

Decision Record – Proposals for Primary School Places in Warwick and Hatton Park

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking decision: *name and portfolio*

Councillor Heather Timms – Children and Schools

Date of Decision: (NOT BEFORE 24th August 2012)

28th August 2012

Decision taken

I, as Portfolio Holder for Children and Schools, approve to give the Strategic Director of the People Group permission to consult on the following proposals:

- a) A re-allocation of the Hatton Park priority area with effect from September 2013 or September 2014 admissions.
- b) An increase in the PAN at The Ferncumbe CE Primary School from 17 to 20 with effect from September 2013 admissions.

Reasons for Decisions

1. Key Issues

- 1.1 Warwickshire County Council has a statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places.

2. Background

- 2.1 Warwickshire is experiencing a significant growth in pupil numbers which is already being experienced in primary schools. The fall and rise in the birth rate in Warwickshire follows the national trend closely with births falling between 1991 and 2001 before entering a rising trend from 2002. The size of the pupil cohort entering reception in Warwickshire primary schools was 5200 in 2006. The reception cohort entering Warwickshire primary schools this September will be in excess of 6200, over 1000 more children than 6 years ago.
- 2.2 As a result, over the past eighteen months extensive work has taken place to identify areas where demand for places would outweigh availability and a considerable amount of work has taken place to identify possible solutions. Locally this has seen the expansion of Newburgh Primary School and the current proposal to increase capacity at Emscote Infant School.

- 2.3 Health Authority data suggests that the cohort looking to enter reception in 2012 is the largest for many years. However, although the entry cohort then falls back in 2013 it is set to increase in 2014 and again in 2015 when figures look to be similar to those of 2012.
- 2.4 A number of schools, including the Ferncumbe CE Primary School and Budbrooke Primary School, have taken above their published admission number in September 2012 and this suggests that further work is required to ensure a sufficiency of places within Warwick and the surrounding area. Discussions have taken place with a number of schools in the Warwick area including both Budbrooke Primary School and The Ferncumbe CE Primary School to look for a sensible way forward.
- 2.5 In addition, when Hatton Park was developed the priority area boundaries for Budbrooke and The Ferncumbe CE primary schools largely followed those of the parish boundaries. However, this has resulted in the majority of the estate falling within the priority area for The Ferncumbe CE Primary School rather than the larger Budbrooke Primary School.
- 2.6 In order to support the Local Authority's statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of schools places, we propose to change the existing priority area split of the Hatton Park development as well as slightly increasing the published admission number for The Ferncumbe CE Primary School.

3. The Proposals

3.1 Proposal 1

- a) The proposal is increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) of The Ferncumbe CE Primary School from 17 to 20, with effect from September 2013 admissions.
- b) An admission number of 20 will be easier for the school to manage and should support the longer term sustainability of the school.
- c) Although the proposed increase in the PAN is only small, the Local Authority will be working with the school and the Diocesan Board of Education to look at the implications for the accommodation at the school and look to make changes to improve the facilities at the school. Any capital costs will be met from Basic Need as part of the Warwickshire County Council Capital Programme.
- d) There are currently no plans to increase the PAN of Budbrooke Primary School.

3.2 Proposal 2

- a) The proposal is re-allocate the Hatton Park development across the priority areas for Budbrooke Primary School and The Ferncumbe CE Primary School.

- b) 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.
- c) 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 2012 known to be living on the Hatton Park development and due to start school in September 2012 and the following 3 years. This represents all children and not just those looking to enter a local state primary school.

Table 1 – Existing priority area

Primary School Priority Area	Number of pupils due to start school			
	Sept 2012	Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Sept 2015
Budbrooke Primary School	21	23	19	
The Ferncumbe CE Primary School	49	48	39	
Total	70	71	58	

- d) We propose to move a number of addresses that currently fall within the priority area for the Ferncumbe CE Primary School into the priority area for Budbrooke Primary School with effect from September 2013 admissions. However, transitional arrangements will be put in place for those children with siblings already attending The Ferncumbe CE Primary School. Details of these arrangements are given later in this document.
- e) A map showing the proposed changes is attached at **Appendix A**.
- f) The changes will mean that the following roads fall within the priority area for The Ferncumbe CE Primary School.
- Amscote Grove
 - Barcheston Mews
 - Claydon Grove
 - Crimscote Square
 - Highfield
 - Pebworth Drive
 - Quinton Close
 - Todenham Way
 - Tredington Park
 - Welford Grove

- Ilmington Close
- Mollington Grove
- Barcheston Drive Numbers ** to ** inclusive (to be added before the final report is distributed)
- Winderton Avenue

g) The changes will mean that following roads fall within the priority area for Budbrooke CE Primary School.

