

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Decision-Maker Portfolio Holder (Children, Young People and Families) Decision Making Session

Date of Meeting 4 December 2009

Report Title Proposed Changes to Secondary School Priority Areas in Nuneaton and Hartshill

Summary This report seeks permission to consult on proposed changes to secondary school priority areas in Nuneaton and Hartshill, conditional on the closure of Manor Park School and Alderman Smith School and the opening of an Academy in their place.

For further information please contact: Mark Gore
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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 papers 06.11.08, 27.11.08 and 09.07.09

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN: Details to be specified

Other Committees

Local Member(s) All councillors in the Nuneaton and Bedworth area plus Cllr Colin Hayfield (Arley) and Cllr Carol Fox (Hartshill)

Cllr June Tandy – Nuneaton Wem Brook – “I object to any decisions being made even for the ability to consult on any proposals for school boundary changes until such a time as a definitive decision has been made on the future of Manor Park and Alderman Smith schools.”

Cllr Barry Longden- Arbury and Stockingford
"Despite many many claims that the Academy is not a done deal this report clearly assumes that the Academy proposals will go ahead without any consideration of parental, children, and community opinion, and there is absolutely no reason to rush this through in this manner. This being the case there is little point in responding to this at this stage and I will save my comments until the formal consultation."

Other Elected Members

CYP&F O&S Chair and Vice-Chair for information:
 Cllr John Ross
 Cllr Carolyn Robbins

CYP&F O&S Spokespersons for information:
 Cllr Peter Balaam
 Cllr Tim Naylor
 Cllr Carolyn Robbins

Cabinet Member

Cllr Izzi Seccombe – *"noted"*

Other Cabinet Members consulted

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Chief Executive

.....

Legal

Diane Nation *"comments incorporated into the report"*

Finance

David Clarke, Strategic Director of Resources *"no comments"*

Other Strategic Directors

.....

District Councils

.....

Health Authority

.....

Police

.....

Other Bodies/Individuals

.....

FINAL DECISION

NO

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

Further consideration by this Committee

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- To Council
- To Cabinet Cabinet 11.03.10
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee 10.3.10
- Further Consultation All stakeholders (subject to Cabinet Portfolio Holder's decision)

**Portfolio Holder (Children, Young People and Families)
Decision Making Session – 4 December 2009**

**Proposed Changes to Secondary School Priority Areas in
Nuneaton and Hartshill**

**Report of the Strategic Director for Children,
Young People and Families**

Recommendation:

That the Portfolio Holder approves consultation taking place on proposed changes to secondary school priority areas in Nuneaton and Hartshill, conditional on the closure of Manor Park School and Alderman Smith School and the opening of an Academy in their place.

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report seeks permission to consult on proposed changes to secondary school priority areas in Nuneaton and Hartshill.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The County Council is currently working with North Warwickshire and Hinckley College on a proposal to open an Academy in Nuneaton. The proposal is linked to the closure of both Manor Park and Alderman Smith Schools with the Academy being built on the Alderman Smith site.
- 2.2 If approved, the development of an Academy will see one school taken out of Nuneaton.
- 2.3 With the removal of a school it will be necessary to review the priority areas of the remaining schools in the town. Informal discussions have taken place with the schools involved to consider possible options.

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, its admission criteria usually ensures 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 expect that a place for their child will generally be available at their priority school.
- 3.2 It is proposed to make changes to the priority areas for Higham Lane School and Etone School. In addition we will be asking Hartshill School and The George Eliot School to make changes to their priority areas. As Trust Schools, Hartshill

and George Eliot schools are their own admissions authority and can therefore determine their own priority areas. Proposals will also include consideration of the planned priority area for the Academy.

