

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Rugby Area Committee
Date of Committee 8th March 2006
Report Title Change to Indicated Admission Number of Oakfield Primary School, Rugby

Summary To inform the Area Committee of the feedback received as a result of the consultation on proposals to change the Indicated Admission Number of Oakfield Primary School, Rugby, and give the Area Committee an opportunity to make recommendations to the Cabinet.

For further information please contact: Phil Astle
Education Officer (School Organisation)
Tel: 01926 412820
philastle@warwickshire.gov.uk

Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision] No

Background papers

- Draft Warwickshire School Organisation Framework Document 2005/10
- Cabinet report 12th January 2006

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

Other Committees

Local Member(s) Cllr Bryan Levy – Lawford & New Bilton

Other Elected Members O&S Spokespersons for information re Cabinet report:
Cllr Helen McCarthy
Cllr Richard Grant
Cllr Jill Dill-Russell

- Cabinet Member Cllr John Burton – “noted”
- Other Cabinet Members consulted Cllr Izzi Seccombe
Cllr Peter Fowler
- Chief Executive
- Legal Jane Pollard / Richard Freeth – “fine”
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers
- 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 6th April 2006
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

Rugby Area Committee – 8th March 2006

Change to Indicated Admission Number of Oakfield Primary School, Rugby

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

Recommendation:

That the Area Committee is asked for any comments it wishes to make to the Cabinet on the proposal to change the Indicated Admission Number of Oakfield Primary School, Rugby.

1. Background

- 1.1 Since September 2004 individual school capacities have been calculated according to the Department for Education and Skills' 'Net Capacity' methodology (see DfES Guidance 0739/2001). This physical capacity assessment indicates the number of children each school could be expected to admit (the Indicated Admission Number (IAN)).
- 1.2 Admission Authorities are required to take the IAN into account when publishing the admission limit for a school. The number to be published is the Planned Admission Number (PAN). A brief summary of the Net Capacity Regulations and the way it impacts on school admissions limits is attached as **Appendix A** to this report along with a paper on 'frequently asked questions'.

2. Consultation

The Governing Body of Oakfield Primary School wishes to increase its admission number from 25 to 30 pupils per year with effect from September 2007 admissions. Admission numbers for community and controlled schools are set by the County Council. At its meeting on 12th January the Cabinet agreed to consult stakeholders, including parents, other schools in the area, Parish Councils, Diocesan Authorities, neighbouring local authorities and the Area Committee on the proposal.

3. The issue

- 3.1 Oakfield Primary School has a recorded physical capacity of 175 pupils and in January 2006 had some 157 pupils on roll.
- 3.2 A ground floor extension recently added to the main school building has added one classroom to the physical capacity of the school enabling this proposed increase in admission number. This change has resulted in an increase in the school's net capacity from 175 to 203 pupils. The new physical capacity of the school converts to an IAN of 29 pupils per year. The school wishes to publish a PAN of 30 to reflect the way it will organise its classes. The school is satisfied that it is able to accommodate 30 pupils per year in its classrooms.
- 3.3 Although the school is currently operating below its current capacity, the Bilton Court/Pavilions development on Bilton Road is expected to produce an increased pupil demand of around 10 pupils per year group. While the new estate is not within the priority of Oakfield School, the nearest schools (St. Matthew's Bloxam and St. Oswald's) are full and so Oakfield School expects to experience a 'knock-on' increased demand given its proximity to the development.

Table 1
Numbers on roll at Oakfield Primary School – February 2006

School Year	Number on roll
Reception	21
Year 1	19
Year 2	25
Year 3	28
Year 4	23
Year 5	19
Year 6	22
Total	157

- 3.4 The addition of teaching accommodation means that the capacity of the school is higher and the new admission number will more accurately reflect its new capacity.

Table 2
Forecast of pupil numbers at Oakfield Primary School (Reception)

Admission No.	2006	2007	2008	2009
25	20	27	28	29

4. Implications of the proposal

- 4.1 It is forecast that the proposed increase to the admission number of Oakfield Primary would provide sufficient places in this locality to meet forecasted additional demand for primary places.

- 4.2 If approved, an admission number of 30 pupils will apply to admissions to Oakfield Primary School from September 2007 onwards. The Admission Number for September 2006 will remain at 25 pupils.

