

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 Primary School Priority Areas in Nuneaton

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

For further information please contact: Janet Neale
School Project Officer
Tel: 01926 742266
janetneale@warwickshire.gov.uk

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(s) Cllr Barry Longden – Arbury & Stockingford
Cllr Sonja Wilson – Arbury & Stockingford
Cllr June Tandy – Nuneaton Wem Brook

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
- 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
- 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 Primary School Priority Areas in
Nuneaton**

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

Recommendation

That the Portfolio Holder approves consultation taking place on proposed changes to primary school priority areas in Nuneaton.

1. Purpose of the Report

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

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The Bermuda Park housing development in Nuneaton does not all currently fall within the priority area of any school. Proposed changes to secondary school provision in the town will provide an opportunity to rectify this matter at secondary level, but will do nothing to change the current position at primary phase.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 If approved, following formal consultations, the changes would take effect from September 2011.

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 Part of the Bermuda Park development currently falls within the priority areas of Glendale Infant School and Middlemarch School which is a junior school. However parts of the housing development at Bermuda Park do not currently appear in a priority 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 Glendale Infant School and Middlemarch Junior 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 Bermuda Park. 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 two schools concerned and they are in favour of the proposal. It is envisaged that the two 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 Bermuda Park development fall within the priority area for Glendale Infant and Middlemarch schools. We do not envisage this proposal having an adverse effect on any other schools in the area as the children living on Bermuda Park already attend Glendale Infant School and Middlemarch 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 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, the local MPs, the Diocesan Authorities, the Borough Council, all schools in the area, all Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough and County Councillors, Trade Unions and Professional Associations, and Neighbouring Local Authorities.

5. Summary

- 5.1 The Bermuda Park housing development in Nuneaton does not all currently fall within the priority area of any school. It is proposed to increase the current priority areas for both Glendale Infant School and Middlemarch School to rectify this matter at primary level.

- 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