- 3.3 Following initial informal discussions with the schools, it is proposed that the changes as detailed in **Appendix A** be the subject of consultation.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 The School Admissions Regulations state that admission authorities seeking to make changes to a school's admission arrangements must consult for a period of no less than eight weeks between 1 November and 31 March. All steps must be taken to determine admission arrangements by 15 April.
- 4.2 The Local Authority is looking to run a consultation process between 14 December 2009 and 12 February 2010. This will then allow feedback to Cabinet for a decision on 11 March 2010.
- 4.3 Consultation documents will be distributed to the parents/carers of all children in schools in Nuneaton and Hartshill, the Local MPs, the Diocesan Authorities, the Borough Council, all schools in the area, all Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough and County Councillors, the Learning and Skills Council, Trade Unions and Professional Associations, and Neighbouring Local Authorities.
- 4.4 Any changes approved will not come into effect until admissions in September 2011. For admissions to secondary schools in September 2010, existing priority areas will apply.
- 4.5 This consultation is likely to have to be completed before the Secretary of State makes a decision about the Academy. If the proposal to establish an Academy is not supported and Manor Park School and Alderman Smith School remain open, the proposed changes to the priority areas of the schools in Nuneaton will not be necessary.

5. Summary

- 5.1 The proposal to close both Manor Park and Alderman Smith schools and to open an Academy in Nuneaton will require a change to secondary school priority areas within the area.
- 5.2 Consultation on the proposed changes must take place before the end of March 2010, although changes will not come into effect until admissions in September 2011.

MARION DAVIS
Strategic Director for Children,
Young People and Families
Saltisford Office Park
Ansell Way
Warwick
23 November 2009

Changes to Secondary School Priority Areas in Nuneaton

Background to the Review

In 2008, the Authority began a discussion with schools about the pattern of secondary provision. There were three key drives for that review:

- Relatively low levels of attainment and achievement
- Poor school buildings and the need to have a coherent plan for the area in advance of Building Schools for the Future
- High levels of surplus places

The aim of the review is to establish a pattern of strong, viable and successful schools which will lead to better outcomes and higher levels of attainment across the area as a whole.

Existing Arrangements

Existing Town Priority Areas as of October 2009

There are currently three areas in the town of Nuneaton that are shared between two schools:

- Camp Hill – shared between Manor Park and Hartshill
- Whitestone – shared between George Eliot and Etone
- An Area shared between Etone and Manor Park

It is anticipated that these areas will only come under the priority area of one school as part of this review.

