

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee**                      **Stratford-on-Avon Joint Committee – South**

**Date of Committee**                      **25<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

**Report Title**                                **Provision of primary school places in Stratford-upon-Avon town**

**Summary**                                      This report outlines the need to provide additional primary school places in Stratford town and asks Cabinet to approve formal consultation on proposals to meet the increased numbers.

**For further information please contact:**                      Phil Astle  
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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**

- School Organisation Framework Document 2005/10
- Report to WCC Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee 25.9.05

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-**

Details to be specified

Other Committees                                       .....

Local Member(s)                                       .....

Other Elected Members                                       Spokespersons for information:  
Cllr John Burton  
Cllr Richard Grant – *“noted”*  
Cllr John Whitehouse – *“these recommendations have my full support”*

- Cabinet Member  Cllr Izzi Seccombe
- Other Cabinet Members consulted  .....
- Chief Executive  .....
- Legal  Diane Nation – comments incorporated into the report
- Finance  .....
- 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  16<sup>th</sup> October 2008
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  Stratford-on-Avon Joint Committee – South 18.12.08 (subject to Cabinet’s decision)
- Further Consultation  All stakeholders (subject to Cabinet’s decision)

**Stratford-on-Avon Joint Committee – South  
25<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

**Provision of primary school places in  
Stratford-upon-Avon town**

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

**Recommendations:**

- (1) That the report on the provision of primary school places in Stratford-upon-Avon town be noted.
- (2) That Cabinet be asked to approve formal consultation by the Local Authority on proposals to increase the capacity of The Willows C of E (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School from 40 to 45 pupils per year and Alveston C of E (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School from 20 to 30 pupils per year with effect from September 2010, and a targeted review of primary school priority areas in the town of Stratford-upon-Avon.

**1. Background**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the position with regard to the provision of primary school places in Stratford-upon-Avon. Currently, the town is served by eight primary schools, including St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School and three Church of England Voluntary Controlled schools and four Community primary schools.
- 1.2 Stratford-upon-Avon has attracted significant numbers of new houses and is currently the only town in South Warwickshire to be designated for large-scale housing developments. A large number of new houses have already been completed to date and this has resulted in some year groups and some schools being full. Contributions from developers have enabled the County Council to expand some primary schools in the town.

## 2. Overview of school places in primary schools

2.1 Table 1 below sets out the number of pupils on roll in each primary school in Stratford for September 2008:

*Table 1*  
*Number of primary school pupils on roll and school capacities as at September 2008*  
(source: individual schools)

School	Capacity	Number on roll Sep.2008	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	* PAN
Alveston C of E Primary	140	145	29	21	18	14	18	25	20	20
Bishopton Primary	154	140	24	25	19	14	19	19	20	22
Bridge Town Primary	315	307	45	45	42	38	46	47	44	45
Shottery St. Andrew's C of E Primary	70	64	10	12	6	10	7	12	7	10
St .Gregory's Catholic (Aided) Primary	210	221	30	30	30	32	35	32	32	30
Stratford Primary	210	214	30	30	30	30	29	31	34	30
The Willows C of E Primary	280	269	38	41	34	37	41	36	42	40
Thomas Jolyffe Primary	420	405	58	58	60	59	55	55	60	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,799</b>	<b>1,765</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>257</b>

\* PAN = the official Planned Admission Number

2.2 The total number of pupils on roll in Stratford town as at September 2008 indicates that:

- Three primary schools are operating above their physical capacity: Stratford Primary School, Alveston C of E (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School and St. Gregory's Catholic (Aided) Primary School. Cabinet agreed in December 2007 to provide an additional classroom at Bishopton Primary School to enable the school to increase its capacity from 22 to 30 pupils per year from September 2009.
- There are only 54 (3%) pupil places available across all year groups in the town.

- In relation to September 2008 admissions to Reception year groups, it should be noted that it was only possible to offer all pupils resident within the town a primary school in Stratford town by temporarily increasing the admission number of Bishopton Primary School, The Willows C of E (Controlled) Primary School and Alveston C of E (Controlled) Primary School. In the event, not all three schools filled to the revised admission number but there remains little flexibility in available provision.