- Admington Drive
- Alderminster Grove
- Arlescote Close
- Aspley Court
- Blackwell Lane
- Campden Grove
- Charingworth Drive
- Combroke Grove
- Dasset Close
- Barcheston Drive Numbers ** to ** inclusive (To be added before the final report is distributed)
- Dorsington Close
- Ebrington Drive
- Halford Grove
- Honnington Close
- Hornton Grove
- King Edwards Court
- Mickleton Drive
- Rowburgh Close
- Tidmington Close

h) The table below shows the number of children as at May 2012 known to be living on the Hatton Park development and due to start school in September 2012 and the following three years. This represents all children and not just those looking to enter a local state primary school.

Table 2 – Proposed priority area

Primary School Priority Area	Number or pupils due to start school			
	Sept 2012	Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Sept 2015
Budbrooke Primary School	35	36	30	
The Ferncumbe CE Primary School	35	35	28	
Total	70	71	58	

i) Both Budbrooke Primary School and The Ferncumbe CE Primary School have priority areas stretching wider than just the Hatton Park development. Those parts of the school priority areas will remain unchanged.

4. Implications and Transitional Arrangements.

- 4.1 If the proposals are agreed we would envisage the increase in the PAN and the changes to the priority areas both coming into effect for admissions from September 2013 onwards.
- 4.2 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 2013, a sibling of a children already attending The Ferncumbe CE 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 children already attending The Ferncumbe CE Primary School, 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.

5. The Process

- 5.1 We will be required to consult with interested stakeholders on the proposed changes. Working within the current Admissions Code will mean that changes to the priority area cannot be introduced until September 2014 admissions unless we approach the Schools Adjudicator for permission to introduce the change earlier. If after consultation, it is decided to introduce changes to the priority areas, the views of consultees will be considered when deciding whether or not to seek an in-year variation from the Adjudicator.
- 5.2 Discussions have already taken place with both schools and the Diocesan Board of Education who are all supportive of the proposals.

6. Summary

- 6.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places. Unless steps are taken to make changes surrounding the Hatton Park development, longer term
- The Local Authority will not be able to ensure a sufficiency of places within the local area.
 - Children from the Hatton Park development could have to travel some considerable distance to secure a school place.
 - A large number of 'in-area' children will be unable to secure admission to their priority school.

7. Timescales Associated with Next Steps

- 7.1 It is proposed that consultation should take place between 10 September and 2 November 2012.
- 7.2 A further report will be brought to Portfolio Holder for decision in November 2012.

7.3 If it is decided to support the proposals a request will be made for an in-year variation from the Schools Adjudicator to allow the changes to come into effect for September 2013 admissions

Background Information/ factors considered in arriving at these decisions - (set out below or attach officer report):

**Background
Financial and Legal Implications**

Report Author: Janet Neale
Head of Service: Mark Gore
Strategic Director: Wendy Fabbro
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Timms

Checklist

Urgent matter: yes/no*

No

Confidential or Exempt (state category of exempt information)

N/a

Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework

No

List of Reports considered [please attach or forward a copy]

N/a

List of Background Papers [please include directorate contact names and numbers for access to background papers]

None

Any members and officers consulted or informed and any comments given.

For Comment:

Monica Fogarty – Strategic Director, Communities
David Carter – Strategic Director, Resources
Wendy Fabbro – Strategic Director, People
Jim Graham – Chief Executive
Fay Ford, Peter Endall, Victoria Gould and Jane Pollard – Legal
Barry Juckes – Property
Councillor Heather Timms – Decision Maker
Tejay De Krester – Equality
Simon Smith and Chris Norton – Finance

For information:

Councillors Caborn, Compton, Jackson, Robbins and Ross