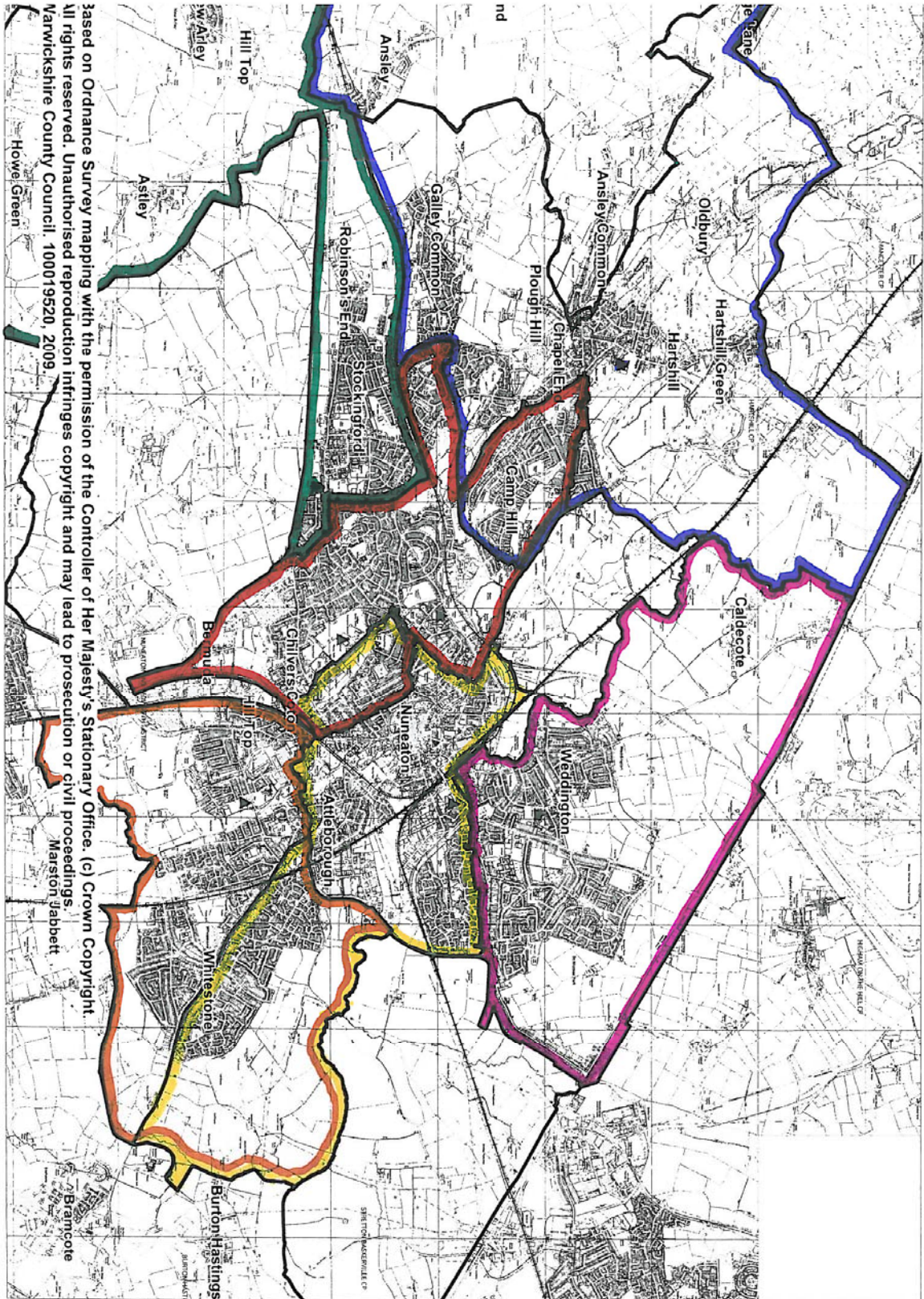
One of the major drives for the review of priority areas is to ensure that the numbers of children within each area match up with the capacities of the priority schools. With the planned closures of Alderman Smith and Manor Park and a creation of a new Academy on the Alderman Smith site there will not be sufficient space for all of the children who live in the priority areas of Manor Park and Alderman Smith to attend the Academy. It is therefore necessary to review the current priority areas.

There are also three areas that currently have no priority for any school.

- The Arbury Estate
- Caldecote
- Stretton Baskerville

At the moment there is very little development in these areas but it is planned to place these areas within a school priority area.

Current Nuneaton Town Priority Areas



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KEY					
Hartshill	Alderman Smith	Manor Park	Etone	Higham Lane	George Eliot

Existing Rural Priority Areas as of October 2009

The Rural part of the Nuneaton Schools priority areas extends into North Warwickshire taking in the parishes of Arley, Ansley and Fillongley. These areas are currently primarily shared between three schools: Alderman Smith, Ash Green and Hartshill Schools with a small area also lying in the priority area of Coleshill School.

It is anticipated that the rural area that is solely in the Priority Area of Alderman Smith School, which includes the villages of Old and New Arley, will remain in the priority area for the Academy; this being the closest and most accessible school from the villages.

The Parish of Ansley is currently in the priority area of both Alderman Smith and Hartshill Schools. As of January 2009 there were 130 secondary aged pupils in the area. 63 of which were attending Hartshill School and 44 attending Alderman Smith School. The remainder were attending other schools in the Nuneaton and North Warwickshire areas.

The Parish of Fillongley is currently in the priority area of both Alderman Smith and Ash Green Schools. As of January 2009 there were 19 secondary aged pupils in the area. 5 of which were attending Ash Green School and 4 attending Alderman Smith School. The remainder were attending other schools in the Nuneaton and North Warwickshire areas.