5. Feedback from the consultation

- 5.1 A consultation paper was sent to all parents of pupils at Oakfield Primary School, the governing body and staff of the school, other schools in the area, Parish Councils, Diocesan Authorities and neighbouring local authorities. A copy of the consultation document is attached as **Appendix B** to this report. The consultation period ran from 6th February to 28th February.
- 5.2 At the time of drafting this report, four responses to the consultation have been received. A copy of all responses has been placed in the Members' group rooms and a summary of the responses received at the time of drafting is as follows:
- 5.3 St. Marie's Catholic Infant School, Rugby, and Bilton Infant School both object to the proposal on the grounds that there are surplus school places in this area of Rugby. The letter from Bilton Infant School points out that Oakfield Primary School is not full at present.

The response from St. Marie's Catholic Infant School says that while it accepts that the new housing development on Bilton Road 'is substantial', there can be no certainty about the number of additional pupils this will produce or that all the pupils will wish to attend Oakfield Primary School.

Comment

While Oakfield Primary School does have some 18 spare places, pupil numbers have been growing significantly over the last few years and the forecast for 2007 to 2009 suggests that they may exceed the current admission number each year. Plans to develop an Early Years Centre at Oakfield Primary School could further increase the demand for places.

The new housing development on Bilton Road is not in the priority area for Oakfield Primary School and both St. Oswald's C of E Primary School and St. Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School are closer to the development. A figure of an additional 10 pupils per year as a result of the new housing is based upon the average pupil product of a housing development of this size, but this can only be a planning guide. With St. Oswald's C of E Primary School and St. Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School both operating at, or near, capacity, Oakfield Primary School and other schools in the area could expect to benefit indirectly, if not directly, from the resultant extra pupils.

This proposal also has to be considered in the light of other proposals to amalgamate the Rokeby Infant School and Rokeby Junior School which involved reducing their admission numbers by 30 places per year so as to concentrate on meeting demand from the Rokeby area. That proposal should also have a beneficial impact on future pupil numbers in local schools, including Bilton Infant School and Oakfield Primary School.

The impact on St. Marie's Catholic Infant School is difficult to assess, though this school could expect to benefit from those families moving into the new housing who wish to have their children educated in a Catholic school.

- 5.4 A letter from Jeff Coupe, a Governor at Oakfield Primary School, supporting the proposal on the grounds that:

“The school has the capacity to accommodate the additional pupils...
The school has an increasing and hard earned positive reputation...
There is a large and very local housing development.”

Comment

The capacity of the school has increased from 175 pupils to 203 pupils and an increase from 25 to 29 pupils per year could be justified on this basis. In organisational terms, Members may consider it reasonable for the school to ask for an admission number of 30 pupils, which is generally regarded as an optimum number from a class organisation and resourcing perspective.

- 5.5 Leicestershire County Council, consulted routinely with all neighbouring authorities, has written to say that it has no objections.

6. Summary

The capacity of Oakfield Primary School has increased from 175 to 203 places per year, which would indicate an increase in the school's admission number from 25 to 29 pupils per year. The school wishes to set its Planned Admission Number at 30 pupils per year. The consultation has revealed opposition to the proposal from two local schools who feel the increase is not necessary, although it should be pointed out that there are several other schools in the area who have not objected. The matter will shortly be considered by the Cabinet and any comments on the proposal from the Area Committee would be welcomed.

7. Recommendation

That the Area Committee is asked for any comments it wishes to make to the Cabinet on the proposal to change the Indicated Admission Number of Oakfield Primary School, Rugby.

MARION DAVIS
Strategic Director for Children,
Young People and Families
22 Northgate Street
Warwick

28th February 2006

Amendments to the Net Capacity and Planned Admission Numbers of Schools

The physical capacity of schools is measured according to the Department for Education and Skill's Net Capacity Regulations. The only schools to which these regulations do not apply to are maintained special schools, nursery schools and units, and pupil reintegration units.

Admission Authorities can only set a Planned Admission Number (PAN) below the Indicated Admission Number if the Admission Authority publishes its reasons for doing so in the local press.

Foundation and Aided schools must consult other Admission Authorities about the Planned Admission Number they intend to publish, including situations where the proposed PAN would be higher than the Indicated Admission Number. This can be done through the annual admissions cycle consultations.