### 3. Projected primary school pupil numbers up to 2008 to 2012

- 3.1 The demographic trend, based on the latest live birth data, for Stratford indicates that the pupil population of primary schools may rise by 113 pupils by September 2012. While this is largely as a result of additional pupils from new housing developments that may be built up to 2012 in the town, the increase is supported by a stable continuation of the higher number of births according to health authority data. The Reception cohort for 2011 indicates that it contains the highest number of new births (excluding new housing) at 267 pupils. A breakdown of the pupil forecast from 2008 to 2012 is set out in Table 2 below.
- 3.2 With regard to new housing developments, it should be noted that it is difficult to predict accurately the number of additional pupils from new housing. The rate of development is highly variable depending on the economic conditions at the time and a housing development of 50 houses can be completed in less than a year or take more than five. The current economic slow-down is likely to be reflected in the rate of new house building in Stratford though how much and for how long is unknown. The County Council uses an accepted formula to calculate the number of pupils that may result from any new housing but it is recognised that this can vary, for example, due to the nature and the size of dwellings. Additionally, where families move into new housing near to their former homes, they may well decide to leave their children in current schools at least in the short term. Further, it is understood that new housing plans for Stratford-on-Avon District Council for the period 2006 to 2026 contained in the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) currently envisages 6,000 new houses of which about 1,000 may be built in the town. It is also the case that this 6,000 allocation for Stratford District may be further reviewed by central government when it completes its consideration of the RSS.
- 3.3 The situation with regard to new housing developments after 2012, which will be included in the RSS, will need to be monitored carefully. One potentially contentious development which may yet arise after 2012 is that in the Shottery Fields area, where some 660 dwellings have been planned at various times. If this development were to go ahead in the future, it is intended that the current Shottery C of E Primary School would need to be enlarged and re-located to the new estate with a contribution from developers towards the cost.
- 3.4 A list of major housing developments in Stratford is attached as **Appendix A** to this report.

**Table 2**  
*Forecast numbers of pupils up to 2012, including expected rise in pupil numbers resulting from housing development\* and forecast school capacity also up to 2012*

	Actual 2008	Forecast			
		2009	2010	2011	2012
Demographic	1,765	1,749	1,742	1,750	1,759
Housing	included	42	63	98	119
Total demand	1,765	1,791	1,805	1,848	1,878
Capacity	1,799	1,855	1,855	1,855	1,855
Surplus	34	64	50	7	-23

- \* This table assumes that:
- (i) housing built up to 2012 is developed at a steady rate throughout the period, and
  - (ii) capacity of Bishopton Primary School increases from September 2009 admissions.

3.5 Table 3 below shows that on the basis of the demographic and new housing information available, it is estimated that the number of primary school pupils in the town will exceed current total capacity of schools in the town by 2012. In September 2008 it appears that there are just 77 school places in the town across all age groups including the 56 additional places agreed at Bishopton.

**Table 3**  
*Total actual and forecast pupil numbers on roll – Stratford-upon-Avon town primary schools 2008 to 2012*

School name	Numbers on roll						Capacity	% Surplus Jan 2008	% Surplus Sep 2012
	Actual		Forecast						
	Jan 2008	Sep 2008	Sep 2009	Sep 2010	Sep 2011	Sep 2012			
Stratford Primary	217	216	211	210	211	212	210	-3.3	-1.0
Thomas Jolyffe Primary	402	407	409	407	416	416	420	4.3	1.0
Bridge Town Primary	307	315	315	314	312	320	315	2.5	-1.6
Bishopton Primary	139	147	148	152	167	171	210 *	30.0	18.6
Alveston C of E Primary	137	142	148	158	169	183	140	2.1	-30.7
Shottery St. Andrew's C of E Primary	68	65	66	68	70	70	70	2.9	0.0
The Willows C of E Primary	274	273	283	285	296	299	280	2.1	-6.8
St. Gregory's Catholic Primary	218	213	211	211	207	207	210	-3.8	1.4
<b>Total for area</b>	<b>1,762</b>	<b>1,778</b>	<b>1,791</b>	<b>1,805</b>	<b>1,848</b>	<b>1,878</b>	<b>1,855</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>-1.2</b>

\* Capacity of Bishopton Primary School increases from 154 to 210 from September 2009.

3.6 Table 4 below shows the forecast for reception cohorts up to 2012. In January 2008 (September 2007 admissions when Bishopton Primary School's admission number was 22 and not 30), there were just 2 reception places available in the whole town. For September 2008 admissions, the current Reception year capacity of Stratford town schools was exceeded by 13 pupils and was managed mainly by Bishopton, The Willows and Alveston schools admitting above their published admission limits. In 2009 the only available Reception year capacity is forecast to be the 8 additional places agreed for Bishopton Primary School. Although the situation is slightly improved in 2010, a large Reception cohort of 287 pupils is forecast for 2011, some 22 above current Reception year capacity.

*Table 4  
Total actual and forecast Reception class pupil numbers –  
Stratford-upon-Avon town primary schools 2008 to 2012*

School name	Numbers on roll						Capacity	% Surplus Jan 2008	% Surplus Sep 2012
	Actual		Forecast						
	Jan 2008	Sep 2008	Sep 2009	Sep 2010	Sep 2011	Sep 2012			
Stratford Primary	30	30	30	30	31	30	30	0.0	0.0
Thomas Jolyffe Primary	55	60	58	53	60	60	60	8.3	0.0
Bridge Town Primary	45	47	45	45	45	45	45	0.0	0.0
Bishopton Primary	24	23	21	19	30	22	30	23.3	26.7
Alveston C of E Primary	20	28	26	24	30	27	20	0.0	-35.0
Shottery St. Andrew's C of E Primary	12	10	9	10	10	10	10	-20.0	0.0
The Willows C of E Primary	40	42	40	38	45	44	40	0.0	-10.0
St. Gregory's Catholic Primary	29	30	28	30	30	30	30	3.3	0.0
<b>Total for sub area</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>-1.1</b>

3.7 In addition to ensuring that there are sufficient school places across the town, there is also an issue about whether the current school places are located where they are needed, so that families can secure a place in a local school within a reasonable distance from their home.