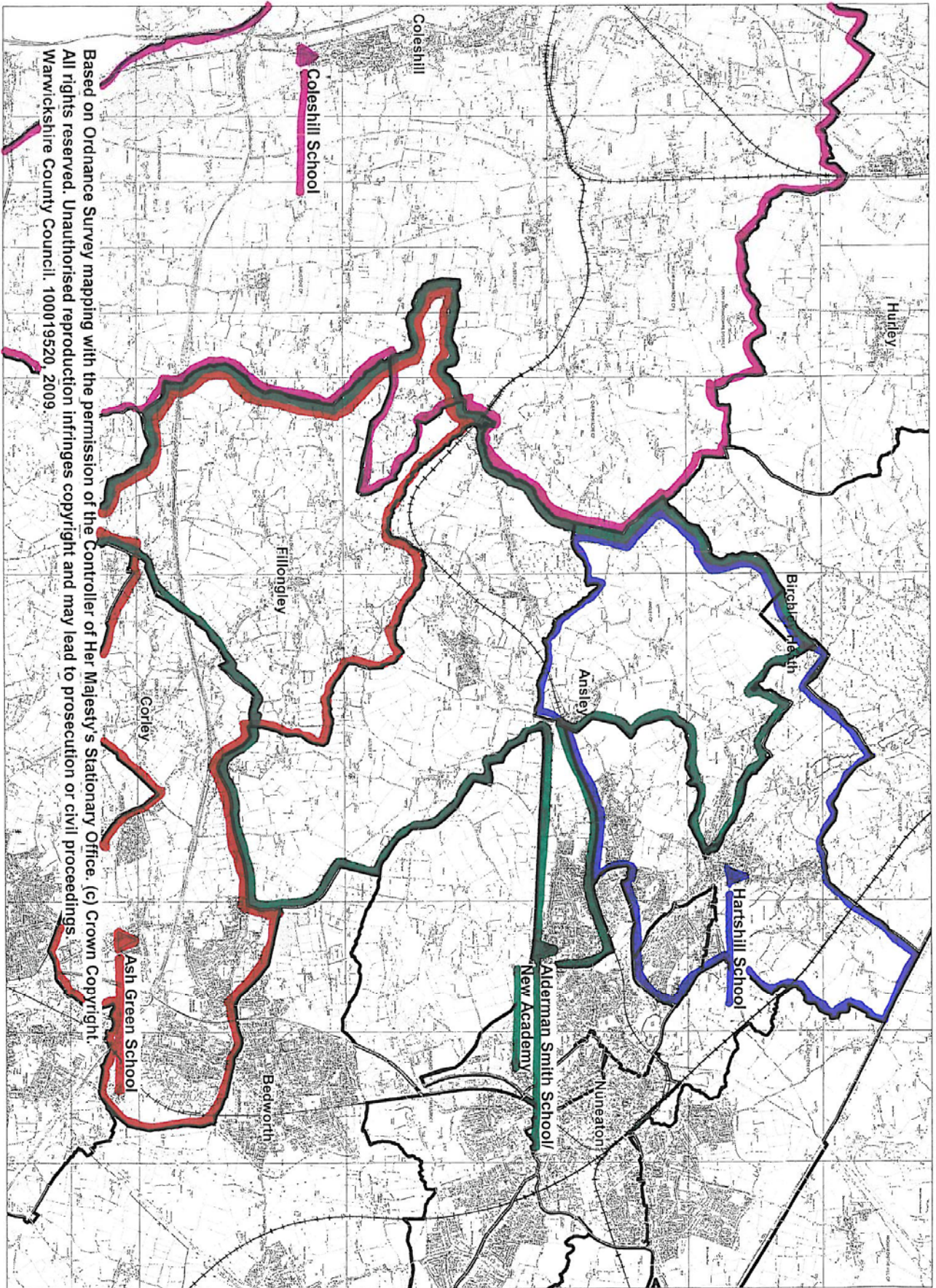
The Shawbury Lane area lies in the parish of Fillongley and along with Ash Green and Alderman Smith Schools this area is also shared with Coleshill School. As of January 2009 there were 5 secondary aged pupils in the area all of whom were attending Coleshill School. It is therefore anticipated that this area will become part of the priority area of Coleshill School.

