or past trends of attendance.

If the proposals are agreed we would envisage the changes to the priority areas coming into effect for admissions from September 2014 onwards.

Transitional arrangements will be put in place to try and ensure that the younger siblings of children already attending their priority area school will be able to join their brothers or sisters after the changes take effect. For admissions from September 2014, a sibling of a children already attending Newburgh Primary School, Westgate Primary School, Woodloes Primary School or Budbrooke Primary School will be treated as an 'in-area' child of the same school for admissions purposes. This arrangement will only be applied to the siblings of who were admitted from within the priority area pre September 2013. The arrangement will also be limited to the admission of children already born by 31 August 2013.

Background Information

Warwickshire is experiencing a significant growth in pupil numbers which is already being experienced in primary schools. The reception cohort entering Warwickshire primary schools in September 2012 was in excess of 6,200; over 1,000 more children than entered reception in 2006.

Extensive work has taken place to identify areas where demand for places would outweigh availability and identify possible solutions. Locally, this has seen the expansion of a number of schools as well as some changes to existing priority areas.

South West Warwick has already seen large-scale housing development which has resulted in a significant number of additional pupils in the town, specifically in the priority area of Newburgh Primary School. Housing development in the area continues and pressure on places will become even more evident unless steps are taken.

In order to support the Local Authority's statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of schools places, we propose to change the existing priority areas for a number of schools to result in a better match between availability of places and the number of children living within the area.

Financial Implications

None listed.

Report Author	Janet Neale
Head of Service	Sarah Callaghan
Strategic Director	Wendy Fabbro (Mike Taylor – Acting Director)
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Heather Timms

Checklist

Urgent matter?	No.
Confidential or Exempt? (State the category of exempt information)	N/a
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of Reports considered - please include link to report

Link to published proposed decision report:

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/645/Meeting/2856/Committee/555/Default.aspx>

List of Background Papers - please include a contact for access to background papers

None listed.

Members and officers consulted or informed – please include any comments

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Heather Timms
 All Strategic Directors
 Legal – Victoria Gould, Fay Ford, Barry Jukes, Peter Endall, Jane Pollard
 Finance – Simon Smith, Chris Norton
 Equality – Minakshee Patel
 Democratic Services – Georgina Atkinson

Children & Young People OSC – party spokes:

Councillors Bob Hicks, Julie Jackson, Mike Perry and Clive Rickhards