3.8 Although living in a particular school priority area is no guarantee of a place at the respective school, there is a reasonable expectation from parents that this will normally be the case. This means that, where possible, school capacity should enable a school to meet the demand from its own priority area and where this is not the case a review of the size of the school or the size of the

priority area may be needed. The best recent example would be September 2008 admissions to Bridge Town Primary School, when it received 62 first choice preference applications for its 45 places, of which 57 were in the school's priority area. It should also be noted that there is a degree of cross-over of pupils between a number of the primary schools in the town, with pupils living in one priority area attending a school in another area. Whilst most of this is likely to be as a result of parental preference, some of these 'out of priority area' admissions will be due to the lack of spare primary school capacity in the town. Members may consider that a review of the primary school priority areas is worth exploring as a part of a long-term improvement to provision. If so, in order to minimise uncertainty for parents, it is recommended that the review should be short and targeted in its scope rather than a lengthy, general, process.

- 3.9 The determination of priority areas is a matter for the Joint Committee following formal consultations.

## **4. Proposal**

- 4.1 The analysis indicates that there will continue to be pressure on primary school places in Stratford-upon-Avon and that this may be particularly acute in the Reception year groups from 2011. In the meantime the provision of additional places would provide some essential flexibility where almost none current exists.

- 4.2 In view of the forecast increase in the town it is proposed, in addition to the agreed increase in the capacity of Bishopton Primary school, to seek Cabinet approval to consult on:

- (1) Increasing the capacity of The Willows C of E (Controlled ) School from 40 to 45 places per year. The Willows is a 4 to 11 years school serving part of the central area of the town and has 273 pupils on roll against a current capacity of 280 pupils. Increasing the school's capacity to 45 pupils per year would require the addition of two classrooms. It is also proposed to locate new early years provision on the site, following the withdrawal of the previous private provider. The proposal has the support of the school's governing body.
- (2) Increasing the capacity of Alveston C of E (Controlled ) School from 20 to 30 places per year. Alveston School in Tiddington is a 4 to 11 years school and is one of two schools serving the south-eastern side of the town. It has 137 pupils on roll against a current capacity of 140 pupils. . Increasing the school's capacity to 30 pupils per year would require the addition of three classrooms.
- (3) Undertaking a consultation on a targeted review of the priority areas of primary schools in the town of Stratford-upon-Avon, with the matter to be determined by the Joint Committee following formal consultation.



## **5. Finance**

- 5.1 At its meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> April 2008 Cabinet approved the Children, Young People and Families Directorate (Schools) capital programme for 2008. Included within that report was provision of £1,200,000 for additional primary school places in Stratford town and a further £1,000,000 for the replacement of temporary classroom accommodation.
- 5.2 Proposals for The Willows, Alveston and Bishopton schools are at a very early stage but initial estimates would suggest that the proposals outlined in this document can be afforded from the available funding.

## **6. Conclusion**

It is clear that there is a need to provide additional primary school places in the town of Stratford-upon-Avon to meet an increased demand for places due to the impact of rising new births as well as new housing. The impact of new housing, particularly in the longer term, continues to make accurate forecasting on longer timescales most difficult.

## **7. Recommendations**

- 7.1 That the report on the provision of primary school places in Stratford-upon-Avon town be noted.
- 7.2 That Cabinet be asked to approve formal consultation by the Local Authority on proposals to increase the capacity of The Willows C of E (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School from 40 to 45 pupils per year and Alveston C of E (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School from 20 to 30 pupils per year with effect from September 2010, and a targeted review of primary school priority areas in the town of Stratford-upon-Avon.

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16<sup>th</sup> September 2008

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## Proposed major housing developments in Stratford town

- The Cattle Market housing development is in Stratford Primary School's priority area and should produce five additional pupils per year group by 2012.
- There are three developments in Thomas Jolyffe Primary School's priority area. The Joseph Factory on Birmingham Road and the Commercial Premises on Regal Road should each produce two additional pupils per year group by 2012. The second phase of the Joseph Factory should produce an additional pupil per year group by 2012.
- There are two developments in Bridge Town Primary School's priority area. The completion of the Bridge Town Farm development should produce one additional pupil per year group and the Banbury Road development should produce two additional pupils per year group by 2012.
- The development on Tiddington Road is in the priority area of Alveston C of E Primary School and should produce one additional pupil per year group by 2012.
- The development on Shottery Hall in Church Lane should produce one additional pupil per year group and is in the priority area of Shottery St. Andrew's C of E Primary School.
- There are two developments in the priority area of The Willows C of E Primary School. The Briarcroft development and the development of the Community Health Offices on Alcester Road should each produce one additional pupil per year group by 2012.

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