Alderman Smith School – Parish of Fillongley is shared with Ash Green School. The Shawbury Lane area of Fillongley Parish is also shared with Coleshill School. Parish of Ansley is shared with Hartshill School. The villages of Old Arley and New Arley are solely in the priority area of Alderman Smith School.

Ash Green School – Parish of Fillongley is shared with Alderman Smith School. The Shawbury Lane area of Fillongley Parish is also shared with Coleshill School.

Hartshill School – Parish of Ansley is shared with Alderman Smith School.

Coleshill School – The Shawbury Lane area of Fillongley Parish is shared with Alderman Smith and Ash Green Schools.



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A number of options have been considered and discussed informally with the schools concerned. The proposals below seem to be the most appropriate way forward to ensure the long term viability of schools within Nuneaton and Hartshill as well as removing the existing pattern of shared priority areas from across the area.

Higham Lane

- Existing Priority Area
- Caldecote Region
- Area of Etone's priority area north of Midland Road and Corporation Street

Higham Lane School is currently able to take all of the children within the priority area that require a school place.

Hartshill

- Existing Priority Area
- Camp Hill region previously shared with Manor Park
- Manor Park Priority Area north of Railway Line

Hartshill School will be able to accommodate all of the pupils from the Camp Hill area; the majority of which already are attending Hartshill School. The railway line will form a natural boundary between the priority areas of Hartshill and the new Academy should there be further development in the region.

Etone

- Existing priority area less the North side of Lutterworth Road, Eastboro Way to River Anker and estates between. (e.g. Crowhill, Whitestone).
- Previously shared area with Manor Park plus Manor Park area East of Canal
- Stretton Baskerville North of Railway Line

George Eliot

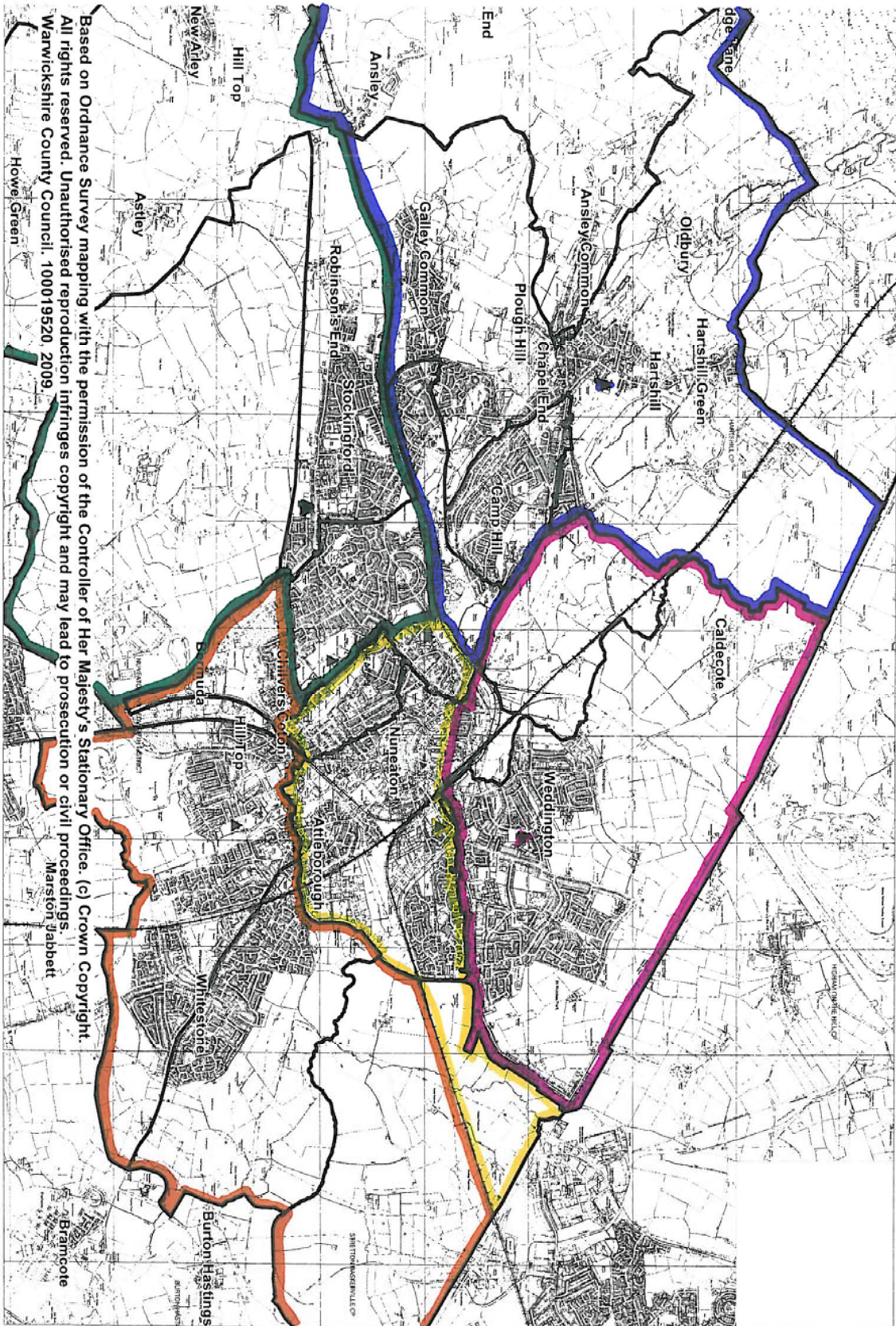
- Existing priority area
- The North side of Lutterworth Road, Eastboro Way to River Anker and estates between previously shared with Etone. (e.g. Crowhill, Whitestone).
- Whitestone region previously shared with Etone
- Stretton Baskerville South of Railway Line
- Area of Manor Park's priority area south of Heath End Road.