The Local Education Authority is the final arbiter in relation to the technical calculation of the net capacity of all schools. The LEA also determines the Planned Admission Number (PAN) for all Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, though if the LEA and a school were unable to agree a PAN, the school could take the matter to the Adjudicator. In the case of Voluntary Aided and Foundation schools, the Governing Body is required to consult with the Local Education Authority before setting the PAN and if the LEA and a school were unable to agree a PAN the LEA could take the matter to the Adjudicator.

An increase in the number of pupils which it is intended to admit by 27 or more pupils requires the publication of statutory proposals by the LEA in the case of a Community school and by the governing body in other cases.

School capacities only need to be updated if physical changes are made to the usable space, such as:

- Space being removed or more space being added.
- Several small spaces being converted into one larger one.
- Changes being made that affect the type of teaching spaces in secondary schools.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do the new capacities link to admission limits?

The new physical capacity assessments indicate the number of children each school could be expected to admit (Indicated Admission Number). The Indicated Admission Number replaces the Standard Number of the school as the guide to the minimum admission limit that can be set.

Admission Authorities are required to take the Indicated Admission Number into account when publishing the admission limit for a school. The number to be published is called a Planned Admission Number (PAN).

Can a Planned Admission Number (PAN) be set below the Indicated Admission Number (i.e. below the number indicated by the capacity of the school)?

Admission Authorities will only be able to set a Planned Admission Number (PAN) below the Indicated Admission Number if the Admission Authority publishes its reasons for doing so in the local press.

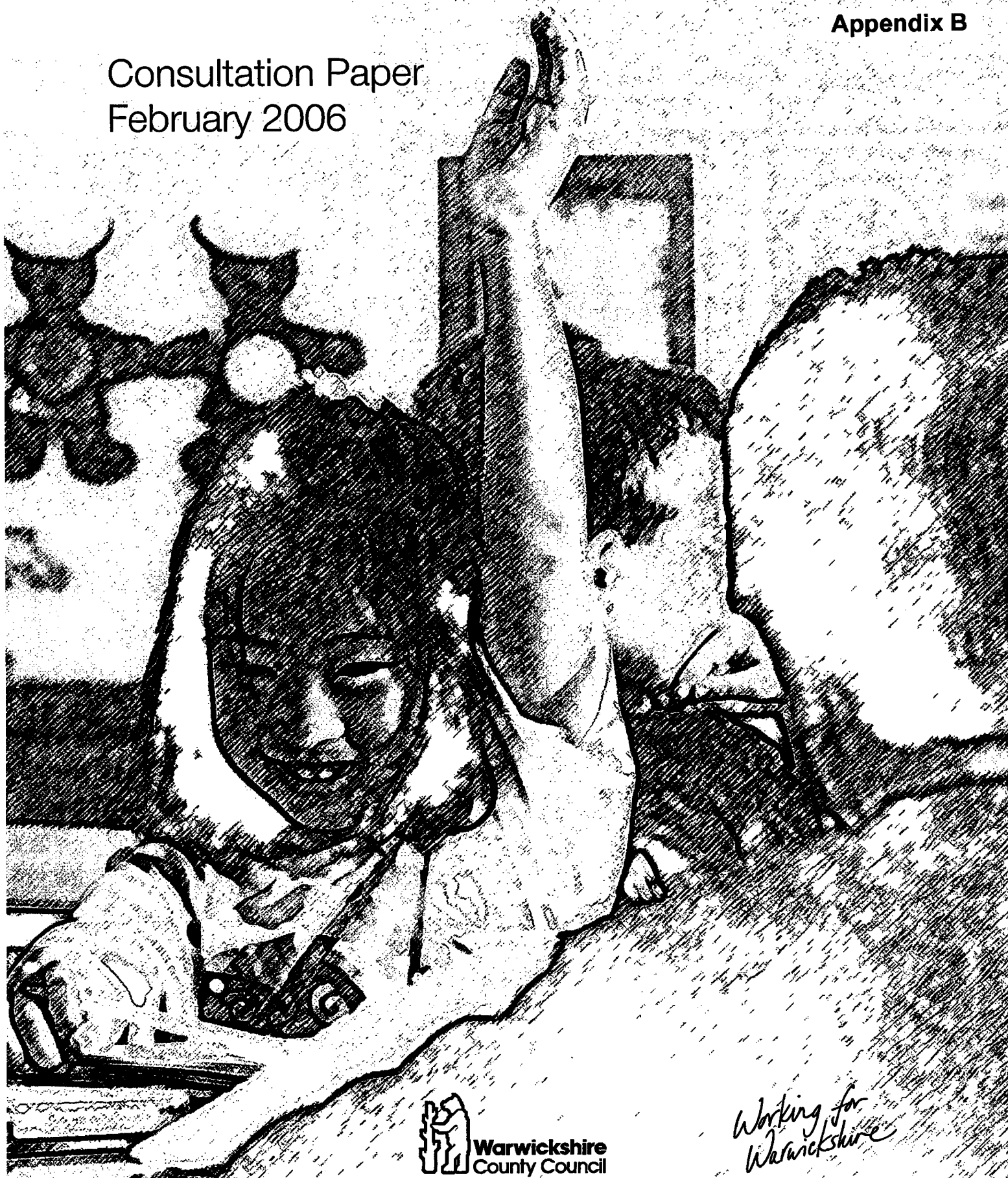
Can a PAN be set above the Indicated Admission Number?

