

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Decision Maker**      **Portfolio Holder (Child Safeguarding, Early Intervention and Schools) Decision making Session**

**Date of Decision- not before**      **21 October 2011**

**Report Title**      **Proposed Changes to Primary School Priority Areas in Rugby**

**Summary**      This report seeks permission to consult on proposed changes to primary school priority areas in Rugby.

**For further information please contact:**      Janet Neale  
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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**

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-**      Details to be specified

- Other Committees       .....
- Local Member       Cllr Claire Watson
- Other Elected Members       Cllr June Tandy  
    Cllr John Ross  
    Cllr Peter Balaam  
    Cllr Carolyn Robbins
- Cabinet Member       Cllr Heather Timms
- Other Cabinet Members consulted
- Chief Executive       .....

- Legal  Fay Ford *"comments noted"*  
Victoria Gould  
Naomi Bentley-Lawson
- Finance  Simon Smith  
Chris Norton
- Other Strategic Directors  All Strategic Directors  
David Carter *"nothing to add"*
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police  .....
- Other Bodies/Individuals  Tejay De Kretser, Equality *"comments noted"*  
Janet Purcell, Democratic Services

**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  .....
- Further Consultation  .....



## **Portfolio Holder (Child Safeguarding, Early Intervention and Schools) Decision**

### **Proposed Changes to Primary School Priority Areas in Rugby**

#### **Recommendation:**

That the Cabinet Portfolio Holder agrees to consultation taking place on proposed changes to primary school priority areas in Rugby.

#### **1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 This report seeks permission to consult on proposed changes to primary school priority areas in Rugby.

#### **2. Introduction**

- 2.1 The Bilton Pavilions Housing development in Rugby does not all currently fall within the priority area of any primary school. Action must be taken to ensure that all of the properties on the development fall within the priority area of at least one school.
- 2.2 The School Admissions Regulations clearly state that if we are looking to make changes to admission arrangements we must consult for a period of no less than eight weeks between 1 November and 1 March. All steps must be taken to determine admission arrangements by mid April.
- 2.3 If approved, following formal consultations, the changes would take effect from September 2013.

#### **3. The Proposal**

- 3.1 A school priority area is a geographical area defined on rational grounds by the school's admission authority. Where a school is oversubscribed, the admission 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.
- 3.2 Part of the Bilton Pavilions development currently falls within the priority areas of St Oswald's C of E Primary School and part falls within the priority area for

St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School. However parts of the housing development at Bilton Pavillions do not currently appear within the area for any primary school. This will mean that the children of families living on parts of the development will not receive priority for admission to any primary school. This is problematic and could result in families having to travel some distance to secure places for their children. It could also mean that children from the same family are unable to attend the same school as their siblings.

- 3.3 St Oswald's C of E Primary School, St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School and Oakfield Primary School are the nearest schools to the development and it would seem appropriate to change existing priority areas for those schools to include the whole of the Bilton Pavillions development. The schools already admit children from the development and this proposal would simply help formalise existing practice.
- 3.4 Initial discussions have taken place with the three schools concerned and they are in favour of the proposal. It is envisaged that the three schools will be able to accommodate the children this increase in their priority area will bring.
- 3.5 If approved, this will ensure that children living on the Bilton Pavillions development fall within the shared priority area for St Oswald's C of E Primary School, St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School and Oakfield Primary School. We do not envisage this proposal having an adverse effect on any other schools in the area as the children living on Bilton Pavilions already attend either St Oswald's C of E Primary School, St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School or Oakfield Primary School.

## **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 As previously stated, the School Admissions Regulations requires a period of consultation before changes to priority areas can take place.
- 4.2 The Local Authority is looking to run a consultation process between 1 November and 30 December 2011. This will then allow feedback to Elected Members for a decision In January or February 2012.
- 4.3 Consultation documents will be distributed to the parents/carers of all children in St Oswald's C of E Primary School, St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School and Oakfield Primary School, the local MPs, the Diocesan Authorities, the Borough Council, all schools in the area, all Rugby County Councillors, Rugby Borough Ward Councillors, Trade Unions and Professional Associations and Neighbouring Local Authorities. Forms will also be made available in the local libraries and children's centres.

## **5. Summary**

- 5.1 The Bilton Pavilions Housing development in Rugby does not all currently fall within the priority area of any primary school. It is proposed to create a shared

priority are for St Oswald's C of E Primary School, St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School and Oakfield Primary School to rectify this.

- 5.2 Consultation on the proposed changes must take place before the end of March 2012 although changes will not come into effect until admissions in September 2013.

**Report Author:** Janet Neale  
**Head of Service:** Mark Gore  
**Strategic Director:** Marion Davis  
**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Heather Timms

6 October 2011