New Academy

- Existing priority area of Alderman Smith
- Remainder of Manor Park's priority area
- Arbury Estate

Implications

- Eastern boundary of New Academy provides a rational geographical divide with the proposed Etone priority area, so that no parts of the previous Manor Park priority area are an unreasonable distance from a secondary school.
- The option would maximise the area the New Academy could accommodate.
- The proposed arrangements provide a larger priority area for George Eliot School to assist the long term sustainability of the school.
- The railway line provides an appropriate and 'natural' boundary line between Hartshill and the New Academy and Hartshill and Etone and provides a coherent area for Hartshill School.
- The additional area given to Etone is balanced by the loss of the shared Whitestone area and provides a potentially attractive alternative school for pupils in the centre of Nuneaton.
- Extending the Higham Lane priority area should increase the number of 'in area' places it offers and should marginally reduce the number of pupils who go to the school from out of its area. This could be particularly significant when the Judkins Quarry area is developed for housing.
- The addition of the existing Manor Park priority South of Heath End Road will help further to align more closely the George Eliot priority area with its capacity and marginally reduce the pressure on the New Academy.



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 Howe Green
 Marston Jabbett

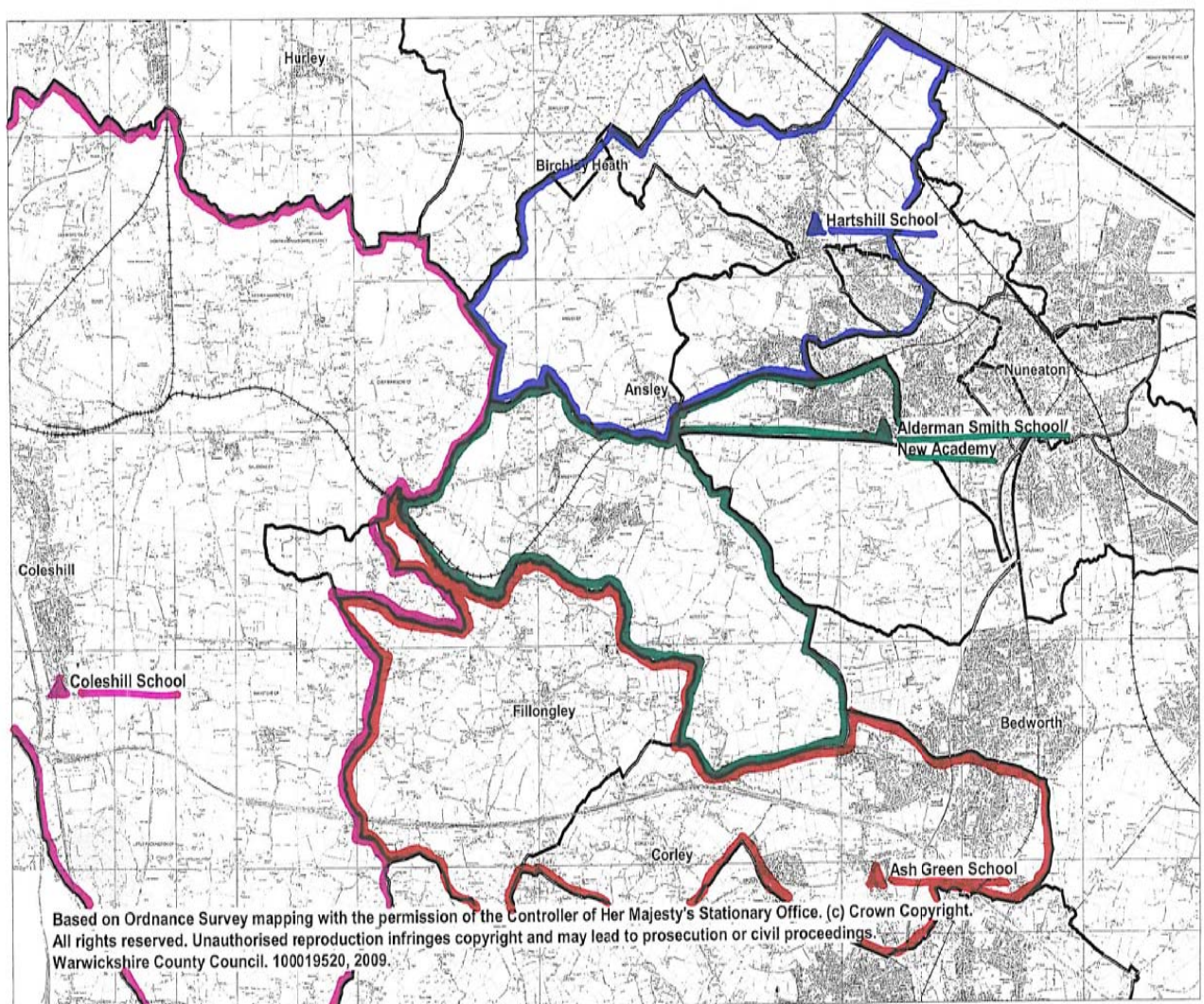
Proposal for Rural Area

New Academy – Loses the previously shared areas of Fillongley Parish to Ash Green School and Ansley Parish to Hartshill School.

Ash Green School – Retains all of the previously shared area of Fillongley parish.

Hartshill School – Retains all of Hartshill's priority area including the previously shared area of Ansley Parish.

Coleshill School - The Shawbury Lane area of Fillongley Parish will transfer to the priority area of Coleshill School only.



Implications

- Benefit of largest reduction in number of pupils in the rural area of the New Academy.
- Removal of shared areas simplifies priority areas for parents.
- New entrants in the Ansley Parish, Fillongley Parish and Shawbury Lane areas would not have priority for admission to the New Academy. New pupils living in these areas may have no entitlement to free travel to the New Academy.
- May not have additional pupil travel costs.
- May result in a small increase in pupil numbers at Hartshill, Ash Green and Coleshill Schools. Each school should be able to accommodate the additional pupils from this option.