Admission Authorities may set a PAN higher than the Indicated Admission Number following consultation.

Proposal to increase the Indicated Admission Number of Oakfield Primary School

Appendix B

Consultation Paper
February 2006



THE PROPOSAL

The governing body of Oakfield Primary School wishes to increase the school's admission number from 25 to 30 pupils per year with effect from September 2007 admissions.

BACKGROUND

Oakfield Primary School has a recorded physical capacity of 175 pupils and in February 2006 had some 157 pupils on roll.

A recent ground floor extension to the main school building has added one classroom to the physical capacity of the school enabling this proposed increase in admission number.

This change has resulted in an increase in the school's Net Capacity from 175 to 203 pupils. The new physical capacity of the school converts to an Indicated Admission Number (IAN) of 29 pupils per year.

The school wishes to publish a Planned Admission Number (PAN) of 30 to reflect the way the school will organise its classes. The school is satisfied that it is able to accommodate 30 pupils per year in its classrooms.

Although the school is currently operating below its current capacity, the Bilton Court/Pavilions development on Bilton Road is expected to produce an increased pupil demand of around 10 pupils per year group. While the new estate is not within the priority of Oakfield Primary School, the nearest schools (St Matthew's Bloxam and St Oswald's) are full and so Oakfield expects to experience a 'knock-on' increased demand given its proximity to the development. This increase in demand is reflected in the forecast figures in Table 3 below.

Table 1: Numbers on Roll at Oakfield Primary School – February 2006

<i>School Year</i>	<i>Number on roll</i>
<i>Reception</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Year 1</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Year 2</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Year 3</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Year 4</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Year 5</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Year 6</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>157</i>

Table 2: Class Organisation at Oakfield Primary School – February 2006

<i>Reception</i>	<i>Year 1</i>	<i>Year 2</i>	<i>Year 3/4</i>	<i>Year 4/5</i>	<i>Year 5/6</i>
21 <i>Rec</i>	19 <i>Yr1</i>	25 <i>Yr2</i>	28 <i>Yr 3</i> 4 <i>Yr 4</i>	19 <i>Yr4</i> 10 <i>Yr5</i>	22 <i>Yr6</i> 9 <i>Yr5</i>

WHY IS THE CHANGE NECESSARY?

The addition of teaching accommodation at the school means that the capacity of the school is higher and the new admission number will more accurately reflect this new capacity.

Table 3: Forecasted Pupil Numbers at Oakfield Primary School (Reception)

	<i>Admission No.</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>
<i>Oakfield Primary School</i>	25	20	27	28	28

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THE CHANGE?

It is forecast that the proposed increase to the admission number of Oakfield Primary School would provide sufficient places in this locality to meet forecasted additional demand for primary places.

WHEN WOULD THE CHANGE TAKE EFFECT?

If approved, an admission number of 30 pupils will apply to admissions to Oakfield Primary School from September 2007 onwards. The admission number for September 2006 will remain at 25 pupils.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

This consultation paper is being sent to all parents of pupils attending Oakfield Primary School, governing bodies in Rugby, Diocesan Education Authorities, admission authorities, Parish Councils in East Warwickshire and neighbouring Local Authorities.

We want to know your views. Please send your comments on the proposals to:

Phil Astle
Education Department
22 Northgate Street
Warwick
CV34 4SP

by 28 February 2006

At the end of the consultation period, these proposals, and a summary of all the comments received will be considered by Rugby Area Committee and the Cabinet of Warwickshire County Council.